

Chronological History of Freemasonry & Related Events

Compiled from many & varied sources by V.W.Bro. Norman McEvoy

Last updated July 18, 2015

Last Updated Dec 2017

- 967 BCE Building of King Solomon's Temple commenced
- 960 BCE King Solomon's Temple completed
- 587 BCE King Solomon's Temple is destroyed
- 298 AD Martyrdom of the Quatuor Coronati
- 926 Prince Edwin, son of King Athelstan, calls and presides over a meeting of Masons at York, England.
- 1066-1087 Reign of William I of England
- 1087-1100 Reign of William II of England
- 1100-1135 Reign of Henry I of England
- 1135-1154 Reign of Stephen de Blois of England
- 1136 Masons "Marks" found in Melrose Abbey Church
- 1139 Pope Innocent II grants Knights Templars International Sovereignty
- 1145 Templars granted rights to consecrate land & collect taxes.
- 1154-1189 Reign of Henry II of England
- 1189-1199 Reign of Richard I of England
- Gothic Cathedrals are built in Western Europe in 12th and 13th Centuries
- 1199-1216 Reign of King John of England
- 1215 The Magna Carta is signed by King John, establishing some rights for free & bonded men.
- 1230 London Regulation regarding Apprentices
- 1216-1272 Reign of Henry III of England
- 1291 End of the Eight Crusades
- 1272-1307 Reign of Edward I of England
- 1278 The use of the word "Lodge" appears in the records of Vale Royal Abbey
- 1307 Knights Templar persecuted by Philip the Fair of France on Friday the 13th of October
- 1307-1327 Reign of Edward II of England
- 1314 Battle of Bannockburn and the Legend of the Mystery Knights in Battle
- 1314 Execution of Jacques DeMolay Grand Master of Knights Templar in France
- 1327-1377 Reign of Edward III of England
- 1348 Order of the Garter established by Edward III

- 1350 The "Statute of Labourers" is passed regulating the wages of workmen. It also prevents the escalation of wages due to the shortage of experienced workers and the great amount of construction work available . The words "mason" and "freestone" appear in this document.
- 1348/50 Black Death experienced in all of Western Europe

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1356	Guildhall/London Trade Ordinances (relating to tradesmen in England) drawn.
1371	House of Stuart in Scotland (King Robert II)
1376	Earliest known use of the word "Freemason"
1377/1399	Reign of Richard II of England
1384	Translation of the Bible into English by John Wycliffe
1389	Mention made of "Fraternity of Masons"

1390 circa	Regius Manuscript also known as the Halliwell Manuscript==the Old Charges
1399-1413	Rule of Henry IV of England
1400	The inventory of the Mason's Lodge at York Minster contains two Tracing Boards
1401	New Trade Ordinances (relating to tradesmen in England) drawn.
1413-1422	Reign of Henry V of England
1422-1461	Reign of Henry VI of England
1425	Cooke MS.
1429	Order of the Golden Fleece constituted by Philip of Burgundy
1429	"Masons of the Lodge" is mentioned in the records of Canterbury Cathedral
1446	Rosslyn Chapel founded by William Sinclair completed in 1486
1461-1483	Reign of Edward IV of England
1463	The Worshipful Company of Masons of the City of London erects its first meeting hall.
1471	Robert Stowell is appointed "Master of Masons" at Westminster Abbey
1472	Grant of Coat of Arms to London Company of Masons
1475	Edinburgh Deal of Cause/ Incorporation of St Mary's Chapel
1479	The term "Master Mason" appears in the name of William Orchard at Magdalen College, Oxford.
1483	Reign of Edward V of England
1483	Reference to Lodge at Aberdeen
1483-1485	Reign of Richard III of England
1485 - 1509	Reign of Henry VII of England
1487	The word "Freemason" appears for the first time in the "Statutes of England"
1490	Cooke Manuscript
1491	First reference to Lodge at Edinburgh. A Municipal Law is passed at St Giles, Edinburgh, establishing the conditions of employment of

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- Master Masons and co-workers
- 1500 Dowland Manuscript

- 1509 - 1547 Reign of Henry VIII of England

- 1509 Commencement of the separation of Church & State in England and the move from Roman Catholicism To Church of England
- 1534 The "Act of Supremacy" is passed abrogating the Pope's authority and making Henry VIII the head of the Church of England
- 1538 Roman Catholic Monasteries in England are looted & sacked
- 1541 Henry VIII declared King of Ireland
- 1547 The Act disendowing all religious Fraternities is passed & enacted
- 1547 - 1553 Reign of Edward VI of England
- 1553 Reign of Jane for 9 days only.
- 1553 - 1558 Reign of Mary of England. Sometimes referred to as "Mary Queen of Scots" & "Bloody Mary" as she Worked very hard to restore Papal Power to England and had many burned at the stake for not sharing her ambitions.
- 1558 - 1603 Reign of Elizabeth I of England
- 1560 Protestant Kirk established in Scotland by John Knox.
- 1560 Landsdowne Manuscript
- 1561 Queen Elizabeth sends armed forces to York to break up Grand Lodge meeting. The Grand Master Sir Thomas Sackville receives the army and initiates them into the order.
- 1561 Birth of Sir Francis Bacon
- 1566 Birth of James VI
- 1576 Mary Queen of Scots abdicates and James VI becomes King of Scotland (10 years old)
- 1581 The Masons Company was incorporated at Newcastle and given certain powers and duties
- 1581 - 1603 Reign of James VI of Scotland (15 years old)
Champion of the Stuart claim to the Throne of England and advocated the return of Papal Powers to Great Britain
- 1583 Grand Lodge #1 Manuscript ===The Old or "Antient Charges" are written
- 1583 William Schaw appointed "Master of the Works" in Scotland by James VI
- 1583 St. Mary`s Lodge of Dundee is mentioned in an Indenture bearing this date.

- 1586 James VI signs Treaty of Berwick with Elizabeth I
- 1587 Execution of Mary Queen of Scots

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- 1588 England defeats Spain in the Spanish Armada. (England now rules the seas)
- 1589 James VI marries Anne of Denmark
- 1590 Royal Arch working recorded in Stirling Scotland
- 1597 Gresham College in England founded by Sir Thomas Gresham
- 1598 Schaw Statutes No 1 Regulating the Masons in Scotland

- 1599 Schaw Statutes No 2 Regulating the Masons of Scotland BUT giving Lodge of Kilwinning supervisory powers of the Lodges in Western Scotland
- 1599 The oldest known written records of a Masonic Lodge; Jan 9, 1599. Aitchisons Havens Lodge in Musselburgh Scotland (Ceased to exist in 1856)
- 1599 Earliest Edinburgh Lodge # 1 Minutes
- 1600 York No 1 Manuscript

- 1600 First record of the admission of a non-operative (accepted) mason in a Scottish Lodge.
James Boswell of Auchinleck at Lodge Edinburgh Scotland
- 1601 First St Clair Charter (Scotland)

- 1601 Conflict between James VI of Scotland and the St Clair family over control of Masonry in Scotland.
- 1601 James VI of Scotland initiated into Lodge of Scoon & Perth.

- 1603 Death of Elizabeth I
- 1603-1625 Reign of James I of England who was also James VI of Scotland (Stuart)
- 1605 Guy Fawkes attempts to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London in support of the return of Roman Catholicism to England on November 5th, 1605
- 1606-1609 Scottish settlers granted land, confiscated by England in Northern Ireland.
- 1609-1673 Robert Moray born in Scotland
- 1610 Francis Bacon writes "The New Atlantis"
- 1611 King James Bible originates and becomes available to the general public.
- 1617-1692 Elias Ashmole born in Lichfield England
- 1618-1648 Thirty Years of War in Europe
- 1619 Earliest account books of London Mason's Company uses the terms Accepted & Operative
- 1621 "Making of Masons" in London Mason's Company. The records indicate that there were both "accepted" & "operative" members on the records
Noted that these Lodges were well entrenched in England

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- 1625 Death of James 1 of England
- 1625 Harleian No 2054 Manuscript
- 1625-1649 Reign of Charles I of England
- 1627 England declares war on Spain
- 1628 Second St Clair Charter Issued ;
Parliament Issues Petition of Right.
- 1629 English Parliament dissolved by Charles I and tradition of "Black Rod" begins.
- 1632 Grand Lodge Manuscript
- 1633 John Stow, in his "Survey of London" mentions "The Company of Masons being otherwise termed
"Freemasons" . This appears to be the first record of the use of the term "Freemason" since 1487
Robert Moray joins the French Scots Guard at age 24
- 1634 Lord Alexander of Stirling ; Sir Thomas Alexander and Sir Thomas Strachan are all made Accepted
Masons at Lodge Edinburgh.
- 1637 Charles 1 attempts to force the use of Episcopal (Anglican) Prayer Book on Scottish Churches
- 1638 Creation of "Covenantors" in Scotland to defy Charles 1
- 1639 The First Bishops War begins.
- 1640 The Earl of Stafford is executed
- 1641 Robert Moray made an Accepted Mason at Newcastle England by Edinburgh Lodge (Scotland)
At Age 31
- 1642 First Minutes of Record for Kilwinning Lodge Scotland
- 1642-1646 Start of the First English Civil War

- 1642 Battle of Edgehill

- 1643 Robert Moray knighted by Charles I at Oxford. England. Age 33.
- 1644 Battle of Marston Moor (defeat of Royalists by Cromwell)

- 1645 Battle of Naseby

- 1645 Sir Robert Moray ransomed by Charles I and comes to England from France to act as a negotiator
At age 35
- 1646 Elias Ashmole Initiated at Warrington England on October 16th, 1646 and noted to be a "Freemason"
at age 29
- 1646-1648 Second English Civil War with the victor being the Republicans under Oliver Cromwell
- 1646 Sloane No 3848 Manuscript

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1647 King Charles I in custody

Trial and subsequent execution of the King Charles I in 1649

1648 Sir Robert Moray goes to France to meet Charles II and invite him to Scotland. Age 38

1649 Charles I executed

1649 - 1660 Cromwell defeats the Scots at Preston & the Commonwealth is established.

Beginning of what is commonly referred to as **THE COMMONWEALTH**

At this date Robert Moray was 40 years old & Elias Ashmole 33 years old.

1650 The Harleian Manuscript is written about this date.

1651 Charles II crowned King of Scotland at Scoon and subscribes to the Covenant.

1651 Charles II invades England is defeated at Worcester and flees to France

1653-1658 Oliver Cromwell made Lord Protector of Britain

1653 Robert Moray uses a veiled reference to a **Master Builder** " in a letter to Charles II (age 43)

1654 Highland rising defeated by Cromwell at Battle of Loch Garry

1655 "The Company of Freemasons of the City of London" changes its name to "The Company of Masons"
one might reasonably ask **WHY?**

1655 Cromwell permits Jews to return to England

Robert Moray is cleared of the charge of treason and returns from Paris. (Age 45)

1656 John Aubrey began "A Natural History of Wiltshire" in which he stated that the Fraternity

Of Freemasons are known to one another by certain signs & Watch words & other significant words.

1658 Death of Oliver Cromwell

1659 First known use the word "Club" as a group meeting.

1658-1659 Richard Cromwell (son of Oliver) made Lord Protector of Britain

1659 May =====Rump Parliament re-installed at Westminster.

1659 Dec=====Full Parliament restored at Westminster

1659 Sloane No 3323 Manuscript

1660 May=====Charles II proclaimed King.

1660 Charles II Crowned King of England, Scotland & Ireland (Britain)

1660 Beginning of what is commonly referred to as **THE RESTORATION**

1660 - 1685 Reign of Charles II

1660 The Royal Society of London is Chartered by Charles II

1660 The Church of England, backed by the Clarendon Code and Act of Uniformity is restored as the National Church of England.

1660 The Indemnity & Oblivion Act is proclaimed pardoning all past treason against the Crown with

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certain exclusions.

- 1660 MONARCHY RESTORED TO GREAT BRITAIN
- 1662 Ascribed date to a General Assembly of Masons
- 1662 A Brief account of the New Sect of Latitude Men published.
- 1665 Robert Moray (Age 55) starts to write a history of Freemasonry for Royal Society of London
- 1666 The Great Fire of London
- 1666 Aitcheson Haven Manuscript
- 1668 The Hall of the Worshipful Company of Masons rebuilt
- 1669 Harleian No 1942 Manuscript
- 1670 The records (Minutes) of Lodge Aberdeen show that some members are operative and others are not.
- 1670 Edinburgh-Kilwinning Manuscript
- 1670 York No 5 Manuscript
- 1672 circa Rendel Holmes's Lodge at Chester
- 1673 Death of Robert Moray and his burial in Westminster Abbey. (Age 63)
- 1673-1681 *Tests Acts* declared in England & Scotland
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- 1682 Elias Ashmole's diary records that he attended a Lodge meeting at Mason's Hall in London
- 1685 Death of Charles II
- 1685 Lodge of Antiquity Manuscript
- 1685 - 1688 Reign of James II
King James II issues *Declaration for Liberty of Conscience*
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- 1686 **Society of Freemasons**" mentioned in Plot's "Natural History of Staffordshire" and Aubrey's "Natural History of Wiltshire"
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- 1688 "**Society of Freemasons**" mentioned in Randal Holm's "Academie of Armoury"
- 1688 A Lodge of accepted Masons met at Trinity College Dublin Ireland.
- 1688 The Glorious Revolution
- 1688 Invasion of England by William of Orange
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- 1689 - 1702 Reign of William & Mary, & William III
Mary being the daughter of James II (Stuart)
- 1689 Westminster *Bill of Rights and Declaration of Rights (Toleration Act)*
- 1690 The Battle of the Boyne fought in Ireland between the Protestant forces of William & Mary and those of the Roman Catholic forces of James II.

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- The victory of the Protestant forces in this battle defused the ambitions of James II to restore Roman Catholicism as the official religion in the British Isles.
- 1691 Aubrey's date for Sir Christopher Wren's initiation into Masonry.
- 1692 Death of Elias Ashmole at age 75
- 1693 York #4 Manuscript of Old Charges lists lodge members
- 1693 York No 2 Manuscript
- 1696 The Edinburgh Register House Manuscript states that Masons have "words" "grips" "signs" and "five points"
- 1698 An Anti-Masonic leaflet is printed in London
- 1694 James Anderson claims there are eight Lodges working in London.
- 1701 British *Act of Settlement* preserves the British Crown for Protestants alone.
- 1701 Alnwick Manuscript (First Rules of Alnwick Lodge)
- 1702 - 1714 Reign of Queen Anne
- 1702 The Minute Book of Haughfoot Lodge (Scotland) commences on December 2nd.
- 1703 Isaac Newton made President of Royal Society of London
- 1704 York No 4 Manuscript
- 1705 Scarborough Manuscript of Old Charges lists members at a Lodge at Scarborough.
First records of a Lodge at York
- 1707 Act of Union of England and Scotland
- 1709 Freemasons modes of recognition mentioned in the "Tatler". A popular newspaper of the day.
- 1710 George Gray made a Mason at Bedale, England
- 1713 York Lodge makes eighteen masons at Bradford England
- 1714 - 1727 Reign of George I
- 1714 Papworth Manuscript
- 1715 Jacobite Rebellion in Scotland
- 1716 A meeting is held in The Apple Tree Tavern , London, to discuss the forming of a Grand Lodge
- 1717 Formation of the Grand Lodge of England (London) by four London Lodges and the installation of Anthony Sayer as 1st Grand Master.
- 1717-1738 Freemasonry experiences severe internal Political & Religious conflict involving the proponents of the Roman Catholic Church (Stuarts) & the Anglican Church of England (Hanoverians)
- 1718 George Payne becomes second Grand Master of Grand Lodge of England (London)
- 1719 Rev. Bro. John Theophilus Desaguliers installed as third Grand Master G.L. of E (London)

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- 1720 Declaratory Act gives England power to Legislate for Ireland
- 1720-1791 Laurence Dermott born in Ireland.
- 1721 2nd Duke of Montagu installed as the fourth Grand Master & first of Noble Blood.
The Grand Lodge of England adopts a regulation that all regular Lodges are now required to obtain a Charter from the Grand Lodge of England
Dr Desaguliers visits Edinburgh Scotland
- 1723 First Edition of "Grand Lodge Constitutions" published by Rev. Dr. James Anderson.
William Cowper appointed as first Grand Secretary of Grand Lodge of England.
First Grand Lodge of England Minutes taken
First Registration of Members
First confirmed Minute Book of a private Lodge
- 1725 First mention of the Third Degree. (Hiramic Legend)
The Grand Lodge of Ireland is formed
First Provincial Grand Masters appointed by Grand Lodge of England
- 1726 The Graham MS
- 1727 Nathaniel Blackerby appointed Treasurer of Grand Lodge of England
- 1728 Lodges constituted in Gibraltar and India
- 1728 Grand Stewards appointed in Grand Lodge of England
- 1730 Pritchard's "Masonry Dissected" published exposing Masonic Ritual
- 1732 First Military traveling Charter granted by the Grand Lodge of Ireland
- 1733 Grand Lodge of Massachusetts formed in Boston. This is the Third Grand Lodge formed after England & Ireland and the first in the Western Hemisphere.
- 1736 Grand Lodge of Scotland formed
- 1737 Frederick Lewis; Prince of Wales, initiated. First Royal Freemason
- 1738 Anderson's 2nd Edition of the Constitution for the Grand Lodge of England
- 1738 Pope Clement XII issues his Papal Bull (In Eminenti) against membership in Freemasonry on April 28th This is the first official edict by the Roman Catholic Church against the Craft.
- 1738 Constitution of Grand Lodge of England amended to forbid all discussion of Political & Religious matters in Lodges under their Jurisdiction.
- 1741 Earliest record of the existence of the Royal Order of Scotland, in London
- 1743 John Coustos is questioned and tortured by the Inquisition in Portugal because he is a Freemason
- 1743 First printed reference to Royal Arch Masonry
- 1744 First undisputed reference to the Holy Royal Arch in the publication "A Serious & Impartial Inquiry into the Cause of the Present Decay of Freemasonry in the Kingdom or Ireland" by Fiefield Dassingy.
- 1746 Laurence Dermott exalted into the Holy Royal Arch in Dublin Ireland

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- 1751 The Antient Grand Lodge of England is formed on July 17th. in London.
The formation of this NEW Grand Lodge was in protest to the changing of Masonic Secrets by the Grand Lodge of England.
This NEW Grand Lodge referred to itself as the "**Antients**" and the Grand Lodge of England as the "**Moderns**"
- Pope Benedict XIV issues his Papal Bull against Freemasonry on May 18th
- 1752 Laurence Dermott becomes Secretary of the Ancient Grand Lodge of England
- 1753 First extant (undisputed) minute in the making of Royal Arch Masons in the Lodge At Fredericksburg. Virginia
- 1753 Grand Lodge of "the old Institution founded" (Antients) sometimes referred to as "Atholl Masons" as their first Grand Master was Lord Atholl of Ireland.
- 1754 Thomas Dunkerley exalted as a Royal Arch Mason in his Lodge at Portsmouth England
- 1756 Jon Entick completely revises the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England. (Moderns)
- 1756 Laurence Dermott publishes "Ahiman Rezon" which is the Constitutions of the Antient Grand Lodge of England. (Antients)
- 1758 "Strict Union" between Antients & Grand Lodge of Ireland revived.
- 1761 Grand Lodge of All England revived at York England
- 1762 New printed exposures of Masonic Ritual begin to appear in England
- 1764 Lord Blayney made Grand Master of Moderns.
- 1766 Grand and Royal Arch Chapter formed by Charter of Compact in England
- 1768 Grand Lodge of England begins registration of members
- 1769 Charter of Incorporation proposed by Grand Lodge of England (Moderns)
- 1772 William Preston publishes "Illustrations of Freemasonry" and goes through 17 Editions by 1861.
- 1773 "Strict Union" between Antients and Grand Lodge of Scotland
- 1776 Freemason's Hall dedicated in London at Great Queen Street in London.
- 1776 Independence of USA from British Rule
- 1777 First ENGLISH record of Masonic Knight Templar at Portsmouth England
- 1779 Grand Lodge "South of the River Trent" formed in London
- 1788 Royal Masonic Institution for Girls founded
- 1790 HRH. George, Prince of Wales, elected Grand Master
- 1790 First record of the Conferral of the Royal Ark Mariner at Bath
- 1791 Grand Conclave of Knights Templar formed by Dunkerley
- 1792 First Masonic Journal
- 1798 Royal Masonic Institution for Boys founded.
- 1798 Open Rebellion in Ireland against British Rule and defeated in 1799

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- 1798 The "Unlawful Societies Act" enacted in British Parliament applying only to Great Britain & not including Ireland
- 1799 **Freemasonry excepted from the provisions under the "Unlawful Societies Act"**
- 1801 Political Union of Great Britain & Ireland established.
- 1809 **Lodge of Promulgation** warranted with the task of investigating the differences in ritual between the Antient & Modern Grand Lodges (by open debate) and seeking some form of resolution & compromise between these two Grand Lodges.
- 1809 Negotiations begin toward seeking a union of the TWO Grand Lodges.
- 1813 HRH Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, installed As Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England
- 1813 HRH Edward, Duke of Kent, installed as Grand Master of the Ancients Grand Lodge
- 1813 Union of Grand Lodge of England (moderns) & Antients Grand Lodge of England (Antients) completed to form the United Grand Lodge of England on December 27th
- 1813 **Lodge of Reconciliation** formed by U.G.L.E.
- 1814 An "International Compact" is signed by the United Grand Lodge of England; the Grand Lodge of Ireland & the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in which they all agree on the basic points of Freemasonry.
- 1814 Standard patterns for Regalia introduced
- 1815 UGLE presents a new Grand Lodge Book of Constitutions issued for discussion
- 1816 UGLE approves the New Ritual devised by The Lodge of Reconciliation.
- 1816 Supreme Grand Chapter of The Holy Royal Arch Masons in Scotland formed
- 1817 Supreme Grand Chapter of The Holy Royal Arch Masons formed in England uniting Antients & Moderns into one common structure.
- 1818 HRH, the Duke of Sussex, receives a patent from France to form a Supreme Council of the Ancient And Accepted Rite.
- 1818 William Preston author of "Illustrations on Freemasonry" and leaves a substantial legacy to fund "The Prestonian Lectures" on Masonic Education for future generations.
- 1819 Liverpool Rebellion leads to the formation of the Wigan Grand Lodge in 1823 and ceases to exist in 1866
- 1821 Pope Pius VII issues a Papal Bull "*Ecclesiam*" against Freemasonry on Sept 13th
- 1823 The Irish Parliament passes the "Unlawful Oaths Act" which was directed at many organizations, however, 10 months later announces that it was not intended to include Freemasonry
- 1824 King Ferdinand VII of Spain decrees the death of all Freemasons without trial.
- 1825 Pope Leo XII issues his Papal Bull "Quiograviora" against Freemasonry on March 13th
- 1827 Craft Installation of Officers ceremony agreed
- 1829 Pope Pius VIII issues hi Papal Bull "Traditi" against Freemasonry on May 21
- 1830 The Baal's Bridge Square (dated 1507) is found among the ruins in the demolition of an old bridge in

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- Limerick. Ireland.
- 1832 Pope Gregory XVI issues his Papal Bull "Mirari" against Freemasonry on August 15th
- 1834 Special Committee formed to revise the Royal Arch Ritual
Chapter of Promulgation chartered
- 1836 Grand Lodge of Scotland issues its first Book of Constitutions since its formation 1734
- 1837 United Grand Lodge of England Grand Lodge Library & Museum formed
- 1838 UGLE ==Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution formed
- 1839 James Halliwell discovers the Regis Manuscript in the British Museum
- 1845 Grand Conclave of Knights Templar revived.
- 1845 Supreme Council, Ancient & Accepted Rite formed
- 1845-1849 Great Irish Potato Famine resulting in 1 million deaths & the immigration of 1 million Irish people worldwide.
- 1846 Pope Pius IX issues his Papal Bull "Qui Fluribus" against Freemasonry on Nov 9th.
- 1849 Pope Pius IX issues another Papal Bull "Quibus quantisque Malis" against Freemasonry on Apr 20th
- 1849 Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons formed.
- 1849 Ontario Lodges (Canada) withdraw from United Grand Lodge of England to form First Independent Colonial Grand Lodge
- 1857 Grand Mark Lodge formed in England
- 1861 J.G. Fidel publishes "History of Freemasonry" First edition appears in 1865
- 1864 Pope Pius IX issues his Papal Bull "Quanta Cura" against Freemasonry on Dec 8th
- 1865 Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia formed
Grand Council of Red Cross of Constantine formed
- Pope Pius IX issues his Papal Bull "Multiplires Intern" against Freemasonry on Sept 25th
- 1869 New Freemason's Hall London opened
Pope Pius IX issues his Papal Bull "Apostolicae Sedis" against Freemasonry on Oct 12th
- 1872 Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters formed
- 1873 Pope Pius IX issues his Papal Decree "Esti Multa" against Freemasonry on Nov 21st
- 1874 Marquis of Ripon resigns as Grand Master on becoming a Roman Catholic
HRH Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, elected Grand Master
- 1879 Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees formed
- 1880 Gould's "History of Freemasonry" is published
- 1884 Pope Leo XIII issues his Papal Decree "Humanum Genus" against Freemasonry.
This is the last Papal Decree directed against Freemasonry .
Over a period of 146 Years 13 Papal Bulls were issued against Freemasonry
- 1886 Quatuor Coronati (The Four Crowned Martyrs) (Refer 290BC) Lodge #2076 United Grand Lodge of

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- England is constituted and becomes, to this day, the premier Masonic Research Lodge in the World.
Its First "Transactions" were published in 1888 and yearly since that date.
- 1887 Especial Grand Lodge held to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria
Grand Council of Order of the Secret Monitor formed
- 1894 Pope Leo XIII establishes an Anti-Masonic Bureau
- 1897 Especial Grand Lodge held to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria
- 1898 Albert G. Mackey publishes his "History of Freemasonry; Symbolism of Freemasonry ; Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite & Encyclopedia and the Royal Order of Scotland."
- 1901 Edward VII becomes Grand Protector of the Order
- 1908 Albert G. Mackey publishes "Lexicon of Freemasonry"
HRH Arthur, Duke of Connaught, installed as Grand Master
- 1913 Worshipful Society of Free Masons; Wallers; Slaters; Paviments; Plaisterers and Bricklayers (the operatives) formed
- 1914 Commencement of the First World War
- 1914 Bro. Rev. Joseph Ford Newton writes "The Builders" This book is still very popular today
- 1917 Albert G. Mackey publishes an Encyclopedia of Freemasonry & its Kindred Sciences.
- 1917 Bicentenary of United Grand Lodge celebrated
- 1918 Armistice reached ending the First World War
- 1923 Grand Council of Knight Templar Priests formed
- 1923 Grand Fascist Council issues its first resolution against Freemasonry (Italy)
- 1933 Current Freemasons Hall dedicated
- 1936 King Edward VIII (HRH Duke of Windsor) elected as a Past Grand Master UGLE
- 1937 King George VI invested as Past Grand Master
- 1938 King George VI elected as a Past Grand Master UGLE
Knoop Jones & Hamer publish "The Two earliest Masonic Manuscripts"
Knoop Jones & Hamer publish "An Introduction to Freemasonry"
- 1939 HRH Duke of Connaught resigns as Grand Master of UGLE
HRH George, Duke of Kent, Installed as Grand Master of UGLE
Temporary suspension of meetings due to declaration of war
- 1940 Knoop & Jones publish "A Short History of Freemasonry to 1730"
- 1942 Duke of Kent (Grand Master) killed on active service.
- 1942 Earl of Harewood installed as Grand Master by King George VI
- 1947 Knoop & Jones publish "The Genesis of Freemasonry"

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- 1948 Duke of Devonshire installed as Grand Master by King George VI
- 1950 Bernard E. Jones publishes " A Freemason's Guide and Compendium "
- 1952 Earl of Scarbrough installed as Grand Master of UGLE
- 1952 Duke of Edinburgh Initiated
- 1954 Pick & Knight publish " The Pocket History of Freemasonry "
- 1956 Feb 23rd Issue of the "Christian Science Monitor" publishes a long favourable article on Freemasonry
The Oct 8th Issue of "Life" magazine is devoted entirely to Freemasonry
The High Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church petitions the Greek Minister of the Interior to withdraw government recognition of Freemasonry.
- 1957 A court in England rules that Freemasonry is not a Religion.
Bernard E. Jones publishes " The Freemason's Book on the Holy Royal Arch "
- 1964 Dec 29th. Bishop Mendez Arceo of Mexico expresses his view at Vatican II that Roman Catholics should make peace with the Freemasons of the World.
Alec Mellor (a Roman Catholic) publishes "Our Separate Brethren- The Freemasons" He later becomes a member of the Craft.
Discussions held in England as to whether to modify the ancient penalties of the Craft Degrees.
- 1966 Bi-Centenary of Supreme Grand Chapter celebrated
- 1967 250th Anniversary of United Grand Lodge of England celebrated and publishes
" Grand Lodge 1717-1967 "
- 1968 Bro. Harry Carr meets with Cardinal Heenan on London on March 8th to discuss the relationship of Freemasonry and the Roman Catholic Church. As a result of these discussions "Anti-Masonic" tracts are removed from sale in Roman Catholic Churches in London.
- 1971 Bro. Harry Carr has several more conferences with Cardinal Heenan. This leads to friendly relationship developing between the Craft and the Roman Catholic Church.
On April 26th it is rumoured that the Roman Catholic Church is about to change its rule about barring Masonic membership to its members.
- 1974 The Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith (as the Roman Inquisition was renamed by the Pope in 1965) sends a letter to the various Episcopal Conferences on June 19th informing them that Canon 2335 prohibiting its members from joining Freemasonry is to be interpreted to apply to such groups as opposed to Church.
- 1974 HRH Edward, Duke of Kent, installed as Grand Master of the UGLE
- 1976 Bro Harry Carr publishes " A Freemason at Work "
- 1979 Pope John Paul II visits Chicago while the Grand Lodge of Illinois is in session. The Grand Master & Grand Wardens , by special invitation, are invited to attend a Mass conducted by the Pope in Grant Park. Chicago.

Chronological History of Freemasonry & Related Events

Compiled from many & varied sources by V.W.Bro. Norman McEvoy

Last updated July 18, 2015

- 1986 Removal of physical penalties from the obligations approved by United Grand Lodge of England.
- 1989 Major revision of the Royal Arch ritual approved by Supreme Grand Chapter
Annual Assembly of Royal Mark Mariners revived
- 1991 Bi-centenary of Great Priory celebrated
- 1992 275th Anniversary of Grand Lodge
25th Anniversary of HRH Duke of Kent as Grand Master
40th Anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty the Queen celebrated by 12,500 Masons and their guests at Earl's Court followed by a dinner for 4,000