

History
of
The Allied Masonic Degrees of The
United States of America



BY
HAROLD V. B. VOORHIS, K.G.C.

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*By Harold V. B. Voorhis, K G.C.
(One of the Founders)*

FOREWORD

HISTORY (Funk & Wagnalls Standard College Dictionary—1968) is “that branch of knowledge concerned with past events” It is unfortunate that so many books, pamphlets, and papers which appear under the guise of history are compiled by persons whose knowledge of the events they impute is blended with personal wishful thinking and incongruous material. This dilutes in many cases, and adds in others, the advent of the subject treated and often warps simple facts by depicting them way beyond the importance they merit.

In the present case I am fully aware of what took place at the formation, and subsequently, of the organization of which I write, being one of the three living founders out of an original twenty-one brethren who instituted The Allied Masonic Degrees in the United States of America in 1932.

In extended form, the advent and continuance of the Order may be found in the official Proceedings, called ANNALS, which have been printed by the Grand Council covering the last thirty-nine years Unlike many Masonic groups whose history I have compiled, this one entertains no laborious research. It is simply a digested record compiled by the use of ANNALS. In doing so more detail will be used for the first few years as these formative years cover the period less known to our brethren. In other words, how we came into being and proceeded along the line to the present day—minus unimportant activities and details of small interest to the present membership. It is not embellished with biographies, Masonic or otherwise, of the principals involved as such material may be easily found elsewhere (some in ANNALS) All were or are well known Masonic brethren and members of Grand and other Masonic bodies

The statistical materials compiled are to give a sort of picture of the progress of the Allied Masonic Degrees here but current ANNALS program a lot of this too, which is not repeated here What is shown is to give a composite view of the membership, as the Order advanced in our Masonic system.

THE ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES

The following "HISTORICAL FOREWORD" is to be found in the first issue of ANNALS, printed in 1933

HISTORICAL FOREWORD

The idea which was later to develop into the founding of *The Grand Council of The Allied Masonic Degrees of The United States of America* had its inception in the mind of R. E. Companion J. Ray. Shute, II, of Monroe, North Carolina.

R. E. Companion Shute holds a Commission from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland as Third Grand Principal by virtue of his being their Representative near the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina. In the year 1930 he began correspondence with R. E. George A. Howell, Grand Scribe E., of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland relative to the Degree of Excellent Master which is worked in Royal Arch Chapters in Scotland. A ritual of this degree was sent to him for study and observation.

Struck with the beauty and significance of the degree, R. E. Companion Shute discussed with his close friend and Companion in Masonic work and study, E. Companion Walter C. Crowell of Monroe, the advisability of securing permission to confer this degree within the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina. Permission was secured from M. E. Claude S. Chamberlain, Grand High Priest in North Carolina, to request dispensation from Scotland for this purpose. In the Spring of 1931, His Lordship, the Earl of Cassillis, First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, granted Dispensation for this degree to be conferred in the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina. This was the beginning of the idea that was later to develop into the founding of The Grand Council of The Allied Masonic Degrees.

Immediately on receiving the Dispensation, these two Companions, both Past High Priests of Monroe Chapter No. 64, R. A. M., called together other Past High Priests of this Chapter and began the perfecting of the ritualistic work. E. Companion K. W. Parham, of Raleigh, was requested to secure two others to fill, with himself, the stations of Captains of the Veils. The Apron, Cordon and Jewel as well as the Working Tool of the Degree were prepared in Monroe and are still preserved as mementoes. Membership cards were printed especially for this occasion by E. Companion Frank M. Pinnix at Oxford, N. C.

The Degree was conferred upon approximately 200 Royal Arch Masons within the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina in the Masonic Temple, Asheville, N. C., May 12, 1931, by a team consisting of the following Companions: J. Ray Shute, II, as R. W. and E. Master; J. Ed Stewart, as Senior Warden; Walter C. Crowell, as Junior Warden; and Junius S. Stearns, as Inner Guard, all Past High Priests of Monroe Chapter, No. 64, R. A. M., and the following Companions as Captains of the Veils: John H. Anderson, Phoenix Chapter, No. 2, P. G. H. P.; William R. Smith, Raleigh Chapter, No. 10, P. G. H. P.; K. Webster Parham, Raleigh Chapter, No. 10, D. D. G. H. P.

The Degree was received with enthusiasm and a number of Companions began to speculate on just how the Degree could be retained in America without interfering with the established Royal Arch customs. This led Companions Shute and Crowell to speculate on the advisability of securing the Degree from Scotland to be placed within the body of a separate organization along with other degrees controlled in Scotland by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

Thus was it decided to discuss this matter with other deeply interested Royal Arch Masons in North Carolina and several informal group meetings were held. The result was an inquiry to the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland to ascertain if they would issue Dispensations and Charters for the formation of three Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners and Councils of Red Cross Knights, both to be joined with the Excellent Master as well.

Much correspondence followed. R. E. George A. Howell, Grand Scribe E., of the Supreme Grand Royal Chapter of Scotland, communicated with the Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina and with the General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter, ascertaining that there was no objection to the movement on the part of either, since the degrees in question form no part of the Royal Arch System in the United States. This being true the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland agreed to entertain applications from the three groups formed in North Carolina for Dispensations and Charters, for the specific purpose of founding a *Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees* to control these and other detached Masonic Degrees in the United States, with the proviso that the three bodies thus formed would meet in convention and form a governing body for the United States of America as early as possible after receiving Charters. With this understanding petitions were forwarded.

A tragedy was to occur, though, to retard the completion of these plans. Excellent Companion Walter C. Crowell, who was one of the petitioners and had been proposed as Senior Warden in the Body to be formed in Monroe, received his final summons on January 2, 1932, and the sad duty of accompanying his remains to their last resting place was the lot of his co-workers. Thus passed one who would have borne Serial No. 2 on our rolls and one whose Masonic Record in quiet achievement is equalled by few and excelled by none. His enthusiasm for the Royal Craft, his wise counsel and keen vision played a large part in the preliminary plans of this Grand Council.

This caused some delay but finally R. E. Companion Shute was obligated by special authority from Scotland and received Warrant of Authority to confer the degrees on other petitioners in North Carolina. Groups had been formed at Raleigh and Charlotte and the petitioners were duly invested with the degrees.

Charters were granted at the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland on March 21, 1932, for Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners and Councils of Red Cross Knights as follows: St. Andrew's in America No. 1-A, Monroe, N. C.; Cassilis No. 2-A, Raleigh, N. C.; Howell No. 3-A, Charlotte, N. C.

These Lodges and Councils were duly consecrated and a call was issued for a Convention of the three Bodies for the purpose of forming *The Grand Council of The Allied Masonic Degrees of The United States of America*. The Convention was held in the City of Salisbury, N. C., April 16, 1932, and the Grand Council formed. R. E. Companion J. Ray. Shute, II, *the real founder of the movement*, was elected to serve as first Grand Master of the Grand Council.

Minutes of the Convention and subsequent Communications of Grand Council compose the proceedings contained in this volume.

The Charters issued by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland on March 21, 1932, and the members of the three Councils, for the purpose of forming a Grand Council in the United States, as listed in ANNALS are

FOUNDERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE ALLIED
MASONIC DEGREES OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

The Council Saint Andrews in America, No. 1-A
Monroe, N C

1	J. Ray Shute, II	Monroe, N C
2	Henry V. A. Parsell	New York City
5	Harold V. B. Voorhis	Red Bank, N. J.
8	J. Hugo Tatsch	New York City
14	Lee Griffin	Monroe, N. C.
15	Junus S. Stearns	Monroe, N. C.
16	Louie F. Hart	Monroe, N. C.

The Council Cassillis, No. 2-A
Raleigh, N C.

3	K. Webster Parham	Raleigh, N. C.
4	J Edward Allen	Warrenton, N. C.
10	John H. Anderson	Raleigh, N. C.
11	Edgar W. Timberlake, Jr.	Wake Forest, N. C.
12	Michel Saliba	Wilson, N. C.
13	Frank M. Pinnix	Oxford, N. C.
17	Harry S. Storr	Raleigh, N. C.

The Council Howell, No. 3-A
Charlotte, N. C.

6	John R. McCracken	Waynesville, N. C.
7	Luther T. Hartsell, Jr.	Concord, N. C.
9	William B. Hodge	Charlotte, N. C.
18	Herbert C. Alexander	Charlotte, N. C.
19	Ben F. Houston	Charlotte, N. C.
20	Will J. Roach	Lowell, N. C.
21	James W. Payne	Sahsbury, N. C.

At the Convention, held in Salisbury, North Carolina on April 16, 1932, which resulted in the formation of the Grand Council, seventeen of the twenty-one members were present. Those absent were Henry V. A. Parsell (2) New York, Harold V. B. Voorhis (5) New Jersey; J. Hugo Tatsch (8) New York; and Herbert C. Alexander (18) North Carolina. John Huske Anderson (10) of Raleigh, North Carolina (G G H P. 1934-1942) was elected temporary Chairman and Kennon Webster Parham (3), also of Raleigh, was named temporary Secretary. It was resolved to form a Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees and a Constitution, prepared by John H. Anderson (10), Edgar W. Timberlake, Jr. (11) and J. Edward Allen (4) "was read and after discussion was adopted." (see pages 69-75 ANNALS). A seal and insignia were adopted (page 14) and Harry S. Storr (17) was instructed to secure the seal and also a die for use on stationery—and to get them copyrighted.

The election of officers followed, and they were installed, to wit: (all of North Carolina):

1	John Raymond Shute II, Monroe	Grand Master
4	John Edward Allen, Warrenton	Deputy Grand Master
10	John Huske Anderson, Raleigh	Senior Grand Warden
9	William Beach Hodge, Charlotte	Junior Grand Warden
15	Junius Still Stearns, Monroe	Grand Treasurer
3	Kennon Webster Parham, Raleigh	Grand Secretary
11	Edgar Walter Timberlake, Jr., Wake Forest	Senior Grand Deacon
7	Luther Thompson Hartsell, Jr., Concord	Junior Grand Deacon
	Appointed	
20	Will J Roach, Lowell	Grand Chaplain
19	Benjamin Franklin Houston, Charlotte	Grand Tiler

Frank M. Pinnix (13) presented a design for charters and made a report for the Ritual Committee.

"By unanimous ballot, His Lordship, the Earl of Cassilis, First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, and George A. Howell, Esquire, Grand Scribe W., of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, were elected to Honorary Membership in Grand Council."

A Grand Master's Council A, and three other charters were issued.

Telegrams from Voorhis, Parsell and a letter from Tatsch, all regretting absence were recorded. Announcement of a meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. on May 12, 1932, concluded the formation meeting of the Grand Council.

Seven of the twelve officers were present at the May 12th meeting, with others, including Brothers Parsell, Voorhis and Tatsch, who were not present at the "Founding Meeting." The total attendance was:

Grand Master's Council A	7
St. Andrews in America 1-A	4
Cassilis 2-A	4
Howell 3-A	5
St. John of the Wilderness, U.D.	3
St. John of Jerusalem, U.D.	4
Total	<hr/> 27

Thirteen of the Founding Members and fourteen members made since the first meeting. Four Councils, U.D. in North Carolina and one in South Carolina, U.D. asked for charters and they were granted, as follows (showing first Sovereign Masters):

- Robert the Bruce No. 4, Concord
Luther T. Hartsell, Jr.
- St. John of the Wilderness No. 5, Columbia, S.C.
O. Frank Hart
- St. John of Patmos, No. 6, Durham
Wilbur L. Pridgen
- St. John of Jerusalem No. 7, Wilson
Michel Saliba
- St. John of Damascus No. 8, Gastonia
Will J. Roach

At the May 12th meeting held in Washington, Grand Master Shute advised that he had appointed three Grand Superintendents (N C —S C.— Kan.) Many such appointments followed but eventually this office was abolished.

There were forty-four members present at the May 8, 1933 meeting of the Grand Council held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The publication MISCELLANEA was authorized—to be sent to all members paying a dollar per year. The Honorary Rank of Grand Cross was established. Three new Councils were chartered. St. John of Constantinople No. 9, at Florence, South Carolina; Father Murrow No. 10, at Ada, Oklahoma, and Rose of Sharon No. 11, at Alexandria, Virginia.

At this meeting Grand Master Shute recommended the adoption of four additional Grades or Degrees: Masters of Tyre; Architect; Grand Architect and Superintendent and they were adopted, making ten degrees controlled by the Grand Council.

Degrees, Grades and Rituals

The degrees coming from Scotland, as printed in the first ritual (1932) were:

- 1 Royal Ark Mariner
- 2 Secret Monitor
- 3 St. Lawrence the Martyr
- 4 Knight of Constantinople
- 5 Grand Tilers of Solomon
- 6 Excellent Master

The Constitution lists them as follows:

- 1 St. Lawrence the Martyr
- 2 Knight of Constantinople
- 3 Excellent Master
- 4 Royal Ark Mariner
- 5 Grand Tiler of Solomon (singular)
- 6 Secret Monitor

Ritual No. 2 (1933) contained the "Architect Grades" mentioned above. Ritual No. 3 (no date) contains the Grades of "The Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri and Appendant Orders"—Man-at-Arms; Esquire and Knight, adopted at a Special Meeting of Grand Council on October 10, 1933. In the various listing of the degrees and grades held by Grand Council they are grouped as one item—"Red Branch of Eri." The current ritual lists the degrees as printed in the first with No. 6 plural—i.e., "Masters" plus the Architect Grades and Red Branch of Eri as No. 11. However the current Constitution lists fourteen and in an entirely different order:

- 1—Royal Ark Mariner
- 2—Secret Monitor
- 3—Knight of Constantinople
- 4—Saint Lawrence the Martyr
- 5—Architect
- 6—Grand Architect
- 7—Grand Tyler of Solomon (note "Tyler")
- 8—Superintendent

- 9—Master of Tyre
- 10—Excellent Master
- 11—Installed Sovereign Master
- 12—Installed Commander Noah
- 13—Red Branch of Eri
- 14—Ye Ancient Order of Corks (should be “Antient ”)

A short series of thumb-nail sketches of the first six degrees may be found in Volume I of MISCELLANEA Where the Architect Grades came from is not recorded Some time in 1931 (my certificate is dated November 18, 1931) Shute formed a group called The Supreme Quarry of the World Masons of Tyre The Sovereign Grand Expert Master was himself and the Grand Master of Scrolls was Walter C. Crowell This is the group which was taken into “the bosom” of Grand Council It is not the same as the ‘Ancient, Free and Accepted Architects” of Henry Pelham Holmes Bromwell of Colorado, which was taken over by the Grand College of Rites in 1958-9 (see the history of this in Volume 9, Number 2 of COLLECTANEA 1970, pages 107-114)

As far as the Red Branch of Eri is concerned, it was extracted from a MS ritual of John Yarker by Shute—taking but three of the Grades A history I wrote about it will be in a future issue of MISCELLANEA The same about the “Antient Order of Corks ”

To return to the Grand College—John Edward Allen (4) of Warrenton North Carolina was elected Grand Master at the 1933 meeting Record of Certificate of Incorporation and the Constitution were appended to the minutes (A). Also the Minutes of Informal Group Meetings preliminary to the formation of Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners and Councils of Red Cross Knights (B). Also a list of the entire membership as of June 21, 1933 (130 highest number of a member)(C).

At a Special Meeting of Grand Council, held in Raleigh, North Carolina on July 29, 1933, called to discuss the amalgamation of the Sovereign College of Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees, with headquarters in Maine, the Articles of union for such an action were taken up It was decided to hold another meeting in Concord, North Carolina on August 5, 1933. On that date the Articles were presented and approved and two charters granted:

OXFORD LODGE NO 1, NORWAY, MAINE
KENNEBEC LODGE No 2, READFIELD, MAINE

On October 10, 1933 a Special Meeting was held in Alexandria, Virginia. The Articles of Union with the Grand Council of Allied and Christian Degrees was consummated. The full details with supporting documents are printed in the Minutes of Grand Council of July 22, August 5; and October 10, 1933

Annual dues for members of Grand Master's Council were set at \$2.00 and a percapita tax on all members of subordinate Councils of \$1.50 until the total membership should exceed one thousand (which took place just twenty-five years later).

The Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri and Appended Degrees was adopted and placed in the custody of Grand Master's Council At the same time the name of the Council dropped the “A” as superfluous. A fee of \$5.00 was adopted for the Installed Masters Grade in each Council which was to cover a diploma. Lily of the Valley Council No. 12, Norfolk, Virginia, was chartered.

The next Annual Meeting was held in Alexandria, Virginia on February 20, 1934 with twenty present

Because of some friction in the General Grand Chapter, R.A.M., instigated by the Grand Chapter, R.A.M. of Massachusetts based on erroneous data, the Grand Master, J. Edward Allen, reported, with documents, that the matter had been settled. It was announced that The Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees for England, Wales, etc. had officially recognized our Grand Council. We reciprocated.

It was discovered that in May 1890, the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales had chartered a Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in Boston, Massachusetts and that some of the members composing that Lodge were still alive. It was decided that every effort be made to locate such members and invite them to be members of Grand Master's Council—without fee. The title of our presiding officer was ordered to be changed from "Most Worshipful Grand Master" to "Sovereign Grand Master." Two charters were granted.

NINE MUSES NO. 13, ROVING
FOUR CROWNED MARTYRS NO. 14, ROVING

A committee from the Great Priory of America, Ordo Sacerdotalis Templi (C.B.C.S.) presented a proposal for a concordat with our Grand Council, which was accepted. A committee from our Grand Council was appointed to confer with that from C.B.C.S. and present articles for the possibility for a merger.

Some over anxious Grand Officers of the then Grand Council, now consisting of the ten original degrees, the four Architect Grade, the Red Branch of Erin containing three Grades, and the O.S.T. (C.B.C.S.) of three Grades, noted that our outgoing Grand Master, according to the proposed concordat, automatically having been elected to head C.B.C.S. the date before, be accorded the rank and title of Past Great Prior in the Great Priory of America O.S.T. This action was never annulled even though the concordat was terminated later.

On April 14, 1934, at a Special Meeting of Grand Council in Raleigh, North Carolina, as may be seen by the committee report appointed at the February 20, 1934 meeting to handle the details of the concordat (see page 149 of ANNALS) advised that at a meeting of the two committees it was determined that such an amalgamation would not be to the best interests of both Grand Bodies and that the proposal accepted at the previous meeting of our Grand Body be terminated, which was approved.

At this same meeting it was moved and carried that the Grades of "Mediterranean Pass" and "Order of Priesthood" received at the amalgamation with the Sovereign College of Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees, "being legally controlled and conferred by other recognized Masonic bodies in their several jurisdictions, shall be stricken from the list of Grades controlled and conferred by this Grand Council and its constituent bodies."

On September 21, 1934 another Special Meeting of Grand Council was held in Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of considering changes in the Constitution and By-Laws of Grand Council. The few changes made are reflected in the Constitution and By-Laws found on pages 247-254 of the Appendix of ANNALS for 1938 (brought up to date).

The Third Annual Meeting was held in Raleigh, North Carolina on April 27, 1935. The Grand Master advised that Brother Kennon Webster Parham, our Grand Secretary, had been appointed as the Representative of the Grand Council, A.M.D. of England, Wales, etc. Also that J. Raymond

Shute, II and William Moseley Brown had been honored by the English Grand Body by being made Past Grand Senior Wardens

The election of officers resulted in electing our Grand Secretary Kennon Webster Parham, the Grand Master. It may be noted that twenty-three Grand Superintendents are listed in the Minutes of the meeting, with the writer being shown having membership in four Councils G M , 1-A, 13, and 2, which seems to be a record of some sort

On the very next day after the Annual Meeting—ie April 28, 1935, an unexpected and unusual event took place. Five Grand or Past Grand Officers were called together, including R. V. Charles A. Snodgrass (#89 in Grand Master's Council), the Senior Grand Warden. He had been elected and installed to that office the day before. He stated that his letters written to the Sovereign Grand Master and the President of the Board of General Purposes had been misunderstood—namely that it would not be wise for him to continue in the official line at this time. Also that owing to the possibility of creating some misunderstanding within his jurisdiction (Tennessee) and Grand Council, he had accepted the election and the installation. Upon final thought and consultation with some A M D members he desired to resign from office. After some discussion, a motion was passed that the resignation be accepted with regret and the offices in stations below Senior Grand Warden be moved up one station and that Clarence J. West of the District of Columbia be elected Junior Grand Deacon.

The Fourth Annual Meeting took place in Gastonia, North Carolina on March 17, 1936. The Grand Master recommended that action be taken on two delinquent Councils. He called attention to the action of the Grand Chapter, R A M. of Ohio, they not approving of the Allied Masonic Degrees. He suggested no action be taken. Also that the Grand Chapter, R A M of South Carolina requested that we suspend activities in that State until their next Grand Convocation—which we did—but no action was taken at their 1935 Annual Convocation except to refer it to the 1936 meeting.

The charter of Lily of the Valley Council No. 12, was revoked and Rose of Sharon Council No. 11 was notified that unless returns and delinquent fees were paid within sixty days their charter would be revoked. Edson A. MacMillan of Oklahoma was elected Grand Master.

The Fifth Annual Meeting was held in Monroe, North Carolina on March 29, 1937, with thirty-six present. The charter of Rose of Sharon Council No. 11 was revoked as their dues were not paid within the sixty days allotted to them to pay the same at the previous meeting of Grand Council. Two new Councils were authorized:

- 1—Grand Steward's Council B—to be composed of all Knights of the Red Branch of E. R.—with each constituent Council to be allowed one nomination per year. The fee was set at \$5.00
- 2—Installed Master's Council C—to be composed of all Installed Sovereign Masters.

Some minor Constitutional changes were adopted. On request, the name of Metropolitan Council No. 2 in New York City was restored to Half Moon Council No. 2, the original name when it was chartered as a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in 1908. Edgar W. Timberlake, Jr. of North Carolina, was elected Grand Master. It was noted that the number of Grand Superintendents has now risen to twenty-six. This was the last meeting of Grand Council (Annuals) held outside of Washington, D. C.

At the Sixth Annual Meeting, held on February 21, 1938 in Washington, D. C., the writer was elected the Junior Grand Deacon and a member

of the Board of General Activities Fred E Smith of Maine was elected Grand Master The records of this meeting contained the first comprehensive statistical exhibit of our Grand Council and the Sovereign College of Allied and Christian Degrees They were compiled by the Grand Secretary, Kennon Webster Parham, K G C. Like all such compilations, especially a "first" a few minor errors crept into it. All, in all, our compliments go to Brother Parham for an excellent job. It has been useful in bringing up to date a great deal of statistical information for us who use these things in later years. A few comments

Four Grand Crosses (deceased) were omitted Will J. Roach (C); John R McCracken (C), Edson A MacMillan (G M 1936), Charles F Ridlon of Maine There is an oddity, however, on Clarence Bram of Oklahoma, listed as a Grand Cross and continued so until 1958 when his name is marked "non-affiliated" This can hardly be as he died on March 3, 1951 There seems to be no record of when he was made a Grand Cross but he is first listed that way in 1937 (Made Knight Grand Cross February 21, 1938 See report of Board of General Purposes for that date)

Nothing of particular historical importance occurred during the next three years Statistical records will be found in the current ANNALS

At the February 21, 1942 meeting in Washington, D C only thirty-eight were present, not including the Grand Secretary who was serving in the Forces of our Country engaged in war The Board of General Purposes reported that legislation be made, immediately, for the office of an Assistant Grand Secretary. The report was adopted and the Jurisprudence Committee took over and reported the necessary changes, which were adopted. Charles H Pugh of North Carolina was elected Grand Master and the new office of Assistant Grand Secretary was filled by J. Edward Allen, K G.C.

The next Annual Meeting (since 1939 being called "Communications") was held in Washington, D C on February 20, 1943 Both the Grand Secretary and the Assistant Grand Secretary were present, the latter acting as Grand Secretary The writer was elected Grand Master and J. Edward Allen was elected Grand Secretary following a similar election of Kennon W Parham, who, because of his military duties advised he could not accept It was moved that for the coming year that only the per capita tax, contributions for the degrees and Charter fees be collected There seems to have been no Assistant Grand Secretary elected

At the February 19, 1944 Annual Communication, held in Washington, D C I recommended that.

- 1—The office of Grand Superintendent be abolished
- 2—The biography cards be abolished and a simple membership card file be established
- 3—The Annual Return forms be abolished and a simple four-page folder be used.
- 4—The fee of Grand Cross be abolished
- 5—The fee of Installed Master be one dollar
- 6—The fee for Red Branch of Em be one dollar and be sent with the Annual Return
- 7—The per capita tax be one dollar per member on the roll of the Council at the end of year
- 8—The elimination of minutes of Councils to be sent to the Grand Secretary.
- 9—Some additional suggestions covering method of operation.

All of these were taken into consideration by the Board of General Activities and adopted. The Grand Council also abolished the Board of General Activities, it being believed that the Board of General Purposes covered the ground of that Board. Herbert C. Alexander of North Carolina was elected Grand Master, with the proviso that M. V. Brother Voorhis continue as Grand Master until M. V. Brother Alexander was installed.

No minutes of a meeting in 1945 were printed as no meeting was held due to travel curtailment during the war. The next meeting was held in Washington, D.C. on February 23, 1946. At this meeting the Honorable Harry S. Truman, President of the United States "was elected to membership in Grand Master's Council, *honoris causa*, and also was elected to be a Knight Grand Cross." As further interest in this matter, at the very next meeting of Grand Council (February 22, 1947), referring to Brother Truman, Minutes "He was upon proper recommendation and upon motion, elected to be a Knight Grand Cross." This gives Brother Truman the unique record of having been made a Knight Grand Cross TWICE. The second time was when Ray V. Denslow was our Grand Master. Although Ray knew that Truman was an Honorary Member he probably did not realize that he had been made a Knight Grand Cross at the same time the year before. Anyway, Ray made sure that his colleague (both being Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Missouri) be properly decorated.

Various adjustments in the operation of Grand Council, of no historical moment, were enacted and Ray V. Denslow of Missouri was elected Grand Master.

During Brother Denslow's Grand Mastership in Grand Council he reported two things which riled him up extensively. The first was that some unfriendly brethren not member of A.M.D. has stated that those who conducted our organization were "operating a Masonic racket." He replied to this charge by listing the names reported to have been thus operating—sixteen, including the writer—and then said "So far as we know, not one of the above has ever received one penny in compensation for the work performed in carrying on the organization. We wonder whether those who make charges could present such a record?"

The second matter was the "Invasion of Jurisdiction." The example cited was that a Canadian Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in Windsor, Ontario, were taking candidates from the United States in large numbers (65 on Sept. 9, 1944). All the documents covering this situation, which was apparently cleared up, will be found in the 1947 ANNALS (pages 12 & 13). A somewhat similar situation came up as happening in Winnipeg, Canada. This was also cleared up. More information about these two matters may be found in the Report of J. Edward Allen, the Grand Secretary in 1948. Brother Allen resigned as Grand Secretary and Herbert C. Alexander, K.G.C. was elected.

The writer reported that we continued to list Walter George Crombie as our Grand Representative in England but that he had been dead for three years. There seems to be no record that a colleague of mine, Arthur William Dentith, was made our Grand Representative but he is so listed in the "Personnel of the Grand Council" in the 1949 ANNALS.

Lewis E. Smith of Nebraska was elected Grand Master for 1947. Three new Councils were chartered and C. Vernon Eddy of Virginia was elected Grand Master for 1948. At the Annual Communication on February 20, 1949, the Grand Secretary, J. Edward Allen was not present. He sent a letter of resignation and Herbert C. Alexander, K.G.C. was elected to that office, and Charles P. Eldridge of North Carolina became the Grand Master. At the meeting on February 18, 1950, Ward K. St. Clair of New

York was elected Grand Master Brother Alexander requested that he not be elected again as Grand Secretary and W Hugh Halliburton of North Carolina was chosen At this meeting Brother Frederick A. Morgenroth of Half Moon Council No. 2 of New York City, presented our Grand Council with a Sovereign Grand Master's Jewel of office, which had been made by himself and his son Brother William A. Morgenroth.

The minutes of this meeting were embellished with a list of the names and addresses of all members of A M D by the Councils, prepared by Brother Halliburton, the new Grand Secretary This must have been a monumental job, considering the chaotic condition of the records of Grand Council which he received

On October 18, 1950, M W Charles H. Perram, Sovereign Grand Master of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of England, Wales, etc appointed W Hugh Halliburton their Grand Representative near our Grand Council, and conferred upon him the rank and title of Past Senior Grand Warden.

At the next Annual Communication of Grand Council, held in Washington, D C on February 17, 1951, the Grand Master brought up the matter of Royal Ark Mariners Lodges in Canada taking candidates from the United States This situation plagued us for a number of years A change was made in the size of the certificates for the Red Branch of Er1 Brother Gardner R. P. Barker of Half Moon Council No 2 in New York City, was nominated for Junior Grand Warden but declined The Constitution and By-Laws were appended to the 1951 Minutes In the List of Grand Crosses of this year there should have appeared the name of Hubert M. Poteat of North Carolina who was made a Grand Cross the year before Somehow it was left out and did not appear in the list until 1964 At this same meeting in 1950 John L. Ruth of Pennsylvania and Earl E. Duserberry of Iowa were made Past Senior Grand Deacons To this day their names have never been recorded in the statistics A committee on Certificates reported some changes to be made in these documents and they were adopted Leon Godown of North Carolina was elected Grand Master (It is noted here that as time went on Brother Godown became the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Chapter, the Grand Council and the Grand Commandery of New Jersey near these Grand Bodies in North Carolina About the same times, the writer became the Grand Representative of the North Carolina Bodies in New Jersey So far as is known these are the only two brethren who ever held all four Grand Representations in one Jurisdiction at the same time)

Now we come to the Annual Communication of 1952 with twenty years of our Grand Council behind us Actually what took place in Grand Council from then on, is hardly "history" as it is within the scope of many of the living members and there are ANNALS for each year to date, some quite lengthy. Consequently only a few items will be recorded 1952 to date. The lists of Grand Masters and other Officers of Grand Council are printed yearly in the ANNALS and these data can easily be consulted

On August 5, 1955 our Grand Secretary, W Hugh Halliburton passed away and Grand Master Earl B. Delzell appointed Levon M. Oglukian of North Carolina to handle the position At the Grand Communication of February 18, 1956, he was elected our Grand Secretary We note in the statistics attached to the 1956 ANNALS that Brother Oglukian is listed as the Representative of the Grand Council of England, Wales, etc Actually he received his Commission of appointment on October 1, 1956

In the 1955 ANNALS the names of Clarence J. West and the writer were left out of the List of Grand Crosses, but they were restored the following year.

On February 22, 1955 Brother Halliburton wrote a letter to President Eisenhower, congratulating him on his efforts to bring peace to the world. His reply, dated February 28th, and a replica of his signature is on page 18 of the 1955 ANNALS.

In 1953 and 1954 the Committee on History—Brothers Scully, Cummings and Caldwell reported that they were working on a History of Grand Council. In the 1952 issue of MISCELLANEA and the 1953 issue two histories appeared marked Parts I and II (they were actually printed at later dates than assigned to the issues). They are headed as written by Brother Scully. The point I mention here is that they are not what their titles say they are. They contain the information about the Sovereign College of Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees—and are very nicely done, too. The material was taken from the voluminous records, minutes and date of this body which was printed in MISCELLANEA of Volume II, 1936-37 & 38.

At the meeting of Grand Council in Washington, D C on February 23, 1957, the Grand Master, William L Cummings, in his address, called attention that this was the 25th. meeting and noted that Grand Council had now "outgrown its swaddling clothes." We were advised that our Grand Representative in England, Brother Arthur William Dentuth, had passed away on January 11, 1957. There seems to be no record of the appointment of a new Grand Representative but the Grand Secretary mentioned Lt. Col. J W Chitty, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Council in England as our Grand Representative in 1958. He appears to have been made a Grand Cross by our Grand Council in that year.

Congratulations were extended to Dr and Mrs Cummings who were celebrating their FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. There were 223 members registered at the meeting and but three Councils having no representation. A membership list of all A M.D. members, by Councils, with addresses, also the Constitution and By-Laws were in the 1957 ANNALS.

In 1958 the writer installed Carl Frank Wood of Virginia as Grand Master. This was my first such act. In 1964 I installed the Grand Master—William E Yeager of Pennsylvania and have done so every year since, making a total of nine times.

The List of Grand Crosses had an indicator in front of the names of Brothers Bram, Crossle, Dentuth, Record and West as "unaffiliated"—they were deceased. These marks were continued until 1964 when a new system of listing Grand Crosses was adopted by Brother Oglukian—those living in one group and those deceased in another.

Things went along for the remaining years at a slowly progressive rate. Not much is recorded outside of routine matters—with an item or two to break the monotony. The Grand Council of A M D by this time had become the nucleus around which the other small groups met at the February meetings in Washington. It has fulfilled that function nicely. The gathering brought together—in the flesh—authors, writers, editors, students, scholars, and authorities in the Craft from all over the United States, who might never meet in person in any other way.

Another milestone was reached at the twenty-eighth meeting in 1960. Brother Oglukian reported current assets (in real cash) of \$5,436.08—being the first time we went into the "five grand" bracket. Also, at the same time, our membership went over a thousand (1015). It seems that when we "shed our diapers" as so ably put by Grand Master Cummings three years before, we began to romp. Not only that but more than 20% registered at the 1960 meeting.

Because of a pleasing happening in 1960 I will revert for a few words about the subject which brought the happening. In 1952, when W. Hugh Halliburton was Grand Secretary the Finance Committee noted that no money was ever allotted to the incumbants of that office as salary or honorarium and suggested that, until future allotments be set after investigation of a suitable amount. The matter was put to vote and passed with "one dissenting." I bring this up because it was the only time I really became incensed at an open meeting of Grand Council, during which I practically begged the individual who cast the dissenting vote not to do so. He insisted that the work of the Grand Secretary be "a labor of love". However, at the 1953 meeting a report was made suggesting that the Grand Secretary-Treasurer be allotted \$150 for expenses and an honorarium of \$250.00 per annum. It was unanimously approved. These amounts continued until Brother Halliburton passed away and Brother Oglukian was elected to the office. It still continued until 1958 when it was brought to the attention of Grand Council that Brother Oglukian was only using part of the money. So, it was then voted to give him \$500 per annum to cover all expenses. In 1960 Grand Council suggested that unless he take the amounts allotted to him something would be done to compensate him. At the meeting in 1961 Grand Master Bruce H. Hunt, in his report, told the Grand Council that a committee had made a presentation of a beautiful epergne to "Levon and Ruth Oglukian on Christmas Eve of 1960."

At the 1965 meeting Brother Oglukian reported that we had grown to 59 Councils and had 1273 members, and a total of \$8,251.61 in our cash balance. It was his last report. He passed away on June 26, 1965 and at the 1966 meeting, Robert L. Grubb of North Carolina was elected Grand Secretary-Treasurer.

Everyone knows that a Grand Secretary of a Grand Body of Freemasonry is the most important officer holding office. In fact he runs the organization for the most part. We have had seven Grand Secretaries during the thirty-nine years of our existence. Parham—9 years, Harding—1 year; Allen—5 years; Alexander—2 years, Halliburton—5 years, Oglukian—11 years; and Grubb—6 years. I had much to do with all of them, but I must mention that during the incumbency of Levon Mardiros Oglukian, that those who attended the eleven meetings when he sat at his station, saw the friendly rivalry between him and the writer—I am sure with considerable pleasure. One would never know, if only what was said was recorded, that we were bosom friends. We often brought up things of no particular moment but extended them into momentous proportions, with neither of us ending a "winner." In his first report in 1955 as Acting Grand Secretary he said "A Secretary should not speak but write, should not be heard but read." We were, as the years rolled by, glad to note that he did not stick to this admonition, for he always had things to say, and he said them, too. In his next report he said "Ordinarily, even though the American Language is acquired by me and not born in it, I have no trouble of finding words." This was before he lauded the Brethren who had helped him. He made many such remarks during his years in office. In a MEMORIAM to his memory by Past Sovereign Grand Master Murray C. Alexander, the latter said that Levon was "A Man, Masonic Scholar, Loving Husband and Father, and a Christian Gentleman." Most of us are less—he was more.

I had the happy privilege of being recommended by Sovereign Grand Master C. Wallace Jackson to be Levon's successor as the Grand Representative of the Grand Council of England, Wales, etc. and thus, in 1965, received that honor.

For many years we have had history committees appointed in Grand Council. Year after year they made reports of a few lines. Nothing of historical nature ever emanated from these committees (except the two re-

ports made by M. V. Brother Scully mentioned previously). In 1968 a five member committee came into being with Past Grand Master C. Wallace Jackson as Chairman. Two additional members were added during the year. A short report was issued in 1969 and the Chairman was beginning to accumulate material, but in 1970 his work was interrupted by an accident which took the life of our Brother William Lee Ramsey and seriously injured his wife, Brother Jackson's wife, and himself. Happily, the survivors are slowly improving. At this point I agreed to take over the writing of a history of the Grand Council, provided that I might do it my way. The reason for this is well stated by Brother Allen E. Roberts, who was added to the committee in 1969, when I was. He said, in a letter to the Chairman, "I never believed in a Committee writing a book. This usually ends in disaster." This is my view too. I have had a number of experiences which would back up this statement, the foremost of which was a five year job on The Committee on History of the Supreme Council, A.A.S.R. of the Northern Jurisdiction. It ended up by my writing the history privately, myself.

The present undertaking I have done in a week—alone. It is not submitted as a committee project. It is simply a rather extensive recording of how we got started and some additional data, mostly covering the early years of Grand Council. As I stated, after reviewing the first twenty years of our existence, not much of what transpired was of any great moment—historically. A listing of all our Grand Masters, other Officers, Committees is available in current ANNALS. Those of the last twenty years or so have handled their jobs in accordance with good Masonic practice and is hardly history to our present membership, for whom this is really written. We now have a "going organization" and I predict that it will continue that way.

EPILOGUE

As I look back at my own activities in Grand Council I find that I was first elected on the Board of General Activities (changed to the Board of General Purposes in 1947) in 1938 and continued to be elected for three year terms until 1967 when I resigned—29 years. Starting in 1942 I was on the Committee on Time and Place and to this date have prepared the meeting folders—also 29 years. Brother C. Vernon Eddy headed this Committee for many years and Marvin E. Fowler later took over and is still the Chairman. In 1956 I became editor of MISCELLANEA and my final chore in getting this publication together was last year—14 years.

I hope I will be pardoned for injecting my own attachments in Grand Council in this rehearsal. Having held so many “key” positions I could not help bragging a bit about it. I did, with many others, simply try to “put on” the Masonic Map and keep going—and advance—what we all hoped some forty years ago would become an arm of the Masonic structure in our country. That is, the three living Founders—John Raymond Shute, II; John Edward Allen, and myself.

As a final tribute to the Founders in North Carolina (18 out of the 21):

Yes, North Carolina, for that is where the Allied Masonic Degrees were born in the U S A , under the leadership of one Brother—John Raymond Shute, II of Monroe. It was he who led us into the paths which grew into lanes, then streets, and finally highways.

Not only did A M D. germinate in North Carolina but so did the Knight Masons of Ireland; Chevaliers Bienfaisants de la Cte Sainte (C.B.C.S.), The Grand College of Rites, Ye Antient Order of Corks, The Red Branch of Erin; The York Cross of Honour; The Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, and The Society of Blue Friars. Only three of the groups which now meet in Washington, D.C. each February were started elsewhere. The Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Feederatis (1880); The Masonic Order of the Bath (1921); and The Philalethes Society (1929).

North Carolina Freemasons have carved a lasting niche in the Craft not elsewhere equalled.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

<u>In U.S.A. for England</u>	<u>In England for U S A</u>
1935—Kennon Webster Parham	1933—Walter George Crombie
1950—W. Hugh Halliburton	1949—Arthur William Dentith
1956—Levon Mardiros Oglukian	1958—John Walter Chitty
1965—Harold Van Buren Voorhis	

MEMBERSHIP

Note: Some of these statistics are the result of a calculated extension. After 1940 until 1954, when Levon M. Oglukian became Grand Secretary, the figures, when they appear at all, are for unrelated periods. Besides, some of them are obviously incorrect. This covers three Grand Secretaries. The minutes, otherwise, are sufficiently informative but, as such records go, are not exactly full. They contain some inaccuracies but mostly some omissions are the minor fault.

<u>Date or Year</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Number of Councils</u>
Apr. 16, 1932 (Founders)	21	3
May 12, 1932	58	9
May 8, 1933	94	12
Dec 31, 1933	179	12
Dec 31, 1934	196	17
Dec. 31, 1935	217	18
Dec 31, 1936	192	16
Dec 31, 1937	204	16
Dec. 31, 1938	212	16
June 30, 1939	213	16
June 30, 1940	230	17
June 30, 1947	326	15
1948	350	18
1949	366	23
1950	399	23
1951	442	26
1952	485	28
1953	580	30
1954	618	33
1955	689	33
1956	841	40
1957	918	42
1958	979	44
1959	1015	45
1960	1064	48
1961	1127	51
1962	1217	55
1963	1243	55
1964	1273	59
1965	1322	61
1966	1394	63
1967	1517	68
1968	1637	73
1969	1692	75
1970	1865	86
1971	1954	89

‡In a few instances a Council or two did not report.

FOUNDERS OF ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES

Compiled 1971

		died
1—J Raymond Shute, II*	N C	
2—Henry V A. Parsell	N.Y.	Aug. 23, 1962
3—Kennon W. Parham	N.C.	May 23, 1967
4—J Edward Allen	N.C.	
5—Harold V. B Voorhis	N. J	
6—John R. McCracken	N.C.	Oct. 3, 1949
7—Luther T Hartsell, Jr	N.C.	May 14, 1961
8—J Hugo Tatsch	N Y	July 17, 1939
9—William B. Hodge	N C.	May 14, 1947
10—John H. Anderson	N C	Sept. 9, 1948
11—Edgar W. Timberlake, Jr	N.C.	Jan 19, 1957
12—Michel Saliba	N C.	Jan. 4, 1944
13—Frank M. Pinnix	N C.	Nov. 21, 1951
14—Lee Griffin	N C.	Aug 3, 1947
15—Junius S. Stearns	N C.	July 7, 1965
16—Louie F Hart	N C.	Jan 17, 1965
17—Harry S Storr	N C.	Nov. 27, 1957
18—Herbert C Alexander	N.C.	May 1, 1957
19—Ben G. Houston	N C	Feb. 14, 1947
20—Will J Roach	N.C.	Oct 20, 1937
21—James W. Payne	N C.	Sept 18, 1956

*non-affiliated (withdrew 1951)