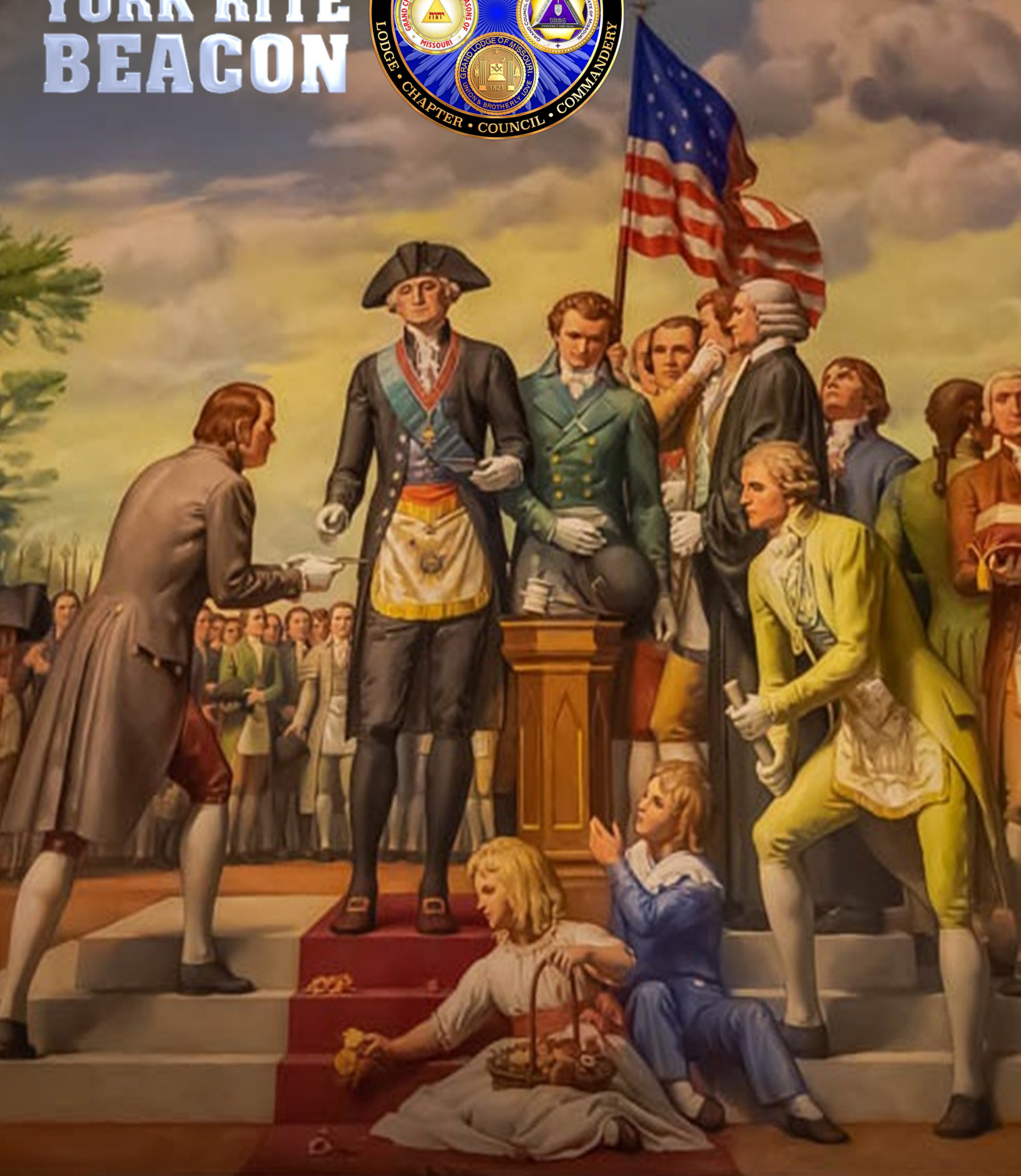


MISSOURI YORK RITE BEACON

Volume 2 Issue 8
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Missouri York Rite Beacon Magazine

Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri

Missouri York Rite Beacon Magazine is the official publication of the Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri.

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Committee on Publication:

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Matt Ruth

Lloyd G. Lyon

Steven F. Eberharter

Roger D. Flear

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Adam M. Iwanow

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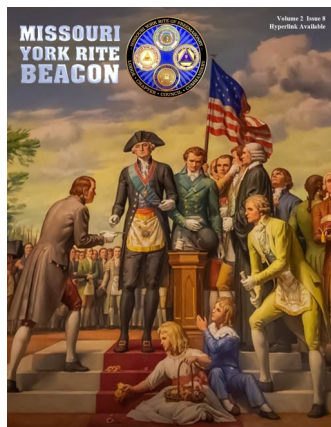
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Mark Bean

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To Submitters: The editor would like to remind you that photograph submissions should include 40-50 words telling who, what, when, where and why. Pictures should be high resolution jpg from a camera (at least 300 dpi). Phone pictures are unacceptable unless your camera app is set to high resolution.



Cover: Larry Wilson

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

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

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October's Issue: September 30, 2024



A Message from the Grand High Priest

MEC Michael L. Dodd

Grand High Priest



The First Quarter of the year has quickly passed. I am astonished at how rapidly it disappeared!

During the last three months a lot has been accomplished. The Grand Line officers have continued their monthly communications of each one's travels and the general business of the craft.

The District Deputies have been meeting and communicating as well, as they are planning their official visits. I encourage every member to attend one or more of these official visits to hear the stories that are being shared. Check the calendar of the York Rite website for dates near you. This is a very exciting time to be a Royal Arch Mason as there is a large group of very interested companions out there and we are giving our best efforts to shine more light on the growth and understanding of this great fraternity.

We are sharing a RED JACKET BLITZ with Craft Lodge members around the area which has resulted in great interest. Twenty new prospects have received the Mark and Past Master degrees in Region One and we have 14 more prospects scheduled in October. The word is getting out! This brings new members and new opportunities in all the other regions across the State of Missouri. We will continue to grow as we visit more Lodges where our new members reside. We have received requests to open new Chapters and reorganize old Chapters.

I firmly believe that the visits to local Lodges and the presentations about Royal Arch Masonry, accompanied by the lessons to be shared through the Fervency and Zeal program, are bringing the light that these potential new members are looking for.

The committees are hard at work taking care of the business which allows the fraternity to invest their efforts into supporting the programs which help those who are in need. One example of a program that is changing lives is putting earbuds in classrooms for the students and a microphone on the teacher to eliminate the outside noise distraction that might prevent a student with Central Auditory Processing issues from learning with their classmates. This will allow the student to remain in their class and learn on an equal level with their peers making their life as normal as possible. This, in turn, allows them to excel and become a successful student, and a future leader. Every child deserves this opportunity!

Just recently during my reception, MIC Matt Ruth came to me after my presentation about Central Auditory Processing and shared something that had just popped up on his phone. A group called Bright Futures of Neosho had asked for support for this very thing! Teachers were asking for microphones and earbuds for their classrooms. With a quick response, he contacted his Local Lodge members who covered this special request. Talks and plans are in the works with other area schools to support this program.

I ask that you look at our events calendar and join us at as many meetings as possible. You will find yourself involved in something very special.

Remember that we are all in this together. Be proud to be a Royal Arch Mason!

Excited to share!

MEC Michael Dodd



Message from the Grand Master

MIC Matthew D. Ruth
Most Illustrious Grand Master



As we enter the Regional Conference Season, I thought it would be good to offer a preview on some of the projects our officers are working on.

Dennis has Region 6 firing on all cylinders, bringing in new members and looking at opening a new Chapter very soon. In his spare time, he is plotting to take over the Cryptic World. I am enjoying his enthusiasm and fresh, and I am looking forward to his approach to Cryptic Masonry next year.

Taz is planning the Grand Master's Cryptic Day. Be sure and mark your calendars for Saturday, March 22nd, in Columbia Missouri. He has been a great asset to our craft over the years, and his vast knowledge of Freemasonry and that of a professional nature is a benefit to us all. In addition to serving on the ritual committee this year, I have appointed him to the investment committee, and the return of councils committee.

Corey continues to bring fresh ideas to CMMRF, and he is working to secure Corporate Sponsorships for the Purple Gala. This will greatly help reduce our cost and maximize our profits for maximum contributions in the upcoming and future years to come. He is also launching a Penny War program for Councils to encourage councils to visit each other and help in the raising of money for CMMRF. These tools will help accelerate Missouri into becoming a top contributor across the Nation in the groundbreaking research being done by Dr. Michael Murphy and the Indiana School of Medicine.

Adam has been great so far in bringing fresh ideas to all aspects. From retention to charity awareness to engaging the youth groups. We will have a new brochure out in the next few weeks to help clarify the purpose and set a goal for the Bruce Harmon Hunt Charity Endowment Fund. Adam's passion for the youth groups and implementing straight forward practical execution of administrative business is infectious. You will notice this in the newly revamped merit award as well as other projects that are to come. I think you all will be very excited once we are ready to go live with them.

Kevin,.....well it's Kevin. Just kidding, lol.

In addition to his regular duties of all things Grand York Rite operations, Kevin continues to elevate the expectations of everyone, pushing us to strive to be the best versions of ourselves. He provides unmatched historical context and knowledge to the various programs that we have. He truly is our link to the past.

Jacob continues to impress us all with his ability to be everywhere and do everything regarding Education. The monthly Education material is a great tool for Councils to ensure that they are providing quality content at their stated assemblies. This is especially important to our new Companions who are always looking for additional explanations. More important is that the format of these tools is designed to facilitate a discussion among the Companions. This is a very valuable knowledge base that we cannot underestimate. On top of that, he has a new baby!

I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you at the future Conferences, and my official visits to your Councils to provide more details and answer any questions that you might have regarding our programs this year. I think it's safe to say you can be very proud of the work being done by your Grand Council officers. I know I certainly am and I am looking forward to bragging on them at our South Central Conference in Tulsa.

Yours in Cryptic Masonry,

Matt



Message from the Grand Commander

SK Bobbie E. White
Right Eminent Grand Commander



Greetings Sir Knights,

Another month has passed, and we have been off and running.

Since we last visited, I had the pleasure to attend the Annual Red Cross of Constantine State Assembly in Springfield. The men of Saint Christopher Conclave did an excellent job of putting the Assembly together and it went really well. I must note that it started with a Friday night reception for our own SK Stanton T. Brown, II who is serving this year as the Most Illustrious Sovereign of the UGIC Red Cross of Constantine.

Then it was on to the Grand Encampment Triennial in Salt Lake City, Utah. I had the pleasure of traveling with three of my best friends on that trip and it was wonderful. The pictures here show the Monday night State Dinner attended by (from the left) SK Jessie Morrison, SK Bobbie White, SK Tom Yunick and his Lady Chris, SK Richard Mansfield and his Lady Becky, SK Charles Cooper and his Lady Janet, MO's adopted son SK John Bridegroom, SK Kevin Sample, SK Roger Fleer, SK Derek Pope and SK Budd Gilfillen. Not shown are SK's Stanton Brown and William Snyder who had other engagements that night. The next photo shows your entire MO Delegation in full dress ready for the business to begin.

Following that week, we have attended several Blue Lodge, York Rite, York Rite College, and Yeomen of York meetings, all of which were a pleasure to attend. Remember, we are all in this together and we need to show our support for each other. Then we attended the first of seven regional conferences. This one was the Region 7 conference in Bolivar, Missouri and it was amazing. Many thanks to the members of Region 7 who not only entertained and informed us, but fed us very well also. It was truly great to see young Mr. Wilson that day and hear him speak, part of our future in action. I am sure there will be some photos of this event elsewhere in the Beacon.

Finding ourselves with four hours to kill between the Conference and the reception for the Grand Council Officers, the Liberty Delegation made the trip to the Time Capsule. The attached photo shows SK Budd Gilfillen, Aide de Camp, SK Bobbie White, Grand Commander, and SK Don Gilkerson in his accoutrements as Grand Principal Sojourner. Not shown is our Grand Photographer, Larry Walters as he was busy taking the picture. The monument needs a little TLC, and we are working on getting that done.

As we continue into the fall, we have several more of our Regional Conferences already scheduled. A lot of work has gone into making them enjoyable and educational meetings this year. Please take the time to attend and let us know how we did. Please feel free to take Blue Lodge members with you and give them an introduction to our Rite.

I am still hoping we can have some good fun this year. Remember we have instituted a Class D Drill team which only requires five (5) men so every Commandery should be able to put a team on the floor in Columbia on April 19th, 2025. I also hope you will open your Christmas and Easter Observances to bring in family and friends. I had a great time last year at the Ascalon/Ivanhoe Palm Sunday Grand Commander's Breakfast and Observance. It's really wonderful to have our families involved and see that we are Christian Masons.

My main theme this year is “Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God” from Matthew 5:9. We need to remember where we came from and our mission to keep the peace for pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land. Today we need to keep the peace in our meetings and in our lives, remembering that arguments get us nowhere, but good discussions can be fruitful.

Please remember the words of my good friend Mike Dodd “We are all in this together” so let’s strive to see who can best work and who can best agree.

Lastly the sale of my coins will be used to support the Coyote Hills Foster Care Ministries. We took an oath to defend the helpless orphans so that is my goal this year. I was in Law Enforcement for 43 years and one of the hardest things we had to do was send children to foster care, especially with large families as they were split up and sometimes would never see each other again. Coyote Hills doesn’t do that and takes in families of all sizes so please join me in supporting this great cause.

Please feel free to contact me or one of my aides if you have questions, ideas, or an invitation. I look forward to greeting you whenever I can.

Fraternally,

Bobbie White

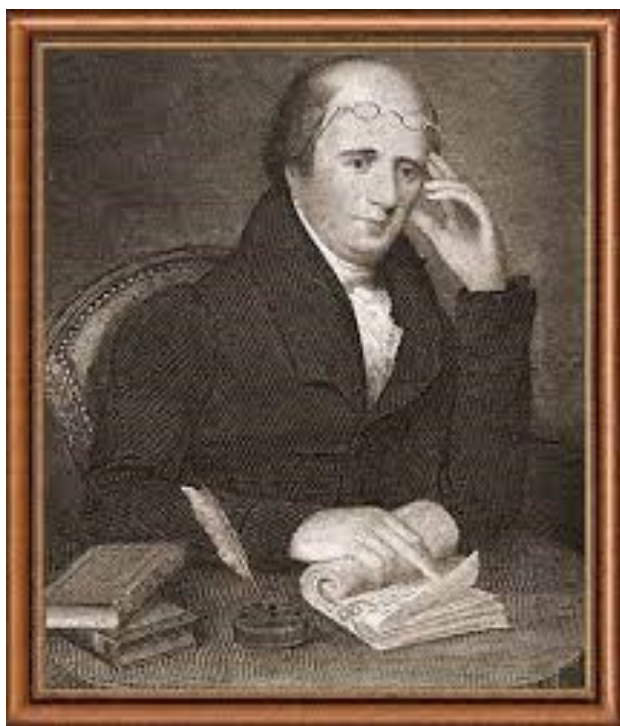


The Curious Affair of William Morgan

Accumulated by: Larry Wilson

Edited by: Debbie Hanson

Freemasonry has many strange tales throughout its history, but none are as strange as the William Morgan affair. The events in this story almost caused the destruction of American Freemasonry. Several Grand Lodges folded, many members denounced their memberships, and an Anti-Masonic political party was formed. In the end, American Freemasons restructured, rebuilt, and became the fraternity that it is today. So, let's look down that rabbit hole, and examine the events and circumstances behind the disappearance of William Morgan, the self-proclaimed Freemason.



William Morgan's story changes depending on who you talk to. Some claim that he was an upstanding businessman who was a retired Captain in the United States military. In 1819, he married Lucinda Pendleton in Richmond, Virginia. They bore two children, Lucinda Wesley Morgan and Thomas Jefferson Morgan. William moved his family to York, Upper Canada, where he owned and operated a brewery. While in Canada, Morgan claimed that he received the degrees of Freemasonry

and the Royal Arch. When a fire broke out in his brewery, Morgan was financial destroyed. In an attempt to provide for his family, Morgan moved his family to Rochester, New York and finally to settle in Batavia, New York, where he supported his family as a bricklayer and stone cutter.

On the other hand, Morgan was characterized as a drunk and a gambler who refused to pay for his debits. He tried to scam his way into local Masonic Lodges but was usually turned away because they were never able to prove his Masonic affiliation. When they went to check his claims of being a Captain during the War of 1812, they were unable to find a William Morgan who was listed as a Captain during that time. Additionally, claims were made that he was in and out of debtor's prison for unpaid bills and loans.

When William was shunned by the local Freemasons, he threatened to reveal all our secrets by writing a book. It is fact that Morgan had applied for a copyright to write a book that would, by his words, "expose" the Masonic ritual, and the secrets and procedures of the fraternity. On March 13, 1826, William Morgan entered into a contractual agreement with three men to publish his book. Those subjects were David Miller, a twenty year Entered Apprentice (owner of a print shop), who was halted from advancing due to cause, John Davids, William's landlord, and Russel Dyer, (no information could be found on this subject).

As time passed, Morgan would brag to anyone who would listen to him that he was in the process of writing this book and once published it would destroy Freemasonry. The more Morgan bragged, the greater the fear spread between the Freemasons in the area.

Fear ran so high that in September of 1826, a plan was hatched and enacted to prevent the publishing of the book. In the first step, it was

claimed that a group of drunken Freemasons tried to destroy Miller's print shop. It was damaged by a small fire. On September 11, a group of Freemason showed up at Morgan's house with a warrant for theft of a shirt and tie. The warrant stated that, "Morgan had borrowed a shirt and tie from a local tavern owner, and he had never returned those items." In court, this case was quickly up and he was released.

A second arrest was made on failure to pay a debt of \$2.68, and he once again found himself in jail. After a day of sitting behind bars, an unknown person paid his debt and William Morgan was released from jail, only to be kidnapped, shoved into a carriage, and taken away to an unknown location by several men.

There is contrary version of events that occurred next. In one story, Morgan was taken to the Canadian border, given \$500.00, and told to disappear forever. Legend has it that over the Years, Morgan was reported being seen in other countries, but this was never investigated or confirmed. Another story tells of a group of Freemasons who took a tied-up Morgan by boat to the center of the Niagara River and dumped the body overboard in a weighted down sack and he drowned to death. As the true suspects and criminals are long dead, we can only speculate on what happened to William Morgan that fateful night.

A cry went out! "What has happened to William Morgan?" Opponents of Freemasonry claimed that the Masonic Order had kidnapped and murdered him to prevent the publication of his book. Freemasons claimed that we were not party to his disappearance. New York Governor Clinton, a Past Grand Master would announce that a two-thousand-dollar reward be given for the return of William Morgan.

After an investigation was conducted, four Freemasons were determined to have been involved in the crime: Loton Lawson, Eli Bruce (Sheriff of Niagara County), Col. Edward Sawyer, and Nicholas Chesebro. A trial was conducted, and the defendants were sentenced to jail sentences of one month to two years in jail. However, since a body was never located, they were never charged with murder. Sheriff Bruce was removed from his office due to his involvement and served 28 months in jail for his actions.

In October of 1827, a severely decomposed male body washed up on the shores of Lake Ontario. The citizens of the area presumed it to be that of William Morgan, and he was buried as such. However, upon closer examination of the body, the subject was wearing the clothing of a Canadian man who was

reported missing by his wife. That man was Timothy Monroe. Even though they were able to identify the body by the clothing, Timothy Monroe remains buried in a grave marked as William Morgan to this date.

Edward Thurlow Weed was a printer, a New York newspaper publisher, and a politician. He was also an advisor to the prominent New York politician William H. Seward. Mr. Weed was instrumental in the presidential nominations of William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, and John C. Frémont.

It should be noted that historians have found that Edward Thurlow Weed was an unscrupulous opportunist, and he would do anything to advance his cause. When a body was found washed ashore and it was claimed that it was that of Mr. Morgan, it was claimed that Weed had the corpse's head shaved and that he had long white hairs added to the ears and nostrils to feign the appearance of William Morgan. The first inquest decided that this was, indeed, the body of William Morgan. It was believed that Thurlow Weed did this to add fuel to the flames of the Anti-Masonic movement.

On his death bed in 1882, Mr. Weed stated that in 1860 John Whitney confessed to him the full details of the murder of William Morgan. According to this alleged confession, Whitney and four others carried the abducted Morgan in a boat to the center of the Niagara River, bound him with chains, and dumped him overboard. Weed claimed that at the time, Whitney had promised to dictate and sign a confession of these events, but he died before he could do so. However, John Whitney died in 1869, which would have been nine years later.

In the end, an uproar raged across the United States which exploded into the formation of the Anti-Masonic (political) Party. As I said earlier, this almost destroyed our fraternity. However, like the phoenix, we have risen from the ashes to become the fraternity we are today.



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REGION 5 YORK RITE CONFERENCE

All Companions of the Holy Royal Arch, Royal & Select Masters, Sir Knights of the Magnanimous Order of the Temple and interested Master Masons of our Region E Blue Lodges are summoned and invited to attend the Region 5 York Rite Conference on...

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26th

Business topics will include remarks from the Grand Presiding Officers and presentations by your Regional Grand Officers.

This is a Family event! Our Youth Groups will have fun activities for families during our meeting, followed by a picnic for ALL in the afternoon.

When: Saturday, October 26th

Time: 8am – Donuts, Coffee & Fellowship
9am – Conference convenes
11:30am – Lunch (Picnic)

Where: Webster Groves Masonic Temple
12 E. Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119

Who: YOU!
All York Rite Masons, Blue Lodge Master Masons, Masonic Youth Groups and your families.

Questions? Contact:
District Deputy Grand High Priest-
V. Excellent Comp. Miles T. Lansing
Mlansing16@gmail.com
Regional Illustrious Grand Master-
V. Illustrious Comp. Glenn B. Parker
Gparker3052@gmail.com
Regional Grand Commander-
Sir Knight Michael S. Smith
Mikessmith66@gmail.com



The Anti-Masonic Party

Accumulated by: Larry Wilson
Edited by: Debbie Hanson

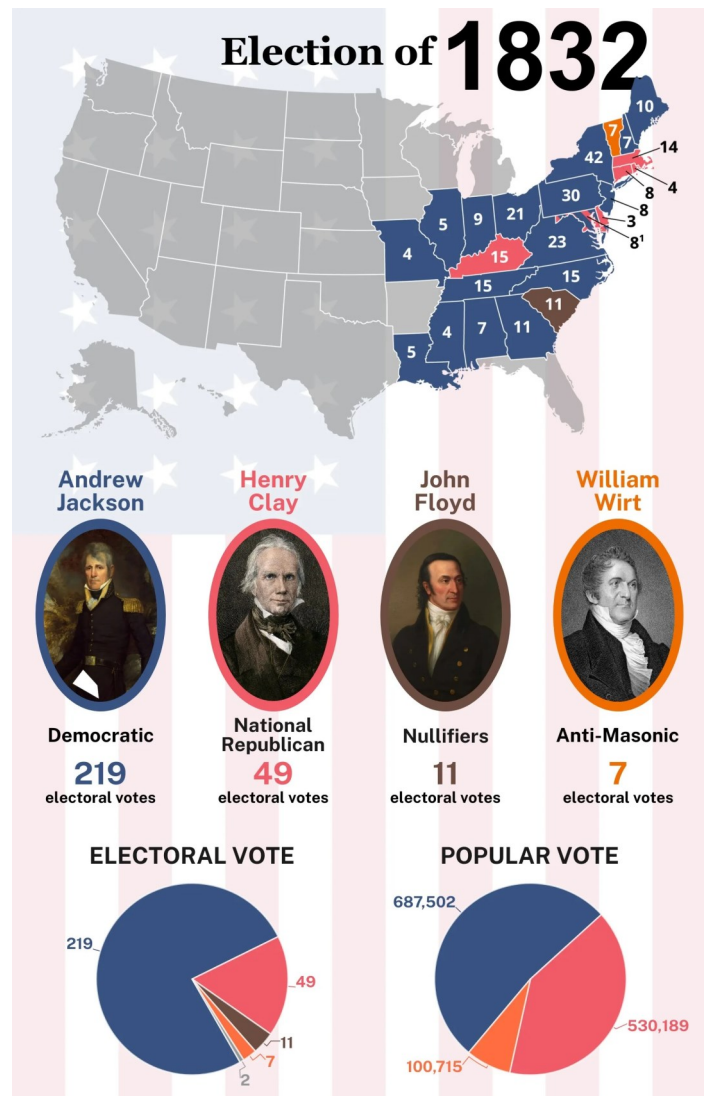
They say that the Anti-Masonic (Political) Party was created because of a singular event, the disappearance of William Morgan. I say this is untrue. In the late 1820's and early 1830's, there was an unrealistic fear of Freemasonry. Some feared Freemasonry because of ignorance. Others feared freemasonry due to the misrepresentation of the fraternity. And yet others feared freemasonry because they had been deemed unfit to be a Freemason themselves and were angry. Whatever the reasons, William Morgan was not the only factor that led to the creation of this political party. He may have been the icing on the cake, but he was not the only reason.

The Anti-Masonic Party was the earliest third political party in the United States. It was created for one purpose only: the destruction of the Masonic fraternity and its members. The origin of this political party was in the American Northeast. Its claim for being created was the disappearance of William Morgan, a bricklayer and self-proclaimed Freemason. (See previous article in this magazine).

This group was created near the end of the presidency of John Quincy Adams and as Andrew Jackson was campaigning for President. As you might remember, Most Worshipful Brother Andrew Jackson was a past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Tennessee, and this fed into the Anti-Masonic Party's drive to remove all Freemasons from political office and/or prevent any Masons from obtaining such an office.

In 1831, the Anti-Masonic Party nominated William Wirt as their candidate for President of the United States. President Andrew Jackson was running for his second term in office at the time. The Anti-Masonic movement was at a high, but our brother and Grand Master Andrew Jackson won this election and his second term as President. One side note, William Wirt was a Freemason who demitted

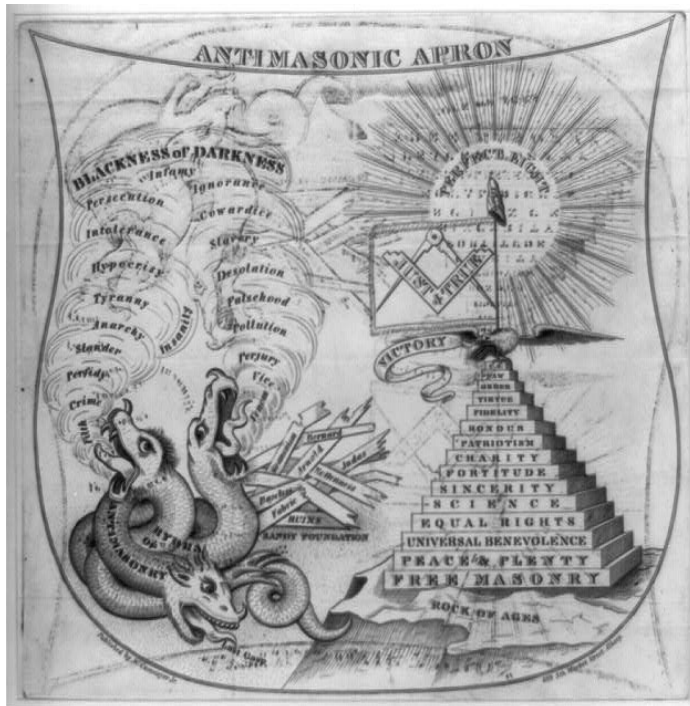
from our fraternity. It makes one wonder if he was using Freemasonry for alternative motives and when it did not benefit him anymore, he quit.



The highest elected office held by a member of the Anti-Masonic Party was that of governor. They were William Adams Palmer, Governor of Vermont; Joseph Ritner, Governor of Pennsylvania; and Silas Jennison, Lieutenant Governor of Vermont.

As we move further into the 1830's, many of the Anti-Masonic Party's members joined the Whig Party, which sought to unite those opposed to the policies of President Jackson. In 1835, the Anti-

Masonic Party held a national convention and nominated William Henry Harrison as their candidate for President. A short time later, they held a second convention and announced that they would not be supporting any candidate for this President. William Harrison then turned his attention toward the Whig Party who would promote him as their candidate. He would eventually lose the election to President Martin Van Buren.



The success of the Anti-Masonic Party would cause the Grand Lodges of several states to close their doors for many years and approximately 100,000 Freemasons would denounce their memberships. It would take decades before many of our states would recharter their Grand Lodges.

By the 1840's, the party would cease to function as a national organization. In the following decades, former Anti-Masonic candidates and supporters such as Millard Fillmore, William H. Seward, Thurlow Weed, and Thaddeus Stevens would become prominent members of the Whig Party.

As stated in the previous article, Thurlow Weed was an unscrupulous opportunist, and he would do anything to advance his cause. He belonged to various political parties and staged situations to advance his cause. Therefore, when reading about Thurlow Weed, one should look at his accounts and stories with little credibility.

After the Civil War, and the liberation of the slaves, Blanchard changed his focus to combating secret societies. He co-founded the National Christian Association (NCA) in 1868, and edited their newspaper, the "Christian Cynosure," until his death in 1892.

In 1872, the NCA reassembled the Anti-Masonic Party for its second incarnation. Its platform was very short, and was created to promote Christianity, temperance, abolition of secret societies, and a direct vote for Vice-President and President instead of using the electoral college.



In the end, the second incarnation of the Anti-Masonic Party slowly started to unravel, and its members were absorbed by the American Prohibition Party. The second Anti-Masonic Party then folded in 1888.

As you can see, Freemasonry is not a fly by night organization. We have a history that has deep roots in the United States of America. And with deep roots comes the firm foundation that Freemasonry has been built upon. No other society or organization has been able to unseat our fraternity. We have continued throughout the years gaining strength. What the future holds for us can only be continued success and prosperity.

Letter from the Editor

Greetings Companions and Sir Knights,

Welcome to the September issue of your Grand York Rite's Beacon Magazine. September is the month that WBro George Washington performed the Masonic cornerstone ceremony of the United States capitol building. Thus, we used that painting as our cover for the magazine.

Also, this is the month in which the William Morgan affair occurred. It is an interesting story, with a screwed up set of events that adversely affected American Freemasonry and our Masonic history. It carried an even that helped create the Anti-Masonic Party.

Through these circumstances, American Freemasonry took a substantial hit. It could have been one that ended Freemasonry with the United States, if not for the dedication and determination of our Brethern who loved this fraternity as much as you and I do.

Next we have an article by MIC Christopher Tilley, HPGIM, of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri. He left us way to early.

In the picture this section, we have the photographs of the reception of MEC Micheal Dodd and MIC Matthew Ruth. MIC Ruth has tried to turn this into a Council Reception, but we really know who we need to receive. MIC Ruth has and continues to do so much for this fraternity that it is to him, that we need to thank.

Finally, we have a lot of wonder bits of information for you York Rite Masons to help you in your journeys throughout the state: group locations & times, calendar of events, messages from the Grand York Rite, etc.

Once again I am running out of space. I always seem to have more thing that I want to say, than room in this magazine. Thank you all for your support of this magazine and till next time, we will be seeing you on down that dusty trail.

Publication Committee



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*2024 Official Reception of the
M.:E.:C.: Michael L. Dodd
Grand High Priest of the
State of Missouri*



Rededication of the Putnam County Courthouse

On Saturday, August 31st, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., Ely Commandery No. 22 K.T., under the direction of SK David D. Goring, Eminent Commander, provided an Honor Guard for Most Worshipful Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight Charles F. Wiegert, Grand Master, as he led the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri in rededicating the Masonic cornerstone of the Putnam County Courthouse in Unionville, MO.

The Honor Guard is pictured here at the east entrance to the Courthouse immediately following the ceremony.

Pictured, front row, from left: S.K. David D. Powell, Generalissimo and Past Commander of Ely Commandery and Eminent Past Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri; S.K. Richard L. Mansfield, Guard and Past Commander of Ely Commandery and Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, 2012-2013; S.K. Craig A. Nowell, Captain General of Ely Commandery; and S.K. David D. Goring, Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery and Eminent Regional Grand Commander for Region One of the Grand Commandery.

Back row, from left: S.K. Jeffrey L. Knight, Prelate and Past Commander of Ely Commandery and Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery; and S.K. William J. King, Recorder and Past Commander of Ely Commandery and Eminent Past Grand Aid-de-Camp of the Grand Commandery.

Not pictured, but assisting with the Grand Lodge Ceremony, were: S.K. W. Stuart English, Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Commandery; S.K. Ashley W. Young, Treasurer, Past Commander of Ely Commandery and Grand Standard Bearer; S.K. Terry D. Coppotelli, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery, Senior Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge; 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 2015-2016; and S.K. Thomas C. Yunick, Guard and Past

Commander of Ely Commandery, and Right Eminent Past Grand Commander 2003-2004.



Rolla Council No. 39, R & SM was pleased to receive MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, for his official visit to their Monthly Assembly held this evening. He presented a wonderful & positive message to the Companions.



Cell Airne Knight Masons Council No.76 elected and appointed officers

*Region 6 York Rite Conference
Bolivar, September 7, 2024*







Congratulations to James and Dustin on completing the York Rite degrees and receiving their new member certificates!



Shekinah Council No. 24 dropped off an initial shoe donation of 38 shoes to help Planet Fitness and their support of Soles4Souls .



RESK Bobbie E. White, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights of the State of Missouri made the annual pilgrimage to, and inspection of, the York Rite Time Capsule in Branson.



**Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M.
advances nine brethren to the degree
of Mark Master, and inducted them
into the Oriental Chair**



The Companions of Caldwell Chapter No. 53 Royal Arch Masons, advanced nine brethren to the degree of Mark Master, and then inducted them into the Oriental Chair, during a special convocation of Caldwell Chapter on August 7, 2024, at the Masonic Lodge in Memphis, Missouri. An additional two companions petitioned for reinstatement, and then participated in the degree conferral.

Historically, it was nearly thirty years ago, on November 10th, 1994, that Eastern Star Chapter No. 29 Royal Arch Masons, in Memphis, consolidated with Caldwell Chapter. Nearly thirty years later, WB Stacy E. Westhoff of Memphis Lodge No. 16 A.F. & A.M. invited the Companions and Sir Knights of Kirksville to come speak to Memphis Lodge about the American York Rite of Freemasonry, as the Brethren expressed interest in ultimately re-chartering Eastern Star Chapter. The call was answered on May 2nd, 2024, and Memphis Lodge was visited by VEC Ashley W. Young, now Past District Deputy Grand High Priest for Region One of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri; EC David D. Goring, Past High Priest of Caldwell Chapter (in his capacity as Very Illustrious Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region One of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri); and VEC Jeffrey L. Knight, District Deputy Grand Lecturer for Region

One of the Grand Chapter (in his capacity as Regional Grand Commander for Region One of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri). The rest is now history. The Companions of Caldwell Chapter were also honored by the presence of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Michael L. Dodd! Congratulations to our brethren for beginning their journey through the capitular rite!

Pictured, seated, from left: MEC Loren D. Lloyd, Past High Priest of Putnam Chapter No. 123 R.A.M. and Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, 2015-2016; Comp. George W. Koontz; and MEC Michael L. Dodd, Past High Priest of Shelbina Chapter No. 99 R.A.M. and Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter.

Front row, from left: WB Jordon A. Fulk; WB Nicholas B. Hatfield; Bro. Christopher W. Boyer; WB Westhoff; Comp. Ronald G. Gardner; WB David E. Kirkpatrick; WB James B. Kice; Bro. Matthew W. Shoemaker; EC Richard L. Mansfield, Past High Priest of Caldwell Chapter; and VEC Young.

Middle row, from left: WB Rusty E. Anders; Bro. Bryan K. Chance; EC Goring; VEC David D. Powell, Past High Priest of Caldwell Chapter and Past District Deputy Grand High Priest for Region One of the Grand Chapter; EC Craig A. Nowell, High Priest of Caldwell Chapter; and VEC Thomas C. Yunick, Past High Priest of Putnam Chapter and Past District Deputy Grand High Priest for Region One of the Grand Chapter.

Back row, from left: VEC B. Eric Davis, District Deputy Grand High Priest for Region One of the Grand Chapter; VEC Knight; Comp. Matthew N. Moore, Captain of the Host of Caldwell Chapter; EC William J. King, Recorder and Past High Priest of Caldwell Chapter; and VEC Charles E. Cooper, Chaplain and Past High Priest of Caldwell Chapter and Past District Deputy Grand High Priest for Region One of the Grand Chapter.



Grand Master's Reception and Galla

Saturday, September 7, 2024





Proud Papa & Freemason

By: Larry Wilson

When is a person old enough to participate with the Freemasons? Well, most would say when they turn 18 years old and are able to join a lodge of Freemasons. I would disagree. This past Saturday, September the 7th, my son, Jaden and I headed to the Region 7 York Rite Conference in beautiful Bolivar, Missouri.

You see, Jaden is a Past Master Counselor of St. Charles Chapter DeMolay and loves everything that has to do with Freemasonry. About a month ago, Jaden asked me, "Dad, can I go to one of your meetings to see what you do?" I thought about this and after talking with a few Companions and Sir Knights, it was agreed that Jaden would go with me to the Region 7 York Rite Conference. He was excited to discover that he could go and asked if he could wear his suit? Of course you can son, and he did.

So, on a cold Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m., Jaden and I packed up the car and headed to Bolivar, Missouri. During the trip, we talked about everything from family to friends, school to Freemasonry, and even some Marvel movies.

Upon arriving at the lodge building, we were greeted by everyone. Jaden was amazed by the warmth and giving nature that our Companions and Sir Knights shared with him.

As we started the conference, I saw Jaden slowly go from looking at his cell phone to being totally captivated by the speakers and the subject matter presented to the craft. As MEC Dodd took the floor, he called Jaden up and introduced him to everyone. And he was received by a standing ovation by the craft. As I looked over from the sidelines, I was



amazed how my Brethren took to Jaden.

As the conference continued, there was all sorts of information and stories shared by the District Deputies, Regionals, and Grand Officers. And when I glanced at Jaden, he was totally engrossed in every word shared by our Brethren. It was an amazing sight to be seen.

When it came time for a group photo, the Grand Officers pulled Jaden to the front of the group, and he was photographed with the Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master, and Grand Commander. When Jaden returned to the sidelines, I could see that he was flying higher than a kite. It was so cool to see him so happy.



As the conference ended, Jaden was thanked by so many for attending this session. It was great to see Freemasons practicing what we preach.

On the way home, the first 45 minutes was Jaden talking non-stop about what he had just experienced. He was so enamored by the information that was shared, but he was most impressed with the talk on the Knights Templar. That was because he is a DeMolay and could easily relate to the stories and history that was shared that day.

So, when people ask at what age is the right age for a person to get involved in the Freemasons, I will now say any age. They don't have to be a card carrying, dues paying, Lodge affiliated person to be involved with our Fraternity. If you are the right person, with the proper mindset, and the love for our Fraternity, you will fit right in. There are always picnics, outings, MoChips, fundraisers, and other gatherings. So, there will always be something for people to join in on. And in a couple of years, Jaden will be one of those who will be first in line to get a petition to join our Fraternity.

These are memories that a proud father could never hope to see, but I was able to be a part of that day. Thank you, Brethren, Companions, and Sir Knights for being the best that you can be!

The Sacred Number Nine

*Christopher Tilley, 33°,
Past Grand Master (Honorary)-Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri
(Posthumously published)*

Most Freemasons are familiar with the numbers 3, 5, and 7, but those are just a few that have symbolic meaning. As an active Cryptic Mason, I have heard the number nine used in the Select Master degree. I would like to share what I have found about the number nine with you. In Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism, and in the Holy Bible, there are many important numbers that are repeated. I believe the number nine to be one of the most symbolic numbers. As we study Geometry, Pythagoras, and the Ancient Mysteries, numbers will become more relevant. This paper will be very repetitive with -you guessed it- the number nine.

Jesus was about 33 years old when he died $3 \times 3 = 9$. Jesus expired at the ninth hour. Jesus appeared nine times to his disciples and apostles after his resurrection. King David ruled for 33 years $3 \times 3 = 9$. The number nine is used 50 times in the Bible. St. Paul enumerates nine fruits of the spirit; love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Galatian's 5:22) and $5 + 2 + 2 = 9$. The Nine spiritual gifts of God enumerated by St. Paul are: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, distinguishing spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12, 4-11) and $12 + 4 + 11 = 27$, $2 + 7 = 9$." Now Peter and John went up together into the Temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour" (Acts 3:1). "And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, behold a Man stood before me in bright clothing" (Acts 10:30).

According to Revelation 144,000 are to be saved. This number $1 + 4 + 4$ added up also equals nine. These are just some examples of the importance of the number nine in the Holy Bible.

There are also a few subtle Blue Lodge hints of the number nine. At the close of Lodge of Master Masons, the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens

gavel 3 times each to equal nine. In the second section of the Master Mason degree the main characters include 3 Kings, 3 Craftsman, and the 3 Ruffians, which adding up to nine. The size of the Masonic apron should be 144 square inches and exclusive of the flap. The numbers added means $1 + 4 + 4$ makes our beloved lambskin nine. Our Jurisdictions Grand Honors are made by a three step movement repeated three times to equal nine.

In a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons (MO), the opening consists of the Companions forming a chain and balancing three time three and $3 \times 3 = 9$. Next, three Companions form three triangles together which three triangles is nine. The number nine plays a huge part in the way the Companions deliver the password. When the password is given, it is split into three parts and delivered three time to equal nine.

The Royal Master and Select Master degrees of the Cryptic Council also have many appearances by the number nine. In the Royal Master degree a certain character with the initials "H.A." conducts a Companion around three times and knocking three times each time and this also equals nine. Later in the degree, nine Cherubim are needed. The number of the Select Master degree is actually nine. The original name of the Select Master degree was "Select Masons of Twenty Seven" and $2 + 7 = 9$. The Secret vault that contained the Ninth Arch kept the Sacred Treasure. The hours of labor started at nine at night. Select Masons cannot open a Council without having nine Select Masters present. The top three officers' gavel nine times each to open a Council of Cryptic Masons. Nine claps are given in the York Rite Grand Honors.

In the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, the highest degree is the 33rd degree which is $3 \times 3 = 9$. The symbol for the 32nd degree is three triangles that form a nine-pointed star. The 18th degree that is full of symbolic and religious symbolism has $1 + 8 = 9$. The Royal Order of Scotland's symbol is a nine-

pointed star. The Rosy Cross degree is about the battle of Bannockburn in 1314 which is $1 + 3 + 1 + 4 = 9$. In this battle 63 Knights Templar assist King Robert the Bruce in battle $6+3=9$. Allied Masonic Degrees is limited to 27 members $2 + 7 = 9$.

The SRICF is limited to 72 members and $7 + 2 = 9$. Up till 1908, each college was limited to 36 members and $3 + 6 = 9$. There are 9 grades in the SRICF college system. An early document numbers the grades in reverse order with the Grade 9 Magus actually being grade 1 this would mean $1 = 9$ or $9 = 1$. This is very interesting considering the number one is divisible in any number and can be added to any odd number to make it even and can make any odd number even.

I will now give more examples of the number nines symbolic meanings. The number nine was the symbol of Man and nine is an imperfect number. The number ten is a perfect number and is the symbol for God. The number nine was the first square of an odd number (3×3). It meant failure and was imperfect because it was short of the perfect number ten. On the Great Seal, the pyramid has 72 stones $7+2=9$ with the top stone missing.

The Quabbalistic tree of the Jews consist of the nine branches or worlds. The alchemists symbol is $3 \times 3 = 9$. The nine is the esoteric number of Man. Mystery groups all included the nine. An example would be "The Nine Worlds of the Odinic Mysteries. There are thirty-three segments in the human spinal column, which is $3 \times 3 = 9$. This could have symbolism if we consider our spine as the Ninth arch and the Word being in our heart.

I came to my own conclusion after finding so many examples of the number nine throughout Masonry and the Bible. The number nine represents Man in his imperfect state who holds the sacred treasure within him. The outside of Man is the Temple. Inside Man, under the last Arch is his heart and the True word of God, which is safely deposited therein. This word that we have searched for is inside us if we believe and ask

forgiveness for our Sins. The Atheist or irreligious libertine who does not repent the "Word" will always be Secret or hidden away. As H.A. says in the Royal Master degree "But if I die the Word will be buried there.", which I believe means the word is in him and will die with him. Since the word is within us and we are the number nine then the Sacred number $9 =$ The Word.

~CT

Education Committee Note: The below article is published in its entirety as originally published in 2020 on the Midnight Freemasons Blog with several slight corrective edits. At the conclusion of the article is the addendum from the Editor of that Blog regarding the author as well as the direct link. MIC Tilley was well known across the jurisdiction and this serves as a good glimpse into an interesting topic and his thoughts as to it.

Midnight Freemasons Blog-Editors Note Chris Tilley was an amazing man and Freemason. He was active, he was passionate and he was a researcher. Chris graduated last year and when he left us it was surreal. The outpouring for him was astounding. All who knew him, miss him. I was scrolling through some old emails and I came upon an email from Chris. In it, he said, "Hey Robert, let me know what you think. You don't need to publish this, in fact it's probably silly. But let me know." I read it. I really liked it. But I never published it. I don't think he wanted the attention. Before deciding to publish this posthumous article, I reached out to some of my Brothers at the Valley of St. Louis for a blessing. They felt it would be a fitting tribute to Chris. So below is Chris piece. This is dedicated to Chris and his family, friends and Brothers.

R.H. Johnson, Editor
The Midnight Freemasons Blog

Direct Link to Article as published in 2020:

<http://www.midnightfreemasons.org/2020/01/the-sacred-number-nine.html>



Make your plans now to attend the 67th Annual South Central York Rite Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma on September 19-22, 2024.

The 2024 South Central Department Conference will be held at DoubleTree by Hilton Tulsa Warren Place, 6110 S. Yale Ave, Tulsa, OK 74136. For more information on the event space check out the hotel website.

Join your fellow leaders of the York Rite for an exciting program where exchanging ideas, sharing successes, and enjoying food and fellowship will be our top priority. Information and registration through:

<https://southcentralvr.org/>

Remember if you plan to attend the York Rite Leadership Program you MUST register through:

<https://yorkriteleadership.org/>

Since 1958, the South-Central region has been composed of five member states (Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma) and one non-member state (Texas). The Companions of this region have been gathering together annually for well over sixty years.

The Southwestern Conference of Grand Chapter Officers was founded in 1958 by the Grand Chapters of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, “as a means of exchange of ideas, matters of mutual

interest, and problems concerning the several grand jurisdictions.” These four founding Grand Chapters were soon joined by the Grand Chapters of Kansas and Missouri and subsequently by the Grand Councils and Grand Commanderies of the six states to form the South-Central region that we know today.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19 2024

1:00 pm to 6:00 pm: Registration, Downstairs Lobby

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 2024

7:00 am to 5:00 pm: Registration, Downstairs Lobby

8:00 am to 11:30 am: General Grand Chapter Session, Salons AB

11:30 am to 12:00 pm: South Central Conference Meeting, Salons AB

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm: Lunch (ticket required), Parkview Ballroom

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Ladies Program, Tulsa Learning Theater

1:00 pm to 4:30 pm: General Grand Council Session, Salons AB

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm: Social Hour, Salons CDEF/ downstairs lobby

6:00 pm: Banquet (ticket required), Salons CDEF

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21 2024

8:00 am to 11:30 am: Grand Encampment Session, Salons AB

8:00 am to 11:30 am: Emerging Leadership 102, Salons CD

8:00 am to 11:30 am: Emerging Leadership 202, Salons EF

8:00 am to 11:30 am: Emerging Leadership 402, Tulsa Learning Theater

11:30 am to 1:00 pm: Lunch (ticket required), Parkview Ballroom

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Grand Encampment Session, Salons AB

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Emerging Leadership 102, Salons CD*

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Emerging Leadership 202, Salons EF*

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Emerging Leadership 402, Tulsa Learning Theater

****Emerging Leadership classrooms may change.***

Are you a Royal Arch Mason?

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**Philanthropy of the
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
State of Missouri & General Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons International**

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

R.A.R.A. supports research seeking the understanding of, and a cure for, Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD, understanding the relationship between CAPD and Autism, and Gaps in Noise Auditory Processing Test for Service Members.

How can I help?

If you would like to take part in helping children with Central Auditory Processing Disorders, share this information with your friends, coworkers, family and your local school system. Your financial contribution will allow you the satisfaction of knowing that this invaluable research and service to humankind will continue for years.

If in Missouri, send your R.A.R.A. contributions to your Chapter Secretary who will forward it to the Grand Secretary. Otherwise, send your R.A.R.A. contributions to the address at the bottom of this page.

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

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

Contributions can be made out to RARA and sent to:

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



Commit to CMMRF

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Penny War for CMMRF

Companions,

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons launched The Penny War for CMMRF at the Region 7 York Rite Conference. This is an initiative and fun way to boost donations to CMMRF and foster visitation among Councils. Here is how it will work:

Penny War for CMMRF!

Starting on Saturday, September 7, 2024, and ending on Monday, March 31, 2025:

- Each penny contributes one point.
- All paper and silver 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 silver coins and paper money.
- Under no circumstances can money be removed from the jar.
- Each Council must have their jar 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 silver coins and paper money to fill their jar.

Rules:

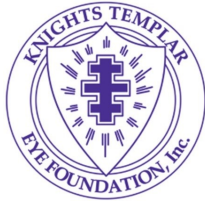
- A penny is worth 1 point (1¢ = +1 point).
- All paper and silver money deduct points from your team.
 - \$1 bill = -100 points
 - \$5 bill = -500 points
 - \$10 bill = -1000 points
 - Nickel = -5 points
 - Dime = -10 points
 - Quarter = -25 points
- Money cannot be removed from any jar for any reason.
- Rolled coins must be unrolled and placed as loose change in the jar to be counted towards your total.
- The Council with the most positive or least negative points will be declared the WINNER!!!
- **Sabotaging other councils' jars with silver coins and paper money is encouraged.**

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

Thank you all,

Cory Huntsucker
CMMRF Chairman
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
State of Missouri





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, or sex 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 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; 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, & Life Sponsor \$30. Those who are designated Life Sponsors or above are relieved from the annual assessment.

Since 1956, over \$98 million has been spent on subjects, 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 & 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. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. is a co-sponsor of the Seniors Eye Care Program with Eye Care America, a Public Service Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The Seniors Eye Care Program helps those 65 years or older 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 to by a Knight Templar.

MISSOURI KNIGHT OF SILOAM

The Knight of Siloam special award program in Missouri was created by Sir Knights J. Edward Blinn, REPGC, and Danny L. Ferguson, REPGC, during the 93-94 Templar year as a means of recognizing those Missouri Sir Knights who make substantial contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and to encourage others to do so. A special medal and patent is presented to those who donate \$500.00 or more in a lump sum or in installments. The jewel is designated as a meritorious service jewel and may be worn on the Knight Templar uniform. Friends and relatives may honor any Sir Knight with the Knight of Siloam by making a like donation in his honor.



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.

Grand York Rite of Missouri Bulletin Board

Interactive Maps for local York Rite Bodies

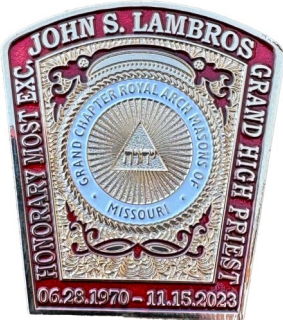
Exciting news all!!! The Grand York Rite of Missouri has now added interactive maps for Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies to help you easily find a meeting location, and find directions to assist you in planning your travels. We hope they help

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/>



MEC John Lambros HPGHP Coins

We are all aware of the great tragedy with the loss of our Brother and Companion, MEC John Lambros, HPGHP, of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri. In order to ease the tension and financial burdens on his family, your Grand York Rite has created a coin in this memory, with the proceeds to go to his family to assist them with their bills and daily cost of living. Please take a moment and purchase one of these beautiful coin from our Grand Office, for a small donation of \$20.00, by calling (660) 248-5100. Remember, we are our Brother's keeper.

All Councils of Royals and Select Masters under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri.

Subject: Edict No. 1

WHEREAS, The By-Laws Article II, Sec. 11. The Grand Master, Powers and Duties

(1) ... shall have general supervision of the craft in all things appertaining to Cryptic Masonry in this jurisdiction and,

WHEREAS, Article IV, Sec. 24 Degrees, Order of. The following degrees shall be conferred by the subordinate Councils of this Jurisdiction, and in the following order: Royal Master, Select Master and Super-Excellent Master.

(2) Ritual. The official Ritual of this Grand Council shall be the Ritual adopted and distributed by the Grand Council of Missouri.

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we are conferring the work of these degrees as prescribed in the adopted ritual of the Grand Council of Missouri to ensure our candidates fully understand and appreciate the context, philosophy, and importance of these degrees.

THEREFORE, as Grand Master, I issue the following Edict, "that the work of the Royal and Select Master degrees shall be conferred in their entirety, including the Historical Lecture, Apron Lecture, and Charge of the Select Master degree to the candidate(s) regardless of the number of candidates present whether it be individually or on multiple candidates, such as, is the case of conferral during a festival".

This Edict will remain in place unless cancelled or amended by further Order of the Grand Master or until the term of office of the Grand Master shall be concluded.

M.:I.:C.: Matthew D. Ruth,
Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic
Masons of the State of Missouri



Grand York Rite Sessions 2025

The 2025 Grand Rite Sessions will be held at the Kansas City Marriott Country Plaza at 4445 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri, USA, 64111.

More information can be found online at:

- <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/mcipl-kansas-city-marriott-country-club-plaza/overview/>

Hotel Reservations for the 2025 Grand York Rite are open! You can register now at:

[*Register \(Click Here\)*](#)

Companions:

The Grand Council's Education Committee is excited to launch a new **12-part education series**. We will be publishing 12 pieces and making them available to you for use in your Stated Assemblies. Our goal is to provide fresh additional avenues for our Councils to expand the Cryptic experience and explore our work further.

Our first release includes a discussion starter document for you to use to encourage discussion, offer suggestions for education topics, etc. The second program released is a 4-part PowerPoint discussing the history of cryptic masonry, and the symbolism and lessons of our degrees.

Watch for more developments from the Committee and more programs in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, comments, or program requests, please feel free out to us at:

mocrypticedu@gmail.com

In Fervency & Zeal,
Education Committee
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
State of Missouri

[Download R&SM Overview-PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[Download Question from the Crypt \(PDF\)](#)

There is no detailed schedule available as of yet, but information will be posted as it becomes available.

- June 11, 2025: Registration will open at 1:00pm, Events kick off at 5:00pm
- June 12, 2025: Grand Chapter
- June 13, 2025: Grand Council
- June 14, 2025: Grand Commandery

Please note Parking is free for everyone staying at the hotel.

The Grand York Rite Office



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.



MEC Mike Dodd, Grand High Priest Coin 2024-25



MIC Matthew D. Ruth Grand Master Coin 2024-2025



SK Bobbie White, 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.



The Missouri Grand York Rite Office is asking for your help

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

You can!

Simply go to <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, Last (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:**
- **Her Date of Birth:** Month and Day (We like to send birthday cards!)
- **Your children's 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,
Debbie Hanson
Executive Assistant



I was the first in my family to get involved with the Masonic World. DeMolay was thriving in the 70's, there were so many boys in so many Chapters! I clearly remember the day I was stopped by my parents as I was flying out the back door to get to my friend's house and play the drums. They told me that Walter Emes' son Jeff had approached them about me becoming a DeMolay when I turned 13. I had no idea what I would be in for, but it sounded like a cool idea, (when you have 8 brothers being the first to do anything was a plus!) so, two weeks after my 13th birthday in 1971, I was initiated into Gardenville DeMolay.

After I was initiated, Dad Emes would come pick me up every Saturday and take me to his house where he would teach me the ritual that I would have to turn in to reach the next degree. What an exemplary Mason he was to do this for me! He ignited a fire in me, and it took no time to get all my work turned in and obtain my first office. I was fortunate to be under the tutelage of great DeMolay's like Jeffrey Kitsmiller Sr., Charlie Wiegert, and Ron Ernst, who were all committed to excellence. We were such a strong group that we had 2-3 terms a year just to get everyone through every officer chair.

I didn't realize until much later the value and importance my DeMolay experience. Think about it, we were trained to take over a Chapter as a teenager! By 16, I was Master Counselor (which was young for the times) and I was in charge of preparing a term that included a budget, degree

work and practice, social activities, a fundraiser, and preparing for Conclave which was brutally competitive in both ritual and sports!

Without realizing the extra benefits, we were learning an abundance of ritual to be verbalized in front of judges and our peers. So, unsurprisingly, public speaking and leadership became second nature. Our Chapter came in 1st or 2nd in our team ritual competitions every year I was around! Our friendly rivals were those rascals from Independence, MO! Personally, I took 2nd in Flower Talk and yes, in 1976, I was the Missouri State Horseshoe Champ!

DeMolay was 2-4 days a week of activities and I loved every minute of it! The personal growth I experienced as a DeMolay did not go unnoticed by my father, Jose Palacios. My involvement in DeMolay influenced his interest in Freemasonry and in 1975, he became a Mason. This secured my desire to become a Master Mason one day, but I knew the commitment it would take to be a good Mason and I wanted to get my life in order first.

I went on to marry my wife Yvette, a Rainbow Girl, in 1985. That same year, my father became Master of his Lodge. He was very much a committed Mason, involved in many Masonic branches. He was patient with me becoming a Mason. I received my first degree in 1988 but it wasn't until January of 1999 that I became part of the 500 plus initiates raised in the first Chance to Advance class championed by Grand Master

Wilfred Souteia. I immediately became involved at Gardenville Lodge #655 at a time when they were merging with Cache Lodge. The merger was a success and Gardenville-Cache Lodge #455 was off to a great start!

I was Master of Gardenville-Cache the first time in 2002-03. What a great successful year we had! We had a full line of new officers and we averaged 35 members on the sidelines at every meeting! I could not be prouder of that year. While we faced many trials and tribulations after 2003, what ensued was restoration period bridged by some outstanding and dedicated Masons: Edgar Piles, Jose Palacios and John Siscel ,III. These men contributed their time and talent and did everything they could to ensure a Masonic future for Gardenville-Cache #455.

On to the Scottish Rite where I was initiated and joined the Rose Croix line where my father and I both served as Wise Master. It was also my Masonic pleasure to serve as Excellent Chief of Knight Masons and Puissant Sovereign of the St. Louis Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine. I was also part of the single most incredible display of York Rite prestige and perfection when they held a York Rite Festival at the big Temple in St. Louis, including the Asylum where Ascalon Commandery met and worked. That weekend several of us were initiated into the York Rite by some of the BEST ritualist to ever wear the Apron! VEC Kevin Weaver, James Miller, Harry Maener, Jose' Palacios (all PGHP's and from Keystone #146) and David Vogel ... just to name a few!

In 2009 I was High Priest of Keystone #146 and I attended my first Grand Session with my dad. It was then that I realized my father's great Masonic accomplishment. The respect and involvement bestowed upon him was very evident. .. my Dad was a rockstar! Ten years after being GHP! I took quickly to the York Rite family who opened their arms and welcomed me whole heartedly. I was absorbed and impassioned right away and in 2012 I was fortunate enough to be appointed a District Deputy Grand High Priest while my dad was around to be proud. My father passed in 2014, and in a true example of the greatness of Masonry, at least 125

men from across the great state of Missouri attended the funeral. A year later I was elected to the Grand Line of the Grand Chapter of Missouri with the honor and privilege of being one of two father/son teams to share this accomplishment.

I have the distinct honor of being the 8th Grand High Priest to call Keystone #146 home! What a legacy I am doing my best to live up to and carry the torch further.

In summation, my Masonic Story started with an amazing foundation of strength and training. Because of my experiences in DeMolay, and later as a Mason, it is no surprise to me that I spent my whole working life in a leadership position and as an entertainer with the confidence to step up the mic and do my job.

M.:.E.:.C.:. Kyle R. Palacios, PGHG



My Masonic Story

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

Share your story!

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

Share you story through the Grand Council of Missouri's survey at:

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2024

Sunday, September 15 - 17, 2024: 202nd Grand Lodge Annual Communication, St Charles, Missouri

Friday, September 20 – 21, 2024: 67th South Central Regional York Rite Conference, Tulsa. Oklahoma

Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.: Region 6 will be hosing a Family Day at Jackson City Park, Jackson, Missouri. All Masons are invited. Menu: Chili, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, and beverages.

Saturday, September 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.: York Rite Region 2 Conference, Lathrop Lodge, Lathrop, Mo

Saturday, September 28, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.: Red Cross of Constantine - Mary Conclave, Buckner, Missouri

Saturday, September 28, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.: Knight Masons-Limerick Council No. 88, Freedom Masonic Temple, Mehlville, Missouri

October 2024

Wednesday, October 2, at 6:00 p.m.: Springfield Preceptory Yeomen of York—Springfield, Missouri

Friday, October 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.: York Rite Festival-Independence Masonic Temple, Independence, Missouri

Friday, October 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.: York Rite Festival-Region 6, Poplar Bluff will be hosting the this area conference in Poplar Bluff Masonic Lodge.

Saturday, October 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.: Grand Master's Youth Charity Breakfast, Kansas City Masonic Temple, Kansas City, Missouri

Monday, October 7, 2024, at 6:30 a.m.: Triune Chapter No. 93 Annual Fish Fry and Royal Arch Research Assistance Fund Raiser, Mis-Mo Shrine Club, Montgomery City, Missouri

Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.: Chapter School of instruction-Region 7A, Springfield York Rite Temple, Springfield, Missouri

Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.: Court of Discovery No. *0, Masonic Order of Athelstan, Fayette Masonic Temple, Fayette, Missouri

Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 2: 30 p.m.: Tipperary Council No. 62 Knight Masons, Fayette Masonic Temple, Fayette, Missouri

Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.: Marquis de LaFayette Council No. 392 & Robert Harris Bray Council No. 513 AMD, Fayette Masonic Temple, Fayette, Mo

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.: Grand Master's Official Visit to York Council No. 40, Wentzville Masonic Lodge, Wentzville, Missouri

Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.: Grand Master's Official Visit to Carthage Council No. 41, Carthage Masonic Temple, Carthage, Missouri

Saturday, October 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.: Table Chapter-Caldwell Chapter No. 53 RAM, in honor of Service Award Recipients & in Support of Royal Arch Research Assistance, Kirksville Masonic Temple, Kirksville, Missouri

York Rite in Missouri by Regions

Region 1

Chapters

Hannibal Chapter No. 7
1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Hannibal Masonic Temple
1102 Central Avenue
Hannibal, MO 63401
Roger McGregor, Secretary
mcgregorclan1985@gmail.com

Caldwell Chapter No. 53
2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Kirkville Masonic Temple
217 East Harrison
Kirkville, MO 63501
William J. King, Secretary
kvyorkrite@gmail.com

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

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

Councils

Kirksville Council No. 44
2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
Dark June, July, and August
Kirksville Masonic Temple
217 E. Harrison
Kirkville, MO 63501
William J. King, Recorder
kvyorkrite@gmail.com

Trinity Council No. 47
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Hannibal Masonic Temple
1102 Central Avenue
Hannibal, MO 63401
Roger McGregor, Recorder
mcgregorclan1985@gmail.com

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

Commanderies

Excalibur Commandery No. 5
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Hannibal Masonic Temple
1102 Central Avenue
Hannibal, MO 63401
Roger McGregor, Recorder
mcgregorclan1985@gmail.com

Ely Commandery No. 22
2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
Kirkville Masonic Temple
217 East Harrison
Kirkville, MO 63501
William J. King, Recorder
kvyorkrite@gmail.com

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

Region 2

Chapters

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

Lexington Chapter No. 10
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Lexington Masonic Temple
126 1/2 North 11th Street
Lexington, MO 64067-0283
Martin L. Maulden, Secretary
mauldinmartin@gmail.com

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

Councils

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

John F. Houston No. 42
4th Monday at 8:00 p.m.
Lexington Masonic Temple
126 1/2 North 11th Street
Lexington, MO 64067-0283
Lloyd G. Lyon, Secretary
lglyon@gmail.com

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

Commanderies

DeMolay Commandery No. 3
4th Monday at 9:00 p.m.
Lexington Masonic Temple
126 1/2 North 11th Street
Lexington, MO 64067-0283
Lloyd G. Lyon, Recorder
lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com

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

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

Region 3

Chapters

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

Kansas City Chapter No. 28
1st Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Ivanhoe Masonic Temple
8640 Holmes
Kansas City, MO 64131
Donald MacCormick, Secretary
keyorkrite@gmail.com

Wyoming Chapter No. 43
1st Monday @ 7:30 p.m. Except
September on 2nd Monday.
Jewel Lodge No. 480
1480 Broadway
Pleasant Hill, MO 64080
Lance Cramer, Secretary
cramerlance773@gmail.com

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

Councils

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

Kansas City Council No. 45
1st Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Ivanhoe Masonic Temple
8640 Holmes
Kansas City, MO 64131
Donald MacCormick, Recorder
keyorkrite@gmail.com

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

Commanderies

Kansas City Commandery No. 10
3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Ivanhoe Masonic Temple
8640 Holmes
Kansas City, MO 64131
Donald MacCormick, Recorder
keyorkrite@gmail.com

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

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

Region 4

Chapters

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

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

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

York Rite in Missouri by Regions

Region 4

Chapters

Triune Chapter No. 93
1st Monday at 7:30 p.m.
No meeting if falls on Holiday falls on first Monday.
Montgomery Lodge #246
2nd and Sturgeon Street
Montgomery City, MO 63361
Phillip Engel, Secretary
hilltop@socket.net

Councils

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

Centralia Council No. 34
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.
York Rite Masonic Temple
#3 North Masonic Drive
Columbia, MO 65202
Ronald Skiles, Recorder
rskiles@centurytel.net

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

Commanderies

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

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

Rolla Commandery No. 59
3rd Monday at 8:40 p.m.
Rolla Masonic Temple
400 East 2nd Street
Rolla, MO 65401
Steven F. Eberharter, Recorder
seberharter@gmail.com

Region 5

Chapters

St. Charles-Missouri Chapter # 1
2nd Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.
Dark in July & August
St. Charles Masonic Temple
2051 Collier Corporate Parkway
St. Charles, MO 63303
Philip R. Cary, Secretary
Stcharlesmissourino1ram@yahoo.com

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

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

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

Councils

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

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

Jeremiah Council No. 48
3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.
Webster Groves Masonic Temple
12 East Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
Terry Coppotelli, Recorder
terry_coppotelli@hotmail.com

Commanderies

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

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

Region 6

Chapters

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

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

Councils

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

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

Commanderies

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

Poplar Bluff Commandery No. 67
3rd Monday @ 7:00 p.m.
Poplar Bluff Masonic Temple
2303 North Main Street
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
Tony DePriest, Recorder
poplarbluffyorrite@gmail.com

Region 7A

Bolivar Chapter No. 5
3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Dark in July & August
Bolivar Masonic Temple
261 South Killingsworth Avenue
Bolivar, MO 65613
Randy W. Presley, Secretary
pantherdad2772@gmail.com

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

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

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

Councils

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

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

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

Commanderies

St. John's Commandery No. 20
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Masonic York Rite Temple
1930 West Catalpa
Springfield, MO 65807
Gregory J. Walker, Recorder
gregoryjwalker@gmil.com

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

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

York Rite in Missouri by Regions

Region 7A

Commanderies

St. Elmo Commandery No. 43
3rd Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.
Bolivar Masonic Temple
301 South Killingsworth Avenue
Bolivar, MO 65613
Randy Presley, Recorder
pantherdad2772@gmail.com

Region 7B

Chapters

Tyrian Chapter No. 52
3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.
Neosho Masonic Temple
4080 LaQuesta Drive
Neosho, MO 64850
Matthew D. Ruth, Secretary
matt.ruth@rocketmail.com

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

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

Joplin Chapter No. 91
1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Joplin Scottish Rite Building
505 South Byers
Joplin, MO 64801
Royce P. Wahl Jr., Secretary
jrwahl_jyr@sbcglobal.net

Councils

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

Carthage Council No. 41
3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Carthage Masonic Temple
1339 Oak Street
Carthage, MO 64836
Chad E. Wagoner, Recorder
cwagoner1865@gmail.com

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

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

Commanderies

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

Jasper Commandery No. 31
3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Criterion Masonic Temple
1339 Oak Street
Carthage, MO 64836
Chad E. Wagoner, Secretary
cwagoner1865@gmail.com

Ascension Commandery No. 39
1st Tuesday at 8:00 p.m.
Joplin Scottish Rite Building
505 South Byers
Joplin, MO 64801
Royce P. Wahl Jr., Recorder
jrwahl_jyr@sbcglobal.net

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



50th Anniversary coin for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, April 23, 1896

***Gain More Light in Freemasonry,
Join us at the 2024 Grand Session***



202nd Annual Communication
of the Grand Lodge of A.F. and A.M. of the State of Missouri

September 15 - 17, 2024 • St. Charles, Missouri



MASONIC HOME
of Missouri

JOIN US FOR THE 19TH ANNUAL



Truman Club Dinner

Saturday, September 14, 2024