

A Brief Historical Background

MARK DEGREE



The Mark Degree provides the link between the Royal Arch and Craft Masonry.

Since 1860 the Mark Degree has been under the jurisdiction of both the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland and the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Craft Lodges holding their Charter or Warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland are permitted to recognize the Mark Degree as part of the Fellow craft Degree on condition that they only confer it on Master Masons. The Supreme Grand Chapter works this degree as the first in Royal Arch Masonry but recognizes Mark Masters of Craft Lodges which work under the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

A candidate who has not received his Mark Degree within a Craft Lodge has to be advanced in the Mark Lodge held within the Chapter. If already qualified the candidate has only to take an obligation.

EXCELLENT MASTER

Often referred to as the ceremony of Passing the Veils, the story tells of the Hebrew captives descendants of the builders of the

first Temple at Jerusalem setting out from Babylon to Jerusalem for the building of the second Temple.

ROYAL ARCH

The Royal Arch Degree seems to have been introduced to Scotland from both English and Irish sources, often military Lodges towards the middle of the 18th century.

The story tells of the events after Cyrus had liberated the Hebrew captives and given permission for them to return to Jerusalem. When preparing for the rebuilding of the Temple they make an important discovery during their labours.

The purpose of this Degree is to assist the Companions to prepare for that Temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.



Interested

In

The

Royal Arch?

