

Royal Arch in Michigan

The Grand Chapter, or at least Chapters, of Royal Arch Masons have been in Michigan been an influential part of the Masonic Tradition in Michigan since April 20, 1818 when Monroe Chapter No. 1, held it first meeting at the Masonic Hall (Benjamin Woodworth's Hotel) in Detroit, and receiving its Charter on Feb 17, 1821.

Monroe Chapter was instrumental in St. Joseph Valley No. 2 in Niles receiving a dispensation to work. It forwarded the recommendation for a dispensation, along with \$110.00, to the General Grand Chapter on April 16th 1844. The Dispensation was granted on May 16th of that year. Their work being satisfactory, the General Grand Chapter in September 1844 granted the charter which was made out and dated October 16th, 1844.

Jackson Chapter No. 3 located in Jackson received authority of a warrant to work from the General Grand Chapter and held its first meeting in the Odd Fellows' Hall on the thirty-first day of March 1847. At a regular convocation held on the 2nd day of December 1847, they adopted a resolution, previously approved by Monroe Chapter, declaring that in the opinion of the members of this Chapter, it was expedient and proper to form a Grand Chapter for the State of Michigan. The organization of the Grand Chapter took place in Jackson on the 9th Day of March 1848.

The first elected Officers of the Grand Chapter were: E. Smith Lee, Monroe, Grand High Priest; Czar Jones, Jackson, Dep. Grand High Priest; Nathaniel Pullamn, St. Joseph Valley, Grand King; John Mullet, Monroe, Grand Scribe; Willaim Lister, Monroe, Grand Secretary; N.B. Carpenter, Monroe, Grand Treasurer and Jeremiah Moors, Monroe, Grand Marshall. (**The Grand Chapter does not have or elect a Deputy Grand High Priest or a Grand Marshal or it does however, have the following elected Officers not originally elected: Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Three Grand Masters' of the Veils and a Grand Sentinel.)

By the end of the year 1850 Capitular Masonry in Michigan had grown to 7 Chapters and two hundred and fourteen Companions.

The Grand Chapter has continued to grow and prosper since its inception. It has always been a leader in the education and growth of Masonry in Michigan. The last Charter to be issued was presented to Sunlight Chapter No. 189 of Dearborn on October 15, 1975. Sunlight Chapter was founded as a Daylight Chapter. In 1998 it moved its Charter to Garden City.

What is Royal Arch Masonry?

THE CAPITULAR DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

Having completed your degrees in Symbolic Masonry (Blue Lodge), your next step in advancing in York Rite Masonry is the Chapter of Capitular Degrees.

Royal Arch Masonry is said to have derived its origin from the original Masonic Degrees and traditions.

The local Chapter is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Michigan. There are some 76 active Chapters in Michigan, located throughout the lower and upper peninsulas, with a present membership of about 8,000 companions. The General Grand Chapter of Michigan and the Chapter Chapter of all the states(except three) and several foreign jurisdictions are affiliated, the largest Masonic group under one head to be found anywhere in the world. It has a membership of about 650,000 members.

The Chapter, as present in Michigan, consists of four beautiful degrees:

- The Mark Master Degree
- Past Master Degree
- Most Excellent Degree
- Royal Arch Degree

WHAT IS A ROYAL ARCH MASON?

Royal Arch Masonry is not a religion and does not endeavor to fix ones conception of God. Royal Arch Masonry regards your religious belief as your own; it does not attempt to influence your belief. It only asks that you have a belief. The motto of the Royal Arch is "Holiness To The Lord" and ever reminds us of the reverence due the Great and Beneficent Author of our existence, who is a Being without beginning of days or ending of years.

A Royal Arch Mason holds firm to the belief in the Brotherhood of Man, the Fatherhood of God, and the Immortality of the Human Soul in high regard.

He, therefore, who is a member knows that in his travels around the world he will be welcome and greeted with hospitality and friendship.

A Royal Arch Mason is taught to practice and espouse toleration for men and to become brothers in deed. Through active membership one obtains those things to which Royal Arch Masons aspire --companionship--brotherhood--opportunity for service in humanity's name.

A Royal Arch Mason is taught to continually attempt to build with Plumb, Square and Level, that Temple of Character which is the great goal of our gentle Craft.

The Royal Arch Mason is the heart, root, backbone and marrow of Freemasonry.

VISION STATEMENT

Royal Arch Masonry, in Michigan, shall be a preeminent organization for Freemasonry of high quality, consistently delivering, by symbols, allegory and example, a moral code founded on the highest standards of ethics, honesty and strength of character. A fraternal organization committed to charity, strengthening fellowship and brotherly love, dedicated to delighting, involving and educating members, their families and the community, where the Chapter is avibrant, respected and contributing part of their life.

The organization must be well-led, committed to excellence among Freemasons, maintaining quality programs and use of time; and forge alliances designed to help the community and develop the character of Royal Arch Masons.

A Michigan Royal Arch Mason can expect to find, in his fraternity, the opportunity to learn and be inspired; lead and be respected; be challenged; be entertained; cooperate with all Freemasons wherever dispersed; and be involved with his family; his companions and his community; and be proud to be a member of an organization committed to making a difference.

Petition for Capitular Degrees

FEES FOR DEGREES

M.M.M. Degree \$ _____
P.M. Degree \$ _____
M.E.M. Degree \$ _____
R.A.M. Degree \$ _____
Total \$ _____



Date _____

To the Excellent High Priest, and Companions

Of _____ Chapter No. _____

The undersigned, a Master Mason, now a member in good standing of:

_____ Lodge No. _____ (A)F&AM at _____

Under the Grand Lodge of _____, having resided within the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan for six (6) months last preceding the date of this petition 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 Chapter. Should his petition be granted, he promises a cheerful compliance with all the laws, regulations, and usages of the Royal Craft

He has/has not heretofore applied to _____ Chapter No. _____ R.A.M. in the State of _____ and has/has not been rejected.

His residence is _____ City of _____, County of _____, State of Michigan and

his occupation is _____ at _____

He was born in _____ County of _____, State of _____ on the _____ day of _____ in the year of _____

Fees for the Degrees \$ _____ Annual Dues \$ _____

The regular fee of \$ _____ accompanies the petition. Collected by _____

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

Signature _____

Print Signature _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone Numbers _____ E-Mail _____

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 the Capitular Degrees.

Signature _____ Chapter _____ No. _____

Print Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Chapter _____ No. _____

Print Signature _____ Date _____

Recommendation of Committee

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

Date _____

Committee

Petition

Of _____

Received and Referred _____

Committee

Companion _____

Companion _____

Companion _____

Elected on _____

Rejected on _____

Objection Filed on _____

Degrees Conferred

M.M.M. _____

P.M. _____

M.E.M. _____

R.A.M. _____