THE FOURTH TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

The Fourth Twenty-five Years of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Delaware covers the period 1945 to 1969. As we approach our Centennial, we view with pride our Grand Chapter, consecrated by the labor, devotion and sacrifice of so many Companions of the past. Their memories hang like garlands upon our walls and fill our arches with a fragrance sweeter than the rare perfumes of the East. It is for us the living to dedicate ourselves to the tasks before us so that our Grand Chapter will continue to enjoy the good will and respect they engendered.

At the Annual Convocation in Wilmington on January 16, 1946, Grand High Priest Joseph O. Willis in his opening remarks said, "One year ago, when I assumed the office of M. E. Grand High Priest, we were in the midst of the great war. Since that time, the war has drawn to a close and peace again seems near. I pray that those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice did not do so in vain, and that we Royal Arch Masons shall have the determination to stand united in all things which will bring a lasting peace to the people of all races, creeds and nations throughout the world."

In January 1947, Grand High Priest Harvey W. Bentley recommended the elimination of the office of Deputy Grand High Priest and that the retiring High Priests from the subordinate Chapters be appointed to the Veils and Principal Sojourner. In the succeeding year one of them could be selected to serve as Grand Captain of the Host. This would shorten the time required to pass the chairs and encourage more vigorous men to serve. The Amendment to the Constitution eliminating the Office of Deputy Grand High Priest was passed the following year.

Among the distinguished visitors welcomed by Grand High Priest William H. Cantwell at the 1948 Convocation was R. E. Robert Foster Janes, General Grand Scribe of the General Grand Chapter of the U. S. A. He was
again a visitor as R. E. General Grand King in 1949, 1950, 1951 and as M. E. General Grand High Priest in 1952 and 1954. Companion Janes, upon being elected General Grand High Priest at the Triennial in Little Rock, Arkansas, in October 1951, appointed Past Grand High Priest F. Irving Crow of Delaware, General Grand Sentinel. This is the first and only time in the history of the Grand Chapter of Delaware that we have been recognized by the General Grand Chapter with an appointment in the Grand Line.

ZERUBBABEL ASSOCIATION

Among the recommendations of Grand High Priest Cantwell was the proposal of an Association of Past High Priests for the purpose of creating interest in Capitular Masonry and enjoying the fellowship associated with the York Rite. During the ensuing year, Grand High Priest F. Irving Crow addressed letters to all of our Past High Priests calling a meeting on December 28, in Wilmington. At this meeting, a committee was formed with High Priest Alfred H. Coe as chairman, to formulize an organization. A committee on by-laws was appointed and another one to consider an appropriate name. The name selected was "Zerubbabel Association." During 1949, it was organized and commenced to function. The President was Companion Alfred H. Coe, High Priest of Delta Chapter No. 6. Only about one-third of the eligible members expressed an interest by joining and the Association struggled for a few more years. At the Convocation of the Grand Chapter in 1956, Grand High Priest J. Henry McDonnell suggested that the "Zerubbabel Association" be re-activated. Grand High Priest Alfred E. Pool, in his address to Grand Chapter in January 1957, reported that he had talked with many influential Companions about re-activation and the general opinion was that the time was not ripe. Grand High Priest Charles E. Green, in his address to Grand Chapter in January 1958, gave as his opinion that
present conditions did not warrant reorganization and recommended that the funds in the dormant "Zerubbabel Association" be transferred to the treasury of the Grand Chapter. The Jurisprudence Committee approved the dissolution of the club and the transfer of funds.

Delaware Capitular Masonry lost a faithful Companion with the passing on May 3, 1946 of M. E. John W. Macklem. He was Grand High Priest in 1916 and Grand Secretary, 1924 to 1944. Companion Macklem gave generously of his time and talents to the advancement of Royal Arch Masonry. His energies were boundless and his devotion unending. He was a gentle soul --- a fine, modest gentleman who exemplified Freemasonry at its finest.

In October 1948, Grand High Priest F. Irving Crow and Grand King J. Ralph Carey attended the Sesquicentennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City. This affair was celebrated with a banquet and entertainment on October 5 and the regular Convocation on October 6 and 7.

M. E. General High Priest Earl Elliot Dusenbery and R. E. General Grand King Robert Foster Janes were welcomed to the 1951 Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Delaware by Grand High Priest R. Earle Dickey and the following year M. E. General Grand High Priest Janes and E. General Grand Sentinel F. Irving Crow were received by Grand High Priest Harry R. Craig. The committee appointed to consider the award of the Distinguished Service Medal, authorized by the General Grand Chapter in October 1951, agreed that the first medal should be presented to Excellent Companion Alfred E. Pool.

The York Rite Committee with the Zerubbabel Association held a combined Chapter Ladies' Night at the DuPont Country Club on April 4, 1951. There were two hundred and seventy-five Companions and their ladies participating and enjoying the event.
Grand High Priest Irwin R. Murray and Grand Secretary Marshall M. Carpenter attended the General Grand Chapter Triennial in Asheville, North Carolina, on October 5 to 7, 1954. They learned that a three volume History of Capitular Freemasonry was being prepared under the auspices of the General Grand Chapter. The General Grand High Priest Tom Q. Ellis requested the various Grand Chapters to set up a Religious Affirmation Day and recommended the Sunday nearest October 24 as the day to be set aside. This was the organization date of the General Grand Chapter in 1797.

The first Religious Affirmation Day observance was proclaimed by Grand High Priest J. Henry McDonnell for October 23, 1955. Service in Wilmington was held in the First and Central Presbyterian Church under the auspices of Companion Reverend Willard G. Purdy; in Dover in the Presbyterian Church with the Reverend Robert McKim conducting; and, in Georgetown at the Grace Methodist Church with the Reverend Thomas C. Mulligan in charge. All three services were well attended by Chapter Companions and their families. Religious Affirmation Day was observed each year by the Grand Chapter of Delaware from 1955 to 1971 with varying degrees of success.

CAPITULAR FESTIVALS

Grand High Priest J. Henry McDonnell called a Special Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Delaware in the Masonic Temple, Wilmington, on May 16, 1955 for the purpose of holding a Capitular Festival, the first to be held in our Grand Jurisdiction. The Mark Master Degree was conferred on May 16 with Past High Priest Thomas R. Saunders in the East; the Past Master and Most Excellent Master Degrees on May 17 with Past Grand High Priest James Carswell and Past High Priest Saunders, respectively, in the East; and, the Royal Arch Degree on May 18 with Grand King Alfred E. Pool presiding. The Kent and Sussex Chapters conferred the
degrees in their respective Temples at Dover and Georgetown and under
the guidance of Past Grand High Priest J. Wallace Woodford and Past Grand
High Priest Charles S. Calhoon. The final result of this enterprise was
the bringing of Capitular light to seventy-two new members. This was
the greatest number of yearly exaltations since 1923. Past Grand High
Priest W. Harry Lewis, Director of Work, assisted the ritual teams by
making certain that the degrees were presented in an impressive and
enthusiastic manner. He was assisted by Past Grand High Priest James
Carswell, Past High Priest Thomas R. Saunders, Grand King Alfred E. Pool
and Grand Scribe Charles E. Green. The real credit for the success of
this 1955 Festival should go to Past High Priest Marshall M. Carpenter
and Past High Priest Claude P. Davidson. Their handling of the
correspondence, tactful grasp of Capitular activities and wide acquain-
tance among the Companions, were the sources of inspiration that moved
the membership to action.

Grand High Priest Alfred E. Pool opened the Grand Chapter for a
Special Convocation on May 22, 1956, for the purpose of holding our
second Capitular Festival. It was an inspiring sight to see one entire
side of the Chapter Room occupied by fifty-five candidates. The degrees
were conferred on three different days by the officers of the three
Wilmington Chapters. A separate Festival was held in Georgetown on
June 5 and 6, at which time ten candidates received the Capitular Degrees.

Grand High Priest Charles E. Green called a Special Convocation of
the Grand Chapter on May 25, 1957, in Wilmington. The purpose was to
hold a Capitular Festival at which all the degrees would be conferred
in one day. The Degrees of Mark Master, Past Master and Most Excellent
Master were conferred in the afternoon, followed by a dinner. In the
evening the Royal Arch Degree was conferred on twenty-nine candidates.

The following year, Grand High Priest Claude P. Davidson, called
a Special Convocation of the Grand Chapter for May 3, 1958, at Dover for
the purpose of conferring all the degrees in one day. Dinner was served prior to the conferment of the Royal Arch Degree on forty-seven candidates.

A Capitular Festival was held at a Special Convocation of the Grand Chapter in Georgetown on May 2, 1959. Grand High Priest A. Warren Wheatley opened the proceedings which were the same as the previous year. Thirty-three candidates were exalted to the Royal Arch Degree.

Grand High Priest Rhey Smith held a Special Convocation of the Grand Chapter in Dover on April 9, 1960. The same procedures for conferring all the degrees in one day, with a banquet prior to the Royal Arch Degree, were followed. Twenty-seven candidates were exalted.

Capitular Festivals were held at Special Convocations by Grand High Priest Raymond A. Howard on April 22, 1961 and by Grand High Priest Powell E. Craig on April 28, 1962. Both of these Festivals were held in Wilmington and the work conferred in the mornings and afternoons with luncheon served during the noon recesses. Twenty-six candidates were exalted to the Royal Arch Degree in the 1961 Festival and twenty-two in the 1962 class.

The idea of Capitular Festivals was abandoned in 1963. Again apathy appeared to take over the York Rite in Delaware. The Festivals had demonstrated that it could be an ideal manner of imparting Capitular Light and increasing membership. Complete cooperation between the officers of the Grand Chapter, the officers of the subordinate Chapters and the Companions is needed for success. It takes long hours of work, planning and organizing, under inspired leadership, to orient the various conditions required for a successful Capitular Festival.

In the Chapter we have something worthwhile and beautiful to offer a Master Mason. We have a distinctive honor to confer upon him. We have knowledge that will complete his Ancient Craft Masonry. When the Master Mason realizes that in Capitular Masonry he will complete the symbolism
meant to be taught in Ancient Craft Masonry; that this work in the past was an honor conferred only on a Past Master of a Symbolic Lodge; that our ritualistic degrees are conferred with beauty, pageantry and majesty — then he will be seeking and knocking at our doors.

At the Annual Convocation on January 18, 1956, Grand High Priest J. Henry McDonnell had the pleasure of welcoming Tom/Q. Ellis, General Grand High Priest. In the report of the Jurisprudence Committee may be found this comment: "--- we are convinced that no Grand High Priest in Delaware has given to this Grand Chapter more of himself -- in interest and work -- than J. Henry McDonnell."

The sudden death of R/. E/. Grand Secretary Marshall M. Carpenter on December 15, 1956 was an irreparable loss to Capitular Masonry in Delaware. The love he carried in his heart was expressed by earnest activity in promoting the principles and philosophy of York Rite Masonry. He led an exemplary life of a good man and Mason and found joy and happiness in being of service to his fellow men.

M/. E/. General Grand High Priest J. Luther Jordan of Louisiana was among the distinguished visitors welcomed by Grand High Priest Claude P. Davidson at the Convocation of January 17, 1959.

At the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 11 - 13, 1960, Delaware was represented by Grand High Priest Rhey Smith, Grand Scribe Powell E. Craig, several of the line officers and Past Grand High Priests. On September 7, 1960, Grand High Priest Smith and his staff dedicated the new quarters of Kent Chapter No. 8, in Dover, to Royal Arch Masonry.

On February 17, 1962, Grand High Priest Powell E. Craig, accompanied by Companion Conrad Hahn, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association and M/. E/. William R. Denslow, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Missouri and Editor of the Royal Arch Mason Magazine, visited
the Architect of the United States Capitol, Companion J. George Stewart, in Washington, D. C. During recent extensions made to the Capitol, Companion Stewart had observed some discoveries he thought might be of interest to the Craft. Several Master Mason marks were found and a blueprint made to preserve them. Companion Stewart showed slides and enlightened his visitors with a history of the Capitol. He donated a piece of stone showing one of these marks to the Grand Chapter of Delaware.

The Triennial of the General Grand Chapter was held, October 13-17, 1963, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Grand High Priest Ernest H. Martin was unable to attend but was capably represented by Grand Scribe Samuel A. Wise, Grand Principal Sojourner Richard H. Thomas, Past Grand High Priest Powell E. Craig and Past High Priest James R. Hanna.

The Grand Chapter and Freemasonry in Delaware experienced a great loss with the passing on December 20, 1965, of M: E: W. Harry Lewis, Past Grand High Priest. He had a warm, personal, active part as an officer and member in all the Ancient Craft, York and Scottish Rites. He was one of the best informed Masonic ritualists in the United States. Most Excellent Companion Lewis was greatly interested in the Masonic Home of Delaware and devoted much time working on the Admissions Committee. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his leadership and unselfish devotion to Masonic endeavors. He was a talented and good man, a faithful and sincere Brother and Companion and a competent and wise officer.

At the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter on January 15, 1966, Grand High Priest Samuel A. Wise had the honor of welcoming M: E: William F. Clark, General Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter. In a heart warming ceremony, Grand High Priest Wise requested the Grand Royal Arch Captain and the Three Grand Masters of the Veils to retire and then return with the Banners pertaining to their stations. These beautiful and distinctive Banners were hand made by Grand High Priest Wise and
his wife and presented in this manner to the Grand Chapter of Delaware.

In his address to Grand Chapter, Grand High Priest Wise reported that a Dispensation was granted on April 8, 1966, to Brandywine Chapter U. D. to open and hold a new Chapter and that on June 9, he, accompanied by members of his staff, presented this Dispensation to the Chapter in Claymont. The Charter was granted January 15, 1966, for Brandywine Chapter No. 9, naming George S. Flumerfelt as High Priest, Charles J. Brodie as King, and Frank M. Kaiser as Scribe. On March 9, 1967, M: E: Chester G. Dahlstrom, Grand High Priest and his staff constituted Brandywine Chapter No. 9 at Claymont.

The Triennial of the General Grand Chapter was held in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 10 - 13, 1966. Grand High Priest Dahlstrom, accompanied by several Delaware Past Grand High Priests and Companions attended.

M: E: Harry V. Holloway, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Delaware, died on January 18, 1966. He had a most distinguished career as an educator and administrator, as a public spirited citizen and as a Mason. Dr. Holloway enjoyed the respect and love of men in all walks of life. Friendly, modest and capable, he exemplified the real values of service. By his kindly, thoughtful and scholarly acts, he maintained a life of Masonic idealism. His reports to the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter of Delaware brought the inspiration and vision of Freemasonry to those who hungered for further light. In one of his reports, he wrote this fine definition of education: "The purposes of a general education are acquiring of knowledge for guidance, the development of skills for performance and the creation of appreciation for happiness." A fond remembrance abides in the lives of many generations of students and in the hearts of his Brethren and Companions.

M: E: John S. Proud, Grand High Priest; R: E: Richard H. Thomas, Grand King; and, R: E: Chester C. Coffin, Grand Scribe, attended the
Northeast Sectional Conference at Binghamton, New York, on November 18, 1967. Companion Proud was a panelist during the discussion of "The Concordat of York Rite Unity."

M. E.: Grand High Priest Richard H. Thomas revived the idea of a Capitular Festival by calling a Special Convocation of the Grand Chapter in Newport on May 25, 1968. Thirteen candidates were exalted to the Royal Arch Degree. A request from Delta Chapter No. 6 to change their place of meeting from Wilmington to Newport, on approval of the Jurisprudence Committee, was granted.

M. E.: Grand High Priest Thomas had the honor and distinction of presiding over the celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Delaware. This event was held in the Hotel DuPont, Wilmington, on January 17, 1969. Approximately two hundred members, distinguished visitors and their guests enjoyed an evening of festivities which consisted of a banquet, entertainment and speeches. The committee, under the chairmanship of Past Grand High Priest F. Irving Crow, were congratulated for their labors in planning the celebration.

Companions --- Man is surrounded with a dome of incomprehensible wonders. He should drink deeply of these majestic mysteries. He should use these mystic powers to clothe tomorrow in a glorious garb. Tomorrow soon becomes today and today soon becomes yesterday. Our Companions of yesterday wrought well. Our Temple is consecrated to their labors, their devotions and their sacrifices. Yet --- the present is alive with things we can do. As Masons, we should be extending the horizon of human life by removing the rubbish of vice and ignorance which prevents man from beholding Truth and Wisdom. The great dynamic force is Thought and the great uplifting power is Love. Our Companions have come over a rugged way during the past one hundred years. The rough Ashlar which they dug from the quarries has passed the square. The Altar they reared
has been hallowed by the flame of Divine Love. Let us take courage and press forward.