



THE PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER

NEWS FOR THE ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS IN INDIANA SEPTEMBER, 2013



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!

ESOTERIC CONCEPTS AND MASONIC EDUCATION

By Excellent Companion Matt Backus... RA Deputy for District A

In the ever-increasing popularity of deeper, more esoteric concepts revolving around Masonic Education, we would be neglectful if we didn't open those concepts to the Royal Arch Chapter and in the York Rite as a whole.

This month I would like to bring to your attention a program that is sponsored to all York Rite Masons who have become a Knight Templar. It is sponsored by the York Rite College but you DO NOT have to be a College member to be enrolled. The Companion Adept of the Temple program will open you up to be able to digest the York Rite on a much deeper level. If you are Internet-savvy, you can type "York Rite Sovereign College" into the search engine and it will take you to their site if you follow the link. If you are not and would like more information after reading this article, please feel free to contact me and I will help you to the best of my ability. You can call or text me at 773-255-0260.

Most York Rite Masons in Indiana either know personally or are familiar with Carson Smith and his "3 minute drill" where he asks you questions such as: As a Master Mason you were given a substitute word, do you not want to learn the true word? As a Senior Warden it states that it is his duty to pay the Craft their Wages if ought be due and see that none go away dissatisfied - do you know how to receive your wages? Do you know what you get paid? Would you be dissatisfied if you learned of what your wages would be?

Maybe I've ad-libbed some here, but the point is, without searching deeper into the more hidden mysteries of the Craft, how fulfilling is the journey for you? Simply joining a Lodge or a Chapter can provide a wonderful experience. It can certainly change your life if you allow it to. Yet to truly have a transformative experience, dare I say, a truly Initiatory Experience, which is what Freemasonry is said to provide; it is my opinion, as well as the opinion of others, that you must be willing to dig deeper than what you learn on the surface.

The C.A.T. program is designed to make you do the work on your own and it gives you the resources to do it. The cost is \$30 and the program is broken down into 5 parts. Starting with the Chapter, you will explore the Mark Master and Virtual Past Master's Degrees...you may explore concepts that until said time you may have been completely oblivious to. Don't feel bad about this...I will tell you that until the time I did this work, I most certainly was. I the next exam, once you return your first and it is graded and returned back to you, you will then get deeper into the Most Excellent Master and the Royal Arch. I will leave the avenues of exploration for you to search further as the next exams relate to the Council and Commandery.

(Continued on Page 3)

THE KEYSTONE

Compiled by Excellent Companion Carl Froedge, Grand Captain of the Host...
From the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas

What is a Keystone? Why is it different, special, or set apart?

As all Mark Master Masons know, a Keystone is shaped differently than the type of stone necessary for walls and foundations. The Keystone is used to complete an arch used for producing windows and portals. The function of this treasured building material is in its shape and positioning. By its characteristics, it gives strength, and durability to the arch. The purpose of a Keystone is to impart to Royal Arch Masonry its vitality, and perpetuity. Let us then explore, like our Ancient Companions, the mighty characteristics of the stone of singular form and beauty...the most important stone in all the building.

Each one of the Grand Masonic Bodies' ritual has been founded upon some remarkable epoch in the history of mankind usually communicated through the Holy Scriptures. Each one of these Bodies have chosen emblems for their moral teachings that have come to represent vital and enduring principles, not only to Masons, but to the world at large.

As the studied Master Mason should be able to explain to the youngest Entered Apprentice, Ancient Craft or Blue Lodge Masonry is founded upon that memorable period when Solomon, the wise king of Israel, erected his temple to the living God, and the traditions, symbolism, and ritual of the craft may be traced to that period, so remarkable in the history of the human race.

The square and compass, the distinguishing badge of Ancient Craft Masonry, is today typical of virtue, morality, and rectitude of conduct. Even so, Royal Arch Masonry, bases its traditions, its symbolism, and its teachings on that memorable period of human history, when the Jewish people produced some of the most remarkable, interesting, and romantic art, literature, and architecture of any race upon the face of the earth. The Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master degrees of Royal Arch Masonry deal with Solomon's time depicted in the Old Testament. The Royal Arch's context is within the historical timeline of the Persians, and later on the timeline of the Old Testament, and history of the Jewish people.

The Keystone is used in different ways in the three of the four degrees governed by a Royal Arch Chapter. The Mark Master degree is the chief treasure chest for the symbolism and meaning of this mighty symbol. The Most Excellent Master degree venerates the Keystone in its ceremony, while in the Royal Arch degree, the Keystone is rediscovered in the ruins of the Temple.

As all of Masonic ritual is built upon the preceding degrees, the symbolism of the Keystone is shared in the Most Excellent and Royal Arch Degrees with references to the Mark Master degree, which is the ceremony where it is first introduced to a York Rite candidate. Since the Mark Master degree is the above mentioned treasure chest for the Keystone, let us focus our study there.

From the first knock on the outer door to the lecture, the Keystone is the heart and soul of the Mark Master Degree. A Keystone completes an arch which greatly and almost magically strengthens a building's design. It was a revolutionary device for Ancient Builders because it made the edifice stronger, allowed in light, and beautified the interior. We are taught that Entered Apprentices carried stones, Fellowcraft carved and chiseled, and Master Masons lead, taught, and designed. But this is all done in the restrictions of squared work. Think about it - the candidate (a Master Mason) is handed a copy of a Keystone as he begins the Mark Master Degree. He has no idea of what the stone means, what its purpose is, or what he is to do with it.

Aren't we like this candidate with the ways of our Creator? Have we not been given the Holy Scripture, the mind of God? Do any of us when we first receive it really know what to do with this gift from God?

Yes, these are all true, but to truly unlock the mystery, we must discover its purpose through the aid of the Designer and knowledge people such as King Solomon in the degree. The shape of the Keystone makes it unique. It is neither an oblong, nor a square. It is not like the other stones. Our ritual tells us that it was personally designed by one of the greatest artisans to walk the earth, Hiram Abif. He is remembered as one who had an extra proportion of God-given ability in the art of stone building. This shows an extension of knowledge from our Blue Lodge teachings, yet it also shows a new level of achievement, that of shaping stones for the building that were not square.

This shows us that sometimes in life we are to take the knowledge of building, stones, and carving that we possess and make a new level of existence that enhances the previous work. As mentioned previously, the Keystone is critical to giving a building some unique characteristics. Before electricity, large buildings possessed dark interiors and were candle-lit places day and night.

(Continued on the Next Page)

(KEYSTONE Continued from Page 2)

The arch, by aid of the Keystone, allows the possibility of more light to enter the building because more windows and doors could be built into a wall. How does this affect your daily life? What does it mean for your spiritual building? By using a Keystone as a symbol, you can allow "more light" to enter into your life. This could be accomplished by acts of charity, a more forgiving attitude, strength to hold up or secure those around you. The portals that can be created in greater numbers allowing easier access to core of the building, when arches and Keystones are used in a building, represent you as a Mason allowing the cares and sorrows of the hurting souls around you to penetrate your heart and cause you to be a source of Hope to mankind.

An Arch, by design, reaches to the sky or upward the closest stone in an arch is the Keystone. This is meant to reflect that we should build our Arch toward God completing it with our Keystone that we have shaped. This further means, we should be using the knowledge of God and our Faith in Him we have attained to accomplish this task ...to find our purpose in His Temple.

On our Royal Arch Chapter coins, letterhead, and rings, we represent the essence of the greatness of Royal Arch Masonry by the use of a Keystone. May each one of us use the Keystone to represent our aspirations to strengthen, enlighten, and improve our world, country, families, friends, and ourselves.

IN THE QUARRY...

Broken Column:

M.E. Companion **Stephan T. Oathout**, PGHP, entered the Celestial Lodge Above on Monday, September 2nd, 2013. Please keep Darlene and the family in your prayers.

Prayers and Distress:

M.E. Companion **Don Friend**, PGHP, is residing at Miller's Merry Manor Retirement Community in Garrett, Indiana, and is feeling much better! Dave Wood, Jim Coleman and Marty Evens visited him in August and found him to be in most excellent spirits.

M.E. Companion and Dr. **Richard Lochner**, PGHP and Grand Secretary, underwent total knee replacement surgery during the first week in July. He is doing well.

This section of our newsletter will be reserved for the activities of our Companions and local Chapters. It will feature brief items concerning our Companions and Chapters... Activities, Broken Columns, Sickness and Distress, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Mileposts, Honors... and more. Please e-mail any items of interest... and pictures... to dwood52281@aol.com. We will make sure they are posted.

(ESOTERIC Continued from Page 1)

Do you know why the Virtual Past Master is a pre-requisite Degree to receiving the Royal Arch? Do you know the significance in the completion and Dedication of the Temple in the MEM in relation to your life? Do you fully comprehend the reason that you are "exalted" as a Royal Arch Mason?

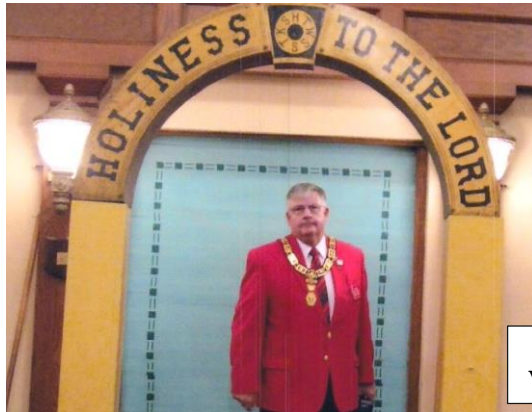
These deeper topics are explored amongst many others. What I can assure you of is that exposing your mind to these concepts will forever change your views of the York Rite Degrees, your attitude toward them when conferring them upon candidates and at the very least they will have increased personal value.

Upon completion, you are given a frame-able certification. I would like to point out that the last installment of the York Rite Crusader of the College pointed out that there were several hundred York Rite Masons that have signed up for this and only 5 had completed the program at that point. Think about the possibilities you can do with this! You can use it to have education nights at your chapter, you can use it to better your Officers, to increase your own Masonic Knowledge as was charged to you to do in the MEM Degree. The more one can internalize certain things, the more one takes ownership in them. We have joined the Lodge, we are Royal Arch Masons and for both of these we have our reasons. The more information I receive and embody, the more meaningful my experience. I hope that you might have interest in enriching your experience as well. If you do, this is an excellent place to start...will you beat me to the finish of the program?

OUTSIDE THE TABERNACLE



NEW COMPANIONS AT VERSAILLES NO. 113!! Guy Kaiser, Chris Blackburn, Greg Anderson, Shaun Dixon and Jeff Gee. With: Archie Smallwood, Don Perkins, HP, and Ray Windell.



Well, maybe...
Viva El Concrete!



A LEWIS JEWELAND PIN were presented to father and son, Brothers Tom and Carroll Joe Friend at Greensburg Lodge. Also shown: Archie Smallwood, WM Melcher, Ray Windell and Ron Woods.



MENE, MENE...
TEKEL...



Grand Officers: Ed Sebring, Matt Lowe and Archie Smallwood; with PGHP Neil Ward at Vincennes



INSTRUCTIONAL AT VINCENNES



Where did ya get those shoes?

EXCITING TIMES FOR ROYAL ARCH MASONRY!

Hail Companions!

Your Grand Chapter has been working on some very interesting projects. Some are small and deal with the way we operate... others more significant. Below is a synopsis of our efforts:

1st... The Grand Chapter Convocation is now set to be held at The Four Points by Sheraton in West Lafayette! The date will be Friday and Saturday, April 4th and 5th. The hotel is outstanding! ... and we think our room rates and food costs will be very agreeable. Watch for further information in the Principal Sojourner and other Masonic media. A big "Thank You" goes to Companion Tim Murphy of the Raybourn Group for helping secure the hotel and contract.

2nd... Our new Constitution and General Regulations is now posted on the Grand Chapter website (www.indianaroyalarchmasons.com). It now has web links added to the Table of Contents, which we think will make for easier use. Just click on any line in the Table of Contents that you wish to explore and you will be taken there! Thank you to RA Deputy Keith Spurgeon for making the links happen!

3rd... We are in the process of issuing new Rituals to all of our local Chapters and hope to have them distributed yet this month. We are currently in the process of soliciting bids from three printers in the state. Once we have an agreement, we will get the Rituals to you ASAP. The new Ritual includes all the revisions that were approved at the last Grand Chapter Convocation; and will be pocket sized and easy to use. Distribution will include a CD for the Chapters; so parts or all of the Ritual can be printed for use.

4th... The Grand Chapter is just beginning to explore the possibilities of an annual "reunion" similar to the Crypt Re-Dedication of Council fame. More to come on this and other projects like: RARA Autism Walks...an officer's handbook... and Mark Lodges... because I am running out of room.

Companions... in the first half of my tenure as Grand High Priest, I cannot begin to tell you of the many fine Companions I have had the privilege to meet and work with. You are truly magnificent!... Keep doing what you do!

Dave Wood Grand High Priest

!! IT'S OFFICIAL !!

**THE 2014
GRAND CHAPTER CONVOCATION
WILL BE HELD AT...**

**THE FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON HOTEL
IN WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

1600 CUMBERLAND AVENUE, WEST LAFAYETTE

APRIL 4TH AND 5TH, 2014

GREAT LOCATION... ROOMS AT \$95.00... AFFORDABLE MEALS

**WATCH FOR MORE INFO. IN THE
NOVEMBER PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER!**

IT'S GONNA BE A GREAT CONVOCATION!!

!! ANNOUNCING !!

**INDIANA – ILLINOIS
CHAPTER AND COUNCIL
ALL DEGREE FEST!**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2013

**AT THE VINCENNES MASONIC HALL
VINCENNES, INDIANA**

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION	
8:30 AM – 9:45 AM	MARK MASTER DEGREE	INDIANA
9:45 AM – 10:15 AM	PAST MASTER DEGREE	ILLINOIS
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	MOST EXCELLENT MASTER (INCLUDES LUNCH)	INDIANA
12:15 PM – 1:30 PM	ROYAL ARCH DEGREE	ILLINOIS
2:00 PM – 2:45 PM	ROYAL MASTER DEGREE	INDIANA
3:00 PM – 3:45 PM	SELECT MASTER DEGREE	ILLINOIS
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	SUPER EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE	INDIANA
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	INTRODUCTIONS AND REMARKS	
6:00 PM	ADJOURN	

LUNCH: \$10.00

ALL PREVIOUSLY ELECTED CANDIDATES ARE WELCOME !

**COME AND ENJOY A GREAT DAY OF
FREEMASONRY AND FELLOWSHIP WITH
OUR COMPANIONS FROM ILLINOIS !**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

**FT. WAYNE NO. 19, R A M
FT. WAYNE NO. 4, R & S M**

!! ALL DEGREE DAY !!

REGISTRATION AT 9:00 AM – MARK MASTER, PAST MASTER,
MOST EXCELLENT MASTER, ROYAL ARCH – LUNCH –
ROYAL MASTER, SELECT MASTER

***MARK
MASTER
DEGREE***

**MIDDLETOWN
NO. 143, R A M**

7:00 pm

**959 N. BEACHWOOD,
MIDDLETOWN, IN**

TABLE CHAPTER

OCTOBER 19TH

NEW ALBANY NO. 17

R A M

**805 E. MARKET
NEW ALBANY, IN
7PM**

***PRATHER YORK RITE
ONE DAY CLASS***

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

REGISTRATION AT 7:00 AM

ALL DEGREES AND ORDERS

**PRATHER YORK RITE
7502 E. 56TH ST., INDIANAPOLIS**

MARK MASTER DEGREE

**Conferred by Bloomington No. 127, R A M
@ Bloomfield Masonic Lodge, Bloomfield, Indiana
Friday, September 20th - 7:00 PM**

ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

HAMMOND NO. 117, R A M ... 2234 MARTHA ST., HIGHLAND, INDIANA ... 7:00 PM

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 8th – Indiana Masonic Home Festival
Franklin, Indiana... 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Friday, September 13th – Lewis Jewel Presentation
M.L. McClellan Lodge, Center St., Hobart, IN... 7:00 PM

Tuesday, September 17th – Mark Master Degree
Middletown No. 143, Middletown, IN... 7:00 PM

Friday, September 20th – Mark Master Degree
Bloomfield Masonic Lodge, Bloomfield, IN... 7:00 PM

Saturday, September 21st – Chapter and Council All Degree Day
Ft. Wayne No. 19... 9:00 AM

September 26th – SOOB Supreme Assembly
Dinner and Reception, Noblesville Masonic Hall... 6:30 PM

Monday, September 30th – District A Instructional
Hammond No. 117, 2234 Martha St., Highland, IN, 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 5th – York Rite One Day Class
Prather York Rite, Indianapolis, IN... 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 12th – Ish Sodi Table Council
Sahara Grotto, Indianapolis, IN... 5:15 PM

Saturday, October 19th – Table Chapter
New Albany No. 17, 805 E. Market St., New Albany, IN...
7:00 PM

Saturday, October 26th – Indiana/Illinois Chapter and Council
Degree Day, Vincennes No. 7, 501 Broadway... 8:00 AM

Monday, October 28th – Royal Arch Degree
Hammond No. 117, 2234 Martha St., Highland, IN... 7:00 PM

CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION

Companions, our Chapters of Instruction are of great value and importance to Royal Arch Masonry and our plans for the future! Please make every effort to attend the one in your District.

PLEASE LET US KNOW DATES OF YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS AND WE WILL POST THEM HERE!

dwood52281@aol.com

IF YOU HAVE E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF OFFICERS AND COMPANIONS WHO SHOULD BE GETTING THIS E-LETTER.. PLEASE SEND THEM TO US! dwood52281@aol.com