ENGLISH ROYAL FREEMASONS

1. The information in this leaflet has been compiled from the Registers, Proceedings and Year Books of the United Grand Lodge of England and of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England, and the Calendars, Proceedings, etc., of the additional Degrees in England.

2. In addition to their connections with English Freemasonry many of these Royal brethren have been Members (Active or Honorary), or have received Honorary Ranks in other Constitutions, particularly those of Ireland and Scotland.

3. On his being appointed Prince Regent on 5 February 1811 the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV) set the precedent by which the Monarch (in his case as Prince Regent, the acting Monarch) retires from active participation in Freemasonry on his accession to the Throne. This has been followed by all his successors with the exception of H.M. King George VI, who on four occasions after his accession took an active part in Grand Lodge meetings.

4. H.R.H. George, Prince of Wales, set another precedent when in 1787 he accepted the office of Permanent Master of the Prince of Wales’s Lodge (now No. 259). The appointment of a Permanent Master of a Lodge later became a custom reserved to the Grand Master when a Prince of the Blood Royal and in these circumstances it was usual for the Lodge so honoured to elect and install a Deputy Master.

1. FREDERICK LEWIS, Prince of Wales (1707-1751). Eldest son of George II. Initiated 5 November 1737 at an ‘occasional’ lodge at the Prince of Wales Palace, Kew.

2. WILLIAM AUGUSTUS, Duke of Cumberland (1721-1765). 3rd son of George II. Reputed to have been initiated in Germany.

3. EDWARD AUGUSTUS, Duke of York (1739-1767). 2nd son of Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, and brother to George III. Initiated in Lodge of Friendship, Berlin in 1765, the Lodge then taking the name Royal York Lodge of Friendship. Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge of England on 15 April 1767.
4. WILLIAM HENRY, Duke of Gloucester (1743-1805). 3rd son of Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, and brother to George III. Initiated 16 February 1766 in the New Horn Lodge (later the Royal Lodge, uniting with the Alpha Lodge in 1824 to form the present Royal Alpha Lodge No. 16). Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge on 15 April 1767.

5. HENRY FREDERICK, Duke of Cumberland (1745-1790). 4th son of Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, and brother to George III. Initiated 9 February 1767 at an 'occasional' lodge at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James’ St., being installed Master of the New Horn Lodge two months later. Elected Grand Master 1782 and remained so until his death in 1790. Exalted in Grand Chapter in 1772 and was Grand Patron of the Royal Arch 1774-90.

6. GEORGE IV (George, Prince of Wales, later Prince Regent; 1762-1830). Eldest son of George III whom he succeeded in 1820. Initiated by his uncle, the Duke of Cumberland, on 6 February 1787 at a special lodge at the Star and Garter, Pall Mall. Founded the Prince of Wales’s Lodge (now) No. 259 and was its permanent Master 1787-1820. He was elected Grand Master in succession to his uncle in 1790 and held that office until May 1813 when he accepted the title of Grand Patron of the Order.

7. FREDERICK AUGUSTUS, Duke of York (1763-1827). 2nd son of George III. Initiated 21 November 1787 in the Britannic Lodge (now) No.33 and on 28 November was elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge. He was also a member of the Prince of Wales’s Lodge (now) No.259 and was its permanent Master 1823-27.

8. WILLIAM IV (William Henry, Duke of Clarence; 1765-1837). 3rd son of George III; succeeded his brother, George IV, in 1830. Initiated 9 March 1786 in the Prince George Lodge No 86 at Plymouth. Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge in May 1787. Member of the Prince of Wales’s Lodge (now) No.259 from 30 May 1789 and was its permanent Master 1827-30.


10. ERNEST AUGUSTUS, Duke of Cumberland (1771-1851). 5th son of George III. Succeeded to the throne of Hanover on the accession of Queen Victoria, 1837. Initiated 11 May 1796 by Francis, Earl of Moira (1st Marquess of Hastings) at a special meeting at the latter’s house. Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge on the same date. Joined the Lodge Friedrich of the White Horse, Hanover, in 1813. Declared Hanover a separate Grand Lodge in 1828, with himself as Grand Master.

11. AUGUSTUS FREDERICK, Duke of Sussex (1773-1843). 6th son of George III. Initiated 20 December 1798 in the Lodge Victorious Truth of the Grand Lodge of Prussia called Royal York of Friendship at Berlin and became its Senior Warden in 1799. Joined: Prince of Wales’s Lodge (now) No.259 in 1800, permanent Master 1831-43; Lodge of Friendship (now) No.6 in 1806, permanent Master 1806-43; Lodge of Antiquity No.2 in 1808, permanent Master 1809-43. Was responsible in 1814 for the resuscitation and later amalgamation of certain lodges to form the present Royal Alpha Lodge No.16 as his personal lodge and was its permanent Master 1818-43.
Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge in 1805, Deputy Grand Master in 1812 and Grand Master in 1813. With his brother, the Duke of Kent (q.v.) he worked actively for the Union of the two former Grand Lodges and was elected Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge in 1813 holding that office until his death. He had been ‘introduced’ into the Royal Arch in 1810 and became First Grand Principal of the Grand and Royal Chapter (Moderns) at the same meeting. On the formation of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1817 he became its First Grand Principal and held that office until his death. He was Grand Master of the Knights Templar from 1812-43 and controlled all the other Orders extant during that period.


13. EDWARD VII (Albert Edward, Prince of Wales; 1841-1910). Eldest son of Queen Victoria, whom he succeeded in 1901. Initiated, passed and raised on 20 December 1868 in the Swedish Grand Master’s Lodge, in the Royal Palace at Stockholm, by Charles XV, King of Sweden and Norway when he took the first six degrees of the Swedish Rite, the remaining four of the ten degrees being conferred the following day and also the eleventh and highest degree, known as the Knight Commander of the Red Cross, becoming a Knight Commander of the Order of Charles XIII of Sweden. In England he became a member of: Royal Alpha Lodge No.16 in 1870 being Master in 1871-2, 1877 and 1882-6; Apollo University Lodge No. 357 in 1872, Master 1873; Prince of Wales’s Lodge No. 259 in 1872, permanent Master 1874-1901; Grand Master’s Lodge No. 1 in 1880; Founder and first Master of the Household Brigade Lodge No.2614 and Navy Lodge No.2612 in 1896 and permanent Master of both until 1901; First Master Sancta Maria Lodge No. 2682 (1897). He had been elected a Past Grand Master in 1869 and was elected Grand Master in 1874, serving until his accession in 1901 when he became Protector of the Craft. He was also First Grand Principal, Royal Arch 1874-1901; Grand Master, Mark, 1886-1901; Grand Master, Knights Templar, 1873-1901; and 33° (1874) and Grand Patron of the Ancient and Accepted Rite.


15. LEOPOLD, Duke of Albany (1853-1884). 4th son of Queen Victoria. Initiated Apollo University Lodge No. 357, 1 May 1874, Master 1876. Member: Lodge of Antiquity No.2, Master 1876-80; Westminster & Keystone Lodge No.10, Master 1881; Longleat Lodge No. 1478; Royal Alpha Lodge No.16; Royal Clarence Lodge No. 1823. Prov. G.M. Oxfordshire, 1876-84. Junior Grand Warden 1877. Exalted 17 June 1876 in Apollo University Chapter No.357. First Principal 1881. G. Supt., Oxfordshire 1881-84. Third Grand Principal 1883-4. Past Grand Master, Mark,
1881. Knight Grand Cross and Great Constable 1880-83, Knights Templar. 33\(^\circ\) (1878) Ancient & Accepted Rite.


