



The Kentucky Keystone



Michael R. Grigsby, Editor – 854 Todd Road, Nancy, KY 40361 – Kentucky.Keystone@gmail.com

Volume 22 Number 7

Published Monthly by the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons

April 2011



**ME Companion Gary Hunt
Grand High Priest Message**

Companions,

As we approach Passover and Easter let us never lose site of the greatest gift we have ever known, the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The resurrection brings to our present, personal experience the amazing creativity and vitality of resurrection life. And Jesus' resurrection gives us confident hope for the future. We will be raised from death ourselves to live eternally. The supernatural power and the brilliant glory of God is consistently displayed in the Easter perspective on our past, present and future.

As I reflect on the Resurrection, I am reminded that from this event, all future generations owe their existence, for it had not been for Jesus' sacrifice, the world as we know it would most likely not be here today.

I am proud to see that our Order is growing; young people are seeking us out, as they are looking for what we can provide them. A philosophical system of self-fulfillment, which supports their individual growth. These young men are our future, they are excited about Capitular Masonry, and they are willing to learn and work to insure our Order continues for future generation.

As I have traveled throughout the Commonwealth this year, I am always impressed by the genuine friendship displayed by everyone, as well as warmth and camaraderie that I am greeted with.

In closing, I am reminded of Psalm 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Companions we are blessed that we can dwell together, sharing the fellowship and brotherhood, that makes our Order such valuable part of our personal and spiritual growth. Let us always be reverent and thankful, for the sacrifice that was made for us.

Fraternally,

Gary K. Hunt

M.E. Grand High Priest



PIKEVILLE FESTIVAL, A Success!

M.E. Grand High Priest Gary K. Hunt

I would like to express my special thanks to Pikeville Chapter, especially to Ronnie Williamson, James Adkins for hosting this Festival. I would like to thank all the Chapters in that Area, especially the Companions that performed the work in a most professional manner. I also would like to express thanks to Douglas W. Bunch, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Past Illustrious Grand Master Robert Stanford, Companion Jimmy Jones Principal

Conductor of the Work, and Companion Lance Miller for helping confer the Council degrees. We exalted 7 in the Chapter greeted 9 in the Council. This was a great day for York Rite Masonry. I would to again thank to all who attended and helped do the work! God Bless all.



Grand High Priest Itinerary (Weather Permitting)

- April 2- Danville KY(all State College meeting)
- April 4- Harrodsburg Chapter #29
- April 5- Graham Chapter #80
- April 8- Apperson Chapter #81
- April 9 - Somerset Chapter #25, Special Officer Installation, 2 pm EST
- April 14- Lexington Chapter #1
- April 18- Lawrenceburg Chapter #138
- April 21-24: Washington D.C. (Easter Pilgrimage)
- April 26-27: Indiana Grand Session
- April 29: Pitman Lodge 124 (York Rite College Meeting)



York Rite and the Royal Arch *"Today's York Rite from c.1740"* *Dee Coates, Secretary of Somerset Chapter #25*

In its purest form the York Rite of Masonry does not exist anywhere in the world today. The nearest form is thought to be located at St. John's Lodge No. 1, Scotland. Some think it may have lain dormant for centuries, during which time it was confirmed almost exclusively to operative masons. Speculative masonry revived it, with modifications, during the 18th century.

Minutes of the Youghall Lodge No. 21, Ireland 1741, seem to be the first documentary evidence of the Royal Arch as a separate and distinct degree.

Royal Arch historically has been referred to as the "Scotts Degree", or the 4th Degree. R.F. Gould dates the degree to France in 1740, and Kloss to England 1774. The oldest known Chapter of Royal Arch is Stirling Rock, Stirling Scotland. Lawrence Dermott states the degree was worked from 1744 in London, England. It was recognized by the "Antients" in 1752 and by the "Moderns", in Bristol

England, by 1758; and in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1753. There is still lively debate among Masons as to whether or not Royal Arch was a split from the MM Degree prior to 1741, or whether it was derived at all from the MM Degree. "Most Excellent Master" was part of the 3rd degree when it appeared with Hirmaic Legend around 1720; and the "Antients" the 4th degree was the Royal Arch.

Thomas Dunckerly was the first Grand Master of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar formed in London England in 1791. He actively promoted Royal Arch Masonry. The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons as such, began in 1797.

Legend has it that since the building of King Solomon's Temple (c. 960 BC) every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, if properly formed, represents the Tabernacle erected near the ruins of the Temple. A Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry consists of nine (9) officers. The Craft are referred to as Companions.

In Kentucky Royal Arch Masonry dates back to 1817. The "Proceedings, Grand Chapter of Kentucky Vol. I, 1817-1853", was published in 1880. In Somerset, Kentucky, a Royal Arch Chapter, UD was formed in 1846 and met on the "Monday after the full moon" The Chapter's charter is dated 28 August 1846 and was signed by Most Excellent Grand High Priest Herman Bowman, and E.D. Carrell, Deputy Grand High Priest, and it was designated at Chapter #25. A.G. Huffman was the first High Priest of Somerset Chapter #25.

A Masonic Blue Lodge existed in Somerset at the time of the formation of the Royal Arch Chapter. This lodge was Pulaski Lodge No. 111, from which the Royal Arch drew its initial members.

In 1848, a 2nd Blue Lodge was chartered in Somerset; Curd No. 175. In 1853 Pulaski Lodge No. 111 and Curd No. 175 were combined and the name changed to Somerset No. 111. Somerset Lodge No. 111 charter dates from September 1853. Somerset No. 111 and Somerset Royal Arch Chapter #25 are both still active in Somerset, Kentucky today. Further historical information can be found on the Somerset Lodge web site located at www.somerset111.com.



CONTRIBUTIONS: If you would like to have an article about your Chapter event published, please contact us through our Web site at; www.kykeystone.com or at the editorial address. The Kentucky Keystone reserves the right to exclude content and edit any article submitted, as to better serve the needs of this publication.. Submissions will need to be in by the 15th of the month prior to publication.