

## **HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR**

by Glenson T. Jones - Capital City Council No. 154 & Council of Nine Muses

Published in The Architect 1994

The beautiful ceremonies of the Order of the Secret Monitor appear to have been derived from an earlier Brotherhood of David and Jonathan. The earliest records state that such an organized brotherhood was founded in Holland around 1770. The Brotherhood then spread to other countries and especially to the United States by settlers to New Amsterdam.

William Peacher (Ref. 1, p. 4) states that the rituals of the first 3 degrees of this early order were printed in Holland in 1773 and that they resembled an early and developmental form of the present British Order of the Secret Monitor.

Many references (Ref. 1 p. 16-20) have been found to the existence of the Order of the Secret Monitor in the USA from 1820. Several simple rituals have been published (Refs. 3 & 4).

The degree in the USA was very simple, consisting of a single degree. In its earliest form, it was a true side degree which was conferred from one Master Mason on another by the acceptance of an obligation and the communication of the secrets of the degree. The degree was one of those taken into the Sovereign College of Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees for America which was founded in 1892. This Sovereign College united with the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA in 1933.

The first Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor was formed in England in 1887 and it is now over 105 years. It is this three degree system which was introduced into the USA at Washington, D.C. in Feb. 1992 and is being introduced into Canada in September 1994.

### **References**

Ref. 1 Order of the Secret Monitor by William G. Peacher, Collectanea.Vol. 13 part 1, 1988

Ref. 2 Order of the Secret Monitor, or Brotherhood of David & Jonathan, in the British Isles and in Territories Overseas by William G. Peacher, Collectanea Vol. 13 part 2 1989

Ref. 3 Allyn's Ritual of Freemasonry (1830)

Ref. 4 Richardson's Monitor of Free-Masonry