

THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE
ORIENT OF MISSISSIPPI



Vol 1, Issue 3

May/Jun/Jul

COMMANDER'S QUOTE



“...A cloud in life, like a cloud in the atmosphere, is usually just a collection of very small particles or problems, and sunshine might not be far away.”

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

2024 Lodge of Perfection Meetings

Clarksdale, 1st Tuesday of each month

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

Corinth, 2nd Thursday of each month

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

Gulfport, 3rd Friday of each month

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

Hattiesburg, 1st Friday of each month

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

Jackson, 1st Tuesday of each month

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

Meridian, 1st Thursday of each month

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

For more information,
contact the General Secretary in your Valley

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John Kelly, 32° KCCH (Corinth).....(773) 587-9923
James Case, 33° IGH (Gulfport).....(228) 324-4262
Larry Robinson, 32° KCCH (Hattiesburg).....(601) 603-0139
Bill Sellers, 33° IGH (Jackson).....(769) 230-5760
Micky McMahan, 33° IGH (Meridian).....(601) 527-6194

THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSIPPI

A MESSAGE FROM

**Ill. Billy W.
Sloan, 33°
SGIG**



**OUR
FUTURE
MOVES
FAST!**

Spring is here, and summer is closing fast. It seems that this year is rolling through very rapidly, and time for procrastination will not be our friend if we plan to accomplish very much during this year. Our Valleys have completed their Spring Reunions and we have some new Masters of the Royal Secret among us who are looking to further their light and become involved in what we do as Scottish Rite Masons. Let's not disappoint them, but welcome them and assist them in finding something meaningful to do.

The Supreme Council's Leadership or Rite Way workshops were held in Salt Lake City, Kansas City, and Jacksonville. We had an amazing number of Masons attend, and the feedback was outstanding. I want to thank the three Brethren who came and participated. One from Gulfport attended Salt Lake City, one

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

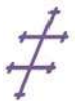
For submissions or articles, please contact Ben Jones at bejonesii@bellsouth.net or call (601) 927-8479. Whenever possible, please include a high-resolution (300 dpi/PPI) photo with your submission. All submissions should be received at least 45 days before the date of publication. Submissions for the Aug-Oct 2024 newsletter must be received no later than mid August 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.

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from Hattiesburg, and one from Meridian attended Jacksonville. These three can attest to the excitement and dedication that were provided at the conferences. There was a lot of information put out, and a lot of suggestions were made by those attending. These conferences are participation events, and thus everyone can join in the discussions. Our next conferences will be held in 2026 in Las Vegas, Dallas, and Charlotte. Make plans to attend, if possible.

Our Foundation distributed its annual donations in April and May. We donated \$7,000 to the Scottish Rite Literacy Program at Ole Miss, \$4,000 to Magnolia Speech School in Jackson, and \$3,000 to Lighthouse Academy in Ocean Springs, for a total of \$14,000 donated this year. I want to thank Corinth Valley and Gulfport Valley for their generous donations this year to our foundation, enabling us to grow our funds and provide more assistance in helping our children across the state.

Are your Valley Ambassadors working hard to help your Blue Lodges and the Scottish Rite? If they are, please recognize them for their dedication and support. If not, please consider finding a replacement who is dedicated and cares about the future of both fraternities. Over 65% of our new members are recruited because a brother asked them to join the Scottish Rite, and these brethren usually do go suspended from their Blue Lodge for NPD. That means strength and growth for all of our fraternities. I look forward to seeing all of you at a future meeting or in passing. Thanks for what you do for the craft.



Ill. Billy W. Sloan, 33°



Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in the Orient of Mississippi

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

Ill. John B. McKelvy, 33° (Gulfport/Memphis)

Ill. Ben B. Burton Jones II, 33° (Jackson) *

Hon. Rex C. Hasty, 32° KCCH (Hattiesburg/Fairbanks) §**

Ill. James A. Birdsong, 33° (Gulfport)

Hon. Arthur L. Patrick, 32 KCCH (Hattiesburg/Gulfport) §

* = 1 renewal; § = 3 renewals





III. James M. Ward, 33° IGH PGM
August 10, 1930 - March 25, 2024



III. Homer E. Sullivan Jr., 33° IGH PGM
March 12, 1937 - April 6, 2024



THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSIPPI

A Few Gems From Our Precious Past



Nashville—The funeral of James Richardson, Sovereign Grand Commander, Scottish rite masons, southern jurisdiction will be held at midnight Sunday in Murfreesboro, where he died yesterday. He will be given a Knight of Kadosh funeral. [Source: *Jackson Daily News*, Sunday, July 26, 1914, Page 1 (newspapers.com)]



Masons Hold Service For Departed Brother

Funeral Ceremonies of Wm. B. Taylor Last Night Solemn And Impressive

Solemn and impressive were the funeral ceremonies held last night at the midnight hour by the members of the Scottish Rite bodies of Jackson over the remains of William B. Taylor.

The body of the deceased, who was a thirty-third degree mason, was carried to the masonic hall at the city hall Saturday evening, and in the presence of the members of the Jackson Scottish Rite bodies, members of the Blue Lodge, and friends and acquaintances of the family and of the deceased, the ritual of the masons was said. The ceremonies, said to have been the first ever held in Mississippi, made a deep impression upon those who attended.



The church funeral of the late Mr. Taylor will be held this afternoon at three o'clock at the Galloway Memorial Methodist Church, of which the deceased was a life-olng [sic] member. Rev. Charles W. Crisler will officiate. Interment will be made in the Greenwood cemetery....Source: *Jackson Daily News*, Sunday, March 3, 1918, Page 8



Hattiesburg, Dec. 11—A Masonic funeral was held here this afternoon for George William Lafayette, 57, who died following a sudden heart attack. The Rev. J. C. McQueen and Rev. W. W. Crafton officiated. The rites were held at the Masonic temple. Midnight ceremonies were directed by the Knights of Kadosh last night.

Mr. Lafayette was a southern railroad engineer for many years; past master of the Hattiesburg Lodge, No. 397, F and AM; Scottish rite member; officer in the Odd Fellows organization and a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen....Source: *Clarion-Ledger*, Tuesday, December 12, 1939, Page 7



Midnight Funeral Is Attended By 600

Hattiesburg, April 24—(Spl.)—More than 600 people attended the public midnight funeral held for J. M. Brown, at which the master of the four Scottish Rite Bodies officiated, including Ben S. DeVer, T. F. Dreyfus, E. E. Nunn and E.H. Buckner.... Source: *Jackson Daily News*, Thursday, April 28, 1921, Page 4

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EVENT CALENDAR

Sun May 12 - Mother's Day
Fri May 17 - Valley of Gulfport Stated
Fri/Sat May 17-18 - Grand YR Bodies
Assembly

Mon May 27 - Memorial Day
Fri May 31 - Feast of the Consistory

Tue Jun 4 - Valley of Clarksdale Stated
Tue Jun 4 - Valley of Jackson Stated
Thu Jun 6 - Valley of Meridian Stated
Fri Jun 7 - Valley of Hattiesburg Stated/
Feast of Consistory
Fri/Sat Jun 7-8 - YR SE Conference
Thu Jun 13 - Valley of Corinth Stated

Sat Jun 15 - Congressional School -
Longstreet #268
Sun Jun 16 - Father's Day
Fri Jun 21 - Valley of Gulfport Stated
Sat Jun 22 - Meridian YR Festival
Mon Jun 24 - St. John's Feast

Tue Jul 2 - Valley of Clarksdale Stated
Tue Jul 2 - Valley of Jackson Stated
Thu Jul 4* - Valley of Meridian Stated
Thu Jul 4 - Independence Day
Fri Jul 5 - Valley of Hattiesburg Stated/
Gordian Knott

Thu Jul 11 - Valley of Corinth Stated
Fri Jun 19 - Valley of Gulfport Stated
Sat Jul 20 - YR College St Leonard RC
Sat Jul 27 - Congressional School -
Columbus #5

Thu Aug 1 - Valley of Meridian Stated
Fri Aug 2 - Valley of Hattiesburg Stated/
Feast of Manifesto
Sat Aug 3 - Congressional School -
Sturgis #365
Tue Aug 6 - Valley of Clarksdale Stated

Thu Aug 8 - Valley of Corinth Stated
Fri/Sat Aug 9-10 - SE Masonic Conf
Fri Aug 16 - Valley of Gulfport Stated
Sat Aug 17 - Congressional School -
Richton #477
Sat Aug 24 - South MS YR Festival

Mon Sep 2 - Labor Day
Tue Sep 3 - Valley of Clarksdale Stated
Tue Sep 3 - Valley of Jackson Stated
Thu Sep 5 - Valley of Meridian Stated
Fri Sep 6 - Valley of Hattiesburg Stated
Thu Sep 12 - Valley of Gulfport Stated

Sat Sep 14 - Congressional School -
Monticello #610
Fri Sep 20 - Valley of Gulfport Stated
Sat Sep 21 - Congressional School -
Richmond #97
Sat Sep 28 - Water Valley YS Festival

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From Hon. Xerxes Zeno Harrington, 32° KCCH
Treasurer, Valley of Hattiesburg
Robert Burns Valentines Dinner/ Dessert Auction
February 2, 2024

Simple Beef and Chicken Liver Haggis

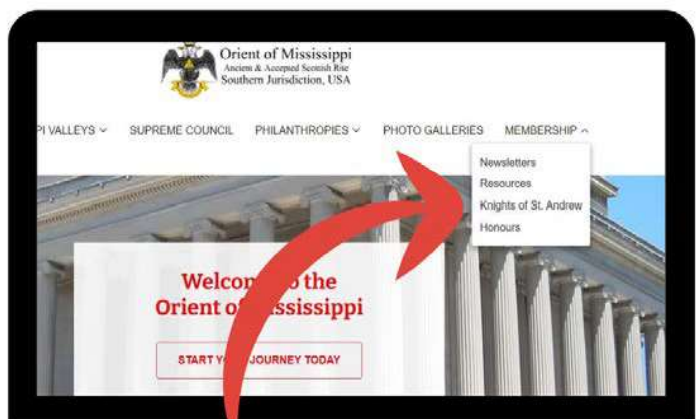


Ingredients (US Customary - Metric)

- ½ tablespoon butter approx. [or a little more as needed]
- 1 onion
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper or more [if you prefer a stronger pepper flavor]
- ¾ teaspoon ground coriander
- ¾ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme or fresh, slightly chopped if fresh
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 lb. ground lean beef
- ½ lb. chicken livers, finely chopped or ground
- 1 cup stock, beef or chicken
- 4 oz pinhead oatmeal (steel cut oats) [XZeno: I like regular Quaker Oats].

Instructions

- ◇ Preheat the oven to 350 F° / 175 C°.
- ◇ Warm the butter in a pan. Finely dice the onion and cook over medium heat in the butter until softened, about 5 minutes.
- ◇ Meanwhile, take any fatty or tough pieces off the chicken livers and roughly chop.
- ◇ Add the various spices and thyme to the onion and cook for a minute, then add the lamb and chicken livers.
- ◇ Brown the meat then once it is all cooked, add the stock and cover. Allow to simmer for around 20 minutes.



VISIT THE NEW KSA SECTION!

VALLEY OF CLARKSDALE

The best of the Valley of Clarksdale is coming soon. Submit your stories, ideas, news articles, and photos—community or masonic, we celebrate YOU!

VALLEY OF CORINTH



VALLEY OF CORINTH (CON'T)

On Thursday, March 14, 2024, Valley of Corinth A.A.S.R. held their stated meeting at the historic Jacinto Courthouse. A rare relic from the earliest days of North Mississippi., the town of Jacinto was founded in 1836 as the county seat of Tishomingo County, which is one of the original ten counties formed in the 1830s from the Chickasaw Cession here in North Mississippi.

Jacinto was located at the geographic center of the then-largest county in Mississippi, which spread over 1,000 square miles, covering much of northeast Mississippi. The town was named after the Republic of Texas decisive battle for independence from Mexico This is where Sam Houston's victory over the Mexican army at the Battle of San Jacinto and capture of General Santa Anna establishing independence. The town began to grow quickly and soon had taverns, shops, and other amenities. A small log courthouse was built when the town was founded for use by the county government, soon the booming town needed a much larger building.

In 1854, the present courthouse was built in the Federal architecture style. The building was constructed by architect J. J. Blythe for just under \$7,000. The bricks and timber were handmade and hand-hewn from the area's timber and clay deposits.

The Courthouse witnessed the continuing growth of the town as the main economic center of northeast Mississippi. By the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the town had reached a population of 6,600, the Courthouse was surrounded by fifty blocks of houses and shops. During the war the town was spared any major damage or destruction and afterwards seemed destined to continue its economic dominance into the future. However, several catastrophic decisions destroyed the future growth and progression of Jacinto.

In 1870, old Tishomingo County was subdivided into three smaller counties: Alcorn, Prentiss, and Tishomingo counties. Jacinto was no longer located at the center of the county, and the Tishomingo County government was moved to luka. Jacinto was now a less important town located in the new Alcorn County. The loss of the county seat seemed to spook the leaders of Jacinto, and they compounded the issue with new mistakes in the decision-making process.

The town leaders refused to allow the new railroad to go through Jacinto, which cut the town's economy off due to being isolated. The railroad went through the nearby towns of Corinth and luka, and many residents of Jacinto followed the railroad and left town. Again, the leaders of the town refused to prevent local farmers from cutting down telegraph poles coming into town, which completely isolated the former boom town from the rest of the world.

The population of Jacinto, which had begun losing key decision makers, quickly dwindled from 6,000 residents to just a few hundred. The stores, inns, and newspapers died out, and the lawyers and doctors left town. The only thing that remained in Jacinto to suggest the town's former glory was the beautiful Federal Courthouse that now overlooked an empty town square. After 1870, the Courthouse was used as a schoolhouse from 1870 until 1908.

From 1908 to 1960 it was used as the Methodist church. When this congregation dwindled away, the building was nearly lost to a wrecking company. Had it not been for several concerned citizens that moved to save the Courthouse from destruction.

In 1973, the Courthouse was restored for \$88,000. Today, the Courthouse is occasionally open to visitors, especially during the large July 4th political rallies that still take place on the grounds each year. The Jacinto Courthouse remains one of the best examples of Federal architecture in the Southern United States. What is the Federal-style architecture, you ask?

Thomas Jefferson's Monticello estate and several federal government buildings, including the White House, are among the two most prominent examples of buildings constructed in Federal style. Federalist architects took the existing trend and scaled back the frills to create a modern, streamlined look. They kept the symmetrical lines, the side-gabled roof, and the double-hung windows. But it cut back on the elaborate ornamentation that stemmed from the Georgian style. On the exterior, the front door has a decorative surround, but aside from that, the design is very understated and lacks the showiness that sometimes defines the older Gregorian style.

American Federal architecture typically uses plain surfaces with attenuated detail, usually isolated in panels, tablets, and friezes. It also had a flatter, smoother façade and rarely used pilasters. It was most influenced by the interpretation of ancient Roman architecture, fashionable after the unearthing of Pompeii and Herculaneum. The bald eagle was a common symbol used in this style, with the ellipse a frequent architectural motif.

Gladly presented before the
Valley of Corinth, Orient of
Mississippi at Jacinto Court
House, Jacinto (Jay-Center)
MS, 14th March 21, 2024,
by C. Dean Burchfield 33°



VALLEY OF HATTIESBURG



Hattiesburg candidates and members at the Valley of Gulfport Spring Reunion Honoring Ill. William J. Goff, 33° on Saturday, April 6, 2024.



Hattiesburg Maundy Thursday Observance



Wise Master Hon. Arthur Patrick 32° KCCH recognizes Hon. Gerald Griffin, 32° KKCH and presents an award for his service as a volunteer firefighter/ first responder.

The Third Annual Dessert Auction/ Robert Burns Valentine's Dinner with homemade haggis.

VALLEY OF JACKSON



**THE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-THIRD REUNION
SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF JACKSON
HON. ALPHONSE MOUTON KILLEBREW, 32° KCCH
MEMORIAL CLASS – MAY 4, 2024**



February Stated Meeting - Double Eagle Awards Presentation



(Left) Hon. Bryan Wiley presents the Scottish Rite JROTC Award to Cadet Cpl. Trey Brown of the Germantown High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC Program at their May 4th Awards Night Ceremony.

(Right) Bro. Wiley portrays Grand Master Jacques de Molay professing his innocence before the Phillip IV's Papal Inquisitor in the Valley Feast of Kadosh tableaux, guarded by royal guard, Brother Ethan Ingram, 32°.



VALLEY OF GULFPORT

"A Few Words from the Venerable Master of the Valley of Gulfport "

As we proceed through the months of May, June, and July, we find that there are numerous National and military affiliated special days which occur. And while the entire month of May is dedicated to the Military Child, specific days include: (May) Victory in Europe Day, Stars and Stripes Forever Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day; (June) Constitution Day, World War II D-Day Anniversary, Flag Day, International Widows' Day, US Army Birthday; (July) Independence Day, Liberty Bell Day, Marine Corps Creation Day. Each of these days was originally designed to offer an occasion for individuals and communities to reflect on the occurrences of the past and provide opportunity for contemplation going forward into the future. Sadly, instruction in the reasons behind the creations of the majority of these days no longer takes place with our school systems. Therefore, it is incumbent upon members of organizations such as the Scottish Rite to provide proper background when given the chance.

Shifting our discussion in a more Masonic direction, I would like to call your attention to the Degree of Intendent of the Budling (the 8th in our beloved AASR, SJ) and how it is relevant to our teaching the meaning behinds these days. In this Degree, we learn that Grand Master Hiram Abif had been teaching various members of the Craft specialized portions of his knowledge and assigning them specific portions of the work. As Scottish Rite Masons, we should endeavor to learn as much of the "Craft" as possible and become teachers ourselves. How better to do this than through the offices of a learned teacher or might I be so bold as to recommend enrolling in one or more of the courses offered by the

VALLEY OF GULFPORT (CON'T)

Master Craftsman Online College. Anyone who attempts to impart knowledge through the use of lectures, discourses, or examples can be viewed as a teacher. A teacher can be seen as one who attempts to impart the knowledge he has gained through study, experience, and effort to another. Each of us comes with his own set of notions and information. The teacher/instructor or course of instruction must take this previously learned knowledge and assist the learner in assimilating new knowledge into a framework that will allow not only for understanding but applicable comprehension. Each one of us needs some form of guide to conduct us through the various hazards and challenges of life. In our infancy we had a parent to perform this function, later we are assigned instructors by school systems, but the best mentor is the one we seek out ourselves because we desire to know or share in the knowledge they possess.

How much information should someone have before they should be willing to share? Taking a page from the Dalia Lama's discourse on the year 2012, "We live in an age that is very fast paced as well as often times chaotic and confusing. One hundred years ago, the average person took in about 600 impressions a day that caused action or reaction in thought or deed. Today it is estimated that the average person takes in about 60,000. Needless to say, it is easy to see why stress and anxiety levels are so high and physical and emotional well-being is so low." Any information one has should be shared, especially with those who desire to learn it.

How should members of the Scottish Rite instruct those around them? Brother Samuel Langhorne Clemens had the proper approach to answering this question when he said true learning takes place best, on a log with a student on one end and a teacher on the other. In the greater sense of the expression, if we replace the log with the life experience, the best form of instruction that a member of the Scottish Rite can offer his fellow man is through example. As is intoned to the Entered Apprentice (in some jurisdictions) as he receives his first charge: "The world will know the tree by its fruit". Each member of our fraternity should look upon themselves as a lens for the world as a whole to look into the heart of our organization. As is written in this degree's lecture section of "A Bridge to Light", "One of the more subtle lessons taught is the importance of the transmission of knowledge. That which a man knows, dies with him. Civilization is based upon human progress, which itself depends upon knowledge acquired

in one generation being transmitted to subsequent generations."

In summation, as "Intendants of the Building" each of us is charged with the transmission of the knowledge we gain to another which can build upon what we learned and then transmit the "new" information to others. This is not limited to Masonic knowledge. If given the opening, take a few moments to discuss with the next generations the meaning behind the special days of May, June, and July.

John B. McKelvy, 33° IGH
Venerable Master
Gulfport Lodge of Perfection



On April 19, Brother and Mrs. Robert Dwaine Johnson, 32° and Brother and Mrs. Leland Tyler Thomas, 32° received the Cap and Ring of the Rite from Brothers Paul Daughtery, 32° and Scott Posey, 32° of the Valley of Gulfport

VALLEY OF MERIDIAN

The best of the Valley of Meridian is coming soon. Submit your stories, ideas, news articles, and photos—community or masonic, we celebrate YOU!

THE MAGNOLIA TROWEL OF MISSISSIPPI



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