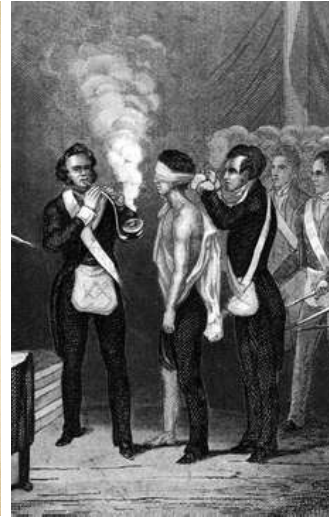




*Chapter 04*  
**MASONIC  
RITES**

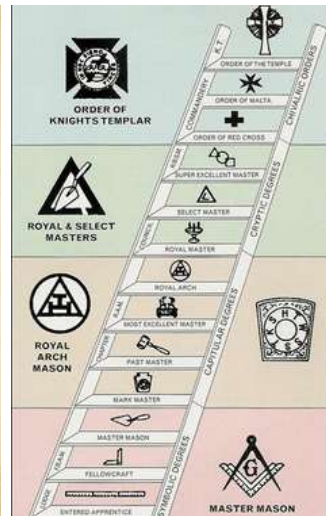
Originally, the ritual was not called "the ritual"; it was called "the work" because it was the preservation of the activities, practices, and customs of the Operative Masons.



There are five rites in the American System of Freemasonry: The Ancient Craft, the Royal Arch, Cryptic Freemasonry, The Templars, and the Scottish Rite.

The first 3 degrees (EA, FC & MM )as we know them today were not always there.

It was only till about 10 years after the first Grand Lodge formed that the three degrees came to be, and finally, the fourth degree (the Royal Arch Degree ) was added.





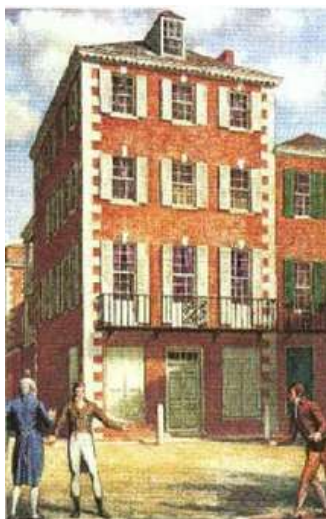


There are 3 known ways one can become a Freemason.

These are by association, by becoming an "honorary member" or by being elected and initiated.

The "Scottish Rite" was formed in the United States in Charleston, South Carolina, on May 31st, 1801.

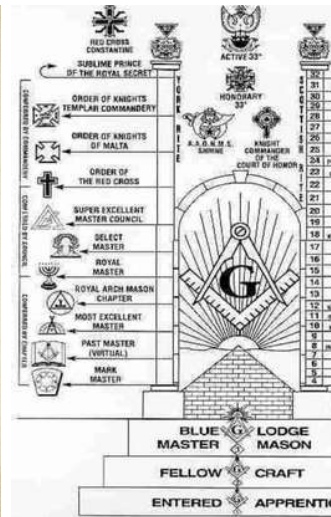
The "Supreme Council at Charleston," as it was sometimes called, was the first Supreme Council of the 33° in the world.



The name 'Scottish Rite' came from one of the degrees founded in France called "Scottish Masters".

When the Supreme Council was organized in Charleston, the name 'Scottish Rite' was adopted.

Many of the “Scottish Rite” degrees were actually adopted from other rites and orders.



The original Constitutions of the Scottish Rite were (supposedly ) written by Frederick II (The Great ) King of Prussia.

Frederick was an enlightened thinker, Monarch, and Freemason who labored to end censorship and instituted many other reforms to the benefit of humanity.

The “Scottish Rite” held its headquarters in Charleston until it was moved to Washington DC in 1870.

This is now called ‘House of the Temple’.







The 33° of the Scottish Rite can only be conferred by outstanding merit, not by petition.

The degree is conferred on members who have made major contributions to society or to Masonry in general.

