

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GRAND COUNCIL

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF

TEXAS.

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION, JUNE 24TH, 1856,  
TO ITS FINAL CLOSE, JUNE 16TH, 1864.

REPRINTED BY ORDER OF THE M. E. GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF  
TEXAS FROM THE ORIGINAL PROCEEDINGS.

DEALY & BAKER,  
STATIONERS, PRINTERS AND BLANK BOOK MAKERS,  
HOUSTON, TEXAS.  
1887.

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PREFACE.

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas was organized at the town of Huntsville, Texas, on the 24th day of June, 1856, by a convention of Royal and Select Masters convened for that purpose on June 23d, agreeably to a call by the several Councils of the State, viz: Houston, No. 1; Austin, No. 2, and Coleman, No. 3.

The Grand Council met annually, until 1864, when it dissolved, its leading members first having memorialized the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas to take charge of its affairs, assume its liabilities and perpetuate its beautiful ritual, which they feared would otherwise be lost.

The Grand Chapter accepted the trust; as is shown by the following resolutions adopted by the Grand Chapter:

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

To the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas:

Your Committee, appointed to confer with the body known as the Grand Council of Texas in relation to the Degrees of Royal and Select Master, and to discuss a proposition from that body for the transfer of the jurisdiction heretofore claimed by it over those Degrees, report that they have discharged the duties of their appointment, and believing the protection of such Degrees from abuse and the good of the Royal Craft to require it, they, with the concurrence of a Committee from that Grand Council, recommend that the annexed Resolutions be adopted,

Respectfully submitted,

PHILIP C. TUCKER,  
G. W. VAN VLECK,  
ROBT M. ELGIN,  
W. T. C. CAMPBELL,  
J. D. GIDDINGS,

Committee.

Houston, June 16th, 1864.

1st, Resolved, That the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters properly belong to and should only be conferred by virtue of the authority of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and that this Grand Chapter does now assert its control and jurisdiction thereof, and prohibits the conferring the same in this jurisdiction, except in Councils of Royal and Select Masters, appendant to the Subordinate Chapters.

2d, Resolved, That the transfer of jurisdiction over Councils of Royal and Select Masters heretofore existing in the body styled the "Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas," and of their funds, property and effects, made by that Grand Body on the 16th day of June A. D. 1864, to this M. E. G. Chapter, be accepted; and this Grand Chapter on receipt of such funds, property and effects by any Subordinate Chapter, directs such Chapter to assume the liabilities of such Council therewith, and that each Chapter report without delay to this Grand Chapter any Council appending itself thereto.

3d, Resolved, That the Degrees of Royal and Select Master shall hereafter be conferred in Council of those Degrees, appended to each Subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction, and after exaltation to the Royal Arch Degree, the officers of which Chapters shall be *ex-officio* the officers of such Council, with corresponding rank therein; and hereafter no Companion shall be installed into either of the three first offices of a Subordinate Chapter, until he shall have first regularly received such Council Degrees; and in the event that either of said offices in any

Chapter is now filled by a Companion not in possession of such Degrees, it shall be his duty to visit the nearest Council and regularly receive the same; which Council will confer the same in such case without charge therefor, if upon ballot taken he be found worthy.

4th, *Resolved*, That the fees to be charged for conferring the Royal and Select Master shall be ten dollars, and that there be paid to this Grand Body by each Council receiving the same therein, one dollar for each person, except in the case mentioned in the preceding Resolution. The Returns of each Chapter to include the work in appendant Council in the same form as the other Degrees are returned.

5th, *Resolved*, That the petition for exaltation shall always include the Council Degrees, and that action thereon shall in all respects be the same as for the other Degrees.

6th, *Resolved*, That this Grand Body will, upon receipt of the funds and property of the Grand Council of Texas, assume the liabilities of that body.

7th, *Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed to examine and report the correct work of the Council Degrees.

All of the above Resolutions were severally read and adopted, and a Committee of five appointed on Work of Council Degrees, to-wit: Companions W. M. Taylor, R. M. Elgin, R. Brewster, P. C. Tucker, J. Sayles.

At the Grand Convocation in June, 1865, Resolutions 3 and 4 were amended to read as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That the third Resolution found on page 10 of the printed proceedings of last year be annulled, and read as follows, viz: *Resolved*, That the Degrees of Royal and Select Master shall hereafter be conferred in Council of those Degrees, appended to each Subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction, and after exaltation to the Royal Arch Degrees, the officers of which shall be *ex-officio*, the officers of such Council; and where the said officers have not taken the Royal and Select Degrees, the Select Masters of said Chapters shall select their presiding officers, and proceed with their work.

2. *Resolved*, That the fees charged for conferring the Royal and Select Degrees shall be two dollars each, and fees to the Grand Chapter, fifty cents each.

The above is still the law governing the Council Degrees in Texas. By a careful study of it, it will be seen that the Royal and Select Masters' Degrees are not conferred in Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in Texas, as many Companions in other Grand Jurisdictions may suppose, but in regular Councils, opened and closed in due and ancient form, and none but Select Masters are permitted to be present, nor are the officers of the Chapter *ex-officio* officers in the Councils unless they are all nine Degree Masons.

I have thought it proper to give this explanation of the working of the Council Degrees in Texas as our status has not been generally understood, if I may judge from the criticisms of members of the reportorial corps.

GEO. LOPAS, Jr.  
Grand Secretary.

Houston, Texas, July 1, 1897.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF A

## CONVENTION

OF

# ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS,

AND OF AN

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF TEXAS,

HELD AT

Huntsville, June 23d, A. D. 1856; A. O. 2856;

WITH

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MOST PUISSANT GRAND  
COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF

T E X A S .

NEW YORK  
ROBT. MACOY, PRINTER.  
1887.

CONVENTION

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF

TEXAS.

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At a Convention of Royal and Select Masters, convened in the Masonic Hall at Huntsville, on Monday, the 23d day of June, A. D. 1856, agreeably to a call by the several Councils of the State, for the purpose of forming a Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for Texas.

On motion, Comp. Wm. M. Taylor, of Houston Council No. 10, was appointed President and Comp. A. J. Ruthven, of Houston Council No. 10, requested to act as Secretary.

The object of the Convention was fully explained by the President, and, on due examination, there were found present the following Companions, residents of the State and hailing from the Councils, as follows:

Houston, No. 10, at Houston.—Comps. Wm. M. Taylor, James M. Hall, George M. Patrick, A. S. Ruthven, E. W. Taylor, Andrew Neill, James L. Greene and L. M. Minor.

Austin, No. 12, at Austin.—Companions R. M. Johnson, F. L. Barziza, Henry Thomas, J. E. Nicholson, H. C. McIntyre and George W. Crawford.

Galveston, No. —, at Galveston.—Companion Wm. T. Austin.  
Coleman, No. —, at Marshall.—Companions John Sentell and D. M. Stovall, and Companions H. R. Cartmell, of Nashville, Tennessee, and J. A. Baker, of Florence, No. 14, Alabama.

On motion Comps. E. W. Taylor, Wm. T. Austin and John Sentell were appointed a committee to examine the credentials of those who represented Councils.

Whereupon said committee made the following report, which was received and adopted, to-wit:

*To the President of the Convention:*

The Committee on Credentials beg leave to report: That they have examined the certificates from the following Councils, find them correct, and that they are represented by the following Companions:

Austin, No. 12.—By Companions Henry Thomas, T. Ill., and R. M. Johnson, P. C.

Coleman, No. —.—By Companion John Sentell, D. I. M.

Houston, No. 10.—By Companion E. W. Taylor, T. Ill.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. T. AUSTIN,  
For Committee.

On motion it was

*Resolved*, That this Convention now proceed to the formation of a Grand Council for the State of Texas.

On motion the following committee was appointed to draft a Constitution for the government of the Grand Council, to-wit: Comps. A. Neill, James M. Hall, E. W. Taylor, Henry Thomas and Wm. T. Austin.

And, on further motion, the President, Comp. Wm. M. Taylor, was added to said committee.

On motion the Convention adjourned till Tuesday, 24th inst., at 11 a. m.

Tuesday, June 24, 1856.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Present—as on yesterday.

The Committee appointed to draft a Constitution made the following report:

*To the T. Ill. Wm. M. Taylor, President of Convention of Royal and Select Masters:*

The undersigned Committee to draft a Constitution for a Grand Council, most respectfully report: That they have attended to the duty assigned them, and submit the following as the result of their labors.

A. NEILL,  
W. T. AUSTIN,  
H. THOMAS,  
J. M. HALL,  
E. W. TAYLOR,  
WM. M. TAYLOR.

Which report was adopted.

The Constitution was then read and voted on, by sections, and adopted. (See Appendix.)

The President appointed Comps. Austin, Green and Hall a committee to submit the names of suitable officers for organization.

A recess was then proclaimed for half an hour.

After which the Convention was called to order.

The Committee having made a report of the following Companions as suitable for officers.

The same was received and an election ordered, which resulted as follows, to-wit:

M. P. E. W. Taylor

R. P. D. S. Jennings

“ R. M. Johnson

“ Geo. M. Patrick

“ James M. Hall

“ A. S. Ruthven

“ Andrew Neill

“ Henry Thomas

“ Wm. T. Austin

“ J. E. Nicholson

“ E. R. Cartmell

The President of the Convention duly installed the said officers, and there being nothing further before the Convention, the same was duly closed by prayer by the Grand Chaplain.

WM. M. TAYLOR,  
President.

Tuesday Evening, June 24, 1856.  
The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the first Annual Assembly met in the Hall at Huntsville.

PRESENT:

M. P. E. W. Taylor

R. P. Wm. M. Taylor

“ R. M. Johnson

“ George M. Patrick

“ James M. Hall

“ A. Neill

“ Wm. T. Austin

“ A. S. Ruthven

P. J. E. Nicholson

P. H. R. Cartmell

And Comps. J. L. Greene, F. L. Barziza, J. J. McBride, John Sentell, H. C. McIntyre, D. M. Stovall, G. W. Crawford, J. A. Baker and L. M. Minor.

The Grand Council being opened in due form,

A petition was presented by the proper number of Companions for a Council at Seguin, to be called “Tyrian Council.”

And the same being in due form, was granted, and the M. P. Grand Master allowed to issue a dispensation to the Companions.

The Grand Master appointed as a Committee on Foreign Correspondence Comps. A. Neill, Jas. M. Hall, A. S. Ruthven. No further business being on hand, the Grand Council was closed in due form.

A. S. RUTHVEN,

Grand Recorder.

E. W. TAYLOR,

Grand Master.