

Ancient and Accepted rite

Extract from F. M. Mag.
1857 P. 85.

The principal degrees and orders constituting part of the "Ancient & Accepted rite" has been reduced to an organized form on the Continent, in Scotland, & elsewhere in the latter part of the 18th Century. & the beginning of the 19th Cent. Some of the degrees or orders of this rite were derived from those religious and warlike orders or fraternities mentioned in the 1738 edition of Anderson's "Book of Constitutions" as having borrowed many solemn usages from our own more ancient fraternity. It has existed from the beginning.

This degree has been designated "the Scotch rite" - This is not to be wondered at when we consider that its principal and original governing degree was derived from the "Scottish National Order of H. R. D. M. of Kilwinning" founded by Robert Bruce on St. John's day June A. D. 1314 after the Battle of Bannockburn and that the Knights of St. Andrew & other degrees founded by the Scottish Templars all appertain to this rite.

Robert Bruce reserved in perpetuity for himself

and his successors the title of "Grand Master or
"protector of the Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of
"H. R. D. M. of Kilwinning" at the present day sitting at
Edinburgh,

1314 Robert Bruce,

1329 David 2.

1371 Robert 2.

1390 Robert 3.

1424 James 1.

1437 James 2.

1450 James 3.

1488 James 4.

1515 James 5.

1524 James 5.

1567 James 6.

1625 Charles 1.

1660 Charles 2.

1685 James 2 (Eng.)

1688 William 3.

1714 George 1.

1727 George 2.

The late Bro. Wm. Tucker P. Prov. G.M. of Dorset
in an address delivered before the Supreme Council
of England and Wales alluded in appropriate terms
to the connexion of the unfortunate Earl of Dorwentwater
with the High Degrees during his exile on the Continent
and it is important to state that the Chevalier Ramsay
the Scotch Philosopher, was actively engaged in 1728
and 1729 in the propagation of the High Degrees. He
advocated a peculiar system which he attributed
to the illustrious & magnanimous Godfrey de

Bouillon. In a circular issued by the supreme
 Council of Charleston South Carolina N.S. in Oct. 1802
 allusion is made to the fact that 27000 Freemasons
 accompanied the Christian Princes in the Crusades and that
 while they were in Palestine several Old M.S. were discovered
 among the ancient Jews on which some of our "Sabbine degrees"
 have been founded, that in the years 1084 and 1311 some
 discoveries were made and occurrences took place which
 under the Masonic Hist. of that period of the highest
 importance. This circular also alludes to a discovery
 made in 1553 of a record in Syriac Characters relating
 to the most remote antiquity which was not fully
 translated until the reign of our "most enlightened"
 "most illustrious & most Excellent Brother Frederick"
 "2 King of Prussia".