

Michigan Triple Tau



"Sharing the York Rite is the Right Thing to do"

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Doig Center hosts Walbridge honoring



Grand High Priest Harry A. Walbridge was honored at a reception and dinner at the Doig Conference Center in Alma in early October. Representatives from Michigan's Masonic family joined to honor the leader of Royal Arch Masons in Michigan.

Photos by Shainna Baderstadt



How long can this keep going on?

This past year we lost 4 Chapters to Consolidation. This year we already have an additional 3 that are in the process of Consolidating and at least one other that may be considered. This does not bode well for the Grand Chapter or Royal Arch Masonry in Michigan.

We have got to begin doing something, and doing it now! If we keep doing it the way that we are currently doing it, all we'll get is what we've got. The loss of 3 to 4 Chapters a year does not

look good for our future.

We have some Chapters that are bringing in new membership. We must have something in that Chapter to keep them coming back to the meetings and them talking about the Capitular bodies of Masonry.

We have the programs available to each Chapter in the Membership Recruitment Program and in the materials which have been available for some time in the Officers Workbooks. It is imperative that we must begin to use them.

We need to be looking at areas of the state where there is no Chapter in the surrounding area, in close proximity, for the Brothers of the Lodge and begin

finding ways of getting them involved and starting new Chapters in their area.

The Chapter and all of the York Rite have a lot to offer. We need to get the word out to the Brothers and get them as interested as we are.

We, as York Rite Masons, have got to begin doing some things in a different manner. We must change within our local bodies. If we keep doing it the way we're doing it, at this time, all we'll get is what we've got. What we've got is a decline in the number of Chapters in the state and therefore a decline in membership.

How long can this continue, and we still continue?

Paul Howell, PGHP



Michigan Triple Tau

The Michigan Triple Tau is published monthly (except June and December by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan).

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Michigan Triple Tau is to provide the Royal Craft of Michigan with information and educational articles designed to strengthen and edify Royal Arch Masonry in Michigan.

Harry A. Walbridge

Grand High Priest

Rev. Jan L. Baderstadt, PGHP

Editor & Publisher

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Don't loose selling points

The Royal Arch and York Rite for years had the greatest selling point for advancing in your Masonic Education. We were local. Little distance to travel. Those that you knew the best were the ones that you were meeting with and joining.

We mentioned this to many prospective members while speaking about the many other benefits and pleasures derived from the York Rite. The education to enhance your Masonic knowledge and to strengthen you in your Masonic understanding are very important to all Masons. All Masons, wanting to know the "rest of the story" need to receive and participate in the degrees and Orders of the York Rite.

The lessons are their when a candidate receives their degrees in an all degree day, however, do the candidates loose some of that closeness that we felt when we

received all of our work at our home Chapter?

If you take your candidates to an all degree day then make sure that you personally get them into the local bodies immediately to meet, visit and participate. It is important that you do not forget them and that they are not just a number in your membership book. Don't loose them.

When you have them back in the Chapter use the time of the opening, closing, educational presentation at your meetings to further educate the members old and new about what was and is being taught.

Don't loose our selling points. The close nit companionship within short driving distance from home. The beautiful educational lessons that are there to help all of the members continue to grow in Masonry.

Paul Howell, PGHP

Grand Secretary's Scribbles

by Paul C. Howell, PGHP, Gr. Secretary

My is the time every flying by for me, so I'm sure that it must be doing the same for each of you. It is great news to hear that some of the Chapters have work going on and even more in the works. It means that the Companions of those Chapters are out spreading the word to the Brothers of the Lodge.

You have a great opportunity to spread the word to many Brothers in your area and therefore gain new petitions. It is through the presentation of the Masters' Pins at the time of Installation. Present a signed petition along with materials on the Royal Arch and York Rite at the time of the presentation of the Masters' Pin. Tell them about our History and advantages of membership.

All Chapters have their Masters' Pins for presentation.

See to it that they are done in a timely and professional manner. Have all of the Companions in attendance rise and be recognized during the presentation.

You should also consider writing a letter to the Brothers and have it printed with the Trestleboard sent out by the Lodges in your area.

There is also information in your Officers Workbook of letters, etc. to be presented to the new Master Mason.

The Grand Chapter has the Membership Awareness Program. Use it!

The very best to each of you.
Happy Thanksgiving.
Paul Howell, Grand Secretary



Happy Thanksgiving

Many years ago our forefathers joined together with their neighbors, the Native Americans, to celebrate their survival, the harvest, the friendships that they had kindled and the stores that were set aside so that they could all survive the upcoming winter.

It was a festival of wealth, survival, and mutual protection. That should all be remembered at this time of the year that we need to celebrate our wealth, survival and protection. It is the time of the year that we need to remember all who have given so much, and are giving so much at this time, that we can all join together with family and friends to continue this feast of Thanksgiving.

Masons have always been the first to step forward to assist the less fortunate. Masons have always had the spirit of Thanksgiving in their hearts and actions. They have always been ready to step forward, as did the Native Americans, to assist the less fortunate and those in need in time of suffering. To show them the way, if they were willing to accept the charity and the lessons presented.

At this time of Thanksgiving, besides giving thanks for what we have, how about stepping out and assisting those less fortunate. Serve dinner at the local shelter, church or community center. Let them know that it is the Masons that are there to help them. Wear your Masonic Shirt, Hat, Apron, etc.

Let us be like those Native Americans who assisted our forefathers by displaying acts of kindness and understanding to those less fortunate and unable to do for themselves. This will make your Thanksgiving much more enjoyable and pleasurable than the comforts which they receive.

Happy Thanksgiving. Once you begin to give at this time of the year, you will feel so good about yourself that you will continue to give and show your Thanksgiving spirit throughout the coming years, by your actions every day of the year.

Paul Howell, PGHP

Grand King's Corner

By Howard Little

In my first article for your consideration I am addressing our Foundation and the purpose of its establishment.

The purpose was to establish a foundation with a goal of one million dollars, minimum, to assist the Grand Chapter operations by eventually using the interest it may earn to provide funds for expenses, program development, etc.

Give this some thought. If the Companions and Chapters get involved and support fundraisers that the Royal Arch Foundation introduce to increase the financial goal to achieve the "one million dollars."

You can help by informing our Foundation of suggestions and ideas for fundraisers. Contact Michael Whiting, Grand Master 2nd Veil, Chairman, Royal Arch Foundation, 615 Melrose St., Pontiac 48340-3116; phone 248-376-7081, e-mail mikewhiting@comcast.net.

Remember, you can make a difference.

Howard Little
Grand King



Thanksgiving

Reprinted by permission from The Northern Light. Originally appeared in the Wisconsin Scottish Rite Messenger, Valley of Milwaukee, November, 1998

Thanksgiving tends to conjure up images of roasting turkeys, sweet yams, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie and, of course, football. Historically, we think of thanksgiving as a time when pilgrims and American Indians shared a meal.

There is nothing wrong with any of this, except it ignores the real Thanksgiving. No matter what the politically correct crowd might insist, our Thanksgiving holiday is rooted in a national belief in God.

Yes, I just did it – I wrote the “G” word. Not a popular thing to do in modern America. It is easier to use a four letter word than the “G” word. However, I digress.

The first so-called thanksgiving in 1621 – the one involving those pilgrims and American Indians, – actually has no direct link to today’s holiday. The 1621 event was a celebration of a successful harvest, not unlike celebrations that had been taking place since humans harvested the first crop.

Though the pilgrims were a deeply religious people, there is no evidence the event in 1621 was especially spiritual in nature. Further, the celebration was not repeated in subsequent years. That the pilgrims gave thanks to God is not in doubt – it is just the 1621 celebration was not held with that in mind.

Historical research reveals the first true thanksgiving on our shores took place in 1676. The governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts, met to determine how it could best give thanks for the good fortune the community experienced. By a unanimous vote they instructed Edward Rawson, the clerk, to proclaim June 29 as a day of thanksgiving to God. As far as we know, football was not played.

Then, in 1782, a day of thanksgiving was declared by the Continental Congress. The Congress proclaimed Nov. 28, 1782, as a “day of solemn THANKSGIVING to GOD for all his mercies.....”

As was the case with the 1676 resolution, the Continental Congress called upon the people to offer prayers of thanks to the Almighty for the blessings they enjoyed.

However, it was Brother George Washington who, as president in 1789, issued the first Thanksgiving Proclamation in the newly established United States of America.

This document, which had been handwritten by William Jackson, Washington’s secretary, vanished shortly after it was issued. It reappeared in 1921 at an art auction in New York. It was purchased for \$300 and donated to the Library of Congress, where it is now kept as a national treasure.

I commend you to read this proclamation carefully. It says nothing of gluttonous celebration or football. Rather, it is a solemn call to the people of the United States to give thanks to God, the Creator.

An amazing document by today’s standards. Now, let’s consider one more – Abraham Lincoln’s proclamation.

Often I have thought how sad it is that most American school children no longer learn about Brother Washington’s or Lincoln’s proclamations.

Today’s youngsters are taught about a Thanksgiving that doesn’t include God. It has been secularized to the point that it no longer resembles what Brother Washington and Lincoln had in mind.

As a result, we have a Thanksgiving that focuses on eating to excess, watching football on the idiot box and getting ready to go shopping the next day. Pretty innocuous, don’t you think?

However, as Freemasons and Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, we do not fear the “G” word. We embrace it, we exalt it, and we use it with awe and reverence.

Thus, isn’t it time we put God back in our Thanksgiving? Isn’t it time we heed the words of Brother Washington? And shouldn’t we carefully read the words of Lincoln? Isn’t it time we share these powerful words with our children and grandchildren?

Brother Washington’s words and Lincoln’s words with our children and grandchildren?

Brother Washington’s words and Lincoln’s words are not about sectarian beliefs. They are not about particular creeds. They are not about this “ism” or that one. Rather, these two proclamations embrace the Freemasonic concept of the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Our Founding Fathers, so many of whom were Freemasons, established a nation that recognized the right of each citizen to call God by the name of the individual’s choice and to worship God in each citizen’s own manner.

At the same time, the Founding Fathers recognized that, as Brother Washington wrote, “It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor....”

Our founding Fathers believed that a nation that turned its back on God would not long endure, much as a man who turns his back on God cannot long endure.

When you celebrate Thanksgiving this year, please take a moment with your entire family to express the true meaning of this uniquely American holiday, as Abraham Lincoln wrote, to “praise our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.”