



MISSOURI YORK RITE BEACON

Volume 2

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President's Day 2024

United States of America



Missouri York Rite Beacon Magazine

Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri

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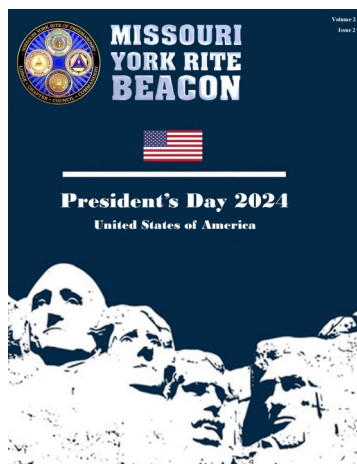
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To Submitters: The editor would like to remind you that photograph submissions should include 40-50 words telling who, what, when, where and why. Pictures should be high resolution jpg from a camera (at least 300 dpi). Phone pictures are unacceptable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



Cover Art: Larry Wilson

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

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

Missouri York Rite Beacon Magazine is published monthly. The submission deadline is as follows:

March Issue: February 29, 2024



A Message from the Grand High Priest

MEC Mark A. Bean
Grand High Priest



My Companions,

Now with the Holidays behind us, and better weather is hopefully ahead of us. It is time to look towards to our future endeavors.

On March 2nd, our Jefferson City Chapter will be hosting the 2024 Grand Master's Royal Arch Class. The Grand Lecturer and his team have been working effortlessly to find the best ritualist in the state to confer the Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees. If your Chapter has candidates ready for either of those degrees, this would be a prime opportunity for your candidates to receive their degrees by some of the best companions that this state has available. Just make sure to register them with the Grand Secretary's Office beforehand. Additionally, this class will afford everyone an opportunity to meet and greet M.W.B. Charles Wiegert, our Grand Master to which this class was created to in honor him.

On March 23rd , Lexington Chapter #10 will celebrate their 175th year with a Rededication Ceremony. It will be performed by your Grand Chapter Officers. This will be the 2nd time that this ceremony has been performed in this state. Also, I will be proudly representing you at the Arkansas Grand York Rite Session that is coming up in just a few weeks.

Looking further down the road, the Ladies of our York Rite have been hard at work planning for our Grand Session in June. From what I have heard, there will be a lot of fun things going on. Please stay tuned for future updates...

If you have any events or degree work coming up, please post it on the Grand York Rite calendar. You never know who may show up...

Stay safe and keep the Faith,

MEC Mark A. Bean, Grand High Priest





Message from the Grand Master

*MIC Dr. Paul L. Daniels
Most Illustrious Grand Master*



Greetings Companions,

As we begin to thaw out from that January weather, there are a few events coming up that I wanted to remind each Council about. The first is Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF) month. CMMRF month for Missouri is annually in March. We ask that each Council plan a fundraising event to benefit CMMRF. There are at least three events that I am aware of that are already scheduled. Shekinah Council No. 24 is hosting a Purple Gala again this year. Zabud Council No. 25 is hosting its first Purple Gala. Both events will be on March 30. Dr. Murphy, the leading researcher from Indiana University will be present at Shekinah Council and simulcasted to Zabud Council. Kirksville Council No. 44 is hosting a Table Council on March 23. More information on these and other events are posted on the Grand York Rite calendar. If you schedule an event, please remember to put it on the Grand York Rite calendar.

Many of you are continuing to work on dues collection. Keep in mind that each member who does not pay their dues in a timely manner should be referred to your Retention Committee. This includes those who may ask for a demit as well. No suspensions will be accepted unless they are accompanied by a completed Membership and Retention Committee Delinquency Report. If you do not have these forms, they are posted on the Grand York Rite website. Remember, the spirit of this new by-law is to reach out with a personal contact to those members and try to retain their membership in your Council.

April 15 is the deadline for your Council's Merit Award submission. Again, each Council should be submitting this application on an annual basis. Work with your Regional Deputy Grand Master on finalizing this form and be aware of the deadline. In my opinion, the Merit Award form provides an outline for what each Council should be doing on an annual basis. Being active helps a Council to remain active.

Finally, the Grand Master's Cryptic Day this year will be on March 16 at Jefferson City. Please let us know soon if you have candidates for that day and remember to bring new members who have not yet seen the Super Excellent Master Degree in full form. They will be impressed. Cryptic Day is a wonderful display of degree work presented by some of the best ritualists in Missouri. I hope to see you there!

Fraternally,

Dr. Paul L. Daniels, Grand Master



Message from the Grand Commander

SK Kevin B. Sample
Right Eminent Grand Commander



From the Grand Commander,

The banner of the Knights Templar was called the Beauseant and, like many pieces of medieval history, its true etymology may have been lost somewhere along the way. An anonymous pilgrim who visited Jerusalem between the twelfth and thirteenth century had the following to say of the Templars, their banner and the Order's battle techniques:

“The Templars are most excellent soldiers. They wear white mantles with a red cross, and when they go to war a standard of two colors called balzaus is borne before them. They go in silence. Their first attack is the most terrible. In going, they are the first. In returning – the last. They await the orders of their Master. When they think fit to make war and the trumpet has sounded, they sing in chorus the Psalm of David, “Not unto us, O Lord” kneeling on the blood and necks of the enemy, unless they have forced the troops of the enemy to retire altogether, or utterly broken them to pieces. Should any of them for any reason turn his back to the enemy, or come forth alive [from a defeat], or bear arms against the Christians, he is severely punished; the white mantle with the red cross, which is the sign of his knighthood, is taken away with ignominy, he is cast from the society of brethren, and eats his food on the floor without a napkin for the space of one year. If the dogs molest him, he does not dare to drive them away. But at the end of the year, if the Master and brethren think his penance to have been sufficient, they restore him the belt of his former knighthood. These Templars live under a strict religious rule, obeying humbly, having no private property, eating sparingly, dressing meanly, and dwelling in tents.”

The New Knighthood – Malcolm Barber

Other etymological suggestions include piebald, which is perhaps closer to the mark. Piebald means spotted or two color as in a piebald horse or cat. This certainly fits the description of the Beauseant, for it consisted of a black square above a white one.

The late author John J. Robinson claimed that the term Beauseant was Medieval French for “beautiful.” But to a group of knights who were not at all like the vain secular knights of the day, image certainly cannot be the entire interpretation. Robinson also claimed it was a battle cry:

- “The word beau is now generally conceived to mean beautiful, but it means much more than that. In medieval French it meant a lofty state, for which translators have offered such terms as “noble,” “glorious,” and even “magnificent” As a battle cry then, “Beau Seant” was a charge to “Be noble” or “Be Glorious.” - Born In Blood – John J. Robinson

Symbolically, the black section is said to have depicted the sins of the secular world that the Templar knights had chosen to leave, while the second section was white – depicting the purity that the order offered them – a sort of transformation from darkness to light.

Despite many depictions of the banner in later day paintings, the battle standard was not such that it drooped down on its pole. Rather, the banner was held in place top and bottom by two poles so that it did not require a breeze to be seen by the Templars and their enemies.

So important was the view of the flying Beauseant that, before a battle, the Marshal would select ten Templars to protect him and the banner. If the Marshal was killed during fighting, the Commander of Knights would take the banner so that it may fly above the battle for all to see.

This created somewhat of a catch twenty -two situation, for as long as the Beauseant flew the Templars must fight on and as long as the Templars fought on, the Beauseant must fly.

The purpose of the banner was to serve as a rallying point for the Templars. One of the Order's tactics during battle was the heavy horse charge. This often caused the Templars to be separated from one another. As such, the flying Beauseant would allow them to easily regroup in order to continue the attack.

<https://templarhistory.com/the-beauseant/>

From the Grand Encampment Constitution and Statutes, Section 239. The Beauseant of the Order shall be of silk, in two stripes of equal width running horizontally, the upper stripe black and the lower stripe white - six feet fly and three feet six inches on the staff; swallow-tailed one-third its length' the edges of the flag shall be plain, without fringe. The name of the Commandery shall be placed upon its upper stripe and its location on the lower stripe, the lettering being in contra colors to the field. The staff shall be nine feet in length, including the crosshead, which shall be of gold or gilt metal, consisting of a ball surmounted by the Cross of Salem. Cords and tassels composed of strands of black and white silk in equal proportions shall be attached to the base of the crosshead. (1931, page 284). More reading - The Lesson of the Beauseant, by Dr. Gary D. Lemmons, PC, KTCH.

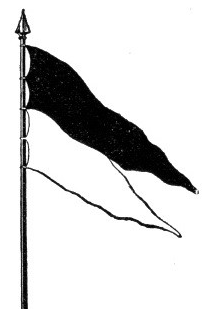
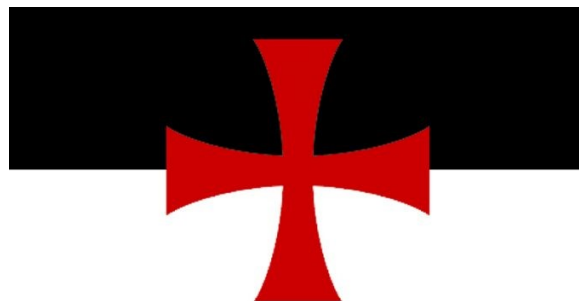
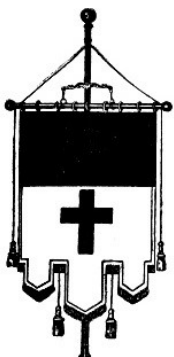
From a military perspective, flags signaled other units in battle, but were also a tangible manifestation of the beliefs and spirit of a group of people. As such, flags were protected to the point of injury or death. Men in service took pride in what their flag meant, whether it symbolized their particular corps or the larger intentions of war. Designating flags were used to organize army units, whereas other flags directly represented the two warring factions.

Sir Knights, there is a lot of history in your Commandery, your Grand Commandery and in Knights Templary in general regarding our battle flags. It is for this reason I am asking all Commanderies to get out their beauseants, clean them up, put on your drill streamers, and display them proudly at all meetings and gatherings of Missouri Knights Templar. This is also why I am asking all drilling Commanderies to bring their beauseants to our drill competition on April 20. Let's start showing a little bit more pride in our Commanderies. If you need a new beauseant, reach out to me directly and I can help you with that, they can be made/reproduced for as little as a couple hundred dollars.

Yours in Freemasonry,

Kevin B. Sample, Grand Commander

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri



2024 Missouri **GRAND YORK RITE** **SESSIONS**



THE 3 AMIGOS INVITE YOU TO SPRINGFIELD

**GRAND COUNCIL
CRYPTIC MASON
158TH ASSEMBLY**

**GRAND COMMANDERY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
163RD CONCLAVE**

**GRAND CHAPTER
ROYAL ARCH MASON
177TH CONVOCATION**



**THURSDAY
JUNE 6**



**FRIDAY
JUNE 7**



**SATURDAY
JUNE 8**



The York Rite Needs You! It is volunteers that keep the heart of York Rite Masonry beating strong. Some roles require specific skill sets, some require time throughout the year, and some at specific times. Sign up and volunteer, let us know what you are interested using the online form at:

<https://moyorkrite.org/volunteer/>



York Rite Leadership Program (Online) 101 Personal Effectiveness

The current York Rite Leadership Training Program consists of six well-developed courses that are designed to give you the skills to be a better leader of yourself and others. The six courses cover three bodies of knowledge, offering both a “theory” (online) course and a practical application (in-person) course.

Level 100: Personal Effectiveness Level 200: Group Dynamics Level 400: Influential Communication The first skill in your journey to becoming a better leader is either the online (101) or in-person (102) class on Personal Effectiveness. This class will help you with assessing your current leadership skill set and abilities while teaching some core leadership principles . Upon completing the class, you are expected to put into practice what you have learned to be a more effective personal leader.

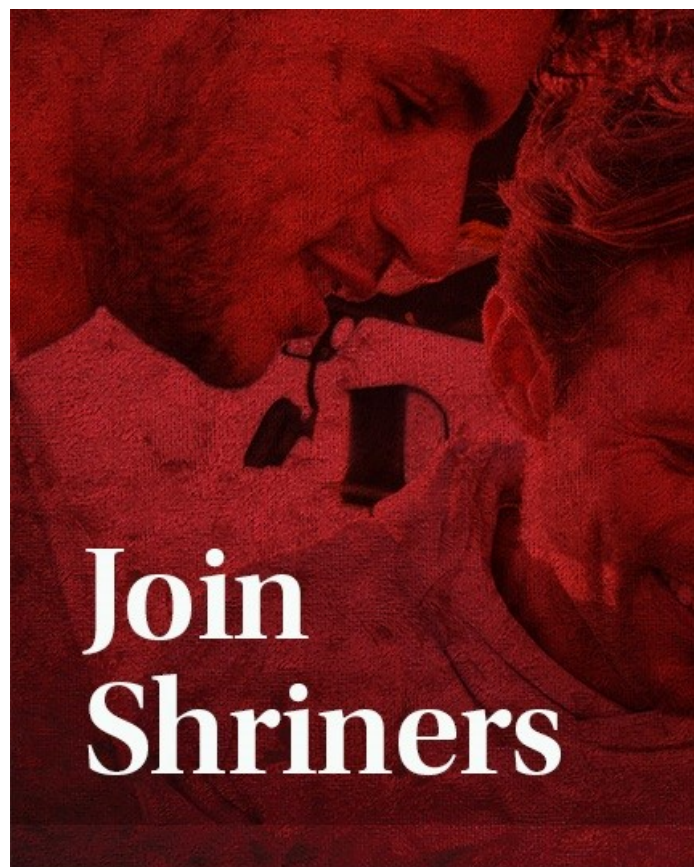
The second class you will attend is Group Dynamics either online (201) or in-person (202). In this class, you will learn how groups develop social identities that lead to better (or not better) outcomes. You will also learn the nuances of working with and motivating volunteer groups and how to be an effective leader of such groups, whether you are in charge or not.

The third class and the capstone of leadership training is Influential Communications. You may take the class either the online (401) or in-person (40). Here you will learn how the human mind processes language and how to use those processes to communicate more effectively and with greater influence. When you understand how people process language, you can construct your language to create the communication you desire.

The new cycle of online classes for 2024 start on Saturday February 17. To sign up, please send an email to yrl@yorkriteleadership.org/ and use the subject: "February 17, 2024 - 101: Personal Effectiveness" and you will be asked any relevant questions to get you registered. This is the first course in our series, so this is a perfect opportunity for folks to start. Please remember that this program is for all members of our Masonic Family. Go to:

<https://yorkriteleadership.org/>

for detailed information.



beashriner.com

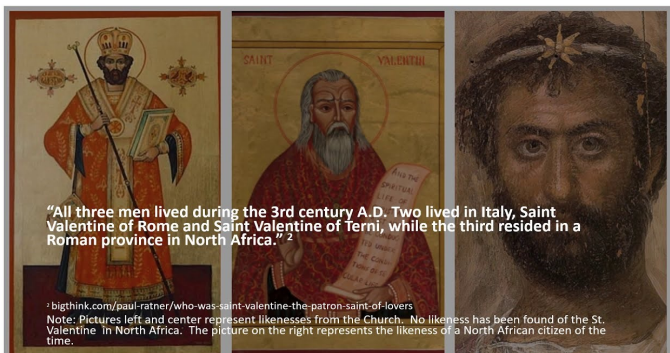
The Legend of St. Valentine

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2>



Where did Valentine's Day begin? The history of the holiday, and its patron Saint is shrouded in mystery. However, we do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman traditions. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend insists that Saint Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young couples in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake for the holiday. He as well was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.



"All three men lived during the 3rd century A.D. Two lived in Italy, Saint Valentine of Rome and Saint Valentine of Terni, while the third resided in a Roman province in North Africa."

2 bigthink.com/jaak-ratner/who-was-saint-valentine-the-patron-saint-of-lovers
Note: Pictures left and center represent likenesses from the Church. No likeness has been found of the St. Valentine in North Africa. The picture on the right represents the likeness of a North African citizen of the time.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine sent the first Valentine greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and most importantly a romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, Valentine would become one of the most popular Saints in England and France.

Origins of Valentine's Day: A Pagan Festival in February

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial, others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February, to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman God of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.



To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or Lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then

strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with this chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity but was outlawed, as it was deemed "un-Christian", at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 Saint Valentine's Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine's Day should be a day for romance. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record St. Valentine's Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem "Parliament of Fowles," writing, "'For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate.'"

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after the 1400s. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415, by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England).

Message from the Editor

Greetings All,

Welcome to February's issue of your Missouri York Rite Beacon Magazine. What a cold season we have had so far. Now that we broke off the icicles from our fingers. We have been able to pull together this month's magazine for you enjoyment.

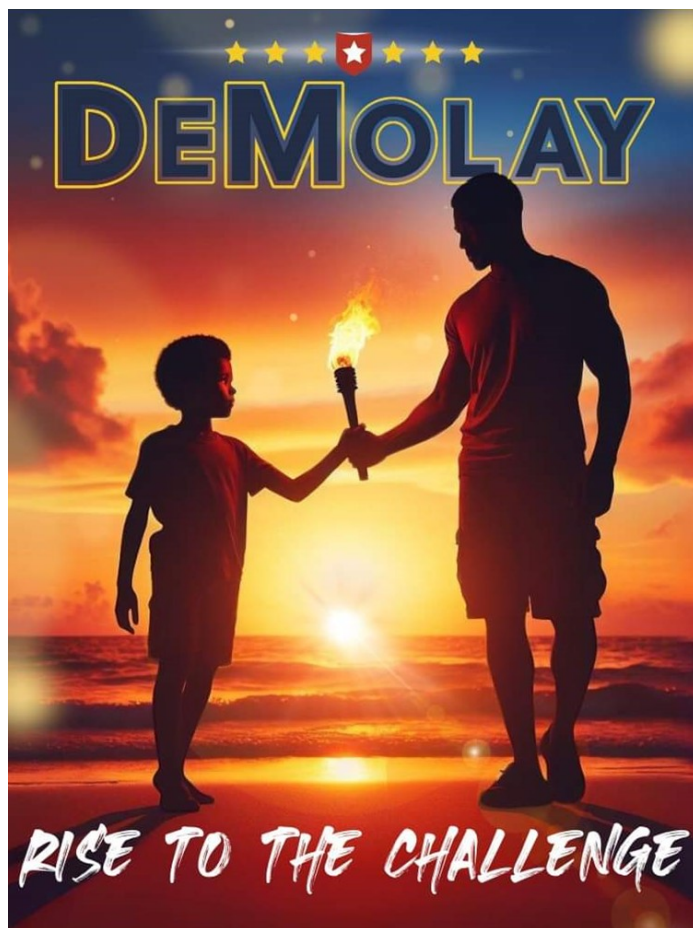
In this issue, we present to you an article on the History of the Cryptic Rite, the History of Valentine's Day, and President's Day & your Masonic Presidents. We hope you will enjoy them as much as we have.

Additionally, we have our grand session coming up in June at the University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center in Springfield, Missouri. Make sure you register and get your rooms ordered soon as space is limited. Further information can be found on our website.

Well, since I have a small space to write in this month I will end it here. We all wish you good health, that the Lord will look down on your family with favor, and we will be seeing you all on down the trail.

Yours in Freemasonry,

Publication Committee





Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight,

Zelwin B. “Zel” Eaton, was presented his Fifty-Year Service Awards for fifty years of membership in the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri; the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri; the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri; and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, all on Thursday, January 4, 2024, in a joint presentation between the York and Scottish Rites of Freemasonry at Kirksville Manor Care Center.

In the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Bro. Eaton became a Master of the Royal Secret by receiving the 32° in the Valley of Columbia, Orient of Missouri, on May 4, 1973. Bro. Eaton served the Valley of Columbia as Master of Kadosh for the Columbia Council of Kadosh. Bro. Eaton became only the sixth Life Member of the Valley of Columbia Scottish Rite on March 16, 1998. He is also a Life Member of the Scottish Rite Research Society.

In the American or York Rite of Freemasonry, Comp. and SK Eaton was exalted to the degree of the Royal Arch in Caldwell Chapter No. 53, Royal Arch Masons; greeted as a Royal and Select Master in Kirksville Council No. 44, Royal and Select Masters; and made a Knight of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple in Ely Commandery No. 22, Knights Templar, all on May 12, 1973. SK Eaton served as Director for numerous York Rite Festivals in Kirksville, Missouri over the years, creating an indispensable guide for the conferral of the degrees and orders that is used to this day by his fellow Companions and Sir Knights. For his labors in the York Rite,

SK Eaton received the Lewis and Clark Award for Region One from the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri for 2001/2002.

Additionally, SK Eaton is a member of several appendant bodies of the York Rite, including St. Chrysostom Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, and the Missouri College of the Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis

Bro., Comp., and SK Eaton’s record in Ancient Craft Masonry is one of significance. Right Worshipful Brother Eaton was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry in Adair Lodge No. 366 A.F. & A.M. on November 9th, 1971. He was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on September 5th, 1972, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on October 10th, 1972. RWB Eaton served as Worshipful Master of Adair Lodge in 1984/1985.

RWB Eaton is a Masonic writer of note: a career that culminated, in many respects, as the Editor of The Freemason magazine from 1997 to 2006. The Freemason magazine is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri. RWB Eaton also wrote a number of Short Talk Bulletins for the Masonic Service Association of North America on such diverse topics as “The Investigating Committee” and “Masonic Funeral Planning.” He assisted Most Worshipful Brother Dale C. Motter, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, 1993-1994, with completing the “Rusty Nail” degree by typing its first draft while serving on the Education Committee for the Grand Lodge during its creation. RWB Eaton is a member of the Philalethes Society as well as a recipient and member of the Masonic Brotherhood of the Blue Forget-Me-Not.

For the Grand Lodge, RWB Eaton served as Fraternal Correspondent from 1991 until 2009; a position previously held by MWB Bruce H. Hunt for roughly twenty-five years. RWB Eaton also served as District Deputy Grand Master for the Second Masonic District from 1996 to 1999. RWB Eaton then served on the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home of Missouri from 2005 to 2009. During his tenure on the Development Committee, the Masonic Home launched the Truman Club: a successful fundraising society that continues to this day. Additionally, RWB Eaton

served as the Grand Representative from the Grand Lodge to the Gran Logia del Estado de Sinaloa (Grand Lodge of the State of Sinaloa) in Mexico.

During his time as DDGM, and also while serving as Editor of *The Freemason*, RWB Eaton served as Worshipful Master of the Missouri Lodge of Research. In 2005, he became only one of fifteen Missouri Freemasons to be named a Fellow of the Missouri Lodge of Research, joining the ranks of Masonic legends like MWB Ray V. Denslow and MWB Bruce H. Hunt.

RWB Eaton is a Life Member of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, and served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Masonic Temple Association in Kirksville.

The service awards were presented by the following brothers:

- Very Excellent Companion Ashley W. Young, District Deputy Grand High Priest for Region One of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, presented the fifty-service award for the Grand Chapter. Young also serves as Grand Sword Bearer for the Grand Commandery, Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection in the Valley of Columbia Scottish Rite, and as District Deputy Grand Master for the Third Masonic District of the Grand Lodge.

Very Illustrious Companion David D. Goring, Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region One of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, presented the fifty-year service award for the Grand Council. Goring also serves as the Excellent High Priest for Caldwell Chapter and is the Eminent Commander-Elect of Ely Commandery.

Sir Knight Jeffrey L. Knight, Regional Grand Commander for Region One of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, presented the fifty-year service award for the Grand Commandery. Knight also serves as District Deputy Grand Lecturer for Region One of the Grand Chapter, Illustrious Master of Kirksville Council, Eminent Commander of Ely Commandery, and Prelate of the Lodge of Perfection in the Valley of Columbia Scottish Rite.

Illustrious Bro. William M. Shansey, 33°, Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Valley of Columbia, in the Orient of Mis-

souri, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction. Shansey is also a Companion and Sir Knight of the Central Missouri York Rite bodies.

- RWB Eaton is pictured with, from left, Bro., Comp., and SK Charles E. Cooper, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, 2020-2021; Bro., Comp., and SK William J. King, Secretary and Recorder for the York Rite bodies of Kirksville, MO; Goring; Knight; Eaton; Shansey; Honorable Bro. James F. Kern, 32° KCCH, Executive Secretary for the Valley of Columbia, in the Orient of Missouri, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction; and Young.





On January 7, 2024, the duly elected and selected officers of Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M., Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S. M., and Ely Commandery No. 22 K.T., (Kirksville York Rite) were installed into their respective offices by MEC Mark A. Bean, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri; MIC Dr. Paul L. Daniels, Grand Illustrious Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri; and Sir Knight Kevin B. Sample, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, respectively. The Joint Installation of Officers was held at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville, Missouri.





Congratulations to the following presiding officers:

Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M.:

EC Craig A. Nowell, High Priest

Kirkville Council No. 44 R. & S.M.:

IC Craig A. Nowell, Master

Ely Commandery No. 22 K.T.:

SK David D. Goring, Commander



Grand Preceptory of Missouri

The Grand Preceptory of Missouri, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, Ingathering was held on Jan 6, 2024. The business meeting was held at Jefferson City Masonic Temple. Outgoing Director General James Woodfin spoke of his year 2023. Election was held for officers for 2024. After lunch, Installation of officers was done. The 2024 officers are as follows:

- Grand Director General-Gary Andrew Phillips
- Grand Deputy Director General-Bobby White
- Grand Adjutant- Carlin Lorraine Smittle
- Grand Master of Ceremonies-Todd Alan Schulze
- Grand Chaplain- Michael Christopher Rohman
- Grand Guard- Dale Ray Roller
- Grand Yeoman- Gerald Rex McCoy
- Grand Treasurer- Harold Franklin Coots PGDG
- Grand Recorder- Robert Schlichter PGDG
- Grand Quartermaster- Robert Schlichter PGDG.
- Loren Lloyd installing Grand Director General
- Harold Coots installing Grand Master of Ceremony
- Installing Grand Chaplain was Thomas Yunick.

Article submitted by Glenn B. Parker



Grand Recorder- Robert Schlichter PGDG trying to figure out how to use a camera. Its not that hard, point and shoot.



Proof that Terry Coppotelli attends these meetings.

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 Mark Bean, Grand High Priest Coin 2023-24



MIC Dr. Paul Daniels, Most Illustrious Grand Master Coin 2023-24



SK Kevin B. Sample, Right Eminent Grand Commander Coin 2023-24

These coins are in limited production. So, hurry on out and purchase them now as we will soon be out of stock and you all will miss out. All donations will 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

The Origins of the Cryptic Rite

*Bob S Jones
Chillicothe, Ohio, Fall 2009*

Research is the quest for fact, not truth. In our search for fact, we can divide history into two distinct time frames; Historic and Prehistoric, with Historic representing those claims which can be supported by written evidence, and Prehistoric as those based solely upon tradition or legend alone. Sadly, a great many of these claims are supported only by tradition. The absence of records, however, is not proof either for or against a tradition. Such absence should place us on guard and warn us not to blindly accept the traditions as an established fact, but however, it does not prove that tradition as false.

I offer the following as my belief relative to the origins of our Cryptic Rite. I am of the opinion that the germ of the Rite was developed in the English Royal Arch of the 1700's.

Bro. Mitchell, in his History of Freemasonry, Vol I, page 667, asserts that the Select Degree was formerly as part of the Royal Arch system. While he offers up no authority to that statement, there is much circumstantial evidence that can be adduced in support of the theory.

About 1724, the Chevalier Andrew Michael Ramsay was selected by James III, the Old Pretender, to tutor his two sons, Charles Edward, also known as the Young Pretender, and Henry. Ramsay in 1737, as the Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of France delivered the celebrated oration which acted as the incentive for the multiplication of Degrees that followed. It is believed that in France alone several hundred such degrees sprang to life.

The Stuart Theory puts forth the idea that the Cryptic Degrees were used as a cover under which the adherents of the House of Stuart could meet and plot to recover the Throne of Great Britain on behalf of that royal house. Under this theory the Select Master Degree symbolizes the plan of Charles Edward Stuart, also known as the Young Pretender, under the title of James VI. He and Louis XVI, the current King of France are the two Kings represented by Solomon and Hiram of Tyre, together with the Earl of Mars and Nithsdale, and 23 others from Gaul forming the 27 that composed the Conclave. These were the men who were laying the foundations of the return and subsequent reign of the Young Pretender in secret. Remember that the word "select" was applied primarily to the individual Mason and not to the Degree itself, it is the individual that is choice or select. The Select Masters

were the true and tried Companions of the Young Pretender and his cause.

According to this theory, the Royal Master is the claimant to the throne of Great Britain. The Lost Word is the Lost Cause, the Secret Vault the Secret place in which they carried on their work for the revival of their cause. Within this vault the Word, symbolizing the Cause and efforts for its revival, was to remain hidden until the time was ripe for it to be revealed.

It may be interesting to note that there is evidence which indicates that the adoption by the Stuarts of the Beehive as a symbol of their resurrection caused the Masons of England to drop the emblem, though its use is still retained in this country as a symbol of industry.

I am inclined to believe that if there was any connection at all, between the House of Stuart and Freemasonry, it was adopted by the Stuarts of symbols and legends already in use by the Fraternity, rather than the invention, or creation of them by the Stuarts or their supporters.

The Scots degrees seem to have sprung up about 1740, in all parts of France. In 1741, we can find evidence of its reach as far as Berlin, Germany. The Chevalier de Bouneville in 1754, established a Chapter in Paris, France, the Jesuit College of Clermont. The system of Freemasonry practiced by this Chapter became known as the Rite of Perfection or the Rite of Heredom. By the year 1758, the original seven degrees had grown to twenty-five and by 1801, were expanded to some thirty-three separate Degrees of the Scottish Rite. During this expansion the Select Degree was first included, then dropped, later reclaimed as a detached degree, and finally dropped once again. One possible reason for the Rite of Perfection in dropping the Select Degree is that its substance was already contained in the 13th and 14th Degrees of that Rite.

By 1802 the newly organized Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite issued a Manifesto setting forth its claims, and listing the degrees over which it claimed jurisdiction; of which the detached Degree of Select Master was one.

The value of a degree is often times measured by the character of the men who propagate it or of the organizations which sponsors it. Being 'Detached Degrees', those of the council degrees were free to be peddled about as side degrees of the lodge, the chapter, and the consistory.

Select Master Degree

Stephen Morin

Morin was named as Inspector General of the Rite for the New World in 1761, and arrived in the West Indies in about 1762. He communicated his powers to Francken in Kingston, Jamaica approximately the same time. There is no record that Morin ever set foot upon the shores of North America.

Henry Andrew Francken

While Francken was responsible for the establishment of a Lodge of Perfection in Albany, New York in 1767, no mention of the degrees of either the Royal or Select Master can be found among its records. Francken imparted the Scottish Rite Degrees to one Moses Hays of Massachusetts.

Moses Michael Hays

Moses received his degrees at the hand of Francken and in 1788, and appointed Joseph Myers as Inspector General of the Rite for the State of Maryland.

Joseph M Myers

Myers while in Virginia taught and practiced the degrees of the Royal Arch, Holy Royal Arch, Select Master, and Royal Master as the fancy or taste of the brethren induced them to take an interest. He was also said to have conferred the Select Degree in Rhode Island. Aside from Myers' activity in the Scottish Rite we know little more about him. However, it is on account of the alleged deposit by him of rituals of the Cryptic Degrees, at Charleston, South Carolina, in 1788, that he had acquired his prominence in Cryptic Masonry. After which time he was not heard of again, and it is assumed that he had returned to Europe.

It is here that any direct linkage to the Scottish Rite Degrees and/or the Cryptic Degrees ends. However, from these four men we could conceivably account for the possible existence of the Cryptic Degrees in such diverse locations as the states of New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, and Rhode Island.

Abram Jacobs

Jacobs received the Scottish Rite degrees from Moses Cohen in Jamaica, as well as the Select Master of twenty-seventh degree on November 09, 1790. Jacobs immediately began to exercise his authority given unto him by Cohen. Jacobs came to New York in 1804, where he continued to confer degrees. Thomas Lownds being one of the candidates on which Jacobs completed conferring the degrees.

It is at this point that we venture from the Prehistoric time frame and into the Historic period as it relates to the development and promulgation of the Select Master Degree.

Henry Wilmans

Wilmans was a native of Bremen, Prussia, where it was supposed that he had received his lodge degrees in Silver Key Lodge located in the city of Bremen; but with the destruction of the records of this Lodge by fire, prior to 1800, prevents any further verification. He first settled in Charleston, South Carolina, about 1788. We do not know how long he lived in Charleston, but he moved to Baltimore in 1792. He established a Lodge of Perfection in the city of Baltimore in 1792, as well as a Grand Council of Select Masters.

The Royal Master and Select Master Degrees seemed, originally, to have had no connection with each other and first became known through entirely different instrumentalities in widely separated parts of this country. A union being affected through the efforts of Jeremy L Cross in and about the year 1820. From Schulz' History of Freemasonry in Maryland, Vol I, page 343 we find the following: Henry Wilmans in the year 1792 erected at the city of Baltimore a Grand Council of Select Masters. By lawful succession the powers so exercised by Wilmans became vested in Philip Eckle and Hezekiah Niles. Where Wilmans obtained his degree or from what source he derived his powers is not known. He seems to have been a man of considerable Masonic standing, and in 1794, was Grand Master of Masons of Maryland.

Philip P. Eckel

Eckel, like Wilmans, was a native of Germany. He received the Select Master Degree from Wilmans previous to 1795. Eckle did not receive the degree of Royal Master until 1819, while in New York.

Hezekiah Niles

Niles received the Select Master Degree from Wilmans. Thus, to Henry Wilmans is generally attributed the recognition of inventing the Select Degree, and its subsequent elaboration to Philip P. Eckle.

Royal Master Degree

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It is at this point that we venture from the Prehistoric time frame and into the Historic period as relates to the development and promulgation of the Royal Master Degree.

Thomas Lowndes

During the Cerneau controversy, Lownds took the Cerneau side, and affiliated with Cerneau's Supreme Council. In 1810, Lownds, along with John E Ruckles, and a number of other brethren met and organized Columbian Council.

Thomas Lownds in 1810, organized in the City of New York a Council of Royal Masters under the name of Columbian Grand Council. Where Lownds obtained his degree is as little known or even less so than where Wilmans received his. In 1806, Abraham Jacobs conferred several Scottish Rite Degrees upon Lownds, but there is no record to show whether or not either of the Cryptic Degrees were numbered among them.

The first record of Columbian Council, which was organized in September of 1810, uses Scottish Rite Titles and Scottish Rite dates, with the York Rite dates not appearing until August of 1818. While the records of Columbian Council indicate a Scottish Rite connection in the beginning, there seems to have been a growing tendency to establish a close affiliation with Royal Arch Masonry of the York Rite.

In all probability, the Royal Master Degree may have been fabricated by Lownds and his associates, and while there have been some prominent changes the spirit of the degree remains intact. To this body of Royal Masters also is ascribed the invention of the Super-Excellent Degree, as it seems to have been first conferred by them about 1825.

To Lownds and Wilman, we may directly trace all of the Cryptic Masonry now in use in either hemisphere.

The evidence for the foregoing statement is derived from an old document without any date over the signature of Eckle and Niles. It is generally conceded that Eckle believed himself to be the sole and rightful custodian of the degree of Select Master after the death of Wilmans in 1795. It was in the fall of 1816, Eckle conferred the degree upon Jeremy L Cross, who had just been appointed as Grand Lecturer of the General Grand Chapter. Cross was so struck with the beauty of the degree, as well as its utility as a complement to the Royal Arch, that he asked for and received permission to disseminate it among Royal Arch Masons. This permission was given by a warrant under the hand of Eckle by the title of 'Thrice Illustrious and Grand Puissant in the Grand Council of Select at Baltimore'. This warrant was attested to by, "H Niles as Ill. In the G. Council". These Councils established by Cross at that time were all assemblies of Select Masters only. In 1818 Cross, in some manner, became possessed of the Royal degree, and he thereupon enlarged 'the high powers' in him vested by Eckle to grant charters for Councils of Royal as well as Select Masters.

The popular fallacy that the Cryptic Rite arose out of or formed a part of the Scottish Rite system, either in course or detached, was undoubtedly created by the fact that all of the earlier custodians were 'Inspectors General'. The Rite of Perfection was introduced into this country by Stephen Morin.

Henry Andrew Francken. Soon after Morin's removal to St. Domingo, appointed a number of deputies under the same name, and those in turn appointed others. The subsequent political troubles on that island caused a large exodus to the United States and many of these 'deputies' were numbered among them. Upon their arrival here a few settled and permanently re-

at Charleston, S.C., while others went on to New York and other cities. They carried with them in some very vague form the elements of the Rite of Perfection and in a limited and rather imperfect manner diffused them to an eager audience. There was neither system nor government of the Rite at that time, and thus every individual Inspector was practically a law unto himself. No effort at organization ever seems to have been made at any place save Charleston, where tradition says a Lodge of Perfection was established, and this city may justly be regarded as the Mecca of the Scottish Rite.

It was not until after the Council degrees had become established in their present forms that the Scottish Rite jumped up and claimed authority of the Royal and Select Master Degrees. But the Charleston body could show but a doubtful title to the Select Degree and was positively without any in respect to the Royal. Finally, the Scottish Rite during its session held in Baltimore in 1870 formally relinquished all control over the Select Master Degree.

Jeremy L Cross

Cross knew nothing at all of the history of Masonry and cared nothing for it. To all questions outside of simply performing the 'work' and 'lectures', his honest answer was – 'When you memorize what I am teaching you, then you will know as much about Masonry as I do!' In 1819, Cross published both his "True Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor", borrowing largely from that of Webb along with a pamphlet monitor of the Council Degrees.

John Barker

Received the Degree of Royal Master on December 15, 1818, in the Council at New Haven, Connecticut, of which Cross was a member.

A few years after Cross had started upon his work a rival appeared upon the field in the person of John Barker, who claimed to be the accredited 'agent' of the Southern Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., an authority that has never been substantiated.

Philip P Eckel

Eckel received the degree of Royal Master in 1819, by Ebenezer Wadsworth of New York. High sounding Masonic titles were easily acquired in those days, and just as easily maintained, as there were none to say nay. The Inspectors assumed the power of creating others at their pleasure, and this power was freely exercised, while still others assumed dignity upon themselves and an assertion of superior knowledge concerning the 'high grades'. As a rule, the degrees so held, or controlled by each man were imparted in the most informal manner by oral and individual communication. These early vendors of Freemasonry conferred the de-

grees sometimes for gold and sometimes for glory; actuated by the highest and best of motives on occasion and in the most selfish and sordid in others, yet at all times rendering a most important service for the generations which were to come in the preservation and perpetuation of the old traditions, rites and ceremonies.

Barker, like Cross, was actuated mainly by motives of personal gain. Both sowed the good seed for hire, and both made merchandise for the conferral of the degrees. Joseph Meyers, who was the founder of the Charleston Council Princes of Jerusalem, was an itinerant vender of miscellaneous Masonic wares-for a consideration. He traveled extensively, in some kind of mercantile pursuit, carrying his Masonic degrees as a sideline. He by no means confined himself to the Rite of Perfection, as his overflowing store would furnish almost anything that was called for.

And so, it was with all the high degrees practiced in this country prior to the 1800s. At that time organization commenced and has since been steadily perfected thereby taking from the itinerant vendor the ability to promote his 'higher degrees' and transferring that practice to constitutional authority.

On the whole the evidence seems to point to a French origin based on the English Royal Arch, in common with but earlier than the Scottish Rite. It would appear that the Cryptic Degrees went from France to Germany, and then back again to France, when all trace of it was lost until it re-appeared in America.

By thus considering our origins and tracing our descent, we may safely assert that our extraction is honorable and compares favorably with any of the bodies that came into existence contemporaneously with us. Our growth and development have been upon the lines of freedom that characterizes the York Rite and distinguishes it from all others. Our government is based on the cherished principles of democratic equality first practiced by the Masonic guild, while our symbolism, allegories, and moral teachings complete and fully perfect the Masonic system of the American Rite.





ANCIENT CRAFT MASONRY IS JUST THE BEGINNING

2024 Grand Masters' Royal Arch Class

IN HONOR OF
COMPANION AND M.:W.:B.: CHARLES F. WIEGERT
GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE

&

M.:E.:C.: MARK A. BEAN
GRAND HIGH PRIEST OF THE GRAND CHAPTER
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS

THE RECOVERY OF WHAT WAS LOST

9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. MARCH 2, 2024
JEFFERSON CITY MASONIC TEMPLE

2024 Grand Masters' Cryptic Day



**IN HONOR OF
COMPANION AND M.:W.:B.: CHARLES F. WIEGERT
GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE
&
M.:I.:C.: DR. PAUL L. DANIELS
GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND COUNCIL**

**IN FULL FORM
ROYAL MASTER
SELECT MASTER
SUPER EXCELLENT MASTER**

**PUT IT ALL
TOGETHER
IN THE
CRYPTIC RITE**



**9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. MARCH 16, 2024
JEFFERSON CITY MASONIC TEMPLE**



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

Since its conception in 1974, Royal Arch Research Assistance (R.A.R.A.) has been the world's leading philanthropy dedicated to helping children with Central Auditory Processing Disorders. R.A.R.A., through the contributions of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, supports the Able Kids Foundation.

The Able Kids Foundation is a Colorado-based nonprofit that partners with local, national, and international corporations and organizations to remove barriers for people with disabilities.

The Central Auditory Research Center concentrates on exploring causes and solutions for individuals with central auditory processing disorder (CAPD). Thanks to generous support from the Royal Arch Research Assistance, Inc., a philanthropy of the General Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons, International, audiologists certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and researchers work with the Director, Dr. Joan Burleigh, to develop the next generation of diagnostic tests and effective treatments and technologies.

The Beginning

At the 1972 Triennial meeting in Las Vegas, Most Excellent (M.E.) Edward Selby, Past Grand High Priest (P.G.H.P.) of Ohio and Grand King of the Gen-

eral Grand Royal Arch Chapter International, proposed at the Grand King's meeting that General Grand Chapter should have a unique and unified Philanthropy, one that would not conflict, detract or duplicate existing charities.

In 1974, the R.A.R.A. was born after extensive investigation. The plans were implemented in 1975 during M.E. Gordon Merrick's term.

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 sent to:

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





CMMRF

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

New Equipment made possible by CMMRF

We have recently purchased an 'encapsulator,' a fancy name for a machine that will make a protective bubble around the miracle cells being introduced into the body. These cells are being trained to become new heart cells, nerve cells, and even cells that treat diabetes.

Think of what this could mean! The team of physicians, with CMMRF as their major donator, has created treatments that can repair heart muscle after a heart attack, nerve tissue after a spinal cord injury, and cells that regulate someone's blood glucose levels. Everyone knows somebody that has had a heart attack or that is diabetic. It is estimated that 7% of the American population is diagnosed with diabetes with another 2% that do not even know it yet. This treatment can ensure that you and your loved ones can avoid the health issues that come with diabetes. Heart disease is another big issue, but these treatments are now being created that will repair heart tissue, should a heart attack happen to you or a loved one. And our donations are making it possible!

Please consider giving to this amazing charity of ours. This may be Freemasonry's best kept secret, but it should not be a secret at all. This is HUGE! Imagine being diagnosed with diabetes this year and within this decade being told that you no longer have diabetes because of this life saving treatment being created by Dr. Michael Murphy and his all-star team at Indiana University. Our contributions are building their medical lab so that they can create more treatments and save more lives. Imagine what they can do when their lab is fully stocked! Since money doesn't grow on trees (but this team is so intelligent, they can probably make that happen too), we should all consider investing in these life changing treatments, because it will someday change our lives, either directly or indirectly.

What is Short Gut Syndrome?

Short Gut Syndrome happens primarily in premature babies when the intestines become infected with the wrong germs, with 10% of severely premature infants developing this disease. It is also known as Necrotizing Enter Colitis (NEC). This is a devastating illness that has been linked to the use of formula instead of breast milk, an increase in the amount of food, and lower than normal oxygen levels.

The research physicians, with funding provided through CMMRF, are looking at stem cells to improve the survival rate of these children. So far, these stem cells are increasing the survival rate to 80-90%. Research has shown that these stem cells can actually produce hydrogen sulfide, a very poisonous gas that every oilfield worker is familiar with. And although hydrogen sulfide can be deadly at very low doses, but these stem cells produce it at an extremely low and steady rate and can greatly improve the survival rate and digestive health of these infants.

Hopefully, with research funded through CMMRF, this horrible disease can become a thing of the past. Now that we understand how and why NEC happens, we can treat it when it happens and maybe even prevent it before it starts.

Diseased Arteries of the Legs

Approximately 3 million Americans suffer from Peripheral Artery Disease, otherwise described as the hardening of the arteries of the legs. This can be caused by fatty deposits and calcium buildup inside the arteries, also known as atherosclerosis. One of the main symptoms is pain when walking. Risk factors include increased age, smoking, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

What is CMMRF doing about this? The team at Indiana University, with the aid of scientists in Japan, is injecting stem cells into the legs to improve circulation, which also happens to relieve pain and improve the chances of keeping your legs. The rehab that is necessary after an amputation is extensive. Some people never get used to using a prosthetic leg and decide to remain in a wheelchair or continue to use crutches. CMMRF is working on treatments to maintain existing blood flow and even reverse the problem itself!

Imagine if you or a loved one was told that they needed their leg amputated due to low blood flow. It is horrible news. The rehab needed to return to a normal lifestyle is difficult and is not always successful. Now imagine if your doctor presented you with another option to possibly prevent the surgery altogether! A donation to CMMRF is not just a donation; it is an investment into the future of medicine.

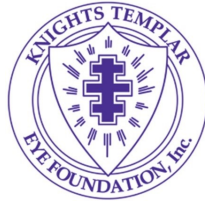
Reducing the Negative and Increasing the Positive

Dr. Michael Murphy, with Dr Steve Miller and Dr Mervin Yoder, are working with stem cells to create new and lasting treatments for a large number of medical conditions. These are not the stem cells that you have heard about in the past... these are sometimes taken from your own body and trained to take over for the part of your body that is not working properly.

Foot ulcers in a diabetic patient can worsen into a major infection or blood circulation issue. 53,000 amputations are performed every year, with each patient needing extensive rehab in a hospital or nursing home. Many of these patients that require having large portions of their legs removed never leave that hospital or nursing home. In the diabetic patient, because of a decrease in feeling and blood flow to the feet, their sores often go unnoticed or untreated. This is where the stem cells are introduced. Unfortunately, not all of these limbs can be saved, but through further research, perhaps this treatment can be used to greatly reduce the likelihood of amputation and greatly reduce healing times.

Warning! Science stuff ahead! These stem cells are pulled from the patient's own bone marrow. The pluripotent stem cells, regrown through cell mediated angiogenesis, are isolated and impregnated into an alginate hydrogel solution for protection and to create a suitable environment to thrive. These cells can then be directed to replace the multitude of the types of tissue that is compromised.

CMMRF, through your donations, are producing treatments that have only been seen in science fiction movies. Soon, these treatments will be perfected and used to change the lives of thousands of people, and perhaps even save your life someday.



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.

President's Day **February 19, 2024**



We are now into February, and it is time to celebrate President's Day. Presidents' Day first began in the 1800s, following the death of Worshipful Brother, President George Washington on December 14, 1799. It was originally celebrated on WBro. Washington's birthday, which is on February 22nd.

However, even though his birthday was an observed for most of the 1800s, it was not until the 1879 that congress made this a federal holiday. It was Senator Stephen Wallace Dorsey of Arkansas who proposed this change, and President Rutherford B. Hayes signed it into law.

Initially, the holiday was only observed in the District of Columbia, but by 1885 it was recognized by the whole country. WBro Washington's Birthday joined four other nationally recognized federal bank holidays: Christmas Day, New Year's Day, the Fourth

of July and Thanksgiving. This was the first holiday to celebrate the life of an individual American.

Uniform Monday Holiday Act

The shift from Washington's Birthday to Presidents' Day began on the January 1, 1971, by the announcement of federal holiday schedule. This was shortly after Congress had proposed and enacted the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. Championed by Senator Robert McClory of Illinois, this law sought to shift the celebration of several federal holidays from their original scheduled holiday dates to a series of predetermined Mondays.

This change was seen as a way to create more three-day weekends for federal employees. The proposal had the support of private industry and labor unions and was viewed as a way to help retail sales. While some would argue that the shifting of holidays would cheapen their meaning. That thought process would eventually be overlooked, and this measure was placed into effect.

The Uniform Monday Holiday Act also included a provision to combine the celebration of President Lincoln's birthday with that of Washington's birthday. Nevertheless, the main piece of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act passed in 1968 and officially took effect in 1971 following an executive order from President Richard M. Nixon. Washington's Birthday was then shifted from the fixed date of February 22 to the third Monday of February. Columbus Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day were also moved from their traditionally designated dates. (As a result of widespread criticism, in 1978 Veterans Day was returned to its original November 11 date). The follow are Presidents who were Freemasons:

George Washington (1732-1799)

1st President

Presidential Term: 1789-1797

Initiated on November 4, 1752, in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, Fredericksburg, Virginia. Elected Worshipful Master on December 20, 1788.

James Monroe (1758-1831)

5th President

Presidential Term: 1817-1825

Initiated on November 9, 1775, in Williamsburg Lodge No. 6, Williamsburg, Virginia at the age of 17.

Andrew Jackson (1767-1845)

7th President

Presidential Term: 1829-1837

Member of St. Tammany (later Harmony) Lodge No. 1 Nashville, Tennessee. Elected Grand Master of Tennessee on October 7, 1822, and served until October 4, 1824.

James K. Polk (1795-1849)

11th President

Presidential Term: 1845-1849

Initiated on June 5, 1820, in Columbia Lodge No. 31, Columbia, Tennessee.

James Buchanan (1791-1868)

15th President

Presidential Term: 1857-1861

Initiated on December 11, 1816, in Lodge No. 43, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Appointed District Deputy Grand Master for the counties of Lancaster, Lebanon and York in 1824.

Andrew Johnson (1808-1875)

17th President

Presidential Term: 1865-1869

Initiated on May 5, 1851, in Greenville Lodge No. 119, Greenville, Tennessee.

James Garfield (1831-1881)

20th President

Presidential Term: 1881

Initiated on November 19, 1861, in Magnolia Lodge No. 20, Columbus, Ohio and raised on November 22, 1864, in Columbus Lodge No. 30. Joined Garrettsville Lodge No. 246, Garrettsville, Ohio in 1866 and was its chaplain for the years 1868-69. Charter Member of Pentalpha Lodge No. 23, Washington, D.C.

William McKinley (1843-1901)

25th President

Presidential Term: 1897-1901

Initiated on May 1, 1865, in Hiram Lodge No. 21, Winchester, Virginia. Joined Canton Lodge No. 60, Canton, Ohio in 1867. Charter member of Eagle (later William McKinley) Lodge No. 431, also in Canton.

Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)

26th President

Presidential Term: 1901-1909

Initiated on January 2, 1901, in Matinecock Lodge No.

806, Oyster Bay, New York.

Raised to Master Mason on April 24, 1901.[3]

William Howard Taft (1857-1930)

27th President

Presidential Term: 1909-1913

Made a Mason at Sight on February 18, 1909, in Kil-winning Lodge No. 356, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Warren G. Harding (1865-1923)

29th President

Presidential Term: 1921-1923 Initiated on June 28, 1901, in Marion Lodge No. 70, Marion, Ohio. Raised on August 27, 1920, in that Lodge.

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)

32nd President

Presidential term: 1933-1945

Initiated on October 11, 1911, in Holland Lodge No. 8, New York City. Was made a Prophet-at-Sight in Tri-Po-Bed Grotto on October 30, 1931. Made Honorary Grand Master of the Order of DeMolay on April 13, 1934.

Harry S. Truman (1884-1972)

33rd President

Presidential term: 1945-1952

Initiated on February 9, 1909, in Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton, Missouri. First Worshipful Master of Grandview Lodge No. 618, Grandview, Missouri in 1911. Elected Grand Master of Missouri on September 25, 1940, and served until October 1, 1941. Received the 33rd Degree of the Scottish Rite on October 19, 1945. Made Honorary Grand Master of the Order of DeMolay on May 18, 1959.

Gerald R. Ford (1931-2006)

38th President

Presidential term: 1974-1977

Initiated on September 30, 1949, in Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Passed on April 20, 1951, and raised on May 18 of that year in Columbia Lodge No. 3, Washington, D.C. Received the 33rd Degree on September 26, 1962. Made Honorary Grand Master of the Order of DeMolay in April 1975.





Articulating the goals, purposes, benefits of Freemasonry isn't easy. Encapsulating 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.

Let your story resonate with those who want to be 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.

Each of us passed through the West Gate for a different reason. For myself, I became a Mason as the result of a pretty bad day. My best friend, Col. Jim Trafton, was killed on Easter Sunday, 2010. Our families vacationed together, we hunted, fished, traveled, and shared adventures and stories.

As a measure of my friend's character the funeral procession from Church to the Leavenworth National Cemetery was several miles long. State Troopers blocked all highway ramps and stood to attention and saluted as a sign of respect. Even the trooper that called me that night wanted to talk about his service with Jim, and what it meant to him.

At the funeral service Col. Cliff Silsby delivered his Eulogy and spoke to his military career, his leadership skills, his role as a life coach and mentor to so many, and his many other virtues.

But I was surprised when Cliff said, with emphasis, several times "and he was a Freemason". That spoke to me, and it struck me that was the extra spark that made the difference from a leader to an inspirational leader, from someone that directs and manages to a true life-coach and mentor.

It was additionally significant as until that moment I did not know my friend was a Freemason. That why I knocked on the door and passed through the West Gate.

Each of us has a story as why we joined the craft. For some it will have been due to a family legacy in Masonry, for others simply because Dan Brown writes a good book.

But I would hazard a guess that the majority of us are here because of the example and inspiration from a good man in our past lives. I encourage everyone to share your story; as when you do so we will understand the draw of Masonry, learn how to articulate it, and understand a little bit more who should become a Freemason in the future.

M.:I.:C.: Donald MacCormick, PGM
Grand Secretary, Grand Chapter
Grand Recorder, Grand Council

In 2009, I arrived in St. Charles Missouri to attend Lindenwood University on a hockey, golf, and Olympic weightlifting scholarship. This was my freshman year of college. There was so much on my mind, so many expectations, so many experiences I was anticipating – none of which included or even alluded to Freemasonry. In fact, to be honest, I do not recall whether I had even heard the word "Freemason" prior to the Fall Semester of 2009 – if I had, it was probably some historical or non-substantive reference. Little did I know that the word Freemason – the word that I had never known before – would come to mean so much to me and represent a badge that I wear proudly.

My story begins here, Introduction to College or Orientation 101, whatever the course was called at that

time, was a course where all freshman were randomly assigned into smaller cohorts. The purpose of the course was to get acclimated with the university; its expectations; engage in practice assignments and network with people within the freshman class to make the transition into college more manageable. Its substantive value holds little importance to me at this point in my life – BUT it was in this course that I met one of my closest friends, and future first line signer, Tony White. Tony was a fellow student athlete and business administration major – but more importantly for this story, at that time, Tony was an Active DeMolay from Kirkwood Chapter Order of DeMolay in St. Louis and a Master Mason from Kirkwood Lodge. Throughout this course of the semester, Tony and I became close friends. We discussed and shared the usual topics you would expect any college freshman to be interested in.

I tell this story and provide this background to emphasize that Freemasonry does not run in my family, I have no Masonic pedigree or family history and at this point in my life Freemasonry as a concept was not even a referenceable definition. Also, I tell this story and share this background in order to tell another fundamentally important story – the story of how I joined DeMolay, which is essentially the introductory chapter in the story of how Freemasonry became one of the most meaningful, most important; most revered and most respected institutions in my life and without which I would not be who I am today and without which I would not have a shadow of the life that my incredible wife, Chelsea, and my two amazing daughters Emersyn (3) and Savannah (5 months) share together.

At some point over the course of our freshman year, Tony asked me whether I was familiar with DeMolay and Freemasonry (the answer to which YOU already know). Upon additional discussions and explanation, Tony inquired whether I would be interested in joining (the answer to which you can already assume... it was no). The reason for my disinterest was not based on an unfavorable opinion conceived of the institution but was derived from the simple fact that DeMolay and Freemasonry held no value to me and held no place in my life and I had no pressing desire to make them so. However, upon being asked several

more times and rejecting those advancements, I finally launched my own series of counter-inquisitions of Tony to the essence of, “why are you asking me?” “Why is it so important that I join?” “How do you know this ‘organization’ is something that I would fit into?” And “what is it that members do?” Among other questions the nature of which I cannot remember. Hoping that this would be enough of a counterassault to deter him from asking further (you can now assume that this barrage of questioning did not, in fact, deter him). Tony, being who he is, simply looked at me and said, “having gotten to know you over the course of this year, I think you are a man of character; I think you are a leader; I think you would get a lot out of this organization; and I think you should come with me to a DeMolay event this weekend.” Having no response, I obliged.

We attended Kirkwood DeMolay’s pancake breakfast fundraiser and served breakfast to Kirkwood and St. Louis area community members, lodge members and their families, DeMolay advisors, supporters, and their families. I was introduced to various people, had various conversations, and had an overall enjoyable time. However, the most valuable and memorable aspect of that Saturday morning was the intangible feeling about belonging; belonging to – and being a part of – something greater than yourself. To give credit to the Cheers Intro Song by Gary Portnoy and Judy Hart-Angelo, it was a desire to be in a place “[w]here everybody knows your name; And they’re always glad you came. You want to be where you can see. Our troubles are all the same. You want to be where everybody knows your name.” The feeling was absolutely overwhelming and contagious. It was this feeling, this unexplainable magnetism that resulted in my joining DeMolay that afternoon and being obligated upstairs in the lodge room during the pancake breakfast on May 8, 2010. It was then that I received my first ritual book. Tony showed me the obligations I had taken and clearly outlined the expectation that I present those obligations from memory to the Chapter as a demonstration of my understanding and as a token of my investment in the organization. I started looking over the ritual – I turned in my DeMolay obligations at the next meeting – my first DeMolay meeting. Now, I need to take a step back in order to bring this story forward. Concerning my first DeMolay meeting, DeMolay

meetings are business formal – therefore, DeMolays are expected to wear suits. I did not have a suit– it was not one of the Freshman year packing list items. Further, I had never tied a tie up to that point. So clearly, as you can gather at this point, I was completely unprepared for the upcoming business meeting. A few days before the meeting, I bought a suit from Goodwill or Salvation Army and Tony thankfully showed me how to tie a tie for the meeting. There was something about the expectation of being dressed in a suit; having expectations of appearance, dress and decorum; a business/ leadership environment that really fueled my passion for DeMolay. My passion for the organization – although I was only an active member for a short time allowed me to serve as Master Councilor of Kirkwood Chapter and later serve as District 1 Master Councilor – a Jurisdictional Officer for Missouri DeMolay. DeMolay is an organization for young men between the ages of 12 – 21; I was appointed a Jurisdictional Officer at the age of 20 and was installed a few weeks before my 21st birthday in December, which allowed me one additional year of eligibility to complete my term on the state leadership team. This was an experience that truly shaped my life and my future.

It was through DeMolay that I was introduced to Freemasonry – being able to connect with Masons all over Missouri and being invited to attend various Masonic events as part of Missouri DeMolay’s Jurisdictional Officer Corps was the platform that projected my transition from DeMolay into Missouri Freemasonry. It was also through DeMolay that I met my wife, Chelsea. She and her family were involved with St. Charles Chapter Order of DeMolay, which was thankfully located in District 1. Suffice it to say that I attended far more St. Charles meetings than I needed to and far more than any other chapter in District 1 and my attendance was wholly based on the DeMolay Chapter. DeMolay is my first experience and first love within Freemasonry. But for Tony and but for DeMolay, I would never have darkened the door of a Masonic lodge. And but for DeMolay, I would not have had the foundational understanding, respect, admiration, and passion for Freemasonry that I have today. My Masonic past, present and future is owed entirely to DeMolay and the Masonic Advisors, friends, and mentors that I met along the way.

Now, having explained my initial lack of familiari-

ty with Freemasonry; how my familiarity with Freemasonry came to grow; my DeMolay experience and its foundational importance to my family, what necessarily follows is my Masonic Story:

When I made the decision to join Freemasonry, I naturally turned to Tony who was my first line signer in DeMolay and who became the same in Freemasonry. Naturally, I asked the night before my initiation, “what do I need to do to prepare for tomorrow?” to which he responded, “have you ever seen National Treasure?” I said, “no.” He replied for me to watch the movie that night and that would be a good enough place to set the tone for my initiation. Now, you and we all know what National Treasure is and the liberties that were taken in that film– but I kid you not, I watched that movie AT LEAST four (4) times that night – over and over again. I was EXCITED. This fueled that passion and desire for belongingness into something meaningful, important, and bigger than me. To this day, I love the movie National Treasure and its association to my initiatic experience. It sold me on an experience – the mystery – the inclusivity and exclusivity – the prominence of the fraternity – an introduction to historical figures of importance who were members – and it primed and bated me for my initiation, passing and raising into this fraternity.

Procedurally, my Masonic Story is as follows: I was raised in Kirkwood Lodge in 2010 and was appointed as Junior Deacon. In Kirkwood, I advanced through to the station of Senior Warden. I was initiated into the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the Fall of 2010. I became York Rite Mason and a member of St. Charles Missouri Chapter No.1, Hiram Council No. 1 and Ivanhoe Commandery No. 8 and completed my York Rite Journey upon receiving my orders in 2013. It was also in 2013 that I joined the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine through Moolah Temple. I was an active member and advancing and elected Officer in the St. Louis Valley Lodge of Perfection, Kirkwood Lodge, St. Charles Missouri Chapter No.1, Hiram Council No. 1 and Ivanhoe Commandery No. 8 until 2014. It was in 2014 that I received my acceptance letter to attend law school. Based on the advisement of attorneys within the fraternity and their cursory warnings of the difficulty and complexity of the curriculum and teaching methods of law school, I made the difficult decision to step away and step out of

line in each of those bodies to pursue my education and ensure that my focus was on my professional and academic future.

After my first year and a half of law school at the University of Missouri School of Law, I had gained a comfortable understanding of the expectations and battle rhythms of the legal academic environment. This familiarity gave me the confidence to re-engage with Freemasonry and that such re-engagement would not be at the sacrifice of my academic and professional goals. I also made the personal decision to move my lodge membership to Crestwood Anchor Lodge No. 443. However, to follow through on my desire to re-engage required me to make the continuous and regular drive from Columbia, Missouri to the St. Louis area to the aforementioned Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery, St. Louis Valley Scottish Rite and Shrine to attend their respective monthly meetings, which I did for a period of two (2) years. I never missed a meeting or ritual practice.

The positions I serve in Freemasonry are one – I am simply a passionate and dedicated member of our fraternity who strives to fulfill his obligations and identify opportunities to better serve the craft and contribute to Missouri Freemasonry. Within that purview, I have the distinct honor and pleasure of having been chosen to serve the Grand Jurisdiction of Missouri Freemasonry in various capacities – Currently, I serve the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri as Grand Orator and the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri as Grand Steward. This year, I was also beyond humbled and honored to have been elected a Class 3 * Deputy Member of the International Supreme Council for DeMolay International.

My friends, my brethren, my companions, in closing I want to offer the following belief that I personally hold dear and contend to be incontrovertibly true – YOU MATTER. Freemasonry is a privilege and an opportunity, and it is not to be taken lightly. It is not something you simply join and seek membership in, Freemasonry is a calling. Do not EVER think that your membership in this society, this institution, this tradition is a result of mere happenstance and coincidence.

There is a general pattern of divine intervention or divine guidance that consistently occurs in Freemason-

ry – The right person always ends up in the right place at the right time, wherever and whenever that may be. There is a reason you are here with us, and us with you, and we collectively have a purpose and a duty to contribute to, grow and improve this fraternity for each other and our successors – WE MATTER.

Adam M. Iwanow



My Masonic Story

Articulating the goals, purposes, and benefits of Freemasonry isn't easy. Encapsulation 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 your story through the Grand Council of Missouri's survey at:

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



EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

February 2024

Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.: Grand High Priest Visitation, GL's School, Jefferson City Masonic Center, (Cast Members of Grand Masters Class)
Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.: Grand High Priest Visitation, Mark & Past Master Degree, Jefferson City Chapter No. 34
Monday, February 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.: Grand Commander Official Visit-Kansas City Commandery No. 10
Friday, February 23, 2024: Valley of Kansas City Scottish Spring Rite Reunion
Saturday, February 24, 2024: Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon - Immanuel Chapel # 10, Columbia Masonic Center
Saturday, February 24, 2024: Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis Winter Colloquium, location To Be Determined
Wednesday, February 28, 2024: 20th Anniversary and Grand Master Reception hosted by Noble Lodge No. 684
Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.: Mid-Missouri Council No. 291 AMD at Columbia Scottish Rite

March 2024

Friday, March 1 to 3, 2024 - Grand York Rite of Louisiana 2024 Grand Session, Nashville, Tennessee
Saturday, March 2, 2024: Grand Master Invitational Royal Arch Masons Class, Grand High Priest Visitation, Jefferson City Masonic Center
Thursday, March 7-9, 2024: Grand York Rite of Arkansas 2024 Grand Session
Monday, March 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.: Grand High Priest Visitation, Columbia Chapter No. 17
Friday, March 15-16, 2024: Valley of Joplin Scottish Rite Reunion
Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.: Grand Council Cryptic Day, Columbia Masonic Center, Columbia, Missouri
Saturday, March 16, 2024: Table Council-Region 2-Liberty Masonic Temple, Liberty, Missouri
Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.: Red Cross of Constantine-Mary Conclave, Buckner Masonic Lodge
Monday, March 18, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.: Super Excellent Master Degree, Jeremiah Council No. 48
Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.: Region 2 Table Council-Liberty Masonic Temple
Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 10:00 p.m.: Limerick Council No. 88 Knights Masons, Freedom Masonic Temple
Saturday, March 23, 2024: Grand High Priest Visitation, 175th Anniversary Chapter Rededication of Lexington Chapter No. 10
Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.: Grand Commanders Breakfast/Palm Sunday Observance, St. Louis Masonic Center
Monday, March 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.: Grand Commander Official Visit-St. John's Commandery No. 20
Saturday, March 30, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.: Purple Gala for CMMRF, University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Missouri
Saturday, March 30, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.: Purple Gala for CMMRF, Kansas City Masonic Temple

April 2024

Thursday, April 11, 2024: The Order of the Amaranth Annual Grand Court Session, Springfield, Missouri
Thursday, April 11-13, 2024: Grand Commandery of Texas
Friday, April 12-13, 2024: Valley of St. Louis Scottish Rite Reunion
Friday, April 12-14, 2024: Grand Master's Breakfast weekend
Saturday, April 13, 2024 : Commandery Order Conferrals, Poplar Bluff Masonic Lodge
Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.: Court of Discovery No. 80, Masonic Order of Athelstan, Fayette Masonic Temple
Tuesday, April 16, 2024: Grand Commander's Official Visit—Lebanon Commandery No. 33
Saturday, April 20, 2024: Drill Completion, Columbia Masonic Temple, Columbia Missouri
Monday, April 22, 2024: Table Chapter-Region 2, Liberty Masonic Temple, Liberty, Missouri
Thursday, April 25-27, 2024: Grand York Rite of Oklahoma's 2024 Grand Session
Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 7:00 p.m.: Santa Fe AMD Council no. 417, Regular Meeting, Ararat Shrine Temple

May 2024

Thursday, May 2-4, 2024: Grand York Rite of Kansas
Friday, May 3-5, 2024: Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center
Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.: Lord of lords Tabernacle LI, HRAKTP, Jefferson City Masonic Temple
Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.: Installation of Officers, Rolla York Rite, Rolla Masonic Center
Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.: Columbia Preceptory, Yeomen of York, Columbia Masonic Lodge Building

York Rite in Missouri by Regions

Region 1

Chapters

Hannibal Chapter No. 17
1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Hannibal Masonic Temple
1102 Central Avenue
Hannibal, MO 63401
Roger McGregor, Secretary
mcgregorclan@charter.net

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.
Hartford Masonic Lodge Hall
38428 Deerwood
Hartford, MO 63565
Loren D. Lloyd, Secretary
lorenlloyd69@gmail.com

Councils

Kirkville Council No. 44
2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
Dark June, July, and August
Shelbina Masonic Temple
313 S. Center
Shelbina, MO 63468
Darrell A. Wilham, Recorder
kwilham@centurytel.net

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

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
mcgregorclan@charter.net

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.
Liberty Masonic Temple
10 East Franklin
Liberty, MO 64068
Don Gilkerson, Secretary
gilkersondan@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.
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.
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
Martin L. Maulden, Secretary
mauldinmartin@gmail.com

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

Region 3

Chapters

Independence Chapter No. 10
2nd Thursday at 7 p.m.
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
John D. Toynton, Secretary
johtoynton@yahoo.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.
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
johtoynton@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. 4
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 Tuesday at 7:00 pm
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.
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
Montgomery Lodge #246
2nd and Sturgeon Street
Montgomery City, MO 63361
Phillip Engel, Secretary
Jrwahl_jyr@sbcglobal.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
3rd Monday at 7:50 p.m.
Rolla Masonic Temple
400 East 2nd Street
Rolla, MO 65401
Steven F. Eberharter, Recorder
sfeberharter@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@gmail.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
sfeberharter@gmail.com

Region 5

Chapters

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

Bellefontaine Chapter No. 25
2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
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.
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.
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.
Freedom Masonic Temple
4557 LeMay Ferry Road
Mehlville, MO 63129
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 7:30 p.m.
Beacon Masonic Temple
7251 North Hanley Road
Hazelwood, MO 63042
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
Excelsior Lodge No. 441
204 South High Street
Jackson, MO 63755
Kyle W. West, Secretary
kwwest@live.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
Tony DePriest, Secretary
poplarbluffyorkrite@gmail.com

Uel Council No. 129
2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Farmington Lodge No. 132
211 West Columbia Street
Farmington, MO 63640
Clifton Wofford, Secretary
woffordclifton60@gmail.com

Councils

Cape Council No. 20
1st Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Excelsior Lodge No. 441
204 South High Street
Jackson, MO 63755
Kyle W. West, Recorder
kwwest@live.com

Popular Bluff Council No. 27
2nd Thursday at 8:00 p.m.
Poplar Bluff Masonic Temple
2303 North Main Street
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
Tony DePriest, Recorder
poplarbluffyorkrite@gmail.com

Bonne Terre Council No. 43
2nd Tuesday at 8:00 p.m.
Farmington Lodge No. 132
211 West Columbia Street
Farmington, MO 63640
Clifton Wofford, Recorder
woffordclifton60@gmail.com

Commanderies

Cape Girardeau Commandery#55
1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Excelsior Lodge No. 441
204 South High Street
Jackson, MO 63755
Kyle W. West, Recorder
kwwest@live.com

DeSoto Commandery No. 56
2nd Tuesday at 9:00 p.m.
Marcus Masonic Building
126 South Main Street
Farmington, MO 63640
Clifton Wofford, Recorder
woffordclifton60@gmail.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
poplarbluffyorkrite@gmail.com

Region 7A

Chapters

Bolivar Chapter No. 5
3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Bolivar Masonic Temple
261 South Killingsworth Avenue
Bolivar, MO 65613
Randy 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
Christopher L. Story, Secretary
cstory@arvest.com

Greenfield Chapter No. 38
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Washington Masonic Temple
#5 South Allison
Greenfield, MO 65661
G. Timothy Black, Secretary
tblack@penningtonseed.com

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
Dale R. Lovelace, Recorder
dalelovelace@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.
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
261 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.
Osage Masonic Lodge No. 303
221 West Walnut
Nevada Mo 64722
Gary L. Jones, Secretary
No e-mail address

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 7:30 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 7:30 p.m.
Carthage 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.56
3rd Tuesday at 9:00 p.m.
Neosho Masonic Temple
4080 LaQuesta Drive
Neosho, MO 64850
Matthew D. Ruth, Recorder
matt.ruth@rocketmail.com



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