

Early Leaders of the Grand Council of Missouri- Pt. II

Jacob W. Thompson, KYCH

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri Education Committee

Most Ill. Comp. Allan McDowell, PIGM

Our Sixth Grand Master- 1872

Past Grand Lecturer- Grand Lodge of Missouri-October 1870- May 1906

Past Grand High Priest-Grand Chapter, R.A.M. of Missouri- 1892

Past Grand Commander- Grand Commandery of Missouri, Knights Templar- 1888

was born March 9th, 1833 in Randolph County, Arkansas; and grew up in Dade Count, Missouri where he was educated in local schools. At the age of 17 he entered the offices of Circuit and County Clerk as a deputy to his father (who held those roles). It was at this time that he began the study of law and was in 1859 admitted to the Bar.

He was made a Master Mason in Washington Lodge No. 87, Greenfield, Missouri in 1855 at just 22 years old. Just three years later McDowell was elected Senior Warden and in 1859 installed as Master, holding that office for two full terms. Brother McDowell appears attending Annual Communication as early as 1860 but potentially before by some insinuations. At the Annual Communication of 1867 he was appointed Grand Pursuivant. Prior to that time he had served



as District Deputy Grand Master of the 14th District, first in 1860 and again in 1867 & 1868. In 1870 he was appointed to his most well-known role, Grand Lecturer, and took up that mantle for almost half a century thereafter.

He undertook the degrees of Capitular Masonry in Springfield Royal Arch Chapter No. 15 at Springfield in 1859, A decade later he helped organize and constitute Greenfield Chapter No. 38. His work in Greenfield saw him elected High Priest of that Chapter. His service to Capitular Masonry carried to the state level and in 1869 he served as Deputy Grand Lecturer. The next year he was appointed Grand Lecturer for the Grand Chapter and was reappointed to that task continuously until 1889. His final year as Grand Lecturer saw him resign the post and in turn he was elected Grand King. The following year (1891) he was elected Deputy Grand High Priest and in 1892 elected to serve the Grand Chapter of Missouri as Excellent Grand High Priest. In 1870 he was anointed, consecrated and set apart to the Holy Order of High Priesthood at the Convention of High Priests of Missouri. In 1872 he was elected Vice President of the Body and continually held that post for several decades.

In 1870 McDowell was greeted and made a Royal and Select Master in Sedalia Council No. 5 at Sedalia. Yet again he was called to higher labor and in 1870 he was elected Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, then Deputy Grand Master in 1871, and served the Grand Council as Grand Master in 1872. By 1875 he was appointed Grand Lecturer for the Council and held that post for 24 years stepping down in 1899. In the years that passed he seemingly moved his Council membership to Hiram Council No. 1 in St. Louis.

Our Companion received the orders of Masonic Templary in O'Sullivan Commandery No. 15 at Nevada in 1870. Two years later he aided in organizing St. Johns Commandery No. 20 in Springfield, not content it seems with starting just once commandery by 1875 he worked to aid Constantine Commandery No. 27 in Greenfield begin. Another two years later he served to aid in organizing Prince of Peace Commandery No. 29 in Jefferson City and was there elected Eminent Commander. In 1881 again noticed for his ritual acumen, he was appointed Grand Drill Master for the Grand Commandery of Missouri. In 1883 he was elected Junior Grand Warden, and advanced regularly to be elected Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Missouri in 1888.

Active beyond the American (York) Rite he received the majority of his Scottish Rite work from Illustrious Albert Pike, Sovereign Grand Commander, in person and via communication in 1872. At that meeting, Pike conferred the 4-14th Degrees. Later the 15th-32nd Degrees were conferred by the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Missouri, Illustrious Martin Collins. In October of 1890 McDowell was invested with the Rank and Decoration of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor.

His active participation led to appointment in several capacities as a Grand Representative, to the Grand Lodge of Texas, Grand Chapter of Arkansas, Grand Council of Tennessee and Grand Commander of Ohio.

Later in his life his membership was discernible as follows:

Jefferson Lodge No. 43 at Jefferson City, Mo
Greenfield Royal Arch Chapter No. 38 at Greenfield, Mo
Hiram Council No. 1 at St. Louis, Mo
Prince of Peace Commandery No. 29 at Jefferson City, Mo
And the Valley of St. Louis Scottish Rite Bodies

M.I.C. McDowell died in Kansas City on May 20th, 1906. His funeral service was held 4 days later at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Kansas City, his remains having been laid in state there. The memorial service was at length transcribed and included in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Missouri with various other memorials. Among the remarks offered at the funeral service were from Noah M. Given, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge and Past Grand Master of the Grand Council, his words echo the love and warmth felt throughout the service and the appreciation of McDowell's great labor. To wit,

Measured from the standpoint of service to the craft, Allan McDowell was the greatest Mason that ever lived in Missouri; aye, that ever lived in the world. This may seem extravagant, but reflection will make it otherwise. O'Sullivan and Garrett were great ritualists, but not such as McDowell. Vincil was a great Mason, and a fair ritualist. In some respects the greatest Mason of the State, but in point of long-continued, disinterested service to the Craft, his record was not equal to McDowell's, and he would say so if living. Other Missouri Masons could be mentioned, but these serve best for comparison. They all excel McDowell in some respects, but not in service. Brother McDowell excelled as a ritualist, and as a teacher of the Ritual. He was patient to a fault, gentle as a child, and possessed all the qualities of a teacher of Masonry in its theoretical workings. Indeed, he seemed to be fitted especially for teaching Masonry.

He is interred at Mt. Washington Cemetery, in Independence, Mo.

Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri- 1889- Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter, RAM of Missouri-1892; Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of K.T. of Missouri- 1888; Grand Lecturer, Grand Lodge of Missouri- 1870-

1906

Most Ill. Comp. John J. Pierron, PIGM

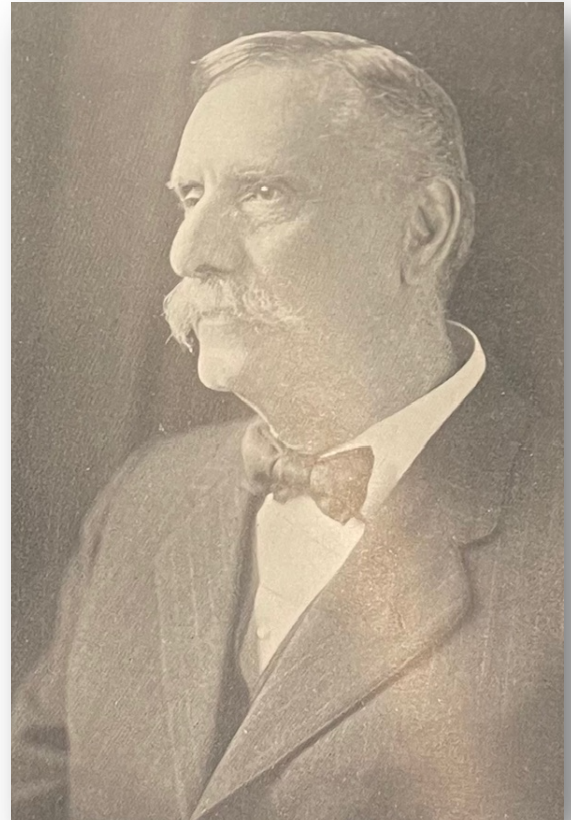
Our Twenty-Second Grand Master- 1867

Was born in New York on November 19th, 1846. Occupied in the Real Estate business as an agent, his career was one of extremely faithful service and it is noted that in 36 years working in the business he changed his pursuits just twice, a rarity in some degree for those times, and very much so in today's world. He had initially spent twenty years as secretary-treasurer of the Isaacs Wall paper Company, and then sixteen years as cashier of the Barada-Ghio Real Estate Company. Just before turning 30 years old he left New York City and headed west, arriving in St. Louis and remaining there the rest of his life. In 1876 he married his wife, Arrena.

As a member of the craft he was noted as both enthusiastic and devoted. He was initiated, passed and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Occidental Lodge No. 163 in St. Louis. At Occidental he served in various roles and was elected Master in 1885.

He was exalted in St. Louis Chapter No. 8, Royal Arch Masons and served there as High Priest (1885). In May of 1884 he was set apart to the Order of High Priesthood. M. I. Comp. Pierron passed the circle in Hiram Council No. 1, Royal and Select Masters and served as its Illustrious Master in 1886. His devotion to the council was honored and after filling various lesser offices in the Grand Council Line was elected Grand Master of the Grand Council in 1889. Our Companion received the Orders of Masonic Templary at the labor of St. Louis Commandery No. 1 (1885) and in 1893 served as the Commander of said Commandery.

Bro. Pierron found a deep interest in the Ancient & Accepted Rite and received the degrees in 1886. He then labored with the Chapter Rose Croix and served as its Wise Master in 1888-1890. Later he was invested with the Rank and decoration of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor.



We are told from the Proceedings of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri that he “was unassuming in his manner, and content to do his part of the duties thrust upon him, to the best of his ability.”

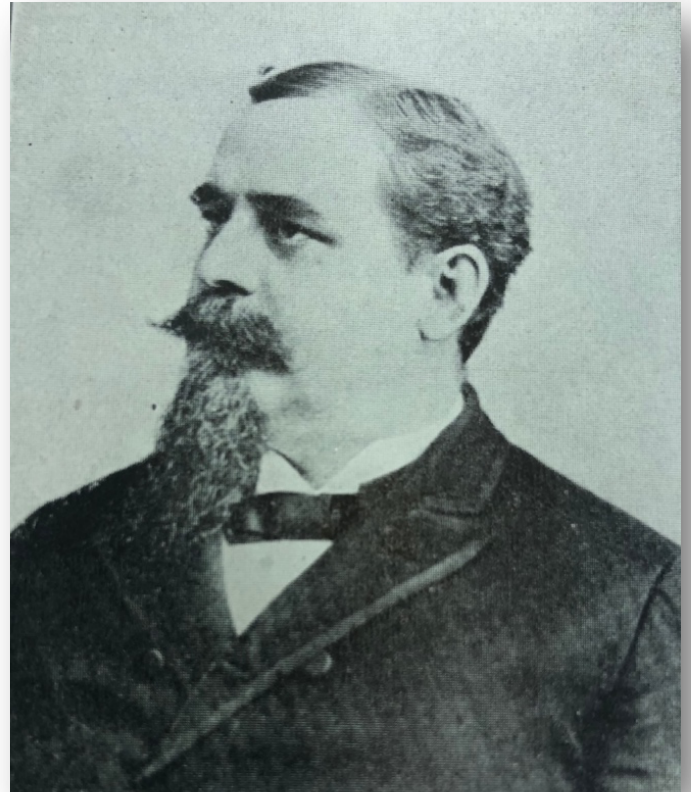
Hon. Pierron died in St. Louis on September 14th, 1917 at the age of 71. He is interred at Bellefontaine Cemetery

Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri- 1889; Wise Master, St. Louis Chapter Rose Croix- 1888-1890

Most Ill. Comp. Pembroke Reeves Filcraft, PIGM

Our Eighteenth Grand Master- 1885

Pembroke Reeves Filcraft was born January 8, 1847, in Woodstown, Salem County, New Jersey. He removed with his parents to Ohio, later to Indiana and St. Louis (arriving in that city in 1878). His father was a physician and contracted cholera in 1849 while the family resided in Indiana. Pembroke's father died and left a widow and the son. The young Pembroke began his education at public schools and later Raisin Valley Seminary (a Quaker Boarding school in Michigan). He was then admitted to University of Michigan in 1867 and graduated from there in 1871 with an honors and an A.B. Degree. He continued his schooling but took up work as a teacher in 1866 and on a farm. By 1870 he was working as a Deputy US Marshal. Three years after his initial graduation he received a Master of Arts degree from that university. He then took up employment as Superintendent of Schools in Charlotte Michigan for a year, and that being followed by a stint at a publishing houses in Chicago (A.S. Barnes & Co.) and Cincinnati. In 1875, at the age of 28 he went to Kansas City and was admitted to the Bar. In the Kansas City area, he entered private practice for three years, and then removed to St. Louis (1878). In St. Louis his practice flourished until his election in 1894 that as circuit judge, at which point he took up the bench in 1895, for a six-year term. In September of 1838 he married Ms. Emma Belle Brenneman of Pittsburgh, PA, and to this union was bore two daughters, Ada and Edna.



In 1870 He was made a Master Mason in Hermon Lodge No. 24, at Centerville, Michigan. He affiliated with George Washington Lodge No. 9, in St. Louis on December 10, 1879. Filcraft later served as Master of that Lodge in 1890. Our Brother was exalted in Charlotte Chapter No. 82, April 24, 1872, Charlotte, Michigan. He affiliated with St. Louis Chapter No. 8 in 1880 and was High Priest in 1885-86. Companion Filcraft passed the Circle in Charlotte Council No. 36 Royal and Select Masters in 1872. On July 15, 1879 he affiliated with Hiram Council No. 1 in St. Louis, and later was elected to serve as Master in 1882. His service to the Grand Council was swift thereafter and in 1885 he was elected Grand Master. He was knighted in St. John's Commandery No. 20, Youngstown, Ohio, October 3, 1874 ; later he affiliated with

Louis Commandery No. 1, St. Louis, on June 1880 via a dimit from DeMolay Commandery No. 4, of Lawrence Kansas, and was Commander in 1885.

Ill. Filcraft was consecrated a Master of the Royal Secret in Missouri Consistory on February 16, 1895. From March of 1897-August of 1903 he served as Wise Master of St. Louis Chapter Rose Croix No. 1. In 1895 he was invested with the rank and decoration of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. On October 20, 1899 he was coroneted a 33°.

He died June,17, 1908, and interned at Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri- 1885; Wise Master, St. Louis Chapter Rose Croix- 1897-1903

Most Ill. Comp. Victor H. Falkenhainer, PIGM

Our Forty-Eighth Grand Master- 1915-1916

born on July 4th, 1868 in St. Louis, Judge Falkenhainer attended school locally and initially began working for his father as a clerk in the family's successful dry goods store. After a time, he pursued other avenues and was employed in the office of the City Assessor, followed by a stint in the Office of the Court of Deeds. It was during his time working at the Court of Deeds that he began pursuing a law degree and subsequently in 1902 graduated from St. Louis Law School (later part of Washington University.) He entered private practice, but this was short lived and by 1907 he was elected the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. In 1913 he was elected Judge of the Court of Criminal Correction (Division #2) and sat on the bench for two years before returning to private practice again. Inevitably he was elected Judge of the Circuit Court in 1916 and fulfilled those duties until his passing in 1931. In 1894 Bro. Falkenhainer married Ms. Lulu Schirr, and to that pairing was born a son in 1895, August.

Bro. Falkenhainer was raised in Cosmos Lodge No. 282 in 1894, and later served those brethren as Master in 1903, as well as the Secretary for 1909-1916. His acumen and labor were also noticed at the Grand Lodge level, and he served as District Deputy Grand Master 1903-1904. In 1908 our brother served as High Priest of St. Louis Chapter No. 8, R.A.M., in 1926 as Commander of Ascalon Commandery No. 16, and in 1922 as Potentate of Moolah Temple. Equally active in the Council, he was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri in 1915.

He received the degrees of the Ancient & Accepted Rite as a member of the A.C. Stewart Class of 1905, and became Wise Master of the Chapter in 1911, serving in that role for 2 years. He was invested with the Rank and decoration of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 1909, and in 1915 coroneted an Inspector General Honorary.

Bro. Falkenhainer died in May of 1931

Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri- 1915; Potentate-Moolah Shrine- 1922; Wise Master, St. Louis Chapter Rose Croix- 1911-1913

This chair is an interesting artifact and was donated in Memory of MIC. Falkenhainer (As inscribed on the top piece). It is in possession of the Masonic Center of St. Louis and serves as the chair for the Commander/Presiding Officer in the Asylum.

