

# MISSOURI YORK RITE BEACON

*Happy Independence  
America 1776-2025*



- ♦ America's Independence Day
- ♦ Capitular Education
- ♦ Capitular Development Course
- ♦ Your Mark: The Legacy and Integrity
- ♦ My Masonic Story



Volume 3 Issue 7

Hyperlink Enabled



Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri

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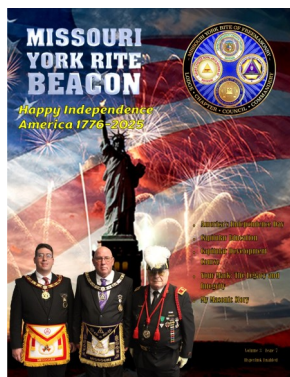
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**Submissions:** All submissions of photographs should include a 40 to 50 word article telling who, what, when, where and why. Pictures should be high resolution jpg (s) from a camera (at least 300 dpi). Phone pictures should be set to high resolution.

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.: O.: Kevin M. Ritter  
Grand High Priest  
of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch  
Masons of the State of Missouri***



Greetings, Companions!

This Capitular year is officially off to an Excellent start! At the end of June, I was able to attend the Missouri Job's Daughters Grand Session with the Grand Master and Grand Commander. This was my first Job's Daughters session and, as Dennis shares below, it was a great session and full of energy, enthusiasm, and excitement. If you haven't had a chance to visit a Job's Daughters session, you're missing out!

As I write this, the Grand Session of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri and Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliate, has just concluded. While I was unable to visit due to a work conflict, our Grand Scribe REC Larry Wilson represented us at this session and shared my best wishes with our Prince Hall Companions.

My first official visit will be later this month, at my home Chapter, Springfield Chapter Number 15. I've got several visits scheduled with more in the works and am excited to start visiting you at your local Chapters!

As with previous Grand High Priests, I have had a coin struck to commemorate my year. These coins are available from your District Deputy Grand High Priest, or feel free to ask me for one during an official visit. The proceeds from this year's coin sales will be sent to Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA) to continue their important research into Central Auditory Processing Disorder.

I look forward to visiting with you in my travels this year. BE EXCELLENT TO EACH OTHER!

Fraternally,

Kevin M. Ritter  
Grand High Priest







*M.:I.:O.: Dennis W. Houck*  
*Grand Master of the Grand Council of*  
*Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri*



Greetings Companions,

This past month has been exciting. I had my first chance to attend the Job's Daughter's Grand Session. It is truly amazing to watch these young ladies. The amount of work they accomplish throughout the year is incredible. Their work with HIKE (Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment) allows the young ladies to provide help with money they raised. If you have had the pleasure to listen to them sing at 11:00 p.m., "Nearer My God to Thee". You know how truly beautiful it is.

I had my first official visit to Rolla Council Number 39. These Companions need mental help. Seriously they are a hard-working group of organized geniuses. Under the leadership of VIC Johnnie Bryant, they will continue to be a powerhouse Council in Missouri.

On the same day as my Rolla trip, I had the pleasure of attending the Grand Council Session of our PHA Companions. Although the building was hot, because of the tornado's a month prior, they pulled off an outstanding Grand Session. Good luck to Grand Thrice Illustrious Master Greg Walker.

All Councils should have in place their plan of having a successful year. I know that Kansas City and Poplar Bluff are preparing to have their Fall Festivals. Please check the Grand York Rite Calendar for the dates. Companions let's continue moving forward to make our Councils stronger.

Matthew 18 V 20

Fraternally,

MIC Dennis W. Houck

Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri



MIC Dennis Houck, GTIM Greg Walker, VIC Chris Wehrenberg





*S.:K.: Matthew Quesenberry  
Grand Generalissimo of the Grand  
Commandery of Knights Templar  
of the State of Missouri*



Greetings Sir Knights,

Having just celebrated our nation's birthday, I am moved to reflect on that most precious of all earthly blessings—Freedom. The freedoms we enjoy (and too often take for granted) that are enumerated in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights make us as Americans the envy of the entire world. These freedoms were hard won and must be guarded constantly. As has been often said, the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. We all owe a profound debt of gratitude to those who have fought and died to preserve our freedoms for us, and hopefully, for our posterity. It is indeed fitting and proper that we celebrate our freedom as Americans with music, feasting, fireworks, family, and friends; but there is a freedom that we as Knights Templar enjoy that transcends all others.

By far the most significant characteristic of a Knight Templar is that he is a poor fellow soldier of Christ. We all claim Jesus as our personal Savior. His virgin birth, His sinless life, His sacrificial atoning death, His physical resurrection, and His ascension back to Heaven are all non-negotiables with us. We reject the delusion that there are many paths to God because our Savior has told us plainly that He is THE way, THE truth, and THE life and that NO ONE comes unto the Father but by Him. Our faith in Jesus and His work on the cross provides us with the ultimate freedom....freedom from the power of sin.

In John 8:34, Jesus states "...whoever commits sin (habitually) is a slave of sin". The ultimate enslavement is not physical enslavement (that ends at death), but spiritual enslavement to sin (rebellion against God) which leads to eternal death. This is why Jesus would not let himself be limited to a political messiah. Jesus goes on in verse 36 to say "...if the Son makes you free you shall be free indeed." This idea is repeated in the book of Romans (6:22-23). "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit of holiness (sanctification), and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." Now does this all mean that we will never sin again? By no means. We are still fallen creatures, and our sinful nature tempts us to fail. But by the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit, we believers can resist the power that sin held over us before our salvation, and we can be restored to a state of grace by sincere repentance and a contrite heart when we do fall. King David was called "a man after God's own heart" and yet he sinned terribly. But he admitted his sin and repented of it to God. Whenever he fell, he got up moving in God's direction. We may fall in a mud hole now and then, but we don't need to wallow in it. We have been freed from the power of sin in the present, and we will be freed from even the presence of sin in time to come when we go to our "house not made with hands".

So, is freedom all that important? Ask someone who has just been released from prison, someone who has just gotten a cast removed, a student who has just graduated, or a worker who has just retired. Freedom is important enough that the Savior allowed Himself to be put to death and rise again. Think on that, and then, like Mel Gibson in the movie "Braveheart" shout FREEDOM!

Yours in Christian Freemasonry,

Matthew Quesenberry  
Grand Generalissimo





# Job's Daughters

M I S S O U R I

**Sisterhood and Friendship:** The strong bonds and supportive relationships between members.

**Leadership Development:** The opportunities for young women to learn and practice leadership skills.

**Character Building:** The emphasis on virtues like truth, faith, and love for fellowman.....Join now by clicking here.

## Become a Shriner...

### Join Now....

- . Enjoy fellowship with other good men...
- . Have fun while helping community causes...
- . Discover the satisfaction and honor of being a Shriner!!!
- . Fill out a petition today!!!





# America's Independence Day

SK John Welch, Assistant Prelate

Whenever I say July 4, images come to mind of fireworks, parades and picnics. In my youth I looked forward to this day as I also looked forward to Christmas and Easter. As a child I was allowed to shoot Lady Fingers and Roman Candles, twirl sparklers, and burn pellets that were called “snakes.” As an adolescent I moved up to firecrackers and more colorful items that come from black powder. It was always sad when we had shot everything up and went to bed saying, “not again until next year.” Then I went to college and seminary and began a career in the ministry of the church. With this new chapter in life my interest in fireworks diminished to sitting in a chair watching the beauty of light in an otherwise dark sky that was illumed by pyro-techniques ignited by professionals.



There are many adults, unlike myself, who enjoy shooting fireworks on Independence Day and other occasions such as New Year's Eve at midnight. There are also many people of all ages who consider this act of celebration to be the substance of the Fourth, just as there are people who equate Christmas with Santa Clause, and Easter with the Easter Bunny. They miss the real point of the holiday being celebrated.

As we have learned in grade school the Fourth of July is the birthday of our nation. It is the day when the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence and began the signing thereof.

Great Britain had established colonies worldwide for trading purposes. Thirteen of them were on the coast of the new world now known as

the Continental United States. Britain ruled these colonies from the halls of Parliament giving no thought to the desires of the colonists.

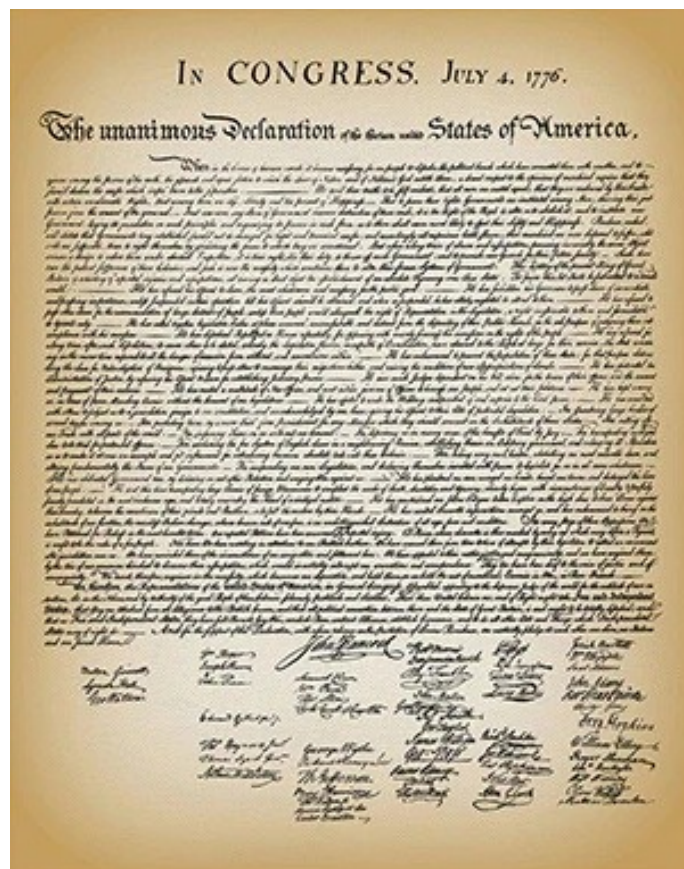
Revolt slowly began on the American continent. In 1775 the Continental Congress chartered an Army on June 14, a Navy on October 3, and a Marine Corps on November 10. A military Chaplain Corps was established on July 29. Actual fighting had broken out several months before anyone thought of formerly declaring independence from the mother country. But on June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, in the Continental Congress, moved a resolution that “These United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent States.” On June 10, the congress voted a committee to draft such a declaration. On June 11, it named five men to serve on this committee: Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman. The committee assigned the task of drafting the document to Thomas Jefferson. The first reading of the resolution took place on July 2 with the final adoption of the Declaration of Independence being done on July 4, 1776. It was first signed by John Hancock “by order and in behalf of Congress.”



All of this was kept secret until the first public reading on July 8, 1776, in front of the Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Whenever a city assembly was deemed necessary every church bell in town would be rung simultaneously alerting the



residents to assembly at the hall. Such was done four days after the adoption of the “Unanimous Declaration.” The name “Unanimous” was originally erroneous because the New York delegation was forbidden by their colonial law to cast such a vote. But after the New York legislative body voted in favor of the resolution the delegation cast a positive vote in favor of the resolution on July 19, making the adoption of the Declaration unanimous.



The signature of John Hancock on July 4, 1776, was attested by Charles Thomson, the secretary of the Congress. On August 2, 1776, fifty more members of the Congress signed the document which had been embossed on parchment paper by order of the Congress. The signing continued in September as members who were absent in August presented themselves in the autumn of 1776.

A long war ensued against Great Britain until the battle of Yorktown where General Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington on October 10, 1781. News of the defeat reached the Continental Congress of October 22, 1781. Sporadic fighting continued into 1782, primarily in the

southern states, but the British Prime Minister sued for peace after the surrender at Yorktown.

The Thirteen colonies were now the thirteen Free States of America and soon would be known as the United States of America. “Born on the Fourth of July” is our national declaration of freedom. We have been a free nation since that date in 1776.

As Americans we can claim to be a free people,



but as Christian Freemasons we can claim an even greater freedom. Jesus said to his disciples in the eighth chapter of John, “If you continue in my Word you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.” The leaders of the Jews in Jerusalem strongly objected to his words, by saying “We are sons of Abraham and we have always been free. We have never been slaves of anyone. Jesus went on to say that you have sinned and therefore you are the slaves of sin. “But if the Son sets you free you shall be free indeed.” He was speaking of his atoning death on the cross and his life-giving resurrection.

Anyone who comes to him he will give eternal life and a freedom of spirit that will last throughout eternity. This freedom transcends all earthly political freedoms and is true life. This is the true joy of the knights Templar. This freedom is available to all people who put their trust in the lord Jesus Christ.

**Prayer:** Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of freedom you have bestowed on our nation. We thank you for the men and women who have served as freedom fighters in the armed forces and for those who in the halls of the legislatures have been spokesmen for freedom, who have made laws for the well-being of the citizens of our land and for those who have stood for the rights of all people and for justice to all humankind. We pray that we shall not lose sight of the great gift you have given us in our American heritage and that which you made through our spiritual heritage in our Lord Jesus Christ in whose name we now pray. Amen.

# SAVE THE DATE

## August 15th & 16th, 2025

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel - Chesterfield  
16625 Swingley Road  
Chesterfield, MO 63017 - 1798

# The RED CROSS of CONSTANTINE Missouri Statewide Conclave



Hosted by  
St. Louis Conclave  
St. Louis, Missouri

**Members Only**





# 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,

It is an honor to be appointed Chairman of the Education Committee this year for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri.

Last month you were informed of changes coming to the Distinguished Chapter Award form and that updated form should be available to you very soon. You can access it on [moyorkrite.org](http://moyorkrite.org), under Documents and in the Grand Chapter documents drop down. I would like to thank the Grand Chapter Education Committee for immediately hitting the ground, running, and getting these changes made quickly for the start of our new Capitular year.

For the remainder of the year, your Education Committee will provide information that will be two fold. It can be used to mentor your new members and it can be used to refresh and renew the knowledge of your experienced members.

## Our education series will follow this schedule:

- ◇ July 2025 - Mark Master Degree
- ◇ August 2025 - Mark Master Degree, continues
- ◇ September 2025: Mark Master Degree, continues
- ◇ October 2025: Mark Master Degree, completion including quiz and open-ended question
- ◇ November 2025: Past Master Degree, with quiz and open ended question
- ◇ December 2025: Most Excellent Master Degree
- ◇ 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 expose 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.



## Grand Chapter Capitular Education Series July 2025 Mark Master Degree

The Mark Master Degree section is full of information and teachings, and we have broken it into four sections. For this month, you are provided the following to read and discuss in your Chapter meetings:

- ◇ Origins of the Degree
- ◇ The Mark Degree in the United States
- ◇ The Rule of Three
- ◇ The Overseers
- ◇ “Good Work, True Work, Square Work”
- ◇ The Mark
  - ◆ Extra - this would be a great time to update your Chapter’s Book of Marks to ensure all of your new members have placed their mark on record.



# Official Reception of MEC Kevin M. Ritter



You are cordially invited to join  
Springfield Chapter No.15 in celebrating  
MEC Kevin Ritter, Grand High Priest  
Saturday September 6  
6pm

Catered by M&M Weddings and Events  
Hosted by The Acacia Room  
1930 W Catalpa St Springfield, MO 65807  
(lower level)



please send all questions/inquiries to:  
[springfieldyorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldyorkrite@gmail.com)



**STATEWIDE  
YORK RITE  
CONFERENCE**

**SEPTEMBER 5-6**



ESTD 1970  
**ST. JAMES**  
WINERY





# CAPITULAR DEVELOPMENT COURSE



- **Origins of the Degree**

It has long been known that, throughout the history of stone buildings, Stonemasons have identified their work with a peculiar mark which they engraved on their work. It is also believed that these may be familial marks, passed from father to son. Whether these were placed as a mark of pride, or as a method for being paid for their work is not definitively known. What we do know is that these marks were never intended to be seen, as we shall see later.

The earliest mention of marks as part of a ritual are to be found in Operative documents originating in Scotland, including the Schaw Statutes of 1598 and Kilwinning Lodge in 1698, among others. However, the first mention of marks in Speculative Freemasonry appear after 1717, although most scholars agree a form of the Degree was worked much earlier than this. However, it would appear that such Degrees were not at all standardized, and probably grew up and developed in local pockets. The earliest record of Mark Masonry as a true, speculative body is on September 1, 1769 in the

minutes of the Chapter of Friendship of Portsmouth, England, which mention that Thomas Dunckerley, Pro Grand Master, made a number of those present Mark Masons and Mark Masters, each choosing their mark. Interestingly enough it mentions that one Brother present was 'Thomas Webb'! Thomas Smith Webb was instrumental in establishing the York Rite Bodies in the United States-but there is no evidence whatsoever that our Thomas Smith Webb ever traveled to England. There earliest known Scottish record is dated October 8, 1770; and in Ireland August 27, 1775, granted by the 'Knight Templars of Kinsale, County Cork.'


At Amherst the 27th day of Decemr.  
The year of our Lord 1780  
30th

The statutes and ordinances to be defined  
be are by master mason's meeting that  
within 1000 years be wellcome place  
master of masons to his masons and  
general masons of the first craft with  
the consent of the master of the first

[illegible][illegible]

William Schall  
MAISTRE of WAR

At our Conference on the twenty seven day of



### *The Schaw Statutes*

In England, after the Act of Union in 1813, Section 1 of the revised Constitutions stated that the only Degrees recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) were “...those of the Entered

Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.” Since many Lodges had been practicing a progressive series which closely paralleled the York Rite (and our own system) in which it was a requirement for the Mark Degree to be conferred prior to receiving the Royal Arch Degree, this was now no longer necessary in England. However, it is interesting to note that in many of the British colonies, including Australia, India and South Africa, the Mark Degree was still conferred as a prerequisite and even in England the Mark Degree, instead of fading into oblivion, gathered under the Grand Mark Lodge in 1856, which immediately started in issue Chapters for Mark Lodges, with the blessing – or at least indifference – of UGLE.



*St. Bartholomew's Church, Brighton UK*

Incidentally, the Royal Ark Mariner Degree, which is considered to be one of the oldest rituals, is ‘moored’ to a Mark Lodge in many countries, and conferred within that Lodge. Both Degrees embody old Masonic traditions: the telling of the story of Sing Solomon’s Temple and of Noah’s Ark. Both prominently feature a celestial arc: one as if made of water in the airy heavens; and one made of stone (or earth) soaring above the heads of those in the Temple. One possible reason for this is the fact that many of the early Guilds put on Miracle Plays in medieval times; and while each craft might have its Patron Saint, they would also delight in enacting Biblical stories of special significance to their trade. Stonemasons would naturally gravitate towards the telling of the building of the Tower of Babel, or King Solomon’s Temple; while the Woodcutters would very likely have been inspired by the tale of Noah’s Ark, with its wooden boat of literally biblical proportions. This fascination has continued until more recent times, as we see both in the obsessive searches for the remains of Noah’s Ark in Turkey, and even in the proportions of St. Bartholomew’s Church in Brighton, England, built in the 1870’s by

Fr. Arthur Wagner to the exact biblical measurement of the Ark.

### **The Mark Degree in the United States**

In the United States, early versions of the Mark Degree were brought across from England, and particularly Ireland by the military, and it is clear that there would have been a number of versions in existence around the colonies. Some of the Lodges also followed English tradition: for example, St. John’s Lodge No. 1, A.Y.M., New York possessed a Charter from the Premier Grand Lodge (now sadly lost) which purportedly gave them the authority to confer the Mark Degree in addition to the Blue Lodge Degrees. This was not uncommon prior to the Act of the Union. Similarly, Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2 make a strong claim to be allowed to confer the Royal Arch Degree, saying records demonstrate this permission dates back to the mid-1700s. However, two events served to unify and freeze the Mark Degree once and for all.

The first was a series of meetings or conventions held by a small number of early Chapters between 1796 and 1797, from which, on October 24, 1797 in Boston, the General Grand Chapter was created. In January 1798, the General Grand Chapter of the Northern United States was formally established. This body, while advisory, chartered Brand Chapters and provided guidance across the United States, and more recently across the world.

The second was the creation of a Freemason’s Monitor in 1797, by Thomas Smith Webb. This compilation of Rituals included the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason Degrees. At the time, there was already considerable standardization of ritual between the several states Conferring them, so Webb did not Invent the rituals we now use. However, he considerably expanded the Most Excellent Master Degree, introduced poems and music into the rituals (he was an accomplished musician and conductor) and most importantly, his printing of the Monitor helped solidify the rituals into an unchanging body of work. Although the body of Degrees as a whole is still commonly referred to as the ‘York Rite’, it would be more proper to call them the ‘American Rite’, for the versions we have used in the United States for over two hundred years were finalized here, in the former British colonies.

### **The Rule of Three**

As we see in the Blue Lodge Degrees, the number three features prominently in this Degree. There are three Overseers, three Rulers of the Craft, the Candidate enters with two other Craftsmen



carrying three stones for inspection. Once more this number reflects the Sacred Delta of Divinity, and implies that all work is performed under His sleepless eye. In some versions of the Mark Degree He is referred to as the Great Overseer.



*Sacred Delta*

### **The Overseers**

The three additional Officers in a Mark Lodge are the Junior, Senior and Master Overseers placed, according to the ritual, at the South Gate and East Gate respectively. Effectively this means they double the positions of the Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Worshipful Master. Originally, they did not exist and their functions were taken by the JW, SW and WM instead. However, over time they were included in rituals as an important representation of those Masons responsible for supervising the work – a theme which become increasingly important through the Capitular Degrees.

### **“Good Work, True Work, Square Work”**

One of the interesting sections of the Mark degree center upon the presentation of three Ashlars for inspection. Two are accepted because they are ‘good work, true work, square work.’ In other words, those stones tested – and therefore presumably carved – using only a square as a guide are accepted. However, the design of the third stone requires both a square and compasses to create: the top is an arc and the mark is contained within a circle. This is a new Order of Masonry. Initially the stone designed by square and compasses is rejected, but later it is relocated and given a position of prominence in the building.

This indicates an important transition which takes place between the Blue and Capitular Degrees. While the Square was sufficient to design the stones or ashlar required for general building in the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees, those of the Capitular Degrees now employ the compasses as well. The stone is recognized in the Mark Degree, and is one of the discoveries which ultimately leads to the recovery of the Master’s Word in the Royal Arch Degree.



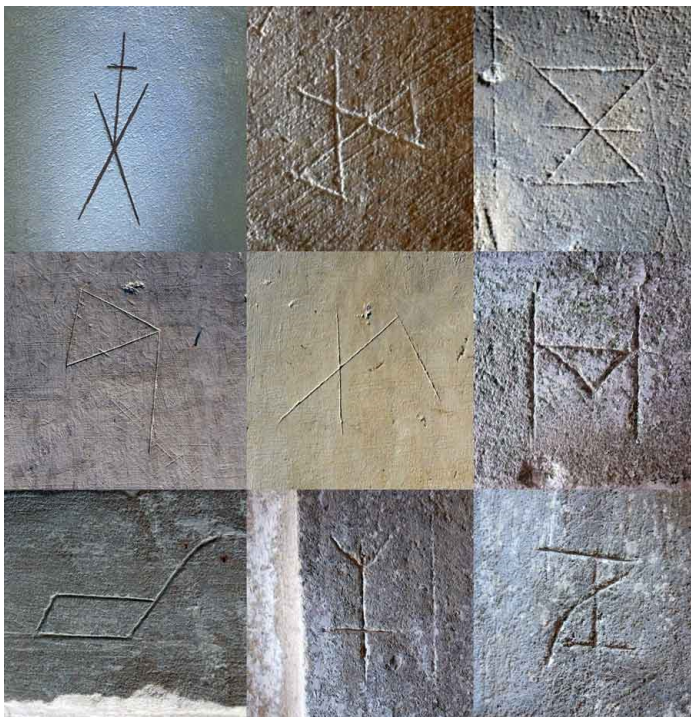
*George Washington placing the cornerstone of the Capitol*

### **The Mark**

In early times, the Masons carving a stone would place an identifying mark upon it. This was so the inspectors of the work could identify the craftsman responsible for each component stone. As a sign of approval, they often added their mark to the stone, to show that it had passed inspection and was ready to be employed in construction. A third mark was often added, to indicate which place in the building the stone was to be used. Nowadays we can see evidence of such marks on stones in castles, cathedrals and other buildings. However, it was never intended that these marks would be seen. Immediately after the walls were erected they would normally be covered in mortar or plaster and therefore remain invisible, unless the plaster fell off at a later period. Operative Masons’ marks would be recorded in a Book of



Marks, and marks would often be handed down within a family.



*Example of Stonemason Marks*

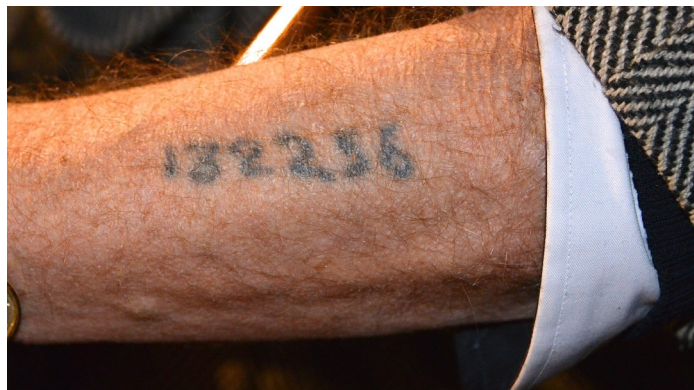
In the ceremony, the Candidate admits the mark on the stone is not his own. Until he has had his work approved he is not entitled to a mark and therefore to collect wages. Later in the ceremony he is presented with a sheet of paper and told to select and draw his mark, which will then be recorded in the Book of Mars of the Lodge. In some other countries, he is either given his mark, or offered a choice between two, but here he draws his own. While some early marks were quite elaborate, nowadays the Candidate I normally advised to select a simple design made up of straight lines. This task must be completed and his design handed in to the Secretary before he can receive the Royal Arch Degree.



*Example of the Hindu 'bindi' or red dot representing the Third Eye or pineal gland.*

However, we should remember that the word

'mark' has more than one meaning in the English language. As well as meaning a physical sign placed upon an object to denote authorship, it can also denote authorship, it can also denote ownership, for example as in the branding of an animal, or in Biblical times, slaves. Again, it can denote a setting apart for religious or other purposes, such as the red dot placed over the 'third eye' by many Hindus, and elaborate body paint used in tribes from the early Celts to Native American tribes. In the Bible, we are also reminded that a mark can be a divine sign of separation as well. We have already noted this in the story of Moses, where the Children of Israel marked



*The horror of branding a person set aside for persecution*

their doorposts with blood to identify themselves as Children of "I AM", to avoid the death of their firstborn sons. In the case of Cain, it was a mark of shame, but which also preserved his life (Genesis 4:15, "And the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should Kill him"). Again, in Ezekiel we read that God tells the man clothed with linen to "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof" (Ezekiel 9:4).

So, the idea of a mark has a number of significations. Whilst it is used by man at a mundane level to identify his creations (craved stones) and property (cows, sheep), it is also used as a means by which God identifies His own people. Man may be tasked with shaping himself into a Spiritual Stone, fit to be used in the Temple not made with hands; but God is not absent in the process. He is, after all, the Grand Architect, and all that we do is in conformity with His Will. We may provide the labor, but it is He who provides the blueprint. Remember God says: '...and (I) will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.' (Rev. 2:17). Like the mark covered with mortar in an old cathedral, we receive the name known only to us and God, which he will use to identify us when He calls us home.





# GRAND CHAPTER RITUAL PROFICIENCY

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Gregory J. Walker**

Part 4, Section B

Most Excellent Master Degree, King Solomon

**Tom G. Cupples, Jr**

Part 5, Section B

Royal Arch Degree, Principal Sojourner





# YOUR MARK : THE LEGACY AND INTEGRITY

EC BRANDON LEWIS

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND CHAPTER R.A.M. TENNESSEE PHA

Today, we gather to explore a timeless lesson embedded within the degree of the Mark Master Mason—a lesson that beckons us to understand who we truly are and how we etch our mark upon this world. As the Mark Master Mason imprints his mark on his work, so too must we imprint our individuality on our lives, standing as both a testament to our authenticity and a guide to our ethical path.



In Freemasonry, the Mark is a symbol of personal responsibility, integrity, and authenticity. It is a unique sign that identifies the creator, signifying that each craftsman takes ownership of his work. This practice teaches us that knowing oneself—our values, beliefs, and abilities—is akin to crafting a unique mark upon the world.

Understanding ourselves is not always easy. It requires perseverance and commitment to self-reflection, embracing both our strengths and weaknesses. By doing so, we fortify our moral compass, allowing us to navigate life's challenges with clarity and purpose. We learn who we are in relation to our family, friends, and community—understanding that our actions resonate beyond the self.

As individuals, just as a Mark Master Mason, we should strive to put our authentic mark on everything we do. This isn't a mark of material achievement, but rather of values and impacts. It is about contributing meaningfully to the lives of others, creating a legacy defined by positive actions. In doing so, we fulfill a purpose far greater than ourselves and become exemplary to those around us.

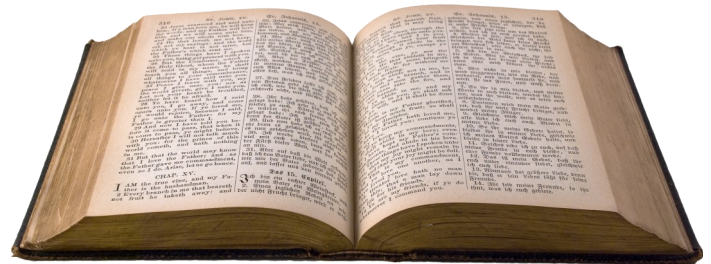
Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." The concept of "making your mark" is often about leaving a meaningful impact or legacy. When we look at biblical lessons, several themes align with this idea, emphasizing character, influence, and purpose. Here

are a few biblical lessons that relate to these concepts:

**1. Legacy of Faith:** Hebrews 11, often called the "Faith Chapter", lists numerous figures who left a profound legacy through their faith and actions. This chapter highlights how trust in God and righteous actions leave enduring marks that inspire future generations.

**2. Influence and Light:** Matthew 5:13-16 talks about being the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." These metaphors encourage believers to maintain their distinctiveness and positively influence the world around them, ensuring their "mark" brings goodness and clarity to others.

**3. Pursuit of Godly Wisdom:** Proverbs is full of wisdom about living a righteous life that impacts others positively. Proverbs 3:3-4 advises binding mercy and truth around your neck, suggesting that living with integrity and kindness leaves an enduring mark of favor and reputation.



These biblical lessons collectively illustrate that making a meaningful mark involves using one's gifts wisely, serving others selflessly, maintaining integrity, standing by one's convictions, and acting with compassion and generosity. It's about building a legacy that reflects divine values and positively influences others.

Equally important is our commitment to acknowledging the contributions of others. The lesson of not taking credit for what is not ours reminds us of the honor in honesty and integrity. It encourages us to celebrate the marks of others, fostering a culture of mutual respect and collaboration.

In knowing who we are, we embrace our true nature—not who we wish to be in others' eyes, but who we are at our core. This knowledge elevates our relationships, enriches our insights, and bolsters our

ability to contribute to society. It is the foundation upon which we build our character, honor our commitments, and inspire those we hold dear.

Companions, as we navigate through life's journey, let us remember the profound lesson of the Mark Master Mason. May we embrace the pursuit of self-awareness and authenticity, ensuring our mark is one of integrity and positive influence. For in knowing ourselves, we not only shape our destiny but leave a legacy defined by truth and purpose.

I leave you with this to sit in your heart and dwell within your spirit as you meditate throughout the day. How has the degree of Mark Master Mason personally transformed you and in what ways do you carry that transformation into the mark you plan to leave?



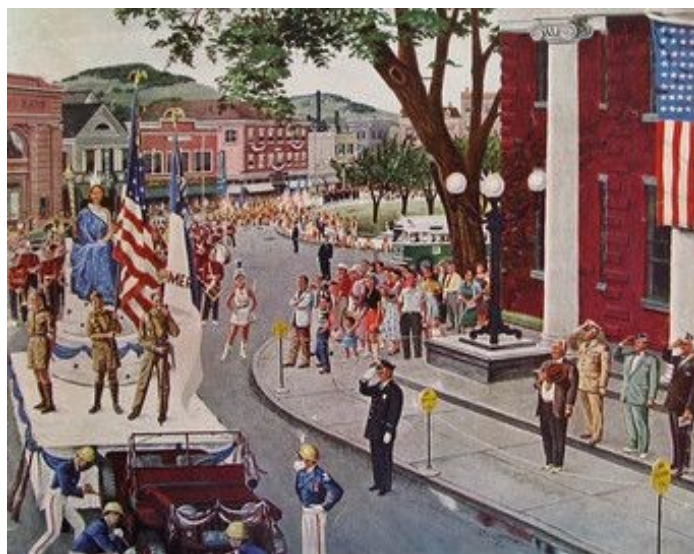
### **Brother Brandon Lewis 32nd/KT**

Bro. Lewis was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on September 23, 2017, at Prince Hall Lodge Number 1, in Nashville, Tennessee. The following year he was awarded, "Brother of the Year" by his constituent in Freemasonry. In 2020, his love for Freemasonry caused him to join the Royal Arch Chapter of Mt. Sinai Chapter Number

135, where he currently serves as it's Chapter's King. By 2021, his drive to find further light in Freemasonry guided him to join the Cryptic Council of Mt. Ararat Council Number 5, and Apollo Commandery Number 1, where he currently serves as Principal Conductor of the Work, and Eminent Commander. In 2022, he was awarded by his lodge the "Within the Length of My Cable Tow" award and "Brother of the Year". Brandon has received their "James Dobson Sr. 2021-2022, Nashville Masonic District Mason of the Year Award".

Bro. Lewis joined the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in 2022, where he currently serves as the Most Wise and Perfect Master of the Adali S. Coffee Chapter of Rose Croix Number 48. He is currently a Senior Coordinator for the School of Instruction of the Nashville Masonic District. He has been recently re-elected as Senior Warden for Prince Hall Lodge Number 1, for the 2025-2026 Masonic year under The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Tennessee whose leadership is headed by Grand Master L. Lamont Banks.

Bro. Lewis is education is in human performance, which is where his heart lies outside of Freemasonry. He graduated from Louisiana College with a B.S. in Athletic Training and a M.S. in Exercise Science at Middle Tennessee State University. Brandon Lewis is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association, and has his Certified Personal Training Certification, and is a Corrective Exercise Specialist through the American Council on Exercise. He's taken his passion for this field and started his own personal training company in 2018 named, "LewCore Training" where he can touch lives beyond the surface as he helps many reach not only their health and wellness goals, but most importantly their psychological goals.



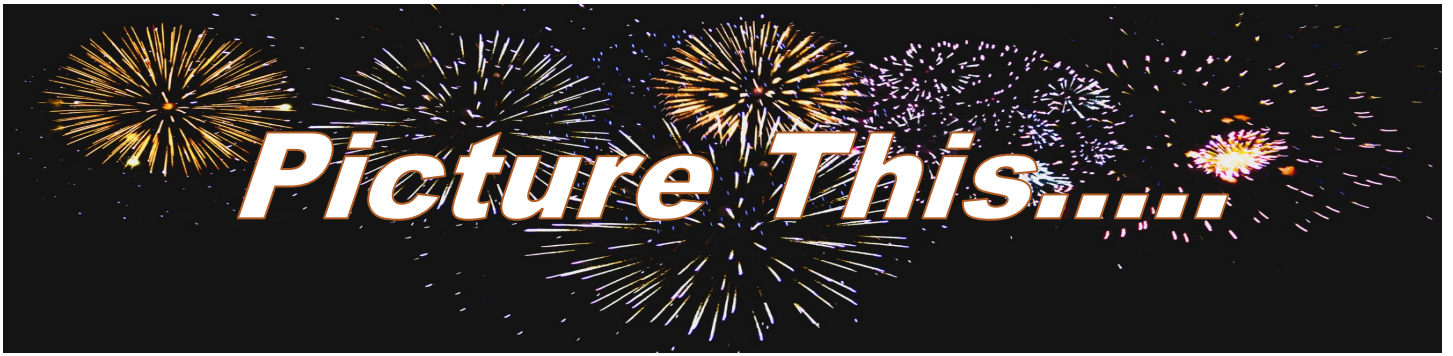


# I O R G

Teaching the ladies of today  
To be the leaders of  
tomorrow.....







There are great days and then there are exceptional ones - today was an exceptional day.

Had the pleasure of representing the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri along side M•I•C Dennis Houck and V•I•C Chris Wehrenberg at the Annual Assembly of the Joe B. Lewis Prince Hall Grand Council of Missouri Royal and Select Masters.

I was absolutely blindsided as I was presented with an Honorary Membership to the Joe B. Lewis Prince Hall Grand Council of Missouri Royal and Select Masters, along with the coveted Ish•Sodi award for distinguished service to Cryptic and Freemasonry.

Today, Thursday, July 3rd, I visited Ronnie Green at Silverstone Place in Rolla, Missouri. Ronnie has 90%, 85%, & 70% blockage in his heart. He went to the hospital in Rolla today to see his Cardiologist. He had stents put in his right arm & right leg. He will have stents put in his left arm & left leg next Friday. He is feeling pretty good today, and is in a good mood. Margaret is doing pretty as well, but she will have an elbow replacement surgery on her left elbow next Friday, July the 11th, in Columbia, Missouri. Please keep them in your prayers.

Wayne Fryer









REC W. Larry Wilson Grand Scribe, had the honor of representing the Grand Chapter at the The Most Excellent Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri and Jurisdictions, Prince Hall Affiliate Grand Convocation, on Saturday, July 12th. It was a memorable opportunity to exchange meaningful ideas and enjoy genuine fellowship.



REC Larry Wilson with MEC Jamell Mixon  
MEGHP of Missouri, PHA.



Banner of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter



2025-2026 Installation of Officers







From one Grand Scribe to another Grand Scribe. Congratulation all to a wonderful and successful Grand Session.





## Installation of officers of Heart of Missouri York Rite College No. 188

On Saturday, May 10, 2025. The officers of Heart of Missouri York Rite College Number 188 were duly and truly installed. The are:

- Michael Christopher Rohman, Governor
- Russell Alan Bradshaw, Chancellor
- Clifford Robert Dobbins, Treasurer
- Kevin Brian Sample, Secretary
- David Dodd Powell, Primate
- Mark Allen Bean, Preceptor
- Mitchell Collins Weingsting, Sentinel



The Installing Officers were:

- Richard Lee Mansfield
- Harold Franklin Coots
- Michael Christopher Rohman
- Bobbie Edward White, Grand Governor
- Kevin Brian Sample



This late entry was due to the failure of the Editor to enter it into the June issue. May's issue was completed at submission and over looked for June with the overwhelming amount of information from the Grand York Rite Session. Our apologies to the Heart of Missouri York Rite College for our omission.





**You are invited to the  
203rd Annual Communication  
of the Grand Lodge of A.F.&A.M.  
of the State of Missouri**

**To be held at:**

**Sheraton Kansas City Hotel  
Crown Center  
2345 McGee Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108**

**September 21st—22nd, 2025**

**All Missouri Master Masons in attendance  
must register online by July 31, 2025**

**[https://  
annualcommunication.momason.org/](https://annualcommunication.momason.org/)**

# *Grand Council of Knight Masons of the USA*

The Order of Knight Masons is a chivalric Masonic order open to all Master Masons who are also members of a Mark Lodge and a Royal Arch Chapter. Members of the Order meet in Councils of Knight Masons, which are governed by the Grand Council of Knight Masons based in Dublin, Ireland. A member of the Order is known as a Knight Mason.

The Order was formally established in 1923, with the formation of the Grand Council, tasked with preserving and standardizing a set of Masonic degrees that had historically been practiced in various forms across different Masonic bodies. These degrees, collectively known as the Red Cross or Babylonian Degrees, had been transmitted, often in abridged versions, through Royal Arch Chapters and Knights Templar Preceptories, since at least the early 18th century. The Irish expressions of these degrees, distinguished by their symbolic depth and ceremonial detail, were consolidated under a single governing authority to ensure their continuation.

## **Degrees**

The Order of Knight Masons confers three degrees, collectively known as the Red Cross Degrees or Babylonian Degrees. These rituals are rooted in events following the Babylonian captivity and center on the return of the Jewish people to Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the Second Temple. The principal character in all three degrees is Zerubbabel, a prince of the House of Judah.

The degrees are as follows:

- Knight of the Sword: Focuses on Zerubbabel's visit to the court of King Cyrus of Persia.
- Knight of the East: Covers Zerubbabel's later visit to the court of King Darius.
- Knight of the East and West: Depicts Zerubbabel's return to his fellow countrymen in Jerusalem.

## **Councils of Knight Masons**

Councils of Knight Masons are the fundamental administrative and ceremonial units of the Order. Each Council is presided over by an Excellent Chief, supported by two principal officers: the Junior and Senior Knight.

Councils operate under the jurisdiction of the

Grand Council of Knight Masons and may be grouped into Provinces were warranted by geography and membership.

## **Origins and Development**

Knight Masonry trace back to a set of degrees informally conferred in Ireland through various Masonic bodies, including Royal Arch Chapters, and Knights Templar Preceptories. These degrees, while not uniformly practiced. By the early 20th century, the distinctiveness of the Irish versions prompted the formation of the Grand Council of Knight Masons in 1923. This body was established to standardize the rituals and provide a formal structure to their transmission, ensuring their continuity within a uniquely Irish Masonic tradition.

## **Charitable activities**

The Joseph Karmel Benevolent Fund was established in 1959, through a donation by the children of the late Very Excellent Sir Knight Joseph M. Karmel. He was a long-serving and devoted member of the Order, and the fund was created to perpetuate his name and legacy. Its mission is to provide timely emergency assistance to Knight Masons, their widows, or children who may be facing financial hardship.

## **Geographical Expansion**

The Order has expanded beyond Ireland into following countries:

Australia, England, Greece, Israel, United States, South Africa, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Tasmania, India, Gibraltar, New Zealand, Bermuda, and Singapore.







## My Masonic Story

### Bro. Gerald Ray Hill

My Masonic Story begins my sophomore year in High School when I went to live with my father. During that time, he was very active in our Blue Lodge. He would always tease me with “I just signed you”, “I know another Mason, even in a dark room without talking”, etc. Of course, I knew that someday I would earn those secrets. I guess you could say that was my draw to our fraternity.

I joined the Army straight out of High School and for many years Freemasonry was a forgotten memory. Until one day, the subject on Freemasons came up, while playing pinochle at lunchtime, on a training day in Fort Leonard Wood. I was telling them of my father’s teasing me as I grew up, and I said that one day I would join. After lunch a civilian on our course, who had told students to call him the “Bear,” said I should visit him at his store in Turkey Ridge. I made the visit, and he asked me if I was serious about joining the Freemasons. I said, “yes.” He replied, “you only have to ask one.” It turns out that he was a Freemason. However, that day was not meant to be. Within a month I would receive orders to be shipped to Korea.

After being assigned to the West Coast for a number of years, I was given an opportunity to come back to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and I finally, “got er done”. I was Initiated in Richland Lodge Number 385, on Wednesday, June 2nd, 2004. That night I got on the phone with my dad and told him that I had just received my Entered Apprentice degree, and that at their next meeting they would be scheduling my Fellowcraft degree. There was a silence for a moment, and he finally asked, “What about your proficiency?” I said, “I am not sure what that is”. Later on, I would find a pamphlet on proficiencies in my stuff from the lodge. He said, “You better earn that initiation money, Boy”. That was the defining moment for me in Freemasonry.

The look of the brothers faces and the discussion that was had when I decided I would not move forward until I returned my proficiency was challenging. The coach that I was assigned was going with his wife to cancer treatments. So, meeting up with him was tough. Initially it was so tough learning what seemed like silly language. Long story short, I ended up questioning and answering myself in Lodge with my “Masonic Dad.” Meeting him at the Altar we exchanged the signs, tokens, and words. At its completion, my examiner explained to the brethren that this was how candidates would move between degrees and there would be a vote on if the candidate would move on to the next degree. However, in today’s lodges, even though this is a good education piece, a vote one way or another would be a Masonic offense. Four months later, my father would come from Virginia for my 3rd Degree. Ask me later about the great men that I requested to participate in my Master Mason degree, as I am getting a little long winded here.

This was an accomplishment for me that you can’t assign a value to. As Ben Franklin said: “Wealth is not his that has it, but his that enjoys it.” When Masons say, “Making Good Men Better”, it’s not just a marketing or a tagline. I have seen men move to the station of Master in Richland Lodge, who never thought that they were capable of earning a Bronze award with their brothers, but succeed with their hard work. Time and effort can move mountains.

I enjoy the ritual work, and that is what sets us apart from other fraternal organizations. The beauty of Masonry, however, is that there is something for EVERYONE, not just ritual. It also teaches balance. That balance, I have learned to use in my everyday life. I waited until I was Master of my Lodge before I ventured out into any other Masonic body. I then

joined a whole lot of them. In my travels, I was asked to accompany a Lady to the Throne in the Grand Court of the Order of the Amaranth. This travel, on top of my day job, put a great strain on my life. I felt to do that position right, I needed to back out of some of my other obligations. So, I stepped out of my York Rite positions in Lebanon and promised my brethren that I would be back. I honored that promise when my wife completed her year as Grand Royal Matron in 2018.

Through my experiences in Freemasonry and construction management, I have become a master at “priorities of work.” I always take time to consider whether I can do a job right or not. In doing so, I have always had the satisfaction for the accomplishments I have made in anything I take on. It seems like people comment daily on how much stuff they see me do. Which is partially true. The perception is actually a little more than the reality of it. A person commented to me at our Grand Session about doing all the fun stuff. For me, much of the fun stuff is performing parts like Pashur in the Super Excellent Master degree, Color Guard for Sons of the American Revolution and the Sojourners. I believe most people are drawn to what they enjoy first and foremost. This is what draws people in and drives them to be more active within our Fraternity.

My other growth, which Freemasonry has helped with immensely, is in the social aspect. This only child with an attitude is a work in progress. I have always been a change agent and as someone put it, “A bull in a China shop”, but I do try. If I can’t speak well of someone or thing, I at least can be silent. I am so blessed to have my wife of 34 years on my Masonic team. She is the other half of that growth. She has a way with people I can only dream to achieve, and she berates me regularly, (lol). Many of you can attest to this, so as my favorite tagline goes, “Feedback is a Gift” and should be treated as such. Sooo, after many years of giving feedback, certain things just slip out sometime.

This brings me up to today. At Grand Session, I was assigned a new job as Chairman of Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee for the Grand Council. A portion of this position involves a submission of articles in a section titled, “Retention Corner,” that will be in this very Beacon magazine that you are reading right now. It will cover topics on self-reflection, observation, and resource integration that may help us all to become more motivated. Assist those who are wandering and help us all grow interest in keeping everyone motivated.

I will leave you with something I witnessed at my Lodge just before the Missouri Grand York Rite

Grand Session...

A brand-new Entered Apprentice showed up to lodge for a final Bronze award practice. An old Past Master took him in for the opening on the first degree. He taught him how to exit properly at the appropriate time. He then sat him down with that Entered Apprentice and provided him with a candidate’s lecture booklet. As the Bronze practice continued, that old Past Master sat with the Entered Apprentice and read through the material as he provided explanations along the way.

In reality, our new member could have been sent home, and the Past Master could have set in the Lodge, but he didn’t. He used his time to share and impart knowledge on that young man, “without the hope of fee or reward” and made him feel welcome and important. That my brethren is what makes us so great.

So, I ask you, have you ever passed up an opportunity to possibly change someone’s life? Make their experience better? If this experience came up in your lodge, what would you do?



## **My Masonic Story**

Articulating one’s goals, purposes, and benefits of Freemasonry isn’t easy. Encapsulation of the history, meaning, symbolism, and esoterism doesn’t come as part of an elevator speech. Why are you a Freemason, and what you get out of it isn’t a soup question.

### **Share your story!**

Let your story resonate with those who want to be a part of something larger than themselves, who wants to grow spiritually, who wants to be better and do better, who needs to be & should be a Freemason.

Share you story at:

<https://s.surveypplanet.com/4TGg6d7zz>

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# Are you a Royal Arch Mason?

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Send to: Tina Miller, RAMM, PO Box 205, Maxwell, IN 46154-0205 along  
with a \$10.00 check and get started now!



# Upcoming Events...

## July 2025

**Saturday, July 12, 2025:** Grand Lodge of Missouri Masonic Service Day – Kansas City, Missouri

**Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.:** Court of Discovery No. 80, Masonic Order of Athelstan, Cooper Masonic Temple, Boonville, Missouri

**Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.:** Red Cross of Constantine-Mary Conclave, Buckner Masonic Temple, Buckner, Missouri

**Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.:** Tipperary Council No. 62, Knight Masons, Cooper Masonic Temple, Boonville, Missouri

**Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.:** Marquis de LaFayette Council No. 392 & Robert Harris Bray Council No. 513-AMD, Cooper Masonic Temple, Boonville, Missouri

**Sunday, July 13, 2025, - Tuesday, July 15, 2025:** Great Smokies Assembly of York Rite Masons-Maggie Valley, North Carolina

**Saturday, July 19, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.:** Masonic Home of Missouri Board of Directors Meeting, Masonic Center, Columbia, Missouri

**Saturday, July 19, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.:** Missouri Priory No 17 KYCH, Jefferson City Masonic Temple, Jefferson City, Missouri

**Saturday, July 19, 2025:** Kansas Masonic Con 2024, Mission, Kansas

**Saturday, July 26, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.:** Elizabeth St Leger Council #386 AMD, Rolla Masonic Center, Rolla, Missouri

**Saturday, July 26, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.:** Gates of Derry Council #82, Knight Mason, Rolla Masonic Center

## August 2025

**Wednesday, August 7, 2025- Saturday, August 9, 2025:** York Rite Sovereign College of North America Annual Assembly, Raleigh, North Carolina

**Saturday, August 9, 2025:** Grand Lodge of Missouri Masonic Service Day – Columbia, Missouri

**Saturday, August 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:** Official Reception for the Grand Master of the Grand Council, Drury Plaza Hotel. Cape Girardeau, Missouri

**Friday, August 15, 2025 - Saturday, August 16, 2025:** Red Cross of Constantine—Annual State Assembly, Missouri Conclave, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Chesterfield, Missouri

**Saturday, August 16, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.:** Masonic Home of Missouri Board of Directors Meeting, Masonic Center, Columbia, Missouri

**Sunday, August 17, 2025- Tuesday, August 19, 2025:** Scottish Rite – 2025 Supreme Council Biennial Session, Washington Hilton, Washington, DC

**Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.:** Knights Masons - Limerick Council No. 88, Freedom Masonic Temple, Mehlville, Missouri

**Tuesday August 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:** Red Cross of Constantine, Springfield Masonic York Rite Temple, Springfield, Missouri

**Saturday August 30, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.:** Knight Masons – Charlemagne Council No. 79, Buckner Masonic Temple, Buckner, Missouri





Ladies and Gentlemen,

Imagine a world where every sound is a puzzle, where understanding the spoken language is a daily struggle. This is the reality for millions of people living with Central Auditory Processing Disorder, or CAPD. What dyslexia is to the eyes, CAPD is to the ears. People with CAPD have excellent hearing, but their ears and brain don't fully coordinate. Something interferes with the way the brain recognizes and interprets those sounds, especially that of human speech.

For 50 years, Royal Arch Research Assistance, better known as RARA, has been at the forefront of CAPD research. We work tirelessly to improve upon the challenges of this reality. We are not only a charity; we are a beacon of hope, a catalyst for change, and a driving force in the world of auditory research.

Our approach is unique. We don't just fund projects; we invest in people. We focus on supporting researchers, setting them on lifelong paths to conquering CAPD. It's like planting a forest instead of just a tree – we're cultivating an entire ecosystem of scientific expertise.

We are proud to partner with the Hearing Health Foundation, the largest nonprofit funder of hearing research in the United States. For 65 years, they have been instrumental in developing cochlear implant technology, improving upon the hearing aid, and successful ear surgeries. Their Hearing Restoration Project is an international team of scientists working collaboratively to discover new ways to regenerate hair cells in the human ear and restore hearing.

We also work closely with Autism Speaks,

whose Autism Response Team provides invaluable support to families affected by both autism and CAPD. They offer guidance on everything from diagnosis and education to advocacy and adult services.

The impact of our work is nothing short of transformative. We have made groundbreaking discoveries about the intricate dance between the ear and the brain. We have developed innovative diagnostic tools that can identify CAPD earlier than ever before. We have pioneered treatments that are changing lives daily.

Today, I'm excited to announce our new regional approach to furthering our mission. By uniting chapters across regions, we're amplifying our impact like never before. Imagine the power of collaborative events, shared resources, and a united front in the fight against CAPD. This approach will allow us to raise more awareness, fund more research, and ultimately help more people affected by CAPD.

Picture a child who once struggled to understand their teacher, now thriving in school. Envision a veteran who had difficulty processing sounds after service, rediscovering the joy of conversation.

These aren't just feel-good stories; they're the real-world impact of the cutting-edge research we fund.

As we look to the future, the potential is boundless. We're on the cusp of revolutionary advancements in CAPD understanding and treatment. Imagine a world where CAPD can be identified in infancy, where personalized treatments are readily available, where the challenges of auditory processing no longer limit anyone's potential.

For those of you eager to get involved in this exciting new chapter of RARA's journey, I encourage you to reach out to Companion Steven Bright. He can provide more detailed information about our regional initiative and guide you on how to make a significant impact in your area.



Now, I invite each of you to consider donating today. Your generosity will fuel the research that brings hope to millions. Whether it's spare change or a substantial gift, every contribution moves us closer to our goal. Remember, when you support RARA, you're not just funding research – you're rebuilding bridges between people. You are restoring the joy of a grandparent hearing their grandchild's laughter, the confidence of a child raising their hand in class, the relief of a veteran enjoying a quiet conversation with friends.

Together, we can turn up the volume on CAPD research and create a symphony of change. Thank you for your attention and remember: in the grand concert of making a difference, every voice matters – especially those we're helping to be heard."

VEC Steven Bright  
Chairman on RARA  
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons  
of the State of Missouri



Please send your R.A.R.A. contributions to your Chapter Secretary to forward to the Grand Secretary. Otherwise, send your R.A.R.A. contributions to the address at the bottom of this page.

Certificates are for contributions of \$25.00, \$50.00, and \$100.00. A \$1000.00 contribution receives a very impressive pin with a keystone in the center. Additional contributions of \$500.00 add a small diamond to the pin. Certificates and pins are awarded to both individual donors and donating organizations. Donations are IRS deductible.

Other than the pin, a greater incentive might be that the research you have funded in part might very well have brought a better life to some one who were affected with CAPD, an important learning disability.

**Contributions can be made out to Grand Chapter of Missouri with RARA in the memo section and sent to:**

**RARA, MGYR Office**  
**107 S. Williams Street**  
**Fayette, MO 65248**

## *Pin Award\**

### *Qualifying Donation Levels*



*Bronze Keystone Pin - \$100*



*Silver Keystone Pin - \$300*



*Gold Keystone Pin - \$500*



*RARA Diamond Pin - \$1,000*



*Keystone Breast Badge - \$2,500*



*RARA Breast Badge - \$5,000*





## Commit to CMMRF

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

### Dime War for CMMRF

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons has launched its newest game of Dime War for CMMRF. This is an initiative and fun way to boost donations to CMMRF and foster Councils to visit each other. Here is how it will work:

### Dime War for CMMRF!

Starting at Grand Session, and ending on March 31, 2026:

- Each dime contributes one point.
- All paper and coin money count as negative points for your council.
- Refer to the rules below for the values of different coins and paper money.
- The Council with the highest positive points (or the least negative points) will be proclaimed the victor! The prize is yet to be decided.
- It's highly encouraged to "sabotage" other councils with money that is not valued at a dime.
- Under no circumstances can money be removed from the jar.
- Each Council must have their box easily accessible during assemblies and events.

You may "sabotage" any council at any event; assembly, degree work, festival, regional conference, GL/RDGL School of Instruction, Table Council (money doesn't contribute to the table council total), Purple Galas, etc. Whenever you visit another council, bring your money to fill their jar.

### Rules:

- A dime is worth 1 point (10¢ = +10 point).
- All other money deducts points from your team.

\$1 bill = -100 points

\$5 bill = -500 points

\$10 bill = -1000 points

Penny = -1 point  
Nickel = -5 points  
Quarter = -25 points

- Money cannot be removed from any jar for any reason.
- Rolled coins must be unrolled and placed as loose change in the box to be counted towards your total.
- The Council with the most positive or least negative points will be declared the WINNER!!!
- Sabotaging other councils' jars with silver coins and paper money is encouraged.

So join in with us and let us see who can collect the most money and show everyone which council has it to be the best. In the process we will be helping one of the best charities out there CMMRF. Good luck all and let the games begin!!!

33 Degrees?  
You have 33  
Degrees in  
Freemasonry?  
But why?

There are the first 3  
Degrees. And those  
above are for those  
that did not understand  
the first 3 Degrees.





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.







Welcome everyone to your July issue of the Beacon Magazine. When it comes to this time of year, we think of barbecues, family gatherings, swimming, fireworks, and parades. But why is this? It is for the important reason that our forefathers pushed back and went to war to secure our independence. So, that we all may enjoy a life of truth, justice, and freedom. July 4, 1776, is that day when the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence, created by Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman, and sent it to the King of England to declare our independence.



So, please remember that the 4th of July is more than just another holiday for fun and frolic, but one that our forefathers fought and toiled so that their families for generations on may have a better life.

This month, we will be looking at a few new articles and a few new contributors to this magazine. One such person is E.C. Brandon Lewis of the PHA of Freemasonry from Tennessee. I have been reading some of his articles and have enjoyed his writings. Thus, I have decided to include one in our publication. At the end of the article I have included a short bio on him so that you may get to know him as well. I hope you enjoy.

Our Second new contributor to the Beacon is Companion Gerald Ray Hill, who has been assigned as Chairman of the Membership Retention and Growth Committee for the Grand Council. You can find his article in the, "My Masonic Story" of this publication. He promises there will be more to come, and we will hold him to it.

This bring me to a point. If you or anyone out there wishes to contribute and article to this magazine. You can do it through the Grand York Rite webpage. There is a section to do it. Don't think that you have to be the best writer in the world. All you have to do is submit it and we will help clean it up if necessary. This is your magazine and we encourage you to be a part of it.



Well, it looks like I painted myself into a corner with pictures and a banner. So, I guess I will end this with this....may you horse be strong, your saddle be dry, and we will all be seeing you on down the trail.

Peace be with you all,

Your Editor





# **DEMOLAY**

## **MISSOURI**

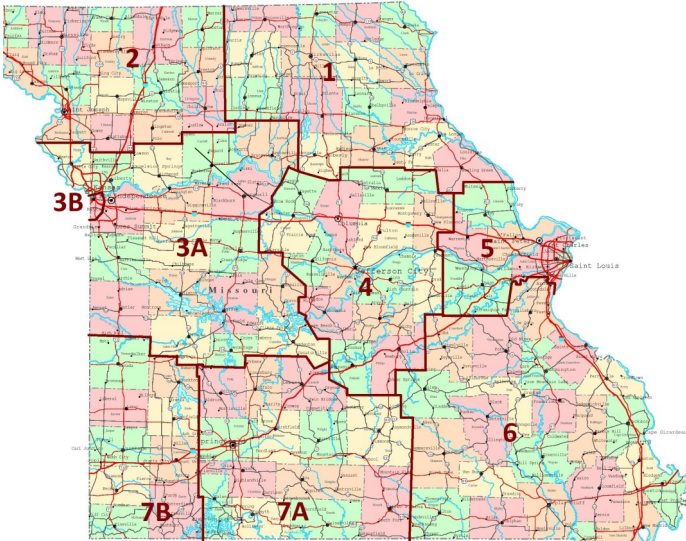
**Filial Love  
Reverence for Sacred Things  
Courtesy  
Comradeship  
Fidelity  
Cleanness  
Patriotism**

**DeMolay bases its vision, mission, and  
purpose on these Seven Cardinal  
Virtues.....**

**If you know or have a young man that would be  
interested in joining our Fraternity, click [here](#) and  
start his journey!!!**



# Missouri Grand York Rite Bulletin Board



Missouri

★ State Capitals  
● County Seat  
● Cities 100,000-499,999  
● Cities 50,000-99,999  
● Cities 10,000-49,999  
● Cities 5,000-9,999

--- State Boundaries  
--- County Boundaries  
--- Toll Roads and Bridges  
--- Interstate Highways  
--- U.S. Highways  
--- State Roads

Major Rivers  
Intermediate Rivers  
Lakes

Scale: 0 50 100 Miles  
0 50 100 Kilometers

## 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/>



## 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/>



## Your Help is Needed!!!

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.

## 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.



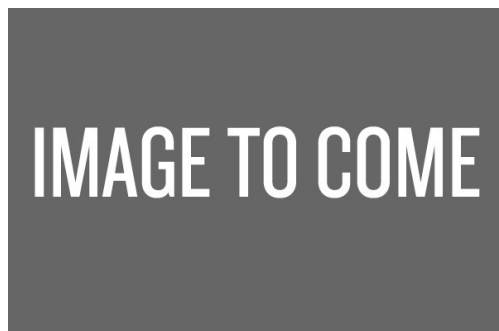
2025-2026

**MEC Kevin M. Ritter, Grand High Priest Coin**



2024-25

**MIC Dennis W. Houck Grand Master Coin**



2024-2025

**SK Ronald L. Skiles, Right Eminent Grand Commander Coin 2024-2025**

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](http://moyorkrite.org) website.

Chapter Proficiency Certificate Plan:

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



### ILLINOIS MASONIC REGALIA

Website – [www.illinoismasonicregalia.com](http://www.illinoismasonicregalia.com), Etsy shop link on Website.  
Business Owner – John Grant 402-321-2317

Your one stop shop for all your Masonic merchandise! We offer a variety of items for your Masonic Lodge, Ceremonies or to show off your Masonic Pride. Lapel Pins, Car Emblems, Decals, Daggers, Swords, Rings, Ties, Bow Ties, Cravats, Bolo Ties, Pocket Watches, Watches, Briefcases, Rod Toppers, Tablet Covers, Coins, Garment Bags, Wallets, Tie Bars, Tie Chains, Button Covers, Officer pins and much much more!

Masonic Lodge  
Collars  
Aprons  
Apron Briefcases



York Rite  
Collars  
Aprons  
Medals/Jewels



Most items can be customized. Aprons personalized under the flap or make your own design. Decals or metal name plates for your briefcases. Nametags of all shapes and designs. Please contact us with your orders or to set up at one of your events.



# MISSOURI YORK RITE BY REGIONS

## Region 1 Chapters

**Hannibal Chapter No. 7**  
1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Hannibal Masonic Temple**  
1102 Central Avenue  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
**Roger McGregor, Secretary**  
[mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com](mailto:mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com)

**Caldwell Chapter No. 53**  
2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Kirkville Masonic Temple**  
217 East Harrison  
Kirkville, MO 63501  
**William J. King, Secretary**  
[kvorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kvorkrite@gmail.com)

**Shelbina Chapter No. 99**  
4th Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.  
**Shelbina Masonic Lodge**  
313 South Center  
Shelbina, MO 63468  
**Darrell A. Wilham, Secretary**  
[kwilham@centurytel.net](mailto:kwilham@centurytel.net)

**Putnam Chapter No. 123**  
4th Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Unionville Masonic Lodge**  
106 South 15th Street  
Unionville, MO 63565  
**Loren D. Lloyd, Secretary**  
[lorenlloyd69@gmail.com](mailto:lorenlloyd69@gmail.com)

## Region 1 Councils

**Kirkville Council No. 44**  
2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.  
Dark June, July, and August  
**Kirkville Masonic Temple**  
217 E. Harrison  
Kirkville, MO 63501  
**William J. King, Recorder**  
[kvorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kvorkrite@gmail.com)

**Trinity Council No. 47**  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Hannibal Masonic Temple**  
1102 Central Avenue  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
**Roger McGregor, Recorder**  
[mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com](mailto:mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com)

**Shelby Council No. 59**  
4th Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.  
**Shelbina Masonic Lodge**  
313 South Center  
Shelbina, MO 63468  
**Darrell A. Wilham, Recorder**  
[kwilham@centurytel.net](mailto:kwilham@centurytel.net)

## Region 1 Commanderies

**Excalibur Commandery No. 5**  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Hannibal Masonic Temple**  
1102 Central Avenue  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
**Roger McGregor, Recorder**  
[mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com](mailto:mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com)

**Ely Commandery No. 22**  
2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.  
**Kirkville Masonic Temple**  
217 East Harrison  
Kirkville, MO 63501  
**William J. King, Recorder**  
[kvorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kvorkrite@gmail.com)

## Region 1 Commanderies

**Malta Commandery No. 72**  
4th Tuesday at 9 p.m.  
**Shelbina Masonic Temple**  
313 S. Center  
Shelbina, MO 63468  
**Darrell A. Wilham, Recorder**  
[kwilham@centurytel.net](mailto:kwilham@centurytel.net)

## Region 2 Chapters

**Liberty Chapter No. 3**  
3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark July & August  
**Liberty Masonic Temple**  
10 East Franklin  
Liberty, MO 64068  
**Don Gilkerson, Secretary**  
[gilkersondon@yahoo.com](mailto:gilkersondon@yahoo.com)

**Lexington Chapter No. 10**  
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Lexington Masonic Temple**  
126 1/2 North 11th Street  
Lexington, MO 64067-0283  
**Lloyd G. Lyon, Secretary**  
[lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com)

**Mitchell Chapter No. 14**  
1st Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark July & August  
**St. Joseph Masonic Center**  
605 Robidoux Street  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
**James Jeffers, Secretary**  
[jimjeffers25@gmail.com](mailto:jimjeffers25@gmail.com)

## Region 2 Councils

**St. Joseph Council No. 9**  
1st Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.  
Dark in June, July, & August  
**St. Joseph Masonic Center**  
605 Robidoux Street  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
**James Jeffers, Recorder**  
[jimjeffers25@gmail.com](mailto:jimjeffers25@gmail.com)

**John F. Houston No. 42**  
4th Monday at 8:15 p.m.  
**Lexington Masonic Temple**  
126 1/2 North 11th Street  
Lexington, MO 64067-0283  
**Lloyd G. Lyon, Secretary**  
[lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com)

**Liberty Council No. 50**  
3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Liberty Masonic Temple**  
10 East Franklin  
Liberty, MO 64068  
**Don Gilkerson, Recorder**  
[gilkersondon@yahoo.com](mailto:gilkersondon@yahoo.com)

## Region 2 Commanderies

**DeMolay Commandery No. 3**  
4th Monday at 9:30 p.m.  
**Lexington Masonic Temple**  
126 1/2 North 11th Street  
Lexington, MO 64067-0283  
**Lloyd G. Lyon, Recorder**  
[lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com)

**Hugh DePayens Commandery No. 4**  
1st Wednesday at 9:00 pm  
**St. Joseph Masonic Center**  
605 Robidoux Street  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
**James Jeffers, Recorder**  
[jimjeffers25@gmail.com](mailto:jimjeffers25@gmail.com)

**Liberty Commandery No. 6**  
1st Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Liberty Masonic Temple**  
10 East Franklin  
Liberty, MO 64068  
**Don Gilkerson, Recorder**  
[gilkersondon@yahoo.com](mailto:gilkersondon@yahoo.com)

## Region 3 Chapters

**Independence Chapter No. 12**  
2nd Thursday at 7 p.m.  
Dark July & August  
**Independence Masonic Temple**  
120 South Pleasant  
Independence, MO 64050  
**Larry Walters, Secretary**  
[larryfred61@gmail.com](mailto:larryfred61@gmail.com)

**Kansas City Chapter No. 28**  
1st Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Ivanhoe Masonic Temple**  
8640 Holmes  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
**Donald MacCormick, Secretary**  
[kcworkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kcworkrite@gmail.com)

**Wyoming Chapter No. 43**  
1st Monday @ 7:30 p.m. Except  
September on 2nd Monday.  
**Jewel Lodge No. 480**  
1480 Broadway  
Pleasant Hill, MO 64080  
**Lance Cramer, Secretary**  
[cramelance773@gmail.com](mailto:cramelance773@gmail.com)

**Orient Chapter No. 102**  
3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.  
**Kansas City Masonic Temple**  
903 Harrison Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
**Corey Huntsucker, Secretary**  
[yorkmason903@gmail.com](mailto:yorkmason903@gmail.com)

## Region 3 Councils

**Shekinah Council No. 24**  
4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Kansas City Masonic Temple**  
903 Harrison Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
**Corey Huntsucker, Recorder**  
[yorkmason903@gmail.com](mailto:yorkmason903@gmail.com)

**Kansas City Council No. 45**  
1st Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Ivanhoe Masonic Temple**  
8640 Holmes  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
**Donald MacCormick, Recorder**  
[kcworkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kcworkrite@gmail.com)

**Independence Council No. 49**  
4th Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Independence Masonic Temple**  
120 South Pleasant  
Independence, MO 64050  
**Larry Walters, Recorder**  
[larryfred61@gmail.com](mailto:larryfred61@gmail.com)

## Region 3 Commanderies

**Kansas City Commandery No. 10**  
3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Ivanhoe Masonic Temple**  
8640 Holmes  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
**Donald MacCormick, Recorder**  
[kcworkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kcworkrite@gmail.com)

**Palestine Commandery No. 17**  
1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Independence Masonic Temple**  
120 South Pleasant  
Independence, MO 64050  
**John D. Toynton, Recorder**  
[johntoynton@yahoo.com](mailto:johntoynton@yahoo.com)

**Oriental Commandery No. 35**  
1st Friday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Kansas City Masonic Temple**  
903 Harrison Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
**Corey Huntsucker, Recorder**  
[yorkmason903@gmail.com](mailto:yorkmason903@gmail.com)

## Region 4 Chapters

**Columbia Chapter No. 17**  
2nd Monday Odd Months at 6:30 p.m.  
and even at 7:30 p.m.  
**York Rite Masonic Temple**  
#3 North Masonic Drive  
Columbia, MO 65202  
**Russel S. Hanson, Secretary**  
[hansonr@missouri.edu](mailto:hansonr@missouri.edu)

**Rolla Chapter No. 32**  
3rd Monday at 7:00 pm  
Dark July & August  
**Rolla Masonic Temple**  
400 East 2nd Street  
Rolla, MO 65401  
**Steven F. Eberharter, Secretary**  
[sfeberharter@gmail.com](mailto:sfeberharter@gmail.com)

**Jefferson City Chapter No. 34**  
1st Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark July & August  
**Jefferson City Masonic Temple**  
3211 Masonic Court  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
**Harold Coots, Secretary**  
[hfcoots@gmail.com](mailto:hfcoots@gmail.com)

## Region 4 Chapters

**Triune Chapter No. 93**  
1st Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
No meeting if falls on Holiday falls on  
first Monday.

**Montgomery Lodge #246**  
2nd and Sturgeon Street  
Montgomery City, MO 63361  
**Phillip Engel, Secretary**  
[hilltop@socket.net](mailto:hilltop@socket.net)

## Region 4 Councils

**Ezra Council No. 32**  
1st Monday at 8:00 p.m.  
**Jefferson City Masonic Temple**  
3211 Masonic Court  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
**Harold Coots, Recorder**  
[hfcoots@gmail.com](mailto:hfcoots@gmail.com)

# MISSOURI YORK RITE BY REGIONS

## Region 4 Councils

**Centralia Council No. 34**  
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**York Rite Masonic Temple**  
#3 North Masonic Drive  
Columbia, MO 65202  
[Kevin Sample, Recorder](#)  
[Kevin.Sample63@gmail.com](mailto:Kevin.Sample63@gmail.com)

**Rolla Council No. 39**  
Dark in July & August  
3rd Monday at 7:50 p.m.  
**Rolla Masonic Temple**  
400 East 2nd Street  
Rolla, MO 65401  
[Steven F. Eberharter, Recorder](#)  
[sfeberharter@gmail.com](mailto:sfeberharter@gmail.com)

## Region 4 Commanderies

**St. Graal Commandery No. 12**  
2nd Monday Odd Months at 6:30 p.m.  
and even at 7:30 p.m.  
**York Rite Masonic Temple**  
#3 North Masonic Drive  
Columbia, MO 65202  
[Russel S. Hanson, Recorder](#)  
[hansonr@missouri.edu](mailto:hansonr@missouri.edu)

**Prince of Pride No. 29**  
3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Jefferson City Masonic Temple**  
3211 Masonic Court  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
[Harold Coots, Recorder](#)  
[hfcoots@aol.com](mailto:hfcoots@aol.com)

**Rolla Commandery No. 59**  
3rd Monday at 8:40 p.m.  
**Rolla Masonic Temple**  
400 East 2nd Street  
Rolla, MO 65401  
[Steven F. Eberharter, Recorder](#)  
[sfeberharter@gmail.com](mailto:sfeberharter@gmail.com)

## Region 5 Chapters

**St. Charles-Missouri Chapter No. 1**  
2nd Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**St. Charles Masonic Temple**  
2051 Collier Corporate Parkway  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
[Philip R. Cary, Secretary](#)  
[Stcharlesmissourino1ram@yahoo.com](mailto:Stcharlesmissourino1ram@yahoo.com)

**Bellefontaine Chapter No. 25**  
1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Saint Louis Masonic Center**  
15977 Clayton Road  
Ballwin, MO 63011-2146  
[Michael S. Smith, Secretary](#)  
[mikessmith66@gmail.com](mailto:mikessmith66@gmail.com)

**Oriental-Rabboni Chapter No. 78**  
1st Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Webster Groves Masonic Temple**  
12 East Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
[Michael Gmoser, Secretary](#)  
[secretary@or78ram.org](mailto:secretary@or78ram.org)

**Keystone Chapter No. 146**  
2nd Monday @ 10:00 a.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Freedom Masonic Temple**  
4557 LeMay Ferry Road  
Mehlville, MO 63129  
[David L. Jacobi, Secretary](#)  
[oket14@scbglobal.net](mailto:oket14@scbglobal.net)

## Region 5 Councils

**Hiram Council No. 1**  
4th Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.  
**Masonic Center of St. Louis**  
15977 Clayton Road  
Ballwin, MO 63011  
[Christopher Newbold, Recorder](#)  
[hiramcouncil1stl@gmail.com](mailto:hiramcouncil1stl@gmail.com)

**York Council No. 40**  
3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Jan, Feb, May, June, Sept, Oct  
**Wentzville Masonic Temple**  
602 Meyer Road  
Wentzville, MO 63385  
[Michael S. Smith, Recorder](#)  
[mikessmith66@gmail.com](mailto:mikessmith66@gmail.com)

**Jeremiah Council No. 48**  
3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Webster Groves Masonic Temple**  
12 East Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
[Terry Coppotelli, Recorder](#)  
[terry\\_coppotelli@hotmail.com](mailto:terry_coppotelli@hotmail.com)

## Region 5 Commanderies

**Ivanhoe Commandery No. 8**  
1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**St. Charles Masonic Temple**  
2051 Collier Corporate Parkway  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
[Michael S. Smith, Recorder](#)  
[mikessmith66@gmail.com](mailto:mikessmith66@gmail.com)

**Ascalon Commandery No. 16**  
1st & 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Saint Louis Masonic Center**  
15977 Clayton Road  
Ballwin, MO 63011-2146  
[Roger Fleer, Recorder](#)  
[fleerroger@gmail.com](mailto:fleerroger@gmail.com)

## Region 6 Chapters

**Wilson Chapter No. 75**  
3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm  
Dark in July & August  
**Excelsior Lodge No. 441**  
204 South High Street  
Jackson, MO 63755  
[Christopher Foeste, Secretary](#)  
[chris.foeste@gmail.com](mailto:chris.foeste@gmail.com)

**Poplar Bluff Chapter No. 114**  
2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Poplar Bluff Masonic Temple**  
2303 North Main Street  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901  
[Devin R. Scott, Secretary](#)  
[mmaprez@yahoo.com](mailto:mmaprez@yahoo.com)

## Region 6 Councils

**Cape Council No. 20**  
1st Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Excelsior Lodge No. 441**  
204 South High Street  
Jackson, MO 63755  
[Christopher M. Foeste, Recorder](#)  
[chris.foeste@gmail.com](mailto:chris.foeste@gmail.com)

**Popular Bluff Council No. 27**  
2nd Thursday at 8:00 p.m.  
**Poplar Bluff Masonic Lodge**  
2303 North Main Street  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901  
[Devon R. Scott, Recorder](#)  
[mmaprez@yahoo.com](mailto:mmaprez@yahoo.com)

## Region 6 Commanderies

**Cape Girardeau Commandery#55**  
1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Excelsior Lodge No. 441 Building**  
204 South High Street  
Jackson, MO 63755  
[John C. Cross, Recorder](#)  
[jcross\\_math@yahoo.com](mailto:jcross_math@yahoo.com)

**Poplar Bluff Commandery No. 67**  
3rd Monday @ 7:00 p.m.  
**Poplar Bluff Masonic Temple**  
2303 North Main Street  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901  
[Tony DePriest, Recorder](#)  
[poplarbluffyorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:poplarbluffyorkrite@gmail.com)

## Region 7A Chapters

**Bolivar Chapter No. 5**  
3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Bolivar Masonic Temple**  
261 South Killingsworth Avenue  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
[Randy W. Preslev, Secretary](#)  
[pantherdad2772@gmail.com](mailto:pantherdad2772@gmail.com)

**Springfield Chapter No. 15**  
4th Monday at 7 p.m.  
Except in December, 2nd Monday  
**Masonic York Rite Temple**  
1930 West Catalpa  
Springfield, MO 65807  
[Gregory J Walker, Secretary](#)  
[gregoryjwalker@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryjwalker@gmail.com)

**Greenfield Chapter No. 38**  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Washington Masonic Temple**  
#5 South Allison  
Greenfield, MO 65661  
[G. Timothy Black, Secretary](#)  
[tblack@penningtonseed.com](mailto:tblack@penningtonseed.com)  
IT rep: Billy Cooper

**Lebanon Chapter No. 64**  
3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Laclede Masonic Temple**  
191 West Second Street  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
[Gerald R. Hill, Secretary](#)  
[flwabic@gmail.com](mailto:flwabic@gmail.com)

## Region 7A Councils

**Zabud Council No. 25**  
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Masonic York Rite Temple**  
1930 West Catalpa  
Springfield, MO 65807  
[Gregory K. Walker, Recorder](#)  
[gregoryjwalker@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryjwalker@gmail.com)

**Lebanon Council No. 56**  
3rd Tues at 7:00 p.m.  
**Laclede Masonic Temple**  
191 West Second Street  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
**Gerald R. Hill, Recorder**  
[flwabic@gmail.com](mailto:flwabic@gmail.com)

**Bert S. Lee Council No. 58**  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Washington Masonic Temple**  
#5 South Allison  
Greenfield, MO 65661  
[G. Timothy Black, Recorder](#)  
[tblack@penningtonseed.com](mailto:tblack@penningtonseed.com)

## Region 7 A Commanderies

**St. John's Commandery No. 20**  
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Masonic York Rite Temple**  
1930 West Catalpa  
Springfield, MO 65807  
[Gregory J. Walker, Recorder](#)  
[gregoryjwalker@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryjwalker@gmail.com)

**Constantine Commandery No. 27**  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Washington Masonic Temple**  
#5 South Allison  
Greenfield, MO 65661  
[G. Timothy Black, Recorder](#)  
[tblack@penningtonseed.com](mailto:tblack@penningtonseed.com)

**Lebanon Commandery No. 33**  
3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
**Laclede Masonic Temple**  
191 West Second Street  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
[Gerald R. Hill, Recorder](#)  
[flwabic@gmail.com](mailto:flwabic@gmail.com)

**St. Elmo Commandery No. 43**  
3rd Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.  
**Bolivar Masonic Temple**  
301 South Killingsworth Avenue  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
[Randy Preslev, Recorder](#)  
[pantherdad2772@gmail.com](mailto:pantherdad2772@gmail.com)

## Region 7 B Chapters

**Tyrian Chapter No. 52**  
3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.  
**Neosho Masonic Temple**  
4080 LaQuetta Drive  
Neosho, MO 64850  
[Matthew D. Ruth, Secretary](#)  
[matt.ruth@rocketmail.com](mailto:matt.ruth@rocketmail.com)

**Nevada Chapter No. 56**  
2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Nevada Masonic Lodge**  
221 West Walnut  
Nevada Mo 64722  
**Gary L. Jones, Secretary**  
(417) 667-7549

**Meridian Sun Chapter No. 61**  
3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Carthage Masonic Temple**  
1339 Oak Street  
Carthage, MO 64836  
[Chad E. Wagoner, Secretary](#)  
[cwagoner1865@gmail.com](mailto:cwagoner1865@gmail.com)

**Joplin Chapter No. 91**  
1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Joplin Scottish Rite Building**  
505 South Byers  
Joplin, MO 64801  
[Royce P. Wahl Jr., Secretary](#)  
[jrwahl\\_jyr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrwahl_jyr@sbcglobal.net)

## Region 7 B Councils

**Jasper Council No. 30**  
1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Joplin Scottish Rite Building**  
505 South Byers  
Joplin, MO 64801  
[Royce P. Wahl Jr., Recorder](#)  
[jrwahl45@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrwahl45@sbcglobal.net)



# MISSOURI YORK RITE BY REGIONS

## Region 7B Councils

**Carthage Council No. 41**  
3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Carthage Masonic Temple**  
1339 Oak Street  
Carthage, MO 64836  
**Chad E. Wagoner, Recorder**  
[cwagone1865@gmail.com](mailto:cwagone1865@gmail.com)

**Neosho Council No. 46**  
3rd Tuesday of each quarter at 8:00 p.m.  
**Neosho Masonic Temple**  
4080 LaQuesta Drive  
Neosho, MO 64850  
**Matthew D. Ruth, Recorder**  
[matt.ruth@rocketmail.com](mailto:matt.ruth@rocketmail.com)

**Nevada Council No. 65**  
2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Osage Masonic Lodge Building**  
221 West Walnut  
Nevada Mo 64722  
**IT: Courtney Black**  
[courtney28@sbcglobal.net](mailto:courtney28@sbcglobal.net)

## Region 7 B Commanderies

**O'Sullivan Commandery No. 15**  
2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Osage Masonic Lodge Building**  
221 West Walnut  
Nevada, MO 64772  
**Gary Jones, Recorder**  
No e-mail address

**Jasper Commandery No. 31**  
3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Criterian Masonic Temple**  
1339 Oak Street  
Carthage, MO 64836  
**Chad E. Wagoner, Secretary**  
[cwagone1865@gmail.com](mailto:cwagone1865@gmail.com)

**Ascension Commandery No. 39**  
1st Tuesday at 8:00 p.m.  
**Joplin Scottish Rite Building**  
505 South Byers  
Joplin, MO 64801  
**Royce P. Wahl Jr., Recorder**  
[jrwahl\\_jyr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrwahl_jyr@sbcglobal.net)

**Neosho Commandery No.57**  
3rd Tuesday at 9:00 p.m.  
**Neosho Masonic Temple**  
4080 LaQuesta Drive  
Neosho, MO 64850  
**Matthew D. Ruth, Recorder**  
[matt.ruth@rocketmail.com](mailto:matt.ruth@rocketmail.com)



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