

# Tales of the Secret Vault

A Monthly Publication of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



## From the Right Illustrious Grand PCW

Right Ill. Comp. Patrick C. Carr, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

*The Most Illustrious Grand Master has asked his officers to write the monthly articles for this newsletter.*



The rituals of the Cryptic Rite of Freemasonry are beautiful and quite wonderful to behold. I have just returned from the Great Plains Rendezvous which was held in Russell, Kansas for this year. The team put together by Illustrious Companion Tom Krauss did a fantastic job of hosting and planning the event and I would like to thank them for their hard work (and for an excellent meal of prime rib!). There were over 70 Cryptic Masons and candidates in attendance and all enjoyed the experience.

The degrees which were conferred by the Grand Councils of Colorado and Wyoming were done very well and provided those of us who were in attendance with the opportunity to witness for ourselves the subtle, and sometimes not so subtle, differences between our rituals within each of our different jurisdictions. While there may have been differences, each was conferred in such a manner as to remind me that while there may be differences, each ritual contained the same information and timeless tales of morality and ethics which we have come to expect from the Cryptic Degrees.

Speaking of differences, we discovered during the 2025-2026 Cryptic Year something which stood out to the leadership of the Chapter and Council as a glaring omission. After an exhaustive search within the bylaws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, it was discovered there was nothing stated about Cryptic Masons being properly clothed at their meetings. Of Course, we immediately thought that must have been an error or the section which addressed the clothing of the Council must have been deleted. After some research, it was discovered there had not been anything within our own bylaws concerning Cryptic Masons being clothed properly for the meeting. Because of this, Gary Strout, MIPGM, issued an edict which required Cryptic Masons to be clothed with an apron at all meetings. That edict has been issued a second time by our current MIGM, Robert Haynes. I have prepared legislation to amend our bylaws for the 2026-2027 Cryptic Year to fix that error and it will be presented at the 2027 Grand session.

Companions, thank you for electing me to serve as the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work for our Grand Council. It is an honor to continue to serve not only our fraternity in Kansas, but each of you. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am always there.

*Patrick Carr*

July, 2026

Robert B. Haynes,

Most Illustrious  
Grand Master

2026-2027

# 2026 Pike's Peak Cryptic Deposit Inspection

The Pike's Peak Cryptic Deposit Inspection is required each year by our laws. When the deposit was initially placed in 1899, it was decided it would be opened in 1999 which was 100 years after the initial deposit was made. In 1999, the deposit was opened, the items were removed and new items were placed into the deposit before it was sealed for another 100 years. It has been the requirement, and a labor of love, for each Most Illustrious Grand Master to inspect the deposit and insure it is in good condition so those items will still be available for inspection in 2099 when it will again be opened.



This year's inspection will occur on Saturday, August 1, 2026. It will be much like the inspection of last year. The Companions should arrive on Friday evening and have dinner at the Edelweiss restaurant before retiring for the night. On Saturday morning, the group will ascend the summit of Pike's Peak either by the cog railway or driving (which is an interesting experience) up the mountain. Once at the top, the team will go out to the deposit, make any repairs necessary, and then return from the summit. Once this is completed, there will be time for sight seeing in the region at the several beautiful natural formations and a chance to be together for dinner at a local restaurant. Our group will return home on Sunday. This is a fantastic time to visit Colorado and admire the work done by the Companions of Kansas so many years prior. More information will be forthcoming on the Grand York Rite Website in the near future.

# 2026 Great Plains Rendezvous Wrap-Up



For the 30th Anniversary of the Great Plains Rendezvous, the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas was the host jurisdiction, and the red (purple) carpet was rolled out for the other jurisdictions.

Over 70 Cryptic Masons from Colorado, Kansas, and Wyoming came together in Russell, Kansas to confer the degrees of the Royal Master, the Select Master, and the Super Excellent Master .

The sitting Most Illustrious Grand Masters from each of the three jurisdictions started the morning with their greetings and the conferral of the degrees commenced shortly afterwards. The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado used their ritual and conferred the Royal Master degree. The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Wyoming conferred their ritualistic version of the Select Master degree after a short break. Lunch consisted of Prime Rib with all the fixings and dessert. It was a fantastic meal and the Companions of the York Rite bodies of Hays should be thanked for their planning and for providing an excellent masonic experience for those who attended. After lunch was completed and everyone's appetite had been satisfied, the degree team from the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas conferred the Super Excellent Master Degree and exemplified the pageant to all who were in attendance.

We had 20 candidates for all three degrees of Cryptic Masonry. There were also 8 Companions who had never received the Super Excellent Master degree who were in attendance for the event. It was a great day of masonic ritual and fellowship for all, and we look forward to being in Colorado for the 2027 Great Plains Rendezvous where we will once again gather to confer the degrees of the Cryptic Rite.



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