

Grand Chapter*

Temple Lodge in Albany received its charter November 11, 1796, but their work was not confined to the symbolic degrees. On February 4, 1797, a Royal Arch Chapter was formed in the symbolic Lodge, with Thomas Smith Webb being elected High Priest. The Chapter conferred the four degrees continuously under the symbolic Lodge, until January 17, 1798, when the Lodge was practically, although without any special vote, consolidated with the Chapter. On January 24, 1798, it was the Chapters of Hudson, Temple and White-stone that represented New York in the formation of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America.

Grand Chapter, State of New York, Royal Arch Masons was organized on March 14, 1798. At the meeting held in Temple Lodge room On January 29, 1799, the dignity of a Grand Chapter was finally assumed, with DeWitt Clinton and Webb being elected Grand High Priest and Grand King. The only other work of significance done at that meeting was the issuance of a Charter to Jerusalem Chapter.

**Excerpts from A Standard History of Freemasonry in the State of New York (Ross, 1899)*

Mail Petition with \$30 check payable to:
Thomas Smith Webb Chapter
c/o Bill Thomas, Secretary
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New York, NY 10022
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03/05/2009

Thomas Smith Webb Chapter
c/o Bill Thomas, Secretary
240 East 55th Street, Suite 8-B
New York, NY 10022



Thomas Smith Webb
Chapter of Research #1798

*Grand Chapter
State of New York
Royal Arch Masons*

Warranted March 2, 2002
www.thomaswebb.com

Thomas Smith Webb Chapter

The Thomas Smith Webb Chapter of Research is was warranted on August 2, 2002 by the Grand Chapter, State of New York, Royal Arch Masons. It is the first such chapter so authorized.

The purpose of the Chapter is to encourage Royal Arch Masonic Research and study by its members and others, to present findings and conclusions to the Chapter for discussion and interchange, and to promote the discussion and debate of topics pertinent to Royal Arch Masonry.

- Membership is by affiliation only; the Chapter does not confer degrees. There are three categories of membership:
- Fellowship: An honor conferred upon a Royal Arch Mason for outstanding achievement in Masonic research.
- Active Member: Open to any Royal Arch Mason from a New York Chapter.
- Corresponding Member: Open to any Royal Arch Mason in Chapters recognized by Grand Chapter. This category is analogous to a subscribing membership.

The Chapter meets Annually during the Grand Convocation, and during the year as called by the Excellent High Priest. The Chapter may publish its proceedings, which will be made available to all classes of membership.



Petition fee (\$10) and dues (\$20) must accompany the petition. Checks should be payable to the Chapter, and mailed to the secretary.

THOMAS SMITH WEBB*

Born in 1771 and educated in Massachusetts, Thomas Smith Webb was either a bookbinder or printer whose trade first took him to New Hampshire and then to Albany, New York. He later relocated to Providence, Rhode Island to engage in wallpaper manufacturing and then retired to Boston in 1815. He died in 1819.

Webb became a Mason in 1790, in Rising Sun Lodge, Keene, New Hampshire. After he moved to Albany, NY, he published his *Freemason's Monitor*, and in 1797 was the High Priest of the Temple Chapter. As such, he represented the Chapter in Boston, where plans to establish the Grand Chapter were being formulated.

Although Royal Arch Masonic Ritual had been systematized prior to his work, he made such alterations in the ritual which he felt necessary and published the exoteric portions of the work.

As a moving force in the creation of the Grand Chapter, he used its establishment to further influence the use and acceptance of his work, known as the Webb work.

In general it may be said that few if any brethren have had a greater influence upon the Craft in this country. His labors have stood the acid test of time, a fact attested to by the well nigh universal use of exoteric work first to be brought to American Freemasonic eyes through the justly famous Webb Monitor.

Thus, Thomas Smith Webb is often recognized as the driving force in both the standardizations of the Royal Arch Ritual and the creation of the Grand Chapter. It is only fitting that the Research Chapter in the Grand Chapter, State of New York, Royal Arch Masons, carry his name.

**Excerpts from Masonic Service Association, Short Talk Bulletin June 1938, No. 54.*

Petition for Affiliation

To the Excellent High Priest, King, Scribe and Companions of Thomas Smith Webb Chapter of Research No.1798, R.A.M.:

The undersigned respectfully represents that his is a Royal Arch Mason in good standing and a member of the Lodge and Chapter listed below, and is desirous of affiliating with your Chapter; and if found worthy, promising a cheerful compliance with the by-laws of the Chapter and the usages of the Fraternity.

Signature of Petitioner/date

Printed Name

Age, Occupation

Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone / Cell Phone

Email

Lodge/location/jurisdiction

Chapter/location/jurisdiction

Recommended by Companion

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