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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 Larry Wilson & REC Donald MacCormick



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

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



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

Greetings, Companions!

It is officially October, although it has not really felt like fall here in Springfield! Since I last wrote you all, I have been to the South-Central York Rite Conference in League City, Texas and attended our Grand Lodge Session in Kansas City. If any of you have not attended a South-Central York Rite Conference before, I would highly recommend it. It is a great opportunity to meet Companions and Sir Knights from the other five states in the South-Central region (Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas) and hear what is going well in each state and what struggles each state is experiencing, as well as hear from representatives from the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International. Many states are struggling with membership numbers, but nearly every state in the region has adopted our Grand Master's Invitational program and most are seeing success with it. Thanks to Most Excellent Companion Kyle R. Palacios for all his hard work in getting this incredibly successful program off the ground and into the hands of our sister jurisdictions!

I was also honored to represent the Grand Chapter at our Grand Lodge Session in Kansas City. Congratulations to Most Worshipful Brother Kevin M. Fuller on a great session, and to Most Worshipful Brother Emmett J. Bryson on his election and installation as Grand Master, 2025-2026. Great things are happening in Missouri, and I am looking forward to working with MWB Bryson this year to continue our efforts!

Companions, as we observe the changing of the seasons and all that comes with it—cooler temperatures, leaves changing colors and beginning to fall, and the wonderful fall flavors (pumpkin pie, anyone?) - I would encourage us all to think of this as a time for reflection and renewal. What is working well in your Chapters? What is not working so well? What successes need to be shared with other Companions? What new methods should we consider trying? Let's experiment with some fall flavors of our own - RARA, Ritual, and Membership - and work our way toward continued successes in the Grand Chapter of Missouri.

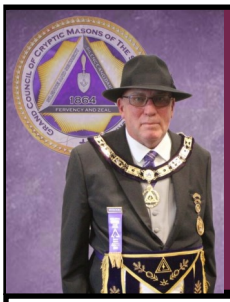
As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve you this year. I look forward to continued visits in the coming weeks. If you have not already, please make sure to get your Grand High Priest coin from your District Deputy Grand High Priest. Proceeds will be donated to RARA to continue our important work in researching CAPD and autism.

Take care of yourselves and one another, and remember to **BE EXCELLENT TO EACH OTHER.**

Fraternally,

Kevin Ritter





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

Greetings Companions,

The past thirty days have brought quite a few positive changes throughout the state. At the South-Central Conference, it was shared that all the states are moving ahead, continuing to grow, and implement new and improved educational programs. It was good to sit down with other leaders and discuss what they are doing in their areas to increase membership. I may be a little biased, but I think Missouri is leading the way.

Immediately following the South-Central Conference, I found myself at our Grand Lodge session. Missouri is in great hands under the Leadership of Most Worshipful Brother Emmett Bryson. This will be a great year for our Fraternity.

Region 6 held its annual festival the first weekend of October. I want to thank everyone who came out to support my region. It is always a good time to get together with other Companions from across the state, to share the degree work with our new Companions, and to have fellowship on Friday night. I am looking forward to attending Independence's festival in November.

VIC Jacob Thompson has dropped another educational paper (**https://moyorkrite.org/council-education-materials/**). This is the 15th piece that he has completed for our use. Companions, I am so grateful for the work he has done for our state. Please take the time and use the tools that he has shared with us to improve our Fraternity.

Reminder, October 25th, there will be a School of Instruction at California Lodge. Point of contact is VIC Stuart Inglish, stusbige@aol.com.

Romans 1 Verse 17

Fraternally,

MIC Dennis W. Houck





S.K. Ashley W. Young
Grand Senior Warden
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri

Sir Knights:

As the darkness of All Hallows' Eve gives way to dawn on November 1st, 2025 A.D. | 907 A.O., Sir Knights pause in solemn reflection upon All Hallows', or All Saints', Day: a dawn sanctified by reverence, remembrance, and renewal of spiritual purpose. For centuries, this sacred day has stood as a quiet reminder that the path of knighthood extends beyond the temporal and into the eternal, where faith and service transcend the bounds of mortal life.

Among Masonic Knights Templar, All Saints' Day should hold particular resonance. It calls to mind not only the Saints canonized by name, but also the countless souls — known and unknown — who have labored in the cause of brotherly love, relief, and truth. These are the Saints of quiet valor: those Christian brothers who walked humbly, who bore the cross of duty without acclaim, and who exemplified the virtues of Masonic chivalry.

All Saints' Day is, therefore, an invitation for each Sir Knight to consider the legacy of his own labor in the vineyard of humanity. The ritual sword, once raised in defense of the faith, now gleams as a symbol of that inward battle: the struggle for moral rectitude, for mastery over self, and for steadfastness in a world often shrouded in shadow.

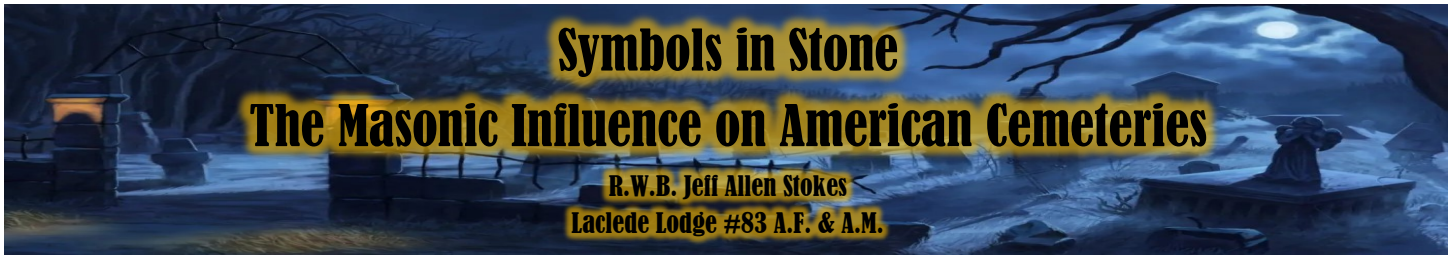
And so, as evening falls and candles flicker this coming Halloween, Knights Templar the world over should kneel united in silent prayer for the coming dawn. In that stillness, the voices of the saints seem to echo, calling each to walk worthily, to serve faithfully, and to remember always that the true victory of a Knight Templar is not of conquest, but of conscience.

In hoc signo vinces,

S.K. Ashley W. Young
Grand Senior Warden




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For centuries, Freemasons have carried a solemn obligation: to provide a decent burial for a departed Brother and to care for his memory with dignity and respect. This duty is not merely ceremonial—it is rooted deeply in our ancient charges, in our moral teachings, and in the universal brotherhood that binds us together beyond the grave.

When a Mason is called to the Celestial Lodge above, our rituals—whether the presentation of the white lambskin apron, the placement of the evergreen sprig of acacia, or the solemn funeral procession—reflect a commitment that transcends life itself. These acts remind the living that death does not dissolve the bonds of our fraternity but rather affirms them in their purest form.



In the 18th and 19th centuries, many Masonic Lodges were not only meeting places for fellowship and ritual—they were also caretakers of burial grounds. Lodges recorded the deaths of members in their minutes, maintained funds for funeral expenses, and often took active roles in managing cemetery property. In some cases, they became the sole providers of burial services when no other institution could or would step forward.

Cemeteries in this sense became 'Silent Lodges,' each gravestone a charter member in the eternal quorum of the departed. Their orderly, geometric layouts and refined architecture reflected the values of the Craft—order, proportion, and beauty.

As American towns grew during the 18th and 19th centuries, Freemasons often filled a civic void by establishing burial grounds. These cemeteries were designed with precision—rows aligned like columns in a well-built Temple, paths laid out with mathematical care, and gates and monuments adorned with classical motifs.



They became landmarks in their communities, not only for their architecture but for the moral lessons they embodied. The cemetery gate, like the Tyler's door, marked the threshold from the temporal to the eternal.

Not all found welcome in the cemeteries of the day. In some regions, the Catholic Church forbade Masonic burials, while the Protestant-dominated Anti-Masonic movement of the early 1800s viewed the Craft with suspicion. Members of the Knights Templar, in particular, were sometimes refused burial in churchyards.

In response, Lodges established their own cemeteries—safe resting places where the symbols of Masonry could be displayed without fear of removal and where a Brother's life could be memorialized in harmony with his beliefs.

Masonic Cemeteries were not always exclusively Masonic. In many towns, Masons partnered with other fraternal orders—such as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) or the Knights of Pythias—to create shared burial grounds. These cemeteries became living museums of fraternal symbolism, where gravestones might bear both the Square and Compasses and the linked rings of the Odd Fellows, reflecting the overlapping bonds of fraternity that characterized 19th-century America.

Masonic gravestones are sermons in granite, communicating lessons to those who will read them. Among the most common:

Square and Compasses – The emblem of our Craft, reminding the living to square their actions and circumscribe their desires.

Acacia – The evergreen sprig, signifying immortality of the soul.

Broken Column – The life cut short, often accompanied by the figure of a grieving woman, representing unfinished labor.

All-Seeing Eye – The watchfulness of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Plumb and Level – Symbols of upright conduct and equality before God.

Other symbols enrich this visual language: the Beehive for industry, the Ark and Anchor for hope, the Urn with Flame for the undying spirit, the Trowel for spreading brotherly love, and the Five-Pointed Star for enlightenment.





Today, Masonic cemeteries face the same challenges as other historic burial grounds—erosion, neglect, and the slow fading of memory. Yet modern tools like GPS mapping, digital archives, and interpretive tours are breathing new life into these silent spaces.

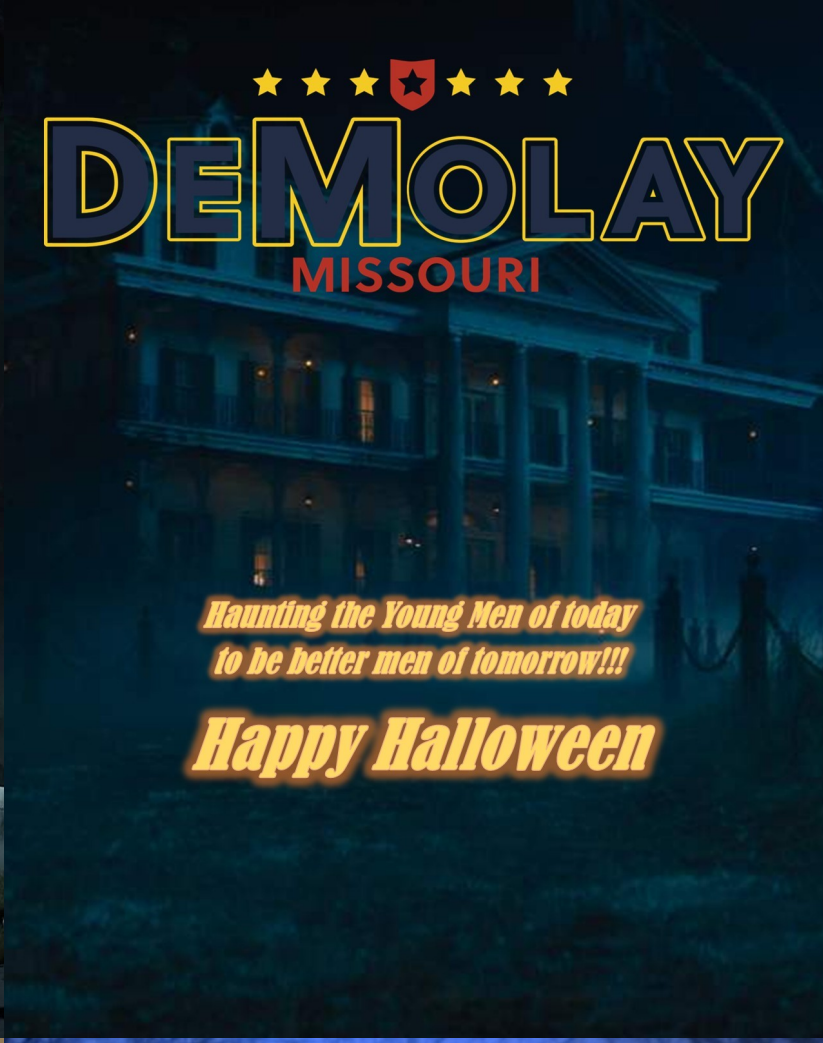
Stewardship of these cemeteries is more than maintenance—it is an expression of Masonic values: fidelity to our obligations, respect for the past, and a commitment to education. By caring for these sacred places, we keep alive the lessons they embody and ensure that future generations can read the symbols in stone.

A Masonic cemetery is not simply a field of graves—it is a moral landscape. Every symbol, every gate, every measured path speaks of our Craft's ideals. To walk through such a place is to participate in a continuing instruction, one that teaches not only about the Brother interred beneath the stone, but about the eternal principles that guided his life.

Our obligation to the dead does not end with the funeral—it extends into the preservation of their memory and the lessons they leave behind. In this way, we fulfill both our duty to the departed and our service to the living, ensuring that the legacy of Freemasonry endures in both word and stone.




Shriners Helping Children to Haunt the World of Tomorrow!!!


DEMOLAY
MISSOURI
Haunting the Young Men of today to be better men of tomorrow!!!
Happy Halloween


IORG
From the Hauntings of the past, IORG wishes everyone a very safe and scary Halloween!!!


Job's Daughters
Happy Haunted Halloween

Picture This....

Grand York Rite of Missouri at the Grand Lodge of Missouri Annual Communication









South Central York Rite













Grand York Rite Statewide Conference













An Excellent meeting of Tyrian Chapter 52 Royal Arch Masons on September 16th, as we welcomed MEC Kevin M. Ritter, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri and other distinguished Grand Chapter officers.



On Wednesday October 8, 2025 the Companions of Shekinah Council No 24 received MIC Gary B. Strout Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic

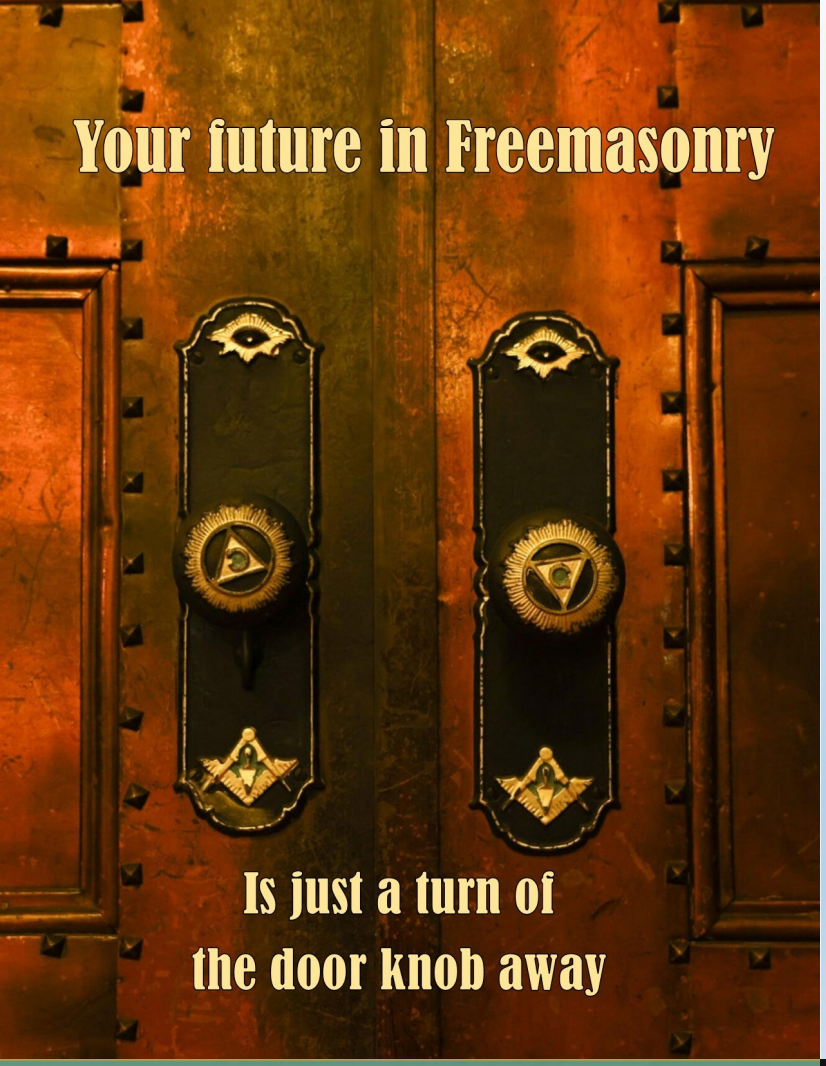


Masons of the State of Kansas and MIC Dennis W. Houck Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri. A great evening of fellowship with both States present!









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Masonic Week 2026

Annual Event Information

(Click Here for More Information)

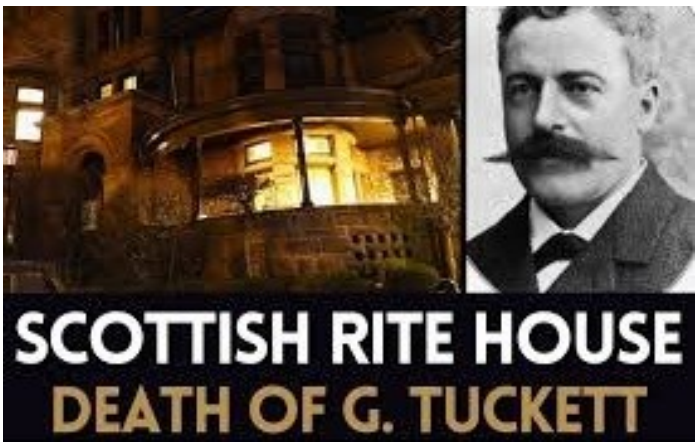




Its Halloween!!! A time where all the ghouls, ghosts, and goblins come out to haunt the world. Next to Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Independence Day, this is one of my favorite times of year. So, I thought to myself---self, what would be an interest article to present to my fellow Brother Freemasons? And then it came to me. Haunted houses!!! Our fraternity has a long history, and with anything as old as we are, we must have some skeletons in our closets. So, sit back and let us enjoy a few stories of haunted Masonic Lodges.



We begin in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, at Morrison Masonic Lodge. This building is believed to be haunted by ghosts from the Civil War. Witnesses claim to hear footsteps, knocking on doors, and objects moving on their own. Alarms will go off when no one is in the building, and ghosts have appeared in photos. Legend has it that a ghostly presence once saved a Lodge member's life when he fainted while alone in the building.



As we leave Kentucky to journey up north to Canada. We find the Hamilton Scottish Rite in Ontario. There, a ghostly figure of a lady in white is seen. Her identity is unknown. The legend goes that she was the lover of cigar tycoon George Tuckett, who was the original owner of this building. She was accused of murdering him in 1913 in her bed and now haunts this locale. People have claimed to have been touched and pushed by her while in this building.



Next, we jump aboard a plane for San Antonio, Texas. There we end up at Nat Washer Masonic Lodge, which has been unused since the 1940's. This lodge building, which dates back to the 1890s, has served as a physician's home, a red-light establishment, and a funeral parlor. Visitors claim that they get uneasy feelings in the building, hear strange noises, and capture peculiar visual effect in photographs and videos.



Afterwards, we grab a bus to the Detroit Masonic Temple. This is an incredible 1,037 room building. It is claimed to be the largest Masonic Temple in the world. The temple has secret staircases, hidden compartments, pass throughs, dead ends, and room

after room of majestic architecture.

A ghastly history surrounds the construction of this building. It is possibly just a rumor, but there is just enough there to keep your eyes open while wandering its floors. There is a legend surrounding the architect George D Mason and this building. The story goes that Mr. Mason was distraught over financial ruin, and that one evening he went up to the rooftop of the temple and leapt to his death. Thus, he now haunts it. However, other sources have reported that he died at age of 91, at his home, of natural causes.

Some claim that they have seen Mr. Mason walking the stairs or touring the halls. However, if this is not true, there are other stories of unusual events that make one think this place is haunted. The following are reported of occurrences within the walls of the temple:

- **Theater:** It doesn't matter if the auditorium is empty or full. People claim that there is an intense feeling of a presence looking over their shoulder. Some employees/visitors have reported seeing a full crowd when they're looking out from the stage after closing. Some feel movements in this space.
- **The Theater's Green Room:** It is reported that this room smells. Not everyone smells it, but those that do claim that it is the weirdest, most horrid smell one could think of. People have attempted to locate the source of the odor, but no one can find it. It is a smell that cannot be compared to anything other out there.
- **The Crystal Ballroom:** Some people have claimed to see shadowy figures in this room, when no one was in it.



From Detroit we head to Illinois, the Land of Lincoln. As we pull into the City of Alton, we park at the Franklin Masonic Lodge building. There we find reports of mysterious footsteps when no one is there, strange figures moving in the shadows, doors that open and close, and unexplained voices.

These stories have been floating around the lodge for years. Depending on who you talk to, ghosts have been blamed for opening and closing doors, lights flashing on and off, water faucets turning on, and more. Many visitors have reported accounts of footsteps on staircases, cold breezes passing by them, and the feeling of being watched. This is especially true in the main meeting hall.

A story goes that a newly installed secretary at the lodge quickly realized that something unusual was happening in the building soon after taking over the position. In the evenings, he would often stop by to handle paperwork. While in the lodge, he would hear the sounds of doors opening and closing up and down the halls, knowing he was the only one in the building. Soon after, the sounds of footsteps would become obvious, as the sounds would be going up and down the hallways. If you are interest in exploring this avenue, ghost tours are regularly held at this location.



As we return home to St. Louis, we end our journey at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Here I have been told that this building has a morgue, and it was used during World War II. Not to say that this is the cause of any hauntings. However, if true it adds to the flavor of the season. Brothers can be found telling stories of shadow people. People that pass them in the hallways but are gone when they turn around. Floating orbs, voices that cannot be found, transparent people on the other end of a room, and footsteps in various locations of the building.

The unknown and unexplained interest everyone. Even more so around Halloween each year. Whether you are a believer or not, just tell someone a ghost story in a crowded room and see how people get quiet just to listen to your tales of the haunted and macabre. May you all have a safe and Happy Halloween and release the ghouls.



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,

This month's installation of Capitular education brings us to our first milestone: You have finally completed the Mark Master degree and are ready to test your knowledge! I hope the multiple choice test demonstrates your new understanding of the degree and the open-ended questions prompts deeper discussion on the topic. We will begin the Past Master degree in November.

Grand Chapter Capitular Education Series - October 2025

Mark Master Degree

The Mark Master Degree section has been full of information and teachings, and we have broken it into four sections. For this month, you are provided with the last section to read and discuss in your Chapter meetings and to take a group test with those present:

- Confusion in the Craft
- Music in the Degree
- Biblical References
- Multiple Choice Test
- Open-ended question:
  - ◊ The three Degrees of the Symbolic Lodge are full of profound teaching, and that no Degree is considered higher than or superior to that of Master Mason. Similarly, the Degrees of the Concordant and Appendant Bodies help to expand upon and explain some of the history and more complex ideas contained in these three Degrees. However, some argue that the Concordant Bodies are unnecessary and a distraction to the teachings of the Symbolic Lodge Degrees.
  - ◊ Do you think that your understanding of the Symbolic Lodge Degrees has been enhanced by going through the Mark Master Degree, or not?
  - ◊ Do you think the Appendant Bodies help to expand and explain the messages of the Symbolic Lodge Degrees?

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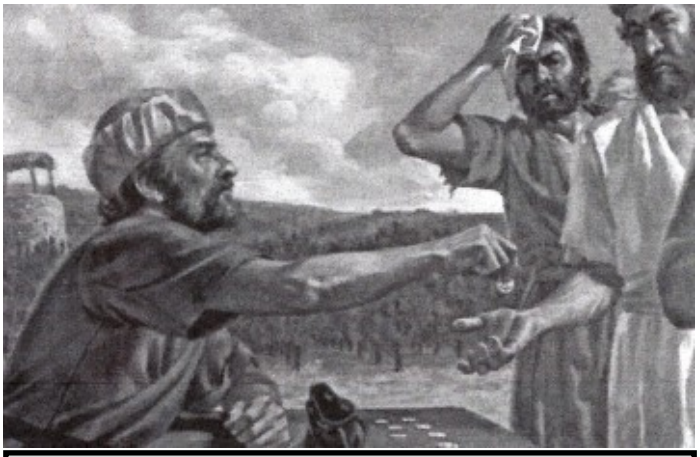
Our education series will follow this schedule:

October 2025: Mark Master Degree, completion including quiz and open-ended question
November 2025: Past Master Degree, with quiz and open ended question
December 2025: Most Excellent Master Degree
January 2026: Most Excellent Master Degree, completion including quiz and open-ended question
February 2026: Royal Arch Degree
March 2026: Royal Arch Degree, continues
April 2026: Royal Arch Degree, continues
May 2026: Royal Arch Degree, completion including quiz and open-ended question
June 2026: Wrap up of education for the year and a short expose on a passage of scripture from the Royal Arch Degree ritual from the role of Jeshua, the High Priest.

This schedule may not fit all Chapters perfectly, but it is suggested that your members come prepared with a copy of The Beacon in hand, print or digital, to your meetings so that they may take part in the group readings and discussion that follows.

Confusion in the Craft

The Lodge is closed in full form, and since work ends at the sixth hour of the sixth day the Senior Warden is again told to pay the Craft their wages. This also becomes an opportunity for the Lodge to distribute Mark Tokens or Pennies, if they employ them. It is a tradition that, once a mark has been selected and registered with the Lodge Secretary in the book of marks, to have that mark engraved in the center of the metal mark. This may be done by an engraver, but since the mark selected should be simple in design and made of straight lines, it is more appropriate if the newly made Mark Master Mason does it himself. The very act of creating his own Mark Token is a salutary exercise in meditating on the precepts of the Degree.



Paying the workmen their wages.

The Lodge members line up and receive their wages. However, for a second time there is confusion in the Craft (the first was when the keystone was found to be missing). This time the longer standing members of the Lodge complain that those who have just become Mark Masons are receiving the same pay as them; a penny a day. At this moment, the Right Worshipful Master goes to alter and reads from the Volume of the Sacred Law. This is a powerful moment, since in the preceding Degrees the Bible has been a powerful, yet static symbol lying upon the altar. Now the Master physically turns the Bible around and reads from Matthew, Chapter 20. The lesson taught is reiterated in the Keystone Lecture.

The story would have been completely familiar to almost all who passed through this Degree a hundred years ago Sadly, nowadays, this famous parable is rather less known, as is its context. The story itself is about the owner of a vineyard who goes out to find workmen to harvest his grapes. He goes out four times, and at the end of the day pays them all the same wage. Those who labored all day complain that those who only began working in the evening should receive less than them. The owner tells them that he fulfilled his contract with each of them, and that it is his right to do as he will with what is his. And he makes the following point: the last shall be first and the first last.

This passage has vexed commentators for centuries. It is important to read also what comes before, in Matthew Chapter 19. A wealthy young man asks Jesus what more he must do to obtain everlasting life, if he has faithfully obeyed all the Commandments. Jesus replies that he must give away all his wealth. HE tells his disciples that a rich man shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. At this the disciples ask Jesus who, then, will be saved. He replies that all things are possible through God. Peter then makes an important point. He reminds Jesus that the disciples have indeed given up everything, their wealth, their livelihood and their families to follow him. What then will be their reward? Firstly, Jesus reassures them that their loyalty will be rewarded: “Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me in the regeneration, when the Son of Man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” Of course, by this Jesus implies that they shall each rule a tribe of Israel (remember Judges were the first rulers of the Children of Israel before they decided they wanted a king to rule over them). But then he adds: “But many that are first, shall be last; and the last shall be first.”

Now he tells the parable, which is cautionary, and ends once more with the ‘first shall be last’ comment. Debates have focused on whether he was referring to the disciples needing to realize that anyone who returns to God before they die shall have an equal inheritance in the Kingdom; or whether he is comforting the disciples by implying that all those Jews who have faithfully followed God through the centuries have no greater claim over the

Kingdom than the disciples, who have only followed but a few months. Either way, it is a powerful message, which is reiterated in this section of the ritual.

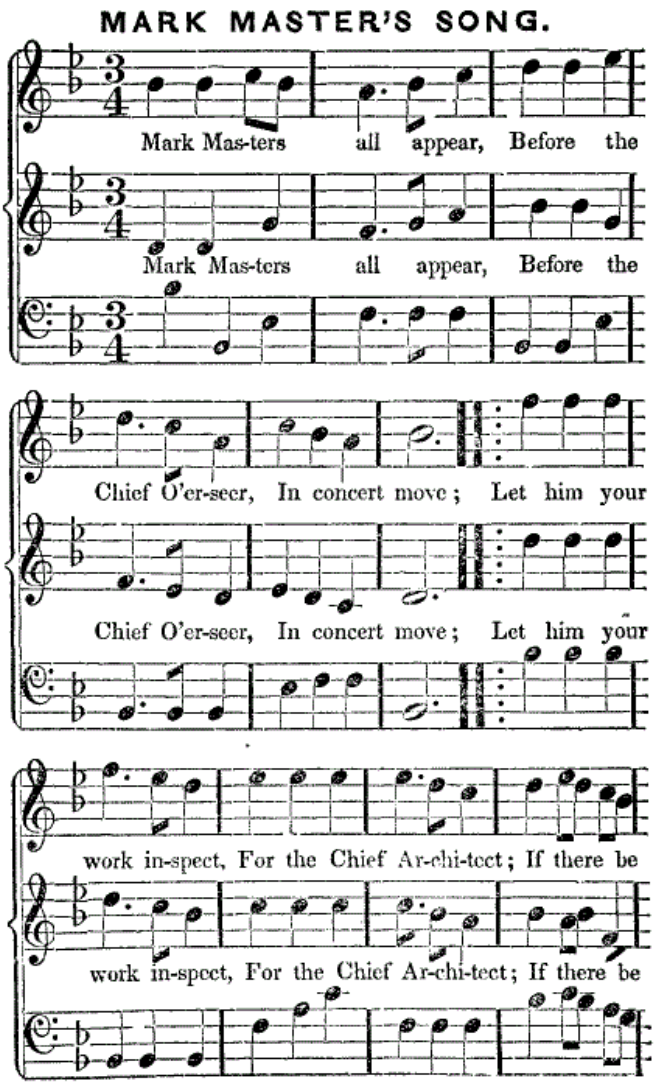
For us, we perhaps learn that some may have to strive a lifetime to understand the lessons understood by others in only a short time. We do not all develop at the same speed. If we see some younger than ourselves or newer to the Craft grasp points still obscure to us, we must not be tempted to jealousy, or to attack and ridicule those fortunate Masons. We should be content with what we have and strive all the harder to make sense of the symbols and allegories given to us, so that we, too, may understand the divine principles they are intended to portray.

While the attraction of fancy titles and colorful aprons may distract some, the lessons are not in the trappings of Masonry, but in its teachings. True wealth and happiness come from devoting one's time to understanding the meaning behind the rituals and applying those powerful lessons to our everyday lives. We are also reminded that such inspiration does not come from doing nothing, but through applying ourselves with diligence and a strong sense of duty, building on the strong moral foundation we have hopefully erected during our time in the quarries of the Blue Lodge. This sense of morality provides the foundation upon which they will build our spiritual Temple. Mens sana in corpore sano. A healthy mind in a healthy body. Without a strong foundation to withstand the attacks or man and nature, we will labor on our spiritual structure in vain. Now we put our name upon our work, so it will be judged by others, and by the Great Overseer. We have been content with a substitute for the Word, for Truth. Now we will seek the True Word with renewed vigor, for Truth is not a physical, man-made creation, but spiritual, and a divine gift.

Music in the Degree

The Sabbath Ode and the Mark Master Ode were written by Thomas Smith Webb especially for the Degrees. Webb was an accomplished musician, flute and fife player, singer, composer and conductor. He joined the Boston Philharmonic Society in 1814, becoming its Vice President. He was also a performing member of the Brattle Street Church Choir, and President of the Handel and Haydn Society, conducting a number of concerts for orchestra and voices.

Given this interest in music, it is hardly surprising that Webb wrote a number of songs for the Degrees. Recognizing the power of music to add



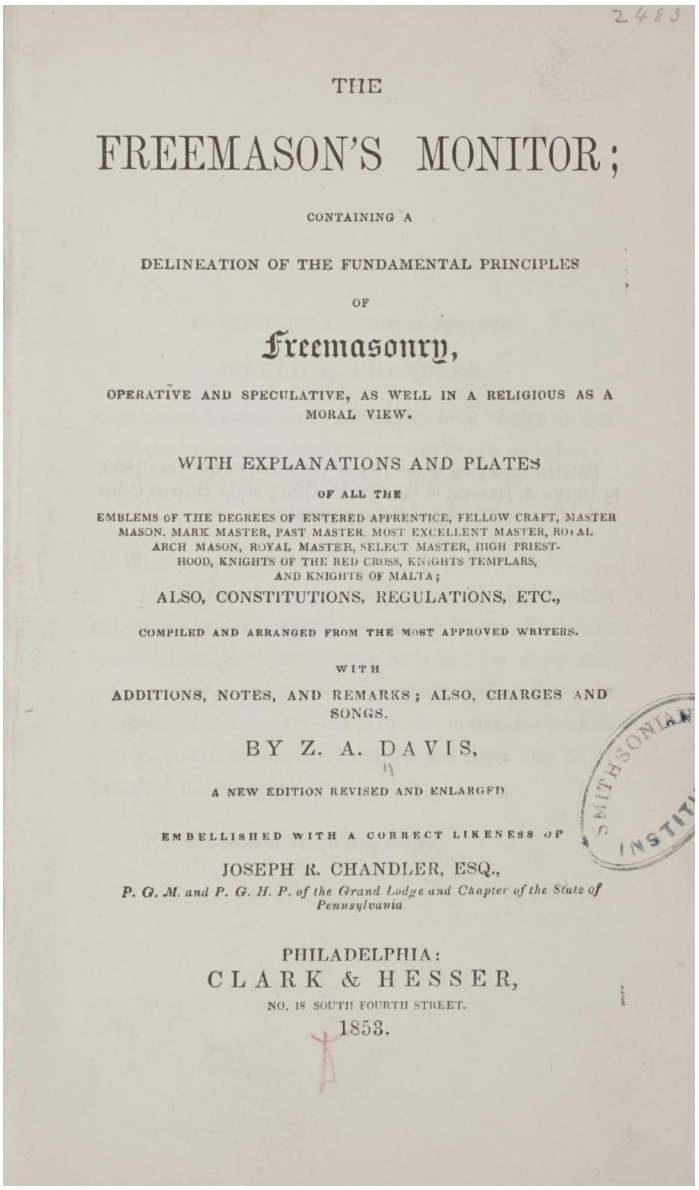
dignity to ritual, while at the same time not wanting to prolong the Degrees, he wrote processional music, to be performed while the Brethren were parading around the Lodge room. Since most Lodges would not have had a musical instrument to hand and knowing the popularity of singing and music-making at that time, especially within families, his songs, set to well-known tunes, provided an appropriate group activity in the Degrees when no words were being spoken, which punctuated the ritual in appropriate places.

The Sabbath Ode would have provided an opportunity for the Chaplain to show off his solo abilities, while the Mark Master Ode, sung at the end of the ritual while the Brothers were assembling and processing to collect their wages would have provided a common outlet for the assembled Brethren. The words of both Odes are worth careful reading: they are true poetry.

Biblical References

Of all the Degrees, the Mark Master may contain

more Biblical quotations than any other – indeed it contains more New Testament quotations than any Degree or Order other than the Templar Orders. This may be partly explained by the fact that we are moving from purely earthly to more spiritual education. Indeed, in his Freemason's Monitor, Webb devotes a significant portion of his comments on the Mark Master Degree to enumerating all the Biblical references and reproducing them.



2483

THE

FREEMASON'S MONITOR;

CONTAINING A

DELINEATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

OF

Freemasonry,

OPERATIVE AND SPECULATIVE, AS WELL IN A RELIGIOUS AS A MORAL VIEW.

WITH EXPLANATIONS AND PLATES

OF ALL THE

EMBLEMS OF THE DEGREES OF ENTERED APPRENTICE, FELLOW CRAFT, MASTER MASON. MARK MASTER, PAST MASTER. MOST EXCELLENT MASTER, ROYAL ARCH MASON, ROYAL MASTER, SELECT MASTER, HIGH PRIESTHOOD, KNIGHTS OF THE RED CROSS, KNIGHTS TEMPLARS, AND KNIGHTS OF MALTA;

ALSO, CONSTITUTIONS, REGULATIONS, ETC.,

COMPILED AND ARRANGED FROM THE MOST APPROVED WRITERS.

WITH

ADDITIONS, NOTES, AND REMARKS; ALSO, CHARGES AND SONGS.

BY Z. A. DAVIS,

A NEW EDITION REVISED AND ENLARGED

EMBELLISHED WITH A CORRECT LIKENESS OF

JOSEPH R. CHANDLER, ESQ.,

P. G. M. and P. G. H. P. of the Grand Lodge and Chapter of the State of Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA:

CLARK & HESSER,

NO. 18 SOUTH FOURTH STREET.

1853.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITU

As well as expected quotations from Chronicles (which along with the Book of Kings details the building of King Solomon's Temple), and a couple of quotes from Psalms and Ezekiel, much of the scripture cited is from the New Testament. This may again reflect the probability that the ritual traces its origins in the actual ceremonies used by Operative Masons, which, due to the fact that Christianity was – and is – the established religion of the British Isles, this ensured that any ceremony, in order to meet the approbation of Crown and Church, was liberally sprinkled with passages from the New Testament.

Be this as it may, the New Testament passages are used sensitively, and only two types of passages are used. Firstly, the parable of the wages paid in the vineyard is used to emphasize a key lesson. Secondly, passages which have sometimes used to draw a parallel between prophetic commentaries in the Tanakh, or Jewish Bible, and the Messiah, are here used rather to underscore the passage in the Psalms which talks of the stone the builders rejected becoming the cornerstone. In this context it refers to our own spiritual development as Masons.

The important point is not necessarily which Holy Book is being used, since Freemasonry came into being in a Northern European country where Christianity was the predominant-and official religion. The passage extracted are universal in their messages of tolerance, assiduity, self-improvement and charity to other, and are lessons which can be applied by men of all faiths.

And so, the Mark Degree uses symbols, scripture, music, links to prior Degrees, and the usual mixture of drama, lecture and catechism to transmit a powerful message: that in the Capitular Degrees the Brother is going to be transformed from a Master Builder to a Spiritual Builder. In this Degree, he takes the first steps towards the sublime revelations of the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

Mark Master Mason Quiz #1

1. In what country is the first mention of operative Mark Masons?
   a) England
   b) Ireland
   c) Scotland
   d) North America
2. How many Officers are there in a Lodge of Mark Master Mason?
   a) 5
   b) 7
   c) 8
   d) 9

3. Where were the Overseers situated?
   a) In the middle of the room.
   b) South, West, and North
   c) South, West, and East
   d) East, North, and East

4. Where did the wood for the Temple come from?
   a) The Quarries of Zaradatha
   b) Lebanon
   c) Joppa
   d) The Mount of Olives

5. How did the Craftsmen carry their work?
   a) In their left hand
   b) Placed upon the palm of the right and left hands
   c) On their left shoulder
   d) Between the thumb and fingers of their right hand

6. What did the Overseers use to test the work?
   a) A square
   b) Compasses
   c) Plumbline
   d) A Ruler

7. How the Overseers disposed of the rejected stone?
   a) Over their left shoulder
   b) Over their right shoulder
   c) Over their heads
   d) Passed from hand to hand

8. When did the Craftsmen receiver their wages?
   a) The sixth hour of the sixth day of the week.
   b) The first hour of the first day of the week.
   c) The third hour of the third day of the week.
   d) The third hour of the sixth day of the week.

9. How did the Senior know the Craftsman seeking wages was not an imposter?
   a) Because he gave the correct pass grip.
   b) Because his hands were dusty and calloused.
   c) Because he gave the correct true grip.
   d) Because he carried a copy of his mark in his hand.

10. How did the Master test the Fellowcraft?
   a) He asked the Master Overseer to obtain the pass.
   b) He asked the Senior Deacon to obtain the pass.
   c) He asked for the pass himself.
   d) He asked for the grip of Fellowcraft.

11. In what manner was the craftsman found worthy to be taught how to receive his wages?
   a) He could give the pass grip, password, true grip, and true word of a Fellowcraft.
   b) He found the stone which had been thrown over in the rubbish.
   c) He discovered another stone in the quarries.
   d) He presented a piece of his own work which passed the inspection of the Overseers.

12. How was the Candidate received into the Lodge of Mark Master Masons?
   a) While carrying the keystone.
   b) Blindfolded with a cable-tow three times round his body.
   c) By being marked by a chisel.
   d) By giving the password at the door.

13. How did the Brethren stand during the Obligation?
   a) In two parallel lines from the altar to the East.
   b) They formed a symbolic Temple.
   c) They stood at their seats at the Sign of Fidelity.
   d) In a circle about the altar.

14. To whom is a Lodge of Mark Master Masons dedicated?
   a) God and King Solomon.
   b) God and Hiram Abif
   c) The Grand Geometrician of the Universe.
   d) The Grand Overseer of the Universe.

15. What does the Candidate promise not to do with the mark which he will hereafter, select once recorded in the Book of Marks?
   a) Lend or sell it.
   b) Give it to another Mark Master Mason.
   c) Pledge it a second time until it has been redeemed from its former pledge.
   d) Alter or change it.

16. We are told in the ritual that a Brother's work should bear his mark so that it "should be known and distinguished when brought up promiscuously for inspection." What does "promiscuously" mean in this context?
   a) Carelessly
   b) Not in any particular order
   c) In a hurry
   d) Sexily

17. What is the origin of the pass grip?
   a) How the Craftsmen were assisted to climb the seacoast.
   b) The manner in which the Craftsmen held their axes to fell the trees in Lebanon.
   c) A variant of the Master Mason's grip.
   d) How the Craftsman's hand was grasped at the wicket.

18. How do two Craftsmen form the letters of the true word?
   a) With their fingers
   b) On the five Points of Fellowship.
   c) At low breath
   d) With their arms and legs.

19. Where is the missing keystone?
   a) In the quarries.
   b) In the rubbish.
   c) In Hiram Abif's apartments.
   d) In King Solomon's apartments.

20. How many letters are upon the keystone?
   a) 6
   b) 7
   c) 8
   d) 9

21. Why did the Craftsmen cause confusion when they received their wages?
   a) They expected to be paid in shekels.
   b) They expected to be paid more than the new members.
   c) They couldn't find the keystone.
   d) They weren't prepared to abide by the law.

22. What is the stone which was rejected?
   a) The keystone
   b) The cornerstone
   c) The perfect ashlar
   d) None of the above.

23. Who knows the true purpose of the Keystone?
   a) The Overseers.
   b) The Craftsmen with the plans.
   c) King Solomon.
   d) The Candidate.







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Balcony(ba)	214-367 / 38-108	3	$2,498.07 p/p	$887.39 p/p*
Inside (ia)	135-362	2	$1,612.05 p/p	

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Happy Hauntings everyone,

We are finally here. It is the time of ghosts, goblins, and ghouls. It is Halloween time!!! As you can see by the decorated Beacon Magazine, I love Halloween. It is fun, it is spooky, it is a time of little and big kids dressing up to be whatever they want to be.

It is a time when people build haunted houses, haunted mazes, haunted forests, and when I was a kid a haunted jail. All for the enjoyment of a good scare. The haunted jail of my youth was the old St. Charles County Sheriff's Department's Headquarters and Jail. It was built in the early 1900s and abandoned in the 1980s for many years. This location was so cool and some swear it was truly haunted!!! This building is where the last death sentence of a person was carried out by a Sheriff before the State of Missouri took over all executions. I hope you all carry on these traditions so our children may enjoy the frights and scares that we all did when we were their ages.

As it is the time of the haunting season, I could not overlook some special decorations and articles for this issue. Thus, we have included Masonic Graveyards, Haunted Masonic Buildings, and so much more. We hope you enjoy all that there is to offer.

Along with October being Halloween, we have the arrest of the Knights Templar this month on Friday, October 13, 1307, and Columbus day. Although, people claim that Christopher Columbus really did not discover America or the New World, he did bring this part of the world to light to the European nations of that time.

So, as you all can see, we at your Beacon Magazine are listening to you. This publication is always changing. Either you liked the older version or you are enjoying the newer versions. If we get enough feedback on a preference of one or the other, we will use that format in the future. So share your ideas with us and we will try and fit them in if we can.

Once again, thank you all so much for your support of your Beacon Magazine. May you all have a safe and Happy Halloween, may God's Blessing shine down on you and your family, and until next time, we will be seeing you all down that dusty trail.

Peace be with you all,

Editor





Royal Order of Scotland

"*We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe that our faith should manifest itself in service."*

Historical Sketch
By: R.W. BRO. C.C. NISBET,
Past Deputy Governor of the Order 1897 – 1921

Revised 2024
By: SIR JEFFREY M. WONDERLING
Provincial Grand Master/Provincial Grand Lodge, USA

The Royal Order comprises two Degrees, that of Heredom of Kilwinning and that of the Rosy Cross. Tradition tells us that the former was established in Judea, in Palestine, but whether at the time of the Crusaders of much earlier origin, tradition is silent.

The word "Heredom" has been variously interpreted, but the most obvious derivation is from the Hebrew word "Harodim", meaning "The Rulers", and the name of Kilwinning refers to the re-establishment of the Order by King Robert the Bruce at Kilwinning, where he presided as its first Grand Master.

The Degree of Heredom of Kilwinning is a peculiarly interesting Degree and full of instruction to Craft Masons, as in its lectures it explains the symbolism and teaching contained in the first three Degrees of what is sometimes referred to as St. John's Masonry.

The Rosy Cross Degree: tradition takes its origin on the field of Bannockburn on Summer St. John's Day 1314 and was instituted by King Robert the Bruce, who having in the course of the battle for Scottish independence, received assistance from a body of sixty-three knights who may have been original Knights Templar and Freemasons. He conferred upon them, as a reward for their services, the civil rank of Knighthood. Each received a characteristic considered descriptive of his performance at Bannockburn. He granted them permission to confer the honor on such Scottish Freemasons professing the Christian religion and had shown themselves worthy of the honor. The number on whom the Knighthood might be conferred was limited to sixty-three, but over the years, owing to the large number of worthy Freemasons who coveted this honor, the Grand Lodge of the Order, when it found it necessary to establish Provincial Grand Lodges elsewhere than in Scotland, granted each Provincial Grand Lodge permission to promote sixty-three Freemasons of the Degree of Heredom to the honor of Knighthood under the Grand Lodge. In some of the Provincial Grand Lodges where the members of Heredom number many hundreds, special powers have been given to increase the number of Knights of the Rosy Cross. This Degree, as its name implies, deals more with the subject matter of the Rose Croix Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite than with that of Craft Masonry. The Degree of Knighthood can only be conferred in the Grand Lodge of the Royal Order, which has its seat in Edinburgh, or by the special authority by a Provincial Grand Master or his deputy. This authority is purely personal to a Provincial Grand Master and cannot be transmitted by him to his successors.

By the Constitution of the Royal Order, the King of Scots is its hereditary Grand Master, for whom at every meeting of the Order, wherever held, a vacant chair or throne must be placed at the right hand of the presiding officer. The acting head of the Order is the Deputy Grand Master and Governor, who appoints a Deputy Governor.

There are no reliable records tracing the history of the Order from its alleged revival in 1314 to the middle of the eighteenth century when it appears to have flourished in France about the year 1735-40 under the adherents of the Jacobite Cause, who being refugees from Scotland practiced these Degrees no doubt for the purpose of maintaining a common bond of union among them in a foreign land. It is stated that in 1747, in a Charter which was in existence in 1840, granted by Prince Charles Edward Stuart to the Masonic Lodge at Arras, he described himself as Sovereign Grand Master of the Order of "Rose Croix de Herodim de Kilwinning".

The ceremonies of the Degrees are peculiarly interesting, being different from those of other Degrees of Freemasonry, and part of the Ritual is rendered in an irregular versified rhyming form. The original French manuscript of the Ritual, rendered in that language, is in the possession of the Grand

Grand Lodge of the Order in Edinburgh.

It should be noted that from a historical viewpoint, The Royal Order of Scotland, as a Masonic System, is Senior to all other Degrees & Orders, with the exception of the first two Degrees of the Craft (Blue) Lodges. Documentary evidence exists in its archives indicating this Order was active as early as 1741.

From France, the Order seems to have been taken up in England, where it flourished for a few years, probably from 1741 to 1750, and on 22nd July of that year, the Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland was reconstituted in Edinburgh, where it has ever since had its headquarters.

From that time, the Order has continued to prosper. Many men, distinguished not only in Freemasonry but in other walks of life, have held the highest office and presided over the Order as Deputy Grand Master and Governor.

Originally, membership in the Order was limited to Scotsmen or those of Scottish descent, but later the privilege was extended to Master Masons of other nationalities. The Order has now, besides Provincial Grand Lodges in Scotland and in England, Provincial Grand Lodges all over the world, including the United States of America, where the Order is very highly prized and is not conferred on anyone who has not received the Thirty -second Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, although this may be waived if the petitioner is a Knight Templar.

The Order is one which is, from its historical associations, particularly interesting to Scotsmen. Each year on the 4th of July (old style), the anniversary of the day on which the Battle of Bannockburn was fought, the Grand Lodge of the Order, as well as some of the Provincial Grand Lodges, continue the ancient custom of the Order by holding a festival at which the Toast to the Immortal Memory of King Robert the Bruce, the hero of Bannockburn and Restorer of the Order, is proposed in an oration by one of the Brethren and honored in silence. The Degrees of the Order are most beautiful and impressive and inculcate the three great principles of Freemasonry – Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

There is evidence of an early Provincial Grand Lodge in the United States of America at Norfolk, Virginia, but no record of it survives. The Provincial Grand Lodge of the U.S.A. was constituted on May 4, 1878. Sir Albert Pike was the first Provincial Grand Master and was appointed in 1877 and served until 1891. Others who have served as Provincial Grand Master are as follows.

Royal Order of Scotland
Provincial Grand Lodge of the
United States of America

The Royal Order of Scotland is a worldwide Masonic honor society, headquartered in Edinburgh, Scotland, that unites Freemasons who have been recognized or honored by other organizations. In the United States, the Royal Order is a national organization without chapters or subordinate bodies. As such, it brings together distinguished members from across the country for convivial fellowship and ancient Masonic ceremonies.

Membership is by invitation only. Candidates must be Master Masons for at least five years, promoted to the 32nd Degree in the Scottish Rite or Knight Templar in the York Rite, be of the Christian faith, and already received honors such as the 33rd Degree, KCCH, Red Cross of Constantine, or KYCH. We also consider religious, and community service performed for the benefit on one's fellow man, such as offices held in churches, activity on boards and commissions, and active work with youth groups such as Boy Scouts or DeMolay. Each applicant is judged on his own merit.

The Royal Order of Scotland confers two degrees, that of Heredom of Kilwinning and Knight of the Rosy Cross. The lessons and ceremonies of these degrees are Masonic and chivalric in nature, inspired by early Scottish Masonic traditions and military history, especially the 1314 Battle of Bannockburn and King Robert the Bruce. They are considered as being among the earliest Masonic degrees still practiced today. Please visit the remaining pages of this website for more information about our organization, its history, leaders and charitable works.

Retention Corner

By: VIC Gerald Hill

In this day and age, we have a tendency to think that we are more advanced than we have ever been before. Every generation thinks the same. That is because we as human beings focus on ourselves. Nobody is more educated or better than we are today. The prevalent though is that our past generations were primitive. We judge things by present day context because that is what we know. We need to check our perceptions.

Having said that I would like to take this time to talk to you about our education system in Freemasonry. The operative stonemason guilds of old were based on apprenticeship. Learning was from doing. During your journey, you would advance from an apprentice to a journeyman to a master craftsman. The trades are a perfect example of a hands-on training system. In order to become better at something, we must spend time and effort, there are no shortcuts.

Taking this into speculative Masonry we remember that Pythagoras was initiated into several orders of priesthood and was a Master Mason. Whether he was or wasn't a Mason, we do know from ancient texts he founded and lead his own religious and philosophical community, the Pythagorean Brotherhood. This was back in 500 B.C., and there are things from even further back we don't understand today. This gives us an idea of knowledge possibly lost.

The degrees we have from those days of old are based on Moral and Philosophical teachings, to make good men better. In this we created an education system. This is the foundation of Freemasonry.

Have you ever thought of the structure of these degrees and the system behind them?

First, they are built to determine dedication and patience. Did a master want to train an apprentice who was not dedicated or did not want to show up? How would that work out? Once initiated you were required to share with your Brethren what have you learned. This brings to mind the Karate Kid movie, when Mr. Miyagi says, "Wax On. Wax Off". It makes no sense on the surface, however in the movie it taught Danielson how to block moves. That same principle can apply to learning our ritual. Once upon a time, our lodge officers were required to learn their proficiencies at the completion of their degrees. These were done under great pressure. If you presented sufficient effort, you would be voted to advance to the next degree. This process gave you time to interact, socialize, and build a bond with your coach. It also served as a basis for research in that degree to gain even more light.

Things that come easy lose their value. Today we have to find balance. The world is losing its dedication and patience, and people want things right now with little to no effort.

We have talked before on how people are different, so let us examine that. We all learn differently, but for this article I will sum it up in four different styles. "Hands On", the person who loves to jump in and do stuff. We have the "What's in it for me". They jump in after observation if value is determined. The "Give me lecture" person loves to watch, reflect, and research. The "Social learner" loves the communication to extract knowledge and is often creative.

The degrees in Freemasonry are set up for everyone. The system is very inclusive. The "What's in it for me" guy has determined value and is ready to jump in. He and the "Hands On" guy are ready for initiation experience. The "Give me lecture" guy is a little apprehensive, but lecture time comes, and he dwells in the lecture and future study. The "Social learner" has been wanting to communicate the whole time and will likely stay to socialize. He will value the time with coaches and mentors sharing their knowledge.

As individuals we should strive to appreciate all styles and achieve balance. When observing others, we should try to offer them further value they would appreciate. Explaining why, communicating knowledge, and offering resources.

We should keep this in mind when developing Masonic Education for our Councils. You should engage the social and what's in it for people with questions. Basic open-ended questions will draw in those learning styles and establish if anyone is familiar with the topic. The education alone appeals to the lecture person. Having an activity would be icing on the cake.

You have observed a pattern regarding my articles. Retention is about PEOPLE, and it takes effort and willingness to keep them coming. God Bless.

Brief History of R.A.R.A.

Royal Arch Research assistance (R.A.R.A.) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt foundation incorporated in the State of Kentucky in 1974. The purpose of the organization is to research and promote solutions to Central auditory Processing Disorder or CAPD.

It is governed by a Board of Directors who are all Royal Arch Masons. The General Grand High Priest is the President. The Board Secretary receives all contributions, keeps records, and sends out receipts, certificates and awards.

Each works with the R.A.R.A. Representatives and the Ambassadors for each state, together with the Regional Deputy General Grand High Priest to coordinate Chapter. In this way, the Grand Chapters in their Regions will be encouraged to participate publicly to demonstrate our community involvement. Trough greater visibility to the public, the hope is to generate a greater commitment to this endeavor and promote Royal Arch Masonry.

There are three Regional Coordinators to provide public relations and fundraising assistance under the direction of the Executive Director.

The R.A.R.A. Board of Directors is committed to identifying and fundraising assistance under the direction of the Executive Director.

The R.A.R.A. Board of Directors is committed to identifying and supporting those scientists who are searching for treatment regimens and eventually a cure for CAPD.

In the beginning R.A.R.A. funded research by Dr. Jack Williford followed by Dr. Joan Burleigh of Colorado state University who later formed the Able Kids Foundation until they discontinued their research program.

Funding was then shifted to Dr. Frank Musiek at the University of Connecticut, and later the University of Arizona until his retirement. Autism Speaks and the Hearing Health Foundation were also added to our program at that time.

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

RARA, MGYR Office

Dime War for CMMRF

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons has launches Dime War for CMMRF. This is an initiative and fun way to boost donations to CMMRF and foster Councils to visit each other. Here is how it will works.

Each dime contributes one point. All paper and coin money count as negative points for your council. Refer to the rules below for the values of different coins and paper money.

The Council with the highest positive points (or the least negative points) will be proclaimed the victor! The prize is yet to be decided.

It's highly encouraged to "sabotage" other councils with money that is not valued at a dime.

Under no circumstances can money be removed from the jar.

Each Council must have their box easily accessible during assemblies and events.

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

Rules:

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

$1 bill = -100 points
$5 bill = -500 points
$10 bill = -1000 points
Penny= -1 point
Nickel = -5 points
Quarter = -25 points

Money cannot be removed from any jar for any reason. Rolled coins must be unrolled and placed as loose change in the box to be counted towards your total. The Council with the most positive or least negative points will be declared the **WINNER!!!**

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.



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 plaining 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 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





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

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



Distinguished Chapter Award

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

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

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

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

Chapter Proficiency Certificate Plan:

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





W H C O P P O T E L L I N S V N C R L P
P B T L R M L O V T D G N D O Q R E A O
E J T I Q K D T H G I R T S E P U L E P
R Y I E A E X M E O Q Z A C C N S L S E
P X A P M F E H B U L M C J K X A I T Q
M I V O E P J D E R E Y C T L S D M R D
V N L M N K L S Z E R K L D K V E S E S
K A X G N T E E R K U T X A U N S B A Y
Y A I I R N I F I S T H G I N K A G S V
B R G A B I V F N V G O D N G D W M U E
C H B E K E M R G E S O R A Y N B Z R P
T R R P M C G W L O U P B K U L U M E D
O R O A N N M T I J H R L U W U S O B D
Y B G S G A H F S V E P A R K E R S Y H
P U P D S R D L H B J Z P Q L H Z Q O O
I E Y D L F J M O Y E B W I X F L B J R
H Z A V J N O T Q B B K K S O L O M O N
B P S T G K C L W C Q S W M Q S Y U H I
P Z E K N O M R O I R R A W T Y Q Z T V
Q S E S O M V T M I Q I Y U V D Q B E I

Coppotelli
Cross
Crusades
DeMolay
Estright
Faith
France
Freemason
God
Holy Land
Inglish
J Knight
Knights
Man
Miller
October
Parker
Pilgrim
Pope
Quesenberry
Rose
Rosslyn
Seal
Skiles
Solomon
Temple
Treasure
Warrior Monk
Young

Save the Date

175th Anniversary of Springfield Chapter No.15

Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri

Please help us celebrate this milestone in conjunction with the
250th Anniversary of the United States of America
and the 100th Anniversary of Route 66 in Springfield, Missouri

Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
1930 West Catalpa St
Springfield, MO 65807
The Acacia Room
RSVP to springfieldyorkrite@gmail.com