



The Kentucky Keystone



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July 2016



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

Greetings fellow Companions.

: The summer has come upon us and it has heated things up for us in many ways. Inspection reports are in from the Chapters, (at least they should be). If you are a Deputy and have not mailed them to George Brooks, please do so now. Plans have been finalized for the 2016 Grand Session and you can go ahead and register, pay for your meal tickets and reserve your rooms. Of special interest this month is the Annual RARA Banquet on July 16 in Danville, Kentucky. If you have not made your plans to go, I encourage to you go and participate. The speaker is a researcher who actually works in the area of CAPD utilizing research funds from RARA. So we will get to see and hear, first-hand, some of the great things that our money is doing to fight against hearing impairment.

The Capitular year is winding down, but it is no time to let things go. There is still much work to be done to improve ourselves in Masonry and to make our Chapters better. Keep working to improve your meetings. There is not much in life that is more rewarding and fun than doing the work of a Royal Arch Mason.

Fraternally,

Stewart F. Strickland

Grand High Priest, 2015-2016

July Education Talk

SHEM, HAM, AND JAPHETH

Shem, Ham and Japheth, you will readily recognize from the opening and closing ritual in the Royal Arch. Yet we do not give much attention anywhere in the lectures as to who they were. They were the sons of Noah. Noah's sons and their descendants re-populated the earth after the flood. Noah and his sons were builders (i.e. the Noah's Ark) and thus believed by some to be early Masons or at least forerunners of masons. There are several versions of antediluvian (before the flood) Masonic allegories and traditions similar to our own, that we use in the legend of the Temple of the Master Mason degree.

Relating to Royal Arch Masonry, one tradition holds that Enoch, the Great Grandfather of Noah, knew the true name of God and recorded it on a triangular plate of gold, the very plate that was discovered in the Royal Arch Degree, and that it was buried by Enoch's descendants in Noah's grave.



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Concerning Noah and his sons, according to Albert Mackey, before the flood, there was system of religious instruction called “antediluvian Masonry” because it had a legenda and symbolism similar to that of modern Freemasonry. That system was lost in the dispersion of mankind after the experience at Babel and was mixed into Pagan mysteries, but little by little, purified, and Freemasonry as we know it had emerged by the time of the building of Solomon’s temple.

Shem is believed to have cultivated the art of Masonry and Geometry and passed that knowledge to his descendants in Chaldea, even to Abraham, who communicated it to the Israelites while in Egypt. The Children of Ham are believed to have carried the knowledge of masonry to Canaan, and also to Egypt and regions of Northern Africa. Japheth is supposed to have sent his sons to Europe where they developed many of the magnificent examples of architecture visible there even today.

The Graham manuscript of 1726 refers to Noah’s sons returning to their father’s grave, to retrieve a secret (the true name from his grandfather, Enoch). On opening the grave, the sons attempted three times to raise the body, in the same manner as in our current version of the Master Mason degree. The sons made comments on the condition of the body, exclaiming that there was still “marrow in the bone” from which some think we derive our substitute word, meaning that if there is a secret, it is hidden deep within the body, as all secrets should remain, deeply hidden within the mason.

The Noachite legend was not nearly as intense as the Hiram legend and was rejected by U.S. Grand Lodges in favor of the Hiram Legend which contains the more exciting elements of betrayal, violence, death, martyrdom and revenge. And through the years, the Noachite legend has become less known among American Freemasons. However, from time to time, ever so briefly, Noah’s sons still emerge in our Masonic rituals, as they do in the opening and closing of the Royal Arch Degree.

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 July 2016

(Tentative and Subject to Change)

9-West Kentucky Consistory 1-Day Reunion

14-15 – Grand Chapter of Illinois, RAM

16 – Kentucky RARA Banquet, Danville, 5:00 p.m. ET

23 – West Kentucky York Rite Festival, Madisonville Scottish Rite Temple, 8:00 a.m.

29 – Oklahoma Indian Masonic Degree Team Pow Wow (Open to Public), McCracken County High School Stadium, Paducah, KY, 6:00 p.m.

30 – Oklahoma Indian Masonic Degree Team Master Mason Degree (Tiled Meeting, Master Masons only), 1:00 p.m., McCracken County High School, Paducah, KY.





The Grand York Rite Bodies of Kentucky

Invites you to join us!

Grand Sessions 2016



Embassy Suites Lexington
1801 Newtown Pike
Lexington, KY, US 40511
1-800-embassy or 859-455-5000

<http://embassysuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/kentucky/embassy-suites-lexington-LEXESES/index.html>

Special room rate for guest attending our Grand Session \$112.95 + tax.

If booking online use group code YRK to get rate.

If Booking by phone use group Grand York Rite.



Monday September 19, 2016

*Grand Commandery K.T.
Annual Conclave*



Tuesday September 20, 2016

*Grand Council R. & S. M.
Annual Assembly*



Wednesday September 21, 2016

*Grand Chapter R.A.M.
Annual Convocation*

	<i>Hospitality</i>	<i>Men's Lunches</i>	<i>Ladies'</i>	<i>Banquets</i>
	<i>Room</i>		<i>Luncheons</i>	
<i>Commandery</i>	9-18-16	9-19-16 at Noon	9-19-16 at Noon	9-18-16 at 7:00 PM
<i>Council</i>	9-19-16	9-20-16 at Noon	9-20-16 at Noon	9-22-16 at 6:30 PM
<i>Chapter</i>	9-20-16	9-21-16 at Noon	9-21-16 at Noon	

We ask that as many of you, our Brothers that can please attend and go to the banquets and luncheons to show your support. Your support is necessary for us to continue to carry out the age old traditions of our craft.

Ticket Prices

Banquet \$40.00 and Luncheon \$22.00 a person.

It is preferred that you purchase your tickets in advance so that we can let the hotel know how many will be eating.

Please note that the Sunday night Banquet is not by invitation only everyone is welcome to attend.

If you have any questions please contact James King Grand Secretary/ Recorder's office at 859-209-4120 or grandrecorderky@yahoo.com you can speak with Jim or Noel