

Square & Compass, Star of David.

Among whom no contingency should ever exist, except that noble contingency, of who can best work and best agree!

Many have suggested that our Square and Compass has evolved from the Star of David, or six pointed star. I have found this comparison in many books and articles. A couple of years ago, the North Carolina Masonic paper had a drawing of the Square and Compass incised inside the Star of David for an article concerning Jewish influence in early North Carolina masonry.

It has been said that we have learned more about history in the last 30 years than we did in the previous 1000, thanks to modern science! So brothers, here is a little light.

The reason for the comparison between these symbols is obvious. The Star of King David was handed down to Solomon and was a fixture on his royal seal. Masonic author John J. Anderson has wrote several books, the most notable "Born in Blood," and made many comparisons to the Knights Templars as the ancestral brothers of masonry.

The Templars were great pioneers in the building industry. Many of their buildings adorn the Star. The templars were French, English, Scottish, German and Irish. Although Christian themselves, they seemed to respect others believes. However they were not Jewish. However, they did come after Solomon, so we will continue to travel back in time. One note, Mr. Anderson, who later became a mason, states that when the Square and Compass evolved from the Star there were only two

degrees in masonry. The fellowcraft degree was incorporated approx. 1870. The compass had one point hidden and one exposed, like our fellowcraft degree, the same as the Star.

Our North Carolina Grand Master Pervier wrote in the NC Mason paper just this month, that Freemasonry "has been around in it's modern form for 300 years, and, in fact and legend for 6000 years."

How far does the star go back? Or when did it start to evolve? Authors Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas ("The Hiram Key") tell us that the Star was first seen in early Egypt! Recently modern science has cracked the code of the Egyptian's writings to discover what the Star symbolized. The Star of David was originally the drawing of two triangles or two pyramids. One being right side up, the other upside down. The meaning to the Egyptians will seem very familiar to masons. The upside down triangle represents darkness, the right side up one, light. So the Star's original meaning symbolized being brought from darkness to light.

The Hebrews took the star out of Egypt with them, and it was later adopted by David, Solomon, and eventually the Jewish race as a whole. Did the square and compass evolve from the Star of David? Highly probable. But, this Star was originally out of Egypt and not Judea.

Some of the things we use in masonry today are just now being discovered in ancient ruins. How could we have used them before they were discovered if our brotherhood did not have ancient influences itself?

Studying the past should not make us think any

differently about today's masonry. History should only enrich us, knowledge is light. And light is the Masonic way of things. It helps us be better masons.