

On the Sesquicentennial of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Jersey

In a membership certificate issued May 2, 1786, by a lodge that had been established in Baskinridge in 1767, by authority of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, its membership is designated as “Of the Ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of No. 10 ROYAL ARCH LODGE of registry, held at Baskinridge in the County of Sommerset in the State of New Jersey, by virtue of a warrant from the Grand Royal Arch Lodge of Philadelphia.” It certifies that the bearer, John Ludlow, has been entered, passed and raised to the Sublime degree of Master Mason in that lodge. The officers and members of the lodge took a prominent part in the organization of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey that same year. Nova Caesarea Lodge No. 10, Cincinnati, Northwest Territory was granted a warrant in 1791 (receiving it on December 1, 1794) where Bro. John Ludlow was named senior warden. The first installed master of Nova Caesarea Lodge No. 10 was a companion of the Royal Arch and was installed by two Royal Arch Masons.¹

The Grand Lodge of New Jersey also warranted Washington Lodge No. 12 in New Brunswick on January 6, 1794. In 1804 additional correspondence was received from Nova Caesarea; Grand Lodge agreed “to establish a Royal Arch Chapter of the higher order of Masonry under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge,” signifying the relationship of the capitular order to the symbolic order.² Thereafter, in 1805, M.W. John Beatty, Grand Master, granted Washington Lodge No. 12 a dispensation to hold a Royal Arch chapter. At the Annual Communication, Nova Caesarea Lodge No. 10 surrendered its warrant and participated in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Washington Lodge No. 12 and Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 27, both of New Brunswick, would merge as Union Lodge No. 12 at that location.³

The Mark degree was first conferred in New Jersey under the authority of the Craft warrant of St. John’s Lodge No. 1, Newark in January 1805. St. John’s

¹ Roy S. Denslow & Turnbull, *History of the Royal Arch*, v. 2, p. 1037- .

² *Proceedings, Annual Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Jersey*, [hereinafter *PrNJ*] 1886, p. 167ff” The Grand Lodge committee reported (November 13, 1804):

“The Committee have considered the subject referred to then, under full impression of the great impression attached to it, and are of the opinion that, as well from the small number of the brethren now present who have attained that degree, as their own want of experience, and also the shortness of the time to obtain information relative thereto, they cannot at this time devise such a plan as they feel perfect freedom and satisfaction in reporting to be adopted.

Notwithstanding, they would submit, that if a sufficient number of brethren of that degree will congregate themselves and undertake to open an Chapter under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, that they have liberty so to do, at such time and place as they may think proper, giving notice thereof to, and having permission therefor, from the Right Worshipful Grand Master.”

Only 19 brethren attended that Grand Lodge session. It is not known how many of them may have been Royal Arch Masons.

³ [Smith, Edward Y.], *History of Freemasonry in New Jersey* [hereafter *HFNJ*], Burlington, 1987 pp. 12-13. Sources are the respective Proceedings of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge for the mentioned years.

Lodge had been warranted on May 5, 1761 by the Provincial Grand Master for New York under the authority of the premier Grand Lodge of England 1752-53. The reference to the Mark degree may be found in the accounts and ledger sheets during 1805-08 when at least 18 members of St. John's Lodge paid \$3 for their Mark initiations.

At least two members of this Mark lodge became charter members of Washington Chapter No. 1, Newark. Ezra Ames, General Grand Scribe, General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, granted a petition on May 26 1813 upon the recommendation of Fredonia Chapter, New York City. The warrant was issued on September 11, 1819 with Jephtha Baldwin of Cincinnati Mark Lodge No. 1, Hanover, and later master of Union Mark Lodge No. 2 as the first scribe. J.N. Cumming, Past Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey, served as the first High Priest of Washington Chapter.⁴

This chapter later became Newark Chapter No. 2 and consolidated with Union Chapter No. 1, Newark (chartered by General Grand Chapter on September 12 1850), on September 17, 1853.

The Grand Lodge never took formal action on the formation of Mark lodges⁵. However, it considered and approved the formation of chapters under its jurisdiction. Solomon's Chapter No. 2, was chartered by General Grand Chapter in 1813, attached to Washington Lodge No. 12 under the authority of the Grand Lodge.⁶ A jewel in the archives of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, testifies to the existence of Orange Mark Lodge No. 13, Paterson, as early as 1806.

Cincinnati Mark Lodge No. 1 and Union Mark Lodge No. 2 held the distinction of the first Mark warrants issued by the General Grand Chapter, in New York City

⁴ In addition to M.W. J.N. Cumming, Comp. John E. Ruckle was installed as Excellent King. He was largely instrumental in establishing Washington Chapter No. 1 and acted as High Priest from the very beginning as M.W. Bro. Cumming was not well-versed in the work of the chapter and probably served only in an honorary capacity. He served as High Priest in his own right in 1814.

⁵ McGregor, David, Grand Historian, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Jersey. "History of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Jersey," *Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Jersey PrNJ, 1931*, p. 15: "There is nothing on record to show where these two Mark Master Lodges derived their authority to organize and do work; there is not doubt, however, but that New York Grand Chapter has something to do with it." Denslow & Turnbull, *op. cit.*: "Not satisfied with existing under the permission of a grand lodge that was apparently not disposed to officially identify itself with, or supervise the work of, the chapter, in 1808, they applied to the deputy grand high priest of New York for a warrant for a regular chapter, to be known as Solomon's Chapter, who in response thereto, and acting on the recommendation of the officers of Jerusalem Chapter No. 8, of New York, granted a dispensation in the name of the Grand Chapter of New York. The grand chapter did not sustain his action, for on February 7, 1809, it refused to grant a warrant, as the chapter was to be located outside their territorial jurisdiction. They recommended that the grand high priest of New York, who at the time was the general grand scribe of the General Grand Chapter, should grant a dispensation in the name, and by the authority of the General Grand Chapter. It was not until the year 1813, that a warrant was finally issued to them as Solomon's Chapter No. 2, of New Brunswick."

⁶ Peacher, M.D., William G., "Mark Masonry in New Jersey, *Miscellanea*, Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States, XI Part 2, 1977. McGregor, *op. cit.*, p. 18: Dissatisfied with the lack of support from Grand Lodge, Masons of New Brunswick petitioned, in 1808, the Grand Chapter of New York for a warrant for Solomon's Chapter. New York declined but recommended that their Grand High Priest, who was also General Grand Scribe of the General Grand Chapter, grant a dispensation to form a chapter. General Grand Chapter issued the warrant in 1813.

on June 6, 1816. The minutes of Union Mark Lodge, covering the period December 17 1812 to June 27, 1815, were located in 1931 in the archives of Orange Chapter No. 23, formerly in East Orange. Orange Chapter No. 23 was chartered in 1869 but merged out of existence in 1983.⁷ Present location of its archives is reported to be with those of Union Chapter No. 7. The minutes of Union Mark Lodge No. 2 were in the handwriting of Dr. Daniel Babit, Past Grand Master of Masons (1856).⁸

The General Grand Chapter, at the triennial session in 1816, also granted a dispensation to Franklin Chapter No. 3. On September 10, 1819, General Grand Chapter granted a charter to the chapters in New Jersey to constitute a Grand Chapter. The General Grand Chapter reported that it appeared there were two Royal Arch chapters in New Jersey working under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter and one (Brearley in Bridgeton) working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, which did not recognize the General Grand Chapter. Since three chapters were required to form a Grand Chapter, a dispensation was granted for Franklin Chapter No. 3.⁹ The institution of a Mark Lodge in Morris County in 1811 paved the way to organize Franklin Chapter in Whippany in 1824. R.W. John Scott, Deputy Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge would serve as High Priest, M.W. Jephtha B. Munn¹⁰, Past Grand Master, as Excellent King, and Jacob Wilson as Excellent Scribe. In addition, R.W. John S. Darcy, Deputy Grand Master, was one of the twelve other charter members. Its warrant was issued by the General Grand High Priest, DeWitt Clinton, governor of New York. The only records of Franklin Chapter activities occur in conjunction with St. John's Day celebrations on June 24, when it would join with Cincinnati Lodge (now No. 3) for dinner. When the anti-Masonic agitation of the mid-1820s began, the local newspaper, *The Palladium of Liberty*, referred, with a touch of sarcasm, to "the Lodge at Whippany as being above the vulgar multitude of Masons, it being a Chapter of the Royal Arch."¹¹

First Grand Chapter of New Jersey

⁷ *PrNJ*, 126th Annual Convocation, 1983, p. 7

⁸ Voorhis, Harold V.B., "100th Anniversary of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of New Jersey, 1856-1956," *PrNJ*, 1960, pp 60-61.

⁹ Albert Mackey and William Singleton, *History of Freemasonry*, The Masonic History Co, New York, 1898, p. 1525.

¹⁰ *Outline History of Chatham Lodge, No. 33*: Jephtha B. Munn (1780-1863), physician. Made a Mason in Paterson-Orange Lodge No. 13, 1804. Worshipful Master, Cincinnati Lodge No. 17, 1809-1814; charter Worshipful Master, Chatham Lodge No. 33, Chatham Twp, NJ, 1814 until 1819. The lodge surrendered its warrant in 1824. Returned to Cincinnati Lodge, affiliated with St. John's Lodge No. 2. Elected Senior Grand Warden 1818-20, Grand Master 1821-24. Received Bro. La Fayette at Elizabeth NJ September 24, 1824. He organized the Morris District Medical Society in 1816 and elected president in 1820. A fellow of the State Medical Society in 1828, Munn was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly 1810-14 and to the Legislative Council (State Senate) 1835-36, serving as vice-president and acting Governor 1836. In 1837, Munn participated in constituting the St. John's Grand Lodge in New York in competition with the regular Grand Lodge. For this act of schism, he and M.W. John Darcy, PGM were censured by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey in 1842. This censure was rescinded in 1845.

¹¹ McGregor, *op. cit.*, p. 21. Newspaper Archive Project, New Jersey Collection, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

A call for representatives of the three chapters to meet to form a Grand Chapter appeared in the *New Jersey Eagle*, of Newark in December 1824. The representatives were to meet at the house of Ellis Noe in Elizabeth on January 5, 1825. The following officers participated:

Washington Chapter No. 1

John E. Ruckle, M.E.H.P.
Joseph Munn, E.P.K.
Simeon Baldwin, E.S.
Benjamin W. Tucker

Franklin Chapter No. 3

John Scott, M.E.H.P.
Jeptha B. Munn, E.S.
Baxter Sayres, P.R.A. Captain
William Scott, E.P.S.

Solomon's Lodge No. 2

Elias J. Thompson, M.E.H.P.
Joseph Dilks, E.K.
David Smith, E.P.S.

After organizing and adopting a constitution, the following officers were elected:

John E. Ruckle¹², M.E. Grand High Priest
Elias J. Thompson,¹³ Deputy Grand High Priest
John Scott,¹⁴ Grand King
Jeptha B. Munn, Grand Scribe
Joseph Warren Scott LL.D¹⁵., Grand Secretary
Jacob Wilson, Grand Treasurer

¹² John E. Ruckle born New York City 1775, exalted in Jerusalem Chapter No. 8, R.A.M, in New York, 1806, King, 1809. Worshipful Master, Washington Lodge No. 12, New York, 1810. Installed as first Deputy Grand Royal Master of Columbian Council of Royal Masters of the City of New York on September 2, 1810. He relocated his bakery to Newark in 1811 and affiliated with St. John's Lodge as "an Ancient Mason" on January 22, 1812. M.E. Companion Ruckle received Companion the Marquis de Lafayette, who had also been exalted in Jerusalem Chapter No. 8, in Newark on July 15, 1825. He constituted Franklin Lodge No. 53, Camptown, Newark, on November 14, 1826, representing the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. He died October 3, 1836 and is buried in the family plot at Trinity Episcopal Church, Newark, of which he was warden.

¹³ Elias J. Thompson, attorney, was Worshipful Master, Union Lodge No. 12, New Brunswick; assisted at its resuscitation as Union Lodge No. 19 in 1850. He served the Grand Lodge as Grand Visitor, 1830-43.

¹⁴ John Scott was Worshipful Master, St. Tammany Lodge No. 18, Morristown, Deputy Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge 1824, Junior Grand Warden, 1825 and 1826

¹⁵ Joseph Warren Scott, LL.D. Born November 21, 1778, New Brunswick. Son of Dr. Moses Scott, senior surgeon, Continental Army. Graduated Princeton College, 1795. Appointed secretary, Union Library, New Brunswick, 1796. Admitted to practice law 1804. Served as captain, War of 1812. Society of the Cincinnati, 1825, Treasurer-General, 1838-1871. Founder, Bank of New Brunswick, 1810; trustee, Presbyterian church, 1822. Initiated Jerusalem Lodge No. 40, Plainfield, June 7, 1824, Worshipful Master, 1827. Constituted Lafayette Lodge No. 49, 1825. Exalted, Solomon's Chapter No. 2, New Brunswick. Grand Secretary, 1825. Grand Master, Grand Lodge of New Jersey, 1830-1834. Affiliated Union Lodge No. 19, New Brunswick 1853. Died April 27, 1871. Scott Chapter No. 4 named in his honor.

Simeon Baldwin, Grand Marshal

The Grand Chapter was consecrated in Solomon's Chapter No. 2, at New Brunswick on Monday, May 9, 1825, with R.E. Richard Pennell, Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of New York officiating, on instructions from the General Grand High Priest, M.E. DeWitt Clinton.

The first activity of the new Grand Chapter was to take part in the St. John's Day celebration in Newark. They processioned from the chapter room at the Newark Academy to Trinity Episcopal Church for an address by Rev. Dr. Feltus on the character of St. John the Baptist. While expressing his support for the principles of the Royal Arch, Rev. Feltus deplored "the dishonor which has been brought on it, through the loose and incautious manner in which candidates had been admitted." Bro. Feltus issued words of warning that were in the nature of a prophecy of the storm of persecution that was about to break over the Craft.

Anti-Masonic Turmoil

The proximate cause of the political and social turmoil that would forever change the character and appearance of American Freemasonry was the kidnapping of Comp. William Morgan, a member of the Royal Arch chapter in LeRoy, New York.¹⁶ He had signed a petition to establish a new chapter in Batavia but someone crossed his name out before the Grand Chapter acted, excluding him as a charter member. He naturally resented this and, in a spirit of revenge, told his brethren that he and David C. Miller, a printer in Batavia, would publish an expose of the ritual work of Freemasonry. Morgan was spirited out of New York, apparently to Canada, and did not reappear. A hue and cry arose that he had been killed, a hue and cry abetted by politically ambitious individuals¹⁷ and the press. This might not have had any impact beyond western New York except that the incident happened at a critical juncture of religious and political forces in American society that had been building for a quarter century.

Dating from George Washington's administration as president of the United States, Freemasonry had occupied a privileged position in American society. Washington had favored his Continental veterans, members of the Society of the Cincinnati and the military lodges, for appointments to government positions, largely to the exclusion of all others. The case of his orderly, Major James Grant, responsible for the story of Washington kneeling and praying in the snow at Valley Forge, a brother of the American Military Lodge, charter senior warden at the consecration of Tennessee Lodge No. 2, who was appointed to a

¹⁶ Muir, R. Keith, "The Morgan Affair and Its Effect on Freemasonry," *Ars Quatuor Cornatorum*, v. 105, 1992, pp. 217-234 is probably the most informed and factual treatment of this event available.

¹⁷ Principally, Thurlow Weed and William Henry Seward. Seward would end his political career as United States Secretary of State in the Andrew Johnson (a Freemason) administration and be most famous for negotiating the purchase of Alaska from the Russians. The political leader of New York's Democratic party, Martin Van Buren (a Freemason), would expose how many leaders in the Anti-Mason/Federalist Adams camp were themselves Freemasons.

postmastership in Tennessee, was typical.¹⁸ This perceived privilege caused resentment among ambitious non-Masons. By the 1820s, opposition to the candidacy of Andrew Jackson, led by confirmed anti-Mason John Quincy Adams, had reached a stage of violence. When Jackson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee and a Royal Arch Mason¹⁹, finally bested Adams in 1828, he was accused of filling many of his appointments with fellow Masons.

With Washington as the exemplar, Freemasonry assumed a position of 'civic religion' in society with its emphasis upon public virtue, unity and restraint above faction. Their philosophy seemed to deny original sin and affirm human progress through science, enlightenment, and obedience to a Supreme Architect of the Universe calling men to their destiny. The destiny to be made manifest was the building of a more perfect earthly union represented as a glorious pyramid reaching toward heaven²⁰ A spirit of German universalism, especially after the merger of the two Grand Lodges in England in 1813, supplanted, by the decree of the Grand Master, the solely Christian focus of the Craft lodge and the Royal Arch in England. As a practical matter, English lodges had begun to admit Jews to membership 50 years earlier; Catholics were slowly reintegrated back into social life with the end of the Stuart threat to the monarchy. An enforced nonsectarian, universal approach served to ameliorate disputation in the lodge. Americans tended to follow English opinion in matters Masonic even if formal ties existed no longer.

Americans loved building not ruin, the future not the past, while sin, death, and tragedy were unnatural, even embarrassing in a New Jerusalem. Traditional, orthodox Christians thought death a passage from the Church Militant to the Church Expectant. But Americans were already expectant, believing heaven on earth just a matter of time and deeming moral progress, like material progress, a matter of will.²¹

American churches had largely shaken off their subservience to foreign religious (and government) bodies by the time national political independence had been achieved. Established churches, such as the Congregationalists in Connecticut and the Anglican in Virginia, were soon disestablished. For example, most Dutch Reformed had declared independence from the Netherlands by 1755 and founded Queens College (Rutgers) in New Brunswick in 1766 to educate their clergy. Presbyterians did likewise and founded a college in Princeton for their adherents. In Philadelphia, a patriot Anglican rector, William White proposed to organize a Protestant Episcopal Church along federal lines, provide for the election of bishops, and draft a republican Book of Common Prayer. While a

¹⁸ A silver Master's jewel, presented by Washington to Grant, by then the postmaster of Grantsborough, Tennessee, is held by the collections of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

¹⁹ Snodgrass, Charles A. and Bobby J. Demott, *The History of Freemasonry in Tennessee*, Knoxville, 1994, p. 295. Although not a member of any Royal Arch chapter, Andrew Jackson probably received his degrees in a Craft lodge. He officiated as Deputy Grand High Priest at the consecration of the Tennessee Grand Chapter in 1826. He had been admitted to membership in the Grand Lodge in 1822 on the basis of having received the Past Master's degree, an acceptable practice at the time, and was subsequently elected Grand Master.

²⁰ McDougal, Walter A., *Freedom Just Around the Corner: A New American History*, HarperCollins, New York, 2004, pp. 332-333.

²¹ McDougal, *ibid*, p. 449.

House of Bishops was incorporated into the Episcopal Church in 1789, it was largely governed by lay vestries and diocesan standing committees with the power of the purse. Even Bishop John Carroll in Baltimore was successfully to assert American episcopal authority with Rome in 1797. The churches did not await the revivals of the 'Second Great Awakening' of the 1800-20s to 'Americanize' Christianity. Smart clergymen did that themselves when they saw the way to succeed in a new environment was to embrace civic religion. The sure way to fail was to suggest the American dream was mundane, hypocritical, or idolatrous.²²

Western New York also saw the rise of unorthodox forms of Christianity. It has been observed that western New York in the 1820s served a national cultural function not unlike that of San Francisco in the 1960s. Joseph Smith and his brother founded a movement called Latter-Day Saints in this environment. Nevertheless, Smith and his followers would adopt Masonic organizational principles and administrative practices to manage their movement.

However evangelical Protestantism proved the fiercest competition and would imprint itself deeply and indelibly onto American Freemasonry and the Royal Arch in particular. Evangelicals preached hellfire to pioneers who refused to mend their ways but never failed to offer the mercy of a forgiving God through the atonement of His son. Gatherings became exciting social as well as spiritual events. Their message, like Andrew Jackson's in the political arena, was vague but universal reform. To old-fashioned rationalists, they seemed like hucksters more intent on trolling for money or hawking tracts.²³ Conservative Christians rejected revivalism and its multiplication of sects. In religious as in secular culture, the building blocks of a national temple seemed not to fit with one another. Only in the unfinished Capitol in Washington City could the representatives of all the people meet to resolve differences; even here the poor acoustics hindered communication.

Evangelicalism permitted, even encouraged, preaching and participation by women and blacks. Freemasonry, with its strict prohibition against female membership, or even entrance into the lodge room abetted by the secrecy maintained about happenings in the lodge, excited the suspicions and hostility of wives.²⁴ Evangelicals followed up with efforts to sanctify converts, inveighing especially against alcohol, gambling, and sexual promiscuity.²⁵ Thus would go by the wayside the English and European Masonic tradition of the festive board when American lodges and Royal Arch chapters tried to reconstitute themselves

²² McDougal, *ibid*, p. 328.

²³ Hatch, Nathan O., *The Democratization of American Christianity*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1989, p. 13: 'To old-fashioned Puritans they seemed like politicians trolling for votes: "They measure the progress of religion by the numbers who flock to their standards, not by the prevalence of faith and piety, justice and charity and the public virtues of society in general."' Cf. also Hatch, pp. 220-226. Richard Hofstadter, *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life*, Knopf, New York, 1962, p. 80: 'To be successful, the evangelical preacher had to simulate to some degree the sensibilities and prejudices of their audiences – anti-authority, anti-aristocracy, anti-Eastern, anti-learning.'; p. 84: "revivalism succeeded where traditionalism had failed."

²⁴ Bullock, Steven C., *Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order, 1730-1840*, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1996, p. 181.

²⁵ MacDougal, *op. cit*, p. 382.

in the 1850s. The prohibition against alcoholic beverages adopted by most Grand Lodge constitutions and the staid, even churchlike format adopted for lodge and chapter meetings with its semimonthly recitation of catechism ritual severely constrained the potential to sustain enthusiasm. As evangelicalism led churches and colleges to give up the idea that religion is part of the life of intellectual experience, the so-called rational studies were abandoned to the province of science alone.²⁶ As an institution that shared many of the same roots, the lodge likewise abandoned the sciences. What the Awakening preached was a religion of the sort most Americans craved, a religion of the heart promising instant improvement in every household and community, the blessings of heaven in this life, in America, perhaps even “the complete moral renovation of the world.”²⁷

The commingling of races that evangelicalism promoted inspired a conservative reaction. The question of slavery, its continuance or abolition, divided Freemasons nationally as well as in New Jersey and would lead to violence and turmoil far in excess of anything to come from the Morgan imbroglio.

The Demise of the First Grand Chapter

Hiram Chapter No. 4, Trenton, received a charter from the Grand Chapter of New Jersey on May 18, 1825²⁸ and continued to work under it until the General Grand Chapter declared the charter of the Grand Chapter forfeited, as well as all the charters of subordinate chapters, except that of Hiram Chapter.²⁹ It held its first meeting in Trenton on June 13, 1825 with Thomas L. Woodruff, M.E.H.P., Charles Burroughs, E.K., and John C. Chambers, E.S.

Lafayette Chapter No. 5, Paterson, was chartered on November 9, 1825.³⁰ Sussex Chapter No. 6, in Newton, was warranted on November 14, 1827. Brearley Chapter was invited to participate in the organization of the Grand Chapter and offered a warrant free of cost but declined. A communication was received from Salem Lodge No. 19 regarding the use of the lodge room for a chapter. Lodge minutes for August 1, 1827 refer to the offer of the Lodge-room “to the Chapter of the county at a yearly rental of thirty dollars.”

The Grand Chapter continued to function under very adverse conditions until its last convocation in Trenton on November 8, 1836. The Grand Chapter and its constituent chapters, save Hiram, ceased to function. The United States

²⁶ Hofstadter, *op. cit.*, p. 87

²⁷ Sprague, William, *Lectures on the Revivals of Religion*, 1833, at McDougal, p. 511.

²⁸ Hiram Chapter No. 4 and No. 1, R.A.M., “The First Minute Book,” *PrNJ*, 119th Convocation, 1975, p. 37. The first High Priest was Thomas L. Woodruff, president of the Trenton Bank, the Principal Sojourner, John Mershon, clerk at the bank, and the Grand Master 3rd Veil, Garrett D. Wall, attorney and later Governor of New Jersey.

²⁹ King, E.A., “New Jersey,” *Masonic Chapter Pennies*, Quarterman Publications, Lawrence, MA., 2nd ed., 1981, p. 169.

³⁰ In 1874, Adelpic Chapter No. 33 in Paterson would resurrect the Ark and Squares of the former Lafayette Chapter. *PrNJ*, 19th Annual Convocation, p. 19. Letter from George Scott to Thomas J. Corson, August 24, 1875: Charter officers of Lafayette Chapter were Andrew Parsons, MEHP, John Vail, E.K, Baltus Winters, ES. Parsons was elected Grand Secretary in 1827 and Grand Scribe in 1829. In *PrNJ*, 100th Annual Convocation, p. 59, 1957.

experienced a severe economic depression beginning in 1837, which effects were felt for a decade. Only the discovery of gold in California restored liquidity to the economy. Washington Chapter No. 1, having become dormant in 1830, attempted to revive itself in 1840, holding a meeting and electing new officers. The New York Grand Chapter, aware of the irregularity, interdicted Masonic communication with it. Washington Chapter attempted another revival in 1843 with a request for dispensation from the General Grand Chapter but this failed in less than six months. Thus passed into history what had been the most prosperous chapter in New Jersey, one which counted among its many members some of the most prominent citizens of Newark, such as Elias E. Boudinot, Lewis Atterbury, William B. Kinney, and several Past Grand Masters. The Grand Lodge of New Jersey was not immune to these conditions: by 1841, only eight lodges continued to function with a total membership of 162.³¹

General Grand Chapter, at its session on September 17, 1841, adopted a resolution advising Hiram Chapter to place itself under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of New York. General Grand Chapter also advised the Grand Chapter of New York to regularize the proceedings of Hiram Chapter subsequent to the dissolution of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey (done October 30, 1841). On February 28, 1839 Joseph Howell Hough was exalted in Hiram Chapter. He had been raised in Trenton Lodge No. 5 the previous year and six months later became Deputy Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge. He was elected Grand Secretary in 1843, a position held until his death on December 15, 1890, -- 53 years in office. He also served Hiram Chapter as secretary until his election as Grand Secretary.³² In 1849-50, Hiram Chapter changed its meeting location to Eatontown. In July 1853, Hiram Chapter requested to be placed directly under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, a request that New York was only too happy to grant. On September 11, 1856, Hiram Chapter was chartered directly subordinate to the General Grand Chapter.

Meanwhile, the Deputy General Grand High Priest issued a dispensation to Union Chapter No. 1 (Newark), March 13, 1848 and to Newark Chapter No. 2, on March 20, 1848.³³ Both chapters received charters of direct subordination on September 12, 1850. On September 17, 1853, Newark Chapter No. 2 was merged with Union Chapter No. 1. Union Chapter had two Past Grand Masters and the Deputy Grand Master among its charter members. Newark Chapter had four Past Grand Masters and the Junior Grand Warden among its charter membership. By 1856, attendance had fallen to such a degree that the chapter considered surrendering its warrant. In Salem County, a group of Masons petitioned the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania for a warrant, which after careful consideration at its Grand Convocation on August 18, 1856, it declined.

³¹ *HFNJ*, p. 16.

³² *PrNJ*, 119th Annual Convocation, pp. 37-38.

³³ *PrNJ*, 24th Annual Convocation, 1880, p. 7: Daniel B. Bruen (December 25, 1795-March 3, 1880) was exalted in Washington Chapter No. 1, Newark, September 25, 1817, a charter member and first High Priest of Newark Chapter No. 2 upon its organization under dispensation by General Grand Chapter, June 24, 1848. Affiliated with Union Chapter No. 1 with the merger. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, 1841-43, Deputy Grand Secretary 1847-48. John R. Weeks (October 18, 1817-September 6 1879) was exalted in Union Chapter No. 1, October 11, 1850, served as High Priest 1852. Attorney. Elected Clerk of Essex County.

The peculiar condition of Royal Arch Masonry in New Jersey continued for some considerable length of time, and was not satisfactorily settled until the warranting of the present Grand Chapter on February 13, 1857. This unusual situation mirrored turbulent conditions in the Grand Lodge. Enterprise Chapter No. 2, Hiram Chapter No. 4, and Boudinot Chapter No. 5 petitioned the General Grand Chapter to warrant the new Grand Chapter.³⁴

The Anomalous Situation of Brearley Chapter³⁵

Members of Brearley Lodge No. 9, had become members of chapters in Philadelphia, and “desiring to cultivate and adorn the Royal Art, to extend, improve, and embellish its practical labors, and animate with a determination to raise our honorable institution to the dignity and estimation which it has a right to claim”, they petitioned Brearley Lodge for permission to work under their warrant and in their Lodge room, which was not only agreed to on October 16, 1815, but the lodge loaned them \$150.00 to enable them to secure the proper regalia, jewels and implements and also agreed to pay half the cost of necessary furniture and changes in the lodge room to suit their requirements.

Brearley Chapter was organized under the authority of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey but consecrated by officers of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania on April 18, 1816 when 39 candidates were exalted to the Royal Arch degree.³⁶

General James Giles, the first High Priest of Brearley Chapter, had been Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York before relocating to Bridgeton. He organized and served as first Worshipful Master of Brearley Lodge and eventually became Grand Master of Masons of New Jersey. He was a member of Chapter No. 51 in Philadelphia.

Peter Bilderback, the first Excellent King, belonged to Chapter No. 52 in Philadelphia, and James D. Westcott, Excellent Scribe, was a member of Chapter No. 3. While authorized under a New Jersey lodge warrant, Brearley Chapter was organized and run in accordance with the rules of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania. The chapter declined to meet with representatives of the other two chapters in New Jersey to discuss the formation of a Grand Chapter unless the General Grand Chapter suspended its interdiction of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania. Companion Giles mentioned in a letter to Washington Chapter a meeting in May 1817 with *Companions* McKissack and Deare on the subject of a union. McKissack was Grand Master of Masons of New Jersey. While no record exists that Brearley Chapter ever received a warrant from the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, it considered itself a constituent member thereof.

The High Priest of Brearley Chapter applied to visit the Grand Chapter in 1825 and 1827 to present resolutions to advance the cause of union but was rebuffed so nothing came of the effort.

³⁴ Mackey and Singleton, *op. cit.*, pp. 1526-1528.

³⁵ McGregor, *op. cit.* pp. 20-21. *PrNJ*, 47th Annual Convocation, 1903, p. 38. *PrNJ*, 97th Annual Convocation, 1954, “Grand Historian’s Report,” p. 44-45.

³⁶ Register, I. Layton, *PrNJ*, 1903, p. 36ff.

Brearley Chapter went dark in late 1833 due to anti-Masonic activities and did not resume labor until April 1851 when members applied to the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania for a renewal of their warrant. That Grand Chapter stipulated that the permission of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey would have to be obtained, which it was, and the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania once more installed the officers of the chapter.

Reformation of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey

On September 23, 1854, the General Grand King, Charles Gilman, issued a dispensation to form Enterprise Chapter No. 2 in Jersey City and on February 23, 1856, the General Grand High Priest, Robert P. Dunlop, issued another for a chapter at Burlington to be known as Boudinot Chapter No. 5. Freemasonry had just been revived in that city, after nearly 70 years, with the re-establishment of Burlington Lodge No. 32, on January 10, 1855.

At the triennial session of the General Grand Chapter, on September 11, 1856, warrants were issued to Enterprise and Boudinot Chapters. They, in association with Hiram Chapter, proceeded at once to plan for the organization of the present Grand Chapter. On December 30, 1856, 14 representatives met at Odd Fellows' Hall, Burlington. The meeting was presided over by M.E. Malanzo J. Drummond,³⁷ Past High Priest of Brooklyn Chapter No. 148, Grand Chapter of New York. The following officers were elected:

William H. Doggett (2), Grand High Priest³⁸
George A. Tator³⁹ (4), Deputy Grand High Priest

³⁷ "Organization of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of New Jersey," *PrNJ*, 3rd Annual Convocation, 1859, pp. 1-9. Malanzo J. Drummond was directly responsible for the formation of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey and the Grand Commandery. Born England 1810. Relocated to New York, 331 Grand St, manufacturer of regalia. Editor, *The Masonic Messenger*. Cousin to Josiah H. Drummond of Maine, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, K.T., of the United States and simultaneously Sovereign Grand Commander, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Later General Grand High Priest, General Grand Chapter. Raised Munn Lodge No. 190, New York, charter member Lebanon Lodge No. 191, 1847. Charter member Doric Lodge No. 280, New York, Worshipful Master 1855. Affiliated Mosaic Lodge No. 418, New York, 1860. Probably exalted Orient Chapter, New York. Charter member, Metropolitan Chapter No. 140, New York, 1852. Charter High Priest Brooklyn Chapter No. 148, 1854-56. Charter member Washington Council No. 1, R&SM, New York; Grand Master of Council, 1854. Knighted Palestine Commandery K.T. No. 1, New York; charter commander, Morton Commandery No. 4, New York, 1853; charter commander Hugh de Payens Commandery No. 1, Jersey City, 1858. Coroneted 33, signed Oath of Fealty to Northern Jurisdiction AASR, 1867-68.

³⁸ William H. Doggett, 1814-April 25, 1890. Raised in Portsmouth (VA) Lodge No. 100, 1843. Relocated to Jersey City and affiliated with Hiram Lodge No. 17, served as Worshipful Master, 1857, affiliated Bergen Lodge No. 47, served as Worshipful Master 1859. Exalted in Enterprise Chapter No. 2, 1854, High Priest 1856, Charter member Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 8. Grand Lecturer, Grand Chapter, 1858. Knighted in Hugh de Payens Commandery No. 1; member Commandery No. 16. First Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Knights Templar of New Jersey, 1859. Served three months. Buried with full Masonic honors in Jersey City.

³⁹ *PrNJ*, 18th Annual Convocation, p. 7: George A. Tator, June 3 1819, Columbia Co. NY – August 15, 1874, Jersey City NJ. Raised Washington Lodge No. 9, Eatontown, Past Master. Exalted

William Wallace Goodwin⁴⁰ (3), Grand King.
Daniel S. Sinclair (2), Grand Scribe
Leopold Lithauer, Grand Treasurer
Ferdinand Brother (3), Grand Secretary
Sheldon C. Smith (3), Grand Guard

Drummond installed the Grand Chapter officers in Lyceum Hall, Jersey City on February 13, 1857 in accordance with a warrant issued by General Grand Chapter on January 24, 1857. Drummond exalted, then installed his friend Doggett as both Grand High Priest and Grand Commander. The first Annual Convocation of the new Grand Chapter was held at Eatontown on September 9, 1857 where the Grand officers were re-elected and Scott Chapter of New Brunswick was warranted. The chapters were renumbered, with Hiram given the first number. Scott Chapter was given the fourth number. The chapters in the new Grand Chapter composed about 135 members.⁴¹

A warrant was granted at the Annual Convocation in Burlington on September 3, 1858 for a new chapter in Trenton to be named Three Times Three: Charles E. Higginson, M.E.H.P., Thomas J. Corson,⁴² E.K, and John Woolverton M.D.⁴³,

Hiram Chapter No. 4. Selected as Deputy Grand High Priest at resuscitation of the Grand Chapter in 1856.

⁴⁰ *PrNJ*, 46th Annual Convocation, 1901, p. 10: William Wallace Goodwin, b. April 13, 1833, Wethersfield, Connecticut, d. October 6, 1901. Raised Burlington Lodge No. 32, 1855, Exalted Boudinot Chapter No. 2, Burlington, NJ, elected High Priest 1857. Elected Grand High Priest 1859. Charter High Priest, Siloam Chapter No. 19. Co-founder, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Jersey 1859, elected Grand Commander 1871. Commander-in-chief, Excelsior Consistory, Valley of Camden, A.A.S.R., coroneted 331 1870.

⁴¹ The *Proceedings* show 111 (with one duplicate). M.E. Harold V.B. Voorhis, in 1944, laboriously counted the records of each chapter to arrive at 135. Brearley and Union chapters would have added about 66. Accurate statistics has never been Grand Chapter's strong suit.

⁴² Thomas J. Corson, M.D. Born New Hope Pa, 1828. Educated at the University of Pennsylvania. Initiated Amwell Lodge No. 12, 1854, demitted to Trenton Lodge No. 5, served as Worshipful Master in 1859 as well as High Priest, Three Times Three Chapter No. 5. Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter, 1861-2, while serving simultaneously as Senior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of New Jersey, at the age of 32. Elected Grand Secretary 1873. Founding Thrice Illustrious Master, Gebal Council No. 4, 1860, Grand Master of Council, 1861, Grand Secretary. Knighted Helena Commandery No. 4, 1859, warranting member Palestine Commandery 1860, Grand Commander, Knights Templar, 1861. Grand Recorder. Valley of Trenton, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, coroneted 33 1, Boston, 1864. Member, New Jersey State Legislature 1867, Superintendent of Schools, Trenton, physician to New Jersey State Prison. Died May 10, 1879.

⁴³ John Woolverton, M.D. Born Stockton, 1825. Educated at Lafayette College, University of Pennsylvania medical school, 1849. State senator 1870-71, mayor of Trenton 1886. Trenton Lodge No. 5, Worshipful Master 1861-62. Exalted Boudinot Chapter No. 3, 1858; affiliated Three Times Three Chapter 1859, High Priest 1859-1860. Philadelphia Council No. 11, R&SM, 1859; affiliated Gebal Council 1861, Thrice Illustrious Master, 1868. Knighted Helena Commandery No. 3, 1860; affiliated Palestine Commandery No. 4, commander 1864. Grand Secretary Grand Chapter 1858-1872, Grand High Priest 1874, Grand Treasurer 1879-1880. Grand Commander, K.T., 1868. Received Scottish Rite degrees under the Hays Supreme Council, 1861-62. Coroneted 331, Hays-Raymond Supreme Council, 1864. Charter Grand Secretary, Grand Consistory of the Sovereign and Independent State of New Jersey, 1861-67. New Jersey Consistory, Jersey City, 1867, Excelsior Consistory, Camden, 1884. Coroneted 331, 1882, Deputy for New Jersey, 1882-1885. Died September 14, 1888.

E.S. Amos Howell was appointed Grand Tyler, a post he would hold until 1883.⁴⁴ At this same convocation, Companions Drummond, J.F. Brennan⁴⁵ and Taylor were appointed delegates to the General Grand Chapter. M.E. George A. Tator, the second Grand High Priest, elected at this convocation, secured adoption of a proposal to make *The Book of the Chapter*, by M.E. Albert G. Mackey, the authorized ritual manual for the Grand Chapter of New Jersey.

On September 7, 1859, Brearley Chapter yielded to the overwhelming opinions of the companions in New Jersey and applied to the Grand Chapter of New Jersey for a warrant, which was readily granted, as Brearley Chapter No. 6.

Although Union Chapter No. 1 had attended the convocation of the General Grand Chapter in September 1856 when the warrants for new chapters in Jersey City and Burlington were granted, it maintained an air of aloofness toward efforts to organize a new Grand Chapter. On September 7, 1859, with 66 members on its rolls, Union Chapter became No. 7.

A warrant was also granted on September 7th to Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 8, in the Bergen section of Jersey City: John Hilton, M.E.H.P., E.W. Earle, E.K., and George B. Edwards⁴⁶, E.S. A third warrant on this date was assigned to Harmony Chapter, as No. 9, in Newark: Charles M. Zeh M.D., M.E.H.P., William Mead, E.K., and D.W. Morris, E.S.

Applications for a third chapter in Newark and a second in Jersey City were turned down as overly ambitious. Given the history of chapters in both places in later years, these decisions would show unusual wisdom.

National Dissension

Although the Grand Chapter had healed dissensions within the ranks of Royal Arch Masons in New Jersey, in 1860 the nation at large faced much larger problems. As discord between the northern and southern states exhibited itself, so to did discord in the General Grand Chapter. The proximate cause of the discord resulted from an effort by the General Grand High Priest to adjudicate a dispute between two chapters in the Grand Chapter of Michigan, interfering in the sovereignty of that Grand Chapter.⁴⁷ Albert Mackey, Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Carolina and Albert Pike of Kentucky offered constitutional amendments to limit severely the powers of the General Grand

⁴⁴ *Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of New Jersey*, [hereinafter *PrGCKT*] 26th Annual Convocation, 1884, p. 7: Amos Howell, b. Trenton 1804 – d. December 14, 1883. Raised Trenton Lodge No. 5, 1850. Grand Tyler, Grand Lodge of New Jersey, 1851-1881. Exalted Three Times Three Chapter No. 5, 1858. Grand Tyler, Grand Chapter 1858-1883. Knighted Helena Commandery No. 3, Burlington, 1860. Appointed Grand Captain of the Guard 1860-1883.

⁴⁵ J.F. Brennan, publisher *The American Freemason*, New York. Robert Taylor, resident of Newark, musician and publisher, New York. Very Enlightened Deputy Grand Luminary for New Jersey of The Supreme Constellation of the Eastern Star, forerunner of the Order of the Easter Star and later its Grand Secretary. Author, ritual of the Order of the Amaranth.

⁴⁶ *PrNJ*, 47th Annual Convocation, 1903, p. 9: George B. Edwards. Born Jersey City. Exalted Enterprise Chapter No. 2, Feb. 19, 1859. High Priest Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 8, 1861, Grand Captain of the Host 1861-62, Grand High Priest 1862-63. Elected Grand Secretary 1879. Served until his death on February 6, 1903.

⁴⁷ "Report of Committee on Foreign Correspondence." *PrNJ*, September 7, 1859.

Chapter, which were adopted.⁴⁸ The Grand Chapters of Kentucky and North Carolina withdrew and Texas threatened to do likewise. The Grand Chapter of New Jersey expressed its being “satisfied with our present relations with the General Grand Chapter, but declared our willingness to give up our interest in that Body whenever it was convinced that such action will promote the harmony of the Royal Craft throughout the United States.”⁴⁹

While serving as Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter in 1860, Thomas Corson was impressed with the considerable irregularity in the work of the various subordinate chapters, traveled to Charleston, SC to obtain the correct ritual from the General Grand High Priest, and upon his return presented the results which were adopted by the Grand Chapter as the regular and uniform work in the Grand Chapter of New Jersey. This followed the example in 1858 of M.W. Joseph Trimble, Grand Master, in appointing a Grand Lecturer and selecting the so-called Baltimore Work of 1843 (later referred to as the New Jersey Revised Work) as the standard ritual.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ “Address of the Grand High Priest, “*PrNJ*, 4th Annual Convocation, September 12, 1860, pp. 5-12.: Report on the General Grand Chapter session, Chicago, September 12-19, 1859. Mackey was General Grand High Priest. Pike offered a resolution to invite the Grand Chapters of Virginia, Florida, and Pennsylvania to unite with the General Grand Chapter and to Kentucky and North Carolina to return to the fold. The constitutional amendment stripped the General Grand Chapter of any executive power over the Grand Chapters, leaving it only an advisory and instructional body. An amendment to do away with the Past Master degree failed to pass. A committee was charged to develop a uniform ritual working for all member Grand Chapters. Most interestingly, especially given Pike’s subsequent career, a report was adopted that denied the doctrine that a Grand Chapter could resign from the General Grand Chapter and remain a regular Royal Arch body. Just as the United States Constitution recognized no right to secede from the Union, no Grand Chapter had the right to secede from the General Grand Chapter. In his necrology report, the Grand High Priest noted the passing of R.E. Rev. Thomas Neall, Grand Chaplain, a member of Boudinot Chapter No. 3, and a 50-year Mason.

⁴⁹ *Pr NJ*, September 8, 1858.

⁵⁰ “Report of the Deputy Grand High Priest,” *PrNJ*, 4th Annual Convocation, September 12, 1860, p. 13: “On the 2d of April I went to Washington, D.C. – at the request of the Grand High Priest, and acting as his proxy – for the purpose of attending the meeting of the officers of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, who had been authorized and directed to arrange and agree upon an uniform code of work for the Chapter degrees. I was most courteously received by the General Grand Officers, and attended their meetings closely. But after remaining four days, and finding that I would not be able to obtain any information that would benefit this Grand Chapter, I returned home for causes that cannot be here explained, my visit was entirely fruitless as far as obtaining the work was concerned.” “Address of the Grand King,” p. 15: Union and Harmony chapters were observed working a ritual different than that used by the other chapters in New Jersey. *HFNJ*, p. 20. *PrNJ*, Special Convocation, February 13, 1861, pp. 4-5.

Smith, Edward Y., “The Vault in New Jersey Royal Arch Masonry,” Haddonfield, NJ, Aug. 14, 1971, p. 7: “The first ‘Hindoo’ appeared following 1864 and was based on Gould’s *Guide to the Chapter*. It was published by James L. Gould in Connecticut and instigated by John Sheville...” This work discusses the use of physical vault in the structure of the chapter facility in conferring the Royal Arch degree. In 1971, 35 chapters made use of a physical vault structure for the conferral. Such vault structures can still (2006) be found in the Masonic buildings in Trenton, Haddonfield, and Audubon. Use of the vault structures was discontinued with the rise of insurance liability concerns. The 1872 annual convocation proposed adopting the Sheville ritual; it was formally adopted at the 1904 annual convocation. *Hindoo Theology for use of Missionaries – Rome -1814. [dated approximately 1864] Cf.:* Voorhis, Harold V.B., “Report of the Grand Historian,” *PrNJ*, 93rd Annual Convocation, 1950, pp. 47-50.

In 1860 the Grand Chapter warranted three additional chapters: Cataract No. 10, Paterson, Pentalfa No. 11, Hoboken, Temple No. 12, Phillipsburg (and later Washington). The total Royal Arch membership in New Jersey in 1860 was 419, or about 14 percent of the national membership. By the time of the Annual Convocation in September 1861, the nation was at war with itself, a condition deplored by the Grand High Priest. However, the Grand Chapter adopted a resolution withholding its endorsement of his comments. The committee on foreign relations reported that Grand Chapters in the seceded states appeared to have accepted the political division, albeit often with pain. The most notable reaction to Grand High Priest Corson's remarks came from the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of California, in a widely distributed comment, observed quite fraternally that the remarks '*stinketh in the nostrils of Freemasonry.*' Reports were given of the difficulties in assembling members for New Jersey chapter meetings due to the press of outside activities and the war. Remarkably, through four years of civil war, no mention was ever made of the causes of the war. Nor did the Grand Chapter note any members who were called away to military service or became casualties. In 1865, only the Grand Chapter of Indiana would note, 'with indignation', the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. During the 1861 convocation, action was taken to organize a Grand Council of the Order of High Priesthood.

At the sixth Annual Convocation in September 1862, the Grand Chapter decided to move the meeting date to coincide with that of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters and the Grand Commandery for the convenience of the members of Grand Chapter.

At the seventh Annual Convocation in 1863, perhaps as a consequence of the Civil War, each of four principal Grand officers refused to permit their names to be put into nomination. The companions were then forced to elect a new line from the floor. John Sheville,⁵¹ was elected Grand High Priest. Charles M. Zeh, Grand Principal Sojourner, was elected Deputy Grand High Priest, Edward H. Bird, Past High Priest, became Grand King and John Carter, Grand Master of the Second Veil, was chosen Grand Scribe. At this point, the practice of multiple-years service for a Grand High Priest ceased. When M.E. Companion Zeh turned over the Grand East to John C.G. Robertson⁵² in September 1865, he could congratulate the companions on the return of peace and the issue of warrants to Wilson Chapter No. 13 in Lambertville, and Delta Chapter No. 14 in Keyport. The Grand Chapter stood at 547 members. The Grand Lodge, by comparison, composed 60 lodges with about 3,400 members.

Delta Chapter No. 14, formed by members from Hiram Chapter No. 1, would typify the difficulties faced by chapters in rural areas lacking roads and transportation. Under these conditions, these chapters experienced small memberships, small attendance, and frequent missed meetings. By contrast, the

⁵¹ *PrNJ*, 26th Annual Convocation, 1882, p. 7: John Sheville, January 18, 1824- May 31, 1882. High Priest, Enterprise Chapter No. 2; president, Grand Council of the Order of High Priesthood,

⁵² *PrNJ*, 27th Annual Convocation, 1883, p. 7: John C.G. Robertson, July 22, 1815, Glasgow Scotland – December 3, 1882. Physician, surgeon, British Navy. Immigrated to Paterson NJ, 1842, raised Joppa Lodge No. 29, 1856. Exalted Cataract City Chapter 1860; High Priest 1862-65. Commander, Melita Commandery No. 12.

chapters in the large cities would have the opposite experiences. In 1863, Samuel R. Tyrrell, the Excellent King of Enterprise Chapter No. 2 in Jersey City, and a former city alderman, would die. His funeral would be attended by the entire Masonic membership of Hudson County, lodges in New York City, and the mayor and council.⁵³

Post-war Recovery

The election of M.E. Israel Beach Baldwin⁵⁴ as Grand High Priest in 1866 also brought a petition from Companions in Newton, NJ to form a chapter, the first to be named for a sitting Grand High Priest. Eureka Chapter No. 18 and Siloam Chapter No. 19⁵⁵ would also be warranted during Baldwin's term. The first High Priest of Siloam, in Camden, would be William Wallace Goodwin, a Past Grand High Priest, for whom a chapter in Manasquan would be named in 1882. Baldwin issued an interesting ruling: that if a black cube appeared in a ballot box, the ballot would be reconducted as many times as necessary to ensure that it had not been placed there in error. This ruling would later be addressed in the Grand Chapter constitution to limit reballoting to only two times.

In the Fall, 1867, Three Times Three Chapter exalted two candidates from Wilmington, DE, under dispensation, to permit the constitution of St. John's Chapter in that city. Siloam Chapter exalted one candidate from Smyrna DE. In January 1869, four chapters in Delaware obtained a charter from the General Grand Chapter to constitute the Grand Chapter of Delaware.

The years 1868-1870 saw warranted Boonton Chapter No. 21, Richmond Chapter No. 22 in Millville, Orange Chapter No. 23, and a chapter in Plainfield originally named Lafayette, but then changed to Jerusalem, No. 24. Richmond Chapter formed from members of Brearley located too far from Bridgeton to meet conveniently and was typical in the years before the automobile and improved roads.

A group of Royal Arch Masons petitioned to form a chapter in Morristown, NJ in February 1871, to be known as Morris Chapter. They applied to Boonton Chapter No. 21 for the necessary recommendation, which was not forthcoming as the Boonton Chapter felt the petitioners would infringe upon its jurisdiction. In June 1871 the group again sought to organize, under the leadership of

⁵³ *PrNJ*, 7th Annual Convocation, 1863, "Grand High Priest's Address".

⁵⁴ *PrNJ*, 18th Annual Convocation, 1874, p.. 8: Israel Beach Baldwin, May 5, 1807-August 21, 1874. Raised in St. John's Lodge No. 1, Newark, exalted Union Chapter No. 7, May 31, 1859, High Priest 1863-64. *PrNJ*, 117th Annual Convocation, 1964, "Report of Grand Historian", pp. 48-50: Isaac Baldwin presented Baldwin Chapter in 1873 with a gold representation of the breastplate of Solomon, cost \$2,500. He was a prime mover in the formation of Alpha Lodge No. 116 in Newark and served that lodge as charter senior warden in 1871 and secretary 1873-72.

⁵⁵ The extant minutes of Siloam Chapter may provide a paradigm for how a chapter was formed. Members of Boudinot Chapter in Burlington, but residents of Camden, met, formed a committee, contracted for a meeting place, and petitioned the Grand Chapter for a warrant, which was speedily secured under dispensation. A number of new members were locally exalted and some of the constituting committee members returned to membership in Boudinot Chapter. The December 19, 1870 public installation of the officers of Siloam Chapter would see an attendance of 600 members and guests. Very soon after its constitution, Siloam Chapter saw an influx of members from Atlantic City and Absecon NJ, courtesy of good rail connections.

Companion Theodore F. Randolph of Morristown, Governor of the State of New Jersey and a member of Enterprise Chapter No. 2. To avoid a jurisdictional conflict, they chose the village of Chatham as the seat of the proposed chapter, applying to Orange Chapter No. 23 for recommendation. Morris Chapter was issued a dispensation on July 26, 1871. The Grand Scribe, R.E. P.C. Barker, a physician from Putnam Chapter in Cold Spring, NY, was the first High Priest. The first King, Fred W. Owen, was a physician and member of Lafayette Chapter No. 5, Washington, DC. The remainder of the officers and members hailed from Union Chapter in Newark and chapters in New York. Loss of their meeting place almost immediately forced Morris Chapter to relocate and resulted in the loss of the Grand Chapter dispensation. By December 1871 a new dispensation was granted for the relocated chapter in Madison, subsequently warranted as Madison Chapter No. 27 on September 11, 1872.⁵⁶

By 1872, the Grand Chapter would undertake to publish a "History of Royal Arch Masonry in New Jersey." Despite considerable exertions and the cooperation of the Grand Chapters of New York and Pennsylvania, only a miniscule portion of records of the Grand Chapter prior to 1857 could be found. This year also witnessed the Great Chicago Fire and the fraternal exertions to relieve the distress of companion members resulting from the calamity. The Grand King, R.E. W.H. McIlhanney, would report on visitations to several chapters for exaltations of the Royal Arch degree. He would admonish the chapters on the amount of levity: "it tends to destroy the impressions sought to be imprinted on the minds of the candidates, leading them to believe, that, instead of being *exalted* to the *most sublime degree*, they are being *degraded* to the most ridiculous."⁵⁷

The 1870s saw an increasing number of cross-border memberships with New York and Pennsylvania. Initially, these situations provoked complaints of jurisdictional trespass with demands for redress and compensation.⁵⁸ By the end of the decade a *modus vivendi* was achieved where requests to relax territoriality were routinely dealt with. It was more important to have a happy member than to preserve some artificial jurisdictional distinction.

The Great Depression of 1873 dampened national economic vitality to a significant degree. This suppressed Royal Arch Masonic activity in New Jersey, with a notable effect upon chapters and membership. For example, in 1876, the Grand Scribe reported that Three Time Three Chapter had met only once a year in the previous four years and had not conferred any of the degrees in that time.⁵⁹ This was not a unique situation. Oriental Chapter No. 15, Jersey City,

⁵⁶ *History of Madison Lodge*, chapter 5. *PrNJ*, 17th Annual Convocation, p. 11. The Grand Chapter also warranted Solomon No. 28 in Toms River and Triune No. 29 in Jersey City. At this time, five chapters were working in Jersey City: the first streetcars in Jersey City were still 10 years away.

⁵⁷ *PrNJ*, 16th Annual Convocation, 1872, p. 23, 29.

⁵⁸ *PrNJ*, 44th Annual Convocation, 1900, The trespass of Baldwin Chapter No. 17 on the jurisdiction of Madison Chapter No. 27 would provoke a formal complaint and assessment of a fine of \$40. James H. Durand, Grand High Priest in 1879, died May 25, 1899. Exalted Lafayette Chapter No. 27, 1872.

⁵⁹ *PrNJ*, 37th Annual Convocation, 1893, p. 7: Martin M. Drohan, b. 1835-died May 6, 1893, Red Bank, NJ. Raised J.D. Willard Lodge No. 250, New York. Demitted to Enterprise Lodge No. 48,

surrendered its warrant in 1881 from a lack of member interest. Solomon Chapter No. 28, Toms River, unsuccessfully sought to relocate to Asbury Park, never recovered from the depression and surrendered its warrant in 1885. To avoid a similar fate, Hiram Chapter No. 1 would relocate from Eatontown to Red Bank in 1878. By 1878, there would be 35 constituent chapters with a membership of 2,834, about 23 percent of the Craft lodge membership in New Jersey.

The Golden Age of Fraternalism

The period between the end of the Civil War and the entry of the United States into World War I has been described as the “Golden Age of Fraternalism.”⁶⁰ Spurred initially by the interest of veterans in maintaining some sort of martial camaraderie and later by manufacturers interested in sales of regalia,⁶¹ non-Masonic fraternal organizations such as the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows experienced a tremendous boom in membership.⁶² Hundreds of other new fraternal groups were formed across the nation, some with explicit commercial and insurance focuses. A key aspect of all this growth was the opportunity to ‘dress up’ in military style uniforms and publicly parade. As time wore on, men too young to have served at Gettysburg, Antietam and Vicksburg, but desiring the martial atmosphere, were recruited.

New Jersey Masonic organizations were not immune to this environment. Some participated eagerly, even extravagantly. Concerned about standardization of lodge regalia and clothing, the Grand Lodge established, in 1867, a committee to recommend specifications for collars, jewels and aprons considered appropriate.⁶³ The Grand Chapter followed suit.⁶⁴ Other organizations such as the Knights Templar adopted military style uniforms copied from the Army with swords, capes and flowing hats, ostentatiously called ‘chapeaus’, showing an influence from France’s Second Empire. The Southern Jurisdiction of the Ancient

Jersey City, 1869; Worshipful Master, 1873-1874. Exalted Enterprise Chapter No. 2, Jersey City, 1869; Most Excellent High Priest 1874 Grand High Priest, 1877. Knighted Hugh de Payens Commandery No. 1, K.T., Jersey City; Eminent Commander, 1873-1876. Grand Commander, 1878-79.

⁶⁰ McBride, Harriet W., “The Golden Age of Fraternalism: 1870-1910,” *Heredom*, v. 13, 2005, pp. 117-166.

⁶¹ McBride, Harriet W., “Business and the Brethren: The Influence of Regalia Houses on Fraternalism,” *Heredom*, v. 12, 2004, pp. 163-201. See particularly p. 182 for illustrations of Royal Arch regalia offered by one manufacturer.

⁶² Stevens, Albert C., *Cyclopædia of Fraternities*, E.B. Treat, New York, 1898, 1907. Arthur Preuss, *A Dictionary of Secret and Other Societies*, B. Herder, St. Louis, 1924. Stevens listed almost 600 fraternal groups.

⁶³ *Proceedings, Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of New Jersey*, 1868. At that point, each lodge and chapter in New Jersey wore its own particular apron and collar color and design. At a meeting of the Grand Lodge in 1867, the Grand Master, M.W. William Silas Whitehead, inveighed against the riot of colors, design, fringes (or lack). Visitors of lodges from New York were as chaotic, with apron borders of scarlet or cherry red, orange, yellow, gold.

⁶⁴ *PrNJ*, 18th Annual Convocation, pp. 9-10: The Grand Chapter standardized its own regalia in 1874.

and Accepted Scottish Rite began to elaborate its ritual with magnificent stage settings, flashy costumes and, eventually, new theater-style buildings.⁶⁵ Soon, the Northern Jurisdiction began to copy. The Royal Arch chapters began to purchase similar costumes to add to the pageantry of its ritual work. While the Grand Chapter of New Jersey made no move to standardize these costumes, a degree of uniformity was achieved by the limited number of manufacturers offering costume sets. Some chapter rooms were structurally altered to permit installation of a 'vault' into which a candidate could be lowered but lack of maintenance and several accidents eventually led the Grand Chapter to eliminate their use. These settings hardly rivaled the full-stage productions of the Scottish Rite.

Within the York Rite bodies, the urge to parade and dress up was not greeted with uniform approbation, particularly in the Knights Templar. Older members expressed dissatisfaction; the Grand Encampment of the United States enacted legislation to prohibit public display of the uniform or parading at non-Masonic events. The Grand Encampment declined to regulate the uniform, leaving it to each jurisdiction to do so. When some jurisdictions adopted uniforms copied from those of the Union Army, jurisdictions in some southern states severed Masonic relations. When commanderies were invited to participate in a centennial parade in New Brunswick, New Jersey, state leadership refused to permit it.⁶⁶ When the Grand Encampment paraded through Chicago in 1883 as part of its triennium, 45,000 Knights marched. York Rite bodies in England expressed disapproval of the military-style uniforms and public display of any sort as unmasonic and inconsistent with the principles of the fraternity.

The Past Master's Degree

Mention was made that Andrew Jackson had been elected Grand Master after having been only qualified with the Royal Arch Past Master degree. In 1853, the Grand Lodge of New Jersey adopted General Regulation No. 11, requiring all Masters-elect of lodges to be duly qualified. At the 1864 Annual Communication a question was raised about the necessity of a formal qualification if the Master-elect were a Royal Arch Mason in good standing and if Royal Arch Masons in good standing were competent to be present at the conferral of the Symbolic Past Master's degree. The Grand Lodge adopted the opinion that the Symbolic Past Master's degree was necessary and only those who had received that degree could be present at its conferral at a lodge installation. This question was raised periodically and in 1908, the Grand Lodge ritual committee reported that it could find no basis for a Symbolic Past Master's degree. Its replacement with a qualification ceremony begged the question of its adequacy in comparison with the Royal Arch Past Master degree.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Waszut-Barrett, Wendy Rae, "Theatrical Interpretations of the Indispensable Degrees," *Heredom*, v. 12, 2004, pp. 141-161.

⁶⁶ *PrGCKT*, 26th Annual Conclave, p. 11.

⁶⁷ Voorhis, Harold V.B., "Some Observations on the Symbolic Past Master Degree," *The Quaternion*, K.Y.C.H., February 20, 1942, pp. 65-66.

As mentioned above, Temple Chapter No. 12 would relocate about 1870 to Washington, New Jersey. For a variety of reasons having to do with natural resources, transportation, and labor, Washington became the “organ capital of the world” in the late nineteenth century.⁶⁸ The two largest manufacturers of these elaborate musical instruments located to this rural Warren County town. By the turn of the century, more than 60,000 instruments of all sizes were being shipped annually all around the world. The Steinway Company established a manufacturing annex to its factory in Brooklyn in Washington to take advantage of the labor skills. The membership of the chapter would include all the key manufacturing personnel and the chapter grew significantly.

Henry S. Haines

The term of Henry S. Haines⁶⁹ as Grand High Priest in 1885 saw the York Rite bodies roiled across the nation by an event in Quebec. The Grand Lodge of Mark Masons of England and Wales had chartered a Mark Lodge in Montreal, violating the jurisdiction of the Quebec Grand Chapter, provoking the Grand Chapter to terminate relations with the Grand Mark Lodge and precipitating a crisis across North America. Haines counseled restraint and allowing the General Grand Chapter to mediate the question. Eventually, his influence prevailed and the principle of exclusive jurisdiction was upheld during the following term of Charles Belcher.⁷⁰

The Grand Chapter established by resolution in 1888 the principle that a chapter surrendering its charter would also forfeit all property to the Grand Chapter. This was occasioned by Solomon Chapter No. 28 indicating a desire to give up its charter. Triune Chapter proposed to surrender its charter in 1891 but was dissuaded by considering the consequences. In 1891, 20 percent of the Masons in New Jersey, or about 4,500 would hold memberships in 36 chapters. Amity Chapter No. 31 relocated from Jersey City to Bayonne, New Jersey, giving that rapidly industrializing area its first Royal Arch representation.⁷¹

Past Grand High Priest Haines, proposed in 1893 an approach to nominating Grand Chapter officers that has continued to be utilized. A box is placed on the Grand Secretary’s desk at the beginning of the annual convocation into which the names of nominees are placed. Only those so nominated are voted upon. In the

⁶⁸ Frank, Len, “Organ Capital of the World,” *NJPH*, v. 31, nos. 1, 3, 4, Feb, Aug, Nov 2003.

⁶⁹ *PrNJ*, 29th Annual Convocation, 1885, pp. 21-22. Henry S. Haines, raised Burlington Lodge, Grand Master, Grand Lodge. Exalted Boudinot Chapter No. 5. Grand High Priest, Grand Secretary, Grand Instructor, 1905-1922.

⁷⁰ *PrNJ*, 48th Annual Convocation, 1904, p. 9: Charles Belcher (1844-1904). Raised Newark Lodge No. 7, 1868, Worshipful Master 1880-1881. District Deputy 1887-88. Grand Master 1895. Union Chapter No. 7, exalted 1870, MEHP, 1877-1880. Grand High Priest 1886-87. Grand Secretary 1903-04. Most Illustrious Grand Master, 1881. *PrNJ*, 47th Annual Convocation, 1903, p. 11: Isaac C. Githens. Member, Common Council, Camden NJ, Freeholder, Camden County. Boudinot Chapter No. 3, exalted 1866, dimitted to Siloam Chapter No. 19, Camden, as charter member, MEHP, 1874. Grand High Priest, 1887. Died March 27, 1903.

⁷¹ *PrNJ*, 35th Annual Convocation, 1891. Robert A. Simpson, Grand High Priest 1891. Exalted Mt. Zion Chapter No. 231, New York, affiliated Enterprise Chapter No. 2, Jersey City 1883. Died January 9, 1903.

event of multiple candidates, all names for an office save the two highest vote tallies are eliminated.⁷² In 1902, Haines would chair a special ritual instruction committee that would lead in time to establishing deputy grand high priests.

At the Annual Convocation of 1895 a committee report dealing with the status of the Grand Council of High Priests of New Jersey vis-à-vis the Grand Chapter was debated. The Grand Council had, in 1894, requested to be recognized as a subordinate body. The Grand Chapter elected to take no action until 1924 when the proposition was turned down. The Grand Council evolved into the Council of Anointed High Priests.⁷³

In 1894, at the behest of Progressive reformers the New Jersey legislature determined to change the form of business organization in an effort to encourage more new businesses to form and to better control those already located within the state. Prior to the new legislation, forming a limited liability corporation required enactment by the legislature. The Grand Chapter had been organized as an unincorporated Registered Association, with some of the characteristics of a corporation. Under the new law, Registered Associations were required within five years to incorporate but were 'grandfathered' with respect to the limited liability provisions. Like corporations, associations were required to submit annual reports to the Secretary of State. The Grand Chapter was named in the long list in the law as one of the associations affected. However, with the turnover in Grand Chapter officers, the requirement was soon lost sight of. In 2006 the Grand Chapter had still not completed its transition and, aside from sending copies of the *Annual Proceedings* in the 1990s, had not filed reports in decades.

M.E. Henry G. Wagoner,⁷⁴ Grand High Priest in 1896-97, removed a sitting High Priest of a chapter (Clinton) for neglect and dereliction of duty. The Grand Chapter approved of his action and established a precedent by resolution that a Grand High Priest was inherently empowered to remove any officer within the Grand Chapter for cause.⁷⁵ The particulars of the situation were of minor moment but the ultimate resolution of the conflict involved Hiram E. Deats, arguably New Jersey's most widely known Freemason in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Hiram E. Deats

A 'gentleman farmer' and dealer in agricultural machinery in Flemington, New Jersey, Deats offered Clinton Chapter the use of the lodge room in a building he owned, thus removing a source of discord within the chapter. The chapter remained at this location until 2005, when the Deats Building was sold by heirs.

⁷² *PrNJ*, 37th Annual Convocation, 1893, p. 29.

⁷³ Voorhis, Harold V.B., "Grand Historian's Report", *PrNJ*, 91st Annual Convocation, 1948, pp. 39-40.

⁷⁴ *PrNJ*, 46th Annual Convocation, 1902, p. 11: Henry G. Wagoner, b. August 16, 1829, Stanton, NJ, died July 1, 1901. Raised Solomon's Lodge No. 46, Somerville NJ 1860. Exalted Scott Chapter No. 4, 1863. Demitted to Keystone Chapter No. 25, Somerville, 1871, High Priest 1871-79, 1893-94, 1899-1900.

⁷⁵ *PrNJ*, 41st Annual Convocation, 1897, p. 33 et seq.

Raised in Flemington, Deats received his education at the Peddie Institute in Hightstown, graduating in 1891. A descendant of John Deats, who revolutionized farming with the invention of the Deats plow, Hiram undertook a life far beyond that of a farmer. Deats counted among his circle of acquaintances Presidents Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, King George V of Great Britain,⁷⁶ and James Ludovic Lindsay, the Earl of Crawford⁷⁷ with whom he shared philatelic, literary, and Masonic interests. A world-renowned stamp collector like the others, Deats was a co-founder, at age 16 in 1886, of the American Philatelic Society and served that organization as its president (1904-1905). Deats was a member and officer of the prestigious Collectors Club in New York and a member, and eventually an Honorary Life Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society, London. He was elected to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of the British Philatelic Congress in 1933. Deats sold a large part of his enormous philatelic library in 1952 to the Free Library of Philadelphia. His 19 volumes of typescript copies of the letter books of the Butler and Carpenter printing firm in Philadelphia now reside in the National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution and the Butler & Carpenter revenue stamp proofs are held by the Library of Congress. Having numismatic interests as well, he acquired the Mickley gold half-eagle (\$5.00) of 1822 in 1892, one of three in private hands.

Deats published *The Jerseyman*, a literary newspaper, from 1891 to 1905 and was a co-founder of the New Jersey Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America in 1896 and served that organization as its secretary and other offices until 1916. He became a director of the Flemington National Bank, acquired the local telephone company, member of the County Board of

⁷⁶ "H.E. Deats," *Philatelic Record*, London, 26 (1904), p. 218. "Hiram E. Deats," *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, London, 19:153 (1913). John N. Luff, "Visit of the Earl of Crawford," *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, 1:368 (Jun 10 1905). Philip H. Ward, Jr., "Hiram Deats and His Philatelic Library," *American Revenuer*, 3:12 (Jul 1950). Stephen G. Rich, "Deats Still Going Strong," *The Hollow Tree*, 14:6 (May 1954). Van Dyk MacBride, "Pioneers in Confederate Philately: General Hiram E. Deats, C.S.A. [Confederate Stamp Alliance]," *Confederate Philatelist*, 4:10 (October 1959). Stanley M. Bierman, M.D., "Hiram E. Deats: The Philatelic Farmer from Flemington, New Jersey," *Chronicle of the United States Philatelic Classics Society*, 37:1 (February 1985) pp. 14-17. Anthony Giacomelli, "Hiram Edmund Deats," *American Revenuer*, 51:8 (September 1997) pp. 208-210. Frank Mallalieu, "More Than a Stamp Collector," *American Philatelist*, 112:11 (November 1998) pp. 1043-1045. [Gene Fricks] "More Information on Hiram Deats," *The Philatelic Freemason*, 28:4 (November 2003) p. 1801.

⁷⁷ James Ludovic Lindsay, 26th Earl of Crawford, founded the library and funded the reconstruction of the Royal Observatory at Edinburgh. He donated a 45,000 item library collection to the National Library of Scotland. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London at age 31 and served as president when George V stepped down to become King. Lindsay served in Parliament, first in the Commons as a Conservative from Wigan and then in the Lords when he succeeded his father as Earl. Lindsay became a Freemason about 1866 while a student at Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1886, he was elected Worshipful Master of the lodge at Wigan, where he maintained the family seat. Later, he was made Deputy Provincial Grand Master of West Aberdeen. A member of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, he attained the 311. He perhaps is best remembered for the donation of his superb philatelic library to the British Museum. "The Crawford Collection of U.S.A.," *The Postage Stamp*, 17 (1915) p. 21, 128. "Death of the Earl of Crawford," *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, 18 (1912) p. 257. Ron Negus, "The Earl of Crawford, K.T. A Short Biographical Sketch," *London Philatelist*, 111:12 (December 2002). "The Earl of Crawford," *Philatelic Freemason*, 27:5 (January 2003) p. 1738.

Agriculture, trustee of the New Jersey Historical Society, donated land for the local library and agricultural fair. In 1943, he was elected a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. A strategic location between New York and Philadelphia along a major railroad facilitated Deats' Masonic travels. He was raised in Darcy Lodge No. 37, exalted in Clinton Chapter on March 15, 1893 and anointed in the Council of High Priests on May 8, 1923. Deats served the Grand Lodge of New Jersey as a District Deputy Grand High Priest, elected Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, and was active in the Grand Commandery in New Jersey. He died on March 16, 1963.

John F. Babcock

John F. Babcock, of Scott Chapter in New Brunswick, was far less well-known than Hiram Deats but left as large an imprint upon his city and county. An orphan, Babcock apprenticed to become a printer in the 1840s. It is not known when he came to New Brunswick from the Ohio River region by 1860, he had acquired control of the *Fredonian*, one of the two major newspapers in central New Jersey. Apparently not a wealthy man, he had minor financial interests in such enterprises as the Independent Ice Company, and was a member of the New Jersey Association and State Board of Trade. He was appointed postmaster of New Brunswick on June 7, 1883 and set out to relocate the post office to the first floor of the Masonic Hall at the corner of George and Albany streets. Previously, the post office had been located close to the Raritan River where it was subjected to periodic flooding. By relocating the post office to higher ground, Babcock moved the economic center of the city (and that of Middlesex County), promoting development of a new financial center. Babcock also instituted local postal delivery in the city to ameliorate the impact of the relocation on commercial interests. As a minor note, he displaced from the Masonic Hall the apothecary shop of Dr. Kilmer, the father of poet Joyce Kilmer. Babcock served as postmaster until February 1885 with the election of Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, as president.

20th Century

The Great Fire of Paterson, New Jersey on February 9, 1901 destroyed a large part of the business section of the city, all the Masonic buildings in the city, and deprived Cataract City Chapter No. 10 and Adelpic Chapter No. 33 of meeting places.^{78 79} The fire also destroyed the establishment of the Mackey Printing Company and the plates for New Jersey ritual manual. The fire had a far

⁷⁸ *PrNJ*, 46th Annual Convocation, 1902, pp. 14-15.

⁷⁹ *PrNJ*, 73rd Annual Convocation, 1929, p. 84: William Hires Grosscup, Grand High Priest 1901-02. Born Bridgeton April 4, 1855. Dry goods salesman. Construction inspector, New York Shipbuilding, Camden NJ 1918-21, New Jersey Department of Highways, 1921-1929. Raised Trimble Lodge No. 117, Nov 1889, Worshipful Master, 1895. Exalted Siloam Chapter No. 19, 1890, High Priest, 1895. Van Hook Council, Royal & Select Masters. Cyrene Commandery No. 7, 1892, Eminent Commander, 1907. Valley of Camden, AASR, coroneted 331 1890. Chairman, Grand Lodge committee on jurisdiction of lodges.

more important result as it motivated major changes in building codes and fire protection engineering.

The Grand Chapter received, during the term of Joseph Mason as Grand High Priest in 1903,⁸⁰ the library of the late Grand Secretary, George Edwards, some 3,000 volumes, and gifted it to the Grand Lodge for the formation of a New Jersey Masonic Library at Trenton.⁸¹

In 1905, the question of dependent membership roiled the Craft throughout the United States. Should a Freemason be compelled to maintain membership in a Craft Lodge in order to remain in good standing in a chapter of Royal Arch Masons? The General Grand Chapter left it to each Grand Chapter to decide the question. The Grand Chapter of New Jersey had resolved in 1874 that 'withdrawal from membership in Lodge and remaining as a dimitted Mason does not affect membership in Chapter.' This resolution was affirmed by the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter adopted a district organization in 1905 to better supervise ritual proficiency and provided for a Grand Lecturer and assistants. This development had grown out of an 1892 recommendation to deal with nonuniform instruction.^{82 83} As the various Grand Chapter officers traveled about New Jersey, the coaching and instruction they provided was highly individualistic. In 1913 the title of the assistants was changed to district deputy grand high priest.⁸⁴

During World War I, 480 Royal Arch Masons would serve in the Armed Forces with a loss of six to enemy action or accidents.⁸⁵ After the war, others would join but no statistics were compiled of the total number of veterans. A few New Jersey lodges would attempt to document those of their members who had served in the Armed Forces but no accounting was made of those veterans who were made Masons after the war. By 1930, the Grand Lodge would number 97,080, with 9,651 Royal Arch members in 58 chapters.

The ritual committee recommended to M.E. William H. Lowe⁸⁶ at the 1917 Grand convocation to publish an updated Manual of the Chapter, incorporating

⁸⁰ *PrNJ*, 74th Annual Convocation, pp. 85-86. Born January 18, 1849, Leicester, England. Emigrated to the United States, 1864, settling in Paterson, NJ after 1870. Engaged in silk business and manufacturing regalia and fraternal paraphernalia. Raised Ivanhoe Lodge No. 88, Paterson, 1879. Exalted Adelpic Chapter No. 33, R.A.M., 1882, MEHP 1889-94, secretary 1894-1929. Received Terry Council No. 6, R&SM, Thrice Illustrious Master, 1888-1896. Most Illustrious Grand Master, 1900. Knighted Melita Commandery No. 13, 1884, Eminent Commander 1890-91, Grand Commander, 1912. Jersey City Consistory, AASR, Sovereign Prince, Adoniram Council. Died September 4 1929.

⁸¹ *PrNJ*, 47th Annual Convocation, 1903, p. 35.

⁸² *PrNJ*, 36th Annual Convocation, 1892, Committee on Doings of Grand Officers. Candidates for exaltation were required to show proficiency in the lectures of the preceding degrees.

⁸³ *PrNJ*, 74th Annual Convocation, 1929, pp. 82-83. James S. Ware, Grand High Priest 1908-09. Born Bridgeton NJ February 15, 1862, Bridgeton NJ. Attorney, vice president and director, Cumberland Trust Co. Raised Brearley Lodge No. 2, 1893, WM 1899. Trustee, Grand Lodge, 1917-29. Exalted Brearley Chapter No. 6, R.A.M., 1894, MEHP 1897. Received Van Hook Council No. 8, R&SM; Knighted Olivet Commandery No. 10, 1894. Died August 26, 1929.

⁸⁴ Voorhis, Harold V.B., "Grand Historian's Report", *PrNJ*, 90th Annual Convocation, 1947, pp. 46-47.

⁸⁵ *PrNJ*, 75th Annual Convocation, 1931, p. 43.

⁸⁶ *PrNJ*, 78th Annual Convocation, 1934, pp. 63-63: William H. Lowe, b. 1862, Little Falls, NJ; d. 1933, Paterson, NJ. Doctor of Veterinary Science.. Rutgers School of Agriculture. President,

proposed alterations to the ceremonies and rituals. The Grand Lecturer, Henry S. Haines, PGHP, undertook the work of revision and the new manual became available in 1920.

Josiah Smith Davidson, Grand High Priest, 1922-23⁸⁷
Fred E. Tilden, Grand High Priest, 1923-24⁸⁸

Frank C. Sayrs, Grand High Priest 1925-26⁸⁹ instituted the procedure to provide formal commissions to subordinate Grand Chapter officers and issue membership cards to chapter members. The Grand Chapter adopted the requirement that one need be actively affiliated with a Craft lodge to retain membership in a subordinate chapter. However, the Grand Chapter repealed the prohibition from exaltation of a Master Mason who had lost the first and second fingers of the right hand.⁹⁰

American Veterinary Association. Raised Ivanhoe Lodge No. 88, 1901, W.M., 1910-11; District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of New Jersey, 1911-1916. Exalted Adelpic Chapter No. 33, 1902, High Priest, 1907-08. Knighted Melita Commandery No. 13, KT. Life member, Terry Council No. 16, R&SM, twice Illustrious Master. Member, Valley of Paterson, AASR.

⁸⁷ *PrNJ*, 71st Annual Convocation, 1927, pp.120-121: Josiah S. Davidson (1848-1927).

Locomotive engineer, Delaware & Lackawanna Railroad, retired 1910. Co. F, 202d Regiment, US Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1864-65. Raised 1880. Affiliated Mansfield Lodge No. 36, Washington, NJ, 1892, Worshipful Master 1897. Exalted Baldwin Chapter No. 17, 1880, affiliated Temple Chapter No. 12, 1891, MEHP 1913. Thrice Illustrious Master, Washington Council, R&SM, 1903-07. Most Illustrious Grand Master 1917. Commander, DeMolay Commandery No. 6, 1892-93. Grand Commander 1901.

⁸⁸ *PrNJ*, 74th Annual Convocation, 1930, p. 88-89. Born Aug. 20, 1860, Jersey City NJ.

Superintendent, New York Bay Cemetery Co. Raised Bergen Lodge No. 47, 1901, WM, 1906. Grand Master 1913. Exalted Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 8, R.A.M., 1913, MEHP 1915. Vice president, Order of Anointed High Priests, 1923-30. Thrice Illustrious Master, Warren Council No. 5, R&SM, 1917. New Jersey Consistory, AASR, coroneted 331, 1914. Died March 28, 1930, Jersey City.

⁸⁹ *Abstract of Proceedings of the Supreme Council*, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, 1959, pp. 347-348: Frank Crosley Sayrs, b. July 10, 1877, Camden NJ; d. April 28, 1959, Haddonfield NJ. Real estate broker who operated his own firm from 1899 until 1925. Director, West Jersey-Parkside Trust Co., West Jersey Title & Guaranty Co. Assistant city treasurer of Camden NJ, 1917. Member and president, Camden Board of Education. New Jersey State Tenement House Commissioner, 18 years. Raised 1908, Trimble Lodge No. 117, Camden NJ, Worshipful Master, 1916. Elected Grand Master 1923. Exalted Siloam Chapter No. 19, Camden, 1910; High Priest, 1917. Elected Grand High Priest 1925. Greeted Van Hook Council No. 8, Royal & Select Masters, Camden, 1910. Elected Most Illustrious Grand Master 1922. Knighted Cyrene Commandery No. 7, Knights Templar, 1910, Commander 1919. Elected Grand Commander, 1936. Excelsior Bodies of the Valley of Camden, AASR, 1909. Most Wise Master 1918, Sovereign Prince 1921, Thrice Potent Master 1922, Commander-in-Chief 1926-28. Coroneted 331, 1918; Active Member, Supreme Council 1922; Deputy for New Jersey, 1926-1953; emeritus member, 1958. Established and chaired the Supreme Council Committee on Benevolence, 1933-53, established research program for schizophrenia. Shrewsbury Priory No. 4, Knight York Cross of Honor; St. Stephen's Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; Crescent Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Trenton; Legion of Honor, Order of DeMolay; Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm; The Independent Order of Odd Fellows; The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

⁹⁰ *PrNJ*, 70th Annual Convocation, 1926, p. 37, 53, 98.

The Grand Chapter in 1929 recognized the wave of turmoil that had swept over the United States in the previous three years with the activities of the Ku Klux Klan. Remarks by Victor H. Pugh, Grand High Priest, prompted the observation by the committee on doings of Grand Officers:

America has – some time – stood upon the crossroads of hatred and intolerance and it is timely that the admonition of our Grand High Priest is presented to this Grand Chapter, so that it may find lodgment in the hearts of men. Masonry is the one institution that stands for the brotherhood of man – its teachings are love brotherhood, charity, tolerance and service – it abhors all mean and lowly thoughts and is – and always will be – the beacon light, sheltering within its rays the highest and most exalted ambitions. ... The prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry throughout this State is a matter of satisfaction – one that must be shared in by all the members of the Craft and the continuation of this great bond of fellowship and the submission to the teachings of our institution are bound to make us better men and better citizens...⁹¹

Five months later the bottom would drop out of the stock market.

The Great Depression that began in 1930 severely affected all fraternal organizations. A proposal was advanced to revive the charter of Solomon Chapter in Toms River but, after prolonged consideration, was not taken up. At the 75th Annual Convocation in 1931, the Grand Chapter adopted the austere standard red-bordered apron that uniquely identifies New Jersey Royal Arch Masons. The Grand Chapter also adopted the triple tau emblem within a triangle and circle.⁹² The Grand Chapter celebrated its 75th anniversary with a dinner at the Trenton Masonic Temple organized by M.E. Frank Sayrs. The Grand Chapter published a history of Royal Arch Masonry in New Jersey to that point. On October 27, 1933, M.E. Charles R. Rinehart died on the evening he was to have been presented with a Past Grand High Priest jewel.⁹³

Lodge and chapter memberships fell throughout the decade as a poor economy and job prospects caused many members to drop out. Few new exaltations occurred. With economic recovery in 1940, chapter activities picked up; chapters began to receive new members with the effort to make meetings more educational and enjoyable. The quality of ritualistic presentation was perceived to improve due to greater efforts and this added to the interest level.⁹⁴

⁹¹ *PrNJ*, 73rd Annual Convocation, 1929, p. 44.

⁹² *PrNJ*, 75th Annual Convocation, 1931, pp. 37-40.

⁹³ *PrNJ*, 78th Annual Convocation, 1934, pp. 59-60. Charles R. Rinehart, b. December 31, 1875. Graduated a civil engineer from Lafayette College, 1899, where he had captained the football team and was named an All-American. Employed in the construction industry for 15 years, he was a vice president of the Overman Cushion Tire Company, New York at the time of his death. Raised Reed City Lodge No. 363, Michigan, 1905, demitted to Maple Lodge No. 196, Maplewood 1919. Exalted Reed City Chapter No. 112, 1906, demitted as founding member to Maple Chapter No. 55, 1919, High Priest, 1922-23. Knighted Jersey Commandery No. 19, KT. Member, Valley of Newark, AASR.

⁹⁴ *PrNJ*, 84th Annual Convocation, 1940, pp. 18-19. Arthur Poole Johnson, d. July 1962. Raised Trimble Lodge No. 117, Camden, Worshipful Master 1920. Elected Grand Commander 1930 Grand Master, Grand Lodge 1933. Elected Grand High Priest 1939. Commander-in-chief, Excelsior Consistory 1947-50. *PrNJ*, 117th Annual Convocation, 1963, p. 68.

During 1940, the Grand Chapter established a fund to collect resources to permit the appropriate officers to attend the triennial convocation of the General Grand Chapter.

The declaration of war by Germany and Japan on the United States in 1941 contributed a modest fillip to lodge conferrals, being conducted on an accelerated schedule as members shipped out. However, chapters received very little benefit. By 1944, chapter membership in New Jersey stood at about the same level as it had in 1900. Rationing of fuel and tires constrained Masonic travel, long working hours to support the war effort left little time or energy for late night meetings. Early in the war years, blackout restrictions had also worked against holding lodge and chapter events. Annual reports from the war years do not generally mention Royal Arch members in the Armed Forces.⁹⁵ Lt. R. Shelton Pettibone, USN, a Companion of Goodwin Chapter No. 36, was reported in July 1943, a casualty in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in the Philippines⁹⁶. The Grand Chapter undertook to relieve from obligation those Companions who, in the prewar years, had selected the swastika, or “hooked cross” emblem as their personal mark. In Native American lore and East Asian culture, the right-handed “hooked cross” was a symbol of good fortune. With the Nazis, the “hooked cross” had become an emblem of evil.⁹⁷

The Grand Chapter sponsored a drive in 1944-43 to purchase an ambulance in support of the war effort. The membership subscribed over \$2,700 that provided the ambulance to the Red Cross to transport wounded troops from the docks in Boston to military hospitals in Massachusetts. Indicative of wartime conditions, on the day of the presentation, the Red Cross could not obtain gasoline for the ambulance so it remained in the garage.⁹⁸

The post-World War II years saw Masonic membership grow by leaps and bounds. Men returning to peace still wanted the types of experiences and bonding that had characterized military life. Many perceived in Masonic membership a social cachet or an employment benefit. Lodge membership in New Jersey peaked at 107,469 members in 1959. Royal Arch membership did not grow at quite the same rate so that where in pre-Depression decades chapter membership held at about 20 percent of lodge numbers, after the Korean War years, the portion was about 7 percent. Other Masonic groups in New Jersey saw much higher growth as they launched aggressive campaigns of activities and efforts to interest Masons in their groups. Centralized management structure, drawing upon the marketing talents of key members made a difference. By contrast, the Grand Chapter and constituent chapters maintained a lower-key approach. A pamphlet print run of 5,000 of “The Master Mason and More Light” was written by the Grand Chapter education committee and distributed to the chapters and Symbolic Lodges in 1947. For the first time in a decade, membership began to grow.⁹⁹ Companions in Jersey City petitioned in May 1948 to form a new chapter, Zerubbabel, which would be the first new chapter in two

⁹⁵ *PrNJ*, 88th Annual Convocation, p. 35.

⁹⁶ *ibid*, p. 68.

⁹⁷ *ibid*, pp. 43-44.

⁹⁸ *ibid*, p. 19

⁹⁹ *PrNJ*, op. cit., 1947, p. 22.

decades.¹⁰⁰ However, the chapter would never have more than 11 members and would surrender its dispensation within two years. Mt. Moriah Chapter No. 20, Bordentown, asked to surrender its charter for want of officers despite having almost 50 paid up members.

As an example, The Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine or 'Shriners' enjoyed tremendous popularity in the postwar years in New Jersey.¹⁰¹ To qualify for membership, a candidate had to be either a 321 Scottish Rite Mason or a Knight Templar. A prerequisite for Templary was Royal Arch membership. The Scottish Rite grew by over ten thousand members during this period, the Grand Commandery grew by less than three thousand.

The 1950s ushered in the migration from the cities to the suburbs and to the countryside. Savings accumulated during the war years fueled a frenzy of home building and buying. Veterans who had attended college on the GI Bill were graduating. Housing stock in New Jersey's urban areas showed the effects of a lack of maintenance and crowding of the 1930s and 1940s. The American Dream was a three-bedroom home in the suburbs. Increased time and traveling distance to chapter rooms had an adverse effect on some chapters. Infrequent attendance and an increasing lack of interest by many members plagued lodges and chapters as members developed new interests and activities. Young families occupied the attention of younger men and "everyone had gone mad" over a technological marvel – television. Now a person could bring live entertainment right into his home. This presented a new challenge – the adverse effects upon lodges now appeared to be the result of population shifts and changes in cultural tastes, not of prolonged economic or war-related stress.¹⁰²

The General Grand Chapter authorized, at the 48th triennial convocation in October 1951, providing a bronze medal to Grand Chapters for a companion other than a Grand Chapter officer for outstanding service to the Royal Craft. The first recipient in New Jersey of this distinguished award was R.E. Francis E. Harris, Siloam Chapter No. 19, Camden.¹⁰³ During 1952, the Grand Chapter began the practice of statewide degree festivals, for the conferral of the four degrees, in costume, on a single day. The first festival was held at the Excelsior Scottish Rite building in Collingswood on June 21 with 371 new members exalted.

The Grand Chapter celebrated its centennial in 1957 with a service of thanksgiving and memory at the First Presbyterian Church, Rahway, attended by 500 and a banquet at the Crescent Shrine Temple ballroom, Trenton, attended by 900. The banquet followed a celebratory statewide festival where 146 new

¹⁰⁰ *PrNJ*, 92nd Annual Convocation, 1949, pp. 17-18.

¹⁰¹ Van Deventer, Fred. "The Bubbles Speech," *Parade to Glory*, Pyramid Books, New York, 2nd revised edition, 1966, pp. 195-209. As early as 1919, Shriner leadership had realized that their future required a focus, a reason beyond frivolity and slapstick humor in order to survive. They created the Shriners' Hospitals (and later Burn Centers) as that focus, giving the organization a long-term reason to exist: to alleviate the suffering of children. Much later, in the 1990s, the Royal Arch organizations of the United States, including the Grand Chapter of New Jersey would adopt the cause of research into the causes of auditory perception disability.

¹⁰² HFNJ, p. 37

¹⁰³ *PrNJ*, 95th Annual Convocation, 1952, p. 23.

Royal Arch Masons were exalted.¹⁰⁴ The General Regulations were amended to provide for a gold membership card for 50-year members.

In 1959, the Grand Lodge of New Jersey extended formal recognition to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Jersey and the other coordinate Masonic bodies in the state, declaring them to be “truly Masonic and worthy of recognition as such.”¹⁰⁵ At the annual convocation, a proposal was advanced to eliminate from the elected Grand line the positions of Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principle Sojourner, and Grand Royal Arch Captain. M.E. Jesse Schaem, Grand High Priest, noted that the membership of Grand Lodge had increased by 9,935 over the period 1953-59, while the Grand Chapter had increased by 6. He recommended more vigorous programming and ritual work in the chapters to provide “constant and unrelenting agitation.”¹⁰⁶

The York Rite bodies in New Jersey decided in 1961 to publish a joint newsletter to further unity and keep members abreast of developments.¹⁰⁷ The *York Rite Bulletin* would function under a combined committee of the bodies for several decades. Eventually, before its demise at the end of the century, the newsletter would count a quarter of the Royal Arch membership among its subscribers. The newsletter would be replaced by internet websites as new technology superceded the printed word. At this time, the Grand Chapter decided to permit members to take dual memberships in more than one chapter. During the same year, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, who was also the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery, Most Excellent William Beck, died after many years in office. The dislocations to Grand Chapter operations due to a general lack of knowledge regarding location of records and operations of the Grand Secretary motivated the Grand Chapter to establish the office of Deputy Grand Secretary-Treasurer. The holder of this position would be charged to become familiar with operations and assist wherever necessary.¹⁰⁸

M.E. G. Norman Schleinkofer, Grand High Priest in 1965, reported the twelfth year of membership decline¹⁰⁹ but decried the emphasis on numbers as opposed to ‘quality’, without ever defining what that was. He presciently noted, however, that “chapters that have had good leadership have prospered... The membership follows the type of leadership, going up with the good and down with the poor. Thus it is up to each Chapter to select those brethren from the Blue Lodge who are willing and able to be leaders and give them a job. They will then attract the followers... Serious thought should be given in each Chapter to adopt a project that will be of benefit to the community, so that the unfounded, secretive and selfish reputation that we have gained will be removed from the minds of the profane.”¹¹⁰ In 1968, the Grand Chapter would establish an annual leadership

¹⁰⁴ *PrNJ*, 100th Annual Convocation, 1957, “Report of the One Hundredth Anniversary Committee,” 1957, pp. 74-75.

¹⁰⁵ HFNJ, p. 39

¹⁰⁶ *PrNJ*, 102nd Annual Convocation, 1959, p. 5.

¹⁰⁷ *PrNJ*, 104th Annual Convocation, 1961, p. 45.

¹⁰⁸ *PrNJ*, 104th Annual Convocation, 1961, pp. 47-63.

¹⁰⁹ In 1963, Royal Arch membership would represent 7.95% of the membership of the Grand Lodge, the lowest percentage of any Grand Chapter in the United States.

¹¹⁰ *PrNJ*, 108th Annual Convocation, 1965, pp. 26-27.

conference and publish a leadership instruction manual to assist chapters in developing their leadership capabilities.¹¹¹ The Grand Chapter established the Haggai Merit Club in 1971 for those members who were proposers of five or more new members.¹¹² This group would later be warranted as Haggai Lodge of Mark Master Masons with an understanding that it would be an honorary body and not contravene the prohibition on Mark lodges adopted by a resolution of the Grand Chapter a century earlier.

Cultural change seemed to accelerate in the 1960s. New Jersey's cities were largely abandoned by Freemasonry both as meeting places and as places of political and social concern, abdicating the Craft's long-held position of social leadership as a force for progress and justice. As a consequence, Masons came to be seen by much of the public as quaint throwbacks and irrelevant. The civil rights movement placed in the forefront of daily attention the long-ignored concerns and demands of Americans of black African ancestry. While New Jersey Freemasonry was nominally an integrated fraternity, most lodges and chapters had no members nor any contacts with people who had been kept out of the mainstream because of their color. When dissatisfaction boiled over in the summer of 1968 with riots in several cities, most lodges and hence chapters still meeting in those cities relocated.

Early in the 1960s, the United States government had sent military assistance to the government of that part of Indochina south of the 17th parallel, the Republic of Vietnam. Indochina had been partitioned as part of a settlement of a brutal civil war for control after the French colonial government had been expelled in 1954. The northern part of the country was controlled by a communist-based government headed by Ho Chi Minh, who it seems had been a member of a Masonic lodge in Massachusetts in the 1930s. The government in the south was nominally democratic but anti-communist, corrupt and disorganized. It seemed incapable of uniting the various ethnic and religious groups under its control nor of defending itself against a continuation of the civil war. The United States continued to add to troop levels until there were 550,000 personnel in country in 1967. These levels were achieved by resort to the draft, which inspired escalating opposition in the United States.

The draft drew men too young generally to join the Masonic fraternity so lodges and chapters were largely unaffected. On occasion, a lodge or chapter might confer the appropriate degrees on an accelerated basis to someone seeking membership before shipping over but this was infrequent. Whereas New Jersey Masons had been very active in both world wars with Masonic welfare agencies to support the men in uniform, during the Vietnam years, state Masonic involvement with the troops was minimal. The Craft became invisible in the community. The Masonic Service Bureau, organized in 1914 as a counseling agency to assist the membership disbanded in 1964. However, in 1965, the Grand Chapter's York Rite committee began to operate a successful speaker's bureau, providing lists of programs and speakers to chapters and lodges in New Jersey. This year saw the passing of Ex. Companion Hippolyte Dabezies, who

¹¹¹ *PrNJ*, 114th Annual Convocation, 1971, pp. 34-36.

¹¹² *Ibid*, p. 25: the charter members were George H. Schluter, Rudolph Anzalone, and W. Percy Edwards.

had served as Grand Representative near the Grand Chapter of Louisiana since 1909. Ex. Companion Dabezies was made an honorary member of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey in 1959, the first such election.¹¹³

Most draftees would leave the Army after their two year service so there was no large return as had been the case in 1945-46. The troops were not welcomed home but were often made to feel as if they had been engaged in dishonorable service. As a consequence, these men had no particular interest in preserving the sense of camaraderie and male bonding that had been instrumental in the seeking of lodge and chapter membership in previous decades. Also, many of these young men came from economic levels or ethnic groups that not figured in the life of lodges and chapters. Age groupings were also quite different. The average age of the membership of lodges and chapters hovered between 40 and 60 so little community of interest was seen to exist with the young veterans.

Among the many younger males who had avoided the draft with college deferments, if they had any recognition of Masonry at all, it was usually in the context that "my grandfather had belonged." While generalizations are always dangerous, the young men of this grouping were generally self-adsorbed and uninterested in the philosophy of Masonry. Too, far too few fathers and grandfathers introduced their sons to what the lodge meant. An aura of secrecy (and probably an inability to articulate) constrained them.

M.E. Richard J. Lesser, Grand High Priest, exulted at the 119th annual convocation in 1976 that the year had seen the lowest rate of decline in membership in 25 years. He detected a turn around. The membership stood at 5,346 in 47 chapters. A proposal was brought forward to establish an incentive membership award but was not adopted with the observation that the Grand Chapter had too many awards as it was.

Harold Daniel Elliott II

In the last two decades of the 20th century, Harold D. Elliott II, Grand High Priest in 198- , became one of the most widely recognized Freemasons in the United States. A career history teacher in the Haddonfield (N.J.) Middle School and a high school sports official, M.E. Companion Elliott turned down a proffered promotion to school principal as it would "take time away from my Masonry." He served as national or state level presiding officer for 28 Masonic bodies as well as a well-regarded and traveled Masonic speaker. A consummate ritualist, he was widely known for his ability to install officers with very short notice, often making up the ceremony from memory as he went along. M.E. Companion Elliott was also an accomplished organizational promoter; while his term as Grand High Priest (and Grand Master) saw no innovations, he was able to engender a sense of high morale and excitement that stood New Jersey Freemasonry in good stead.

¹¹³ *PrNJ*, 108th Annual Convocation, 1965, p. 30, 43.

As our numbers continued to decline through the 1990s into the new century, the number of companions proficient to confer the Royal Arch degrees also declined. Many chapters availed themselves of the assistance of Haggai Lodge of Mark Masters to confer the Mark Master degree. In many cases, candidates were exalted through 'one-day' classes where all four degrees were conferred.¹¹⁴ The Grand Chapter continued to respond to a not inappreciable number of requests from New Jersey Freemasons to join chapters in Pennsylvania. This seemed to be most prevalent with Masons living in southern New Jersey near Philadelphia or living in Mercer County with contacts in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

On October 14-15, 2002, the Grand Chapter hosted the triennial session of the General Grand Chapter, held in Atlantic City. Most Excellent and Most Worship William Schoene Jr., a Past Grand High Priest of New Jersey, presided as the General Grand High Priest.¹¹⁵ Several questions arose during the late 1990s and early 2000s for consideration by the Grand Chapter. The first had to do with recognition with the Prince Hall Grand Chapter of New Jersey subsequent to the Grand Lodges establishing a fraternal relationship. This subject was finally brought to a vote of the Grand Chapter in 2006. Another question had to do with changing the term of the top three elected officers to two years, given the difficulty in producing qualified candidates with a declining number of chapters. A third question centered around adopting a candidature procedure similar to that used by the Grand Lodge, that is, a candidate declare his intention to run in January. Up until this time, any Past High Priest could declare himself a candidate for Grand Chapter office up to the moment that nominations closed at the annual convocation. This produced some anomalous situations where candidates presented themselves who were unknown to the Grand Chapter members or presented themselves as "spoiler" candidates.

The Brearley or Past Grand High Priest's Jewel¹¹⁶

Brearley Chapter No. 6 presented a Past Grand High Priest's breast jewel to Most Excellent Frederick H. Stigale Jr. on October 27, 1952. M.E. Companion Stigale had served the First Caputular District, which included Brearley Chapter. After his death, Mrs. Stigale presented the jewel to the Arthur P. Johnson Memorial Museum, in the care of the Excelsior Scottish Rite Bodies in Collingswood, NJ.

The jewel had been originally presented to M.E. James S. Ware, P.G.H.P., who was a Past High Priest of Brearley Chapter, by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter in 1908. The jewel, in conformance with an instruction that a suitable occasion be selected for its presentation, was "placed upon his person with pleasing ceremonies, in the presence of a delegation to the General Grand Chapter and of other invited and interested Companions and ladies, in the cabin

¹¹⁴ *PrNJ*, 1997-1998, p. 12.

¹¹⁵ *PrNJ*, 2002-2003, p. 12.

¹¹⁶ Smith, Edward Y., "The Brearley Jewel," June 29, 1974.

of the steamer on the way to Savannah, GA, amid the reputed but unrealized perils of passing Cape Hatteras.”

The jewel, the only one of its type in museum possession today (2006), is composed of four pieces of 14 kt gold, total weight 3oz. It is heavily engraved and the engraving is exceptionally fine. The jewel is suspended from a heavy, rectangular bar with pin back. Another bar, resembling an open frame, is suspended mid-way, on a crimson, gros grain ribbon. The third piece, or lower hangar, is similar in shape and size to the top bar, with a ‘lamb’s tongue’ extension supporting the medallion. The pendant, or jewel proper, is a large circle, 2-7/16 in. diameter, of the same design as is in current use.

It is undetermined for what, and how many, years this style of jewel was presented to Past Grand High Priests. It is established that in 1912 the Mason Manufacturing Company provided a Past Grand High Priest’s jewel for \$100., this being the first specific entry of a disbursement for such. Similar \$100. entries go back to the early 1900s, drawn to Leonard L. Gear, who was Grand Secretary and, also, a Grand Trustee, and to 1882 to L.L. Gear, for jewel, \$50. The Mason Manufacturing Company continued to supply jewels and supplies until 1930, after which Companion William H. Pike assumed the duty.

In the mid 1940s, the financial reports show a reduction in the cost from \$100. to \$84. By the 1950s, the Past Grand High Priest jewel was suspended from a scarlet satin ribbon about the neck. In the 1990s, a cast jewel of the same design was presented, manufactured by Weiss Family Jewelers of Haddon Heights, NJ, of non-precious materials and gold-clad. This jewel was available with either the scarlet ribbon or a gold chain.

Geo. R. Prowell, *The History of Camden County, New Jersey*, Philadelphia PA, 1886, pp. 371-372: Andrew Blair Frazee. b. New Brunswick NJ Aug 28, 1820 – d. Camden NJ Mar 28, 1904. Employed by the Camden and Amboy Railroad from 1833 as steamboat captain for Stevens brothers, superintendent of Delaware River ferry operations.. Raised Camden Lodge No. 15, 1866. Exalted Siloam Chapter No. 19, 1868. Knighted Cyrene Commandery No. 7, K.T., Camden 1868. Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of NJ, 1880. Initiated Excelsior Lodge of Perfection, AASR, 1870. charter member Excelsior Consistory, Nov 1883; first commander-in-chief. Coroneted 331, 1882, active member Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction, AASR, 1883. Deputy for New Jersey, 1885-1897. Initiated Odd Fellows, 1842.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS OF NEW JERSEY

No.	Name	Warranted	Location	Status
Grand Lodge Warrants				
1	Washington	1813	Newark	
2	Solomon's	1813	New Brunswick	
General Grand Chapter Warrants				
1	Union	1850 1853	Newark	Consol w/Newark No. 2
2	Washington (Newark)	1850	Newark	Consol w/Union No. 1
3	Franklin	1824	Whippany	Warrant forfeited 1836
4	Hiram	1825	Trenton	Renumbered 1, 1857
5	Lafayette	1826	Paterson	Warrant forfeited 1836
6	Sussex	1827	Newton	Warrant forfeited 1836
After formation of Grand Chapter 1856				
1	Hiram	1857	Trenton	Renumbered from 4
	Goodwin-Hiram	2005	Eatontown Red Bank Toms River	Merged w/36, 2005
2	Enterprise	1857	Jersey City W. Hoboken Union City	Merged w/
3	Boudinot	1857 1961	Burlington City Masonic Home, Burlington Twp Palmyra	
4	Scott Scott-Mt Vernon Scott	1857 2006	New Brunswick South River North Brunswick	Merger w/8 Name change
5	Three Times Three	1858	Trenton	Merged w/?, 2006
6	Brearley	1859	Bridgeton	
7	Union	1859	Newark North Hanover West Orange	Renumbered 7

		1963	Orange Irvington	Merger w/52
8	Mt Vernon	1859 1940	Jersey City Bayonne Freehold	Merger w/29 Merged w/4
9	Harmony	1859	Newark	Merged w/
10	Cataract City	1860	Paterson Little Falls	Warrant forfeited 1941 Merged w/33
11	Pentalpha	1860	Hoboken Bogota	Merged w/60
	Palisades-Pentalpha	1976	Palisades Park	Merge w/58
	Henry S. Haines	1992	Hackensack	Merged w/40
	Ark of Covenant	2005	Hackensack	
12	Temple	1860	Philipsburg Washington	Warrant forfeited 2006
13	Wilson	1864	Lambertville	Merged w/
14	Delta	1865	Keyport	Merged w/
15	Oriental	1865	Jersey City	Warrant forfeited 1881
16	Washington	1866	Elizabeth Carteret Rahway	Merged w/27, 2006?
17	Baldwin	1867	Newton Andover	
18	Eureka	1867	Vineland	
	Eureka-Richmond	1993	Vineland	Merger w/22
19	Siloam	1867	Camden	Merger to 63
20	Mt Moriah	1868	Bordentown	Warrant forfeited 1946
21	Boonton	1868	Butler	Merged w/33, 2006?
22	Richmond	1869	Millville	Merger w/18
23	Orange	1870	East Orange Bloomfield	Merged w/7
24	Jerusalem	1870	Plainfield	Merged w/57
25	Keystone	1871	Somerville	Merged w/4
26	Lafayette	1871	Rahway	
27	Madison	1872	Morristown	Merger w/44 Merged w/50
28	Solomon	1872	Toms River	Warrant forfeited 1885
29	Triune	1872	Jersey City	Merged w/8

30	Eagle	1873	Phillipsburg	Merged w/
31	Amity	1873 1888	Greenville, Jersey City Bayonne	Warrant forfeited 1903
32	Cyrus North Hudson-Cyrus Lebanon	1873 1892 1975 1991	W. Hoboken Union City W. New York Rutherford	Merged w/ 59 Merged w/42
33	Adelphic	1874	Paterson Mountain View	
34	Centennial	1876	Passaic	Merged w/33
35	Standard	1876	Long Branch	Merged w/36
36	Goodwin	1882	Manasquan Lakewood Toms River	merger w/1
37	Clinton	1883 1902 2005	Clinton Flemington Frenchtown	
38	Trinity	1890 1992	Atlantic City Pleasantville Linwood	
39	Adoniram	1893 1853 1961	Cape May Wildwood Wildwood Crest	Merged w/38, 1992
40	Bergen	1895	Hackensack	Merged w/11
41	Amboy	1904	Perth Amboy Woodbridge	Merged w/27
42	Lebanon	1913	Rutherford	Merger w/32
43	Tristone	1915	Arlington Kearny	
44	Overlook	1915	Summit	Merged w/27, 1961
45	Roseville	1916	Newark	Merged w/
46	Ocean City	1916	Ocean City	
47	Branch Brook		Newark	Merged w/
48	Rabboni	1920 1963	Camden Cherry Hill Audubon	Merged to 63, 1993
49	Fidelity	1920	Ridgewood	
50	Triangle	1921	Dover	
51	Joshua	1921	Pitman Glassboro Pitman	

52	Franklin	1921	Irvington	Merged w/7, 1961
53	Joppa	1921	Salem Woodstown	
54	Montclair	1921	Montclair	Merged w/7
55	Maple	1922	Maplewood	
56	Damascus	1922	Haddonfield	Merger to 63, 1993
57	Corinthian	1923	Westfield	
58	Henry S. Haines	1923 1963	Dumont Bergenfield	Merger w/11
59	North Hudson	1923	West New York	Merged w/32
60	Palisade	1924	Grantwood	Merged w/11
61	Woodbury	1926	Woodbury	Merged w/
62	Alpha	1972	Elizabeth East Orange	
63	Zerubbabel	1994	Collingswood Haddon Heights	

MEMBERSHIP TABULATIONS GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF NEW JERSEY

Year	No.	Year	No.
1827	72		
1842	14		
1857	165		
1858	185?		
1859	279		
1860	419		
1861	424		
1862	453		
1863	445		
1864	624		
1865	547		
1866	770		
1867	1,118		
1868	1,093		
1869	1,602		
1870	1,548		
1871	2,233		
1872	2,406		
1873	2,583		
1874	2,833		
1875	2,831		
1876	2,718		
1877	2,834		
1878	2,818		
1879	2,699		
1880	2,597		
1881	2,475		
1882	2,355		
1883	2,519		
1884	2,509 *		
1885	2,528		
1892	2,812		
1893	3,033		
1894	3,168		
1895	3,234		
1896	3,304		
1897	3,390		
1899	3,373		
1900	3,483		
1901	3,559		
1902	3,739		
1903	4,005		
1904	4,225		
1905	4,529		
1920	13,146		
1924	19,328		
1925	19,931		

1926	20,233
1927	20,471
1928	20,511
1929	20,152
1930	19,651
1931	19,118
1938	10,366
1939	9,706
1940	9,174
1941	8,664
1943	8,261
1944	8,139
1945	8,513
1946	8,813
1947	9,053
1948	9,236
1949	9,367
1950	9,379
1951	9,490
1952	9,781
1953	9,709
1954	9,688
1955	9,655
1956	9,567
1957	9,496
1958	9,449
1960	9,217
1961	8,968
1962	8,407
1963	8,158
1964	7,791
1969	6,405
1970	6,183
1974	5413
1975	5346
1984	4,054
1985	3,976
1988	3,804
1989	3,724
1995	3,179
1996	3,112
1997	2,942
1998	2,780
1999	2,672
2000	2,62
2001	2,561
2002	2,466
2003	2,433
2004	2,122
2005	2,160

* incomplete returns

