

Letters from York

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas

New Grand Master Installed



The masonic year is off to a great start and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Kansas, AF&AM, held their annual communication on March 15 & 16, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn at Manhattan, Kansas. One of our own York Rite Masons, MW Brother Doug Wilkinson, was installed as Grand Master on Saturday. MW Brother Doug's has some excellent plans put into place to make 2024 a fantastic year of masonic fellowship and unity.

Several of our own York Rite Masons were installed into various offices for the 2024-2025 Masonic year. Most Worshipful Brother Robert D. McClarty, now the Junior Grand Master of Kansas, was installed as the first Appendant Body Liaison.



Most Worshipful Brothers Tracy Bloom, Cole Presley, Michael Johnson, and Dale Morrow were installed as Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Lecturers respectively. Right Worshipful Brothers Warren Hughes, Mark Reeder, and Dave Hendricks were installed as Grand Senior Deacon, Grand Junior Warden, and Grand Senior Warden. Several other Brothers were installed and included Justin Crippen, James Lyle, Glenn Davis, and Donnie Deatherage, as District Deputy Grand Masters, Patrick C. Carr as Area 3 Deputy Grand Master, Wayne Rector, Michael Johnson, and Dale Morrow as Grand Lecturers, Roger Walls as Grand Chaplain, Curtis Utley as Grand Tiler, Alex Bolinder as Grand Standard Bearer, Jacob Edmunds as Grand Sword Bearer, and Robert D. McClarty as Grand Liaison to the Appendant Bodies.



Congratulations to all the newly elected, appointed, and installed officers for our Grand Lodge. We are proud of your service to freemasonry and your affiliation with the York Rite.

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News of the Ark



The local Kansas Chapters are continuing to work diligently within their bodies to bring the light and knowledge of the Holy Royal Arch to their members and prospects. Hays

Chapter is continually growing and working hard to provide an excellent capitular experience by conferring their own degrees. Salina Chapter has recently conferred the Mark Master and Virtual Past Master degree on a new candidate for their body, as well as a courtesy work candidate for Junction City.

On March 8, in Newton, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas came together and conferred the Most Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch Degree on 5 candidates to complete their capitular learning through the 2023 Grand Master's Classes program. It is a good start to capitular masonry for 2024.



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 2024 Grand Session for Kansas York Rite will be May 1-4, 2024, at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas!

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 C. 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



participation as well. Be sure to visit the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International's website for more information on how to give to the Crum Fellowship and other opportunities for charity.

The Cryptic year 2024 is off to a great start for the Cryptic Council in Kansas. On March 9, 2024, 12 new companions received the degrees of Royal and Select Master at the completion of the Grand Master's program which was held in Newton. We had an excellent day of capitular masonry with that many companions continuing their masonic journey through the York Rite.

Be sure to remember to give to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF), our official charity for Cryptic Masonry. There is a new opportunity to give. The Crum Fellowship is available to all cryptic masons who would like to make a \$100 donation. The donation counts toward local Council charity giving



As the year comes to an end, be sure to attend the Grand Council session in Manhattan, Kansas at the Bluemont Hotel on Friday, May 3, 2024, at 8:00 AM. It will be an excellent time to get together and do the business of our Grand Council. Remember you are the reason the Grand Council exists and your vote counts.

The Chivalric Orders



Members of the Grand Commandery of Kansas were present in Newton on March 9, 2024, for the conferral of the Orders of Christian Knighthood. There was a presence from commanderies from across the state for this conferral. Because of the willingness of the sir knights to come and work for the completion of the Grand Master's Classes, an additional 10 Sir Knights joined their constituent commanderies in Kansas.

After the Order of the Temple was completed, a second Order of the Temple was conferred on Sir Knight Bob Talbot. Sir Knight Bob has been unable to make our knightings because of personal business and the Grand Commandery wanted to take the opportunity to offer

this special Order of the Temple conferral. Thankfully, everyone's schedule allowed it to happen and Sir Knight Bob is now a member among us! Welcome to Sir Knight Talbot!

The Grand Commandery of Kansas has been extremely busy in planning opportunities for participation for the next year.

On March 31, 2024, at 7:00 AM, there will be an Easter Sunrise Service held at Coronado Heights near Lindsborg, Kansas. After the service is completed, there will be a brunch provided at McPherson Lodge No,



172. Sir Knights are requested to wear their Class A uniform without chapeau and sword. Others are requested to wear a dark suit This service is open to everyone. Invite your friends!

The 3rd Annual Templar Feast is being planned for July 20, 2024, in Wichita, Kansas. More information about the Feast will be available in the next issue of this newsletter.

Please remember to give to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. Consider starting a Grand Commander's Club membership. With an additional donation of \$100, you will be entered into the program. Once you reach \$1,000, you will be entered into the Grand Master's Club and will



receive a star for your Class A uniform. There are more giving levels available as well. Visit the Grand Encampment's website for more information on how you can support our charity.

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA, will host their Triennial session August 18-21, 2024, in Salt Lake City, Utah. This is an excellent opportunity to travel and meet Sir

Knights from across the globe. The session is open to any Sir Knight who desires to register for the session and attend. More information can be found on the Grand Encampment's website.

The Grand Commandery of Kansas will hold its annual communication on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 8:00 AM during the Grand York Rite session in Manhattan, Kansas. This is a time for all Sir Knights to be in attendance and take part in the management and leadership of 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 C. 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: Andrew 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

The Day the War Stopped



The second weekend in June has been a special place for the city of St. Francisville in Louisiana for the last 26 years. This is the date scheduled each year for the Day the War Stopped.

This event is hosted by Feliciana Lodge No. 31 and commemorates the day when the Civil War stopped for 24 hours to honor and bury a brother from New York who had been killed during the battle.

Commander Hart, of the USS Albatross, committed suicide after suffering a fever. His first mate came into town, which they had been shelling for several weeks, and requested a masonic burial for Commander Hart. After some time, the lodge agreed to provide the burial plot and there was an agreement to stop all hostilities for 24 hours.

This event commemorates and recreates the event each year. It is a time for history, food, fellowship, and an appreciation of how mercy and charity is the cornerstone of all masonry.



Charles David Williams, III AMD Council Founded

Saturday, January 20, 2024, provided an excellent opportunity to start the newest Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees here in Kansas. The newest AMD Council wanted to name their body after someone who was near and dear to the hearts and minds of many Kansas masons, C. David Williams. He was the impetus for a lot of York Rite experiences in our jurisdiction which we now take for granted.

There were nine new members initiated into the Allied Masonic Degrees by Past Sovereign Grand Master Bob Davis of Oklahoma. Bob requested to come to Kansas and consecrate the new council.



The charter was presented to the Council by Brother Davis, who proceeded to consecrate the new council and install its first officers.

Brother Patrick Carr, Past Sovereign Master, donated his personal Past Sovereign Master apron from when he was the Sovereign Master of Most Worshipful Carson C. Scott Council No. 383 in Arkansas. This apron will be worn by each Sovereign Master during the term they serve in the chair of the Council.



After the initiation, consecration, and installation was completed, the Brothers retired to one of the local Italian restaurants near the lodge to celebrate and enjoy a wonderful time of food and fellowship. Visit the Grand York Rite website for more information on the stated communications for this Council.



Athelstan Comes to Kansas



The Masonic Order of Athelstan in Wales, Scotland, and its Provinces Overseas consecrated its newest council in Emporia, Kansas on Saturday, January 6, 2024.

This is a new York Rite order in Kansas, and it tells the true story of King Athelstan and the work he provided to bring the Christian Knights and the operative craftsman together.

There are only a few Courts of the Order in America, and Ashmole Court No. 181 is the newest to be consecrated in the Provincial Grand Court of the United States.

A total of 24 members joined at the initial event in Emporia, and an additional 5 joined at their first meeting held in McPherson, Kansas.

All Past Grand Masters are given special progression to the title of Past Master of the Order, and are afterwards given Provincial Grand Rank. MW Brothers McClarty, Needham, and Morrow were given this high honor from the Grand Court in England for their commitment and work in the Craft.

Members came from Oklahoma, Iowa, North Carolina, and Missouri to help make this a special day for our newly made Court Master Masons.



S.R.I.C.F. Visits Missouri

Several members of the Kansas College of the Masonic Rosicrucians visited the Missouri College on Saturday, February 24, 2024. The event provided an opportunity for the Kansas members to see how a different College performs their work and afforded the opportunity to speak with the leaders and members of Missouri.

The meeting was held in Columbia, Missouri, and after a fabulous lunch served by the local Rainbow Girls Assembly, the meeting commenced. Masonic education was held and it was an excellent presentation. The members of the SRICF look forward to more visitations in the future.



2024 K.T. Easter Sunrise Service

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas will be holding their inaugural Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, March 31, 2024, at 7:00 AM. The event will be held in front of the castle at Coronado Heights which is located just west of the town of Lindsborg in central Kansas.

The event will feature responsive readings, scripture readings, hymns, and a special hymn played by Brother Kelly J. Long on the bagpipes to close out the service. The message will be delivered by Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, Commissioned Templar Chaplain (CTC). Other members of the service include songs lead by the ladies of the Social Order of the Beauceant (SOOB) and Abbey Mosley, readings lead by Sir Knight Andrew Mosley, CTC, and Sir Knight Gary J. Strout, CTC. Our Grand Commander, William P. "Bill" Leonard will bring greetings from the Sir Knights in the state of Kansas.

Brunch will follow at McPherson Lodge No. 172 at the conclusion of the service. A love offering is requested to pay for the brunch.

**Grand Commandery of
Knights Templar of Kansas**



2024 Easter Sunrise Service
Coronado Heights near Lindsborg, Kansas

March 31, 2024
7:00 AM

Brunch to follow at McPherson Lodge No. 172
All are invited to attend and participate.
Sir Knights: Class A Uniform, please.

All Sir Knights are requested to wear their Class A uniforms without sword and chapeau. Sunday best is requested for others for the service. Come out to this inaugural event and enjoy the fellowship and the worship the Commandery of Knight Templar is known for.



Visit
kansasyorkrite.org
for more info.



Yeoman of York



The Yeoman of York is an invitational honorary masonic body within the York Rite based on membership or eligibility to receive the Knight York Cross of Honor.

While it is an honor to be nominated to receive the KYCH, sadly, many who receive the honor stop serving their own constituent or grand York Rite bodies afterwards. The Yeoman of York was devised to recognize those who continue to work within their own York Rite bodies or within the Grand York Rite.

Currently, the nearest Preceptory is located in Liberty, Missouri. There are several members from the Grand York Rite of Kansas who are members and officers in Missouri.

At the February meeting, several new members were brought into the Yeoman of York. These included Gary Mason, Kelly Long, Justin Crippen, Michael Bennett, Michael Terry, and Dale Morrow. With Robert McClarty and Patrick Carr, who are already members, there is a possibility in the future for a petition to be made for a Yeoman of York Preceptory to be located in Newton. Watch this magazine for more information as it becomes available.

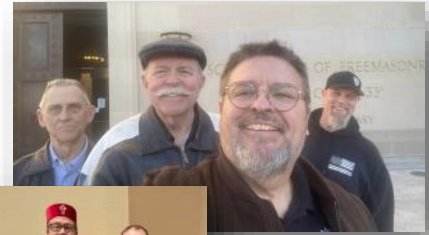


2024 Masonic Week Report

Masonic Week was well attended by Kansas York Rite Masons this year. Companions Patrick Carr, Kelly Long, Wayne Rollf, and Justin Crippen made the trip to Alexandria, Virginia to represent the Grand York Rite bodies of Kansas.

There were meetings of the Order of Athelstan, St. Thomas of Acon, the Allied Masonic Degrees, Knight Masons, Order of Pilgrim Preceptors, Grand College of Rites, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Ye Anciente Order of Cork, Order of the Bath, and the Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor, plus several others.

Many of these degrees and orders were conferred upon members of the Kansas delegation who had not already received the degrees. As much fun as this was, it is the fellowship which continues to bring masons back to Alexandria every year. We hope to see you next year!



W. Ron McKenzie Council Receives Charter



During Masonic Week 2024, the W. Ron McKenzie Council, UD received their charter from Great Chief Jim Winzenried during the annual session of the Grand Council of Knight Masons, USA.

Several of their charter and founding members were in attendance to receive the charter. W. Ron McKenzie Council No. 134 is no longer under dispensation from the Grand Council and has provided the necessary documentation and work to have received their Council number.

During the session, Cousin Patrick Carr, Past Excellent Chief, received the Order of Knight of Zerubbabel from the Grand Council. This is only the second time this honor has been given out in Kansas. Gary Mason, PEC, received the first last year for his tireless determination and work for his Knight Masons Council.



Competing Early British Grand Lodges

We refer to the UGLE as the mother Grand Lodge because it was the first to be formed. In fact, there were several other competing Grand Lodges operating in England during this same period. Competing Grand Lodges rarely work together, and this was no different between the United Grand Lodge of England and the other Grand Lodges formed and operating during the initial years of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Elias Ashmole is known to be one of the first of the speculative masons entered into a lodge in England. From his own pen we discover he was initiated into a Lodge in Warrenton, Lancashire, England on October 16, 1646, at approximately 4:30 p.m. While Ashmole is referred to as the first English speculative mason, we know this is not accurate. At the Lodge on the day of his initiation he recorded Colonel Henry Mainwaring, Richard Penket Worden, James Collier, Richard Sankey, Henry Littler, John Ellam, Richard Ellam, and Hugh Brewer as being in attendance. That would include seven men who were there to initiate Ashmole in the Lodge, the number needed to make someone an Entered Apprentice Freemason. These men were not stone masons as they held other vocations. So Ashmole was not the first, however he is believed to be the first English speculative mason of which we have proof of his initiation

There were speculative lodges of freemasons operating prior to 1646 in England, however there are little records to prove such an existence. Because of the initiation of Ashmole, we realize there had to be freemasons already in existence in the area.

The Premier Grand Lodge of England was officially formed in 1717 in London, England. It is often regarded as the mother of all Grand Lodges. Four Lodges in London met on June 24, 1717, which was St. John's Day at the Goose and Gridiron tavern and declared themselves to be a Grand Lodge. Subsequently, they elected Anthony Sayer as the first Grand Master. The UGLE is the only recognized Grand Lodge still in existence in England and is the standard for which all regular Grand Lodges are recognized. During this early formation, they made themselves known as the Premier Grand Lodge before changing their name to the United Grand Lodge of England later.

The four lodges associated with forming the Premier Grand Lodge were not the only lodges known to exist at the time. There were some fifty-one Lodges operating in London shortly after that time. These Lodges did not necessarily always come to a situation of peace and brotherly love. Because of this, the concept of the Premier Grand Lodge was brought to light and made into a reality. In 1723, the Premier Grand Lodge sponsored and promoted the creation and printing of *The Constitutions of the Freemasons*, which is more commonly known as Anderson's Constitutions. This is the rule and guide for freemasons across the globe to use for their own Lodges and Grand Lodges. Compiled and written by the Reverend James Anderson, it serves as a guide for the structure of modern Freemasonry.

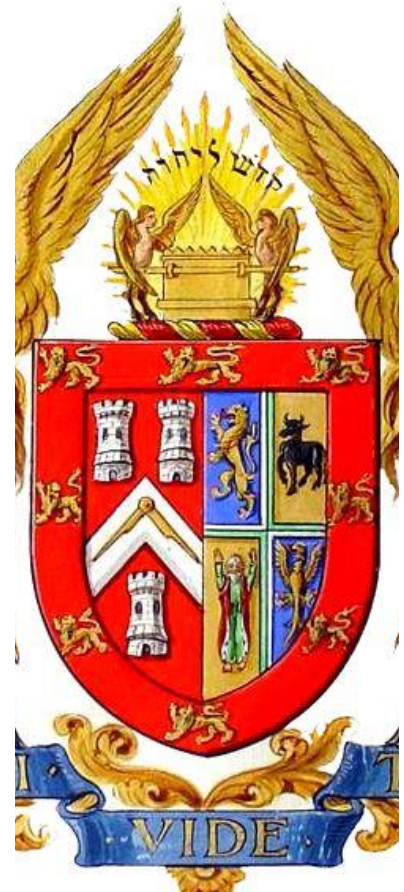
Several other competing Grand Lodges were formed in England. These included the Grand Lodge of All England (1725), the Grand Lodge of the Ancients (1753), and the Grand Lodge of England, South of the River Trent (1779). Most of these competing Grand Lodges ceased to exist after a short time, except for the Grand Lodge of the Ancients.

For the most part, there were only two successful Grand Lodges operating within England. These were the Moderns and the Ancients. They both deemed the other to be irregular Grand Lodges. This meant each viewed the other's subordinate Lodges as being illegitimate as well. By 1755, the Ancients had forty Lodges listed on their roll of Lodges. Because of this, the Moderns decided they needed to do something to stem the power which the Ancients had acquired. These two competing Grand Lodges existed separately for 63 years. Neither one ever officially recognized the other during that time.

1818, after four years of discussions between the Moderns and the Ancients, they were able to come to an agreement. On December 27, 1813, the two competing Grand Lodges agreed to set aside their animosity towards each other. They formed the United Grand Lodge of England with the union of their competing Grand Lodges. This merger led to more standardization within the Craft. The ritual and the regalia were standardized under the new Grand Lodge. This led to their core values of brotherly love, relief, and truth. These self-same core values are alive and well today within the Lodges in England under the United Grand Lodge of England.



Visit
kansasyorkrite.org
for more info.



2024 Grand York Rite Sessions Update

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 2024 Grand York Rite sessions will be held in Manhattan, Kansas, at the Bluemont Hotel. This is the same hotel which hosted the 2023 Grand York Rite sessions. The sessions will be held on May 1—May 4, 2024. Visit the Grand York Rite of Kansas website (www.kansasyorkrite.org) to register and for more information



Attendees will arrive on Wednesday, May 1, to pick up their registration packets and start the festivities. The Order of Anointed Kings, open to sitting and Past Excellent High Priests, will be held and the Kansas Past Commander's Association, open to sitting and Past Eminent Commanders, will be held later Wednesday afternoon.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas will open their annual session at 8:00 AM on Thursday, May 2, 2024. After lunch, and the close of the session, installation of the new officers will be held. The Kansas College of the York Rite College, and Ashmole Court No. 181, Masonic Order of Athelstan, will have meetings Thursday afternoon after the installation of Chapter officers.

the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will open their annual communication at 8:00 AM on Friday, May 3, 2024. After lunch, the installation will be held and the Order of the Silver Trowel will be conferred before the annual banquet Friday evening.

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas will open their annual communication on Saturday, May 4, 2023 at 8:00 AM. Upon the completion of their business, the installation of Grand Commandery Officers will be held.

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