

**Ask Hiram
Spring 2006**

- 1) When a Brother is being introduced to the Worshipful Master by a committee while at the Altar, when should the Brother acknowledge the Worshipful Master and how? Does he return a due guard to the Worshipful Master or does he bow? When does he do this - after the name and title are given or after his name is given?**

Answer:

This seems like a good opportunity to mention that a Brother is:

Introduced at his seat
Presented at the Altar
Received in the East

(This depends on the nature of the introduction/presentation and whether or not the Brother will be escorted to the East)

First, the Brother being presented by a committee at the Altar would simultaneously, with the committee, give the due guard and drop the due guard. (While the Brother speaking for the committee addresses the Worshipful Master, and **Immediately after the words "Worshipful Master" are spoken**) Secondly the committee presents the Brother and while his name is being given, he should bow towards the East.

- 2) Sometime between 1890 and 1920, the Grand Lodge of Virginia changed the suffix of the title of its subordinate Lodges from A.Y.M. to A.F. & A.M. I understand the term A.Y.M. to mean "Ancient York Masons." Of course the current term means "Ancient Free & Accepted Masons."**

I noticed that the Bible originally owned by Winterpock Lodge No. 94, has on its inside cover "Winterpock Lodge No. 94, A.Y.M." I have also observed in the book published in 1966 entitled "The History Of Midlothian Lodge No. 211" by Brother G. I. Johnson, a document issued by Midlothian Lodge dated 1890, which had the A.Y.M. suffix.

BY-LAWS
AND
LIST OF MEMBERS OF MIDLOTHIAN LODGE,
NO. 211, A.Y.M.

Manchester :

Printed at The Leader Office—1890.

BY-LAWS.

It appears to me that sometime between 1890 and 1920, the Grand Lodge changed the suffix to that which is used today.

Can you explain exactly when this change occurred? Also, can you explain the reason for the change?

Answer:

For this answer, I am including several photocopies available in our Grand Lodge's Library. One example from four different "Proceedings" showing, no suffix used, the suffix "Ancient York Masons," "Ancient Free and Accepted Masons," and "Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia." The answer is rather lengthy, but best summarized by an article contained in the publication "A Chronicle of Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777 and written by Brother Hugh Reid entitled "The True Name of the Grand Lodge." The article is contained on pages numbers 63 through 68. This article is available from our Grand Lodge Library. It is but one example of the information one can obtain from a wealth of articles and publications available to us for research and study, free of charge.

OF THE
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF
ANCIENT YORK MASONS
OF
VIRGINIA,

At a Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia, begun and held at the Masons' Hall, in the City of Richmond, on Monday, being the 12th day of December, A. L. 5859, A. D. 1859 :

Occasional Grand Lodge
OF
ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Grand Lodge of Virginia,

BEGUN AND HELD IN THE MASONS' HALL,

Brother Reid starts off with some background as follows: "Grand Master Archer B. Gay recommended to the Grand Lodge: "A careful search of the records of the Grand Lodge of Virginia seems to indicate that it has never officially adopted a name for itself. The present name was apparently first coined and used by our illustrious brother, Dr. John Dove, for many years the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge. The name, however does not agree with that which was used when our Grand Lodge was founded at Williamsburg in 1778 or in the years immediately following. It is recommended therefore that the incoming Grand Master appoint a committee to study the earliest available records and to report their findings to the 181st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge as to the name first adopted by our founding fathers. It is further recommended that upon receipt of the report the Grand Lodge adopt an official name.""

What follows is a very condensed version of his article. I would encourage the reading of the complete article at your earliest opportunity.

"The Grand Lodge agreed. As a result, Grand Master Earl S. Wallace turned the task over to Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777." "Hugh Reid reported his results on February 9, 1960." "We find that many names have been used from time to time by Grand Secretaries, Grand Masters and other dignitaries of the Craft of Virginia." "Since its foundation in 1778, various names have been used. If, however, we eliminate minor differences such as the interchangeable use of the words State and Commonwealth these differences consist essentially in the use of three phrases: ""Free and Accepted Masons,"" ""Ancient York Masons"" and ""Ancient Free and Accepted Masons."" "We even find the phrase ""and Masonic Jurisdictions thereunto belonging..."" was also used by Virginia apparently as a part of the Grand Lodge Name."

According to the article the phrase ""Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons"" was used by every 18th century Grand Master."

The committee found in part: "that the Lodges that took part in the convention that elected John Blair were wholly composed of Free and Accepted Masons, that he was installed Grand Master of such, that our early records and charters do not justify the use of the word ""Ancient"" as describing Masonry as practiced in Virginia." It continues "Specifically, we recommend that the body of the Craft should hereinafter be known as the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons; that the Grand Lodge should

be known as the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons in Virginia."

It is noted in the closing of the article "The delegates, as expected, didn't agree with the recommendations." (Of the committee.) "The name, erroneously, remains The Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of The Commonwealth of Virginia."

Hiram points out that regardless of the committee report, the name remains: "The Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of The Commonwealth of Virginia." Hiram would also point out that it does not matter what is in the name, it is what is in are hearts, minds, and more especially our actions.

So mote it be.

Article: ask hiram spring 2006.txt

Pictures: hiram-1.jpg, hiram-2.jpg, hiram-3.jpg, hiram-4.jpg, and hiram-5.jpg