



# 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. 3

By Barry E. Newell

As stated in previous parts, the Swedish Rite is a continuous system and is best described as a ladder reaching from the bottom of a deep well. At the bottom, an aspirant looms in darkness, but upon being initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason, he steps upon the first rung of the ladder, striving for the light. In the Swedish Rite, the

climb is slow and one is only allowed to pass to the next rung if he has proven himself worthy; it can take up to 2-years for one to become a Master Mason and another 15-20 years to be elevated to the 10th degree. Only a select few reach the uppermost rung of the ladder. The first three degrees are those of any other Grand Lodge, those of Craft Masonry, or the degrees of a St. John's Lodge:

The first three degrees are similar, but have noticeable differences. One such example is that the Fellowcraft degree does not include the 7 Liberal Arts & Sciences and is more concerned with fraternalism and setting the stage for the story of the degree of Master Mason.

The three "Scottish" degrees of St. Andrew's Lodge (4° - 6°) are similar to other "Eccossais" degrees, which deal with the preservation and recovery of the Master's Word. These degrees can be compared to the Royal Arch and Select Master in the York Rite as well as the Scotch Master in the French Rite.

The Knight of the East is the 7th degree of the Swedish Rite and depicts the erection of the Second Temple after the Jews

were released from Babylonian captivity. This degree is comparable to the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross in the York Rite as well as the degrees of the Order of Knight Masons and 15° of the Scottish Rite. To sit as Warden of a St. John's Lodge (1° - 3°), one must possess this degree. The 8th degree, or Knight of the West, is the first Templar order conferred in this system, which is based upon the Templar legend explained above; that the Templars fled to Scotland, where they founded the Masonic fraternity, and through England and then France, led to the establishment of Freemasonry in Sweden. To be elected as Master of a St. John's Lodge, one must possess this degree. The 9th degree, or Knight of the South, is a Hermetic degree and has influence from Rosicrucianism, which had flourished towards the end of the 18th century. The Confident of St. Andrew is the 10th degree and is described as a "mythical crusading" degree, and is comparable to the 29° of the Scottish Rite.

The 11th degree, or Knight Companion of the Red Cross, is a degree reserved for past and present Grand Lodge officers and has a membership limit of 33. The 12th degree is called the "Vicar of Solomon," and the only one who holds this degree is the Grand Master.

In American Freemasonry, the various offices are sought after, but in the Swedish Rite, the degrees are the focus of the members. From research, a Master of a St. John's Lodge will serve in that position up to 4 years and is supported by Deputies and Wardens. In comparison to other Grand Lodges, the Swedish Rite is considered an autocratic system where most of the power lies with the Grand Master. This came about as a result of the times. In the 18th century, Freemasonry was decentralized, with very

few Grand Lodges formed in Europe, which was causing conflicts to arise everywhere. To ensure no strife would arise within the emerging Swedish Rite, it was seen as necessary that it be built upon a strong central authority, the Grand Master.

Due to the Swedish Rite's very secretive nature, there isn't as much information out there in comparison to other Masonic rites, but it is a fascinating rite to study nonetheless. I recommend watching "Episode 44 - Swedish Rite" by the Masonic Roundtable on YouTube for more information.

