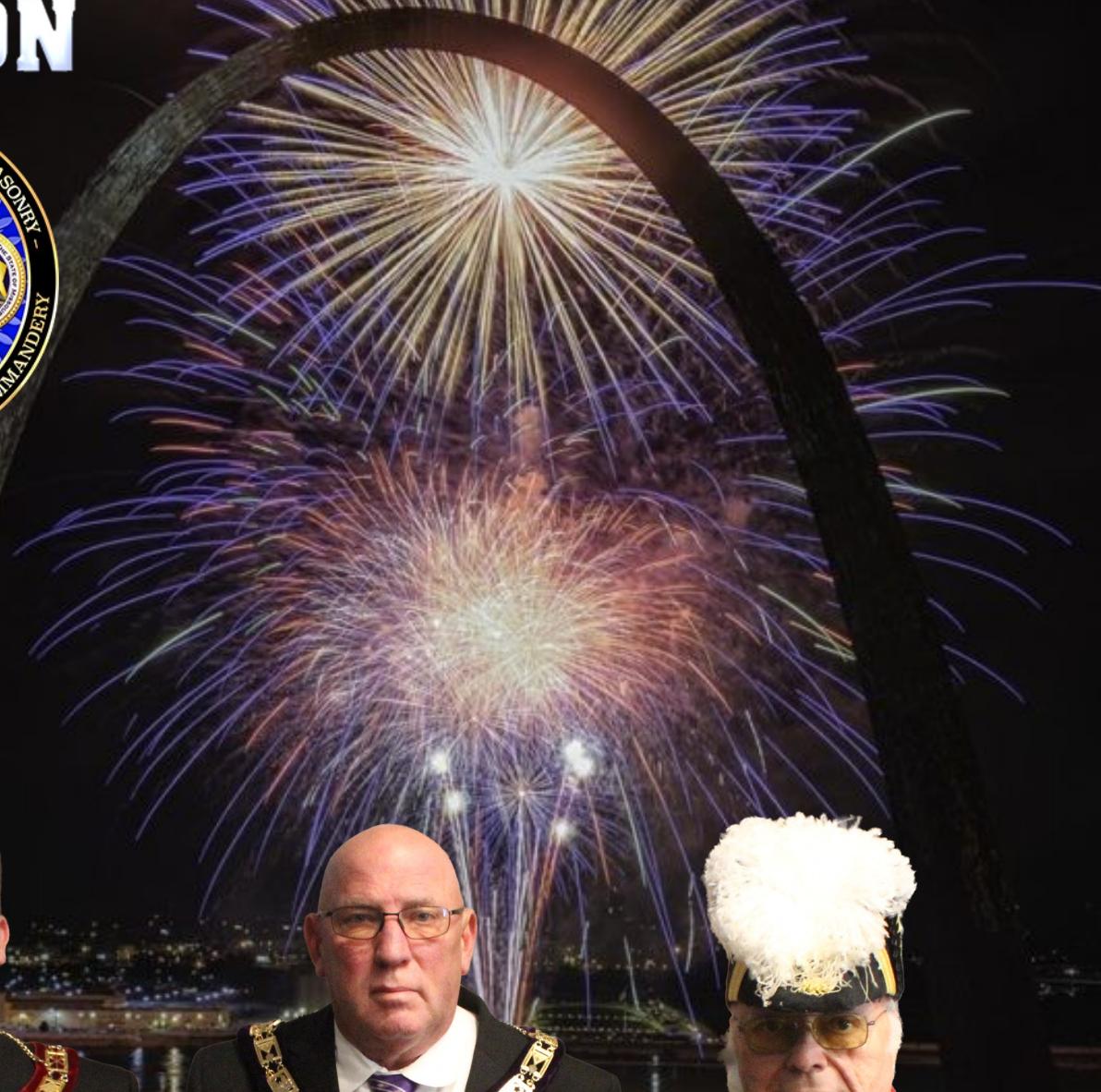


MISSOURI YORK RITE BEACON



Happy New Year Everyone
Missouri Grand York Rite



Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri

Missouri York Rite Beacon is the official publication of the Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri.

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Submissions: All submissions of photographs should include a 40 to 50 word article telling who, what, when, where and why. Pictures should be high resolution jpg (s) from a camera (at least 300 dpi). Phone pictures should be set to high resolution.

Cover Artwork by: REC Larry Wilson & REC Donald MacCormick



Articles to be considered for publication should be e-mailed to:

<https://moyorkrite.org/missouri-york-rite-beacon-news-submission-form/>



M .E.. C.. Kevin M. Ritter
Grand High Priest
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
State of Missouri



Greetings Companions! Happy New Year!

The holidays have come and gone, and with the passing of the Winter Solstice, the days are already beginning (slowly) to get longer. I hope you got to spend some time with family and friends, and had a chance to relax, get refreshed, and reflect on the blessings of the previous year and the goals you'd like to accomplish this year.

I'm not necessarily one to set New Year's Resolutions, but I think it is important to reflect on what we've accomplished in 2025 and what we'd like to see completed in 2026. I'm pleased with the amount of money we've been able to raise so far for RARA through the sale of my coins and am excited to continue the work in supporting research into Central Auditory Processing Disorder. I'm excited at the number of Companions who have renewed or obtained their first ritual proficiency card and am looking forward to being examined in my own proficiency soon. I continue to be struck by the warm greetings I receive from Chapters during my official visits and look forward to more visits in and outside Missouri in the months to come.

In the coming weeks, I'll be in Lebanon twice – once for an official visit, and once for the Regions 4, 6, and 7 Table Chapter. This promises to be a fun event, and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there! Don't forget your quarters!

After that, much of my out-of-state travel begins. I'll kick off that travel in Washington, D.C. for Masonic Week, and then have plans to visit Louisiana in February, Arkansas in March, and Kansas in April. Before you know it, we'll be together in St. Louis in June for our own Grand Session!

Take time to rest, refresh yourself on Chapter ritual, chat with a Companion you haven't seen in a while. Reflect on what brought you to Chapter in the first place and think on what keeps you coming back. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Fraternally,

Kevin Ritter
Grand High Priest



Masonic Week 2026



Be
EXCELLENT
To each other



M.:I.:C.: Dennis W. Houck Grand Master

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons

State of Missouri



Greetings Companions,

As we begin the New Year, let us reflect upon the accomplishments of the proceeding year. While we contemplate those successes in our local councils, our regions, and our state please remember that we still have a lot of hard work ahead of ourselves.

As Cryptic Masons, it is our responsibility and duty to provide our companions with the best ritual and educational programs that are available to us. We do this, not only to drive membership and to recruit new members, but to be the best that we can be. In this I am excited to see our younger leadership grow. It is because of you all that I know our fraternity will be successful and growing for a long time to come.

My message to the Councils I have visited has always been to keep moving forward. We will test this in the upcoming months. We need to get ready for the Grand Masters Chapter Day. The more successful they are, the more successful we will be. We must strive to work as a team. As I start the second half of my term, I will still be out and about visiting as many Companions and Councils that I can. I enjoy meeting everyone.

Even with these wonderful announcements and accomplishments, there is something more sombering that I must report on. It brings me great sorrow to announce the passing of VIC John Crites. He was a mentor to most of us in Southeast Missouri. John laid down his working tools at the young age of 99. John was one of the best ritualists I had ever seen. He inspired not only me to become a better ritualist but also many other Companions. He will be truly missed. I wish to send my deepest sympathy to his family.

As I close out my message this month, I wish to share with you all Matthew 10 VS 16, "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves," instructing them to be wise and discerning while remaining pure in their mission to spread the Gospel, despite impending persecution and danger. This passage warns of hardships, urging followers to use practical wisdom (like serpents finding shelter) and maintain spiritual purity (like doves) as they face opposition from hostile people and authorities.

Yours in Cryptic Masonry,

MIC Dennis W. Houck
Grand Master of Cryptic Masons
State of Missouri

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

10:16





SK Steward Inglish Junior Grand Warden Grand Commandery of Knights Templar State of Missouri



Sir Knights,

Our York Rite Theme this year, is to be “Excellent To One Another”. Wintertime provides an “excellent” opportunity to fulfill this duty. Wintertime can be brutal to some people. The adverse weather, the limited hours of sunlight, and other factors can have a devastating effect on our bodies and our spirits. It is vital that we check on, not only our Masonic Brethren, but also our families, friends, and neighbors.

Small acts of kindness can go a long way. Carrying the neighbor’s newspaper to the door, asking someone who doesn’t like to get out in the weather if they need anything from the store, and sharing a meal with someone are just a few ways we can help out. Kind words and recognizing each other’s accomplishments go a long way in boosting our morale. Another way is to offer to help that new Mason with the ritual and make him feel welcome.

Masonic Service Days are coming up. Support your Lodge and get involved with these great events. Before you ever entered the Lodge for the first time, you seriously declared upon your honor that you had a sincere wish of being serviceable to your fellow creatures. This is a great opportunity to prove that statement. Afterwards, I promise you will feel better about yourself.

We can all make a difference in the world, no matter how small or large we think our contribution is. Ephesians 3:14-21 says, “Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us.” Remember the story of the boy and the starfish. A wise old man was walking along the beach when he saw a young boy picking up starfish and putting them back into the ocean. The old man asked him what he was doing. The boy replied, “The tide is out. If these starfish stay out of the water very long they will die.” The old man chuckled and said, “Look at this beach. There are thousands of starfish on it. You will never make a difference.” The boy picked up another starfish and put it in the water and said, “I made a difference to that one.”

Although we are in the deep throws of winter, just remember that beneath that cold, yet kindly fold lives the germs of a new life. Spring will come again.

May God’s warmth comfort us all,

SK Stuart Inglish
Grand Junior Warden





THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS INTERNATIONAL

Organized October 24, 1797

Post Office Box 34037 - Little Rock, Arkansas - USA 72203-4037

Email: ggs.dbrownning@ggcrami.org

73rd Triennial Convocation



Official Call

To all members of the
General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International

The General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International will convene its 73rd Triennial Convocation on **Monday, August 31, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. EDT** for the business at hand at the **Capitol Hilton Hotel** in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, USA

Registration information will be sent to the Grand Secretaries and posted on the dedicated Triennial website:
yrtriennial.org.

All resolutions effecting changes to the Constitution and Standing Regulations of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, in order to be considered by the delegates at this Triennial convocation, must be received **on or before February 28, 2026**, in the office of the General Grand Secretary, P.O. Box 34037, Little Rock, AR 72203 USA.

Given under my hand,
this tenth day of December 2025
In the city of Little Rock, Arkansas:

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Teko Foly".

Teko A. Foly
General Grand High Priest

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick E. Browning".

Dick E. Browning
General Grand Secretary

Picture This....



A.D. | 908 A.O., the duly elected and selected officers of Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M., Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S.M., and Ely Commandery No. 22 K.T. - the Kirksville York Rite - were installed into their respective offices. The Joint Installation of Officers was held at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville, MO.

The officers were installed by V.E.C. Richard A. Taylor, Grand Master of the First Veil of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri; V.I.C. David D. Goring, Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region One of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri; and Sir Knight Ashley W. Young, Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri. Special thanks to V.E.C., V.I.C., and Sir Knight Christian M. Jessen, Grand Organist of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery, for providing musical accompaniment during the Joint Installation!

Congratulations to the following presiding officers:

Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M.: E.C. Kirby R. Cundiff, High Priest

Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S.M.: I.C. Matthew N. Moore, Master

Ely Commandery No. 22 K.T.: S.K. Craig A. Nowell, Commander



On January 11th, 2026 A.D. | 2556 A.I. | 3026

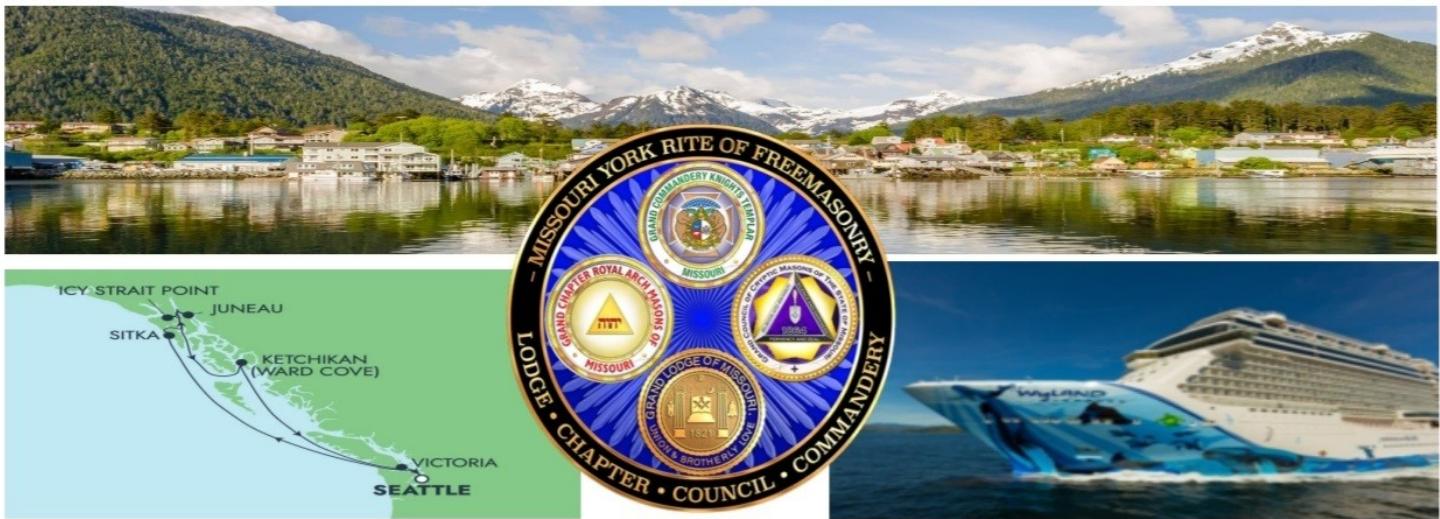
Regional Table Chapter

Dinner & Fellowship · Tickets \$50
— Join us in Supporting Royal Arch Research Assistance

Regional Table Chapter

Jan 30 Jan 30
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM CST

204 N Madison Ave
Lebanon, MO 65536, USA



THE GRAND YORK RITE OF MISSOURI 7-DAY CRUISE TO ALASKA

CRUISING FOR RARA, CMMRF, AND KTEF ON THE NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINER "BLISS"

SEATTLE TO: SITKA, JUNEAU, EDICOTT ARM DAWES GLACIER,
ICY STRAIT POINT, KETCHIKAN, VICTORIA BC, SEATTLE

JULY 24 TO JULY 31, 2027

Cabin Type	Cabin/Balcony sq. ft	Sleeps	Price 1st-2nd	Price 3rd-4th
Haven Penthouse	430-433 / 84-87	2	\$6,419.00 p/p*	
Club Balcony (ma)	249-361 / 41-101	4	\$2,710.78 p/p	\$887.39 p/p*
Balcony(ba)	214-367 / 38-108	3	\$2,498.07 p/p	\$887.39 p/p*
Inside (ia)	135-362	2	\$1,612.05 p/p	

Single balcony and single studio cabins are available. These cabins do sell out, call for pricing. *Price may increase. These specials are available if booked now: "More free at sea" FREE beverage package has a \$210.00 p/p gratuity charge, free 3 specialty dining package for Balcony & above has a \$60.00 p/p gratuity additional charge.

The Airfares from Springfield, St. Louis, & Kansas City is \$823.50 pay for one, second goes free. Transfers from airport to ship, ship to airport \$69.00 round trip.

Your deposit for your cabin is only \$250. Certificates are available, (pay \$150 and get \$300 off the cruise). Veteran's discounts are available. Final payment due by March 26, 2027.

Balances can be paid in 2, 3, 4, or 5 equal interest free payments.

Alloy Enterprises (Art & Pat Alloy), 135 Barnes Road, Laurens, South Carolina 29360

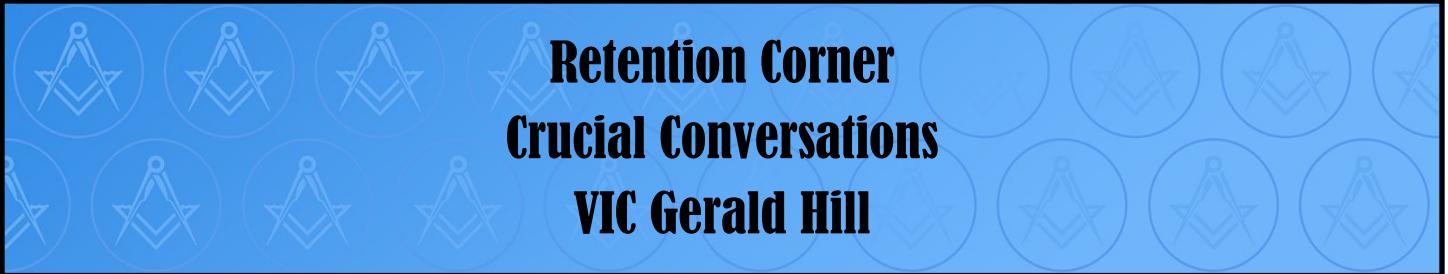
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Retention Corner

Crucial Conversations

VIC Gerald Hill

Greetings Companions,

I hope that everyone had a great holiday, and that you all are enjoying this new year. As I mentioned in previous issues, this year we will be taking on a somewhat different path in our articles. Up to now we have discussing things in a perfect world environment. It was about being good to people and bringing everything together to create that perfect Council. Now it is time for reality to set in.

Reality has a weird way of waking us up, like a slap in the face. When drama shows its nasty head, unpleasant conversations must be had. From them resolutions will be discussed, and inevitably emotions may come into play.

During those times of drama, negative interaction may come into play. Bad behavior might happen. While some will remain silent and stew over those interactions and situations. Others may become more vocal and threatening. Using inappropriate words or spreading rumors to get their point across. All in an attempt to undermine the group or development of the work at hand. In those moments we should return to the teachings of our blue lodge ritual and charges. That ritual says to “whisper in the ear”, but it is so much more complex than that. Whispering a snide comment or what you assume to be right is not always considered effective communication and may be taking the meaning of our ritual out of context.

So, let us talk about what I consider to be having a “Crucial Conversation”. What I consider this to be is a very important discussion that directly affects a person’s life, future, and/or an organization’s health.

How should we start this type of conversation? First, we need to speak to the person openly, honestly, and effectively. To do this we need to manage our own mindset and control our own emotions. So often how we discuss something becomes the issue rather than what we are discussing.

We need to come from a place of empathy and caring. Start the conversation with a positive mindset. As I mentioned in previous articles the only person we can control is ourselves. We need to understand the other person’s perspective and

actively listen to what they are saying rather than trying to frame their words in a way to use against them. Ensure that the conversation stays on topic and keep an open dialogue with the person so that it remains an open two-way conversation not a lecture or dictation. Keep in mind that human beings learn more and with greater impact if they discover the information for themselves. Bring each other some light!

Active Listening in this context consists of listening to the person to understand, without forming opinion. Then paraphrasing what they said back to them allowing you to check your perceptions. Observing a person’s body language can also give cues to the direction of a conversation.

Do not get hooked by a person’s emotions but don’t be afraid to bring it up. If the interaction becomes emotional it may help to ask, “How are you feeling about this?” to raise their awareness and possibly build some calm. Listen for cues to help determine how they are viewing the situation. Claims that it is not their fault, shifting blame to others, or claims of being out of their control gives valuable insights to their position.

Determine what is fact and what is story. We can assume that many of the stories are derived from the facts using the same evidence. We all frame things in different ways and oftentimes to our own benefit. This reminds me of the story where a police officer came upon a man searching under a streetlight. He was in a parking lot with one car and a building in the distance. The officer asked what he was doing. Looking for my car keys, he said. But your car and the building are over there, said the officer. To which the man responded, the light is better over here! Bottom line, always be prepared to accept new evidence provided that may change your views.

What can you agree on? How can you build on the agreements? We tend to be overly critical of everything. It is so easy to tear down yet so hard to build a strong and lasting edifice. Try to work out a mutual solution, come up with an action plan. If you still cannot come to an agreement bring in someone to arbitrate. Set up a plan of action and do great and wonderful things for our Councils. God Bless.



Benjamin Franklin on his Birthday



Since this is January, and birth month of Founding Father, Freemason, and Grand Master Benjamin Franklin, I thought that we would take a look at M.W.Bro. Franklin's life. Benjamin Franklin was born into a Boston family of modest means, he had little formal education. Franklin went on to start a successful printing business in Philadelphia and grew wealthy. Franklin was deeply active in the public affairs of his adopted city, where he helped launch a lending library, hospital, and college. He garnered acclaim for his experiments with electricity, among other projects. During the American Revolution, he served in the Second Continental Congress and helped draft the Declaration of Independence in 1776. He negotiated the 1783 Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War (1775-83). In 1787, in his final

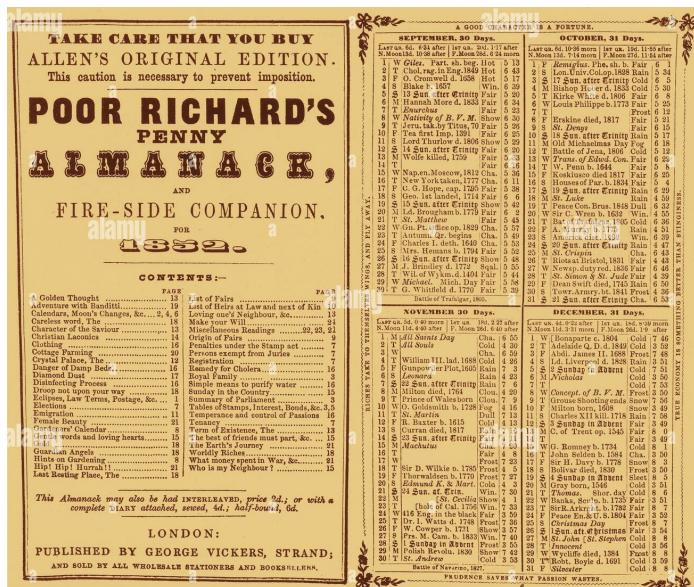
significant act of public service, he was a delegate to the convention that produced the U.S. Constitution.

Benjamin Franklin was born on January 17, 1706, in colonial Boston. His father, Josiah Franklin (1657-1745), a native of England, was a candle and soap maker who married twice and had 17 children. Franklin's mother was Abiah Folger (1667-1752) of Nantucket, Massachusetts, Josiah's second wife. Franklin was the eighth of Abiah and Josiah's 10 children.

Franklin's formal education was limited and ended when he was 10; however, he was an avid reader and taught himself to become a skilled writer. In 1718, at age 12, he was apprenticed to his older brother James, a Boston printer. By age 16, Franklin was contributing essays (under the pseudonym Silence Dogood) to a newspaper published by his brother. At age 17, Franklin ran away from his apprenticeship to Philadelphia, where he found work as a printer. In late 1724, he traveled to London, England, and again found employment in the printing business.



Franklin returned to Philadelphia in 1726, and two years later opened a printing shop. The business became highly successful producing a range of materials, including government pamphlets, books and currency. In 1729, Franklin became the owner and publisher of a colonial newspaper, the Pennsylvania Gazette, which proved popular—and to which he contributed much of the content, often using pseudonyms. Franklin achieved fame and further financial success with "Poor Richard's Almanack," which he published every year from 1733 to 1758. The almanac became known for its witty sayings, which often had to do with the importance of diligence and frugality, such as "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."



In 1730, Franklin began living with Deborah Read (c. 1705-74), the daughter of his former Philadelphia landlady, as his common-law wife. Read's first husband had abandoned her; however, due to bigamy laws, she and Franklin could not have an official wedding ceremony. Franklin and Read had a son, Francis Folger Franklin (1732-36), who died of smallpox at age 4, and a daughter, Sarah Franklin Bache (1743-1808). Franklin had another son, William Franklin (c. 1730-1813), who was born out of wedlock. William Franklin served as the last colonial governor of New Jersey, from 1763 to 1776, and remained loyal to the British during the American Revolution. He died in exile in England.

As Franklin's printing business prospered, he became increasingly involved in civic affairs. Starting in the 1730s, he helped establish a number of community organizations in Philadelphia, including a lending library (it was founded in 1731, a time when books weren't widely available in the colonies, and remained the largest U.S. public library

until the 1850s), the city's first fire company, a police patrol and the American Philosophical Society, a group devoted to the sciences and other scholarly pursuits.



Deborah Read

Franklin also organized the Pennsylvania militia, raised funds to build a city hospital and spearheaded a program to pave and light city streets. Additionally, Franklin was instrumental in the creation of the Academy of Philadelphia, a college which opened in 1751 and became known as the University of Pennsylvania in 1791.

Franklin also was a key figure in the colonial postal system. In 1737, the British appointed him postmaster of Philadelphia, and he went on to become, in 1753, joint postmaster general for all the American colonies. In this role he instituted various measures to improve mail service; however, the British dismissed him from the job in 1774 because he was deemed too sympathetic to colonial interests. In July 1775, the Continental Congress appointed Franklin the first postmaster general of the United States, giving him authority over all post offices from Massachusetts to Georgia. He held this position

until November 1776, when he was succeeded by his son-in-law. (The first U.S. postage stamps, issued on July 1, 1847, featured images of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.)

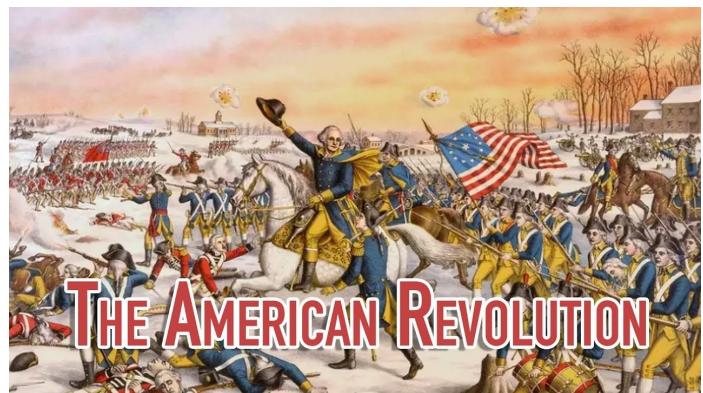


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In 1754, at a meeting of colonial representatives in Albany, New York, Franklin proposed a plan for uniting the colonies under a national congress. Although his Albany Plan was rejected, it helped lay the groundwork for the Articles of Confederation, which became the first constitution of the United States when ratified in 1781.

In 1757, Franklin traveled to London as a representative of the Pennsylvania Assembly, to which he was elected in 1751. Over several years, he worked to settle a tax dispute and other issues involving descendants of William Penn (1644-1718), the owners of the colony of Pennsylvania. After a brief period back in the U.S., Franklin lived primarily in London until 1775. While he was abroad, the British government began, in the mid-1760s, to impose a series of regulatory measures to assert greater control over its American colonies. In 1766, Franklin testified in the British Parliament against the Stamp Act of 1765, which required that all legal documents, newspapers, books, playing

cards and other printed materials in the American colonies carry a tax stamp. Although the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766, additional regulatory measures followed, leading to ever-increasing anti-British sentiment and eventual armed uprising in the American colonies.

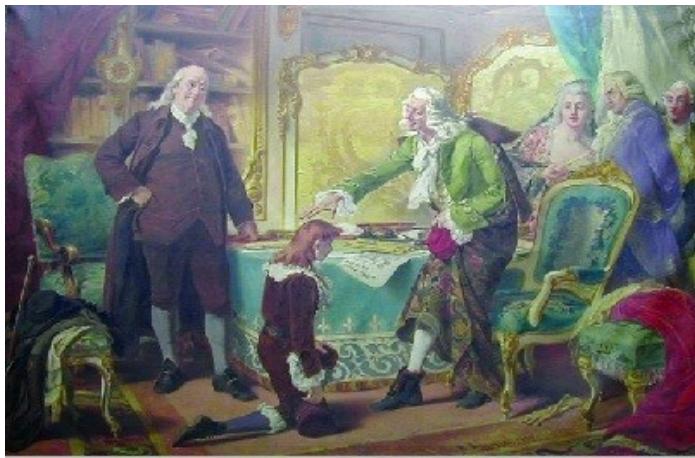


Franklin returned to Philadelphia in May 1775, shortly after the Revolutionary War (1775-83) had begun, and was selected to serve as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress, America's governing body at the time. In 1776, he was part of the five-member committee that helped draft the Declaration of Independence, in which the 13 American colonies declared their freedom from British rule. That same year, Congress sent Franklin to France to enlist that nation's help with the Revolutionary War.

Within a year of Franklin's arrival, over five million livres of aid were sent to support the American army. France formally entered the war, recognized the United States in 1778, and signed the Treaty of Alliance. In response to France's entering the war, Spain and the Dutch Republic also sided with the Continental Army, sending assistance, and leaving the British with no European allies.

A key element to Franklin's success in petitioning France for help was in joining La Loge des Neuf Soeurs (The Lodge of the Nine Sisters), a prominent Masonic Lodge of the Grand Orient de France. Established in 1776, its name referred to the nine Muses, the daughters of Mnemosyne/Memory. The Muses held positions of significance in French culture, for they represented the arts and sciences in Greek mythology.





"Voltaire blessing Franklin's grandson, in the name of God and Liberty", by Pedro Américo

Franklin became a member of the lodge in 1778, relishing the opportunity to study Freemasonry alongside many of Europe's great minds. He joined The Lodge of Nine Sisters in 1778, he entered a community that included some of the world's greatest minds. This position opened the door for him to promote the ideals behind the American Revolution. This factor not only increased French support for the war but had implications for the French Revolution several years later. Historians note that in addition to using his position to encourage support for America, Franklin also contributed to the lodge by helping Voltaire, the great writer and philosopher, be inducted into the brotherhood. With over 40 years of Masonic duty to his name at that time, it is no surprise that Franklin became Venerable Master of The Lodge of Nine Sisters, serving from 1779 to 1781.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AT THE COURT OF LOUIS XVI

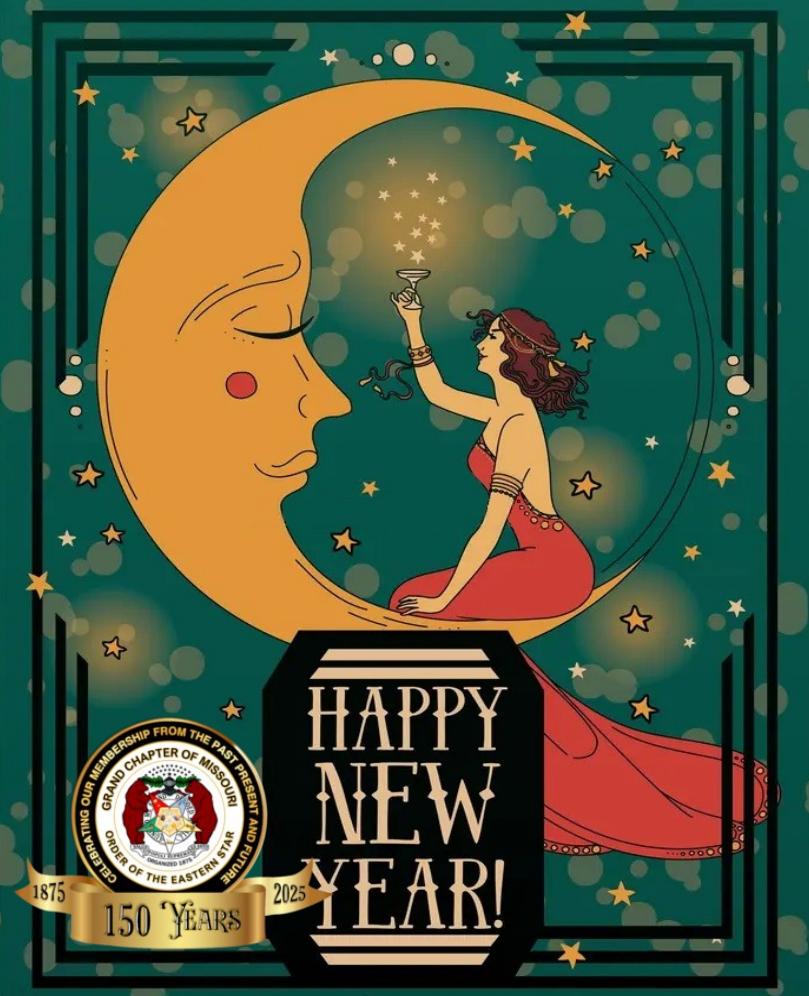
In 1785, Franklin left France and returned once again to Philadelphia. In 1787, he was a Pennsylvania delegate to the Constitutional Convention. (The 81-year-old Franklin was the convention's oldest delegate.) At the end of the convention, in September 1787, he urged his fellow delegates to support the heavily debated new document. The U.S. Constitution was ratified by the required nine states in June 1788, and George Washington (1732-99) was inaugurated as America's first president in April 1789.

Franklin died a year later, at age 84, on April 17, 1790, in Philadelphia. Following a funeral that was attended by an estimated 20,000 people, he was buried in Philadelphia's Christ Church cemetery. In his will, he left money to Boston and Philadelphia, which was later used to establish a trade school and a science museum and fund scholarships and other community projects.



Years after his death, Franklin remains one of the most celebrated figures in U.S. history. His image appears on the \$100 bill, and towns, schools and businesses across America are named for him.





How the Masonic Calendars Work

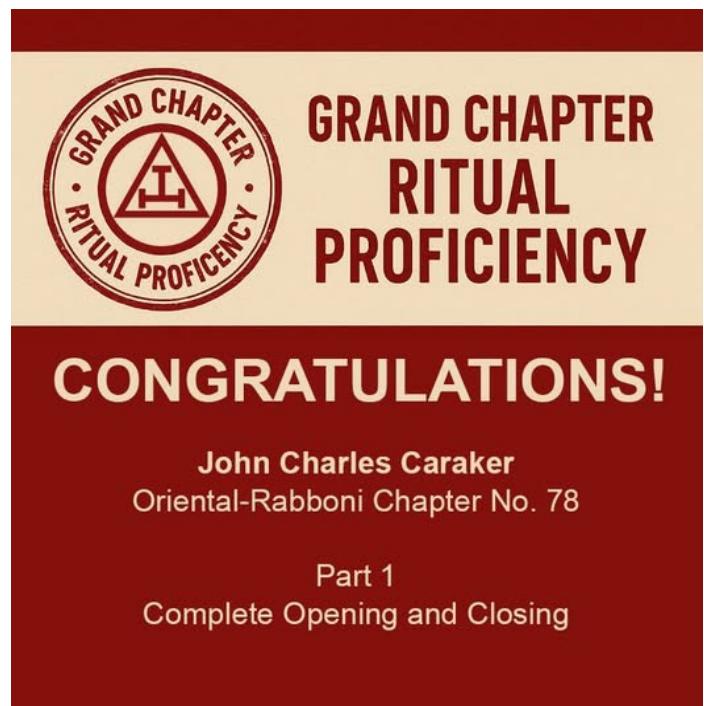
Freemasonry uses several symbolic calendars (like Anno Lucis, Anno Mundi) for its official documents, each tied to a significant historical or creation event for a specific branch, rather than a single system; most convert the common year by adding or subtracting a base number (e.g., add 4000 for Anno Lucis, meaning "Year of Light," symbolizing the world's creation) to signify new beginnings and the journey from darkness to light. For instance, Craft Masonry uses A.L. (add 4000 years), Scottish Rite uses A.M. (add 3760 years, Anno Mundi), Royal Arch uses Anno Inventionis (add 530 years), and Knights Templar uses Anno Ordinis (start from 1118 A.D.).

Key Masonic Calendar Systems

- **Anno Lucis (A.L.)** - "In the Year of Light": Used by Craft Masons, adding 4000 to the common year (e.g., 2024 C.E. becomes 6024 A.L.) to mark the creation of the world and spiritual light.
- **Anno Mundi (A.M.)** - "In the Year of the World": Used by the Scottish Rite, based on the Hebrew calendar (add 3760).
- **Anno Inventionis (A.Inv.)** - "In the Year of Discovery": Used by Royal Arch Masons, starting from 530 B.C. (rebuilding of the Second Temple).
- **Anno Depositionis (A.Dep.)** - "In the Year of Deposit": Used by Royal & Select Masters (Cryptic Masons), referencing the completion of Solomon's Temple (add 1000 years).
- **Anno Ordinis (A.O.)** - "In the Year of the Order": Used by Knights Templar, starting from the organization of the Order in 1118 A.D..

How They Work

- **Symbolic, Not Literal:** These dates are symbolic, connecting the physical creation to the spiritual/intellectual light a Mason seeks, not claiming actual Masonic lodges existed in ancient times.
- **"Anno" Prefix:** All begin with "Anno," Latin for "In the Year of," followed by the specific event or era.
- **Context Matters:** Different Masonic bodies use different calendars on their official documents, so the date's meaning depends on the specific rite.

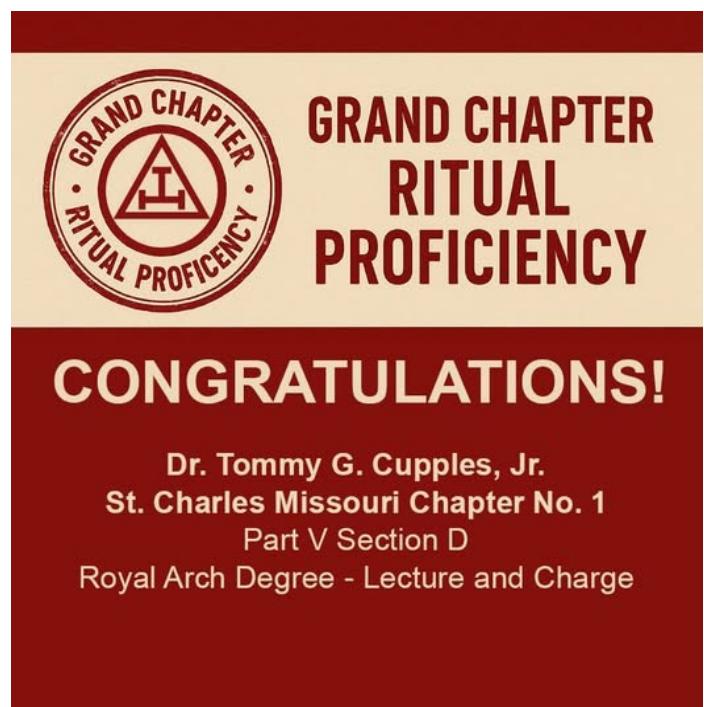


GRAND CHAPTER
RITUAL
PROFICIENCY

CONGRATULATIONS!

John Charles Caraker
Oriental-Rabboni Chapter No. 78

Part 1
Complete Opening and Closing



GRAND CHAPTER
RITUAL
PROFICIENCY

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Tommy G. Cupples, Jr.
St. Charles Missouri Chapter No. 1

Part V Section D
Royal Arch Degree - Lecture and Charge



ILLINOIS MASONIC REGALIA

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Capitular Education 2025-2026

Greg Walker, Chairman

Committee:

REC Donald MacCormick, VEC Lloyd Lyon, VEC Nick Young,
VEC Doug Rose, VEC James Bell

Companions all,

We hope that your holiday season has been filled with family and relaxation. As we enter the new year we are reminded of what we have finished in the previous year. Much like the craftsmen who completed the work of the Temple, the day after the work was completed surely held some sense of satisfaction and accomplishment as they looked back on their previous endeavors. The hope that this grand edifice would meet the needs of the people for years to come is not unlike the hope we all have for the new year and the possibilities that lay before us.

In that hope lies also what should be the goal of every Freemason: To be a man who is clean inside and outside, who neither looks up to the rich nor down on the poor; who can give without complaining and who can prosper without bragging, and who is considerate of women, children and old people. A man who is too brave to lie, too noble to cheat, too sensible to loaf, and who takes his share of the world's good and lets other people take theirs.

Grand Chapter Capitular Education Series - January 2026

Most Excellent Master

The Most Excellent Master degree concludes with this reading and assessments. Those who are interested in the esoteric are going to enjoy these readings. As you read the section titled, "The Address", consider a whole-group discussion on the topic of, "that far distant country" and how it relates to the payment of Master's wages. This would also be a great topic of discussion for a symbolic Lodge visit as Education and a way to get those who are not yet Capitular Masons to consider the deeper meanings of this phrase we so often hear in opening and closing of Lodge.

- The Reception
- The Dedication of the Temple
- The Address
- The Temple as Creation / The Temple as Man
- Esoteric Implications
- Multiple Choice Test
- Open-ended question:
 - What is your opinion of removing your aprons as part of this Degree?
 - Do you think the Most Excellent Master Degree was written merely to fill a gap in the narrative about the Temple, or do you think it was written with a higher purpose in mind?

Our education series will follow this schedule:

January 2026: Most Excellent Master Degree, completion including quiz and open-ended question

February 2026: Royal Arch Degree

March 2026: Royal Arch Degree, continues

April 2026: Royal Arch Degree, continues

May 2026: Royal Arch Degree, completion including quiz and open-ended question

June 2026: Wrap up of education for the year and a short exposé on a passage of scripture from the Royal Arch Degree ritual from the role of Jeshua, the High Priest. This schedule may not fit all Chapters perfectly, but it is suggested that your members come prepared with a copy of The Beacon in hand, print or digital, to your meetings so that they may take part in the group readings and discussion that follows.

Capitular Development Course

The Reception

In this Degree, there is no conferral of special secrets, nor any teachings to be imparted. It is assumed the Most Excellent Master already knows all he needs to, and this is more of the ‘Graduation Ceremony’. Therefore, King Solomon and Hiram, King of Tyre do not confer a Degree, but rather greet the newly-Obligated Brethren, receiving and acknowledging them Most Excellent Masters.

But this is once more accomplished through touch. In every Degree, more or less subtle depending upon the source of the Ritual, there is a transmission, accomplished through a meeting of bodies, a handshake. Think how all rituals of transmission, adulthood, religious passage are always accompanied by the passing of a ‘certain something’ from the person who has it to the person who does not, by means of touch. We offer our hand “in token of friendship and Brotherly love”. We shake hands, we embrace, we kiss, we impose hands upon the head, and we anoint: all involve touching. This time the handshake is given and received as equals, not with one person kneeling. The acknowledgement is therefore of a peer.



The Dedication of the Temple

The Dedication is almost completely made up of readings from II Chronicles Chapters 5 and 6. Those parts narrating history are usually given to the Chaplain, but the portentous prayer of King

Solomon at the Dedication is put in his mouth and is followed by what used to be one of the most dramatic moments of all Freemasonry (prior to fire hazard laws, that is!)

Following the deposit of the Ark of the Covenant in its proper place, and the invocation by King Solomon, the sign of divine approbation – possibly even a sign of the Lord coming down to occupy the Mercy Seat – used to be a most dramatic pyrotechnic display to visibly indicate the Shekinah coming down from heaven and igniting the incense. II Chronicles is a little more prosaic, telling us that “the house was filled with a cloud.”



This ‘fire from heaven’ is a common manifestation of communication between God and man. To give some examples, think of the fire which lit the altar built by Abraham on which to sacrifice his son; the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the pillar of fire of the Exodus; the burning bush. Following this manifestation, we have the fire Elijah summoned down on the guard and his fifty men, and of course the fire which descended to light the bituminous substance drawn up by the priests and laid upon the altar at the time of the Rededication on the Second Temple of Zerubbabel. Further, we have the tongues of fire which settled upon the Disciples. Each of these indicate a moment of communication between God and His creation. It also suggests that the Ark of the Covenant was someone inactive until that moment, in that the true sign of occupancy or

divine approbation did not take place until the divine fire descended, and only then was the Holy or Holies truly filled with the glory of God. If the analogy between Man and the Temple as a type of Man is to be maintained, then it is not until the divine breath or Word enters the body that it is vivified with the spirit.



Psalm 122 is then spoken antiphonally (i.e. alternating verses) between King Solomon and Hiram King of Tyre. This unusual treatment of the Psalm is more at home in religious services, where choirs often sing antiphonally (the two choirs being called Cantoris, or the side where the Cantor is seated, usually in the North, and Decani); or the congregation reads verses antiphonally with the priest. This could reflect the idea of speaking in tongues. When God communicated with Moses out of the burning bush, Moses complained he did not have the gift of rhetoric, and God appointed Aaron, his Brother, to speak for him. Similarly, in the New Testament, when the fire descended the Disciples began to speak in tongues. Here, the words of peace are alternated between two Kings who, for one short moment, become one.

The Address

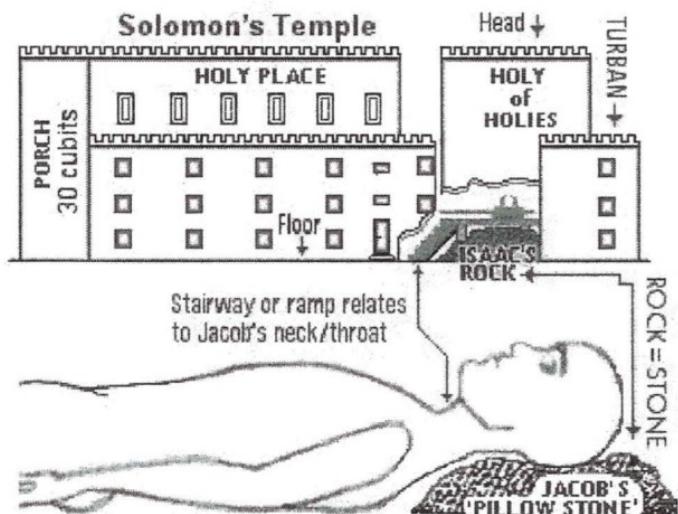
The Address to the Candidate is most comprehensive and gives a detailed account of the ritual which preceded it. Perhaps the most interesting part is the last sentence, which is truly a harbinger of what will follow: "...that when we leave this, for that far distant country from whence we shall never return, we may there receive the wages of faithful craftsmen."

We will not seek material wages in that distant land; for surely the only 'wage' we seek is the True Word? And yet we have to leave this land for that in order to receive it. At the Opening of Lodge, the Senior Warden says he became a Master Mason "to

obtain the Master's Word, travel in foreign lands, work and receive a Master's wages?" But does he mean the True Word of Master Masons, and not the Substitute Word? Could this mean he has to travel to a far distant country in order to obtain that Word? And we know that far distant country from whence we shall never return is across the veil of death. Must we die, then, before we can learn the Truth?

The Temple as Creation / The Temple as Man

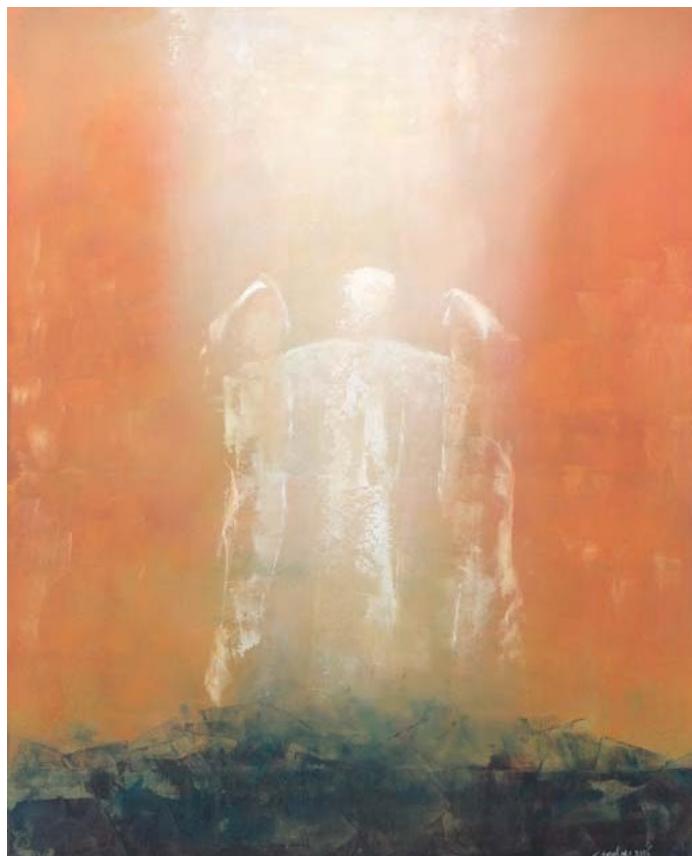
The building of the Temple holds much deeper symbolism than providing useful told for us to consider when trying to improve ourselves.



Many religious commentators, both Jewish and Christian, have been struck by the parallel between the story of Creation in Genesis and the building of the Temple in 2 Chronicles. Once more the number '7' is highlighted. In his paper Creation as Temple-Building and Work as Liturgy in Genesis 1-3 by Jeff Morrow of Seton Hall University, he notes that Genesis 1:1 contains '7' words in Hebrew. Genesis 1:2 has fourteen – '7 x 2'. Other important words in the text may be counted in multiples of '7', including God (35 or 7 x 5 times), earth (21 times), heavens (21 times), and "God saw that it was good" (7 times). There are parallels to the construction of the Tabernacle, since this process also lasted '7' days. There are also key correspondences between the two processes. As well as many of the Hebrew phrases being almost identical in both stories, some of the individual days also show similarities. For example, God created the sea on the third day; and in the construction of the Tabernacle, the bronze laver or molten 'sea' was built on the third day. Similarly, Moses stressed the importance of the Sabbath for Israel on the seventh day, just as Genesis tells us how God rested on the seventh day.

One may also be struck that Solomon's Temple took seven years to build (the number "7" is important

here as a symbol: in religious books days, months, years and centuries are often less important than the number attributed). The seventh year is called a 'Sabbath'. The dedication took place during the seven-day Festival of Tabernacles, which fell in the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. King Solomon's speech included seven petitions; and Solomon was instruction to build the Temple rather than David because Solomon was a man of peace, as his name shlomoh implies. These numbers were not selected at random, the repeatedly emphasize that fact that the Temple construction as viewed as a new creation, and therefore the completed Temple a 'microcosm' of the world, which in symbolic form, tried to recreate the Garden of Eden prior to the Fall, when all was perfect and God dwelt in the midst of the Garden, in Eden; just as He now swelt in the Sanctum Sanctorum, hidden behind a veil decorated with pomegranates and cherubim.



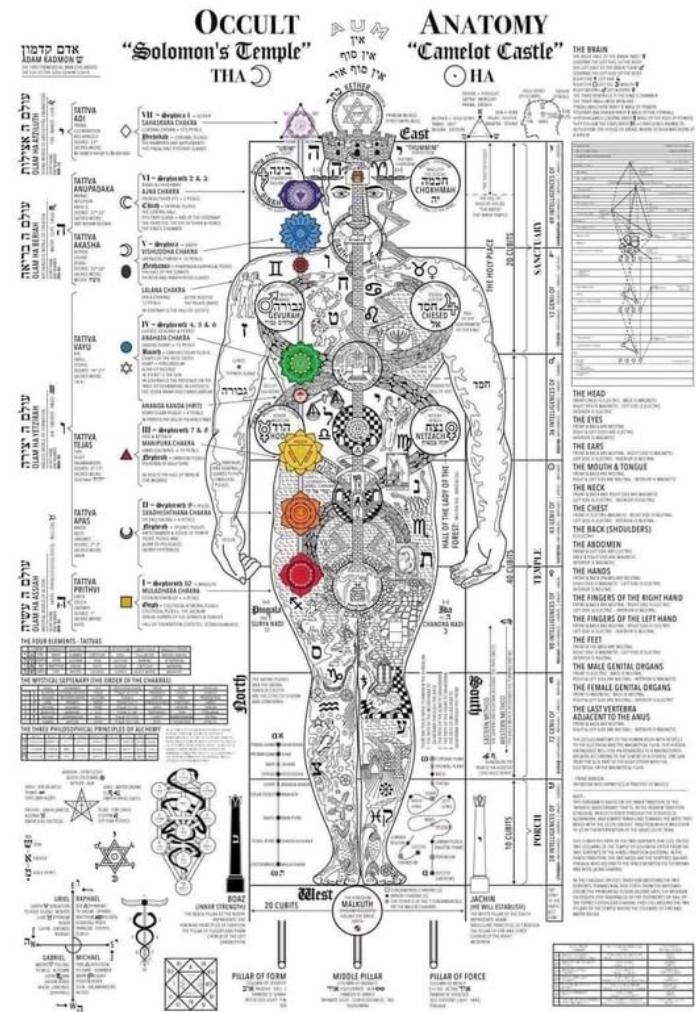
How more tragic, then, that the next prevarication of man resulted in the same fate: the departure of God, the razing of the Temple and man expelled into exile once more.

However, the word 'microcosm' brings us to a second symbol of the Temple: that of perfect – or regenerated – man. The Kabbalah teaches us that God wished to see Himself face to face, to gaze upon His reflection. And so, He created Adam Kadmon in His image and likeness and placed him in Eden. But

man heeded the vices of the tempters, and believing himself as powerful as God attempted his own act of creation but only resulted in enamoring himself in the very mud from which he was trying to create another being and became covered with a layer or slime – or flesh. So perfect man is hidden beneath a coating of sin and must learn to perfect himself in order to cast off this earthly coating, and reveal his true form, his Glorious Body, to rejoin with the Godhead. To do this he must recognize the Truth about himself.

In this Degree, this image is most powerfully put across by the fact that there are in fact two completions. During the procession, the Keystone is carried in and placed. This completes the physical structure of the Temple. The outer vehicle is finished. To emphasize this point, after the second procession the aprons are removed. In terms of the Creation, the body is now formed. Man exists, but he is still nothing more than an empty shell.

Now the second completion takes place. The Ark of the Covenant is brought in and 'safely seated'. God once again shows His approbation in air. At the Creation God breathed life into the inert dross by



exhaling the breath of life into Adam. This time God's spirit, or Shekinah, descends from the heavens and fills the Temple, inflating it into life. Now I stress that this is a personal exegesis or interpretation drawn from the actual text:

- “Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.” (2 Chronicles 7, verses 1 and 2).

My reading of this passage is that the fire came down to consume the sacrifices, but the Glory of the Lord is mentioned separately – and several times in the text which follows – suggesting it is something different, not fire. After all, if fire had filled the temple, it would have melted all the gold and fused the precious stones and immolated the priests and Levites! However, if we accepted that His Glory was found in the element of air, then this makes more sense. God's presence is frequently represented by fire if He is wrathful, but by air or wind if His approbation has been given to a project.

For me it is a powerful image to see God entertaining the masses in the outer Courtyard with impressive displays of pyrotechnic; while inside the Temple He manifests Himself in a might wind against which the priest and Levites have to brace themselves, and the curtains before the Ark are blown open and the incense swirls about the Sanctum Sanctorum, before the Shekinah finally comes to settle between the outstretched wings of the cherubim. And thus, God breathes life into the Temple.

But I stress again this is only on interpretation of the Biblical passage, and readers are encouraged to draw their own conclusions.

Finally, after the plethora of ‘sevens’ mentioned in the text, it almost comes as a relief to read 2 Chronicles 7 Verse 9:

“And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.”

After the cycle of creation and the day of rest which had been spent in joyous celebration, we reach the number ‘eight’, the number of renewal and new beginnings. We see the tone of this eighth day is solemn following the joy of the previous week. For life goes on, and Day 1 of life with God-With-Us now begins. For us it is Day 1 of our spiritual rebirth, and the first day in a new journey along the

Masonic path.

The First Temple was also seen as a symbol for Man, with the Holy of Holies his Head, or Spirit; the Holy Place his Heart, Soul or Chest; and the Outer Courts his Body, Abdomen or Genitalia (one might make a case for the Two Pillars being his legs). While not wishing to do more than mention this concept now, it is nevertheless important to realize that the Temple was seen, even when the narrative was originally being written, as far more than a simple tale about the erection of a lovely building. Even then it was seen as representing a microcosm of creation, and a microcosm of all that man should aspire to in order to perfect himself, in preparation for reunion with God.



In support of this, although tradition informs us that the five books of Moses, the Torah, were written by Moses himself, modern theologians date the writing of the Torah which exists today – which no doubt existed in oral, and perhaps written form for many centuries before this – as being during the period of exile in Babylon, when the priests, having no idea how long their exile would last, wished to ensure that their traditions, beliefs and regulations would not be lost to the new generations being born in Babylon with no link or knowledge of the land of their ancestors.

Esoteric Implications

There are many lessons to draw from this impressive and educational Degree. Many have been alluded to already. For the present, we will limit ourselves to one: the penalties of the Degrees.

Many comments have been made about the penalties, whether they were ever carried out (as the anti-Masons like to think); whether they should explicitly be said to be only symbolic; whether they should be omitted altogether as they have been, for example, in Ireland. However, this misses the point that the penalties are – just as the rest of the Rituals

- allegories which use powerful and visceral symbols to transmit important teachings.



Count Alessandro di Cagliostro

The road to the Royal in the York Rite system really comprise four preceding Degrees, the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason and Most Excellent Master. The Mark Master and Past Master are really side Degrees, appended to the Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degree respectively. There are four real steps to the Degree of the Royal Arch. We may speculate this was a process being introduced into the English System, too, particularly within the Antient rituals; but that the process broke down when politics intervened to crush their natural and organic development through the Act of Union in 1813.

The penalty of the Most Excellent Master, when taken along with those of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, cover the four ancient elements. Trial by the element is a concept which goes back to the Ancient Mystery Schools, and is still practiced in some Masonic Rituals, including those of Memphis-Mizraim, the Scottish Rite and Willermoz' Scottish Rectified Rite. It can also be witnessed in the biennial conferral of the Entered Apprentice Degree by Garibaldi Lodge No. 542 under the authority of the Grand Lodge of the New York F. & A. M.

- In the Entered Apprentice Degree the tongue is removed and buried in Water.
- In the Fellowcraft Degree the heart and lungs are removed and left as prey to the vultures of the Air.

- In the Master Mason Degree the bowels are removed and burned to ashes (with Fire).
- In the Most Excellent Master Degree all the internal organs are removed (the ‘vitals’) and thrown on a dunghill (Earth).

This is a powerful Rosicrucian concept and reflects true spiritual alchemy. Writers from early alchemists to Carl Jung Have written about the need to deconstruct the body in order to understand and balance its elements, in order to create a perfect abode for the spirit to enter. It appears that Freemasonry may have picked something up from the Rosicrucians, after all.

MEM – Quiz #3

1. Did Thomas Smith Webb compose the Most Excellent Master Degree?

- α) Yes
- β) No
- γ) Parts of it
- δ) Perhaps

2. Where did Thomas Smith Webb most likely get his inspiration for his work on the Most Excellent Master Degree?

- α. St. Andrew's Royal Arch Lodge in Massachusetts.
- β. Temple Lodge in New York.
- γ. Bon Accord Lodge in Scotland
- δ. None of the above

3. Which General and High Priest had a major reputation for supporting Capitular Ritual?

- α. Albert Gallatin Mackey
- β. Dr. William Frederick Kuhn
- γ. Charles Gilman
- δ. All the above

4. What period in Jewish history does the Most Excellent Master Degree cover?

- α. The laying of the cornerstone
- β. The visit of the Queen of Sheba
- γ. The completion and dedication of the Temple
- δ. The destruction of the Temple

5. Which Bible mentioned the word ‘Giblim’ in a footnote?

- α. King James Bible
- β. Geneva Bible
- γ. American Standard Version Bible
- δ. World English Bible

6. Who did Thomas Smith Webb now and work with?

- α. DeWitt Clinton and Ezra Ames
- β. Ezra Ames only
- γ. DeWitt Clinton, Ezra Ames & Giles Fonda Yates
- δ. Giles Fonda Yates only

7. With what is the Candidate tried upon entering the Lodge?

- a. Compasses
- b. Gavel or Mallet
- c. Chisel
- d. Keystone

8. How many circumambulations are there in the first part of the Degree?

- a. Three
- b. Four
- c. Six
- d. Seven

9. What is the grip of the Most Excellent Master sometimes called?

- a. Excellent Master Grip
- b. Cover Grip
- c. Keystone Grip
- d. Masking Grip

10. Which stone is actually placed in the Ritual of the Most Excellent Master?

- a. Cape-stone
- b. Cornerstone
- c. Copestone
- d. Keystone

11. What does the fire descending from heaven represent?

- a. The wrath of God
- b. The Shekinah
- c. Lightning
- d. A Hollywood FX

12. Who recites Psalm 122?

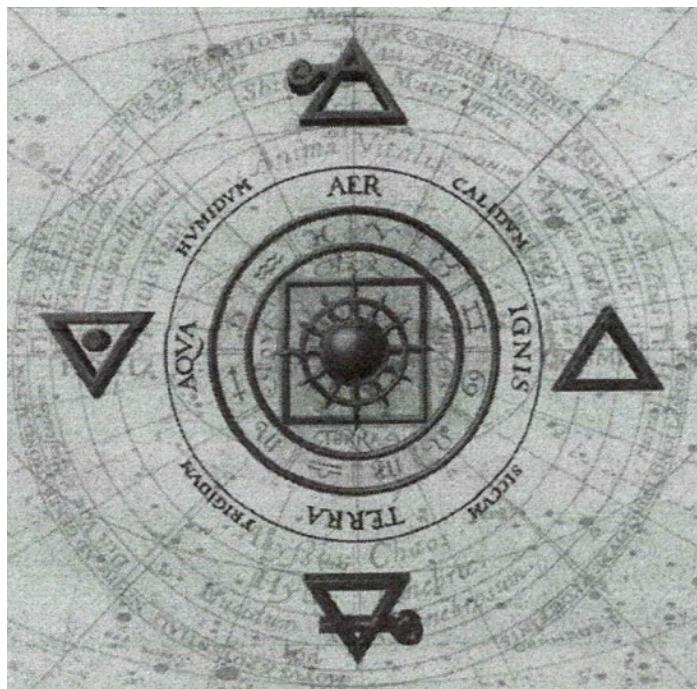
- a. King Solomon
- b. The Chaplain
- c. The Most Excellent Masters
- d. King Solomon and Hiram King of Tyre

13. What does 'that far distant country' refer to?

- a. A foreign country
- b. Sleep
- c. Scotland
- d. Death

14. Which of the four classical elements does the penalty of Most Excellent Master recall?

- a. Earth.
- b. Air
- c. Fire
- d. Water

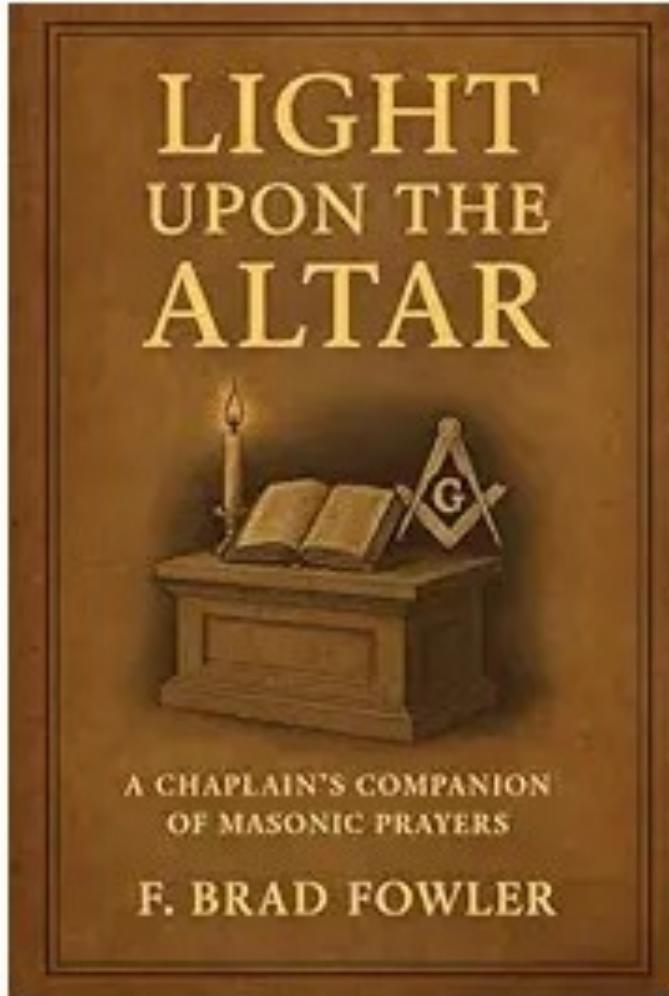


MWB Emmett J. Bryson Grand Master &
MEC Kevin M. Ritter Grand High Priest
invite you to experience the first two Degree of the Royal Arch!



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!





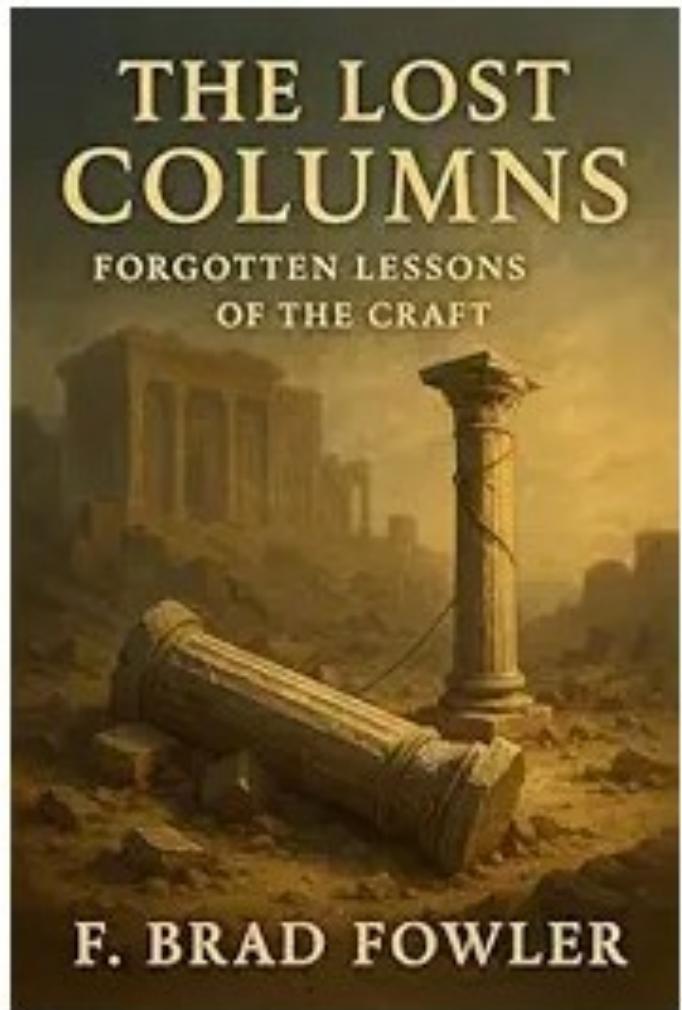
This book is a thoughtful and practical resource for Masons who serve in the sacred role of Chaplain, as well as for any Brother seeking inspiration for prayer and reflection.

Drawing from years of Masonic experience, Fowler provides a collection of prayers carefully arranged by theme, fellowship, thanksgiving, service, comfort, leadership, and more. Each prayer is crafted to guide the heart, inspire unity, and reflect the values of the Craft, whether used in open Lodge, at the festive board, or in private devotion.

Accessible, reverent, and deeply rooted in Masonic tradition, *Light Upon the Altar* offers encouragement to those newly seated in the Chaplain's chair while also serving as a timeless reference for experienced officers. More than a handbook, it is a companion, meant to bring peace,

strengthen brotherhood, and lift the spirit toward the divine Light we all seek.

Whether you are a Worshipful Master, Lodge Chaplain, or Brother in search of meaningful words, this book is designed to help you give voice to the spirit of Masonry.



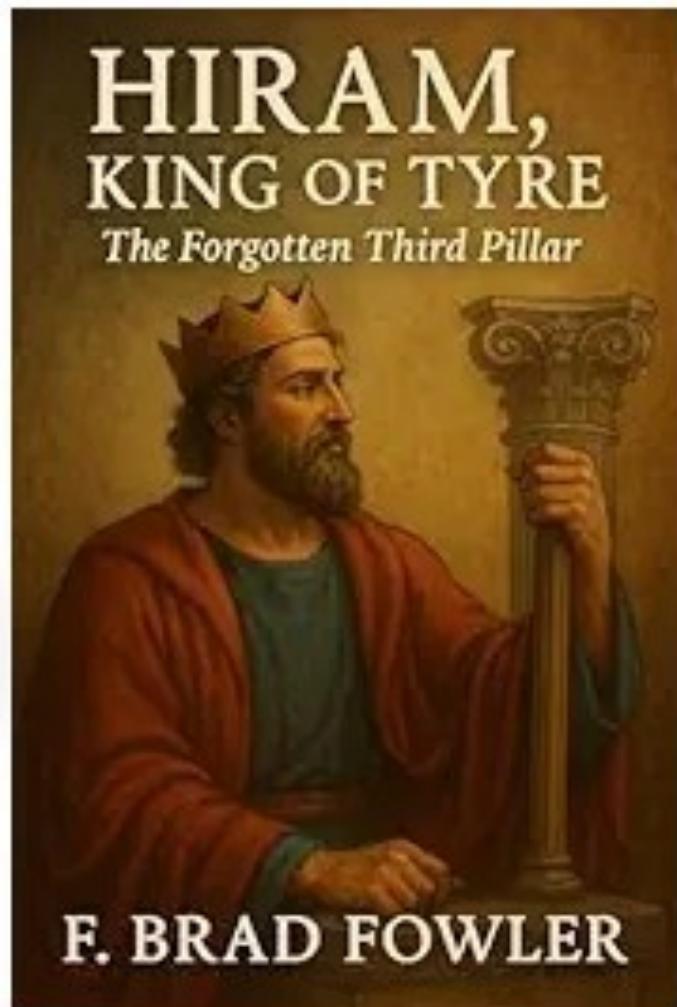
For centuries, Freemasonry has preserved its wisdom through ritual, allegory, and symbol. Yet over time, many of its deepest lessons, once central to the Craft, have been forgotten, shortened, or lost in translation.

The Lost Columns: Forgotten Lessons of the Craft uncovers these neglected treasures and restores them to their rightful place. From the ornamented pillars of Solomon's Temple to the wages of the

ancient workmen, from Enoch's hidden vault to the allegories of the quarries, this book takes the reader on a journey through Scripture, apocrypha, and Masonic tradition. Each chapter combines historical sources, biblical references, and early Masonic catechisms to reveal truths that once formed the very foundation of the Craft.

This is more than history; it is a call to restoration. Through careful study and reflection, the reader is invited to raise again the fallen columns of Masonry, embodying its virtues and renewing its teachings for future generations.

Whether you are a newly initiated Mason or a seasoned Master, this work will open new dimensions of meaning in the ritual, rekindle forgotten allegories, and inspire deeper labor in the quarry of self.



For centuries, Masons have remembered Solomon as the Pillar of Wisdom and Hiram Abiff as the Pillar of Beauty. But what of the third pillar, Strength?

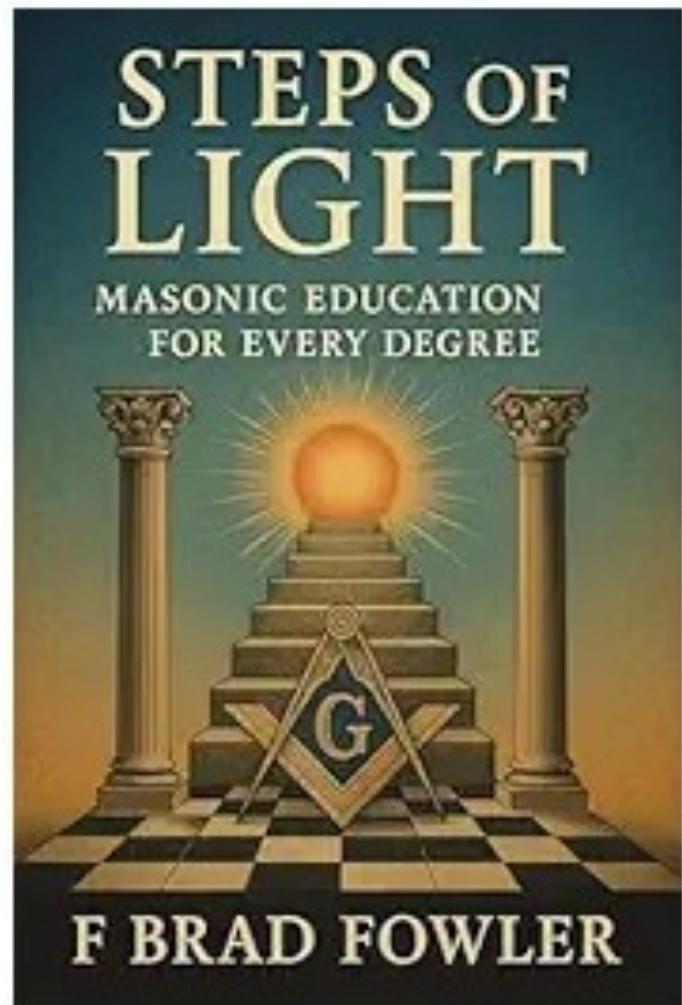
In this groundbreaking work, F. Brad Fowler restores Hiram, King of Tyre, to his rightful place in the story of Solomon's Temple and the symbolism

of Freemasonry. Drawing from Scripture, Josephus, and classical sources, Fowler traces Hiram's role as the steady monarch whose covenant with Solomon supplied cedar, craftsmen, and stability. Without him, the Temple could never have risen.

More than history, this book is a call to remember the forgotten brethren in our lodges today, the faithful dues-payers, the quiet supporters, the steady men who may never sit in the East but whose strength holds up the lodge just as surely as Tyre's cedar held up the Temple.

Blending historical research, Biblical commentary, and Masonic symbolism with personal reflections, Fowler invites readers to see the lodge as it truly is: supported by three pillars, not two.

Whether you are a Freemason, a student of Biblical history, or simply curious about the hidden figures behind great works, Hiram, King of Tyre: The Forgotten Third Pillar of Strength will give you new insights into the balance of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, and into the enduring power of the forgotten pillar.



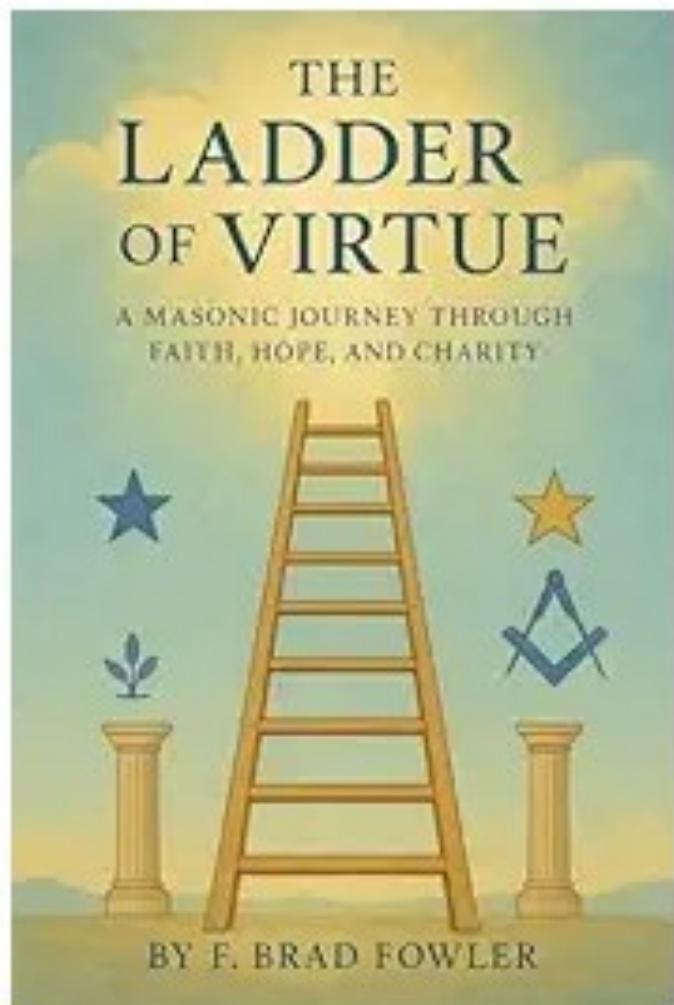
Steps of Light: Masonic Education for Every

Degree is a practical and inspiring resource for Masonic lodge educators, officers, and Brothers who want to bring meaningful education to meetings.

This book offers a collection of ready-to-deliver talks, each designed to last 5–10 minutes, that can be adapted to any lodge setting. Organized by Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason, and General Education topics, these talks provide moral lessons, historical context, and practical applications for Masons at every stage of their journey.

Entered Apprentice talks on character, time, silence, and the foundation of Masonry. Fellowcraft talks on growth, knowledge, and balance through the Middle Chamber and Winding Stairs. Master Mason talks on fidelity, mortality, legacy, and hope beyond the grave.

More than just a collection of lectures, this book is designed as a flexible companion for lodge educators. It ensures that no matter who is present — Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master Mason — there is always light to be shared.

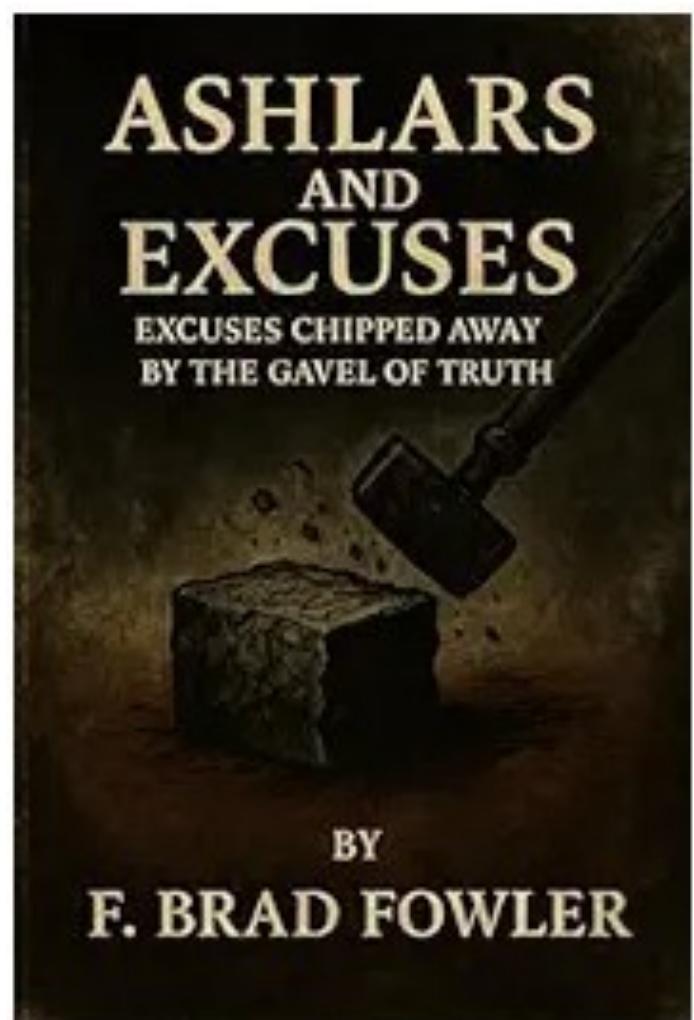


The Ladder of Virtue is a thoughtful exploration of one of Masonry's most profound symbols: the ascent of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Drawing from

the Torah, the Bible, and the Qur'an, F. Brad Fowler reveals how these enduring virtues form the foundation of Masonic life and moral growth.

From the first step of Faith to the crowning perfection of Charity, this book guides readers through scripture, symbolism, and the practical application of virtue in daily life. Along the way, Fowler illuminates the working tools of Masonry, the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the eternal vision of the Celestial Lodge.

Whether you are newly initiated, a seasoned Brother, or simply curious about the spiritual depth of Masonry, this book offers a clear and inspiring path upward, rung by rung, toward Light, Truth, and the Great Architect of the Universe.



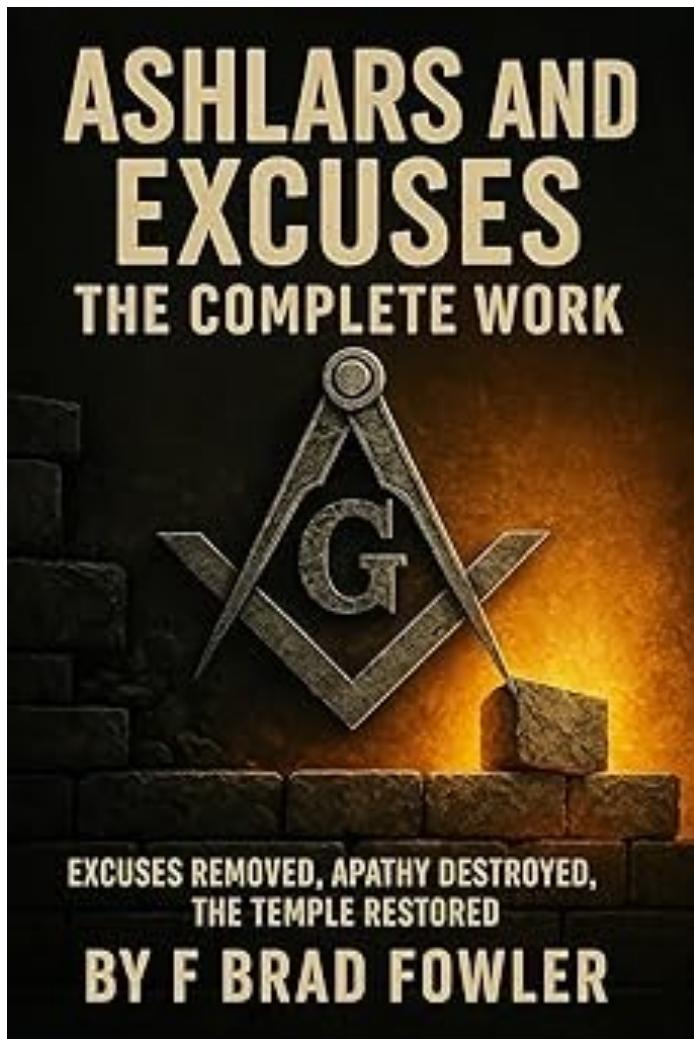
In this powerful collection of hard-hitting Masonic talks, F. Brad Fowler challenges the Brethren to look honestly at the excuses, apathy, and complacency that threaten the vitality of our Craft.

Each chapter takes a familiar Masonic symbol, the Ashlars, the Apron, the Gauge, the Gavel, the Cable-Tow, the Working Tools, and more, and asks the uncomfortable questions:

- Are these symbols shaping our lives, or are they only props in our ritual?
- Are we building the Temple of Brotherhood, or just watching the sands of time run out?
- Are we workers in the hive, or drones draining its strength?

Drawing on history, statistics, leadership studies, and timeless allegories, Fowler delivers talks that can be read in Lodge (15–20 minutes each) or studied privately for deeper reflection. The tone is direct, urgent, and uncompromising, but always aimed at renewal, not despair.

This is a book for Masons who are ready to be challenged. A book that will make you uncomfortable, and, if you let it, will make you better.



Ashlars and Excuses: The Complete Work brings together all three volumes of Fowler's hard-hitting Masonic writings, a series that has challenged Lodges, inspired Brethren, and reignited the call to labor.

Across thirty-six talks, written to be read aloud in Lodge or studied in private reflection, Fowler

confronts the excuses, apathy, and careless habits that have weakened modern Freemasonry. With unflinching honesty and symbolic depth, he calls every Brother back to the tools, the labor, and the Temple.

This is not comfortable reading. It was never meant to be. It is not for the faint of heart, but for those who are tired of decline, ready to face hard truths, and determined to restore the dignity and purpose of Freemasonry.

The excuses are gone. The apathy is buried. The Temple must rise again.



Greetings Everyone,

Welcome to the January issue of your York Rite Beacon Magazine. We here at your Beacon Magazine would like to thank you for all the information, articles, pictures, and ads that you have forwarded to us to help pass and share information with the craft. It has taken us a minute to get through it all. So, if you haven't seen your shared information yet, don't be discouraged as we have received so much that if it doesn't appear in this issue, it will be showing up in future issues. We only have so much room in each issue. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Your help is greatly appreciated.

In this issue, we have a wonderful article on Most Worshipful Brother Benjamin Franklin on the month of his birth. This brother is a wonder example of a Founding Father who carried such a huge role in the formation of this great country.

Next, we present a interesting message from the Cryptic Masons Retention Committee. Take a look, there is information to make you think about. Our Capitular Education and Development Course continues to enlighten all Freemasons in our royal art. We continue to share with you our writers and their books with you. So take a look. If you are ever in double, we have included a brief article on how Masonic calendars work. Finally, there is information on the upcoming Missouri Grand York Rite Cruise and the 73 Triennial Convocation in Washington D.C. Act on these now before time runs out.

Well, I am out of things to share. So, we hope that God's Blessing shines down on you and your family. And we will be seeing you all down that dusty trail.





Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA) – FAQs

Q: What exactly does RARA fund?

A: RARA funds scientific research on Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD) through grants to early career researchers at universities and medical centers. We don't fund treatment centers or hospitals directly, but rather the scientists discovering new treatments and diagnostic methods.

Q: How is RARA different from other hearing related charities?

A: Most hearing charities focus on deafness or hearing loss. RARA specifically targets CAPD, where hearing is normal but the brain can't process sound correctly. It's a unique focus area with limited funding sources.

Q: Who reviews research grant applications?

A: RARA partners with the Hearing Health Foundation, which uses a rigorous peer review process with medical experts. Only the most promising research receives funding.

Q: How much does RARA give in grants each year?

A: RARA awards approximately \$500,000 annually in research grants, typically funding 10-12 researchers per year at \$40,000-\$50,000 per grant.

Q: What is the leverage ratio?

A: RARA grants serve as "seed funding" that helps researchers qualify for much larger federal grants. On average, every \$1 RARA donates results in \$27 of total research funding. This multiplier effect maximizes our impact.

Q: Has RARA research led to actual treatments?

A: Yes. RARA funded research has contributed to:

- ⇒ New diagnostic protocols now used in clinics nationwide
- ⇒ Non-surgical treatment options for children with CAPD
- ⇒ Better understanding of CAPD's relationship to autism
- ⇒ Reduced need for invasive procedures

Q: How long has RARA been around?

A: RARA was established in 1974 at the General Grand Chapter Triennial meeting. Over 50 years of supporting research that changes lives.

Q: Is my donation tax-deductible?

A: Yes. RARA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. EIN: 23-7410576. You'll receive a tax receipt for your donation.

Q: Can I designate my donation in memory of someone?

A: Absolutely. Memorial and honor gifts are welcome. We'll send acknowledgment to the family and recognize the memorial in our records.

Q: Does RARA help adults or just children?

A: While CAPD often presents in childhood, research helps all ages. Many veterans with traumatic brain injury experience CAPD like symptoms. RARA research benefits everyone affected.

Q: What percentage of donations goes to research?

A: RARA operates with minimal overhead through volunteer leadership and General Grand Chapter support. Approximately 92% of donations go directly to research funding.

Q: Can non-Masons donate to RARA?

A: Yes. While RARA is sponsored by Royal Arch Masons, donations from anyone are welcome and appreciated.

Q: How can I learn more about current research?

A: Visit www.givetorara.org or www.hearinghealthfoundation.org/rara to see current grant recipients and research summaries.

Q: What happens if I sign up for monthly giving and need to stop?

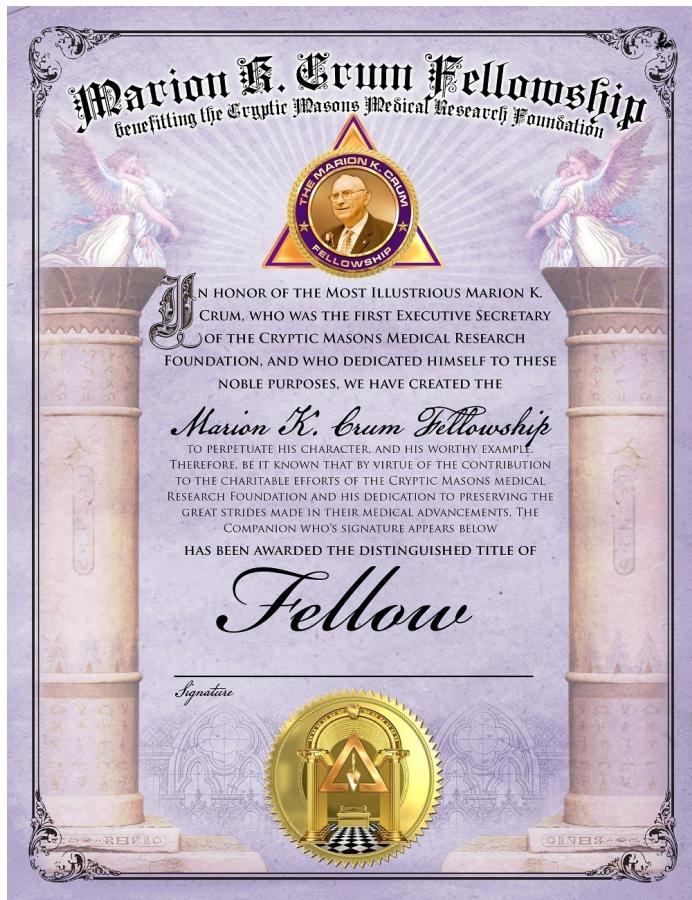
A: You can cancel anytime with a simple phone call or email. No questions asked, no hassles. We understand circumstances change.

Q: How does Missouri's fundraising compare to other states?

A: Missouri has tremendous potential. Some states raise \$50,000+ annually. With 30+ chapters and thousands of members, Missouri can become a top contributor to RARA research.



The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (C.M.M.R.F.) is an exceptional Masonic Charity which raises money to fund trials by the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology. These programs have shown real results, and have seen many of their discoveries become realities, as viable treatments for patients suffering from vascular diseases.



certificate, and wear the breast jewel to encourage others to donate as well. You can make your donation here and we will ship the packet directly to you, or you can mail a check for \$100.00 payable to:

The Marion Crum Foundation
304 E. 1225 N.
Chesterton, IN 46304

More information and donate:

[Marion Crum Fellow](#)



The Marion Crum Fellowship is an incentive to increase support for the C.M.M.R.F., and to honor one of the great pioneers in its creation. Marion Crum served as Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Indiana, and was the first Executive Secretary of the C.M.M.R.F., and is still active in Cryptic Masonry today! This exciting new program rewards the donation of \$100.00 with a stunning breast jewel, beautiful certificate and card.

All of the proceeds of this program go directly to the C.M.M.R.F., and you can proudly display the





The mission of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. is to provide assistance to those who face loss of sight due to the need for surgical treatment without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex, or national origin provided they are unable to pay or receive adequate assistance from current government agencies or similar sources and to provide funds for research in curing diseases of the eye. This includes the correction of strabismus (cross-eyes) in children up to the age of 16 years.

Funds for the operation of the Eye Foundation are obtained in part from an annual assessment of each Knight Templar, contributions made by Masons from throughout the Masonic Family, fund-raising activities, memorials, wills and bequests, and donations from endowment funds or similar sources. Special award programs for contributions include the Grand Master's Sword of Merit (\$25,000), Golden Chalice (\$10,000), Grand Master's Club (\$1,000), Grand Commander's Club (\$1,000 in \$100 annual installments), Patron Certificate (\$100), Associate Patron Certificate (\$50), and Life Sponsor (\$30). Those who are designated as a Life Sponsor or above are relieved from the annual assessment.

Since 1956, over \$98 million has been spent on approved cases, and applications have been received from 80,000 people. Research Grants totaling in excess of \$9.2 million have been awarded to researchers working in the fields of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Genetics.

Application for assistance from the Foundation can be made through a Knight Templar who is a member of one of over 1,200 Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Encampment. Information is available from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., 1000 East State Parkway, Suite I, Schaumburg, IL 60173, Phone (847) 490-3838; Fax (847) 490- 3777. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. is a co-sponsor of the Seniors Eye Care Program (formally known as the National Eye Care Project) with Eye Care America, a Public Service Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The Seniors Eye Care Program helps those persons 65 years or over who do not have an Ophthalmologist. Anyone wishing to contact the Seniors Eye Care Program may do so by calling 1- 800-222-EYES and telling them you were referred by a Knight Templar.

The Knight of Siloam special award program in Missouri was created by Sir Knights J. Edward Blinn, REPGC, and Danny L. Ferguson, REPGC, during the 93-94 Templar year as a means of recognizing those Missouri Sir Knights who make substantial contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and to encourage others to do so. A special medal and patent is presented to those who donate \$500.00 or more to KTEF either in a lump sum or in installments. The jewel is designated as a meritorious service jewel and may be worn on the Knight.



The Knights Templar Educational Foundation, Division of the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri, provides financial assistance in the way of low cost student loans to college juniors and seniors, as well as trade school students.



The Missouri Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund is used to pay the expenses of sending a Minister to the Holy Land under the provisions of the Grand Encampment. The Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee of the Grand Commandery can provide more information about qualifying Ministers.

The Missouri Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund is an endowment, the interest of which is used to generate income for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund (above). Commandery Recorders are to ask each Sir Knight on their annual dues statement to remit at least \$3.65 towards the Holy Land Endowment Fund, and Commanderies are encouraged to have fund raisers to generate money for this fund.



York Rite Bulletin Board

Interactive Maps for Local York Rite Bodies

Exciting news all!!! The Grand York Rite of Missouri has now added interactive maps for Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies to help you easily find a meeting location, and find directions to assist you in planning your travels. We hope they help

You can find those maps at the following webpages:

<https://moyorkrite.org/royal-arch-chapters-in-missouri/>

<https://moyorkrite.org/councils-in-missouri/>

<https://moyorkrite.org/commanderies-in-missouri/>



Did you know that you can make changes to your own MMS Profile Page? You can!

Simply click this link: <https://www.masonic-web.com/mms/memberbio/default.aspx> and use your membership number which can be found on the side of any of your York Rite dues cards with your name and date of birth. You have only one Profile Page which links to each Chapter, Council, and/or Commandery where you have a membership.

The information on your Profile Page helps us stay in contact with each of you. Please carefully check the information on your Profile Page:

- Full name: First, Middle, and Last Name (No Abbreviations) with any prefix or suffix.
- Birth location: City and State.
- Current Address: Where mail comes.

- Phone Numbers: Home and/or Cell.
- Email Addresses: Home and/or Work.
- Spouse's name: First, Middle, and Last Names.
- Her Date of Birth: Month and Day (We like to send birthday cards!)
- Your children's Names: First and Last Names
- **Information about your job** (Optional)

Our office will not share this information with any person, business, or other institution. This is YOUR Profile Page. Thank you for your time.

Past Grand Officers

History is a wonderful thing. It reminds us of our great accomplishments and mistakes. Either way, we learn something from both. However, below are links to our Past Grand High Priest, Past Grand Masters, and Grand Commanders here in Missouri. Take a look, one of them might be a relative you did not know had been honored by these great positions.

Past Grand High Priests:

<https://moyorkrite.org/past-grand-high-priests/>

Past Grand Masters:

<https://moyorkrite.org/past-grand-masters/>

Past Grand Commanders:

<https://moyorkrite.org/past-grand-commanders/>



**ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS
IN MISSOURI**

COUNCILS IN MISSOURI

MISSOURI COMMANDERIES

Grand Officers Coins for Sale

The Grand York Rite has numerous items for sale. One of which is the Grand Officers coins. For a small donation of \$20.00 you may obtain their coin or \$60.00 for all three coins through our Grand York Rite Offices (660) 248-5100.



2025-2026

MEC Kevin M. Ritter, Grand High Priest Coin



2025-2026

MIC Dennis W. Houck Grand Master Coin



2025-2026

SK Ronald L. Skiles, Right Eminent Grand Commander Coin

These coins are in limited production. So, hurry and purchase one now as they will soon be out of stock. All donations go to the Grand Officer's charity. Thank you for your consideration.



Distinguished Chapter Award

Chapter Secretaries and current High Priests will soon be able to access the updated Distinguished Chapter Award Form, which will include the new addition of the Chapter Proficiency Ritual Card section.

Every proficiency card newly earned or renewed will earn **100 points for the Chapter**. These points are unlimited.

This is being added to highlight one of MEC Ritter's goals for the year - his own goal of earning his Part 1 Ritual Card.

The Chapter Proficiency Ritual card plan can be found on the moyorkrite.org website.

Chapter Proficiency Certificate Plan:

<https://moyorkrite.org/DocsChapter/Chapter%20Proficiency%20Certificate%20Plan%202023.pdf>

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OFFICERS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
GRAND LECTURER

SATURDAY
16 MAY, 2026
AT 10 O'CLOCK AM

RSVP TO:
SPRINGFIELDYORKRITE@GMAIL.COM
INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER
OF GUESTS

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