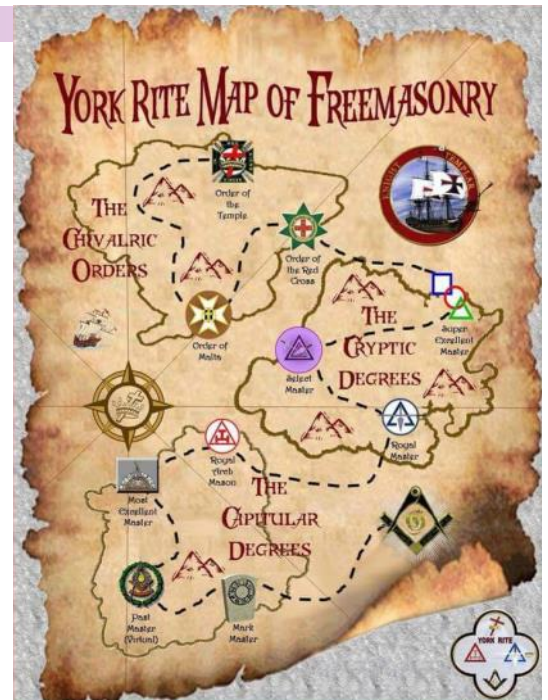


Letters from York

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas



2023-2024 Was Great! Even More is Coming!



So many great things have happened within the Grand York Rite bodies of Kansas within the last year. The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons embarked on a new program with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Kansas, AF&AM, to offer the degrees of the Mark Master and Virtual Past Master to any Master Mason in the jurisdiction who desired to learn more about their own blue lodge experience. These classes, performed in honor of

the Grand Master, were successful and resulted in over 50 new members of the York Rite being brought into membership.

Two of the York Rite Bodies in Kansas, those in Hays and in Goodland, have been rejuvenated by the works of several Companions and Sir Knights. Their members are active and there is a new energy and fervor spreading throughout those two York Rite bodies.



A new Council of Knight Masons was formed in Kansas in Junction City. They have gotten off to a great start and have conducted their first new class of Cousins.

A new Allied Masonic Degree Council was formed in Junction City as well. This Council has already seen phenomenal growth by inviting Companions who have a desire to learn more about the old degrees which are no longer worked within the United States.

Energy is extremely contagious! We have seen this before. The energy we have seen in freemasonry within Kansas, from the blue lodges all the way to the other appendant and concordant bodies, has been phenomenal to say the least. Combine this with the newly formed Unity Council and we have seen all of the masonic bodies in Kansas working together and communicating between themselves to create a better masonic experience for our members.

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- Grand Chapter Convocation
- Grand Council Convocation
- Grand Commandery Convocation
- Grand Encampment Triennial
- Chapter, Council, Commandery Reports and Updates
- Grand York Rite Session Update

News of the Ark



The 158th Annual Convocation was held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, in Manhattan. Most Excellent Michael Terry opened the Grand Chapter in full form after a public session was held prior to the convocation.

Several visitors made comments during the session and those in attendance enjoyed the time together.

The new officers were installed and are ready to continue their service to the members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas. There were two appointments made

by Grand High Priest John Staton to start the Grand Chapter line. Companion Robert Beardsley of Wichita Chapter No. 33 will serve as the Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner and Andrew Mosley of Leavenworth Chapter No. 2 will serve as the Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain. During the annual banquet, Excellent Companion Justin Crippen was awarded the General Grand Chapter Bronze Award for his dedication and service to Royal Arch Masonry and Lady Sharon Long received the Grand Chapter Sweetheart Award.



Grand Chapter Officers

Grand High Priest: John Staton
Grand King: Patrick Carr
Grand Scribe: Gary Strout
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Secretary: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Steven DeBerry
Grand Capt. Of Host: Tom Krauss
Grand Prin. Sojourner: Robert Beardsley
Grand Royal Arch Capt.: Andrew Mosley
Grand Mast. 3rd Veil: James York
Grand Mast. 2nd Veil: Dan Owens
Grand Mast. 1st Veil: Daron Woelk
Grand Sentinel: Frederick Kemp
Asst. Grand Musician: Dennis Reed

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 Grand Session is an opportunity for your voice to be heard.
Please be sure to attend.*

Grand Council Officers

Grand Master: L. Kent Needham
Deputy Grand Master: Gary Strout
Grand PCW: Robert Haynes
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Kelly Long
Grand Capt. Guard: Wayne Drake
Grand Cond. Council: Patrick C. Carr
Grand Marshal: Justin Crippen
Grand Cust. Work: Warren Hughes
Grand Steward: Frederick Kemp
Grand Sentinel: Andrew Mosley
Asst. Grand Sentinel: Thomas Krauss
Grand Organist: Dennis Reed

Arch Master: Wayne Rolf
Arch Master: Wayne Rector
Arch Master: Jamie Carwell

From the Ninth Arch



The 157th Annual Assembly for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas was held on Friday, May 3, 2024, in Manhattan. Most Illustrious Companion Gary Mason opened the Grand Council in full form after a public session was held prior to the convocation. After the session was closed, the annual conferral of the Order of the Silver Trowel was held and seven Past Illustrious Masters received the degree. Companion Jamie Carwell provided another excellent, and moving, conferral as King David.

The new officers were installed and are ready and able to continue their service to the members of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas. Most Illustrious Companion L. Kent Needham appoint Illustrious Companion Patrick C. Carr to the office of Grand Conductor of the

Council. Congratulations to all the officers! They are ready to serve your Council as needed during this next Cryptic year.

During the annual banquet, Illustrious Companion Justin Crippen was awarded the Cryptic Mason of the Year award for his dedication and service. Lady Adriane Carr received the Grand Council Lady of the Council award. Tish Green, with the Wichita Bethel of Job's Daughters, received the General Grand Council Youth Leadership Award. A great time was had by all who were in attendance.



The Chivalric Orders



The 2024 Grand Commandery Annual Convocation was held in Manhattan, Kansas at the Bluemont Hotel on Saturday, May 4, 2024. It was an exciting time for all who were able to attend. The entire weekend for the Grand York Rite Bodies of Kansas was well attended and several out of state dignitaries and guests spoke at the event.

The Friday night banquet and awards assembly saw several of our Sir Knights receive awards or commendations from the Grand Commandery of Kansas and its Grand Commander, William "Bill" Leonard.

Sir Knights Patrick C. Carr, Justin Crippen, Tom Krauss, and Michael Kolbarry received a commendation from the Grand Commander for their tireless efforts and work for the success of the Grand Commandery of Kansas.

Sir Knight Robert Haynes received the Grand Encampment Grand Cross for all the work he has done, and continues to do, for the Grand Commander of Kansas and its subordinate commanderies.

Sir Knight Justin Crippen, Grand Captain General, received the Knight Commander of the Temple award for his efforts in continuing to move Templary forward within the state of Kansas.

Congratulations to each of these hard working Sir Knights for their efforts and successes within the Grand Commandery of Kansas.

The public opening for the convocation was held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, and was a most impressive event. The Grand Commandery opened using the 12 Man opening and was ready for inspection by the Right Eminent Department Commander for the South Central Department, Sir Knight Robert Loflin. After the inspection, a pass and review was held. Once the pass and review was completed the Sir Knights formed the triangle and they proceeded to their devotions. Kansas is proud to continue to open the Grand Commandery of Kansas with a proper Class A opening each year and it is something which we will continue to do well into the future of our Grand Commandery.

The Grand Commandery of Kansas Drill Team performed a drill at the session as well. It was an opportunity for the team members to march and demonstrate various sword tactics and movements for those in attendance at the public opening.



Grand Commandery Officers

Grand Comm: Gary Mason
Dept. Grand Comm.: Frederick Kemp
Grand General.: Patrick C. Carr
Grand Capt. Gen.: Justin Crippen
Grand Sr. Warden: Gary Strout
Grand Jr. Warden: Ivan DeTevis
Grand Prelate: Dan Owens
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
Grand Std. Bearer: Dale Morrow
Grand Sword Bearer: Warren Hughes
Grand Warder: Robert Beardsley
Grand Sentinel: Andrew Mosley
Grand Musician: Kelly Long
Grand Guard: Juanito Ernacio
Grand Guard: William Koonce
Grand Guard: Robert Haynes

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, REGC
Member: Bill Koonce
Member: Andrew Mosley

Great Plains Rendezvous



The Great Plains Rendezvous is quickly approaching. The host Grand Council for 2024 will be the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado. The event will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2024, in Sterling, Colorado.

For 2024, the Grand Council of Kansas will be conferring the Royal Master Degree. The Super Excellent Master degree will be conferred by the Companions from Colorado.

This is a great time to bring your candidates who are needing the three degrees of the Council, or those who are needing to take the Super Excellent Master Degree. The great thing about this event is it is open to all Royal Arch Masons who are seeking to advance to the Council Degrees or to any Council member who has not yet seen or taken the Super Excellent Master Degree.

We had a great time in Hays, Kansas last year and we know the Companions from the Rendezvous will do another excellent job again this year.



Wichita Red Cross Inducts New Members

Calvary Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine met on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at the lodge hall in Newton, Kansas. This was a regular meeting for the conclave and they had their usual luncheon and business meeting.

This meeting was special because they instructed five new members into their Conclave. The degree work was well performed and the Intendant General of the Red Cross of Constantine for Kansas, Wayne Rolf, was in attendance. This was his last meeting as Intendant General before the United Grand Imperial Council meeting where he will hand off the position to Allan Jackson, the new Intendant General for the Red Cross of Constantine in Kansas.

It was a great meal, excellent fellowship, and an overall great day with impressive ritual performances and some words of wisdom from the outgoing Intendant General.



There are five Conclaves of the Red Cross of Constantine in Kansas. They are located in Wichita (Newton), Salina, Baldwin City, Pittsburg, and Topeka.

It was announced there will be a joint conferral of all the degrees of the Red Cross of Constantine in Baldwin City on November 2, 2024. This will be a joint meeting of all five of the Conclaves in Kansas. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer and the schedule is decided.

Goodland and Hays Confer Chapter Degrees



Both the York Rite bodies in Goodland and Hays have been extremely busy, and successful, in rebuilding their individual York Rite bodies. On Saturday, June 9, 2024, they met together at the lodge hall in Hays, Kansas and held a special conferral of the Capitular Degrees.

The morning opened with the Marked Master and Virtual Past Master degrees being conferred on brothers who have decided they desired to join the York Rite.

After the conferral was completed, these new brothers, along with several who had already received the first two degrees of Capitular Masonry, received the Most Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch Degrees.

Congratulations to the newly made Companions of the Holy Royal Arch in Kansas. A special congratulations to those who worked in the degrees and to those who have worked so diligently in the quarries to bring new life into the York Rite bodies of Goodland and Kansas. Good work, indeed!



Honorary Service Body Conferrals



These are the Order of the High Priesthood, open to those who are serving as or a Past High Priest, the Order of the Silver Trowel, for those Past or serving Illustrious Masters, and the Kansas Past Commander's Association, for those sitting

There are three honorary bodies which a Companion or Sir Knight is eligible to join when they have either completed, or are actively serving, as leadership in at the time of the Annual York Rite Meetings.

These are the Order of the Silver Trowel, for those Past or serving Illustrious Masters, and the Kansas Past Commander's Association, for those sitting or Past Eminent Commanders.



These three bodies met at the annual Grand York Rite session and conferred their respective orders on eligible candidates and elected and installed their new officers.

Grand Encampment Triennial 2024

The biggest event each triennium is the Grand Encampment Conclave. Every three years we hold this gathering to select officers, consider legislation, and to generally celebrate this fantastic organization.

This year the conclave will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, on August 17 through 21 at the Little America Hotel, 500 South Main Street. When we aren't in session, this is an easy walking distance to museums, shopping, restaurants and attractions. Salt Lake City is a fantastic venue. We don't always meet in a location with such amenities. This event has opportunities to make a real vacation excursion. You may want to arrive a few days early or stay at the hotel a couple of days after the conclave. Special extended group rates can be offered to you, depending on availability.



Drill competition will be on Saturday, August 17, and information may be found on the website.

Business will be conducted on Monday and Tuesday, including the introduction of Masonic national and international guests, as well as delegations of all Grand Commanderies, including those outside of the United States.

Registration materials and useful information may be found on this website.

The most important work of Freemasonry happens locally, but we are part of a much greater whole. The excitement and pageantry of a session such as this is a wonderful opportunity to broaden one's perception, celebrate with Templars from around the world, and participate in the future of our order.

Don't miss this chance to play an important role.



Visit
kansasyorkrite.org
for more info.



The Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors



The Order is based on the story of how Freemasonry came from Jerusalem to England.

Candidates are admitted to the degree of Pilgrim, which describes the journey of Freemasonry from Jerusalem to Rome. The second degree is that of Preceptor, and explains the journey from Rome to England. The third degree is the Installation into the chair as an Illustrious Preceptor. The ethos of the Order, and its motto, is "Fraternity, Equality and Liberty".

Membership is by invitation, and members must be subscribing Past First Principals of a regular Royal Arch Chapter under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England or in amity therewith and subscribing Past Masters of a regular Craft Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England or in amity therewith.

This group meets at Masonic Week each year in Alexandria, Virginia. There has been some interest in bringing this Order to Kansas and have the conferrals annually at the Grand York Rite Session.

Upcoming AMD/Knight Masons Ingathering

The third annual AMD/Knight Masons Ingathering will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2024, at the lodge hall in Newton, Kansas.



The morning will start with the conferral of the Knight Masons degrees starting at 9:00 AM by the three Councils of

Kansas. A lunch will be provided for a fee. We have a great speaker lined up for the banquet. Companion Jeff Bennett from Texas will be our keynote speaker.

After lunch, the four AMD Councils of Kansas will open and confer St. Lawrence the Martyr, the Knights of Constantinople, and the Excellent Master Degree.



Upon completion of the degrees, the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees has granted permission to confer the first three grades of the Scarlet Cord! All Scarlet Cord fees must be paid in advance. There will be no registration for the Grades onsite.

More information will be available in the next issue and online at the Grand York Rite website.

Kansas College No 33, KYCH Conferral

It can be argued the highest honor a York Rite mason can receive is to be inducted into the Knight York Cross of Honor. This is a special ceremony provided only to those elected to receive the honor. In order to be nominated for this honor, the individual must have served with honor as a Past Master of a Blue Lodge, a Past High Priest of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a Past Illustrious Master of a Council of Cryptic Masons, and a Past Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar. It is not enough to have simply been installed into those offices. The individual must show they have worked to attain the honor.



On Sunday, June 2, 2024, at the lodge hall in Independence, Kansas, five new Kansas Masons, and one member from Oklahoma, received the honor.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the officers for 2024-2025 were elected and installed into their respective offices.

Congratulations to those who were elected to receive the honor and to those who have been installed to work for the College for the next year.

The History of the Island of Malta

The island of Malta had great significance for the Knights of Malta. Malta was the island the Apostle Paul landed on after the shipwreck discussed in the New Testament of the Holy Scriptures. Paul was bitten by the viper while on the island. These are some of the reasons behind the Knights of Malta viewing the island as a holy place.

Malta is approximately sixty miles south of Sicily and is eighteen miles long and eight miles wide. Malta is an extremely old island with a rich history. Malta has been inhabited for over 8,000 years. There are remains of structures built by the earliest inhabitants of the island. These structures include Neolithic temples, which were erected almost 1,000 years before the pyramids at the Giza plateau in Egypt. They are believed to be the oldest free-standing construction still in evidence in the entire world.

The island was conquered by the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, and Arabs. These groups saw a value in bringing the island of Malta under the control of their respective nations. Not all the invaders pillaged and destroyed the island. During the Byzantine-Arab wars, the invading Arab faction introduced irrigation techniques, fruits, and cotton to the island and its population. The Arabs brought the language of Sicily to the island. This language has changed over time and become the modern-day Maltese language. The Arabs allowed the Christian population of the island to continue to worship as they liked, however they were taxed at a higher rate as a repercussion, and this was a discrimination because of their religion. The Norman conquerors seized the island of Malta in 1091 and were welcomed by the Christian population. The Christians were happy at the takeover and saw this as a way for the Roman-Christian religion to be set as the state religion for the island.

The Order of the Knights of Malta took control of the island in 1530 and continued to rule and govern the island until 1798. The Knights of Malta provided a merchant-based trade commerce for the island and erected hospitals to treat the sick and infirm. In 1676 a school of anatomy and surgery was founded. The Knights of Malta established Jesuits College on the island in 1592 and later became the University of Malta. The Knights

of Malta built strong fortifications to protect the island and its inhabitants from ocean-borne invaders. They eventually lost control of the island in 1798 when Napoleon Bonaparte's army conquered the island and removed the Knights of Malta. This was an incredible defeat, and they had survived being besieged for many months by the Ottoman invaders during the Great Siege of 1565, yet the French army easily removed them from power. This was due to the Knights of Malta underestimating the strength and resolve of the French army. They made no preparations for the force of power the French army possessed.

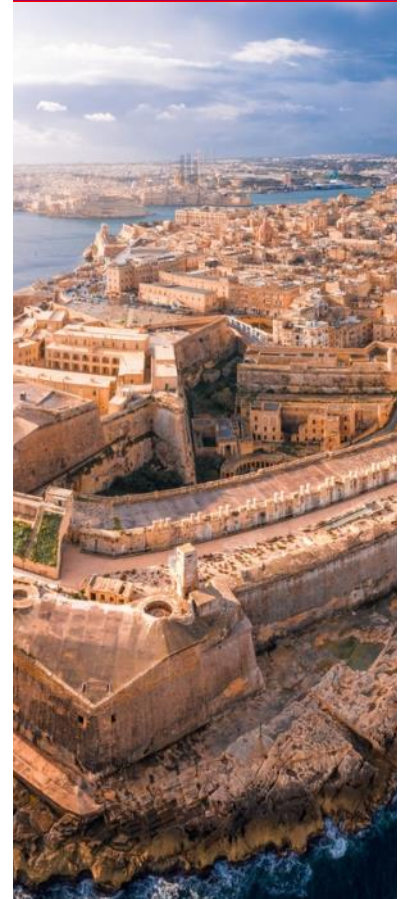
During the first few days of the French occupation, slavery was abolished and all Turkish slaves were ordered to be freed from their bondage. Napoleon created an education system which provided for primary and secondary education among the inhabitants of the island nation. Napoleon ordered a more scientific-based university to replace the university which was already in place. This new civil code was enacted to make the nation more prosperous and to educate its people the way the French educated their own people.

The importance of the island of Malta to the Knights cannot be stressed enough. The island had significant biblical importance for an order founded upon the beliefs in the holy scriptures. We learn in the Acts of the Apostles in chapter 28, Paul was shipwrecked and came ashore to what was named the island of Melita, which is modern day Malta. The name Melita is Semitic and means refuge. Being an island of refuge for Paul made the desire for the Knights of Malta to maintain this island as a place of refuge for their Order.

While there are many reasons for the Knights of Malta to desire to possess the island of Malta, one stands out among the others as more important. Because Paul walked and lived on the island performing miracles and healing during his stay, it made the island an important part of scripture. For an Order founded on the Holy Bible, having their headquarters in a location so closely aligned with the teachings of faith, made the island more desirous for them. Ultimately, they possessed the island and made life better there for the inhabitants.



Visit
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for more info.



2024 KT Feast

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 third annual Templar Feast will be held at the Community Building in McPherson, Kansas on Saturday, July 20, 2024.

The event will include a wonderful catered BBQ meal, a play entitled, "The Times of the Templars" and the usual awards and toasts.

Our speaker will be Sir Knight T.J. Brumfield, Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Nebraska, who will speak on Jesus and the Essenes.

This is going to be another excellent Templar Feast and all Sir Knights and their ladies or guests are invited to attend. Please be sure to register as seating is limited.

Grand York Rite of Kansas
P.O. Box 1045
Ottawa, Kansas 66067-1045

Office: 785-865-6737
E-mail: grand.sec.rec@ksyorkrite.net

