



Letters from York

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas

New Grand York Rite Leadership Installed

The Grand York Rite Sessions for 2023 have been held and there is a new group of officers who were elected and appointed to serve you, the members of the York Rite of Kansas, for the next year.



Most Excellent Companion Michael N. Terry was installed as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas. He appointed Excellent Companion Thomas M. Krauss to start the line.

Most Illustrious Companion Gary Mason was installed as the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Kansas. He appointed Illustrious Companion Wayne Drake as his selection to start the Cryptic Masons Line.

Sit Knight William "Bill" Leonard was installed as the Right Eminent Grand Commander for the Grand Commandery of Kansas. He appointed Sir Knight Ivan DeTevis as the Eminent Grand Standard Bearer to start the Grand Commandery of Kansas line.



All of these leaders are hard working and dedicated men and masons. We look forward to their leadership and we are prepared for the exciting things the Grand York Rite of Kansas will continue to do for the next year. It is a great time to be a member of the Grand York Rite of Kansas!



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News of the Ark



Masons in Kansas, for your vision and foresight in allowing these two degrees of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons to be conferred upon all Master Masons who are seeking more light. We have had over 100 Brothers register for these five classes to receive the degrees of Mark Master and Virtual Past Master. Those who attended have said it was

What a way to start the new Capitular year! We have already hosted the five Grand Master's classes for 2023. Thank you to Most Worshipful Robert D. McClarty, Grand Master of



an exciting and educational time for each of them.

The first completion of the Chapter Degrees was held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at the lodge hall in Emporia and there were 44 Brothers who are now Companions of the Holy Royal Arch and who have joined the body.

Congratulations to our new Companions and to all of Kansas Capitular Masonry for their diligent and hard work on these classes!

Grand Chapter Officers

Grand High Priest: Michael Terry
Grand King: John Staton
Grand Scribe: Roger Walls
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Secretary: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Kelly Long
Grand Capt. Of Host: Gary Strout
Grand Prin. Sojourner: Patrick Carr
Grand Royal Arch Capt.: Tom Krauss
Grand Mast. 3rd Veil: Justin Crippen
Grand Mast. 2nd Veil: Robert Haynes
Grand Mast. 1st Veil: Daron Woelk
Grand Sentinel: Frederick Kemp
Asst. Grand Sentinel: Dale Morrow

DDGHP Dist. #1: Andrew Mosley
DDGHP Dist. #2: Warren Hughes
DDGHP Dist. #3: Wayne Drake
DDGHP Dist. #4: Ron Mozingo
DDGHP Dist. #5: Patrick C. Carr

The 2023 Grand Master's Classes were a huge success for the Kansas York Rite!

Grand Council Officers

Grand Master: Gary Mason
Deputy Grand Master: Kent Needham
Grand PCW: Gary Strout
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Roger Walls
Grand Capt. Guard: Robert Haynes
Grand Cond. Council: Wayne Drake
Grand Marshal: Patrick Carr
Grand Cust. Work: Tom Krauss
Grand Steward: Justin Crippen
Grand Sentinel: Mark Stephenson
Asst. Grand Sentinel: Frederick Kemp
Grand Organist: Dennis Reed

Arch Master: Wayne Rolff
Arch Master: Wayne Rector
Arch Master: Jamie Carswell

From the Ninth Arch



There is already so much happening in Cryptic Masonry in Kansas and the new Cryptic year has just begun! The Great Plains Rendezvous is scheduled for June 24, 2023 in Hays, Kansas. This is an excellent time to meet other Cryptic Masons from Wyoming and Colorado. They will be in attendance and conferring the Royal Master and Select Master degrees on those who received the Holy Royal Arch degree. Another exciting part of this meeting is receiving the degree of the Super Excellent Master. It will be conferred after lunch by a cast of Cryptic Masons from Kansas.

Registration can be had by visiting the Grand York Rite website at www.kansasyorkrite.org and registering using the events and registration link at the top of the page. We need you to register so the event planners can have the correct number of meals available for those who are in attendance.

The Pike's Peak Inspection has been scheduled for September 9 & 10 in Colorado. This is another example of the Cryptic Masons of Kansas doing work which impacts others. If you have not been to the Inspection, and want to attend, watch the Grand York Rite website for more information and registration opportunities.

Our rituals are beautiful and are not just dovetailed between the Chapter and the Commandery. Each of our degrees have an important and lasting meaning for Masonry. Invite a Brother to join the York Rite today and witness for themselves the beauty contained in the Cryptic Degrees.



The Chivalric Orders



The new officers are in place for the next Templar year and they are already working to make your Templary experience great.

For the first time in over 25 years, the Grand Commandery of Kansas' Honor Guard/Drill Team performed a drill at the Grand Session. There were several who were moved to tears to see the Sir Knights performing once again at the Grand Commandery session. Be on



the lookout for more drills, and new Sir Knights who will become a part of this work so they can be prepared to compete at the Grand Encampment Triennial Session in 2024.

The Knight Templars of Kansas again assembled in Junction City and presented the colors for the 35th Annual Memorial Day Service. This is something each of our Knight Templars deeply

appreciate being invited to participate in as it commemorates and memorializes those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the course of freedom for our great nation. For the first time we had a representation of Sir Knights at the Wakeeney Veterans Cemetery who laid a wreath to honor those buried there.



The second annual Knight Templar Feast has been scheduled for July 22, 2023 at the Strataca salt mine and museum in Hutchinson, Kansas. The event has been slightly modified to allow time for



those in attendance to participate in the tours before the banquet starts. Normally this event is only for Sir Knights and their ladies. The Grand Commander has made a decision concerning the attendance and has decided any Companion who is signed up to received the Orders may attend with their ladies.



Grand Master's classes have culminated in Companions. There will be a knighting held Saturday, July 29, 2023, in Newton, Kansas those who have completed their Chapter and Council degrees. The Knight Templar's of Texas have graciously agreed to travel to Kansas to assist in this great and glorious work. Each of the three Orders of Christian Knighthood will be conferred in full form. Be sure to attend this event as it will be an historic one for the Grand Commandery of Kansas.

Grand Commandery Officers

- Grand Comm: William Leonard
- Dept. Grand Comm.: Gary Mason
- Grand General.: Frederick Kemp
- Grand Capt. Gen.: Patrick Carr
- Grand Sr. Warden: Justin Crippen
- Grand Jr. Warden: Gary Strout
- Grand Prelate: Roger Walls
- Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
- Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
- Grand Std. Bearer: Ivan DeTevis
- Grand Sword Bearer: Tom Krauss
- Grand Warder: Dale Morrow
- Grand Sentinel: Juanito Ernacio
- Grand Musician: Kelly Long
- Grand Guard: Andy Mosley
- Grand Guard: Warren Hughes
- Grand Guard: Herb Merrick

- Aide-de-camp: Kent Needham
- Aide-de-camp: T. Michael Fegan
- Aide-de-camp: Wayne Drake

- Honor Guard Members:
- Commander: Justin Crippen
- Commander: Patrick C. Carr
- Member: Fred Kemp
- Member: Michael Smith, REPGC
- Member: Kent Needham, REPGC
- Member: Robert Haynes
- Member: Gary Mason
- Member: Bill Koonce
- Member: Andy Mosley

From the Archives

Many have heard of the treatise on freemasonry which was one of the first to reveal some of the rituals of the Craft. This was the book printed by Captain William Morgan and was entitled, *Freemasonry Exposed*.

Did you know there was a book much like Morgan's printed for the York Rite? In 1911, Ezra A. Cook of Chicago, Illinois, printed *Knight Templarism Illustrated*. This book covered several of the degrees for Capitular, Cryptic, and Templar masonry. This was intended to become an anti-masonic book and to warn Christians concerning the evils and intent of the York Rite.

Cook was not new to printing his illustrated series of anti-masonic books. He produced several books revealing the workings of other fraternal societies. These included the Mystic Shrine, Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Orient, Modern Woodmen of America, Improved Order of Red Men, Knights of the Maccabees, Foresters, Templars of Honor and Temperance, Knights of Labor, and the United Sons of Industry.

Not wanting to lose money with his publishing company, Cook also published pro-masonic books for the public and the Craft, as well as his anti-masonic books. These books included Duncan's monitor and Richardson's monitor.

This all goes to show how many intended revealing books on the Craft have been printed, yet the secrets of Masonry continue to be safely lodged within the hearts and minds of its members.

Grand York Rite Session Update

The 2023 Grand York Rite Sessions are completed and all the new officers have been installed into their respective stations.



It was a busy week for the Kansas York Rite. The events started on Wednesday,

May 3, with the conferral of the Order of Anointed Kings and the Past Commander's Association. Some of the new members were installed into office immediately after the meetings.

On Thursday, May 4, the Grand Commandery of Kansas opened in full form using the 16 man opening. It was well done and Sir Knight Robert Loflin, South Central Department Commander for the Grand Encampment, inspected the opening and found it to be in good shape and form. There was the first commissioning of the Knight Templar Commissioned Chaplain program for Sir Knights Patrick Carr and Gary Strout.

On Friday, May 5, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons opened and greeted several distinguished companions from out of state.

Most Excellent Companions Robert Loflin of Texas and Kyle Palacios of Missouri were welcomed and spoke highly of the Grand



Chapter of Kansas and its continuing efforts to increase membership using the newly formed and instituted Grand Master's Classes. Right Excellent Companion Teko Foly, the General Grand King of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International was present and brought greetings as well. He encouraged the Companions to be at the General Grand Triennial Session which will be held in Branson, Missouri in August.

The Order of the Silver Trowel was conferred on awaiting companions after lunch. As per usual, Companion Jamie Carswell provided a convincing performance in his usual part. If you have not seen him perform in this degree, you need to!

The combined York Rite banquet was held Friday evening and several awards were given



to deserving companions and ladies. Jamie Carswell was honored with the General Grand Chapter Bronze Award for his

continued service to the Grand Chapter of Kansas. Adriane Carr and Ruth Ann Staton was presented with a Grand Chapter Sweetheart Award by RE Companion Foley.

During the Cryptic Mason section of the banquet, Robert Beardsley received the Cryptic Mason of the Year award from the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas.

During the Grand Commandery portion of the banquet, Sir Knight Robert D. McClarty, REPGC of the Grand Commandery of



Kansas, received a stunning hand carved plaque from his officers and a Knight Companion of the Temple award from the Grand Encampment, alongside Sir Knights Jimmie Grassie and L. Kent Needham. Sir Knight Thomas Krauss received the Knight Grand Cross from the Grand Encampment as well.

Wayne Rolf was presented the newest honor from the Grand York Rite of Kansas. The C. David Williams award was created to honor those who have given unselfishly of their time and resources to the Grand York Rite of Kansas. It was inspired by the late Companion's selfless love and promotion of the York Rite.



The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons opened on Saturday, May 6, and two Companions received the

Order of the Secret Vault. Right Puissant Companions William "Bill" Snyder, Deputy Grand Master for the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International and John Logan conferred the honors on Companions John Staton and Patrick Carr.

Grand Master's Classes

The five Grand Master's York Rite Classes have been held and were deemed quite successful. The classes started in Russell, Kansas on April 22, 2023, and conferred the Mark Master Degree and Virtual Past Master Degree on 16 candidates and the Grand Master, MW Robert D. McClarty, found time from his busy schedule to attend part of the meeting and congratulate those who received the degrees. The following four festivals were held in Iola (9 candidates) Newton (27 candidates), Junction City (11 candidates), and Baldwin City (xx candidates), and were successful as well. Out of these xx candidates who took the two degrees, XX of them petitioned and continued their search for more light by joining the York Rite.

Thank you to all the members of the York Rite in Kansas who either donated of their time, their efforts, or their resources to make this happen. Each of the lodges who hosted the event did a fantastic job of providing a space and refreshments for those who sought the degrees. The degree work was spectacular and the work was done without the benefit of rituals or reading. Good memory work was a large part of why the degrees were deemed so successful. Everyone did a fantastic job with their parts and some even stepped up at the last minute and performed ritual with little or no preparation.

Now it is time to focus on the completion of the York Rite experience for these new candidates. The Most Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch will be conferred in Emporia, Kansas, on June 10, 2023. After that, the Great Plains Rendezvous will confer the Cryptic Degrees on June 24, 2023, in Hays, Kansas and the Orders of Christian Knighthood will be conferred in Newton, Kansas on July 29, 2023. There is more work to be done and the York Rite members of Kansas are more than capable of the task at hand!



Russell, Kansas



Iola, Kansas



Newton, Kansas



Junction City, Kansas



Baldwin City, Kansas



General Grand Chapter and Council Triennial 2023

York Rite Spotlight

This issue spotlights the Grand College of Rites and its mission within the York Rite of Freemasonry.

In 1931, J. Raymond Shute II, of Monroe, North Carolina, obtained information from Harold V. B. Voorhis, of Red Bank, New Jersey, that the Right Reverend Henry V. A. Parsell of New York, New York, was a surviving member of the defunct Egyptian Rite of Memphis in the United States

Following some correspondence between Brothers Shute and Parsell, and talks with a few other interested brethren, it was decided and agreed to revive this Rite and thus gain control of it, together with its rituals and archives. The purpose of such action was to give a body to be subsequently formed—a Grand College Rites—some material to publish, namely rituals. The idea of forming of a Grand Body to print rituals of dormant Masonic bodies having been already planned by Brother Shute and a few brethren interested in such a project.

The Grand College of Rites meets annually at Masonic Week in Alexandria, Virginia in February. They produce an annual publication, *Collectanea*, which presents several defunct and no longer worked degrees. For more information, and to inquire about membership, visit their website grandcollegeofrites.org.



The 2023 Triennial session for the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International and the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International will be held August 12-15, 2023, in Branson, Missouri. The venue for this triennial will be the Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa and Convention Center.

Registration starts on Saturday, August 12, 2023, at 1:00 PM. Preregistration is available by visiting the General Grand Chapter's website at www.ggcrami.org. The opening ceremonies will be held on Sunday, August 13, 2023, at 12:30 pm. The business session for the General Grand Chapter will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, and starts at 8:00 AM.

The business session for the General Grand Council will be held on Monday, August 14, 2023, and starts at 8:00 am. The banquet for the sessions will be held jointly on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

At these sessions you will have the opportunity to meet many York Rite masons from across the world and to better understand how the General Grand bodies work and function. Be sure to visit the Triennial website and register today!

New Knight Masons Council

Thanks to the resurgence in the jurisdiction of the appendant honorary bodies, the need for a new Knight Masons Council has been evident. Currently, there are only two Knight Masons Council within the Grand Jurisdiction of Kansas. These are in Newton and in Shawnee, Kansas.

While there is no limit on membership, unlike the Councils of the Allied Masonic Degrees, it was discussed there were several members who were traveling vast distances to attend the stated meetings of the Knight Masons.

With this firmly in mind, the idea of forming a new Council of Knight Masons and placing it in Junction City was offered. Several of the members of Kansas Council No 53 in Newton started a list of those who would be interested in being members of the new Council. The list of members was created and the officers for the first year were offered up to serve. Companions Kelly Long, PEC, and Patrick Carr, PEC, were present at Masonic Week in Alexandria, Virginia, and provided the petition for organization to the Grand Council of Knights Masons of the United States of America.



Upon their return to Kansas, the permission to move forward was granted and the new Council will be organized and chartered in Junction City, Kansas in October.

This is the first new York Rite honorary body location to be opened within the state in a long time. We are confident there will be others as time progresses and the beauty of the Knight Masons Degrees are witnessed by all. More information on the chartering will be available in this issue.

2023 AMD/Knight Masons In-Gathering

The 2022 combined Allied Masonic Degrees and Kansas Knight Masons IN-Gatherings were a success so it was decided to make it an annual event. The 2nd annual IN-Gathering will be held at Wyandotte Lodge on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

The morning will start with the opening of the three AMD Councils in the state of Kansas by Blarney Stone Council No. 360 from Topeka for the conferral of the initiatory degree on previously elected candidates who have not yet been initiated. Sunflower Council No. 383 from Newton will confer the Royal Ark Mariner degree. Loch Lomond Council No. 235 from Shawnee will confer the Knights of Constantinople immediately following the Royal Ark Mariner Degree.

All eligible candidates who have paid in advance will received the 1st Grade of the Scarlet Cord. Consequently, those who have the first grade, and have paid for the 2nd Grade, with then received the 2nd Grade of the Scarlet Cord before lunch.

After lunch, the two Kansas Knight Masons Councils will open and jointly confer the three degrees of Knight Masonry. A representative of the Grand Council of Knight Masons USA will be in attendance to institute the newest Council in Kansas. The Council will be named the W. Ron McKenzie Council, UD and its home will be in Junction City at the Lodge Hall.

A sumptuous banquet will be catered to end the evening and there will be a festive board and a special guest speaker. Everyone who attends the luncheon and the banquet will receive several commemorative items including a firing cannon and some other surprises. All members of the Allied Masonic Degrees and Knight Masons are invited to attend the luncheon and the banquet.



AMD & Knight Masons In-Gathering 2023

October 7, 2023 @ Wyandotte Lodge

AMD In-Gathering

AMD Opening – 8:30 AM
 Royal Ark Mariner
 Knights of Constantinople

Scarlet Cord – 10:00 AM
 1st and 2nd Grade (\$50 ea.)

Lunch– 12:00 PM

Knight Masons In-Gathering

KM Opening – 1:00 PM
 Knight of the Sword
 Knight of the East
 Knight of the East & West

Institution Ceremony –4 :00 PM
 W. Ron McKenzie Council U.D.

Banquet – 6:00 PM

Preregistration is required for all events.

Registration: \$40 per person (Meals and Firing Cannon Included)

Meals are open to both AMD and Knight Masons members

Register at <https://kansasyorkrite.org/sunflower-council-383>

Visit kansasyorkrite.org for more info.

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Knight Templar Feast 2023

The York Rite of Freemasonry

The York Rite, or more correctly, the American Rite, is based on the early remnants of Craft Masonry that were practiced in the early 1700's. The formation of the first Grand Lodge of England in 1717 specified that the lodges were to confer only the first three degrees of Craft Masonry.

Three bodies were later formed to work the degrees no longer controlled by the lodges. The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. All three bodies are technically autonomous Masonic entities, only the requirement of membership in the Royal Arch connecting the Cryptic degrees and Chivalric Orders together.



The poster features a large red Maltese cross on a black background. In the top left corner is a circular logo with a red Maltese cross and the text 'STRATACA 2023' and 'KANSAS TEMPLAR FEAST'. The main title 'Templar Feast 2023' is centered in white. Below the title is a list of event details:

Date:	July 22, 2023
Time:	4:30 PM (Begin descent) - 9:00 PM (Back above ground)
Location:	Strataca Underground Salt Museum 3650 East Avenue A, Hutchinson, Kansas
Cost:	\$50 per person (Pre-registration required)
Included:	Travel 650' underground, museum tour and dark ride, dinner buffet, toasting cannon and beverage, Templar presentation and fellowship!
Attire:	Formal (Class A without sword and chapeau)
Who:	All Knights and their Ladies

The second annual Knight Templar Feast will once again be held at the Strataca Salt Mine and Museum on Saturday, July 22, 2023.

All Sir Knights and their ladies, and those registered or the Grand Master's York Rite classes, are eligible and encouraged to attend.

This event will feature music, awards, a fantastic meal, toasts, and a great masonic speaker.

All of this, plus the ability to take some of the famous Strataca tours 650 feet underground!

Visit the Grand York Rite website at www.kansasyorkrite.org to sign up and register for the event. It will be another great evening underground in the salt mines!

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