

The duties of the Chair are many and varied: Opening & Closing Lodge, Initiating, Crafting, and Raising Masons, Presiding at Cornerstone ceremonies & at dedications of Public Buildings, and performing Masonic Funerals. The duties of the Secretary, however, are too numerous to list.

In 216 years King Hiram's has had 94 Worshipful Masters or an average of 2 yrs and 4 months per Master. From 1875 to 2008 King Hiram's Lodge had but 8 secretaries serving an average of 16 and a half years each. Five of the eight died in office or held the office until their final illness

. From 1875 on the Secretaries of the Lodge have been:

Reuben Swift, Joseph Hersey Dyer, Isaiah A. Small; Charles Nickerson Rogers; Arthur Metcalf Morton Comme; Lloyd Higgins; George Stephen Chapman Jr; Leroy Eugene Atkins (Senior Past Secretary & Past Master) and myself Charles Philip Morton.

One of the historian's projects this year is to complete the list and biography of all the past secretaries—this is complicated by “misplaced “ records from 1857-1875 that were apparently available to the previous historian. King Hiram's Lodge did at one time have a complete set of minutes to 1795 onward.

As an exemplar—**Bro. Arthur Metcalf Morton Comee** was born in Boston in 1877 and moved with his family to Woonsocket RI about 1884 where his father was Director of the Woonsocket Rubber Company. He must have been a bright lad for he is found as a Sophomore at Brown University at the age of 17. He was raised in Morning Star Lodge #13 in Woonsocket. He followed his father's profession and 1918 he was in New Haven as a manager of a Rubber Company, having married and fathered three children. He came to Provincetown before 1920 and worked as a Banker. He affiliated with King Hiram's Lodge in 1926 and immediately became the Secretary.

You could say he was associated with Masons all of his life. At birth Brother Comee's father was Master of St John's Lodge Boston, the oldest Lodge in the New World. When Arthur was 1, his father was High Priest of St Andrew Royal Arch Chapter, the oldest Chapter in the New World. His father also served as Commander in Chief of the Massachusetts Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and as Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch of Massachusetts. Brother Comme was a direct descendent of David Comme of Concord who was killed during the King Philip War and of Joseph Comee a soldier in the Massachusetts Line at Bunker Hill.

Brother Comee died in office in Aug of 1942 . Wor. Lloyd Higgins served out the fall and then went on to serve as Secretary for the next 10 years.



**King Hiram's**



**Lodge**

**Provincetown, MA**

**2100<sup>th</sup>**

Regular Communication

Saturday

14th May

2011 AD 6011 AL