



MISSOURI YORK RITE BEACON

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CMMRF MONTH

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Missouri York Rite Beacon Magazine

Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri

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

Cover Artwork by: REC 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!

It appears spring has sprung, bringing warmer temperatures and some spring storms over the last weekend (at least here in southwest Missouri). Great things are happening in our Grand Chapter!

On Saturday, March 7, we had the 14th annual Grand Master's Royal Arch Class in honor of Most Worshipful Brother Emmett Bryson. We welcomed 18 new Companions into their Royal Arch Chapters! The ritual cast did an amazing job exemplifying the degrees of Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch. Thank you, Companions! I know the candidates and Most Worshipful Grand Master were impressed, as was I! Well done!

This weekend, I'm headed to Little Rock, Arkansas, with several of the Grand Chapter officers to visit their Grand York Rite sessions. I'm sure it will be a wonderful time, and I'm looking forward to visiting with some friends, old and new, at the sessions.

Later this month, I'll be attending the Grand Master's Cryptic Day, and I am looking forward to watching the Council degrees and supporting my Most Illustrious friend, Dennis Houck. Please make plans to attend and support our candidates as they continue their journey in the York Rite.

A quick reminder—the deadlines for Lewis and Clark nominations and Distinguished Chapter applications are quickly approaching. I would love to have a stack of nominations to review this year!

This month is CMMRF Month, but next month is RARA Month! Please keep an eye on your email inboxes – more details and announcements from the Royal Arch Research Assistance Committee will be coming soon!

As the year winds down and time marches steadily on toward our Grand Session in June, I'm so thankful for the support of all of my Companions this year. From the Chapters I've been able to visit, to meetings with the Grand Chapter Line, and many conversations (electronic and in-person) with Past Grand High Priests, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you, Companions. This Grand Chapter would not be the wonderful fraternity that it is without each one of you.

Take care of yourselves and each other, and continue to **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*



Companions,

As we move through the season of our Grand Master's Chapter, Council, and Grand Conclave, it makes me proud to be a Missouri York Rite Mason. It is amazing to see the incredible work that our members provide. I cannot fathom all the hours that they put into creating such a special day for our candidates to see. It is the people behind the scenes that ensure that all the costumes and props are in their proper place to assist our cast during those degrees. We have created a special team here in Missouri to achieve these goals. It is because of your hard work and that example is the reason that other States in our region are beginning to copy. Thank you all.

This month, I had the chance to visit the Louisiana Grand session. It has always been a pleasure of mine to visit a new State and see how they do business. I would like to congratulate my good friend, MIC Dennis Snoddy. I am so glad he had a great year. The hospitality they showed the visitors from other states was very accommodating and commendable. The highlight of my trip was the street party; the live band and the fish fry were outstanding.

We are now at a point where we need to keep our momentum moving forward. On Friday, March the 27th, in Independence, Missouri, we will be celebrating a Purple Gala to raise money for our CMMRF. Please get your tickets online using the Grand York Rite calendar. On Saturday, March the 28th, Columbia Masonic Lodge will be hosting our Grand Master's Cryptic Day. Hopefully I will see you all there. Make sure that your Councils contact all your candidates and your Recorder report to the Grand Recorder your list of candidates. I have no doubt that this will be a fabulous event because you all are behind it.

So, while I am still in midstride, I offer up to you all this: Joshua 1: 9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Fraternally,

M.I.C Dennis W. Houck

Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri





Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri

Ronald L. Skiles
7901 S Tomlin Hill Rd
Columbia MO, 65201-9363

Grand Commander
7901ron@gmail.com
Cell 573-999-1212



Date: March 9, 2026
To: All Missouri Commanderies
Subject: 2026 Easter Messages

Greetings Sir Knights:

On behalf of your line of Grand Commandery Officers and myself, may the blessing of Heaven rest upon each of you and may the wisdom and love of Our Savior and Redeemer be with you always.

He Is Risen The Unshakable Hope of Easter

Every spring, as the earth awakens from its winter slumber, Easter arrives with a message that never grows old: **Jesus is alive!**

Easter stands as a powerful reminder that **light prevails, hope endures, and new life rises even from the darkest hours.** It is the season of renewal, calling us to reflect on sacrifice, faith, and the quiet strength found in service to others. Easter isn't just another holiday on the calendar. It is the cornerstone of the Christian faith - the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And with that resurrection comes a hope that nothing in this world can destroy.

Like the Knights Templar of old, who stood watch with unwavering devotion and a deep sense of duty. Our armor is integrity. Our shield is commitment. Our mission is service. We do not seek recognition, only the assurance that when our communities need us most, we will be there - steadfast, prepared, and faithful to our charge.

Easter reminds us that true strength is not found in power alone, but in humility, compassion, and perseverance. The resurrection story speaks to all who labor in unseen ways - those who work through the night, restore what is broken, and bring light back where darkness has settled. In this sacred season, we honor that calling and recommit ourselves to the values that guide us: service before self, faith over fear, and hope above all.

As we celebrate Easter, may we remember that every act of service carries light forward. Every restored home, every answered call, every moment of dedication reflects the enduring promise of renewal. May this season strengthen our resolve, refresh our spirits, and remind us why we stand watch together.

From all of us who serve as Knights, we wish you an Easter filled with **peace, renewal, and abiding hope.**

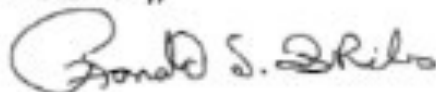
The light has risen. The watch continues. And our mission remains steadfast.

Please present these Easter messages to the members of your Commandery during your March or April Commandery meeting.

Please also report the manner in which your Commandery observed Easter to Sir Knight Terry D. Coppotelli, Chairman of the Hospitaller Committee, either by email to terry_coppotelli@hotmail.com or by US mail to 206 Ladera Ln, Washington, MO, 63090-5763.

Happy Easter!

Fraternally,



Sir Knight Ronald L. Skiles, Grand Commander

AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALLER COMMITTEE

On this glorious Feast of the Resurrection, we stand in the radiant light of the empty tomb and proclaim with joy: Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed.

Easter is the triumphant reminder that sacrifice is never the end of the story. The Cross was not defeat, but victory. The sealed tomb was not finality, but fulfillment. Through his passion and resurrection, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, conquered sin and death and opened the gates of eternal life.

As Knights Templar, we are especially mindful that our order is founded upon this sacred truth. Our vows, our service, and our dedication to defend the Christian faith all draw their strength from the resurrection. The empty tomb gives meaning to our labor, courage to our convictions, and hope to our journey.

Easter calls us to renewed faith, deeper charity, and steadfast devotion. It reminds us that even in times of trial, darkness never prevails where Christ reigns. We are called not only to wear the cross, but to live its message—with humility, sacrifice, and unwavering trust in God's Providence.

May this Easter season rekindle in each of us the fire of the Holy zeal. May we continue to serve our church, our communities, and one another with Knightly virtue and Christian love. And may the risen Lord bless you and your family with peace, strength, and the sure hope of eternal life.

In His Service and in the bonds of Christian Knighthood, the Hospitaller Committee hopes that each of you have a safe and Happy Easter.

The Hospitaller Committee: Sir Knights Terry D. Coppotelli (Chairman), Ashley W. Young, Glenn B. Parker, Matthew L. Quesenberry, W. Stuart English, and Michael C. Rohman (PGC)



SK Jeffrey L Knight
Grand Standard Bearer
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
of the State of Missouri



Greetings Sir Knights Wheresoever Dispersed,

As we have entered into the heart of the Easter Season, Ash Wednesday is past us and Lent is in full swing. I hope this time finds you all doing well in your Commanderies. Please be sure you notify all the Grand York Rite officers of your local commandery plans for your Easter celebrations. The officers of the Grand Commandery would like to attend as many events as we can across the state as scheduling and weather allows. Remember, these events count towards your Honor Commandery Awards, which are due soon.

In addition to Easter and all the events leading up to the commemoration of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, there are many other events to fill our calendars during the month of March. First is the Grand Master's Royal Arch Day on March 7th, at the Jefferson Lodge in Jefferson City. Then, although it is not a York Rite event, March 8th is the first day of Daylight Savings time. Plan accordingly and get some rest to counter the loss of that hour we thought we gained in the fall.

Next is the Grand Commandery Drill Competition on March 21st in Columbia. I hope we see some new competitive teams come in and show their talents this year. Don't forget, there are four levels of competition for you to compete in. The largest is our Class A teams (21 Sir Knights) and as of late, we only have one in the state. Next are the Class B and C teams (9 Sir Knights). Class B competes in full Templar uniform while Class C competes in white shirt, black tie and trousers, no swords or hats required. The final group is our Class D teams. These are for those commanderies that don't have the Sir Knights to field a Class B or C team but would like to start competing.

The last big event for the month is the Grand Master's Cryptic Day on March 28th, also in Columbia. This and the Grand Master's Royal Arch Day is a good place to meet the potential new members to your commanderies and help them with their first steps into their York Rite journey.

The Grand Commandery of Missouri sponsored two pastors to participate in the Holy Land Pilgrimage this year. Due to personal reasons; one was not able to go. The other will be back by the time you read this. We hope to have a report from him in the near future. Keep a look out for other good church leaders who would benefit and appreciate visiting and walking the same paths our savior once trod.

And don't forget our Grand Commander's Crusade to be held on April 28th at the Masonic Center of St. Louis. If you would like to be an active participant, or just help out, contact SK Terry D. Coppotelli, VE Deputy Grand Commander. I'm sure he has something that you could do. Otherwise, just come and watch and celebrate the new Sir Knights who have joined our ranks.

Finally, always remember that the officers of the Grand Commandery are always here to answer your questions. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

In Fide Et Confraternitate,

Jeffrey L Knight
Grand Standard Bearer





SK Russell A. Bradshaw
Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
of the State of Missouri



Greetings All:

Easter is a reference to the most important Christian event of all time—the resurrection of our lord and savior Jesus Christ. Easter weekend commemorates the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Celebrating the resurrection on Easter Sunday is of minimal significance personally if it does not make a difference in your life the rest of the year. Tragically, you have missed the point.

CHRIST IS OUR RISEN LORD - Easter culminates with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Resurrection and life are only found in one person—the great I AM—Jesus Christ Himself! Jesus is the resurrection power that brings those who are spiritually dead to life. He is also the eternal life that is imparted to all who were spiritually dead. Furthermore, Christ has raised us up in order that we might walk in newness of life by His mighty power! Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25). The angels said, “He is not here, He is risen” (Matthew 28:6). The Apostle Paul said, “Just as Christ was raised from the dead, so we too have been raised to walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

I often say at Christmastime that if there was no Christmas then there would be no Easter.

As you wait on Him, you will experience His resurrection life (His supernatural strength and power) flowing through you. He will enable you, equip you and empower you. You will be able to enjoy the Lord’s abundant life every day of your life and you will have the kind of walk that glorifies God.

Easter is not just for a day, but for a lifetime. BECAUSE OF EASTER you can be alive forevermore.

But in their sorrow Jesus came (v.19) and spoke words of “peace to them.” When you’re anxious, troubled, and down the only thing that can calm your heart is the peace of Jesus! The PEACE that passes all understanding”, the one who calmed the raging sea is the one who can calm the anxious heart.

Maybe now they remembered what Jesus had told them in this same upper room just days ago. Words we too need to remember. “For a little while you won’t see me, but after a while you will see me again, (John 16:16)

Yours in all Knightly Courtesy,

SK Russell A Bradshaw
Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
Of the State of Missouri

**All Hail, King Jesus,
All Hail, Emmanuel**

More from the Tactics Manual

Sir Knights,

As the annual “drill” competition nears, many of our commanderies are focused on the “drill” as they should be. However, few focus on the proper style uniform or how to properly wear that uniform. There are several inconsistencies I have noticed throughout the state. Mostly in the proper wear of the shoulder straps and the placement of the jewels, awards, and medals.

Section XIII of the Tactics and Manual, which is available online at moyorkrite.org, lays out the proper wear of the uniform.

Section XIII of the Tactics and Manual states that “the shoulder straps shall be worn with the outer edge on the sleeve seam, the top about one-quarter inch behind the shoulder seam.” A lot of Sir Knights wear their shoulder straps centered on the top of the shoulder, which is incorrect. Think of it as you want others to be able to clearly see your rank or office, therefore the emblem of such should be facing forward.

The other area is placement of the jewels and medals. Nowhere does it say you must wear everything unless you need that kind of attention. The ONLY required medal is the Malta Jewel. Very few Sir Knights have a chest wide enough to properly wear everything to which they are entitled.

Start with the “MISSOURI” bar, “The top of the bar to be on a line with the top of the pocket, and on center of the pocket.” All other jewels and medals can be aligned from there. The order of precedence can also be found in Section XIII.

The jewels “shall be worn on the left breast of coat one inch below the word “MISSOURI””. Use a piece of 1” masking tape, run it horizontally under the “MISSOURI” bar, and align the top of the jewels with the bottom of the tape.

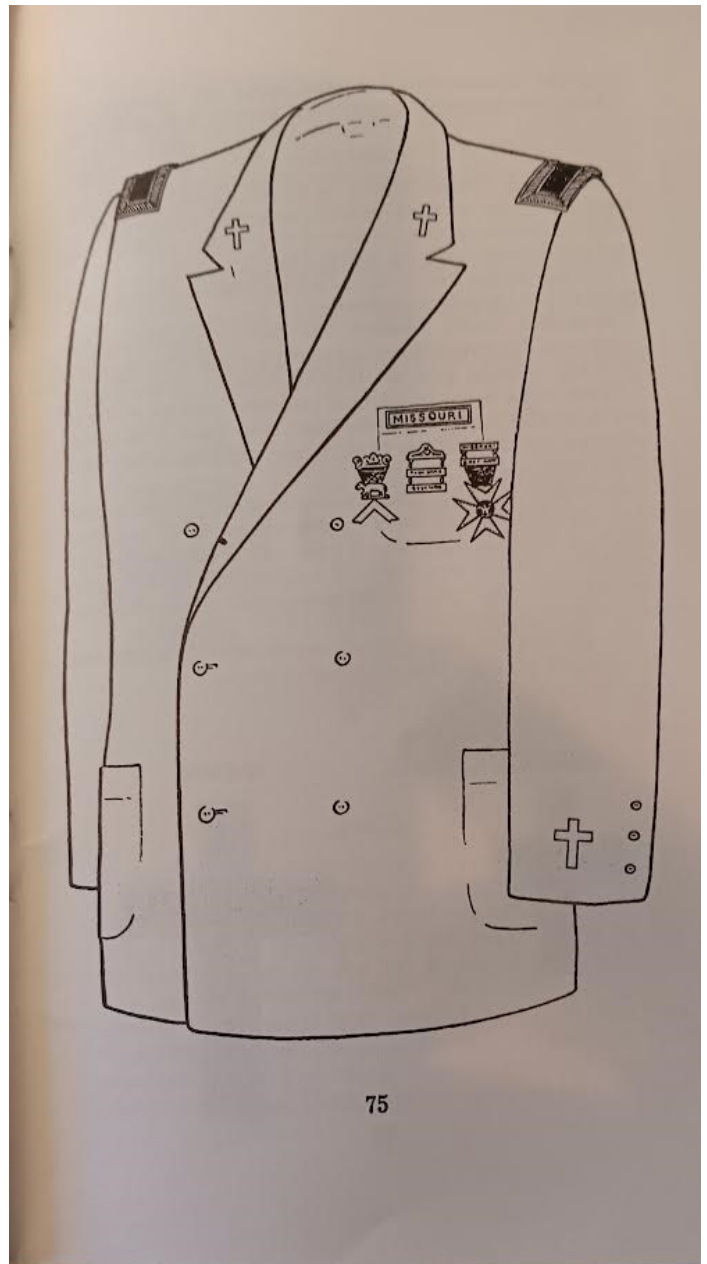
I believe it was Palestine Commandery No. 17 that used to have one individual in charge of making sure that everyone had their accoutrements properly placed for the “drill” competition. Which is great for uniformity in the Sir Knights’ uniforms.

That should be enough to get you started. Also, refer to the Tactics and Manual for proper placement of the crosses, and who wears what cross.

Good Luck at the “drill” competition and I will see you at the preliminary inspection.

Fraternally Yours,

Sir Knight Corey B. Huntsucker, KTCH
Grand Lecturer



ALL ROYAL ARCH MASONS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED



TABLE CHAPTER DINNER

Hosted by:

Region 2 Royal Arch Masons

Liberty Chapter Number 3

Liberty, Missouri

Evening's Events:

6:00 p.m. Social Hour

6:40 p.m. Dinner

Guest Speaker: EC Steven Bright

DATE & VENUE

March 16th, 2026

Location: Liberty Chapter

10 E franklin

Liberty, Mo 64068

Dinner Cost: \$20.00 & Includes a Commemorative Firing Cannon

Please bring a roll of quarters for fun and any donation

you would like to make to RARA

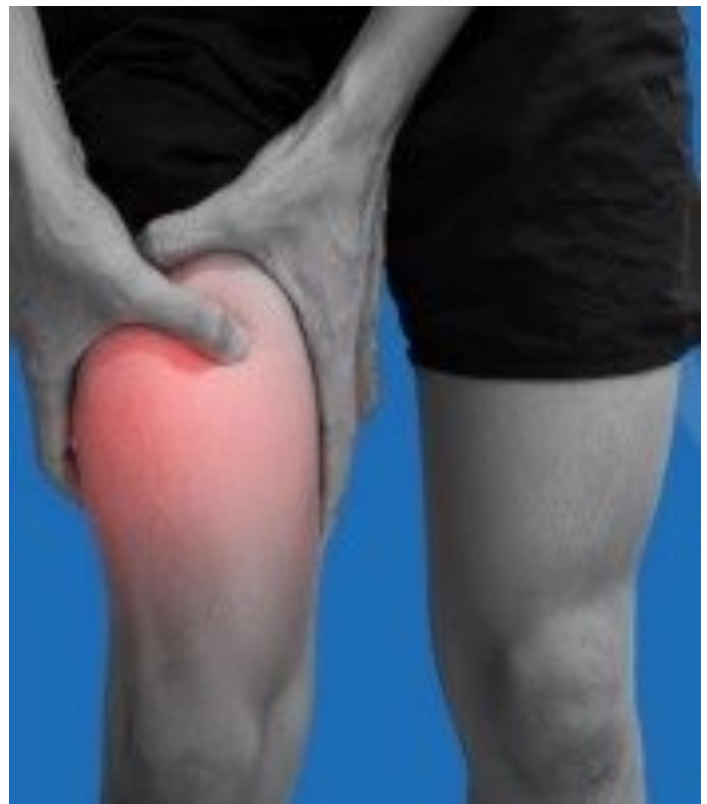
Please RSVP to kcbobbie@gmail.com

2026 ICVBM / CMMRF UPDATE

1. Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD).

- **PAD** is caused by hardening of the arteries of the leg due to build up of atherosclerotic plaque. This plaque eventually limits blood flow to the muscle and skin of the leg causing pain, and in more severe cases, gangrene of the foot. PAD presents in three different scenarios: asymptomatic, claudication (pain in the calf muscles with walking), and chronic limb threatening ischemia. PAD is more common than coronary artery disease in the US and affects 8.5 million Americans and 202 million people worldwide. With the rise in diabetes the number of patients with PAD is increasing.
- **REAKTHROUGH!** Our pioneering work in cell therapy to prevent leg amputations in patients with severe PAD has led to approval of using autologous bone marrow cells in patients with all forms of PAD in Europe. This effort was a result of a collaboration with the ICVBM, support from the CMMRF, and an industry sponsor, Zimmer-Biomet Inc. (Warsaw, IN) who developed the MarrowStim™ device that can separate the stem cell fraction from a patient's own bone marrow. Safety of using autologous bone marrow cells was established in the landmark MOBILE Trial, a multicenter study led by the ICVBN. The MarrowStim™ product will be available in Europe to all patients with PAD and we are working with Zimmer-Biomet to obtain US Food and Drug Administration approval in the US.
- **Claudication** is the most common form of PAD and represents about 35% of the PAD population. Claudication is pain in the muscle of the leg when walking as the exercising muscle does not get enough oxygen due to decreased blood flow. Characteristically this pain goes away when the patient rests. About 20% of Americans suffer from claudication and it has a significant negative impact on quality of life and work productivity. The **current recommendations** by the American Heart Association and the Society for Vascular Surgery for treating patients with claudication is risk

factor management, which is stopping smoking, controlling blood pressure, and treating cholesterol with a statin medication. Surgical bypass and angioplasty are **not recommended** as first line treatment because these interventions are associated with complications (wound infection, bleeding, pain) and ultimately fail leaving the patient with worse blood puts the patient at risk for an amputation. Currently, there are no effective treatments to improve the symptoms of patients with claudication. At the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine we participated in the PACE Trial (Patients with Intermittent Claudication Injected with ALDH Bright Cells) through the National Institutes of Health. This multi-center trial showed an improvement in walking distance in the cell treated group, however it was not significant when compared to the placebo group. Thus, the ICVBM is testing induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) that have the to stimulate new blood vessel growth for the next generation clinical trial.



- Chronic limb threatening ischemia, (CLTI), is the most severe form of PAD and is characterized by foot pain and tissue loss (gangrene). CLTI is a significant risk for amputation of the leg and has a quality of life equivalent to terminal cancer.



Rest Pain



Tissue Loss

- Surgical interventions have provided excellent results in treating CLTI however up to 30% of patients with CLTI will not be candidates for angioplasty or bypass and the only treatment option for relief of pain or removal of an infected ulcer is amputation. Over 153,000 amputations are performed each year ranking as the 6th costliest operation at 10.6-billion-dollar expense to our health care system.
- Diabetic patients are especially at risk for limb amputation due to infection and more extensive hardening of the arteries. The incidence of diabetes and its vascular complications continues to rise each year.
- The American Heart Association has recently noted that amputations due to PAD and diabetes has increased over the past ten years. The AHA issued a policy statement that there needs to be an international effort to reduce amputations by 20% by the year 2030.
- With the support of the CMMRF the ICVBM is addressing the critical need for effective therapies to prevent amputations and has been the international leader in this field, beginning with the landmark MOBILE trial over twenty five years ago.
- With research funds we have created two polygenic diabetic mouse models of CLTI and we are testing new cell types and preparations, In addition, we have been able to purchase specialized equipment that can measure leg muscle strength and walking function in mice, thus providing a more comprehensive analysis of the effects of mesenchymal stromal cell therapy.
- With the Mason's research funds, we have purchased the Buchi Encapsulator. This device encapsulates cells 2which protects them from getting cleared by the recipient's immune system

yet still allows the cells to secrete growth factors that stimulate new blood vessels to grow.

- A recent paper in Nature Medicine showed that encapsulated human islet cells when injected into a diabetic mouse survived for 175 days and controlled the mouse's blood sugar.
- We plan to use this encapsulating shield for our MSC spheroids. If the cells can survive longer, they may be more effective in restoring blood flow to the leg and promote wound healing.
- What is even more exciting is that the Buchi encapsulator is a sterile system and thus whatever we create can be used in humans in clinical trials.
- This \$90k investment for the Buschi device produced preliminary data to support a new 5-year National Institutes of Health research grant for \$3.7 million dollar grant " Human Vertebral Body Mesenchymal Stromal Cells from Organ Donors For Limb Preservation in a Murine Model of Diabetic Hindlimb Ischemia." This is an excellent return on the CMMRF investment.
- Working with a biotechnology company from Australia, Cynata Therapeutics, the ICVBM has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to use their iPSC mesenchymal stem cells in clinical trials to prevent amputations in CLTI.

2. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms.

a. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms (AAA) are a pathologic dilatation of the aorta, the main blood vessel from the heart, that leads to rupture and death if untreated.

Rupture



- AAA is the 13th leading cause of death in the U.S. but its incidence is probably much higher as it has no symptoms until it ruptures. Of those patients who rupture half die before reaching the hospital, half will die after emergent surgery, so that ruptured AAA has a 75% mortality rate.
- Approximately 200,000 new AAAs are diagnosed each year and surgical repair is indicated only when the AAA grows to a diameter of 5.5 cm. Thus, many patients with smaller AAA's must wait for years before repair and describe it as if having a ticking time bomb in their abdomen.
- There are no current medical strategies to prevent or suppress AAA expansion and rupture to avoid surgery
- The ICVBM completed a First in Man clinical trial in which veterans with small AAA's were given anti-inflammatory stem cells to see if this would prevent the AAA from getting larger. The trial reached its declared primary endpoint showing a significant increase in the "good" regulatory T-cells and a decrease in the "bad" Th17 cells. Also, the study showed the patients in the high cell dose group had a reduction in aneurysm volume! The study was hoping to show that MSCs merely slowed the growth of the aneurysm but this data suggests that high doses of MSCs may cause the aneurysm to shrink. This is a major breakthrough and the results have been presented in a plenary lecture at the annual conference of the Society of Vascular Surgery and the American Heart Association, from which we have received several prestigious awards.
- Based on these results we are designing a larger Phase II multi-center clinical trial.
- We have demonstrated that those aortic aneurysms are a result of an auto-immune response to proteins in the aorta, specifically to a protein called elastin. Working with collaborators at Northwestern University we are using state of the art nanoparticle technology that will in essence be a "reverse vaccine" that will prevent patients from developing this immune response and prevent aneurysms from even starting.
- Dr. Leckie has also invented a skin test that may identify patients at risk for AAA before the aneurysm actually develops. This will allow treatment to suppress aortic inflammation and prevent the AAA from starting.
- We are working with a company for a skin patch

that will prevent these immune responses that cause AAA formation.

Definition: autologous; adjective; derived from the same individual; involving one individual as both donor and recipient.

Mesenchymal stem cells but also other cell types, such as beta cells that secrete insulin and can control diabetes.



DONOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Because we appreciate your generosity, appropriate label pins and plaques are awarded based on cumulative totals.

Individuals

- \$50 – Bronze Lapel Pin
- \$100 – Bronze Lapel Pin with Stone
- \$150 – Silver Lapel Pin
- \$300 – Silver Lapel Pin with Stone
- \$500 – Gold Lapel Pin
- \$750 – Gold Lapel Pin with Stone
- \$1,000 – General Grand Master's Triangle Plaque & Gold Lapel Pin with 1 Diamond Chip¹
- \$2,000 – Gold Lapel Pin with 2 Diamond Chips

Councils

- \$1,000 – General Grand Master's Triangle Plaque
- \$2,000 – Extender Bar for Plaque

Each additional \$1,000 donation will earn another extender bar for the Council or another diamond chip for the individual.

¹ Diamond Chips Are Synthetic

Council Recorders are to send one check, on behalf of his Council, to

CMMRF
P. O. Box 210,
Brownsburg, Indiana 46112-0210

by May 15, 2026. Kindly designate this contribution as a CMMRF Month contribution. Those outside the United States are encouraged to use PayPal.



Wishing you
A Joyous Easter

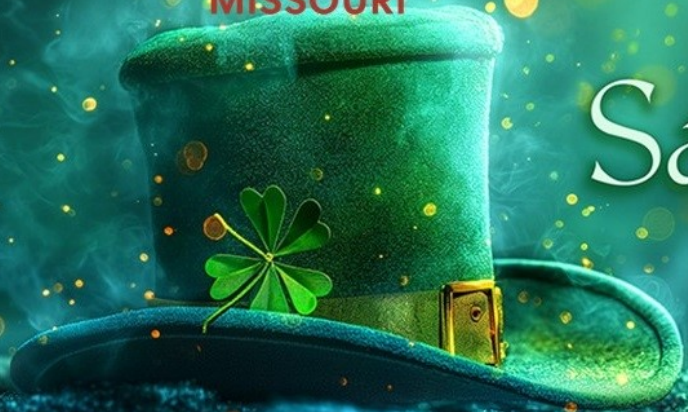


Happy
EASTER



Job's Daughters of Missouri

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
DEMOLAY
MISSOURI



Happy 
Saint Patrick's
Day

CMMRF Fact Sheet

2026

Purpose: The following information is provided to all York Rite Council Companions concerning the mission of the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF) and the type of medical research that they are currently working on. The objective of this fact sheet is to inform and educate all Companions on the research that is currently underway and supported by CMMRF and the progress that has been achieved in each area. Further, to provide everyone with an idea as to where the research will ultimately lead to, as well as impacts that it will have on those afflicted with the conditions under research.

Currently, the CMMRF is supporting medical research into eight critical areas through the Indiana University School of Medicine. Each of these eight areas are described below. Also, each of the eight research fields are medical conditions that afflict millions of people on an annual basis. Each of you will undoubtedly have multiple relatives and friends; if not yourselves, that are afflicted by these conditions.

The CMMRF program is designed to generate a steady revenue stream that allows for the continued research into each of the designated medical conditions. Although CMMRF is not the only revenue stream for the research being conducted by the Indiana University School of Medicine, it is a main contributor that has allowed for continued research, as well as the purchase of critical research equipment that is now cutting-edge medical technology.

Again, this paper is intended to educate and inform all Council Companions on the charitable outreach program that they have adopted and supported throughout the years.

History: Before delving into the medical research projects that are on-going with the CMMRF, it is important to understand some of the history of how cryptic masonry came to partner with the Indiana University School of Medicine. Having a sense of history allows for us to more readily identify with the goals and objectives of the CMMRF program.

The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, (CMMRF), was incorporated in the

state of Oklahoma, March 6, 1986. The driving force behind this new corporation was interest shown by Most Puissant General Grand Master Ben Mandlebaum, of the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International. MPGGM Mandelbaum and two other individuals found the need to develop a foundation that could provide direct support to the Indiana University School of Medicine based upon the critical research that they were performing into areas of medical science that commonly afflict the majority of Americans in everyday life. These men then created and legally incorporated that foundation to serve as an outreach project that could be supported by cryptic masons everywhere.

CMMRF funds research at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana. Initial research focused on the cause(s) and eventually a cure for atherosclerosis and its complications. In later years, the research has implemented adult stem cell therapies to address a variety of mature health issues but not necessarily restricted to the adult population. This research was previously funded by an Indiana corporation, which ceased to do business upon the death of Dr. Owen L. Shanteau, October 17, 1985. While CMMRF is not a part of that preceding organization and the General Grand Council was not its governing body, CMMRF is continuing the good work that it started.

Sometime in 2001-2002 the CMMRF sponsored laboratory became the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine, (ICVBM). After a 3-year search for the best person to fill this newly created position, Chairman Dr. Keith March was selected. The creation of an endowed chair and this new Center attracted more than \$2,000,000.00 from non-Masonic sources. Dr. March served in this position until his resignation September 30, 2017. After an in-depth search, Dr. Jay Hess, Dean of the Indiana University School of Medicine, announced on July 17, 2018, that Dr. Michael P. Murphy had been selected as the next holder of the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation Chair.

Since that time, Dr. Murphy has been working in conjunction with the various CMMRF programs throughout the country, to raise funding and awareness of the program.

RESEARCH PROJECTS – The following information is provided on the eight distinct areas of medical research that are supported by the CMMRF program. Each area is distinct and has application to the most common medical conditions that are found in everyday life.

1. Condition Under Study – ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM (AAA)

Description - (AAA) is an enlarging of the aorta which is the main blood vessel from the heart to the rest of the body. The enlargement (or dilation) of the aorta many times leads to rupture and death if untreated.

AAA is the 13th leading cause of death in the U.S. but its incidence is probably much higher as it has no symptoms until it ruptures. Of those patients who do rupture, half will die before reaching the hospital. Of the ones who do reach a hospital, half will die after emergency surgery. In total, 70% or more diagnosed with AAA will succumb to the condition, with only 30% or less surviving.

Approximately 200,000 new AAA's are diagnosed each year and surgical repair is not initiated until the AAA grows to a diameter of 5.5 cm. Thus many patients with smaller AAA's must wait for years before repair and describe it as if having a ticking time bomb in their abdomen.

Current Research: At present are no current medical strategies to prevent or suppress AAA expansion and rupture to avoid surgery. However, the Indiana University School of Medicine (supported through CMMRF funding) is near completion of a Phase I clinical trial in which they are treating patients with small AAA with intra-venous infusions of “mesenchymal” stem cells obtained from young healthy donors.

Note - Mesenchymal stem cells are adult stem cells that have two features: the ability to differentiate along different lineages and the ability of self-renewal. This means that the stem cells introduced into the patients body, will adapt and reinforce the aorta and they will renew themselves as the patient continues in life making surgical repairs unnecessary and a thing of the past.

Patients enrolled into this study are randomized to placebo, low dose MSCs, and high dose MSCs. Since this is a phase one study, there are currently 31 of 36 patients being treated. Preliminary results have shown a significant reduction of inflammatory cells that are related to AAA development and a significant increase in regulatory T cells that suppress inflammation, reaching the primary endpoint. T-cells are part of the immune system and

develop from stem cells in the bone marrow. They help protect the body from infection and may help fight cancer

More importantly, using positron emission tomography, the study has shown that MSCs decrease inflammation in the aorta in a dose dependent fashion and prevent AAA from enlarging. Without the enlargement, the aorta will not rupture.

On-Going and Future Developments - Based on these results; the Indiana School of Medicine is designing a larger Phase II multi-center clinical trial. Research seems to demonstrate that aortic aneurysms are a result of an auto-immune response to proteins in the aorta, specifically to a protein called “elastin”. Working with collaborators at Northwestern University they are using state of the art nano-particle technology that will prevent patients from developing this immune response and prevent aneurysms from even starting.

Further, a skin test has been invented that may identify patients at risk for AAA before the aneurysm actually develops. This will allow treatment to suppress aortic inflammation and prevent the AAA from starting.

A recent NIH grant was received and that grant will be utilized to focus on muscle wasting and heart disease in patients with abdominal aortic aneurysms. They previously discovered that 50% of patients who had evidence of muscle wasting prior to surgical repair for their aneurysm died at 3 years. In mouse models of aortic aneurysm, they have developed through Cryptic Masons funds; they are testing their hypothesis that the chronic inflammation associated with aneurysm formation leads to heart failure.

2. Condition Under Study – PERIPHERAL ARTERIAL DISEASE (PAD)

Description – PAD is a greater health care burden than is coronary artery disease. Approximately 8 million Americans are afflicted with it. Critical Limb Threatening Ischemia, (CLTI), is the most severe form of PAD and is characterized by foot pain, as well as gangrene. CLTI is a significant risk for amputation of the leg and has a quality of life equivalent to a terminal cancer patient.

Surgical interventions have provided excellent results in treating CLTI however, up to 30% of patients with CLTI will not be candidates for angioplasty or bypass and the only treatment option for relief of pain or removal of an infected ulcer, is amputation. The number of amputations in the US has increased by over 50% in the last decade and currently over 153,000 amputations are performed

each year. The American Heart Association has declared lower extremity amputations a national health care crisis with a call to reduce amputation rates by 20% by the year 2030.

Diabetic patients are especially at risk for limb amputation due to infection and more extensive hardening of the arteries. The incidence of diabetes and its vascular complications continues to rise each and every year.

Current Research - With the support of the CMMRF, the Indiana School of Medicine is addressing the critical need for effective therapies to prevent amputations.

With research funds they have created a diabetic mouse model of CLTI and are testing new stem cell types and preparations able to regenerate skeletal muscle in the diabetic mice with limb ischemia. Further, it has been discovered that mice treated with mesenchymal stem cells grown in clusters (called spheroids) have complete return of muscle function and limb function. This is a discovery that does and will lend itself to clinical trials in the near future.

They are collaborating with Harvard University, who has developed a gel material that can envelope the stem cell and then be injected into the muscle of a leg with PAD. The reason that this is significant is that it protects the mesenchymal stem cells until they are introduced into the targeted area. Also, with the utilization of CMMRF funds, the University of Indiana Medical School has been able to purchase a "Buchi Encapsulator". This device encapsulates cells which protects them from getting cleared by the recipient's immune system, yet still allows the cells to secrete growth factors that stimulate new blood vessels to grow. With new blood vessel development, oxygen is restored to the afflicted area, and the chronic pain is reduced, or eliminated.

A recent paper in Nature Medicine showed that encapsulated human islet cells, when injected into a diabetic mouse survived for 175 days and controlled the mouse's blood sugar.

They plan to use this encapsulating shield for their MSC spheroids. If the cells can survive longer they may be more effective in restoring blood flow to the leg and promote wound healing. Furthermore the Buchi device allows them to package other cargo in capsules such as growth factors or genes, which can target diseased tissue. The Indiana University School of Medicine is leading the field in adult stem cell biology to treat PAD by developing an induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) that can directly grow into a functioning blood vessel when injected into muscle. This iPSC mesodermal cell is a discovery of Dr. Mervin Yoder at IU and a close collaborator of

the Indiana University School of Medicine. We are currently assessing these iPSCs in our mouse models of limb ischemic and plan to move this novel cell population into a clinical trial.

They are now using induced pluripotent stem cells that have been genetically modified to lack expression of what are called major histocompatibility antigens. Because these cells lack these antigens they can be transplanted into an unrelated patient without the patient's immune system recognizing them and thus they will be more effective as they will last longer.

In essence they have the ability to take a bone marrow derived stem cell and convert it into an embryonic like state, that is undefined, and then differentiate it into a specific type cell such as a heart muscle cell. This ability to re-designate a cell into something other than what it was, allows for the creating of targeted stem cells be introduced into other organs for repair.

On Going and Future Developments - Critical Limb Threatening Ischemia (CLTI) is the most severe form of peripheral arterial disease caused by atherosclerotic occlusion (a build up of fats and cholesterol) of blood vessels to the lower extremities. It is often associated with excruciating pain and leads to the development of skin ulcers or gangrene.

The Indiana Center For Regenerative Medicine and Engineering has been at the national forefront in developing cutting-edge approaches to treat "no option" for revascularization CLTI patients. The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation funding has been actively used to focus on cell-based approaches for cardiovascular disease for over the past 20 years, and will continue to do so.

Dr. Murphy conducted the first trial in the U.S. using a patient's own bone marrow cells to prevent amputations. His pioneering work culminated in the MOBILE (Marrow Stem Treatment of Limb Ischemia in Subjects with Severe Peripheral Arterial Disease) trial—a randomized, placebo-controlled trial that assessed the ability of intra-muscular injection of a patient's own bone marrow cells to prevent amputation.

The MOBILE study demonstrated that cell therapy was safe; however there was not a significant difference in amputation rates at one-year between the cell treated and placebo.

Further research in this area will be conducted to improve the results and determine why the therapy appears to be blocked in patients suffering from diabetes. The ultimate goal is to treat the patient with

stem cell therapies that will preclude the need for further amputations of limbs and to relieve the chronic pain that is experienced by those suffering with PAD.

3. Condition Under Study – HEART FAILURE

Description – Heart failure occurs when the heart muscle doesn't pump blood as well as it should. Blood often backs up and causes fluid to build up in the lungs (congest) and in the legs. The fluid buildup can cause shortness of breath and swelling of the legs and feet. Poor blood flow may cause the skin to appear blue (cyanotic). Ultimately, heart failure can be terminal as it leads to heart attacks and organ failure.

Current Research – The Indiana University School of Medicine has participated in the CONCERT-HF trial and the SENECA trials through the Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Research Network. This is a consortium of 7 centers in the US recognized for their expertise in stem cell research. The SENECA study was a Phase I trial that recruited 60 patients with heart failure after receiving chemotherapy for cancer. Unfortunately the chemotherapy, besides killing cancer cells, also kills heart muscle cells and at times patients survive their cancer but end up with heart failure. SENECA was designed to assess the effects of mesenchymal stem cells injected into the heart muscle of these patients. The study reached completion and the results show that the stem cells improved all 7 measures of heart function and plans are underway for a larger and more definitive Phase II trial.

The CONCERT-HF trial was designed to assess the ability of stem cells in improving heart function in patients with heart failure after a heart attack. In this study patients underwent a biopsy of their heart muscle and also a bone marrow aspiration. Both tissue samples were sent to the University of Miami where stem cells called “c-kit” positive cells were grown from the heart muscle and mesenchymal stem cells were grown from the bone marrow. Then the cells were sent back to the respective medical center the combination of c-kit and MSCs were injected into the heart muscle.

On-Going and Future Development – The CONCERT-HF trial has completed enrollment and all follow-up evaluations. They will be meeting in February to review the results of this exciting study.

Using a 3D bioprinter to create scaffolds onto which heart cells can be implanted, it is anticipated that a “beating” scaffold can then be used to surgically replace parts of the heart that have been damaged from a heart attack. (Scaffolds are materials that have been engineered to cause

desirable cellular interactions to contribute to the formation of new functional tissues for medical purposes.) Cells are often 'seeded' into these structures capable of supporting three-dimensional tissue formation.

Further, they are working with Stanford University to develop new approaches to treating heart failure. It has been shown that induced pluripotent heart muscle cells produce small microvesicles that contain mitochondria. Mitochondria are small organelles that are in every cell and they make ATP, which is the energy source for the cell to survive. When these microvesicles are injected into a pig heart with an infarct they are able to rescue injured heart cells.

They will be creating microbeads with the Buchi encapsulating device that will be loaded with mitochondria, which will be injected into the pig model. In other words, they are progressing into Phase 2 studies with the goal of introducing stem cells into a heart that has suffered a heart attack and restoring the damaged muscle cells, while generating new blood supplies and providing the energy necessary for normal heart cells to survive.

4. Condition Under Study – DIABETES

Description - Diabetes is a chronic, metabolic disease characterized by elevated levels of blood glucose (or blood sugar), which leads over time to serious damage to the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys and nerves.

There are four main types of diabetes: Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, gestational diabetes, and a condition known as prediabetes, in which you have higher-than-normal blood glucose levels but not quite high enough (yet) to qualify as Type 2 diabetes. Type 2 being the most common in US society, mainly due to diet and weight issues.

Current Research - The current focus is on treating Type 1 diabetes with islet cell transplants from donors has not been successful as the patient's immune system recognizes the islet cells as foreign and clears the cells from the patient's body. Islets are cells found in clusters throughout the pancreas. They are made up of several types of cells. One of these is beta cells, which makes insulin. Insulin is a hormone that helps the body use glucose for energy. Islet cell transplantation transfers cells from an organ donor into the body of another person A recent publication in Nature Medicine has shown that encapsulation of human islet cells with “aliginate” (which is a complex carbohydrate found in seaweed), a hydrogel approved for clinical use; protected the human islet cells from the mouse immune system and corrected the diabetes.

On-Going and Future Development - Thanks to CMMRF support the Indiana University School of Medicine, they were able to purchase the Buchi encapsulation device that can make a clinical grade capsule. They plan to begin encapsulating human islet cells and test their ability to control blood sugar levels in their polygenic diabetic mouse model, the “TALLY-HO” mouse strain. This genetic diabetic mouse more closely duplicates the human diabetic condition than that used in the Nature Medicine paper. Furthermore if they are able to demonstrate success they will be able to move this to a clinical trial in patients as the materials they are using are FDA approved.

The goal of this research is to allow cells in the pancreas to stimulate insulin production, thus improving the quality of life for those that suffer with diabetes.

5. Condition Under Study – CANCER

Description - Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in the body. Cancer develops when the body's normal control mechanism stops working. Old cells do not die and instead grow out of control, forming new, abnormal cells. These extra cells may form a mass of tissue, commonly known as a tumor.

Current Research - The Indiana Center for Vascular Biology has teamed up with the IU Center for Immunotherapy, based on mutual interests in modulating the patient's immune system to fight disease and also because the Indiana University School of Medicine is building a cell manufacturing facility.

The Center for Immunotherapy needs expertise in creating antigen specific T cells to fight cancer, what is known as CAR-T cells. Their group has developed the technology to create antigen specific regulatory cells to prevent inflammation in cardiovascular disease and they will be working with other colleagues in oncology in creating CAR-T cells.

Note – “Chimeric antigen receptor” or (CAR) T - cell therapy is a type of immunotherapy that modifies a person with cancer's immune system so it is more effective at finding and destroying cancer cells. A person's immune system is very complex and involves many different types of cells and systems throughout the body.

On-Going and Future Development - This joint venture between the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology, IU Center for Immunotherapy and Indiana University School of Medicine will continue its research to hopefully create an antigen specific T cell, which will provide a new treatment protocol for those afflicted with cancer.

6. Condition Under Study – STROKE

Description - A stroke is defined as a loss of blood flow to part of the brain, which damages brain tissue. Strokes are caused by blood clots and broken blood vessels in the brain. Symptoms include dizziness, numbness, weakness, paralysis, on one side of the body, and problems with talking, writing, or understanding language.

Generally speaking, there are three types of strokes which can affect a person, which have various degrees of severity. These three forms are as follows:

- Ischemic stroke. Most strokes are ischemic strokes.
- Hemorrhagic stroke. A hemorrhagic stroke happens when an artery in the brain leaks blood or ruptures (breaks open).
- Transient ischemic attack (TIA or “mini-stroke”)

Current Research – The Veterans Administration Research Consortium has asked the Indiana University School of Medicine to develop new approaches to improving outcomes after a stroke. Key to recovery after a stroke is “rescuing” those brain cells that are injured but not dead.

They are working with colleagues in Neurosurgery in a rat stroke model in which they can inject regulatory T cells that they are creating in their lab directly into the injured part of the brain.

On-Going and Future Development – Future research is designed to save damaged brain cells from further damage or death of the cell. Laboratory research on rats will continue to develop the techniques that will hopefully lead to phase 1 and phase 2 studies. The ultimate goal is to save as many brain cells as possible after a stroke event has occurred. By doing this, the stroke victim will be allowed to have further brain function, then would normally occur after such an event.

7. Condition Under Study – ARTHRITIS

Description - Arthritis is the swelling and tenderness of one or more joints. The main symptoms of arthritis are joint pain and stiffness, which typically worsen with age. The most common types of arthritis are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

The 5 Common Types of Arthritis are:

- Osteoarthritis.
- Rheumatoid Arthritis.
- Psoriatic Arthritis.
- Gout.
- Lupus.

Current research – The Veterans Administration also has called for new innovative approaches in treating arthritis of the knee and hip. They have designed a clinical trial in which patients will be treated with mesenchymal stem cells with injections directly into the knee space.

They are awaiting FDA approval and final funding from the VA for this multi-center study.

On-Going and Future Development - Once FDA approval has been obtained, clinical trials will be initiated with the anticipation that the introduction of mesenchymal stem cells will begin to repair damaged and lost cartilage, thus restoring some degree of mobility and improved quality of life to the patient.

8. Condition Under Study – PANCREATITIS

Description - Pancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas. The pancreas is a large gland behind the stomach, close to the first part of the small intestine, called the duodenum. The pancreas has two main functions—to make insulin and to make digestive juices, or enzymes, to help you digest food.

When the pancreas is inflamed, the powerful digestive enzymes it makes can damage its tissue. The inflamed pancreas can cause release of inflammatory cells and toxins that may harm your lungs, kidneys and heart.

Current Research - Each year 37,000 people are diagnosed with pancreatitis, a debilitating disease associated with significant pain and requiring frequent admissions to the hospital.

The Indiana University School of Medicine has one of the largest pancreatitis programs in the U.S.

They plan a phase I clinical trial, similar to the aortic aneurysm trial, in which they will treat patients with pancreatitis with MSCs.

On-Going and Future Development - Once the Phase 1 studies begin, their goal will be to introduce stem cells into the pancreas, and allow for it to decrease inflammation as well as excessive production of toxins. This will lead to a normalization of pancreas function and elimination of pain.

Conclusion - Much of the ongoing research sponsored by CMMRF has cross application into multiple areas. As one can see, the Indiana University School of Medicine has been developing tools (mainly through the use of adult stem cells) to be able to provide new treatment protocols across a broad range of medical conditions that affect each of us on a daily basis.

In science, often times; minor discoveries are made that lead up to a major treatment protocol or cure. Most of the above mentioned medical conditions have plagued humans over the course of our history. Because of discoveries such as those made by the Indiana University School of Medicine, advancements have been made that are leading to real cures. However, what is very exciting, is that their research is leading to treatments that will be affective in allowing a patient that is afflicted by one of these conditions, to have an improved quality of life. Those who have debilitating conditions that leave them at home with a loss of mobility and in chronic pain, have a chance at leading a more normal life by gaining increased mobility and a minimization of pain.

The future for the victims with chronic conditions such as PAD, is becoming brighter due to the advancements that are being made. Our continued and reliable support to the CMMRF program will bring a hope and promise of giving these afflicted people a better life, with a lot less pain involved. Think of the joy in a person who has lived with chronic and debilitating pain, being given adult stem cell therapies, thus removing their pain. Think of the immediate improvement in their quality of life both physically and psychologically. This is what we as Cryptic Masons are supporting. This is truly something to be proud of.

Alan F. Rhody
Committee Chairmen State of Alabama (CMMRF)
Robert Garner, MD
Medical Advisor

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Picture This.....

OFFICERS FROM THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF IOWA VISIT ELY COMMANDERY NO. 22

During the special Conclave of Ely Commandery No. 22 K.T. held on Saturday, February 21st, 2026 A.D. | 908 A.O. (as part of the York Rite Festival at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville, Missouri), S.K. Craig A. Nowell, Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery, and his officers were honored to welcome two Grand Officers from the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Iowa: S.K. J.D. Determan, Eminent Grand Captain General, and S.K. Bryan D. Bever, Eminent Grand Generalissimo. Our visitors were shown every knightly courtesy, and in the spirit of chivalric Freemasonry, they were kind enough to assist with the conferral of the Order of the Temple!

Pictured, from left, are: S.K. Ashley W. Young, Treasurer and Past Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery, and Eminent Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri; S.K. Jeffrey L. Knight, Past Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery and Eminent Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Commandery; S.K. Bever; and S.K. Determan.



Conferral of the Capitular Degrees in Kirksville

The Companions of Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M. conferred the four degrees of capitular Freemasonry, and exalted four Companions to the degree of the Royal Arch, during two special convocations of Caldwell Chapter held February 20th and 21st, 2026 A.D. | 2556 A.I., at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville, Missouri, as part of a York Rite Festival. Congratulations to our four new Companions in Royal Arch Masonry!

Missouri's newest Royal Arch Masons are, pictured

center front from left: Comp. Darrell G. Crawford of Rolla Chapter No. 32; Comp. Seth T. Elliott of Jefferson City Chapter No. 34; Comp. Brandon L. Paxton of Caldwell Chapter; and Comp. Jerry N. Spurgeon of Hannibal Chapter No. 7.

V.E.C. Richard A. Taylor, Past High Priest of Shelbina Chapter No. 99 R.A.M. and Grand Master of the First Veil for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, welcomed Missouri's newest Royal Arch Masons and gave remarks on behalf of M.E.C. Kevin M. Ritter, Grand High Priest.

E.C. Kirby R. Cundiff, High Priest of Caldwell Chapter, and his officers would like to thank the following Companions who traveled to assist with the several conferrals: E.C. Kyle L. Schneider, Past High Priest of Hannibal Chapter; V.E.C. Tommy G. Cupples, Past High Priest of St. Charles Chapter No. 1 and District Deputy Grand Lecturer for Region Five of the Grand Chapter; and V.E.C. Christian M. Jessen, Past High Priest of Rolla Chapter and Grand Organist of the Grand Chapter.

Also in attendance were the following District Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter: V.E.C. Craig A. Nowell, Past High Priest of Caldwell Chapter and District Deputy Grand High Priest for Region One of the Grand Chapter; V.E.C. Jeffrey L. Knight, Past High Priest of Putnam Chapter No. 123 and District Deputy Grand Lecturer for Region One of the Grand Chapter; and V.E.C. Wayne B. Fryer, Past High Priest of Rolla Chapter and District Deputy Grand Lecturer for Region Four of the Grand Chapter.

Finally, Caldwell Chapter was honored by the presence of V.E.C. Bryan D. Bever, Grand Master of the Third Veil of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Iowa!



Conferral of the Cryptic Degrees in Kirksville

The Companions of Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S.M. conferred the three degrees of cryptic Freemasonry, and greeted six Companions as Royal and Select Masters – as well as Super Excellent Masters – during a special assembly of Kirksville Council held February 21st, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep. at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville, as part of a York Rite Festival. Congratulations to our six new Companions in Cryptic Masonry!

Missouri's newest Royal and Select Masters are, pictured center front from left: Comp. Seth T. Elliott of Ezra Council No. 32; Comp. Darrell G. Crawford of Rolla Council No. 39; Comp. Rusty E. Anders of Kirksville Council; Comp. Brandon L. Paxton of Kirksville Council; Comp. Shannon E. O'Day of Trinity Council No. 47; and Comp. Jerry N. Spurgeon of Trinity Council.

R.I.C. Taz A. Meyer, Past Master of Hiram Council No. 1 and Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, welcomed Missouri's newest Royal and Select Masters and gave remarks on behalf of M.I.C. Dennis W. Houck, Grand Master of the Grand Council.

I.C. Matthew N. Moore, Master of Kirksville Council, and his officers would like to thank the following Companions who traveled to assist with the several conferrals: I.C. Tommy G. Cupples, Past Master of Hiram Council; V.I.C. Christian M. Jessen, Past Master of Rolla Council and Grand Organist of the Grand Council; R.I.C. Taz A. Meyer, Past Master of Hiram Council and Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council; and M.I.C. Wayne B. Fryer, Past Master of Rolla Council and Past Grand Master of the Grand Council, 2020-2022.

Also in attendance was V.I.C. David D. Goring, Past Master of Kirksville Council and Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region One of the Grand Council.

Finally, Kirksville Council was honored by the presence of V.I.C. Bryan D. Bever, Grand Steward of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Iowa!



Conferring Commandery Orders in Kirksville

The Sir Knights of Ely Commandery No. 22 conferred the three orders of chivalric Freemasonry, and made seven Knights of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple, during a special conclave of Ely Commandery held February 21st, 2026 A.D. | 908 A.O. at

the Masonic Temple in Kirksville, as part of a York Rite Festival. Congratulations to our seven new Sir Knights!

Missouri's newest Sir Knights are, pictured center front from left around the altar: S.K. Jerry N. Spurgeon of Excalibur Commandery No. 5; S.K. Brandon L. Paxton of Ely Commandery; S.K. Seth T. Elliott of Prince of Peace Commandery No. 29; S.K. Rusty E. Anders of Ely Commandery; S.K. Darrell G. Crawford of Rolla Commandery No. 59; S.K. Kevin E. Williams of Excalibur Commandery; and S.K. Shannon E. O'Day of Excalibur Commandery.

S.K. Ashley W. Young, Past Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery and Eminent Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, welcomed Missouri's newest Sir Knights and gave remarks on behalf of S.K. Ronald L. Skiles, the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery.

S.K. Craig A. Nowell, Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery, and his officers would like to thank S.K. Christian M. Jessen, Past Eminent Commander of Rolla Commandery and Grand Organist of the Grand Commandery, who traveled to assist with the several conferrals.

Also in attendance, and assisting with the conferrals, were S.K. David D. Goring, Past Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery and Regional Grand Commander for Region One of the Grand Commandery; S.K. William J. King, Past Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery and Assistant Grand Lecturer North of the Grand Commandery; S.K. Jeffrey L. Knight, Past Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery and Eminent Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Commandery; S.K. Richard L. Mansfield, Past Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery and Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, 2012-2013; and S.K. Thomas C. Yunick, Past Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery and Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, 2004-2005.

Finally, Ely Commandery was honored by the presence of S.K. J.D. Determan, Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa, and S.K. Bryan D Bever, Eminent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa!



Grand Master's Royal Arch Class

What an outstanding display of ritual proficiency at the 2026 Grand Masters' Royal Arch Class. A fantastic day Exalting 16 New Royal Arch Masons. Our thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the day so successful - to the Candidates, the Cast, and a big shout out to Harold Coots for keeping everything running smoothly.





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**Capitular Education 2025-2026
Greg Walker, Chairman**

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

Companions all,

Spring is a great time of new growth. And even though we have all seen the re-emergence of the beautiful greens taking shape around us, it is always a welcome sight. The Grand Master’s class is just around the corner. Hopefully your Chapters will each have candidates attending. At the very least, we hope that all Chapters are represented in some way by your attendance. Remember to add your attendance and any candidate Exalted at the Grand Master’s class to your Achievement Awards for this year.

Please remember to get your Achievement Awards to your DDGHP of your Region NO LATER THAN MAY 10, 2026. This will allow them time to review and send them to the Education Committee by their deadline.

**Grand Chapter Capitular Education Series - March 2026
Royal Arch Degree**

We continue our study of the Royal Arch degree with the sections listed below. This would be a great section to cover with your newly exalted candidates after they received their Royal Arch degree at the Grand Master’s class!

- The Living Arch
- “I will Bring the Blind...”
- The Story of Moses
- Removing the Shoes
- Seven Circuits
- The Veils
- The Signs

Our education series will follow this schedule:

March 2026: Royal Arch Degree, continues

April 2026: Royal Arch Degree, continues

May 2026: Royal Arch Degree, completion including quiz

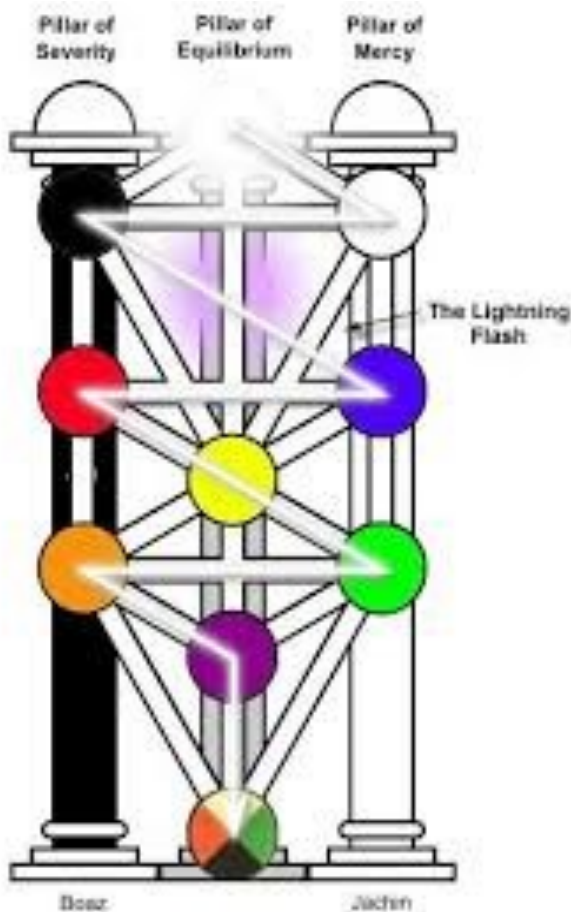
June 2026: Wrap up of education for the year and a short expose on a passage of scripture from the Royal Arch Degree ritual from the role of Jeshua, the High Priest.

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.

Capitular Development Course

A Living Arch

When the Candidate first enters the Lodge Room, he stands, blindfolded, between the two Columns of Boaz and Jachin which in some traditions represent the two columns of the Tree of Life, Severity and Mercy. Standing between them he represents the Middle Pillar, sometimes called Balance, Equilibrium or Mildness. It is this middle path to Truth which will occupy a lifetime of study and application for the serious Mason. For now he stands in the very place he will seek to return, but for now hoodwinked, and unaware where he stands.



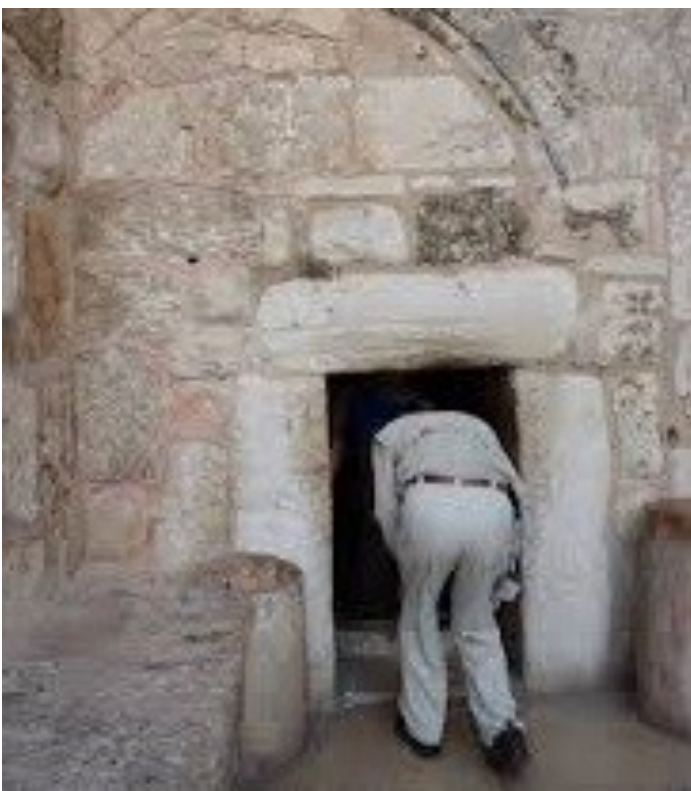
Now, in a similar manner, the two has become three, duality divine, the opposing forces of the two pillars reconciled by the addition of the arch, the third force which holds the other two in balance. Once again, the Candidates will pass this way

hoodwinked, unable to see that which will be revealed to him – indeed in which they themselves will participate – at the end of the ceremonies. As they enter the room the three Masters of the Veils form the Living Arch, and the three Masters of the Veils form the Living Arch, and three Candidates are told to “Stoop low, my Brothers, stoop low. He that humblest himself shall be exalted.” The Candidates pass that way in single file, for they have not yet learned the Truth which will bind them together into a Living Arch themselves.



This is from the parable given in Luke Chapter 14, from which this quote comes. This reminds us

that, although we are about to become Companions through a ceremony called Exaltation, we should remember that we should not allow this privilege or honor go to our heads. We may become more knowledgeable than our Brothers, but this does not make us any better than them: it simply Means we may be half a step before them on the road to knowledge, and that it is our duty to help them to come to the same knowledge we now possess.



The *Graham Manuscript*, comprising two scraps of paper dating to around 1726 (though it could be older given the odd spelling used), contain a reference to Bezaleel, about whom is said:

- “the two younger brothers of the fforesaid king Alboyn desired
- “for to be instructed by him his noble asiance by which he wrought
- “to which he agreed conditionaly they were not to discover it without
- “another to themselves to make a trible voice”

(Transcribed by R. W. Gary L. Heinmiller)

The reference to their needing three to make a ‘trible voice’ reers to the manner in which the True Word is communicated – a fact not covered at all in the present-day Master Masons Degree. All we are informed is that two alone cannot complete the Word. Later the Candidates will learn how to give this Word “over a Triangle and under a Living Arch.”

“I will Bring the Blind...”

The word of the Principal Sojourner are taken from Isaiah, and include Chapter 42 verse 16 and Chapter 40, verse 31.

In this Degree, the Principal Sojourner, takes the Blue Lodge role of Senior Deacon, acting as both guide and intermediary for the Candidate, answering when challenged on his behalf. In the Ancient Mysteries, this role was assumed by a person called the ‘Psychopomp’, where it was a guide from the land of the living to the dead (although that would also make sense in the Royal Arch Degree), but here it is used in the Jungian sense of being a mediator between the conscious and unconscious worlds. At the basic level the Principal Sojourner leads a ‘blind’ Candidate and provides the appropriate passwords to gain access from one level to another.

He makes darkness light, which is most appropriate for a Mason seeking Light; and provides the very same encouragement which Isaiah did in his book of prophecy.



Anubis as Psychopomp, leading the deceased on their journey

Isaiah lived and wrote during the period of Assyrian expansion and the decline of Judah. While Judah survived the threats from Assyria, Isaiah prophesied that Judah’s sin would deliver her to Babylon. However, he also said that God would deliver a repentant people from Babylon just as he rescued them from Egypt. This is why these most

appropriate passages are used at this time. Note that they immediately follow the opening prayer, which mentions that God appeared Moses “in a flame of fire out of burning bush”, thereby cementing together the two key themes of this Degree.

The Story of Moses



A wonderfully anachronistic image called ‘The Exposition of Moses’ by Poussin of Et In Arcadia Ego. Fame to those who have read the extravagant theories about the Rennes-le-Chateau and Prieurie de Sion. Note the mock medieval castle in the background.

It is useful to remind ourselves briefly of the times in which Moses lived. Although Joseph had held a very high rank in Egypt, causing many Israelites to remain in that land, we are told that their race grew quickly in relation to the Egyptians, and after Joseph’s death, the good that Joseph had done was quickly forgotten by later pharaohs in light of the high numbers of Israelites living under their rule. Concerned that they might take sides against Egypt in a future war, the Pharaoh enlisted them as slaves and even demanded that any male child should be drowned at birth. Moses escaped this fate by being hidden from the guards and then placed in an ark and hidden among the bulrushes. He was found by a daughter of the pharaoh and raised as her own.

When he was a young adult he saw Israelites being treated badly by an Egyptian guard and killed one, fleeing from the land to Midian, where he tended the flocks of Jethro, the father of his new bride Zipporah. It was while he was tending the sheep on Mount Horeb that God came to him in a burning bush, and told him to remove his shoes, since the place he stood was Holy ground.

This was indeed a ‘calling’, for God called to Moses by name, and he answered: “Here am I.” here God tells him that He will deliver his people out of bondage in Egypt and take them to “ a land flowing

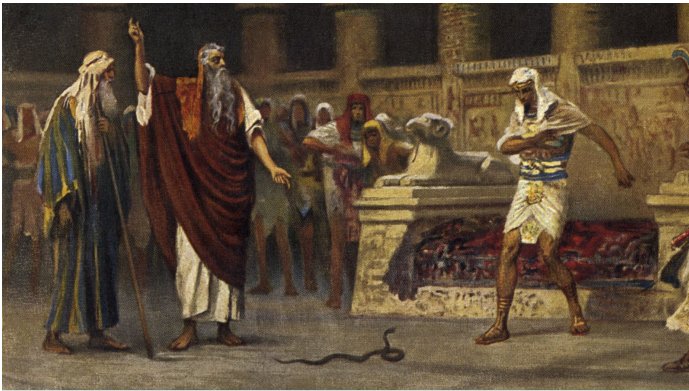


Byzantine mosaic of Moses and the Burning Bush—Note the removal of his sandals.

with milk and Honey.” He charges Moses with going to the new pharaoh – for his adoptive father had now died – and demand their release. But first Moses must convince the Israelites to follow him and asks God his name. “I Am That I Am” is my name. However, His name is also given as Jahweh (or Jehovah), which is often substituted in the Bible for Adonai, or The Lord, since Jews consider it blasphemous to utter the name of God, as that was originally reserved strictly to the High Priest, and only then once a year.

When Moses asks Him how he will convince the Israelites that he was indeed sent by God, he is given the three signs used during the Passing of the Veils to give them: the rod which becomes a serpent, the hand which becomes leprous, and the water which becomes blood. Moses also laments the fact that he is not gifted with eloquent speech, and God tells him to enlist Aaron his brother to speak on his behalf. Now both Moses and Aaron were of the tribe of Levi, and as Aaron became the first High Priest, it was the Levites who were set apart for the priesthood from that time on.

Moses therefore returns to Egypt but has difficulty persuading the Israelites that he is their savior, and with the help of Aaron and by performing the signs God gave him, they convince the Israelites to believe them. Moses and Aaron then go before the pharaoh and ask for the release of the Israelites in the famous phrase: “Let my people go.” Pharaoh refuses, and thus begins the twelve famous plagues of Egypt, ending with the death of the first-born, including the pharaoh’s son. The Israelite



Moses' rod becomes a serpent before Pharaoh and his magicians.

firstborn are spared because they follow the injunction to kill a year-old kid or lamb, eat it roasted with bitter herbs, and smear its blood on the doorposts lintel; consequently, the Passover is instituted, as an annual memorial of the Jews' release from Egyptian captivity, and as the first sign of God's active involvement in the daily lives of the Children of Israel.

Pharaoh relents and lets the Israelites leave but then pursues them. Moses parts the Red Sea, and the Children of Israel are saved.

Early in their wanderings in the desert they arrive at Mount Sinai, and Moses ascends to commune with God. It is interesting that most people know that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on the mountain, but little more. In fact, Moses spent forty days upon the Mountain, and during this time God passed on a large number of laws to be followed, including most detailed instructions for the construction of the Ark of the Covenant, what it should contain, the holy vessels and the precise blueprints and assembly instructions for the tabernacle.



Moses with the Ten Commandments. In reality there are 613 in the Bible!

It is well worth reading Exodus, since within that relatively short book are detailed explanations of

most of the characters and artifacts which feature so prominently in the first part of this Degree.

It is also worth noting that, from the long lists of tribes and peoples the emigrant Israelites meet, trade with and fight during their travels, this region of the Near East was well populated by a large number of diverse cultures at that time.

At the end of his life Moses is permitted to see but forbidden to enter the Holy Land. This may seem harsh indeed from a God who regularly proves so forgiving and indulgent towards the ungrateful Children of Israel, when Moses, who begged God to be allowed to enter that land, is denied his request. After all he had faithfully followed every one of God's commands for well over forty years. However, one must remember that Moses stood in a special relationship with God: he is described as a prophet. On one occasion Moses allowed his temper to get the better of him, and in Numbers 20, we learn that, although God had told Moses precisely how to obtain water for the thirsty Israelites, Moses chose to add his own words and to strike the rock twice, an action God had not asked him to do. While this might seem a relatively minor infraction, for a prophet it was not: it was essential that a Prophet repeat the words God requires him to speak, with out interpretation, adding or taking away from the message. Indeed, in Deuteronomy 18:20, God says: "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall prophesy in the name of their gods, even that prophet shall die." So this was why Moses wasn't allowed to lead his people into the Promised Land.

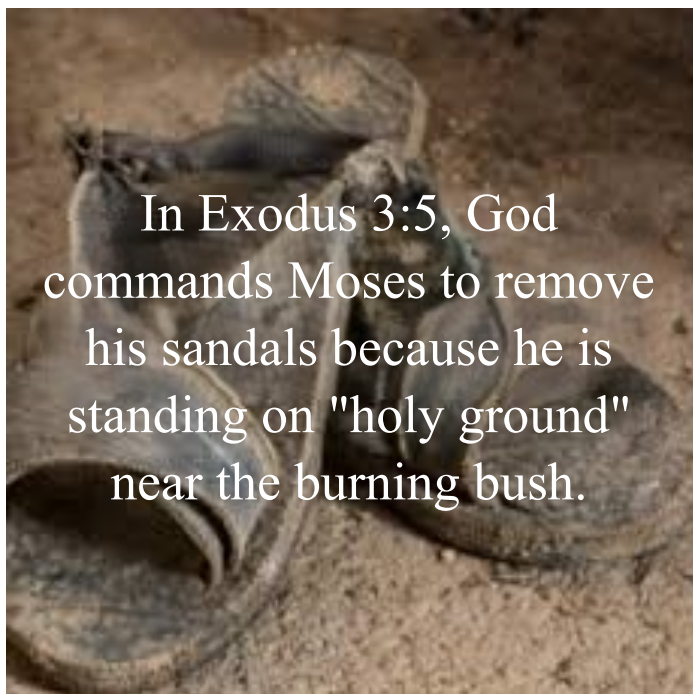


The Death of Moses

Instead, it was his nominated successor, Joshua, who took the Children of Israel across the River Jordan.

Removing the Shoes

We saw that, when Moses encounters the burning bush, he is told by God: “put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.” (Exodus 3:5).



In Exodus 3:5, God commands Moses to remove his sandals because he is standing on "holy ground" near the burning bush.

This action is to be seen in a number of religions. For example, you remove your shoes to enter a Mosque. You also remove them to enter a Hindu Temple. In part, the symbolism is one of removing the eternal clothing which attracts the most dirt and dust from the profane or outside world. This action is also reflected in the custom of bathing one's head, hands and feet prior to entering a holy site.

The story is repeated and acted out at the beginning of the Degree, for the Candidates wear sandals, which are removed at this point.

Seven Circuits

At the start of the ritual the Candidates make seven circuits of the Chapter. The first is made prior to the Obligation, upon their entrance as they are received under the living arch and make their way to the Western altar. The second takes them to the diorama of the burning bush, at which point they remove their sandals.

Following the revelation of the burning bush their sandals are now replaced – at least in the modern version of the ritual.

The following three circuits continue the story of Moses up to the arrival of Joshua and the Children if

Israel bearing the Ark of the Covenant into the Promised Land, and ends with the comment that, while they obeyed God's laws the people flourished.

At the sixth circuit they are told that, because the Israelites turned from God, they suffered the destruction of the Temple and city of Jerusalem and were led away into captivity. But after seventy years they were freed by a Proclamation of Cyrus, King of Persia. The seventh and final circuit represents the exiles deciding to return to Jerusalem to assist in rebuilding the Temple, remembering the prophecy of Jeremiah 29:10-13.

However, in earlier versions of the ritual the circuits – or circumambulations – were rather more dramatic! Once the sandals had been removed at the burning bush, they remained off. Following the circuit describing the Jews being led into captivity, the Candidates were led out of the Chapter to simulate being led to Babylon. However, this was also a device to allow a unique piece of furniture to be set up. Called the 'rocky road', it consists of a number of pieces of flat wood, on which had been attached wooden bosses of varying sizes placed randomly upon them. This gave the 'road' a very uneven and treacherous surface to walk across – especially when blindfolded!



The Cyrus Cylinder, proclaiming the restoration of cult sanctuaries and repatriation of displaced peoples.

The Proclamation of Cyrus was then read and the Candidates led into the Chapter, being advised that there were two routes to Jerusalem, and telling them to take the one through the wilderness to avoid being captured in the cities or towns. After prayer, they were warned that they were approaching a dangerous part of the road and helped across the 'rugged road'. They performed this circuit three times, after which they were led out of the room as the Chapter continued with the Ceremony of Passing the Veils. The wording accompanying this very physical journey beautifully described the passage from

Babylon to Jerusalem:

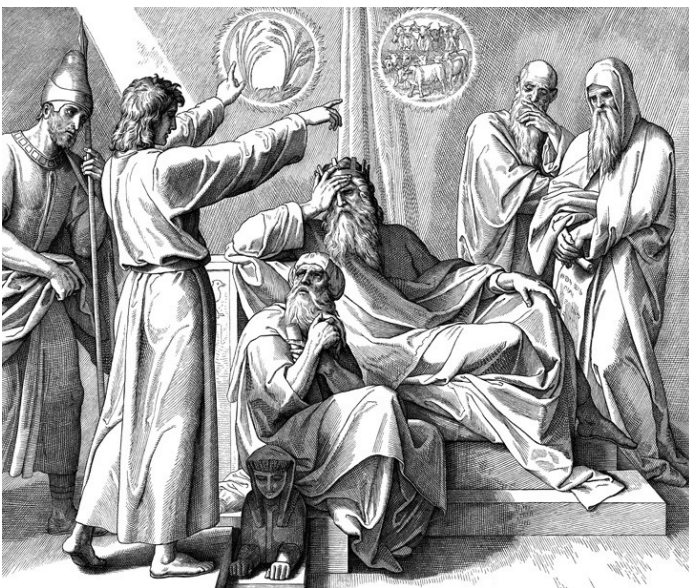
- “We are now on the green banks of the ever-running waters of the Euphrates. We are now passing through Syria, towards Damascus. We shall pass near the ancient city of Tamor or Palmyra, and through many beautiful groves and pleasant vineyards.”

The journey ends with:

- “But rough and rugged as was the road and long and toilsome as was the journey, it at last came to an end, and the weary sojourners were blest by the sight of the ruined walls of Jerusalem and the glistening tents of their Brethren. Here they turned aside to rest: here let us turn aside to rest and refresh ourselves.”

In esoteric terms, this is often described as a Pathworking, which is sometimes defined as a technique of active imagination. Deprived of sight, the Candidates undergo a journey with physical stimuli (rocky road, circumambulations) while having scenes described to them which they can perceive in their mind's eye. This makes the experience very powerful since the Candidates are being allowed to relive the experience instead of simply being told about it. This technique is used throughout Masonic ritual, and a few minutes' contemplation on the Degree rituals will bring many examples to mind.

Although this dramatic journey is now but a memory in our modern ritual, it can still be seen performed each December in Ancient Chapter No. 1, which precedes the formation of the Grand Chapter of New York.



Joseph interprets the Pharaoh's dream.

Finally, the number seven itself is a powerful

figure in both the Bible and in Freemasonry. This is the seventh Degree in the York Rite. There are seven days in a week; there were seven days in the story of Creation; and seven ancient planets. Indeed, the number seven was closely associated with divine perfection and the completion of a cycle. For example, we have Joseph's interpretation of the Pharaoh's interpretation of the Pharaoh's dream of seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine in Genesis 41: 1 – 32. To us the most important symbol is that of King Solomon's Temple being built in seven years. We mentioned in the section on the Most Excellent Master Degree that the circumambulations in that Degree reflected the six days in the story of creation, and now we have reached the seventh cycle, that of rest. As we saw, it is for this reason that the Temple is seen by many commentators to be a symbol of creation. And this is why it is also seen as a symbol for Man, with the three parts of the Temple relating to the three traditional parts of man, or the head (seat of the spirit), breast (seat of the heart) and trunk (seat of procreation). Or again the Holy of Holies, Holy Place and Courtyard have been assigned to spirit, soul and body.

The final, or seventh, circumambulation brings us to the entrance of the Tabernacle. As we approach the Master of the First Veil, armed with the password we learned from the image of the burning bush, we are again reminded how closely entwined are the stories of the Tabernacle in the Desert and the Tabernacle of Zerubbabel, which we are about to enter.

To conclude this section, it is worth mentioning a theory put forward by Rev. Neville Barker Cryer, an English Masonic scholar. He suggests that the reason a story involving a return from exile would have been a popular theme at the time the rituals were crystallizing was because this was a major preoccupation in England at the time. Firstly, there was a wave of Jewish immigrants in the mid to late 17th Century seeking refuge during the Lord Protector's (Oliver Cromwell) time. Secondly this era saw the influx of Huguenots fleeing from France to Britain, and of course the Jacobites and Non-Jurors (those who refused to swear an Oath of Allegiance to William and Mary who came from Orange in what is now the Netherlands, to replace James II) fleeing in the opposite direction following the removal of King James II. This accords with the brief look at English History earlier in this section.

The Veils

The Veils are a representation of the Tabernacle. This part of the ceremony is a conflation of the

stories of the Tabernacle, which was created under the instruction of Moses to contain the Ark of the Covenant, and the Second Temple, built on the ruins of King Solomon's Temple by this descendant Zerubbabel.

While there is no explicit mention in the admittedly sketchy descriptions of the rebuilding of the Second Temple in the Bible, the idea of the council meeting in a Tabernacle is quite plausible. It would have taken some years to rebuild the Temple and City, and the sacred vessels carried back from Babylon would have to have been stored somewhere inside. Since the leaders of the exiles included prophets, priests, scribes, and a prince, it is most likely they would have sought a solution from the Torah, Scribe Ezra (Esdras in Greek) is credited with bringing the Torah, or first five books of the Bible generally ascribed to Moses, back to Jerusalem following the exile, and would have had an extensive knowledge of them. It would be likely they would seek a solution to their problem in the sacred writings and were inspired to create a second Tabernacle following the precise instructions in Exodus, in which it was explained how to create and store the Holy vessels.



Interpretation of the Biblical description of the veil showing all four colors and cherubim motif.

While Exodus 26:31 seems to suggest there is but a single veil between the outer court and the Holy Place, the colors listed to be included are: blue,

purple, red, and 'fine twisted linen'. While this fourth color is normally interpreted as being white, during the recent refurbishment of the Chapter Room at New York Grand Lodge, this curtain was replaced by a linen-style curtain which, being off-white, more accurately reflects the original description.

If we examine the layout of the tabernacle as a whole, we find three veils, two of which later become walls in King Solomon's Temple. The first admits us into the outer courtyard; the second into the area reserved for priests; and the third into the Holy of Holies. However, these do not have unique colors according to the Bible.

In the Royal Arch Ritual, the four veils are used as barriers to entry, and the Candidate must first negotiate his way through the four veils before finally arriving in the presence of the Grand Council. Symbolically they have been referred to the levels of progress in Masonry, to the four elements, and to the trials of Moses.



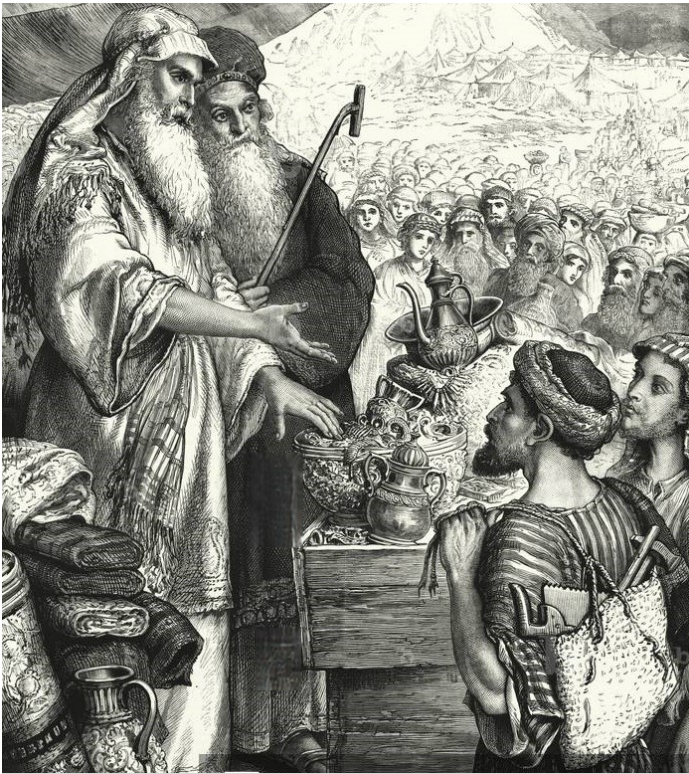
Ham, Shem and Japheth with Noah from the Nuremberg Chronicles

In this case the veils, which match the colors of the four banners, are used to draw attention to the close association between the Blue and Red Lodges, as we pass from the color blue, indicating Operative Masonry, purple, indicating an admixture of blue and red to show the 'intimate connection' between Blue and Capitular Masonry, and finally to red, showing that the Candidate has now passed into the realm of the Royal Arch, also evidenced by the fact that the passwords are the names of those associated with the rebuilding of the Temple. Finally, the fourth veil is white, and is also used as a device to show us we are now moving beyond the three Degrees and onto a fourth level.

The First Veil, guarded by the Master of the First Veil, is negotiated by giving the Password of the Degree, which he heard given during the diorama of Moses and the Burning Bush. Here he is given the

passwords and actions to pass the succeeding veils. In some traditions the reference to Ham, Seth and Japheth recalls Noah's Ark as the "Ark of Safety".

The Second Veil sees Moses, Aholiab and Bezaleel referenced and their creation of the 'Ark of Testimony'. And let us not forget that Moses was found in an Ark hidden in the bulrushes by an Egyptian princess.



Bezaleel and Aholiab work on the Tabernacle and its furnishings.

The Master of the Third Veil mentions the Grand Council who presided over the Ark of the Covenant rediscovered.

At the Fourth Veil, in addition to the passwords and sign, he is also asked to present the Ring to show that he is indeed worthy to approach the Grand Council.

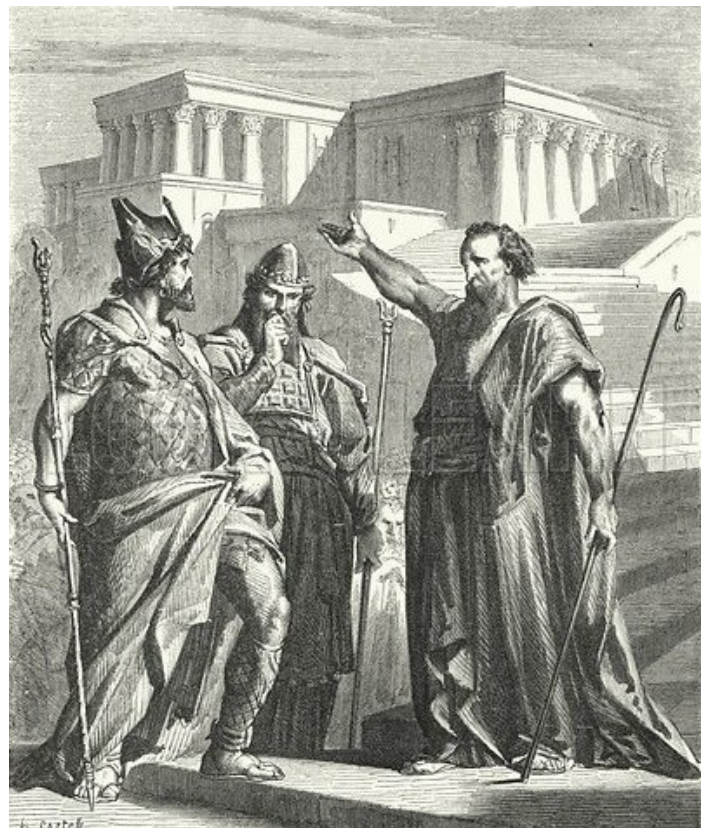
The perceptive student may notice a couple of anomalies here.

Firstly, if the white veil give assent to 'the Sanctuary of our Sacred Tabernacle', surely that should separate the Holy of Holies, which only the High Priest was allowed to enter. Firstly, the Ark of the Covenant had not been discovered at this point in the ritual, so no disrespect was being committed. Secondly, while they were following the layout of the Tabernacle, there was no reason they couldn't adapt the design to their own present needs, and since they had no expectation that the Ark would be found and the True Name discovered at that time,

having an inner court where the ruler could sit, well protected from the enemies who the Bible tells us continually harassed the Jews while they tried to rebuild their city and Temple.

Indeed, while the modern day English ritual no longer uses the veils, the Bristol Rite does. In this case the veil ceremony is performed in a room outside the Chapter room, and the white veil hung over its door, so that, having gone through the ritual of Passing the Veils, and having received the password needed to enter the Chapter, the Candidate finally passes through the white veil into the Chapter Room, which here represents the Sanctuary for this portion of the rite.

The second question might arise over why the Sojourner would present Zerubbabel's ring if Zerubbabel himself were seated within the Sanctuary! While the symbolism of the signet ring is discussed later, suffice it to note at this point that a monarch or ruler would have a number of signets produced to give to his delegates working in different parts of the kingdom and as ambassadors to other countries. Here we may imagine that Zerubbabel had give a number of rings to different tribes or groups who would travel back to Jerusalem, and this would be a clear sign that they were to be trusted before being let into the presence of the Grand Council.



Jeshua, Zerubbabel and Haggai

In our ritual, however, the ring is held by the ring is held by the Master of the Third Veil which he then presents to the Candidate to give to the Royal Arch Captain guarding the Fourth Veil. While this seems illogical, it was probably a stage direction changed at some time to avoid the Principal Sojourner or a Candidate having to carry it from the beginning of the ceremony.

Although the veils are blue, purple, red, and white, like the banners to which they allude they also refer to the four principal tribes (as we shall see in the sections on the banners below):

- The First Veil is blue and the banner represents the tribe of Dan, symbolized by the Eagle.
- The Second Veil is purple and the banner represents the tribe of Reuben, symbolized by Man.
- The Third Veil is red and the banner represents the tribe of Ephraim, symbolized by the Ox.
- The Fourth Veil is white, and the banner represents the tribe of Judah, symbolized by the Lion.

There is a final attribution of the veils which we might consider. The first great Covenant of God with His people was that with Noah and his progeny, upon the blue water, with his Arch of seven colors (reflecting the seven lights of the menorah or the seven planets) in the heavens. This reminds us of the Blue Veil. The second great Covenant was between God and Abraham, whom God tells “I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee and make thy name great” (Genesis 12:1-2.). The covenant is sealed by Melchizedek the High Priest, who gives him bread and wine. This Royal Covenant is symbolized by the Purple Veil. The third great Covenant was that with the Children of Israel and Moses, and was the Covenant borne of the blood with which they painted the lintels of their houses to indicate their trust in Yahweh. This is symbolized by the Red Veil. The last great covenant may be drawn from Revelations, perhaps, in which we read: “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I john saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Revelation 21: 1 -2). Note that we have progressed from flood, sea, river to ‘no more sea’. At the Veil which must be drawn for us to enter into the presence of the great I Am is bridal white. We will come across this ‘diminution’ again a little later.

I should be stressed that these colors are unique to United States Royal Arch, and do not accord with the Bible what the Talmudists say, or even the Canadian Royal Arch! However, using the American

version for now, the Eagle (sometimes symbolized by the Scorpion or Snake) has long been associated with the classical element of Water; Man with Air; the Ox with Earth; and the Lion with Fire. Much has been written on these symbols; but since the attribution of color to each Tribe is very variable, any symbolic association should be undertaken with caution!

The Signs

The Signs come from exodus 4: 1 – 9, and are given between the First and second, Second and Third, and Third and Fourth Veils. Each refers to the three Signs Moses was told to give to the Children of Israel in order to convince them that it was truly God who had send him to them to lead them out of captivity. Again, the number three is used to great effect in the Bible. IN this case the people deny Moses three times, which is often used by those who seek to link the Old and New Testaments to reflect Peter denying he knew Jesus three times before the cock crowed. It is as if, as well as the password, the Candidate must convince each Master of the Veil that he is indeed coming as a representative of God by repeating the miraculous signs Moses gave to the Israelites in order to gain access to the next Veil. The three signs are of a rod turning into a serpent (and back again), a hand turning white and leprous (and back again), and water turning into blood. In a way this reflects the grip and word of the Blue Lodge Degrees, in that a word is not sufficient: a physical sign must also be given in order to be admitted to the next level.

Once again, we see the melding together of the story of Moses and the Story of Zerubbabel. It is only at the fourth veil that the Mosaic references are finally set completely aside, and we move several hundred years forward in the action.

The Banners

We are taught that the four banners represent the principal tribes of Israel. Yet they are really representative of all Twelve Tribes of Israel, which marched in a set order during the sojourn in the desert under Moses and Aaron, and which camped in a set pattern about the Tabernacles as it traveled whenever the caravanserai halted. Indeed, in other Royal arch traditions, notably in England and Scotland, all twelve banners are present.

These tribes have long been equated with the twelve months and twelve signs of the zodiac in the Zohar, a second century C.E. book attribute to Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai yet reflecting teachings which went back much earlier. Astrology also features extensively in Talmudic teaching.



When the twelve tribes of Israel marched out of Egypt under Moses, and through the desert, they were divided into four groups, each under a leading tribe. The four main tribes were Judah (accompanied by Issachar and Zebulun), next Reuben (accompanied by Simeon and Gad), then Ephraim (accompanied by Manasseh and Benjamin), and finally Dan (accompanied by Asher and Naphthali). When they camped, they ordered themselves with Judah in the East, Reuben in the South, Ephraim in the West and Dan in the North.

Very early on the commentators linked the twelve tribes with the months, and the groups of three tribes with the four seasons. This also meant that they linked them to the signs of the zodiac, a device begun with the ancient Mesopotamians, who had divided the night sky into twelve bands of 30 degrees in order to mark the seasons, and therefore the times to plant the crops – an important advance in knowledge for a people which had changed from a migratory to a sedentary society. At a very early stage the four main tribes were associated with particular signs: Judah with what we now know as Leo or the Lion, Reuben with Aquarius or Man, Ephraim with Taurus or the Ox, and Dan with Scorpio

or the Eagle (a common interchange in early times of Astrology). The early Jewish scholars also associated the nine minor tribes with the other Zodiacal signs, though their associations have been debated by scholars for centuries. However, the associations of the four principal tribes probably comes from Genesis Chapters 48 and 49. In these Israel (or Jacob) blesses his sons (actually he tells them what horrible futures they will have!!), effectively setting the layout of Israel under the tribes.

Ephraim is recognized as the first tribe, telling him to ‘increase greatly on the earth.’ One could suggest that this gave Ephraim the kingdom of earth, which is often represented by the sign of the Ox. However, in Deuteronomy 33:17, where Jacob blesses his sons, he says “His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim.” This is certainly a clearer association of Ephraim with the Ox.

Reuben is identified in Jacob’s blessings as his firstborn – a man (Genesis 49:2). Judah is identified as a “lion’s whelp” (Genesis 49:9); and finally, Dan is called “serpent”, which was often associated with the scorpion, and as explained above, therefore with the eagle (Genesis 49:16).

Another point worthy of mention is, while Judah was seen as the ‘protecting’ tribe, the primus inter pares was still the first to receive Jacob’s blessing in Genesis 48 – Ephraim. Remember that, due to the procession of the equinoxes, that wobble of the earth’s axis which means different Zodiacal signs rise at the spring equinox to begin the year every few thousand years, at that time it was Taurus which led the zodiacal procession across the heavens, a point which some have mystically associated with the fact that this was a time of intense animal sacrifice – especially bulls. Those same scholars have pointed out the cotemporaneous timing of the Minoan culture, which also sacrificed bulls.



Tympantum on a church in Arles, France

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Later, this symbolism was extended into the New Testament, with the four Evangelists represented in art by the same four animals: Matthew as the man, Mark as the lion, Luke as the ox, and John as the eagle.

The idea that the four principal tribes represented Man, Lion, Ox and Eagle is important because Hebrew scholars through the millennia have sought to draw parallels through the biblical texts. In this case we now see that, during the Exodus, around the Tabernacle, which was seen as the seat of God, were stationed the Lion, the Man, the Ox and the Eagle, in the four quarters. This of course refers to Ezekiel 1:10 and 10:14 and Revelations 4:7. So the banners of the “four Principal tribes of Israel we use in Chapter have a very profound message, which goes beyond the fact that these tribes led the Israelites out of bondage and protected the tabernacles when the encampment was at rest: led the Israelites out of bondage and protected the tabernacles when the encampment was at rest” they represent the very avatars which surrounded the throne of God, of which the Tabernacle was an earthly representation.

And finally, we should not forget that, when George Washington, the first President of the United States, took the presidential Oath, he chose this very passage – Genesis Chapters 48 and 49 – on which to lay his hand when taking his oath. Some have suggested the Bible was opened at random. It seems unlikely, given that the entire ceremony was planned by Masons Well-versed in the Volume of the Sacred Law! Perhaps he chose the passage because it talked of the founding of a new Nation, which brought twelve sons and a father together – and there were thirteen colonies uniting to create a Nation State. But then he was also a Mason, and initiated in the Lodge in Fredericksburg, the very Lodge whose records reflect the first Royal Arch Degree being worked in the New World.



George Washington Inaugural Bible opened at Genesis,
Verse 49

Greetings Companions and Sir Knights,

Welcome to March's issue of you Beacon Magazine. This month your magazine has hit a busy point. Normally Easter would fall into the next month's issue. However, Easter is coming early this year. So, with St. Patrick's Day, Easter, CMMRF month, Capitular Development Course, Retention Corner, and several of your Grand Commandery Officers having messages this month, we are fully booked. These are wonderful articles and bits of information that are helpful and entertaining. Thank you all for your contributions.

Due to the amount of time sensitive material coming in, we had to drop a few of our normal articles, stories, and various tidbits that normally make it into your Beacon Magazine. This may occur from time to time, but be reassured that this is temporary and we will be returning to our normal format of stories and various entertaining tidbits in the near future.

So, what do we have to look forward to in the next 30 days? Well, I think it might be easier to ask what don't we have. As of the writing of this piece, we have the Grand Master's Royal Arch Masons Class, Grand York Rite Sessions in Arkansas, Table Council in Kirksville, Table Chapter in Liberty, Grand Commandery Drill Competition, CMMRF Gala in Independence, Grand Masters Cryptic Day, and that just to scratch the surface. Please, go to the Events section on the Grand York Rite of Missouri website for more events and details.

Now we are in the season of Lent where Easter is directly in sight. It might be asked what can we do to celebrate the season. Well, you could participate in Easter Sunday Church or sunrise services. Invite a neighbor or friend without local family to join your holiday meal. Read Easter-themed books with/or to your children or grandchildren, or some such similar activity. The list can be endless. It is just a thought process or internet search away. So, as our friends in the Commandery would say, go spread the word of Christ.

Well, I am out of space. So, I will call it quits. Be good to all and we will see you all down that dusty trail.

Peace be with you all,

Editor



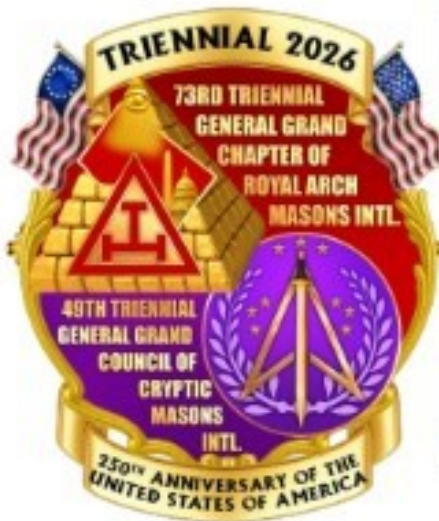
THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS INTERNATIONAL

Organized October 24, 1797

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

Email: ggs.dbrowning@ggcrami.org

73rd Triennial Convocation



Official Call

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

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

Registration information will be [sent](#) to the Grand Secretaries and posted on the dedicated Triennial website:
yrtriennial.org.

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

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

Teko A. Foly
General Grand High Priest

Attest:

Dick E. Browning
General Grand Secretary

Retention Corner

VEC Gerald Hill

Emotional Intelligence (EQ)

Last month we talked about Cognitive Biases and The Availability Heuristic, this may be my bias starting this article. How many of you feel we are losing in the area of Emotional Intelligence because of Social Media?

The ability to randomly post/share/comment without facing a real human being can often lead to irrational emotional responses over logic/research/education. It makes me feel we are losing the ability to rationally communicate. We seem to be always hearing of people being fired, doxed, and removed for crazy comments on media platforms.

Our teachings tell us that it might have pleased the Great Creator of Heaven and Earth to have made us independent of all other beings, but we are not for a purpose. To be mentally and physically healthy we need to live a social and active life. We have that in Freemasonry, and I believe that we have an advantage when it comes to EQ. We just have to practice EQ and not bring drama from outside sources into our Councils.

So, what is EQ?

It stands for “Emotional Quotient” based off of Intelligence Quotient or IQ. While IQ is the measure of cognitive ability EQ is a measure of emotional ability. Here is the official definition from those who coined the term. “Emotional Intelligence is the ability to monitor one’s own and other people’s emotions, to discriminate between different emotions and label them appropriately, and to use emotional information to guide thinking and behavior” (Salovey and Mayer, 1990).

IQ is generally more stable and has to do with learning, analyzing, and processing information. EQ has to do with social awareness, emotional control, and regulation.

In order to understand our emotions, we must first become aware, so self-awareness is right up there in our training plan to build EQ.

We want to analyze our feelings without judgment, determine the trigger, meditate on how to manage those feelings in the future. We can also use tools like Journaling. Yes Journaling, how many of you thought diaries were silly? They in reality help emotional growth, who knew.

After our analysis we need to ponder methods of management. It was mentioned a few articles ago about active listening. Remember the four R’s, Recognize, Reflect, Re-frame, and Respond. If you are focused on active listening techniques, you are more apt to be calmer and less emotional. Even a simple pause or identifying your feeling, I am so right now, to yourself, can help you regain composure.

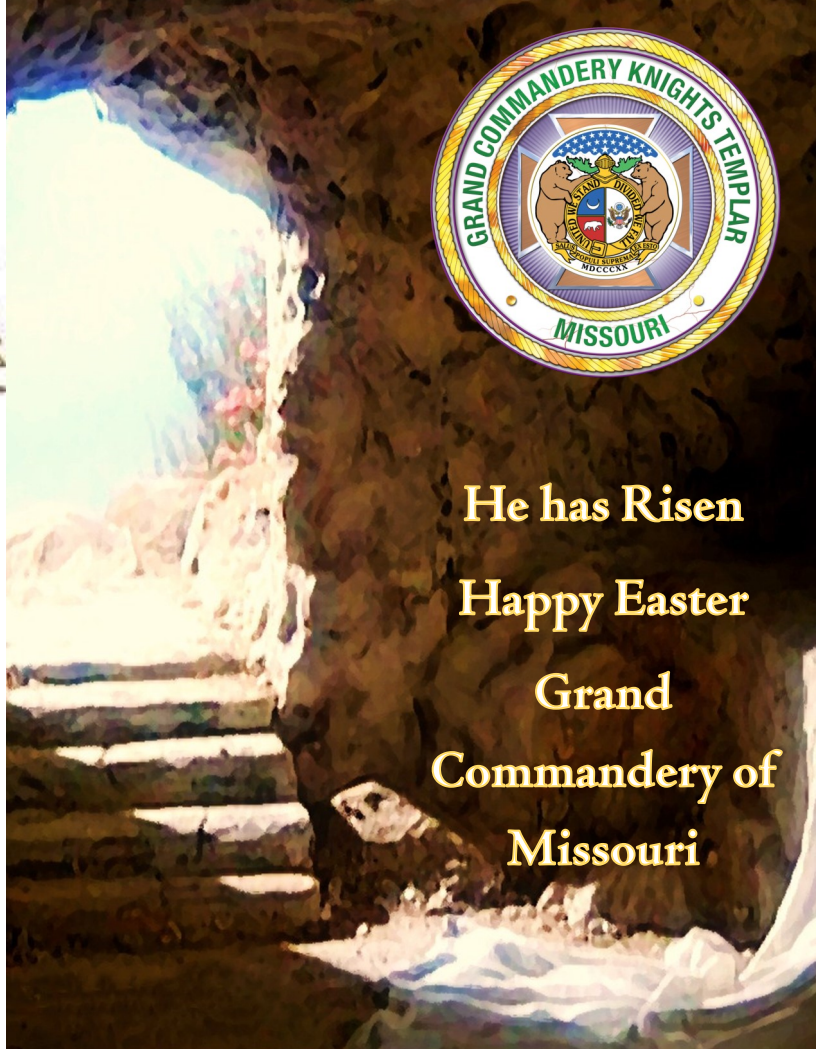
Are you triggered by Libertarians, Moravians, the Department of Motor Vehicles? You must come to realize you can’t change or convince people who have strong tribal type instincts, so you must let it go and focus on things you can control. People often only learn things they discover for themselves when it comes to emotion. If they have a perception of you, they will maintain it because of their biases and it may take a long time, if ever, for them to change or recognize.

As you get better at self-management by staying positive, staying calm, and adapting to change you can use those skills to help manage relationships and conflicts. Using your influence you have built will help you in being a good mediator and coach for others.

Some personality styles are naturally predisposed to higher emotional intelligence while others may have to work harder to achieve the same level. One of my things for you folks who have taken personality assessment surveys like “Myers Briggs” is to not let yourself stay in that box. It should be a guide to become more self-aware and then work to excel outside your comfort zone.

If you strive to achieve high EQ you are less likely to foster a toxic or reactive environment, you will become more empathetic, be able to handle disagreements effectively, and motivate people.

Most people think of EQ as just another word in the corporate jargon and we use these catchwords all the time to act like we are saying something while saying nothing. However, controlling our emotions is essential for success and our general wellbeing. Who doesn’t want to improve careers, build strong relationships with our brothers, and better navigate that rough and rugged road of human life. God Bless.



He has Risen
Happy Easter
Grand
Commandery of
Missouri



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Happy Easter



Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA) – FAQs

Q: What exactly does RARA fund?

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

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

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

Q: Who reviews research grant applications?

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

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

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

Q: What is the leverage ratio?

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

Q: Has RARA research led to actual treatments?

A: Yes. RARA funded research has contributed to:

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

Q: How long has RARA been around?

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

Q: Is my donation tax-deductible?

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

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

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

Q: Does RARA help adults or just children?

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

Q: What percentage of donations goes to research?

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

Q: Can non-Masons donate to RARA?

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

Q: How can I learn more about current research?

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

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

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

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

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



Philanthropy of Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, and the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International.

All money collected is used to research: Heart Disease, Diabetes, Blindness, Regenerative Medicine, Leg Circulation, Wound Healing, Arthritis, Stroke and more...

THE PROBLEM

Arteriosclerosis is a disease affecting the blood vessels which carry blood from the heart to all parts of the body. It is commonly called “hardening of the arteries”, and is a process which results in the narrowing of these vessels. It is gradually progressive, and eventually interferes with the flow of blood. When an artery supplying the muscle of the heart is affected severely in this manner, it results in a heart attack. When a major artery supplying the brain is involved it results in a stroke; if the large artery of the leg is greatly narrowed by this process, gangrene occurs (the tissue dies) and the leg often has to be amputated, as the only method of satisfactory treatment.

THE WORK OF CRYPTIC MASONS

Freemasonry seeks to improve the community by improving the individual. Therefore, Councils of Cryptic Masons are found working with Lodges, Chapters, and Commanders, giving more opportunities to improve one’s skills in leadership, public speaking, interpersonal relationships, and administration. This empowers Masons to become better leaders in their career, church, and community. Councils also work with these and other Masonic groups in community service projects to demonstrate Masonic teachings as a way of life.

The General Grand Council established the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation to give Cryptic Masons an opportunity to turn Masonic philosophy into a living practice. Issues like diabetes, stroke, poor circulation, heart failure, wound healing, and many other diseases share the

common denominator of blood vessels, so vascular research is a vital part of treating many different kinds of illnesses. Supporting the ICVBM’s research has the potential to help millions of people.

THE INDIANA CENTER FOR VASCULAR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

The Indian Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine is committed to researching the mechanisms of vascular wellness and disease, and to developing leading-edge medical therapies to improve the care of patients with vascular problems. The ICVBM includes more than 40 investigators from a range of basic and clinical disciplines, and approaches vascular research and development from a highly cross-disciplinary perspective. This faculty, as well as the staff and students, work together as a team to complete the primary mission of rapid development and clinical application of new interdisciplinary research in vascular biology. The ICVBM emphasizes reaching patients as quickly as possible so that they can benefit from ongoing developments of gene, molecular, cell- and device-based therapies.

Since 1986, CMMRF has been working with Indiana University & ICVBM. The foundation funds the research & since its inception has contributed more than \$4,500,000 to ICVBM.

All monies sent to the ICVBM is used to research:

- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Blindness
- Regenerative Medicine
- Leg Circulation
- Wound Healing
- Arthritis
- Stroke
- and more...

You can send your contributions to your local Recorder, or, contributions can be sent to the Grand Recorder, CMMRF, 107 S. Williams Street, Fayette, MO 65248-1047. Checks should be made out to the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri, with CMMRF written on the memo line.



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.



THE BULLETIN BOARD

Interactive Maps for Local York Rite Bodies

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

You can find those maps at the following webpages:

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

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

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

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.

Past Grand Officers

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

Past Grand High Priests:

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

Past Grand Masters:

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

Past Grand Commanders:

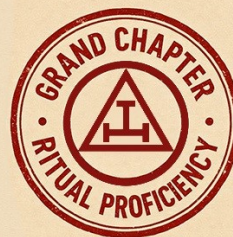
<https://moyorkrite.org/past-grand-commanders/>



*ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS
IN MISSOURI*

COUNCILS IN MISSOURI

MISSOURI COMMANDERIES



**GRAND CHAPTER
RITUAL
PROFICIENCY**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Tom G. Cupples, Jr.

St. Charles Missouri Chapter No. 1

Part 1

Complete Opening & Closing of a Chapter

Grand Officers Coins for Sale

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



2025-2026

MEC Kevin M. Ritter, Grand High Priest Coin



2025-2026

MIC Dennis W. Houck Grand Master Coin



2025-2026

SK Ronald L. Skiles, Right Eminent Grand Commander Coin

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



Distinguished Chapter Award

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

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

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

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

Chapter Proficiency Certificate Plan:

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

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Website - 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.

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SHRINE CIRCUS



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