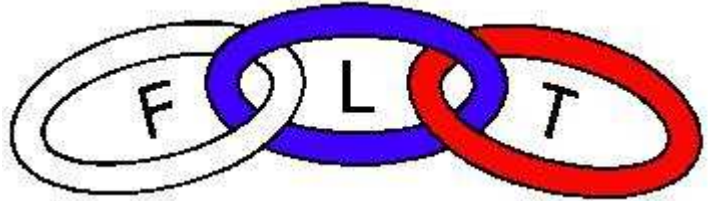


The following Presentation was presented verbally and in written form at a Stated Meeting of Pearl Masonic Lodge #23, Jackson, Mississippi ---- which has the unique distinction of having its Lodge Hall located INSIDE the actual City Hall of Jackson, Mississippi. The presentation given was by Frater James A. Marples, VIII<sup>o</sup> on behalf of Nebraska College SRICF to the Pearl Masonic Lodge members present on 01 December 2014...and it was extremely well-received. Pearl Masonic Lodge gained this "Right" and "Dignity" due to many years ago, when the Jackson, Mississippi, City Hall was built ---the Masons and Odd Fellow Lodges jointly donated desperately needed funds for its construction to serve the public-interest. As a proviso, the Lodges had a clause to the contract which enabled both Lodges to meet inside a designated Lodge Room inside the City Hall "in perpetuity." Bro:. and Frater Marples, {and all other members} had the unique experience, as well-- of going through a traditional and required procedure, of encountering a uniformed Armed Security Guard. All Brothers and guests then passed through a metal detector, for the protection and safety of the building and the people therein...both City Hall Workers and civilians. The Security Guard was most courteous. Interestingly, the Security Guard couldn't take Brother Marples up to the 3rd Floor Lodge Room by himself {the guard}, but the second person to arrive was a Mason, who did vouch for Brother Marples being a Mason, and that 2nd Mason happened to be a Rabbi. Lodge was opened for its Stated Meeting and Elections of new officers. The Secretary of Pearl Masonic Lodge, Bro:. Roy Robinson indicated that to the best of his knowledge other Lodges in Mississippi are older; but Pearl Masonic Lodge has met in the SAME BUILDING FOR THE MOST CONSECUTIVE YEARS. Bro:. Robinson called Brother and Frater James A Marples "to the East" to receive a few souvenir gifts, the most precious being a 175th Anniversary lapel pin commemorating Pearl Masonic Lodge's past milestone anniversary of serving that community. Brother and Frater Marples thanked Bro. Robinson and the Master, Wardens, and Brethren present, and also gave a few entertaining comments regarding "Masonic Travels" in various U.S. States and Jurisdictions. This generated lively conversation.. As a side-note-when Frater Marples was preparing to depart Longview, Texas that morning, the temperature was 69<sup>o</sup>, but suddenly a cold-front swept through and within minutes the temperatures fell to 48<sup>o</sup>, yet when he arrived on the outskirts of Jackson, Mississippi, it was a balmy 80<sup>o</sup> on the 1st day of December 2014. Quite a difference for only 280 miles east.





## SEPARATE, BUT PARALLEL FRATERNALISM BETWEEN FREEMASONS AND ODD FELLOW LODGES

by Frater James A. Marples, VIII<sup>o</sup>  
Life Member, Nebraska College S.R.I.C.F.

The fraternal orders of the Masonic Lodge and The Independent Order of Odd Fellows are two separate and distinct groups having no formal linkage; yet, many members of one are members of the other. In the late 19th Century and early 20th Century, the Odd Fellows even had a LARGER MEMBERSHIP nationally in the United States than the Masons.

The art of practical stonemasons traces back to ancient times; whereas, the Fraternity of Speculative Freemasonry has been in existence for far fewer centuries. In this paper, I won't attempt to fix a date since there are too many differing views. However, it is universally acknowledged by most Freemasons, globally, that "The United Grand Lodge of England" was organized on December 27, 1813. However, countless organized and loosely organized groups had existed earlier in England, Scotland and even in the United States in the middle 1700's, and others existed in Continental Europe in the early 1700's and much, much earlier.

EDITOR'S NOTE: While it is true that the United Grand Lodge of England was formally constituted in December 1813, uniting the Antients and the Moderns, most Masons consider the formation of the first Grand Lodge, formed by four Masonic Lodges in London on 24 June 1717 to be the "mother" Grand Lodge.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows {or I.O.O.F. Lodge } was organized April 26, 1819. However, its predecessor group "Manchester Unity" was organized near Manchester, England, around the year 1748. It was instituted because there was no such thing as a "welfare state". It provided benefits to sick and injured members, insurance benefits, as well as monetary aid to widows and a "duty to bury the Dead and educate the Orphan". The Odd Fellows were the first to establish Old Age Homes for elderly or infirm members



and Schools for kids who were the orphans of members. Some Odd Fellows ....when audibly saying the abbreviation that they belong to the Odd Fellows or I.O.O.F. Lodge, they say that they are members of: {the "I", "double O", "F" Lodge }, in that mannerism.

I have the unusual distinction of being at least a 4th generation Mason and similarly at least a 4th generation Odd Fellow. But, as far as the latter, there is a unique "twist" ---I am a 4th generation Past Presiding officer of the Odd Fellows, having held the top office in a local Lodge which is that of "Noble Grand". It is the equivalent to being "Master" of a local Masonic Lodge. Both groups have a "District Deputy Grand Master" or "D.D.G.M."

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows has a State "Grand Master", but it also has a "Sovereign Grand Master of The Sovereign Grand Lodge of I.O.O.F." It has a national hierarchy, whereas with State-by-State Craft Masonry ---- Sovereign control stops at the State-level {Grand Lodge level} as far as Jurisdictional governance goes.

The prominent Mason, Albert Pike was an Odd Fellow Lodge member FIRST. He even advanced to become Grand Master of all Odd Fellows in Arkansas. He later joined the Masonic Lodge and the York Rite and later the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. When he became "Sovereign Grand Commander" of The Supreme Council, 33<sup>o</sup> of The Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction of the USA, in 1859, he was well-acquainted with the "nationally Sovereignty" concept from his experience as an Odd Fellow Lodge member. The Scottish Rite in Masonry is one branch of Masonry that had a governing Board similar to what Pike was already well-versed in.

Pike used this to his advantage; honorably, in most cases. However, there were times when he 'cracked the whip' too harshly when the matter of "sovereignty" went to his head during minor quibbles or squabbles. Pike HAD been Master of a local Masonic Lodge; yet he was never a Grand Master in anything except for the Odd Fellows' Lodge. {aside from honorary titles given him by foreign countries}.

The two fraternal orders have many things in common: Both fraternal orders sought to elevate a man's character. Both require a belief in Almighty God as a Creator and Preserver. Both utilize the symbol of "The All-Seeing Eye" of Almighty God to denote the Creator. The Odd Fellows have three links of chain with the letters F, L, T, inside the "link" of each part of the chain. Those letters are abbreviations for " {Friendship, (brotherly) Love, and Truth". The Odd Fellows are nicknamed "The 3-link Fraternity". The Masonic Lodge has its well-recognized Square and Compasses with the letter "G" inside, which some claim stands for "God" or "Geometry" --- but in any case, we are taught to 'square' our actions by a system of good ethical behavior. In that vein, both fraternal orders have the open Holy Bible on their Altar in the center of the Lodge Room during meetings. The altar is not set up for sacramental purposes. This has confused many people including some people in some modern Churches. For generations, there was no conspiracy-theories nor mocking of an honorable deed. Where should a group place a Holy Bible ? ANSWER: In a sacred place of honor and solemnity. Neither Lodge has made any claim



towards soul-saving or 'salvation'. Both the Masonic Lodge AND the Odd Fellow Lodge consider salvation as the province of clergy. Quite simply, a member prays to the same God he does elsewhere. There is no attempt by members to 'convert each other' to any specific religious denomination. It all boils down to Invocations and Benedictions being a sacred moment, and all the members can bow their heads and retain their "Freedom of Conscience". Religion is a matter held quietly within each individual member's heart.

Both Lodges have "passwords" and "signs" which are simply modes-of-recognition. Why does a person have a computer-password? same reason: to assure that only the legitimate person gains access.

My late father, John William Marples, Sr. (1910-1997) joined Masonry first, but shortly thereafter joined the Odd Fellows. His maternal grandfather, George White had been a prominent Mason and a prominent Odd Fellow in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and later Colorado. My dad admired his grandfather's fraternal standing. He was seen as a Pillar of the Community since he was so active in the Lodges and helping with their benevolent and charitable endeavors. George White's wife {Clarissa J. Williams White} joined the Rebekah Lodge (the ladies auxiliary of the Odd Fellows) at Bloomington, Nebraska and later transferring to the Rebekah Lodge at Agra, Kansas where their daughter Dora (White) Marples joined the Rebekah in 1918.

My Dad told me when he was a little boy, he was awestruck by seeing dozens of men march up stairs to the two-story I.O.O.F. hall then at Agra, Kansas. He figured something of distinction inspired that many men....must be something Honorable to partake of. The mostly women's Rebekah Degree was written by the Honorable Schuyler Colfax, who was VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES {and ironically a Freemason, too}. Probably unbeknownst to him, Rob Morris crafted the primarily women's Masonic auxiliary group 'The Eastern Star'. Likewise..many ladies of one group often belong to the other. Although, I have to admit there have been fewer Eastern Stars in my family.

Men can join Rebekahs as well as Eastern Star. I never joined Eastern Star. But, I did join the Rebekah Lodge in Longview, Texas and paid my dues up to the year 2018...mainly in respect for my late mother Gloria (Riedl) Marples whom I drove down from Kansas to visit that Lodge. And, I also joined Rebekahs as a respectful nod to my dad, my grandmother Dora who belonged 59 years, and to my Great Grandparents.

My Dad loved BOTH the Masonic Lodge and the Odd Fellow Lodge. Yet, he indicated that he might have loved the I.O.O.F. Lodge just a tad more (only a tiny smidgen more). He used to chuckle that he loved the Odd Fellows' method of "changing their password regularly"....in its heyday years ago and even in modern times ---to keep off the imposters. I used to chuckle back at my dad just before he died in the late 1990s, that with the Odd Fellows' pitiful and dwindling-membership-statistics...they'd LOVE to have an imposter show-up at a Lodge door. He laughed at that. But, even he knew the Odd Fellows Lodge was dying in certain locales.



With no disrespect toward Odd Fellows or Rebekahs...(at least in Kansas) they were mostly elderly men who enjoyed visiting with their crony-friends and would open and close the Lodge meeting as fast as they could, in order to go play cards or have dancing {in their younger years}. The Rebekahs would enjoy gabbing and gossiping with their lady friends and open and close their Lodges as fast as they could to make quilts to raffle-off with the hope their own grandchild might 'win' a college-scholarship generated by the Quilt. While I don't begrudge that: such actions deprive people of what I call 'the Lodge atmosphere' where honorable ethics and teachings are inculcated. If you make it a small cliquish group: it loses its luster amongst young people.

Both types of Lodges have a slate of Officers which they nickname "going through the Chairs" as slang to denote yearly advancement to the presiding Office. However, since the Odd Fellows was once so strong and had more members, the Odd Fellows consequently have more Officer vacancies to fill. Whereas the Masonic Lodge has a Secretary and Treasurer. The Odd Fellows Lodge has those Officers PLUS a "Financial Secretary" and a "Recording Secretary". It also has officers such as "Scene Supporters".

Unfortunately, in the U.S.A., in this 21st Century, the numbers of Masons are declining or somewhat holding steady in some areas -- whereas the Odd Fellows have plummeted downward and almost vanished in some parts of America. About twenty years ago, a group of women in Illinois threatened a lawsuit to demand that they be allowed to join the Odd Fellows Lodge as members. The Odd Fellows were frightened ...and succumbed.

Now, women can become Odd Fellows. Despite now having women as members of Odd Fellow Lodges, it has not bolstered membership, but the membership decline has worsened. I am not sexist; but it gives me an unusual feeling to address a woman {being she is a female} in the masculine salutation of "Brother". Even the name "Odd Fellows" denotes 'fellow' in a masculine sense. They were originally named "Odd Fellows"...because it was a RARITY TO SEE SOMEONE GO OUT-OF-THEIR-WAY TO HELP SOMEONE IN DISTRESS. Hence the word 'odd' denoting 'unique'. With today's American-vocabulary ever-changing...the word 'odd' almost has become synonymous with the word 'weird'. Although the Odd Fellows may be mainly elderly, eccentric, and almost vanished from the public consciousness... they are certainly NOT WEIRD. In my own Odd Fellow Lodge, I paid my Lodge dues several years in-advance....only to have the bulk of my membership die-off. To my knowledge, my I.O.O.F. Lodge remains a "lodge on-paper", yet I am probably the only member now. Most of the other members were of my father's generation who joined during, or shortly after, World War Two....and they are nearly all dead.

I.O.O.F. Lodge membership dues-cards haven't changed since the year 1912, when the Sovereign Grand Lodge copyrighted its design. It features a hand with a heart-shaped image in the palm....to denote friendship and humanitarian-charity. On the reverse are some common English words in case a visitor happened into any given town and if they



were without documentation nor proof of being a valid member. An I.O.O.F. Lodge Secretary could telegraph the transient/sojourner's name and using the code word: The Lodge at the receiving-end of the telegram would, in-turn, reply back with another English word, that was really in cipher-code so the telegrapher wouldn't know the two Lodges' private communications. The response might be eventually translated as "Visitor is authentic" or "Furnish visitor with enough money to get back home and our Lodge will repay your Lodge" {if in dire distress}; or "person you have encountered is an imposter..Do Not Accept Pleas For Money: contact authorities." One thing about the Odd Fellows Lodge in the days of steam locomotive trains and telegraph-communication...they heavily scrutinized their visitors to make sure they were genuine. And, they tried to spurn con-artists trying to beg money by claiming they were an Odd Fellow when indeed they were frauds. So, I have to applaud the vigilance of the I.O.O.F. Lodge nationally for that aspect.

I joined Masonry first, as well as the York Rite and Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. I slightly differ with my dad's opinion in only one area: I LIKE the Masonic Fraternity much MORE. Of course, I had the advantage of joining Masonry in Kansas at age 18...nearly 33 years ago. Although my dad's uncle James William Marples 1864-1962 and my dad's cousin Wayne H. Marples 1902-1975 were both members of the Masonic Lodge and I.O.O.F. Lodge at Blue Springs, Nebraska....my dad's brother Charles P. Marples and virtually most of my dad's male MARPLES - cousins were MASONS and not Odd Fellows. That was a pivotal difference and it indirectly impressed me as a young boy, like I was, back then, to place a higher premium on my Masonic affiliations. Although I repeat: I respect the Odd Fellows and belong to it. I am just happy I have experienced both types of fraternal Orders {and quite a few others}. In fairness, my dad saw Odd Fellowship in its "glory days" ---whereas I saw it on its deathbed in some localities. I am hopeful that Masonry doesn't repeat the same mistakes the I.O.O.F. Lodges made. We live in a totally different world in this 21st Century now.

I had the advantage of going to Shrine Circuses and seeing "Masonry in the public eye" in a lively, progressive moment in time. I saw Masonry in a manner that was positive, vibrant, and not stagnant. The prime "movers and shakers" of my hometown Rose Hill, Kansas, were Masons. A couple of Masons were Odd Fellows who dropped out, such as my good friend, the late Kermit M. Cox, 33<sup>o</sup>. But, most were Masons only. When I went to Wichita State University, one of my professors was Judge Charles E. Heilmann, a Judge and a Knight Templar Mason. Judge and Sir Knight Heilmann dressed impeccably, and had a dignified look, befitting a Judge. He was "fair to all students" in the classroom. Physically, he reminded me a lot facially of President and M.W. Brother Harry S. Truman, 33<sup>o</sup> and a Knight Templar. Dignified.

Incidentally, speaking of U.S. Presidents : Harry S. Truman, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Warren G. Harding were BOTH Masons and Odd Fellow Lodge members; as was Presidential-contender William Jennings Bryan. UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill was a Freemason





and an Odd Fellow, too. As noted earlier, ex-Vice President of the United States Schuyler Colfax was a Mason and an Odd Fellow. Ulysses S. Grant was an Odd Fellow.

Probably the one thing that makes me a fairly active Mason and a less-than-active Odd Fellow member is that the Masons have always exhibited VITALITY to me. I sense a "heartbeat" --- literally and physically when I enter a Masonic Lodge Room with Masons present. For me, I almost literally 'feel' "The Mystic Tie" of genuine Brotherhood amongst most Masons. I have learned some things in a Masonic setting that I never learned in six years at University. I had learned a lot in the York Rite and the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and other allied groups. For that, I am very thankful.

I appreciate the Odd Fellow Lodge. There are many towns and cities across the United States where the Odd Fellows constructed their Lodge buildings, first; and the Masons had nowhere to meet, except for renting quarters inside an I.O.O.F Lodge Hall. This was particularly true in early-day Kansas. In towns such as Smith Center, Kansas is a brick-building and at the top is a cornerstone {or sorts} embedded in the wall, high above the street level, near the TOP of the building....with a large "Keystone" which encloses a "Masonic Square & Compasses" as well as the Three-Link Odd Fellow emblem ----all within that keystone !!! That building was built probably over 100 years ago and showed SOLIDARY AMONG TWO SEPARATE BUT PARALLEL FRATERNAL ORDERS. It is a marvelous reminder of past glory days.

Even at historic Lecompton, Kansas {precursor to the State Capitol being located at Topeka, KS} the "Constitutional Hall" in the village of Lecompton, after 1894 was owned by the Odd Fellows who shared it with the Masons, the G.A.R. {Grand Army of the Republic} and other civic/fraternal groups.

Similarly, the Fall City Masonic Lodge #66 in Washington State, after a disastrous fire "met in the Odd Fellows' Lodge on October 13, 1894..." So, this trend was not regional, but nearly nationwide.

Even earlier, in the 1860s, it is recorded where M.W. Bro. Jacob Saqui {a Grand Master of Masons in Kansas during Civil War times} was a member and the Charter Master of Washington Lodge #5 A.F. & A.M. and he was even elected to the office of Generalissimo in his Knight Templar Commandery, despite the fact that he was Jewish. Evidence suggests that he sought Judeo-Christian harmony and thus, this enabled him to be accepted into all the York Rite Bodies, since he was hospitable toward the teachings and tenets that the K.T. Commandery advocated. MW Bro Jacob Saqui was also "Vice Grand" (the second officer from the Top, in a local Odd Fellow Lodge) of Friendship Lodge #5 I.O.O.F. in Atchison, Kansas when chartered in Atchison, Kansas October 17, 1857 by District Deputy Grand Master Richard R. Rees {DDGM of the Kansas Odd Fellows. but Bro. Rees was the very first MW Grand Master of The MW Grand Lodge of Kansas Masons}. Thus, there was a remarkable number of Masons who were Odd Fellow members and visa-versa.



I have been informed that the fathers of George Harrison and Ringo Starr {both members of the famous English rock-band 'The Beatles} were Odd Fellow Lodge members.

I salute Pearl Masonic Lodge #23 in Jackson Mississippi, which meets on the Third-Floor of the City Building in downtown Jackson, Mississippi. If I remember my history correctly: BOTH the Masonic Lodge and Odd Fellow Lodge pitched-in monetarily for the building's construction in its early years.

The Jackson Free Press gave a fair and balanced description of this helpful decision by the Masons and Odd Fellows of Jackson, Mississippi, contributing much-needed funds to construct City Hall. Everything was done above-board and honestly and the Masons have the right to meet there "in perpetuity":

The Masons' claim to City Hall dates back to the building's construction, which began in 1846, Mims said. In that year, the mayor and aldermen of the city of Jackson, which was still in its infancy, began to discuss consolidating government functions into a single building. An act passed by the state Legislature nearly a decade earlier had already granted the Jackson Masonic organizations the right to build a lodge on the same site, however. So when the city began to hire contractors, representatives of the Masons and another fraternal organization, the Odd Fellows, approached the city with an offer to pay for the addition of a second floor to what was intended to be a single-story building. In return for paying the added cost of building a second floor and reinforcing the lower walls with roughly 100,000 additional bricks, the Masons and Odd Fellows gained the right to use the new floor in perpetuity. Work on the building was slow. As was common for public buildings at the time, the corner-stone ceremony on July 22, 1853, was accompanied by the "singing of a Masonic Ode," according to an account from the "Flag of the Union" newspaper. The building was finally completed in 1854.

Neither the Masons nor Odd Fellows, {as a group}, are 'partisan'....they are officially 'neutral' or even non-political. Quite simply: they are GOOD CITIZENS who are INTERESTED in GOOD GOVERNMENT from an honorable patriotic and humanitarian standpoint. I have seen MANY City Halls, Public Libraries, and County Courthouses in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas bearing Masonic Cornerstones. That demonstrates...when the buildings were constructed: the Masons took part in an ancient and honorable 'dedication ceremony' – not a dedication to Masons only...but to the general populace as a whole and expressed their 'best wishes' for the prosperity, success and benefit to Society, in which that building would serve. One of the most meaningful Masonic Cornerstone layings {some Jurisdictions call it 'leveling' the cornerstone} was at the Public Library in Wymore, Nebraska. My second-cousin, WB Dean Marples was in attendance as was myself. In a way, we represented ourselves as individuals, as Masons, and in our dual capacity as the heirs and Great Grandsons of our mutual Great Grandfather Charles Marples (1824-1876) who my father believed was a





Mason and Odd Fellow. The unique emblem on Charles' original tombstone was characteristic of members of both Fraternities.

Masonry has been a blessing to me. I salute both types of Lodges. I have joined the Elks Lodge, Eagles Lodge, Moose Lodge and Knights of Pythias Lodges. I have also joined the "service groups" of Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis. All have merit. I salute them, as well. Nearly all were created {or inspired by Masons who launched their inception}. Those groups do good works...but to me, they are almost akin to "Masonry-lite-on-the-ritual" OR "Masonry sans ritual". The groups are good, but they do not have that special "Mystic Tie of Brotherhood of Man under Fatherhood of God".

In the 19th and 20th Century, the Masonic Lodge and Odd Fellow Lodges were the amongst the two most highly joined Fraternities {with the possible exception of the Knights of Columbus}. Now, in our time, in our present 21st Century, the Masonic Lodge MUST carry the baton and let its Light shine, as it did when I was a kid. By each member walking uprightly: may we, individually and collectively inspire other young men to come-along and join our Honorable institution. So Mote It Be.

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#### Sources / References / Exhibits /Recommended Readings:

\* Author's note: Brother James A. Marples is a member and "Past Grand" of Greenwich I.O.O.F. Odd Fellow Lodge at Greenwich, Kansas (unincorporated town of Sedgwick County, KS). \*\*He received the "Past Grand's Degree" at a Grand Lodge session of Odd Fellows in KANSAS--- at Topeka, Kansas, circa 1998. The "Past Grand Degree" is roughly comparable to the {virtual} Past Master Degree in York Rite Masonry....and which some Grand Lodges of Masons conferred in Symbolic Craft Lodges BEFORE a Master (presiding Officer) could "Sit in the Chair" and legally Preside.

- Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry by Dr. Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33<sup>o</sup> and a Knight Templar.
- Archives of The Masonic Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon, Canada.
- Deborah Linton: "Good Health! Oddfellows toast 200 years of Kindness" 8 June 2010 Manchester Evening News, newspaper. Telling of Ringo Starr and George Harrison's fathers both being Odd Fellows
- Archives Grand Lodge of Kansas A.F. & A.M
- Archives of The Sovereign Grand Lodge I.O.O.F. of Winston-Salem, NC.
- Jackson Free Press: newspaper account telling the legitimate origins of "How the Masons got in City Hall". Oct 7, 2009 issue. Jackson, Mississippi.
- Archives Lecompton, Kansas Visitors' Center
- Archives Fall City Masonic Lodge #66. Washington State.
- Macoy's Masonic Manual by Robert Macoy, 33<sup>o</sup> and a Knight Templar. Fifteenth Edition. New York. Published in New York, Year 1861 by Clark, Austin, Maynard & Company



located at 3 Park Row & 3 Ann Street, New York, New York. "A Pocket Companion for the Initiated".

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About the Author:

Frater James A. Marples, VIII<sup>o</sup> is a Perpetual Life Member of Mulvane Masonic Lodge #201 A.F. & A.M. in Mulvane, Kansas. He is a Life Member of The International Peace Gardens Lodge of Freemasons (Canada-USA) and also an Honorary Member of Golden Rule Masonic Lodge #562 in Willard, Ohio; as well as an Honorary Member of Nelson Masonic Lodge #77, in Nelson, Nebraska, which has recently consolidated with the Superior Masonic Lodge at Superior, Nebraska.

Companion and Sir Knight Jim is a Life Member of the Wichita York Rite Bodies (Wichita Chapter #33 R.A.M.; Wichita Council #12 R.& S.M.; and Mt. Olivet Commandery #12 K.T.). He is also a Life Member of the Lincoln Nebraska Scottish Rite Bodies; The Robert-the-Bruce Association (California); The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club; Masonic Order of the Gordian Knot (Indiana); Masonic Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill; Kentucky Chapter #134 of National Sojourners and Heroes of '76; North Texas York Rite College #118 of Sherman, Texas; and Nebraska College S.R.I.C.F.

He is a Regular Member of The Allied Masonic Degrees; Grand College of Rites; St. David Conclave of The Red Cross of Constantine; Shawnee County Kansas Square and Compass Club; and Holyrood Council #61 of Knight Masons (Nebraska).

