

MINUTES OF THE 3rd STATED COMMUNICATION OF THE THOMAS SMITH WEBB CHAPTER of RESEARCH, No. 1798

The Third Stated Communication of the Thomas Smith Webb Chapter of Research, No. 1798 was opened at 12:45pm on Saturday, June 21st, 2003 in the Small Chapter Room of the Masonic Temple, Utica by the Excellent King, M.:E.: Edmund D. Harrison.

The acting Excellent High Priest thanked the Utica Temple, and particularly Comp. David E. Wilbur, for providing the aprons and banners and for setting up the space.

Present were: M.:E.: Edmund D. Harrison (King), R.:E.: Harvey E Payne (Scribe), E.: Piers A. Vaughan (Secretary), R.:E.: Paul Barrera, R.:E.: Louis Wunsch, R.:E.: Bent A. Larson, R.:E.: M. Eugene Ellis, R.:E.: Louis D. Denato, Sr., R.:E.: George Harrison, R.:E.: George J. Knorr, R.:E.: William R. Zufall, E.: Jeffrey M. Williamson, and Comp. David E. Wilbur.

Apologies were received from R.:E.: John Mauk Hilliard (excellent High Priest), R.:E.: Stephen Rubinstein, and R.:E.: Robert L. Barrows (Treasurer).

The minutes of the previous Meeting were read and approved.

The acting Excellent High Priest asked for invitations for Thomas Smith Webb Chapter of Research No. 1798 to hold their meetings at their Chapters, and encouraged the inviters to prepare papers to be read at the meetings. The suggestion that the Chapter seek communication with the other Chapter of Research in the United States, there being such in Massachusetts and Ohio. It was also suggested that communications be opened with Rhode Island, place of the memorial to Thomas Smith Webb, with the possibility of a future trip to visit the site and a Chapter there. The Secretary said that he and the Secretary of the Chapter of Research in Virginia has already exchanged memberships. The acting High Priest gave a vote of thanks to the Secretary for his work on the Thomas Smith Webb Website.

There were several petitions pending, but these would be held over until the next meeting for voting as the meeting had time constraints due to the Grand Master's Procession later in the afternoon.

The proposed Bye-Laws had been circulated with the Trestleboard, and had also received the approbation of the Bye-Laws Committee of Grand Chapter. Their adoption was proposed by R.:E.: Eugene Ellis and seconded by R.:E.: Harvey Payne. R.:E.: William Zufall rose to comment on Article III Section 4, suggesting that the word "may" should be substituted for the word "will". After some debate this amendment was approved and the Secretary asked to submit this amendment to the Bye-Laws Committee for their approval. The Bye-Laws were then unanimously approved subject to the Bye-Laws Committee's approval of the amendment.

E.: Jeffrey Williamson rose to inquire whether the Thomas Webb Chapter was exempt from per capita dues. This was confirmed by the acting Excellent High Priest.

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The date of the next Meeting was set for Saturday, October 11th at 10:30am, in the Masonic Temple at Albany, NY. This would precede the Luncheon, and Rededication of the Canal Capstone Ceremony in the afternoon. It was hoped that all events would attract a good number of Companions. M.:E.: Edmund D. Harrison said he would research the availability of the venue for that date and time and report to the Secretary. The venue was unanimously approved, with the except of R.:E.: William Zufall, who said his reason for voting against was due to the fact that he would have to work that day, and regretted not being able to attend due to the date.

R.:E.: Harvey Payne then rose to inquire about the possibility of printed transactions being produced in the future. The acting Excellent High Priest informed him that the transaction were already available on the website, but that this might be a possibility in the future once sufficient papers of a high standard had been received, monies being available for production, and the members interested purchasing them. He thanked R.:E.: Harvey Payne for his idea.

The acting Excellent High Priest then invited R.:E.: M. Eugene Ellis to deliver his paper, entitled "*Early Days in Royal Arch Masonry*". This covered the development of the ritual amidst the Masonic and political environment in Europe during the 17th and 18th Centuries, and its transmission to the State of New York. The talk also raised some interesting questions about the origins and status of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2 and Ancient Chapter No. 1, which might be considered as topics of future papers. Following this most interesting talk, Companions asked several questions, and the acting Excellent High Priest offered a vote of thanks which was unanimously endorsed by the Companions present. After the talk, copies of the paper were distributed (*the paper has been added to the Transactions section of the website*).

E.: Jeffrey M. Williamson rose to offer to organize a meeting in Utica in the Spring of 2004, and promised to ensure one or two papers would be written for the event. This offer was gratefully accepted. The acting Excellent High Priest also reminded the Companions that one meeting a year must be held in New York City, and suggested a Winter meeting there, since there was no restriction on the frequency of meetings which could be held.

The Minutes of the Meeting were then read and approved by the members present.

There being no further business, the Chapter was closed by the acting Excellent High Priest at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



E.: Piers A. Vaughan
Secretary