



Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&AM

December 1, 2023

Volume 5 Issue 11

Tidings from the East by way of the West

Hiram Abiff

Hiram Abiff He may be a least understood character in all of masonic lore. In 1972, the late Most Worshipful Brother Conrad Hahn, while serving as the Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association, gave a speech pertaining to *THE IMPORTANCE: OF THE LEGEND OF HIRAM ABIFF*. The reader may find this particularly interesting since most of our brethren know little of this character or the history of him. In light of his writing and with respect for the dramatic effect of the degrees, especially the Third Degree, this article will refrain from the degree particulars.

According to some researchers, Hiram Abiff is, arguably, the most famous character in Freemasonry. His story not only is central to a Mason being recognized as a Master Mason, it is from the Legend of Freemasonry that all the sinister and dark imagery of the Order can be found. From conspiracy theorists to filmmakers, dark rituals of death in candlelight, the skull and crossbones and the belief of lost secrets, all stem from this singular figure.

Related to the construction of the Temple, Masonic tradition records the legend of Hiram Abiff in the Third Degree. The allegory describes Hiram Abiff as Chief Architect working alongside King Solomon and Hiram of Tyre. While it may be permissible to present more commentary of this circumstance, it may damage a candidate's appreciation of this dramatic degree. However, Hiram Abiff is also mentioned in the First and Second Degrees albeit on occasion more cryptically.

Although Hiram Abif is the central character within the Third Degree, his first actual reference, as stated in most Masonic jurisdictions, is actually in the Second Degree. During the Second Degree the candidate is told the first literal link between Freemasonry and the building of King Solomon's Temple. In the lecture of the Degree, it is explained to the candidate that the two great pillars placed at the doorway of the Temple, which hold the Constitutional rolls of the Order, and were made of brass and that Hiram Abif was the Master in charge of their casting. In some jurisdictions, Hiram is subtly referred to in the First Degree ceremony, again during the Lecture, and again in reference to pillars.

The surname of 'Abif' is actually a Masonic invention. Although the character is based on a Biblical figure and relevant event, there is no Hiram Abif actually mentioned in the Bible. The closest reference is in the Hebrew versions of Second Chronicles, chapter 2, vs 13-14 of the King James bible, when Hiram, King of Tyre, responds to Kings Solomon's request for skilled labor,



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and says

“And now I have sent a skilful man, endowed with understanding, Hiram ‘abi.’”

The word ‘Abi’ actually means ‘father’, but when used in reference to a name by ancient Jewish culture it was meant to portray as a sense of honor and respect for the individual, implying a sort of ‘master’. It is generally accepted that the Masonic adoption of the surname ‘Abif’, was to this end and to differentiate him from King. Actually, the Christian version simply states

“And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's, The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skillful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father.”

The first literal reference to the character of Hiram being linked to Freemasonry is in the historic Cooke Manuscript, probably composed around the early 15th century. In this text it states that ‘Solomon held four score thousand masons at work. And the Son of the King of Tyre was one of them.’ Even though this seems substantial, many masonic scholars do not relate the document to actual Speculative Freemasonry, but rather hold the opinion that such references only came to light when Freemasonry gained social popularity in the late 17th century. When 18th century Masonic scholars began collecting these manuscripts, believing that to be about ‘Speculative’ Freemasonry, they simply adopted the rhetoric into the new rituals being developed, to give them both a sense of history and authenticity.

The first genuine and literal reference to Hiram Abif is found in the Constitutions composed by Dr James Anderson, with the forming of the first Speculative Grand Lodge in England. In his first edition of the Constitutions, printed in 1723, he states *‘The King of Tyre sent to King Solomon his namesake Hiram Abif, the prince of architects ... the wise King Solomon was the Grand Master of the Lodge of Jerusalem, King Hiram was the Grand Master of the Lodge of Tyre, and the inspired Hiram Abif was the Master of Work.’* In his second version, published in 1738, he offers two further references to Hiram Abif, firstly *‘Their joy was soon interrupted by the sudden death of their dear master, Hiram Abif, whom they decently interred in the Lodge near to the Temple, according to ancient usage’*. This is the first know account of Hiram’s death being part of Freemasonry. Anderson’s second reference in the same work was to describe the place of the Deputy Grand Master, to the left of the newly installed Grand Master, as being the *‘Chair of Hiram Abif’*, this seating is personified in other degrees in Freemasonry itself.

As previously stated, the name Hiram Abiff is not found in Scripture. Yet, the Masonic account of Hiram is often said to be based upon the Holy Bible. In the Master Mason degree, in that

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portion of the ritual known as the Legend of the Third Degree, there are three central characters. The story line is set around the building of Solomon's temple. The characters, King Solomon, Hiram - the King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff are all taken from the Scriptural account of the temple building. King Solomon and Hiram King of Tyre are mentioned many times in the Scriptures, such as in 1 Kings 5. About the closest the Scriptures come to Hiram Abiff is Hiram-Abi which is found in 2 Chronicles 2:13 in the NAS and NIV translations. Hiram is a variant of Hiram. In the KJV translation of the verse, the name Hiram is found. The KJV uses both Hiram (2 Chron 2:3) and Hiram (1 Kings 5) to identify Hiram the King of Tyre. The KJV translation of 2 Chron 2:13 does not contain -abi, but rather "Hiram my father's." The Hebrew word from which the KJV "father's" was translated is "ab," according to the Hebrew Dictionary found in Strong's Concordance. Strong's entry for the word 'ab (H1) indicates that it can also mean father-less, as the son of a widow would be. The entry for H1 also mentions "Abi." Studying the various translations along with a Hebrew dictionary allows us to see how Freemasonry may have settled on the name Hiram Abi-ff, also sometimes spelled Abif.

Modern Masonic scholars have shown rather conclusively that there was no trigradial system of initiation during the period of operative Masonry, that there was no third or Master Mason Degree as a rite or ceremony before the creation of the Premier Grand Lodge in 1717. The first recital of the Hiram legend as the dramatic cornerstone of a third or Master Mason's degree appears in an expose of the ritual of Freemasonry entitled *Masonry Dissected*, written by a Samuel Prichard and published in London in 1730.

Consequently, it seems a logical conclusion to assume that the Master Mason Degree, and with it, the legend of Hiram Abiff, were introduced into Freemasonry when it became a speculative, or philosophic organization. Just where did the legend of Hiram come from? No one really knows; research reveals that scholars have yet to discover its origins and its introduction into Freemasonry.

To Masons who search for historical certainty about Hiram Abiff and his position in Masonic ritual, one can only give a personal perspective. It's not really important! Many feel it's a mistake to consider the Hiram legend as history. There was a Hiram Abiff in history, but our Third Degree is not interested in him as such. The drama of Hiram is a conflict of a man with other men, of an individual against evil forces embodied in other men.

Hiram Abiff is the dramatized symbol of the human soul of mine, of yours, of every man. The work he was engaged in is symbolic of the work which masonic brethren are committed to perform in the supervision, organization and direction of our lives from birth to dissolution. The enemies that Hiram meets are really symbols of those lusts and passions and failures of the spirit which in ourselves and others make war on our characters and spiritual aspirations. In many opinions, this symbolic increment to the Hiram legend was added by one of the Speculative Masons of the early Eighteenth Century, by someone with the education and philosophical

Tidings from the East by way of the West Continued

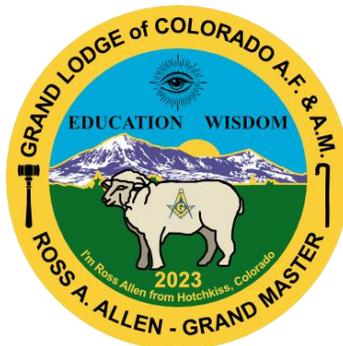
attainments of a man like Dr. John Theophilus Desaguliers or other Rosicrucians.

And that should tell us, if we are Master Workmen, what we should do with the legend of Hiram when we work in "the mysteries of Freemasonry." We must make it truly sublime!

Originally prepared and edited by D. J. Cox, PM of Longs Peak Lodge # 197,

Printed with permission of Jim Long, PM

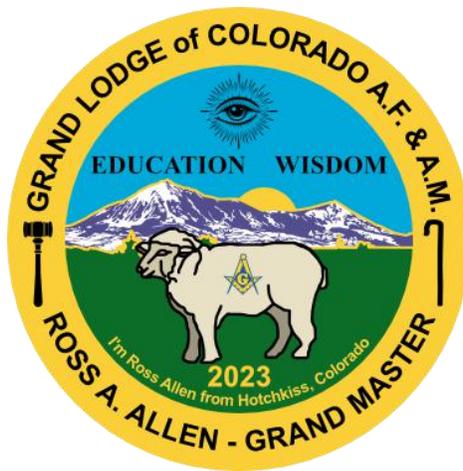
Presented to the Grand Lodge Newsletter by Ross A. Allen, Grand Master, 2023



Calendar of Grand Lodge Events

To help your lodge plan your Official Visits please note that activities may change due to various issues that may arise.

Thu Jan 25, 2024 -Sat Jan 27, 2024
All day 163rd Annual Communication
Where: Grand Junction, CO, USA



Submission Deadline

Articles and events that you want included in the newsletter are due to the Grand Master, or Grand Secretary, by the 25th of the month prior to the publication month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Colorado Masonic Family Historical Donations Committee is looking for volunteers to do research. This research is to determine the amount of hours we've donated, the amount of money we've donated, and the number of people we've helped as a Masonic family since our inception in Colorado in 1861. This applies to every branch of the Masonic family. The goal of this research is to shed light on what we've contributed as an organization to our communities. This information will be utilized to educate both to our organizations internally and to the residents of the State of Colorado. This is a daunting task and we are looking for help. If you're interested in working on this project please contact WB Mike Brewer at mike.brewer@allurdata.com.

Colorado Masons, were you in DeMolay, from any state?

Please use the following link address from DeMolay International, and let us know where you are and what you are doing in your Masonic life:

<https://beademolay.org/update-info/>



163rd Annual Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado Ancient Free & Accepted Masons

Dates: January 25th 2024 - January 27, 2024

Times: Agenda Enclosed

Registration: Online registration: [Eventbrite Website
Click Here](#)

Lodging: DoubleTree Hilton Hotel Grand Junction
743 Horizon Dr. Grand Junction, CO. 81506
Group rate for The Grand Lodge of Colorado
Phone: (970) 241-8888
Group Name: **“Colorado Grand Lodge”**

Online link to the hotel: [Hotel Website
Click Here](#)

Group rate booking will close on Wednesday January 3rd, 2024.
If you book after this date you will not receive the group rate discount and you run the risk of rooms not being available.

Transportation: Amtrak: [Amtrak Website
Click Here](#)

*If you or a group would like to take the train please go to the Amtrak website for information & ticket purchase. Pre-purchasing group ticket did not work out for our group. All tickets must be purchased individually by whomever wishes to utilize the train as transportation to and from the Annual Communication in Grand Junction. The train is scheduled to depart from Denver at approximately 8am and arrive in Grand Junction at approximately 4pm. If you do plan on utilizing the train as transportation to and from the Annual Communication in Grand Junction, please notify the Office Administrator by email so that we can arrange transportation for you to the Hotel from the train station.

**If you have any questions or need assistants please call the Grand Lodge Office at:
719-623-5344
or email - officeadmin@coloradofreemasons.org**

Castle Lodge #122 Scholarship

What are the Freemasons? Those that ask that question will hear the stock answer, “It’s the oldest fraternity in the world and is a group of good men that want to be better men.”

The path toward being a better person includes supporting one’s community.

For over one hundred years, Castle Lodge #122 has supported our community quietly, behind the scenes. Founded in Eagle in 1908, the current location on Third Street has been their home since 1954.

In 2001, the late Eagle Fire Chief Jon Jon Asper began the annual Masonic Toy Store, or the “Toy Store,” as a means to reach out to families in need. It has served two purposes since: 1- offer a smile to a child during the Holiday Season and 2- support for mothers and families that may not ask for help otherwise. The Toy Store is supported by donations from local businesses, individuals, and municipalities – as well as used ski and bicycle sales during the spring and fall.

A second outreach effort the Lodge commits to is a scholarship program. A modest \$500, sometimes more when extra donations can be gathered from membership, the scholarship started with an investment from one of the Lodge member’s businesses and is currently funded solely through donations and enhanced by individual contributions.

By 2013, the Lodge noticed that high school guidance counselors were not highlighting local scholarships to the students. The irony was that it was hard to find a group operating “behind the scenes.”

After a timely presentation from Judge Sullivan, an expanded program was termed, “The Second Chance Scholarship.” This scholarship goes to graduates of the Eagle County Recovery (or RISE) Court, after an application and interview process, to help individuals obtain licensure, certifications, or education that will help recipients succeed on their new path.

Since the founding of that program, the Lodge has alternated between awarding traditional and second chance scholarships each year.

One past recipient of the Lodge’s traditional scholarship is Brooklyn Vargas, graduate of Eagle Valley High School and Colorado School of Mines. She is a dynamic scholar who, during her time

Castle Lodge #122 Scholarship Continued



at the Colorado School of Mines, delved into groundbreaking research and leadership roles.

“Starting out, I experienced a lot of self-doubt and seemed to struggle a lot more than my peers. I didn’t let this deter me,” Vargas continued, “I quickly learned how to thrive as a student. I began studying in groups, made plans with friends to ensure I would take a break from academics, and sought out extracurricular activities to have a better work-life balance.”

Her remarkable journey included contributions to musculoskeletal research, awards, and publications. Now pursuing a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Utah, she remains dedicated to advancing the field and inspiring future STEM enthusiasts.

“And I’m in the Utah Medical Orchestra!” Vargas adds, “It’s been a fun thing to do to decompress from classes and research.”

Her accomplishments exemplify the Lodge's mission of fostering personal growth and community support, making her a shining example of the values they uphold.

Kent Rose, former Town of Vail Mayor, notes, “I am really impressed! [Vargas] will change the world.”

When asked how Castle Lodge could help, she said, "Any support, especially networking, would have a great impact on my future career. I hope to find a place at the Steadman Clinic to continue research after my PhD."

In recognition of her outstanding dedication and potential, Castle Lodge is proud to announce an additional \$1,350 scholarship awarded to Ms. Vargas for the completion of her Ph.D.

Castle Lodge's commitment to nurturing talent and providing support underscore their dedication to the growth and success of individuals within the community.

Castle Lodge #122 Scholarship Continued

Ms. Vargas is a shining example of this – a young lady that proves to be a rising star.

To apply for next year’s scholarship, or to make a donation supporting future recipients, please email: secretary@castlelodge122.org.

The 2023 Toy Store dates are December 21 – 22, from 6pm to 9pm, at 130 E Third St, Eagle, CO. If you would like to volunteer or donate for that effort, please email: secretary@castlelodge122.org.

Castle Lodge is a 501(c)3 and all donations are tax deductible.



Author Matt Solomon Past Master of Castle Lodge No. 122

December 1, 2023

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November 29, 2023

To the Colorado Masonic Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As many of you may be aware, Brother David Salberg of Corinthian Lodge #35 and Colorado Chapter #2, Order of the Eastern Star passed away on July 7, 2023. He was subsequently buried in the Masonic Section of the Leadville Cemetery next to his beloved son, Robert.

Brother David's sole surviving child, Kerri Farren, depleted her life savings taking care of her father during his last years and is now trying to raise money to erect a headstone for him. The estimated cost of the headstone and to get it placed is approximately \$3000.00. Since Brother David was very active in his Lodge, as well as most of the appendant bodies of Freemasonry, we are reaching out on behalf of Kerri to request donations to assist her in raising this money. She had set up a GoFundMe account but has since taken it down because of the charges to use that platform.

We request that anyone inclined to help Kerri acquire a headstone for her father send a donation payable to Corinthian Lodge #35 with a notation of "Salberg Headstone" in the memo line to either George McCollum at PO Box 63, Eagle, Colorado 81631 or to Robert (Bob) Trezise, Secretary at PO Box 134, Red Cliff, CO 81649. When sufficient funds are raised, George and Bob will work with Kerri to acquire and place the headstone. In the event more monies are raised than are needed to acquire and place the headstone for Brother David, the extra money will be used to assist other needy families of other Masons or Eastern Star members who cannot afford to acquire headstones for their Masonic family members.

We appreciate the generosity and kindness you may be willing to show to Kerri and hopefully to other needy Masonic families.

Fraternally,

Sharon Parrish
Worthy Grand Matron

Ken Ashwood
Worthy Grand Patron



Save the Date

K.S.A. Burns Night Supper and Whisky College

Bag pipes ❖ Silent auction ❖ Burns poetry

Saturday January 20th, 2024 7:00pm



Dinner: 7:00pm

Our own Chef Michael will prepare a great Scottish Dinner.
Price to be determined - Adult (13 and over)
Prepaid online reservations required

Whisky College: 6:00pm

Price to be determined - Adult (21 and over)
Prepaid online reservations required

For reservations:

Advanced prepaid reservations are available online only.
(DO NOT contact the Consistory office).

<http://denverburnssupper.com/>

*Scottish Rite Masonic Center
1370 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado 80203*

*Proceeds to benefit RiteCare, (<https://scottishritefoundation.org>)
and Scottish Rite Masonic Center*



**THE SOUTHERN COLORADO
ACTUAL PAST MASTER'S ASSOCIATION
PUEBLO, COLORADO**



PRESENTS THEIR

**Annual Meeting & Conferral of the
Actual Past Master's Degree**

All Actual Past Masters and Candidates* are welcome

When: Saturday, February 3, 2024

Where: Pueblo Masonic Center
126 Broadway Ave
Pueblo, CO 81007

Time: Dinner: 5:00 pm
(Choice of **Baked Chicken** or **Baked/Broiled Salmon**)
(Cost: **\$25.00** payable in advance)

Degree Conferral & Meeting: 6:00 pm
(Meeting to follow Degree Conferral)

Reservations for the dinner are required and must be received no later than Saturday, January 20, 2024. Your check; made payable to **Actual Past Masters** and sent to **WB Dale H. Young, Secy/Trea**, at **60 Pine Valley Rd, Cotopaxi, CO 81223**, is your reservation (specify meal choice along with check). For questions, contact **WB Dale** at scapmasecy@gmail.com or (303) 918-8387.

*** Brethren, especially Secretary's, if your Lodge has a new Worshipful Master or a Past Master who has never received the degree (or one who would like to retake it) who is in need of receiving the degree, contact WB Dale. We would love to include him or them in our conferral.**



THE GRAND LODGE OF COLORADO PRESENTS

Mozart & Haydn's piano music as they expected it to be played... on a historic *fortepiano*

DANIEL ADAM MALTZ

APR 27, 2024 AT 7:00 PM
APR 28, 2024 AT 3:00 PM

RADIANT MASONIC TEMPLE
225 ACOMA ST, DENVER, CO

TICKETS \$25.00



Daniel Adam Maltz is a fortepianist based in Vienna, Austria. He is in demand worldwide with 50+ tour dates per year and hosts *Classical Cake*, the podcast about Viennese classical music and culture.

Daniel specializes in *Wiener Klassik* (Viennese Classicism), especially the works of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. He performs on the Viennese fortepianos of their time.

What are Viennese Fortepianos?

Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven wrote their piano music for Viennese fortepianos. These instruments are fundamentally different from modern pianos in that they are smaller, more intimate instruments. The Viennese fortepiano's technical characteristics and expected performance practices bring Classical-era music alive in new ways to modern ears.

Concert Program

Joseph Haydn: Sonata in F Major, Hob. XVI:23

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart: Sonata in F Major, K. 332

J. Haydn: Sonata in Eb Major, Hob. XVI:25

W. A. Mozart: Sonata in C Major, K. 330

Traveling Gavels

In an effort to promote visitations among lodges in the state of Colorado we are going to attempt to provide information in each newsletter about where the travelling gavels are located

There are two gavels that travel around the state. One we are going to call the **Regular Gavel** and one the **Western Slope Gavel**. Check the requirements for claiming the gavel including the number of brethren required to attend the visit.

Regular Gavel

Location: Mesa #55, 2400 Consistory Ct., Grand Junction, CO 81501

Meeting Dates: Meets 1st Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m., next meeting January 2024

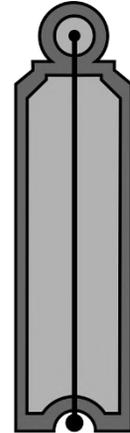
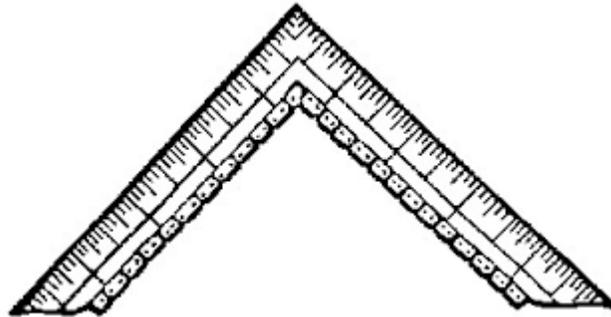
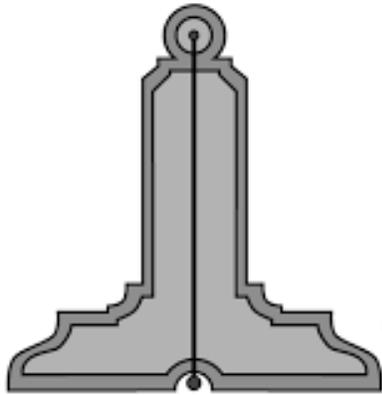
Master: Greg Foster

Western Slope Gavel

Location: Garfield Lodge #50 , 2029 Hwy 66 , Longmont, CO 80504

Meeting Dates: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Master: Josh Hendrixson



If your lodge is having special events or activities please send the information to the Grand Master (grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org) and the Grand Secretary (grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org) so that it can be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

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COLORADO MASONS - SPREAD THE WORD ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA, AND WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES ABOUT A NEW WEBSITE ABOUT MASONRY: BEAFREEMASON.ORG

The Grand Lodge Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. All are welcome as long as you are not feeling ill. For the front door please ring the door bell for access.

