

HATTIESBURG VALLEY COMMUNICATOR

July 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
- Bro. Michael Baker’s wife - lung transplant
- Unspoken Bro. - undergoing cancer treatment
- Bro. Paul Williams – broken leg

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



At a Glance

This month we will be conferring the Gordian Knot degree in support of the Almoner’s Fund & a KSA meeting. There will not be an education presentation.

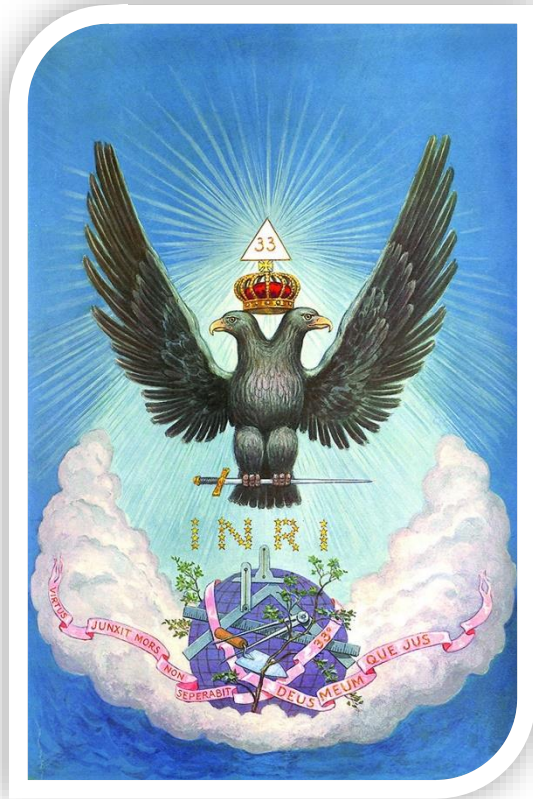
Lost in the Quarry

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

Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Brian Jason Childs | 2-Jul |
| Malcolm Everett Rouse | 6-Jul |
| Alex Maxie Sills | 6-Jul |
| Jack Oakley Rawls | 7-Jul |
| Gregory T Lee | 7-Jul |
| William Ernest Andrews | 10-Jul |
| Ellis E Green | 11-Jul |
| Jeffery Walley | 15-Jul |
| Rex Clifford Hasty | 16-Jul |
| Johnnie Michael Walley | 17-Jul |
| William David Collette | 17-Jul |
| Marvin Duane Mitchell | 22-Jul |
| Alton Bridges Cook | 23-Jul |
| Cecil Ray Edwards | 23-Jul |
| Charles Richard Carter | 23-Jul |
| John Wayne Barrow | 23-Jul |
| Buck Jordan Downs | 28-Jul |
| C Ronald Sanderson | 29-Jul |



Education Presentations

January	Lamar Sullivan
February	Other Activities
March	Substitute
April	Christopher Rounsevell
May	Lester Ivy
June	None
July	None
August	Arthur Patrick
September	Mike McKenzie
October	Gabe Churchwell
November	Matthew Clark
December	Rex Hasty



Message from the Venerable Master

Brethren,

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable 4th Of July! Enjoying those burgers, ribs, hot dogs and watermelon was awesome!

Freemasonry is very relevant to this celebration. The 4th of July is a very important date for both the United States and Freemasons and is celebrated by members of the Craft all over the world.

Freemasons and this US holiday are interconnected by the events that took place on that date, which would not have been possible (or would have taken place very differently) if it weren't for the Freemasons. This date is important in Freemasonry because Masons have influenced greatly the Declaration, proving once and for all that some of the Founding Fathers of the United States were, in fact, Freemasons. Five of the men on the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence were believed to be Freemasons and of those 56 who signed the Declaration, 9 were Freemasons (According to Freemasonry Information).

The Declaration of Independence was signed and accepted into Congress on the Fourth of July 1776, marking the birth of the United States. The one thing that this document declared, above all else, is FREEDOM! Freedom is defined as the power or right to act, speak, think or move about as one wants without hindrance or restraint. It is stated in the Scottish Rite Creed which we dedicate ourselves to at every meeting:

Human progress is our cause, Liberty of thought our supreme wish, Freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.

Let us remember on this day those brave men and women, of our Armed Forces of the United States, who have fought and are fighting, served and are serving, especially those who made the supreme sacrifice, defending the freedoms we have today.

Thank you, Brethren, for all you do for our Valley, Orient, and Freemasonry.

S&F,
Arthur Patrick, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master



Educationally Speaking



TRIVIA QUESTION

In the 4th Degree, Secret Master, the candidate is given a key. Of **what material** is the key made of?

- A. Brass
- B. Silver
- C. Gold
- D. Ivory



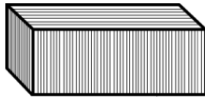
**Message from the Personal Representative to the SGIG,
Hattiesburg Valley, Lane Dossett, 33°**

As Masons, we are all too familiar with the admonition received as Entered Apprentices to work on our ashlar and move from the rough to the perfect, building our spiritual lives for that celestial Lodge above. Our textbooks contain the following description of the subject:



The Rough Ashlar is a stone as taken from the quarry in its rude and natural state.

The Perfect Ashlar is a stone made ready by the hands of the workmen, to be adjusted by the working tools of the fellow-craft.



The Textbook further states, “By the Rough Ashlar we are reminded of our rude and imperfect state by nature; by the Perfect Ashlar, that state of perfection at which we hope to arrive by a virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessing of God...”

“The Rough Ashlar is a stone, rough and unhewn as taken from the quarry, until, by the industry and ingenuity of the workman, it is modeled, wrought into due form, and rendered fit for the intended structure; this represents man in his infant or primitive state, rough and unpolished as that stone, until, by the kind care and attention of his parents or guardians, in giving him a liberal and virtuous education, his mind becomes cultivated, and he is thereby rendered a fit member of civilized society.”¹



The question naturally becomes, by what process do we accomplish this great work of maturation through the aid of our Masonic tools? Perhaps, if you are like me, you may visualize the actual symbolic process of divesting our lives of vices and superfluities one rock chip at a time. Many great authors have written encouraging words about internalizing this process, noting that works of stone are made with small incremental adjustments, not sledgehammer tactics.

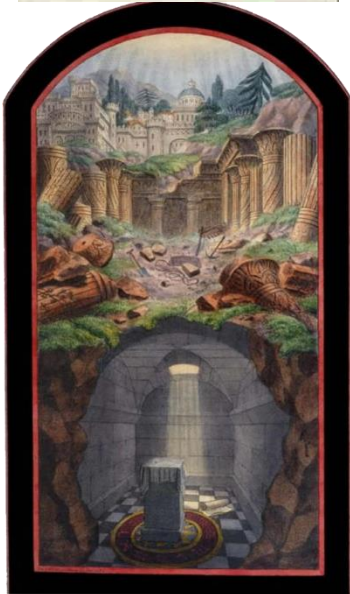


¹ <http://thecorinthianlodgeofamoy1806.com/tb.html>



One of my mentors, Ill. Bro. Chuck Dunning, offers a different perspective on this process in his book, *A Rose Croix Oratory*, that is taken uniquely from the “higher” grades of Freemasonry, whether it be from the Royal Arch or cryptic discovery in the 13th Degree. He states on page 119,

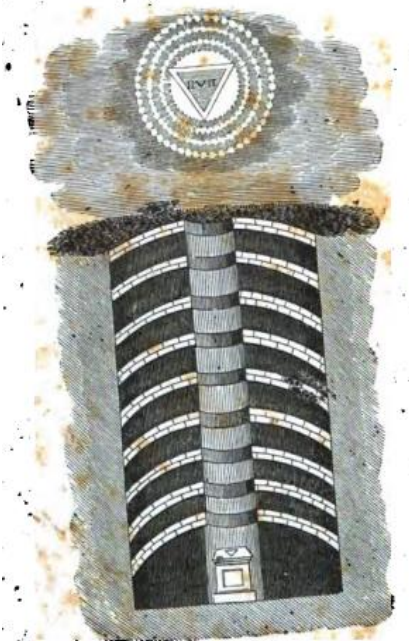
In the journey of Freemasonry, right off the bat, initiates learn that the apprentice’s primary work is to strive to perfect the ashlar, which represents the personal self. The perfecting of the stone is done through removing vices and superfluities and developing the several virtues introduced in the degree. They are also told that the Entered Apprentice represents the cornerstone of the lodge, bringing new life and possibilities to the social and spiritual edifice of our Fraternity. But then, somewhat strangely, the symbolism of the stone does not get the same kind of overt and literal attention in the Fellow Draft (2nd) and Master Mason (3rd) degrees, although everything within them is still directly relevant to it.



The theme of a special stone reappears in the higher degrees beyond Craft Lodge, but then as something mysteriously discovered in the course of one’s labors. In the 13th Degree of the Scottish Rite, this discovery happens in the process of descent into the depths of a vault in the earth. What is found must be brought back up and identified by those who know or can decipher its meaning. Keep that movement in mind - descent and ascent- because we will come across it again. This contest of discovering the special stone rather than producing it is highly significant. It suggests that while the moral and social ideal represented by the perfect ashlar, keystone, or cornerstone is something we should work toward, the special stone also alludes to something already existing, seed-like, deep within us, that needs to be uncovered, nurtured and freed.

I am thankful for the many opportunities Scottish Rite has offered me to search within those depths with more knowledgeable men than myself, like Bro. Chuck, who know what it means to look within and perform the great work. I offer these words to consider for yourself. Have you been working lately to refine your ashlar? What vices and virtues

have you made progress on this month? Are you searching deep within books and conversations for ways to better yourself in furtherance of that house not made with hands?



Congratulations to our 2023 Honourmen!



2023 Orient of Mississippi Nominations for 33° Honor (8)



First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	City	State	Valley Name	Orient	Conferral Date	Conf. Location
Joseph	Rupert	Lee	Indianola	MS	Clarksdale	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Curtis	Dean	Burchfield	New Albany	MS	Corinth	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Gabriel	T	Churchwell	Leakesville	MS	Hattiesburg	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Shelton	Horace	Dickerson	Lucedale	MS	Hattiesburg	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
John	Kenneth	Dawson	Florence	MS	Jackson	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Ben	Burton	Jones	Jackson	MS	Jackson	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
John	Burk	McKelvy	Gulfport	MS	Memphis	Tennessee	9/9/2023	Corinth
Terry	Frank	Lewis	Meridian	MS	Meridian	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth

2023 Orient of Mississippi Nominations for KCCH Honor (16)

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	City	State	Valley Name	Orient	Conferral Date	Conf. Location
Ronald	Matthew	Gardner	Grenada	MS	Clarksdale	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
John	J.	Kelley	Booneville	MS	Corinth	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Keith	R.	Stevens	Rienzi	MS	Corinth	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
David	Brian	Akins	Gulfport	MS	Gulfport	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
James	Clay	Cumberland	Gulfport	MS	Gulfport	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Joe		Perez	Biloxi	MS	Gulfport	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Steven	Earl	Stovall	Diamondhead	MS	Gulfport	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
John	Wayne	Barrow	Lucedale	MS	Hattiesburg	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Alfred	Gerald	Griffin	Ellisville	MS	Hattiesburg	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Marvin	Duane	Mitchell	Laurel	MS	Hattiesburg	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Leon	Thurston	Rackley	Hattiesburg	MS	Hattiesburg	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Gary	Lamar	Hamil	Florence	MS	Jackson	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
James	Scott	Womack	Brandon	MS	Jackson	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Arthur	Leroy	Potter	Carrollton	AL	Meridian	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
Randall	Hoyt	Rich	Hickory	MS	Meridian	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth
John	Tommy	Stewart	Philadelphia	MS	Meridian	Mississippi	9/9/2023	Corinth

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://scottishrite.ms.org/>

Online Petition

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

Volunteer Help Wanted

Social Media Manager / Content Creators
Articles for Communicator

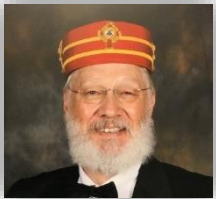
Candidate Proposals

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~~
- ~~(postponed) – Festival in Meridian~~
- **7.15.23 – YR College in Byram**
- **7.23.23 – St. Jude RCC**
- 8.19.23 – Knight Masons in Gulfport
- 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

