

# MISSOURI YORK RITE BEACON



Happy Independence Day America

Volume 2 Issue 7  
With hyperlinks

## Missouri York Rite Beacon Magazine

### Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri

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

Grand York Rite of Missouri  
107 S. Williams Street  
Fayette, MO 65248-1017  
(660) 248-5100

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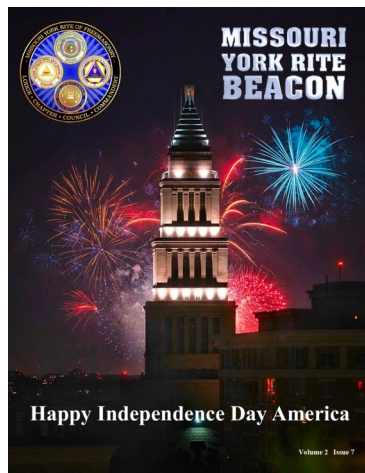
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Lloyd G. Lyon  
Steven F. Eberharther  
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Russell S. Hanson  
Adam M. Iwanow  
Donald MacCormick  
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**To Submitters:** The editor would like to remind 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 Walters  
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:**

July's Issue: June 30, 2024



# *A Message from the Grand High Priest*

**MEC Michael L. Dodd**

**Grand High Priest**



As you are reading this a month has quickly passed. I am very proud to say that the Grand Line Officers elected, appointed, and committee members are doing their part above and beyond to make this year outstanding for every Master and Royal Arch Mason. We plan to have the opportunity to share more light with each other as we plan to visit our Lodges in your areas around the State of Missouri answering questions and joining to do the first two capitular degrees. The District Deputies in your area will be scheduling and inviting others to attend or participate. This is your chance to be a part of something great. Pick a part and let your District Deputies know that you want to be involved.

Districts #1 and #5 have already scheduled dates for the Mark and Past Master degrees. Keep an eye on the EVENTS calendar.

There are TEN Very Good Reasons to become a Royal Arch Mason:

1. York Rite Masonry greatly expands and clarifies the teachings of Craft Masonry.
2. The Degrees are conferred in a Blue Lodge setting and are directly tied to the teachings of the Blue Lodge.
3. The True Word of a Master Mason is discovered and explained.
4. The real wages paid by the Senior Warden are revealed.
5. The building of King Solomon's Temple is completed, and a profound mystery is unveiled.
6. An obligation every Master Mason takes at the altar of Freemasonry is finally met.
7. It broadens one's fraternal participation and involvement.
8. It expands opportunities to make connections and forge Masonic friendships beyond your community.
9. It provides occasions for further group and self-study of important Masonic themes and traditions.
10. It makes one a member of the oldest Rite in Freemasonry.

Several groups of Companions have been visiting other Chapters to try to take the Traveling Keystones home to insure continued visits will follow, they have found themselves enjoying fellowship and new ideas. Grand Line officers will be seen at Regional Conferences ready to speak briefly on committee activities that insure the smooth operation of this Grand Body.

We will all receive an outstanding report of how our Royal Arch Research Assistance charity is being applied to the support of Central Auditory Processing Disorder research.

How great would it be for each Royal Arch Mason to be the top line signer of three new members? The credit will be yours go get them!

My official reception has been scheduled for August 10, 2024, at Shelbina Lodge #228, 313 South Center, Shelbina. Fellowship at 12:00 noon, meal at 1:00 pm. This is also on the EVENTS calendar.

Remember that this is not about me, but all about you. The credit will be yours as you show the world that you are proud to be a ROYAL ARCH MASON!

***WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER! IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME!***

Pray, Study, Mentor, and Serve,

Michael L. Dodd



## *Message from the Grand Master*

*MIC Matthew D. Ruth*  
*Most Illustrious Grand Master*



This month I'd like to share some details about a program that was announced at the Installation back in June, The Vault Project.

As Cryptic Masons we are taught the importance of Preservation, particularly the preservation of significant knowledge for future generations. While the lessons of these degrees are symbolic, they can also be applied in offering a service to the world as Cryptic Masons.

Under the directive of then Most Illustrious, now Most Puissant William "Bill" Snyder, Standing Resolution No. 10 was Adopted May 13, 2015, which states, "The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in the State of Missouri established a Research Council for the purpose of having a repository for material having an historical significance to Cryptic Masonry and furthering Masonic and Cryptic Masonry research and education."

The Grand Master's Council No. 0, has as its purpose the promoting, encouraging, conducting and fostering of Masonic and Cryptic Masonry Research and Study, and spreading Masonic and Cryptic Masonry Light and Knowledge.

With this directive in mind your Grand Council officers set out to Create a program that will offer training courses and equipment to subordinate councils to execute the objectives of Grand Master's Council No. 0, with an emphasis on preservation of historically significant documents and proper care and storage of regalia.

In the coming months we plan to purchase equipment and materials to be packaged as an "archival kit" for use by local councils. We will be hosting online training courses under the direction of Dr. Heather Calloway, Director for the Center of Fraternal Collections and Research at the University of Indiana! Once Councils have verified training, they can place an order thru their RDGM who will coordinate delivery.

The councils will then offer this as a service to Lodges, other appendant bodies, youth organizations, civic clubs, or other groups with a historical emphasis such as a City or County Historical Society.

We hope to have examples and demonstrations this Fall at the Regional Conferences so you will not want to miss out on those this year!

We also plan to create a donor society within the Grand Master's Council No. 0, modeled after the Denslow Society, to be known as "The Anthony O'Sullivan Preservation Society" to recognize those companions who contribute time, resources, monetary contributions and other such efforts for the establishment and continuation of the program. This Society will meet annually and replace the current Grand Council Lunch and Learn with an updated format and continue to host guest speakers and hopefully showcase the exciting work that Councils have conducted towards preservation projects.

As recommended in Standing Resolution No. 10, this Society would continue to work alongside the Missouri Lodge of Research to preserve and disseminate the historical legacy of Cryptic Masonry in Missouri and the spreading of Masonic Light and Knowledge.

If you have any experience in this field and wish to be a part of this exciting new program, send an email to [mruth@mocryptic.org](mailto:mruth@mocryptic.org). We'd love to have you on board.

Matthew D. Ruth  
Grand Master



## *Message from the Grand Commander*

SK Bobbie E. White  
Right Eminent Grand Commander



Greetings Sir Knights,

Well, we are off and running!!! Mike, Matt, and I attended the Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters Assemblies in late June. I was very pleased to be able to attend the Victory Dinner for Liberty Commandery #6 at a local Mexican restaurant. It was a wonderful affair with family and friends present to recognize the Sir Knights for their accomplishment. The highlight was when the group of ladies next to us began to sing Happy Birthday to one of their group, and we all joined in bringing laughter and a good time to all.

July began with degree work in Blue Lodges and York Rite Colleges, and I saw some excellent work. The month ended with the KYCH Meeting and an Official reception for me provided by the Sir Knights of Liberty Commandery #6. I hope I was able to see many of you there and shared some wonderful Fellowship. Even though many Commanderies are dark in August it will be a busy month starting with the York Rite Sovereign College of North America Annual Assembly in Louisville. Then the Annual Red Cross of Constantine Assembly in Springfield. Those are followed by the Grand Encampment Triennial in Salt Lake City, Utah. I hope to see many of you at those functions.

I also had to complete a very sad process and approve the consolidation of DeSoto Commandery #56 and Cape Girardeau Commandery #55. I hope the Knights in that area will really step up and strengthen Cape and Region #6.

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

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

Please remember the words of my good friend Mike Dodd "We are all in this together" so let's strive to see who can best work and who can best agree. Lastly, the sale of my coins will be used to support the Coyote Hills Foster Care Ministries. We took an oath to defend the helpless orphans so that is my goal this year. I was in Law Enforcement for 43 years and one of the hardest things we had to do was send children to foster care especially with large families as they were split up and sometimes would never see each other again. Coyote Hills doesn't do that and takes in families of all sizes so please join me in supporting this great cause.

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

Fraternally,

Bobbie White

# THE HISTORY OF AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

<https://www.pbs.org/a-capitol-fourth/history/history-independence-day/>

"Taxation without representation!" was the battle cry in America's 13 Colonies, which were forced to pay taxes to England's King George III despite having no representation in the British Parliament. As dissatisfaction grew, British troops were sent in to quell the early movement toward rebellion. Repeated attempts by the Colonists to resolve the crisis without military conflict proved fruitless.

On June 11, 1776, the Colonies' Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and formed a committee whose express purpose was drafting a document that would formally sever their ties with Great Britain. The committee included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. Jefferson, who was considered the strongest and most eloquent writer, crafted the original draft document (as seen above). A total of 86 changes were made to his draft and the Continental Congress officially adopted the final version on July 4, 1776.



The following day, copies of the Declaration of Independence were distributed, and on July 6, The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first newspaper to print the extraordinary document. The Declaration of Independence has since become our nation's most cherished symbol of liberty.

## **Bonfires and Illuminations**

On July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence

Square to the ringing of bells and band music. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks.



The custom eventually spread to other towns, both large and small, where the day was marked with processions, oratory, picnics, contests, games, military displays and fireworks. Observations throughout the nation became even more common at the end of the War of 1812 with Great Britain.

In June of 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weightman, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C. to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote. In it, Jefferson says of the document:

- "May it be to the world, what I believe it will be ... the signal of arousing men to burst the chains ... and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. That form, which we have substituted, restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. ...For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them."— Thomas Jefferson

Congress established Independence Day as a holiday in 1870, and in 1938 Congress reaffirmed it as a paid holiday for federal employees. Today, communities across the nation mark this major midsummer holiday with parades, firework displays, picnics and performances of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and marches by John Philip Sousa.



# Have you registered?

DEADLINE JULY 31ST



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the nobility of labor*



*He who would rule others must  
first learn to rule himself*

**M.W.B. Charles F. Wiegert, Grand Master &  
M.E.C. Michael L. Dodd, Grand High Priest  
invite you to experience the first two Degrees of the Royal Arch.**

# July 20, 1969: One Giant Leap For Mankind

<https://www.nasa.gov/history/july-20-1969-one-giant-leap-for-mankind/>

July 1969. It's a little over eight years since the flights of Gagarin and Shepard, followed quickly by President Kennedy's challenge to put a man on the moon before the decade is out.

It is only seven months since NASA's made a bold decision to send Apollo 8 all the way to the moon on the first manned flight of the massive Saturn V rocket.

Now, on the morning of July 16, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins sit atop another Saturn V at Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center. The three-stage 363-foot rocket will use its 7.5 million pounds of thrust to propel them into space and into history.



At 9:32 a.m. EDT, the engines fire and Apollo 11 clears the tower. About 12 minutes later, the crew is in Earth orbit.

After one and a half orbits, Apollo 11 gets a "go" for what mission controllers call "Translunar Injection" – in other words, it's time to head for the moon. Three days later the crew is in lunar orbit. A day after

that, Armstrong and Aldrin climb into the lunar module Eagle and begin the descent, while Collins orbits in the command module Columbia.

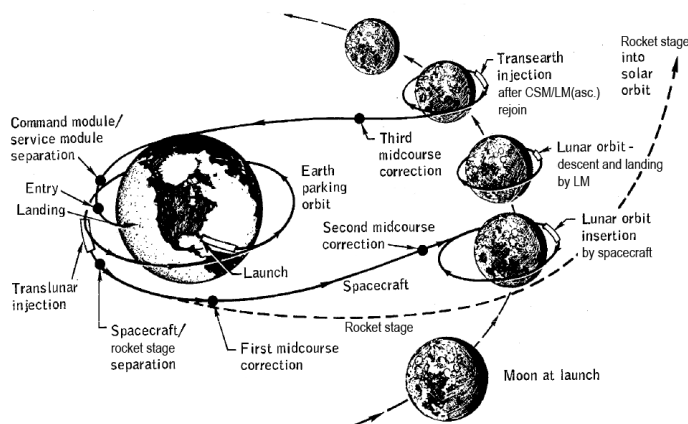
Collins later writes that Eagle is "the weirdest looking contraption I have ever seen in the sky," but it will prove its worth.

When it comes time to set Eagle down in the Sea of Tranquility, Armstrong improvises, manually piloting the ship past an area littered with boulders. During the final seconds of descent, Eagle's computer is sounding alarms.



It turns out to be a simple case of the computer trying to do too many things at once, but as Aldrin will later point out, "unfortunately it came up when we did not want to be trying to solve these particular problems."

When the lunar module lands at 4:17 p.m EDT, only 30 seconds of fuel remain. Armstrong radios "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed." Mission control erupts in celebration as the tension breaks, and a controller tells the crew "You got a bunch of guys about to turn blue, we're breathing again."



Armstrong will later confirm that landing was his biggest concern, saying “the unknowns were rampant,” and “there were just a thousand things to worry about.”

At 10:56 p.m. EDT Armstrong is ready to plant the first human foot on another world. With more than half a billion people watching on television, he climbs down the ladder and proclaims: “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.”

Aldrin joins him shortly, and offers a simple but powerful description of the lunar surface as “magnificent desolation.” They explore the surface for two and a half hours, collecting samples and taking photographs.



They leave behind an American flag, a patch honoring the fallen Apollo 1 crew, and a plaque on one of Eagle’s legs. It reads, “Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon. July 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all mankind.”

Armstrong and Aldrin blast off and dock with Collins in Columbia. Collins later says that “for the first time,” he “really felt that we were going to carry this thing off.”

The crew splashes down off Hawaii on July 24. Kennedy’s challenge has been met. Men from Earth have walked [on](#) the moon and [returned](#) safely home.



## Grand Officers Coins for Sale

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



MEC Mike Dodd, Grand High Priest Coin 2024-25



MIC Matthew D. Ruth Grand Master Coin  
2024-2025



SK Bobbie White, Right Eminent Grand  
Commander Coin 2024-2025

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



## The Missouri Grand York Rite Office is asking for your help

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

**You can!**

Simply go to <https://www.masonic-web.com/mms/memberbio/default.aspx> and use your membership number which can be found on the side of any of your York Rite dues cards with your name and date of birth. You have only one Profile Page which links to each Chapter, Council, and/or Commandery where you have a membership.

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

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- **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 Companions of Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M. received and acknowledged a brother as a Most Excellent Master, and subsequently exalted him to the degree of the Royal Arch, during a special convocation of Caldwell Chapter on June 29th, 2024 A.D. | 2554 A.I., at the #Masonic Temple in Kirksville, MO. Congratulations to our new Companion in Royal Arch Masonry: the first in our jurisdiction for this capitular year!

Pictured, front row, from left: Comp. Kirby R. Cundiff, Principal Sojourner of Caldwell Chapter; VEC John D. Toynton, District Deputy Grand Lecturer for Region Two of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri; Comp. David R. Young, King of Caldwell Chapter; Comp. D. Marc Bowen, the newest Royal Arch Mason in Caldwell Chapter and the state of Missouri; EC Franz D. Kinkhorst, Master of the Second Veil and Past High Priest of Caldwell Chapter; and VEC Dr. Tommy G. Cupples, Jr., District Deputy Grand Lecturer for Region Five of the Grand Chapter.

Back row, from left: VEC Charles E. Cooper, Chaplain and Past High Priest of Caldwell Chapter and Past District Deputy Grand High Priest for Region One of the Grand Chapter; Comp. Matthew N. Moore, Captain of the Host of Caldwell Chapter; VEC W. Stuart English, Regional Grand Lecturer East of the Grand Chapter; MEC Michael L. Dodd, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter; EC Richard L. Mansfield, Past High Priest of Caldwell Chapter; and EC David D. Goring, Master of the Third Veil and Past High Priest of Caldwell Chapter.



## THE MASTERS CRAFT

The Masters Craft creates unique Masonic items for the Fraternity at large, when quality, artistry and longevity are desired. The Masters Craft is owned and operated by W. Bro. John Bridegroom, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of Indiana. Being deeply impressed by the artistry of items in the Masonic Fraternity's history, we desire to continue that tradition in the Masters Craft.

<https://themasterscraft.net/>

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# *What is in a Name: Golgotha*

SK Budd Gilfillen

GCKT of Missouri Education Committee

*“And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull.”* <sup>1</sup> We know that Golgotha would have been located outside the city walls of Jerusalem to the northwest in the time of Jesus Christ.



Golgotha as it appears today in modern day Jerusalem, if you look closely, you can see the face of a skull.



Terrain features get unique names in different ways. One of these ways is when a geographic formation looks like a familiar object. For example, West Mitten Butte and East Mitten Butte in Monument Valley, Utah, which vaguely resemble mittens from which they got their name. Another way is when something of significance occurs at a location as in the case of

The Trail of Tears. Sometimes both reasons could be true as in the case of Golgotha.

Before we look at what possible historical events could have led to the name Golgotha, let us look at the origins of the name.

Golgotha comes from the Aramaic *gulgulta* “place of the skull”, and the Hebrew *gulgoleth* meaning “skull or head”. The Latin translation from the Aramaic is *calvaria* which translates in English to *Calvary*.

But why was this spot named Golgotha other than the faint similarity to the face of a skull. There are two early Hebrew legends as to why this location was called Golgotha.

The first is from an old Jewish legend from *The Book of the Cave Treasures*. This book was written around the 6th or 7th Century in the Syriac language and purports to cover the history from Adam to the death of Christ. It says that Shem (son of Noah) buried the skull of Adam at Golgotha, at the center of the earth. <sup>2</sup> “And Shem took the body of Adam and Melchisedek, and went forth by night from among his people, and behold, the Angel of the Lord, who was going before them, appeared unto them. And their journey was very speedy, because the Angel of the Lord strengthened them until they arrived at that place. And when they arrived at *Gaghulta* (Golgotha), which is the centre of the earth, the Angel of the Lord showed Shem the place [for the body of Adam]. And when Shem had deposited the body of our father Adam upon that place, the four quarters [of the earth] separated themselves from each other, and the earth opened itself in the form of a cross, and Shem and Melchisedek deposited the body of Adam there (i.e. in the cavity). And as soon as they had laid it therein, the four quarters [of the earth] drew quickly together, and enclosed the body of our father Adam, and the door of the created world was shut fast. And that place was called “*Karkaphta*” (i.e. “Skull”), because the head of all the children of men was deposited there. And it was called “*Gaghulta*,” because it was round [like the head], and “*Resiphta*,” (i.e. a trodden-

down thing), because the head of the accursed serpent, that is to say, Satan, was crushed there, and “Gefifta” (Gabbatha), because all the nations were to be gathered together to it”. 3 This legend is usually discarded.

The second legend and one that seems more probable and more historically supported has to do with David and Goliath.

We should all be familiar with the story of how David slew Goliath, but perhaps not with what happened after that. After David slew Goliath, “... David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith”. 4 We later learn from the Book of 1 Samuel that David took the head of Goliath to King Saul in Jerusalem, “And took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem”. 5 It was customary during this time for an enemy’s head to be placed on a pike for all to see. When David took Goliath’s head back to Jerusalem it would have been considered unclean and against Jewish law to bring a stinking rotting head into the city. The head had to be buried somewhere outside of the city, as gentiles (non-Jews) were considered unclean. The head of Goliath was a trophy of war and would have been displayed on the highest hill in the area. Golgotha was the highest point on Mount Moriah just outside of the city gates, overlooking Jerusalem, so that God’s people could look up and see God’s enemy has been destroyed. 6

This account from the Holy Bible is also told by Josephus the Jewish Historian in his book *The Antiquities of the Jews*. Josephus writes, “So David ran, and stood upon his adversary as he lay down, and cut off his head with his own sword...but David carried the head of Goliath into his own tent”. 7

The head was kept out of the city because Goliath was unclean, and it was against Jewish law to bring the unclean within the city. Jewish law also required that the dead be buried. David would have buried the head later. Legend has it that he buried it at the place to be named Golgotha which was a corruption of the name Goliath of Gath.

So, is it possible that Golgotha, the site of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, has other religiously historical events associated with it? The burying of Adam’s

skull, the burial of the skull of Goliath of Gath, and in recent times a claim that The Ark of the Covenant has been discovered in a cave below where Jesus Christ was crucified.

Where did Golgotha receive its name? Was it from the skull face in the side of the hill, or because one or more famous skulls had been buried there? As with many things in Freemasonry there is usually more to be found both exoterically and esoterically when we take time to research. Each of us as Freemasons and Knight Templars have an obligation to continue to learn and explore our craft and history. Who knows what we might discover.

1. St Matthew 27:33 (KJV)
2. Budge, E.A. Wallis, trans. “Archive.” Internet Archive, 2023. [https://archive.org/download/stephrembookofthecaveoftreasure/ST-EPHREM\\_Book-of-the-cave-of-Treasure.pdf](https://archive.org/download/stephrembookofthecaveoftreasure/ST-EPHREM_Book-of-the-cave-of-Treasure.pdf).
3. Ibid
4. 1 Samuel 17:51 (KJV)
5. 1 Samuel 17:54 (KJV)
6. Marshall, Taylor, author, [taylormarshall.com](http://taylormarshall.com), 2014. Golgatha: The Word Symbolizes A Beautiful Reality! - Taylor Marshall
7. Whiston, William, trans. “The Works of Josephus”, pg 166, Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, Mass. 1987



This date (07/04) in 1776, the Continental Congress voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence.

# Are you a Royal Arch Mason?

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

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

**How can I help?**

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

If in Missouri, send your R.A.R.A. contributions to your Chapter Secretary who will forward it to the

Grand Secretary. Otherwise, send your R.A.R.A. contributions to the address at the bottom of this page.

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

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

**Contributions can be sent to:**

**RARA, MGYR Office  
107 S. Williams Street**





## Commit to CMMRF

### CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

***Picture this if you will... The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri hits the \$100,000 mark and the Grand Master shaves his head!***

M.I.C. Matthew D. Ruth has set an easily obtainable goal for Missouri Cryptic Masons to reach \$100,000 to which he has given his word, as a Master Mason, to allow the bald officers of the Grand Council line to shave his head.

M.I.C. Matt has also challenged each Council to reach \$3,000 in donations to CMMRF. Again, this is easily obtainable if your council members will put forth the effort.

First step should be to get away from the Penny-A-Day mindset. Have these options available to your members when you send out dues notices.

- A Nickel-A-Day = \$18.25
- A Dime-A-Day = \$36.50
- A Quarter-A-Day = \$91.25
- A Dollar-A-Day = \$365.00

The \$3,000.00 doesn't have to come from just your membership. Get out to the businesses around your Council, even a minor donation is more than we are getting right now. If you can get 30 businesses to donate \$100. You've hit your \$3,000.00.

Plan a Purple Gala or Table Council in your region. This year's date is set for March 29, 2025, and we will simulcast Dr. Murphy's presentation to your gala or table council. Make sure to invite people outside of Freemasonry, such as doctors, nurses, researchers, philanthropists. Offer to comp their meals to encourage them to come. I bet you will not have to

comp them once they have attended and learn about CMMRF.

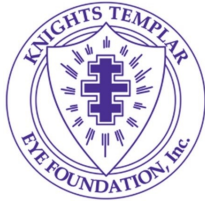
If you need any assistance in promoting CMMRF, do not hesitate to contact your CMMRF committee:

Corey B. Huntsucker  
 Richard A. Riepe  
 Dennis W. Houck  
 Gregory J. Walker  
 Regional Deputy Grand Masters

Fraternally,

Corey B. Huntsucker





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.

# *Missouri Chapter Number 1*

## *The Early Years*

*Compiled by Jacob Thomason*

Among the Grand Chapter's lineage, one Chapter stands with prominence and gives us the name and number, Missouri Number 1. To the Companions of the Old Number 1, we owe our great history to the making of St. Charles Missouri Chapter Number 1, which is the oldest Royal Arch Chapter in this state and continuously meeting Masonic body west of the Mississippi.

The initial dispensation for Missouri Chapter Number 1 was issued in April of 1819, but for some unknown reason, it was not officially issued by DeWitt Clinton, Gen. Gr. High Priest, until July 24th, 1820. This issuance makes us then the first Chapter in the Louisiana Territory.

In early October of 1820, a special meeting was called for all Royal Arch Masons, in and around St. Louis, to meet in the lodge hall of Missouri Lodge Number 12(Grand Lodge of Tennessee). Among the names contained in the dispensation, the one most noteworthy was perhaps Thompson Douglas (first king), who later served Missouri's Grand Lodge in various capacities. It's first High Priest was Amos Wheeler. This dispensation was in effect from 1820 to 1826 and marks both the beginning of the Chapter as well as the dawn period in Missouri Freemasonry that even saw the formation of our own Grand Lodge, and the this territory which would become a State. In a way, the initial history of this Chapter, is intertwined with that of Missouri Lodge Number 1 (earlier Number 12), and the Grand Lodge, and much mixed association, fellowship, and interaction was present. The earliest convocations were held in Missouri Lodge's Hall.

The first convocation of the Chapter, which was held days after the initial dispensation, met as a Mark Lodge. Among its attendees were Bro. H.C. Melody (then only a Mark Master), who acted as Tiler-Pro Tempore. As with many Masonic groups, the first task was creating its by-laws. A committee of three was appointed to draft them (among its number was William G. Pettus-first Secretary of State of the State of

Missouri). However, these bylaws would caused a constant issues and would see frequent revision over a period of time.

After starting its regular convocations in October of 1820, the first petitioner would not arrive until January of 1821, with more to follow in the upcoming months. The first actual degree conferred in this Chapter was the Past Master's degree (upon Bro's Daniel C. Boss, Hugh Rankin & George H.C. Melody) in April of 1821. The next night saw a Mark Master degree conferral, and interestingly enough it was conferred on the basis that Bro. Thomas Bothick, a Royal Arch Mason had not received his Mark Master Degree. It is reasonable to believe that the jurisdiction whence he came did not recognize it as part of capitular Degrees. On October 24th & 25th of that year we saw the first Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch degrees conferred.

Capitular Masonry in its infancy was not standardized across jurisdictions, and many Companions would not see any other degree but that of the Royal Arch in Capitular Masonry. The approach of the old Missouri Number 1, was to accept all Brethren and Companions, and after research plus vouching for them in due form, were obligate and the missing degrees would then be conferred on them. Among the notable names of Brothers then healed are Bates and Gamble, who were made Mark Masters in "lodges not acknowledging the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons."

Naturally the early work of a Chapter was funding and procurement of members as it conferred its Degrees.

In February of 1821 a Keystone was purchased at a cost of \$10(\$248 in today). The initial dues for the Chapter were varying. It appears by early commentary and we see the dues charged are in either the amount of 25 cents (\$6.25 today) or 50 cents (12.00 today). Keep in mind that the average skilled laborer of the day made a salary of \$1.00 to \$2.00 a day. The petition fee for the degrees would be \$30.00 (\$746.00

today). An additional fiduciary practice was to impose a fine for non-attendance, and we see that not providing prior notice or excuse could lead to a charge of \$1.00 to \$2.00 (Today cost of \$29.00 to \$58.00).

August of 1826 marked the last meeting under the dispensation and Comp. George H.C. Melody (one of the first Royal Arch Masons exhaled in this Chapter) was appointed to present to the General Grand Chapter the proceedings of the Missouri Chapter Number 1, which was Under Dispensation, and act on the Chapters behalf. This was coupled with a resolution drafted to ask leniency in collecting the \$2 for each companion exhaled in the Chapter. Having taken stock of their situation of the Chapters treasury (then \$42.16 1/4) where placed at Melody's disposal and he was sent on his mission.

At that time, it is proper to note that the role of Missouri U.D. was only 13 in number, among them were Thornton Grimsley, Thompson Douglas, Fredrick L. Billon, George H.C. Melody, & John D. Daggett.

#### ***Missouri Number 1- Charter in hand***

The dispensation surrendered and the General Grand Chapter having met, the Chapter assembled on August 13th, 1827, to receive their Charter. Thornton Grimsley, High Priest and 11 Companions were present with representatives of several other jurisdictions. The timing of their chartering coincides with the ran- cor and disgruntled presence of the Anti-Masonic feeling which boiled and spilled forward in the late 1820s and into the 1830s. As other Grand Jurisdictions, lodges and other Masonic bodies faltered, perhaps concern was raising in St. Louis as well. By June of 1828, Comp. Hardage Lane offered a resolution suspending chapter activities and placing authority under the Chapter's Grand Council to re-assemble and resume work when they "deem it expedient". This resolution was postponed and taken up at the next meeting where it was decided against. Seemingly Companion Lane demitted from the Chapter that same meeting.

Yet the chapter seems not to have escaped the ravages of the time, March the 2nd, 1829, marks the election of a brother for the degrees, and between that meeting and November the 5th, 1836, the Chapter did not meet (interestingly the Brother elected seems not

to have lost interest and did inevitably receive the work of the Chapter in 1836.)

November of 1836 saw revitalization as John Daggett, Thompson Douglas, George H.C. Melody and other companions gathered. A committee was established to consider the legality of renewing labor and drafted such a report to pass onto the General Grand Chapter. They felt primarily having never surrendered their charter that it still held such authority. In that same month they procured use of the Lodge Room of St. Louis Lodge Number 20.

The inherent connections between the Lodge and Chapters shows through as by 1841, they shared a space with St. Louis Lodge Number 20, Naphtali Lodge Number 25, and Colman Lodge. Five years later, in 1846 things had improved to such a point that the Chapter pursued the idea of erecting a Grand Chapter and thus the seeds of the Grand Chapter of Missouri came forth.

#### ***Content complied and found in-History of Royal Arch Masonry in Missouri Vol. 1***



#### **MEC John Lambros HPGHP Coins**

The Grand York Rite is offering this coin in memory of MEC John Lambros HPGHP. All proceeds go to the Lambros family. For a small donation of \$20.00 you may obtain this coin and help his family. This coin may be obtained through your Grand York Rite Office at (660) 248-5100. Brothers taking care of Brothers.





MASONIC HOME  
*of Missouri*

JOIN US FOR THE 19TH ANNUAL



# Truman Club Dinner

Saturday, September 14, 2024



My first experience with Freemasonry was at about age seven. This was in the early 1970s. My dad became a Mason and Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner. The Shrine was the most visible part of his Masonic affiliation. He would take me to a children's Christmas party at the Scottish Rite Temple and at the Shrine Temple but the Masons remained a mystery to me. After seeing the hats worn by the Scottish Rite and the Shrine Fez I asked my dad what kind of hat Masons wore and I was told Masons don't wear hats. He didn't mention anything about the Worshipful Master and his hat. Me being aware of the SR and Shrine Christmas parties and the Shrine Circus but no such events by Masons I finally asked him what Masons do and his reply was that they were just a bunch of old men who sat around and talked. When I asked what they talked about he said "boring stuff". After that I never asked anything more about the Masons. I just know that I don't ever recall my dad going to a Mason meeting but vividly remember many Shrine parades and picnics. When I was about ten I was home alone and I was curious. I knew my dad kept a small black book in his desk and it was a secret book and it was about the Masons. My curiosity finally won my inner debate about taking a peak but was very disappointed when I opened the book and it was written in some "foreign" language. I never told my dad that I peaked at the book but I couldn't read it anyway so no secrets were revealed.

When I was 13 my dad recommended to me to join DeMolay which I did. I really had no idea of its

Masonic connection other than being held in a Masonic building but after a couple of years I quit after I was told by another member that I needed to choose between Boy Scouts and DeMolay. I chose Scouts. Because I enjoyed camping more than memorizing a bunch of stuff. When I was 22 I was kind of lost socially and my dad asked me if I wanted to be a Shriner. Having remembered how much fun the Shrine was I agreed. But of course I found out first I would have to follow him in his footsteps into the Masons and the Scottish Rite. I figured well at least I would finally learn about the group who had always been a mystery to me and what was in that secret black book that I couldn't read. I've always been good at memorizing stuff and went through the 3 degrees and returned all 3 proficiencies in 90 days. After returning my 3rd degree I was asked to be Junior Deacon and I promptly declined because I remembered what my dad said years earlier that Masons are just a bunch of old men who sit around and talk about boring stuff and from what I experienced so far he was right.

Besides I just wanted to be a Shriner. Flash forward 5 years and I was married and living far from my Lodge and it was learned by a friend in my new town that I was a Mason. He asked me to transfer my membership to the Lodge in my new town and I said I would. When I told my new wife what I was going to do she asked why did I want to join something if I wasn't going to be active in it? So I said I would become active in it.

## BEST DECISION EVER!!!

I went to my first meeting after having been elected for affiliation and I sat there and listened to those "old" men talking all that "boring" stuff and I fell in love with Masonry. The next year I took the Junior Deacon chair and advanced regularly until I was elected Master 4 years later and then became the first Master of that Lodge since 1944 to serve a second consecutive term. (20 years later I was elected to a third term). During my first term one of those old guys would meet with me at the lodge once a week or so and taught me how to confer degrees. Although he never taught me the 2nd Section of the 3rd degree (that would come years later). Prior to my 3rd term as Master I began to look at the reality of what was happening. All those "old" guys who did the lectures and knew all the ritual were dying and I determined that it was going to be up to my generation or younger to learn the work. I decided to learn the Staircase Lecture. That is when I met one of the best ritualists I have ever known and after I learned that lecture he encouraged me to learn the 1st degree followed by the Master Mason lecture.

It didn't stop there though he encouraged me to earn all 10 Ritual cards which I did. But as anyone will tell you, this is a constant effort to stay proficient and to continually improve. But I love the ritual and it isn't work to me but rather a labor of love. I know this is a long story but to sum it up, what really hooked me on Masonry, when I finally decided to heed my wife's advice and become an active member, was the closing charge. That to me has everything I need to be a better person.

**Scotty B. Walker**



### My Masonic Story

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

## Share your story!

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

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



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

### Message from the Editor

Good Morning Everyone,

We start out this month with a quote from Brother Harley Race:

- The world changes and if you don't go with the change, you're left behind.

What does that mean? Well, in terms of your Beacon Magazine, you can normally find small changes as time goes on. This month however, you will find that your Chapter/Council/Commandery finder is missing. Under construction, you might say. Well, that is because the Grand York Rite Office has been getting an influx of changing information for various Masonic groups. They are attempting to update their database and when that is completed, your lodge locator will be up and running once again here in the Beacon. We appreciate your patience while we remodel.

Next, many of our Masonic bodies are dark for July and August. Not all, but many of them. Some of you are carrying on the good work of the Fraternity and we appreciate your dedication and good work to and for the Craft. It is a sign of how Freemasonry continues to grow and shine in this world. Especially here in Missouri. Thank you for your continuing dedication to the cause.

I have just been notified that MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master, has put out a challenge to the Craft, one that might just cost him his beautiful head of hair. You can read about it within the pages of your Beacon Magazine. I challenge you all to take him up on his offer. Most Illustrious, you are a braver man that I in this matter. Good luck to you.

Finally, your Beacon staff would like to thank you all for tuning into our publication. We are very proud of it and are pleased to see that you are as well. So, until next month, we will be seeing you all down the trail.

*Publication Committee*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## *July 2024*

**Friday, July 19, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.:** Templar Fest: Tyson/Paul Fight and Race Weekend: The Sir Knights of Oriental Commandery no.35 invite you & your family plus friends to join in weekend . Ozarks International Raceway. See posting on Grand York Rite of Missouri's website.

**Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.:** Grand Council RDGL School of Instruction, Jefferson City, Missouri

**Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.:** Missouri Priory No. 17-KYCH Jefferson City Masonic Lodge

**Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.:** Samuel Smith Stewart Scholarship Luncheon, Grand Lodge of Missouri, Columbia, MO

**Saturday, July 27, 2024:** Welcome to Masonic Con Kansas—Masonic Con is a relaxed, Masonic conference where Masons and friends, regardless of expertise, unite for a day of immersive and enjoyable top-tier Masonic Education. Join us for a gathering that celebrates camaraderie, offering a blend of intensive learning and lighthearted fun for every one interested in Freemasonry's rich tapestry of knowledge and tradition. Kansas Masonic education at it's finest! Rosedale Lodge No. 333, Mission, Kansas.

**Saturday, July 27, 2024:** Grand Commanders Official Reception, Liberty, Missouri

**Saturday, July 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.:** Elizabeth St Leger Council #386 AMD, Rolla Masonic Center

**Saturday, July 27, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.:** Gates of Derry Council #82, Knight Mason, Rolla Masonic Center

**Wednesday, July 31 - Saturday, August 03, 2024:** York Rite Sovereign College of North America Annual Assembly, Louisville, Kentucky

## *August 2024*

**Friday, August 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.:** The Didache: Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles, Kansas City Masonic Temple, Kansas City, Missouri

**Saturday, August 3, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.:** Grand Lodge Masonic Youth Day at the Grand Lodge of Missouri

**Saturday, August 3, 2024:** Adair No. 366 Table Lodge in Honor of Service Award Recipients, El Kadir Shrine Club; Kirksville, MO 63501

**Friday, August 9 - Saturday, August 10, 2024:** Red Cross of Constantine - Missouri Conclave, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Springfield, Missouri

**Saturday, August 10, 2024:** Royal Order of Scotland - Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa

**Saturday, August 10, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.:** Official Reception for the Grand High Priest, Shelbina, Missouri

**Saturday, August 17 – Wednesday August 21, 2024:** 69th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.:** Valley of Joplin Scottish Rite Summer Reunion, Pulaski Shrine Club, Laquey, Missouri

**Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.:** Special Assembly of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International

# *York Rite in Missouri by Regions*

**COMING SOON**  
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

*Happy Independence Day from the Grand York Rite of Missouri*



