

The New Zealand Masonic Family Tree

First Edition



**A Booklet by
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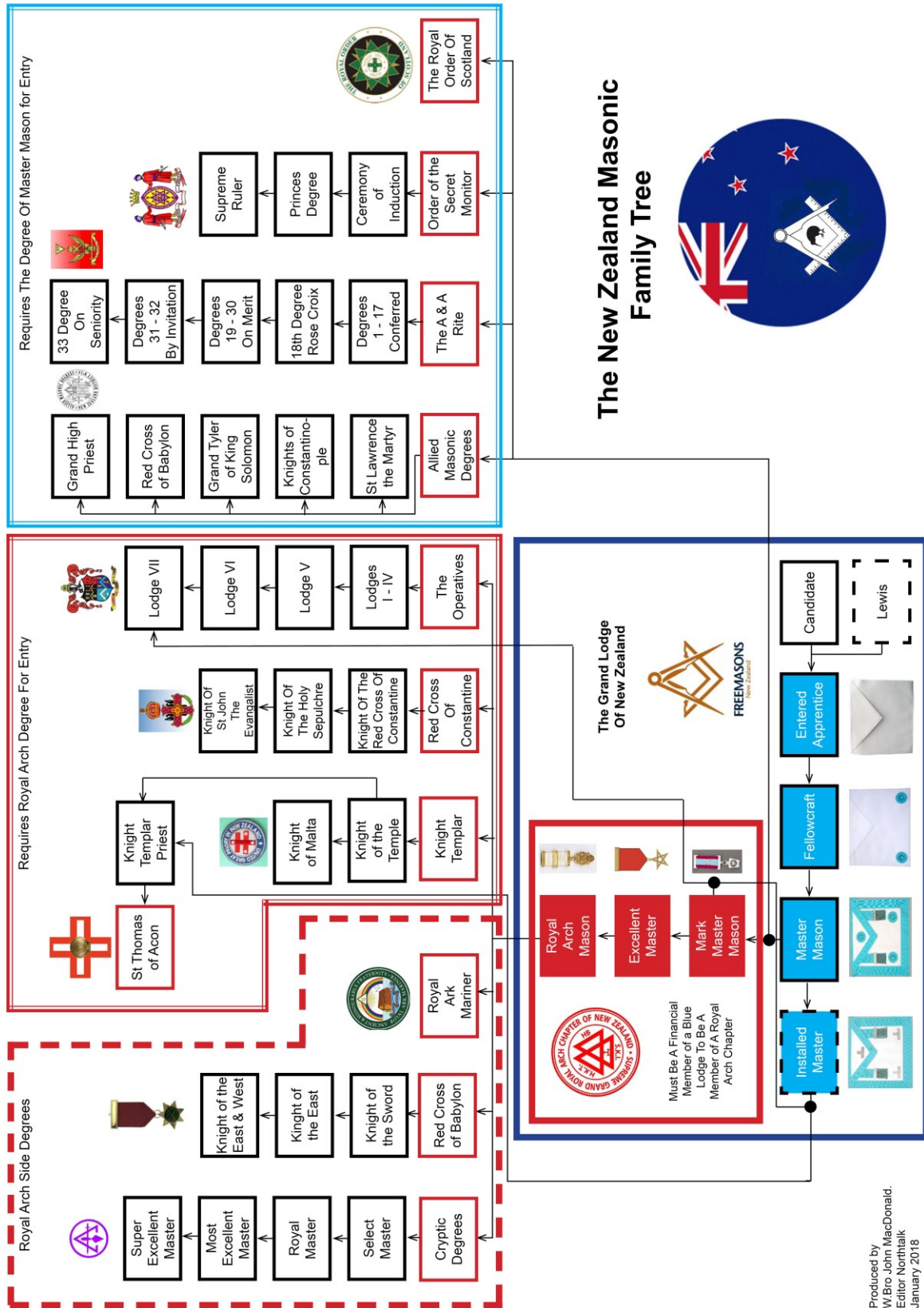
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Errata

1. P.3. Delete the line from Installed Master to Knight Templar Priest
2. P.3. Delete St Thomas of Acon link from KT Priest and connect to Knight Templar line
3. P 3 Insert new block off Knight Templar Priest called Order of Holy Wisdom
4. Changes to the text on pages 13, 14, and other, with the above, will be included in the 2nd Edition

The New Zealand Masonic Family Tree



Introduction

This booklet is not intended to be a History of the New Zealand Freemasonry. That is another project for another day. However in order to understand how the arrows and boxes in the diagram tie together it is necessary to briefly look at the development of Freemasonry in New Zealand.

The first recorded Masonic meeting in this country was held on the French whale boat "Le Cachalot" commanded by Captain L'Anglois' in Port Levy, Banks Peninsular, in 1837. The month is not recorded however there is some circumstantial evidence to suggest that it may have taken place in May of that year. This meeting was held under a warrant issued by the Grand Orient of France. Three candidates are said to have been initiated. Interestingly this predates the establishment of the first English Provincial Grand Lodge in New South Wales which did not occur until 1839.

As the colony of New Zealand grew, settlers from England, Ireland and Scotland arrived. Many of these men were Freemasons and established Lodges under warrants from their own Constitutions - often initially, as social Lodges and/or Lodges of Instruction under dispensation from Australian Lodges. The New Zealand Pacific Lodge held its first meeting in Port Nicholson in November 1842 and received its charter from the United Grand Lodge of England as the New Zealand Pacific Lodge, No. 758 EC in July 1846. Travel time in those day from the UK to New Zealand was typically 3 - 4 months each way.

On the 9th February, 1843, the first regular meeting of the Auckland Social Lodge was held. On the 12th June 1844 the Grand Lodge of Ireland granted a warrant constituting this Lodge as No. 348 IC. The first meeting under this Warrant was held on the 8th January 1849. The Lodge changed its name to Lodge Ara in 1850 and exists today as Lodge Ara No 348 IC.

It was not until 1861 that the first two Scottish Lodges were constituted under the Grand Lodge of Scotland; Lodge Otago Kilwinning No. 417 at Dunedin, and Lodge St. Andrew No. 418 at Auckland.

Each of these Constitutions had its own ritual and structure and from these the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, constituted in 1890, stitched together a structure and ritual that is in use today.

For thousands of years, theatre has been the primary medium used to teach people, many of whom could not read or write, important ideas and beliefs. Freemasonry has perpetuated this with its system of degrees which are taught as a number of one act plays involving the actors and audience in a series of allegorical lessons designed to promote the Masonic way of life that embraces men of all creeds, ethnicities, and stations.

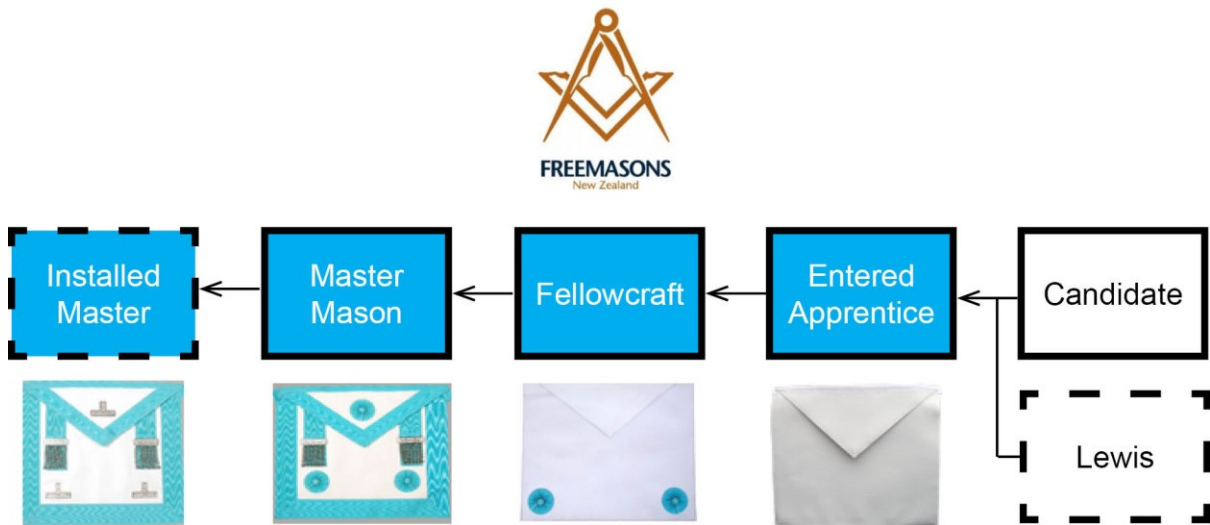
Another fact which must not be lost sight of is that the formal de-christianisation of the Craft around 1723 reflecting the changes in religious attitudes in England which saw the exclusion of Roman Catholics from the Craft, and more importantly from many areas of public service. Freemasons in many places created something to fill this gap. The mid 1700's saw a virtual explosion with extra Orders and degrees being created – mainly on the Continent. Amongst these degrees were a number of Chivalric ones - some with wonderful and fanciful titles. Consequently several of the higher degrees require a profession of the Christian faith while others only require an expression of a belief in a Supreme Being.

Although the rituals of the various Constitutions around the world vary, and have been modified over the centuries to reflect changing thinking in society, those of the three United Kingdom Constitutions have been modified to create many of the rituals that are used in the New Zealand Masonic Family Tree Degrees and Orders. Some of the higher orders still use rituals of their parent English, Irish, or Scottish Constitutions however by the late 20th Century many had established their own New Zealand ruling bodies and were using "local" rituals developed from overseas Constitutions.

Regalia tends to follow that worn by the United Grand Lodge of England in most cases.

What must never be forgotten is that even though it is at the bottom of the tree, the Blue Lodge, its Master Masons, Fellow crafts and Entered Apprentices, under the superintendence of a Master is the root of the Masonic Family Tree. It is the engine room, without which, Freemasonry would not exist.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand.



On the 29th April, 1890 duly qualified Brethren from all parts of New Zealand assembled in St. Augustine's Hall, Manchester Street, Christchurch, to proclaim the opening of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

On Wednesday, 30th April 1890 , MW. Bro. Henry Thomson was installed as the first Grand Master

Today the Grand Lodge of New Zealand (often referred to as the Blue Lodge) is organised into 3 Divisions, 19 Districts, and 220 Lodges. It is the recognised Constitutional Masonic authority in New Zealand and enjoys fraternal relations with many other Constitutional authorities around the world. Interestingly a small number of Lodges still operate in New Zealand under warrants issued by the United Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand recognises only 6 degrees as being pure and ancient Freemasonry. These are Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason, these being worked in a Blue Lodge while those of Mark Master Mason Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason are worked in a Royal Arch Chapter or Red Lodge. The colours describe the primary colour or the regalia worn in each of these Lodges.

To become a Freemason a man (women are not admitted to Masonic ceremonies) must be free (i.e. not a slave), of the mature age of 21 years, and have no criminal convictions. The son of a mason may be admitted at an earlier age of between 18 and 20 and is called Lewis until he receives his First Degree.

Following admission by secret ballot, a candidate is initiated into Freemasonry and receives his First Degree and becomes an Entered Apprentice. After a delay of typically one month he is passed to the Second Degree and is known as a Fellowcraft. After at least another month he is then raised to the Third Degree as a Master Mason. This entitles him to all the privileges as a member of a Lodge and also allows him to take further Degrees if he so chooses

A Master Mason may be elevated to the rank of Installed Master in a Lodge. This is a rank, not a degree, however a ceremony worked by a Board of Installed Masters is conducted.

The first three degrees in Freemasonry deal with the erection of King Solomon's Temple, and in the third, the death of the principal architect, Hiram Abiff who was responsible for the building features prominently. With his death were lost of the secrets of a Master Mason. This is generally referred to as the Hiram Legend. While much of the story told is based on fact and the scriptures, the third degree was embroidered by speculative masons who used a great deal of poetic licence in turning a very minor scriptural figure into a major hero.

Prior to 1717 when the English Grand Lodge was founded, there were generally only two recognised degrees, the Entered Apprentice. and Fellow Craft. In those times there was no mention of the Hiramic Legend and we can only presume that although known, it was not used in speculative workings prior to this period.

The earliest text which described a three degree system is Prichard's exposure of 1730, "Masonry Dissected". Interestingly it indicates that the 3rd degree was not a newly created ceremony but is quite vague about its previous place in the ritual.



As shown in the diagram, a lambskin apron which is worn at all times when the Lodge is in session indicates the number of Degrees that the wearer holds.

A breast jewel as shown on the left is also worn by Past Masters who have completed their year of office. Bars on the ribbon indicate further years of service in the chair as Master of a Lodge.

Website: [Freemasons New Zealand](http://www.freemasonsnewzealand.org)

Find Out More



Read this booklet online at the Freemasons New Zealand Website

[Click this Link](#)

or ask your Lodge Secretary for a copy.

Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand



The Royal Arch, like craft masonry, consists of three degrees, namely Mark Master (founded 1769), Excellent Master (1740's) and Holy Royal Arch (1745).

In 1892, it was resolved in Auckland to form a Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand, to embrace the Mark, Excellent and Royal Arch Degrees on the broadest basis recognised in Royal Arch Masonry', and that the Grand Chapter, when formed, should act in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, as far as they may be applicable, until otherwise decided.

Royal
Arch
Mason



Excellent
Master



Mark
Master
Mason



Master
Mason

Thus on Wednesday, April 27th 1892, two years after the establishment of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand was constituted, and Ancient Freemasonry was, as previously mentioned, deemed by Grand Lodge to consist of six degrees.

Royal Arch Masons are invariably active craft members, and membership of a Blue lodge is required for Royal Arch membership. To join a Chapter today a candidate must be a Master Mason and remain financial in a Craft Lodge. In earlier times only Past Masters were eligible

A peculiarity of the Royal Arch is that each of the three degrees is controlled by a different person in the chair; for the Mark degree the lodge is controlled by the Worshipful Mark Master, for the Excellent degree the lodge is controlled by the Worshipful Excellent Master, and for the Royal Arch degree the lodge is controlled by the Very Excellent. The officers taking the Worshipful Mark Master and Worshipful Excellent Master positions are equivalent to the Junior & Senior Wardens respectively. Unlike craft masonry the Royal Arch Chapters (equivalent to the Lodge) are opened in the senior degree where general business is worked.

Each of the degrees tell a very interesting allegorical story – The Mark Master degree is concerned with the building of the first temple around 974BC, in which the candidate represents a Fellow Craft mason who constructs and discovers a key part of the building of the Arch in King Solomon's temple. In this degree the candidate devises his own "mark" for each stone he fashions – hence the name of the degree.

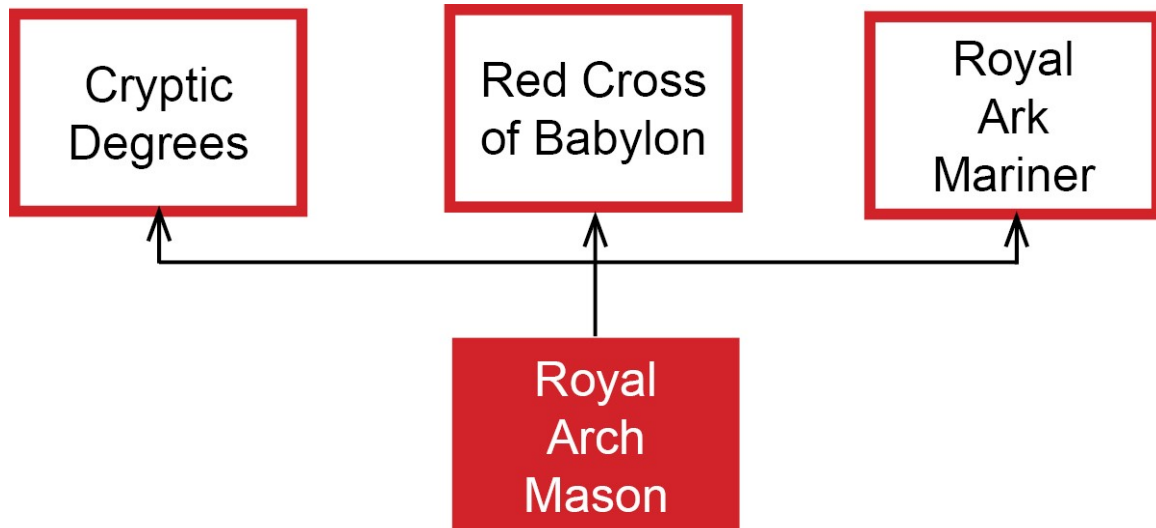
In the Excellent Master degree we move ahead in time 450 years to 537BC and we hear of the preparations surrounding the return from captivity by the chosen people (in the intervening years KST has been destroyed and the survivors taken away to Babylon).

Whereas in the Holy Royal Arch degree the candidate takes part in clearing the debris from the destruction to start building the second temple, in so doing an Arch is discovered leading to the discovery of the Word that was lost by the untimely death of Hiram Abiff in the Master Masons degree.

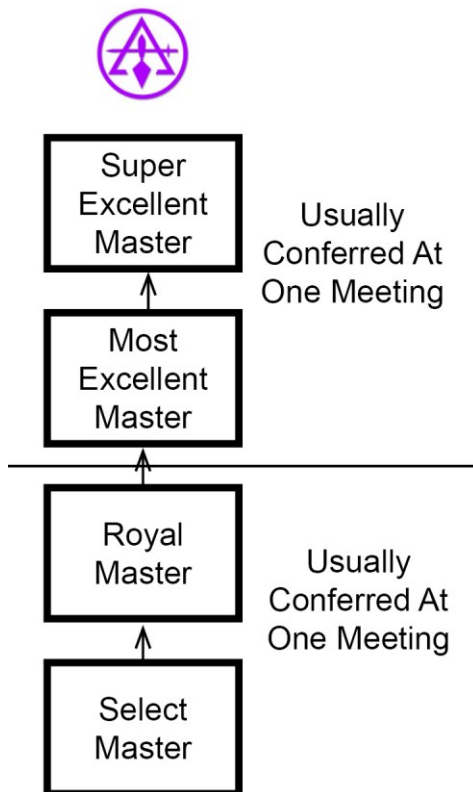
Website: The Supreme Grand Royal Arch New Zealand

Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand - Side Degrees

In addition to the three degrees already mentioned Royal Arch Chapters may also work some side Degrees. These are, when acting as the Supreme Council of the Royal and Select Master, the Cryptic Council Degrees, the Red Cross of Babylon Degrees and the Ark Mariner Degree



The Cryptic Council Degrees



Cryptic councils are under the control of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand.

In English masonry the order is called Royal and Select Masters and differs somewhat from our Cryptic councils. The differences come about from the fact that when the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand was formed in 1892 it was decided to follow the Scottish pattern rather than the English. The resultant major difference is that in the English system the degree of Excellent Master forms part of the Royal and Select Masters order whereas in New Zealand it is one of the three degrees that make up the Royal Arch ceremonies.

The background of the Cryptic degrees is the completion and administration of King Solomon's Temple until 587BCE when the destruction took place, the seventy years of the captivity and finally the rededication (or should it be dedication?) of the second temple.

There are four degrees in the order, Royal Master, Select Master, Super Excellent Master and Most Excellent Master.. The presiding officer is called Thrice Illustrious Master.

The four special and impressive ceremonies provide four new "Navigation Points" on the Masonic journey as follows:

1. The Select Master Degree – where the candidate has an active role in constructing the Vault.
2. The Royal Master Degree – in which the candidate as the enthusiastic Craftsman and Master Overseer enjoys an enlightening dissertation with the Principal Architect.
3. The Most Excellent Master Degree – focuses on the dedication of the Temple and the rewards for the most skilful workmen.
4. The Super Excellent Master Degree which is a quite recent addition – details the circumstances of the destruction of the Temple at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar – and looks to the future.

The First Grand Principal of the Royal Arch also becomes the Grand Master of the order in New Zealand and his Grand Chapter officers who are members of the order automatically take their Grand ranking with them. The Cryptic degrees fill in a number of gaps that are left in the six degrees of pure ancient masonry.

The Red Cross of Babylon



The degrees of the Red Cross of Babylon are intimately associated with the Royal Arch, and cannot be conferred upon anyone who has not been exalted to that degree. They are founded upon incidents that occurred during the reigns of Cyrus and Darius, kings of Persia.

The difficulties and interruptions experienced by the Jews in rebuilding the Temple of Jerusalem after its destruction are illustrated, as are several interesting events that took place at the Persian Court during that time.

Knight of the East & West

The degrees are divided into three points called

- Knight of the Sword,
- Knight of the East and
- Knight of the East and West.



Kinght of the East

The 2nd Point is sometimes called The Princes of Jerusalem, but is not the same as the French Degree Prince de Jerusalem



Knight of the Sword

The 3rd Point is the same as Chevalier d'Orient et d'Occident.

The 1st and 2nd Points are set in Persia and the 3rd in Judea.

Red Cross of Babylon

The Royal Ark Mariner



Royal
Ark
Mariner

The first real record of the degree of Royal Ark Mariner is to be found in the minutes of a meeting held at Bath in 1790 and from then on many records of the degree (or order as it was then) are to be found.

After many modifications the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons took the degree under its wing in either 1816 or 1817 where it was worked for many years. The Mother Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 1 was constituted in 1872 immediately following the formation of a Grand Master's Royal Ark Council where, in the English Constitution, it remains to this day.

The formation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter in New Zealand in 1892 removed the order of Mark Master Mason, that degree becoming part of the work of Royal Arch chapters and so Royal Ark Mariner moved into that orbit also.

As the name implies the degree uses the biblical story of the great flood to impart its allegorical teachings. Of particular interest is the fact that this degree is chronologically way out on its own, predating other degrees by centuries. Other points of interest are the use of three pillars, the placing of the wardens as they were in old Craft lodges (this placing is not always observed in New Zealand, it being more convenient to use the existing chairs) and teachings of the spirit of the cardinal virtues.

The person in the chair is referred to as Commander Noah or more fully Worshipful Commander Noah. However, the New Zealand ritual simply uses Noah for the most part, except in the installation ceremony when the full appellation is used. Candidates must hold the degree of Royal Arch Mason.

The precise origin of this degree is unknown. Its earliest-known workings as a degree were in various places in the 1790s. However, there are earlier documents that refer to Noah in a Masonic context, and even an unconfirmed eighteenth century "Grand Lodge of Ark Mariners".

The degree's ceremony of elevation equates the admission of the candidate to Noah's progress to salvation through employing his skills and labour in building the Ark which carries him and his family to the haven of rest.

It is often suggested that Masonic rituals originated in the mystery plays of the medieval Guilds. Like "recognised" Masonic ritual, these plays often included moral and spiritual teachings. The story of the Flood and the salvation of Noah was certainly one such theme, so is very likely to be a source for the Royal Ark Mariner degree and ritual, and is clearly represented in the use of the rainbow and dove with olive branch in the Jewel.

There are obvious parallels between Noah, the biblical builder of the Ark, and Hiram Abif, the legendary architect / chief builder of the first Temple. It is also notable that Tubalcain - the "first artificer in metals" was not a contemporary of Hiram or Solomon, but the half-brother of Noah.

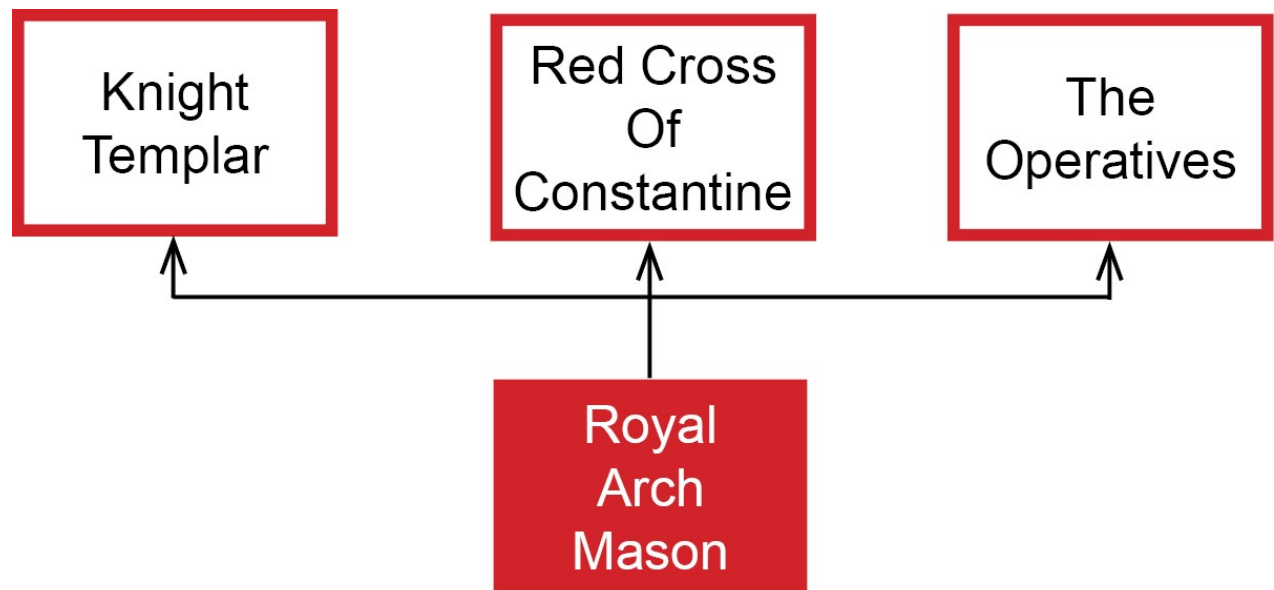
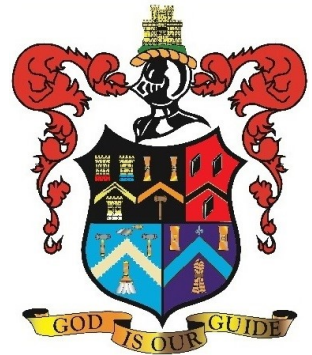
Early eighteenth-century Masonic documents even suggest a legend that Noah's sons sought the secrets of their dead father, paralleling the Third Degree legend of the death of Hiram. It is not surprising, therefore, that early masons may well have regarded Noah as an original Grand Master - a precursor (in ritual stories) of Hiram.

Further Reading: [THE ANCIENT AND HONOURABLE FRATERNITY OF ROYAL ARK MARINERS](#)

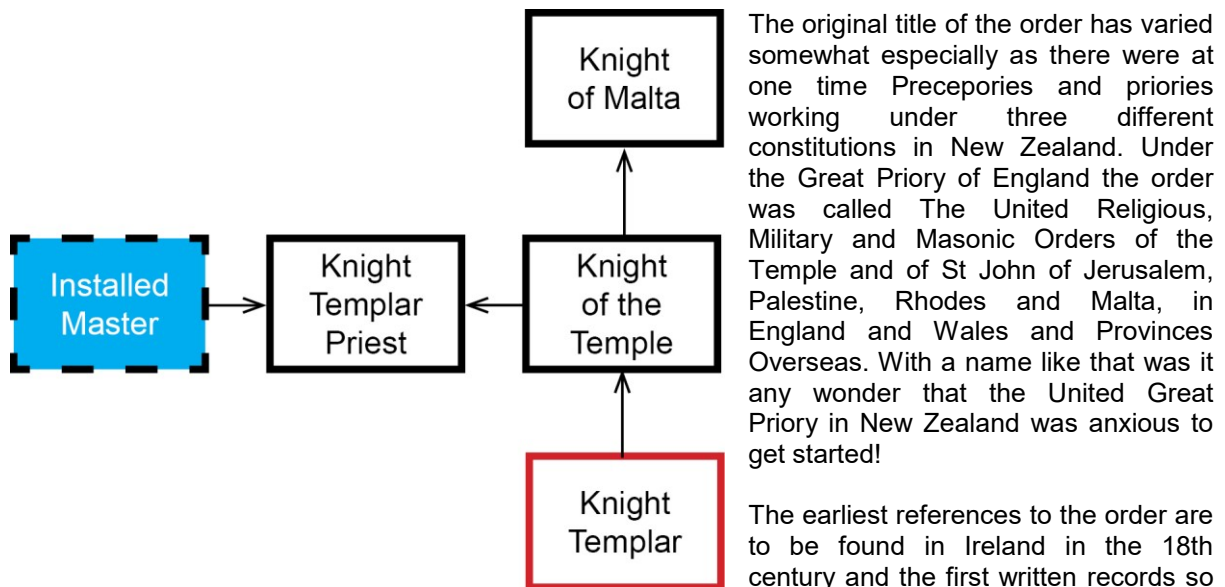
Degrees Which Require The Royal Arch Degree For Membership

There are three Orders which require the Royal Arch Degree as a prerequisite for membership. These are:

- Knight Templar
- Red Cross of Constantine
- The Operatives of more correctly the Worshipful Society of Free Masons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers



Knights Templar



The original title of the order has varied somewhat especially as there were at one time Preceptories and priories working under three different constitutions in New Zealand. Under the Great Priory of England the order was called The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta, in England and Wales and Provinces Overseas. With a name like that was it any wonder that the United Great Priory in New Zealand was anxious to get started!

The earliest references to the order are to be found in Ireland in the 18th century and the first written records so far found in England date from 1777.

Expansion of the order was slow in the first part of the 19th century but from 1845 there was steady growth. It should be noted that while the order is based on the knights of the crusader period no Masonic connection may be claimed to them. The ceremonials, then, are based on the activities of the Knights Templar who worked first in Palestine then Rhodes and Malta and finally in Europe and cover the period from 1118 to the 14th century when the order was suppressed and many of its members martyred.

Candidates for the order must be Royal Arch Masons and profess Christianity. There are two degrees worked, the second being in two parts. They are Knight of the Temple and (a) Knight of St Paul or the Mediterranean Pass and (b) Knight of Malta. The United Great Priory in New Zealand was constituted in 1986 and brought together the various constitutions working in New Zealand at that time. The regalia worn is a replica of that worn by the original Knights Templar and consists of a white tunic with a large red cross thereon and a white mantle over the top and a cap. Swords are generally worn but some officers do not, for example the chaplain.

Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests

This degree is considered to have had its origin in Ireland and written records exist there from the late 18th century. It appears that in England from early times Knights Templar from various Craft lodges joined together to work the degrees but there seems to have been no controlling authority. In 1895 the Royal Kent Tabernacle of Knight Templar Priests was erected and from about this time the degrees were also worked, or came under the control of, the Allied Masonic Degrees previously mentioned. The present Grand College of the order was set up in 1923 and this gave rise to steady growth. There are now tabernacles in Australia, Hong Kong, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand. The senior officer in each tabernacle is called the High Priest and the members the Knight Priests.

Again entry is by invitation and a candidate must be an Installed Master in the Craft, a Royal Arch mason and a Knight Templar. The regalia is similar to, but not the same as that of a Knight Templar.

The difference in the uniform is that while a Knight Templar tunic is worn the mantle is solely white with no badges of any kind and instead of a cap a mitre is worn. The ceremonial is of a highly religious nature and a large number of degrees are conferred by name upon candidates.

Website: [Knights Templar New Zealand](http://Knights_Templar_New_Zealand)

St Thomas of Acon

St Thomas
of Acon



Knight
Templar
Priest

The Commemorative Order of Saint Thomas of Acon is an independent British Christian masonic organisation. Membership is restricted to those who are subscribing members of a Preceptory (Commandery) in amity with the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Order of the Temple of England and Wales and Provinces Overseas (commonly referred to as the Knights Templar).

Membership is by invitation only. The basic organisation of the Order is a Chapel.

Foundation

The Order of St. Thomas of Acon was established in 1974 as a result of twenty years' research in the Guildhall Library in London by John E. N. Walker, who for many years was the Secretary General of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia.

The ancient records of the Order, written in medieval French and Latin, had been deposited in the London Guildhall Library and escaped the Great Fire of 1666. The Order now operates under the official title of The Commemorative Order of St Thomas of Acon.

As of July 2015 there were 112 Chapels of the Order in England, Wales, Spain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States of America.

Reference: [Wikipedia Link](#)

Red Cross of Constantine



Knight Of
St John
The
Evangelist

Knight Of
The Holy
Sepulchre

Knight Of The
Red Cross Of
Constantine

Red Cross
Of
Constantine

Properly known as The Masonic and Military Order of The Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of The Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist

The Order of the Red Cross of Constantine as worked today was first documented in 1865, when its constitution was formally established by Robert Wentworth Little in England. The Order worked in New Zealand under the English Grand Imperial Conclave until 11th August 2012 when the New Zealand Grand Imperial Conclave was formed.

To become a Member of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine a Brother must be or have been a Royal Arch Mason and subscribe to a belief in the Christian religion as revealed in the New Testament

There are three degrees worked namely:

1. Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine

The degree relates the legend of Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity after the Battle of Saxa Ruba in 312 AD when he saw a Cross in the sky with the motto "In Hoc Signo Vincas" In this sign you shall conquer

2. Knight of the Holy Sepulchre

Christian tradition tells us that St. Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, discovered the True Cross on which Christ was crucified along with two others. It was by Divine intervention that she was able to discern the True Cross from the others.

3. Knight of St. John the Evangelist

This degree is always conferred along with the preceding one and together make up the internal appendant degrees of the Conclave system. The ritual deals with the Holy City's time under Saracen rule and the tradition of a certain discovery made at the ruins of the first Temple and the subsequent formation of the Knights of St. John.

The watchwords of these Degrees are faith, unity, and zeal.

The Operatives or more correctly the Worshipful Society of Free Masons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers

Passed Grand Master Mason

Founded in 1913 the order is more archaic in form than speculative masonry. Of particular interest is the fact that the ritual contains practical instruction barely hinted at in the speculative rituals.

There are seven degrees in the order:

Passed Master

1° Indentured Apprentice

II° Fellow of the Craft

Intendent, Overseer, Superintendent and Warden

III° Super Fellow Fitter and Marker

IV° Super Fellow Setter Erector

V° Intendent, Overseer, Superintendent and Warden

Super Fellow Setter Erector

VI° Passed Master

VII° Passed Grand Master Mason.

Super Fellow Fitter and Marker

The bodies, called assemblages, are made up of one lodge for each degree from the Fourth to the First ruled by a Deputy Master Mason. A Senior Passed Master is the local representative of the three Grand Master Masons

A lodge of the V° has its own Deputy Master Mason while the VI° lodge is under the direct control of the Grand Master Masons. The Senior Passed Master presides over the VI° lodge.

Fellow Of The Craft

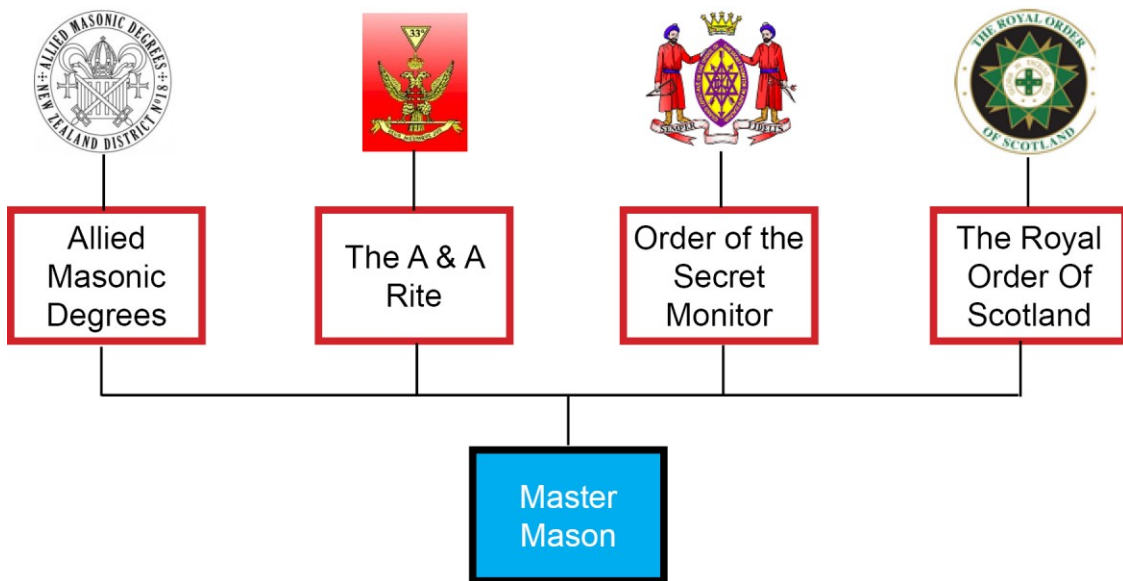
Admission to the order is by invitation and is restricted to those who are Royal Arch companions in good standing. To be raised to the VI° a member must also be an Installed Master in the Craft and hold the Mark Degree.

Website: [The Operatives](#)

Indentured Apprentice

The Operatives

Degrees Which Require The Master Mason Degree For Membership



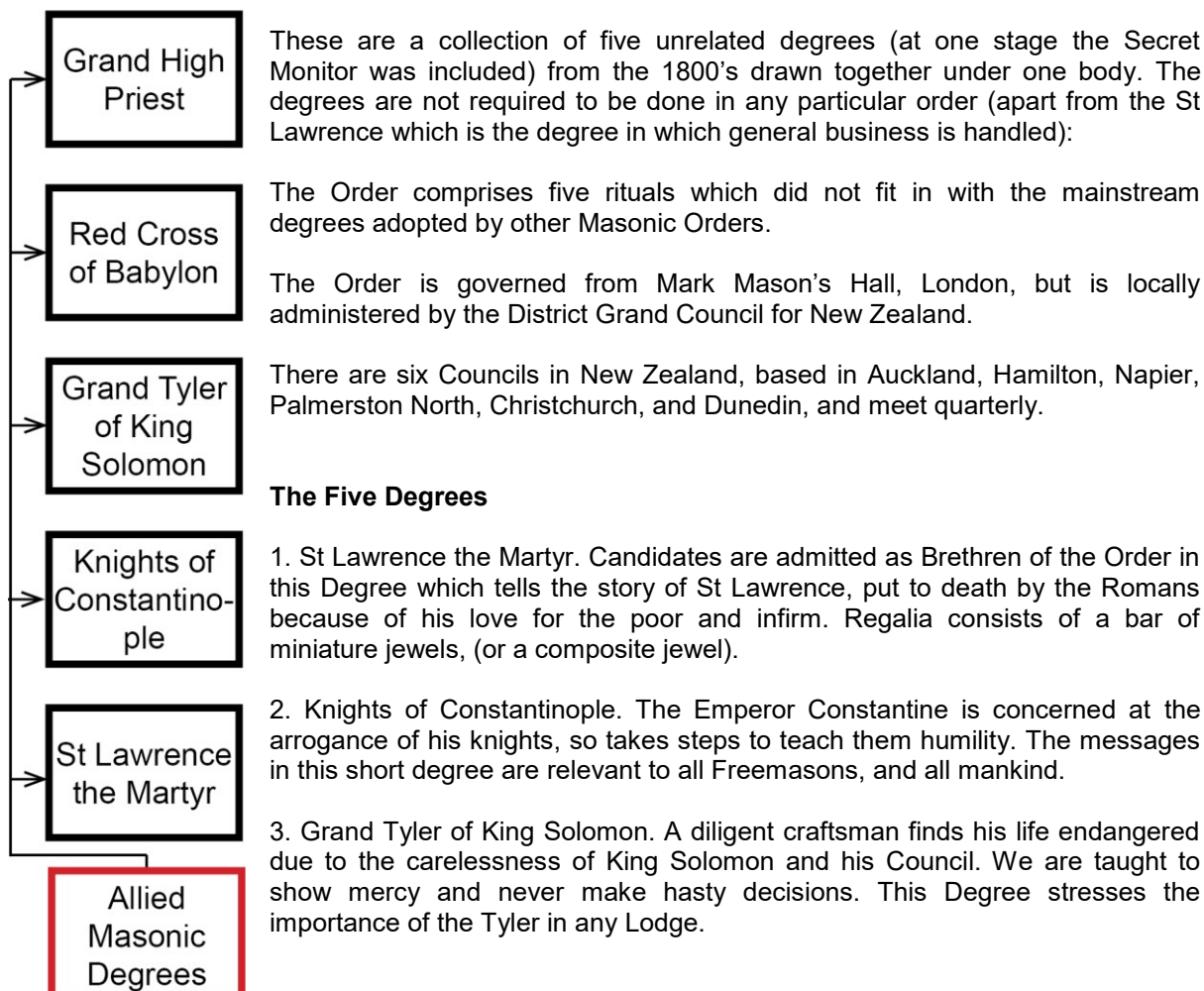
There are four degrees which require membership of a Blue Lodge and the degree of Master Mason as a prerequisite for membership. These are:

- The Allied Masonic Degrees
- The A & A Rite - also known in America as the Scottish Rite
- The Order of the Secret Monitor
- The Royal Order of Scotland.

The Allied Masonic Degrees



More correctly know as The Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees, membership of the Order is limited to members of a Craft Lodge, who have also taken the Mark Master and Royal Arch degrees.



The Five Degrees

1. St Lawrence the Martyr. Candidates are admitted as Brethren of the Order in this Degree which tells the story of St Lawrence, put to death by the Romans because of his love for the poor and infirm. Regalia consists of a bar of miniature jewels, (or a composite jewel).

2. Knights of Constantinople. The Emperor Constantine is concerned at the arrogance of his knights, so takes steps to teach them humility. The messages in this short degree are relevant to all Freemasons, and all mankind.

3. Grand Tyler of King Solomon. A diligent craftsman finds his life endangered due to the carelessness of King Solomon and his Council. We are taught to show mercy and never make hasty decisions. This Degree stresses the importance of the Tyler in any Lodge.

4. Red Cross of Babylon. This is the English version and is only worked within the Allied Degrees. While different from the Royal Arch version, everything ends up the same.

5. Grand High Priest. A great deal involves early parts of the Old Testament. Abraham and the ancient Kings come into the ceremony, as well as an early High Priest. The candidate receives something of great value during the ceremony, and will participate in a meaningful way in the fellowship of the Brethren present.

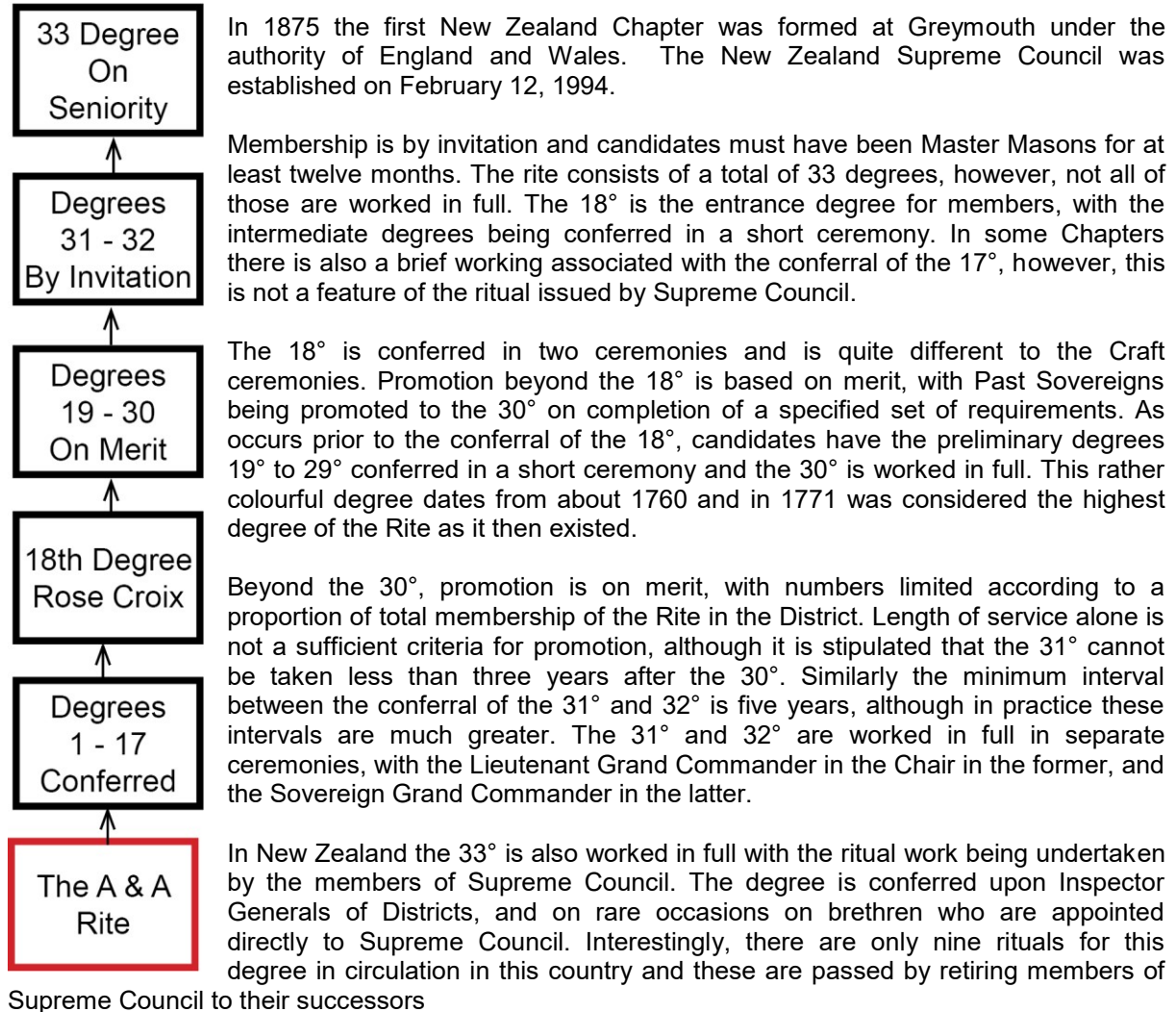
Some Further Reading: [Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees](#)

Website: [The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons](#)

The A & A Rite



The aim of the Order, which is Christian in character and practice, is to provide a duly qualified Master Mason with the opportunity to extend his participation, knowledge and enjoyment of masonry. The Ancient and Accepted Rite continues the teachings of symbolic masonry in a series of most interesting degrees.

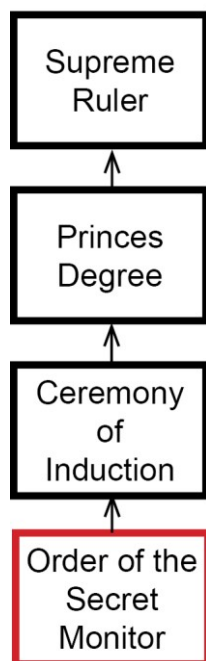


Website: The Ancient & Accepted Rite for New Zealand

The Order of the Secret Monitor



The first reference to the Order of the Secret Monitor is known to have originated in Holland in or about 1778 but became popular in America as part of the Allied Masonic Degrees. In 1875 the Order was introduced to England from America by Dr. I Zacharie. At this time it consisted of only one degree. In 1887 a Grand Council was formed in England and a further two degrees were added.



For many years both the Grand Council in England and the Allied Masonic Degrees conferred the degrees of the Secret Monitor. In 1931 Colonel Charles Warren Napier-Clavering became the head of both Orders and an Articles of Agreement was signed which transferred sole rights of the Order to The Grand Council of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

The Order was introduced to New Zealand after officers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force were inducted into Zacharie Conclave No. 9 in London in 1919. On their return to New Zealand these Brethren obtained a warrant to form Aotearoa Conclave No.44 under the English Constitution.

The Order was administered from England until 1982 when the first New Zealand Grand Council, subsequently changed to Grand Conclave, was formed. At the time of the new Grand Council was formed, all but two Conclaves changed their allegiance to New Zealand.

Membership is open to those who have taken the Master Masons degree. The individual assemblies are called Conclaves and are ruled by a Supreme Ruler, who as in other Orders of Freemasonry is elected and installed annually. The Order has three degrees:

The First or "Secret Monitor" degree or ceremony of "induction".

This is the story of the friendship which existed between David and Jonathon, based upon the Book of Samuel in the VSL. During the ceremony the candidate is instructed in a certain course of action to be adopted when a Brother is about to do anything which might prove injurious to himself and it teaches a beautiful lesson in friendship and fidelity.

The Second or "Princes" degree or ceremony of "admission".

The Admission ceremony is also derived from the Book of Samuel and tells how Saul sought the life of David. It further relates an interesting legend of the methods contrived to thwart the efforts of the jealous King.

The Third degree or Installation of the Supreme Ruler.

This deals with the ceremony of installation of the Supreme Ruler.

One of the most important aspects of the order is the inclusion in the list of officers of "Visiting Deacons". The Visiting Deacons are charged with a special function peculiar to this Order. They are required to keep in constant contact with their allocated brethren, and afford assistance and support (via the Conclave) to a Brother in time of sorrow and distress. Many Conclaves also record the names of their Widows on their notice papers who are then contacted by the Visiting Deacons as a constant check on their welfare.

In some Conclaves the Ladies are invited to attend all meetings where some form of entertainment is provided for them, and participate in refectory proceedings.

The Royal Order of Scotland.



The Royal
Order Of
Scotland

This Order has a history of over two centuries, and charges itself with preserving the rituals of the two-degree craft system before it was de-Christianised in 1723.

Each of the four Provincial Grand Lodges in New Zealand meets four times yearly, and owes allegiance to the Grand Lodge of the Order in Edinburgh.

The local control is under a Provincial Grand Master who is appointed for five years, and membership is by invitation to Master Masons who have been raised for at least five years and who are judged to have made some reasonable contribution to freemasonry

Read more about the Royal Order of Scotland on Wikipedia by clicking [here](#)

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Updates, Corrections, and Suggestions;

For updates, corrections and further information please advise contact the author by [e-mail](#)