

# CRYPTIC MASONRY IN MICHIGAN

Monroe Council No. 1 was first organized in 1847, fostered "within the bosom" of Monroe Chapter No. 1 of Detroit. The proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Michigan for 1853 substantiate this fact, as evidenced by the reports of the Grand High Priest and Grand Recorder. In his address, G.H.P. Jeremiah Moors made the following comment:

"There was a Council of Royal and Select Masters in Detroit prior to the organization of the Grand Chapter (1848) and still continues to be, but they do not derive authority from us, neither have we any evidence that they ever acknowledged our right to control them."

Companion Nathaniel Jacobs, Grand Recorder, in making his report, added the following: "For years, Monroe Council No. 1 of Detroit was the only organized body of Royal and Select Masters, her jurisdiction being co-extensive with the boundaries of the State itself."

When the Grand Chapter of Michigan was organized in 1848, its By-Laws provided for the conferring of the Council degrees by any Chapter within its jurisdiction. Specific regulations governed the granting of such authority. This article of the By-Laws was completely annulled at the Annual Convocation in 1854, in conformity with legislation passed by the General Grand Chapter in 1853, which prohibited such action.

Monroe Council No. 1 was apparently aggressive and progressive in disseminating the Cryptic Rite, and numerous Royal Arch Masons from the more populated areas of the State received the Royal and Select degrees from this Council during the decade from 1847 and 1857. These Companions were among the leaders who were instrumental in organizing the Grand Chapter in 1848 and Grand Commandery in 1857.

After steps were taken by Monroe Council to ensure legal organization and to sponsor two other Councils, these Companions were ready to unite in forming a Grand Council. Fearful that its members would not be recognized as bona fide Royal and Select Masters, and that the future of the Cryptic Rite in this State would be jeopardized, Monroe Council No. 1 set about early in 1856, to establish legal organization. Edward A. Elliott, a member having roots in Connecticut, visited that jurisdiction and applied for a dispensation to Charter a Council in Detroit.

The proceedings of the Grand Council of Connecticut, covering its annual assembly of May 13, 1856, disclose granting of a dispensation for Monroe Council No. 23, with authority to heal those Companions who had received the Cryptic degrees in Royal Arch Chapters. At the annual assembly of Connecticut held May 12, 1857, the proceedings report approval of a charter to be issued to Monroe Council No. 23 of Detroit, as well as St. Clair No. 24 also of Michigan.

# WHAT IS CRYPTIC MASONRY?

## THE CRYPTIC DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

The Council degrees are an elaboration and explanation of the Royal Arch degree and, the Master Mason degree. The degrees of the Council of Royal and Select Masons are necessary to fully complete your education in Ancient Craft Masonry. The degrees of our Masonic system are not chronologically arranged and in the degrees of Royal and Select Master, which many believe, are the most beautiful and impressive of all. You learn of additional incidents in the building of the First temple. During these degrees you represent the Master Builder, Hiram Abif, and learn why the word was lost and the secret of its preservation and recovery.

The first Council degree, the Royal Master, develops more fully the story of recovery of the "lost" word and the Holy of Holies of the Temple of King Solomon. This degree further explains the Master Mason degree by telling of a Fellowcraft, a workman in the quarries, who in true humility asked, "Grand Master, Hiram Abif, when shall I receive the Master's Word?" And after patiently listening to the explanation why he may never receive it, returns to his place in the quarries.

The next degree, Select Master, concerns itself with the construction and adornment of the Subterranean vault introduced in the Royal Arch degree of the Chapter. This degree explains where and how the sacred treasures and the secret word were buried.

The last degree is that of Super Excellent Master, and tells the story of the Babylonian Captivity, and of Zedekiah and his dishonesty. The Super Excellent Master degree is a vivid dramatization of truth and deity and never fails to impress those who witness it, either for the rest time or after many times. Here we are taught fidelity to vows, the wisdom of worshiping GOD, and the punishment for perjury. Here we are welded into a circle of friendship, in an unending chain of fraternal union, as symbolized in the Blue Lodge by the point within the circle, which is displayed on our altars.



# PETITION FOR CRYPTIC DEGREES

\*\*\*This Petition must be completed in its entirety prior to being acted upon by any Council\*\*\*

## Fees for Degrees

Royal Master \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Select Master \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Super Ex. Master \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Thrice Illustrious Master, Officers and Companions

of \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned, a Royal Arch Mason, and now a member in good standing of

Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Number Located at Under the Grand Lodge of

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Number Located at Under the Grand Chapter of

residing within the jurisdiction of your Council, and having the good of the Craft at heart, being desirous of obtaining further light in Masonry, fraternally offers himself as a candidate for the degrees conferred in your council. Should this petition be granted he promises a cheerful compliance with all the laws, regulations, forms, and usages of the Craft.

He  has not heretofore applied to any Council.

has heretofore applied to \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Name Number Under the Grand Council of

and  has  has not been rejected.

## Personal Information:

Residence: \_\_\_\_\_, Michigan \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip Code

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse or Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Date Year City, State

Master Mason Degree \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Date Year Lodge Name Number Grand Jurisdiction

Royal Arch Degree \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Date Year Chapter Name Number Grand Jurisdiction

All the statements I have made in this petition are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name Grand Lodge Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

We, the undersigned, are personally acquainted with the above-named petitioner and from our confidence in his integrity, do cheerfully recommend him as a proper candidate for Cryptic Masonry.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Council \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Council \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee for Degrees \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues \_\_\_\_\_

The Regular fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ accompanies this petition. Collected by: \_\_\_\_\_

## RECOMMENDATION OF COMMITTEE

The undersigned Committee, to whom the petition was referred, after due consideration, report the same back to the Council, and recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Committee

## PETITION

Received and referred date: \_\_\_\_\_

Elected  Rejected  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Objection Filed Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## DEGREES CONFERRED

Degree	Date
Royal Master	_____

Select Master	_____
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Super Ex. Master	_____
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