



THE PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER

NEWS FOR THE ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS IN INDIANA FEBRUARY, 2016



THE MISSION OF INDIANA ROYAL ARCH MASONRY IS:

**TO FULFILL THE PROMISE OF KING
SOLOMON THAT FUTURE AGES
WOULD FIND OUT THE RIGHT.**

**TO PRESERVE THE COMPLETE
TRADITION OF THE CRAFT.**

**TO FURTHER THE INTIMATE
CONNECTION BETWEEN THE BLUE
LODGE AND THE ROYAL ARCH.**

**TO SPREAD MASONIC
ENLIGHTENMENT AND
FELLOWSHIP AMONG ALL
BRETHREN.**

Indiana Royal Arch Masonry promotes these Essential Standards as keys to a complete understanding of the Masonic tradition and the perfection of the Royal Arch system.

- Extraordinary Masonic education and enlightenment of our craft in sublime and practical ways.
- Fellowship at its finest; in the chapters and in furthering our intimate connection with the Blue Lodge.
- Exceptional ritual development and delivery... always! Thus preserving the time honored Masonic traditions of "the royal art."
- Effectiveness and value in Royal Arch organizational processes, communications and finances.
- Continuous advancement of our charitable endeavors.

These Standards are the measuring sticks of our Mission's progress!

Have You Made Your Mark?

*by Midnight Freemason Contributor
Bill Hosler, PHP*

Any Mason who has advanced through the degrees of the York Rite knows the meaning of "Making your mark". For those companions and Sir Knights it means they have added their "Mark" to a book symbolically linking them to the cathedral builders of ancient times. Most of you created your mark and handed it to the recorder of the group and went on with life and the other degrees.

In the world of the profane most people believe the phrase "Making your mark" means you have created a long lasting impression on someone or the world itself. You have added something positive that will be remembered after you passed to the Celestial lodge above. It's another Masonic phrase that has become a household word even though the original meaning has faded away.

One question I ask myself is "Have I made a mark on my lodge?" Years from now, once I leave this planet will the members of my lodge remember me or any of my works? Will something I have done or said be referenced years from now?

Many will say "Of course I will be remembered. My picture is on the wall of the lodge with the other Past Masters!" But is your photograph, along with 100 other men leaving your mark? How many times have you looked at one of these photos and truly known anything about the man in the photo? Usually I just look at them and think how much the clothing styles have changed since the year the photo was taken. In my opinion the photo is a memorial not a lasting impression.

Some would say the best way to leave your mark would be in your active participation in lodge. Being a long time lodge secretary or being the chairman of a committee for several decades would leave a lasting impression. These are great ways to serve your lodge. But make no mistake, after several years the memory of your participation will wither away.

In my humble opinion the best way to leave your mark on the lodge is the way in which you interact with your Brethren and teach them to become better men and Masons. Whether you realize it or not, the other Brethren look at you, especially the younger men and hold you up to be an example of how they should conduct themselves in life as well as inside a tiled lodge room. These men want and need guidance on their journey through the Craft!

These men begin judging us from the moment they walk through our front door of your temple. If they walk in the door and see a building in disrepair, dingy walls, broken furniture and get "hit in the face" with that familiar "old person smell" like they are walking into their

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grand parents house that will leave a lasting impression but sadly not a good one.

These young men are looking for positive men and a positive atmosphere which will help them become better men. When they see you sitting on the sidelines chatting while the lodge is conducting candidates during degree work, falling asleep or the lodge having the same argument every month during a stated meeting, it won't take them long to realize we don't have the answers which they are looking for or even worse, we aren't providing what we tell these men we give them when they ask for a petition. Remember Brethren these men are the ones who are checking to see how square your ashlar truly is.

It has now been many years since that warm night in June when I first knocked on the door of my lodge and asked to be made a Mason. But I will never forget the Brethren assembled who befriended me and taught me how to be a just and upright Mason and a better man. Sadly many of these Brothers now are no longer with us but I think about them each and every day. Their memories bring a smile to my face. Each one of these men "Made their mark" on my soul and created lifelong memories for me. Many of the things these Brethren taught me, I try to convey to you in my writings.

I hope some of my words inspire you to be a better man and Freemason and help me "Make my mark" upon your living stone and in turn, help me honor these men.

Editor's Note: Excellent Companion Bill Hosler is one of our own. Born and raised in Ft. Wayne, he is a Past Master of Three Rivers Lodge No. 733 and a Past High Priest of Ft. Wayne No. 19, RAM. He currently lives in Plano, Texas and is a regular contributor to the Midnight Freemasons Org. and other Masonic web sites. Check out the work that he and others post on these sites!

IT'S JUST AROUND THE ...

THE 171ST ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE INDIANA GRAND CHAPTER

CORNER!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH
THE CLARION HOTEL AND
CONVENTION CENTER IN
COLUMBUS, INDIANA**

Held In Conjunction With The Grand Council, R & SM

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.indianaroyalarchmasons.org

IN THE QUARRY...

Hail Companions! If you know of any Companion that is ill, has Entered the Celestial Lodge Above, has achieved some success or honor; or if there are special events or degree work planned by your Chapter ... please forward the details to the Editor of the Principal Sojourner at dwood52281@aol.com. Event pictures are also great; so please send them as well. We publish the Principal Sojourner every other month and will do our best to get the news out to you all!

- **Excellent Companion William G. Davis, of South Bend, Entered the Celestial Lodge Above on Wednesday, January 13th, 2016. He was 75. Excellent Companion Bill was a Past Master of Council Oak Lodge No. 745 in South Bend; a member of the South bend York Rite bodies; a member of Indiana Priory No. 8, Knights of the York Cross of Honor and several other Masonic bodies. He was a Past Thrice Potent Master of the South Bend Lodge of Perfection, A.A.S.R. and was coroneted a 33rd Degree Mason in 2010. Bill was an ardent supporter and tireless worker in all aspects of the Craft and his Brethren mourn his passing. He is survived by his Lady Lari and his family.**

OUTSIDE THE TABERNACLE



GREENE COUNTY CHAPTER AND COUNCIL INSTALLED THEIR OFFICERS OF BOTH BODIES ON DECEMBER 28th, 2015. CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE NEWEST BODIES OF INDIANA YORKRITE MASONRY!

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Goose 'n' Tater 101

12:00 PM Lunch - 1:00 PM Conferral

Greenfield Chapter No. 96 @ Hancock Lodge No. 101 - 661 W. Tague St., Greenfield

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Chapter All Degree Day

07:30 AM Registration • 08:00 AM Mark Master Degree

09:00 AM Past Master Degree • 09:30 AM Most Excellent Master Degree

10:15 AM Royal Arch Degree

Prather Chapter No. 157 - Calvin W. Prather Lodge No. 717 - 7502 E. 56th St., Indianapolis



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons State of Indiana

Martin A. Evens
Most Excellent Grand High Priest
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Bainbridge, IN 46105
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January 2, 2016

Dear Companions,

It has been the custom in past years that after the first of the year the Grand King be afforded the permission to introduce his programs and articulate his ideas for the coming year. In keeping with this tradition, I am extending this authority to Carl to proceed with any directions and programs he deems necessary to be set in motion in order to be functioning in April when he is installed as Grand High Priest.

I will continue to handle all Constitutional and administrative matters as pertains to the activities of the Subordinate Chapters and other affairs of the Grand Chapter.

I will expect your full cooperation and support for the matters the Grand King requests of your time and talents. I know you will support Carl with the same loyalty and enthusiasm as you have extended to me during my year as Grand High Priest. Carl has my full support and will assist him in any area he believes I can be of assistance.

Let's build on the progress we have made this year in promoting the pride we all share for Royal Arch Masonry and follow the leadership and programs that the Grand King will present to us in the coming days. Thank you for your continued service to the Grand Chapter.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Proud to be Part of the Family of Freemasonry



Every Master Mason aspires to attain the summit of **Ancient Craft Masonry**. Many feel with regret that it is not practicable for them to share in all the light shed by the several bodies, but all wish most earnestly to receive all the light and instruction which pertains to the **Ancient Craft**-the origin and foundation of the Institution.

The degrees recognized by the Grand Lodge of England at the revival in 1717 A. D. were as follows:

"Pure ancient Masonry consists of three degrees, no more; viz: those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the **Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch**."

It is therefore seen that the **Royal Arch Degree** was once a part of the Master's Degree. It was the crowning feature and glorious completion of **Ancient-Craft Masonry**. The Grand Lodge of England to this day exercises jurisdiction over the "**Holy Royal Arch**."

It is therefore said the **Royal Arch Masonry** is the **Summit of Ancient Craft Masonry**.

Have you reached the Summit?

HERE'S A PROMOTION YOU ARE GOING TO SEE MORE OF NEXT YEAR!

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Mark Master and Past Master Degrees

6:00 PM

Terre Haute Chapter No. 11
Terre Haute Masonic Temple
224 N. 8th Street, Terre Haute

Thursday, February 18, 2016

6:30 - PM Dinner
7:30 PM - Past Master Degree

Vincennes Chapter No. 7
Vincennes Masonic Temple
501 Broadway St., Vincennes

Saturday, February 27, 2016

Tri-State York Rite Festival

9:00 AM Mark Master Degree
10:15 AM Past Master Degree
11:00 AM Most Excellent Master Degree
12:00 PM Lunch
12:45 PM Royal Arch Degree

Angola Masonic Lodge • 35 S. Public Square
Angola

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2015

***MARK MASTER AND PAST
MASTER DEGREES***

7:00 PM

INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER No. 5
INDIANA FREEMASONS HALL
525 N. ILLINOIS ST. - FLOOR 7 - INDIANAPOLIS

Monday, March 21, 2016

Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees

7:00 PM

Indianapolis Chapter No. 5

Indiana Freemasons' Hall • 525 N. Illinois St. Floor 7 • Indianapolis

The Craft and the Holy Royal Arch

The ceremonies of the Craft, as we know them today, are the result of evolutionary changes that have occurred since the beginning of the 18th Century.

The two-degree system of Medieval Craft Masonry evolved into a three degree system during the 17 20's, and the third Degree was well established by 17 30.

It was perhaps inevitable that a further Degree would then emerge in which the lost secrets of the Third Degree were re-discovered.

This was the Holy Royal Arch and exactly where and when it developed is uncertain, but there is no doubt that it was in existence by 17 44.

When four London Lodges formed the first Grand Lodge in 1717, they represented some, but not all the Lodges in London and Westminster and none outside of that area.

Nevertheless the Roll of Lodges under its jurisdiction grew rapidly and in 1723 the first Book of Constitutions was published. Because Freemasonry was "news" many broadsheets, pamphlets and so-called exposures of ritual were published.

This caused the Grand Lodge to make certain changes to ritual and ceremonial in order to prevent readers of these exposures from gaining admission to Lodges.

Many Brethren, who had remained independent from the Grand Lodge, found these and other changes unacceptable. These masons joined with a number of Irish masons living in England and formed a Second Grand Lodge in 17 51 styling themselves "The Most Antient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons" and became known as "The Antients." The original Grand Lodge became known as "The Moderns."

The attitudes of these two Grand Lodges to the Royal Arch Degree were very different. The Antients regarded the Degree as an integral part of Craft Masonry and worked it under the authority of the Warrant of the Lodge. In their 1756 Constitutions they declared:

"Antient Masonry consists of FOUR Degrees; the three of which are, that of Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the sublime Degree of Master; and a Brother, being well versed in these Degrees, and otherwise qualified is eligible to be admitted to the Fourth Degree, the Holy Royal Arch. This Degree is certainly more august, sublime and important than those which precede it and is the summit and perfection of Antient Masonry"

It was the Grand Secretary of the Antients, Laurence Dermott, who described the Degree as "the root and marrow of Masonry." It was originally restricted to those who have passed through the Master's Chair, but this rule was gradually relaxed.

The attitude of the Premier Grand Lodge was vastly different. It considered the degree to be no part of Craft Masonry. It actively discouraged Grand Officers from becoming Royal Arch Masons and forbid Lodges under their Jurisdiction from conferring the degree.

Within a few years, however, members of Modern Lodges, having visited Antient Lodges and developed interests in The Royal Arch, set up meetings of their own in defiance of their Grand Lodge. *See Below.....*

The Grand Master, Lord Blaney, and the Grand Secretary (Premier Grand Lodge) were both exalted as were many Grand Lodge Officers, but still non-recognition continued. Finally, under a "Charter of Compact" granted by Lord Blaney in 1766, a Grand Chapter was created.

It was a separate administration from Grand Lodge and although tolerated, was not to be officially recognized for another fifty years.

The Antients administered the Royal Arch by a committee of their Grand Lodge. Although the latter called that committee a "Grand Lodge," its work remained unchanged, and the Royal Arch Degree was still the Fourth Degree conferred by Craft Lodges.

This was the situation when the two Grand Lodges united in 1813.

The position of the Chapter was a bone of contention which caused many problems. A compromise was finally agreed upon and the Preliminary Declaration of the Book of Constitutions stated, as it does now, that:

"Pure Antient Masonry consists of three Degrees and no more, viz., those of the Entered Apprentice, The Follow Craft and the Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch."

So although it is called an Order and not a degree, and is conferred in another assembly called a Chapter, it is firmly linked to the Craft.

Chapters are subordinate to the Supreme Grand Chapter of England, whose Principal Officers and Officials are exactly the same as those of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Supreme Grand Chapter was formed in 1817. Since then the ceremonies of the Craft and Chapter have gradually evolved into their present form, always adhering to the principles and tenets of the Order and always observing the Antients Landmarks of the Craft.

It is natural for a keen Master Mason to enquire about other Masonic Degrees. If he enjoys his masonry and has friends in these other degrees, he may be tempted to join one of them in order to increase his circle of friends and his knowledge of masonry.

In time it might be sensible for him to do so, but not before he has become a Royal Arch Mason.

There are good reasons for this. The Chapter is firmly linked to the Craft and is the only other Order officially recognized by the Grand Lodge.

It is the sequel to the Third Degree and the Coping Stone of Freemasonry.

Without the Holy Royal Arch, no Brother can claim to be a complete Mason and he should therefore become a member before contemplating further Masonic progress.

Author Unknown

