

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

Jacob W. Thompson, KYCH

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri Education Committee

Most Ill. Comp. Walter W. Garth, PIGM, PDGC

Our Eighth Grand Master- 1874

Past Deputy Grand Commander- Grand Commandery of Missouri, Knights Templar- 1878

Walter “Wat” Warren Garth was born on January 27th, 1848 and as such was among Columbia Missouri’s oldest native residents.¹ AS a youth Garth attended the local Columbia Schools and then at varying points attended all three of Columbia’s colleges, He married Eva Samuel in 1867 at the age of nineteen. The year before he had been appointed deputy Circuit Clerk for Boone County (interestingly enough the Clerk who appointed him was his soon to be father-in-law.) He was admitted to the Bar in 1873, and the next year elected to the first of two terms as Clerk of the Boone County Circuit Court and the ex-officio Recorder of Deeds for the county. In 1890 Garth was appointed Judge of the County Probate Court and later resigned that position to become the Assistant Cashier of the Exchange National Bank of Columbia. Walter and Eva had six children together

Bro. Garth was initiated, passed and raised in Twilight Lodge No. 114, completing his work on March 15th, 1869. Shortly thereafter he began a multi-year stint as Secretary leading to his election as Master of Twilight Lodge in 1872.

The same year of his initiation our brother was exalted in Columbia Chapter No. 17 Royal Arch Masons, and served as the High Priest of said chapter in 1873 and 1874, and then in 1895 and 1897. Garth was greeted and passed the circle of perfection on July 16th, 1872. He then went on to aided in the formation of Melody Council No. 17, and served as it’s Master in 1873, 1874, 1876-78. In the midst of his service to his individual Council he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Council of Missouri in 1874. His election at the age of 26 was the youngest Grand Master of the Council at that time, and perhaps since. Further of note- his election to the Grand East of the Secret Vault was preceded by no other Grand Office and he was elected directly from the floor. Sadly a few years after his final term as Master of Melody Council, it’s charter was arrested and thus in 1881 he was left as an un-affiliated Cryptic Mason.

As the Cryptic work was not required for advancement in the American Rite, our brother took the Orders of Masonic Templary the same year he joined the Chapter and was knighted in St. Graal Commandery No. 12 on July 16th of that year.² Garth served as St. Graal’s Commander in 1876, 1885, 1887, 1890-93. In the midst of his service commanding his Commandery he was elected Deputy Grand Commander in 1878. His business obligations thereafter precluded his attendance at the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery in 1880 and with that his connection with Grand Commandery service ceased.

¹ *A History of Missouri Councils*, R. Denslow

² 1869

**Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri- 1874; Grand
Commander, Deputy Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Missouri- 1878**

Most Ill. Comp. Noah M. Given, PIGM, PGM, PGHP, PGC

Our Ninth Grand Master- 1875

Past Grand Master Grand Lodge of Missouri-1878

Past Grand High Priest-Grand Chapter, R.A.M. of Missouri- 1878

Past Grand Commander- Grand Commandery of Missouri, Knights Templar- 1891

Noah M. Given was born on December 1, 1840 in Indiana and spent his youth there on a farm. Given was educated in the local public schools and then attended Franklin College for three years before graduating from the University of Indiana. At the age of sixteen he began teaching while in college, following his graduation he was named Principal of Grade Schools in Lawrenceburg Indiana (later serving as County Superintendent of Public Schools). Further during this early professional career he was elected County Treasurer for Dearborn County. Not to slow down during this same period he worked as a newspaper publisher producing the



Lawrenceburg Register. All of these occurring while he was studying law and preparing for the bar. Following his admission he moved to Harrisonville, Mo in 1866. Just over a decade later Given served as the Judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit (1880-86.) He then resigned from the bench and moved to St. Louis for a time before returning to Harrisonville, where he resided the remainder of his life.

Givan was initiated, passed and raised in 1862 at Burns Loge No. 55, Manchester, Indiana, Grand Lodge of Indiana. He later demitted from Burns and affiliated with Lawrence Lodge No. 5 under the same Grand Lodge and left that Lodge as it's Senior Warden. Once in Missouri he became a charter member assisting in the organization of Cass Lodge No. 147 in 1867 and thereafter served as its Master. The next year Givan was called to serve as District Deputy of the Thirty-Sixth District for the Grand Lodge. In 1874 Givan was appointed Senior Grand Deacon, and thereafter elected in succession until 1878 when he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. Givan capped a broad and expansive career of statewide work, spending 15 years as Chairman of the Grand Lodges Appeals and Grievances Committee and was President

of the Board of Directors or the Masonic Home of Missouri from its initial organization in 1889 until his passing in 1907.

Companion Givan was exalted in Indiana in 1865 at the hands of the then Grand High Priest of Indiana, MEC Thomas Anderson. As with Cass Lodge, Givan served as a charter member of Signet Chapter No 68 in 1870. He later served Signet as it's High Priest for four terms. He then was called to greater service and in 1874 appointed Grand Capitan of the Host for the Grand Chapter. The next year Givan was elected Grand Scribe and advanced regularly to be elected Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Missouri in 1878. Later he served as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter from 1883 until his death. Further Givan served as the Excellent Treasurer of the Grand Convention of Anointed High Priests of the State of Missouri for a number of years.

In 1871 Givan was greeted and passed the circle in Arcana Council No. 16 and served as its Master in 1874. In 1873 Companion Givan was elected Grand Principal Conductor of the work and advanced regularly, being elected Grand Master of the Grand Council in 1875. In similar fashion to the Grand Chapter, he was elected Grand Treasurer for the Grand Council as well in 1883 and continued in that office until his passing.

Most Ill. Companion Givan was knighted and received the orders of Masonic Templary in Palestine Commandery No. 17 in 1874 (Palestine stationed in Independence.) He then helped to charter Bayard Commandery No. 26 in Harrisonville. He then went on to serve as its first Commander of Bayard in 1875-77 and then again 1880-86. During his time in St. Louis, he worked in the formation of Bernard de Tremelay Commandery No 49. In 1884 Givan began to serve the Grand Commandery of Missouri as Junior Grand Warden and advanced over time to be elected Grand Commander in 1891.

Further involvement included the Order of Eastern Star, where our brother served as Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Missouri in 1890.

Givan's service and extent of leadership puts him in the rare count of those who had led all major bodies of Missouri Freemasonry, and in the rarer group with the inclusion of also leading the Order of Eastern Star.

Outside the Craft Givan was a member of the Knights of Honor, a non-masonic fraternal order and benefit society. In 1900 he was appointed Supreme Reporter of that body.

Givan passed while in St. Louis on October 3rd, 1907 and his remains were then convened back to Harrisonville for internment.

**Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri- 1875;
Grand Treasurer, Grand Council of Missouri, 1883-1907; Grand Master, Grand Lodge of
Missouri- 1878; Grand Chapter of Missouri, 1883-1907; Grand Commander, Grand
Commandery of Knights Templar of Missouri- 1891; Grand Patron, Grand Chapter of
Missouri, Order of Eastern Star, 1890**

Most Ill. Comp. William R. Penick, PIGM, PGM, PGHP, PDGC

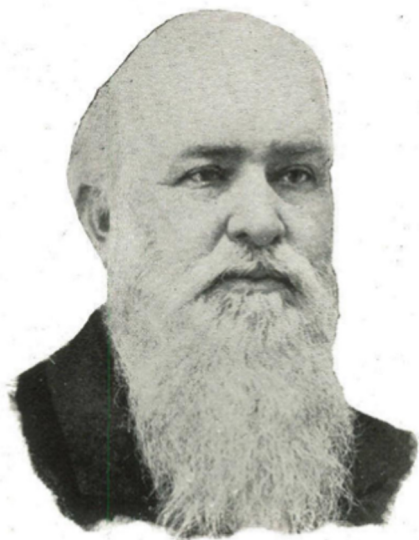
Our Eleventh Grand Master- 1877

Past Grand Master Grand Lodge of Missouri-1861

Past Grand High Priest-Grand Chapter, R.A.M. of Missouri- 1861

Past Deputy Grand Commandery- Grand Commandery, K.T. of Missouri- 1861

William Ridgeway Penick was born in Boone County, Missouri on May 20, 1829. At the young age of eight Penick's family moved northwest to the Platte Purchase region of Missouri. Entering adult life Penick taught school for a time but was primarily engaged in the drug and book business. Penick was by all standards an ardent and zealous Unionist in the course of the Civil War, going as far as to organize the "Unconditional Union Club of Missouri. His support of the Union cause brought government appreciation and military commissions, five in total,



WILLIAM R. PENICK.

culminating in the rank and position of Brigadier General of the Northwestern Missouri Militia. During his service he served as Major on the staff of Brigadier General Ben F. Loan, was then promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and then Colonel of the 5th Regiment Cavalry Missouri State Militia, and then Colonel of that regiment, concluding with his promotion as a Brigadier General and oversight of Northwest Missouri Militia. In this capacity General Penick oversaw Platte, Clay, Cass and Jackson County military efforts fighting well known guerillas like William Quantrill. Penick later served as the Buchanan County Coroner and in the City of St. Joseph as a councilman and later Mayor. During his two-

year term as Mayor Penick organized the first paid Fire Department in the City. Further he was the President of the St. Joseph and Denver Railroad Company. Additionally, he was an active member of Chester Harding Post No. 182, Grand Army of the Republic.

In March of 1856 Penick entered the Fraternity and became a member of St. Joseph Lodge No. 78, quickly rising in prominence to be elected Master two years later. That year as Master while attending Annual Communication he was appointed Junior Grand Deacon. The next session he was elected Senior Grand Warden, and the year thereafter Deputy Grand Master and in 1861, after 5 years of membership in the Fraternity was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. Penick's military duties during the Civil War predicated his address to Annual

Communication being sent in from the Field and the Craft at large administered as such in that time.³ Locally Penick served as President of the Masonic Board of Relief of St. Joseph for twenty years.

In 1856 Brother Penick was exalted in St. Joseph Chapter No. 14 (now Mitchell Chapter No. 15), and in 1860 served as High Priest. Penick began his service to the Grand Chapter in 1857 as Grand Royal Arch Captain, served as Grand Scribe two terms ('58-'59) and was then elected Grand High Priest in 1861.

In 1877 Penick was elected Grand Master of the Grand Council having been a Charter member of St. Joseph Council No. 9. Penick helped charter No. 9 in 1871 and served as its Master in 1871 and 1872. It is worth noting that Penick was among those early Grand Masters of the Council who was elected from the floor with no prior grand office held.

Penick received the orders of Masonic Templary and was knighted in Weston Commandery No. 2 in 1859 and then was among those responsible for organizing St. Joseph Commandery No. 4 in 1861, and two years later was elected Deputy Grand Commander of Missouri.

Penick was also involved in the early Scottish Rite efforts of Missouri- although not yet organized in bodies as we envision today, serving as the presiding officer of two local bodies that later faded. He was a 32° having received the degrees from Albert Pike or Albert Mackey, on one of their journeys through the state

Notably in a stroke unseen today, Penick had overlapping terms as Deputy Grand Commander and Grand High Priest, with slight touch from his term as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge.

Penick passed on December 4th, 1891 at the age of 62. He was buried at Mt. Mora Cemetery in St. Joseph. He was at that time the oldest Past Grand High Priest of the State, and the most senior by age member of St. Joseph Lodge who had been raised there and remained a member there through life.

Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri- 1877; Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Missouri- 1861; Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter, RAM of Missouri-1861; Past Deputy Grand Commandery- Grand Commandery, K.T. of Missouri- 1861

³ Deputy Grand Master Marcus H. McFarland presided in his stead.

Most Ill. Comp. Benjamin P. Bailey, PIGM

Our Twelfth Grand Master- 1878-1879(No Grand Assembly held in 1879)

Benjamin Peter Bailey was born near Fulton in Callaway County, Mo on March 13, 1847. Baily served as Deputy Sheriff of Callaway County for several years and was the Mayor of Fulton Mo for four years. He went on to serve as Doorkeeper of the Missouri State Senate. Bailey then went on to serve as Treasurer and then Steward for the State Hospital for the Inane at Fulton. The last role under his belt in his career of public service came as an employing of the Federal Government in the Sub-Treasurer located in St. Louis.

Bailey received his degrees in Fulton Lodge No. 48 in 1872. Four years later he served as Master of the Lodge, and again the next year and in 1885.

Companion Bailey was exalted in Orion Chapter No. 49 in 1872, and later served that Chapter a sit's High Priest for four years. He was greeted and passed the circle in Columbia, Mo in 1874 and became among the charter members of Hebron Council No 18 in Fulton. He served Hebron as Master in 1878. In the same year he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Council. Bailey had served the Grand Council since 1876 when he was elected Grand Principal Conductor of the work.

In the realm of Masonic Templary he received the orders in Crusade Commandery No, 23, Mexico, Missouri in 1873, and went on to be part of the push for Calvary Commandery No. 28 later formed in Fulton.

Baily died on June 8, 1901 at the age of 54 in St. Louis, Mo and his remains were returned thence to Fulton for services and internment.

Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri- 1878-79

Most Ill. Comp. John A. Dolman, PIGM

Our Thirteenth Grand Master- 1880

John Ashton Dolman was born on February 1, 1822 in Concord Ohio.⁴ Spending his youth on his family's farm, he inevitably headed off into various ventures in various places landing in St. Louis. There along the Mississippi River he lived for five years and worked in the business department of the Missouri Republican paper. Leaving the news business, he became involved in real estate in that work he arrived in St. Joseph in 1854. His arrival to those parts came on behalf of clients who owned land on the cities Borders. Dolman divided the lots and sold the property for his employers to great success. Perhaps seeing the potential for St. Joseph at that time he remained and made it his home. Dolman filled many roles thereafter and positions of note in civil, military, and educational circles. He was for quite some time the Judge of the St. Joseph Police Court. This relationship began in 1859 when he was elected the then City Recorder (which carried similar duties to the Judgeship in those years.) Dolman was never admitted to the Bar but in his public office he oversaw the measuring of judgement and the growth of a city police force from a city marshal to full department. During the Civil War Dolman joined the Federal Militias then forming and soon rose to the rank of Captain. As the war progressed, he was given orders as the General Mustering Officer for Northwest Missouri. He also filled duties as the Judge Advocate of the Military Commission and the Commissary of Exemptions. Inevitably serving on the staff of General James Craig. Reported as frequently involved in the expanding of St. Joseph business but never profiting or seeking to do so himself, he was for a time Secretary of and instrumental in the work of the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad.

In family life, Dolman had been married twice. His first wife, Susan Murdock and he were wed in Zanesville, Ohio in 1845. Susan then passed in 1856, bearing John a son and daughter James and Fannie. In 1858 he remarried, this time to D.H. Banes, also of Zanesville. To this union was born three boys, John Jr, Sam, and William, and additionally the inclusion of two stepsons Dr. Banes and John Townsend.

Dolman was among those charter members of Zeredatha Lodge No. 189, St. Joseph and served as it's Master in 1879. He was exalted in St. Joseph Chapter No. 14 Royal Arch Masons in 1859 and later affiliated with Mitchell Chapter No. 89 RAM in 1876. At Mitchell Chapter he served as its first High Priest.

In 1871 Doleman was greeted and passed the circle in St. Joseph Council No. 9. He went on to serve as Master of the Council in 1879, and the next year was elected Grand Master of the

⁴ Also reported in local papers of the time as Zanesville, OH

Council. Dolman had been elected Principal Conductor of the Work in 1877 and advanced regularly to that station.

Doleman was a charter member of St. Joseph Commandery No. 4 and a Noble of Moila Shrine.

Outside the Fraternity Dolmans interests were expansive in the so called “secret orders” of the time. He was a member of the Oddfellows, Knights of Pythias, Pocahontas Tribe No. 19 International Order of Red Men⁵ and was prominent in the Grand Army of the Republic, a member of Custer Post.

Dolman passed at the age of 74 in St. Joseph, Mo on February 9, 1896 and is buried in Mt Mora Cemetery in that City.

Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri- 1880

⁵ His obituary in the St. Joe Newspapers of the time note he was the “Father of the Red Men.” Locally and another notes he was a “Past Sachem”