

# MICHIGAN TRIPLE TAU

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons  
of Michigan

P. O. Box 483  
Hale Michigan 49739-0483  
989 728.5384

[elcemccray@yahoo.com](mailto:elcemccray@yahoo.com)

Paul Howell, Editor  
608 W. Pantera Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85210-8321  
520 233.1540  
[ghpmi97@gmail.com](mailto:ghpmi97@gmail.com)

*March*  
*2016*



Michigan Grand Chapter Web Site  
[www.grandchaptermi.org](http://www.grandchaptermi.org)

*Official Publication of the*  
**Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons**  
**of Michigan**



**Chapter**

**Council**

**AΩ**

**All Degree Day**

**Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 37**  
**Royal Arch Masons**



invites all to a  
**Reception**  
and  
**Dinner**  
honoring



**Excellent Companion**  
**DANIEL L. TRUMBULL**

Grand Chapter Region III  
Meritorious Service Award Recipient

Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Samaria Masonic Temple  
1660 Samaria Rd.  
Samaria, MI 48177-0002

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Reservations required in advance --  
with payment!  
*Not later than April 18<sup>th</sup>!!!!*

Make Checks payable to:  
Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 37

Mail to:

Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 37  
P.O. Box 2  
Samaria, MI 48177-0002

**Kalamazoo County Masonic Center**

4371 West "U" Ave.  
Schoolcraft, MI

Saturday, March 5, 2016

Policeman's Breakfast beginning at 7:30 am  
Registration: 8:00 am

**Mark Master Mason Degree 8:30 am (Promptly)**

Followed by **Past & Most Excellent Masters**  
**Degrees.**

**Lunch: 12 noon. \$10.00 donation**  
**(Rainbow Girls of Kalamazoo).**

**50/50 DRAWINGS**  
**PROCEEDS TO RARA & CMMRF**

**RAM Degree begins at 1:00 pm**

Short break

**Royal, Select & Super Excellent Masters Degrees**

**Commandery Degree & Orders will be**  
**Conferred -Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Battle Creek.**



*Donald L. Galway*

**Grand High Priest**

**LADY SHERRY**

22365 N. Latson      Howell 48845  
517.618.7390    [dgalway12000@yahoo.com](mailto:dgalway12000@yahoo.com)

**"COMMUNICATION IS KEY"**

## Comments and Observations From The Grand East

So here I sit, February 20, 2016 the temperature outside is 57 degrees, the sun is shining, and I am listening to the hum of my generator. DTE Energy is telling me that I can expect to have power at 1130 22 February 2016. I started my article last night about 7:15 I finished the heading and the power went out. Normally, my power comes back in about an hour, not this night. Lady Sherry and I retired early, powerless and awoke the same way, hence the generator hum. There are two things one should keep handy in Michigan in the winter storm and wind nights. 1) a can of starting fluid 2) a screw driver. I like most people do not start my generator once a month so the starting fluid is a must and the screw driver is to remove the air cleaner. The one thing I do is to run the generator carburetor dry before I store it. I also make sure the gas that is left in the tank is treated with Sea Foam, I find it works better then sta-bail. Ok so now that you know my tail of woe, let me get on with the article.

The month of February could not have started out better than it did. On Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup>, a seven-degree day, was held at the Flint Temple, 14 new Companions were treated to some of the nicest degree work I have seen in a while. I congratulated the cast at that time and would like to do so again here. These Companions were joined by three more to receive the Cryptic degrees, which were performed in like fashion of the Capitular degrees. The day was a great day for York Rite Masonry in we now have 17 new Companions in the fold. I would encourage the chapters that have these new members, to mentor and teach these them what a pleasure they can receive with a little work, and taking part in the work. Once again I congratulate those that performed the work and those that received the work on a great day.

The next weekend we were in Caro for the Annual George Washington Celebration, I could not think of a better place to take Lady Sherry for a romantic Valentine celebration although she has other ideas on this subject. The meeting went well with all of the officers' work being completed on time and we finished with enough time to discuss subjects that were not on the agenda. Our hostess did an admiral job with the lunch menu with the help of our other Grand Ladies again a job well done. This was the first year in many that we did not experience whiteout conditions in Caro. The sun shined all day and it was a brisk -7 degrees in the mornings, but no snow. Caro Chapter No. 96 done a great job on the dinner and Robert Conley was the keynote speaker and as always he did a fine job. I would like to also congratulate the members of Caro Chapter No. 96 and Gerry Thorp for an excellent and fun filled evening.

Mark your calendars March 5<sup>th</sup> Schoolcraft Chapter is hosting a seven-degree day. There will be coffee and donuts beginning at 7:30 am. Registration beginning at 8:00 am. The MMM Degree will commence at 8:30 am followed promptly by the Exemplifications of the PM and MEM Degrees. Lunch will be at noon for a donation of \$ 10.00, with the proceeds going to the Rainbow Girls of Kalamazoo. We will be having two (2) 50 / 50 drawings, with the proceeds going to RARA and CMMRF. The RAM Degree will begin tentatively at 1 pm and at the conclusion of the Exemplification of the Royal Arch Degree, we will have a short break followed by the three Council Degrees. Food will be made available after the RAM Degree for those that may be arriving for just the Council Degrees. At this they are still checking out our robes and such. Three floods have damaged some of the costumes, so it is suggested that you bring your own, if possible.



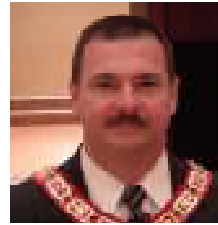
## HOWARD DUKE

R.E. GRAND KING

734.847.7032

[howardduke929@gmail.com](mailto:howardduke929@gmail.com)

King's Korner



## RICHARD HITCH

R. E. GRAND SCRIBE

517 S Sybald St., Westland MI, 48186

734 612.4809 [richhitch62@gmail.com](mailto:richhitch62@gmail.com)

Scribe's Scratches



This article is dedicated to the memory of a outstanding man, mason, husband, father, and friend. Perry J. Parker was all of that and more for those who knew and loved him. He was a man of good humor, honest, faithful, and dedicated to the craft and his family. He was also an excellent Educational Officer. Whenever Perry presented educational material to the craft, he captivated the total attention of those present with material of interest that everyone enjoyed.

Perry was a member and Past Master of Sylvania Pyramid Lodge #287 F&AM, Sylvania, Ohio; Past Thrice Illustrious Master of Toledo Council #33 R&SM, Toledo, Ohio; Past High Priest of Fort Meigs Chapter #29 RAM, Toledo, Ohio; Past High Priest and duel member of Mt. Vernon Chapter #37 RAM, Samaria, MI; Past Commander of Toledo Commandery #7 KT, Toledo, Ohio; Past Governor of Southeastern Michigan York Rite College #19 Milan, MI., and member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Toledo. Perry was also a recipient of the Knight York Cross of Honour and Order of the Purple Cross. He was also made a Kentucky Colonel.

Perry did extensive traveling to numerous Grand York Rite Sessions, including Michigan, with his best friend, Most Excellent Companion, James Jerry Vann. I had the privilege to have travelled with these two distinguished Companions to several Grand York Rite Sessions several years ago. The most memorable time was when my wife Carole travelled with us to the Grand York Rite Sessions in Kenai, Alaska in 2004. Although their Session was small compared to ours, we truly had a great time. They rolled the red carpet out for us. They even had a wonderful program for the ladies, one I'm sure the ladies will never forget. For those who knew Perry, he was a lot of fun.

Perry was born October 18, 1940. He worked 44 years for General Motors, Power Train in Toledo. He married the love of his life Sharon, October 22, 1982. They had three sons and five grand children they truly adored.

The Great Architect called him home January 17, 2016. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Communication! We hear about it over and over again. We have heard it time after time, but how many of us know what communication is or how to do it?

Merriam-Webster simply defines communication as: *the act or process of using words, sounds, signs or behaviors to express or exchange information or to express your ideas, thoughts, feelings, etc., to someone else; a message that is given to someone by a letter, telephone call, etc. OR the ways of sending information to people by using technology.* Sounds simple enough, right?

There are a few objectives to keep in mind when you communicate through the Chapter; First, the purpose for a communication is to increase the level of awareness. Second, reward performance. Third, provide an opportunity to participate by identifying problems and work on their resolution. Forth, build an organizational culture that results in openness, honesty, trust and respect.

All of us know the simplest form of communication, talking to each other. However, how many of us know how to communicate to our members as an organization?

The first thing to understand about communication, is to know what it is you want to communicate; is it just information about the status of the Chapter, the events of the Chapter, or the welfare of an individual? Once you know what you want to communicate, you need to decide what the most effective method of communication would be. There are three main methods of communication; Verbal Communication, Written Communication and Non-Verbal, Non-Written Communication.

Verbal communication should be made simple, direct and every word made to count. You should use simple phrases so as not to be misunderstood and avoid fluff by sharpening your sentences and using a quick summation. When verbally communicating in person, you should also use eye contact, body language and a clear voice. Verbal communication can be done person to person, by phone, or as a group discussion. Most importantly, when you are verbally communicating to others as the source of information, know when to stop talking. Talking to much will cause the conversation to become one-sided and the listener to lose interest.

Written communication is often looked upon as an unpleasant chore, however, if you think about it, written communication should be a bit easier since you do not have an audience in front of you, you are alone with .....

Continued Page 5 col. 1.



**Louis C. McCray, PGHP**

**Grand Secretary**

P.O. Box 483

Hale, MI. 48739-0483

989.728.5384

[elcemccray@yahoo.com](mailto:elcemccray@yahoo.com)

*Secretary's Scribbles*

**Grand Chapter Web Site:**

<http://www.grandchaptermi.org>

Aah, here comes March, and with it the promise of spring. Or, even if winter lasts several more weeks, we have the promise of spring training, where every team is a potential World Series winner, at least until the first week of April when the real baseball season starts.

March is the time to shake off the winter doldrums and as the weather warms up, so should your chapter begin to heat up its activities. Many of the chapters that have been closed for a few months during the winter open their doors in March to begin again the work in the quarries, well rested and refreshed.

Also in March is the start of our dues collection season. Chapter Secretaries should be receiving their Chapter dues cards around the middle of the month and hopefully they will have dues notices mailed out by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. Chapter Secretaries, this is a reminder that per capita assessments will be going up by \$2.00 for the 2016-2017 year. One dollar is the Grand Chapter increase that was previously approved at the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter 7 or 8 (?) years ago (I guess I'll have to look that up) and the other dollar is for the first dollar of a \$2.00 increase for the General Grand Chapter approved at the 2014 Triennial Convocation with the second dollar to begin in 2018.

Upcoming statewide events include a combined Royal Arch Masons and Royal & Select Masons 7 Degree Day scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> in Schoolcraft and the East Central Regional Conference of the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International and General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons international at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

The new Grand Chapter and Chapter Directory is available online in the "downloads" section of the Grand Chapter website, [grandchaptermi.org](http://www.grandchaptermi.org). Chapter High Priests and Secretaries, please look over the information for your chapter carefully. If you find any errors in chapter location, meeting time, or officers including contact information, please let me know by email and I will make the necessary corrections. As we are so close to the end of our Capitular Year, we did not amend the Living Past High Priest list for each chapter. The living PHP list will be brought up to date when the 2016 Annual Returns are brought in.

Companions All

As of this date, the total travel reported by all District Deputy Instructors is 10,652 miles.

13 Masters Pins presentation reports have been received from the following Chapters; 2, 27, 37, 42, 51, 85, 111, 116, 123, 125, 130, 182 and 188.

23 Schools of Instruction were reported to have been conducted with the following Chapters; 3, 6, 12, 15, 17, 22, 25, 27, 30, 37, 42, 47, 51, 69, 74, 83, 85, 102, 103, 116, 123, 139 and 173.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis D. Scott Jr., P.H.P.

Exec. Director

District Deputy Instructors

*Hitch Continued Page 3, Col 2.*

your thoughts. To start, put all reference data in a caption and start with the main point and build your communication from there. Write as if you were talking to someone at lunch not writing an essay for college. Get the facts and say what you mean! Use lots of specifics to illustrate your point. If you cannot get all the information you need from the papers on your desk, use the phone to find out more. Use short sentences. The ordinary reader can only take in so many words in one gulp before his eyes come to a brief rest at a period. The same should be practiced when communicating through emails.

Another form of *written* communication could be considered *Social Networking*. Online social media is an economical, comprehensive, and responsive way to connect with young professionals. Despite community awareness efforts to march in parades; sell hot dogs at an event; social networking is proving to be among the most successful of strategies to connect potential members with the Craft. By hosting an interactive website, social media page, and other venues, a Chapter can generate online public awareness and press releases; discuss and answer common questions in open forums or blogs; and generally get connected to the 21<sup>st</sup> century where potential members are in a position to interact and learn about Freemasonry. Today's potential member has limited time and we need to meet their time restraints in order to gain their interest.

Non-verbal / Non-written communications deal more with the way we conduct ourselves; how we dress; and how we interact with others. This communicates, in-part, who we are and what we stand for; do we believe in what we are doing? Actions speak louder than words!

No matter which method you use to communicate, the important thing is to keep the lines of communication open! Also, remember that you can also use more than just one method to communicate, and most importantly, be positive in everything you communicate.

# EVERLASTING IMPRESSIONS

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### GRANDPA'S HANDS

This will give you a lot to think about!!

Grandpa, some ninety plus years, sat, feebly, on the patio bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat, I wondered if he was OK.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was OK. He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine. Thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to him.

"Have you ever looked at your hands," he asked. "I mean, really, looked at your hands?" I, slowly, opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never, really, looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making.

Grandpa smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled, and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back.

\* As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer.

\*They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots.

\*They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent.

\*They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son.

\*Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone, very, special.

\*They trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle.

\*They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body.

\*They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw.

\* And, to this day, when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and, again, continue to fold in prayer.

\*These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life.

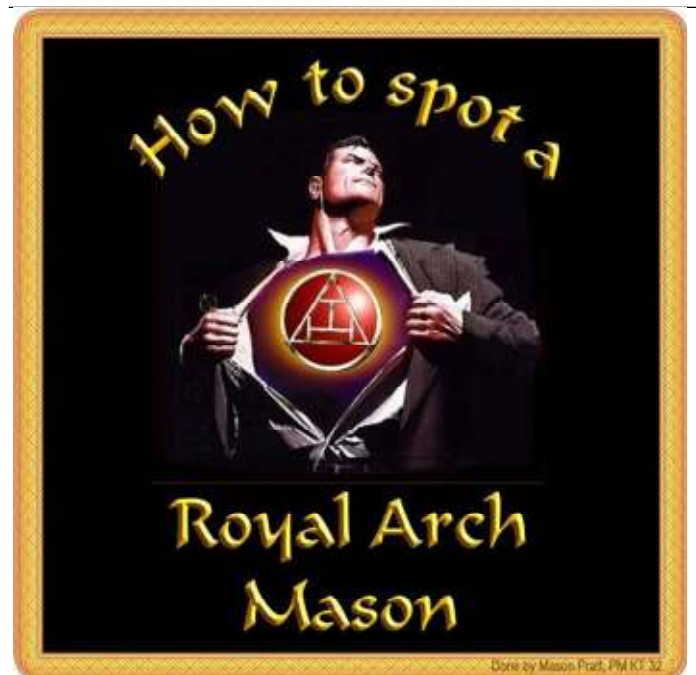
\*But, more importantly, it will be these hands that God will reach out and take hold of when he leads me home.

\*And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of God."

I will never look at my hands the same again. When my hands are hurt or sore I think of

Grandpa. I know he will be stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I, too,

want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.



Be not afraid to spread the word.  
Let the Brothers within your Lodge and the  
Lodges which you assist know that you are a  
Royal Arch Mason that is assisting them.  
Make sure you are carrying a petition!

2016 East Central Conference March 12, 2016 Guest Meal Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ladies Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Dietary requests \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your meal reservations from the following selections:

7:00 AM	Breakfast	No. _____ @ \$15.00= \$ _____
12:00 noon	Ladies Luncheon & Program	No. _____ @ \$21.00= \$ _____
12:00 noon	Companions Luncheon	No. _____ @ \$21.00= \$ _____
5:00 PM	Social Hour (Cash Bar)	
6:00 PM	East Central Banquet	
	Sirloin Steak	No. _____ @ \$38.00= \$ _____
	Seared Salmon	No. _____ @ \$38.00= \$ _____
	Grilled Portabella-Vegetable Stack	No. _____ @ \$38.00= \$ _____

**Recommended Dress** for the Banquet is Coat & Tie for the men and Church Dress or Nice Slacks for the ladies.

Registration Fee (men only) \$ 15.00  
 TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Brian K. Himes**

\*\*\*\*\* **NOTICE: Meal reservations must be postmarked by February 27, 2016.**

**All Meal reservations postmarked after February 27, 2016, are subject to a Late Fee of \$25.00.** Meal reservation cancellations will be honored prior to March 8, 2015.

Please forward all meal reservations with remittance to: **Brian K. Himes**  
 24584 Laetham Avenue, Eastpointe, MI 48021-1046  
 email : [bhimes617@aol.com](mailto:bhimes617@aol.com) Cell 586-764-0379 Home 586-772-5582

**East Central Conference**  
**Grand York Rite Session**  
**March 10-12, 2016**

Doubletree Hotel Bay City Riverfront  
 Attn: Reservations Department  
 One Wenonah Park Place, Bay City, Michigan, 48708  
 Phone: 989-891-6000 Fax: 989-891-9680

**Cut Off Date: February 18, 2016**  
**Check-In Time is 3:00PM**  
**Check-Out Time is Noon**

**Please Note:** Reservation request must have been received, in our office by midnight on the above cutoff date, in order to guarantee the group rate. Request received after the above date will be subject to availability and the group rate is not guaranteed. All reservation requests must be accompanied by a first night room deposit, or guaranteed by a major credit card. Rooms will not be reserved unless secured by one of the above methods.





## Heritage Award

# Michigan Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons

[www.grandchaptermi.org](http://www.grandchaptermi.org)

Send completed application to:

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan

1200 Wright Ave, Alma MI 48801

By assignment of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons, with the gracious permission of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan, the Grand Chapter has launched a program called "The Masonic Heritage Medal". This award is known as the Lewis award in other jurisdictions. The Son will receive a medal and the father a pin to wear on their jacket.

Ancient lodges perpetuated the symbolism of "Lewis" by recognizing the significance of a Mason's son following the Masonic Direction of his father, thus becoming a "Lewis" Mason.

We have replaced that designation with our own recognition which we have chosen to call the Masonic Heritage Medal, assigning the same prestigious symbolism to our recipients as sons of Masons in early times.

This award is free of charge and will be presented by a current or Past Grand Officer of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan.

Recipients must meet the following outlines:

- Both fathers and sons must be masons in good standing
- Step fathers and step sons must both be masons
- Grandfathers and Grandsons must both be masons
- Both Fathers and sons must be present at the time of presentation
- Must have an application filled out and turned in to the Grand Chapter

### The Origins of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day celebrates the Roman Catholic feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. St. Patrick died on March 17, 461. But did you know that he wasn't even Irish?

Patrick's birthname was Maewyn. He was born in Roman Britain. He was kidnapped into slavery and brought to Ireland.

He escaped to a monastery in Gaul (France) and converted to Christianity. He went back to Ireland in 432 as a missionary. While Christianity had already taken hold in the country, tradition has it that Patrick confronted the Druids at Tara and abolished their pagan rites, making Christianity more widespread.

Patrick became a bishop and after his death was named Ireland's patron saint. Celebrations in Ireland were understated though. When the Irish emigrated to the U.S., they created the bigger celebrations and parades known today.

Eighteenth century Irish soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War held the first St. Patrick Day parades. The celebrations became a way for the Irish to connect with their roots after they moved to America.

#### Fun Facts:

**The shamrock:** According to legend St. Patrick used the three leaf clover (or shamrock) to explain the Trinity.

**Dyeing the river green:** The practice of dyeing the river green started in Chicago in 1962, when city officials decided to dye a portion of the Chicago River green.

**Corn beef and cabbage:** This is an Irish American dish. Irish Americans were so poor they could not afford certain meals. On St. Patrick's Day, the best meal they could afford was beef and cabbage. It became a staple for the holiday.



# **Heritage Award Michigan Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons**

[www.grandchaptermi.org](http://www.grandchaptermi.org)

Lodge Name and Number:

Secretary's Name, telephone #:

Recipients name:

Grand lodge ID #:

Telephone number:

Email:

Fathers name:

Fathers lodge ID #:

Telephone number:

Email:

Please send to:

**Grand Chapter R.A.M. Secretary**

1200 Wright Ave.

Alma, MI 48801

Or

Via email: [dgalway12000@yahoo.com](mailto:dgalway12000@yahoo.com)





**EDWARD P. JAMES**  
**LADY VERA**  
 M. J. Grand Master  
[edward\\_james32@yahoo.com](mailto:edward_james32@yahoo.com)



[www.rsm-mi.org](http://www.rsm-mi.org)

**ANTHONY M. CHAMBERLIN**  
 P.M.C.M.  
 Grand Recorder  
 1-810-329-0810  
[migr2009@sbcglobal.net](mailto:migr2009@sbcglobal.net)

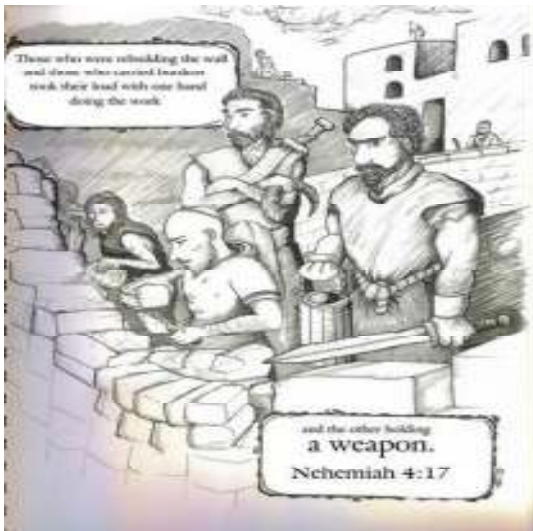
Since joining the ranks of the Royal and Select, I have heard on occasion, companions making inquiries and/or comparisons about our symbolism used in Cryptic Masonry.



“Officially”, in Michigan we simply use the broken triangle and trowel. However, in some jurisdictions, the sword is incorporated into their logo. So what’s the story with the sword? Good question.....

Curiously, the only mention that I’ve been able to find binding the use of a weapon while laboring in some sort of construction, is a scripture found in the Old Testament of the Bible, Nehemiah 4: 17-18 which states,

*“They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side, and so builded.”*



Judah was one of several provinces which was a large administrative unit within the Persian Empire during the 5th century BC. The capital of the empire was at Susa. Nehemiah was the cup-bearer to king [Artaxerxes II of Persia](#), which was considered to be an extremely important official position.

At his own request Nehemiah was sent to Jerusalem as governor of Yehud, the official Persian name for Judah. As we all know, Jerusalem had been conquered and destroyed by the Babylonians in 607 BC, which transpires toward the end of the Super Excellent Master Degree. Nehemiah finds it still in ruins, and his task is to rebuild the walls and to re-populate the city, centuries after the carrying away of the captive Jews to Babylon.

He faces opposition from three powerful neighbors who plot to attack Jerusalem; the Samaritans (Sanballat of Samaria), the Ammonites (Tobiah the Ammonite), and the Arabs (Geshem the Arab), as well as the men of the city of Ashdod. Despite hostilities, Nehemiah manages to rebuild the walls, which necessitates the Jews working with weapons in their hands, and then purifies the Jewish community by enforcing its segregation from its neighbors and enforces the laws of Moses.

Much symbolism can be drawn from this allegory. Suffice it to say that no matter which is used, the great lessons taught and learned by those of the Royal and Select; Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and justice, far outweigh any need to determine “to sword, or not to sword”!



# GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

**Albert F. Johnson**

**R. E. Grand Commander**

8787 Crawford Rd. 3501  
Columbus, MI. 48063  
(586) 727- 3501

[ajohnson48063@yahoo.com](mailto:ajohnson48063@yahoo.com)



**Grand Recorder**

**Loren A. Winn, PGC**

P.O. Box 822, Pinckney, MI 48169-0822

734) 878-1714

[tkmaster4@netscape.net](mailto:tkmaster4@netscape.net)

## GRAND COMMANDERS CORNER --- March Message

British philosopher and mathematician Bertrand Russell (1872-1970), in his defense for atheism, wrote in his book, *Why I Am Not A Christian*, and gave the logical conclusion to the atheist's worldview.

"That man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labors of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius, are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of the universe in ruins. . . . Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built."

This pitiful statement is as good as it gets for an atheist. This is not just sad, it is the epitomy of hopelessness, despair and irrationality. At least Russell stated the truthful despair of the atheist worldview. However, even Russell could not live consistent to his own worldview. He was involved in social movements to protect man from destroying the earth through nuclear weapons. I wonder why? Because, contrary to his belief that life was meaningless, his heart innately knew life was valuable and worth fighting for.

So next time you run into a atheist, instead of running from his rantings and attacks on Christianity, begin moving into the various fields of his irrationality with piercing questions revealing the failure of his worldview to offer explanations about life, meaning, value, and the universe. Something is fishy about his worldview and we should, with compassion and mercy, make him face the irrationality and logical conclusion of his position. As we do, offer to him the truth that God has given us the answers to the big questions of life, and He has done so with reasonable and coherent explanations.

As Christians, we have the answers to the big questions of life. We need not apologize or shrink back from sharing them. It is time we begin declaring those truths with humility and boldness. *Let us lower the draw bridge and leave the safety of our ecclesiastical castles and take the truth of Scriptures to the masses in the marketplace!*

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### When was Presidents' Day 2016?

It depends on where you are. Presidents' Day or George Washington's birthday? The common myth is that Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays, both in the month of February, morphed into one "Presidents' Day" in 1968 when Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act to create more 3-day weekends for federal employees and to stimulate the economy. The truth is that some states have since adopted the name "Presidents' Day," neither Congress nor the President has ever stipulated the name of the holiday observed as "Washington's Birthday" be changed to "President's Day." Each year, we officially observe Washington's Birthday on the third Monday in February. Ironically, the holiday can never fall on Washington's actual birthday, February 22d, because the third Monday will always fall before that date.

Adding to the confusion is the whole question of the actual date on which George Washington was born. In fact, he was born in Virginia on February 11, 1731. However, in 1752, Britain and all its colonies scrapped the Julian calendar, then in use, and adopted the Gregorian calendar. Washington's birthday was moved a full year and 11 days ahead to February 22, 1732.

So, what do we care what it's called? We care because this federal holiday honors the accomplishments of the man we know as "The Father of our Country." Celebrated for his leadership in the founding of the nation, he was the unanimous choice to become our first President. The holiday also has special meaning for those of us who are Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, because it pays tribute to the general who created the new nation's first military decoration for the common soldier, the Badge of Merit. To commemorate George Washington's 200th birthday in 1932, the U.S. Army created the Purple Heart medal, with Washington's likeness on its face, to recognize the sacrifice of soldiers who are killed or wounded on the battlefield. As with Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Washington's Birthday offers all Americans another opportunity to honor our nation's veterans.