



The Kentucky Keystone |



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Volume 27 Number 5

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

February 2016



*ME Companion Stewart F. Strickland
Grand High Priest Message*

Dear Companions of the Royal Arch Chapters of Kentucky:

January hit us hard as far as the weather was concerned, yet we still met in our Chapters with warm fellowship and got much accomplished in several areas. We did have to cancel the 1st Grand Veil Meeting and will have more information on how we will make it up, forthcoming. Once again, allow me to stress the importance of inspections and the necessity of doing them correctly and accurately. We do not want an accurate measurement of our Chapters so that I can have ammunition to come to you and jump all over you for your inadequacies, but we need an accurate picture of the state of Capitular Masonry so that we can formulate strategies to help strengthen our Chapters. If we don't know what's wrong we cannot work to correct it.

The Spring and Summer months will see several out-of-state visits on my agenda as well as family vacation and some personal things in the mix. My itinerary for the next couple months is pretty aggressive to make some Chapters in the Eastern part of the state. I cannot promise to get around to every chapter in the state, but if you especially would like for me to visit your Chapter, please let me know a date (as far in advance as possible) and I will see if I can work it into my schedule. Please keep in mind, that my vocation prevents me from attending most events and meetings scheduled on Sundays and Wednesdays. Thank you for a good year thus far and my hope for continued success in your Chapters.

Fraternally,

Stewart F. Strickland

Grand High Priest, 2015-2016

February Education Talk **Manna**

In the Mark Master and Royal Arch Degrees, we have mention of "Manna." Have you ever studied its meaning and significance, especially concerning the Hebrew people, but also as illustrative of the "Bread of Life?"

The Hebrew word "man'a" is of unknown origin, even though the Egyptian word "mennu" is similar. It simply means "food." However, in Exodus 16:15, we have a suggested source of the name, "They said one to another, 'What is it?'" (manhu). Manna was food provided miraculously by God in order to sustain his people while they were wandering in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land.



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Manna was described as occurring in flakes or small round grains. It fell (or formed) with the dew and appeared when the dew left the ground. It was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. It is also described as having a taste “as the taste of fresh oil.”

The children of Israel ate the manna for forty years, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan. It ceased the day after they began eating the produce of the land of Canaan, in the plains of Jericho.

A golden pot filled with an omer (about 1/10 of a bushel) of manna was “laid up before God” in the Tabernacle. It was a testimony and memorial of God’s sustenance. In various places in the scriptures, manna is described poetically, such as food from heaven, bread of the mighty, bread of heaven, and as angels’ bread.

No substance is known to us which in any degree satisfies all the requirements given in the Scriptural references of Manna. Even though travelers in the wilderness have reportedly found substances which suggest some of the features of the miraculous manna, its real essence remains a mystery.

Jesus frequently referred to “the manna” or “bread from heaven” as typical of Himself. In Rev 2:17 we read, “To him that overcometh, to him will I give of the hidden manna.” As such, manna is descriptive of the future reward of the Righteous. As a Royal Arch Mason, we are living for, and working toward that day, when we will receive our heavenly manna along with the new name written upon a white stone.

That reward is not for the slothful, indifferent and apathetic, but rather will be given to those who, with fervency and zeal, give themselves in service. As we learn in the Most Excellent Master’s Degree, the wages we can expect to receive will be bestowed upon all those who faithfully perform the allotted task.

(Reading and discussing this in open Chapter counts as an educational meeting on your annual inspection. Please record such in your minutes.)

Grand High Priest Itinerary February 2016

2-Plain City Lodge

6-3rd Grand Veil Meeting, Paintsville

8-Mayfield York Rite

9-Cynthiana Chapter

15-Antioch Lodge

16-Morehead Chapter

18-Rowan Chapter, Bardstown

23-Paducah York Rite

25-Temple Chapter, Newport

26-Covington Chapter

Upcoming Itineraries (Tentative and Subject to Change)





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Carl A. Jones
Most Illustrious Grand Master

Companions:

January has been a very encouraging month due to the number of new Companions that have been greeted during the Festivals at Paintsville and Glasgow. A number of Companions throughout the state are in the planning stages for festivals this year.

February 6th Glasgow will be conferring the Council Degrees and Commandery Orders.

I would like to congratulate the following for meeting requirements for Ritualist awards:

AWARDS

January 16

Royal Ritualist Award

Brandon Vanhoose
Michael Vanhoose
Kenton Kelly
Max Kelly

Select Ritualist Award

Anthony Skeans

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Grand Chapter of Kentucky Royal Arch Mason

First Area Meeting of 2016 is set to be held at:

Franklin Lodge No. 28
400 N. 4th Street
Danville, KY 40422

On January 9, 2016 at 1:00 pm (EST)
(enter through the Smith Street side door)

There will be a Secretary training session at this meeting.

Glasgow York Rite will be holding Festivals

Chapter festival

To be held on January 16, 2016 9:00 am (CST)

Council and Commandery Festival

To be held on February 6, 2016 9:00 am (CST)

2nd Annual Paintsville York Rite Festival

Chapter degrees will begin on January **15th** at **6:00 pm(EST)**, remaining **Chapter** degrees and **Council** on **January 16th** starting with **Breakfast at 8:00 am (EST)** and conferral of **degrees at 9:00 am(EST)** with lunch included.

Then we will meet on **January 30th** to confer the **Commandry Orders**, **Breakfast at 8:00 am(EST)**, **Orders at 9:00 am(EST)** and lunch will be included again.

For more information, contact Tony Skeans at 606-791-2902, Chris Griffith at 606-792-6568, Lee Vanhooose at 606-369-7280, or Moose Vanhooose at 606-371-2898.