

MINUTES OF THE 5th STATED COMMUNICATION OF THE THOMAS SMITH WEBB CHAPTER of RESEARCH, No. 1798

1. The Fifth Stated Communication of the Thomas Smith Webb Chapter of Research, No. 1798 was opened in due form at 4:45pm on Saturday, December 13^h, 2003 in the Chapter Room at Grand Lodge, New York, following the conferral of the Holy Royal Arch Degree by Ancient Chapter No. 1.
2. The King, M.:E.: Edmund D. Harrison sat as High Priest. Also present were R.:E.: Robert L. Barrows, R.:E.: George Harrison, R.:E.: Chas Cowing, V.:E.: Steve Bass, E.: Piers A. Vaughan, E.: Mark Adler, Comp. Stevan Nikolic, Comp. Jason Sheridan, Comp. Christopher Allen.
3. R.:E.: Robert L. Barrows rose to give the highlights of the minutes for the previous meeting in Albany, and confirmed that M.:E.: Charles Reilly and R.:E.: Paul Barrera had been elected to membership. Also, the amendment to the By-Laws has been approved by the Companions present.
4. The acting High Priest suggested that, since the speaker at the Albany meeting had not been given sufficient time to present his talk on the Champlain & Erie Canals, he be offered the opportunity to give the completed version of his talk at the March 2004 Grand Convocation in Albany. This was universally approved and the secretary agreed to inform the speaker.
5. It was suggested that the next meetings of Thomas Webb Chapter should be as follows:
 - a. Saturday, January 31 2004 in Rochester at the Order of Anointed High Priests, under the auspices of R.:E.: William Zufall, if he was able to organize it. M.:E.: Edmund D. Harrison would contact him about this possibility.
 - b. Saturday, February 7 2004 at 11:00am in Grand Lodge, prior to the conferral of the Order of Anointed High Priests. Brian Hutchinson would be approached by the Secretary about giving a talk at this meeting. M.:E.: Edmund D. Harrison would approach R.:E.: Harvey Payne about sitting in the east for this event, as he would be unable to attend due to prior commitments.
 - c. Saturday at the March 2004 Grand Convocation in Albany.
6. A vote was then taken on the petition submitted by E.: Cyril White, which was unanimously approved by the Companions present.
7. A talk was then given by E.: Piers A. Vaughan entitled "The Holy Royal Ark", which was warmly received by the Companions present. Special note was made by the Acting High Priest of the depth and broad perspective that the Speaker interjects in his papers. M.:E.: Edmund D. Harrison commented that the potential next Grand Master was promoting a platform which included not only a major upgrade in the Child ID program, but also a major emphasis on education, which would bode well for the desire of Thomas Webb Chapter to promote debate and scholarship in future. He also expressed regret that, due to the lateness of the hour, the usual lively debate was not able to be held following the paper, and hoped that this part would be a major feature of future meetings.

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8. M.:E.: Edmund D. Harrison announced that he had attended the Grand Chapter of Brazil a couple of months earlier, at which he was made an Honorary Member of the Thomas Smith Webb Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The members were surprised and delighted to hear that a Chapter of the same name had been set up in the State of New York.
9. The Elections for the following year were then held. The following Officers for 2004 were elected and installed:
 - High Priest – M.:E.: Edmund D. Harrison
 - King – R.:E.: Harvey Payne
 - Scribe – R.:E.: William Zufall
 - Treasurer – R.:E.: Robert L. Barrows,
 - Secretary – E.: Piers A. Vaughan
10. There being no further business, the Chapter was closed by the High Priest at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

E\ Piers A. Vaughan
Secretary