

# Royal Arch Masonry.

A Paper read by E. Comp George Taylor P. 3. Prov G. S. R. B. before the Companions of Hope Charity Chapter No 377 Masonic Hall Kidderminster Mar 12. 1883.

Companions, Of late years there has been a vast increase of interest manifested in all pertaining to the History and Antiquities of Freemasonry, a subject hitherto involved in a cloud of darkness and uncertainty, and I am happy to say a large number of its members, not content with simple perfection in Ritual, continue to manifest a desire for further enlightenment, and a deeper insight into all concerning this wonderful science a science which has bound men together for so many ages <sup>in the past,</sup> and still - when the need no longer exists for one mission it no doubt filled, that of maintaining and preserving religious and scientific knowledge to the world - still aspers the power, of drawing men together, for mutual and the universal good.

It was <sup>with</sup> the endeavour to increase in some slight degree, the utilization of Freemasonry for further aims than simple lodge work, which induced me to think some particulars relating this Royal Arch Degree, may prove acceptable and interesting to the Companions.

<sup>I am indebted to</sup> I knew I could find no better source of information than my friend Companion Hugh <sup>of Truro</sup> whose researches and writings, have done so much to restore, and to preserve to the world, the facts and landmarks of all we know of Masonic History. for many of the details of the following

With that hearty response he is ever ready to make to any <sup>such</sup> request, Comr. Hughan at once furnished me with <sup>many of</sup> the particulars I have put into the following order. give you in the following paper

As to the real origin of the Royal Arch Degree all seems in doubt and confusion, and I regret to have to start with the fact, that so far from being a settled question, it seems likely we shall never <sup>truly</sup> know when <sup>or how</sup> the Royal Arch Degree originated. That is, as a ~~fact~~ <sup>fact</sup>.

We properly hold to it, and esteem it highly, especially in England, and the topic forms an important item in Masonic History.

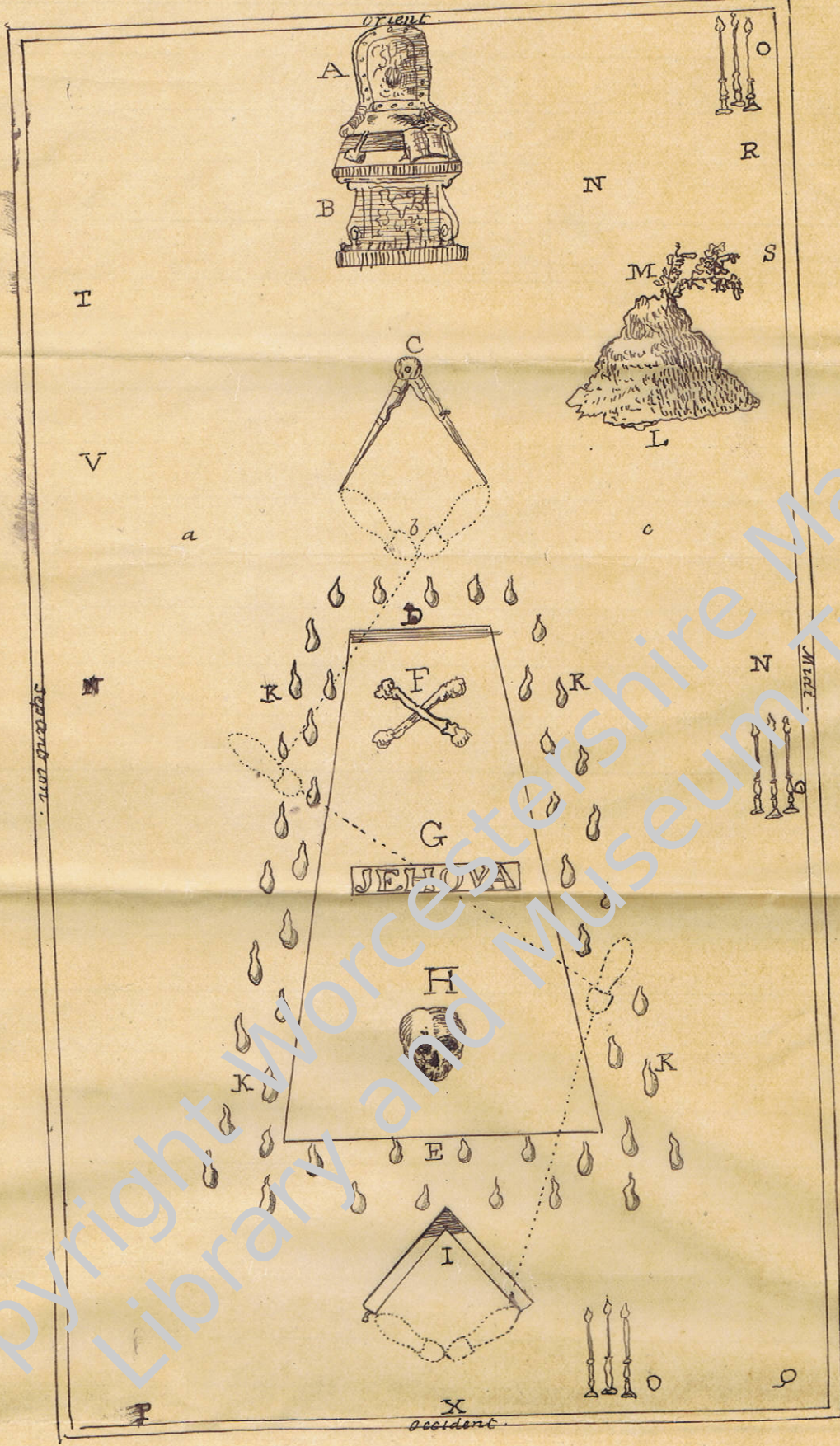
It was undoubtedly connected with the Third Degree, and for ~~some~~ <sup>many</sup> ~~years~~ <sup>ago</sup>, what is now known as the Royal Arch Degree was worked as the second part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, and in some measure irregularly, for we are told that in London about 1738, some Brethren were called before the Grand Lodge, and found fault with for working irregularly, and on due submission being made they were reinstated in their privileges, and it is generally supposed that this irregularity, had to do with the working of the Third Degree.

Bro Hughan has a copy of the celebrated Ritual (owned by the late D. Oliver) of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, as worked in 1740. The original was bought by Bro. Hughan at the late Bro R. Spencers sale, for Bro. Bowers collection in America.

It is an exceedingly curious MS. and ~~some~~ <sup>and Bro Hughan has promised me a copy of it</sup> ~~Bro Hughan has promised~~ to ~~some day~~ <sup>some day</sup> lend it me to read to the Chapter. The word is substantially that of the Royal Arch Degree.

We know <sup>themselves</sup> that in this Country and abroad the secrets of what is termed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, were given before 1740, in quite a different manner from what they are now; and the word which was lost in one portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree was subsequently found in the concluding portion.

I here submit for the inspection of the Companions a tracing Board which illustrates this point. It was published at Amsterdam in 1745 for the Masters Masons Degree. The word is plain enough, and you will see it is at foot, called 'the ancient word of Master'. The tears for the death of H.A. the 3 steps, acacia, square & compasses & emblems of mortality are all 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree.



Véritable Plan de la Loge de Réception d'un Maître.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| A. Fauteuil du Gr. Maître.                                   | H. Tête de Mort.   | O. O. O. Les neuf Lumieres, placées trois à trois. |
| B. Epece d'Autel, sur le quel il y a une Bible & un Maillet. | I. Equerre.  | P. Premier Surveillant.                            |
| C. Compas.   | K. K. K. K. Larmes.  | Q. Second Surveillant.                             |
| D. E. Cercueil.  | L. Montagne.   | R. L'Orateur.                                      |
| F. Os en fautoir   | M. Branche d'Acacia.   | S. Les Freres Visiteurs.                           |
| G. Ancien Mot de Maître.                                     | N. N. N. Les trois Freres qui tiennent un rouleau de papier. | T. Le Secrétaire.                                  |
|  |  | V. Le Trésorier.                                   |
|  |  | X. Le Récipiendaire.                               |

NB. Quelques Freres-Maçons prétendent qu'aux endroits marqués ici par les trois petites Lettres, a, b, c, on doit représenter le Soleil, l'Etoile flamboyante & la Lune, Mais quoique cet usage s'observe constamment dans les Loges d'Apprentif & de Compagnon, il n'en est pas de même dans les Loges de Maître.

In the following theories, and in considering the antiquity of the Royal Arch Degree, as worked separately from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, you must understand that I do not enter into the antiquity of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree <sup>itself</sup>, in which originally the secrets of the Royal Arch Degree were included. ~~That may possibly form the subject of a Lodge paper on some future occasion and touch upon far anterior data.~~

First then, It has been said that Ramsay, an adherent of the Stuarts who originated some so called High Grades for Jacobite purposes, visited the Grand Lodge of England in 1728, and made a suggestion that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree should be divided and worked in a manner somewhat similar to the present, but there is no such record in the proceedings of Grand Lodge and nothing to indicate that at that period <sup>such a course was followed</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree ~~was~~ worked in two separate divisions, the second being entitled R. Arch.

The Handbook a German Masonic work states, the Ramsay was initiated in 1730, and we must dismiss the theory that he had anything to do with the Royal Arch.

It has been frequently stated that Lawrence Dermott - who was one of the Athol <sup>(or so called distinct)</sup> masons - was the Founder of the Arch Degree.

Now Dermott was made a Mason in 1740 and R. Arch in 1746 in Chapter No. 26, Dublin Lodge and Comp. Hughan has discovered a work printed in 1744 which alludes to the degree, two years before Dermott was exalted, and furnishing conclusive proof that he had nothing to do with the separate arrangement.

The work alluded to is Dr. Fifield Dasegnys pamphlet intitled "A serious and impartial enquiry into the Cause of the decay of Masonry in Ireland" and Comp. Hughan found it bound up at the end of Ahimanuzon of (A. D.) 1756.

Comp. Hughan reprinted the whole of it in his "Memorials of the Masonic Union of 1813" and also allowed it to

now in Library of Grand Lodge of London.

be printed in the "Masonic Magazine".

It ~~was~~ <sup>has</sup> also <sup>been</sup> claimed that Tho: Dunckerley was the Founder of the Royal Arch Degree, but we know that it was in operation, 30 years before he took it, for by In the minutes of Royal Cumberland Chapter of Bath which celebrated last year its centenary, we find the Comp. Dunckerley was Grand Sup: of ~~Gloucester~~ in 1781 called an Emergency meeting of that Chapter, and the following is a copy of one of the Royal Arch Warrants issued by him 1791.

By Thomas Dunckerley of Hampton Court Palace in the County of Middlesex. Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masons to

To those whom it may concern  
Greeting

Know ye - That at the humble petition of several Brethren Companions, residing at and near the Town of Redruth in the County of Cornwall, I do hereby grant unto the said Companions and Brethren full power and authority to open and hold Chapters of Royal Arch Masons at the town of Redruth aforesaid, under the title of the Druid Chapter of Love & Liberality; the stated days for exaltations to be on the last Wednesday in every month. For so doing I grant this warrant of dispensation for six months from the date hereof or until such time as they shall receive their Patent of Constitution from the Grand and Royal Chapter.

Given at Hampton Court Palace this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July A.L. 5795 A.D. 1791

Tho: Dunckerley (Seal.) (F.D. was made)

FE

To Comp. { John Knight } hereby appointed { Z } of the Druids Chapter  
{ Peter Pender } { H } of Love & Liberality  
{ Philip Treviman } { T }

Transcribed from the original in the Dunckerley Vault  
copy - 1/2 years ago of  
the Geo. Combs Hoyle.

NB R.A. warrants before the union of chapters in 1871 used 4004 to make all since then 4000 has been used - matter of form and his copy ushkin favors 4004.

Sheet 1  
Pris

The Royal Arch Degree is mentioned as having  
been given at York a few years prior to 1744,  
and we know also that it was worked in London  
before that year. To wit, hear what Dr.

Dassigny says in 1744 in his work, <sup>I have</sup> already referred to,  
" Now as the landmarks of the Constitution  
" of Free Masonry are universally the same throughout  
" all Kingdoms, and are so well fix'd that they  
" will not admit of removal, how comes it to pass  
" that some have been led away with ridiculous  
" innovations, an example of which, I shall prove  
" by a certain propagator of a false system some  
" few years ago in this City (Dublin) who imposed  
" upon several very worthy men under a pretence of  
" being Master of the Royal Arch, which he asserted  
" he had brought with him from the City of York ?

"and that the beauties of the Craft did principally  
 "consist in the knowledge of this valuable piece of  
 "Masonry. However he carried on his scheme for  
 "several months, and many of the learned and wise  
 "were his followers, till at length his fallacious  
 "art was discovered by a Brother of probity and  
 "wisdom, who had some small space before attained  
 "that excellent part of Masonry in London, and  
 "plainly proved that his doctrine was false,  
 "whereupon the Brethren justly despised him, and  
 "ordered him to be excluded from all benefits  
 "of the Craft, and altho' some of the Fraternity  
 "have expressed an uneasiness at this matter being  
 "kept a secret from them (since they had already  
 "passed thro' the usual degree of probation) I  
 "cannot help being of opinion, that they have no  
 "rights to any such benefit until they make a  
 "proper application, and are received with due  
 "formality, and as it is an organiz'd body of  
 "men who have pass'd the Chain, and given  
 "undeniable proofs of their skill in Architecture,  
 "it cannot be treated with too much reverence,  
 "and more especially since the character of the  
 "present members of that particular Lodge are  
 "unimpaired, and their behaviour judicious and  
 "unexceptionable, so that there cannot be the  
 "least hinge to hang a doubt on, but that they  
 "are most excellent Masons."

It is thus ev'd out that the Royal Arch was worked as a separate degree <sup>in</sup> ~~about~~ 1740 or before.

For the purpose of describing two Bodies of Masons who worked the R. Arch  
 I must here make a very brief reference to the great schism or separation which occurred in the Grand Lodge of England, soon after the second Constitution appeared in 1738.

The seceding Lodges ~~assumed~~ forming a Grand Lodge, <sup>themselves</sup> in 1759, for which they assumed the name



of "Antients" and designated the regular or mother Grand Lodge the "Moderns" always note, that actually the Moderns are the "Antient" body.

(It is well to note here that it is an error to suppose ~~that~~ the York and London Masons united in 1813, when the Antients + Moderns <sup>united</sup> came together again, and formed the present Grand Lo. of England. The York Masons died at about 1790.)

The so called "Antients" mention the Royal Arch in their records (now in our Grand Lodge archives) as early as 1752 <sup>They worked it in conjunction with the Reg. Lodges</sup> - and during first Century many thousands of members joined that body, the seceders doubtless in order to get the 4 Degrees for their money instead of 3. The Royal Arch has been no doubt seized upon by a wiser & more as a means to secure in success of his Grand Lg. the ambition of what he was ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Long the great one spirit

The "moderns" never acknowledged the Degree until the Union of 1813 - but many members of this, the regular Grand Lo. formed a Grand Chapter for themselves, and issued warrants, which were numbered consecutively and separately from their Lodges. At the union of these two rival Grand Lodges in 1813, their Lodges were numbered consecutively, but alternately, <sup>as part of a compromise and</sup> as each Lodge is now shown in the Grand Lo. Calendar.

The two Grand Chapters united in 1817, since which time, the Chapters bear the numbers of the Lodges with which they are connected.

The Grand Chapter of the Moderns I have just alluded to, was formed by a "Charter of Compact" in 1767, and this Charter has just been <sup>brought to light</sup> ~~unearthed~~ by Grand Scribe E. (Col. Clarke) from among some old documents papers

It is a remarkable document, and the following is a Copy. I give it because few Masons have as yet seen it, and for the many points of interest it contains - The present Royal

# Charter of Compact of Grand Chapters

The Most Enlightened East.

I.: J. N.: O. J. G. A.: O. J. W.: . . . . .

To all the Enlightened, Entered, passed, raised, and Exalted, and to all others whom it may concern, under the canopy of Heaven, Health, Peace, and Union,

We the Right Honourable & His Worshipful Cadwallader L<sup>o</sup> Blaney, Baron Blaney of Monaghan in the Kingdom of Ireland, Esq. Lieut. & Colonel of the Regiment of the same County and Major General in his Majesty's Service, P. Grand Master of Free and accepted masons, and also most Excellent Grand Master of the Royal Arch of Jerusalem, send greeting,

Whereas we have it principally at heart to do all in our power to promote the Honour, Dignity, Preservation, and Welfare, of the Royal Craft in general, as well as of every worthy Brother in particular, and also to extend the benefits arising therefrom to every created being according to the original design of this Heavenly Institution, first planned and founded in Ethics, and including in its <sup>grand</sup> ~~general~~ scheme, every Art, Science, and Mystery that the mind of man in this sublunary state is capable of comprehending, and whereas we having duly passed the Royal Arch have found our dearly beloved and most Excellent Brethren James Falloway, John McLean, Tho: Dunckerley, Francis Flower, John Allen, John Brooks, Thomas French, and Charles Taylor, and the rest of our Excellent Companions of the respectable Chapter held at the Trust West 7 17

in Gerrard Street, Soho, in the County of Middlesex, not only to be perfect Masters in every degree of the Royal Craft in its operative, but likewise in their study and labour, to have made considerable advance in the speculative or truly sublime and most exalted parts thereof, and Whereas our said most Excellent Companions have requested us to enter into compact with, and grant to them our Charter of Institution and protection to which we have readily concurred,

Now know Ye, that in tender consideration of the Premises, and for the purposes aforesaid we have Instituted and Erected, and by and with the advice, consent, and concurrence of our said most Excellent Companions in full Chapter assembled, testified by their severally signing and sealing hereof, Do by these presents as much as in us lies Institute and erect them, our said most Excellent Brethren & Companions Jarl Galloway, John McLean, Thomas Dunckley, Francis Flower, John Allen, John Brooks, Thomas French, and Charles Taylor and their successors, Officers for the time being of the Grand and Royal Chapter, jointly with ourselves and our successor, most excellent Grand Masters for the time being from time to time, and at all times hereafter to form and be the Grand & Royal Chapter of the Royal Arch of Jerusalem, thereby giving, granting, ratifying, and confirming unto them and their successors, All the rights, privileges, Dignities, Emblems, and Prerogatives which from time to time immemorial have belonged and do appertain, to those exalted to this most sublime Degree, with full power and absolute authority from time to time as occasion shall require, and it shall be found expedient to hold and convene Chapters and other proper Assemblies for the carrying on and


improving and promoting the said benevolent and useful work, and also to admit pass and exalt in due form and according to the rites & ceremonies Tunc unmemorial used and approved, in and by that most exalted and sacred degree, and as now by them practised; all such experienced and discreet Master Masons as they shall find worthy.

And we do furthermore hereby give, grant, ratify and confirm unto our said most Excellent Brethren, & Companions and their successors, officers of our said Grand and Royal Chapter for the time being, full and absolute power and authority in conjunction with us, or our most Excellent Deputy for the time being, to make and confirm Laws, Orders, and Ordinances, for the better conducting and regulating the said most Excellent and sublime Degree throughout the Globe, as well as of the said Grand & Royal Chapter, and from time to time to alter and abrogate the same Laws, Orders, and Ordinances as to them and their successors shall seem meet, and also to constitute superintend and regulate other Chapters wheresoever shall be found convenient, and as to us or our Deputy and the said Grand Officers our and their successors for the time being shall seem fit.

And it is also declared, concluded, and agreed upon by and between us and our most Excellent Companions James Galloway, John Wilson, Tho. Dunckerley, Francis Flower, John Allen, John Brooks, Tho. Farveh & Chas. Day the said most Excellent Grand Officers, and these presents further witness that we and the said most Excellent Grand Officers, do hereby for ourselves severally and respectively, and for our several and respective successors, the most excellent Grand Master and the most Excellent Grand Officers of the said Grand and Royal Chapter of the Royal Arch of Jerusalem in manner and form following that is to say

First That the most Excellent Deputy Grand Master shall preside and have full power and authority in the absence of the most Excellent Grand Master

Secondly That the jewels worn or to be worn from time to time by the most Excellent the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Officers shall be of the form and figure, and bear the same inscription, as delineated in the margin hereof, and that the like jewels only omitting the Sun, Compass, and Globe shall be worn by the two Scribes and three S.N.R.S. and also that the like jewels shall be worn by the rest of the Excellent Companions except that in them shall be left out the Triangle &c in the centre thereof.

Thirdly That every Companion shall wear according to ancient custom an Apron indented with crimson and the badge or  properly displayed thereon and also the indented ribbon or sash of this Order.

Fourthly That the common seal of this Grand and Royal Chapter shall bear the like impression, as the jewels worn by the most Excellent grand officers.

Fifthly That for every Charter of Constitution to be granted by and from this Grand and Royal Chapter shall be paid into the common Fund thereof at least the sum of Ten Guineas

Sixthly That none but discreet and experienced Master Masons shall receive exaltation to this sublime Degree in this or in any other Chapter that may hereafter be duly constituted, nor until they shall have been duly proposed at least one Chapter night preceding, nor unless balloted for, and that on such ballot there shall not appear one negative or black ball.

Seventhly That every such person so to be exalted shall pay at least the sum of Five Guineas

into the Common Fund of the Chapter, wherein he shall receive Exaltation, towards enabling the Companions to carry on the business, and support the Dignity thereof.

Eighthly That none calling themselves Royal Arch Mason shall be deemed any other than Masters in Operative Masoway, nor shall be received into any regular Chapter of the Royal Arch, or be permitted to reap or enjoy any of the Benefits, Dignities, or Emblems, of that most exalted Degree, save and except those who have received, or shall or may hereafter receive Exaltation in this Grand and Royal Chapter or in some Chapter to be chartered and constituted by us or our successors Most Excellent Grand Officers aforesaid, and except those coming from beyond the seas, such as shall obtain Certificates of adoption from this our Grand and Royal Chapter. For which Certificates shall be paid into the Common Fund the sum of One Guinea at the <sup>least</sup>

Monthly That there shall be a general Chapter of communication of the Excellent Companions of this Grand and Royal Chapter with all other Chapters, that shall or may hereafter come under the protection of, and be chartered by the same as aforesaid, on or as near as conveniently may be to the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, yearly or oftener, as occasion shall require and it shall be found convenient for the purposes of conducting, promoting, and well ordering of this sublime Degree, and the business and affairs thereof in such manner as shall from time to time be found most expedient.

Truthly That at and upon the said Feast of St. John the Evangelist, or the general Chapter of Communication held next to such Feast, the Most Excellent Grand Master, Most Excellent Deputy Grand Master, and the other Most Excellent Grand Officers, of the Grand and Royal Arch of Jerusalem shall be chosen and elected, which Election shall be by a majority of the Companions present

at such General Chapter by ballot, and  
 Lastly that the Grand Officers & so chosen and  
 elected shall continue to serve and be in office for  
 the year ensuing unless some or one of them shall  
 happen to decline, in which case, or in case of the  
 death of any of them or otherwise it shall be found  
 necessary, a special General Chapter shall be called  
 for an Election to supply his or their place or places

In witness whereof we the said most Excellent  
 Grand Master and the most Excellent Grand  
 Officers have hereunto severally signed our names  
 and affixed our seals in full Chapter assembled  
 for this purpose at the Turks Head Tavern in  
 Gerrard Street Soho. aforesaid this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July  
 in the year of the Birth of Virtue 5::3::7::9::  
 A.L. 5771 A.D. 1767.

What the year of Virtue 5779  
 means, no one can tell  
 Bro. Higham has tried every  
 way and failed.

Signed	Blayney	(LS)	
	Jm. Galloway	(LS)	
Manchism	Jno. W. Jones	(LS)	
Pignatelli	Thomas Dunckerby	(LS)	
	Francis Flower	(LS)	E.S.
	Jno. Allen	(LS)	N.
	Jno. Brooks	(LS)	P.S.
	Jhr. French	(LS)	S.
	Chas. Taylor	(LS)	S.

In testimony of our ready acceptance of and perfect  
 compliance with this Charter of Institution and  
 Protection above written, and the Laws and  
 Ordinances thereby prescribed for the rest of the  
 Excellent Companions of this most excellent Grand  
 and Royal Chapter have hereunto severally subscribed  
 our names the day and year above written

Henry Chittick	R. Berkeley	Rowland Holt
G. Borrodale	Jno. Bewlay Rich	J.P. Pryse
John Turner	Anglesey	Jno Hatch
W. Ross	Jho. Morgan	Lewis Masquerien
Robert Bellie	Jno Heselbine	David Hughes
John Derwas	W <sup>m</sup> Guest	
Samuel Lway	R. Sunkinson	

Note by Col. H. Clerke Grand Lodge L

"Duke of Manchester and the Italian Duke Rignabelli  
 were not exalted till some years after the date of  
 this Charter when no doubt they signed it  
 This was also the case with a few of the other signatories

AJ

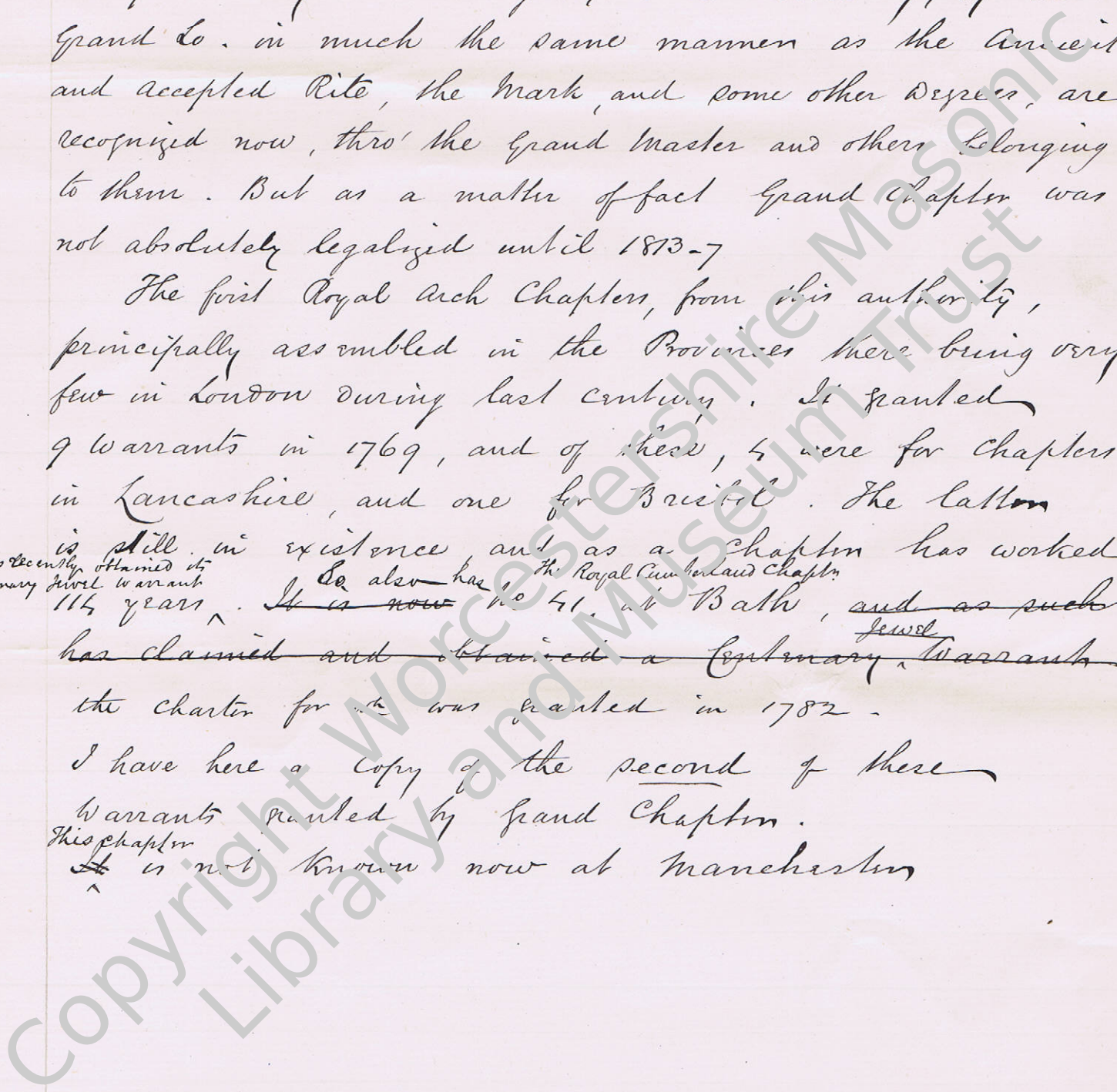


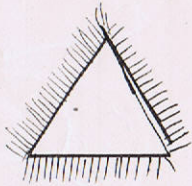
This body under the wing of the 'Moderns' issued their Rules in 1778 and 1782 of which Bro. Hughan <sup>has</sup> ~~can send~~ copies to examine if desired.

This Grand Chapter was formed then in 1767 and was practically acknowledged, tho' not actually, by the Grand Co. in much the same manner as the Ancient and accepted Rite, the Mark, and some other Degrees, are recognized now, thro' the Grand Master and others belonging to them. But as a matter of fact Grand Chapter was not absolutely legalized until 1813-7

The first Royal Arch Chapters, from this authority, principally assembled in the Provinces there being very few in London during last century. It granted 9 warrants in 1769, and of these, 4 were for Chapters in Lancashire, and one for Bristol. The latter is still in existence, and as a Chapter has worked <sup>It has recently obtained its</sup> ~~It is now~~ <sup>contemporary jewel warrant</sup> 114 years. <sup>So also has</sup> ~~It is now~~ <sup>the Royal Cumberland Chapter</sup> no 41. at Bath, and as such <sup>has</sup> ~~has claimed and obtained a~~ <sup>jewel</sup> ~~contemporary~~ warrants the charter for ~~it~~ was granted in 1782.

I have here a copy of the second of these warrants granted by Grand Chapter. <sup>This Chapter</sup> ~~It~~ is not known now at Manchester.





# Blaney

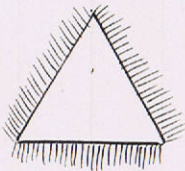


In the Name of the Grand Architect of the Universe,  
The Almighty I A H.

N<sup>o</sup> 2

To all the unlightened our Brethren of the several Degrees of the Royal Craft, but more especially Citizens of the World and servants of the Omnipotent who have been or hereafter may be honoured by Exaltation to our most sublime Degree Health, Peace, and Goodwill.

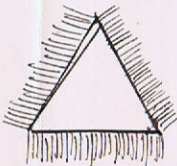
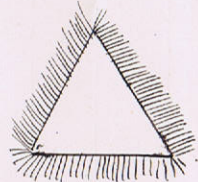
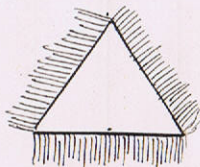
Be it known! That our excellent Companions Joseph Carter, Senr. H. South and John Clegg having by the favour of our most Excellent Companion John Allen, made known to us their desire of holding a Chapter of our Order for the cultivation of the Grand and Universal Science in hopes thereby to more & extend add to, and promote the Happiness of every Terrestrial Being and unite Mankind together by indissoluble Bonds of Friendship, Peace and Harmony; and we having taken their request into consideration and finding it conformant with our grand Scheme of Universal Benevolence, do grant this our warrant of Constitution hereby empowering them, their Companions and Successors, to open and hold a Chapter of our Order at Manchester in the County Palatine of Lancashire on Sunday the twenty first day of May, new next, moving with the Title of The Euphrates Lodge of the Chapter of the Garden of Eden: being No 2 in our Register; with such Privileges, Powers and Immunities as do of Right belong to regular Established Chapters and Companions of our said most excellent Order: Subject nevertheless to the General Laws and Ordinances already, or to be hereafter enacted by our most Excellent Grand and Royal Chapter. Given under our hands, and the seal of our Grand and Royal Chapter this Twelfth day of May A. D. 1770. A. D. 1769.



Rich<sup>d</sup> Simpkinson E  
D<sup>r</sup> Hughes N.

Jno. Allen Pt.  
Jos. Dixon Sojn  
Henry Chittick Sojn

John Brooks Jr  
John McLean H  
Jas Hoelstine J



There seems then not the slightest doubt that the Grand Chapter of England originated out of a Private Chapter, & as to the origin of the latter it is impossible to tell the date, or the author.

As much that I have read suggests, the Royal Arch Degree most likely was a separation of the latter portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, and if so, all will I think unite with me in thinking the arrangement a very wise one, for though apparently it is a separate Degree, the idea has always formed one of its traditions, <sup>+ teaching</sup> that it is the completion and climax of the Third.

As to the Royal Arch in relation to Worcestershire Bearing in mind that each Lodge of the Antients or Seceders, was empowered to work the Royal Arch as separate degree by virtue of its warrant, we have to note the Lodges of that Grand Lodge chartered in Worcestershire, to know when the degree was first worked therein. These were as follows

No. 60 Worcester 16 Mar 1757

178 Kidderminster 15 Decr 1772

256 Lo. of Freedom 26 Feby 1788  
Dudley.

Faithful 1813  
transd before

afterwards 310 a  
unit in Dec 1813 and  
in 1828. held at 74

Worcester then first worked Royal Arch Masonry in 1757 followed by Kidderminster in 1772-3 both Lodges being extinct about the time of the Union in 1813.

There were no early warrants for R.A. Masonry granted to Worcestershire during last Century, by the Moderns.

In closing this rough survey of the subject I would ask the Companions to carefully study this beautiful degree, to pay the closest attention to those noble and exalted truths it inculcates, and though we have little time and few opportunities in open Chapter to familiarize ourselves with its workings we can by being true to the trust reposed in us hand down to posterity its sublime mysteries, as worthy alike of the study of the theologian, the antiquary, the philosopher, the linguist, and the Freemason.

Copyright Worcestershire Masonic Library and Museum Trust