

**HISTORY AND BY-LAWS OF
RICHMOND ROYAL ARCH
CHAPTER NO. 3, A. F. & A. M.,
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, WITH A
LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649603381

History and By-Laws of Richmond Royal Arch Chapter No. 3, A. F. & A. M., Richmond,
Virginia, with a List of Officers and Members by J. Staunton Moore

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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J. STAUNTON MOORE

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HISTORY AND BY-LAWS
OF
Richmond Royal Arch Chapter
No. 3

A. F. & A. M.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

WITH

A LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

BY

M. E. J. STAUNTON MOORE, P. H. P.

Editor and Compiler

UNIVERSITY
OF VIRGINIA

RICHMOND
WILLIAMS PRINTING COMPANY
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PREFACE.

Some months ago a resolution was offered that a committee be appointed to revise our By-Laws. The resolution was adopted and the following were appointed for that purpose: M. E. Companion J. Staunton Moore, M. E. Companion Jacob Lewitt, and Companion George F. Keesee. Companion J. Staunton Moore was requested to write a history of the Chapter and publish it in connection with the By-Laws. To worthy Companion George F. Keesee, our most capable and efficient secretary, who has served us as such continuously since 1866, the Chapter is indebted for the revision of the By-Laws. M. E. Companion Jacob Lewitt has also, when called upon, rendered his services most cheerfully. The committee was requested to contribute their photographs.

In undertaking at the request of "Old Richmond

Royal Arch Chapter, No. 3," this historical sketch, it is with the thought and hope that the Craft may be reminded of the brethren who in the past helped to organize and establish our noble Order, guided it in its infancy and handed down to us its beautiful ritual and sublime tenets and who possessed those sterling virtues and strong principles that should stimulate us to emulate their examples and perpetuate their memories.

I offer this contribution as a slight token of my love and devotion to my old Chapter, and as an evidence of my appreciation of the confidence reposed in and the honors conferred upon me. If it shall afford my companions the least pleasure or information, it is all the reward that I desire for my labor.

J. S. M.

Richmond, Va., July 1, 1911.

MASONRY.

Freemasonry has been very beautifully described as being "a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols."

Its sublime tenets, its moral principles are recorded in our text-books. The Craft, in the earlier period of its existence was simply known as Masons. The epithet, "Free," was applied to the fraternity on account of their being exempted by several papal bulls or proclamations from burdens and exactions or taxes imposed upon laborers or workingmen in England and the Continent, and this favor or exemption was doubtless shown them because of their work upon churches and cathedrals. This was doubtless the operative period and probably before or possibly coeval with its union or organization into Speculative Masonry; something on the order of the labor unions of modern times.

Speculative Masonry bears the same relation in the formation, development and perfection of character that Operative Masonry does to the laying of the foundation, the erection and adjustment of the

several parts of a building, and its completion into a "beautiful, perfect and complete whole." No organization, no association of men, no order has ever been founded upon so broad and utilitarian a basis, recognizing as it does no particular creed of religious teaching, ostracising no man on account of political affiliation, rejecting no man because of poverty, wealth, vocation or calling. The only standard, the supreme test being a belief in God, a good character and a blameless life.

Its conservatism inculcating as it does, loyalty to country, duty to God, love to one's neighbor and charity to all, makes it one of the corner stones of civilization and a pillar of the State. It is so blended with kindly sentiments, a general courtesy and good fellowship as to make "all the world akin," and appeals more directly to our higher nature, our nobler impulses, our kindly sentiments than any other organization known to man. I will not attempt to enter into or discuss the traditions, speculations and conjectures of its origin or its antiquity. I have simply tried to define its true meaning, its import.

Masonry was introduced into Virginia at quite an

early date. R. W. John Dove, in his "History of the Grand Lodge of Virginia," informs us that,

"The first Lodge of Ancient York Masons, chartered for Virginia was in 1733 by the name, title and designation of the Royal Exchange Lodge, No. 172, and held its meetings in the village of Norfolk."

"The second Lodge was chartered in 1755, by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, for Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia, by the mother name of 'Kilwinning Cross.'

"The third was chartered by the same for Petersburg, Virginia, by the name of Blandford Lodge, No. 83, in 1757.

"The fourth was for Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1758.

"The fifth was chartered for Hampton, Virginia, 1773, by the name of St. Tammany; and on the same day No. 6 was chartered for Williamsburg, by the name of Williamsburg."

He also states there was a Lodge chartered for Yorktown, in 1755, No. 204. For further information along this line, reference is made to R. W. Brother Dove's most excellent work.