

## THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

Issued Every Three Months By

The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of The Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging, through its

COMMITTEE ON MASONIC CULTURE — William E. Yeager, Past Grand Master, Chairman; William E. Montgomery, G. Edward Elwell, Jr., Frank R. Leech, William A. Carpenter, Charles A. Young and Ashby B. Paul.

APPROVED AND AUTHORIZED TO BE PRINTED BY

CHARLES H. NITSCH

Right Worshipful Grand Master

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Vol. III February, 1956 No. 1

### Annual Address Highlights of R. W. Past Grand Master Lehr

In his Annual Address as R. W. Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr cited the progress in membership (with about 9,000 candidates initiated during the past year) to an "all-time high" of approximately 252,400 Master Masons. Reference was made to his having caused George M. Leader, Governor of the Commonwealth, to be made a Mason at sight at York, Pa., on March 3, 1955. One new Lodge was constituted—Penn-Morris Lodge, No. 778, Morrisville, Pa., on January 29, 1955.

Brother Lehr stated that two years ago he had outlined an ambitious and constructive program, of which some projects are complete, some in process, and some not yet started but with plans in the making. He believed this "to have been the busiest two years since the turn of the century."

At the Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pa., designated by Brother Lehr as "the heart of Pennsylvania Freemasonry," work is progressing satisfactorily. The utility tunnel is nearing completion; the work on the new wing of the hospital is scheduled to be completed in the near future and immediately thereafter, the renovation of the old section will be undertaken; and on November 26, 1955, the cornerstone of the new Recreation Building and Lodge Hall was laid. With reference to the work at the Homes, he reported the grant of \$120,500 from the Ford Foundation for use at the hospital.

From an administrative standpoint, amendments to the Ahiman Rezon were mentioned providing for additional necessary revenue and for a Children's Service Committee. Reference was made to the Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute held in Pittsburgh, November 27, 1955 to December 3, 1955, at which time Brother Roscoe Pound, Dean Emeritus of Harvard Law School and noted Masonic Philosopher, was the closing speaker.

Brother Lehr recommended that serious consideration be given to a plan for providing alternates for Representatives in Grand Lodge

in order that a greater proportion of the Lodges may at all times be properly represented during the various Communications.

### Lodge No. 9 of Philadelphia Celebrates 175th Anniversary

Back in 1798, Lodge No. 9 of Philadelphia, "contributed to Grand Lodge ten guineas for building a dispensary to which the Lodge was given perpetual rights to send two patients."

And 157 years later in what more fitting way could this venerable Lodge mark its 175th Anniversary than by donating \$5,000 to Grand Lodge to be used for establishing a general dispensary in the Hospital at Elizabethtown? And when the dispensary is well under way, Lodge No. 9 has promised to contribute another \$5,000 for this worthwhile project, and expects to donate annually approximately \$2,000 for the maintenance of this dispensary.

When Brother T. Harrison Gibson of Lodge No. 9 died, he left a Trust Fund, some of the proceeds of which are wisely being used as outlined above. In the near future a bronze plaque will be unveiled to the memory of this deceased Brother.

Lodge No. 9 was granted its Warrant on July 27, 1780 and on the following August 3rd, its Warrant Officers were installed. Lodge No. 9 was one of the first to have "established a fund for the relief of indigent and distressed Masons." From then until today this Lodge has "dispensed charity liberally and generously." This is Masonry at its best.

Brother Joel Carver, who prepared the Historical Resume, presented at the recent celebration, indicates that Lodge No. 9 is one of the few early Lodges which did not have "gaps of from two to twenty-three years when they ceased labor for some reason or other, showing Lodge No. 9 has a continuous record."

Brother Ralph M. Lehr, then R. W. Grand Master, made an official visitation and delivered an inspiring address at their 175th Anniversary Banquet.

### The Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute

Under the auspices of the Children's Service Committee of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Masons of Pennsylvania, the first session of a juvenile court institute ever held was conducted in Pittsburgh at the Juvenile Court of Allegheny County from November 27 to December 3, 1955. As the sessions continue several times a year, it is hoped that the Institute, known as the Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute, may do for the emotionally crippled child, regardless of race, creed or color, what the Shriners' Crippled Children's Hospitals already do so magnificently for the physically crippled child.

The Institute developed in response to an urgent and fundamental need to help juvenile court judges—as key public officials in their communities—to better serve the more than 1,000,000 unhappy, bewildered, disturbed boys and girls who, each year, through the

juvenile courts of America. These young people are a part—a large part—of our greatest national resource for the future—our junior citizens. It is the juvenile court which is designed to act as a parent would, or should, to salvage them from a life of crime in their more mature years. It is the juvenile court which the public calls upon to correct and to guide these troubled young people into a life of usefulness and, at the same time, to protect the community and to assure its future.

Tremendous as is the challenge as well as the responsibility of the juvenile court judge, neither in law school nor in his previous private practice is he likely to have had any experience in working with children in trouble before the law. In the adult field, the procedures are of a trial or adversary nature in which the judge acts largely as umpire. In the children's field, he is directed to make an inquiry, as a parent would, to find out how best to correct the individual child. Instead of acting as though blindfolded, he is to put into practice the universal experience of parents and others that no two children are alike but that each has his own personality, so that the procedure in a juvenile court must be personalized to be effective.

It is in the Institute that a small group of judges come together to make a clinical study of a Court which devotes all its time to children's work. Living together during the week, they consult with each other and listen to, and consult with, outstanding leaders in relating and interlacing fields. Stimulated and informed by these exceptional opportunities and contacts, they return home, personally better able to meet their unique, official responsibilities to troubled children. As the benefits of the Institute spread more and more over the country, each juvenile court may, in effect, become a "hospital," coordinating and focusing in a responsible, judicial way, community resources for the emotionally crippled child.

Answering the announcement of the first session of the Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute, more than 100 judges indicated their desire to attend. Twenty judges were selected and participated, becoming the first Fellows of the Institute. These 20 judges, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish, came from 14 different states and were representative of America and of our local communities, large and small.

In the words of one of the Fellows, the Honorable Hugh Reid, Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of Arlington County, Virginia, and the immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia: "This may be more than just an Institute that you have started. It may be getting the Fraternity back toward the ideals of its founding fathers . . ."

The Pennsylvania Mason Juvenile Court Institute is a tangible way to prove constructive interest in combating the alarming problems of juvenile delinquency and of disturbed youth in our troubled times. It puts into practice on the highest plane the principles of brotherly love, benefitting children regardless of race, creed or color. In so doing, it strengthens public service and democracy itself.

The second session of the Institute will be held May 6-11, 1956.



AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF PENNSYLVANIA

VOLUME III

FEBRUARY • 1956

NUMBER 1

## A Message from Our Grand Master

IT IS WITH mingled emotions that I address you for the first time as Grand Master. In the first place, there is a deep feeling of gratitude to you, my Brethren, for this, the highest honor within your power to bestow.

Since my election to this exalted office on December 7th, I have received many communications from my Brethren expressing their faith in me. This touches me deeply and I am indeed grateful.

I am grateful for the many acts of kindness shown me by my predecessor, Past Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr, whose advice and counsel will serve me well during my term of office.

I am conscious and deeply concerned with the magnitude of the task before me, the high trust which the office imposes, its great responsibilities, and I have many misgivings when I realize my own inadequacy. However, there is comfort in the realization that the task is not for me alone. No man can assume he has the combined knowledge, talents and abilities of his associates, and if he should think so he surely would be doomed to failure. There is an unlimited amount of talent available to the Grand Master and I am comforted in the knowledge that this talent is his for the asking. Therefore, with your support, your advice, your counsel and, yes, your criticism much can be accomplished.

It would be unseemly for me to predict what I hope to do. There are, however, some things of which I would like to speak and in these matters you can be of great help.

I fear we recite in our rituals the beautiful lessons of Freemasonry rather easily and glibly. But do we practice these lessons in our daily lives? Are we as tolerant toward our fellow men as we are taught to be?

I have always believed that the basic lesson of Freemasonry is the simple philosophy of teaching men how to get along with each other just a little better. Let us be mindful of the heritage of Freemasonry. It is a proud Order and its influence for good should be felt everywhere. Let Freemasonry be deeply rooted in our lives.

We have in our Jurisdiction 585 Lodges. The smallest has 49 members and the largest 2051. The average membership is 426. I have found in the smaller Lodges greater opportunities for personal interest in each individual member, so that a new member is not lost in the Lodge.

We have 14 Lodges whose membership is over 1000. How can a member learn to know his brethren intimately? Not all members, of course, will aspire to office. Yet each brother must be made to feel that he is an important member of our Fraternity and to realize that his influence as a Mason must be felt in and out of the Lodge.

Here the recommenders have a vital duty. The mere signing of a petition is not the end of their responsibility. They are the friends who introduced him to Freemasonry. They should pave the way for new friendships and a fuller understanding of Freemasonry.

The Freemasons of Philadelphia have pledged themselves to raise, by personal subscription, \$500,000 as their contribution to the Hospital Extension. To date, Brother Morris Ruberg, Secretary of the Philadelphia Committee, has turned over to the Grand Secretary \$440,000 against the \$500,000 pledged.

For this handsome sum of money we are sincerely grateful and trust that, in the near future, the Philadelphia Masons will go well over the minimum of \$500,000.

January 17, 1956 will be the 250th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin.

Franklin believed that man's greatest service to man was the free and voluntary communication of ideas. Without such an exchange among peoples there could be no wisdom, no freedom, no understanding, no peace. All of his life was lived in that pattern. Individual freedom and equality were the cornerstones of Franklin's Rights of Man. The great Masonic Fraternity credits him with having helped it to change its course from a "club" for the wealthy to membership for all classes.

The Freemasons of Pennsylvania should be justly proud of Franklin's activity in our Grand Lodge which he served as Grand Master in 1734. In the December 1955 issue of the Pennsylvania Freemason, our Librarian and Curator, Brother William J. Paterson, has written an interesting and factual article about this great American, titled "Benjamin Franklin, The Freemason."

It is my suggestion that each Lodge in our Jurisdiction set aside a meeting during the year 1956 in memory of Brother Benjamin Franklin so that we may pay appropriate honor to this great Mason.

In my efforts to fill the office of Grand Master, I shall be most humble. I know mistakes may be made, but I assure you they will not be errors of the heart. I take consolation from a statement made by Dr. Charles Kettering, the eminent Vice President and Director of Research of General Motors Corporation. He said "A man will not stumble unless he is moving forward."

One does not need to be a theologian to know that the person who would keep sane, happy and balanced under the extreme stress of modern living must enjoy an active partnership with a Power that is higher than himself—

*"Lord in this race that we call life;  
Loaded with trouble; pock-marked with strife;  
We ask no advantage; no head start;  
Just grant us the boon of an Educated Heart."*

CHARLES H. NITSCH, Grand Master

(Excerpts from address delivered at the Annual  
Grand Communication December 27, 1955)



## Corner-stone Ceremonies Conducted at Homes for New Recreation Building and Lodge Hall

Another memorable forward step in the development of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown took place on November 26, 1955 when R. W. Past Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr, assisted by other Grand Lodge Officers, laid the corner-stone of the Recreation Building and Lodge Hall.

The entertainment and recreation of our guests at Elizabethtown has always been of utmost importance since the opening of the Homes in 1910. When this imposing Gothic structure is dedicated early next year the Recreation Building with its auditorium seating 500 will adequately provide the facilities for the above purposes for both guests and employees, while the new Lodge Hall accommodating 250 will be available for the use of all Masons throughout the jurisdiction for special Masonic and commemorative events.

R. W. Past Grand Master George H. Deike delivered the principal address in the Grand Lodge Hall after the corner-stone had been set in place. He traced the important steps in the growth of the Masonic Homes from its humble beginning, not only pointing out the ever increasing number of beautiful structures but also the accompanying steps taken to insure the comfort, enjoyment and satisfaction of our guests.

Brother Deike pointed out the tremendous amount of work required to make possible this latest addition to the Homes, especially the voluminous studies of Brother Henry S. Borneman, former General Counsel for Grand Lodge. Brother Deike commented "It is deeply to be regretted that Brother Borneman did not live long enough to enjoy the realization of his years of effort along the lines which this ceremony to-day will exemplify."

Brother Deike mentioned that the required financing will be "paid out of bequests, gifts and funds in the hands of the Grand Lodge."—"The most important one of these bequests allocated in connection with this new building was that magnificent gift from Brother Watson K. Allcott. In his legacy he gave instructions that his beneficent gift be used for the purposes for which this building is designed."

"The Recreation Building and Lodge Hall, when completed will bear the name of this beloved benefactor. It will be known and designated as the Watson K. Allcott Memorial Building."

"The names of the other donors will be inscribed in suitable emblems and tablets, thereby indicating that all who made these bequests would have a part in and be properly honored in this Memorial."

Speaking of the building itself, Brother Deike said "Although in form, materials and textures it harmonizes with the existing institutional structures, it will enhance and ennoble these.

Its attenuated, classic and emphatic lines and forms will add a new and inspiring scope to the total composition. The new gables reflect and echo those of the Grand Lodge Hall, but their new dimensions add luster and distinction to the whole."

"The internal functional scheme has been based on the concept of the easiest and most direct circulation to the various elements, without the necessity of climbing steps. The latest and most modern mechanical systems have been provided for the ideal function of the various components as well as for the greatest comfort and well-being of the occupants."

"The Lodge Hall itself is founded on the basic principles of architecture and geometry. The simplicity of the pyramidal and triangular form, east to west rising in splendid and inspiring proportions; rational, not bombastic; exuberant and yet modest. Its lofty interior will achieve monumentality by its essence of simplicity, and its strong vertical lines and cedar panelling."

"From the west, the Lodge Hall will seem like a tree of stone and colored glass, rising from the ground with stone tracery trunks and branches, its main structure floating over blue ceramic tile and glass."

In closing, Brother Deike remarked that "All the thinking and planning throughout the years since 1910 will be found incorporated in this beautiful addition to Grand Lodge Hall."

"When completed it will give unbounded pleasure and entertainment to the guests for whose benefit it is being erected."

"It will become a fitting memorial to all those donors whose bequests and generosity have made it possible."

"Each and every member of the subordinate Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania will take great pride and justifiable pleasure in that which is being done here today and in the building which is to dignify this beautiful setting and which will add immeasurably to its surroundings."

## Harrisburg Dedicates Spacious Cathedral and Masonic Temple

The dedication of the new Scottish Rite Cathedral and Masonic Temple in Harrisburg on November 17, 1955 marked the beginning of a new epoch in the annals of Freemasonry in that historic part of our Commonwealth.

Now for the first time Harrisburg truly has a magnificent Masonic Center with the Scottish Rite Cathedral and Masonic Temple adjoining the Zembo Mosque. The new structure is the home of the five Harrisburg Blue Lodges and the York Rite bodies along with the Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of Harrisburg, while the adjacent Mosque houses Zembo Temple and Forest No. 43 of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. Thus a dream of many years has finally become a reality.

The Cathedral located in the beautiful Riverside section of Harrisburg with the Rose Garden to the south and Italian Lake to the north was erected and furnished at a cost of approximately \$1,500,000. The spacious structure is approximately 340 feet long and 160 feet wide on a plot 400 by 450 feet. Ample parking space is available alongside the building.

Two large Lodge Rooms and a Masonic School Room with the associated Secretary's offices and other rooms are located on the second floor, while the Scottish Rite Auditorium seating over 1200 with its mammoth stage is on the first floor, along with the Scottish Rite offices, and an immense Ball Room in which more than 1000 can be served at one time. Ample kitchen facilities and recreational rooms are also on this floor.

On the ground floor are located three other dining rooms, with their own kitchen. Also other meeting rooms are on this floor as well as the dressing rooms associated with the stage. The entire building is fully air-conditioned.

The dedication services attracted one of the largest groups of Masonic dignitaries ever assembled in this part of the Country. Scottish Rite Officials from both the Northern and Southern Masonic Jurisdictions as well as Canada were in attendance while our elective and appointive Grand Lodge Officers as well as all our living Past Grand Masters were present.

The Scottish Rite Cathedral was dedicated by Brother George E. Bushnell, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, and his Officers in an impressive ceremony held in the auditorium. Brothers Scott S. Leiby, Deputy for the District of Pennsylvania, Richard A. Kern and William E. Yeager, Active Members of the Supreme Council, all R. W. Past Grand Masters, and Brother Ralph M. Lehr, R. W. Grand Master, took a prominent part in this ceremony.

The Masonic Temple portion of the building was then dedicated by our R. W. Grand Master Ralph M. Lehr and the Grand Lodge Officers in accordance with the dignified ritual prescribed by the Ahiman Rezon in the Blue Room which was filled to capacity.

After the dedicatory ceremonies in the afternoon, dinner was served to close to 4000 Masons in the Mosque, with Brothers Ralph M. Lehr and George E. Bushnell delivering the principal addresses. Brother Scott S. Leiby acted as toastmaster and greetings from the Supreme Council of Canada were presented by Brother Clarence McC. Pitts, Past Sovereign Grand Commander, and from the Southern Supreme Council by Brother Luther A. Smith, Sovereign Grand Commander.

The former Scottish Rite Cathedral at Capital and Third Streets which had been the home for the Scottish Rite bodies for 60 years has been sold to the State and will eventually be razed as part of the Capital Park Extension Plan. The former Masonic Temple at Third and State Streets has been sold to a syndicate which converted it into an office building.

—A. B. P.

## From Our Grand Secretary's Office

### OUR DECEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

#### Amendments to Ahiman Rezon Adopted

What may well have been a record for attendance at Grand Lodge was set on December 7, last, when almost a thousand members, representing 488 of our 585 Lodges, were present.

These figures are not surprising when it is remembered that action was to be had upon the proposed Amendment to Article X, Section 1, Item 7 of the Ahiman Rezon, which provided for the raising of Grand Lodge Dues from \$2.00 to \$4.00, and of the Masonic Homes Initiation Fees from \$40.00 to \$60.00.

In response to a request signed by fifteen Representatives the ballot was taken by Lodges. Almost 15,000 votes were cast, approximately 65 percent of which were in favor of the adoption of the Amendment.

Action upon the proposed Amendment to Article XIII, adding a new Section, numbered 42, providing for the appointment of a Children's Service Committee, and defining its duties, was also by Lodges. The Amendment was adopted by a vote of approximately four to one.

#### ANNUAL ELECTION

The following Brethren were elected to serve Grand Lodge for the present Masonic Year:

R. W. Grand Master  
BROTHER CHARLES H. NITSCH  
R. W. Deputy Grand Master  
BROTHER SANFORD M. CHILCOTE  
R. W. Senior Grand Warden  
BROTHER MAX F. BALCOM  
R. W. Junior Grand Warden  
BROTHER W. LEROY MCKINLEY  
R. W. Grand Treasurer  
BROTHER LOUIS BACHARACH  
R. W. Grand Secretary  
BROTHER GEORGE A. AVERY

#### COMMITTEE ON MASONIC HOMES

Brother Scott C. Rea  
Brother Robert E. Woodside, Jr.  
Brother Scott S. Leiby, R.W.P.C.M.  
Brother C. Howard Witmer  
Brother William E. Yeager, R.W.P.C.M.  
Brother Francis H. Mills  
Brother Ellis E. Stern

The Grand Officers were duly installed at the Annual Grand Communication, held December 27, 1955.

#### Gifts and Bequests

At the Quarterly Communication the R. W. Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr, announced that Grand Lodge, during the fiscal year ending November 15, 1955, had received gifts and bequests amounting to \$179,877.39. At the Annual Grand Communication he informed the Brethren that Brother George H. Deike, R. W. Past Grand Master, for the sixth successive year, had presented Grand Lodge with a gift of \$5,000.00. Brother Deike's gifts,

totaling \$30,000.00, are to be applied to the cost of the erection of the Recreational Building at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

#### The Committee on Finance

The Committee on Finance presented the budget for 1956 which was unanimously approved. It allocated \$1,130,000.00 for the operation of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown (\$1,080,000.00 for maintenance and \$50,000.00 for capital expenditures), and \$592,186.49 for the operation of Grand Lodge, a total of \$1,722,186.49.

Included in the budget was an item of \$10,000.00 for the Children's Service Committee. This was increased to \$35,000.00 by a resolution presented by the Committee on Finance, and unanimously approved by Grand Lodge, at the Annual Grand Communication.

This appropriation is to be used to defray the expense of the Pennsylvania Masonic Juvenile Court Institutes, the report of the first of which, held in Pittsburgh, November 28 to December 3, 1955, may be read elsewhere in this issue of the "Pennsylvania Freemason."

Four resolutions attached to the report of the Committee on Finance were unanimously adopted.

The first of these amended a resolution adopted by Grand Lodge on September 5, 1955, and established the procedure to be followed in the allocation of certain portions of the Deceased Guests' Contribution Account of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown to the maintenance of the Homes.

The second provided that any excess in the proceeds from the liquidation of the Funds allocated to the erection of the Lodge Hall and Recreational Building at Elizabethtown may be allocated to the reconditioning of the utilities and the erection of the Hospital Extension, provided that any condition attached to said Funds shall be complied with.

The third resolution authorized and empowered the Trustees of Title to the Masonic Temple and Other Real Estate of the Grand Lodge to lease any part or parts of the Bulletin Annex upon terms approved by the Committee on Finance and the Grand Master.

The final resolution placed the disbursement of the income of the Henry C. and Anna C. Ellis Trust Fund in the hands of a Committee consisting of the Grand Officers.

#### Amendments to By-Laws

The Committee on By-Laws presented a report at both the Quarterly and the Annual Communications. By favorable action upon the recommendations contained in these reports Grand Lodge approved Amendments to the By-Laws of a total of 483 Lodges. These Amendments had been adopted by the Lodges, with the permission of the R. W. Grand Master, in anticipation of the adoption of the Amendment to Article X, Section 1, Item 7, of the Ahiman Rezon.

#### Recognition of Norway

Through the unanimous adoption of a resolution presented by the Committee on Correspondence, Grand Lodge extended fraternal recognition to the Grand Lodge of Norway.

#### New District Deputy Grand Masters

The R. W. Grand Master, Brother Charles H. Nitsch, has appointed the following new District Deputy Grand Masters:

District D—  
ALBERT A. BAUER—Lodge No. 292  
District G—  
GEORGE C. FLANNIGAN—Lodge No. 436  
District I—  
WILLIAM H. VAN VOORHEES—Lodge No. 528  
District 10—  
MYRON P. WEHR—Lodge No. 561  
District 22—  
JOSEPH W. LINCOLN—Lodge No. 334  
District 24—  
THEODORE OTTO HELBERG—Lodge No. 392  
District 35—  
WILMER SCHELL—Lodge No. 462  
District 52—  
OWEN R. HARTMAN—Lodge No. 521

#### The Pennsylvania Freemason

The report of the Committee on Masonic Culture disclosed the fact that the circulation of the "Pennsylvania Freemason" is now in excess of 90,000.

#### Grand Masters Address Grand Lodge

At the annual Grand Communication Brother Ralph M. Lehr, retiring R. W. Grand Master, and Brother Charles H. Nitsch, newly installed R. W. Grand Master, each delivered his Grand Master's Address. Both have been printed and forwarded to the Lodges.



GEORGE A. AVERY, Grand Secretary

#### Grand Chapter Officers Elected and Installed

At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, held December 8, 1955, at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, the following Companions were elected and installed for the ensuing Masonic year:

Most Excellent Grand High Priest  
CHARLES E. TULL  
Most Excellent Grand King  
WALTER D. FERREE  
Most Excellent Grand Scribe  
JOHN R. ASHER  
Most Excellent Grand Treasurer  
FRANK R. LEECH, M.E.P.C.H.P.  
Most Excellent Grand Secretary  
JOHN C. F. KITSELMAN