

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ORGANIZING CONVENTION,
AND OF THE
FIRST and SECOND
ANNUAL GRAND CONVOCATIONS
OF THE
M.:E.:GRAND CHAPTER
OF
ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA,
FOR
1847 and 1848.

REPRINTED BY AUTHORITY OF THE GRAND CHAPTER, UNDER THE
SUPERVISION OF D. C. DAWKINS, GRAND SECRETARY,
A. D. 1875.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA:
PRINTED AT THE PRESS BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.
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PROCEEDINGS

OF A CONVENTION OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS FOR THE FORMATION OF A GRAND CHAPTER FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

At a meeting of Delegates from the several Royal Arch Chapters in the State of Florida, assembled in the Chapter room of the Masonic Hall, in Tallahassee, on Monday, January 11th, A. D., 1847, A. I. 2377:

The Convention was organized by calling Companion, the Honorable Judge BRONSON, to the chair, and JOHN B. TAYLOR was appointed Secretary.

The following Chapters were represented by their Delegates:

Florida Royal Chapter, No. 32, by Companions John P. Duval, S. S. Sibley, and E. D. Nash.

Magnolia Chapter, No. 16, by Companion Samuel W. Carmack.

Florida Royal Arch Chapter, No. 4, Comp's I. H. Bronson and Thomas Douglass.

On motion, a committee consisting of Comp's Duval, Carmack, and Brown, were appointed to examine and report on Credentials.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following Delegates as legally entitled to seats in this Convention, viz:

JOHN P. DUVAL, S. S. SIBLEY, and ED. D. NASH, from Chapter No. 32.

SAMUEL W. CARMACK, from Chapter No. 16.

I. H. BRONSON and THOMAS DOUGLASS, from Chapter No. 4.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That all Companions, Royal Arch Masons, members of Royal Arch Chapters of Florida, of good standing, who may be present at this Convention, be invited and privileged to unite in its deliberations in convention and on committees; provided, that none other than representatives from Chapters shall be entitled to a vote in Convention, and that such vote shall be cast by Chapters.

The following preamble and resolution were adopted:

WHEREAS, at a Convention of Royal Arch Masons, held in Tallahassee on the 11th day of January, A. D., 1847, A. I. 2377, there were present at said Convention, the requisite number of Chapters represented to form and organize a Grand Royal Arch Chapter for the State of Florida:

Therefore, on motion of Comp. Carmack, of Magnolia Chapter, No. 16, it was

Resolved, That a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the State of Florida, be organized; and that the Chairman appoint a committee for the purpose of forming a Constitution for the government of said Grand Chapter.

Whereupon, the chairman appointed the following Companions as said committee, viz.: Companions Duval, Brown, Sibley, Berthelot, and Shine; and Companions Douglass, Carmack, Macrae, and Bronson were subsequently added.

The Convention adjourned to Thursday evening, 7 o'clock.

THURSDAY EVENING, January 14 --7 o'clock.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

The minutes were read, and after amendment approved.

The Committee on the Constitution, reported a Code of Laws, which was received.

The Constitution was read, section by section, and after amendment, adopted. It was then put upon its final passage, and unanimously adopted, and ordered to be enrolled by the Secretary.

The Convention adjourned until Monday evening, 7 o'clock.

MONDAY EVENING, 7 o'clock.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

On motion, an additional Article of the Constitution (Art. 7) was proposed, read, and adopted, and ordered to be enrolled by the Secretary.

The Convention proceeded to the election of officers, when—

Comp. The Hon. THO'S DOUGLASS,	was unanimously elected	G. H. P.
“ JOHN P. DUVAL,	“ “	D. G. H. P.
“ HARRY R. TAYLOR,	“ “	G. King
“ GEO. W. MACRAE	“ “	G. Scribe
“ JOHN B. TAYLOR,	“ “	G. Sec'ry
“ EDWIN D. NASH,	“ “	G. Treas'r
“ the Rev. EDWIN T. L. BLAKE,	“ “	G. Chap'n.

The Convention then adjourned until Thursday evening, January 21, at 7 o'clock.

THURSDAY, EVENING, January 21.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read, and after amendment, approved.

On motion, this Convention was then adjourned *sine die*.

I. H. BRONSON,
President of Convention.

JOHN B. TAYLOR, M. D.
Grand Secretary.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

Grand R. A. Chapter of the State of Florida.

ARTICLE I.

SEC. 1. The GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF FLORIDA, shall consist and be composed of a Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Lecturer, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, three Grand Masters of the Vails, Grand Tyler, and the High Priests, Kings, and Scribes of the chartered Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter; Past Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Past Grand Kings, Past Grand Scribes, (or their regularly authorized Proxies), Past Grand Secretaries, Past Grand Treasurers, Past Grand Lecturers, Past Grand Chaplain, and Past Grand Marshals of this Grand Chapter; Past High Priests, Past Kings, and Past Scribes of the several subordinate Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons.

SEC 2. The Grand Chapter shall have power and authority to ordain and establish laws, rules, and regulations for the government and benefit of the subordinate Chapters; to grant Dispensations and Charters for the establishment of new Chapters, and to revoke and annul the same, for such causes as it may deem sufficient; to prescribe the manner, and to require a uniform mode of working; to receive and determine appeals; to reprehend and control improper conduct in any Chapter or Officer under its jurisdiction; and to do and perform all such duties as properly appertain to a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

SEC 3. The Grand Chapter shall be holden annually in the city of Tallahassee, on the third Monday in January—but special communications may be ordered by the Grand High Priest, or in his absence, by the next Grand officer of the Grand Council, according to rank: *Provided*, That every subordinate Chapter shall be notified at least thirty days previously, of the time of holding such communications: *And provided further*, That at no annual or special communication shall the Grand Chapter be opened or proceed to business, unless there be present a High Priest, King, or Scribe, or proxies from three subordinate Chapters.

SEC 4. No person shall act as the proxy of the officers of more

than one Chapter at the same time; and all officers and members of the Grand Chapter and proxies must be Royal Arch Masons, and regular members of some Chapter under its jurisdiction.

SEC 5. A majority of the members present of this Grand Chapter shall determine all questions submitted for their decision. In all cases of a tie, the Grand High Priest, or presiding officer, shall in addition to his own vote, have the casting vote.

SEC 6. No Dispensation or Charter shall be granted for the formation of a Chapter, but upon the petition of nine known and approved Royal Arch Masons, in which their first High Priest, King and Scribe shall be nominated; which petition shall be accompanied by a recommendation from the Chapter nearest the petitioners, vouching for their character and standing, and stating explicitly that the High Priest, King or Scribe, is well qualified to confer the degrees.

SEC 7. For every Dispensation granted for the formation of a new Chapter, there shall be paid to the Grand Secretary, five dollars for his fees; and for every Charter there shall be paid to the Grand Secretary the sum of fifty dollars, for the use of the Grand Chapter, and the further sum of five dollars as a fee to the Grand Secretary; and no dispensation or Charter shall be issued until foregoing fees are paid.

SEC 8. Members of the Grand Chapter shall be tried by the Grand Chapter; and every charge brought before the Grand Chapter against any member thereof, shall be made in writing, and the member so charged shall be furnished with a copy thereof by the Grand Secretary; and a member suspended or expelled therefrom shall be entirely excluded from all the benefits and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry while under such sentence.

ARTICLE II.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

SEC 1. The officers of the Grand Chapter shall be elected by ballot at the annual communication, on or before the first Wednesday after its meeting in every year, by the subordinate chartered Chapters, and the present and past Grand officers who are members according to the provisions of this constitution; each and every Chapter having one vote and no more. Each and every Grand Officer elected, Past Grand High Pries, Past Grand King, Past Grand Scribe, of this Grand Chapter, one vote and no more, unless he be the High Priest, King or Scribe, or proxy of a subordinate Chapter. The past High Priests of each Chapter collectively one vote and no more; and the past Kings and past Scribes of each Chapter, collectively, one vote and no more. The officers thus elected shall be installed as soon as practicable, and shall hold their offices for the term of one year, or until their successors are duly elected and installed, and shall not be eligible to the same offices until after the expiration of one year from the termination of their services, with the exception of the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and Grand Chaplain.

SEC 2. No Chapter shall be entitled to vote in the election of Grand officers, nor shall its High Priest, King or Scribe, or either of

their proxies be eligible to any of the Grand offices until its dues to the Grand Chapter are paid.

ARTICLE III.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF GRAND OFFICERS.

SEC. 1. The Grand High Priest may grant Dispensations for the establishment of new Chapters, during the recess of the Grand Chapter; he shall exercise a superintending control over the subordinate Chapters, and all officers and Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter; he may for good cause, according to his wisdom and discretion, suspend any Chapter, or the officers of the Grand or subordinate Chapters, until the next annual convocation of the Grand Chapter; he shall annually appoint, by and with the consent of the Grand Council - the Grand Lecturer, Grand Marshal, Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, and Grand Masters of the Vails. The Grand High Priest shall appoint the Tyler.

SEC. 2. Whenever the Grand Chapter is opened, the Deputy Grand High Priest shall be shall be stationed on the left of the Grand High Priest, and in his absence fill the chair. During the recess of the Grand Chapter, he may grant Dispensations for the establishment of new Chapters under the restrictions and provisions imposed by this Constitution for the government of the Grand High Priest, in like cases, and shall be vested with similar powers with him, subject, however, at all times to his control and directions.

SEC. 3. In the absence of the Grand and Deputy Grand High Priest, the Grand King - or in his absence, the Grand Scribe - or in his absence, the Senior Grand High Priest, or Deputy Past Grand High Priest - shall preside, with the powers of the Grand High Priest, and if no such officers be present, then the companions shall nominate some suitable person to fill the chair.

SEC. 4. After the Grand Chapter is opened, and before any business is proceeded with, the Grand Chaplain, if present, shall invoke a blessing of Deity, and deliver a suitable address to the members, unless such address is dispensed with by order of the Chapter.

SEC. 5. The Grand Lecturer shall at every annual communication, on such day or days as the Grand Chapter may direct, exemplify the mode of working in the six degrees of the Chapter, and shall perform such other service as the Grand Chapter may from time to time require, for which he shall be paid a reasonable compensation.

SEC. 6. The Grand Treasurer, before entering on the duties of his office, shall give bond and satisfactory security to the Grand High Priest for the use of the Chapter, to be approved by him or the presiding officer for the time being, for the faithful performance of his official duties, in the sum of five hundred dollars. He shall account to the Grand Chapter for all monies received and disbursed by him, by virtue of his office, and on the first day of every annual communication, exhibit a full and accurate statement of his accounts to the Grand Chapter; he shall pay out no money without the written order of the

Grand High Priest or presiding officer, given by direction of the Grand Chapter, and countersigned by the Secretary; and such vouchers only, shall be received in the settlement of his accounts.

SEC. 7. The Grand Secretary shall record neatly and correctly, in a substantial book, all the proceedings of the Grand Chapter proper to be written. He shall keep a regular set of books, in which he shall open and keep all necessary and proper accounts, charge the subordinate Chapters regularly with their annual contributions, and give them credit for all the monies when paid - he shall collect all monies due the Grand Chapter, make proper entries of the same, pay them over to the Treasurer and take his receipt therefor. He shall charge the Treasurer with all monies paid him, and credit him with all drafts or orders drawn on him, and on the first day of every annual communication, he shall lay before the Grand Chapter a full and accurate statement of all monies received by him by virtue of his office, since the date of his last report. He shall communicate to the several Grand Chapters within the United States, and to all the Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, such matters as may from time to time be required to be so communicated. He shall submit for inspection of the Grand Chapter, all communications received by him during its recess - attest and fix the seal of the Grand Chapter to all instruments of writing necessary to be executed; report the number of Dispensations granted since the last annual communication, with the recommendations upon which they were founded, and for these services shall receive from the funds of the Grand Chapter, the sum of fifty dollars annually. Before his installation, he shall give bond and security in like manner with the Treasurer, in the sum of five hundred dollars, for the use of the Grand Chapter, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties.

SEC. 8. All the Grand officers shall perform the duties respectively assigned them, on the charges given at their installation; and the Grand Tyler shall receive for his services, two dollars per day during his attendance on the Grand Chapter.

SEC. 9. All officers of this Grand Chapter shall receive a commission or warrant of appointment, attested by the seal of the Chapter and the signature of the Secretary.

ARTICLE IV.

OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS.

SEC. 1. All legally constituted assemblies of Royal Arch Masons shall be called Chapters, and be governed by, and consist of, an High Priest, King and Scribe, a Chaplain, Secretary, Treasurer, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, three Masters of Vails, Marshal and Tyler, and as many members as may be found convenient for working to advantage. And every chapter thus constituted, ought to assemble at least once in every three months.

SEC. 2. Every Chapter throughout this jurisdiction, shall have a Charter from the Grand Chapter; and no Chapter shall be deemed legal without such Charter; and all Masonic communications, either public

or private, are hereby interdicted and forbidden between any Chapter under this jurisdiction, or any member, or either of them, and any Chapter that may be so illegally formed, opened or holden, or with any or either of their members, or any person exalted in such illegal Chapter: Provided, the Chapters now organized within this jurisdiction shall not be required to pay for a new Charter.

SEC. 3. In all cases of the absence of any officer from any chapter, holden by virtue of this Constitution, the officer next in rank shall succeed his superior, unless through courtesy, said officer should decline in favor of a Past superior officer present. And in case of the absence of all officers from any legal meeting of any Chapter aforesaid, the members present, according to seniority and ability, shall fill the several offices.

SEC. 4. In any Chapter, holden by virtue of this Constitution, all questions shall be determined by a majority of votes, (except as to the admission of members and candidates,) and in case the votes should at any time be equally divided, the presiding officer shall give the casting vote.

SEC. 5. No Chapter shall be removed without the knowledge of the High Priest, nor any motion made for that purpose in his absence; but if the High Priest be present, and a motion is made and seconded for removing the Chapter to some more convenient place (within the limits prescribed by the Charter) he shall forthwith, cause notifications to be issued to all members, informing them of the motion for removal, and of the time and place when the question is to be determined; which notice shall be issued at least ten days previous to the appointed meeting. But if the High Priest should (without just cause) absent himself from the Chapter, whereby no motion can be made, and the same shall so appear to two-thirds of the whole members of the Chapter, or, (after any motion duly made and seconded as aforesaid,) should refuse or neglect to cause the notices to be issued as aforesaid, the officer next in rank, who may be present at the next regular meeting, following, (upon motion made and seconded for the purpose) may, in like manner, issue the said notices, and do and perform all things necessary, in the same manner as if the High Priest was present.

SEC. 6. The High Priest of every Chapter has it in special charge, and it is hereby his bounden duty, as appertaining to his office and dignity, to see that the by-laws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Chapter, be duly observed; that all the other officers of this Chapter perform the duties of their respective offices faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry to their companions; that true and exact records be kept of all proceedings of the Chapter by the Secretary; that the Treasurer keep and render exact and just accounts of all monies belonging to the Chapter; that regular returns be made by the Secretary, annually to the Grand Chapter of all the members belonging to the Chapter; and of the deaths and removals that may happen between the annual meetings of the Grand Chapter; and to the Grand Secretary of all suspensions, expulsions and rejections as they severally occur; and that the annual dues to the Grand Chapter be punctually paid. He has the right and authority of calling his Chapter at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence, which in his judgment may require their meeting and he is to fill the chair when present. It is

likewise his duty and the duty of the King and Scribe, to attend in person by proxy, all meetings of the Grand Chapter, whether stated or thereunto summoned by the Grand Secretary.

SEC. 7. Every Chapter within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, shall demand and receive for each exaltation (except in the exaltation of a Clergy man, who may be exalted gratis) not less than twenty dollars, and shall pay to the Grand Chapter one dollar for each exaltation, and one dollar annually for each and every member reported, ministers of the Gospel excepted.

SEC. 8. The several Chapters under this jurisdiction shall be represented in each Convocation of the Grand Chapter, whether stated or occasional, by one or more of the three first presiding officers of the respective Chapters, or their regular proxies, and shall make their returns to the Grand Chapter, according to the constitution and bylaws thereof, under the penalty, for neglect so to do, (at the discretion of the Grand Chapter) of not less than ten dollars.

SEC. 9. The respective Chapters under this jurisdiction, shall make out and transmit to the Grand Chapter, annually, at their convocation in January, the names of their three presiding officers, together with a list of the number and names of their other officers and members, and a report of all removals, suspensions, rejections, expulsions and deaths; and should any Chapter refuse or neglect so to do, or omit paying their dues to the Grand Chapter for two years successively, their Chapter shall be suspended, by notice from the Grand High Priest, signed by the Grand Secretary, until the next succeeding Grand Annual Convocation; when without sufficient excuse for such refusal or neglect, (to be judged so by the Grand Chapter), and returns being made, and dues paid up, the Charter of such Chapter shall be forfeited. And in case any Chapter shall desire to retain its Charter, the same mode shall be pursued as is prescribed for receiving Charters from the Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Florida, and is now in force.

SEC. 10. If any member has any accusation to make against the High Priest, King or Scribe, it shall be made in writing; and if sustained by the signatures in Chapter, of one-third of the Royal Arch Masons, members of the Chapter, shall be handed to the Secretary, and by him transmitted to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, under which this Chapter is holden. Before this is done, the accused shall be served by the Secretary with a copy, and may defend his conduct before the Chapter.

ARTICLE V.

RULES OF ORDER.

RULE 1. After opening the Chapter in proper form, the presiding officer shall cause the minutes of the preceding meeting to be read.

RULE 2. The presiding officer shall put all questions distinctly, and when a division is called for, he shall first direct those in the affirmative to rise, and then those who vote in the negative, and then having ascertained the majority, declare the result.

RULE 3. Before a member can speak on any subject, or deliver any matter to the Chapter, he shall rise in his place, and respectfully address the presiding officer, in the customary style of Masons.

RULE 4. Any member transgressing the rules of the Chapter, may be called to order by the presiding officer, or any other member, and he shall immediately obey the call, unless permitted to explain. The presiding officer shall then decide the question of order, from which decision the member may appeal to the Grand Chapter, who shall, without debate, decide. The member shall then proceed or take his seat, as the decision may require.

RULE 5. When two or more members rise at the same time, the presiding officer shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

RULE 6. No visitor shall be permitted to speak, unless he obtain the permission of the presiding officer to do so.

RULE 7. No member shall enter, leave, or go across the room, whilst the presiding officer is putting a question, addressing the Grand Chapter, or any individual member, nor shall be, during either of these occurrences, or whilst a member is speaking, either enter into private discourse, or pass between the speaker and the chair.

RULE 8. No member shall be allowed to vote on any question, in the decision of which he may be immediately, or particularly interested, or if he was absent when it was submitted.

RULE 9. Every member present, when a question is submitted, shall vote, unless prohibited by the by-laws or excused for certain reasons assigned.

RULE 10. Before any motion can be considered, it shall be seconded and stated by the presiding officer, or read by the Secretary, if in writing.

RULE 11. Every motion made and seconded, shall be reduced to writing, if desired by the presiding officer or any member. In filling blanks, the largest sum or number, and the longest time shall be put first. And when a questions is once submitted, it shall be decided as to all the propositions moved, before any motion for a new number or a different time can be entertained.

RULE 12. A motion can be withdrawn at any time before the question is taken on it, by the consent of the Chapter.

RULE 13. Any member of the majority may move for the reconsideration of a question which has been decided; but no vote of this Grand Chapter shall be overruled by a less number than were present when it was given.

RULE 14. When the reading of any paper, or any document whatever, is called for and objected to, the question shall be decided by vote.

RULE 15. The unfinished business of preceding meetings, in the order it is found on the minutes, shall be disposed of before any other can be attended to, unless by permission of the presiding officer.

RULE 16. No member shall speak more than twice on any one subject without permission of the presiding officer.

RULE 17. Petitions, memorials, etc., addressed to the Grand Chapter shall be handed to the Grand Secretary, and by him read, if desired by the Grand High Priest, or any Companion. The person presenting the same shall briefly state its contents.

RULE 18. All committees shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest, or presiding officer.

ARTICLE VI.

OF AMENDMENTS OF THE BY-LAWS.

Every proposition to revise, alter or amend these by-laws, or to adopt a new constitution, shall be submitted in writing, at a regular communication, and when seconded, it shall be read by the Grand Secretary, and if approved of by a majority of the members present, shall be entered on the minutes, and laid over for consideration until the next regular convocation; when it shall be further considered, and if two-thirds of the Royal Arch Masons, members of the Grand Chapter present, concur therein, shall be adopted.

ARTICLE VII.

The degrees of Royal Master and Select Master shall be deemed to be Chapter Degrees, to be given in the Chapters, unless otherwise directed by the Grand Chapter at some regular annual communication hereafter. And the Grand Chapter may confer authority upon the subordinate Chapters to organize Councils and confer these degrees, and make such by-laws, rules and regulations, as may be necessary to carry into effect this article, and fully to provide for the conferring of these degrees; and in the mean time, any subordinate Chapter may confer these degrees (until otherwise directed by the Grand Chapter), in such manner as now is, or may be, provided by their by-laws, regulations, or constitutions, or by dispensation granted by the Grand High Priest; provided there be nine regular Select Masters present at the conferring of said degrees, if conferred otherwise than by Dispensation.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter, for the State of Florida, commenced its session on Thursday evening, January 21, A. D., 1847, A. I. 2377, in Tallahassee.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form, tyled by Companion John B. DeCroce, Grand Tyler.

PRESENT.

Companion	JOHN P. DUVAL, (D.G.H.P.)	<i>as</i> G.H. Priest, <i>pro tem</i> .
“	THOS. DOUGLASS, (G.H.P.) -	<i>as</i> D.G.H.P., “
“	GEO. W. MACRAE, - -	<i>as</i> Grand King, “
“	JOHN B. TAYLOR, - -	<i>as</i> Grand Secretary,
“	Edwin D. NASH, - -	<i>as</i> G. Capt. Host, <i>pro tem</i> .
“	Samuel W. CARMACK, - -	<i>as</i> G. Prin. Sojo’r., “
“	CHARLES E. DYKE, - -	<i>as</i> G. R. A. Capt., “
“	CHARLES E. DYKE, - -	<i>as</i> G. M. 3d V., “
“	JOS. H. SCALES, - -	<i>as</i> G. M. 2d V., “
“	ISAAC W. BOWEN, - -	<i>as</i> G. M. 1 st V., “

Companion THOMAS DOUGLASS was then dully installed as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Florida, by Companion John P. Duval, Past High Priest, and took the Chair accordingly.

Companion JOHN P. DUVAL was installed	D. G. H. Priest.
“ HARRY R. TAYLOR	“ Grand King (by proxy.)
“ GEO. W. MACRAE,	“ Grand Scribe,
“ JOHN B. TAYLOR,	“ Grand Secretary.
“ EDWIN D. NASH,	“ Grand Treasurer.
“ Rev. EDWIN T. L. BLAKE,	“ Grand Chap’n (by proxy.)

The Grand Council then made the following appointments, viz:

Companion GAD HUMPHREYS,	Grand Marshal.
“ SAMUEL S. SIBLEY,	Grand Lecturer.
“ ISAAC W. BRONSON,	Grand Captain Host.
“ RICH A. SHINE,	Grand Prin. Sojourner.
“ SAMUEL W. CARMACK,	Grand R.A. Captain.
“ BENJ. SAWYER,	G. M. 3d V.
“ BENJ. F. NOURSE,	G. M. 2d V.
“ GEO. F. BALTZELL,	G. M. 1 st V.
“ JOHN B. DECORCE,	Grand Tyler.

The Craft were then called off from labor to refreshment, until Wednesday evening, January 27th, A. D. 1847, A. I., 2377.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 27, A. D., 1847, A. I. 2377.

There not being a full attendance of members, the Grand High Priest postponed the meeting until Monday evening, February 1, 1847.

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
 MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 1, A. D., 1847, A. I., 2377. }

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

PRESENT.

- M. .E.: THOMAS DOUGLASS, - - - - - G. H. P.
- “ JOHN P. DUVAL - - - - - D. G. H. P.
- “ GEO W. MACRAE, - - - - - G. K., *pro tem.*
- Comp'n THOMAS BROWN - - - - - G. S. “
- “ JOHN B. TAYLOR, - - - - - Grand Secretary.
- “ EDWIN D. NASH, - - - - - Grand Treasurer.
- “ the Rev. EDWIN L. T. BLAKE - - - - - Grand Chaplain.
- “ JAMES A. BERTHELOT, - - - - - G. C. H., *pro tem.*
- “ RICH A. SHINE, - - - - - G. P. Sojourner.
- “ SAM'L W. CARMACK, - - - - - G. R. A. C., *pro tem.*
- “ SAM'L S. SIBLEY, - - - - - G. M. 3d Vail, “
- “ FRANCIS WEIKER, - - - - - G. M. 2d Vail, “
- “ ISAAC D. BOWEN, - - - - - G. M. 1st Vail, “

Visitors -- Companions Pliny Miles, Johnson, Edmondson, McIntyre and Dyke.

Companion John P. Duval, D. G. H. P., introduced the following resolution:

COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS.

Ordered by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Florida. That the degrees of Royal and Select Masters shall be conferred in the subordinate Chapters, immediately before the degree of Most Excellent Master, according to the Ancient constitutions of Masonry, as set forth in the proceedings of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, and the Grand Chapters of Virginia and Maryland.

That a legally constituted assembly of Royal and Select Masters, when opening in Grand Chapter, shall be called a Grand Council, and be governed by the M. E. Grand High Priest as Thrice Illustrious Grand Master; the M. E. D. G. H. P. as Thrice Illustrious Deputy Grand Master; the E. G. King as Principal Conductor of the work; Grand Captain of the Host as Captain of the Guards; Grand Secretary, as Grand Recorder, Grand Chaplain and Grand Tyler. When opened in a subordinate Chapter, it shall be called a Council; the M. E. High Priest presiding, as Thrice Illustrious Master; the E. King, as Thrice Illustrious D. M. ; the Ex. Scribe as Principal Conductor of the work; Captain of the Host, as Captain of the Guards; Secretary, as Recorder; Treasurer, Chaplain and Tyler.

The same number of Royal and Select Masters are required to open to Council, as of Companions to open a Chapter. The fee for conferring the degree of Royal Master shall be three dollars; for that of Select Master, five dollars, making all the six degrees conferred in the Chapter, not less than twenty-eight dollars. (Provided, that all Royal Arch Masons under this jurisdiction, who have not received the degrees of Royal and Select Master, shall be entitled to receive said degrees free of charge) All the constitutions, rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter, shall apply to the Grand and Subordinate

Councils of Royal and Select Masters, substituting Royal and Select Masters, when it can be done consistently with the constitutions of Masonry, in the place of Royal Arch Masons.

Companion Sibley offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved by this Grand Chapter, That M. E. John P. Duval, Deputy Grand Priest, be authorized and directed to confer the degree of High Priesthood on the Hon. THOMAS DOUGLASS, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Florida, and upon the High Priest and Past High Priest of Chapters subordinate to this Grand Chapter, until there shall be in each Chapter three High Priests or Past High Priests who have received the degree of High Priesthood, and who shall then collectively confer the Degree of High Priesthood on all companions who may be elected High Priest of their respective Chapters.

Companion Thomas Brown offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That Companions William P. Duval, Richard K. Call, ex-Governors, and Robert Butler, Surveyor-General of Florida, honorary member of Florida Royal Arch Chapter, formerly No. 32, now No. 1, be elected honorary members of this Grand Chapter, and that they be respectfully invited to attend the Annual Communications of the Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary transmit a copy of this resolution to Governors Duval and Call, and to Surveyor-General Butler.

Companion John P. Duval offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary prepare forms for Charters, Dispensations, Diplomas, Returns, Certificates, and have the same printed on parchment or paper, under the direction of the Grand High Priest, or Deputy Grand High Priest, and that the Grand Treasurer pay the account for the same according to the provisions of the constitution of the Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary shall publish the proceedings of the Convention for the formation of the Grand Chapter of the State of Florida, and the proceedings of this Grand Chapter, and the Constitution; and that he inform the several Grand Chapters, from which the several subordinate Chapters derive their Charters, of the establishment of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Florida, and request fraternal intercourse.

Companion Duval offered a resolution, which was laid on the table until Thursday evening.

The Craft were then called off from labor to refreshment, until Monday evening next, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA. }
February 8, A. D., 1847 -- A. I., 2377. }

The Craft were called from refreshment to labor, tyled by Companion DeCorce.

PRESENT.

- M. :. E.: THOS. DOUGLASS, ----- G. H. P.
- “ John P. Duval, ----- D. G. H. P.
- “ Geo. W. Macrae, ----- G. K., pro tem.
- Comp'n S. S. SIBLEY, ----- G. S. “
- “ J. B. TAYLOR,----- G. Sec'y.
- “ E. D. NASH, ----- G. Treasurer.
- “ JOS. A. EDMONDSON,----- G. C. Host, pro tem.
- “ RICH A. SHINE,----- G. P. S.
- “ S. W. Carmack,----- G. R. A. Capt.

And visitors, Companions Weinker, Dyke and Bowen.

The minutes of the Grand Chapter were read and approved.

The discussion of Companion Duval's resolution, offered on a former evening and laid on the table, was resumed, and finally adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Florida, duly appreciating the advantages of a Masonic head and paramount authority, are disposed to come under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary communicate the above resolution to the General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

Received and read an application for a Royal Arch Chapter from the undermentioned Companions, Royal Arch Masons residing in the city of Key West, viz: Geo. W. Macrae, Isaac H. Bronson, Benjamin Sawyer, Thomas G. Peachy, John C. Hoyt, Benj. W. Jenks, Charles Howe, Alexander Patterson, Christian Boye, John J. Sands, James V. Ogden, S. P. Richardson, which application was duly recommended by Florida Royal Arch Chapter No. 1, in open Chapter, on Monday evening, February 1, A. D., 1847, A. L., 2377, and nominating the Hon. George W. Macrae as their first Scribe; which was unanimously granted, and said Charter ordered, under the style and title of the Royal Arch Chapter of Key West, No. 4.

Companion Grand Secretary presented an account for stationery, etc., amounting to \$10.25, which was ordered to be paid.

Companion Sibley offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be authorized and required to procure, as soon as possible, a Seal for this Grand Chapter, with such device as may be suggested by the Grand Council; and that, in the meantime, the seal of the Florida Royal Arch Chapter No. 1, be used as the seal of this Grand Chapter, with such necessary alterations as may be made by the Grand Secretary.

Companion Sibley introduced the following resolution.

Resolved, that the Grand Treasurer be authorized to pay the account due the Grand Tyler of this Grand Chapter, for his service in Tying, upon the certificate of its correctness by the Grand Secretary.

No other business offering, the Grand Chapter was then closed in ample form.

THOMAS DOUGLASS,

Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Florida.

Attest--

JOHN B. TAYLOR, Grand Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

M.:E.: GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA.

SECOND ANNUAL GRAND CONVOCATION.

At a Grand Annual Convocation of the GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF FLORIDA, begun and held in the Masonic Hall in the City of Tallahassee, on Monday, January 17th, A. D., 1848, A. L., 5848, A. I., 2378.

PRESENT.

M.:E.: THOS. DOUGLASS, ----- G. H. P.
R.:E.: JOHN P. DUVAL, ----- D. G. H. P.
“ GEO. W. MACRAE, ----- as G. K.
“ THOMAS BROWN, ----- as G. S.
“ JOHN B. TAYLOR, ----- Grand Secretary.
Comp'n A. A. FISHER, ----- as Grand Treasurer,
“ Rev. EDWIN L. T. BLAKE ----- Grand Chaplain.
“ I. H. BRONSOM,----- G. C. H.
“ D. S. GRAHAM, ----- as G. P. Sojour.,
“ CHARLES E. DYKE ----- as G. R. A. C.
“ Jos. H. Scales,----- as G. M. 3d Vail,
“ ISAAC W. BOWEN,----- as G. M. 2d Vail,
“ S. P. RICHARDSON, ----- as G. M. 1st Vail,
“ FRANCISCUS WEINKER, ----- as Grand Tyler,

And the representative of the following subordinate Chapters, viz:

Florida R. A. Chapter, No. 1 -- Comp. S. S. Sibley, M. E. H. P.
“ “ “ “ “ Thomas Brown, E. K.,
“ “ “ “ “ Joseph H. Scales, E. S.
“ “ “ No. 2 “ I. H. Bronson, (proxy for
M. E. H. P.)
Key West “ No. 4, “ G. W. Macrae, M. E. H. P.
M.:E.: Past High Priests, Jno. P. Duval, No. 1, J. B. Taylor, No. 1.

VISITORS.

Companion S. P. Richardson, No. 4, I. W. Bowen, No. 1, G. C. S. Johnson, No. 1.

The Grand Chapter was then opened in ample and solemn form, with prayer by the Rev. Grand Chaplain.

The M.:E.: Grand High Priest appointed the following Companions a Committee on Credentials, viz: Companions Bronson, Brown and Blake, who reported the Chapters No. 1, 2 and 4 as duly represented.

The Grand Secretary made the following report:

The Grand Secretary begs leave to report, That during the recess of the Grand Chapter he has, under the direction of the M. :.E.: Grand High Priest, issued a Dispensation to a number of Companions Royal Arch Masons in Monticello, Fla., empowering them to assemble and work as Royal Arch Masons.

He also submits to the Grand Chapter the correspondence received during the recess, as also the communications from several Grand Chapters in the United States.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN B. TAYLOR, Grand Secretary.

On motion, a Charter was ordered for Jefferson Chapter, No. 5, at Monticello, Florida.

Read Companion Nash's letter of resignation -- he having removed beyond the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter -- which was accepted.

The M. :.E.: Grand High Priest appointed the following standing committees:

1. *On Returns and Credentials* -- Companions Bronson, Brown and Blake.
2. *On Accounts* -- Companions Sibley and Graham.
3. *On Foreign Correspondence* -- Companions Brown and Duval.
4. *On By-Laws and Dispensations* -- Companions Graham, Heir and Blake.
5. *On Propositions and Grievances* -- Companions Bronson, Macrae and Duval.
6. *On the Constitution* -- Companions Smith, Blake, and Scales.

On motion --

Resolved, That all Royal Arch Masons of good standing, now in the city, be invited to seats in this Grand Chapter.

On motion of Companion Bronson --

Resolved, That all correspondence relative to Florida Royal Arch Chapter, No. 2, from the General Grand Chapter of the United States, be referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Also all the correspondence between the Dep. Grand High Priest, John P. Duval, and M. :.E.: High Priest, Harry R. Taylor, be referred to said Committee.

The M. :.E.: Grand High Priest addressed the Chapter in a solemn and appropriate manner on matters of high moment; and then, on motion, the Grand Chapter was called off from labor to refreshment, until to-morrow evening, 7 o'clock.

TUESDAY, January 18, 1848 -- 7 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

PRESENT.

M. :.E.:	JOHN P. DUVAL, (D. G. H. P.)--	as	G. H. P.
R. :. E.:	GEO. W. MACRAE, -----	as	D. G. H. P.
"	SAM'L S. SIBLEY, -----	as	Grand King,
"	D. S. GRAHAM- -----	as	Grand Scribe,
"	JOHN B. TAYLOR, -----		Grand Secretary.

- Comp'n G. C. S. JOHNSON, ----- Grand Treasurer.
 " REV. E. L. T. BLAKE,----- Grand Chaplain.
 " I. H. BRONSON,- ----- Grand Capt. Host.
 " R. A. SHINE,- ----- Grand Prin. Sojourner.
 " P. P. SMITH,- ----- as Grand R. A. C.,
 " CHARLES E. DYKE,- ----- as G. M. 3d V.,
 " JOSEPH E. SCALES,- ----- as G. M. 2d V.,
 " A. A. FISHER,- ----- as G. M. 1st V.,
 " F. WEINKER,- ----- Grand Tyler.

And the representatives of the following Chapters:

- Florida Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1.
 " " " No. 2.
 Key West " " No. 4.
 Jefferson " " No. 5.

PAST HIGH PRISTS.

Jno P. Duval, of No. 1, and John B. Taylor, of No.1.

VISITORS.

Companion S. P. Richardson, No. 4, and Joseph A. Edmondson, No. 1.
 Companion Bronson, Chairman of the Committee on Propositions and Grievances made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Propositions and Grievances, to whom was referred the correspondence between the M .:E.:Deputy Grand High Priest and Companion Harry R. Taylor, of Magnolia Chapter, and the matters therein referred to, beg leave to report:

That they find on examining said correspondence, that the Magnolia Chapter, at Apalachicola, has been working under a Charter from the Grand Chapter of the State of Virginia, and that in March last the Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter transmitted to Companion Harry R. Taylor, the High Priest of that Charter, a Charter from this Chapter, which he refused to accept; and that the Magnolia Chapter is still working under the Charter from the Virginia Grand Chapter.

So far as your Committee are able to ascertain from the correspondence, the refusal of the Magnolia Chapter to recognize the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, is founded solely on the fact that our Constitution authorizes and directs the Subordinate Chapters under our jurisdiction to consider the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master as Chapter Degrees, and confer them upon candidates *previous to the Royal Arch Degree.*

This authority, (to confer these Degrees before the Royal Arch), which is inserted in our Charters to Subordinate Chapters, is one which Companion Taylor says he cannot consent to use or recognize; and he deems it an unfortunate decision of the Convention which formed our Constitution, if not an infringement upon established usages.

The letters of Companion Taylor have been replied to by the M .:E.: Deputy Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter in a kind and respectful manner; and an effort made by the Deputy Grand High

Priest to convince him that the decisions and conclusions of this body on the subject alluded to, are correct, but without effect; and, as your Committee are informed, the said Companion, and the Magnolia Chapter still refuse to receive a Charter from this body.

Your Committee deem it unnecessary to detail more particularly the correspondence upon this subject before alluded to, or to comment upon it any farther than to say that it seems to have been characterized by fairness and candor on both sides, and bear evidence of Masonic spirit and an earnest desire for the truth and right; and from the tenor of the correspondence, as well as from the high character, both as a man and a Mason, which Companion Taylor has always borne, they feel satisfied that his objections are conscientiously entertained, and that he is actuated by no factious or un-masonic feeling, but by an earnest belief that the Grand Chapter is in error in respect to the point above mentioned; all of which makes it more difficult for your Committee to point out the suitable and proper action for this Grand Chapter to take in the premises.

Your Committee have again examined the question to which this correspondence had given rise, (viz: what is the proper time or mode of giving the Degrees of Royal Master and Select Master), and they are more than ever convinced that the former action and decision of the Grand Chapter on that point is right; that they are Chapter Degrees and ought to be conferred before the Royal Arch Degree, and they believe that if correctly understood, it would at once be conceded by all bright Masons that such must necessarily be the case.

The Grand Chapters of Maryland and Virginia have both so decided in the most pointed and empathic manner, and particularly the Grand Chapter of Virginia, under which the Magnolia Chapter now claims to work. In a resolution of that Grand Chapter, passed in 1846, they declare that "the order of conferring degrees incident to the Royal Arch Chapters, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, shall hereafter be as follows: Mark Master, Past Master, Royal Master, Select Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch.

This is substantially in accordance with our own Constitution, and as your Committee believe, correct. And believing this, they feel bound to recommend some action of this Grand Chapter in the premises. And though reluctantly, they feel compelled to submit the following resolutions, as the mildest mode which they can devise for treating the subject, and which at the same time is consistent with the just rights, jurisdiction and dignity of the Chapter, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That the Chapter now working at Apalachicola, known as Magnolia Chapter, No. 16, and the officers and members thereof, be requested to accept the Charter heretofore sent them from this Grand Chapter, and to acknowledge the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, and that our Secretary cause a copy of this resolution to be transmitted to them, together with such explanations and papers touching the point in controversy between that Chapter and this Grand Chapter, as the M .:E.: Grand High Priest may see fit to sent therewith.

2. *Resolved further*, That in case the said Magnolia Chapter does not, within three months after the receipt of a copy of this resolution, accept the Charter tendered to it and acknowledge the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, that then it shall be the duty of the M .:E.:

Grand High Priest to cause to be notified and admonished to appear before this Grand Chapter at its next annual communication and show cause why it does not accept of said Charter, and in case of its refusal to do so, why it should not otherwise be masonically dealt with.

Resolved further, That a copy of this Report and these Resolutions be transmitted to the Grand Chapter of Virginia.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I. H. BRONSON, Chairman.
JOHN P. DUVAL,
GEO. W. MACRAE.

Which, together with the Resolutions appended, was unanimously adopted.

Companion Thomas Brown, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence has the honor to report:

That they have received from the Grand Secretary for examination, the printed proceedings of the Grand Chapters of Connecticut for the year 1840, of Texas for 1845, of Indiana for 1847, and of Virginia for 1847, which contain nothing requiring special notice, save the evidence which they afford of the prosperous condition of Free Masonry in those States. The committee has also received from the Grand Secretary, and examined, the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter of the United States at its triennial Communications for the years 1844 and 1847. In the proceedings of 1844, your committee find the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter having learned the history of the organization of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at St. Augustine, E. F., under the authority of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina, and aware that it was not legally instituted, will grant a Charter for the same, and legalize its previous work, on condition that it makes its returns from the time of its organization, delivers a copy of its By-Laws, and pays its constitutional dues.

Your Committee must confess, that they were not little astonished, at this sweeping declaration of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, denouncing the act of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina, in granting a Charter for a Chapter in Florida—where there was then no Grand Chapter—as illegal. The Committee would have been pleased if the General Grand Chapter of the United States had been more explicit in showing wherein the want of legality consisted in “the history of the organization of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at St. Augustine, E. F., under the authority of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina.” It is truly a grave charge. But when your Committee came to reflect that the *payment of its constitutional dues* to the General Grand Chapter, and making returns, etc., would “legalize its previous work,” they were brought to the conclusion, that at last, it was but a matter of dollars and cents between the Grand Chapter of South Carolina and the General Grand Chapter of the United States, in which the Chapter at St. Augustine has no concern;

having paid to the Grand Chapter of South Carolina all constitutional dues up to the institution of the Grand Chapter of Florida.

In the proceedings of 1847, the General Grand Secretary says: "On the 11th day of January last, three Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Florida, by their delegates, met in Convention, and resolved to form a Grand Chapter for that State. They therefore proceeded to form a Constitution and enact by-laws; and on the 21st of the same month they elected officers, and organized a Grand Chapter; and among the proceedings it will be found that they desire to place their Grand Chapter under your jurisdiction. On receipt of a copy of their Constitution, and the letter accompanying it, I immediately acknowledged the same and requested their Grand Secretary to inform me from what Grand Chapter the several Chapters in the State received their respective Charters, and the time when each was issued. To this letter, as yet, I have received no answer." And the committee to whom the subject was referred, report that, "In the published proceedings of said Grand Chapter, we find the adopted Constitution and the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Florida, duly appreciating the advantages of a Masonic head and paramount authority, are disposed to come under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

"Resolved, That the Grand Secretary communicate the same to the General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter.

"It is not known to your Committee from what source the Chapters in that State derived their Charters; nor can they, from anything which is in their possession, decide whether they were legally constituted or not. We presume they were; but believe that it would not be in accordance with the general spirit of action of this General Grand Chapter to incorporate the Grand Chapter of Florida, under its jurisdiction until some further steps are taken in regard to these facts.

"Your Committee would further report, That the 7th section of the 1st article of the Constitution of that Grand Chapter, which reads as follows, to-wit: 'For every dispensation granted for the formation of a Chapter, there shall be paid to the Grand Secretary five dollars for his fees; and for every Charter, there shall be paid to the Grand Secretary for the use of the Grand Chapter, the sum of fifty dollars, and the further sum of five dollars as a fee to the Grand Secretary; and no dispensation or Charter shall be issued until the foregoing fees are paid,' is at variance with the 7th section of the 1st article, and the 4th section of the 2d article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter; and further, in the 7th section of the 4th article of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Florida, ministers of the Gospel are expected from the payment of twenty dollars fees for the Royal Arch Degrees, which is also at variance with the 7th section of the 1st article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter.

"Resolved 1st. That the Grand Chapter of Florida be, and is hereby, requested to furnish to the General Grand Council through the Grand General Grand Secretary, or directly to each member of it, all the facts within their knowledge connected with the establishment of Royal Arch Chapters in the State of Florida, especially with

regard to the authority from which each of said subordinate Chapters derived its Charter.

“*Resolved* 2d, That should the General Grand Council be satisfied from the examination of such facts as the Grand Chapter of Florida may communicate to them, that the Royal Arch Chapters in that State have been legally constituted, and should the said Grand Chapter amend its Constitution so as to conform to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, then, and in that case, the General Grand Council shall immediately take such steps as will permit the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Florida to be incorporated under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.”

In regard to the information sought to be obtained by the first resolution of the General Grand Chapter, your Committee presume that it will not be necessary for them to say anything of the “history of the organization of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at St. Augustine, E. F., under the authority of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina,” as the General Grand Chapter has more information *in regard to the authority from which said subordinate Chapter derived its Charter*, than we profess to possess. The Chapter at Tallahassee, and the Chapter at Apalachicola - being the other two Chapters which compose *the three Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Florida, which by their delegates met in Convention and resolved to form a Grand Chapter* - derived their Charters from the Grand Chapter of the State of Virginia; further with regard to its authority to grant such Charters, your Committee cannot undertake to give any satisfactory account. But we do contend, that it the Grand Chapters of South Carolina and Virginia are acknowledged to be *legally constituted* Grand Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, the subordinate Chapters constituted by them in Florida were *legally constituted* Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, in the absence of any regularly constituted Grand Royal Arch Chapter for the Territory; and that the Grand Chapter, organized by those three subordinate Chapters, on the 21st day of January, 1847, was *legally constituted* Grand Chapter for the State of Florida.

Your Committee, impressed with that profound deference and consideration, for the authority of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, which such an august and enlightened body is entitled to command, cannot, nevertheless, admit that the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Florida, with doubts of its regular organization, approached the General Grand Chapter, with any desire of becoming incorporated under its jurisdiction, with the design of having such *illegal organization healed*. And much less that it had any intention, in submitting to the “paramount authority” of the General Grand Chapter of subjecting its internal municipal concerns to their supervision and control; over which it does not concede lawful authority to any body on earth.

It has been a custom, since the establishment of Free Masonry in Florida, to admit Ministers of the Gospel to its benefits free of charges and dues; and although the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, and the Grand Lodge also, does not make it imperative on the subordinate Chapters and Lodges, yet they give to them the *privilege of admitting* Ministers of the gospel free of charge. And as

it regards the fee for a Charter to subordinate Chapters, we, with great deference, think that we are better judges in the case than the General Grand of the United States.

Your Committee have been taught to believe that the object of a General Grand Chapter was to establish Masonic law, preserve the ancient land marks of the order from innovation, and settle and determine a uniform mode of working. Has this been accomplished? Your Committee respectfully think it has not. As far back as the year 1829, the General Grand Chapter of the United States adopted resolutions in regard to “the conferring of the degrees of Royal and Select Masters.” In the report of the General Grand Secretary, at the triennial session of 1844, he says, “the matter of the Royal and Select Master Mason’s degrees still continues to be a subject of anxiety and irritation in the Southern and Western States, and the conferring of them, in some instances, a matter of private emolument.” Whilst several of the Grand Chapters refused to recognize them as Chapter Degrees, a committee of the General Grand Chapter appointed on the subject, offered the following resolution:

“*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this General Grand Chapter, that the conferring of the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters should be *subsequent* to that of the Royal Arch Degree.”

The Grand Chapter of Florida declares that they shall be conferred before the Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees. Yet the General Grand Chapter, whilst they require the Grand Chapter of Florida to amend its Constitution in regard to *fees and admission of Ministers of the Gospel free of charge*, takes no notice of this regulation, nor any step to settle this important question.

A committee of the Grand Chapter of Virginia says that that body, “following the example of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, ordered them (the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters) to be conferred before the Royal Arch. It does seem to your Committee, that the most cursory acquaintance with the origin of the several degrees of Masonry, would satisfy any one of the absurdity of detaching these degrees from their natural and chronological connections, and introducing them after a degree which originated 472 years after the events transpired to which they allude; thus converting a most expressive and beautiful chain of traditionary history, into a disjointed an illarranged system of absurdities. As to any authority claimed by *bodies* unknown to Royal Masonry, we cannot permit them to influence a Grand Chapter which believes that there is in their possession all the light which properly belongs to the Temple, and that they have arrived at the summit of perfection in ancient Free Masonry.”

Your Committee, with great deference, express the opinion, that the Grand Chapter of the United States has failed to accomplish the important object of its institution; while to submit to its authority and requisition may tend greatly to embarrass this Grand Chapter in the exercise of this legitimate duties and benevolent designs, and therefore submit the subjoined preamble and resolution.

THOMAS BROWN, }
JOHN P. DUVAL, } Committee.

WHEREAS, this Grand Chapter as its session in January, 1847, adopted the following resolution, to-wit:

“*Resolved*, That the Grand Chapter of Florida, duly appreciating the advantages of a Masonic head and paramount authority, are disposed to come under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.”

AND WHEREAS, the General Grand Chapter at its triennial session in September, 1847, in taking action upon the said resolution, has required of this Grand Chapter, before admission, certain amendments to its Constitution on points unimportant to the General Grand Chapter, in the proper exercise of its legitimate authority; but necessary to this Grand Chapter in the discharge of its municipal duties and benevolent designs; whilst they have at the same time suffered to pass unnoticed, a regulation of great importance in regard to high Masonic law, which has created “anxiety and irritation” in the Grand Chapters under their jurisdiction, and ought to be determined; therefore be it

Resolved, That the said resolution is hereby rescinded and annulled.

Which was adopted, and the preamble and resolution unanimously passed.

Companion P. P. Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee to whom the Constitution was referred, beg leave to report upon the same:

The Committee have examined the Constitution, and do not see cause for any alteration to be made, but would suggest to strike out a portion of Rule 4 of the Rules of Order, to make that Rule read as follows:

Any member transgressing the rules of the Chapter, may be called to order by the presiding officer, or any other member, and he shall immediately obey the call, unless permitted to explain. The presiding officer shall then decide the question of order, and the member shall then proceed, or take his seat, as the decision may require.

The Committee would also recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That so much of the resolution adopted by this Grand Chapter, at its last Convocation, on the 1st day of February, 1847, fixing the fees for the six degrees in the Chapter at not less than twenty-eight dollars, be, and the same is hereby, rescinded.

P. P. SMITH, Chairman

Which was adopted, and the accompanying resolution passed.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment, until to-morrow at half past three o'clock P. M.

WEDNESDAY, January 19, 1848 -- 3:30 o'clock P. M.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

PRESENT.

M.:E.: THOMAS DOUGLASS,-----G. H. P.
 R.: E.: JOHN P. DUVAL ------D. G. H. P.
 “ THOMAS BROWN,----- as G. K.
 “ D. S. GRAHAM,----- as G. S.
 “ JOHN B. TAYLOR,----- Grand Secretary.
 Comp'n G. C. S. JOHNSON,-----Grand Treasurer.
 “ I. H. BRONSON,----- G. C. H.
 “ R. A. SHINE,----- G. P. Sojourner
 “ THOS. JEFF HEIR,----- as G. R. A. C.
 “ REV. E. L. T. BLAKE,----- Grand Chaplain.
 “ ALFRED A. FISCHER----- as G. M. 3d Vail.
 “ S. P. RICHARDSON,----- as G. M. 2d Vail.
 “ JOSEPH H. SCALES,----- as G. M. 1st Vail.
 “ FRANCIS WEIKER,----- as Grand Tyler.

And the representatives of the following subordinate Chapters:

Florida Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1.
 “ “ “ No. 2.
 Key West “ “ No. 4.
 Jefferson “ “ No. 5.

On motion of Companion Bronson, the Committee was discharged from the further consideration of the matter between the General Grand Chapter of the United States and Florida Royal Arch Chapter, No. 2.

The Grand Chapter then went into an election of officers for the ensuing year, when the following Companions were duly elected, viz:

M.: E.: JOHN P. DUVAL,-----G. H. P.
 R.: E.: I. H. BRONSON,-----D. G. H. P.,
 “ GEO. W. MACRAE,----- Grand King,
 “ D. S. GRAHAM----- Grand Scribe,
 “ JOHN B. TAYLOR,----- Grand Secretary.
 “ THOS. BROWN,-----Grand Treasurer.
 RT. REV. E. L. T. BLAKE,-----Grand Chaplain.

The above Grand officers were then respectively installed by the Past Grand High Priest, (Companion Macrae by proxy), when the Grand Council made the following appointments, viz:

E.: GAD HUMPHREYS,----- Grand Marshall
 “ S. S. SIBLEY----- Grand Lecturer.
 “ JOS. H. SCALES----- G. C. H.
 “ R. A. SHINE.----- G. P. Sojourner.
 “ SAMUEL STEVENS,----- G. R. A. Captain.
 “ BENJ. SAWYER,----- G. M. 3d V.
 “ G. F. BALTZELL,----- G. M. 2d V.
 “ T. JEFF HEIR,----- G. M. 1st V.
 “ FRANCISCUS WEINKER,-----Grand Tyler.

Companion Samuel S. Sibley, Grand Lecturer, made the following

REPORT:

The Grand Lecturer of the Grand Chapter respectfully begs leave to report: That in the discharge of his duties, he has had opportunity to visit during the year but one Chapter out of Tallahassee - that of Jefferson Chapter, No. 5. This Chapter has been working under dispensation during the past year, but has been thoroughly established, and is in a healthy, flourishing condition. The members generally, are very zealous in their duties, and the Chapter bids fair to successfully compete with her elder sisters. The undersigned has had the pleasure of organizing this Chapter, and exalting the number of five Companions to the sublime degree of Royal Arch Masonry, carrying them regularly through the preceding degrees. Other degrees have since been conferred, and it is believed during the coming year, there will be many additions to the fraternity All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. S. SIBLEY,
Grand Lecturer.

The Committee on accounts made their report as follows:

The Committee on Accounts respectfully beg leave to report as follows: They find received by the Secretary the past year the sum of \$50.00 Amount received at our present Convocation:

Chapter No. 1, dues.....	19.00
“ No. 2, “	19.00
“ No. 4, “	10.00
“ No. 5, “	17.00
Charter	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$165.00

CR.

By cash paid Grand Treasurer, as per receipt, (for which vouchers were presented as payment by Treasurer).....	50.00
Postage.....	<u>.80</u>
Total.....	<u>\$50.80</u>

Balance due Grand Chapter.....\$114.20

They likewise find due by the Grand Chapter as follows:

To John B. Taylor, Secretary.....	\$50.00
To Sibley & Dyke, account for Printing Proceedings of Convention and Constitution of Chapter.....	42.00
To printing Chapter Diplomas on parchment.....	15.00
To F. Weinker, Tyler.....	<u>6.00</u>
Total.....	\$113.00

Which accounts are recommended for payment.
All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. S. SIBLEY, Chairman.
D. S. GRAHAM.

When, on motion, both reports were adopted.

The Committee on Dispensations and By-Laws made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Dispensations and By-Laws beg leave to report, That they have attended to that duty and find all correct.

Respectfully,

D. S. GRAHAM, Chairman.

Which was adopted.

On motion -

Resolved, That the proceedings be published under the inspection of the M. :
E. : Grand High Priest.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in harmony and love, in ample form.

JOHN P. DUVAL, Grand High Priest.

JOHN B. TAYLOR, Grand Secretary.

FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE GRAND SECRETARY.

Annual Return to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Florida, of the Officers and Members of ----- Chapter, No.-----, commencing on the 27th day of December, -----, and ending the 27th day of December, -----

No.	Names.	Masonic Grade.	Date of Membership	Date of Exaltation	Amount of Dues.	Remarks.
1.	A. B.	M. E. High Priest,	Prior to last Report.	Prior to last Report.	\$1.00	Withdrawn 1 st December
2.	C. D.	E. King,	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	
3.	E. F.	“ Scribe,	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	
4.	G. H.	Secretary	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	
5.	I. J.	Treasurer	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	
6.	K. L.	Captain Host,	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	
7.	M. N.	Principal Sojourner,	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	Died 3d November.
8.	O. P.	R. A. Captain,	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	
9.	Q. R.	M. 3d Vail,	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	
10.	S. T.	M. 2d Vail,	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	
11.	U. V.	M. 1 st Vail,	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	
12.	W. X.	R. A. M.	“ “ “	“ “ “	\$1.00	Suspended, Expelled, etc.
13.	Y. Z.	R. A. M.	“ “ “	February 10, 1848.	\$2.00	
14.	O. S.	R. A. M.	“ “ “	May 29, 1848.	\$2.00	
15.	D. F.	R. A. M.	“ “ “	October 20, 1848.	<u>\$2.00</u>	
				Dues to Grand Chapter	\$18.00	

I hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and perfect return of all matters and things required to be reported annually, by the regulations of the Grand Chapter. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Chapter to be affixed, this..... day of A. D., R. A. M.....

M.....N....., High Priest.

Attest --

O.....P....., Secretary.