

C HATTIESBURG VALLEY COMMUNICATOR

March 2023

Master Calendar

- 1.6.23 — KSA Meeting #1/ Ex. Bd
- 1.24.23 — Degree Team Conferral of MM (See Jason)
- 2.3.23 — Robert Burns Dinner / Meeting of 33rds
- 3.3.23 — 14th Degree
- 4.1.23 Gulfport Spring Reunion**
- 4.7.23 Cerm. of Rem. and Renewal**
- 5.5.23 Black Hat Ceremony / KSA Meeting #2
- 6.2.23 Fst. of Consist / Ex. Bd
- 7.7.23 Gordian Knott Bus. Meeting / KSA Meeting #3
- 8.4.23 Fst. of Manifesto
- 8.21-23.23 Biennial Session – Washington DC
- 9.1.23 Guest Speaker / Proposition Night
- 9.8-9.23 Honors Weekend - Tupelo
- 10.6.23 Feast of Tishri / KSA Meeting #4
- 10.7.23 Gulfport Fall Reunion
- 11.3.23 Election / Black Hat / Annual Awards
- 12.1.23 Installation / Christmas

Sickness and Distress

Bro. Freddie Zehner – arthritis and pain
 Bo. Michael Baker's wife - lung transplant
 Unspoken Bro. - undergoing cancer treatment

Please contact Chaplain Gerald Griffin with any reports. 601-543-7219



At a Glance

Gulfport's spring reunion is April 1, 2023. We currently have two candidates. Our annual Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal is April 7, 2023.

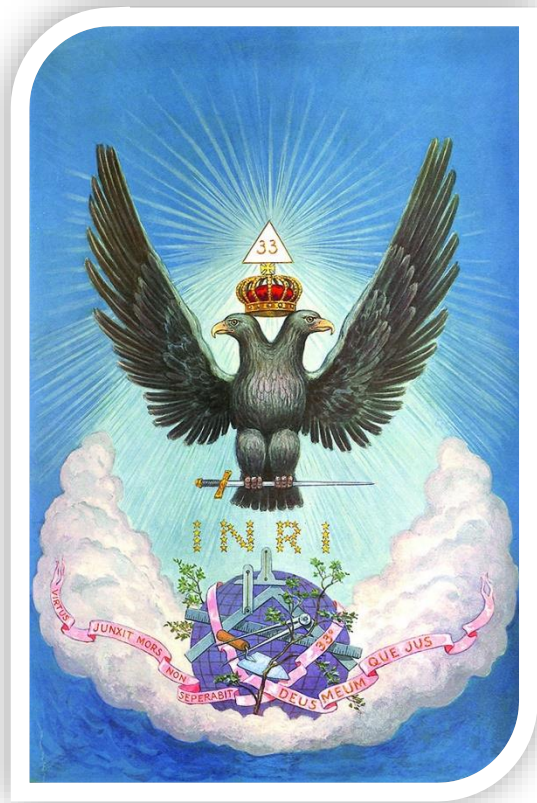
Lost in the Quarry

We have not seen or heard from you and miss you! If you have any information about these Brethren, please contact the Secretary.

David Bassett	Stacey Williams
Ryan Boyd	Victor Mann
Wayde Byrd	Joe Parkman
Brian Childs	Paul Jones
Mark Forte	David Schwandt
Joseph Galey	Tim Schwandt
Russell Hembree	David Earl Stewart
Michael Hilbun	Harold Whiteman

Birthdays

Jack Bryant Draughn	1-Apr
Joe Terrell Rogers	1-Apr
Paul Lowery Walters	2-Apr
Russell A Hembree	6-Apr
Hubert Douglas Howard	6-Apr
Christopher Spencer Young Rounsaville	8-Apr
Russell Raymond Kelley	12-Apr
Raymy Charles Johnson	14-Apr
Jason Alan Jefcoat	15-Apr
John Girard Guthrie	22-Apr
Paul Wilburn Williams	22-Apr
Mark Lowry Forte	26-Apr
Lester Eugene Ivy	28-Apr
Luther Burt Saucier	1-May
James L Ford	1-May
Bodhi Ronin	1-May



Education Presentations

January	Lamar Sullivan
February	Other Activities
March	Substitute
April	Other Activities
May	Matthew Clark
June	Christopher Rounsevell
July	Lester Ivy
August	Arthur Patrick
September	Mike McKenzie
October	Gabe Churchwell
November	Lane Dossett
December	Rex Hasty



Message from the Venerable Master

Brethren,

Easter is one of those holidays that is a moveable feast. It is always observed between March 22 and April 25. Easter is more than the Easter Bunny, hunting eggs, eating egg salad sandwiches, chocolate rabbits and marshmallow peeps.

In the Scottish Rite, it has a special meaning known as Maundy Thursday. This is a time when the Christian membership of our valley commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ which was held on the Thursday before the Sunday of his death. In the Scottish Rite we hold events titled Extinguishing the Lights and Relighting the Lights or Ceremonies of Remembrance and Renewal. In each ceremony there is a recount of the horrible death suffered by Jesus, and there is a telling of the miraculous event of Him fulfilling his promise by defeating death and rising to live again. During this event, the names of our Brethren who have passed to the Supreme Consistory on High since the previous ceremony are read and remembered.

Brethren those of us of the Christian faith should use this opportunity to rededicate our lives to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and remember his promise:

John 11:25 Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Remember HE IS RISEN!

S&F,
Arthur Patrick
Venerable Master



Educationally Speaking



Master Craftsman Sample Questions

1. What is the meaning of "Kadosh?"
 - a. Holy/Consecrated
 - b. Sublime Temple
 - c. Unspeakable
 - d. Without Darkness

2. In the 14°, Perfect Elu, what is sought?
 - a. Peace
 - b. The Lost Word
 - c. Balance
 - d. Perfection
 - e. Both b and c

**Message from the Personal Representative to the SGIG,
Hattiesburg Valley, Lane Dossett, 33°**

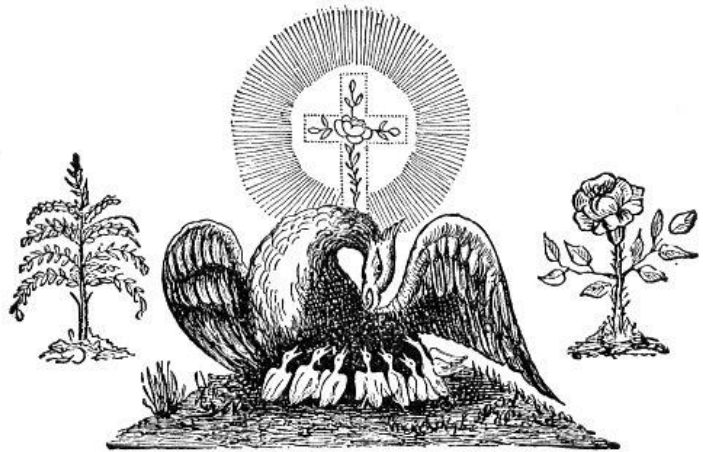


the top of the tree of life.

Shifting from the top to the bottom, we observe baby birds. These are seen in various number, depending upon a particular artist's rendering. For instance, in the Louisiana flag there are three, whereas in more esoteric versions there are seven.



The larger mother bird herself is also depicted differently. For instance, if someone had not told you that it was a pelican feeding her young, and you looked at the first symbol above with fresh eyes, you probably would not see a pelican at all; note the shape of the head and the absence of the whole lower jaw. I submit to you, this is an intentional ambiguity, which does not exist in the secular version of the the Louisiana flag. In fact, many, such as Jim Tresner, 33°, Grand Cross, do not see the Pelican at all but the eagle.¹ This view can easily be seen, for example, on page 276 of the Annotated Morals and Dogma, shown right, where the bird does not resemble a pelican at all. The reason for this begins to be reviewed by reviewing the Rose Croix Degree itself, where initiates are made a “Knight of the Pelican *and* Eagle.” Thus, it is not the specific bird that is of importance, to me, but the nature of the family of birds to which it has been historically classed.



Agrippa noted in the year 1521 in his three book series on esoteric philosophy, that the eagle and pelican were classed together:

Amongst animals, such as have some stateliness and wisdom in them, and those which are mild, well trained up, and of good dispositions, as the hart and elephant; and those which are gentle, as sheep and lambs. Amongst birds, those that are of a temperate complexion, as hens, together with the yolk of their eggs. Also the partridge, the pheasant, the swallow, the cuckoo, and the stork and pelican, birds given to a kind of devotion, which are emblems of gratitude. The eagle is dedicated to Jupiter—she is the ensign of emperors, and an emblem of Justice and Clemency.

In an intriguing article by Stephen Reedy in this month’s PRS Journal, “Unpacking the Jewel of the Rose Croix,” he suggests that the bird may even be the mythical phoenix:

The image can also be interpreted as the resurrection of the phoenix. The ideas of Christ and alchemical resurrections are summarized into a simple symbol: the phoenix, a bird made of fire that willingly dies by fire so it can be reborn by fire, more radiant and much wiser than its previous

¹ <https://www.angelfire.com/va/mason/sr18.htm>

incarnation. The mother pelican is posed like this fabled creature, communicating successful regeneration through the cycles of death and rebirth.

Reedy did not invent this view. Rather, the similarities of the pelican and phoenix were also noted by Agrippa:

After the same manner the phoenix is renewed by a fire which she makes for herself; and the like virtue there is in a pelican, whose right foot being put under warm dung, after three months there is of that generated a pelican.

Dung?! Thank goodness for modern medicine. Reedy further notes,

*[Manly P.] Hall tells us that the birds represent the seven philosophical planets (symbols of physical reality, for these were once the only astrological bodies we could see with our naked eye) and the seven metals of alchemy (also symbols of the physical plane, especially the ongoings of the human condition). **In this way, the baby birds are our sense organs and mental and physical functions, always demanding to be gratified.***

Simply put, the seven little pelicans represent hungry humanity, cast as limited individuals, as fragments of confusion, separated from the source of life, crying for energetic sustenance, and in need of transforming into something wiser, more evolved and more whole. They—we—must grow into something better, something like the mother pelican.



Dr. Albert Mackey also believed that the true theory of the pelican is that, by restoring her young ones to life by her blood, she symbolizes the resurrection. It was believed for many years that it was common for pelicans to feed their young with their blood, which was documented by Agrippa: “Also we know that the pelican doth restore her young to life, **being killed,** with her own blood.”

This is still observed in videos of birds widely circulated on social media today, such as this picture of parents of a flamingo. Science has, however, largely debunked this as an actual practice. Nonetheless, this historical belief is the context within which the symbol was created, and it is by a death, noted by Agrippa, that we are restored.

As we approach the end the Lenten season, I hope you will ponder the mother bird and the babies, thinking about the eternal life that we are each offered.

MASONRY AND THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

BY CHARLES A. HAAS, 32°

The famous document the promulgation of which has profoundly influenced history was fashioned by Masons. Masons must support it.

EDMUND BURKE, the great English statesman, stated that in no country in the world was the study of the law so general as in America. Even in his day as many copies of Blackstone's Commentaries were sold in the Colonies as in England.

Arising out of the obscurity of the period preceding 1673 this nation began with a prejudice against lawyers. So strong was the feeling in the Colonies that as late as 1685 William Penn provided in the "Act of Settlement" of Pennsylvania, that "all persons may plead their own cases" before the courts of that colony. In 1705 an act was passed in Pennsylvania limiting attorneys' fees. So little recognition did the profession of the law receive that not until 1705 was an attorney required to have a license to practice his profession. And the spirit that prevailed in Pennsylvania was largely the spirit that prevailed throughout the colonies of America.

With this seeming contradiction Americans, whether Puritan or Cavalier, began to lay the foundation for a constitution, a "rule of conduct" destined to become the Gibraltar of liberties not only of millions in these United States but for countless numbers in younger democracies, many, no doubt, yet unborn. And this because the love of freedom, the spirit of toleration, the Masonic tenet of brotherhood, is an heritage bequeathed by the passing wilderness, not, as some think, the outcome of oppression.

Significant it is to Freemasons that

so many of those responsible for the promulgation and construction of our Constitution were also prominent members of the Masonic Order. We are told that the thirteen governors of the original thirteen states were Freemasons, the majority of the men who signed the

The free principles of Freemasonry are written into the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Declaration of Independence, General George Washington and twenty out of twenty-nine generals in his army, fifty-nine of his sixty major-generals; that of the Presidents of the

United States, George Washington, Andrew Jackson, James Buchanan, James K. Polk, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, William Taft, Theodore Roosevelt, and Warren G. Harding, and possibly Thomas Jefferson are numbered among the Craft; and of the Constitution makers none exceeds in Masonic zeal that great patriot and jurist, John Marshall, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, whose entire life was devoted to his country and to carrying on the Masonic doctrines imparted to him at his initiation.

"By prior preparation," a contemporary states, "by intellectual endowment, by the sweetness of his temper and the marvelous persuasive force of his personality, he was ideally fitted for the work which, in the Providence of God, he was called upon to do; a clear-brained, simple, strong, single-hearted man." Could it be possible that a man of this character could do other than carry from the lodge room, or the grand-lodge room, those doctrines of humanity and brotherhood that he himself repeat-

Excerpt from the
Supreme Council's
New Age Magazine, 1924

edly imparted in the lodge, into that greater work of framing for his fellow-citizens and their posterity a "rule of conduct" that may safely guide them in troublesome times to come? By his work and by his example he wrote Freemasonry into the Constitution of the United States, there to stay as long as Freemasonry abides with us.

A GREAT NOISE IN THE WORLD

The United States Government is entirely the creature of the Constitution. The construction of the Constitution may be said to have been left to the lawyers and jurists of America to whose lot it fell, in actions before the Supreme Court of the United States, to construe its provisions. Being a government of delegated powers, possessing no authority not granted to it, expressly or by implication, by the Constitution, the Government was in large part the outcome of effort put into it by these early jurists and lawyers. And American Masonry, in its procedure and policies at least, derives an inspiration from the Government under which it exists and is permitted to thrive. Under the liberal government of America it has developed a spirit at once democratic, tolerant and progressive. In this *our* Freemasonry has had an advantage over that Masonry existing in at least other than English-speaking countries—it has grown *with* the Constitution and government of our country, not in spite of it. Even prior to the Revolution the spirit that prompted Freemasonry was a factor in government making, not only because many of the most prominent leaders of thought and action were members, active members, of the Craft, but because they exerted themselves to live their Masonry in their every-day lives. Perhaps this was largely due to the fact that the paths through the wilderness of constitution-making were as little uncut in those days as were the paths through the great unknown wilderness to the West. Men groped their way.

One of the boldest and earliest of these pathfinders was that distinguished lawyer, Governor Andrew Hamilton, called by Gouverneur Morris "the day-

star of the Revolution." Although previously appointed by the crown to the high position of judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty in the Colonies, he nevertheless had the temerity to defend an alleged offender against the dignity of the crown. The facts were that the editor of the *New York Weekly Journal* had printed an editorial in his paper stating that "the hottest and ignorantest of people were put in places of trust." Such a statement in those days was popularly considered as an extreme case of *Lesé Majesté*. In this case Hamilton acquitted the editor, Zengler. The case was said to have made "a great noise in the world," printed everywhere and the common talk in all English coffee houses. The London correspondent to the *Pennsylvania Gazette* wrote, in 1738, "We look upon Zengler's advocate as a glorious asserter of public liberty and of the rights and privileges of Britons." This signal case established the freedom of the press in the Colonies.

RIGHT OF CONTRACT

Another of these pioneers who, like Hamilton, may be said to have "feared God, loved Mercy" and done "Justice" was Patrick Henry, six times Governor of Virginia. When the Dominion of Virginia attempted to compel a clergyman named Maury to take his salary in money instead of tobacco, the clergyman protested. The matter, came to a suit and Patrick Henry, counsel for the parson, gained great prominence as a lawyer in establishing the principle, now so well known to every citizen, that not even a legislature can abrogate a contract. To Chief Justice James Wilson is ascribed the statement: "In this Constitution all authority is derived from the people," and to George Wythe, who stated, pointing to the Constitution, "Here is the limit of your authority; and hither shall you go but no further."

We find the free principles of our order not only written into the Declaration of Independence and into the Constitution, but also in those declarations of the rights of man so often uttered in the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States and in the de-

cisions of courts of lesser jurisdiction. From the days of John Jay, to whom was attributed the slogan, "those who own the country ought to govern it," to the present, it has fallen to the lot of the courts, in their construction of the Constitution, to apply those principles of justice and tolerance advocated in every Masonic jurisdiction.

MASONIC PRINCIPLES

"Lord, send us peace in our day, that the passions of Europe may not inflame the sense of America," the prayer of Fisher Ames, was the admonition of Washington's Farewell Address, and is carefully inscribed in the "checks and balances" in our Constitution, that makes the President Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, gives Congress the power to declare war, the House of Representatives the office of first voting upon appropriations; and again the President, with "the advice and consent of the Senate," to make treaties, and hence conclude peace. The "sense of America" cannot easily be inflamed under our Constitution, and we are thus forced to "circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds." No Mason can read the Preamble of the Constitution but be impressed with its sound Masonic doctrine. Every lodge is constituted with the same declaration of principle and spirit. Such a declaration might easily read, "We Free and Accepted Masons, in order to form a more perfect Brotherhood, establish Justice, insure fraternal harmony, provide for mutual assistance, promote the General Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to Ourselves and Our Posterity, do establish this Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons." And, throughout, the inhibitions so concisely stated in the Constitution are but the experiences of the constitution-makers and their American forefathers, together with the lessons taught by the freedom of the wilderness in which they settled—those same factors made American Ma-

sonry what it is at the present writing.

Read the decisions of the Dartmouth College Case, the case of Marbury v. Madison, McCollough v. Maryland, Cohens v. Virginia, Gibbons v. Ogden, the Cherokee Case, Fletcher v. Peck, a multitude of others, and if you are familiar with the precepts and influences of Freemasonry on our early jurists you will see the doctrines of the order therein set forth, and if the decision of Chief Justice Taney in the Dred Scott Case seems unmasonic to some, it must be remembered that the Chief Justice highly valued consistency.

MASONIC MILESTONES

It is an axiom in history that no system of government can remain permanently unchanged. Those governments endured longest under which it was possible to alter political institutions in order to meet existing conditions. It was necessary in the Constitution to provide for amendments from time to time. To make it sufficiently difficult and at the same time to give the instrument both flexibility and stability was an arduous task. Neither the English Constitution nor the Articles of Confederation were of much assistance in this respect. The result was the fifth article of the Constitution, which we, since the World War, have come to realize is indeed a profound provision. The task these men had before them reminds us as Freemasons of the "mile-stones" that our officers are admonished to heed on their way to the top.

It must be remembered that neither the early constitution-makers nor the early Freemasons of America had much "precedent" to guide them. They won for us because of their sincerity of purpose, because they understood and appreciated the fundamental principles of freedom and toleration, because they were fearless in the enunciation of their beliefs and because they delved not only for themselves but for posterity as well.

Los Angeles.

Men must be at least touched by culture, swayed by morality and dominated by religion if they are to handle helpfully the weapons which science puts into their hands.—*Indianapolis News*

Valley Ambassadors

Beaumont	Art Patrick	601-508-2978
Bowie	Xerxes Herrington	703-341-9588
Bunker Hill	Larry Robinson	601-603-0139
Carly	Jiles Grice	601-731-2295
Ellisville	Duane Mitchell	601-433-5229
Enon	Shane White	601-689-7784
Fairmont	Lester Ivy	601-466-0678
Hattiesburg	Rex Hasty	601-658-2048
Hub City	Rex Hasty	601-658-2048
JM Bradley	Jason Jefcoat	601-580-4857
Leakesville	Chris Rounsaville	601-525-7697
Liberty	Kenny Willingham	601-600-5122
Lucedale	Dickey Dickerson	601-947-2293
Moses Cook	Joe Vawters	601-798-1501
Mt. Carmal	Jiles Grice	601-731-2295
Mystic Tie	Jay Morris	901-247-8028
Ovett	Jason Jefcoat	601-580-4857
Petal	Lane Dossett	601-543-5273
Richton	Shane White	601-689-7784
Sanford	Bobby Hebert	601-517-3261
Sherrard Byrd	Tom Cumberland	601-463-2485
St. Alban	Jiles Grice	601-731-2295
Summit	Kenny Willingham	601-600-5122

Links

GroupMe Group Texting:

https://groupme.com/join_group/68986319/OI4jIKX2

Valley Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hattiesburgsr>

Orient Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/msscottishrite>

Orient Website

<https://scottishritems.org/>

Online Petition

<https://scottishrite.jotform.com/212843415672961>

Volunteer Help Wanted

Social Media Manager / Content Creators
Articles for Communicator

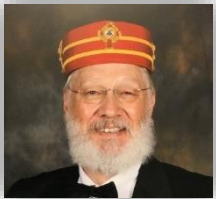
Candidate Proposals

SEC. 7. Any qualified person residing within the territorial jurisdiction of this Supreme Council may be **proposed** at any Stated Meeting of a Body under its jurisdiction by proposition in writing, signed by one member and seconded by another, also in writing. Such proposition may be made without the knowledge of the person proposed. A Body may, by its bylaws, require candidates to apply for Degrees by petition in writing.

Officers



Art Patrick, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master
601-508-2978



Rex Hasty, 32° KCCH
Wise Master
601-658-2048

Dickie Dickerson, 32° KCCH
Commander
601-947-2293



Michael Baker, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh
601-323-6303



Larry Robinson, 32° KCCH
General Secretary
601-603-0139



Lane Dossett, 33°
Personal Representative
601-543-5273



Xerxes Herrington, 32° KCCH
Treasurer
703-341-9588

Upcoming York Rite Activities

- ~~2.11.23 – Festival in Tupelo~~
- ~~2.18.23 – Festival in Laurel (cancelled)~~
- ~~3.16.23 – Grand Lodge~~
- 4.29.23 – St. Jude RCC
- 5.19.23 – Grand York Rite
- 6.10.23 – SE YR Conference
- 6.24.23 – Festival in Meridian
- 7.8.23 – Knight Masons in Gulfport
- 7.15.23 – YR College in Byram
- 7.23.23 – St. Jude RCC
- 8.23.23 – Festival in Gulfport
- 5.19.23 – Grand York Rite
- 6.10.23 – SE YR Conference
- 6.24.23 – Festival in Meridian
- 7.8.23 – Knight Masons in Gulfport
- 7.15.23 – YR College in Byram & St. Leonard RCC
- 8.23.23 – Festival in Gulfport
- 9.30.23 – St. Jude RCC
- 12.2.23 – St. Jude RCC
- 12.16.23 – St. Leonard RCC

