

News of the Ark



There has been a lot happening in the state of Kansas with Royal Arch Masonry.

Several of the RA chapters are now actively working within their own chapters and are conferring some

of the degrees of capitular masonry on new members in the jurisdiction of Kansas.

On Saturday, August 10, 2024, a conferral of the degrees of the Holy Royal Arch was held in Iola, Kansas. Iola Chapter No. 8 reached out to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas and requested assistance in conferring

the degrees. There were six candidates in the region, between Iola and Pittsburg, Kansas, who needed the capitular degrees. Two of the brothers had received the first two degrees at the Grand Master's Classes in 2023, but had not been able to complete their experience. There was one from Salina Chapter No. 18 who needed to finish as well. Thanks to all who volunteered and either made meals, brought donuts, or worked on the degrees. It made for a great day and we now have seven new Royal Arch Masons in Kansas.



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. All are invited!

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 Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Kansas has been busy. Most Illustrious Companion L. Kent Needham, Grand Master of Cryptic Masons, took a group of companions to Sterling, Colorado for the Annual Great Plain Rendezvous in June. This was an excellent weekend filled with conferrals, food, and fellowship. If you have not attended the Rendezvous before, be sure to attend the 2025 event in Wyoming. More information will be coming soon as to the exact location and the date.

With seven new Royal Arch Masons being made in Iola, Kansas, they will now need to receive the degrees of the Cryptic Council. Ellsworth Council No. 9 conferred the Royal Master and Select Master degree as courtesy work on two candidates from the jurisdiction at their August stated communication. The Most Illustrious Grand Master was in attendance and made his official visit on the same night. One Royal Arch Mason who had recently received the capitular degrees in Iola made the long trip to Salina. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest was in attendance as well.

Wichita Council No. 12 made a presentation of a General Grand Council Youth Advocate Award to the director of the Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center. This was with McPherson Lodge No. 172 who presented a check and provided a special meal for the presentation.

Our Companions are making things happen and doing good in the communities they serve. Thank you and congratulations to all!



The Chivalric Orders



Our 3rd Annual Knight Templar Feast was a success! The Sir Knights, and their ladies and guests, enjoyed an evening of fun, which included great food, a Knight Templar play about the Templars of old and how they were falsely accused, convicted, and executed by a wicked king and false Pope, some special awards from the Grand Commander, and excellent education! We are already looking forward to next year's 4th Annual KT Feast. Very Eminent Sir Knight Frederick R. Kemp is currently busy working on the date, location, and speaker and once they have all been settled, the information known to everyone.

With the new Companions in the Chapter who will soon be Companions in the Council, we are looking forward to a time and date when we can confer the Orders of Christian Masonry on these soon to be Sir Knights. The date which has been chosen is October 19, 2024, in Hays, Kansas at the Lodge Hall. With this in mind, please diligently work to complete those you have working through the York Rite degree system so they are ready to take the Orders. We are looking forward to having a large class with those who have not had the opportunity to be knighted, or who are still trying to complete their Grand Master's Class degrees. Either way, we are going to have a great day of Knight Templary in Hays, Kansas in October. For those who were in the cast last year, please work on memorizing and becoming familiar with your parts. It makes all the difference to the candidates when we are proficient and impressive with the work.

The Commissioned Templar Chaplains are planning to commission two new Templar Chaplains who have completed their course of study and graduated from the Grand Encampment's program. On September 10, 2024, Sir Knight Matthew Rutkowski will be commissioned at the stated meeting of Junction City Commandery No. 3 at the lodge hall in Junction City. On September 23, 2024, Sir Knight Bill Jones will be commissioned at Askelon Commandery No. 6 at their stated meeting in Salina. If you are available, come out and attend the meeting and the commissioning ceremony.



The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA held their 69th Triennial Session in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Grand Commandery of Kansas was well represented with the Grand Commander, Gary A. Mason, Grand Generalissimo, Patrick C. Carr, Grand Captain General, Justin D. Crippen, Past Right Eminent Grand Commanders Wayne H. Rolf and Butch Blackman, and Grand Musician, Kelly J. Long. Everyone enjoyed the meetings and the fellowship with Sir Knights from around the world. The officers of the Grand Encampment were elected to retain their offices and Right Eminent Sir Knight James "Jim" McGee was elected to the start the progressive line. The new South Central Department Commander is Sir Knight Robert Rosath of Oklahoma, who was installed and invested with the jewel of his office.

Don't overlook the many different Knight Templar Education Courses available through the Grand Encampment's website. These include Templar Ritualist, History of the Medieval Knights Templar, and the Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program. Each comes with its own patent and pin or jewel once completed. These can be found at <https://templaredorg/moodle>.

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

Red Cross of Constantine 1st Annual Ingathering



The Kansas Conclaves of the Red Cross of Constantine will hold its first ever ingathering on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at the lodge in Baldwin City, Kansas.

At the meeting, the five Conclaves in Kansas will come together to confer the degrees of the Red Cross. The morning will start with the conferral of the chair degrees for the Eminent Viceroy and the Puissant Sovereign. Only those who are eligible, or are already passed as Puissant Sovereign, will be in attendance at this closed degree conferral.

The three degrees of the Red Cross of Constantine will be conferred following the morning chair degrees. The degrees are the Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Knight of St. John the Evangelist.

Lunch will be provided for a donation. All members of the Red Cross of Constantine are invited and encouraged to attend. This will give you the opportunity to receive the degrees beyond the Knight of the Red Cross. Be in attendance to complete your Red Cross degree experience.

2024 Knight Templar Feast

The 3rd Annual Knight Templar Feast was held at the McPherson Community Building in McPherson, Kansas on Saturday, July 20, 2024. There were almost 70 in attendance to enjoy a wonderful meal and witness all the Knight Templar Feast had to offer.

The Feast was started in 2022 by then Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Robert D. McClarty. It was such an enjoyable event, the next Right Eminent Grand Commanders have decided to continue the tradition.



At this year's Feast, the meal was served by two Brothers of Albert Pike Lodge in Wichita, Kansas. The meal included pulled pork, smoked chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, and dessert. During the Feast, a new and original three act play entitled, *The Times of the Templars*, as performed by several Sir Knights, and their ladies, from across Kansas and other jurisdictions.



After the meal, and the play, several awards were presented by the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Gary A. Mason. Those who received recognition were Sir Knights Robert Beardsley, Thomas Krauss, Kelly Long, And Michael Colbary.

The requisite toasts were had and the Eminent Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Nebraska, Sir Knight T. J. Brumfield, presented a talk on Jesus and the Essenes.



Royal Order of Scotland Conferral



The Royal Order of Scotland is an invitational and honorary masonic body. For a mason to be considered for membership he must meet the requirements as set forth by the Order. Those invited must be either Knight Templars or 32 degree Scottish Rite Masons. Additionally, its members have to state their believe in the trinity as a Christian.

The Order usually hosts two conferrals of the Degrees of Heredom in the United States. In 2024, the two conferrals were held in Tampa, Florida and Des Moines, Iowa. At the Des Moines conferral, the state selection chairman, H. Wayne Rector, was accompanied by four worthy Sir Knights who received admission into the Order. Sir Knights Justin D.

Crippen, Andrew G. Mosley, Gary A. Mason, and A.J. Pence, made the journey to Des Moines and were received and admitted into the Order. There were other candidates selected who were unable to attend the conferral and will receive the degrees in 2025.

Congratulations on your selection to join the Royal Order of Scotland to all!



Masonic Unity Council Meeting



The 2nd Annual Masonic Unity Council was held on Saturday, August 24, 2024, in Salina, Kansas. This was a follow-up from the first Unity Council meeting which was held in 2023. During this first meeting, Masonic bodies from across the jurisdiction came together to explain who they were, what they did, and what charities they support. After the meeting, the Grand

Master, and the delegates of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, recognized those bodies who were represented.

During the 2024 meeting, many of those same bodies were given the opportunity to speak about their Orders and the successes they have had since the last meeting. Companion Justin D. Crippen, represented all the many and various York Rite and York Rite appendant bodies. It was a fantastic day to discuss what the York Rite is doing and how they can continue to help others in the state.



York Rite College Annual Meeting

Convent General of the Sovereign York Rite College of North America held their annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, during the first weekend in August. Many of the members of the York Rite College of Kansas were in attendance for the meeting. These included John T. Staton, Wayne H. Rollf, Allan D. Jackson, and L. Kent Needham.

At this year's meeting, the annual conferral of the Order of the Purple Cross was held. This year, Companion L. Kent Needham was honored by receiving the Order. The Order of the Purple Cross of York, the highest honor of the College, is conferred upon those members of the College who have distinguished themselves by their service to humanity or to the Rite. The recipients are designated Associate Regents of the Sovereign College, and from their ranks are chosen the Regents or active members of that body.



At the annual meeting, those who have been proposed to receive the honor of the Order of the Purple Cross for 2025 were elected and will be notified of their preferment from the College.

The York Rite Sovereign College of North America exists primarily to be of service to the York Rite of Freemasonry. Constituent colleges must declare fealty to the Grand Lodge of their respective jurisdictions. The pre-requisite for membership, which is by invitation only, is good-standing in all four York Rite bodies: Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commander or Preceptory (Canada.)

The York Rite College has an education program. The Companion Adept of the Temple program is open to any York Rite mason. The program is a self-study course which walks the student through the degrees and orders of the York Rite of Freemasonry. The course is divided into five sections. The exams cover the degrees of the capitular rite, degrees of the cryptic rite, the Orders of Chivalry, and York Rite Traditions in Freemasonry. There is a cost for the program because it includes the resource materials necessary for the exams and the study. The exams are made up of multiple choice, true-false, and essay questions. It is a good opportunity to learn more about the York Rite so you can spread that light and knowledge among the rest of the craft.



Visit kansasyorkrite.org for more info.



The Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon



The Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon is an invitational chivalric and Masonic order. In the United States of America, the Order is governed by the Grand Master's Council, which warrants local Chapels of the Order. Chapels may be grouped into larger administrative units, known as Provinces, as needs require.

A candidate for admission must be a subscribing Master Mason in a Craft Lodge in amity with the United Grand Lodge of England, a subscribing Royal Arch Mason in a Royal Arch Chapter, or its equivalent in other countries, in amity with the Supreme Grand Chapter of England and a subscribing Knight Templar, or its equivalent in other countries, in amity with the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta.

The Order of St. Thomas of Acon was established in 1974 as a result of twenty years' research in the Guildhall Library in London by John E. N. Walker, who for many years was the Secretary General of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia. The ancient records of the Order, written in medieval French and Latin, had been deposited in the Guildhall Library and escaped the Great Fire of 1666. The Order now operates under the official title of The Commemorative Order of St Thomas of Acon.

The revival of this very English Order of Chivalry is due to the untiring efforts of its first Grand Master, Sir John (Walker) of Dorking, who spent twenty years searching the archives of the library for information about the Order of St. Thomas of Acon, and he felt compelled to revive the Order, albeit Masonically.

Athelstan Past Grand Rank Appointments

At the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Grand Court of the Masonic Order of Athelstan in England, the Grand Court, and its Grand Master, elected several Court Master Masons to receive Past Grand Rank in the Order in England. There are few of these Grand Ranks awarded each year, and those who have set themselves apart by their service to the Craft in general, and to the Masonic Order of Athelstan specifically, are selected to receive the preferment of Past Grand Rank.



The newly formed Ashmole Court No. 181, which meets in Emporia, Kansas, had four members who were nominated, elected, and received First Appointment Past Grand Rank.

Court Master Masons Robert D. McClarty, L. Kent Needham, Delmus "Dale" Morrow, and Patrick C. Carr, all received preferments from the Grand Court of Athelstan. All three are Past Masters of the Order.

Brothers McClarty, Needham, and Morrow, each received the rank of Past Grand Senior Warden in the Masonic Order of Athelstan.

Brother Carr received the rank of Past Grand Banner Bearer in the Masonic Order of Athelstan.

Congratulations to these Brothers on their election and reception of Past Grand Rank in the Order in England.

Scarlet Cord 3rd Grade Conferral in Kansas



In 2022, an idea was had to start an ingathering for the three Councils of the Allied Masonic Degrees in the state. Since that first ingathering in October of 2022, another Council has been constituted and another grade of the Scarlet Cord has been permitted to be conferred in Kansas.

The first year of the ingathering saw the conferral of the First Grade of the Scarlet Cord. In 2023, the Second Grade conferral was added. The Grades of the Scarlet Cord are usually conferred either in England, or at Masonic Week in Alexandria, Virginia, in February of each year.

The first three grades can be acquired by any member of the AMD. The fourth grade can only be conferred upon Past Sovereign Masters of the AMD and then only at Masonic Week.

Fortunately for Kansas, we have been allowed to add the Third Grade of the Scarlet Cord for the 2024 Ingathering to be held on October 12, at the lodge hall in Newton, Kansas.

There are currently only five members of the AMD in Kansas who hold the third and fourth grades, and this will be an opportunity to add another large group to membership in the third grade of the Order.



Irish Masonry and the Grand Lodge of Ireland

The Grand Lodge of Ireland is the second oldest grand lodge in the world. They are second only to the United Grand Lodge of England which was formed in 1717. The Grand Lodge of Ireland was formed in 1725, however the exact date has been lost to the annals of time. There has been presented evidence of the lodges operating within Ireland prior to the 18th century. The Dublin Weekly Journal posted an article on June 26, 1725. The article stated the Grand Lodge of Ireland on June 24th to install their Grand Master, Richard Parsons, the First Earle of Rosse (O'Connell, 2014). This implies the Grand Lodge of Ireland was operating prior to this date; however, they have chosen to use June 24, 1725 as their official celebrated founding date.

There is evidence of masonry being a part the Irish community much earlier than the 1725 recorded date. The Trinity Tripos, a manuscript dating to the 1680s, mentioned Irish masonry and the Craft (Duke of Leinster Lodge, 2014). The manuscript was a speech presented by Mr. John Jones, at the commencement ceremonies of the University of Dublin on July 11, 1688. In the speech, Jones made a passing mention of the craft and stated, "freemasonized the new way." This is an allusion to the change from operative to speculative masonry and something which was mentioned in a passing within the text. It is believed the text was written as a satirical piece by Johnathan Swift, however scholars still continue to debate the validity of the statement. Regardless of the author, the Trinity Tripos was a satirical look at the fraternity of freemasons of the time period.

More evidence can be found with the Baal's Bridge Squares. Baal's Bridge was constructed in 1507 as a crossing for the River Abbey. The bridge is known in the Irish vernacular as "Droichead Maol" which translates to the bald bridge. This

could be because the bridge had no parapet or retaining wall. The bridge was dug up and demolished in 1830. During the demolition, two brass squares were discovered laid in the foundation of the bridge. These brass squares were in bad condition because of the decay but someone laid a piece of paper over them and made a charcoal rubbing. The words on one square were, "I will strive to live with love and care" and on the other, "upon the level and by the square." One had the date inscribed upon it as 1507 (Traveling Templar, 2014). So, there was freemasonry active in Ireland in 1507 it would seem.

England possessed the Halliwell Manuscript, or Regius Poem, and the Schaw Statutes to point to the existence and history of early freemasonry in England. Ireland did not have many of those same documents to turn to for an early look at pre-grand lodge Irish masonry. There was in existence, several chairs located in Ireland which point us to the history of Irish masonry before the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1725. One such chair belonged to a brother mason and was used in Derry Lodge No, 134, which met in Lurgan. It was used at one point by the Master of the lodge. The chair has inscribed upon it "AJR" and "KCB" across the top. Beneath that is a traditional Irish harp which is surrounded by the square, the compasses, and the level. Beneath is inscribed the date 1681 (O'Connell, 2014).

Another such chair exists in St. Nicholas Church, located in Carrickfergus, in County Antrim. This chair is almost identical to the previously mentioned chair with a few differences. The date on the bottom is inscribed as 1685. The working tools of masonry are not located on the chair however, above the harp is the square and compasses in the usual masonic manner (O'Connell, 2014).



Visit kansasyorkrite.org for more info.



DeMolay Legion of Honor

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 Annual DeMolay State Conclave for Kansas was an exciting event. The afternoon started with a wonderful catered meal for lunch, and was followed by the private investiture of the 2024 Class of the Legion of Honor members. Quite a few of the Kansas York Rite Masons received the honor this year. Some of those included Most Worshipful and Right Eminent Brother and Sir Knight Robert D. McClarty and Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight Matthew D. Rutkowski. The public investiture followed soon after the private ceremony and a practice was held for the event. There were quite a few York Rite masons in attendance from across the Jurisdiction to witness this great day in the history of the Order of DeMolay in Kansas. Congratulations to all who received preferment at the 2024 Conclave!



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