

THE CRYPTIC FREEMASON

THE ORIGIN OF THE CRYPTIC DEGREES

Thomas Lownds

Part 13, EDITED BY RICHARD A. EPPLER

(Primarily from the History of Washington Lodge No. 21 of NY) Worshipful Grand Visitor, roughly equivalent to today's District Deputy Grand Master.

Thomas Lownds was the sixth child of James Lownds and Magdalen Labagh Lownds, born in New York City July 20, 1762. He married Maria L. Milderburger December 6, 1797, and died in New York City December 14, 1825.

He was a restless, ambitious man, possessed of wonderful organizing ability. He was energetic, jovial, a good leader, and evidently popular among his companions.

Bro Lownds started business as a baker and then as a grocer. In 1807 he sought the position of Superintendent of the Alms House. About this time he became the Superintendent of St. John's Hall in Frankfort Street, and seems to have given up looking for the former place. He held this position for about seven years, and then went into the boarding-house business, combining with this tiling for several Masonic bodies, as a means of earning a living. On September 2, 1817, he announced to the lodge that, having been appointed keeper or warden of the Debtor's prison, it was necessary for him to resign the office of tiler. This position he held to the time of his death.

Besides his Masonic affiliation, he was connected with the old Volunteer Fire Department and the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen.

Bro. Lownds name occupies a unique position in Masonry. He was raised in Washington Lodge #21 in the year 1802, serving as Master in 1808 and 1814. In the Grand Lodge of NY he was, in 1810, appointed to a committee to produce a uniformity of work in the various lodges, and again in 1819 he was again asked to take up this work. In 1814 he was appointed Right

When Abraham Jacobs started conferring his "higher" degrees of the Scottish Rite, Thomas was one of his first candidates. A number of Jacob's candidates subsequently organized Aurora Grata Lodge of Perfection, Bro. Lownds being a charter member, and later master. Feeling dissatisfied with the legitimacy of this organization, he withdrew and associated himself with Joseph Cerneau, who named him a "Grand Inspector General" of the 33^o of his Sovereign Grand Consistory.

Bro. Lownds was exalted in Jerusalem Chapter No. 8, and served several terms as High Priest. He was also a High Priest of Eureka Chapter No. 54. In the Grand Chapter of NY he was elected Deputy Grand High Priest 1812, 1813, and 1814.

The name of Thomas Lownds, Columbian Council No. 1, and the Royal Master Degree are inseparably connected. On September 2, 1810 he, John E. Ruckles, Sampson Simpson, and several other brethren met and organized a Grand Council of Royal Master Masons (now Columbian Council No. 1, R. & S. M.) (see part 2 of this series). The significance of this meeting is that it is the first recorded conferral of the Royal Master Degree, or any similar degree anywhere. Bro. Lownds was elected Thrice Illustrious Grand Master, which office he held for many years. When the Grand Council of NY was organized in 1823, he was elected the first Grand Master.

Apparently inexhaustible in his enthusiasm for Masonry, he took an active part in the organization of Columbian Commandery No. 1, K.T, and was the first Eminent Commander of that body. In the Grand Encampment he was also active, advancing through several stations to that of Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, which office he held for several years.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE ROYAL MASTER DEGREE

By Albert G. Mackey

The events recorded in the degree of Royal Master, looking at them in a legendary point of view, must have occurred at the building of the first temple, and during that brief period of time after the death of the Builder which is embraced between the discovery of the body and its "masonic interment." In all the initiations into the mysteries of the ancient world, there was, as it is well known to scholars, a legend of the violent death of some distinguished personage, to whose memory the particular mystery was consecrated; of the concealment of the body, and of its subsequent discovery. That part of the initiation which referred to the concealment of the body was called the *aphanism*, from a Greek verb, which signifies "to discover." It is impossible to avoid seeing the coincidences between this system of initiation and that practiced in the masonry of the third degree.

But the ancient initiation was not terminated by the euresis or discovery. Up to that point the ceremonies had been funereal and lugubrious in their character. But now they were changed from wailing to rejoicing. Other ceremonies were performed by which the restoration of the personage to life or his apotheosis or change to immortality was represented, and then came the *autopsy* or illumination of the neophyte, when he was invested with a full knowledge of all the religious doctrines which it was the object and design of the ancient mysteries to teach -- when, in a word, he was instructed in Divine Truth.

Now a similar course is pursued in masonry. Here, also there is an illumination, a symbolical teaching, or, as we call it, an *investiture* with that which is the representative of Divine Truth. The communication to the candidate in the Master's Degree of that which admitted to be merely a representation of or a substitution for that symbol of Divine Truth, the search for which, under the name of the *true word* makes so important a part of the degree, however imperfect it may be, in comparison with that more thorough knowledge which only future researches can enable the Master Mason to attain, constitutes the *autopsy* of the third degree. Now the principal event in the degree of Royal Master, is to be placed precisely at that juncture of time which is between the euresis, or

discovery, in the Master Mason's degree, and the autopsy, or investiture with the great secret. It occurred between the discovery by means of the sprig of acacia, and the final interment. It was at the time when King Solomon and his colleague, Hiram of Tyre, were in profound consultation as to the mode of repairing the loss which they then supposed had befallen them.

We must come to this conclusion, because there is abundant reference, both in the organized form of the Council, and in the ritual of the degree, to the death as an event that had already occurred; and on the other hand, while it is evident that Solomon had been made acquainted with the failure to recover, on the person of the Builder, that which had been lost, there is no reference whatsoever to the well-known *substitution* which was made at the time of the interment.

If, therefore, as is admitted by all masonic ritualists, the substitution was precedent and preliminary to the establishment of the Master Mason's degree, it is evident that at the time when the degree of Royal Master is said to have been founded in the ancient temple by our "first Most Excellent Grand Master," all persons present, except the first and second officers, must have been merely Fellow-Craft Masons. In compliance with this tradition, therefore, a Royal Master is at this day supposed to represent a Fellow-Craft in the search of, and making his demand for, that reward which was to elevate him to the rank of a Master Mason.



Indiana University
School of Medicine

**Indiana Center for Vascular
Biology and Medicine**
Newsletter
Vessels and Vitality
Fall 2016



Cryptic Masons Medical
Research Foundation

Happy Fall! We hope many of you are enjoying this wonderful season of crisp coolness and color. This newsletter focuses on the importance to our team of excellent clinical coordinators and, in particular, on the newest coordinator to join the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine, **Ashley Vektor**. Ashley became a member of our elite cell therapy coordinating staff during the summer of 2016, and has jumped into the planning and performance of

Continued on page 3

our clinical trials involving adipose stem cells, the amazing cells that are found plentifully hidden in our fat! She will also be available to assist during the conduct of our NIH-sponsored cardiac cell therapy studies, which will be covered in more detail in the next newsletter (spring 2017). Ashley comes to us with excellent background experience coordinating research in cancer therapy as well as in neurology trials involving genetic predispositions to degenerative diseases.



As a clinical research coordinator, Ashley is responsible for identifying appropriate subjects and explaining the details of study participation to these individuals, ensuring that the study participants are well aware of the study timeline and visits. Behind the scenes, Ashley confirms that all the appropriate study tests and appointments are scheduled, submits regulatory documentation to Indiana University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) as well as the Food and Drug Association (FDA), and overall, makes sure the study is running smoothly.

Ashley is currently working on two main projects:

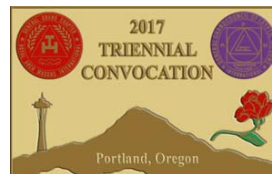
1) TGAIT: The first FDA-approved trial in the United States **using adipose stem cells to avoid lower limb amputations**. This study is focused on finding and treating patients with Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) who have run out of treatment options. PAD is a slow, but vicious disease that manifests from the buildup of fatty material, called plaque, in the arteries. This buildup of plaque blocks or severely decreases blood flow to the leg muscles, which in turn cause incredible pain during exercise, such as walking. Potential benefits from treatment may include reduction of pain and avoidance of amputation.

If you or someone you know suffers from the symptoms or diagnoses listed below, please contact Ashley at (317) 274-0858.

- Decreased blood flow to the legs
- Severe pain at rest or History of non-healing leg wounds
- Diagnosis of Critical Limb Ischemia (CLI)
- Have undergone leg revascularization procedures without improvement

2) Knee OA: The newly-approved FDA trial, which is the first in the United States initiated by an academic medical center **to determine the utility of one's own adipose stem cells to avoid knee replacements**. Osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee is a leading cause of disability among adults today, with the knee joint among the most common sites of the disorder. It is a degenerative, "wear-and-tear" type of arthritis that occurs most often in people 50 years of age and older, but may occur in younger people, too. This trial will be open to enrolling patients in the near future. If you or someone you know suffers from osteoarthritis in the knee and can answer "yes" to the below statements, please contact Ashley at (317) 274-0858.

- Suffers from symptomatic osteoarthritis and pain, mostly in one knee
- Have previously tried 6 weeks of at least one conservative treatment without improvement (conservative treatment may include activity modification, weight loss, physical therapy, or anti-inflammatory therapy)



The 46th Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council and the 70th Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter will be held at the Red Lion on the River, Portland, Oregon, from 23 August to 29 August 2017.

For information, go to the website at <http://triennial.org>

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~ Notice ~

I hope you are enjoying the contents of the magazine. If you have any suggestions for topics you would like to read, and/or who you would like to hear from, please let me know.

I also encourage you to submit articles for inclusion in future issues. In particular, I am looking for articles from the Southern or Western jurisdictions where I have fewer personal contacts.

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