



HIRAM WORDS



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The City State of Tyre

David A. "Dave" Miley



The symbolic, capitular, and cryptic degrees of Freemasonry are replete with references to the Kingdom of Tyre (צֵר in Hebrew, صور in Arabic) and two Tyrians named Hiram (חִירָם in Hebrew, حيرام in Arabic): King Hiram I and Hiram Abif. Our so-called "Masonic tradition" informs us that these two Tyrians were two of our three original grand masters. Were it not for the illustration above, however, how many brethren could place Tyre on a map?

Tyre itself is an island (originally two islands). The settlement was founded circa 2750 BCE. Hiram I reigned in 980-947 BCE. The shore community would be merged into the city following Alexander the Great's construction of a causeway during his siege in 332 BCE. The city sits on the Mediterranean Sea, near the south end of Phoenicia which is roughly coterminous with modern-day Lebanon. Tyre is approximately 70 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

An important port in its day, Tyrian merchants were among the first to sail throughout the eastern and central Mediterranean. According to Biblical accounts, it was Hiram I who established Tyre's alliance with Israel under King Solomon, thereby securing trade routes throughout the Middle East. His Majesty expanded the harbour and merged the two islands into one. ♣

Companion Miley is the Scribe of La Fayette Chapter No. 2 in Chicago and the editor of *Hiram Words*.

More Companions Recognised for Their Ritual Excellence

Robert H. "Bob" Wright, REGK

The Central Illinois Capitular Standard Club met on Sunday, 12 September 2010 at Bloomington's lovely Scottish Rite Temple, under the auspices of Bloomington Chapter No. 26, and held a first level examination for ritualist certification. This examination was conducted by Companion Perry W. Foltz, HonMEPGHP, Chairman of the Board of Grand Examiners and Companion Kenneth W. Smith, MEPGHP, member of the Board of Grand Examiners. Companions Dale F. Arbour PHP and Jeffery J. Fox EHP, both members of Bloomington Chapter No. 26 successfully completed the first level ritual certification and were awarded the basic jewel.



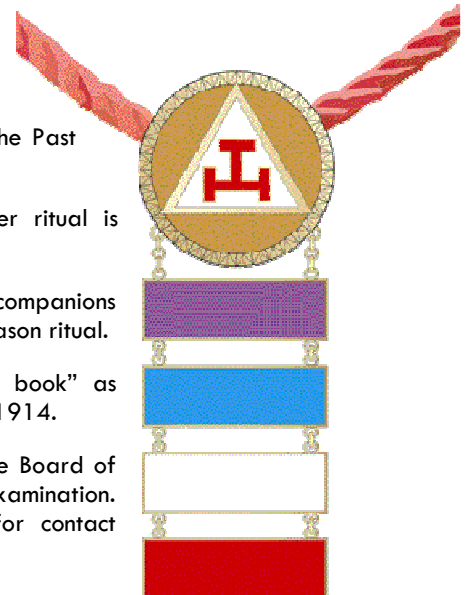
The first level requirements include all ritual and movements of all officers for opening, closing, dispensing from labour to refreshment, dispensing from refreshment to labour, receiving the District Deputy Grand High Priest, and receiving the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

Each of the subsequent examinations tests the companion's mastery of the degree work:

- The purple bar is recognises excellence in the Mark Master degree;
- The blue bar likewise denotes mastery of the Past Master (Virtual) degree;
- Memorisation of the Most Excellent Master ritual is reflected by the white bar; and
- Finally, the red bar is awarded to those companions who are proficient in the Holy Royal Arch Mason ritual.

The ritual tested is that found in the 1972 "red book" as amended, vice the lengthier "Blackhawk" script from 1914.

Contact your nearest Capitular Standard Club or the Board of Grand Examiners for training or to schedule your examination. See their respective pages at www.RAM-IL.org for contact information. ♣



Greetings from Chuck

Charles R. "Chuck" Horwitz, MEGHP

Companions:

It does not seem possible that two months have passed since I was elected and installed as your Grand High Priest.

One quickly learns what one does not know. Mine has been a constant school of instruction. I want to thank Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests Dick Yena REGSec and Bruce Rhinehart REGT, as well as my travelling companion John Loayza Sr. EGM1V, along with all of my grand line officers who have assisted me in my schooling.



In this short time, I have attended two grand convocations: Michigan and Kentucky, and have been received by Wilmette, La Fayette, Evanston, M.I.B. Red, and Logan Chapters, and issued nine dispensations. And that's just the beginning.

By the time you are reading this:

- An officers meeting will have been held in DeKalb. At this meeting we solidified our plans for the balance of this year. The next day we held our combined reception with the Grand Commandery. It looks as if we will have had one hundred and twenty plus in attendance.
- Your Grand Chapter will pursue our charity contribution for autism by selling our car magnets.

You are able to see my visitation itinerary on our web site, going out a few months at a time, and centring on sojourns at the various chapters around the state. Please take note and try to attend.

If any of our companions have any ideas suggestions, or complaints, I want you to feel free to contact me or any of your grand line officers. The only way all of us our going to achieve our goals is by total cooperation at all levels. I look forward to hearing from you. Contact me at 847-998-6187 home, 224-766-6121 mobile, or CRHorwitz@RAM-IL.org.

Here's looking forward to a great year!

Fraternally yours,

/s/

Charles R. "Chuck" Horwitz, MEGHP 

Chuck's Travel Schedule Highlights

See <http://www-RAM-IL.org/MEGHP-word.htm> for the full details

- 7-9 Oct. Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, AF&AM, of Illinois at Springfield
- 14 Oct. Fox River Chapter No. 14 mentoring session Geneva
- 14 Oct. Official visit to Oracle Chapter No. 180 at Glenview
- 17 Oct. DeMolay Batavia
- 26 Oct. Council reception for Jim Grim in Chicago
- 29 Oct. Friends Night at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Centre in Chicago
- 1 Nov. Joint planning meeting at Medinah Shrine Centre in Addison
- 3 Nov. Loyal L. Munn Chapter No. 96 at Palatine
- 6 Nov. Reception for Most Illustrious Grand Master Arlo R. Sloan at Davenport, Iowa
- 9 Nov. Palatine Chapter No. 206 at Palatine
- 11 Nov. Oracle Chapter No. 180 at Glenview
- 12 Nov. Logan Chapter No. 196 at Oak Lawn
- 16 Nov. Cary-Grove Chapter No. 36 at Cary
- 16 Nov. Waukegan Chapter No. 41 at Waukegan
- 18 Nov. Ford Chapter No. 113 at Paxton

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Self-Immolating Lambs

Paul A. Scheeler, PHP

Decades ago, before stringent fire codes were adopted in most municipalities, Royal Arch chapters in many jurisdictions were at liberty to enhance the Most Excellent Master Degree through the use of a special effect known as the “self-immolating lamb.” Many did so, and some chapters still have the peculiar paraphernalia from this bygone era stored in their closets.



Lamb figurine ringed with asbestos strips found in the closet of an Illinois chapter.


This unusual contraption consisted of a ceramic figurine or wire-form cage stuffed with wadding in the shape of a crouching lamb. It was placed on an asbestos mat, and featured a manual fuse or ignition system wired to a remote actuator, powered by either a 110-volt alternating current wall outlet or 12-volt direct current car battery. The asbestos mat was placed over the altar in the centre of the chapter hall, the lamb figure upon it, which was then doused with a flammable liquid such as kerosene or lighter fluid. An operator on the sidelines would set the lamb ablaze during the ritual, “Now, when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices...”



Typical 110-volt AC electrical equipment utilised in a self-immolating lamb system.

An optional component was an electrical spark generator installed in the ceiling. Located directly over the altar, it was typically operated with a wall switch which activated a circuit in a white phosphorous fuse-shaped sparkler. The resulting shower of sparks, triggered at the proper moment in the ritual and intended to simulate the “fire” which descended from heaven to consume the offering, would cascade down onto the altar – ideally, at the instant the lamb figurine was ignited. With the lights lowered, this brilliant spectacle made a most memorable impression upon candidates and officers alike.

Visiting lodge/chapter halls in older temples, one may sometimes discover disused wires sticking out of the ceiling, for which no one seems to know the explanation. In many cases, such wires are the remnant of bygone pyrotechnic days.

Self-immolating lamb systems were offered for sale in fraternal supply catalogues as recently as the 1970s. Other appendant and concordant bodies and fraternal groups have occasionally used them in their degrees, along with other inflammable props, such as flaming swords. While many of these devices have fallen into disuse over the years as chapters consolidated and fire codes became more stringent, remnants still exist. Most recently, a burning lamb figurine was used during the 6° at the Illinois-Wisconsin interstate capitular festival held in Racine, Wisconsin, on 8 May 2010. 

Companion Scheeler is Past High Priest of La Fayette Chapter No. 2. He owns a public relations firm which, appropriately, performs considerable work for a major health and safety organisation noted for its work in fire and electrical safety.

Your Elected Grand Officers

Charles R. “Chuck” Horwitz
Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Dale P. Cyrier
Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest

Robert H. “Bob” Wright
Right Excellent Grand King

Alan M. Hubble
Right Excellent Grand Scribe

Bruce W. Rhinehart, MEPGHP
Right Excellent Grand Treasurer

Richard E. “Dick” Yena, MEPGHP
Right Excellent Grand Secretary

William J. “Bill” Hussey, Jr.
Excellent Grand Captain of the Host

Sean P. McBride
Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner

Patrick B. “Pat” Jones
Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain

Hereditary Autism Variation and Eyes

David A. "Dave" Miley; based partially on a press release authored by Sherri McGinnis, UIC Public Affairs

As most Illinois companions know, our Grand Chapter's philanthropy, the Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation, supports research into, and treatment of, autism and autism spectrum disorders. The two institutions supported by the foundation are the Easter Seals' Therapeutic School & Centre for Autism Research, and the autism programme at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Centre. While Chicago and Illinois should be proud to have both of these two remarkable facilities, the work in Chicago to control or conquer autism neither begins nor ends with Easter Seals and Advocate Illinois Masonic.



From out in the formerly literal left field,* Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago, just a few blocks down the street from the Easter Seals centre, have recently published "Neurobehavioral abnormalities in first-degree relatives of individuals with autism" in *Archives of General Psychiatry*. 2010 Aug; Vol. 67 No. 8, at pp. 830-840. The study's senior author is John A. Sweeney, Ph.D., professor of Psychiatry, Neurology and Psychology, and Director of the Center for Cognitive Medicine. Co-authors include Matthew Mosconi, PhD, Margaret Kay, Anna-Maria DiCruz, Stephen Guter, Kush Kapur, Carol Macmillan, and Lisa Stanford, PhD.

Autism, a lifelong disorder with few known causes, is hereditary but has considerable genetic and behavioural variation. Patients with autism often have social and communication impairments, behavioural inflexibility, and difficulty controlling or regulating behaviour.

Researchers at UIC conducted eye movement tests and other assessments of neurobehavioral function in fifty-seven first-degree relatives of individuals with autism. They compared the results with forty healthy matched controls that did not have a family member with autism.

The tasks assessed saccades, or rapid eye movements that shift gaze between objects in the field of vision, and smooth-pursuit eye movements, which stabilise gaze on slowly moving objects. The researchers found that family members of individuals with autism performed less accurately when making saccades, made slower smooth pursuit eye movements, and had difficulty inhibiting reflexive saccades.

According to the report's abstract: On eye movement testing, family members demonstrated saccadic hypometria, reduced steady-state pursuit gain, and a higher rate of voluntary response inhibition errors relative to controls. They also showed lateralised deficits in procedural learning and open-loop pursuit gain (initial 100 milliseconds of pursuit) and increased variability in the accuracy of large-amplitude saccades that were confined to rightward movements. In neuropsychological studies, only

executive functions were impaired relative to those of controls. Family members reported more communication abnormalities and obsessive-compulsive behaviours than controls. Deficits across oculomotor, neuropsychological, and psychological domains were relatively independent from one another. Family members of individuals with autism demonstrate oculomotor abnormalities implicating pontocerebellar and frontostriatal circuits and left-lateralised alterations of frontotemporal circuitry and striatum. The left-lateralised alterations have not been identified in other neuropsychiatric disorders and are of interest given atypical brain lateralisation and language development associated with the disorder. Similar oculomotor deficits have been reported in individuals with autism, suggesting that they may be familial and useful for studies of neurophysiological and genetic mechanisms in autism.

In layman's terms: "We found different parts of the brain controlling different types of eye movements," said Dr. Sweeney.

The study found that close relatives of individuals with autism have abnormal eye movements similar to some individuals with autism, suggesting that these alterations within brain circuitry may be familial traits. "Some family members had problems in the cerebellum, some had problems in the prefrontal cortex, and some had a problem in how the frontal and parietal cortex was interacting."

The abnormalities, associated with several brain pathways, have been linked to autism and are important for language skills, motor control and the regulation of behaviour.

"The different types of brain system abnormalities in different people allows us also to think that we might be able to tease out heterogeneity within the broad spectrum of autism in a way that could narrow groups down enough to be able to track genetic and other causes of illness in subgroups with the disorder," Sweeney said.

The findings may provide researchers insight about which brain system and/or gene abnormalities increase the likelihood that someone is going to develop autism, or perhaps, have a child with autism.

"It's really a way for us to understand potential risk mechanisms for clinical practice. It also gives us a potential objective laboratory test to evaluate how new treatments are affecting brain function," Sweeney said. "It opens up a window for us to tackle some really big, unanswered questions in autism."

The researchers also found that family members had executive dysfunction on neuropsychological tests, including a reduced ability to recall visual-spatial sequences. Communication abnormalities and increased rates of obsessive and compulsive behaviours also were observed.

For information about ongoing autism research at UIC, visit <http://www.psych.uic.edu/ldn/autism.htm> or e-mail Autism@UIC.edu

* The University of Illinois College of Medicine and the allied health science departments are located on the former site of West Side Park, home of the then world champion Chicago Cubs. Next to the stadium's left field was the Illinois Psychiatric Institute, whence comes the expression meaning unusual thoughts.

Social Media Marketing

John C. Loayza, Sr., EGM1V, DDGHP 1-5

To have a successful chapter, it is necessary to look and evaluate oneself by using many modern business techniques, such as “social media marketing.” This is a modern integration of marketing communications; i.e., how to be in contact with your current or potential companions by coordinating such means as promoting, public relations, publicity or other methods producing a member-focused message. Growth of social media has impacted the way organisations need to communicate with their younger generation members. The internet provides tools that allow people to build social connections, share information and collaborate online.

Chapter social media programs should focus on efforts to create content that attracts attention, generates online conversations, and encourages anyone to share it with their social networks. The message spreads from user to user and comes from a trusted source.

Social media has become a platform that is easily accessible to anyone with internet access, opening doors for chapters and other organisations to increase their particular image and facilitate conversations with members and potential members. In both the business and fraternal world, social media serves as a way for organisations to implement marketing or membership campaigns.

If a chapter has a website, it receives direct feedback from targeted markets. It benefits a chapter and officers by providing additional channels or means to gain membership insight, and a method of managing a chapter’s reputation online. Key factors that ensure its success are its relevance to the audience, and the value it provides them. It also serves as a means in which the chapter can centralise its information and refer visitors to other social media channels, such as an article or press release regarding some notable event-local, state, national or international that is related to capitular Masonry.

Some popular services include Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, Twitter, MySpace, *et al.* Chapters need easy methods to allow its companions and prospects to communicate. In order for chapters to most effectively use social media, they must recognise and embrace that these methods are resources to compliment and expand current methods of communications with members and prospects, but not replacements for existing successful methods. Among the goals for which social media can be used are broadcasting updates, announcements, news, officers listings, an overview of capitular Freemasonry and your chapter.

Since social media has been adopted by a large part of the

population, especially the younger generation, it is important for chapters to have a social media presence. Generally, some presence is better than none. However, you cannot depend solely on the Grand Chapter’s website. You need your own, so start looking for web specialists who can keep you in contact with the world around you. Remember to remain flexible and experiment with new and emerging methods as they appear and evolve.



Plan to keep capitular Freemasonry fresh in the minds of your companions and your potential candidates alike. Prompt blogging immediately answers your audience’s concerns, comments or questions. Knowing how to use it to its maximum benefit keeps you connected with your capitular community. Embrace the learning curve and allow the younger generation to help shape your chapter’s future. Your chapter’s foci need to be geared toward the needs, wants and likes of the younger tech savvy generation. Building that relationship is essential if you are to gain new, vital members and perpetuate your chapter’s existence.

Despite the importance of your chapter maintaining its own electronic presence, do not neglect to inform Dave Miley at GrandWebmaster@RAM-IL.org of your chapter’s forthcoming degree work, fundraisers, and special events. Active York Rite Freemasons tend to use the Grand Chapter’s website as a central repository to find out what is going on in capitular Freemasonry throughout the state, where degrees will be performed, where their help might be desired, *inter alia*. Likewise, sending photographs and articles to Dave after the fact enables your events to be memorialised in *Hiram Words* and publicises your chapter’s level of activity.

I hope this gives you additional insight, and I wish you good luck in developing successful programs this year. 🙏

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Planning a Successful Year

John C. Loayza, Sr., EGM1V, DDGHP 1-5

As we have begun a new capitular year with renewed enthusiasm, I would like to share some thoughts and questions with you, in order to help you consider planning for a successful year.


We should all try to develop a collective service mentality in everything we do, because it's about what we do and how well we do it for our chapters, communities, and families. It's really how well we address the most important issues confronting us as a whole. As capitular Freemasons, we have an obligation to reach out with our hearts and hands to everyone; especially to our communities, families, friends, and potential candidates. Your capitular 2010-2011 business plan needs to consider:

- What are you today as a chapter of Royal Arch Masons?
- What do you represent within your small world of capitular Freemasonry and within your community at large?
- What are your most immediate needs as a chapter, and how you are going to solve them?
- What chapter programmes have been most successful in the past, and can they be used again or what can be improved?
- What chapter programmes have been most relevant in identifying you as capitular Masons and a successful chapter?
- What do you see as your chapter's major mission today in serving capitular Masonry and your community?
- What has been lacking, if anything, in past attempts to attract active and committed brethren to membership in your chapter, and how you can rectify the situation?

The question is how can you serve your small world better in 2010-2011, and what do you need to do to develop the service mentality required to get the job done? To answer the questions, each officer needs to stop and think things through, share ideas, cooperate with change, and not just accept mediocrity. Every day, each officer should strive to make the necessary improvements which can make the difference in changing a mediocre chapter into a successful chapter. Only you can make that change on a local level. Your Grand Chapter is there to support you but you have to take the initiative.

As many chapters have changed officers, please update your chapter's information and send me the names and email contacts of all your current officers for our Grand Chapter's records.

Evanston Chapter No. 144 is working together with its affiliated council and commandery for a benefit concert on 16 October. The Grammy nominated group, Red Hot Mojo and the Bayou Gypsies, will perform for "Rock the Temple". The proceeds will benefit the Evanston York Rite bodies. Tickets range from US\$25, to US\$100, with all cheques payable to Evanston Chapter No. 144. For further details, contact Evanston Chapter's secretary, John Brandenburg or High Priest Scott Dayton.

Perhaps your chapter and the other bodies of your temple could host a fundraising event like that. Try to expand your thought process from the merely the old pancake breakfast and spaghetti dinner. People want something for their money. Moreover, it takes fewer high-dollar contributors to bring in the same proceeds as scores of nickel-and-dime ones. *Editor's note:* One is reminded of Minna "Everleigh" Simms' legendary admonishment to her staff at Chicago's Everleigh Club a century ago. 

"The Royal Arch Song"

James Gates Percival, MD (1795-1856)


Joy! the sacred law is found,
Now the Temple stands complete;
Gladly let us gather round
Where the Pontiff holds his seat.
Now he spreads the volume wide,
Opening forth its leaves today,
And the Monarch, by his side
Gazes on the bright display.

Joy! the secret vault is found;
Full the sunbeam falls within,
Pointing, darkly underground,
To the treasure we would win;
They have brought it forth to light,
And again it cheers the earth;
All its leaves are purely bright,
Shining in their newest worth.

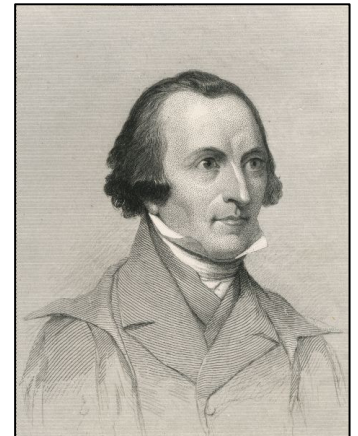
This shall be the sacred mark
Which shall guide us to the skies,
Bearing, like a holy ark,
All the hearts who love to rise;
This shall be the corner-stone,
Which the builders threw away,
But was found the only one
Fitted for the arch's stay.

This shall be the gavel true,
At whose sound the crowd shall bend,
Giving to the law its due;
This shall be the faithful friend;
This the token which shall bring
Kindness to the sick and poor,
Hastening on an angel's wing
To the lone and darksome door.

This shall crown the mighty arch,
When the temple springs on high,
And the brethren bend their march,
Wafting incense to the sky;
Then the solemn strain shall swell
From the bosom and the tongue,
And the Master's glory tell
In the harmony of song.

Here the exile, o'er the waste
Trudging homeward, shall repose;
All his toils and dangers past,
Here his long sojourning close;
Entering through the sacred veils,
To the holy arch he bends;
Then as sinking nature fails,
Hope in glad fruition ends. 

To see more Masonic verse, please visit the Grand Chapter's website's poetry page, at www.RAM-IL.org/MasonicPoetry.htm



A Most Esteemed Companion

Todd Oliver Garlaneau

When one considers the history of the General Grand Chapter and, generally, the capitular and other York Rite degrees, the name of a distinguished companion, Companion Thomas Smith Webb, comes to the forefront of most York Rite Masons' minds. Companion Webb figured prominently in the formation of both the General Grand Chapter and, more broadly the "American Rite" of Freemasonry, which is usually (and improperly) called the "York Rite" system of the higher degrees of the Craft in the United States. It would be correct for one to assume that our esteemed companion toiled in the vineyards with passion and zeal to make our beloved system of degrees the most beautiful in all of Freemasonry.

Thomas Smith Webb was born of English descent in Boston, Massachusetts, on 13 October 1771. During this time, the colonies were just beginning to feel a general mistrust of English rule and a need for rebellion. Companion Webb was educated in the public school system of Boston, and he apprenticed as either a printer or a bookbinder. His biographer, Brother Cornelius Morre who wrote many Masonic biographies, came to the conclusion it was probably the former in which Webb excelled professionally. Webb later moved to Keene, New Hampshire, where he worked for a number of years in the printing industry. At twenty-two years of age, Webb first showed interest in Freemasonry and received his symbolic degrees in Rising Sun Lodge. Shortly after joining the Craft, he married Martha Hopkins. They had five children, two of whom survived their parents, and the family later relocated to Albany, New York.

While in Albany, Companion Webb owned and operated a bookstore and became active in local Masonic activities there. It is not known where or when Companion Webb received his advanced degrees, as the records from that era are sketchy at best; but it is known that he established a chapter of Royal Arch Masons and an encampment [sic] of Knights Templar while in Albany.



It is in the early part of his Masonic life that we see Companion Webb developing into a teacher of the Craft. In 1797, he published his first edition of his most famous tome, *The Freemason's Monitor or Illustrations of Masonry*. Although his name does not appear on the first edition, it does state "Printed in Albany for Spencer and Webb – Market Street. 1797." Later editions do show his name however. The frontispiece of the 1802 edition reads, "Printed in New York City, New York by Thomas S.

Webb, Past Master of Temple Lodge, Albany, and High Priest of Providence Royal Arch Chapter."

1797 is a most important year in this article, for it was on 14 October of that year that Companion Webb returned to Boston. There was a convergence of chapters who were interested in expediting and forming a Grand Chapter for the northern states, and they unanimously picked Companion Webb as the chairman of this important deliberation, no doubt relying on his knowledge of the Craft and his ability to organise the Fraternity into one common society.

Previous to this time, the Royal Arch degree was conferred in a masters' lodge under a lodge warrant. It is certain that, under Webb's guidance, we see a departure of the degree from the blue lodge system and an establishment of independent chapters. This was the first step he took in establishing the American Rite, from the pen of Companion Webb. The Grand chapter being formed in January of 1798, Companion Webb was elected the first Grand Scribe. At the time of his re-election in 1799, the body became the General Grand Chapter. In 1806, he was promoted to General Grand King, and was promoted again in 1816 to Deputy General Grand High Priest, the office which he held until his passing to the celestial temple in 1819.

Sometime around 1801, Webb moved his family back to the New England area, in Providence, Rhode Island, where he set up a wallpaper manufacturing facility. His reputed Masonic knowledge and teaching had preceded him, and St. John's Lodge of Providence quickly asked him to become a member. He was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of Rhode Island 1813, but declined re-election in 1815. Always active in Masonic education, he continued labouring with his other business of the manufacturing of wallpaper and, in 1817, moved his machinery to the western part of the United States. During his travels to the western frontier, he was very active in setting up chapters, grand chapters, and encampments of Knights Templar. By virtue of his power of being a General Grand Chapter officer, he set up the Grand Chapters of Ohio and Kentucky.

Companion Thomas Smith Webb passed to the celestial lodge above suddenly on 6 July 1819 in Cleveland, Ohio, apparently from a fit of apoplexy. He was buried the next day with full Masonic honours. Through the efforts of the Grand Lodges of Rhode Island and Ohio, his body was later disinterred and returned for a Masonic burial in Providence, Rhode Island on 8 November. Although this article does not delve deeply into his symbolic lodge career, Webb must be remembered by all of us who passed through the offices of senior deacon and master, for it was he who reworked the Middle Chamber lecture and the emblems lecture, and brought them into general use throughout the United States with but minor differences between jurisdictions. We owe much to Companion Webb; not only for his love of the capitular degrees, but also for his foresight in seen the General Grand Chapter formed. The Freemason of the 21st century should take a moment to reflect upon the 'brow of the hill' and remember the name Thomas Smith Webb and all that he did for Freemasonry in the United States.

Companion Garlaneau is from Rabboni Chapter in North Attleborough, Massachusetts. This article originally appeared in Summer 2009 edition of *The Herald*, published in Boston by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, at 4. Read *The Herald* at <http://www.gracma.org/Herald.html>



The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois

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“The Palace” (1902)

J. Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)


When I was a King and a Mason – a Master proven and skilled –
I cleared me ground for a Palace such as a King should build.
I decreed and dug down to my levels. Presently, under the silt,
I came on the wreck of a Palace such as a King had built.

There was no worth in the fashion – there was no wit in the plan –
Hither and thither, aimless, the ruined footings ran –
Masonry, brute, mishandled, but carven on every stone:
“After me cometh a Builder. Tell him, I too have known.”

Swift to my use in my trenches, where my well-planned ground-works grew,
I tumbled his quoins and his ashlar, and cut and reset them anew.
Lime I milled of his marbles; burned it, slacked it, and spread;
Taking and leaving at pleasure the gifts of the humble dead.

Yet I despised not nor gloried; yet, as we wrenched them apart,
I read in the razed foundations the heart of that builder’s heart.
As he had risen and pleaded, so did I understand
The form of the dream he had followed in the face of the thing he had planned.

When I was a King and a Mason – in the open noon of my pride,
They sent me a Word from the Darkness. They whispered and called me aside.
They said – “The end is forbidden.” They said – “Thy use is fulfilled.”
“Thy Palace shall stand as that other’s – the spoil of a King who shall build.”

I called my men from my trenches, my quarries, my wharves, and my sheers.
All I had wrought I abandoned to the faith of the faithless years.
Only I cut on the timber – only I carved on the stone:
“After me cometh a Builder. Tell him, I too have known!” 

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