



Vol 2, Issue 3

Aug/Sep/Oct

## COMMANDER'S QUOTE



**Any human who is unreceptive to new or different information, knowledge, feelings, or perspectives from others is a candle that cannot burn. Such a candle will give no light, share no warmth.**

The Orient of Mississippi newsletter is published for the members, family and friends of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Orient of Mississippi, and is available electronically to all current Scottish Rite Freemasons in Mississippi's Valleys. The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Orient of Mississippi or its officers. The official registration and financial information of the organization may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement.

## 2025 Lodge of Perfection Meetings

**Clarksdale**, 1st Tuesday of each month

Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, Jun 3, Jul 1, Aug 5, Sep 2,  
Oct 7, Nov 4

**Corinth**, 2nd Thursday of each month

Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13\*, Apr 10, May 8, Jun 12,  
Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11

**Gulfport**, 3rd Friday of each month

Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 21, Apr 18, May 16, Jun 20,  
Jul 18, Aug 15, Sep 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 18

**Hattiesburg**, 1st Friday of each month

Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, Jun 6,  
Jul 4\*, Aug 1, Sep 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

**Jackson**, 1st Tuesday of each month

Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, Jun 3,  
Jul 1, Aug 5, Sep 2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2

**Meridian**, 1st Thursday of each month

Jan 2, Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3, May 1, Jun 5,  
Jul 3, Aug 7, Sep 4, Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4

For more information,  
contact the General Secretary in your Valley

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Bill Sellers, 33° IGH (Jackson).....(769) 230-5760  
W.R. "Bill" Fortenberry, 32° (Meridian).....(601) 616-5964

# THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSISSIPPI

## A MESSAGE FROM

**Ill. Billy W.  
Sloan, 33°  
SGIG**



**REUNIONS  
DEVELOP  
AND  
DELIVER**

Brethren,

I hope this finds you doing well and are planning to attend your Valley's Fall Reunion. I look forward to seeing each of you at Honors Weekend to celebrate our recipients. You are invited to attend this event, which will include a banquet and opportunities for social interaction. As summer closes, the temperatures will begin to fall, leaves will begin to turn, and our world will eventually become a little gloomier. It is our world's way of resetting itself and resting to prepare for the winter. Life follows this pattern in our part of the world, but not in all parts. There are places where it is always cold and dreary and there are places that are full of life and beauty year-round. Changes often offer opportunities to improve or develop stronger ties and bonds that strengthen an organization, family or other things. I enjoy the changing seasons and the opportunities it provides to reconsider how life is progressing around me.

Now that the Biennial Session is behind the

Sovereign Grand Commander  
Ill. James D. Cole, 33°

S.G.I.G., Mississippi  
Ill. Billy W. Sloan, 33°

### Personal Representatives

Valley of Clarksdale  
Ill. Joseph Lee, 33° IGH

Valley of Hattiesburg  
Ill. Lane Dossett, 33° IGH

Valley of Corinth  
Ill. C. Dean Thompson, 33° IGH

Valley of Jackson  
Ill. Kenny Dawson, 33° IGH

Valley of Gulfport  
Ill. Bruce Baker, 33° IGH

Valley of Meridian  
Ill. Terry F. Lewis, 33° IGH

### Editors

Ill. Ben Jones, 33° IGH

Ill. Lane Dossett, 33° IGH

For submissions or articles, please contact Ben Jones at [bejonesii@bellsouth.net](mailto:bejonesii@bellsouth.net) or call (601) 927-8479. Whenever possible, please include a high-resolution (300 dpi/PPI) photo with your submission. All submissions should be received at least 45 days before the date of publication. Submissions for the Nov-Jan 2026 newsletter must be received no later than mid October for consideration. Articles are subject to editing and if published, become the property of the Orient of Mississippi. No compensation is given for articles, photographs or other materials submitted or published.

## THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSISSIPPI

Council for 2025 and we have developed our road map for the way ahead, I am honored and pleased to have been nominated and elected as the Grand Treasurer General for the Supreme Council. I have been on the Finance Committee for two years and have watched and learned how our funds are managed by an awesome group of people. I appreciate that the Council has entrusted me to lead this great group for the next two years. I am also grateful that I will remain on the Membership Committee as a member to continue their important work. I look forward to our future and hope to continue our journey together in a positive manner.

There are many things that we as a Brotherhood or Fraternity sometimes need to be addressed. We all at one time knelt at the Altar and took our obligations through the various degrees to obtain the privilege of being a Master Mason. We bound ourselves to one another to support and assist one another during many different instances. The first tenets were Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. The second were an Attentive Ear, an Instructive Tongue, and a Faithful Breast. The third was Friendship, Morality, and—again--Brotherly Love. In a later degree lecture, we are told that we take our obligations at the altar and then seemingly forget them. My brother, this is not right!! Why would we do this?

I challenge you to read through the Scottish Rite degrees and pay close attention to the lessons that are explained in each one. They were applicable when they were written and are just as applicable to us today. If you really pay attention, you will find that they are timeless and will apply for decades to come--as long as man walks this earth.

The greatest gift GOD gave to man was his SON without a doubt. To allow his son to die that horrible death for our sins would be unbearable to any of us. Yet Our Father did!! The ultimate display of LOVE. Love and truth go hand in hand. False statements have destroyed organizations, families, and countries. If you do not have the facts in hand, then you cannot speak the truth about the subject. The old saying "I got it from the horse's mouth" is true to an extent. Did YOU get it from the horse's mouth or from someone claiming it as such. Remember that we came together as one to promote one another and strengthen our bonds. We professed a belief in Christ and knelt where Hiram knelt. Let's love one another, strengthen one another, and be truthful with one another



Ill. Billy W. Sloan, 33°

Sovereign Grand Inspector General  
in the Orient of Mississippi





# THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSIPPI

## 2025 HONOURS



**III. Donald Eugene Anderson, 33° IGH**

*Valley of Meridian*

**III. Jonathan Edwards Cagle, 33° IGH**

*Valley of Corinth*

**III. Jeffrey Sparks Guice, 33° IGH**

*Valley of Gulfport*

**III. Arthur Leon Patrick, 33° IGH**

*Valley of Hattiesburg*

**III. Charles Larry Robinson, 33° IGH**

*Valley of Hattiesburg*

**III. Richard Lynn Whitehead, 33° IGH**

*Valley of Meridian*

**III. Bryan Keith Wiley, 33° IGH**

*Valley of Jackson*

**III. Johnny Casmer Wolfe, Sr., 33° IGH**

*Valley of Gulfport*

**Hon. Paul Albert Daugherty, 32° KCCH**

*Valley of Gulfport*

**Hon. William Robert Fortenberry, 32° KCCH**

*Valley of Meridian*

**Hon. Michael Paul McKenzie, 32° KCCH**

*Valley of Hattiesburg*

**Hon. Rubin Scott Posey, 32° KCCH**

*Valley of Gulfport*

**Hon. Charles Edward Reagan, 32° KCCH**

*Valley of Jackson*

**Hon. Philip Todd Rumery, 32° KCCH**

*Valley of Meridian*

**Hon. William Lee Scott, 32° KCCH**

*Valley of Corinth*

**Hon. William Major Tucker, Jr., 32° KCCH**

*Valley of Corinth*

**BIENNIAL HONORS WEEKEND**

**ORIENT OF MISSISSIPPI**

**OCTOBER 4, 2025**

**Tupelo, Mississippi**



# THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSISSIPPI



## Orient of Mississippi Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry



### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### Friday, October 3, 2025

1:00 pm	Lodge Set-up <i>**Volunteers Needed**</i>	Cadence Bank Center <i>Meet in hotel lobby @ 1 pm</i>
3:30 pm	Registration Opens	Hilton Garden Inn Walnut Room
3:30 – 5:30 pm	Meet and Greet	Hilton Garden Inn Walnut Room
5:00 pm	KCCH Team Practice	Magnolia/Oak Room - Cadence
6:30 pm	33° IGH Team Practice	Magnolia/Oak Room - Cadence
Evening	Dinner on your own	

#### Saturday, October 4, 2025

8:00 am	Registration Opens	Cadence Bank Center Corridor
8:30 am	33° IGH Candidates Meet	Magnolia/Oak Room - Cadence
	33° IGH Team Assembles	Magnolia/Oak Room
9:15 – 11:00 am	33° Coronation Degree ( <i>Closed</i> )	Magnolia/Oak Room
11:00 am	Professional Pictures to be Taken	Magnolia/Oak Room
11:45 am	Luncheon Doors to Open ( <i>Ticket Required</i> )	Sweetgum Room - Cadence
1:00 pm	32° KCCH Degree Candidates Meet	Magnolia/Oak Room - Cadence
	32° KCCH Degree Team Assembles	Magnolia/Oak Room
1:30 – 3:00 pm	32° KCCH Investiture ( <i>Open</i> ) ( <i>Pictures to follow</i> )	Magnolia/Oak Room
4:45 – 5:30 pm	Social & Pictures	Cadence Bank Center Corridor
5:30 – 7:30 pm	Honour's Banquet ( <i>Ticket Required</i> )	Sweetgum Room - Cadence

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### LADIES SCHEDULE

#### Saturday, October 4, 2025

8:00 am	Royal Order of Mushroom Degree	Hilton Garden Inn Walnut Room
8:30 – approx 11:00 am	Breakfast and Activity	Hilton Garden Inn Walnut Room



# THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSISSIPPI



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
ILLUSTRIOUS BROTHER  
SGIG BILLY W. SLOAN, 33°  
ON HIS ELECTION AS  
GRAND TREASURER  
GENERAL

*Congratulations!*



ILL. BILLY W. SLOAN, 33°  
Committee Chairman, Grand Treasurer General, & S.G.I.G. in Mississippi

# THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSISSIPPI

## EVENT CALENDAR

Mon Sep 1 - Labor Day  
Tue Sep 2 - Valley of Clarksdale Stated  
Tue Sep 2 - Valley of Jackson Stated  
Thu Sep 4 - Valley of Meridian Stated  
Fri Sep 5 - Valley of Hattiesburg Stated  
Sat Sep 6 - Valley of Gulfport Breakfast

Thu Sep 11 - Valley of Corinth Stated  
Fri Sep 19 - Valley of Gulfport Family Night  
Sat Sep 20 - Congressional School -  
Lexington #24  
Mon Sep 22 - Rosh Hashanah  
Sat Sep 27 - Water Valley YR Festival

Wed Oct 1 - Yom Kippur  
Thu Oct 2 - Valley of Meridian Stated  
Fri Oct 3 - Valley of Hattiesburg Stated  
Sat Oct 4 - Orient Honors Weekend  
Sat Oct 4 - Congressional School -  
Corinth #116  
Tue Oct 7 - Valley of Clarksdale Stated  
Tue Oct 7 - Valley of Jackson Stated  
Thu Oct 9 - Valley of Corinth Stated  
Sat Oct 11 - Valley of Gulfport Reunion

Mon Oct 13 - Columbus Day  
Fri Oct 17 - Valley of Gulfport Open  
Meeting  
Sat Oct 18 - Valley of Meridian Reunion  
Fri/Sat Oct 24-25 - Valley of Corinth  
Reunion  
Sat Oct 25 - Congressional School -  
R.P. Bowen #430  
Fri Oct 31 - Halloween

Sat Nov 1 - Valley of Jackson Reunion  
Sat Nov 1 - Valley of Gulfport Breakfast  
Sun Nov 2 - Daylight Saving Time Ends  
Tue Nov 4 - Valley of Clarksdale Stated  
Tue Nov 4 - Valley of Jackson Stated  
Thu Nov 6 - Valley of Meridian Stated  
Fri Nov 7 - Valley of Hattiesburg Stated

Sat Nov 8 - Joppa & Hamasa Ceremonials  
Tue Nov 11 - Veterans Day  
Thu Nov 13 - Valley of Corinth Stated  
Sat Nov 15 - Congressional School -  
Circle #638  
Thu Nov 27 - Thanksgiving

Tue Dec 2 - Valley of Jackson Stated  
Thu Dec 4 - Valley of Meridian Stated  
Fri Dec 5 - Valley of Hattiesburg Stated  
Sat Dec 6 - Wahabi Ceremonial  
Sat Dec 6 - Valley of Gulfport Breakfast

Thu Dec 11 - Valley of Corinth Stated  
Sat Dec 20 - St. Leonard RC  
Thu Dec 25 - Christmas Day  
Sat Dec 27 - Feast of St. John  
Wed Jan 1 - New Year's Day



## Boaz and Jachin: Cosmic Principles of Mysticism

The twin pillars of Solomon's Temple, Jachin and Boaz, are not merely architectural elements, but they carry deep symbolic significance across Masonic and mystical traditions. This short essay explores their layered meanings: biblical, symbolic, esoteric, Kabbalistic, and their broader implications in ritual and philosophy. In the Fellowcraft Degree of Freemasonry, the candidate symbolically becomes the "middle pillar," standing between Boaz and Jachin. This same theme is deepened in the 4° of the Scottish Rite, where the candidate is introduced to the Kabbalah and the three pillars of the Tree of Life. In both degrees, the aspirant's journey is one of moving beyond duality toward equilibrium, embodying that which unites strength with compassion.

### Biblical Origins and Literal Description

According to the Hebrew Bible (1 Kings 7:15–21; 2 Kings 11:14; 23:3), the pillars stood at the entrance of Solomon's Temple. They were made of bronze (or copper/brass), stood approximately 18 cubits tall (about 27 feet), and featured intricate capitals adorned with pomegranates, lily-like motifs, and network work.[1] Most scholars agree the pillars were likely free-standing rather than supporting structures, based on comparisons with neighboring ancient temples.[2]

Jachin (from Hebrew יָכִין, *yāḱîṅ*) means "He will establish," while Boaz (בֹּאֵז, *bo'az*) means "In him is strength." [3] Together, the names function as a verbal affirmation: God will establish the Temple and divine presence, as well as the strength to sustain it. As one commentary puts it, the pillars symbolize "the strength and stability of God's promises of a kingdom that will last forever." [4]

### Symbolism in Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah

In Kabbalistic interpretation, the two pillars symbolize cosmic dualities. On the right, Jachin corresponds to the Pillar of Mercy or Kindness (aligned with the right column of the Tree of Life: Chesed, Netzach, Chokmah). On the left, Boaz corresponds to the Pillar of Severity or Judgment (aligned with the left column: Gevurah, Hod, Binah). [5][6] Collectively, they reflect the balance between nurturing and discipline, which sustain the spiritual cosmos.

A Jewish forum elaborates that these pillars are the spiritual "legs" of Zeir Anpin, the hidden aspect of God, sustaining divine manifestation through Netzach (eternity/victory) and Hod (glory/strength by submission). [7] Sha'arei



# THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSISSIPPI

Orah, Third and Fourth Gates, Seventh and Eighth Sefirah 33 recounts as follows:

That is, there were two pillars in the Holy Temple, called Yachin יָכִין-and Bo'az בּוֹאֵז....This matter is hinted at in the verse, "His legs- Shokav שׁוֹקָיו are like marble pillars, founded in sockets- Adnei אֲדֵנֵי-of fine gold."...The word, "His legs- Shokav שׁוֹקָיו", refers to these two qualities of victory- Netzach and majesty- Hod, which are the matter of HaShem God of Hosts- HaShem Elohi מִלְּפָנֵי ה' - .... They are the pillars that uphold the Sefirot, corresponding to which Solomon made the two pillars, Yachin יָכִין-and Bo'az בּוֹאֵז. 86 Kings I 7:21 – "He erected the right pillar and called its name Yachin--יָכִיןestablished..., and he erected the left pillar and called its name Bo'az--בּוֹאֵזstrength is in it." 87 Song of Songs 5:15

## Dualities and Initiation Symbolism

Across esoteric and mystical traditions (including Freemasonry and Western mystery schools), Boaz and Jachin symbolize a threshold or portal that initiates pass between by being met with two complementary forces. For example, the three Ruffians versus three Masters of the Secret.

The pillars are adorned with pomegranates (abundance), networking (unity), and lilies (peace), decorative motifs that carry symbolic meanings tied to spiritual flourishing and unity, and are common elements within any healthy tree. [9] Symbolically, this can be taken to represent the harmonization of the two pillars. Unchecked strength (Boaz/gevurah) can harden into harsh judgment and spiritual sterility. Unchecked expansion (Jachin/chesed) can dissolve boundaries and lead to chaos. These adornments indicate the perfect balance between these two or "equilibrium."

Some sources describe Jachin as male, active, light, motion; Boaz as female, receptive, dark, silent. These can be viewed in a Zen-like balance of opposite yet complementary forces, such as yin and yang. [5]

Regardless of one's individual perspective, scholars and mystics emphasize that pure duality alone is incomplete. True wisdom emerges as unity by combining both pillars. A quote from literary mysticism poetically describes them as symbols of unity and "the redeeming power of Love." [10]

The pillars guarding the Temple's entrance also embody a liminal threshold, moving from worldly to sacred realms. Masonically, in my view, this is best depicted by the Scottish Rite EA-FC-MM Lodge setup, whereby anyone accessing the inner sanctuary must pass between the pillars. As such, passing between Boaz and Jachin becomes an allegory for spiritual progression, from chaos toward harmony.

# THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSISSIPPI

## Conclusion

Boaz and Jachin, while simple in physical description, are rich with symbolic meaning. Their names express divine foundations; their placement at the Temple's entrance embodies thresholds of spiritual ascent; their dualities mirror each soul's internal journey. Whether viewed through the lens of mysticism, Masonic ritual, or universal esoteric traditions, these pillars continue to stand as metaphors of harmony, balance, and the spiritual path.

Ill. Lane Dossett, 33°  
Personal Representative, Valley of Hattiesburg

## VALLEY OF CLARKSDALE

## VALLEY OF CORINTH



At left, the Valley's Maundy Thursday ceremony was hosted at Tupelo Lodge #318. The Valley is also conducting a fundraiser: a drawing for a Browning X Bolt 6.5MM Creedmoor. Tickets are \$10 or a book of 6 for \$50. They are only selling 1000 tickets for the drawing on December 11, 2025. At left, the effects of a 6.5mm Creedmoor on a Tiger I, circa 1943. The photo is colorized and may not be accurate.



## VALLEY OF GULFPORT

## THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSISSIPPI

### VALLEY OF HATTIESBURG



Valley members attended the Biennial Session of the Supreme Council held at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. Pictured here: Hon. Rex Hasty 32° KCCH KSA; Ill. Lane Dossett 33° KSA and Hon. Michael Baker 32° KCCH KSA.

### VALLEY OF JACKSON

### VALLEY OF MERIDIAN

On the left, at the Valley's July meeting, Hon. Ray Denton 32° KCCH received his 50-year Scottish Rite certificate and pin. On the right, a photo from a social media group discussing the former Scottish Rite Cathedral that burned on March 20, 1985. The column remnants have been removed but other remnants have been rescued and reused.





# THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSISSIPPI



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\* = 1 renewal; \$ = 3 renewals