

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS.

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Adopted by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, December 21,  
A. D. 1841 ; A. L. 5841.

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CHAPTER I.

Section 1. There shall be a Grand Chapter for the Republic of Texas, to be holden at the seat of government of said Republic, on the third Monday in January in each year, at which time the following Grand Officers shall be elected by ballot and installed, to-wit: Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Marshal and Grand Lecturer; and such other officers as the Grand High Priest may deem necessary to appoint shall be appointed by him and be installed at the same time.

Sec. 2. The Grand Chapter shall have and maintain jurisdiction over all Chapters in the Republic of Texas, and in those States, Districts, Republics or Territories who recognize this jurisdiction and where there is no Grand Chapter regularly established; and shall have authority to suspend the proceedings of such Chapters, in States where there is no Grand Chapter, as may knowingly violate any of the provisions of this Constitution; to settle all differences which may arise, and give such advice and instruction as may seem most conducive to their peace and the advancement of the great cause of benevolence and virtue.

Sec. 3. The Grand Chapter shall be composed of the several Grand Officers, the Past Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, the Past Grand Kings, the Past Grand Scribes, the first three officers of the several Chapters under this jurisdiction, or the regular proxies of the said first three officers of said Chapters, and all Past High Priests, while members of Chapters under this jurisdiction, together with the companions present in the convention at the formation and establishment of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and who shall have signed this Constitution, shall be constituted members thereof forever.

Sec. 4. On all questions to be decided by the Grand Chapter each Chapter shall be entitled to three votes by its representatives or representatives, and the Grand Officers and members, when present, shall each have one vote.

Sec. 5. The Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests shall have authority to call a meeting of the Grand Chapter whenever they may consider it expedient or necessary; and it shall be their duty to do so whenever properly requested by a majority of the Chapters, of which four months' notice shall be given of the time of meeting.

Sec. 6. The Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, and Grand Scribe shall severally have power and authority to grant Dispensations for new Royal Arch Chapters, in any State, county, Republic or Territory in which there is not a Grand Chapter regularly established, when, in their opinion, the good of the Craft will require the establishment of the Order; but no new Chapter shall be established in any State, county, Republic or Territory, where there is a Chapter within a reasonable distance, under the authority of this jurisdiction, without the approbation of the Chapter nearest to the place where said new Chapter is proposed to be located.

Sec. 7. The fees for each Dispensation to institute or form a Royal Arch Chapter, with subordinate powers, shall be thirty dollars the fees for each Charter shall be fifty dollars, from which amount there shall be deducted such amount as may have been paid for the Dispensation; and the Secretary shall be paid two dollars for each Dispensation or Charter he may issue.

The fees in the several Chapters for conferring the several Degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason shall not be less than thirty dollars; and the fees for the advancement of a candidate to the Degree of Mark Master, in all Chapters and Lodges shall not be less than four dollars; and no credit shall be given for Charters or for conferring the Degrees in any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction; and any Chapter, holden by Dispensation from either of the officers of the Grand Chapter, authorized to give them, shall pay for each Degree, hereafter, the sum of one dollar into the treasury of the Grand Chapter, and one dollar for each member annually.

Sec. 8. It shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, and Grand Scribe to improve and perfect themselves in the sublime Arts and Work of Mark Masters, Past Master, Most Excellent Masters and Royal Arch Masons; to make themselves masters of the several Masonic Lectures and Aucht Charges, for the purpose of adopting measures suitable and proper for diffusing a knowledge of the said Lectures and Charges; and the better to accomplish this laudable object the aforesaid officers are hereby severally authorized and empowered to visit and reside in any Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and Lodge of Most Excellent Masters, Past and Mark Master Masons, throughout its jurisdiction, and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the Fraternity may require, always adhering to the ancient landmarks of the Order.

Sec. 9. No Royal Arch Mason within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter shall be permitted to confer any Degree in Masonry, not recognized as a Constitutional Degree, nor to establish any society of Masons not recognized as a Constitutional body; and the first four officers of the Grand Chapter, or any three of them, shall in all cases have authority to decide all Constitutional questions under this section.

Sec. 10. In all cases of the absence of an officer from any body of Masons instituted or holden by virtue of this Constitution, the officer next in rank shall occupy his place, unless, through courtesy, or for other reasons, he should decline in favor of another Companion or brother; and in case of the absence of the officers from any regular meeting of either of the bodies aforesaid, the members present shall designate some suitable Companions or brethren to fill the several stations.

Sec. 11. In every Chapter and Lodge under this jurisdiction all questions, except the admission of members or candidates, which shall require an unanimous ballot, shall be considered and determined as such Chapters and Lodges may, all circumstances considered, find

most conducive to their harmony and prosperity; provided they do not in any case interfere or infringe on the regulations of the Grand Chapter.

Sec. 12. The Secretary of the Grand Chapter shall keep a seal, which shall be affixed to all his communications.

Sec. 13. Should any casualty at any time prevent the election, as required under the provisions heretofore made, of Grand Officers, shall retain their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Sec. 14. There shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest a Committee on Finance, who shall be empowered to audit and settle all accounts during the recess of the Grand Chapter, which committee shall consist of three members.

CHAPTER II  
Of Subordinate Chapters.

Section 1. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and Lodge of Mark Master Masons under this jurisdiction shall have a Charter of Constitution from this Grand Chapter, which shall be issued by order of the Grand Chapter, signed by the Grand High Priest, under seal of the Grand Chapter and attested by the Grand Secretary; or a Dispensation from one of the Grand Officers; and no Chapter or Lodge shall be deemed legal without such Charter or Dispensation; and Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden between any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, or any member of either of them, and any Chapter, Lodge or Assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened or holden without such Charter or Dispensation, or any or either of their members, or any person Exalted or Advanced in such illegal Chapter or Lodge. But nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any Chapter or Lodge which was established before the organization of the Convention, forming this Grand Royal Arch Chapter, holden at the city of Austin, Republic of Texas, on the 14th December, 1841.

Sec. 2. It is incumbent on the High Priest of every Chapter, as appertaining to his office, duty and dignity, to see that the By-Laws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, and the regulations thereof be duly observed; that all his subordinate officers perform the duties of their respective stations faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry to their Companions; that true and exact records be kept of all the proceedings of the Chapter by the Secretary; that the Treasurer keep and render exact and just accounts of all moneys belonging to the Chapter; that regular returns be made by the Secretary annually to the Grand Chapter of all admissions of candidates or members, and that the annual dues to the Grand Chapter be regularly and punctually paid. The Charter of his Chapter is committed to his special care and charge. He has the right and authority of convening 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, together with his King and Scribe, to attend the regular and special meetings of the Grand Chapter, either in person or by proxy.

Sec. 3. No person, having been a member of a Lodge or Chapter, shall be admitted a member of any other Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, until he shall have procured a certificate from the Chapter or Lodge to which he last belonged, that he was in good standing, and as such, at his own request, is dimitted and recommended.

Sec. 4. Upon the expulsion, suspension or reinstatement of any Companion or brother, or the rejection of any applicant, it shall be the

duty of each Subordinate Chapter to communicate the same without delay to the Grand Secretary and to each of the other Chapters under this jurisdiction.

Sec. 5. No Chapter under this jurisdiction shall have power to confer any regular Degree on a Brother who has received any Degree in any other Chapter, also within this jurisdiction without the consent of said Chapter; or upon any Brother who resides within the jurisdiction of another Chapter.

Sec. 6. Each Chapter, subordinate to this Grand Chapter, shall furnish the Grand Chapter with a copy of its By-Laws, and all amendments which may be made thereto for ratification.

Sec. 7. All amendments to this Constitution shall be made at the Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Chapter, which shall be presented on three successive days, and the concurrence of two-thirds of the votes of the Subordinate Chapters represented, shall be necessary to make it a part of this Constitution.

Adopted and ratified on the 21st day of December, 1841.

Attest:

H. W. RAGLIN, Grand Secretary.

B. GILLESPIE,  
Grand High Priest.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS,

AT THEIR

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION IN WASHINGTON.

FOR

JANUARY. A. L. 5844-45; R. A. M. 2374-75;  
A. D. 1844-45.





GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER  
OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS.

Washington, Monday Evening, Jan. 15th,  
A. L., 5844; R. A. M., 2374; A. D. 1844.

A meeting of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Republic of Texas, convened at this place, in accordance with the Constitution, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest being absent, the Most Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest, N. H. Darnell, representative from Rising Star Chapter, No. 4, (San Augustine) presiding.

PRESENT:

M. E. G. W. Terrell,	Grand King.
M. E. Thos. G. Western,	Grand Scribe, p. t.
E. Walter Winn,	Grand Capt. of the Host, p. t.
E. J. Gillespie,	Grand P. Sojourner, p. t.
E. Geo. A. Tatillo,	Grand Royal Arch Capt., p. t.
Comp. Charles Mason,	Grand Treasurer.
Comp. H. W. Raglin,	Grand Secretary, p. t.
Comp. S. W. Pipkin,	Grand Sentinel.

And the following Subordinate Chapters, by their legal representatives, or proxies, viz:

No. 1, Cyrus, (Matagorda) Harvey Kendrick.  
No. 3, Lone Star, (Austin) Wm. L. Cazneau.  
No. 4, Rising Star, (San Augustine) N. H. Darnell.

The Chapter was opened in due and ancient form, for the dispatch of business. Nothing appearing upon the table, the same was called from labor, until the next Wednesday evening, at 7 o'clock.

Attest:

H. W. RAGLIN,  
Grand Secretary, P. T.

Washington, Wednesday Evening, 7 O'clock,  
January 17th, A. L., 5844.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter resumed its labors.

PRESENT:

M. E. Anthony Butler, Grand High Priest.  
M. E. N. H. Darnell, Dep. Grand High Priest.  
M. E. Thos. G. Western, Grand King, p. t.  
M. E. Edward Burleson, Grand Scribe, p. t.  
E. Walter Winn, Grand C. of the Host, p. t.  
E. J. Gillespie, Grand P. Sojourner, p. t.  
E. Moses Johnson, Grand R. A. Chaptain, p. t.  
E. Charles Mason, Grand Treasurer.  
E. Wm. L. Cazneau, Grand Secretary, p. t.  
E. W. Sullivan, Grand Sentinel, p. t.

And the following Subordinate Chapters, by their legal representatives, or their proxies, viz:

No. 1, Cyrus, Matagorda.  
No. 3, Lone Star, Austin.

No. 4, Rising Star, San Augustine.

The returns of Rising Star Chapter (No. 4) were referred to Committee on Subordinate Chapters, consisting of Companions Johnson, Mason and Raglin.

The report of the Grand Treasurer was received, and referred to the Committee on Finance, consisting of Companions Western, Burleson and Darnell.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter then proceeded to the choice of officers, for the ensuing year. Companions Johnson and Winn were appointed tellers. Ballots were then taken, and the following Companions unanimously elected to the several offices affixed to their names, to-wit:

M. E. Edward Burleson, Grand High Priest.  
M. E. N. H. Darnell, Dep. Grand High Priest.  
M. E. Wm. L. Cazneau, Grand King.  
M. E. Moses Johnson, Grand Scribe.  
E. H. W. Raglin, Grand Secretary.  
E. Charles Mason, Grand Treasurer.  
E. J. Gillespie, Grand Marshal.  
E. Anthony Butler, Grand Lecturer.

The following resolutions were introduced by Companion Cazneau, and adopted:

*Resolved*, That all dues of Lone Star Chapter, No. 3, and all monthly dues of Companions of said Chapter, to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, be remitted.

Be it further resolved, That said Chapter remain dormant (or without Work), retaining its Charter until a sufficient number of Com.

panions assemble to organize said Chapter—in which event, M. E. E. Burleson is hereby authorized and directed to organize it and install the officers; and remain the representative of said Chapter, until the said election.

No further business appearing, the Chapter was called from labor, until Thursday at 2 o'clock.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
WM. L. CAZNEAU,  
Grand Secretary, P. T.

Washington, Thursday, 2 O'clock, p. m.,  
January 18th, A. L., 5844.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter resumed its labors.

PRESENT:

M. E. Anthony Butler, Grand High Priest.  
M. E. N. H. Darnell, Dep. Grand High Priest.  
M. E. Wm. L. Cazneau, Grand King, p. t.  
M. E. Edward Burleson, Grand Scribe.  
E. A. B. Shelby, Grand Capt. of the Host, p. t.  
E. T. J. Green, Grand P. Sojourner, p. t.  
E. J. Gillespie, Grand Royal Arch Capt., p. t.  
E. H. W. Raglin, Grand Secretary, p. t.  
E. Moses Johnson, Grand Sentinel, p. t.

And the following Subordinate Chapters, by their legal representatives, or their proxies, viz:

No. 1, Cyrus, Matagorda.  
No. 3, Lone Star, Austin.

No. 4, Rising Star, San Augustine.

The following officers of the Grand Chapter, for the ensuing year, were duly and legally installed, by the M. E. Grand High Priest:

M. E. Edward Burleson, Grand High Priest.  
M. E. N. H. Darnell, Dep. Grand High Priest.  
M. E. Wm. L. Cazneau, Grand King.  
M. E. Moses Johnson, Grand Scribe.  
E. H. W. Raglin, Grand Secretary.  
E. J. Gillespie, Grand Marshal.

No further business appearing, the Chapter was called from labor, until Wednesday evening.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
H. W. RAGLIN,  
Grand Secretary.

Washington, Wednesday Evening, January 24th,  
A. L., 5844.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter resumed its labors.

