



THE PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER

NEWS FOR THE ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS IN INDIANA JUNE, 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST

My Companions,

Wow, this year is in high gear and shows no sign of slowing down! Since the Grand Sessions in Fort Wayne, Indiana in April the Grand Officers and I have been planning many activities for this Capitular Year.

I was pleased to see so many of you at Grand Lodge in your red attire and showing your pride in Royal Arch Masonry. It was my privilege to be in attendance at the Rededication Ceremony at the Noblesville Masonic Temple and again see many companions in attendance. Accompanied by the Grand King and Grand Captain of the Host we just returned from the Grand Amaranth Session in Merrillville where we were received with a very warm welcome and learned of all the activities the Masonic Family of Bodies are involved in to promote our noble craft.

As of this writing, our first Table Chapter in the State will be held in District C and I hope it will be an enjoyable evening for everyone in attendance and hope to raise financial support for our philanthropy Royal Arch research Assistance. I will then visit with our Sisters and Brothers of the Order of the Eastern Star at their Grand Session and share the fraternal friendship their organization is so noted for. I could go on but you get the idea, a lot of traveling is scheduled for the coming year.

The Grand Officers have developed a ceremonial program for the rededication of the memorial of our first Grand High Priest William B. Smith and endeavor to raise much needed monies to replace the rapidly deteriorating monument erected in his memory in Richmond, Indiana. As we travel around the State we will share with all the companions the program and its goal to memorialize companions who have laid down their working tools since that time. A great deal of credit goes to Companion Christopher W. Kimmel Past High Priest from Vincennes Chapter who researched the necessary information used to compose this ceremony. Chris I want to thank you for all your hard work on this project.

It will be my great pleasure and the privilege of the Grand Chapter Officers to present the Charter for the newest Chapter in the state, Greene County No. 170 in Bloomfield, Indiana on August 8, 2015. I hope many companions and ladies will attend to support the hard work this group of companions has overcome from fire and requirements of constitutional law to attain this ambitious achievement.

We will again work with the Illinois Grand Chapter to present an All Chapter Degree Day to be held in La Porte Indiana on October 24, 2015. Those attending will have the opportunity to receive two degrees from the companions of Illinois from their ritual and two degrees from a cast of accomplished companions from Indiana who have already performed the work for a degree day in conjunction with the Scottish Rite to offer a portion of our degrees to those who are undecided as to which ceremonial to attend.

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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!

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| MARTY EVENS 765.721.7800 | GRAND HIGH PRIEST marty@centuryconcrete.com |
| CARL FROEDGE 219.688.2215 | GRAND KING carlfroedge@sbcglobal.net |
| RAY WINDELL 502.376.1260 | GRAND SCRIBE Gunman218@aol.com |
| PHIL FOWLER 317.784.3243 | GRAND TREASURER fowler_e4384@sbcglobal.net |
| RICHARD LOCHNER 574.772.4115 | GRAND SECRETARY drlochner@gmail.com |
| DON OLVEY 317.410.6498 | GRAND CAPT. OF THE HOST don_olvey@yahoo.com |
| ARCHIE SMALLWOOD 502.422.1864 | GRAND PR. SOJNR. arsmallwood@twc.com |
| STEVE ARLINGTON 574.772.7705 | GRAND ROYAL ARCH CAPT. Riley390@hiram.net |
| STEVE MAXWELL 260.433.4885 | G.M. / 3RD VEIL 1530moguljr@gmail.com |
| SEAN W. JONES 317.658.8103 | G.M. / 2ND VEIL diver978a@yahoo.com |
| KEITH SPURGEON 812.774.0013 | G.M. 1ST VEIL keithspu@aol.com |
| JAMES FAIRCHILD 765.760.2429 | GRAND LECTURER jdfairchild@frontier.com |
| JOHN MATHIS 317.445.6596 | GRAND CHAPLAIN fltmeguy2001@yahoo.com |
| DEWAYNE RICHMOND 765.212.0869 | GRAND MARSHALL drichmond@muncie.k12.in.us |
| KEITH HAMMONDS 574.780.2951 | WEB MASTER keith_b_h@comcast.net |
| ARCHIE SMALLWOOD 502.422.1864 | RARA DIRECTOR arsmallwood@insightbb.com |
| TONY PETERSON 317.946.1843 | HOSPITALER monipaints4u@yahoo.com |
| MARVIN RAMSAY 765.366.1500 | GRAND GUARD mjramsay@ctc.com |
| JOE VILLAREAL 630.649.8255 | DEPUTY A villarealjoseph@gmail.com |
| WILLIAM GRAY 574.276.8604 | DEPUTY B wrgray130@aol.com |
| CLEN ROGERS 260.243.0682 | DEPUTY C GlenJanRogers@gmail.com |
| DALE FOREMAN 765.747.9367 | DEPUTY D Dalenancyforeman@comcast.net |
| THOMAS R. RETHERFORD 317.271.4665 | DEPUTY E trretherford@sbcglobal.net |
| STEVEN L. CLICK (317) 652-2508 | DEPUTY F lyle492001@yahoo.com |
| DAN EDSALL 765.212.1889 | DEPUTY G dedsall@gmail.com |
| SHELBY OLVEY 812.229.1100 | DEPUTY H slimolvey@frontier.com |
| DENNIS SCHRAEDER 812-549-7762 | DEPUTY I schraederdennis@hotmail.com |
| JOSEPH GROSS 812.267.9169 | DEPUTY J josephgross26@yahoo.com |

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So make plans to bring your candidates to La Porte to appreciate the work performed in full costume with an opportunity to observe the nuances of a different ritual presentation from another Jurisdiction. Registration forms and details will be published in the near future to reserve a seat for an unforgettable experience in Royal Arch Masonry.

There is so much more to share with you but I will save that information for another issue, so keep reading the Principal Sojourner Newsletter for more activities happening all over the State.

The Grand Officers are diligently working to advance Royal Arch Masonry in Indiana and hope to introduce new programs to encourage those still in search of a place to receive the information that will reward with them with the keystone of life's fulfillment.

CHARTER PRESENTATION FOR GREENE COUNTY CHAPTER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH ... 12 NOON

**BLOOMFIELD LODGE HALL
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA**

***COME AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR
NEWEST ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER!!!***

!! DISTRICT F TABLE CHAPTER !!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH ... 6:30 PM

**GREENWOOD NO. 137
592 NORTH MERIDIAN, GREENWOOD**

!! DISTRICT B TABLE CHAPTER !!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1ST ... 6:30 PM

**MISHAWAKA NO. 83
931 INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY, ELKHART**

!! DISTRICT E TABLE CHAPTER !!

SATURDAY, JULY 11TH ... 7:00 PM

**GREENCASTLE NO. 22
102 EAST WASHINGTON STREET, GREENCASTLE**

CONFERRAL OF THE DEGREES OF ROYAL ARCH MASONRY

MARK MASTER DEGREE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH ... 7:00 PM

CONCORD NO. 101 ... 931 INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY, ELKHART

PAST MASTER and MOST EXCELLENT MASTER

SATURDAY, JULY 11TH ... 10:30 AM

CONCORD NO. 101 ... 931 INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY, ELKHART

ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH ... 7:00 PM

PLYMOUTH NO. 49 ... 109 WATER STREET, PLYMOUTH

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!

- **Dennis Anness, PGHP**, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, has had hormone implants and will soon begin radiation treatments. Please pray that he will be able to overcome this difficulty.

OUTSIDE THE TABERNACLE



The Grand Chapter's Grand Guard, Excellent Companion Marvin Ramsay, was not able to be present at the Grand Chapter Annual Convocation in April; due to health problems.

Excellent Companion Marvin was Installed and presented with his Jewel and Apron by Most Excellent Companion Marty Evens at a special ceremony in Greencastle.

Congratulations Marvin!!



Fifteen intrepid Companions, from five Royal Arch Chapters in northern Indiana, conferred the Mark Master Degree in full costume and makeup; at a joint York Rite / Scottish Rite Degree Day in South Bend on April 25th.

The work was about as perfect as anyone could get and the Companions had a great deal of fun with the conferral! Nine candidates witnessed the degree.

From Left: Ex. Companions Doug Green, Kent Hammonds, Steve Arlington, Don Laudeman, Keith Hammonds, Bill Gray, Spencer Riley, and Joe Villarreal, Companion Devon Stull, Ex. Companions Lloyd Forney and Mike Koziel, Companion Dan Whitaker, Ex. Companion Jim Dove and Rt. Ex. Companion Carl Froedge.

**MOST EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE AND
THE ROYAL ARCH DEGREE**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH
10:00 AM (COFFEE, JUICE AND ROLLS AT 9!)
LUNCH TO FOLLOW!**

**WESTSIDE NO. 138
800 NORTH INDIANAPOLIS ROAD, MOORESVILLE
COME AND ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP OF ROYAL ARCH
MASONRY!**

!! 4TH OF JULY PARADE !!

**SATURDAY, JULY 4TH
ANGOLA, INDIANA**

**10:00 AM – LINE UP AT TRINE UNIVERSITY
(On U.S. 20 ... Just West of Downtown)**

**PARADE STARTS AT 11:00 AM
REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW AT THE ANGOLA LODGE HALL**

**ANGOLA'S YORK RITE HOPES TO SEE AT LEAST 100 BLUE LODGE AND YORK RITE MASONS MARCH ...
SO COME ON OUT AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS GREAT DAY OF FELLOWSHIP AND PATRIOTISM FOR ALL
FREEMASONS!**

COMING IN AUGUST !!! ... MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!!

!!! THE GRAND CHAPTER SUMMER PICNIC !!!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH ... AT NOON

TURKEY RUN STATE PARK ... U.S. HIGHWAY 41 AND INDIANA 47

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS IN THE NEXT PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER !

A "CLIFF NOTES" SKETCH OF ROYAL ARCH MASONRY FOR NEW COMPANIONS AND LODGE BROTHERS SEARCHING FOR MORE LIGHT IN MASONRY

By Bro. Asahel W. Gage, Illinois

THE Masonic Truths taught by the Chapter Degrees are practical, and applicable to the problems of our everyday lives. The instruction is not dogmatic, but is so broad that any good Mason can find in it personal help and encouragement. From time immemorial Biblical Stories have been used to illustrate Masonic Truth which cannot be written. No credit is claimed for the following thoughts. On the contrary it is claimed that their antiquity, the fact that they have stood the test of time, proves their truth and their value.

MARK MASTER'S DEGREE

Tradition teaches that the order of Mark Masters, at the building of the temple of Solomon, was selected from the great body of Fellow Crafts.

There were two classes of Fellow Crafts engaged in the work. The larger division was composed of the younger and inexperienced men who were not in possession of a mark. They proved their claim to reward by another token and after the middle chamber was completed, they were there paid in corn, wine and oil, agreeable to the stipulation of King Solomon with Hiram King of Tyre.

The smaller division was composed of the higher class of workmen who labored in the quarries. They finished the stones, or as we say, "hewed, squared and numbered them." In order that each might be enabled to designate his own work, he was in possession of a mark which he placed upon the stones prepared by him. Hence, this class of Fellow Crafts were called Mark Masters and they received their wages from the Senior Grand Warden supposed to have been Adoniram; the brother-in-law of Hiram and the first of the Provosts and Judges. These Fellow Crafts received their pay in metal, at the rate of a half shekel of silver per day, equal to about twenty-five cents. They were paid weekly at the sixth hour of the sixth day of the week, that is to say on Friday at noon.

HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED

The degree of Mark Master is, historically considered, of the utmost importance since by its influence each operative mason at the building of King Solomon's temple was known and distinguished. The disorder and confusion, which might otherwise have attended so immense an undertaking, was completely prevented not only the craftsmen themselves, but every part of their workmanship was distinguished with the utmost nicety and perfect facility. If defects were found, the overseers by the help of this degree were enabled to ascertain the faulty workman and remedy all deficiencies, without injuring the credit or diminishing the reward of the industrious and faithful.

The Mark Master degree is also important in its symbolical signification. It is particularly directed to the inculcation of order, regularity and discipline. It teaches that we should discharge all the duties of our several stations with precision and punctuality; that the work of our hands, and thoughts of our minds and the emotions of our hearts, should be good and true, such as the Great Overseer and Judge of Heaven and earth will see fit to approve as a worthy oblation.

The Fellow Crafts degree is devoted to the inculcation of learning. The Mark Master's degree clearly shows how that learning can most usefully and judiciously be employed for our honour and the profit of others. It holds forth to the despondent the encouraging truth that although our motives may be misinterpreted, our attainments underrated, and our reputation traduced, there is One who will make the worthy stone which the builders reject the head of the corner.

PAST MASTER'S DEGREE

In the Masonic revival of 1717, men of remarkable learning and ability removed much of the rubbish which had accumulated through the dark ages. Their luminous minds and searching labors brought to light old truths and disclosed new beauties in Masonic symbolism.

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In order that the Three Degrees might be more generally understood, higher degrees were gradually developed which explain and apply the moral lessons taught in the original degrees, but leave ancient landmarks unchanged. These new or higher degrees were conferred only upon those who had proved that they would appreciate and honor them. To be eligible for the Royal Arch Degrees a brother must have been installed into the office of Master "and fulfilled the duties thereof with the approbation of the brethren of his lodge."

Interest in the Masonic Fraternity grew, and many brethren seeking further light in Masonry had not passed the chairs. This requirement to advancement was not removed but a new degree was established wherein the candidate elected to the Royal Arch Degrees, is symbolically instructed in the important lessons of the Master's Chair.

The Past Master's Degree teaches that he who would rule, whether over a nation, a family, or even himself, must embrace every opportunity for development so that he may be qualified; for he that thoughtlessly assumes a task for which he is not prepared, must necessarily share in the unhappy consequences.

MOST EXCELLENT MASTER'S DEGREE

The Hebrew Scriptures say little about the actual completion of the Temple of Solomon, although their accounts are very complete of the dedication. As an illustration of the growth of man or a character, the completion and the dedication may be treated as one ceremony.

The allegorical figure of the completion is broadened and its application extended to details by substituting the keystone, which simply locked or "completed" one of the component arches for the copestone which completed the temple.

When the temple was completed and, amid music and rejoicing the ark safely seated under the wings of the Cherubim; then the Lord manifested himself as a soft cloud, and in his pleasure descended as a fire out of heaven and consumed the offerings. The assembled multitude were wildly enthusiastic in their exultation. Naturally King Solomon was pleased with the Masters who had so successfully completed his work and in his gratitude received and acknowledged them as Most Excellent Masters. He empowered them to travel, receive master's wages and charged them to dispense light and Masonic knowledge or, if they chose to remain, offered them continued employment.

The Most Excellent Master's degree develops in a wonderful manner this great Masonic lesson:--Our own temple must be erected, a fit and proper abode for divine good and truth, then after we have deposited therein these sacred treasures, we will be filled with exaltation and joy and be received and acknowledged as Most Excellent Masters.

ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

The wonderful Scriptural story of the Temple for the manifestation and worship of God, is of intense interest and immeasurable value to the builder of individual character.

The children of Israel possessed only a temporary tabernacle from the Egyptian captivity until the reign of Solomon. David, the Second King of Israel, desired to build a temple as a fixed place of Worship, but being a man of war, with hands stained by blood, he and his people were compelled to continue in the use of the portable tabernacle.

Solomon, David's son, a wise and good King, was allowed to build an abode for the ark and a fixed place of worship, a magnificent Temple to God's Holy Name. In later years, however, Solomon became conceited and placed his reliance in his own wisdom and power and neglected the One True God. He loved the things and pleasures of the World. This love of pleasure and comfort, this following after "strange Gods," this worship of practical things, resulted in strife, discord and dissension among the Twelve Tribes of the children of Israel.

Upon the death of King Solomon, ten tribes revolted and they were led by idolatry to destruction. The two remaining tribes of Judah and Benjamin, although almost as faithless, still had a succession of Holy Men and Prophets, who labored earnestly to bring the people back to the One True God.

Some years later, about 602 B. C. the people and their Kings, having persisted in their sins and refusing to humble themselves before God, were conquered by Nebuchadnezzar. Thousands of the people were carried captive to Babylon and the country required to pay tribute.

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The rulers placed over the Israelites left at Jerusalem were faithless. The people continued in their sins. They refused to pay tribute as agreed and renounced the authority of the Chaldeans over them. About 586 B. C., Nebuchadnezzar again descended on Jerusalem and after an eighteen months siege, captured, sacked and destroyed the city, tore down its walls, burned its temples and carried the surviving Princes, Priests and Master Builders captives to Babylon.

THE CHALDEANS

There is a tradition which tells how the conquerors, as an insult to the Israelites and in derision of their God and the potency of their religion, bound the prisoners in triangular chains. History indicates that instead of suffering all manners of humiliation at the hands of the Chaldeans, the Israelites had many opportunities for advancement and enlightenment. A great many of their wonderful symbols and fascinating legends are the result of their contact with the learning and the culture of Babylon. Many of the captives attained High Rank and great influence in the Chaldean government. They were allowed to own and hold property and some acquired considerable wealth. When Cyrus liberated the Israelites, after seventy years of captivity, many preferred to remain with their possessions in Babylon.

Large numbers however returned to Jerusalem and began the rebuilding of the Temple. The conditions and prospects were most discouraging. Zerubbabel the Prince of Royal Blood, Jeshua the High Priest and Haggai the Prophet, directed and encouraged the people as they labored when occasion permitted and fought when necessity required. As the work progressed, many of the Israelites, who had been unwilling to make the long trip from Babylon, repented and struggled into Jerusalem in small parties. On account of the enemies' efforts to get in and ruin the work, it was necessary that these journey stained sojourners be most care-fully examined, in order that none but the true descendants of Israel be admitted.

While this work was going on and the rubbish and the ruins of the First Temple were being cleared away, many interesting and valuable discoveries were made.

One not trained to think according to the principles of geometry might thoughtlessly pass over the fascinating details of this wonderful story. But to those interested in discovering the great principles and truths of every day experiences, these details are full of meaning and are of intense interest.

Source: The Builder - August 1916

There are a number of things that God cannot do, not in spite of Who He is but because of it. What is more powerful than God, more evil than the devil, that rich people think they need, poor people have plenty of and if you eat it, you will die? Nothing! Nothing is more powerful than God, but, according to the Bible:

- 1) He cannot fail. Ephes. 1:11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will:
- 2) He cannot do evil. Titus 1:2: In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
- 3) He cannot be tempted. James 1:13-14: Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man:
- 4) He cannot deny Himself. 2 Tim. 2:13: If we believe not, yet he abides faithful: he cannot deny himself.
- 5) He cannot be unjust. Romans 3:26: To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth.
- 6) God cannot force loving obedience. Forced love is a contradiction in terms. Freedom is a condition of such love. By the very nature of love man must have the ability to choose.

The many things that God cannot do are not caused by a lack of omnipotence. He is indeed omnipotent.