

White River Lodge #62
P. O. Box 336
Show Low, Arizona 85902

Website: www.whiteriverlodge62.org
Physical Address: 741 E Whipple
Show Low Arizona

White River Lodge #62



Trestleboard

April, May, June 2021



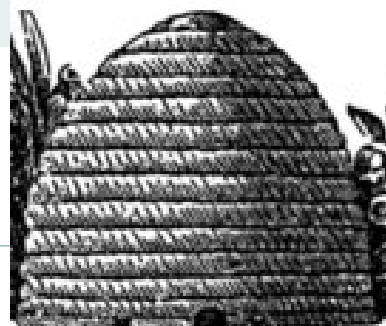
FROM THE EAST

I know we all went over this when we became Masons, but it never hurts to go over things. I was looking at *The Monitor and Ancient Charges*, a great little book I might add, and I was reminded of some of the Symbols and Emblems that we as Masons use but don't always come up.

I thought of this because of the time of year, springtime, being upon us that the Beehive is rather fitting to reflect on. The Monitor says "it is an emblem of industry, and recommends the practice of that virtue to all created beings, from the highest seraph in heaven, to the lowest reptile in the dust." A seraph is defined as an Angelic being belonging to the highest order of the celestial hierarchy. The lowest reptile in the dust is fairly self-explanatory and to me be the serpent. "It teaches us that we came into the world as rational and intelligent beings, that we should ever be industrious ones, never sitting down contented while our fellow creatures around us are in want, especially when it is in our power to relieve them without inconvenience to ourselves." This also reminds me of an important lesson we all learned in *Masonic Charity*, that if we ever meet someone in need it is our responsibility to help them out as much as we can "without serious injury to ourselves." I know that there are a lot of people in need in the world, in our country, and even in our local community and my personal desire to help others was the biggest contributing fact to me joining Freemasonry. I know that many of you feel the same way as I see the generosity of my Brothers all giving back in their own ways and it makes me proud to know each and every one of you.

Fraternally,

Larry Pedersen
Worshipful Master White River Lodge #62



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MASONIC BIRTHDAYS AND TOTAL YEARS IN MASONRY

April			May		
Name	Mason Day	Years	Name	Mason Day	Years
Herman David Jacobs	4/21/1953	68	Kenneth Ray Walker	5/25/1964	57
Norman Ray Martindale	4/29/1959	62	Donald Clyde Anderson	5/11/1972	49
Allen T. Warner	4/21/1970	51	Gene Robert Stirling	5/21/1983	38
Frank Thomas Jacks	4/1/1974	47	Michael Thomas	5/10/1986	35
Stephen Ford Beardsley	4/30/1974	47	Charles Leggett Barber	5/6/2000	21
Enrique Trujillo Tadeo	4/27/1983	38	David Michael Burmeister	5/27/2000	21
Robert Benner Hephner	4/9/2005	16	Alfred Hernandez Lara, Sr.	5/14/2005	16
Michael Andrew Gibbs	4/9/2009	12	William Lamoine Smith	5/14/2005	16
June			Chad Thomas Shultz	5/14/2005	16
Robert Williamson Neely, III	6/24/1986	35	Brian Todd Sellers	5/19/2007	14
Total years in Masonry = 909					

SCHEDULE

WHITE RIVER LODGE

April 10 and May 1 at 10:00 AM—Third Degrees

Stated Meetings: April 13, May 11, and June 8 —Stated Meeting. Dinner will be brought in at 6:00 Meeting is at 7:00

Grand Lodge—June 3-5

Practices or degree work every Tuesday at 6:30

MIZPAH CHAPTER

Official Visit: Friday April 9 at 7:00 PM

Stated Meetings: April 15, May 20, June 17 at 7:00 PM. Election of officers will be on May 20 and Installation of Officers is on May 22

WINSLOW YORK RITE

Winslow York Rite Schedule is on the Website: www.winslowyorkrite.org. Stated Meetings will be on April 7 and May 5 in Holbrook and Show Low respectively. Dark for Grand Lodge in June
Easter observances will be on Zoom with the Grand Encampment on April 4 at 8:00 AM and with the Episcopal Church of our Savior on April 4 with sign on at 8:45 AM. We will meet at White River Lodge to view the service together on Zoom around 7:45 to view these services.

More York Rite Schedule information is on Page 9

ALBERT PIKE—THE EARLY YEARS 1809-1831

Robert Stirling, Past Master of White River Lodge

Albert Pike was born December 29, 1809 to Benjamin and Sarah Andrews Pike in Byfield-Rowley, Massachusetts. Pike's hometown was 35 miles east of Boston was known for prim parties, bees, ship building, sociables and picnics. He spent many great days at the home of his grandfather and would walk the 6 miles from his fathers house to get there. Albert always liked the outdoor life. Young Pike had powerful ambition and resenting wrath that developed his will power to refuse many alluring habits and festivities. His father Benjamin was a shoemaker and farmer like most men of his day, probably had some cows, a horse, cultivated a few acres of crops and in the winter he worked in his shop to earn some money. The shoemakers in the early days before machine made shoes, were real philosophical and while making shoes were known to have conversations on learned subjects with customers. This occupation was conducive to a contemplative frame of mind. Benjamin Pike worked industriously to provide for his family but was still unable to give Albert the education that he craved. The boy inherited little but a constitution, a fine mind and the stubborn determination from his ancestors who descended from Old English intellectuals. He was related to Nicholas Pike the author of the first arithmetic published in America and friend of George Washington. Also Zebulon Montgomery Pike who explored the Rocky Mountains and whom Pike's peak is named. Albert's mother Sarah was a devout Christian woman who was beautiful in person and gifted with intellect.



In his early youth he showed a poetic instinct but was discouraged by his relatives because they considered it not conducive to thrift. Albert said that he remembered conclusion of peace with Great Britain in 1815, when only 6 years of age. Albert had many disadvantages but his ambition and determination to educate himself was not surprising. He attended school in Farmingham, then at 15 years old he began teaching. He taught at Gloucester then for several years at a private school then was an assistant and later became principal of the Village Academy at Newburyport. He would teach by day and read his books at night, so that he could qualify to be principal. He worked some time on linguistic studies, he studied Spanish which was good for later in his life. He studied Greek for many years and taught it. He preferred Latin, and said that without knowledge of it, a man cannot be considered educated.

Albert once borrowed a set of history books, consisting of 13 volumes, and a few days later he brought back the books. Surprised by a strange reaction he received implying he didn't read them, Albert asked to be examined.

Continued on next page

ALBERT PIKE— HIS EARLY YEARS 1809-1831 CONTINUED

In August of 1823 Albert left his home in Newburyport and went to Boston, making it to Cambridge he ran up the steps to Harvard's office of the registrar. He walked up to the clerk and said that he qualified for the junior class and wanted to get registered for the term. He had attended one session at Harvard the previous year and had been studying privately to pass the exams. He taught school to make the money to pay for his first term. He was told that if he passed the entrance exam and paid in advance for his freshmen and sophomore terms he could get in. He said " I cannot pay in advance for two terms, and indeed I shall not do so". The mad and sad Pike left the office hoping someday he would be considered worthy by the college whose honors he could not yet receive. He attended less academic studies as time went on and was thinking more and more about the tales of the new western land that he read in newspapers and heard discussed among friends. Being from a small town with rigid puritans and no big opportunity, he dreamed about seeing the world, having more fun and excitement and to live a broader, freer life. He made up his mind to leave and strike out as soon as possible and all his efforts became to make enough money to get him out west.

"Albert once borrowed a set of History books, consisting of 13 volumes, and a few days later he brought back the books. Surprised by a strange reaction he received implying he didn't read them, Albert asked to be examined."



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WHITE RIVER LODGE

Sisters and Brothers,

As we enter the second quarter of the year 2021, we gradually begin to crawl out from the restriction of what will be remembered by most as "The year of the COVID PANDEMIC". For those who have suffered a loss we extend our 'Deepest Sympathy'. Those of us who have experienced COVID, you are surly blessed. The burdens which all have endured will last for some time. With the strength of the lion, we will recover and hopefully be the better for it.

Times and things are a changing. For the Brothers, record keeping has moved to a new phase, your dues card has a different number than before and is connected to a central data base at Grand Lodge. You will need to register to have access to this system to change some of your information, i.e. telephone number, address, e-mail, etc.

Lodge officers will also have some very limited access to this system. As always, the Secretary has limited access and the Grand Lodge has main control. of information. On a closer to home note, we have 5 EA's waiting, 4 FC waiting, 2 potential candidates and 2 affiliations. We have a busy schedule ahead of us.

Lodge maintenance has become a priority due to ground movement, floor leveling, bats, tree trimming, lawn care, property beautification, lighting, heating duct repair, waste management items ,water drainage and roof maintenance as well as painting. Also we manage janitorial services, kitchen supplies, the BBQ's? and other fund raisers. **OH my Lord, we are a BUSINESS!!!.**

Our charities we contribute to are 501c3 organizations. Arizona Masonic Children's Foundation, Meals on Wheels Show Low area, Scholarships or schools/teachers for supplies, Masonic Service Association for Disaster Relief, local food banks, and of course Shriners Orgs who all have to be Masons first. Veterans' visitations at hospitals. Between the Masonic Organizations and the Benevolent Order of Elks we contribute more to help others of our country than the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

If you have not paid your dues please do so and please notify us of any address or e-mail changes at either P. O. Box 336, Show Low, AZ 85902 or via e-mail at whiteriverlodge62@gmail.com.

THE ANTIKYTHERA MECHANISM AND THE CYCLES OF THE MOON AND PLANETS

Frank Edens, PM

I found a fun article in the March 2021 Astronomy magazine about an ancient analog computer discovered on a wrecked ship near the Greek island of Antikythera. The computer could find the location of the sun, moon, and stars by date. Dates of eclipses could also be determined. Wine jars found indicated the ship sank 60 to 70 B.C. It was a 150-foot-long Roman cargo ship that normally transported grain. This area where the ship sank was where ships would seek protection from storms.

In 1900 a small Greek boat carrying sponge divers got caught in a similar storm. After the storm, the divers in diving suits and copper diving helmets, dove down to find the ancient Roman ship. In 1902 the divers returned to spend nine months bringing material from the wreckage. They found corroded bronze mechanism attached to a statue that they almost threw back into the sea. The material they recovered was sent to the National Archaeological Museum in Athens. A local newspaper reported that the corroded bronze mechanism found was a type of clock, computing device or a navigating instrument. To the right is a picture of a piece of the mechanism, the left is a picture of a reconstructed mechanism.

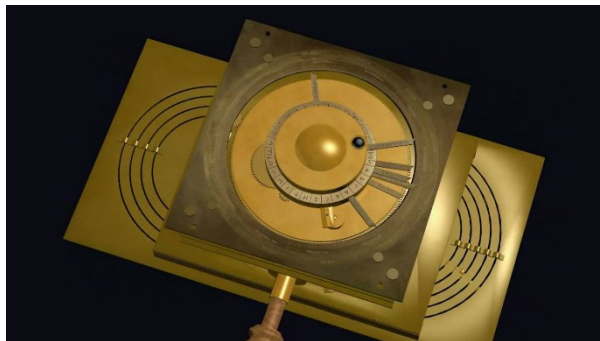
“...Sir Isaac Newton said that calculating the motion of the moon was the only thing that gave him a headache!”

In the 1950's, English physicist Derek J d Solla Price studied the device. He used radiograph X-ray imaging to examine the two main gears that had 235 teeth and 127 teeth, respectively. He also discovered 25 more gears. Working with a mathematician, they decided the two main gears correspond to the cycle of the moon. They made the following observations:

- The sun and moon over a period of nineteen years complete a full cycle to end at the same place in the sky as at the beginning of the cycle.
- The article goes into a detailed description of the motion of the moon during this nineteen-year cycle:
 - Over a period of 27.3 days the moon, in a sidereal month, returns to the same set of stars. There are 235 of these sidereal months over a nineteen-year period corresponding to the gear with 235 teeth.
 - Over a period of 29.5 days the moon, in a synodic lunar month, returns to another full moon. There are 254 synodic lunar months over the nineteen-year period corresponding to the gear with 127 teeth ($2 \times 127 = 254$).
 - A smaller gear with 233 teeth determines the times of eclipses that occur at regular intervals in a cycle that starts over every 18 years.



A part of the Antikythera mechanism discovered



Reconstructed Antikythera mechanism . [Antikythera Mechanism Reconstruction - Bing images](#)

In 2005, Tony Freeth of the University College in London discovered markings denoting the Sun, Moon and hours along with other inscriptions, curved lines and spirals.

After reading this you will understand why Sir Isaac Newton said that calculating the motion of the moon was the only thing that gave him a headache! A grandfather clock has 11 or 12 gears, this Antikythera mechanism had 27 gears. It was about the size of a shoe box.

Reference: Raymond Shubinski, Dissecting an Ancient Computer, Astronomy Magazine, pg. 40 March 2021

OPERATIVE VERSUS SPECULATIVE

Paul Diaz
PM WR #62

Mackay's Revised Encyclopedia (MRE) Vol 2 describes Operative Masonry as "the application of the rules and principles of architecture to the construction of edifices for private and public use, houses for the dwelling-place of man, and temples for the worship of the Deity. It abounds, like every other art, in the use of technical terms, and employs, in practice, an abundance of implements and materials which are peculiar to itself. This Operative Art has been the foundation on which has been built the Speculative Science of Freemasonry."

Also, in MRE Vol 2 we find a very lengthy explanation of what we mean when we describe current Freemasonry as Speculative. In its primary sense Speculative is used as symbolic, or theoretical, when opposed to Operative. Briefly defined, Speculative Masonry is the scientific application and the religious consecration of the rules and principles, the language, the implements, and materials of Operative Masonry to the veneration of God, the purification of the heart, and the inculcation of the dogmas of a religious philosophy. As such Freemasonry basically has three classes of doctrines: Moral, Religious and Philosophical.



MRE Vol 1 has a fairly lengthy entry concerning the term "Accepted" as it pertained to men who were "accepted" into the Worshipful Company of Masons of the City of London. The earliest document

that can be linked to men who were accepted into the company but not actually tradesmen is dated 1620. A number of extant documents subsequently confirm that during its existence both "accepted" and "free" Masons were members of the Worshipful Company of Masons of the City of London. A key note of reference here is that actual "tradesmen" or "free Masons" who were members of the company were not accepted into it, they were admitted; either by apprenticeship, patrimony or redemption and/or were basically "freed" from their guild. Generally speaking, however, those men who were first "accepted" into this company of free Masons were the forerunners of what is known as Speculative Masonry today. But were this first "group" of men Speculative or were they Operative Masons? Permit me a little digression here; but as described by Mackay, it seems like we don't even use the correct term to describe who we say we are. Today it shouldn't be Freemasonry...it should be Acceptedmasonry!



Let's take a look at one of these Masons; Elias Ashmole. There were many others whom I could have used from this era, but Elias Ashmole is the perfect candidate for the point of this paper due to his meticulous attention to detail and strive for accuracy. Both of these traits are readily noticeable in his daily diary that he kept throughout his life. In his diary we find that he was made a Freemason on Oct 16th 1646 at 4:30 pm (Hall, 1950) (Mackay, 1953) We also find these entries:

March 10th. 1682. About 5 p.m. I received a summons to appear at a Lodge to be held next day at Masons Hall London.

March 11th. Accordingly, I went and about noon were admitted into the Fellowship of Free Masons: Sir William Wilson Knight, Capt. Rich Borthwick, Mr Will Woodman, Mr Wm Grey, Mr Samuell Taylour, and Mr William Wise. I was the Senior Fellow among them (it being 35 years since I was ***admitted*** (bold and italics mine). We all dined at the halfe Moone Taverne in Cheapeside, at a noble dinner prepared at the charge of the New-***Accepted*** Masons (bold and italics mine). (Mackay, 1953).

Continued on next page

OPERATIVE VERSUS SPECULATIVE—CONTINUED

Mackay makes a note regarding his information pertaining to Elias Ashmole's entry about being made a Freemason...the word "Accepted" does not occur in that diary entry.

What are we to make of this? In his March 11th entry, he appears to be separating himself from having been admitted from the newly made "Accepted Masons" identified in his diary. Elias Ashmole was associated with astrologers, cabalists, the Rosicrucians, Francis Bacon's Secret Society, alchemists, Fellows of the Royal Society, and the Society of Astrologers. (Hall, 1950) Hall goes on to say that according to Mackay, the Society of Astrologers met at ***Mason's Hall*** (bold and italics mine) because many of the members were also members of the Mason's Company!

Christopher Frederick Nicolai, apparently a learned bookseller in Berlin had this to say about the Society of Astrologers: "Its object was to build the House of Solomon, of the *New Atlantis*, in the literal sense, but the establishment was to remain as secret as the island of Bensalem---that is to say, they were engaged in the study of Nature---but the instruction of its principles was to remain in the society in an esoteric form. These philosophers presented their idea in a strictly allegorical method. First, there were the ancient columns of Hermes, by which Iamblichus pretended that he had enlightened all the doubts of Porphyry. You then mounted, by several steps to a chequered floor, divided into four regions, to denote the four superior sciences; after which came the types of the six days' work, which expressed the object of the society, and which are the same as those found on an engraved stone in my possession." (Hall, 1950) Any of this sound familiar?

Elias Ashmole was many things. He was a solicitor, commissioner of excise, captain of horse, astrologist, botanist, alchemist, Freemason and antiquarian. Highly favored by Charles II he was made a Windsor herald, commissioner, comptroller, accountant-general of excise, commissioner for Surinam and comptroller of the White Office. He was nominated for the position of Garter king-of-arms. (Hall, 1950) There are the two things he was not. He was not an Operative Mason in the sense described by Mackay nor was he a Speculative Mason using the tools of an Operative Mason symbolically to make himself a better man.



Elias Ashmole

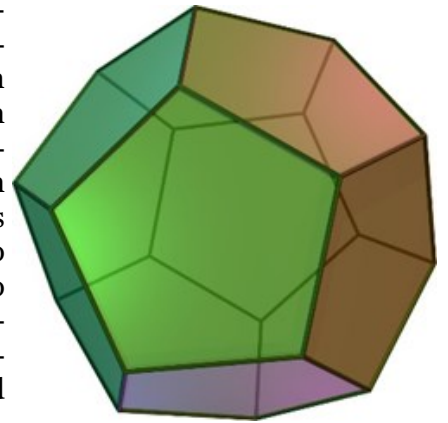
We say that Freemasonry is ancient as having been in existence since time immemorial. Is the term Freemasonry also an allegory? One that we forgot was allegory and started taking literally circa 1717? The mystery schools go back towards the dawn of time and all fingers point towards Egypt. From there they spread across the globe. The ancient mystery schools of Egypt basically consisted of three doctrines: Moral, Religious and Philosophical and despite the commonly understood notion that the masses of Egyptians were polytheist, the Priests of Egypt who were in charge of the Mystery Schools, put pharaohs on the throne and controlled the government were monotheistic in practice. Is this not where Moses was instructed? Did Jesus not sojourn in Egypt before coming back to Israel to spread the "new" message?

I would now like to draw your attention to the letter G.

OPERATIVE VERSUS SPECULATIVE—CONTINUED

“That world is not to be discovered through the vain traditions that have brought down to us the opinion of men who lived in the morning of civilization, nor in the dreams of mystics who thought that they were inspired. It is to be discovered by the investigations of geometry, and by the practical interrogations of nature.” Prof John W. Draper (1811-1882) (Blavatsky, 1877 (republished 2008))

“Firstly, the fundamental diagram to which all science of elementary geometry, both plane and solid, is referable; to produce arithmetical systems of proportion in a geometrical manner; to identify this figure with all the remains of architecture and sculpture, in all which it had been followed in a marvellously exact manner; to determine that the Egyptians had used it as the basis of all their astronomical calculations, on which their religious symbolism was almost entirely founded; to find its traces among all the remnants of art and architecture of the Greeks; to discover its traces so strongly among the Jewish sacred records, as to prove conclusively that it was founded thereon, to find that the whole system had been discovered by Egyptians after researches of tens of thousands of years into the laws of nature, and that it might truly be called the science of the Universe.” George H. Felt (1831-1906) (Blavatsky, 1877 (republished 2008))



Let us continue to look back toward Egypt and contemplate the story of Isis, Osiris, and Horus from a purely allegorical standpoint. In doing so, we find, as taught in the Great Mystery Schools of Egypt that Osiris (wisdom/truth, the living Word etc...) was killed by Set representing ignorance, superstition and fear. After performing this heinous act, Set scatters Osiris' remains across the globe so that he could not be found. Osiris' wife, Isis, representing the Egyptian Mystery Schools, roams the world in bereavement trying to gather up all the pieces of her husband. She was successful in gathering all except one piece, his phallus. Because she was unsuccessful in finding that, she was forced to immaculately conceive her son Horus who represents all the adepts of the Egyptian Mystery Schools in this allegory. Therefore, each adept/initiate is allegorically a Horus and it is his/their mission to spread out across the globe in search of that which was lost and restore it to humanity. In keeping with this allegory, it becomes clear that each adept/initiate/Horus is in fact a Widow's Son.

This story is repeated in just about every ancient mystery school world-wide and across the ages to include those in India, China, Persia (Iran), Brittany, Babylon, as well as the suppressed Hebrew story of Jesus and his widowed bride. Today it is us, according to our ritual to whom the mantle has been passed.

We have been tasked to protect “something” until future generations discover what was lost, to overturn the reign of Set and restore humanity to the “Golden Age of Wisdom”.

OPERATIVE VERSUS SPECULATIVE—CONTINUED

To close this out, here is a definition, that resonates with me, provided by Manly P. Hall... “...the Craft is divided into two parts, *speculative* and *operative Masonry*. In the lodge room, Masonry is speculative, for the Lodge is only a symbol of the human organism. Operative Masonry is a series of mystic activities taking place within the physical and spiritual organisms of those who have assumed its obligations.” (Hall, *Melchizedek and the Mystery of Fire*, 1996)

Now, to the question that has been gnawing at my gut for some time. It may be trivial or trite, but it seems less and less so, the more I peel back the layers of the Ogre... Am I merely a Speculative Mason or am I an Operative Mason and a Widow’s Son like Elias Ashmole before me?

Blavatsky, H. P. (1877 (republished 2008)). *Isis Unveiled Vol 1 of 2*. Forgotten Books.

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Mackay, A. G. (1953). *Mackay's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry Vol 1*. Chicago: The Masonic History Company.

Mackay, A. G. (1953). *Mackay's Revised Encyclopedia Vol 2*. Chicago: The Masonic History Company.



Oldest Illustration in Speculative Freemasonry



York Rite Schedules

Third Degrees at White River Lodge on April 10 and May 1 at 10:00 AM
Stated Meetings of Lodges

- White River Lodge - Second Tuesday
- Chalcedony Lodge - Second Thursday
- Winslow Lodge - Second Monday

Grand Lodge of Arizona in Prescott on June 3, 4, and 5

York Rite Grand Sessions are on August 18, 19, 20, and 21

York Rite Degree Work and Festivals

- York Rite Festivals in Sierra Vista on April 24 and in Phoenix on May 1
- Mark Master Degree in Show Low on September 1 at 7:00 presented by the Winslow York Rite
- Four Corners Royal Arch Festival in Grand Junction, Colorado on October 2
- Colorado River Fall Festival is on October 17, 18, and 19



Masonic Humor

Q: How do you tell if a comedian is a mason?

A: He tells Knock - Knock - Knock Jokes!

BANQUET NIGHT RUDYARD KIPLING

"ONCE in so often," King
Solomon said,
Watching his quarrymen
drill the stone,
"We will curb our garlic and
wine and bread
And banquet together be-
neath my Throne,
And all Brethren shall come to that mess
As Fellow-Craftsmen-no more and no less."

"Send a swift shallop to Hiram of Tyre,
Felling and floating our beautiful trees,
Say that the Brethren and I desire
Talk with our Brethren who use the seas.
And we shall be happy to meet them at mess
As Fellow-Craftsmen-no more and no less."

"Carry this message to Hiram Abif-
Excellent master of forge and mine :-
I and the Brethren would like it if
He and the Brethren will come to dine
(Garments from Bozrah or morning-dress)
As Fellow-Craftsmen-no more and no less."

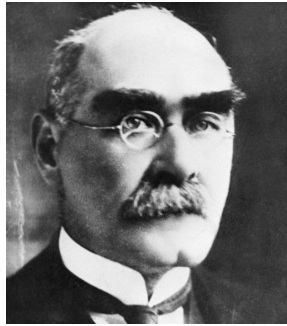
"God gave the Cedar their place-
Also the Bramble, the Fig and the Thorn-
But that is no reason to black a man's face
Because he is not what he hasn't been born.
And, as touching the Temple, I hold and profess
We are Fellow-Craftsmen-no more and no less."

So it was ordered and so it was done,
And the hewers of wood and the Masons of Mark,
With foc'sle hands of Sidon run
And Navy Lords from the ROYAL ARK,
Came and sat down and were merry at mess
As Fellow-Craftsmen-no more and no less.

The Quarries are hotter than Hiram's forge,
No one is safe from the dog-whip's reach.
It's mostly snowing up Lebanon gorge,
And it's always blowing off Joppa beach;

But once in so often, the messenger brings
Solomon's mandate : "Forget these things!
Brother to Beggars and Fellow to Kings,
Companion of Princes-forget these things!
Fellow-Craftsmen, forget these things!"

Rudyard Kipling
Contributed by Frank Edens, PM



JOSEPHUS AND THE JEWISH RE- BELLION OF A.D. 66 -70

Frank Edens, PM

Herod the Great, the puppet king of Israel under the Romans, in 19 B.C. decreed that a new Temple should be built on the Temple Mount. The Jews were very mistrustful of him and took his intentions seriously only after he has secured the building material for it. Ten



Herod the Great

thousand ma-
sons, who were
also priests
were involved in
the rebuilding
that took 90
years. It was
destroyed short-
ly after its com-
pletion by the
Romans who
were trying to
put down civil
unrest in the
country.

The Shekinah, or the conjunction of Venus and Mercury at a specific location in the sky, appeared as predicted in 8 B.C. giving the Jews the assurance that the temple was in the proper alignment with this event that occurred every 480 years. Although the foundation of the Temple could not be expanded do to its location on top of the mountain, it could be made taller.

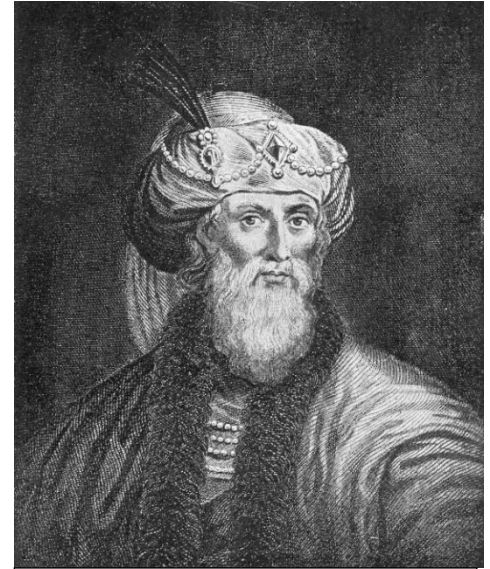
Herod's father was Antipater the Idumean and his mother was Cypros. Even though Antipater had converted to Judaism, the Jews were mistrustful of both him and Herod. Antipater had been made procurator of Judea under Julius Caesar 40 years previously. Herod was fearful of the new messiah of the Jews that had been predicted to rule the Jews in his place and thus Herod made life difficult for the Pharisees who believed the prediction. Herod had made Jerusalem a world class capital city, he did not want this taken away from him. Both the Jews and Herod wanted to know who the new messiah would be and went to great efforts to identify him. Herod died in 4 B.C.

At the time of the start of the construction, the Jews knew the Temple would be destroyed shortly after its completion. Under the Temple were great vaults and chambers known only to the priests building the Temple. Artifacts were placed in these secret chambers for when the Kingdom of Heaven arrived.

JOSEPHUS AND THE JEWISH REBELLION OF A.D. 66 –70— CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

One of the more reliable witnesses of events during this time was the Jewish historian Joseph ben Matthias or Josephus as he was known to the Romans. He was a member of the Jewish sect or brotherhood called the Essenes. Roman oppression reached its max in 64 A.D. under proconsul (governor) Gessius Florus. In 66 A.D. the Jews launched an attack in Caesarea and Jerusalem, by November over 600 Roman soldiers had been killed along with the high priest of the Temple, who the Jews believed was a Roman sympathizer. The Jews were defeating the Roman army in Judea.

The Roman Emperor, Nero, ordered both Jerusalem and the Temple be destroyed. Nero selected a Roman general stationed in Britain, Vespasian, to deal with the Jewish uprising. Vespasian was assisted by his son Titus. Vespasian had obtained a great reputation by dealing with the uprising in Britain, so the seasoned general was going to lay siege on Jerusalem. The Jewish forces were led by Josephus, but the Jews became at odds with the way this peace-loving man led their armies in a tame manner. Massacre and counter massacre were the way that war was fought in those days with extreme cruelty. The Jews were defeating the Romans, and the Romans were afraid of the precedence that would be set if Judea won its independence. The Jews fought with bravery and intelligence that matched that of the Romans and caused huge losses for the Romans. The Romans responded by massacring populations of many cities including Gabara, Jotapata, Tarihaea, Gischala, Gamala, and Jappa. Cities became ghost towns. The strongholds of Herodium, Machaerus, Masada, and Jerusalem remained. The Essenes in Jerusalem begin the process of hiding Temple treasures and documents in underground cavern beneath the Temple.



Joseph of Matthias or Josephus as he was known by the Romans

Josephus begin to despair of war. He foresaw a catastrophe. He switched sides to limit the disaster that was happening to his nation. A lull in the fighting came about due to the Gallic, Spanish legions, and Praetorian Guards rebelling against Nero, the Roman soldiers pulled back from Judea. Nero committed suicide on 9 June 68 A.D. Vespasian became emperor upon his return to Rome. His son, Titus remained in Judea. The siege of Jerusalem began in the spring of 70 A.D. during the Passover when many Jews were in the city. Titus cut off water and food supplies to the city. Those who tried to escape were murdered by crucifixion in front of the walls of the city. Titus sent Josephus to negotiate because Titus did not want to see the Temple destroyed. The Jews did not want to negotiate because they believed that through a divine intervention, they would be saved! Although the Jewish commanders, John of Gischala and Simon bar Goria, fought with great skill, fire consumed many buildings and the Temple on 10 August 70 A.D. The fighting ended in September and the Temple was leveled. According to Josephus of the 21.2 million people in the city at the Passover, over one million perished in the siege, 347,000 died in other places, 97,000 were taken captive, and 11,000 starved.

After the Romans took the city, Simon bar Goria went into the caverns below the city. He dressed in the white robe of an Essene and came up among Roman soldiers, who recognized him. The soldiers then found Jewish fighters in the caverns. Simon was executed and John of Gischala spent the remainder of his life in prison.

The point is that history views Josephus in a mixed light. Although he is one of the best sources of information about the Jewish people, many believe he betrayed the Jews. Many could argue if he did right by changing sides and attempting to negotiate an end to the conflict.

Reference: Knight, Christopher; Butler, Alan. *The Hiram Key Revisited: Freemasonry: A Plan for a New World Order*. Chapter 2, Metro Books. Kindle Edition.

A note on this reference: This book gives a good review of history on of many subjects and it gives a different point of view on these subjects that you will not get from conventional source. I however do not agree with conclusions presented in the last chapter of the book.

PSALM 23 LINE BY LINE INTERPETATION

WHITE RIVER LODGE #62

P. O. BOX 336

SHOW LOW, ARIZONA
85902

WEB PRESENCE

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The Lord is my shepherd = **Relationship**

I shall not want = **Supply**

He makes me lie down in green pastures = **Rest**

He leads me beside quiet waters = **Refreshment**

He Restores my soul = **Healing**

He guides me in paths of righteousness = **Guidance**

For his name's sake = **Purpose**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death =

Testing

I will fear no evil = **Protection**

For you are with me = **Faithfulness**

Your rod and your staff they com-

fort me = **Discipline**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies =

Hope

You anoint my head with oil =

Consecration

My cup overflows = **Abundance**

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life =

Blessing

And I will dwell in the house of the lord = **Security**

Forever = **Eternity**

Source Mighty Messiah: Psalm 23: Line by Line Meaning

Contributed by Frank Edens, PM

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White River Lodge #62
P. O. Box 336
Show Low, Arizona 85902

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