

Letters from York

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas

New Grand Master Installed



On Saturday, March 18, 2023, after the close of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, our new Grand Master was installed into his office. Most Worshipful Brother Robert D. McClarty, formerly the Deputy Grand Master of Kansas, was installed with the usual formalities into the office of Grand Master of Masons for the Grand Jurisdiction of Kansas.

The Honor Guard for the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas was requested to provide an arch of steel for the new Grand Master at his installation and they were more than happy to oblige his request. Our new Most Worshipful Grand Master continues to be the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas until the annual session held on May 4, 2023, in

Manhattan, Kansas at the Bluemont Hotel. Until that time, Most Worshipful Brother McClarty will continue to be the presiding officer over both bodies.

It was an excellent installation. Members of masonic bodies from across the country were in attendance to witness this year's installation of Grand Officers. Many York Rite masons were installed into office to assist the Grand Master in accomplishing the goals of the Grand Lodge of Kansas for the next term. The Knights of St. Andrew of the Scottish Rite Valley of Salina were present and provided an escort for the Grand Master and his wife, Jana, as he was installed into office.



Thank you to Most Worshipful Brother Michael D. Johnson for an excellent year as the leader of our Craft in Kansas. We congratulate and provide our best wishes and prayers for Most Worshipful Brother Robert D. McClarty as he embarks on what we know will be a successful year of leadership with the Grand Lodge of Kansas and the Brethren. Congratulations!

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News of the Ark



What else can we do to make Capitular masonry, and the York Rite, more relevant here in Kansas? We can invite our Brothers to witness the beauty and form of that peculiar degree, the Mark Master.

During 2023, there will be opportunities for Master Masons who are not petitioners in the York Rite, to take several of the degrees. These opportunities will be held throughout the state and will include the Mark Master and the Virtual Past Master degrees.

The Mark Master degree will be conferred in full form and in costume. This allows the Master Mason to witness the degree and see its importance to the history of ancient craft masonry.

The Virtual Past Master Degree will be conferred in full form on all Master Masons who attend. This is another step in educating our Brothers in the beauty and form of the York Rite Degree system.



Grand Chapter Officers

Grand High Priest: Wayne Rollf
Grand King: Michael Terry
Grand Scribe: John Staton
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Secretary: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Kelly Long
Grand Capt. Of Host: Roger Walls
Grand Prin. Sojourner: Gary Strout
Grand Royal Arch Capt.: Patrick Carr
Grand Mast. 3rd Veil: Gary Mason
Grand Mast. 2nd Veil: Wayne Drake
Grand Mast. 1st Veil: Warren Hughes
Grand Sentinel: Frederick Kemp
Asst. Grand Sentinel: James Burns

DDGHP Dist. #1: Jamie Carwell
DDGHP Dist. #2: Warren Hughes
DDGHP Dist. #3: Wayne Drake
DDGHP Dist. #4: Justin Crippen
DDGHP Dist. #5: Patrick C. Carr

The Holy Royal Arch Degree is viewed as the completion of the Master Mason degree. Invite a Brother Master Mason to witness the York Rite this year!

Grand Council Officers

Grand Master: John Staton
Deputy Grand Master: Gary Mason
Grand PCW: Kent Needham
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Joseph Withrow
Grand Capt. Guard: Gary Strout
Grand Cond. Council: Robert Haynes
Grand Marshal: Robert Beardsley
Grand Cust. Work: James York
Grand Steward: Ronald Phipps
Grand Sentinel: James Burns, III

From the Ninth Arch



several states, those of Colorado, Kansas, and Wyoming, come together for a great day of Cryptic masonry. You will not want to miss this year's event because the Super Excellent Master degree will be conferred in full form. Put this date on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you in Hays, Kansas.

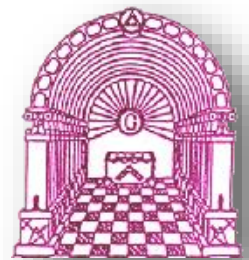
With our annual communication coming shortly in Manhattan, Kansas, we need to start looking at registration and being sure you are booked into the hotel. This is going to be another excellent Grand Council meeting and, as always, it is important all of the constituent Councils in Kansas are represented and voting on the upcoming legislation.

The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons Triennial session will be this summer as well. More information can be found in this magazine concerning registration and the schedule of events.

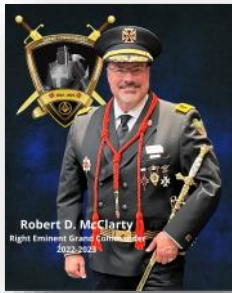
2023 is off to a good start for Cryptic Masonry in Kansas! The first conferrals of the Cryptic Degrees were held in January in Junction City and there were many Companions present to assist in bringing the new Royal Arch Masons into the Cryptic degrees.

There will be even more opportunities for us to increase our membership and share the beauty of the Ninth Arch to our Brothers and Companions during 2023.

In Hays, on June 24, 2023, there will be an opportunity for all Royal Arch Masons to receive the Cryptic Degrees. This is event, the Great Plains Rendezvous, is where



The Chivalric Orders



The last few months have seen sadness within our ranks. Our Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Knight Dennis Taylor, was called from this life to the next. While there is much sadness within our Grand Commandery, we rejoice in his new life in Christ! Because of Dennis' passing, there were some moves which had to be made within the Grand Commandery Officers. Our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Robert D. McClarty, advanced the line one position and appointed Sir Knight Gary Strout to the office of Eminent Grand Standard Bearer. Sir Knight Strout was Sir Knight Dennis' pick to the advancing Grand Commandery Line and his wishes were taken care of by our RE

Grand Commander., Robert D. McClarty.

There will be a conferral of the Orders coming in 2023. The time and place will be announced at a later date. This is an opportunity for our new Cryptic Masons to receive the Orders of Christian Masonry. Please be in attendance and assist in bringing these Sir Knights into our Order.

This year the Grand Encampment has started a new program intended to increase the level and quality of the Masonic Chaplain. The new Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program is intended to provide further light, education, and training to those who are serving as Chaplains, or may serve as a Chaplain in the future. It is an exciting and immersive program of reading, videos, and writing concerning the needs and duties of a Masonic Chaplain. So far in Kansas, there are three members of our Order who are participating in the program, and one has completed the journey.

There will be a Commissioning ceremony at the Grand Commandery session on Thursday, May 4, 2023, to provide a commissioning to any Sir Knight who has completed the program through the Grand Encampment. For more information on this program, and others, visit the Grand Encampment website at <https://knightstemplar.org>.



Grand Commandery Officers

Grand Comm: Robert McClarty
 Dept. Grand Comm.: William Leonard
 Grand General.: Gary Mason
 Grand Capt. Gen.: Frederick Kemp
 Grand Sr. Warden: Justin Crippen
 Grand Jr. Warden: Patrick Carr
 Grand Prelate: Roger Walls
 Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
 Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
 Grand Std. Bearer: Gary Strout
 Grand Sword Bearer: Wayne Drake, REPGC
 Grand Warder: Ivan DeTevis
 Grand Sentinel: Warren Hughes
 Grand Guard: Thomas Krauss
 Grand Guard: Delmus Morrow
 Grand Guard: Douglas Wettlaufer

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

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: Doug Wettlaufer



The Grand Commandery of Kansas was well represented at the 2023 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kansas .



From the Archives

A review of the 20th annual communication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas reveal several interesting items.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, ME Companion George S. Green, made notice of several items in his address to the Companions.

There were more than fifty chartered chapters and 2,500 Royal Arch Masons when he left office. He wrote, "The progress of Royal Arch Masonry has made in this jurisdiction has been the wonder of sister Grand Chapters." He wrote this because of the state of Capitular Masonry in Kansas during the 20 years the Grand Chapter had been in existence.

He noticed something which appeared to distress him concerning the conferral of the degrees. "I fear that in many of the chapters the work is not done as it should be; in conferring the degrees there is a disposition to regard the time as an opportunity for fun, rather than for the inculcation of the true spirit of Royal Arch Masonry." We learn from this even during the late 1800s, Masons had a desire to have fun, albeit sometimes at the wrong time.

His closing statement showed his love for the Craft in general and Royal Arch Masonry specifically. He wrote, in part, "I shall resume my place with you upon the floor to work with you for our common prosperity and good, here and wherever we may be called, to do that which will alleviate and benefit humanity."

So should we all Companions.

Notes from Masonic Week 2023

MASONIC WEEK 2023

FEBRUARY 8TH – 12TH

HYATT REGENCY CRYSTAL CITY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Masonic Week, which used to be called Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD) Week, is held each year in Alexandria, Virginia, on the second week of February. This year's session started on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, and continued through Sunday, February 12, 2023.

At these meetings, several York Rite bodies meet and conduct their annual business. This year the bodies included the Grand Council of Knight Masons USA, Provincial Grand Court of the Masonic Order of Athelstan, the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees USA, the Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor, St. Thomas of Acon, the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Ye Ancient Order of Cork,, the Masonic Order of the Bath, the Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors, Grand College of Rites, Society of Blue Friars, the Masonic Society, and the Philalethes Society.

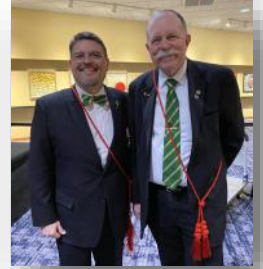
Several of these York Rite bodies are not meeting or chartered in Kansas. This does not mean our members are not able to participate and to join or meet at the annual meeting at Masonic Week. Some of these bodies, such as the Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor, only meets at Masonic Week.

Kansas was well represented this year by Companions Butch Blackman, Kelly Long, and Patrick Carr. At these meetings, several of our Companions took

some of the various degrees and joined some of the different Orders. During one such conferral, the Royal Order of the Scarlet Cord conferred the first four grades of their Order, and Companions Long and Carr completed this portion of the Scarlet Cord.

During the Grand Council of Knight Masons session, our own Companion Gary Mason was

elected to receive the Order of Zerubbabel, and it will be presented to him at a future meeting. The members of Junction City provided a request for a charter to form a new Council of Knight Masons in their area and it has been sent to the requisite committee for approval. The chartering for this new Council will be held at a future date.



There were Companions and Brothers from across the world at this year's event. These



included Brothers from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, South America, France, Canada, Mexico, and

Romania. It is an excellent time to meet and discuss Masonry with brothers who are from entirely different countries and who have different styles and beliefs on freemasonry. It is an education for anyone who spends time meeting and discussing masonry with these brothers.

For 2024, Masonic Week will be held on February 7–11, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Alexandria, Virginia. Come and accompany Brothers Carr, Long, and Blackman for a great week you will not soon forget!



2023 Grand York Rite Sessions

The annual communication for the Grand York Rite Bodies of Kansas will be held May 3, 2023—May 6, 2023, at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas.

The 157th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas will be held on May 5, 2023, and will open promptly at 8:00 AM with the public opening and the tiled session will start at 9:00 AM. After lunch, the installation of officers will start at 1:30 PM. All Royal Arch Masons are invited to attend.

The 156th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will be held on May 6, 2023, and will open promptly at 8:00 AM with the public opening and the tiled session will start at 9:30 AM. The new Grand Council Officers will be installed immediately following the closing of the Grand Council.

The 155th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Kansas will be held on May 4, 2023, and the public session will open promptly at 8:30 AM. More information, and the registration form, can be found by visiting the Grand York Rite website at kansasyorkrite.org.

157th ANNUAL CONVOCATION GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONRY OF KANSAS

Friday, May 5, 2023

7:30 AM	Registration Opens
8:00 AM	Open Grand Chapter Meeting with Ladies
9:00 AM	157th Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons (closed meeting)
11:30 PM	Joint Luncheon
1:00 PM	Pictures of 2023-2024 Grand Chapter Officers
1:30 PM	Installation of 2023-2024 Grand Chapter Officers
3:30 PM	Order of the Silver Trowel
5:00 PM	Perpetual Life Meeting
5:30 PM	Education Meeting
6:00 PM	Grand York Rite Awards Banquet (Reservation Required)

156th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONRY OF KANSAS

Saturday, May 6, 2023

7:30 AM	Registration Opens
8:00 AM	Public Grand Council Opening
9:30 AM	156th Annual Assembly Grand Council of Cryptic Masons (closed meeting)
NOTE: Pictures and Installation of 2023-2024 Grand Chapter Officers immediately following meeting	

155th ANNUAL CONCLAVE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF KANSAS

Thursday, May 4, 2023

6:30 AM	Past Grand Commanders Wives Breakfast (Invitation Only)
6:30 AM	KYCH Breakfast (Members Only)
7:30 AM	Registration Opens
8:30 AM	Grand Commandery Open Meeting
10:30 AM	155th Annual Conclave Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas (closed meeting)
12:00 PM	Joint Luncheon
1:30 PM	Pictures of Grand Commandery 2023-2024 Officers
2:00 PM	Installation of 2023-2024 Grand Commandery Officers
3:30 PM	2023-2024 Gr. Commandery Officers Meeting (officers only)
4:00 PM	Kansas York Rite College
6:00 PM	York Rite Dinner (Reservation Required)
7:00 PM	Memorial Service



York Rite Spotlight

This issue spotlights the formation of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Kansas.

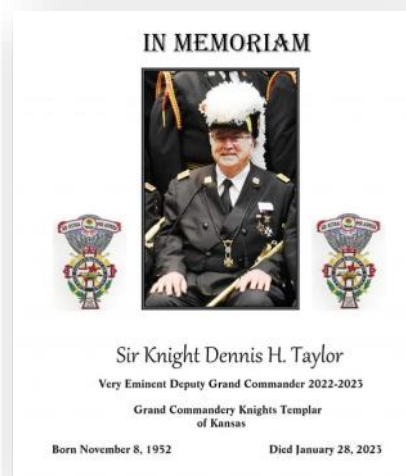
From the Archives we discover the following:

"A Convention of Delegates from the several Councils of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Kansas, met at the Masonic Hall, in the city of Leavenworth, on Wednesday evening, December 11, 1867, A.L. 5867, A. Dep. 2867, for the purpose of forming and organizing a Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the State of Kansas."

They adjourned for lack of a quorum being present, and scheduled the next day, December 12, 1867, at 7:00 p.m., as the date for the next meeting.

Further discovery reveals the delegations met the next evening and had to decide upon a name for the newly constituted Grand Council, and to select its first officers. The first Most Puissant Grand Master was Richard R. Rees, the Chairman of the committee, and after installation, the new Grand Officers communicated the Super Excellent Masters Degree to all Companions present who had not received the degree.

Companion and Sir Knight Dennis Taylor



It is with sadness the Grand Commandery of Kansas announced the loss of our Very Eminent Sir Knight Dennis H. Taylor. Dennis was an extremely active York Rite mason and served in many offices and various bodies. If there was an order within the jurisdiction of Kansas, Dennis was either a member of or had likely presided over that body.

His leadership, and his effervescent smile, was an inspiration to all who knew him. He will forever be known as a great man, Mason, and a good friend to all he met.

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas were present at Dennis' funeral and provided an Honor Guard to watch over him until the service was completed. Dennis received a Rose Croix funeral service from the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and a Masonic service as well. Farewell, Sir Knight. Until we meet again.

General Grand Chapter and Council Triennial 2023

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!



Center for Fraternal Collections in Indiana

Sadly, when masonic institutions, as well as other fraternal organizations, close their doors, their ephemera and belongings end up in one of two places. The first is in a pawn or antique shop. These items sit in cases and are rarely purchased because of the perceived over-value placed upon them by the profane. The other place is in the trash can. This happens because the organization they merge with either has no room or already has duplicates of the items which they have been given. In some instances, these items find their way into either private collections or a grand body headquarters. Even so, these items sit until something happens to them and they are either disposed of or given away to another organization.

But what if there was a place where they could be preserved and kept for posterity? Fortunately for us, such a place does indeed exist. The Indiana University has opened a University Collections of sorts which is a resting place and repository for many fraternal items which are no longer needed or wanted. Under the direction of Heather Calloway, these items are maintained and placed on display. It is more than a place to display and preserve the items. The Collection is a place for others to study the significance of the items and to keep them safe for future researchers to view and understand.



You may remember Heather. She was employed with the Scottish Rite House of the Temple for the Southern Jurisdiction for the United States in Washington, D.C. While she was employed there for 14 years, she served as the museum curator and the managing director of digital and social media. Now she has taken her talents, and her love of the fraternal collections, to Indiana University to continue her research. Through the Center for Fraternal Collections and Research (CFC), we find a group dedicated to the collecting, protecting, and sharing of fraternal collections for the sake of research and public

engagement.. More information can be found at their website, <https://collections.iu.edu>. Every community has fraternal history, and the Center for Fraternal Collections wants to help preserve yours.

Other notable individuals involved with the CFC include S. Brent Morris, Mark Tabbert, and Brian Woodman. Each of these individuals have a great interest in fraternal and Masonic history. Having a place where research can be conducted on various fraternal orders is a blessing and the CFC provides scholars with information and a place to view these various documents and items.

Many of the items written about or presented within this magazine are because of the generosity of the Brethren. Our Editor, Companion Patrick C. Carr, has been gifted books and various ephemera from bodies who are closing and were thinking of throwing out their items. Because of these Brethren, those items were saved and their information can be communicated to the Craft at a later date through lectures and publications.



So the next time you have items you no longer discover a need for, or a place to store, contact Heather at the Center for Fraternal Collections and ascertain if there is something they can house and use for the future. I am sure your donated items will find a great place where they will be treasured for the wonderful items they are and saved for future generations to discover the wonder and excellent tenants our Craft believed in throughout our history.



An Invite to All Kansas Master Masons

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.



This is an exciting time to be involved in Masonry in the state of Kansas. The Grand Master, MW Brother Robert D. McClarty, in conjunction with the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas, have joined together to offer a unique opportunity to Master Masons within the Grand jurisdiction of Kansas.

Any Master Mason can come to one of the Chapter Degree days being held across the state in 2023. At these sessions, the Mark Master degree will be conferred in full form, along with the Virtual Past Master degree.

More information, and registration, can be found by visiting the Grand York Rite of Kansas website at <https://kansasyorkrite.org> and select the link for the 2023 Grand Master's Classes.

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