



# The Kentucky Keystone



Michael R. Grigsby, Editor – 854 Todd Road, Nancy, KY 42544 –Kentucky.Keystone@gmail.com

Volume 27 Number 4

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

January 2016



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

Dear Companions of the Royal Arch Chapters of Kentucky:

The final three quarters of the Capitular year are upon us and it is shaping up to be very exciting. January and February will host our three Grand Veil Meetings. I encourage your attendance at these meetings. We need at least representation from every Chapter at the meetings and there will also be classes for the Secretaries concerning the computer database and records-keeping system.

Also, several regional-wide York Rite Festivals have been planned. The Grand Officers and myself will attend and participate at those that we can fit into our schedules and try to have at least one officer represent the grand line at all of them.

We are very much encouraged at the many new companions being exalted all across the state and the great work that is being performed by the Chapters. I will continue my visits to Chapters and will be turning my focus to many of those in Central and Eastern Kentucky.

If my visit happens to coincide when you are planning to open on the Council or Commandery, please go ahead with your plans and do not feel that you have to have a special opening on the Chapter. I always represent the Chapter as a part of the York Rite as a whole, and am always glad to do so. Happy New Year to all the Companions and I look forward to seeing you in my travels.

Fraternally,

*Stewart F. Strickland*

Grand High Priest, 2015-2016

## *January Education Talk* *Aarons Rod*

Aaron's Rod plays a part in the Royal Arch Degree, but since it is briefly passed over, we may miss its real significance. Two scripture passages, Numbers 17:1-13 and Heb 9:4 give us the basic account of how Aaron's rod became important.

Immediately after the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram against the authority of Moses and the priesthood of Aaron (where God opened the ground under them and it swallowed them), it became necessary for God to prove or demonstrate to the people that Aaron's Priesthood was by His divine appointment. That, God said, would quell the grumblings against Moses. God had appointed the Tribe of Levi as the tribe from which the Priests and attendants in the Tabernacle (and later, the Temple) would come.



# The Kentucky Keystone



Michael R. Grigsby, Editor – 854 Todd Road, Nancy, KY 42544 –Kentucky.Keystone@gmail.com

Volume 27 Number 4

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

January 2016

However, some of the other tribes did not want to fully accept that as God's divine will.

Therefore, at the command of God, Moses directed that twelve almond rods, one from each tribe of Israel, with the tribal leader's name engraved on each one, be brought to Moses. God would use the rods to show, definitively, which Tribe He had chosen for the priesthood. Aaron's name was inscribed upon the rod from the tribe of Levi.

The rods were probably used as the staff or emblem of authority of the leader "prince" of each tribe. Moses took the rods and placed them within the Tent of the Testimony and left them overnight. When Moses entered the tent the following day, he found that Aaron's rod had budded, blossomed and even had borne ripe olives.

All of the other eleven rods were just as they had left them. When the miraculous sign was seen by the people, that Aaron's rod was the only one that budded, they accepted it as God's final word on the Priesthood.

There was never again any question of Aaron's priestly right or of the appointment and duties of the Tribe of Levi. According to Numbers 17:10, the rod was kept before the testimony, beside or in front of the two tablets of law, in the sanctuary ever after as a token of God's divine will. The writer of Hebrews, probably following a later Jewish tradition, mentions the rod as kept in the Holy of Holies within the Ark of the Covenant.

Throughout the Holy Writ, fruitfulness has been given as the best evidence of Divine calling as well as evidence of faithful service.

When we are faithful in our service to mankind, which is our calling as Masons, our lives will be fruitful and beneficial to the world at large, and murmuring (of which we are often guilty) will turn into the joy of faithful service. Thus we have the story of Aaron's rod that budded.

*(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 January 2016*

5-Graham Chapter, Franklin

8-Glasgow Chapter Area Banquet, Cave City

9-Grand YR Council  
Grand 2nd Veil Meeting, Danville

15-16-YR Festival, Paintsville

18-Antioch Lodge 332

19-Morehead Chapter

20-Maysville Chapter

21-Frankfort Chapter

23-Grand 1st Veil Meeting, Madisonville  
Grand Commander's Reception,  
Louisville

26-Paducah York Rite

Upcoming Itineraries (Tentative and Subject to Change)





# The Kentucky Keystone



Michael R. Grigsby, Editor – 854 Todd Road, Nancy, KY 42544 –Kentucky.Keystone@gmail.com

Volume 27 Number 4

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

January 2016



**Carl A. Jones**  
**Most Illustrious Grand Master**

## Companions:

As we enter into a new year this is my wish to all of you, “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 4:7)

The solemn notes that betoken the dissolution of this earthly tabernacle have again alarmed our outer door and another spirit has been summoned to that undiscovered land from whose bourne no traveler has every returned.

On November 22, 2015 Stanley (Stan) Ralph Simonton Past Most Illustrious Grand Master passed away to the celestial lodge above. Companion Simonton was a friend, encourager and a mentor, always with a positive word for the betterment of the fraternity. I personally feel my life has been enriched by knowing Companion Simonton. Alas by brother.

Companion Simonton also served as Illustrious Grand Chief Arch Deputy. With the passing of Companion Simonton it becomes necessary to name a new Chief Arch Deputy.

On December 8, 2015 Past Most Illustrious Grand Master Robert Stanford was name as Illustrious Grand Chief Arch Deputy. Companion Stanford is a man of great wisdom and loves the fraternity. With the elections on Charles Durham as Right Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard it is my pleasure to name Ronald Dockery as Second Grand Arch Deputy.

Please remember there will be festivals in Paintsville and Glasgow in January.

Paintsville will begin Chapter degrees Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM(EST), remaining Chapter degrees and Council degrees on January 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 AM(EST) with Breakfast and degrees beginning at 9:00 AM (EST). Commandery Orders will follow on January 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 AM (EST).

Glasgow will have Chapter festival January 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 (CST). Council and Commandery Festival will be held on February 6, 2016 at 9:00 AM (CST).

***Fraternally thine,***  
**Carl A. Jones**  
**MIGM**

Congratulations to the following:

## ***Select Ritualist Award***

**Owensboro Council #34 November 25, 2015**  
Robert Stanford  
Larry Flowers

***Illustrious Master Proficiency Card***  
Hebert Zimmerman