



# Royal Arch Masonry

Discovering the Word  
North Star Chapter #2



# Presentation Agenda

1. York Rite Concordant Bodies
2. Term and Definitions
3. History of Royal Arch Masonry (RAM)
4. Three Preparatory Degrees
5. The Royal Arch Degree
6. To Be One ... Ask One

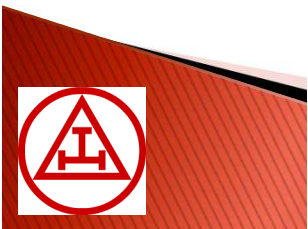
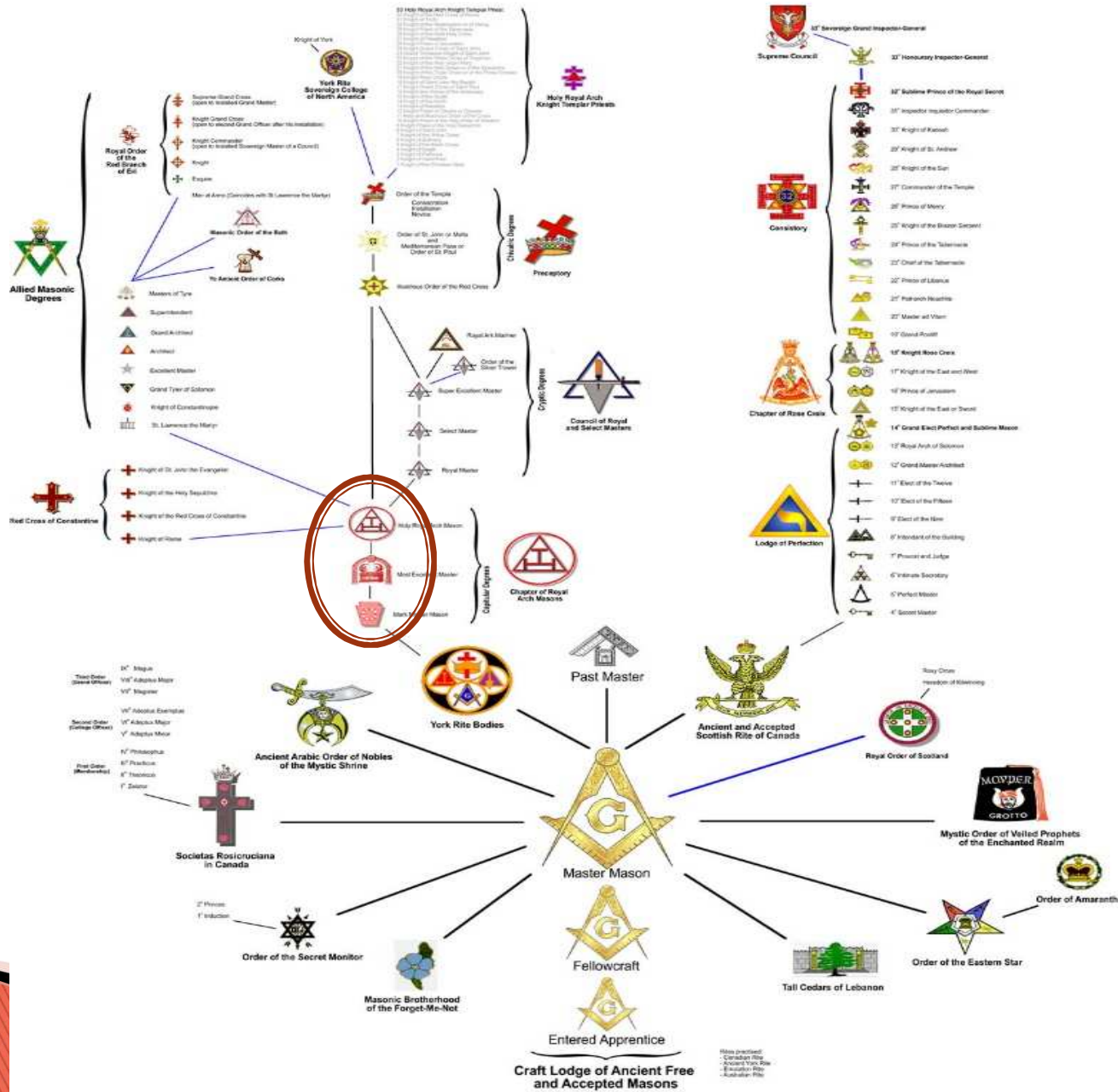




# Canadian Freemasonry Degree Structure

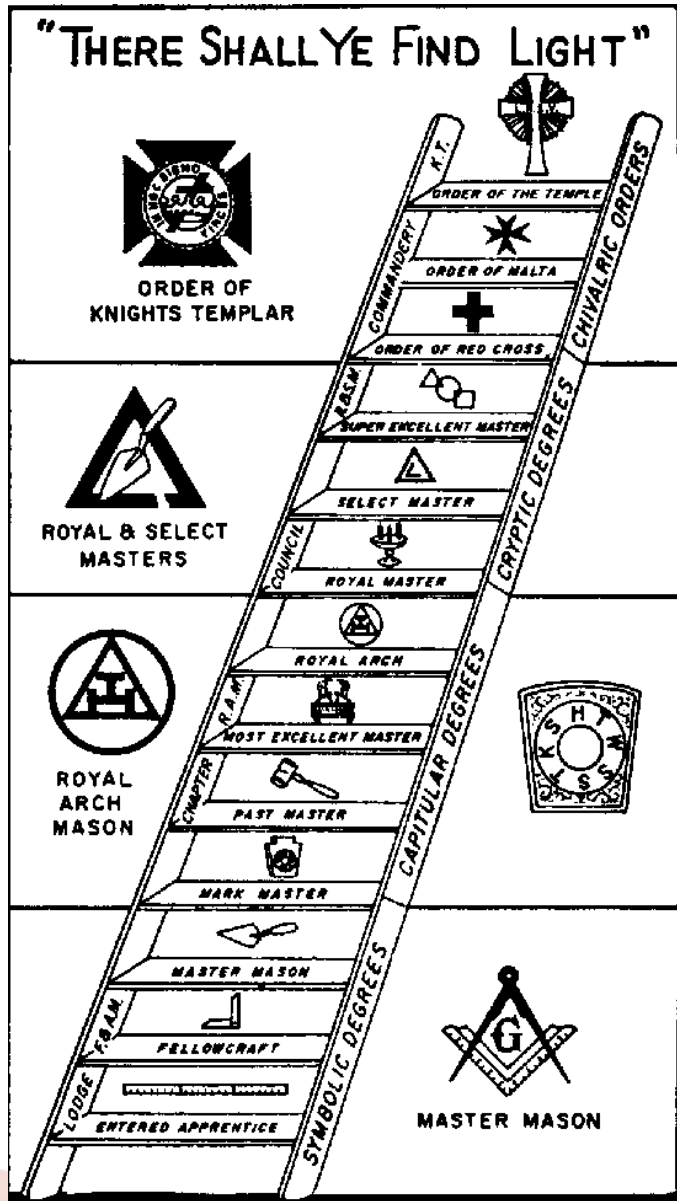
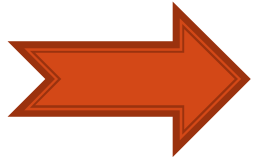
Compiled by WBro. Mike Bayrak  
July 7, 2006

Blue line indicates Invitational body



# 1. York Rite Concordant Bodies

Capitular Masonry opens to our view the story of restoration.



Royal Arch Masonry explores some of the deeper mysteries of the Craft.



## 2. Terms in Royal Arch Masonry

- ▶ Companion = Brother
- ▶ Chapter = Lodge
- ▶ Grand Chapter of Alberta
- ▶ Three Principles – Z / H / J
- ▶ Mark Master Mason / Past Master (Virtual)  
Most Excellent Master / Royal Arch Mason
- ▶ Holy Royal Arch or Red Lodge





# 3. History of Royal Arch Masonry

- ▶ *York Fabric Rolls* – 1400's mentions the second part of the Third Degree.
- ▶ Mid-1500's records in England reference the term Holy Royal Arch
- ▶ Royal Arch Degree penned in 1730 taking different forms from England, Ireland and France
- ▶ 1740-50s – Full-fledged part of North America's York Rite
- ▶ 1774 – Record of an assembly of RAM in York



# History continued

- ▶ Conferred under the authority of Craft Lodge warrants
- ▶ 1776 – Moderns had separated Royal Arch activities from Grand Lodge
- ▶ Created a separate Grand and Royal Arch Chapter
- ▶ 1813 – After merger of Antients and Moderns all Chapters in England part of the new Supreme Grand Chapter



# Degrees Go Hand in Hand

- ▶ “Pure and Ancient Craft Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, namely, those of EA, FC, and Master Mason, including the Holy Royal Arch”
- ▶ We as Craft Masons receive all the Masonic *light* the Lodge is authorized to transmit
- ▶ But not all of the *light* is contained in the materials of Craft Masonry





# Three Preparatory Degrees

- ▶ **Mark Master Mason**
- ▶ **Past Masters (Virtual)**
- ▶ **Most Excellent Master**
- ▶ **These Degrees continue the education which the Master Mason received in the Craft Lodge**



# Mark Master Mason – History



- ▶ In some countries it is a separate degree and Grand Lodge
- ▶ Mark incorporated into craft lodges as early as 1600s
- ▶ Records of it 1670 Aberdeen and 1678 Kilwinning
- ▶ Modern ritual rewritten in American colonies in 1780s and spread around the world
- ▶ 1784 – Mark Lodges in Nova Scotia
- ▶ Today – St. Paul's Lodge of MMM – English Registry operating in Montreal



# Mark Master Mason – Ritual



- ▶ It is about a keystone that is rejected, lost, and rediscovered
- ▶ An extension of the FC degree – craftsman selects a private mark to designate his work
- ▶ Ritual broken into several parts
- ▶ One is taught:
  - Labour is noble
  - How to receive wages
  - Man remembered by the mark he leaves in life
  - Time served does not create superiority
  - Diligence in the building of character



# Past Master (Virtual)



- ▶ A degree that is not regularly granted in Alberta at the Chapter level
- ▶ Was developed for all worthy brethren to receive the RAM degree
- ▶ First conferred in England in 1768
- ▶ Teaches that one must first obey before one can rule, to govern one's self before one can govern others, and to govern in moderation.



# Most Excellent Master – History



- ▶ The degree is an American innovation
- ▶ Initially conferred in a RAM Chapter in 1783 in Middletown, Connecticut
- ▶ Some have called it the filler degree allowing for the completion of the story regarding the temple
- ▶ Dramatizes the story of the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple
- ▶ Spectacular prayer of dedication takes place in this degree



# Most Excellent Master – Ritual

- ▶ The work that was halted in the MM Degree is completed
- ▶ There are no working tools in this degree and aprons are removed
- ▶ Candidate not initiated but “received and acknowledged”
- ▶ The Ark of the Covenant is placed in the Holy of Holies – denoting the presence of God
- ▶ Solomon charges the MEM to share the Masonic light and knowledge with others

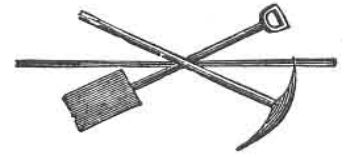




# Chapter Room Set Up



## 5. Royal Arch Degree – History



- ▶ The Climax of Ancient Craft Masonry
- ▶ Some traced the origins of this degree to the ‘Accepted Lodge of the Worshipful Company of Masons’ in London from the 1600s
- ▶ Others suggests that the degree originated in France and was transplanted to England shortly before 1730
- ▶ The degree is known to have been practiced in England, Scotland, Ireland and France by 1745, and by 1753 in Fredericksburg, Virginia.



## 5. Royal Arch Degree – Ritual

- ▶ In the MM Degree, the Word was lost through the death of Hiram Abif
- ▶ The Royal Arch Degree is the complement of the Master's Degree – the unfolding into a second volume of the history of that which was lost to that which is recovered



# The Lost Word – Ritual

- ▶ The Degree of Royal Arch is the capstone of the Craft Degrees
- ▶ It is concerned with the discovery of a crypt and the value of the resulting discoveries to the Craft
- ▶ In this degree you represent sojourners on their return to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity. You have come to help, aid and assist in the rebuilding of your city and its Temple without hope of fee or reward



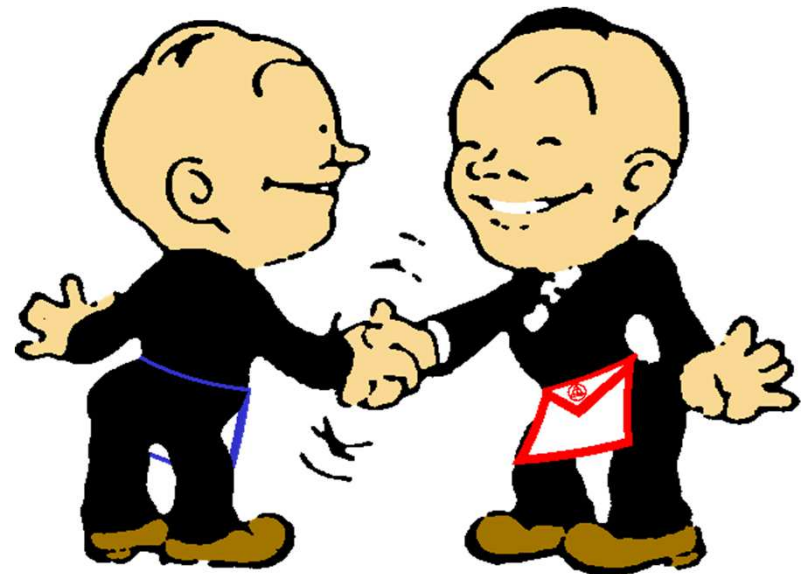
# Loss and Recovery

- ▶ It is to encourage the search for ultimate Truth
- ▶ It is the story of the search for the Word and new and insightful lessons
- ▶ What is recovered is *more* than we had thought
- ▶ In RAM degree – the Word is rediscovered



## 6. To Be One ... Ask One

- ▶ 1,000+ Royal Arch Masons in Alberta
- ▶ 23 Chapters across Alberta
- ▶ Four Chapters in the Capital Region:
  - North Star #2
  - Capital City #13
  - Norwood #18
  - Stoney #41







# North Star Chapter #2



- ▶ Received its Charter from the Grand Chapter of Canada (Ontario) in 1896 numbered North Star #118
- ▶ Became North Star Chapter #2 in 1914 (Alberta Grand Chapter)
- ▶ Strathcona Chapter No. 25 amalgamated in 1939



# North Star FAQs

- ▶ Highlands Hall on the third Thursday
- ▶ Education – lectures & presentations
- ▶ Social – festive board, beans and jeans
- ▶ Singing Chapter / Relaxed Atmosphere
- ▶ Dues go towards an apron, sash, penny, ritual book, rent, & Grand Chapter
  - Initial cost – \$350
  - Annual dues – \$75



# Why join??

- ▶ The work of the Chapter is directly related to that of the Craft Lodge
- ▶ The degrees afford historical and philosophical background on the work and meaning of Freemasonry
- ▶ Great combination of Ritual Work, Education, and Fellowship
- ▶ Stepping stone to other York Rite Mason bodies



# Why join??

- ▶ Get paid for the work you do in the quarry
- ▶ Actually make your Mark
- ▶ Find out why some brethren take their aprons off
- ▶ Discover the Lost Word



# Summary – Holy Royal Arch

- ▶ RAM – Concordant body in York Rite Masonry
- ▶ Four Degrees:
  - Mark Master Mason
  - Past Master (Virtual)
  - Most Excellent Master
  - Royal Arch Mason
- ▶ RAM is a direct extension of Craft Lodge
- ▶ Meaningful Ritual Work
- ▶ Excellent Masonic Education
- ▶ Fantastic Fellowship
- ▶ Discover the Word and much more





There is a sash and apron waiting for you!!



# Additional Information

## Grand Chapter Website

➤ [www.royalarchmasonsAlberta.com](http://www.royalarchmasonsAlberta.com)

