



Masonic Dedication of Capitol Cornerstone
June 25, 1908

The principal architect then presented the working tools to the grand master (J. J. Davenport of Sturgis), who handed the square to the deputy grand master, the level to the senior grand warden, and the plumb to the junior grand warden, when the grand master addressed the grand officers as follow:

Grand Master: Right Worthy Deputy Grand Master, what is the proper jewel of your office?

Deputy Grand Master: The square.

Grand Master: What are its moral and Masonic Uses?

Deputy Grand Master: To square our actions by the square of virtue and prove our work.

Grand Master: Apply the implement of your office to that portion of the foundation stone that needs to be proved, and make report.

The deputy applied the square to the stone and said:

Deputy Grand Master: Most Worshipful, I find the stone to be square. The craftsmen have performed their duty.

Grand Master: Right worthy Senior Grand Warden, what is the jewel of your office?

Senior Grand Warden: The level.

Grand Master: What is its Masonic use?

Senior Grand Warden: Morally, it reminds us to equality, and its use is to lay horizontals.

Grand Master: Apply the implement of your office to the foundation stone and make a report.

That was done.

Senior Grand Warden: Most Worshipful, I find the stone to be level. The craftsman have performed their duty.

Grand Master: Right Worthy Junior Grand Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office?

Junior Grand Warden: The plumb.

Grand Master: What is its Masonic use?

Junior Grand Warden: Morally, it teaches rectitude of conduct, and we use it to try perpendiculars.

Grand Master: Apply the implement of your office to the several edges of the foundation stone and make a report.

This was completed.

Junior Grand Warden: Most Worshipful, I find the stone is plumb. The craftsmen have performed their duty.

Grand Master: This corner stone has been tested by the proper instruments of Masonry. I find that the Craftsmen have skillfully and faithfully performed their duty, and I do declare the stone to be well formed, true and trusty, and correctly laid, according to the rules of our ancient Craft. Let the elements of Consecration now be presented.

The Deputy Grand Master came forward with the vessel of corn, and scattering on the stone said:

Deputy Grand Master: I scatter this corn as an emblem of plenty. May the blessings of bounteous Heaven be showered upon us and upon all like patriotic and benevolent undertakings, and inspire the hearts of the people with virtue, wisdom and gratitude.

The Masons responded: So mote it be.

The Senior Grand Warden came forward with the vessel of Wine and poured it upon the stone saying:

Senior Grand Warden: I pour this Wine as an emblem of joy and gladness. May the Great Ruler of the Universe bless and prosper our national, state and city governments, preserve the Union of the States, and may it be a bond of Friendship and Brotherly Love that shall endure through all time.

The Masons responded: So mote it be.

The Junior Grand Warden then came forward with a vessel of Oil, which he poured upon the stone saying:

Junior Grand Warden: I pour this Oil as an emblem of peace. May its blessings abide with us continually, and may the Grand Master of Heaven and earth shelter and protect the widow and orphan, shield and defend them from the trials and vicissitudes of the world, and so bestow his mercy upon the bereaved, the afflicted, and the sorrowing that they may know sorrow and trouble no more.

The Masons responded: So mote it be.

The Grand Master, standing in front of all and extending his hands, made the following invocation:

Grand Master: May the all-bounteous Author of Nature bless the inhabitants of this place with an abundance of the necessaries, conveniences and comforts of life; assist in the erection and completion of this building; protect the workingmen against every accident; long preserve the structure from decay; and grant to us all a supply of the corn of nourishment, the Wine of refreshment and the Oil of joy. Amen.

The Masons responded: So mote it be.

The Grand Master struck the stone three times with the gavel and the public grand honors were given.

The Grand Master then delivered over to the Architect the implements of architecture and said:

Grand Master: Worthy Brother: Having thus, as Grand Master of Masons, laid the foundation stone of this structure, I now deliver these implements of your profession into your hands, intrusting you with the superintendence, and direction of the work having full confidence in your skill and capacity to conduct the same.

Hon. Coe I Crawford, governor then introduced the speaker of the day in the following eloquent address.

The proceedings of the Masonic Dedication is found in the *South Dakota History Collection* of 1910, volume 5, page 210-213.