



GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS INTERNATIONAL Organized October 24, 1797

Words from the General Grand East December 2022

Fraternally,

The Wise Men and General Grand Chapter

The story of the Wise Men (my favorite part of the Christmas story), is a lesson in universality. This part of the Christmas story is one that relates to men of all faiths. If, as many scholars believe, they literally were Magi (Magi is the plural of Magus), then almost certainly they were from Persia. A Magus was a semi-official figure in Persian cultural and court life. The Magi were walking universities whose task was to learn, to know, and to teach. They were concerned with knowledge of the spiritual as well as the physical world. If they observed a sign in the heavens, it would have been part of their responsibilities to discover what it meant.

They also represent a broadening of the message of this season, for they were of a faith very different from that of the Jews, or what would become Christianity. The Magi would have been followers of Zoroaster, the religious reformer who lived 500 years before. Yet here they are in the middle of the Christmas story, playing an important role.

Their entire trip is a quest to follow the light. They went forth seeking understanding and enlightenment. In the process of learning, the Magi gave.

This combination of learning and giving resonates with General Grand Chapter. We have emphasized education this triennium. **Consider giving a special gift to R.A.R.A. "In your leisure hours, that you may improve in Masonic knowledge, you are to converse with well-informed brethren, who will be always as ready to give as you will be ready to receive instruction."**

During this season, special to Royal Arch Masons of all faiths, may the example and the gifts of the Wise Men shine in your life, may you seek and find and may the new year bring you more happiness and fulfillment than ever.

P.S. This Christmas season, Royal Arch Red is all around us. Joel R. Poinsett, who served as Deputy General Grand High Priest in 1838, was the U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. He imported the plant and it has been a popular part of this season ever since.

Steven Tiner,
General Grand High Priest,
General Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons International



King's Komments

By Teko Foley General Grand King

December 2022

Companions,

This time around, I will be speaking on the World Cup, one of the biggest events going on currently in Qatar and captivating the attention of a worldwide audience. The event brings together 32 of the best teams to represent their country and compete at this bigger thank life stage every four years. Though all may be entitled to it, you have to qualify for it. You have to prove that you earn your place in this competition and there is no shortcut to this. The game is called Football (you have to use your feet to play this game) throughout the world except in one country where it is called Soccer for some reason. The beauty of this event is that it has an amazing way to unite humanity as a whole into one common happy group for the short duration of 4 to 5 weeks when we all share the happy rhythm of a common heartbeat with each kick of a national hero in a round leather ball, while the huge crowd cheers on.

At the time I write this article, several teams have already qualified to advance from the group stage to the knock-out stage where all but the top 16 will advance to face each other for the right to be called the world champion and take this prestigious cup home to their country for the pride and delight of their citizen and fans.

At this point, the USA team has done us proud by advancing to the next stage and is playing against the Netherlands next but then again, by the time you will be reading this, they should have already played the next game and I pray that they win that one too, to advance further in the competition.

I will reveal to you that my top 5 favorites power ranking from high to low are Brazil, USA, Senegal, Ghana, Argentina. I will be so happy if my favorite team Brazil wins it all, so I can toast to my Brazilian companions. Nonetheless, I was rooting for one of my other favorite, Costa Rica, who unfortunately did not live up to their previous performance in 2014 when they gave England, Uruguay, and Italy a run for their money at the group stage and went on to make a quarterfinal run. They exited early this time around in favor of Japan and Spain, though they gave it their best shot. Anyway, I hope that everyone is enjoying as I am, this Football fiesta till December 18, right before our American football (played with hands) playoffs and Superbowl season.

Companions, why am I speaking of this competition with my heartfelt enthusiasm, though it is not strictly related to Freemasonry? What is the lesson I am trying to convey here?

I want to imagine an instance where the York Rite of Freemasonry could be practiced with as much cheerfulness, intensity, enthusiasm, pride, decorum, happiness, sense of responsibility and teamwork as this competition is played. I wish we see Royal Arch of Masonry as big as the world cup and engage in it as the players, the fans and the countries do. While they are involved in it, though it is for that short time, this sport represents everything for them. Everyone wants to achieve the laudable goal of being the best at it and winning. They realize that this is big, even bigger than life itself, They know and are convinced that they are writing history for generations to come. They go at it with the right attitude as if their life depends on it. Winning becomes everything and is enjoyable. **For that matter, they are willing to go beyond and do better than not only others but themselves. They don't just mechanically go through the motions. That is the ultimate goal and that is what is amazing about the experience.**

Why can't we practice Freemasonry like that in our Lodges, Chapters, Councils, Commanderies and other Masonic bodies? Why can't we attend and "do" Masonry as if we are playing in the World Cup?

Companions all, with this, please accept my Best wishes for a wonderful Holiday and many blessings for the days, months and years to come. Cheers!!!

T eko A. F OLY

General Grand King

General Grand Chapter

Royal Arch Masons International



York Days France 2022 – The York France Annual Meeting



On November 11th and 12th, 2022 was held The York France Annual Meeting which brought together more than 140 Companions of the Royal Arch Mason in Narbonne in South of the France bordering the Mediterranean Sea.



The M.E.C. Yves CESSO G.H.P. of the Grand Chapter Antient Royal Arch France chaired the General Assembly under the presence of the G.H.P. Portugal the M.E.C. Gonçalo Madeira RIBEIRO; the D.G.D.H.P., R.E.C. Paul DERRICA; the District Deputy Grand Master of the French National Grand Lodge, the Right Worshipful Bernard VERCOUTRE, the P.G.G.H.P. and BIMA Chairman, the M.E.C. Ted HARRISON and the Special Deputy Africa, the



M.E.C. Gérard RAIOLA .



Royal Arch Mason Europe/Afrique 2023

Following, it has been announced that the Royal Arch Mason Europe/Afrique will organize its 2023 Meeting on May 28th and 29th, in Lyon (France) near the Alps, another geographical place renowned, in addition, for its French gastronomy. is assembly, the Grand Chapter of Portugal and the Grand Chapter of France sealed their twinning.

Agape on November 11th

At the end of this day, an agape with more than 100 Companions has been a real time of sharing and fraternity inside in the Mine (ancient quarries of Gypsum) currently wine cellars located 80 meters deep



On November 12th,

The Anointed High Priest Ceremony has been done for 7 Companions, Members of the G.C.A.R.A.F, who have previously proven their attachment to their Rite and a practice in the rule of Art.

At the end of this ceremony, the D.G.G.H.P. for Europe and Africa, the R.E.C. Paul DERRICA has made his remarks regarding plans for the next Triennial.

All the ceremonies were widely appreciated by foreign visitors thanks to the excellence of the ritual work assumed entirely by heart and without any paper support.

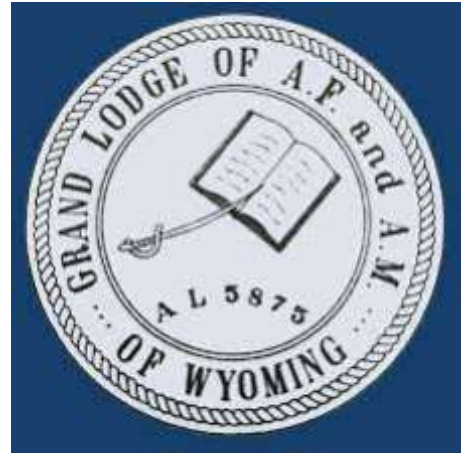
Gala dinner with the Ladies

These two York Days France were embellished with a gala dinner with the Ladies. This evening was an opportunity to share a moment of relaxation which allowed to seal even more the friendship and fraternity that animated this memorable event.



DID JAH KNOW?

December 15th On this date in 1874, the Grand Lodge of Wyoming was formed



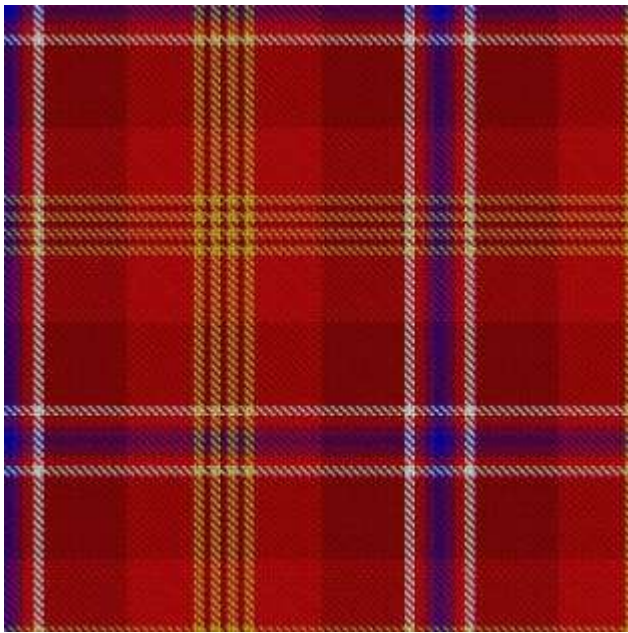
December 17th On this date in 1867, the Grand Lodge of Idaho was formed

December **22nd**, On this date in 1753, the Royal Arch degree was conferred in Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia. This is the first unquestioned evidence of the conferral of this degree.



Did you know we have a Facebook page? Please come check it out.

<https://www.facebook.com/GGCRAMI/>



General Grand Chapter now has it's own, registered Tartan that is being made available in Kilt form to all Royal Arch Masons. There are accessories available and, after the initial Kilt order, there will be other items as well. Please go to <https://ggcrami-kilts.com> for more information and to order.

This effort is starting like a kickstart campaign. We need 26 kilt orders to get the process started, Once we get the initial orders, we'll be able to offer ties, vests and other tartan items.

Again, the link for the webpage is <https://ggcrami-kilts.com>

If you have any questions after reviewing the page, please message Rod Waggoner, PGHP, Arizona.

rod.wagoner@gainbroadband.com



Thank you, Companions!

10 months in operation and we have sold Kilts, Vests, Ties, Accessories and Gifts to Royal Arch Masons across the country and now, even overseas! There have been sightings of our wares at various Grand Sessions and it's been said, general satisfaction with what has been produced. We're grateful for your patronage and hope to continue bringing items that will bring pleasure to yourself and honor to our Capitular Clan!

For Questions or Suggestions contact:

Rod Wagoner, PGHP—rod.wagoner@gainbroadband.com



Customer Photos!



Companions in their Tartans! (LEFT) MEC Dennis Tomsen, 3rd Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Denmark in his Syd Kilt and Regalia (RIGHT) MEC Dick Browning, Grand Secretary/Recorder of the Grand York Rite of Arkansas and DGGHP for General Grand Chapter, South Central Region looking well turned out in his GGChapter Formal Dress set. Companions, send your picture to us for inclusion in the newsletter!

Fielding questions about the Rite?

WHAT ROYAL ARCH MASONRY IS

Founded in 1797, in Boston, Massachusetts, as a national organization, the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, International now has jurisdiction over half the 7,000 Chapters in the world, including several provinces in Canada, the Grand Chapters of USA, Philippines, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and many chapters in Central and South America. Upon your exaltation as a Royal Arch Mason you will become a member of the oldest and largest rite of Royal Arch Masonry.

WHO ROYAL ARCH MASONS ARE

One of the most fascinating aspects of Royal Arch Masonry has always been how so many men, from so many different walks of life, can meet together in peace, never have any political or religious debates, always conduct their affairs in harmony and friendship, and call each other brother. No Rite of Freemasonry covers the world so much as does Royal Arch Masonry. In every country of the earth, on every continent and on many isles of the sea, Will be found Royal Arch Chapters, eager and willing to receive their companions from other parts of the world into that full fellowship that characterizes Royal Arch Masonry.

WHAT ROYAL ARCH MASONS BELIEVE IN

All Royal Arch Masons believe in one God and in respect for each other.

WHAT ROYAL ARCH MASONS DO

Royal Arch Masonry contains some simple, plain statements of Truth, easily understandable and helpful in our relation to life. Lodge symbolism deals with lessons of the material side of life. The Chapter degrees, and particularly the Royal Arch, deal with the spiritual side of life. Upon your exaltation as a Royal Arch Mason you will become a member of the oldest and largest rite of Freemasonry. **QUALIFICATIONS** Royal Arch Masonry is the logical step for every Master Mason to take. If after becoming a Royal Arch Mason, you desire to continue your studies, you may take the Council Degrees and the Commandery Orders, both of which are illustrative of and carry forward the principles of the Royal Arch. Any Royal Arch Macon will eagerly propose your name as a candidate for the advancement in the mysteries of Freemasonry.

THOSE WHO SEEK MEMBERSHIP

Anyone seeking Membership in the Royal Arch must sign a Petition, stating his age, occupation and place of residence. Members of the Chapter vote by ballot. To be accepted, the ballot must be unanimous.

THE ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

What has attracted so many Brethren to seek further light in Royal Arch Masonry?? The Royal Arch Degrees was considered most important in the early years of Freemasonry and so dogmatic was the Mother Grand Lodge - from which all Speculative Masonry derives - that in 1813, when the two grand lodges in England united, a firm and solemn landmark was adopted and placed in the Articles of Union to guide Masons throughout the world forever on this matter: "Pure Ancient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, that of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch." **The Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry consists of four degrees, Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.**





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George Washington Passes Away

December 14th in Masonic History George Washington passes away in 1799.

Washington was born on Pope's Creek Estate which is near present day Colonial Beach, Virginia. Washington's father passed away when Washington was eleven. Washington's older brother, Lawrence, became a surrogate and role model for Washington. Due to the death of Washington's father, Washington was unable to travel to England for a more formal education. Instead Washington was taught by tutors and attended a school run by Anglican clergy.

At the age of 15, Washington sought an appointment to the Royal Navy. His widowed mother refused to allow him to go. By the age of 17, Lawrence, using his influence in Virginia society, had secured Washington a well paying position as a surveyor. This allowed Washington to begin investing in land, which he acquired a large amount of over his life.

In 1751, Washington traveled with Lawrence to Barbados. Lawrence was suffering at the time from tuberculosis and it was hoped the trip would improve his health. The trip had no effect on Lawrence and died the following year.

Lawrence's passing brought changes to Washington's life. Washington inherited Mount Vernon from his brother's estate. At the time of his passing, Lawrence was the Adjutant General of the Virginia Militia. The Governor of Virginia split the militia into 4 parts giving Washington on of the posts of district adjutant along with the rank of Major.

In 1775, when the American Revolution began, Washington appeared at the 2nd Continental Congress in full uniform, indicating he was ready for war. Although he tried to convince the delegates he might not be the best selection for the head of the newly formed Continental Army, he was voted into the position of General and Commander-in-chief.

Washington led the Continental Army through good times and bad. Through shortages of gunpowder and other critical supplies. Finally in 1781, the surrender at Yorktown all but ended the American Revolution and Washington's troops were victorious.

In 1787, Washington was convinced to go to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. When he arrived he was elected President of the Convention. As President he stayed out of the debates and voted little, except on specific articles. Washington kept the delegates on task during the convention. When the convention was done, it was Washington's support of the Constitution is what convinced many to sign it.

In 1789 and 1792, Washington was elected by the electoral college to be the first President of the United States. To this day his two elections to office are the only times a president has received 100% of the votes from the electoral college.

Washington made sure his Presidency in no way resembled the Royal courts of Europe. When Congress voted to pay Washington \$25,000 a year, a large sum in those times, he initially refused. Congress convinced him he needed to create a precedent future Presidents needed to be independently wealthy. Washington also insisted on being called "Mr. President" instead of some of the more majestic titles Congress came up with.

Washington insisted on serving only two terms, again trying to set a precedent for future presidents.

Washington passed away on December 14th, 1799.

Washington was initiated into Alexandria Lodge No. 22 in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1753.

Thomas Corwin Passes Away

December 18th in Masonic History Thomas Corwin passes away in 1865.

Thomas Corwin was an American politician.

Corwin was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky on July 29th, 1794. At the age of four his family moved to Lebanon, Ohio. During the War of 1812, he served as a wagon boy in General William Henry Harrison's Army. In 1815 he began reading law with a local law firm and in 1817 was admitted to the bar.

From 1818 to 1828, Corwin was the prosecuting attorney for Warren County. In 1822 he was elected for the first time to the Ohio House of Representatives. He served there until 1823. The second time he served in 1829. During his time in the Ohio House of Representatives he made a spirited speech against whipping posts being used in Ohio.

In 1830, Corwin was elected to the United States House of Representatives. He served there until 1840 when he resigned after being elected as the Governor of Ohio. He served only one two year term as governor.

After serving as governor, Corwin was elected by the Ohio General Assembly to serve as a United States Senator. He served from 1845 until 1850. He resigned to serve as President Millard Fillmore's Secretary of the Treasury.

In 1857, former Ohio governor William Bebb, shot a man. Corwin defended Bebb and got an acquittal by arguing self defense.

In 1858, Corwin was again elected to the United States House of Representatives. There he was chairman of the "Committee of Thirty-three." The committee was set up with one representative from each state to discuss the state of the Union and in 1860 to try to avert the coming Civil War. Corwin drafted a bill in 1860 which passed Congress, but was never ratified by the states, it stated:

No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State.

The bill later became known as the Corwin Amendment. The amendment was meant to pacify the Southern states and take any reason for secession off the table. In this respect it failed since the Civil War started before ratification was ever picked up in many states.

Corwin resigned from the House of Representatives in 1861, he was reelected in 1860, to become the Minister to Mexico under Abraham Lincoln. Corwin was well liked in Mexico and worked to ensure it remained neutral in the American Civil War. This was despite efforts by the Confederacy to bring Mexico into the conflict on their side.

Corwin passed away on December 18th, 1865.

Corwin was a member of Lebanon Lodge No. 26 in Lebanon, Ohio. He also served as Grand Orator and Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. He was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1828. Corwin was also a member of Lebanon Chapter No. 5, Royal Arch Masons and Mount Vernon Commandery of Knights Templar.

Paul Revere was born

December 21st in Masonic History Paul Revere was born in 1734.

Paul Revere was an American silversmith, merchant and patriot in the American Revolution.

Revere was born in the North End of Boston on December 21st, 1734. Revere left school at 13 to apprentice with his father, a silversmith.

In 1754 Revere's father passed away and Revere was too young to become the master of the family silver shop. In 1756 he enlisted in the provincial Army to serve during the 7 years war, known in the America's as the French Indian War. His time in the Army was very short and by 1757 he was back in Boston and was married to Sarah Orne.



In 1765 the economy in the colony's was not good and was made worse by the Stamp Act. This caused Revere's business to falter and for a brief time Revere took up dentistry.

Also in 1765 the *Sons of Liberty* formed and coincidentally met at the Green Dragon, the same meeting place as St. Andrews Lodge. Frustration over a variety of policies coming from England and King George III had Revere making a variety of engravings about the events occurring in Massachusetts at the time including the Boston Massacre and a bowl commemorating the Massachusetts assembly's refusal to retract the Massachusetts Circular Letter. The Massachusetts Circular Letter called for colonial action against the Townsend Acts.

In 1773 Revere along with several *Sons of Liberty* companions boarded the merchant ship *Dartmouth*, dumping the tea in it's hold into Boston Harbor. The event now known as the Boston Tea Party was further protest to the Acts of King George III and England.

In 1774 a year before his famous ride, Revere rode to Portsmouth New Hampshire on rumors the British were landing troops there. The Portsmouth Alarm as it is now called turned out to be a false alarm, it did inspire a rebel assault on Fort William and Mary where gun powder supplies were seized from 6 British soldiers guarding the fort.

On April 18 1775 Revere's famous ride took place. Riding from Charlestown to Lexington Revere avoided British patrols until being stopped just short of Lexington by a British roadblock. Held captive with other patriots Revere used every opportunity to warn the British soldiers not to continue on to Lexington. Eventually Revere and the other captives were able to scare off the soldiers who released them and returned back to the main British unit.

Revere was able to help John Hancock, one of the leaders of the revolution, and his family escape from Lexington.

During the American revolution, Revere was a military leader and participated in many battles and events of the war, some positive and some utter failures like the Penobscot disaster.

Revere passed away on May 10th, 1818.

Revere was a member of St. Andrews Lodge in Boston and was the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts from 1794 to 1797.

ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTION FORM

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General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International
2020 - 2024 MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement of General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, with a heritage of over 200 years, is to offer services and support to its Subordinate and Grand Chapters throughout the world in fulfilling the goals of Capitular Masonry by:

- providing a source of, and administration for, the rituals of the four degrees of the American Royal Arch system.
- Assisting in the creation and chartering of new Subordinate and Grand Chapters throughout the world while maintaining our traditional standards.
- Being the primary source for developmental information concerning the formation of a Royal Arch Masons Chapter or Grand Chapter.
- Providing a means of communication, liaison and interaction for our member Chapters and Grand Chapters worldwide.
- Supporting and encouraging York Rite unity around the world in harmony with regular Grand Lodges, the General Grand Council and Grand Encampment.
- Recognizing achievement and service.
- Helping member Chapters and Grand Chapters to fulfill the obligation of all Royal Arch Masons to spread further light in Masonry.
- Promoting the progress of the Royal Craft, disseminating true Masonic knowledge, inspiring interest, and encouraging Blue Lodge Masons to pursue their search for Light and Truth to its logical conclusion through the degrees of Capitular Masonry
- Organizing a Triennial Convocation for all member Chapters and Grand Chapters to express their concerns, offer programs, legislate and elect officers for the next three years.
- Representing Royal Arch Masonry to the world in its highest tradition and heritage.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS INTERNATIONAL
2020 - 2024 VISION STATEMENT

- To uphold and support the Mission Statement of the General Grand Chapter.
- To take all reasonable steps to secure membership of those Grand Chapters in North America which are not currently members of General Grand Chapter.
- To retain all existing members, helping them become true and zealous disciples of Royal Arch Masonry and not mere wearers of emblems.
- To respond to requests and to encourage development of the American Royal Arch system in foreign lands especially Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa.
- To maximize our communication efforts through enhanced development of the Royal Arch magazine into the internet world and to maintain an electronic newsletter which serves as a method of instruction to supplement the ceremonies and lectures of the degrees.
- To live and work together in a devoted team spirit with the aim of promoting better education among Royal Arch Masons.
- To be the most useful and effective unit in the entire Fraternity in promoting the progress of Royal Arch Masonry among our member Grand Chapters through Regional Deputies and Ambassadors with duties and responsibilities to and from the General Grand Chapter to be visible as a support and a link.

Royal Arch Mason Magazine

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Larry Gray, PGHP, General Grand Secretary

P.O. Box 128

Greenfield, Indiana 46140-0128

Phone: 317-467-3600

FAX: 317-467-3899

Email: ramintl@sbcglobal.net



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Articles

Send articles in electronic format to the Editor at parallaax@comcast.net. We reserve the right to determine suitability for publication, to exclude content at the discretion of the Editor, and to perform reasonable edits to any article submitted to better suit the purposes of the General Grand Chapter.

DEADLINE 25th of each Month for submissions

Photographs

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