

MISSOURI YORK RITE BEACON



S.K. Ronnie Green
Grand Commander of
Knights Templar
2009-2025
November 7, 1945
to
August 9, 2025

Volume 3 Issue 9
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Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri

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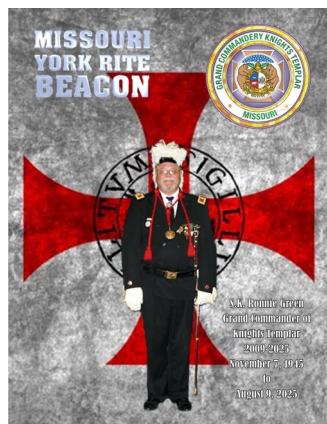
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Submissions: All submissions of photographs should include a 40 to 50 word article telling who, what, when, where and why. Pictures should be high resolution jpg (s) from a camera (at least 300 dpi). Phone pictures should be set to high resolution.



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!

A quarter of our Capitular year has already gone! What a whirlwind!

The annual statewide conference using our new format has wrapped, and it was a great success! We had many Companions and Sir Knights taking part in the social hour on Friday evening and raised \$300 for RARA with the Stonecutters fun degree that night. Saturday was a great day full of information sharing and fellowship, and I'm already looking forward to doing this again next year!

The South-Central York Rite conference is this weekend in League City, Texas. I'm looking forward to representing our Grand Chapter and sharing all the great things we have been doing with our Companions from other jurisdictions. Immediately after I return from Texas, I'll be headed to Kansas City for Grand Lodge.

Many of our Chapters are coming out of being dark for the summer months. Companions, as you get back into the work of the Chapter, please remember the priorities from my message this year: RARA, our ritual, and our members. If there's a Companion out there that you have not seen or talked to in a while, give him a call and ask how he is doing. Get together for lunch or coffee and catch up. Refresh those relationships as you refresh your Chapter ritualistic work.

Official visits continue in the coming months. I'm looking forward to seeing you and visiting you in your Chapters. Keep an eye on your inbox for details in the coming weeks regarding the Grand Master's Invitational, as planning is underway!

Take care of one another, Companions, and BE EXCELLENT TO EACH OTHER!

Fraternally,

Kevin Ritter
Grand High Priest





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



Greetings Companions,

Wow, this has been a month to remember! I would like to thank everybody who came to our first State York Rite Conference. I would like to thank M.I.C. Matt Ruth, Past Grand Master, for chairing this committee. The weekend should go down in Missouri York Rite history on how events should happen. Friday night, we all had great fellowship. We ended the evening with the Stonecutters degree. This degree was presented by M.E.C. Patrick Carr, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Kansas.

Saturday morning, we began with the opening remarks by M.E.C. Kevin Ritter, S.K. Terry Coppotelli, and I. Each Region then had a chance to speak about what was happening in their area, their plans for the future, and how to correct any shortcomings they may have. We had a great lunch and concluded the weekend with our guest speaker M.E.C. Patrick Carr.

We had an opportunity to sit down with each region and discuss how they do things, and examined how the differ from other regions. This does not happen enough. We also had a planning meeting on how everyone throughout the state would work together with their regional counter parts, in the Chapter, Council, and Commandery.

So far, my trips throughout the State has brought me to Neosho Council #46, Zabud Council # 25, Shelby Council #59, and Bert S. Lee Council #58. I ended the month with a great time at M.E.C. Kevin Ritter's Grand Reception in Springfield, Missouri.

As we come out of the summer months, I look forward to seeing the York Rite doing degree work, Table Councils, and working throughout the communities. In an attempt to help you all dust off you Bibles, I give to you Matthew 11 Verse 6. Read it, reflect on it, and share it with all. May God's Blessing shine down on all of you. God bless you all.

Fraternally Yours,

MIC Dennis W. Houck

Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State Of Missouri





S.K. Glenn Parker
Grand Captain General of the Grand
Commandery of Knights Templar
of the State of Missouri



Greeting Sir Knights,

Where has the time gone? The kids are back in school and Labor day has come and gone. The leaves on the trees are starting to change, and our Grand Session for the Grand Lodge will soon be here. As in past session, we will soon be electing a new Grand Master. What are we talking about here? It is about change. However, while we try and adapt to these changes, don't forget to take care of your normal obligations.

Lodges, Chapter, Councils, and Commandries are now back in session. So, I encourage everyone to reach out to our home bound Sir Knights and see if they need a ride to our meetings. Please check in with these members and see how they are doing. They are an important part of our Fraternity. So many time they are accidentally overlooked and forgotten about. Sir Knights, please remember that everyone matters or no one matters. What I mean by that is that all our sheep are important to our flock. None should be overlooked, forgotten, or lost. Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:12:

- How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?

In this parable Jesus explains that this shows the will of God: it is not His desire for any of His "little ones" to be lost, and He rejoices when the lost are found. As God forgets not one of his children, so should we not forget about any of our members. Look after them as they looked after us in our youth. Everyone is important to us. This is what we should be doing to keep the craft alive and active. Show them all that we truly care about them as our Lord and Savior does for us all.

May God's blessings be with you all,

Sir Knight Glenn B. Parker
Grand Captain General



**GRAND COMMANDERY
OF
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OF THE
STATE of MISSOURI**



Sir Knight Ronnie Edward Green
Grand Commander 2009-2010

Born
St. James, Missouri
November 7, 1945

Died
Rolla, Missouri
August 9, 2025

*As a tribute of respect, the Constituent Commanderies will drape
their Charters in mourning for a period of thirty days*

Freemasonry has lost another Jewel in its Masonic Crown. Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight Ronnie Edward Green, 79, cast off the chains binding him to this Earthly realm to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, August 9, 2025.

Ronnie was born on November 7, 1945, in St. James, Missouri. He was the son of Buford Edward and Doris Idell (Seabaugh) Green.

On May 7, 2005, at Prince of Peace United Church of Christ in St. Louis, Missouri, he was united in marriage to Margaret Darlene Keys.

Ronnie worked for 40 years as a head meat cutter. For many of those years he was employed by Straub's Market in Clayton, Missouri.

Ronnie enjoyed the great outdoors, spending countless hours riding his Kubota across his property. He had a deep love for hunting, particularly during deer season when he would eagerly invite his friends to join him in the excitement of the hunt. He cultivated a bountiful harvest of blackberries and grapes, always leaving enough for the local squirrels and rabbits to enjoy.

A true lover of the land, Ronnie had a unique passion for moving rocks, often remarking that the Ozarks produced the biggest rocks. His determination and hard work transformed his property into a testament to his love for the earth and its natural beauty.

In addition to his outdoor pursuits, Ronnie was deeply committed to his community and to the Masonic Fraternity. He was an active member in many Masonic Bodies, including:

- ♦ Craftsmen Lodge No. 717, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons
- ♦ Oriental-Rabboni Chapter No. 78, Royal Arch Masons
- ♦ Jeremiah Council No. 48, Royal & Select Masters
- ♦ Ascalon Commandery No 16, Knights Templar
- ♦ Elizabeth St. Leger Council No. 386, Allied Masonic Degrees
- ♦ Gates of Derry Council No. 82, Knight Masons
- ♦ Lord of Lords Tabernacle VI, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests
- ♦ St. Chrysostom Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine
- ♦ Valley of Columbia, Scottish Rite
- ♦ Missouri Priory No. 17, Knights of the York Cross of Honour.

He served as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, 2009-2010. He served as Eminent Prior of the KYCH, 2019-2021. He received many awards over his Masonic career, including the Ephraim Kirby Award in 2024 from the General Grand Chapter of Royal Masons International.

Ronnie is preceded in death by his parents, two sons, David Green and Steven Green, along with one sister, Robin Defilio. Ronnie is survived by his beloved wife, Margaret of St. James, Missouri; his son, Ronald Adam Green (wife Rhonda) of House Springs, Missouri; his daughter, Donna Marie Green of House Springs, Missouri; and his daughter Courtney Lynn Rodriguez (husband Juan) of Maplewood, Missouri. Ronnie is survived by his brothers Rick Green of Crystal City, Missouri; Michael Green (wife Mary) of Williamsville, Missouri; Ralph Green (wife Marilyn) of Fenton, Missouri; and Kenny Green of St. Louis, Missouri. Ronnie is survived by his sisters Jan Hillis of Durand, Illinois; and Susan Corn (husband Ray) of Silex, Missouri. He is also survived by a brother-in-law, Tony Defilio of Barnhart, Missouri, along with 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Ronnie will be profoundly missed by his family, friends, and the many members of the Masonic community who had the privilege of calling him a Brother, a Companion, and a fellow Sir Knight.

Visitation will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, August 30, 2025, at the Rolla Masonic Center, 400 E. 2nd Street, Rolla, Missouri, 65401. The Masonic Service will begin at 12:00 Noon with the Memorial Service also at the Rolla Masonic Center. A luncheon will be provided following the memorial service at the Rolla Masonic Center and everyone is invited.

All arrangements are under the direction of the Jones Funeral Home in St. James, Missouri. To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Ronnie Edward Green, please visit the floral store at: <https://www.jonesfunerals.com/obituary/Ronnie-Green/sympathy>.

**GRAND CHAPTER
OF
ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF THE
STATE of MISSOURI**



Charles A. Bottermuller
Grand High Priest 1971-1972

Born
Warren County, Missouri
May 29, 1927

Died
Wildwood, Missouri
June 7, 2025

*As a tribute of respect, the Subordinate Chapters will drape their
Charters in mourning for a period of thirty days*

Christopher Columbus Day

By SK James Fiete

Who was Christopher Columbus? Why do we honor him with a Day on our calendar? Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer who stumbled upon the Americas (islands) and whose journeys marked the beginning of centuries of transatlantic colonization. Although he did not "discover" the so called New World, as millions of people already lived there. His journey marked the beginning of centuries of exploration of North and South America. On August 3, 1492, Columbus and his crew set sail from Spain in three ships: the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.



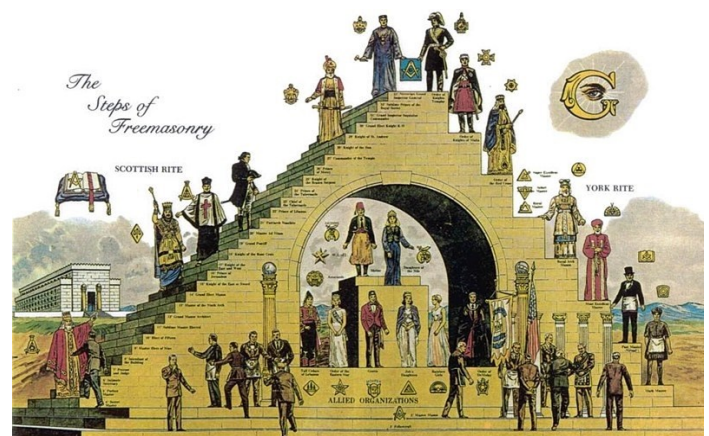
On October 11, 1492, the ships made landfall on one of the Bahamian Islands (Columbus named it Guanahani). For months, Columbus sailed from island to island in what we now know as the Caribbean. Columbus made three more trips to the Americas. His second trip was in 1493 to the Lesser Antilles. Trip number three was in 1498 to Trinidad. To the East Coast of Central America in 1502 was his fourth and last. As one would say, the rest of his story is history. What is YOUR story? Remember, you are still **WRITING YOUR STORY**.

As members of the Masonic family and our Missouri Grand Commandery, as Sir Knights how many "islands" have you visited? Remember the "islands" of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason? How about the "islands" of Royal Arch, Super Excellent Master, Order of the Temple? Perhaps the visit was to the "islands" of the Perfect Elu, the Knight Rose Croix, Knight Kadosh, and/or the Master of the Royal Secret? How about a visit to the smaller "islands" of Allied Masonic Degrees,

Knight Masons, York Rite College, or the Red Cross of Constantine? Have you recently looked at the Missouri Masonic Family Map? I believe there is a little "Columbus" in all of us. He did not stop with just one visit. How many times have you found new "islands" such as Rainbow, DeMolay, or Jobs Daughters; or returned to your "islands" which might include your Masonic Lodge, Royal Arch, Council, or Commandery? You still have time to **FINISH YOUR STORY**.

We enjoy the relationships, the brotherhood and the fellowship we find in all of these organizations. We are better because of the knowledge and support we share and receive. We are stronger as a group. Yet, there is a group of three islands that is in the hearts and minds of all Sir Knights. They are the three islands of the Order of the Red Cross, Order of the Knights of Malta, and Order of the Temple. The Commandery Islands which contain the history of the Commandery, the **HOLY BIBLE**, the Lord's Prayer, the stories of the Birth of Jesus, and the meaning of The Cross. It is this foundation of faith that makes these islands so special. I encourage each of you to visit them as often as you are able. You are missed when your chair is empty.

Benediction: As we leave this Sanctuary of God, May we accept the challenges to continue our lives and Worship our God, Learn with God's Wisdom, Grow with God's strength, Walk with God's Light, Go with God's Blessing, Communicate with God's Civility, Live with God's Comfort, Serve with God's Love, Respect with God's Help, Dignity with God's Word, Travel with God's Armor, **DEPART WITH GOD'S PEACE. Amen.**





History is an interesting beast, and the internet is a wonderful tool to research our history. However, when writing any article, please be careful when accepting any information as gospel.

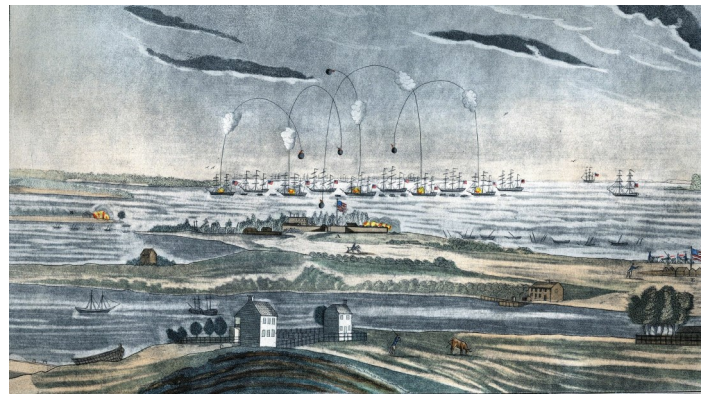
As I sat down to present this to you, I was confused to find out whether Francis Scott Key was a brother of our Fraternity or not. Google AI and the Grand Lodge of North Dakota says he is a Maryland Freemason. However, the Grand Lodge Maryland does not list him as a famous Freemason. Our National Sojourners say that he wasn't a Freemason. Yet, other sources say he was. So, I cannot confirm or deny that Francis Scott Key was a Brother Freemason, but his story on the anniversary of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner is interesting enough that we decided to include it in this publication. —Editor

What is more patriotic than the pledge of allegiance? I would suggest to you that of the Star-Spangled Banner. It is played before sporting events, commemorative ceremonies, military events, etc. As it is played, you will see our citizens rise, remove their hats, and place their hands over their hearts.

The Star-Spangled Banner has been the official national anthem of the United States since 1931. Its history begins in the morning hours of Tuesday, September 13, 1814. When Francis Scott Key was on a British ship, the Tonnant, to negotiate the release of an American civilian, Dr. William Beanes. Though his mission to free Beanes was successful, the British refused to let the Americans leave that ship, fearing they would reveal details on the plan to attack the City of Baltimore. As the British ships were moving into position to attack Fort McHenry, Key would witness the 25-hour bombardment. On the morning of Wednesday, September 14th, Key

was inspired to write a poem, which would become, "The Star-Spangled Banner".

*Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*



A musical tune would almost immediately be added to his poem. It was set to the then popular melody of the English drinking song, "To Anacreon in Heaven" by John Stafford Smith. The combined poem turned song quickly gained popularity, but it would take 114 years before it became our national anthem.

British forces raided Washington, D.C. They torched the White House, the buildings that housed

Congress, and other government buildings. The destruction of the U.S. capital was a huge blow to American morale. But it also fired up a lot of Americans, including Francis Scott Key, to get behind the U.S. war effort.



The War of 1812 began when the United States Congress declared war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812, a decision that was supported by President James Madison. This was driven by American grievances against British maritime practices, territorial ambitions, and support of Native American tribes. The primary causes of this were that Britain's interference with American trade, the shanghaiing of American sailors into the British Royal Navy, and British support for Native American resistance to American westward expansion.

U.S. forces struggled to match the British on land, sea, and the Great Lakes. Then in August 1814, British forces raided Washington, D.C. They torched the White House, the buildings that housed Congress, and other government buildings. The destruction of the U.S. capital was a huge blow to American morale. But it also fired up a lot of Americans, including Francis Scott Key, to get behind the U.S. war effort.



From the Editor

Greetings Everyone,

Welcome to September's issue of your Beacon Magazine. Recently we had recommendation to shorten our magazine. The general feeling is that it was too lengthy. So, you speak, we listen. In an attempt to short this publication we have removed Chapter, Council, and Commanderies locations and added a hyperlink to the Grand York Rite website pages. We did the same with the Upcoming Events. Those link can be found in the Grand York Rite Bulletin Board section of this magazine. Additionally, we are condensing all ads to quarter size or smaller. Finally, We will be limiting the articles in each issue. Those that don't get published in the current issue will be continued to the next issue. We at your publication committee are always open to your ideas. We hope you enjoy the changes.

Now, on to this issue. I am sad to announce the passing of SK Ronnie Green, Past Grand Commander of the State of Missouri. He will be missed by all. SK Green was one of those Brothers that would go and be everywhere that something was going on. The vacancy this creates will be hard to fill. As I sit here writing this, an email hits my inbox. This month we have lost a second Past Grand Officer, MEC Charles Bottermuller, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri. We have yet to be given enough information to create a memorial story. Please keep these Brothers and their families in your prayers.

We were Blessed this month with the number of articles that were sent to us. Thing that represented this month of historical significance is on Christopher Columbus and the Star Spangled Banner. Other articles include the Mark Master Degree, Capitular Devveloment, New Masonic Temple, and Retention Corner.

What a wonderful selection to choose from. We hope you will enjoy them as much as we have. Well, the page is running short and I am out of ideas. So, we will wrap this up until next month.

May God's Blessing rest upon you and your families, and we will be seeing you all down that dusty trail.



Picture This.....

MIC Dennis Houck, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri had a home coming to his original Lodge, Neosho Number 247 for his official visit to Neosho Council Number 46 where his portrait was unveiled in the hall amongst the other Past Presiding Grand Officers from Neosho.



Cory at the Ballpark

Here are some pictures and the jumbotron video commemorating Friday, August 15th, at the Kansas City Royals vs Chicago White Sox game, when RIC Corey B. Huntsucker, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, attended. He was nominated by the Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center and honored for his service as a Marine. His tireless volunteer work at the VA Hospital, and for his service to the Community. Outstanding! Good work and congratulations Cory!!!



Official Visit of SK Ronald L. Skiles, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri

The Sir Knights of Ely Commandery Number 22 K.T. received S.K. Ronald L. Skiles, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, for his official visit during their August 14, 2025 A.D. | 907 A.O. conclave at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville, Missouri. Our Right Eminent Grand Commander was joined by his wife, Lady Claudette Skiles, for dinner and fellowship.



Pictured, front row, from left: S.K. Ashley W. Young, Treasurer and Past Commander of Ely Commandery and Eminent Grand Senior Warden for the Grand Commandery; S.K. David D. Powell, Generalissimo and Past Commander of Ely Commandery and Eminent Past Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery; S.K. Craig A. Nowell, Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery; S.K. Skiles; Lady Skiles; and S.K. Thomas C. Yunick, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, 2003 to 2004.

Middle row, from left: S.K. Christopher W. Boyer; S.K. Nicholas B. Hatfield; and S.K. David D. Goring, Sentinel and Past Commander of Ely Commandery and Regional Grand Commander for Region One of the Grand Commandery.

Back row, from left: S.K. Richard L. Mansfield, Standard Bearer and Past Commander of Ely Commandery and Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, 2012-2013; S.K. Loren D. Lloyd, Past Commander of Ely Commandery, Eminent Past Inner Guard of the

Grand Commandery, and Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, 2015-2016; S.K. William J. King, Recorder and Past Commander of Ely Commandery, and Assistant Grand Lecturer North and Eminent Past Grand Aid-de-Camp of the Grand Commandery; S.K. Jeffrey L. Knight, Warder and Past Commander of Ely Commandery and Eminent Grand Standard Bearer for the Grand Commandery; and S.K. Joseph R. Plate II.



Official visit of MEC Kevin M Ritter, Grand High Priest, to Springfield Chapter Number 15 in July.



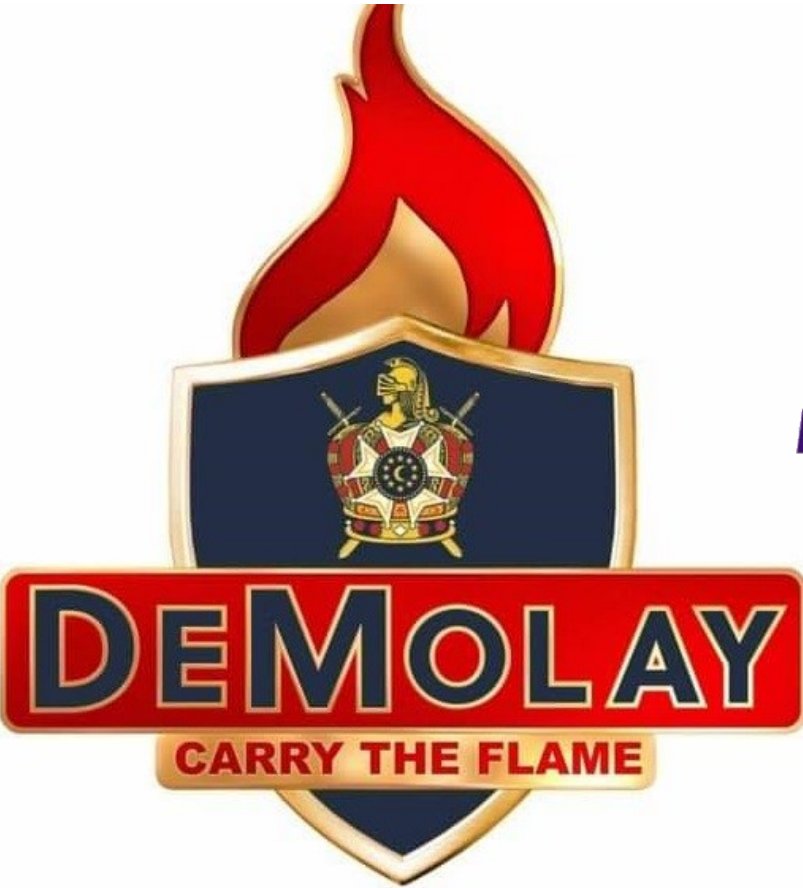
Official visit of MIC Dennis Houck, Illustrious Grand Master, to Zabud Council Number 25 in August.

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

To be held at:

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

September 21st—22nd, 2025

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

***REGISTRATION NOW
CLOSED***


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, MO



SATURDAY

MAY 16 10.00 AM

1930 W Catalpa St
Springfield, MO 65807
The Acacia Room

RSVP to springfielddyorkrite@gmail.com

An Analysis of the Thought Process in the Mark Master Degree

by Steven K Statham

The first section of the Mark Master degree is an allegory based upon Psalms 118:22— “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone ”. The cornerstone, set in the northeast, marks the beginning of a Mason's spiritual journey, while the keystone, the final piece, signifies completion. This journey progresses from the Entered Apprentice through the Royal Arch degrees, each casting further light resulting from the labor of learning and maturity.(1)

The first section of the Mark Master degree reveals the importance of undertaking this journey with the rejection of the keystone by the pugnacious and functionary Master Overseer—an allegory for those who follow orders without a thought process. His failure to recognize the value of what lies beyond his limited perception highlights the danger of blind obedience and the importance of developing our emotional intelligence throughout our lifetime. (2) Freemasonry provides that thought process.

Central to Freemasonry is the moral application of the compasses, particularly the charge to “circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds.” Crucially, in Masonic philosophy, passions are not base emotions, but rather irrational beliefs and unexamined assumptions that imprison the mind and inhibit virtue. Thus, the true labor of a Freemason is inner—discerning truth, resisting dogma, and liberating thought from bias.(3) That's the ‘Free’ in Freemason!

This essay's core argument is that our fraternity exists not merely to practice ritual or manage tradition (which are very important), but also as a guide to conscious mental development. A *raison d'être* of the Craft lies in cultivating reflection, breaking habitual mental patterns, and fostering the kind of clarity that leads to harmony with oneself and - just as important - with all of mankind: We call this empathy.

The Bicameral Mind – Julian Jaynes

Julian Jaynes' *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind* explores the nature and origins of consciousness, arguing that it is far more limited than we perceive. He suggests that much of our cognitive processing happens unconsciously, with conscious awareness acting as a

thin layer atop instinct and learned behavior. Jaynes theorizes that early human societies were governed by the "bicameral mind," in which individuals experienced auditory hallucinations—interpreted as divine commands and similar to a dream state not unlike psychosis—guiding their decisions. This system, he claims, was functional as long as societies were strictly hierarchical, but around 3,000 years ago, environmental and social upheaval led to the decline of these “voices”, forcing humans to develop introspective thought. Examining *The Iliad*, Jaynes posits that its characters lack self-awareness and act only under divine instruction, whereas *The Odyssey* reflects the emergence of inner contemplation, marking the shift to modern consciousness.

Jaynes' theory remains controversial yet influential, inspiring discussions in philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience. While critics point out inconsistencies—such as moments of introspection in *The Iliad*—his ideas have resonated with thinkers like Daniel Dennett and Antonio Damasio, who recognize the role of language in shaping human cognition. Behavioral economics and neuroscience continue exploring unconscious decision-making, a major theme in Jaynes' work. Despite skepticism, his hypothesis invites ongoing debate about the origins and mechanics of human consciousness, solidifying its place as a provocative and enduring concept.(4)

The Square and Compasses - Pike

Albert Pike presents Freemasonry as an allegorical journey from ignorance and intellectual enslavement to self-mastery and enlightenment. The candidate for initiation represents every person beginning in darkness—dominated by instincts, passions, and external control. The symbolic tools of Masonry—the square and compasses—mirror his transformation in our ritual:

At first, both points of the compasses lie beneath the square, symbolizing where moral sense and reason are subdued by animal appetites and desires. As the initiate becomes a Fellowcraft, one compass point rises above the square, reflecting his emerging self-awareness and the beginning of moral and intellectual resistance against base impulses and mindless following. Finally, as a Master Mason,

both compass points rise above the square—signifying the triumph of virtue and wisdom over the material and emotional chaos of human nature. This state, where reason and morality govern desire, marks a harmonious balance and spiritual excellence worthy of honor.(5)

The Way of the Craftsman - MacNulty

The Law of Opposites in Freemasonry is depicted through various symbols, such as the checkered pavement, parallel lines, and architectural columns, demonstrating unity between contrasting forces. The parallel lines represent figures like Moses and Solomon or the Saints John, signifying opposing yet complementary aspects of governance and divinity. As the checkered pavement symbolizes the prevalence of good and evil in one's life, Strength and Beauty, embodied in the Doric and Corinthian columns, highlight the interplay between scientific and artistic thought.

However, beyond symbolizing opposing forces, the Law of Opposites introduces the Rule of Three—a principle stating that balance is achieved through the mediation of a third force. This idea appears in Masonic teachings as Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, and it also applies to physical, psychological, and philosophical dynamics.

The Rule of Three maintains that there is equilibrium in various systems, from physical processes like metabolism to psychological structures, where libido (instincts for life) and mortido (instincts for destruction) are harmonized by consciousness. In Masonic philosophy, these forces correspond to Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, reflecting a broader psychological model explored by thinkers like Jung and Freud. Ultimately, while the Law of Opposites states there are fundamental dualities in existence, the Rule of Three facilitates their regulation, creating stability within individuals, systems, and society.

“The Rule of Three forms the basis of most Masonic labor; and we will come to realize how loudly our ancient brethren spoke when they said:”

- ‘If a Master-Mason you would be; Observe you well the Rule of Three.’(6)

Conclusion:

There is no question that portions of the Blue Lodge ritual and the arrangement of the Lodge borrow heavily from the Kabbalah. This is well documented. Of most relevance here is the allegory of the pillars of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty depicted on the tracing board, with the pillar of Strength on the left, the pillar of Beauty on the right,

and the pillar of Wisdom in the center. This would imply that the ideal psychological state is logic and reason (the pillar of Strength) in balance with intuition and spirituality (the pillar of Beauty) under the control of enlightened consciousness (the pillar of Wisdom).

Via this architecture, we are not only free to choose our destiny, but we must also take responsibility for it through lifelong learning and self-improvement. Further, we must accept our obligation to contribute to the well-being of others. This is shown as the path to the divine realm as depicted by the ladder, marked with the symbols of Faith, Hope, and Charity leading to the Glory.

This trestle board is, in fact, a map. Not only of a well-balanced mind having evolved from ignorance to enlightenment, but also within the larger context of society and our struggle with the choices between good and evil and our relationship with others, especially the less fortunate: A reward for a life well-lived is God's Kingdom on Earth, the Heredom (note the key besides Hope on Jacob's Ladder).

Footnotes:

1. The History and Symbolism of Royal Arch Masonry – Edward H Graham p. 42 Symbolism of the Mark Master Degree
2. Ibid
3. To Learn to Subdue my Passions and Improve Myself in Masonry by Richard A. Graeter, 33° © 2015
4. Consciousness Began When the Gods Stopped Speaking - How Julian Jaynes' famous 1970s theory is faring in the neuroscience age. By Veronique Greenwood, May 21, 2015
5. Esoterica – Albert Pike p.98-99 Lesson 1: The Compasses and Square
6. The Way of the Craftsman, W. Kirk MacNulty, p.75 Dynamics – The Basic Laws
7. First Degree Tracing Board, painted by J. Bowring, 1819. © Loge of Honour and Generosity No. 165, London (and as shown on the back jacket of Freemasonry, Symbols, Secrets, Significance by W. Kirk MacNulty)



Capitular Education

2025-2026

Greg Walker, Chairman

Committee: REC Donald MacCormick, VEC Lloyd Lyon,

VEC Nick Young, VEC Doug Rose, VEC James Bell

Companions all,

We have been hearing forecasters talk about this fantastic weather as a “false fall”, meaning, the summer heat could come back with a vengeance. I am good either way although I wouldn’t mind six months of seventy degree weather.

I am not one to claim to be esoteric in nature when it comes to Freemasonry. Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar. Robert Frost took the other road simply because he wanted to. I like to think that sometimes there simply isn’t a deeper meaning.

Yet the changing of the seasons and the potential for things to “not be as they seem” provides an interesting juxtaposition when considering candidates for Capitular Masonry. We should continue to guard the gates and not let everyone in simply because they represent another dues payment. What if they seem to be one thing on the outside and say the right things, but once you get used to them, they revert back to something we didn’t expect?

With that in mind, we present the next installment of the Mark Master degree. This one is full of the meanings and purposes of the sign, grip, and word of a Mark Master. Once again, we should be careful with whom we share our valuable secrets.

Grand Chapter Capitular Education Series - September 2025 Mark Master Degree

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

- Another Lesson in Poverty
- The Signs, Grips and Words
 - ◊ This would be a great opportunity to practice these with the members. If you are unsure signs and grips, please contact a DDGL or the Grand Lecturer, or your Education Committee
- Finding the Stone Which Was Lost
- Historical Lecture

Our education series will follow this schedule:

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

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

Capitular Development Course

Grand Chapter Education Committee

Another Lesson in Poverty

Almost immediately there is a small play enacted in which there is a knock at the door and an apparently impoverished Brother has his mark presented to the newest member of the Lodge, seeking relief. The Candidate being unable to comply is asked to return the mark with a quarter of a dollar, being the equivalent of a half shekel of silver. Having been divested of metal he cannot comply with this either. At this point all the Brethren offer to help the Candidate fulfill his obligation.

Interestingly, a variation in the oldest ritual in New York, practiced by Ancient Chapter Number 1 which was founded some time prior to Webb's codification of the ritual, the Master slips the money into the Candidate's pocket. He is then told to 'seek and ye shall find', a reference to the gospel of Matthew 7:7. He does, and discovers he is not 'entirely destitute' after all.

The similarity of this action with what occurs in the Entered Apprentice Degree, when the Candidate is asked to deposit 'some metallic substance' with the Secretary, is apparent. Indeed, there are many signs which indicate that the Mark Degree developed at least in parallel with the Entered Apprentice Degree, and shared a period of cross-fertilization, resulting in a number of symbols and part of the ritual being common to both. In addition to the request for metallic substance from the Candidate, the reference to "seek and ye shall find" in an early form of the ritual mentioned above is remarkably similar to that section of the Lecture of Reasons in the Entered Apprentice Degree which reminds us that the three distinct knocks given at the door of the Lodge are related to the same passage of scripture. The Due Guard also reminds us of the 'attentive ear' and 'whispering wise counsel into a Brother's ear.'

The Signs, Grips and Words

The first sign is the Grand Hailing Sign or Sign of Distress and recalls how the Brother was shown to carry and present his work. Being a Sign of Distress, it is not used elsewhere during the ceremony; it is largely added for completeness' sake, since Masons have a far more visible and well-known Sign of Distress given to them in the Third Degree, and no doubt would resort to that one if in trouble. The Principal or 'Heave over' Sign refers to the rejection

of the Keystone, which is made over the left shoulder. The Due Guard and Sign have been explained earlier. These latter three signs need to be known since they are used at the Opening of a Chapter. The pass Grip and word derive from the first scriptural reading and the explanation that the wood from the cedars of Lebanon were floated down the coast to Joppa, where the coast was very steep, requiring those on top of the bluff to help the workmen ascend. The harbor is one of the oldest in the world. The password reflects this story, and the grip is what would indeed be used to drag a person upwards. From a symbolic viewpoint, this grip also represents the act of raising a person from one level to a higher one, which is appropriate for a degree which reminds us that we are advancing further in Freemasonry.



Figure 30-The Harbor at Joppa shows the buildings rising up on what must once have been a steep scarp slope. Joppa—or Jaffa, is immediately South of Tel Aviv in Israel.

The real grip and word are taken from Ezekiel, and according to Duncan's Monitor the name is 'Siroc or Mark Well'. The body forms the outline of the letters, and the hands now take on a grip which is far less robust than the pass grip. Now, instead of the strong fingers being bound in a grip, the two weakest fingers are locked, perhaps indicating the level of trust between the two Brothers.

Finding the Stone Which Was Lost

At this point in the ceremony three Craftsmen study the plans of the Trestleboard and realize the keystone is missing. It is interesting to note that, while many Mark Lodges use the Overseers for this part of the ritual, this is incorrect: if the Overseers had seen the design, they would have immediately recognized both the shape and the mark upon the

stone. This review must be performed by three different Brothers, who represent those supervising the work itself, while the overseers represent an administrative role only.



Figure 31—Royal Arch Penny

Once the lack of the keystone has been identified, the Senior Warden informs the Right Worshipful master, who tells the Marshal to ‘transmit the mark’ to the Senior Warden. The mark he gives him to transmit is one of the coins – the Penny – which will later be given to the Candidates at the end of the ceremony. The Senior Warden uses this to show the assembled Overseers what the stone looks like, and they immediately recognize it as the one they rejected. The fact that the mark needs to be shown to the Senior Warden (Hiram King of Tyre) shows that the only two people who knew what it looked like were King Solomon and Hiram Abif. This may shed more light on the passage from Ezekiel, since it implies that only the King (prince or ruler) was worthy to commune with God and receive the divine plans for His Temple. This idea that the design of the stone was somehow secret or ‘hidden’ is later reflected in the scriptural verse ‘to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it.’ (Revelation Chapter 2, Verse 17).

A search is made, and the keystone is found. In some versions the keystone is subtly moved during the preceding part of the ritual, so it is not in the place expected. In other variants it is the Candidate himself who finds it. However, in the Webb version the three Craftsmen locate the stone ‘among the rubbish’ where it was placed at the start of the ceremony, carry it to the Senior Warden, who compares it to the mark, and has the Overseers carry it up to the Right Worshipful Master. He admonishes the disgraced Overseers with four scriptural readings, each emphasized with blows of the gavel. This is a most powerful moment, and yet it will seem unfair that the Master blames the Overseers who, due to his secrecy, had no idea what the stone would look like.

It is also of note that the scriptural passages refer to the cornerstone, which begins the foundation of a new edifice’ while the stone in question is the key stone, which finishes off the building. However, the lessons apply to both, since both are critical to the establishment and endurance of the building. In the Entered Apprentice Degree, the Candidate is told he is a cornerstone and positioned in the Northeast corner of the Lodge. Now he represents the completion of the building, as the symbolic keystone.



Figure 32—Icon of “The Good Shepherd”

It is interesting to note the similarities of this section with the Master Mason Degree. Since we are taught that we are ‘living stones’, this white stone bearing a person’s mark – or name -stands in for that person. As in the Master Mason Degree the stone was thrown into the rubbish, as if dead, by three senior Masons. Its absence was noted, and ‘strict search’ was made for it. On its being found it was carried up to King Solomon who admonished those three who had thrown it over in the first place. Now the worth is recognized, and it will occupy a key position in the Temple.

A final point, perhaps, given the Christian roots

of many of the Biblical references, is a message of universal hope from the Gospel of Luke 15:4-6. In this the Nazarene talks of the Shepherd who, losing one sheep out of a hundred, nevertheless goes to find it, and when he does, he lays it on his shoulders and comes home rejoicing. They say a husbandman can recognize the cry of his animals, even to the individual sheep, goat or cow. Perhaps from this we can draw the hope that, even if we, as a Peculiar Stone, are cast aside and left in the rubbish heap, yet God who knows us and gave us a secret name will come to his kingdom rejoicing that he has found us.

Historical Lecture

The Lecture which follows offers a pause in the action. All are seated and the Master or assigned Brother gives an explanation of the ritual up to this point. He reveals the meaning of the letters on the stone (H.T.W.S.S.T.K.S.). It is noteworthy that these are written in a circular pattern, between two engraved circles, which once again emphasize the use of the compasses in this second series of Degrees.

Given that this Degree is a combination of two original Degrees, Mark Man which required a Fellowcraft to produce a piece of 'good work, true work, square work', and Mark Master, which required the employment of compasses to produce a keystone, we need to seek what lesson the rejection and rediscovery are trying to teach us.

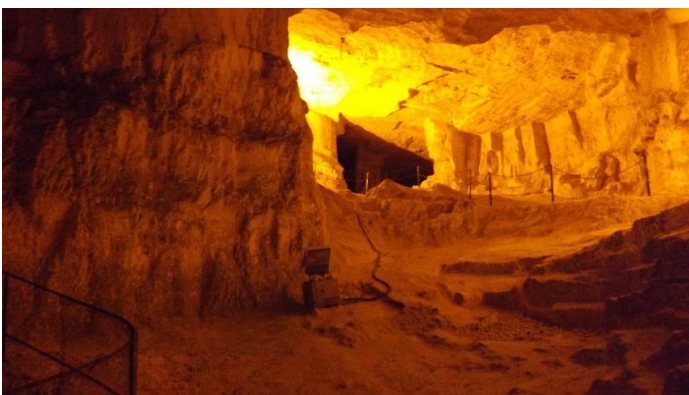


Figure 33—Zedekiah's Cave (King Solomon's Quarries)

We must remember that it is not only the Overseers who are ignorant of the function of the keystone. The Candidate is also alleged to have "found it in the quarries and concluding it designed for some portion of the Temple, brought it up." The ritual implies he was working on a regular (i.e. square) piece of work and set that down in order to take this stone instead, since he emphatically tells the Overseers that it is not his own work. The Candidate comes with clean hands.



Figure 34—William Blake: 'Ancient of Days'

Why did the Fellowcraft lay down his square stone and pick up a stone which contained elements designed by compasses? We are taught in the Blue Degrees that the compasses represent God (indeed, who can forget the magnificent Ancient of Days by William Blake?). While he cannot see the true significance of the keystone, he senses that his development, which up to now has focused on duty, has lacked a spiritual element. By gravitating towards a stone which contains arcs and circles, he is reaching out to that spiritual side just as the physical Temple is nearing completion. He is sound in mind and body: now he seeks to work upon his soul. But what of the Overseers? They represent those who mechanically go through the motions, who are accomplished enough in the basic skills but who have not yet grasped the higher purpose of speculative Freemasonry. It also tells us that even the lowly Fellowcraft can rise above his situation and make this journey if he applies himself diligently enough.

At the simplest level, the Degree teaches us that life is fraught with disappointments, and that we must persevere before our initially rejected ideas or actions are finally recognized for what they are, and

we finally receive our just reward. But it is man's lot in life to endure hardship, misunderstanding and unjust treatment. In this he reminds us of King David, Solomon's father, who designed the Temple but was forbidden to build it himself. The Address to the Candidate refers to this, and reminds him that, even if he is rejected of men and persecuted, he will always find reliable and constant friends among Mark Master Masons, and that his rejected labors will one day be recognized and rewarded.



Figure 35—As Above as Below

Another theme is that the stone now bears a name or mark. Previously we, as Masons, have labored upon the Spiritual Temple. The Hermetic axiom 'As Above, So Below' has led us to realize that, just as we symbolically build the Temple of stone below, so we are creating that Spiritual Temple not built with hands in heaven; and that our actions on earth will be judged on another plane. We are now sufficiently advanced in our Masonic career to place our name or mark upon our, so that it will be clearly identified as ours. We now take personal responsibility for our actions.

The lesson on charity is more emphatic in this Degree than in the Entered Apprentice Degree. In that Degree we were asked for some metallic substance to be placed in the annals of the Lodge. However, in this Degree there is a direct and personal application to our

charitable nature. This is appropriate at this level, for we are forcibly reminded that we are judged by our actions, and if Charity is the greatest of the theological virtues, the practice of charity will accelerate our success in creating the Spiritual Temple.



Figure 36—Time braiding the hair of the weeping virgin

In this Degree, much is made of the keystone being 'stone which was lost but now found', a theme which will be reintroduced in the Royal Arch Degree. Perhaps the most important lesson here is the fact that – especially if we consider the Most Excellent Master Degree as the second part of the Mark Degree – we have the completion of the earthly Temple. Already, while the Temple is nearing completion we see fleeting images of the true purpose of the Masonic cycle: that the Temple must be destroyed and rebuilt within ourselves for us to recover Truth. Hiram is an avatar, and while we watch his death from afar in the Drama of the Master Mason Degree, we dimly perceive that we ourselves must die in order that the germ of Truth within us must grow and blossom. Our contentment with receiving a substitute for Truth in the Master Masons Degree has been gnawing at us, and on finding a stone in the quarry which represents the last step in the earthly Temple and the first step of the spiritual Temple, we run to grasp it, not yet understanding its full meaning, but aware that it is of great importance. We are told that this wisdom is not yet for us, and we return to the quarries to continue work on the earthly Temple. However, our reward later in the Degree is to learn that there is indeed a purely spiritual Temple, and that the stone we found, while being temporarily rejected for the physical Temple, will play a major role in the Temple to come.



Whatever happened to the New Masonic Temple???

Assembled by; Larry Wilson

The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri has not always been located in the City of Columbia. Once upon a time it was housed in a magnificent temple in Downtown St. Louis. Even though it is nearly 100 years old, it still stands today. The structure was named the New Masonic Temple. Ground was broken in 1923 and dedicated in 1926. Its design was created by the architectural company Eames & Young with consulting architect Albert B. Groves. It features classic Greek Ionic-style exterior architecture with various styles throughout the interior. The 386,000-square-foot building stands 185 feet high and encloses more than six million cubic feet. There are 14 levels: six full floors and eight mezzanines.



The Masonic Temple is built in three receding stages, symbolic of the three steps in Masonry. Constructed of Bedford limestone with gray granite trim, the main lobby is finished in marble; other rooms had their original wool carpet. The building had an unfinished theater designed to hold 2,200 seats.

The lobby contains a 38-foot mural titled "The Origins of Freemasonry", which was created in 1941 by African American artist Jessie Housley Holliman. Dedicated by Senator Harry S. Truman, it is the only surviving mural by the noted artist in a St. Louis public building.



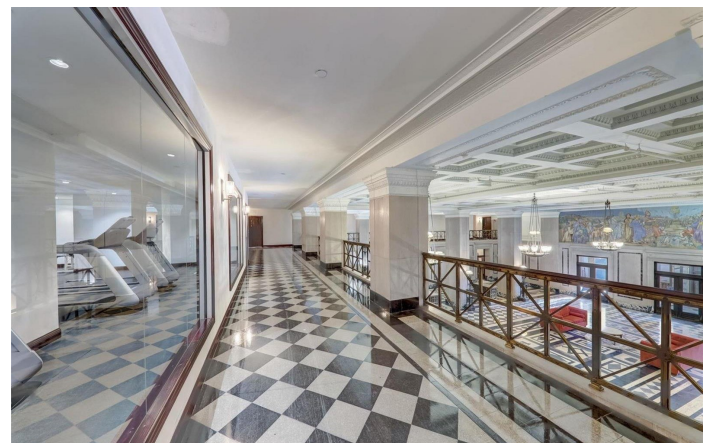
Then-Senator and Grand Master Harry S Truman kept an office in the building. Charles A. Lindbergh was initiated and participated as a Freemason at this Temple before his renowned 1927 flight. In 1980, Escape from New York with Ernest Borgnine filmed a scene on the Temple's steps. Borgnine, a Mason, attended Masonic meetings in the building.

The second floor contained the Eastern Star quarters. Third and fourth floors were designed to house the Blue Lodges with the potential for eight Blue Lodge halls. The four halls and the fourth floor were not completed, and one area on the third floor was made into a dining room.

Fifth and sixth floors were designed to house three of the York Rite organizations, which are known as the Chapter, Council, and the Commandery. Most of the building is non-sectarian, but the fifth-floor features Christian symbolism. The fifth level hall is 100' long, 75' wide and 48' high. It was named a city landmark in 1976.

The New Masonic Temple was sold in 2018 to a private developer who has turned this magnificent building into an apartment complex named the B on Lindell. This property now offers 144 apartments, while preserving temple's limestone exterior. The project was completed by Brandonview LLC, a company run by Saint Louis University graduate Brian Hayden.

The B on Lindell offers a variation on that idea; after gutting the interior, Brandonview built a parking garage in the center, creating a building-within-a-building design that will eventually allow parking spots right in front of many of the apartment spaces. The upper floors are still under construction.



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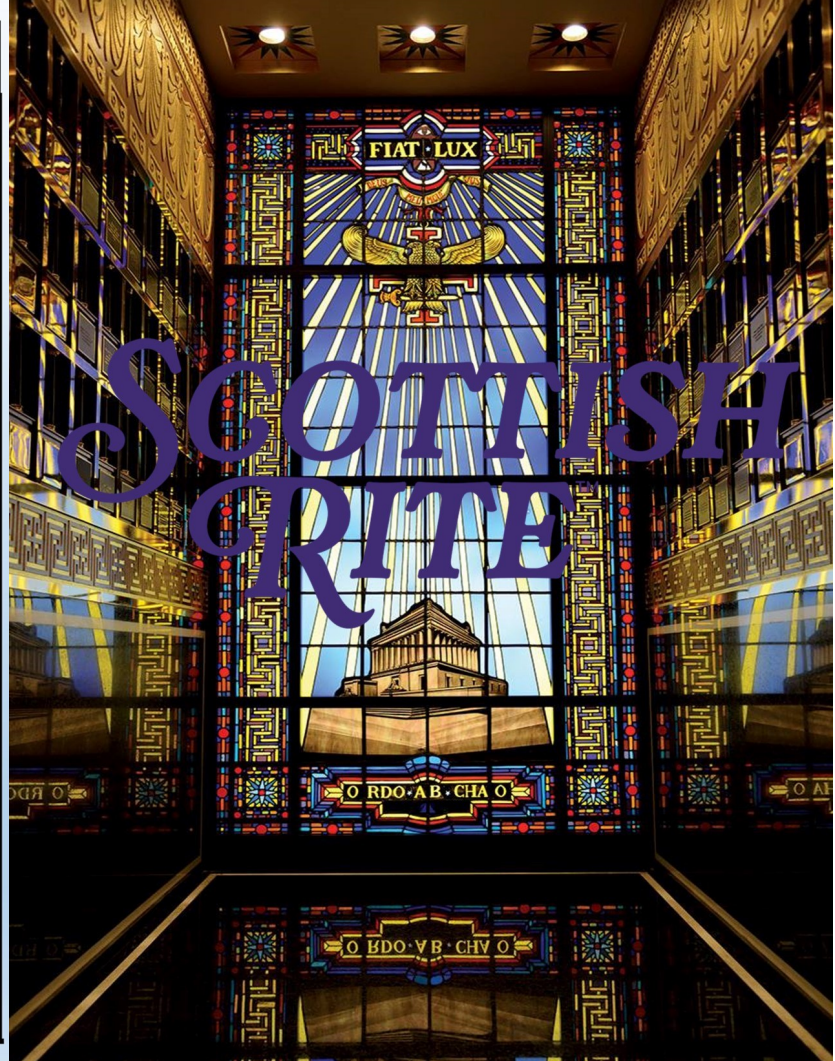
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Retention Corner

W.C. Gerald III

Bottom Line Up Front for this Edition In Order to retain people You Must Do Stuff!

Last edition we looked at ourselves and did some self-reflection, let's look now at the organization itself. We can notice if we are out and about visiting that each local Council has its own personality. Organizations resist change and people involved are comfortable with what they know. Our ancient charges in Lodge even tell us it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations in the body of masonry.

This tells us that certain things are immovable and some things are movable. Our ritual which "Sets Us Apart" from other organizations is something we should NOT cut short or innovate. How much impact does good ritual work have regarding the impression on the mind of the candidates? Let us do the best we can do as this is the first impression on our new members. Let us find a spot for the new member that fits their desire to participate. We also don't want to place undue pressure on them. It is a work of knowing our people to find the best fit.

Time is always this great concern, unless it's not. We push to get done and get out of there. Unless something comes up "We" are passionate about. Let us think about how much time we waste. Let us ask ourselves, do we really need to pressure ourselves to hurry up and get out of there or do we just need to be efficient in what we do? I see some Councils that have planning meetings with their officers to improve efficiency. This makes business go quicker and allows time for interesting education or ritual practice at that coming meeting. Time managed efficiently is not wasted and enjoyable for the members.

Masonic Education allows us to improve ourselves in the Philosophical and Intellectual aspects of Freemasonry. The Fellowcraft degree ritual touches on the seven liberal arts and sciences. This is higher learning above the practical skills we need in our daily lives. When I think of Masonic Education I think of the Beehive from the third-degree lecture, we are rational and intelligent beings

and should strive and grow through a social and active life always seeking personal and intellectual growth. I would encourage you when giving masonic education to be aware of your target audience and always facilitate a discussion that ties in with "What is in it for me" and "Practical Use".

Charitable endeavors allow us to get out and be active in our communities. The days of Masons helping others and being humble and quiet about it is just not going to work in today's culture. We can be "not of this world" but we have to live in it. Before social media, people were beating down the doors of social and fraternal organizations. Today, unless a good Masonic movie comes out our member pool stays relatively small. Staying active and doing good things in the community is key to keeping members and recruiting.

FUN! All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Meet at a restaurant, have a picnic, have a gathering once a year where you just enjoy yourselves. Make time for it, bring friends and family.

These are things we must make time for to keep our Councils healthy. The hard part is what that looks like for your Council. How do we get all these people with different personalities, needs, and wants to do stuff in our particular Councils? On top of that the Council has a personality of its own. There is no One way these things can be accomplished, and we will meet roadblocks along the way. We can overcome them, but we have to stay positive and DO Something! God Bless.



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Hearing Health Foundation (HHF) is grateful to

Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA) for their most generous support of Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD) research as part of our Emerging Research Grants (ERG) program.

Researchers funded by RARA have made tremendous strides toward a better understanding of CAPD, as well as developing treatments and therapies that can benefit anyone affected by the disorder, from children to the elderly.

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- ◇ NSF (National Science Foundation)
- ◇ CDMRP (Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs)
- ◇ DoD (Department of Defense)
- ◇ VA (Veterans Administration)

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Commit to CMMRF

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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 Most Puissant General Grand Master Ben Mandlebaum, of the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International. Companion Joe Lewis, Attorney at Law, was instrumental in quickly getting the Foundation a tax-exempt status. CMMRF also had a tax attorney, James A. Hogue, PMIGM in Oklahoma. These men generously donated their time to the initial start-up of the Foundation. Earlier, at the meeting of the "General Grand Council Benevolent Foundation, Inc. held on November 11, 1985, Marion Keith Crum, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council, Cryptic Masons of Indiana, was elected Executive Secretary of the Foundation. Most Illustrious Companion Crum continued to faithfully serve in this position until his retirement in October 2012, a period of almost twenty-seven years.

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. Dr. Shanteau met with Dr. Nils Bang at the Indiana University Medical Center in 1978 and discussed this new venture. Dr. Shanteau was able to give a grant of \$12,000.00 a year to this project, which was being done on a part time basis. The former Foundation gave the Medical Center grants totaling \$96,000.00.

Dr. Nils Bang, one of the founding researchers connected with the program, suggested that the most efficient way of investing the money donated by The

Cryptic Masons International was to invest it in the salaries of young, talented investigators. Many of these investigators had papers summarizing their work accepted for presentation at the prestigious national conference of the American Federation for Clinical Research. (In order to have papers accepted, the subject matter must have been about new findings, not previously published.) All of these Doctors have moved on to more substantial positions and are no longer at Indiana University. CMMRF assumes they are still using their experience in the various fields of research.

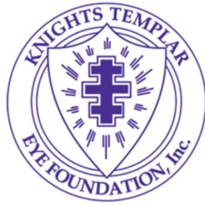
At the February 1996 Board of Trustees meeting in Washington D.C. The Board agreed to fund a Chair at the Indiana University Medical Center at the cost of one million dollars. CMMRF contributed two hundred thousand dollars a year for five years to endow the chair. The final payment was made in December of 2000. The University offered as an incentive to guarantee a five per cent income on the endowment plus matching it with a five percent payout from the endowment.

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 Chair, Dr. Keith March was selected. The creation of an endowed chair and this new Center attracted more than \$2,000,000 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.

In 2007, a non-Masonic benefactor challenged CMMRF to match his \$50,000.00 donation to the Indiana Center of Vascular Biology and Medicine. By meeting his challenge, CMMRF contributed \$300,000.00 to ICVBM in 2007. In 2008 a Cryptic Mason donated \$20,000.00 which CMMRF matched and it enabled CMMRF to give \$240,000.00 to the Center for research. Today, upon requests, CMMRF will match \$5,000 donations, up to \$25,000.

Contributions are urgently needed. Most CMMRF donations are voluntary. So please join with us and support this worthy cause. Thank you!!!





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.



Missouri Grand York Rite Bulletin Board

Interactive Maps for Local York Rite Bodies

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

You can find those maps at the following webpages:

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

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

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



Past Grand Officers

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

Past Grand High Priests:

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

Past Grand Masters:

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

Past Grand Commanders:

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



Your Help is Needed!!!

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

Simply click this link: <https://www.masonic-web.com/mms/memberbio/default.aspx> and use your

membership number which can be found on the side of any of your York Rite dues cards with your name and date of birth. You have only one Profile Page which links to each Chapter, Council, and/or Commandery where you have a membership.

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

- Full name: First, Middle, and Last Name (No Abbreviations) with any prefix or suffix.
- Birth location: City and State.
- Current Address: Where mail comes.
- Phone Numbers: Home and/or Cell.
- Email Addresses: Home and/or Work.
- Spouse's name: First, Middle, and Last Names.
- Her Date of Birth: Month and Day (We like to send birthday cards!)
- Your children's Names: First and Last Names
- **Information about your job** (Optional)

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



Distinguished Chapter Award

Chapter Secretaries and High Priests will soon be able to access the Distinguished Chapter Award Form, which will include the 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>

Grand Officers Coins for Sale

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



2025-2026

MEC Kevin M. Ritter, Grand High Priest Coin



2024-25

MIC Dennis W. Houck Grand Master Coin



2024-2025

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

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

Locations of Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies

(Click on banner below)

***ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS
IN MISSOURI***

COUNCILS IN MISSOURI

MISSOURI COMMANDERIES



(Click on banner for events in your area)

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

Get to know your Grand Officers

Chapter	Commandery	Coppotelli
Council	Hanson	Houck
Huntsucker	MacCormick	McManigle
Meyer	Missouri	Quesenberry
Ritter	Sample	Skiles
Story	Wilson	

MASONIC WEEK

What is Masonic Week?

While active since 1932, the annual event known as Masonic Week first convened in Washington, D.C., on February 21, 1938. Since then, it has met continuously in the Washington D.C. metro area nearly every year. The event brings together several small and invitational orders of Freemasonry that host their annual meeting and other events during the week. Several of these organizations provide representatives to the planning committee which oversees the arrangements and schedule. Being the largest of the organizations, the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America has served as the lead organizer since the inception of the event.

Masonic Week 2026

Held February 4 to February 8, 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Washington DC – Crystal City

Registration Information

All Masons attending any event during Masonic Week must complete and submit the Registration Form. Meal tickets may also be reserved and purchased using the same Registration Form.

The deadline for meal reservations is Sunday, February 1, 2026, at 5 PM Eastern Time.

After that date, additional meals may be purchased in-person at the Masonic Week registration desk. A surcharge of 25% per meal will be charged for in-person registrations.

Hotel Information

The Conference Hotel is the The DoubleTree by Hilton Washington DC – Crystal City 300 Army Navy Drive Arlington, VA 22202. Room block: Monday, February 2nd – Monday, February 9th, 2026.

The deadline for hotel reservations is Monday, January 12th, 2026.

Schedule of Events

