



# IDAHO KNIGHTLY NEWS

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## Editor's Note

If anyone would like to submit an article for the Idaho Knightly News, please email me your article using Microsoft Word. Keep it between 1 page and 1.5 pages.

## Upcoming Events:

Grand York Rite of Colorado ..... Sep 4-6  
Grand York Rite of Wyoming ..... Sep 11-14  
Grand Lodge of Idaho ..... Sep 17-20  
Northwest York Rite Conf. .... Oct 17-18

## The Swedish Rite, Pt. 2

By Barry E. Newell

In part 1, I gave an introduction and the early history. According to Bro. Burton E. Bennett, the following Templar legend is used by this rite:

The story is that Jesus told secrets to some of his apostles that he did not tell to others, and, also, told secrets to the Essenes, of whom he was one;

that these secrets were handed down as a mystery through the Essenes, and that at the time of the Crusades they were greatly oppressed by the Saracens, and while seven of them, Syric Christians, were fleeing from the Saracens they were rescued by the Knights Templars.

They stayed with them in Jerusalem and imparted to the Templar priests their secrets. These were handed down in this Order till it was abolished and the priests dispersed. They were not molested to the extent that the seculars were, and with their secret knowledge, they kept their secret writings. Some of them fled to Scotland, where they founded a Priory, and from there their secrets gradually spread to the continent of Europe, and finally reached Sweden.

There are many theories of Templar continuation and its association with the Masonic fraternity, but many of them are made up to increase or enhance the pedigree of a new Masonic knighthood or order.

In 1776, Charles XIII was elected as Grand Master of the Rite of Strict Observance. The Rite of Strict Observance was founded in Germany. In the 1740s, a few

German Lodges started giving their Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts the names of French Knights. Most of these Lodges were in Dresden, but Baron von Hund founded one of these Lodges on his estates East of Dresden around 1751. It was from the close ties of these Lodges that the Rite of Strict Observance was created. It was said that the Rite originated with C.G. Marschall von Bieberstein, who had founded two of the Lodges in Germany; one in Dresden and one in Naumberg called "Lodge of the Three Hammers". Von Hund is said to have taken over after von Bieberstein died in 1750. Under von Hund's watch, the Rites degrees consisted of: Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason, Scottish Master, Novice, and Knights Templar. The Scottish Master's degree concerned itself with the preservation of the lost word of Freemasonry, which had been cut on a plate of pure metal, placed in a secure location, and centuries later discovered. This was not an exclusive belief as the Ecossais degrees used this, which had sprung up after Ramsey's Oration. One of the strangest aspects of the Rite of Strict Observance was that the adherents had to swear an oath to blindly follow the directives of "Unknown Superiors" who ruled the order. This invisible leader was said to have possibly been Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender. This was the same man whom Ramsey had tried to tutor some years prior. There is a lack of evidence that supports this idea, but the invisible rulers are said to have communicated through Baron von Hund. After von Hund's death on 28 October 1776, the Rite began to go downhill. Charles XIII only served for 2 years as Grand Master, and it is believed he resigned for political reasons. The 1782 Congress of Wilhelmsbad was held and as a result, it was resolved by the Freemasons to present that

Freemasonry were not descendants of the Templars, that there were no "unknown superiors" to hand out instruction, and soon after the Rite came to an end, but as a result, the Rectified Scottish Rite emerged.

Influenced by his time as Grand Master of the Rite of Strict Observance and using the foundations laid by Eckleff, Charles XIII created the degree system used by the Swedish Rite that is still seen today. Aside from being the driving force of the Swedish Rite, Charles XIII also set a precedent. After his tenure as Grand Master, all Kings of Sweden served as Grand Master of Sweden until King Gustaf VI Adolf died in 1973; after Gustaf died, King Carl XVI Gustaf (the new Swedish king) didn't want to become a Freemason although he is considered the "High Protector of the Swedish Order of Freemasons." Since the death of Gustaf, other members of the Royal House, often titled "Prince," have served as Grand Master and have in past, also filled the positions of Pro Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master.

