

MISSOURI YORK RITE BEACON UNITED STATES of AMERICA

25



ANNIVERSARY

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Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri

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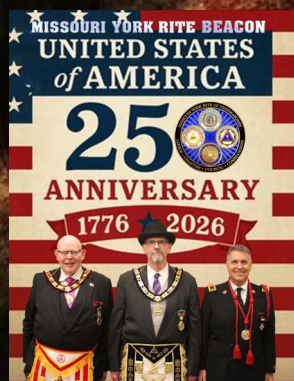
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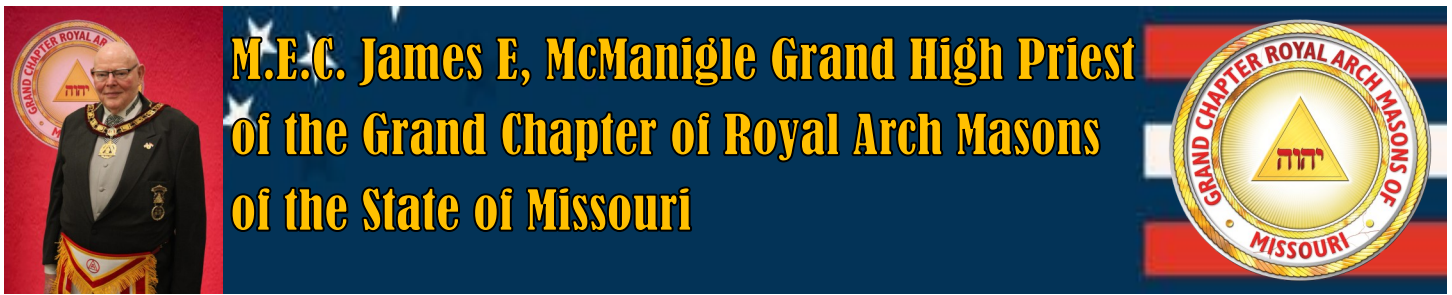
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<https://moyorkrite.org/missouri-york-rite-beacon-news-submission-form/>



Companions,

Greetings all, I hope you had a great Independence Day. This is the start of our Nation's 250th year. Something I think we can all be proud of. We are not a perfect nation, but as in Masonry we are striving to shape our rough ashlar into a more perfect stone. Our work is not done, but working Together Everyone Achieves More (T.E.A.M.).

This has been a very busy month for me. I have been lucky enough to have made several official visits so far. I appreciate the warm reception I have received and look forward to visiting every chapter within the state. This is the fun part of the job, and I am really enjoying it.

I have got to tell you about one visit that really blew my mind. It was on July 7th, at Joplin Chapter Number 91. Now Joplin Chapter meets in the Joplin Scottish Rite Cathedral, but in a Lodge Room just off the Cathedral floor. Well, the night of my visit they stepped up their game and received me in full form on the Cathedral floor. What an honor it was to be acknowledged as the Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri and received in such a beautiful Cathedral of the Joplin Scottish Rite. I was truly humbled and awe struck. The picture below does not do justice to the emotion I felt standing on the stage in the East of the Chapter and looking out on the majesty of the Cathedral.

Be on the lookout for your RARA boxes in your Chapters. Our RARA committee has started collecting nickels to support our charity.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. And watch out for those ducks, I understand they are showing up in some strange places.

Thank you all and May God Bless,

Jim McManigle





M.I.C. Taz A. Meyer Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri



Greetings Companions,

I hope this message finds all of you well and enjoying your summer. It has been a great first month serving as your Grand Master. As the term is just getting rolling, two of our regions have already had their first Council Schools of Instruction. Region 6 held theirs at DeSoto Lodge and Region 5 held theirs at Noble Lodge in St. Louis. Fortunately, I had the pleasure of attending both sessions. Attendance was light, but that is to be expected during June and July. However, that didn't stop our Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers from conducting great schools covering the opening and closing of a council and including the "why" behind some of the things we say and do during the process. I was impressed with and appreciated the commitment of the companions who participated. And as usual, we all learned something!

I was also afforded the opportunity to attend the Missouri Job's Daughters Grand Session in Jefferson City last month, to present the Grand Council Youth Award to a deserving young lady. This was my first opportunity to attend one of their Grand Sessions, and as expected, I was quite impressed. I am looking forward to attending the annual sessions for both the Missouri Order of Rainbow for Girls and Missouri DeMolay next year.

As a Senior DeMolay myself, I have witnessed firsthand what our masonic youth organizations do in support and development of our future leaders. Speaking of our Masonic youth, DeMolay was a major influence in my life during my teen years, directly contributing to my development as a leader, not only in fraternal circles, but also in my career. For this reason, the net proceeds from the sale of my coin this year will be donated to Missouri DeMolay.

Official visits will be starting very soon, and I am looking forward to speaking with many of you as I visit your councils in the coming months. In the meantime, please engage with your councils, and enjoy the many experiences this great fraternity has to offer!

Fraternally,

Taz Meyer





SK Terry D. Coppotelli Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri



Sir Knight and Companions,

I have always struggled with the idea of going dark over the summer. Most of you are probably familiar with the phrase; for those who are not, it refers to the practice, dating back to the early 20th century, of Masonic bodies not meeting during the summer months.

There are many theories about how it originated. Some say it had to do with rural lodges in the farmlands. Because the long days were never long enough for planting and harvesting. The theory is that lodges in these areas would cease operations so the farmers could devote that time to working their fields. That makes sense. At least in the past. In 1937, we had over 7 million farms in America. Now that number is less than 1.9 million. And the number of farmers needed to work that land has decreased due to advances in technology and machinery.

Another theory is that the practice had to do with old buildings and the lack of air conditioning. I can understand that; no one likes to be uncomfortable. But discomfort alone does not explain why a lodge should suspend its work for an entire season, especially when churches, factories, offices, and other community institutions find ways to continue through the summer.

Summer vacations could be another explanation, but that argument raises two questions. First, most vacations last a week or two, not eight weeks, so why should the lodge assume, everyone will be gone for the whole season? Second, if vacations justify going dark in summer, should we also assume the same during spring break, Christmas, and other travel-heavy times of year?

Some might argue that we simply need a break from Craft. I understand the impulse, but Masonry is not merely another appointment on the calendar. If we treat it like a hobby that can be paused without consequence, we should not be surprised when brethren struggle to return with the same commitment.

But the real question is whether this practice helps our lodges and commandries fulfill their work today?

We are creatures of habit. If we go to the gym every morning, we build a routine; when we stop, it is hard to get started again. The same is true of our Masonic obligations. Remember the Covid lockdowns? Remember how hard it was to get brethren back into the habit of fraternal work?

My point is that many of us have bylaws requiring us to go dark over the summer. I would rather we not have this practice. But if we do, I prefer the approach taken by lodges and commandries that make it an option by vote. Enough meetings are cancelled because of lack of quorum, weather, and other unavoidable conflicts. If we are going to step away from the Craft for a reason, let it be because the brethren have deliberately chosen that course, not because an old habit made the decision for us.

Fraternally yours in Freemasonry,

S.K. Terry Coppotelli, Right Eminent Commander



Picture This.....



2026 Missouri Jobs Daughters Grand Session.



The July 9th, A.D. 2026 | A.I. 2556 stated convocation of Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M. may have been low on attendance, but it was full of fellowship! Following an excellent meal prepared by Comp. Christopher W. Boyer, Caldwell Chapter opened for the first time using the Short Form (or so-called "Six Man") opening ritual, with those officers present advancing to fill the required offices. Congratulations to Comp. Nicholas B. Hatfield, Principal Sojourner of Caldwell Chapter, for presiding over his first convocation as High Priest pro tempore!

Following a short but substantive business meeting, V.E.C. Christian M. Jessen, Grand Organist of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, who made a surprise visit to Caldwell Chapter, was received. It was an excellent evening of Capitular Freemasonry in North Missouri!



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fun.

More details and registration information will be available in
mid-2026 on the General Grand Chapter's website –
ggcrami.org/regionalconferences

For more information contact Thomas Flowers at 501-208-3133 or
gsr@aryorkrite.org.

See you in Little Rock!

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Before
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Join us for a

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hosted by

*Triune Chapter
No. 23*

Monday, October 5th, 2026
@ 6:00 PM
Shrine Building
607 S. Sturgeon, Montgomery City, MO



WELCOME TO THE TRIENNIAL 2026

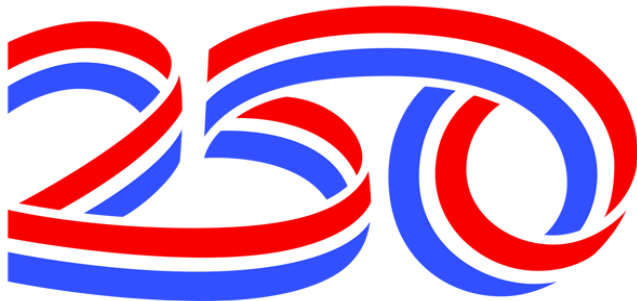
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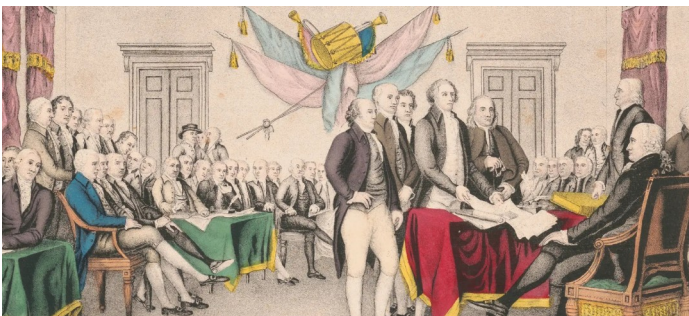
8/29 – 9/2/2026



AMERICA



As we enter into our 250th anniversary of this great country, we can look back and see all the changes that have occurred over time. Some good while others are bad. However, these moments in history that have shaped our country into what it is today. To some, we are still in our infancy. To others we are a well-established union within the world. Yet, democracy has come with a price, but we have survived it and are moving forward through another century. With success comes celebration. So, let us examine some of those past milestone celebrations of our day of our Independence from an unjust rule without representation.



The date was Tuesday, July 4, 1826, the United States was still in its infancy. We were about to celebrate our 50th anniversary. To celebrate this event, a commission was put together to plan the festivities. It was headed by General Roger Chew Weightman, the mayor of the City of Washington D.C. As part of the festivities, Weightman had invited the last three living signers of our Declaration of Independence to attend; Thomas

Jefferson, John Adams, and Charles Carroll. However, they would all send their regrets due to their poor health and advancing ages.



The celebration would Kick off with a reading of the Declaration of Independence, speeches by various dignitaries, a parade of Revolutionary War veterans, cannons firing, and community picnics. Unbeknownst at that time, Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams would die due to their illnesses just hours apart. Since communication was so much slower at that time, news of their deaths would not reach Washington D.C. until the 8th of July. A memorial service would be held at a later date. On a side note, there were 26 states in the union by the time of our 50th anniversary.

By the time our 100th anniversary rolled around, the festivities were quite a bit bigger. Our human experiment had become more solid and substantiable. Ulysses S. Grant was President, and we had 38 states in our union. Patriotic events of the day would include parades, and an American Freedom Train which toured all 38 states. A centennial exhibition held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, would showcase our industrial achievements of the time. It was estimated that nearly 10 million visitors had traveled to Philadelphia to experience this spectacular event. This event would run from May 10th to November 10th.

Our 150th anniversary fell on Sunday July 4, 1926. It was celebrated by a Sesquicentennial International Exposition in Philadelphia. This event,

which ran between May 31st to December 31st, was doomed from the start. From its beginning construction on the exposition was plagued by a multitude of problems. Among which were people having to wade through mud and wander along unpaved sidewalks to reach the heart of the fairgrounds. Once there carpenters were found still building exhibit halls, and there were many empty locations where attractions had yet to be built.



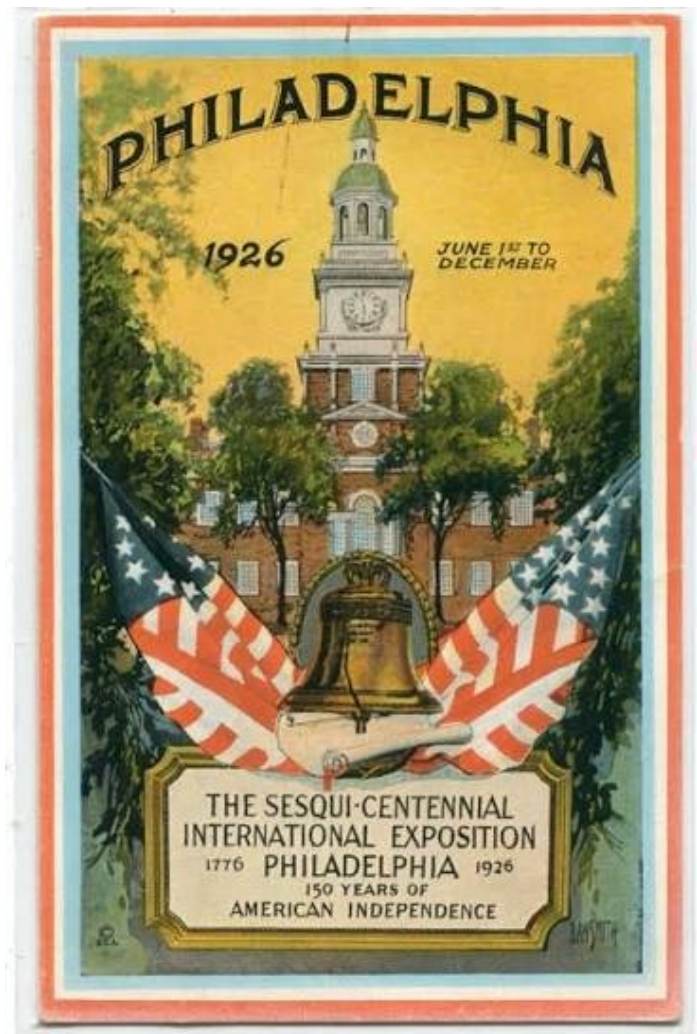
At the same time, 200,000-plus Shriners were in town for their annual convention. This was held between May 30th to June 3rd. What they discovered was that their parade and rallies were the only events planned for the early days of the fair. After the convention, many of them would return home disappointed, telling family and friends that the exposition was not worth visiting.

Attendance at the Sesquicentennial Exposition failed to match the numbers of Philadelphia's 1876 centennial celebration, which attracted roughly 20 percent of the country's population. Organizers predicted that 30 million people would visit the 1926 fair; ultimately, fewer than five million people actually show up.

The low attendance would affect the revenue needed to break even on the event. Exact figures on how much was lost are hard to find. However, it has been suggested that the fair lost approximately 22 million dollars, which is equivalent to more than \$410 million dollars by today's standards. This almost bankrupted the city of Philadelphia. By this point, we had 48 states in our union.

What were the causes of the sesquicentennial's problems? Well, reviewing historical document; poor planning, weather problems throughout the event, and lukewarm reviews by early fair goers.

We now jump to our Bicentennial, which fell on



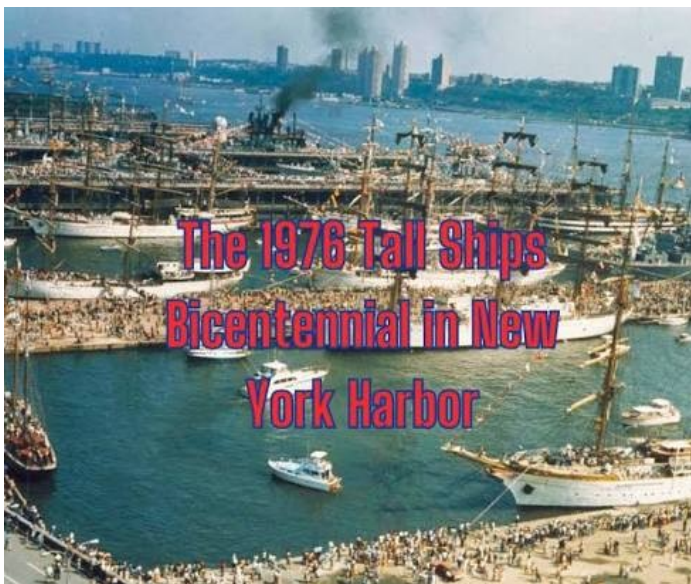
Sunday, July 4, 1976. That year we had celebrations in New York City with "Operation Sail," bringing a fleet of more than 200 ships from all over to the Hudson River to participate in a boat parade. This event drew a crowd of approximately 6 million people.

A Bicentennial Wagon Train Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania, where 50 18th-century-style wagons, one for each state, retraced the steps of early settlers by traveling west to east to do a "replay of history, in reverse." Along the way, each state's wagon stopped at festivals and fairs before converging in Valley Forge National Park for a celebration.

The Grand Bicentennial Parade in Washington, D.C., on July 3, 1976, drew one of the largest crowds the capital had seen in America's 200 years, rallying an estimated 500,000 spectators. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller and country music icon Johnny Cash led the ceremony down Constitution Avenue in separate vehicles, followed by marching bands, and military units.

Two major "God Bless America" rallies organized by Rev. Sun Myung Moon, a Korean

religious leader who founded the controversial Unification Church, drew tens of thousands of Americans each in 1976, beginning with a festival at Yankee Stadium in New York on June 1 and capping off with a Bicentennial festival on the National Mall in Washington D.C. on Sept. 18. During a speech, Moon made the case that America has a "global responsibility" to defeat communism and "build the Kingdom of God on Earth."



Historians and locals have long reenacted one of the most pivotal events in the American Revolutionary War: General George Washington's sneaky crossing of the Delaware River, when he led 2,400 troops through icy waters on Christmas night in 1776 for a surprise attack on Hessian soldiers in Trenton, New Jersey.

After addressing the nation twice on the most significant Independence Day up to that point, President Ford stood out on the White House balcony with first lady Betty Ford to enjoy the Washington, D.C., fireworks show on the National Mall. An estimated 1 million people gathered near the Washington Monument for the 30-minute show, which featured a then-record-breaking 33,000 fireworks.

The National Gallery of Art opened its marquee Bicentennial exhibit, titled "The Eye of Thomas Jefferson," on June 1, 1976, celebrating near the U.S. Capitol with fireworks over a replica of President Jefferson's Monticello home. The show lasted about 20 minutes, with an estimated 30,000 people gathered for one of the earlier summer celebrations.

At D.C.'s National Archives on July 4, Americans waited in line to see the Declaration of Independence and listened and cheered during a public reading of the document.



We now enter into the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As of the writing of this article, we have not reached that date. So, instead of sharing those events, we will list the upcoming events.

- ⇒ The Great American State Fair is a massive 16-day exposition running from June 25 to July 10, 2026, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., celebrating America's 250th birthday. It features state pavilions, live music, a carnival, and an iconic Ferris wheel.
- ⇒ FIFA World Cup 2026 Fan Zones: Hosted across National Mall and other major U.S. cities, including Philadelphia and Houston, coinciding with summer matches.
- ⇒ The 2026 Patriot Games: Youth and adult athletic challenges honoring the American spirit, culminating in a prime-time broadcast on August 13, 2026
- ⇒ Sail250 and International Naval Reviews: Major maritime celebrations in places like the New York Harbor and Virginia, featuring majestic tall ships.
- ⇒ National Museum Exhibits: The Smithsonian Institution is hosting special exhibits, such as In Pursuit of Life, Liberty & Happiness, and the National Portrait Gallery features Photographic Memory.

I might be a little biased, but I think that the United States of America is the greatest country that God allowed to be created. As Americans, we have the greatest freedoms of anyone else in the entire world. So, stay free and enjoy those freedoms.



As we assemble here today we thought it would not only be fruitful but possible entertaining to look back roughly 100 years ago and see what our past Companions were doing as they assembled at the 61st Annual Assembly of Royal & Select Masters.

The time was Wednesday, April 26, 1926, in Kirksville, Missouri. Welcoming remarks were given by IC Thomas H. Reynolds on behalf of Solomon Council, which held the unique distinction of never having worked under dispensation, but rather being chartered instantly on petition in 1894, Reynolds being their first Master.

Much of the address of then Grand Master Bernal Tatman could be mistaken as being written for today's world. Many of the same issues facing our companions of the past are with us in the present. His focus was on the "moral vigor and intellectual leadership" of being a ROYAL and SELECT man. Having briefly touched upon the past accomplishments of many distinguished Masons of the Revolutionary Era, he asked this question, "Whether Freemasonry is devoting itself with equal energy and ability to the problems of today?" Tatman continued that "our order is committed to the support of enlightened government by the people, to uphold the law of the land, and combatting the forces that undermine religion and our free institutions." Much of the anxiety and woes of the moral decay of the day was directed towards the rapidly evolving mechanical age which can be compared to today's advancement of technology in the field of Artificial General Intelligence.

He went on to state that "A direct responsibility rests upon Freemasonry in connection with these problems. It is our duty to aid American children in receiving more light from the Holy Bible that rests upon our altar. Are we speaking with one clear voice on the public school or are we broadcasting our several views from many stations and obtaining no result but static?" Another similar issue following the First Great War was the issue of unrestricted immigration and how we as a Craft might contribute to the preservation of American ideals by promoting the brotherhood of man on a lofty plane. Closing out his address was a stanch and emotional defense of the now repealed 18th Amendment known then as

Prohibition. Which I will leave it to you to peruse at your own pleasure. The main controversy of the session was the removal of the Grand Recorder's Office from St. Louis, which was deemed unauthorized and unsolicited by any one person and that the location be designated in the By-Laws and approved by the voting delegates and the property of the Grand Council that was removed by returned immediately. This was resolved with an amendment later that same day.

Some interesting facts in 1926

- ⇒ Membership at the time was 12,483 members spread across 21 Councils.
- ⇒ The Grand Chapter that year had reported an increase in 68, Grand Commandery net increase of 6, and the Grand Council saw 683.
- ⇒ The three Council with the largest increase were presented silver bowls, they being Shekinah 24, Zabud 25, and Fidelity 35.
- ⇒ The Necrology service noted the passing of MIC Robert Stevenson, PGM 1903, GL in 1904, and Gr Recorder from 1905-1923.

Almost every Council exemplified the work at every visit of the Grand Master who was accompanied by the Grand Lecture on every visit but one. In attendance was Most Puissant Comp Bert S. Lee from Springfield Missouri, then Gen. Grand Master of GCCGMI, and occasion which would not be repeated until 2023 by MPC William G. Snyder.

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DEMOLAY
MISSOURI



Sir Knights Join Chamois Community in Honoring Private Jerry Berry

By: Jason Hilkerbaumer

Prince of Peace Commandery No. 29 was represented at a Memorial Day remembrance for Osage County's last Union Civil War veteran.



Prince Hall Masons gathered at the restored gravesite of Private Jerry Berry in Chamois Cemetery.

On Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, the Chamois community gathered at the Chamois Cemetery to honor Private Jerry Berry, Osage County's last Union Civil War veteran.

The day was more than a cemetery ceremony. It was an act of remembrance. It was also a reminder that some names are not lost because they are unimportant. Sometimes they are lost because communities forget to keep telling the story.

Private Berry was born in Callaway County, Missouri, in 1844 to enslaved parents. As a young man, he entered Union service and served with the United States Colored Troops. After the war, he made his home in Chamois, where he helped found the Chamois Black Baptist Church in 1866 and served as a minister. He died in Chamois in 1939, one day before his 95th birthday.

His grave, located in the historically Black portion of the Chamois Cemetery, had become difficult to find over time. Through the work of Friends of Chamois Cemeteries, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Lillie Camp #6 of Jefferson City, and many local volunteers, Berry's resting place was restored and properly honored.

Berry's life also carried deep Masonic significance. He was a Prince Hall Mason and a member of Capital City Lodge No. 9, F. & A.M. of Jefferson City. That confirmed fraternal connection

gave the Memorial Day ceremony added meaning for the Masons who gathered to honor him, including Prince Hall Masons, local Blue Lodge Masons, and Sir Knights of the York Rite.



Most Worshipful Anthony L. Fisher, 49th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Missouri and Jurisdiction, addresses those gathered during the Memorial Day ceremony.

Prince of Peace Commandery No. 29 of Jefferson City was represented by Sir Knight Rev. Jason Hilkerbaumer and Sir Knights Stuart Inglish, Harold Coots, Dennis Gamble, Matt Thomas, Mike Rohman, and Seth Elliott. Sir Knight Rev. Jason Hilkerbaumer offered remarks during the program. Sir Knights Gamble and Elliott also assisted by setting up sound for the event, helping ensure that the voices of remembrance could be heard clearly across the cemetery grounds.

Most Worshipful Anthony L. Fisher, 49th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Missouri and Jurisdiction, also took part in the ceremony. His presence helped frame the day not only as a military

remembrance, but also as a moment of fraternal honor and historical recovery.



Sir Knight Rev. Jason Hilkerbaumer of Prince of Peace Commandery No. 29 offers remarks during the program.

Private Berry was not merely a name on an old stone. He was a soldier, a minister, a church founder, a Mason, and a community builder. He served a nation that had not yet fully honored his humanity, then returned home and continued serving through faith, family, community, and brotherhood. From a York Rite perspective, the day was a quiet but powerful example of what Commandery Masonry ought to look like beyond the asylum. The chivalric lessons of the Order are not meant to remain locked inside ritual. They are meant to form men who show up when duty calls, who honor sacrifice, who remember the dead, and who serve without needing the spotlight.

There were no grand claims to be made by the Sir Knights present. The event belonged to Private Berry, to the Chamois community, to Prince Hall Masonry, to the veterans who gathered, and to the volunteers who labored to restore what time and neglect had nearly hidden. But it was fitting that York Rite Masons were there.

A Commandery teaches reverence, courage, service, and fidelity. On Memorial Day in Chamois, those virtues were not abstract ideas. They were



York Rite Sir Knights stood alongside Prince Hall Masons, veterans, and local residents during the ceremony.

visible in a restored gravesite, in a gathered community, in the sound of patriotic remembrance, and in the simple act of standing together for a Brother whose story still speaks.

Private Jerry Berry's name is now easier to find. His service is now harder to forget. And for the Sir Knights of Prince of Peace Commandery No. 29, the day was a reminder that some of our best Masonic work happens not when we are seen, but when we help others remember.

A promotional banner for 'The Masters Craft'. It features a large, stylized 'M' logo with 'THE' above it and 'MASTERS-CRAFT' below it. To the right is a large, ornate Masonic medallion. Above the medallion is a banner that reads 'GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL OF THE YORK RITE MASONRY'. Below the medallion is a QR code. To the right of the medallion is a quote: "Dedicated to preserving the artistic integrity of the Masonic Fraternity, The Masters Craft creates unique Masonic items for the Fraternity at large, when quality, artistry and longevity are desired." Below the QR code and quote is the text 'ORDER OUR PRODUCTS ONLINE AT WWW.THEMASTERSCRAFT.NET'. At the bottom right is a Facebook logo. At the bottom left, in small text, it says 'RW. Bro. John A. Bridegroom, SGW- Owner • themasterscraft@comcast.net'.

Tactics and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies

Summer Uniform

By: SK Corey B Huntsucker, KTCH / Grand Lecturer

Were you aware that there is a summer uniform for Missouri Knights Templar? As the days grow hotter, our full-dress uniform does not get any cooler. There is relief... A Summer uniform.

A few years ago, the dais officers got together and decided to revise Section XIII UNIFORM REGULATIONS of the Tactics and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies book (the Green Book). Whereby they established the wearing of a summer uniform that can be worn between the March 1 and October 31. The revision can be found here on the moyorkrite.org website:

<https://moyorkrite.org/DocsCommandery/Missouri%20Uniform%20Regulations%20-%20Revised%202013-2014.pdf>

Here is an excerpt of the revision:

SUMMER UNIFORM:

The Summer Uniform for KT-MO is authorized for wear from March 1 through October 31 of each calendar year, unless otherwise authorized by order of the Grand Commander, the Summer Uniform is NOT authorized for wear, during the execution of any Knight Templar Order.

During the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery or during any Grand Encampment or Department assembly.

The Summer Uniform shall consist of a cover, shirt, trousers, belt and shoes. Neck ties, sword sling, or belt, and swords are not to be worn, unless authorized by the Grand Commander for Class "C" Drill competition

COVER: The same as for Fatigue uniform, black or white caps with proper rank insignia.

SHIRT: Shirt will be a white, short sleeve with epaulettes on the shoulders, to be worn open at the neck.

TROUSERS: The same as prescribed for the full-dress uniform.

SHOES: The same as prescribed for the full-dress uniform.

INSIGNIA:—APPLIES TO ALL: A metal bar depicting the Commandery, Malta Cross and Red

Cross emblems can be worn over the Left breast pocket.

https://www.pinworld.com/Knights-Templar-Member-Uniform-Bar_p_500.html

A metal ribbon representing Military Service and/or KYCH in that order and centered above the 3-order bar. Separate KYCH and Veteran bars are available through the York Rite office.

The "MISSOURI" bar to be above and centered the other bars. Available through the York Rite office.

A name tag can be worn above the right breast pocket; name tag shall be the same as dress uniform.

Collar pins will be centered and approximately one-half inch up from the point of collar, Pins will consist of the letters KT on right collar and MO on left collar. Silver in color for those under the Rank of Commander and gold for those of Commander and above. Also available through:

<https://www.pinworld.com/>

EPAULETTES: The same one-inch metal crosses according to rank as the uniform dress.

BELT: Belt will be leather or military web style with a military style buckle.

This can also be a less expensive option for Sir Knights struggling to put together a commandery uniform.



Pictured is the author's interpretation of the regulation.

Writer's Corner

A TEMPLAR ENCYCLOPEDIA



*Prepared by RAY V. DENSLOW for the
Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Missouri*

The poorest informed Freemasons of the American or York Rite of Freemasonry are those belonging to the Order of Knights Templar. Thereas on for this lack of information is not the fault of the individual Templar, but because of the failure of the Grand Encampment and Grand Commanderies to acquaint them with the facts regarding the formation of the Order and its associated degrees (or Orders as they prefer to call them). It is true there are encyclopedias of Freemasonry, but the average Templar is not going to spend his time searching through several thousand articles in an attempt to find something concerning the Orders of Christian Knighthood. And again, he might not recognize a Templar reference as such.

For the busy Templar, and we presume most of our co-laborers are such-we offer this condensed encyclopedia which we hope may prove invaluable to the Templar enthusiast, enabling him to answer some of those many requests for information. The editor is not infallible and so will appreciate any suggestions or corrections that our readers may find in any of the articles. Many fallacies have crept in to the story of Freemasonry and its connection with the Crusades; we hesitate to debunk these various claims, yet an Order found eq on Truth and the practice of Christian virtues should be the first to call attention to misstatements and misrepresentations.

MISSOURI COMMANDERIES



RAY V. DENSLOW
1950

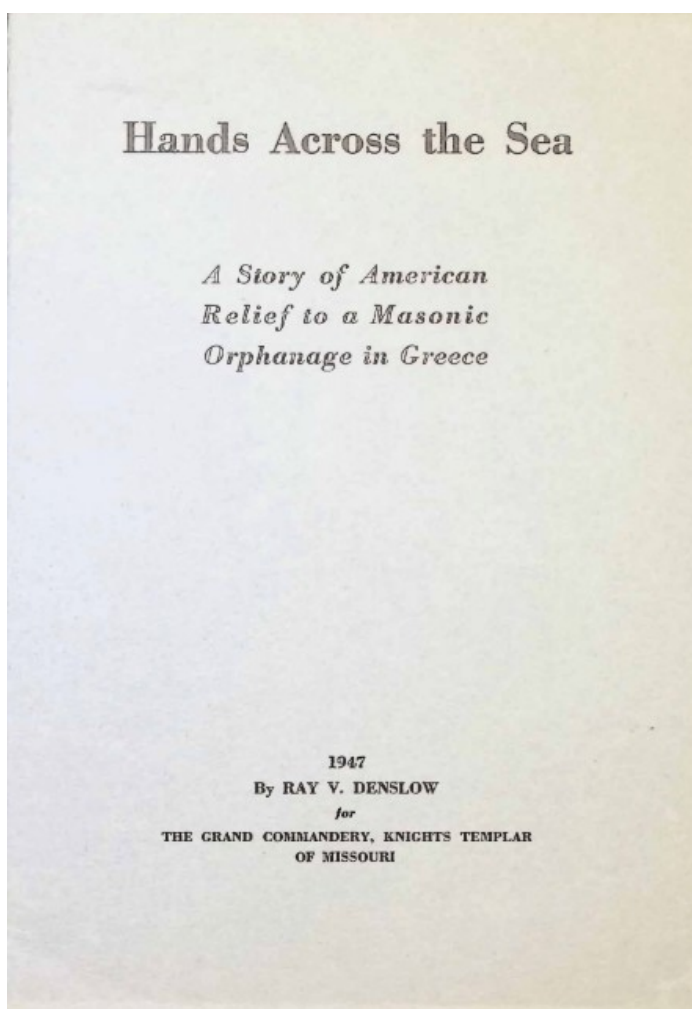
REPRINTED FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND
COMMANDERY, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSOURI

The Grand Commandery of Missouri has never printed a history of Templary in this jurisdiction, although there has appeared in this review from time

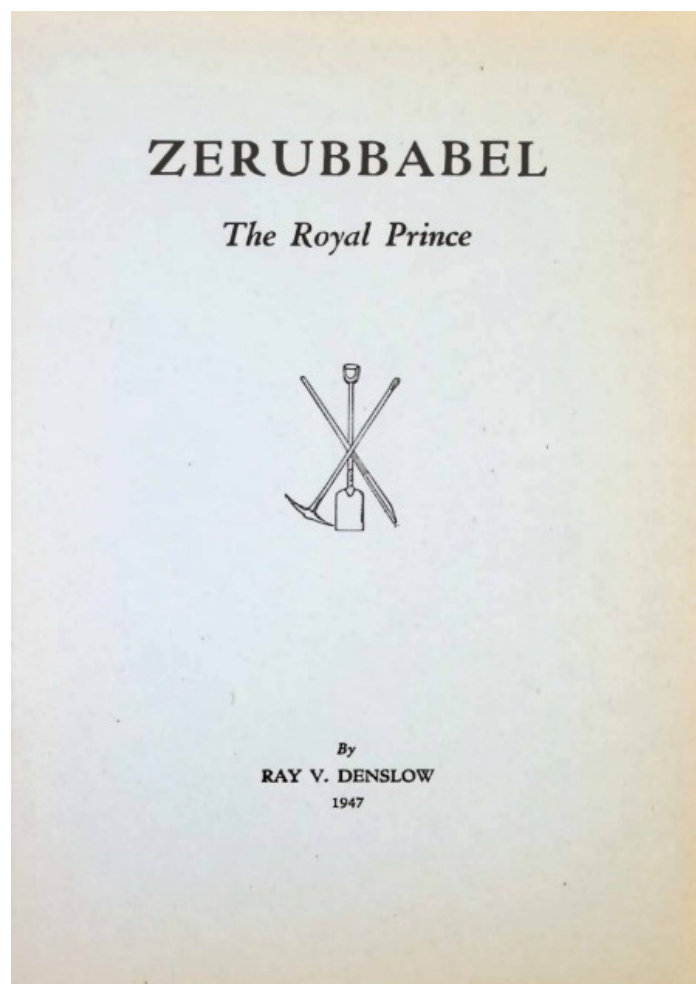
To time certain historical articles dealing with the introduction of Templary into the state. Two years ago, St. Louis Commandery No. 1, of St. Louis, printed the story of its history, which for the first few years was the history of the Order, since it was the only commandery in existence for a time.

In the hope of inspiring other commanderies to "go thou and do likewise," your reviewer has spent considerable of his time going over the old records as found in the files of the Grand Recorder. There are, without question, some errors in dates and names; our for bears were not always accurate in putting down the correct dates, and resorted at times to phonetic spelling when it came to names of charter members. As for that matter, our fraters of today are not always perfect.

destruction and hunger have confronted our state or nation, these bodies have been ever ready to extend the help in light and preserving their right to being regarded as Masonic. Until recent years, the call for help came largely from our own country, but when the great conflagration, known as World War II, swept over Europe, calls came from our brethren in all parts of the world. These were not calls for financial aid; they were calls for food, and for clothing; and they were from our own brethren, men who had knelt at the same altars, although in distant lands; men who had assumed the same vows as to relief as we had assumed; men, who, through unfortunate circumstances, now found themselves unable to help themselves, much less to extend relief to those about them.



"But the greatest of these is Charity. "Freemasonry without Charity would not be Freemasonry. Organizations which do not include in their financial budget an item of Charity have no reason for calling themselves Masonic. It is to the glory of Missouri Freemasonry that Charity has always been a part of the financial program of our Grand Lodge Grand Chapter, and Grand Commandery. Then ruin,



Many a Masonic legend or tradition has been woven about the Hebrew Prince, Zerubbabel. He stands for thin many Masonic degrees as the hero-the central figure of the degree. He appears in both American and Scottish rite systems and in both instances he is the "glamour boy" of the degree. Undoubtedly, our ritual writers have made more glamorous than actual history shows him to have been. What Solomon was to the first Temple,

Zerubbabel was to the second Temple—if we may believe our Masonic ritualists.

Who was Zerubbabel? What did he do to cause his name to be so prominently mentioned in scripture and Masonic degree?

Historically, Zerubbabel was the grandson of King Jehoiachin, and we learn little of him until the Jewish people were freed by Cyrus and permitted to return to their Judean hills. Graetz, the Jewish Historian, says that in Babylon Zerubbabel was known as Shesjlazzar; others claim this to be an error.

Whatever his name may have been, Jewish or Persian, he was given joint leadership over the Jewish captives with Joshua the son of Jehoiachin, and grandson of the last high-priest, Seraiah. Zerubbabel was the son of Shealtiel, grandson of Jehoiachin, hence a descendant of the House of David. We can only surmise the reasons which prompted Cyrus to free the captives and permit them to return to Jerusalem. Not only were they freed, but King Cyrus named Zerubbabel as Governor of the province in which Jerusalem was located.

The world is full of Zedekiahs. They may not bear the name of Zedekiah but they have all the attributes of their historical forbear. For Zedekiah, the last King of Judah, was a type of man seen in every period of the world's history—the weak vacillating individual swayed like a reed in the wind, listening first to one adviser and then to another—doing nothing—being nothing. From Pontius Pilate to Neville Chamberlain runs the story of the later Zedekiahs. They are not limited to race, nationality, creed or jurisdiction; they are to be found in all walks of life.

Human character has changed little over the centuries!

Who was Zedekiah? Why was he singled out for mention in various degrees of Freemasonry?

It is because he exemplifies in the highest degree the lesson of infidelity. Our degrees amplify the virtues of fidelity, honesty, and justice. The value of fidelity may be taught best in teaching the rewards of infidelity. If one will study the system of Masonic degrees he will be struck with the important lessons taught in each of the degrees, sometimes by the degree itself; at other times by some character in the degree.

ZEDEKIAH

The Last
King of Judah



By
RAY V. DENSLOW
1947

The Order of the Red Cross

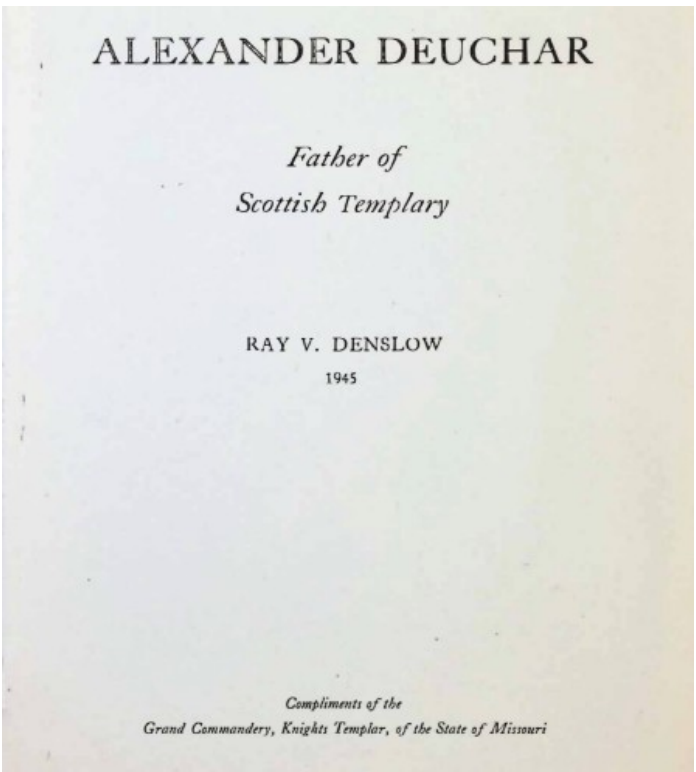
By
COL. WARD K. ST. CLAIR
1945



*An Extract from the Review of the
Grand Commandery, Knights Tem-
plar, of the State of Missouri*

COMPLIMENTS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY,
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross from a legendary point of view, antedates all orders of Masonic Knighthood, for tradition informs us that the Order was conferred by King Darius of Persia several centuries before the birth of Christ. This is purely legend so far as it concerns the Masonic Order. Josephus informs us in his book, "The Antiquities of the Jews," that King Darius did confer such an order. In the Apocryphal Book of I Esdras we find the same legend. But further than this we are not interested for the present. The same fundamental legend is present in various degrees of several Masonic Rites. Some of these Rites are now dormant but are of interest to students of rites and rituals. However, as it is the purpose of this paper to discuss only the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross as conferred in Commanderies of Knights templar under the jurisdiction of the Grand encampment of the United States and Priories under the jurisdiction of the Great Priory of Canada, we will not discuss the old, and in some instances extinct, rites and bodies which controlled degrees which are similar in legend. It is sufficient to say that among the degrees now worked by various Masonic bodies which contain the same legend are the 15th and 16 degrees of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the United States and the Ancient and Accepted Rite of other countries; the Red Cross of Babylon, under the control of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of England, the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland; and the Knight of the Sword Degrees controlled by the Grand council of Knight Masons of Ireland.

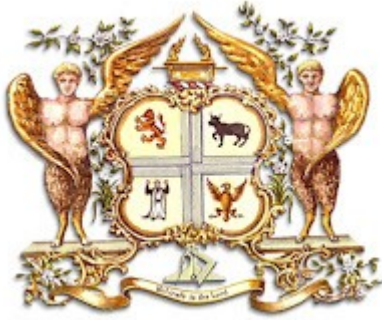


The issuance of several Templar histories in recent years testifies to the interest being manifested in our Templar ancestors. Conditions are not ripe for any extended history of Templary at the present time and years of study and research will be required before any authentic history may be written.

Within the last month we have acquired several old manuscripts which add to the picture; other manuscripts will make their appearance from time to time and especially when the war in Europe has been concluded.

One of the manuscripts in our possession refers to Alexander Deuchar. We knew little of Deuchar when we began our study. The Encyclopedia of Freemasonry has a reference to the "Deuchar Charters" and that is all. But Alexander Deuchar was one of the most influential of scotch Masons, active in the formation of a Grand chapter and also a Grand Encampment.

Did you know that the Grand York Rite of Missouri has several books on its website that can be read electronically for free. Here is a list of such books for the Commanderies with hyperlinks to those locations. We hope you take us up on our offer and read them. Enjoy the free stuff.—Editor



Capitular Education

2026-2027

Greg Walker, Chairman

Committee: MEC Donald MacCormick, VEC Steve Eberharter, VEC Richard Taylor, VEC Doug Rose, and VEC James Bell

Companions,

Welcome to the new Masonic year in Capitular Freemasonry. Your Education Committee for this year consists of MEC Donald MacCormick, VEC Steve Eberharter, VEC Richard Taylor, VEC Doug Rose, James Bell, and VEC Greg Walker as Chairman.

Last year was a robust year for education as this committee presented a year-long endeavor to learn more about Capitular masonry, by progressing through each of the four degrees.

This year the committee is going to take that information and turn it into a Mentoring program which will somewhat mirror the mentoring program of the Grand Lodge currently has in place.

As a result, we are asking any companion around the state to provide some kind of educational piece for The Beacon.

Please send you submissions either directly to The Beacon, or you may send them to me at gregoryjwalker@gmail.com.

We hope to have the program finished and ready for review this year.

Fraternally Yours,

VIC Greg Walker
Education Committee



Welcome back everyone,

We hope that you are having a fun and productive summer. With summer here, it is time to rest and refresh yourselves as many of our lodge, chapters, councils, and commanderies are dark. During the hot summer days, it is a good time to catch up on your reading. And your publication committee wants to make it cheap and easy on you. On the Grand York Rite Bulletin Board, we have listed several free electronic Masonic magazines for you to peruse. All you have to do is click on the boxes and you are taken to current and back issues of those wonderful publications. Or if you are more of a book reader, our Writer's Corner section has many free electric books on the Knights Templar to help entertain you.

When you get tire of reading and its time to work in the garden or cutting the grass, that is the perfect time to work on your ritual. Look around, many of your companions and Sir Knights are getting their proficiency cards for many of the degrees. Why don't you jump on the wagon. Everyone can use some help from time to time. Why not it be you who gives a little relief to your fellow ritualist. I know they would appreciate it.

This issue of your Beacon Magazine has some wonderful information in it. From free magazines to books, articles from our Grand Historian of the Council, information from the Grand Chapter Education Committee, an article from one of the Grand Chapter's Regional Lecturers, pictures of recent events, honoring a Sir Knight from the past, and some words of wisdom from our Grand Officers.

Just because its summer time, doesn't mean that Freemasonry is closing down. Freemasonry is a part of our past, present, and the future of this world. You are a part of it. So, step up, live it, and enjoy being part of it. For what you do helps shape this magnificent world. Because if you are not a part of shaping this world, you are letting others dictate to you how to live it. And that isn't what Freemasonry teaches. Freemasonry helps us to be better men, not men subjugated upon by the lazy and stupid. So, be the best man that you can be. Because we always have someone watching us.

Well, my time and space is short here. May the God of Heaven and Earth shine down on you all, and we will be seeing you on down the dusty trail.



So, you want to be a Ritualist

By: Dr. Tom Cupples

I am approaching 15 years in Freemasonry. To many, this is a short time; to others, a long time. During this time, I have listened to many of my brothers, companions, and Sir Knights who have been as ready to give as I have been to receive light in Freemasonry, particularly regarding learning our ritual. The challenge for me at the beginning of my Masonic career was that those instructing me taught ritual the way they learned it, not the way I learn it. This caused me to experience confusion and anxiety rather than providing clarity and calmness.

I had spent decades standing before classrooms and boardrooms, expertly espousing my subject, cybersecurity, without even the slightest hint of confusion or anxiety. I asked myself, "Why is presenting Masonic Ritual different than presenting Cybersecurity?" My conclusion, "It's not!" You see? I have studied my craft for years, slowly accumulating knowledge and experience that have prepared me to speak as an expert in cybersecurity.

Once I came to that conclusion, I began to take a new look at how I should learn ritual, aka "seeking light." I read every book I could find on the subject of learning ritual, but could never find the "secret sauce" for memorizing and delivering a good ritual experience. It's not that there aren't great authors with great ideas; there are many. The challenge and the solution were the same. I learn differently. And, so does everyone else.

Now, this is the time I would normally enjoin you in a lecture on the different ways we as humans learn, such as visual, auditory, tactile, etc. But I will refrain. The bottom line is that we are all multimodal learners, meaning we engage in all styles of learning, only with different combinations or "recipes." That said, I will now share my recipe for learning ritual, or as some would say, "becoming a ritualist."

To begin, let's define a ritualist. Dictionary.com presents several definitions of "ritualist". My choice: "a ritualist is a student of, or an authority on, ritual practices or religious rites."¹ This is a significant definition because it presupposes that, to become an authority in ritual, one must first be a student of it. Since memorization is not the only way to learn a subject, we must acknowledge that memorizing a ritual part is not equivalent to learning it.

My recipe for learning ritual is:

Attend meetings. It should go without saying that attending every meeting ensures ritual is witnessed at the opening and closing. Did you know that the opening and closing ritual is a replication of the ritual for conferring that degree? The opening and closing should remind you of the experience you received during the degree and reinforce the lessons learned during that experience. Seeking light does not end at the conclusion of the degree conferral.

Observe ritual. In addition to opening and closing, attend every degree conferral you can, which will allow you to observe new lessons each time you witness the degree(s). Even those who have seen the ritual for many years can learn something new or be reminded of something they once learned but forgot. Participate in ritual. Even if you don't know any of the words from memory, most, if not all, of the degrees of Freemasonry have non-speaking parts. These parts are crucial to the quality of the candidate experience. These parts are just as important as any speaking part and must be rehearsed. Ritual rehearsals are crucial to ensuring that everyone works well together and delivers a smooth presentation of the candidate's degree(s).

Read ritual. In the appendant bodies of Freemasonry, most of our ritual is not "ciphered." Make sure you get a copy of the "cipher" from every appendant body you join. Read it! There are nuances of our ritual that may only become apparent when you read the accompanying notes alongside the ritual words. If you need help with some of the actual "cipher", ask a brother, companion, or Sir Knight for assistance. If you forget, ask again.

Study ritual. There are many literary works available to you that can help you understand our ritual. Sources include libraries, both public and Masonic; borrowing from a brother, companion, or Sir Knight; or purchasing them online and in bookstores. In today's technological society, there are also many podcasts available. These allow you to witness a deeper discussion of Freemasonry by others who may see the light differently than you have seen it on your own. There are also educational series produced by the appendant bodies to help guide your learning.

Engage ritual. Our ritual is designed to teach life lessons. Some of those lessons lie on the surface and can easily be inferred. Others are more personal and may be buried deeper in our intellect. Every time you read or witness degree work, you may learn a new lesson. You are seeking light. Light comes in varied intensity. Digging deeper makes the light brighter.

Discuss ritual. Many local Masonic bodies hold educational sessions during their meetings or adjourn to a social setting to discuss the meaning of our ritual. Take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and experience in your local Masonic body. Take advantage of the added benefit of fellowship.

Memorize ritual. Yeah, I said it! There is still a need to memorize our ritual. In addition to finding your own light, you have the opportunity to participate directly in presenting our ritual beyond the non-speaking parts. Find a partner in your local Masonic body and study together. A partner in ritual could help prevent you from learning incorrect wording. Challenge each other to earn a ritual card. Hold each other accountable.

Practice ritual. Take advantage of the Schools of Instruction. Not only do you have an opportunity to practice, but you can also learn from some of the best ritualists available. Schools of instruction can be held in a local Masonic body or in a Grand Masonic body. This may mean traveling some distance from home. When it does, you broaden your circle of relationships and learn more together.

Volunteer to deliver ritual. I have never experienced a time when a brother, companion, or Sir Knight responsible for putting together a cast for degrees said they have no place for someone in the cast. It may be one of the lead roles or one that takes care of the costumes, props, and paraphernalia. There is a place for everyone. And, every part is important.

Teach ritual. Finally, teach our newer brethren, companions, and Sir Knights ritual. Not only are you helping them gain valuable light in Freemasonry through ritual, but you are also reinforcing your own light. More importantly, light is passed from generation to generation.

One day, you will look back and be amazed. You are a ritualist! So...you want to be a ritualist? Go seek some light!

1 <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/ritualist>



GRAND CHAPTER RITUAL PROFICIENCY

CONGRATULATIONS!

MEC James E. McManigle
Bolivar Chapter No. 5
Part 1

Complete Opening and Closing of a Chapter



GRAND CHAPTER RITUAL PROFICIENCY

CONGRATULATIONS!

Christopher A. Wehrenberg
Wilson Chapter No. 75
Part 1

Complete Opening and Closing of a Chapter

James S. Bell, III
Bellefontaine Chapter No.25
Part 4 Section C

Most Excellent Master Degree, Lecture & Charge





GRAND CHAPTER OF MISSOURI FOUNDATION

The Grand Chapter Educational Endowment Foundation was created to serve as an investment vehicle to generate income from its investments to be used for religious, educational, and charitable gifts. The proceeds of this endowment have been used to make charitable donations to just about every conceivable charity around the world. Today, the primary recipients of these proceeds of this endowment tend to be Missouri DeMolay, Missouri Rainbow for Girls, and Missouri Job's Daughters, all Masonic Youth Organizations, as well as any special charity of the Grand High Priests choosing including state and local charities.

ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

The primary charity of the Grand Chapter is Royal Arch Research Assistance (R.A.R.A.) a philanthropy of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International.

Since its conception in 1974, R.A.R.A. has become the leading,, non-educational institution dedicated to helping children with Central Auditory Processing Disorders. RARA does not directly treatment centers or hospitals, instead it focuses on funding researchers in CAPD, setting them on a lifelong career path to conquering the disease. RARA has special relationships with the Hearing Health Foundation and Autism Speaks whose board members suggest and vet researchers for RARA funding.

Chapter Secretaries are to ask each member on their annal dues statement to remit at least \$3.65, (only a penny-a-day), towards RARA.



GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Since 1993 the Grand Council Charity Endowment Fund (CEF) has been disbursing funds designated for charitable purposes. Contributions have been made annually to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF), the Missouri DeMolay, Missouri Job's Daughters, Missouri Rainbow for Girls, and other worthy charities as designated by the sitting Grand Master. Council Recorders are to ask each member on their annual dues statement to remit at least \$3.65 (a penny a day) towards CMMRF. "Penny-a-day" stickers are available for each contributor's dues card.

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF) is the primary philanthropy of the Grand Council and the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International. The Foundation funds research at Indiana University School and the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine.

The life-changing work and research of CMMRF, the research, therapies and cures into Heart Disease, Diabetes, Blindness, Regenerative Medicine, Leg Circulation, Wound Healing, Arthritis, Stroke, and more benefits everyone from current patients and generations to come.

Council Recorders are to ask each member on their annual dues statement to remit at least \$3.65 towards CMMRF, and Councils are encouraged to have fund raisers to generate money for this fund.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

*Somewhere in the world,
someone goes blind every 5 seconds*

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. is committed to support research that can help launch the careers of clinical and basic researchers focused on the prevention and cure of potentially blinding diseases in infants and children. Grants supported by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. are awarded to impact the care of infants, children, and adults. Clinical and basic research on conditions that may be potentially preventable or correctable such as amblyopia, cataract, glaucoma, optic nerve hypoplasia, nystagmus, retinopathy of prematurity, and hereditary diseases that occur at birth or within early childhood, such as retinoblastoma, is encouraged. Proposals for support of basic research on eye and visual system development also are welcome.

We have learned over past decades that our efforts in funding pediatric ophthalmology research have been the primary reason that we have had fewer and fewer children with strabismus (crossed eyes) to treat. Our research dollars have helped develop new, non-surgical treatments for this problem, and additional research and endowment programs are all being funded as well by your faithful support.

Every donation will assist in making a tremendous difference in the lives of children by helping the Foundation to fulfill its mission. Sir Knights, aside from his salvation, there is no greater gift for man on this earth than the gift of sight.

Through your generous contributions, lives are being changed; research is being funded, which is allowing mankind to lead more fruitful and blessed lives.

KNIGHT OF SILOAM

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 Templar uniform. Friends and relatives may honor any Sir Knight with the Knight of Siloam by making a like donation in his honor.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Knights Templar Educational Foundation provides scholarship funds to High School students through accredited technical school/college/university post graduate program students. These scholarships may be renewable but reapplication for such is required annually.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE OPERATING FUND

The Missouri Holy Land Pilgrimage Operating 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.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Missouri Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund is an endowment, the interest of which is used to generate income for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Operating 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.



Grand York Rite Bulletin Board

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/>



Locations of Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies Plus

Interactive Maps

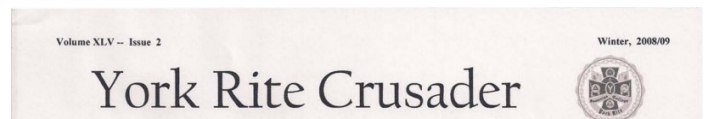
(Click on banner below)

Chapters in Missouri

Councils in Missouri

***Commanderies in
Missouri***

Free On-line Masonic Magazines



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.



2026-2027

MEC James E McManigle Grand High Priest Coin



2026-2027

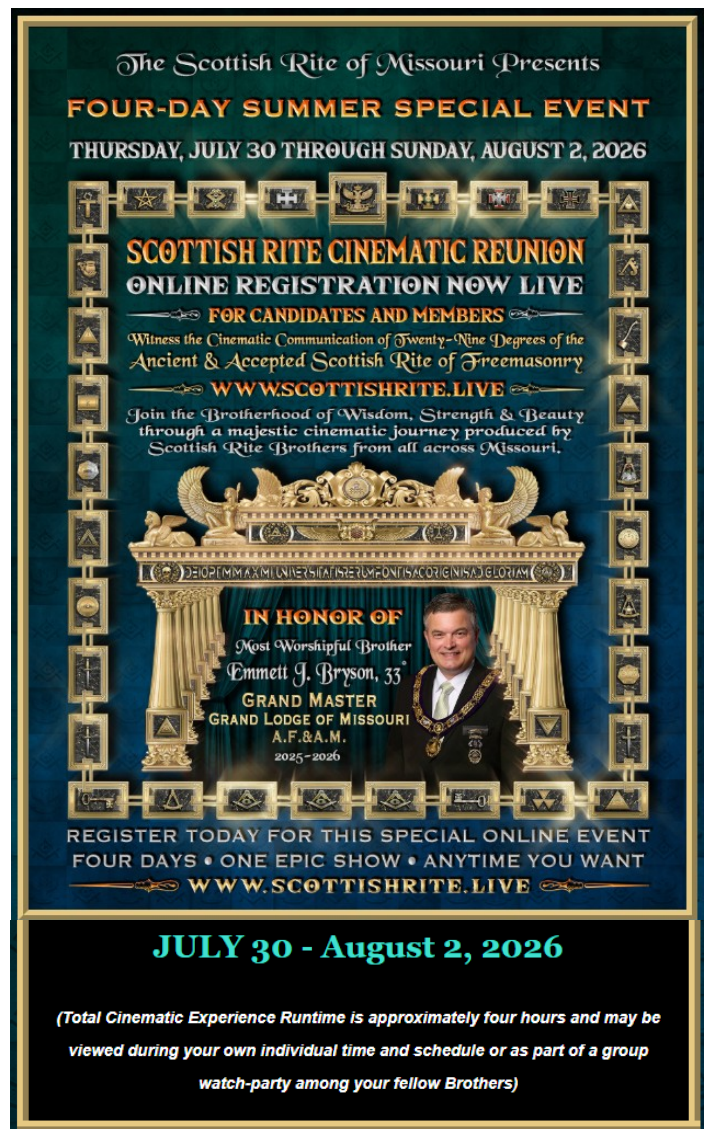
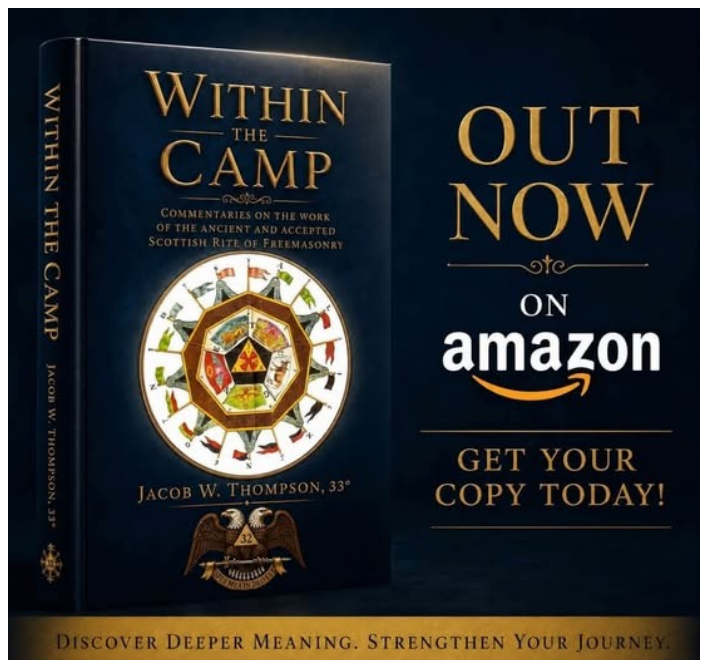
MIC Taz A. Meyer Grand Master Coin



2026-2027

SK Terry D. Coppotelli, 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.



Allied Masonic Degrees of Missouri

STATE IN-GATHERING 2026



DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

VENUE:



LOCATION: CANTERBURY HILL WINERY & RESTAURANT,
HOLTS SUMMIT, MO.

ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES OF MISSOURI

STATE IN-GATHERING



RESERVATIONS

Tickets must be purchased on Zeffy

EVENT INQUIRIES

mruth@mocryptic.org

