



The Kentucky Keystone



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

Volume 27 Number 9

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

May 2016



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

Greetings fellow Companions.

I have enjoyed meeting with you at your various meetings and functions across the Commonwealth and look forward to seeing you during the upcoming summer months. There are many things happening in Masonry in Kentucky, including the York Rite. It is pleasing many Chapters doing their own work and several exalting candidates who have not done so for awhile. The time for annual inspections and evaluations is to an end.

Please make sure that all those are completed and that your Chapter has been inspected by your Deputy GHP and that the report has been submitted to the Chief Evaluator. If, for some reason you were unable to have an official visit and complete an annual inspection report, then write a letter explaining the reason and send it to either me, your deputy or the

Chief evaluator. I want every Chapter in the state to submit a report of some kind that reflects the status and relative health of their Chapter.

Otherwise, keep up the good work of spreading light to your less-informed Brethren through the Royal Arch.

Fraternally,

Stewart F. Strickland

Grand High Priest, 2015-2016

May Education Talk

The Twelve Tribes of Israel, Part 2.

The confederation of the twelve tribes was primarily religious, based upon belief in the one "God of Israel" with whom the tribes had made a covenant and whom they worshiped at a common sacral center as the "people of the Lord." The Tent of Meeting and the Ark of the Covenant were the most sacred objects of the tribal union and biblical tradition shows that many places served as religious centers in various periods.

Shiloh was one such place and enjoyed special importance as a central site for the tribes. There they gathered under Joshua to divide up the land by lot. Eli's family, which traced its descent from Aaron, the high priest, served at Shiloh, and it was to Shiloh that the Israelites turned for festivals and sacrifices.

The Encampment of Israel is of particularly of interest to Capitular Masons. According to the Writings of Moses there were about 600,000 men and also women and children who left Egypt at the exodus. They came out of Egypt in rank and in file, and as they journeyed in the wilderness the tribes



The Kentucky Keystone



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

Volume 27 Number 9

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

May 2016

would camp around the Tabernacle in God-assigned locations.

The twelve tribes, in groups of three, were situated at a certain distance around the tabernacle. Four of the tribes, Judah, Ephraim, Rueben, and Dan were recognized as tribal leaders. Each had its own standard or banner identifying it as a tribal head while the other tribes had ensigns, a lesser type of banner. Jacob (the father of the 12 tribes) had prophesied that the senior position in his family would belong to the people of Judah. Gen 49:10 states that the scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people. Judah occupied the greatest area which was on the eastern side facing the tabernacle entrance behind the tents of Aaron. To their right was the tribe of Issachar and on the other side Zebulun. The tabernacle itself was always found in the very center of the camp with the tents of the various tribes set up at a certain distance.

On the East Side: Judah (with Issachar and Zebulun) numbering 186,400 men.

On the South Side: Reuben (with Simeon and Gad) numbering 151,450 men.

On the West Side: Ephraim (with Manasseh and Benjamin) numbering 108,100 men.

On the North Side: Dan (with Asher and Naphtali) numbering 157,600 men.

Numbers 2:2 states that every one of the children of Israel shall camp by his own standard, beside the emblems of his father's house; they shall camp some distance from the tabernacle of meeting.

Each tribe had a specific banner. In the Royal Arch we use the four principal Tribes' Banners. According to Jewish tradition it was believed that the banners

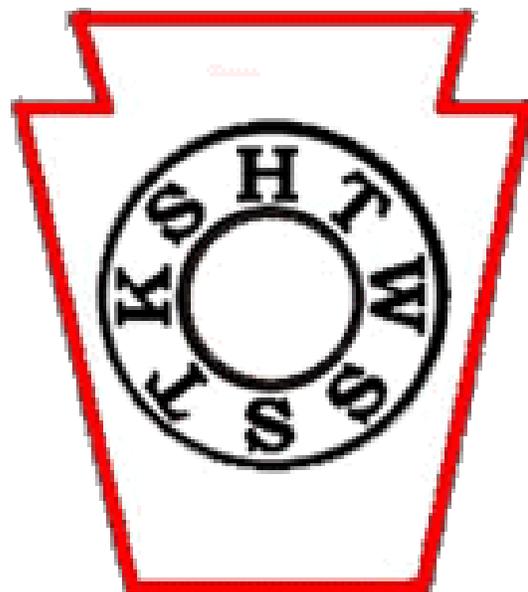
were as follows: Judah had a banner with a Lion of gold on a scarlet background. Ephraim had a banner with an Ox of black on gold background. Reuben had a banner with a Man on a gold background. Dan had a banner with an Eagle of gold on a blue background. I realize that our Masonic tradition differs in the colors, but tradition is not always rooted in historical fact, be it Jewish tradition or Masonic.

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 May 2016

Upcoming Itinerary (Tentative and Subject to Change)

No Itinerary for May 2016





The Kentucky Keystone



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

Volume 27 Number 9

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

May 2016

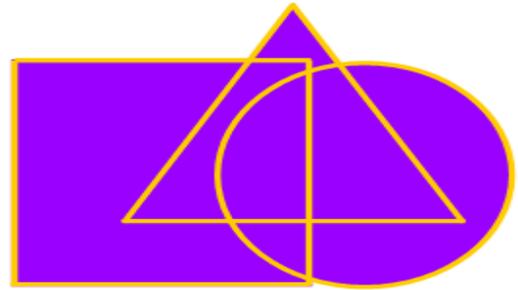


Carl A. Jones
Most Illustrious Grand Master

Floyd County Outdoor Chapter Degree

On Saturday, May 7, 2016 Paintsville Chapter #131 and Prestonsburg Chapter # 182 will host Floyd County Outdoor Degrees. The location of the Floyd County Outdoor Chapter Degrees will be at 822 Abbott Creek Road, Prestonsburg, KY 41654. The Skean's farm is 8/10 of a mile off US 23 on Route 1427 on the right. There will be signs up.

Lunch will consist of hamburgers and hotdogs. Please bring a fold up chair/camp chair or two. If your Chapter has candidates that need these degrees they will need to be there before 10:00 to get registered.



All Council Day Morehead Council #45 and Highland York Rite College #134

May 14, 2016

On May 14, 2016 Morehead Council #45 and Highland York Rite College #134 will be hosting an "All Council Day". Morehead Council #45 will confer Royal Master's degree beginning at 9:00 AM (Eastern Time) followed by the Select Master's degree.

There will be a break for lunch and after lunch the Highland York Rite College will confer the Super Excellent Master's degree.

If your Council has candidates ready for these degrees they will need to be there before 9:00 to get registered. Without the Royal and Select Master degrees, neither the Master Mason degree nor the Royal Arch degree is complete. These two degrees account for the concealment and preservation of the treasures revealed in the Royal Arch.

The Super Excellent Master is an honorary degree, qualifications for which are fulfilled by virtue of being in good standing in a Council. This degree is the most dramatic and spectacular of all Masonic systems.