HISTORY OF TALL CEDARISM

A quote from the Preamble to our Constitution states that the “Tall Cedars were established to provide for social entertainment and innocent fun; to provide a wider acquaintance and friendship among men already bound together by fraternal vows; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal and social organization and to provide for its orderly government.”

Although the beginning of Cedarism is vague, it apparently started in 1843 when an imaginative group of Master Masons dreamed up the idea of a Tall Cedar Degree and in those days the degree was called “The Ancient and Honorable Rite of Humility”. The name Tall Cedar degree does not reveal itself until it was adopted as “Tall Cedars of Lebanon of the United States of America” upon incorporation in 1902.

Sometime around 1846, after the meetings of the Grand Lodge and Blue Lodges in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey area, a form of a Tall Cedar degree was performed and was reported to be made up of hazing on candidates willing to receive it by Brethren who had already received the degree.

A Dr. Thomas Corson from the New Jersey area was instrumental in perpetuating the degree in the 1850’s and began conferring it on Master Masons as he had received it earlier in Philadelphia.

On March 18, 1902, fifteen Master Masons assembled in Trenton, the state capital of New Jersey, for the purpose of establishing a fraternal order to be known as the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of the United States of America for Fun, Frolic and Fellowship.

The Tall Cedars have a biblical background since the ritualistic work comes from the 1st book of Kings and the 2nd book of Chronicles and revolves around the building of the Temple at Jerusalem with King Solomon relying on the help of King Hiram of Tyre, to send his “hewers of Wood” to build the Temple.

In 1951, the Tall Cedars found a worthy cause which desperately needed support, Muscular Dystrophy. They have continuously supported this charitable endeavor through the Tall Cedar Foundation and are proud to report they have contributed over $17 million to date.
The two pins shown attached to this Pyramid which are the "Tall Cedar Foundation Life Membership" pin and the "Key Club" tassel pin are the only pins that may be worn on the Pyramid and should be placed in the manner shown.