



*Cary Lodge No. 198, 1142 East Maynard Road, P.O. Box 8, Cary, NC 27512*

*www.carylodge198.org*

***Greetings From the West by Brother Morty Jayson***

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I don't know if it is a product of my getting older or the lifestyle that most of us have these days, but time seems to be flying by! At times it seems that it was only a few short weeks ago that Thanksgiving was here and Christmas approaching. Not only have those holidays come and gone but we are rapidly approaching our "Spring" Bar-B-Que. Taking place on Friday, March 12th, this major fundraiser will be here before you know it. For those of you who are new to our Lodge, you are in for a treat. It is a time to come together with your fellow Brothers and get to know them in an environment outside the Lodge room. Too often we come to Lodge twice a month (if we are lucky), sit together for a couple of hours and leave. For a few, busy schedules don't permit us to come early and enjoy the camaraderie over dinner - we just attend Lodge, shake a few hands, tell each other how much we enjoyed seeing them - and leave, only to disappear until the next meeting. Brothers there is a LOT more to Masonry than that. We grow professionally, personally and Masonically through involvement and participation. Don't just listen to the Lodge minutes being read, be a part of them!

Between now and the 12th there is much to be done. Supplies have to be purchased, sauce made and bottled, cookers lined up, gas tanks refilled and meat ordered. Tickets need to be sold, tables and chairs prepared and numerous "stations" to be filled. Many of us "assume" that these things are taken care of automatically and take these ticket items for granted. Just because so-and-so has always done it doesn't mean that he doesn't need help. For too long we have depended on one or two individuals to carry the burden. If something were to happen to one of them because of illness or family or work responsibilities we would be up the creek. It is time for others to step forward and learn these roles in order to be prepared to insure that the job is carried on for future events. If called on today to get paper products for example, how many of us would know how many to-go containers we would need? How many plastic utensils would be needed or even where to procure them? Wo. Brother Thomas Stephenson has taken care of this for a long time but I am sure he would welcome someone helping him with gathering these items as well as the 15 or 20 other items that have to be purchased. How many of us know the recipes of the sauce or the seasonings for the potatoes? We must begin to look to our future and plan ahead. From the newest EA to the oldest MM there are tasks to be done. Some require a few minutes, others take a few hours. There is something for everyone!

I encourage you to step forward and volunteer to work at any of the stations or sub-committees that are there. I will do everything possible to see that your preferred task is available to you. Don't let the excuse "I don't know" or "I haven't done that before" hold you back. It takes a lot of volunteers, both from the Masonic and OES families to be successful. I hope you will join us, and at the same time enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Brothers. See you on the 12th!

Sincerely and Fraternaly  
Morty Jayson  
Senior Warden

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

- ? Mar. 12, 2004-Cary Lodge Spring BBQ
- ? Mar. 29, 2004-Cary Lodge Golf Tournament
- ? May 1, 2004-15th Dist Picnic, Oxford, NC
- ? Jun. 26, 2004-St. John's Day, Oxford, NC
- ? Jul. 10, 2004-15th Dist Picnic, MESH, Greensboro, NC
- ? Sep 24-25, 2004-GL Annual Communication, Winston Salem, NC
- ? Nov. 5, 2004-Cary Lodge Fall BBQ

<b>March 2004</b>						
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
	<b>1</b> Cary 198	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> York Rite Degrees	<b>6</b> York Rite Degrees
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Scottish Rite	<b>12</b> Cary BBQ	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Cary 198 FC Degree	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Cary Golf Tournament Lochmere	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

<b>April 2004</b>						
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> York Rite Mtng Scottish Rite Degrees	<b>3</b> Scottish Rite Degrees
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Cary 198	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Scottish Rite	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Cary 198	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	



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*The Legend Continues by Brother Dave Milidonis*

The history of the beginning formation of the United Grand Lodge of England is something every Mason should know, from Entered Apprentice to Master. This is particularly true since so many new books have been published in recent years, regarding Masonry (*The Da Vinci Code*, *The Book of Hiram*, etc.), particularly when they mention the works of the Holy Royal Arch Masons. To the non-Mason, these books seem to suggest that Freemasons, Royal Arch Masons and Knights Templar are one in the same. I encourage every Blue Lodge brother to discover the facts, for themselves; but, to also read these books for their own enlightenment. When you study our early history, you will most assuredly run into some interesting data, but, for me, the most intriguing concerns the addition to our Hiramic Legend, the Holy Royal Arch. To understand where that form came from, you have to go back to the very beginning of the Grand Lodge system.

Organized Freemasonry became established on June 24, 1717, when four speculative London Lodges decided to come together and form what they called the first Grand Lodge in the world and elected a Grand Master. Initially, it was a simple system, established for a once-a-year meeting and a feast. In 1721, they began to meet on a quarterly basis. This attracted lodges from outside the London area to it and by 1730, over 100 lodges in England and Wales had joined this new Grand Lodge. As more and more men joined Masonry during this period, the "three-degree" system began to take its present form. It was not a standardized set of degrees at this time. Various forms and settings were used among the lodges and almost no lodge performed it exactly the same as another. As more and more men of the "speculative" type joined the Fraternity, a deepening division occurred. Many of the new Masons were not satisfied with the period of time that it took to become a ritualized Master Mason. So, they sought out and found other lodges which were not a part of this new Grand Lodge and prevailed upon them to become a Master Mason in their lodge. At some point in these early years, the Grand Lodge expressly forbid them to do so and ordered their own lodges not to admit anyone who had gone to these other lodges for the degree. It was during this time that some discovered that there was any additional part to the Master Mason's Degree that many men had not received or seen. The earliest reference to the degree of the Royal Arch was published in 1744. "The brother says: 'Some of the Fraternity have expressed an uneasiness at the Royal Arch being kept secret from them, since they had already passed through the usual degrees of probation; but I cannot help being of the opinion that they have no right to any such benefit, until they make proper application and are received with due formality as having passed the [Master's] chair and given undeniable proofs of their skill.'" Somewhere during all this uproar, the original work of the Royal Arch was discovered, lost and re-discovered again. It was commonly referred to as the "completion" of the third degree, but some lodges practiced it as an entirely

separate 4<sup>th</sup> degree, while still others only conferred it on installed Masters of the Lodge. By the 1717 formation of the four London lodges, it was common knowledge among all the lodges that the Royal Arch was somehow part of the three-degree system. But, these four London Lodges were not entirely aware of this so they did not practice it. Soon after the 1717 formation, Dr. Anderson and others were chartered and authorized by the Grand Lodge to revise the lectures. This is where they discovered that the Royal Arch existed and was being practiced in the "other" lodges, those outside the Grand Lodge. Those other Lodges claimed their right to practice this degree as having been laid down by charter, in 926 A.D., by Prince Edwin, at the assembly in York. They called themselves the "Ancients," and were effectively excluded from the Grand Lodge of England. Two Grand Lodges formed. The "Ancients", or York Masons, formed their own Grand Lodge about 1736 and the original Grand Lodge of England, formed in 1717 became known as the "Moderns." Both coexisted and even some members became brothers in both Grand Lodges simultaneously. Many of the Ancients hailed from Ireland and Scotland, because, for some reason, they were not being admitted into the more aristocratic English lodges. It was also during this time that the American colonies began to see a build up of lodges. Many of these were established by quartered British Regiments holding a "traveling charter." Depending on the home Grand Lodge (Ancient or Modern) of these regiments, different 3-degree systems were established. That is why, even today, some lodges in different parts of the original 13 States practice a portion of the Royal Arch degree within their system. Finally, after a 65-year split, and 4 years of negotiations, these two Grand Lodges came together in a great ceremonial, on December 27, 1813, and combined into what we now call the United Grand Lodge of England. A Board of General Purposes was formed and the three-degree system was finally codified in a new Constitution. And, interestingly, that portion of the Constitution states that the subordinate lodges will confer the three degrees in this manner: "It is declared and pronounced that pure Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees, and no more: viz: Those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch." So, in 1813, the Royal Arch chapters were established and confirmed as having a rightful connection to the approved Masonic structure from the highest authority. But, the American colonies had already become states and their separate Grand Lodge systems had already been established. That is the reason why the Royal Arch is not mentioned as a part of our 3-degree system in the Constitution of the GLNC. As a result, here in the United States, the complete system of the Holy Royal Arch Chapter is only conferred within the established York Rite bodies of each state. Any Mason in the U.S. who wants to see how the Hiramic Legend ends, that was begun in the Blue Lodge system, should study the Royal Arch.