

HIRAM Words



Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois

Holiness To the Lord

"To bring the blind by a way that they knew not; to lead them in paths they have not known; to make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight; these things to do unto them, and not forsake them."

The Supreme Degree of Holy Royal Arch Mason was considered one of the most important degrees in the early years of Freemasonry and so dogmatic was the Mother Grand Lodge — from which all Speculative Masonry derives — that in 1813, when the two grand lodges in England united, a firm and solemn landmark was adopted and placed in the Articles of Union to guide Masons throughout the world forever on this matter:

"Pure Ancient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, viz., that of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch."

This Landmark has never been changed, and to this day, no other degree has been officially recognized by the Mother Grand Lodge and every rite, system or additional degree of Freemasonry cannot confer its degree on a Master Mason until he has received the Royal Arch Degree. Naturally, this is as it should be, because a man is not a Master Mason until he receives the Master's Word and he can only receive it in the Royal Arch!

From Grand Chapter of Illinois web site.

February 2008

Volume 1, Issue 4

Fraternal Relations with all Masonic Bodies



York Rite at its best. From left to right: Helen and Ray Landers (PMIGM of the Grand Council), Jack Hall (PMEGHP and current Grand Treasurer), Jim Patton (PMEGHP), Ron Blue (REGSc), Mike Hinds (Commander-in-Chief, Valley of Peoria) and his lady, and Kay and Dick Carroll (PMIGM of the Grand Council and current Grand Recorder) at the most recent Supreme Council of AASR.

Freemasonry encompasses many Masonic organizations. There are many areas where a Mason can excel and make a difference. Recently, the grand bodies of all of the major Masonic organizations in Illinois recently signed a pact to cooperate on a membership

plan to encourage men to join the fraternity and provide materials to help each of the organizations promote Freemasonry. One such item is a DVD produced by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Indiana. While this DVD was originally to be distributed at Grand Lodge, a glitch in the production of the DVD prevented this from happening. The Grand Chapter would like to announce that the DVD is now available for anyone who wishes one. Contact the Grand Secretary's office for details on how to receive your copy.

This unprecedented cooperation between these Masonic organizations demonstrates that many working together can accomplish great things. The Grand Lodge of Illinois is planning to conduct a series of presentations on this membership program, starting in February of 2008. Plan on attending these historic meetings and pledging your support to help all of Freemasonry (including Eastern Star and all youth groups) grow and maintain its place in the world as the premier organization for men and women to help make the world a better place for all mankind.

First Round of Keystone Quest Complete — Paul Scheeler

Competition was intense during the 1st Round of the 2008 Keystone Quest which featured questions taken from the *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and Its Kindred Sciences* by Albert G. Mackey. This year, 1st Round questions were taken from entries under the letter "A," 2nd Round questions will come from the letter "B," and 3rd Round from the letter "C."

As of January 4, a total of 20 chapters representing 14 districts had returned materials

postmarked by the deadline. Average score was 90 and average time was 9 minutes. The following chapters are Capitular Champions and will be mailed a certificate and 2nd round materials: 2, 6, 14, 20, 25, 26, 32, 38, 47, 59, 96, 180, 182, 196, 197, 206, 207, 237, 242 and 280.

Completed materials must be postmarked no later than April 30 to be eligible for advancement to the 3rd Round at Grand Convocation in Peoria.

Complete scores and times for all participants may be viewed on the Keystone Quest page at the Grand Chapter website: www.il-ram.org. Remember that any companions present at a stated meeting may participate, not just members of your own chapter, at the discretion of the High Priest. For more information, contact Paul Scheeler, Keystone Quest chairman, at 630-408-1158; or by email at: keystonequest@msn.com.

Membership is a Commitment to Excellence — Bruce Rhinehart

The new year brings with it a new commitment to make our fraternity an organization of quality and learning for any suitable man who wishes to join. I recently read the Illinois supplement to the *Knight Templar Magazine* and saw that the Right Eminent Grand Commander, H. Wayne Hoffman, has set a goal of 510 knightings for this year. He also mentioned our goal of 500 in that same article. In order for the Grand Commandery to achieve that

goal (and ours) there has to be co-operation between all groups. The Grand Commandery needs our help because a person cannot join Commandery until they have become a Holy Royal Arch Mason. You are the key to making this successful.

There are several tools available to those who wish to help make every part of York Rite grow. The Grand Chapter has developed a new pocket petition for use in the state, there are PowerPoint presentations

available to use in lodges or public meetings to describe all of York Rite, a play called Hiram's Word is available to perform in a lodge settings, and there is the four-coats presentation (I will be happy to come to any lodge and do this one, but anyone can do it).

Your help is needed for all Masonic organizations to meet their goals and I am confident that, with the fine Royal Arch Masons in this state, we will meet our goal before the end of the year.



Bruce W. Rhinehart,
Most Excellent Grand High Priest

"There are many wonderful films on the web that explain and enlighten those who have questions about Freemasonry."

Masonic Movie Clips on the Web

Are you looking for a short movie to give to a friend about Freemasonry? The world wide web is an excellent resource. One place to start is www.youtube.com. Enter your search as "masonry" or "freemasonry" and you will be given a list of movies to view. The list will not be limited to just movies extolling the virtues

of Freemasonry, but will also contain many anti-Masonic film clips. Some of these films show that people often have no real knowledge of the craft. Others are wonderful films to share with potential candidates or as a program for your chapter.

Enjoy the search and perhaps you will learn more.

Officers — 2007-08

Bruce Rhinehart

Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Dick Yena

Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest

Joe Santisteban

Right Excellent Grand King

Ron Blue

Right Excellent Grand Scribe

Jack Hall, MEPGHP

Right Excellent Grand Treasurer

Ed Derry, MEPGHP

Right Excellent Grand Secretary

Chuck Horwitz

Excellent Grand Captain of the Host

Dale Cyrier

Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner

Bob Wright

Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain

Grand Chapter Program Update

Newsletter Competition

If your chapter plans to be a part of the newsletter competition, please be aware of the following: You must submit at least three different issues of your newsletter to be considered. All chapters that send a newsletter or are part of a combined newsletter are eligible for the competition. Please send your entries to: Ron Blue, 2002 Berrywood Ln, Bloomington, IL 61704-2435.

Arch of Excellence Program

The Capitular year is half over and each chapter should be well into completing their requirements for inclusion in the Arch of Excellence program. The purpose of this program is to allow each chapter to make itself better. Keep track of your activities and you will find it easy to achieve this award.



West Suburban Exalts Twenty-nine

This human keystone was formed at the end of the Holy Royal Arch Degree conferred by West Suburban Chapter No. 207 at Downer's Grove Temple on December 3. The class of 29 was one of the largest in the state in several years. Present at the Exaltation were Bruce Rhinehart, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, and several other Grand Officers to participate in the festivities of the evening.

There will be an exemplification of the Red Cross and Malta Orders on Monday, January 21, and the Royal and Select Master Degrees on February 4 at Downers Grove. Plan now on bringing your candidates to view the rarely seen Commandery orders.

Pictured on the right are the Companions from Macon Chapter No. 21 who passed the Grand Chapter's 1st level of proficiency examination. Front row left to right: Edward B. Roberts, PHP; Gary Norman; Back row left to right: John G. Campbell, PHP and Leonard E. Brewer, PHP & E.G. Master 3rd Veil



Valley of Peoria — Scottish Rite Men's Club Irish Celebration — George Holliday

The Scottish Rite Men's Club for the Valley Of Peoria will have a corn beef and cabbage dinner on Sunday, March 9, 2008. The dinner will be held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Peoria from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$8.50 for adults. Children under 12 will be half price.

Reservations can be made by calling the Scottish Rite office at 309-676-4472. All reservations need to be made by Wednesday, March 5. This event is the Club's primary fund raiser for the year. The proceeds are used by

the Valley as needed.

Chapter donates items to Museum

These items were gifted from the family of Companion/ Sir Knight Ernest Melancthon Campbell of Olney, a member of Henry Godeke Chapter No. 38 and a great promotor of York Rite Masonry. Leonard Stoecker, Excellent High Priest, of Henry Godeke Chapter, in turn donated them to The Illinois Lodge of Research Library and Museum for preservation. The Chapter Pennies can be seen at www.ram-il.org.



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The High Priest's Garments — Copyright (1992) The Donelson Fellowship

Aaron, the older brother of Moses, was appointed by God to be the first High Priest of the nation of Israel. Three chapters in the Bible are devoted to describing his clothing, the elaborate regalia that he wore on official occasions.

- In Exodus 28, his priestly garments are described.
- In Exodus 39, his priestly garments are manufactured.
- In Leviticus 8, his priestly garments are fitted and worn.

There are five different garments that make up the High Priest's garments. The first is the ephod. "Ephod" isn't a word or a garment we're very familiar with, but it was quite important in the Old Testament where it is mentioned many times. It was the outermost garment, and it resembled an elaborate apron. It came to represent the priesthood itself. Its materials were white linen interwoven with threads of solid gold. Its colors—blue, representing our Lord's heavenly origin; purple, representing his royalty; scarlet, representing his shed blood. It had onyx stones, which held the garment together at the shoulders. On these stones were inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, reminding us of how our Lord bears us on His shoulders day and night.

The Blue Robe

Underneath this ephod was a blue robe, which is described in Exodus 28:31-35:

³¹ "Make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue cloth, ³² with an opening for the head in its center. There shall be a woven edge like a collar around this opening, so that it will not tear. ³³ Make pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet yarn around the hem of the robe, with gold bells between them. ³⁴ The gold bells and the pomegranates are to alternate around the hem of the robe. ³⁵ Aaron must wear it when he ministers. The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the LORD and when he comes out, so that he will not die.

As mentioned previously the color blue represents our Lord's heavenly origin. But the most intriguing aspect of this blue robe is that along the hem at the bottom were attached little ornaments: Pomegranates made out of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and little bells made out of gold. These bells represent the fact



that even when the people could not see him, they could hear him. Even when he was in the Holies of Holies on the Day of Atonement and out of their vision, they could still hear him and be reassured.

What do the pomegranates represent?

Pomegranates in the Bible are often a symbol of fruitfulness. As taught in the Fellowcraft's degree, the pomegranate is full of seeds. It has a rough, leathery shell on the outside, and when you split it you find inside a mass of hundreds of edible seeds. When the twelve spies ventured into the Promised Land, they returned with armfuls of pomegranates to show how verdant and fruitful the land was. It was described as a land of *fig trees and pomegranates*. When King Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem, he had pomegranates carved into the tops or the capitals of the massive columns. This indicated the fruitfulness of the ministry of the High Priest.

The White Tunic

Beneath the blue robe was a white tunic. It was a spotless white robe of woven fabric, made of the finest quality. Hebrews 4:15 says: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin."

In the next newsletter, the remainder of the garments will be examined.

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To discuss the needs of your Masonic organization, please contact Gary Hermann at:
800-442-4464 or 309-925-2661
email -- hermann@dtinspeed.net

Illinois Masonic Youth Foundation — Daryl W. Selock

The Illinois Masonic Youth Foundation, Inc. was incorporated as a "General Not For Profit Corporation" in the State of Illinois on January 6, 1972. The first Board of Directors of the Foundation was Charles F. Davis, George E. Burow, Fred G. Svendsen, James M. Waters, and Walter E. Bischoff. The original purpose of the Foundation was to collect funds for the benefit of the Order of DeMolay and the former Order of the Builder for Boys. In 1976, the Foundation expanded its program and began collecting funds for Job's Daughters and Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

The Foundation consists of representatives from the Grand Lodge of Illinois, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Illinois, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois, the AASR's Illinois Council of

Deliberation, and all five Shrine temples in Illinois. The Foundation currently collects and distributes approximately \$12,000 annually to DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls in Illinois.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois has designated this charity as its official charity for this capitular year. Contributions to the Foundation can be made by sending checks, made payable to the "Illinois Masonic Youth Foundation, Inc.," to:

Daryl W. Selock, Treasurer
Illinois Masonic Youth Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 758
Palatine, IL 60078-0758

The Foundation thanks you in advance for your help.

Capitular Standard Clubs

Southeastern Illinois — Leonard Stoecker

The Southeastern Capitular Standard Club met in December in Ridgeway with Brother Robert Robinson, 2nd Vice President, in charge. The meeting centered on discussing upcoming work and positions to be learned in the 6th and 7th degrees. Everyone wanted to learn a new part, and there was much enthusiasm coming from this group of gentlemen about learning ritual. Companion Bruce W. Rhinehart, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, was in attendance. Because of his inspiration to learn the work, we are always happy when he attends.

The Capitular Standard Club was called on in December to confer the Mark Master and Past Master degrees at Olney, again in January to replicate these same two degrees at Robinson, and finally in Olney for the Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch degrees. It is the hope of the Southeastern Illinois Club to perform all of the parts in the Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch degrees as we are called on, but for now we will do as much as we can. The Club has also been asked to confer the Council degrees at several locations and we are happy to oblige when possible. York Rite Masonry is on the move in Illinois and we are very proud to be a part of it.

Anyone desiring to become a York Rite Freemason should speak with one of the many members, usually wearing a red coat. For all of us, it is fun to learn the work and continuing our search for more light.

Capitular Standard Club of Central Illinois

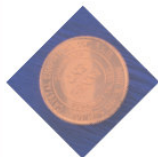
The Capitular Standard Club of Central Illinois meets on the first Sunday of the month at Bloomington Masonic Temple (302 E. Jefferson St.) beginning at 1:00 p.m. The January meeting of the Central Illinois Club was held in Bloomington and Instruction was on the Past Master Degree (5^o). In addition, it was decided to set

Bloomington as the central location for all future meetings as it is convenient for all the companions in the area. Officers elected for the upcoming year were: Tom Cox, President; Jerry Starks, VP; and Perry Foltz, Sec/Treasurer.

Because several have expressed an interest in being tested for their Second Level Ritualist on the Past Master Degree, it was decided that the test would be at the February 3 meeting in Bloomington. Anyone interested in attending that exam needs to contact Perry Foltz at 309-699-7305 and let him know he is coming. That meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. with practice at 12:00 p.m.

In December, four members of the Central Illinois Club were examined on the 1st level certification in Decatur. Congratulations go to **Leonard Brewer, John Campbell, Gary Norman** and **Edward Roberts** on completing this exam and joining the growing ranks of ritualists in the state (see page 3 for picture).

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A Family Affair — 35th Combined Grand York Rite Sessions — Daryl Selock

The 35th Combined Grand York Rite Sessions of the State of Illinois will be held on Wednesday, July 30—Sunday, August 3, 2008, at The Hotel Père Marquette, 501 Main Street, Peoria, IL.

The Theme for this year is “A Family Affair” and emphasizes the unity between the organizations and also that Masonry is for the entire family.

Room reservations and meal reservations will be in the next issue of the newsletter

There will be a limited number of hospitality rooms available. If you wish to reserve one of these suites, please contact Daryl Selock at 708-289-0102.

The Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Illinois will be held on Friday, August 1 and will be opened in form by LaFayette Chapter No. 2, using the fabled *Blackhawk Ritual*. Several changes to the Constitution and Bylaws will be voted on, annual awards will be presented, and the Keystone Quest final. Plan on attending this fun session and renewing acquaintances from around the state.

Mark your calendar now

July 30 — August 3

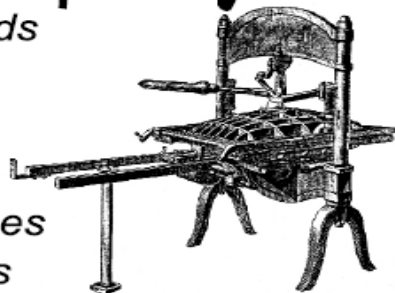
35th Annual Combined York Rite Sessions



Past Grand High Priests attending 2007 Grand Chapter Convocation. From left: John Dow, David Miller, Jim Stoner, Frank Cline, Kenneth Smith, Harold Greer (MIPGM of the Grand Council and father of Janet Rhinehart), Gregory Klemm and in the background is Ed Derry.

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A WEEKEND OF BROTHERHOOD IN THE BIG EASY



2008 Spring Reunion in New Orleans

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH RITE WHILE VISITING THE OLDEST SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY IN THE WORLD

Dates

Thursday, April 3 through
Monday, April 7, 2008

Place of Ceremonies

New Orleans Scottish Rite Temple
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Round-trip transportation by rail in 2 private cars on Amerak's City of New Orleans passenger train, hotel accommodations (double occupancy) and some meals will be provided. Highlights include witnessing an Entered Apprentice Degree conferred in a Scottish Rite Lodge, experiencing Scottish Rite Degrees presented by the Southern Jurisdiction, and enjoying fellowship in a special VIP hospitality room honoring the members of the Valley of Chicago.

Pre-registration of candidates is required. For more information, visit us at www.valleyofchicago.org or call (877) MASON-98 (627-6698). Submit completed petitions and payment in full to: Scottish Rite Valley of Chicago, 1375 E. Woodfield Road, Suite 200, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173.

Submit Your Petition Now. The 2008 New Orleans Spring Reunion Class is Limited to the First 100 Candidates.

Preserving our Masonic Heritage — Hugh Cole

Each chapter acquires memorabilia. It collects in closets, files and in rooms. Some may be displayed in cases, on shelves or hang on walls. There may be memorabilia in locations other than at the meeting-place! It ought to be inventoried and evaluated for insurance coverage! Compile the chapter's inventory including artifacts, paraphernalia, furniture, portraits, books and records. On the inventory list, describe the items, enter their quantity, indicate their location, and make note of their condition. Refer to ritual books to properly name or describe paraphernalia. Make notation of items located elsewhere than on the premises.

Consult professionals before attempting to repair or recondition artifacts, especially old books and records, portraits, furniture and paraphernalia. Require the wearing of 100% cotton archival gloves by those handling artifacts, old documents and portraits. Make notations for needed restoration, preservation and consider security and insurance coverage.

Fox River Chapter No. 14 at Geneva has begun this process. The following is an example of what we have discovered when we began cataloging the artifacts of our chapter. Fox River Chapter began at St. Charles in 1852. That was a ten-mile buggy-ride for companions living in Batavia! Moving the chapter to Geneva was convenient for companions living in Batavia, Geneva and St. Charles. In 1854, the companions helped form Geneva Lodge No. 139. According to its engraved base, C. H. Faitz made an aluminum keystone (marked No. 1) presumably for Nathaniel Bowditch, Most Excellent Grand High Priest for the Grand Chapter of Illinois in 1899. Bowditch was an employee of the Mosler Safe Company. We presume Faitz was also a companion and skilled

craftsman with Mosler Safe Company. Yes, research is needed! The face bears the usual capitular circle of lettering and may have had a delta. Other sides and the top bear Masonic emblems and working tools. Each penny is of the Indian-head design.

The three unusual capitular gavels depicted with the keystone may date from 1852 and may have been made by a local capitular craftsman. Their different sizes may indicate that they were intended for use by the EHP, King and Scribe.

Inventory the artifacts of your chapter and then send pictures and history for possible inclusion in *Hiram Words*. Dave Miley is also beginning to work on an on-line Museum for The Grand Chapter website.

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Calendar of Events	
February 3	Central Illinois Capitular Standard Club — 5th Degree Exam — Bloomington
February 4	Royal and Select Degrees at West Suburban Council
February 9	Chapter Days Jacksonville Masonic Temple Hillsboro Masonic Temple (Southern Illinois York Rite Day)
February 17	Capitular Standard Club of Southeastern Illinois — Olney
March 2	Central Illinois Capitular Standard Club
March 9	Valley of Peoria Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner
March 16	Capitular Standard Club of Southeastern Illinois — Ridgeway
April 6	Central Illinois Capitular Standard Club
April 12	Chapter Day — Champaign Masonic Temple
May 4	Central Illinois Capitular Standard Club
June 1	Central Illinois Capitular Standard Club
July 6	Central Illinois Capitular Standard Club
July 31-Aug 2	York Rite Annual Convocation
September	Chapter Day — Olney Masonic Temple

The Answer Man

What materials were used to make the Ark of the Covenant?

The ark was made of acacia wood, overlaid, within and without, with pure gold. It 'was about three feet nine inches long, two feet three inches wide, and of the same extent in depth. It had on the side two rings of gold, through which were placed staves of acacia wood, by which, when necessary, it was born by the Levites. Its covering was of pure gold, over which were placed two figures called cherubim, with extended wings. The covering of the ark was called Kaphiret, from kaphar, to forgive sins, and hence its English name of mercy seat, as being the place where the intercession for sin was made. See Exodus 25:10-22.

Who was Thomas Smith Webb?

Thomas Smith Webb gave Freemasonry in America the core of the ritual from which many jurisdictions work. Although we see differences in the esoteric work between jurisdictions, it is Webb's Monitor that is the cement that makes Freemasonry in America a commonality and makes the York Rite unique and special. When you go home and open your ritual to read 'Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice' you should remember the Masonic Scholar Thomas Smith Webb, the father of American ritual and the York Rite. — from Edgar Fentum