



The Belmont Albion Lodge No.45 Newsletter

August-September
2019

Vision Statement:
To prosper into the future.

Mission Statement:
The Belmont Albion Lodge No 45 shall practice the principles of freemasonry in all ways, to enhance education, knowledge and care for its members, attracting men of high quality, personal development and participation in our community.



Email:
ba45.editor@gmail.com



"I will strive to live with love and care,
Upon the level and by the square"

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Message from the East

Greetings Brethren,

I quote this portion of a speech given by a former US Navy Seal Commander and US Admiral William Mc Raven to the graduating class of 2014 of the University of Texas and telling them how they can initiate changing the world by the doing the small things in life first.

“If you want to change the world, start out by making your bed. If you make your bed every morning, you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride, and it will encourage you to do another task, and another, and another. And by the end of the day, that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed. Making your bed will also reinforce the fact that the little things in life matter. If you can’t understand and do the little things right, you’ll never be able to the big things right. And if by any chance that you have a miserable day, you will come home to a bed that is made. That you made. And a made bed gives you encouragement that tomorrow will be better.”

In a similar manner I recognize that we can try to adapt this perspective when calling on brethren who may be hesitant in delivering charges and actively participate in the Lodge rituals. No doubt this would be most especially useful and apply well to our newer brethren. And while we are not expecting to change the world with our application, it will, in some small though significant sense, effect a positive change in oneself and by default indirectly enhance the image of the Lodge.

Start with a small charge. No one expects anybody to get it perfect the first time around, or the second or even the third, and I guarantee that no one will judge you for it. On the contrary, you will get ample encouragement from your brethren for giving it a try. If and once this proves successful, try another, and another and another. Succeeding in giving small charges will slowly build up your confidence and should encourage you to do more, and perhaps inspire you to attempt to do a more





substantial charge. Understanding the message of the charge you are meant to convey always helps. Turn it into a story if you can, and then retell that story. Be prudent and follow the Admiral’s advice—understand and do the small things right first, before you attempt the bigger things.

There is a certain pride you feel on having delivered a charge well. It is not something that can be appropriately explained in words. In my humble opinion, it is something that must be felt. It is best when felt. No doubt, it will take hard work, time, practice and endless repetition, but if you commit to it and persevere, and put the effort in, I guarantee it will pay off. You will get better, and with it will come success. You will feel the appreciation of the brethren because they understand full well the effort and commitment it takes to pull it off, and when this happens you will not have only improved and developed personally but perhaps you too will then be well on your way to doing the bigger things.

Fraternally,
Floyd Apoderado
Worshipful Master


SEPTEMBER 2019 NOTICE PAPER

The Belmont Albion Lodge No.45

MISSION STATEMENT: The Belmont Albion Lodge No.45 shall practice the principles of Freemasonry in all ways, to enhance education, knowledge and care for its members, attracting men of high quality, personal development and participation in our community. **FREEMASONRY A WAY OF LIFE.**

VISION: To Prosper Into The Future

	Agenda	The Masters Calendar
 <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Worshipful Master WBro Floyd Apoderado 33 Silver Moon Road Albany Heights, Auckland Mob: 0211878864</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Senior Warden Bro Richard Lumsden 38 Ridge Road Tel: 09-415 8838</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Junior Warden Bro Allen De Guzman 37 Sycamore Drive Tel: 09-479 5288</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Director of Ceremonies WBro Sean Neely 9 Roland Rd Greenhithe 0632 Mob: 021 897326</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Secretary W Bro Dave Barr, PG88 Apt 24/12 Coronation St Belmont 0622 Tel: 488 7296</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Treasurer Bro Chris Bilham 40 Church St Devonport Tel 09-551 7780</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Almoner W Bro Wayne Jones RH 8 Almadale Place Hillcrest 0627 Mob* 021 897326</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">North Shore Masonic Centre 5 William Laurie Place, Albany Tel: 09-4485000</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Tying: 7.30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Confirmation of Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Correspondence</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matters arising there from</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer's Report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General Business</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Almoner's Report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visitors Received -7.45 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0;">Refractory</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Supper Fee: \$15. NC visitors</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0;">Attire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dark lounge suit, white shirt, Black or Lodge tie, Black shoes, Black socks and White gloves</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0;">The Work of The Evening:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-To Raise Bro, Ranjit Menon -To pass Bro D Lucas (St Andrew No. 418 Scottish Constitution)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0;">AUGUST</p> <p>27th Belmont Albion -3rd Degree Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0;">SEPTEMBER</p> <p>3rd Belmont Albion -3rd Degree Rehearsal</p> <p>10th Belmont Albion- Regular Meeting To Raise Bro. Ranjit Menon</p> <p>17th Break</p> <p>24th Standing Committee Meeting #2</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0;">OCTOBER</p> <p>1st Belmont Albion- -Scottie Night Rehearsal</p> <p>8th Belmont Albion -Regular Meeting Annual Scottie Night-2nd Degree working by St. Andrew's Lodge No.418</p> <p>15th Masonic Education Evening-Speaking on your Feet Part 1</p> <p>22th Masonic Education Evening-Speaking on your Feet Part 2</p> <p>29th Belmont Albion - Degree Rehearsal</p>
	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Master's Visits: September 4 Wednesday -Titirangi Mt. Albert Lodge No.204 Installation Bro. Regie Inigo September 12 Thursday- Lodge North Harbour 182 – Double 3rd Degree working September 20 Saturday - Orewa Lodge No.370 Installation of Bro. David Rodenburg</p>	

Website/Blog: <http://www.thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz/>

Views from the West

Richard Lumsden, Senior Warden



The Master has requested that as Senior Warden I contribute Views from the West for each Newsletter. So here goes with the introductory one.

Facetiously the view from the West is of the East with the formidable view of the experienced Worshipful, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brothers in the East. They appear somewhat foreboding as you can see their expressions when your ritual is not as good as they can do or expect. However the view down the Lodge gives you a better appreciation of the symmetry and elegant symbolism of the Lodge workings and the perambulations.

When I joined Freemasonry (in another Lodge I hasten to add) we did not seem to spend time

explaining what and why we were doing something rather we were focussed on learning the words. I learn better when contextualising what and why we are doing something e.g. proving at the door of the Lodge then perambulating to show the candidate is properly prepared etc.

My plan is over the next few newsletters is to discuss

Why I joined Freemasonry

Why I remain a Freemason

What freemasonry does for me

And hopefully this will stimulate you to determine your own answers to these questions in order to make your Freemasonry journey enduring. The answers should ensure that Freemasonry does not just become a habit or a chore and consequently less relevant and valued by you.

Views from the South

Allen De Guzman – Junior Warden



Why did I join Freemasonry?

About 6 years ago, I was initiated into Belmont Albion No. 45. Since then I have become heavily involved in the Lodge activities and rituals, from being Junior Deacon to a Junior Warden this year. Why I became a freemason cannot be answered in one short phrases and most of us will have different reasons in joining the brotherhood.

I have been aware of the fraternity since I was young since my father was one when I was still living in Philippines. My initial reason was to answer my curiosity of what is really happening in the lodge. It has always been on my mind from my younger teenage years. I cannot really ask my father as I knew he would just say to join on my own free will to find out. I applied after I finished

my studies and found my first job so I would have the time and financial backing.

After becoming a Master Mason, my curiosity did not die. It was a never-ending lesson when you get into it. I was taught that there is always something to learn, that you could always improve and apply everything you learn into your life. Every time I take a new role within the lodge, it taught me that it will be always hard in the beginning, but you will improve every time you try. I am still getting used to the role of the Junior Warden, but I know that I will have the support of everyone in the lodge. This is my reason for joining and it will be yet another explanation as to why I have stayed with Belmont Albion Lodge #45.

Know your Brothers

Richard Lumsden, Senior Warden

I joined RNZAF as a University Officer Cadet, gained my Mechanical Engineering Degree with Honours and then was commissioned as an Engineering Officer. I retired in 1977 as a Squadron Leader to join my father in business. We sold our business in 1998 but after my restraint of trade was over, my eldest son and I went back into Road Safety Engineering business from which I retired last year. Our final business iteration was the manufacture in China of Steel Temporary Road Barriers (some of which are deployed in the Works between Constellation and Oteha Valley).

I was initiated, passed and raised by June 2004 in my Mother Lodge ,The Lodge of Enlightenment #502, where I served a number of roles up to Junior Warden. Since joining BA I have been Junior Warden, Treasurer and currently Senior Warden. I am the Chairman of Directors of the North Shore Masonic Centre.

Marcia and I have been married for 47 years and have 2 sons and a daughter. Alastair some of you know as he was initiated, passed and raised in BA 45 prior to his going to St Andres University to complete a PhD.



Richard Lumsden

THE ANNUAL FILIPINO NIGHT 2019

Last July 13 saw us celebrate the 6th reiteration of Belmont Albion’s popular ‘Filipino Night’. Having just celebrated the Philippine Independence day 2 days prior, we thought it fitting that we take this opportunity pay our own tribute to our national flag in the manner that Filipino Freemasons do back home every year.

The night began with a short Flag march to the refectory by all Filipino brethren in attendance accompanied by the music of the Philippines National anthem ‘Bayang Magiliw’ (Beloved Country). This was followed by the tribute to the flag passionately and eloquently delivered word perfect by W Bro Jodeal Cadacio, Past Master of Lodge North Harbour 182.



The refectory was as expected jam packed. Our crowd was a mix of the brethren, their partners and children, friends, and prospective joining members. We lost track of attendee count after 78.



The night went well underway after a brief description of the Filipino delicacies on offer. This year we thought we'd make some of the dishes on offer more 'interesting' for our Kiwi brethren and their partners by including Dinuguan – Pigs blood pork stew, very similar to blood pudding or sausages in taste and Sisig, a Filipino mainstay made from pork including the pork head and some offals. Other dishes included the popular starter Arroz Caldo lovingly prepared by Sonny's wife Susan, followed by the main-Pork Belly Lechon (spit roasted Pork Belly), Fish kinilaw (Fish Ceviche), Chicken Adobo, Pancit (Filipino noodles) and an assortment of roasted winter vegetables. The Filipino beer 'Red Horse' was likewise on offer. The meals were finished off with the dessert combination of Filipino Ube (purple yam) -vanilla ice cream and the frozen butter cream cookie Silvanas.



Live entertainment was provided by Ramon and Grace. Before long we had the ladies and the children dancing in what open floor was available, while other chose to enjoy the evening watching the group dance on and on and enjoy the music. There were some brave souls who sang wonderful renditions of their favourite songs. Excellent.



Many of those present have personally come up to me and said how much they enjoyed the night and that they would be gladly be back next year. I am truly glad they enjoyed themselves.

Looks like we might be looking forwards to Filipino Night 2020.

Floyd Apoderado

Worshipful Master

More Pictures from the Filipino Night....



TOP CHEF!-Susan Jaucian, wife of Bro.Sonny



Brother Ranjit Menon's Third Degree (10th September 2019)

The brethren joined me in congratulating Brother Ranjit Menon on his good fortune on becoming a Master Mason at our last regular meeting. In my speech I told Bro. Ranjit that having just become a Master Mason, he might be lulled into thinking –that his work is now done, and that he might think that he can now relax and take it easy....to some extent yes, but truth be told, I explained to him that his work has only just begun. What a slave driver!



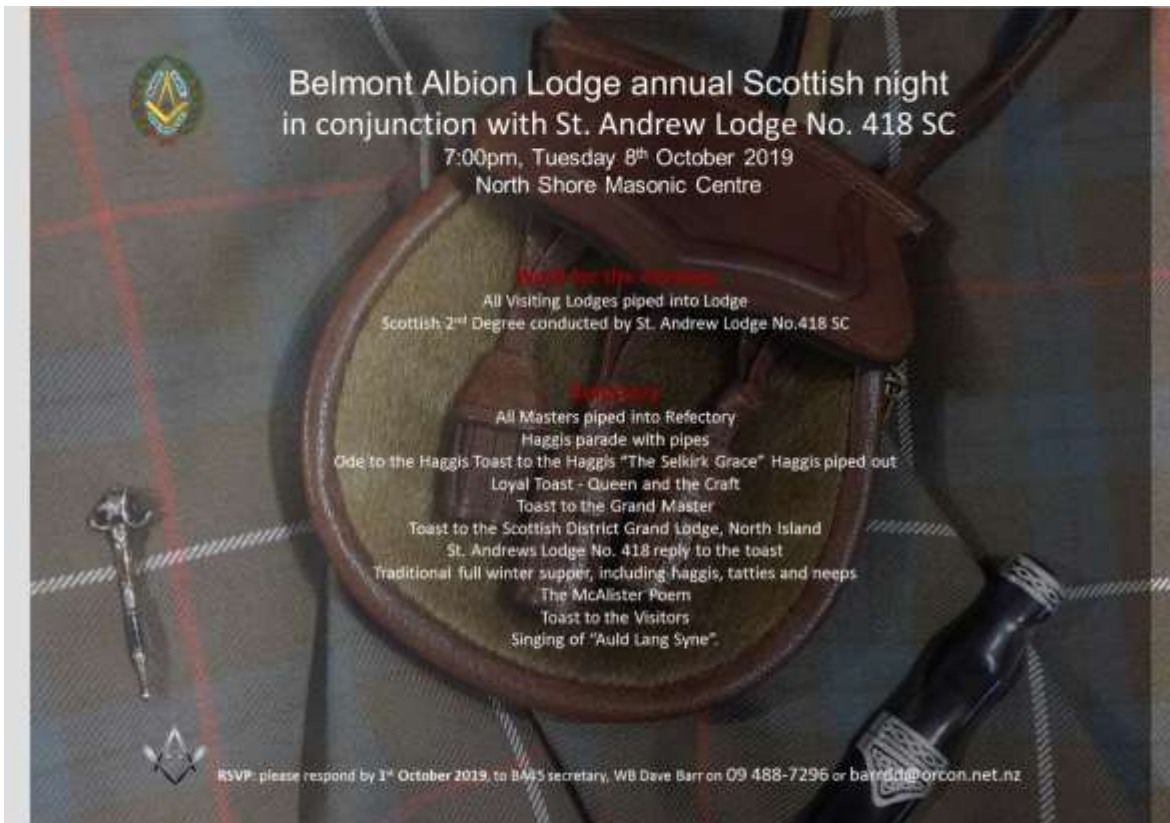
I quoted- that in giving him the three Degrees, the lodge had done all it can by giving him proper instruction in the rituals, how to visit and develop strong bonds between bothers from other lodges and immersing himself and building up on his masonic knowledge. I explained that through the progress of the Degrees he had been the focus of attention, the material being formed, from a rough ashlar being made perfect. Once raised, and belonging to the lodge, that it is now up to him to make the Lodge belong to him. I have no doubt he will take on this challenge willingly and face it head on.

It was a good night brethren and there were a lot of last minute contributions that helped guide the event to a success which I would like to acknowledge. Firstly, Brother Ronald Venturina for agreeing to take on the working tools with very little notice. I am very thankful to RW Bro Murray Morrissey and VW Bro. Geoff Foote for participating and giving such outstanding charges on the night even though they are coming from long illnesses and W Bro Alan Thompson for taking on the role Senior Warden in Brother Lumsden's absence.

Recognition should also go to W Bro. Wayne Jones for always taking care of the refectory and making sure that the brethren and visitors are well cared for. To VW Bro Keith Eaglesome, RW Bro Jim Williamson and W Bro. Dave Barr, our 'Three Musketeers' for always volunteering and participating in lodge rehearsals and helping out in any manner they can, and lastly to our DC W Bro Sean Neely for his continued and very commendable stewardship of the team. I hope that our younger brethren take notice of this show off selfless commitment and support and inspire them to emulate these examples. A great effort by the whole team. Thank you Brethren for all your brotherly love and support.

-Floyd Apoderado

Worshipful Master



Your special invitation to the Belmont Albion Scottish Night 7:00pm, 8th October, 2019.

Greetings Brethren,

Please join us for the annual Belmont Albion 45 Scottish night, hosted in conjunction with our Brethren of **St. Andrews Lodge No. 418**.

Our very special annual event of Scottish pomp and ceremony is delivered with passion and flair by our generous brethren from **St. Andrews No. 418**.

This year the work of the evening is a Scottish 2nd Degree, followed by the traditional revelry that our annual Scottie night is becoming well known for. We expect a full lodge so tickets will be limited.

Lodge: Belmont Albion No. 45, **Date:** Tuesday, 8th October. **Time:** Tying at 7:00pm, Visitors received at 7:15pm sharp, with each separate Lodges piped in and presented.
Location: North Shore Masonic Centre, 5 William Laurie Place, Albany, Auckland

Cost: This evening's entertainment will be \$25 per head, which will be collected on the night. There is an open bar, however the evenings charge will include table wine during the meal.

RSVP: To help with accurate catering, please respond by **1st October 2019**, to BA45 Secretary Bro. Dave Barr on 09 488-7596 or barrdd@orcon.net.nz

Kind regards
WB Sean Neely
021 897326

Scotts and Freemasonry

Scots and Freemasonry

by

Carson C. Smith, F.S.A. Scot

Introduction

There's mony a badge that's unco braw;
Wi' ribbon, lace and tape on;
Let kings an' princes wear them a',
Gie me the Master's Apron!

(Translation)

There's many a badge uncommonly handsome;
With ribbon, lace and tape on;
Let kings and prices wear them all,
Give me the Master's Apron!

The Master's Apron
Robert Burns (1786)

Robert Burns (1759-1796) was initiated as an Entered Apprentice at Lodge St. David in Tarbolton on July 4, 1781 at the age of 23. He was passed to Fellow Craft, and raised a Master Mason on October 1, 1781. In his poetry, Burns upheld the Masonic ideals of Liberty, Equality and Religious Toleration. He is celebrated as the Poet Laureate of Freemasonry.

What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry has been defined as "a system of morality, veiled in allegory." Simply stated, it is a society of men who symbolically apply the tools of "operative" masonry, to the "speculative" science of character building. It is often said that the goal of Freemasonry is "to take good men and make them better." Freemasonry is the oldest, largest, most respected and, at the same time, the most dreaded Fraternity in the World.

It is respected for its ideals of Liberty, Equality and Religious Toleration. But it is hated equally by both Religious Fundamentalists, and Anti-religionists; by Anti-religionists, because no Atheist can be made a Mason, and by Religious Fundamentalists, because in a just and lawfully constituted lodge of Freemasons, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and all who acknowledge the Great Architect of the Universe, sit as Brothers.

The history of Freemasonry can be divided into three (3) distinct categories or periods; the Ancient or Legendary, the Medieval or "operative" and the Modern or "speculative." The first refers to the building of the Temple of King Solomon, the second to the tools of medieval stonemasons, and the third to the spiritual application of mechanical principles.

As the members of the ancient guilds were initiated into their craft, so are Freemasons initiated into the degrees of their Craft. When stonemasons set about the task of building a castle or a cathedral, they erected temporary shelters called *lodges*. Likewise Freemasons conduct their meetings in a building called a *lodge*. And, like "operative"

stonemasons, Freemasons wear as the uniform of their craft, a ceremonial apron which, in the case of Freemasonry, is made of white lambskin, or an imitation thereof.

The ancient stonemasons guilds received entered apprentices, who were trained to become fellows of the craft, to one day be elevated to the status of a master mason. Likewise, after submitting a petition to a just and lawfully constituted lodge of Freemasons, a candidate becomes an Entered Apprentice, is passed to Fellow Craft, and raised a Master Mason.

Freemasonry is *not* a secret society. Freemasons openly identify themselves as Masons, and proudly wear the square and compass, which has become one of the most recognized insignia in the World. Our buildings are clearly marked. We are listed in the phone book. We sponsor public fundraising efforts to support Masonic Homes, Shriners Hospitals, and a variety of programs to benefit the disadvantaged.

Freemasonry *is* a society that has secrets. But our rituals, hailing signs, penal signs, pass words and grips, are revealed to our members at each degree of their initiation into greater Masonic Light. And, as they progress, candidates are presented the working tools of the "operative" mason, the square, the compass, the 24 inch gage, the common gavel, the level, the plumb and the trowel, and they are taught their spiritual application for the "speculative" mason.

Many aspects of Masonic Ritual have worked their way into our common language; we work toward making a "square deal," conducting our business "on the level," we seek to "subdue our passions," when we share a confidence, we guard against "eavesdroppers," when we are deceived, we claim that we have been "hoodwinked," if someone is excluded from membership in a group, he is "blackballed," and when we are subjected to a severe line of questioning, we complain that we are being given "the third degree."

In any bookstore, you can purchase one of a number of books about the history of Freemasonry including *A Dictionary of Freemasonry* and *Duncan's Ritual*. Truth be told, with the arrival of the Internet, Masonic ritual books and Masonic handbooks can be ordered online, and the purchaser is never asked to prove whether or not he is a Mason. Opponents of Freemasonry have gone so far as to have actually posted, word for word, the rituals of Freemasonry, complete with the secret words and pass words, and with illustrations of the grips and pass grips, on several websites.

So what *do* the Scots have to do with Freemasonry, and what *does* Freemasonry have to do with the Scots?

The Knights Templar

During the first millennium of the Christian era, many of the devout made pilgrimages to Jerusalem. Palestine was under Arab control from 637 AD. The Islamic world considered Jesus of Nazareth a prophet, but second to Mohammed, and permitted Christian pilgrims free access to all of their holy sites. The Christian residents of Palestine established small hospitals in order to provide for the pilgrims needs. In 1046 the merchants of Amalfi, Italy established the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. The hospital was staffed by brothers who served under no particular religious order.

In 1076 the Ottoman Turks invaded Palestine and proceeded to persecute the Christian community and defile all Christian shrines. A pilgrim who was known as Peter the Hermit, returned to Western Europe, and began to preach a crusade to free the Holy Lands from the Turks. He led a mob toward Jerusalem, but remnants of this "Peoples Crusade" were annihilated by the Turks at Nicaea.

Pope Urban II (1042-1098) assembled a Council at Clermont, France in 1095 to organize a "Holy War." The "First Crusade" set out for Palestine the following year under the leadership several nobles. After capturing Nicaea and Antioch, they marched through the deserts and mountains of northern Palestine. A Christian army of 20,000 arrived at the gates of Jerusalem on June 7, 1099. The city was surrendered on July 15, 1099.

Nearly twenty years later, in 1118, nine Christian knights formed a fighting unit to patrol the roads of Palestine, and escort pilgrims on their journey. Their leader was a Burgundian knight by the name of Hugh de Payens (? -1136), and they called themselves "The Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ." Baldwin II, the Christian king of Jerusalem, assigned them quarters on the Temple Mount, near the Dome of the Rock, at the former site of Herod's Temple.

The knights expanded their title to "The Poor Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon," which was later shortened to "The Knights of the Temple" and eventually, "The Knights Templar." Later study of the Temple Mount reveals that the Templars embarked upon an ambitious excavation project under the site of Herod's Temple. What they may or may not have found there is the subject of much speculation.

By 1165 the Knights Templar were firmly established in Jerusalem, and throughout Europe. When a nobleman joined their ranks, he surrendered his castle and properties to the Templars, who used revenues that were generated to purchase armour, weapons, horses and ships that were used to carry pilgrims, troops and commercial cargoes across the Mediterranean from France to Italy, Palestine, Spain and beyond. From the highly fortified harbour of La Rochelle, it is alleged they were able to conduct trade with the British Isles, Greenland and the North Americas. The Templar Fleet exceeded that of any state at that time. For the purposes of defence, the Templar fleet included a number of highly manoeuvrable war galleys fitted with rams.

The Knights Templar are credited with the development of modern banking. A pilgrim could, at the beginning of his journey, deposit his money with the Templars. He would receive a letter of credit, with markings known only to the Templars, against which he could draw what he needed, as he proceeded to and from the Holy Lands, without fear of having all of his money stolen along the way.

King Philip IV (1268-1314), known as Philip la Bel, or Philip the Fair, of France, was envious of the popularity and wealth of The Knights Templar. France was bankrupt, Philip was a weak and unpopular king, he was deeply in debt to the Templars, and he sought to secure the wealth of the Templars for himself. In 1307 King Philip IV persuaded Pope Clement V that the Templars were practicing blasphemous rituals, preaching heresy and engaging in homosexuality.

Pope Clement V (1260-1314) condemned the Templars as heretics and on Friday the 13th of 1307 King Philip IV of France ordered simultaneous raids on all Templar priories in France. Hundreds of Knights were captured, including The Grand Master, Jacques de Molay (1244-1314). But word of the raids was received in advance, and hundreds more Templars fled from France, or melted into the general population, and the Templar fleet disappeared.

The captured Templars were tortured in order to extract confessions that would fit the charges levelled against them. In 1310 fifty-four Templars were burned at the stake in order to force confessions from the remaining Templars in French custody. Jacques de Molay was burned at the stake in 1314. As the flames rose about him, de Molay pronounced a curse upon King Philip IV and Pope Clement V. Both died within the year. Neither the King, nor the Pope, captured the Templar treasury or the Templar fleet. But thereafter, Vatican shipping came under the attack of privateers, flying the Templar maritime flag, a black banner with a skull and crossed bones.

Robert the Bruce of Scotland

One year prior to the meeting between King Philip IV and Pope Clement V, where they plotted the destruction of the Templars, Robert the Bruce (1274-1329), grandson of Robert Bruce, who had contended with John Balliol for the crown of Scotland in 1292, murdered his rival, John Comyn, in a church in Dumfries on February 10, 1306. The Pope who ordered the destruction of the Templars excommunicated Robert the Bruce.

On June 24, 1314, (The Feast of St. John), an English army under King Edward II, that had arrived to relieve Stirling Castle, was defeated by Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn. Legend has it that knights, who appeared on horseback, in the flowing cassocks of the Templars, aided the Bruce in the defeat of the English cavalry. Edward II only narrowly escaped with his life and, to this day, the Battle of Bannockburn stands as the most single important military victory in all of Scottish history.

The Battle of Bannockburn occurred only seven years after the disappearance of the Templars and the Templar fleet. Like the Templars, Robert the Bruce was under Papal proscription. Like the Templars, Robert the Bruce had been excommunicated. It has been said that, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend," and there is no reason why the Bruce would not have welcomed the support of Warrior Knights who, like himself, were at odds with the Roman Church.

It is now believed that part of the Templar fleet sailed northward along the west coast of England, through the North Channel which separates Scotland from Ireland, avoiding Ireland, (which was firmly under the control of the Roman Church), to arrive north of Glasgow in Argyll, in the vicinity of the town of Oban. This is supported by the fact that Templar graves, marked with slabs of stone, and bearing the outline of a Templar sword, are found in Argyll. Similar graves are found in the vicinity of Rosslyn, south of the city of Edinburgh.

The Sinclairs of Rosslyn

It is impossible to tell the story of Freemasonry, without telling the story of Clan Sinclair.

Prince Henry St. Clair, Earl of Orkney, offered refuge to the Templars upon his land in Scotland. In 1398, one hundred years before Columbus arrived in the New World, Henry St. Clair sailed to what is known today as Nova Scotia. His arrival was recorded in the tribal history of the Mi'kmaq Indians.

Further evidence of his expedition to the New World is found in Rosslyn Chapel, which is, in actuality, a Templar shrine. In addition to the Pre-Christian Green Man, scenes from the Old and New Testaments, and decorative elements of the Knights Templar, there are representations of maize and aloe, which would have been unknown prior to Henry St. Clair's arrival in the New World.

In 1440 William St. Clair, grandson of Prince Henry St. Clair, began the construction of Rosslyn Chapel on the floor plan of the Third Temple, built in Jerusalem by Herod, and destroyed in the First Century by the Romans, where it stood upon the Temple Mount, which was later controlled by the Knights Templar. According to History of Clan Sinclair, masons working on the project were given "The Mason Word" by William St. Clair, in order to preserve the secrets of the Templars that Rosslyn was built to house.

As was suggested earlier, what may, or may not, have been housed at Rosslyn Chapel is the subject of much speculation. It has been theorized that everything from the Ark of the Covenant, to the Holy Grail, to a Secret Testament of Jesus, to the Genealogy of the Descendants of Jesus and Mary are hidden beneath the floor of Rosslyn Chapel.

What is certain is that on the lower frame of the window in the southwest corner of Rosslyn Chapel, there is a carving of the Masonic First Degree. The image is that of a man kneeling between two pillars. He is blindfolded and has a noose around his neck. His feet are in an unnatural position. In his left hand he holds a Bible. The end of the noose is held by a man who is wearing the mantle of the Knights Templar.

This image serves to raise the question, "Which came first, Freemasonry or the Knights Templar?" In 1738, three hundred years following the construction of Rosslyn, Pope Clement XII (1652-1740) who, ironically, shared his name with Pope Clement V, who had condemned the Knights Templar 400 years earlier, condemned Freemasonry on the grounds that it was descended from the Knights Templar.

The previous year, in 1737, a prominent Freemason, Andrew Ramsay (1686-1743), who was known throughout his adult life as Chevaliers Ramsay, and who served as the Scottish tutor of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, delivered an address, which has come to be known as *Ramsay's Oration*. He declared that Freemasonry had originated among "Crusader Knights" who had formed themselves into "lodges of St. John." Furthermore, Ramsay stated that Scotland had been absolutely instrumental in preserving Freemasonry from the Crusades to the present. Although Ramsay took pains to avoid using the word "Templar," it appears that Pope Clement XII had made the connection.

Karl Gotthelf (1722-1776), the Baron von Hund und Altengrofkau, went so far as to declare, "Every Mason is a Templar." Baron von Hund claimed that exiled Scottish nobles in Paris had initiated him into a Templar Masonic Order in 1742. He further claimed, that he had been authorized to reform Freemasonry, by restoring it to its Templar roots, but that he had lost contact with his superiors, following the failure of the Jacobite Uprising of 1745.

Scottish Freemasonry

What is certain is that *Scottish Freemasonry predates English Freemasonry*. Rosslyn Chapel was begun in 1440. In 1483 the burgh of Aberdeen is recorded as having been involved in the resolution of a dispute between six "masons of the lodge," not "stonemasons," not "craftsmen," but "masons of the lodge." As Freemasonry began to spread, new lodges were established throughout Scotland, candidates were initiated, and given "The Mason Word." The earliest surviving Lodge Minutes from Edinburgh date from 1599.

James the VI (1566-1625) of Scotland was made a Mason at the Lodge of Scoon and Perth in 1601. In 1602 the Lodges of Scotland affirmed William St. Clair of Rosslyn as the Hereditary Grand Master Mason of Scotland from Time Immemorial. It was not until 1603, when James VI of Scotland, became James I of Great Britain, that he took Freemasonry to England. In 1641, nearly forty years later, Sir Robert Moray (1608-1673) is recorded to have been the first man to have been made a Mason on *English soil*.

The Jacobites, The Scottish Rite, and the French Connection

The Earl of Mar (1675-1732) led an uprising for Prince James Stuart, "The Old Pretender," in 1715. *Jacobus* being the Latin for *James*, his followers are referred to as *Jacobites*. Within a year, the Jacobite Uprising of 1715 was subdued, Prince James and the Earl of Mar escaped to France, and the Jacobite army simply disbanded and dissolved. The Masonic Lodges in England began to disclaim their Scottish roots.

In 1717 the Grand Lodge of London was formed and English Masons took pains to deny any Jacobite connections. The first National Grand Lodge was formed in Ireland in 1725 and in 1736 the Grand Lodge of Scotland was formed in order to counter London's expansionism. It was also in 1736 that another William St. Clair of Rosslyn, who had inherited the title of Grand Master Mason of Scotland, relinquished his hereditary rights in favour of elected officers

Further evidence of his expedition to the New World is found in Rosslyn Chapel, which is, in actuality, a Templar shrine. In addition to the Pre-Christian Green Man, scenes from the Old and New Testaments, and decorative elements of the Knights Templar, there are representations of maize and aloe, which would have been unknown prior to Henry St. Clair's arrival in the New World.

In 1440 William St. Clair, grandson of Prince Henry St. Clair, began the construction of Rosslyn Chapel on the floor plan of the Third Temple, built in Jerusalem by Herod, and destroyed in the First Century by the Romans, where it stood upon the Temple Mount, which was later controlled by the Knights Templar. According to History of Clan Sinclair, masons working on the project were given "The Mason Word" by William St. Clair, in order to preserve the secrets of the Templars that Rosslyn was built to house.

As was suggested earlier, what may, or may not, have been housed at Rosslyn Chapel is the subject of much speculation. It has been theorized that everything from the Ark of the Covenant, to the Holy Grail, to a Secret Testament of Jesus, to the Genealogy of the Descendants of Jesus and Mary are hidden beneath the floor of Rosslyn Chapel.

What is certain is that on the lower frame of the window in the southwest corner of Rosslyn Chapel, there is a carving of the Masonic First Degree. The image is that of a man kneeling between two pillars. He is blindfolded and has a noose around his neck. His feet are in an unnatural position. In his left hand he holds a Bible. The end of the noose is held by a man who is wearing the mantle of the Knights Templar.

This image serves to raise the question, "Which came first, Freemasonry or the Knights Templar?" In 1738, three hundred years following the construction of Rosslyn, Pope Clement XII (1652-1740) who, ironically, shared his name with Pope Clement V, who had condemned the Knights Templar 400 years earlier, condemned Freemasonry on the grounds that it was descended from the Knights Templar.

The previous year, in 1737, a prominent Freemason, Andrew Ramsay (1686-1743), who was known throughout his adult life as Chevaliers Ramsay, and who served as the Scottish tutor of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, delivered an address, which has come to be known as *Ramsay's Oration*. He declared that Freemasonry had originated among "Crusader Knights" who had formed themselves into "lodges of St. John." Furthermore, Ramsay stated that Scotland had been absolutely instrumental in preserving Freemasonry from the Crusades to the present. Although Ramsay took pains to avoid using the word "Templar," it appears that Pope Clement XII had made the connection.

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Prince Charles Edward Stuart (1720-1788), or "Bonnie Prince Charlie," or "The Young Pretender," raised his standard at Glenfinnan on August 19, 1745. The Jacobite army proceeded to take Perth, Edinburgh, Prestonpans and Carlisle, and reached into England as far south as Derby, only 150 miles from London. In the absence of a promised invasion from France, and with only limited support from English Jacobites, the Jacobite army withdrew north to Scotland. On April 16, 1746 Government forces under the command of the Duke Cumberland defeated the Jacobite army at the Battle of Culloden. Prince Charles Edward Stuart, and a number of his supporters, escaped to France.

In Paris in 1758, "The Grand Council of Emperors of the East and West" organized a "Rite of Perfection," consisting of 25 degrees, the highest being "The Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret." Jacobite expatriates took an active part in creating the Rite, and many saw in its symbolism the return of the Stuart kings to the throne of Great Britain.

"The Grand Council of Emperors of the East and West" granted a patent to Etienne Morin in 1761, permitting him to bring this Rite to the New World. Morin spread the Rite to the West Indies and North America from his base in the city of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. In 1783 Isaac de Costa, one of the deputies commissioned to establish the Rite in other countries, formed what were called "Scottish Rite" bodies in South Carolina, which later became the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. With the formation of the Supreme Council in continental America, 8 more degrees, the so-called "Continental High Degrees," were added to the original 25 degrees, to make the 33 degrees of the modern Scottish Rite.

The Scottish Rite Creed of Freemasonry is as follows:

"Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal."

The Least You Need To Know

Scotland is where the Templar Knights found refuge following their excommunication.
 Scotland is where the Templar graves are found.
 Scotland is where the Sinclairs built a shrine on the floor plan of Herod's Temple.
 Scotland is where the first images of New World flora such as corn and aloe are found.
 Scotland is where the practices of "speculative" Masonry are first recorded.
 Scotland is where the future King James I of Great Britain was made a Mason.
 Scotland is where the Jacobites began to formulate what was to become the Scottish Rite.
 Scotland is where the Poet Laureate of Masonry, Robert Burns, was born.

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