

JULY 2020

VOLUME 31

NUMBER 10



A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF KENTUCKY, ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Message from the Grand High Priest



Dear Companions

By the time this is published and distributed you should know that we are open for York Rite meetings.

On the 23rd of June the Grand Master allowed lodges to open for meetings with certain

considerations, social distancing, wearing of masks, etc. As soon as he announced lodge opening, I was on the phone with my York Rite counterparts Tom and Marvin. Tom was in agreement that we should open as soon as possible. Marvin would like to open but he is under Grand Encampment rules as to when Commandery can open. Tom and I issued instructions that the Chapters and Council can open June 29th. I will begin my visits early July; I will call ahead in order to find out if your Chapter is meeting. Most of my visits will be in the western part of the state. I am hoping to be able to make up for the 3 ½ months lost to the virus.

I made the decision to cancel the RARA dinner due to the 50-person limit on gatherings. Being able to have only 50 in attendance would not be cost effective. Since our main RARA fund raiser was canceled I am asking each Chapter to donate a little extra to RARA this year.

(continued next column)

A reminder that the York Rite Grand Session is a go in September and that the Registration form and order form for meals and Banquets is on the Grand York Rite website, yorkriteky.org.

Let's hope that the remaining months will be productive.

Fraternally thine,
Rick Sears
MEGHP

*If you Love Masonry you will want to come
If you Love Masonry you will need to come
If you Love Masonry you will come*

With a firm reliance on the



protection of Divine Providence

From the Grand Secretary's Desk



Companions and
Sir Knights,

As we begin a new year in York Rite masonry it is my hope that we will soon return to normal operations in each of our York Rite bodies across the Commonwealth.

In order to do so it is necessary that our Secretaries and Recorders make their annual reports as always and that we as York Rite Masons support our annual Grand Sessions as we have done in years past. We have already put information on the website along with ticket order forms for the benefit of our members and have mailed copies of this information to the secretary recorders. You may make reservations at the Embassy suites Hotel in Lexington Kentucky any time between now and August 16.

Noel and myself look forward to seeing each of you at our sessions, although we may be required to practice social distancing and wear masks in public areas for our own protection as well as that of others.

May God bless each and every one of you and keep you safe until we can be together again.
Fraternally,

James King Jr.
Grand Secretary/Recorder

You can reach the Grand York Rite office at 859-209-4120.



Continue the York Rite Journey

From the Editor

Greetings, Companions!

I hope this continues to find everyone healthy and safe. Hopefully, we will all soon be able to safely resume our normal activities.

With the current situation there is much uncertainty around us, and I see many, including myself, reacting at times in frustration and anger. I am also seeing acts of compassion, of courage, of faith and grace. We don't often see those on our social media and drama-of-the-moment news. I was reminded recently of the importance of my reactions by someone very dear to me who was struggling with some 'less than Christian' feelings,' and trying hard to exemplify the teachings of Christ instead.

Our culture has become so confrontational that even the 'household of the faithful' and our fraternity at times seem to have forgotten our teachings and the importance of the work that we do. We must be careful to keep in mind that within our hall we accept men with whom we may disagree, and they us, without disagreement, that we might work together for the betterment of our communities and our world.

A quote often attributed to Edmund Burke states that "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." We have before us a great opportunity for good men **to do** something, as our masonic forefathers have done throughout history. To do better, to be better, to let our light shine, and truly do good, that others may see the works we do and glorify our Father.

As Masons, we were all once asked a very important question: "In whom do you put your trust?" We will get through these times, not because our Governor proclaims it, but because the One in whom we have put our trust has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

God Bless you all; stay safe.

Fraternally,
Randall Partin, Editor



NOTICES AND UPDATES

GRAND COMMANDERY

General Order No. 12, issued by Grand Master Jeffrey Nelson on May 4, 2020, prohibiting in-person conclaves of Grand, Subordinate, and Constituent Commanderies remains in effect as of the date of publication.

NOTICE

The GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL has announced that consideration is being given to cancelling the Triennial Assembly scheduled for September 24-29 in Louisville and conducting a virtual event instead. A decision will be made by July 15th. Updated information can be found at www.crypticmasons.org

CANCELED

OKI

Ohio – Kentucky – Indiana
Royal and Select Masters
Annual Meeting
July 31 – August 1, 2020

CANCELED

Upcoming Degree Work and Events (as we have it)

- 7/31/2020 – Blue Grass York Rite College, Danville
- 9/20-23/2020 – Grand York Rite, Embassy Suites, Lexington
- 9/24-29/2020 - General Grand Chapter/ Council Triennials, Louisville
- 10/18-10/20/2020 – Grand Lodge, Louisville



September 24 - 29, 2020

71st Triennial Convocation
of the
General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
International
and the
47th Triennial Assembly
of the
General Grand Council
Cryptic Masons International
Crowne Plaza Louisville
Airport Expo Center

The GRAND LODGE

Geary F. Laird
Grand Master



June 26, 2020

To the Masters, Wardens and Brothers of the Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky F.&A.M.:

This letter is a follow up of the Town Hall Meeting we had on Tuesday June 23, 2020, pertaining to opening our Lodges for Masonic meetings and other activities. Governor Beshear has slated June 29, 2020 for gatherings of 50 or less, at which time we will resume stated communications and other Masonic activities, provided they can be held in accordance with CDC guidelines and the Governor's directives.

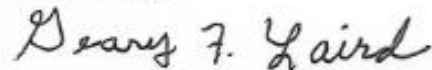
All the information covered in Tuesday's Town Hall Meeting concerning the guidelines in place to re-open our lodges may be accessed on the Grand Lodge Website. It is imperative that we follow the guidelines of the CDC and the Governor's directives to ensure that we provide the safest environment possible for our membership.

Be mindful of others during this difficult time and adhere to the guidelines in place. If we can do this, we can continue to move forward and enjoy our great Masonic Fraternity. We live in a troubled world, let our actions speak volumes as we reignite the fires of Freemasonry.

Please continue to be patient, understanding and supportive, we will weather the storm. Looking forward to seeing you in Lodge soon.

Strive to be, That Mason That Makes A Difference.

Fraternally,



Geary F. Laird, Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F.&A.M.

Abbreviated Rules for Meetings
Condensed from the Grand Master's Town Hall Presentation,
Tuesday, June 23, 2020

- **Masks are required** for members **65 years of age or older**, or we ask that you stay at home.
- There will be **no stated or called meetings for the purpose of conferring any of the degrees of Freemasonry** until further notice.
- **One member of the lodge will be designated to sign member's and visitor's names** into the register. He must wear gloves in order to reduce the possibility of cross contamination.
- **No grips or handshakes or personal contact between the members** of the lodge due to social distancing guidelines. Hand sanitizer to be available for use.
- **No meals self-serve. No buffets.** All meals are to be plated with dedicated servers, wearing masks and gloves. Prepackaged food or snacks are highly recommended. No one allowed in the kitchen except those preparing food.
- **One person at a time on elevators.**
- **Glove(s) are required to be worn any time there is a vote using the ballot box.**
- **Proficiencies** may be returned at the discretion of the Lodge; however, **no grips are to be given and social distancing guidelines must be followed.**
- **Masks recommended for all.**
- *If you are sick, have underlying medical conditions or believe that coming to lodge may jeopardize your health in any way, please remain at home.*

You can read the entire presentation [HERE](#)





Grand York Rite Bodies of Kentucky

James H. King, Jr., Grand Secretary/ Recorder

400 N. 4th Street, Danville, KY 40422-1430

(859) 209-4120 email: grandrecorderky@yahoo.com

Covid-19 update

June 24, 2020

Whereas the Grand Master of Masons of Kentucky has decided that Blue Lodge meetings can resume June 29, 2020 (following guidelines laid out by the Grand Master and the Governor of Kentucky). Your Grand High Priest Rick Sear and Your Grand Master Thomas Bustle are allowing Chapters and Councils across the state can hold regular meetings following proper social distancing guidelines by state and Grand lodge officials. These guidelines can be found at <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19> and at the www.yorkriteky.org.

While Chapters and Councils may now meet at this time the Grand Encampment is still not allowing meetings. Until such a time as the Grand Master or the Grand Encampment sees fit to permit Commanderies to meet we must follow this ruling and not allow for Commandery meetings to be held.

If you have any questions you can contact my office or the Grand Line Officers. Please use your best judgement in keeping everyone safe and stay healthy.

Fraternally,

James H. King, Jr

Grand Recorder

**Message from the Grand Chaplain,
Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky**



BLACKBERRY PICKIN'

When I was a young boy I would go with my Dad and my Grandpa to pick blackberries. We would always take several empty "Partridge Lard" cans to put the berries in. While we were "berry pickin", Mom and Grandma would be washing and cleaning jars

and rings and other items in preparation to make delicious blackberry jam and jelly on that "Warm Morning", wood burning, cookstove in Grandma's kitchen.

One day we were picking in a field along an old railroad bed. The tracks had long since been removed giving us a good level place to walk. The weeds and blackberry briars in the field were over my head, so I would walk in the paths that Dad and Grandpa made by pushing the weeds down. It was my job to carry the full pails of berries up to the roadbed as they filled them. As I carried a pail of berries through the field on one of my trips, I stepped within inches of the biggest rattlesnake I had ever seen. I jumped out of the way as quick as could and screamed "SNAKE" at the top of my lungs. I was terrified. My Dad and Grandpa came immediately to my rescue. They said they could hear the fear in my voice. I remember my Grandpa using his pocket-knife to cut a large stick to kill the snake and I remember how he fought with the snake and how it repeatedly struck at him before he finally killed it.

I've thought about that day so many times. As a child I was so dependent on the protection and safety my Dad and Grandpa provided. As I grew into a man and had sons of my own, I realized the legacy and example my Grandpa left for me that day. He protected his son and grandson without a second thought for his own safety or welfare. I passed that example onto my sons and now they are fathers who love and protect their families as all good fathers do.

Isn't that like the love and protection our heavenly Father provides for us, his children? He said "He would be with us always, even unto the end of the age". As a child, I depended on my earthly Father and Grandfather for protection, security, guidance, and love. As a Christian man I depend on my Heavenly Father, who provides protection, security, guidance, and love

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throughout my life. I'm never alone! He's always there, each time I call on Him. He provides a peace in my life that is beyond human understanding. If you don't have that peace, you can. Just call on Him. My Heavenly Father is always there.

This month we celebrate our Nation's Birth; Our Independence. Two Hundred and forty - four years ago we declared our Independence and became a free and sovereign nation. As we celebrate, we must never forget the sacrifices that so many have made to insure we keep our sovereignty and freedom. Freedom is like Life; It is Fragile. We must protect our freedom at all costs.

This month we also celebrate the re-opening of our Masonic Lodges, along with the York Rite and Scottish Rite meetings. It will be good to have fellowship with one another again. Even though, we must be safe, and follow the guidelines set forth by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Gerry Laird. We take so many of our freedoms for granted. We never really thought about the freedom to assemble until the covid-19 took it away.

It is my prayer that each of you stay safe, enjoy the summer, and celebrate our great nation.

Have A Blessed Day!

Don Powell, PGHP
Grand Chaplain
Grand Chapter of Kentucky,
Royal Arch Masons



Message from the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Kentucky



We are taught as Cryptic Masons the sword and trowel were used by our ancient Brethren for defense and protection, and to complete the Secret Vault; so should we, as Select Masters, devoutly guard the Secrets of our Order

and unite and cement the Brotherhood.

Today as we are seeing so much destruction of historical monuments and people wanting to change history, we need to be on guard. I am not promoting violence, but we have a proud past of integrity for God and the betterment of mankind. I have a challenge coin with the inscription on it that says "A Brotherhood of Man, Under the Fatherhood of God". One of the meanings of Brotherhood is the belief that all people should act with warmth and equality toward one another, regardless of differences in nationality, creed, ethnicity, etc. I find this in masonry. As a brotherhood we need each other more today than ever.

Joshua 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Take time to think.	<i>Thoughts are the source of power.</i>
Take time to play.	<i>Play is the secret of perpetual youth.</i>
Take time to read.	<i>Reading is the foundation of wisdom.</i>
Take time to pray.	<i>Prayer is a rock of strength.</i>
Take time to love.	<i>Loving is what makes living worthwhile.</i>

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Take time to be friendly.	<i>Friendship gives life a delicious flavor.</i>
Take time to laugh.	<i>Laughter is the music to the soul.</i>
Take time to give.	<i>Any day is too short for selfishness.</i>
Take time to work well.	<i>Pride in your work nourishes the ego.</i>
Take time to show...	<i>Appreciation.</i>

** Taken from General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International "For the Good of the Order".*

May God richly bless each of you!

*Carl Jones, PMIGM,
Grand Chaplain,
Grand Council of Kentucky
Royal and Select Masters*





The Grand York Rite Bodies of Kentucky
Invites you to join us for our Grand Sessions 2020!

In spite of the 2020 Pandemic we are planning on having our Grand Session (unless something happens that we can't meet). However, there might be a few rules at the Hotel that we will have to follow such as wearing masks in the common areas (Halls and Lobby) and some social distancing.

Book your rooms by August 16, 2020



Embassy Suites Lexington

1801 Newtown Pike
Lexington, KY, US 40511

859-455-5000 (If Booking by phone use group Grand York Rite of Kentucky.)

Direct link to booking:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/>

Special room rate for guest attending our Grand Session \$118.95 + tax.

If booking online use group code YOR to get rate.

We ask that as many of you, our Brothers who can please attend and go to the banquets and luncheons to show your support. Your support is necessary for us to continue to carry out the age-old traditions of our craft. Without you there is no craft.



Monday September 21, 20
Grand Commandery K.T.
Annual Conclave



Tuesday September 22, 20
Grand Council R. & S. M.
Annual Assembly



Wednesday September 23, 20
Grand Chapter R.A.M.
Annual Convocation

	Hospitality Room	Men's Lunches	Ladies' Luncheons
<i>Commandery</i>	9-20-20 Noon-4:00 p.m. And after Memorial Service	9-21-20 at Noon	9-21-20 at Noon
<i>Council</i>	9-21-20 4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	9-22-20 at Noon	9-22-20 at Noon
<i>Chapter</i>	9-22-20 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. And after Banquet	9-23-20 at Noon	9-23-20 at Noon

Banquets:

Memorial Service Dinner

Dress Attire

Sunday 9-20-20
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Memorial Service

Grand York Rite of KY Banquet

Formal Attire

Tuesday 9-22-20
6:30 PM Doors Open
7:00 PM Meal Served

We know that this has been a trying year but we look forward to fellowship laughs and getting our yearly business done. Hope to see you in Lexington.



2020 Grand Sessions

York Rite of Kentucky

REGISTRATION FORM

Title: _____ Name: _____

Lady (if she is accompanying you): _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ zip _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Out of state Jurisdiction _____

(Do not enclose your voting Credentials with this form.)

Please Mark nights you will be staying at hotel

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
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(You will need to make your own reservation with Embassy Suites Lexington by Aug. 16th)

WILL BE ATTENDING:

Monday September 21, 2020 Grand Commandery of KY Conclave _____

Tuesday September 22, 2020 Grand Council of KY Assembly _____

Wednesday September 23, 2020 Grand Chapter of KY Convocation _____

If you are attending Grand Sessions even if you do not order meals please return this form so that we know how many people to plan for. Thank you in advance.



MEAL ORDER FORM

Title: _____ Name: _____

**Meal ticket reservations due in to Grand Recorder by September 6th
Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs the hotel will provide
a suitable option.**

	# of Tickets	Price per Ticket	Total
<u>Sunday September 20, 2020</u> Memorial Service Banquet		\$40.00	\$
<u>Monday September 21, 2020</u> Sir Knights Lunch		\$25.00	\$
<u>Monday September 21, 2020</u> Commandery Lady's Luncheon		\$25.00	\$
<u>Tuesday September 22, 2020</u> Companions Lunch		\$25.00	\$
<u>Tuesday September 22, 2020</u> Council Lady's Luncheon		\$25.00	\$
<u>Tuesday September 22, 2020</u> York Rite Banquet		\$40.00	\$
<u>Wednesday September 23, 2020</u> Men's Fellowship Lunch		\$25.00	\$
<u>Wednesday September 23, 2020</u> Chapter Lady's Luncheon		\$25.00	\$
<u>Total of all tickets</u> _____		----	\$

Tickets will be available when you sign in see you there.

Mail to:

James King
Grand Secretary/Recorder
400 N. 4th Street
Danville, KY 40422

If you're ordering meals. Enclose your payment for meals with this form.

Make Checks Payable to: Grand Council of Kentucky York Rite

CANDIDATES FOR GRAND LINE OFFICE

John A. Johnson

**Candidate for Grand Captain of the Host
Grand Chapter of Kentucky, RAM**



Raised 1993 Mt. Zion #147
Past Master Fairdale #942
DDGM 2018
PHP King Solomon #5 & Iroquois #193
PIM Louisville #4 & Sword & Trowel # 111
PC Louisville DeMolay #12

Bernhard “Bernie” Kaita

**Candidate for Grand Captain of the Guard
Grand Council of Kentucky, R&SM**



Raised 2001 Germany
Past Master Morrison #76
PHP Hardin #195
PIM Hardin #115

William Michael Yount

**Candidate for Grand Captain General
Grand Commandery of Kentucky, KT**



Raised 1974 Solomon’s #5
Master Anderson #90 & Solomon’s #5
DDGM 2007
PHP Shelbyville #2
PIM Harry F. Walters #101
PC Louisville-DeMolay #12

These are the announced candidates that I am aware of. Please let me know if your name will be submitted at the annual session, and I will include you in the August and September editions. – Editor



In Congress, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

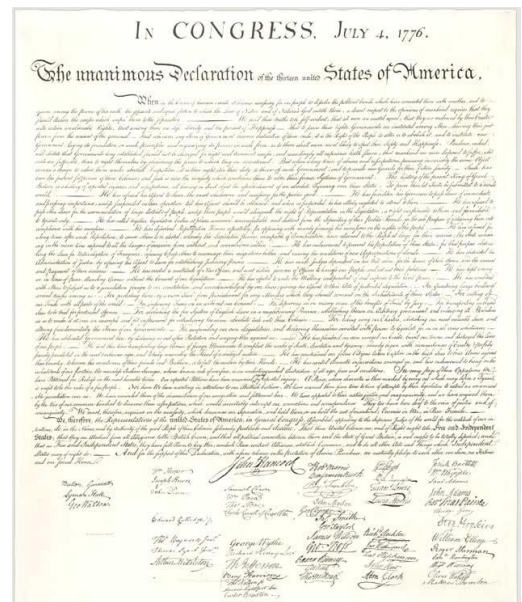
Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

<p>Georgia</p> <p>Button Gwinnett Lyman Hall * George Walton</p> <p>North Carolina</p> <p>* William Hooper * Joseph Hewes John Penn</p> <p>South Carolina</p> <p>Edward Rutledge Thomas Heyward, Jr. Thomas Lynch, Jr. Arthur Middleton</p> <p>Massachusetts</p> <p>* John Hancock Samuel Adams John Adams * Robert Treat Paine Elbridge Gerry</p>	<p>Virginia</p> <p>George Wythe Richard Henry Lee Thomas Jefferson Benjamin Harrison Thomas Nelson, Jr. Francis Lightfoot Lee Carter Braxton</p> <p>Pennsylvania</p> <p>Robert Morris Benjamin Rush * Benjamin Franklin John Morton George Clymer James Smith George Taylor James Wilson George Ross</p>	<p>Delaware</p> <p>Caesar Rodney George Read Thomas McKean</p> <p>New York</p> <p>William Floyd Philip Livingston Francis Lewis Lewis Morris</p> <p>New Jersey</p> <p>* Richard Stockton John Witherspoon Francis Hopkinson John Hart Abraham Clark</p> <p>New Hampshire</p> <p>Josiah Bartlett * William Whipple</p>	<p>Rhode Island</p> <p>Stephen Hopkins * William Ellery</p> <p>Connecticut</p> <p>Roger Sherman Samuel Huntington William Williams Oliver Wolcott</p> <p>New Hampshire</p> <p>Matthew Thornton</p> <p>Maryland</p> <p>Samuel Chase William Paca Thomas Stone Charles Carroll of Carrollton</p>
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* The 9 verifiable Freemasons of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence: William Ellery, Rhode Island - First Lodge of Boston, 1748; Benjamin Franklin, Pennsylvania - Grand Master of Pennsylvania; John Hancock, Massachusetts - Merchants Lodge #277 (in Quebec) and St. Andrew's Lodge in Boston; Joseph Hewes, North Carolina - Unanimity Lodge #7; William Hooper, North Carolina - Hanover Lodge in Masonborough; Robert Treat Paine, Massachusetts - Massachusetts Grand Lodge; Richard Stockton, New Jersey - Charter Master of St. John's Lodge in Princeton, NJ, 1765; George Walton, Georgia - Solomon's Lodge #1, Savannah, GA; William Whipple, New Hampshire - St. John's Lodge #1, Portsmouth, NH, 1752.

The text printed above is a transcription of the Stone Engraving of the parchment displayed in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum and is taken from the National Archives website. - Editor



THE MORE YOU KNOW

This month we continue with Dr. Mackey's work, Text Book of Masonic Jurisprudence. Last month we looked at the 'oldest Masonic Constitutions extant', the Old York Constitution of 926. This month, we jump forward in time 400 years and continue with two following versions. – Editor

II. THE CONSTITUTIONS OF EDWARD III.

Anderson informs us, on the authority of an old record, that in the reign of King Edward III., (that is, between the years 1327 and 1377), the Grand Master, with his Wardens, at the head of the Grand Lodge, with the consent of the lords of the realm, who were generally Freemasons, ordained the following Constitutions :

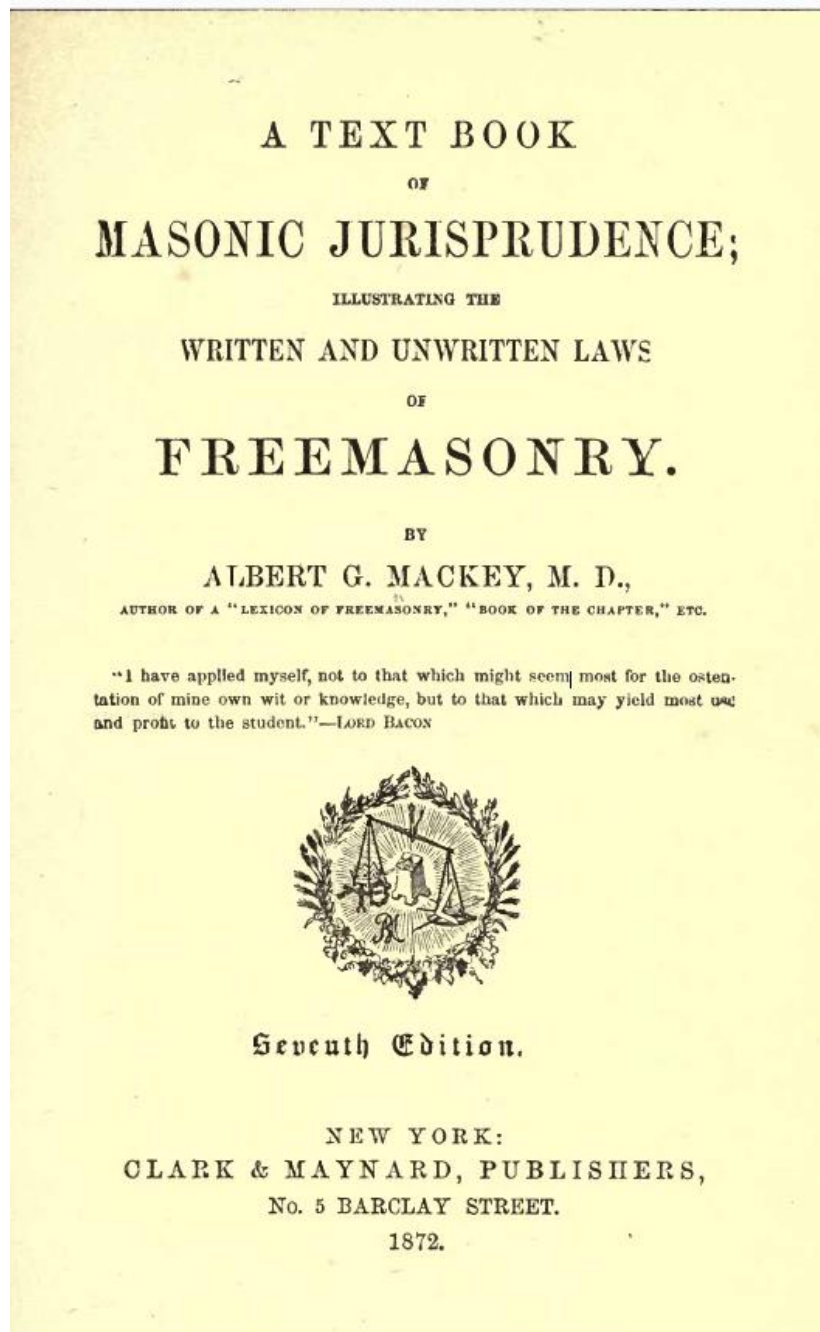
1. That for the future, at the making or admission of a Brother, the constitutions and the charges shall be read.
2. That Master Masons, or Masters of the work, shall be examined whether they be able of cunning to serve their respective lords, as well the highest as the lowest, to the honor and worship of the aforesaid art, and to the profit of their lords; for they be their lords that employ them for their travel.
3. That when the Master and Wardens meet in a Lodge, if need be, the Sheriff of the county, or the Mayor of the city, or Alderman of the town, in which the congregation is held, should be made fellow and sociate to the Master, in help of him against rebels, and for upbearing the rights of the realm.
4. That Entered Prentices at their making were charged not to be thieves, or thieves-maintainers; that they should travel honestly for their pay, and love their Fellows as themselves, and be true to the King of England, and to the realm, and to the Lodge.
5. That at such congregations it shall be enquired, whether any Master or Fellow has broke any of the articles agreed to. And if the offender, being duly cited to appear, prove rebel, and will not attend, then the Lodge shall determine against him that he shall forswear (or renounce) his Masonry, and shall no more use this craft; the which, if he presume for to do, the Sheriff of the county shall prison him, and take all his goods into the king's hands, till his grace be granted him an issue : for this cause principally have these congregations been ordained, that as well the lowest as the highest should be well and truly served in this art foresaid throughout all the kingdom of England.

III. REGULATIONS OF 1663.

In the reign of Charles I., Henry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans, being chosen Grand Master, he held a General Assembly and Feast on St. John the Evangelist's day, 1663, when the following regulations were adopted:

1. That no person, of what degree soever, be made or accepted a Freemason, unless in a regular Lodge, whereof one to be a Master or a Warden in that limit or division where such Lodge is kept, and another to be a craftsman in the trade of Freemasonry.
2. That no person shall hereafter be accepted a Freemason but such as are of able body, honest parentage, good reputation, and an observer of the laws of the land.
3. That no person hereafter who shall be accepted a Freemason, shall be admitted into any Lodge or assembly, until he has brought a certificate of the time and place of his acceptation from the Lodge that accepted him, unto the Master of that limit or division where such Lodge is kept ; and the said Master shall enroll the same in a roll of parchment, to be kept for that purpose, and shall give an account of all such acceptations at every General Assembly.

4. That every person who is now a Freemason, shall bring to the Master a note of the time of his acceptance, to the end the same may be enrolled in such priority of place as the Brother deserves; and that the whole company and Fellows may the better know each other.
5. That for the future the said fraternity of Freemasons shall be regulated and governed by one Grand Master, and as many Wardens as the said society shall think fit to appoint at every annual General Assembly.
6. That no person shall be accepted, unless he be twenty-one years old or more.



BANNERS OF THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.

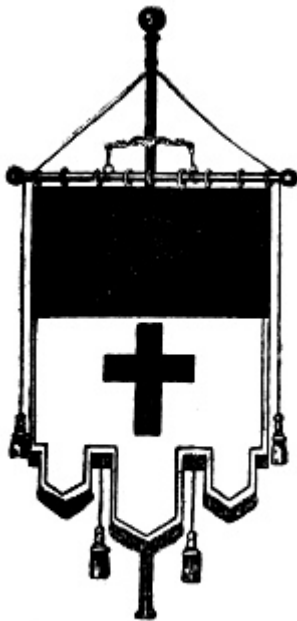
As presented in Shibolet: A Templar Monitor, by George Cooper Connor, [1894]

The following are the official descriptions of these Banners:

"**The GRAND STANDARD** is of white woolen or silk stuff, six feet in height and five feet in width, made tripartite at the bottom, fastened at the top to the cross-bar by nine rings; in the center of the field a blood-red Passion Cross, over which is the motto, "*In hoc Signo Vinces,*" and under, "*Non Nobis Domine! non Nobis, sed Nomini tuo da Gloriam!*" The Cross to be four feet high, and the upright and bar to be seven inches wide. On the top of the staff a gilded globe or ball, four inches in diameter, surmounted by the Patriarchal Cross, twelve inches in height. The Cross to be crimson, edged with gold."



GRAND STANDARD.



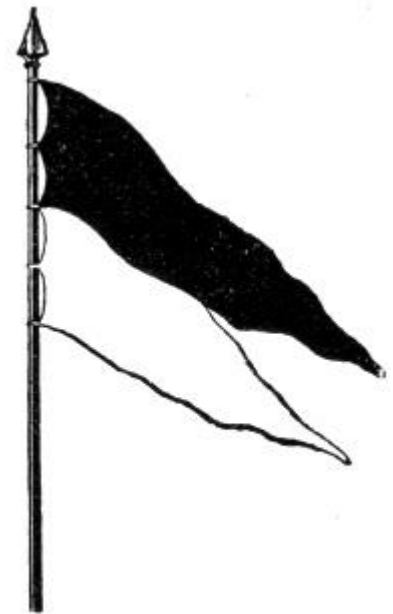
BEAUCEANT—*Per fesse.*

"**The BEAUCEANT** is of woolen or silk stuff, same form and dimensions as the Grand Standard, and suspended in the same manner. The upper half of this standard is black, the lower half white."

The Passion Cross is added in the drawing because the ancient Templars frequently so displayed it. And in that form, they came to paint the Beauceant upon their kite-shaped Shields, as an armorial bearing.

Anciently the Beauceant was sometimes divided *per pale*, that is, perpendicularly, but generally it was divided *per fesse*, horizontally. The two forms here given were familiar to our ancient brethren.

The Beauceant was the battle flag of the Templars, and the *Vexillum Belli* of the Order was a white banner, on which was displayed, in full size, the "Red Cross of the Order." This standard was unfurled at the headquarters of the Grand Master during time of war, but the Beauceant was always carried into the battle. This standard was known as the "Red Cross War Banner of the Order," and the Beauceant as the "Battle Flag of the Order."



BEAUCEANT—*Per fesse.*



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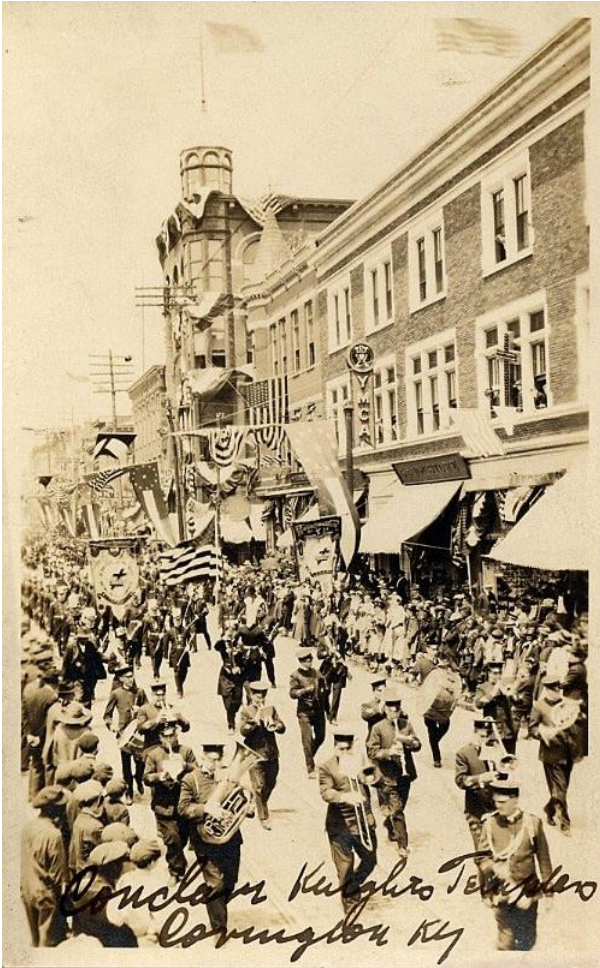
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Undated photo of Templar parade in Covington, KY



Knights Templar Arch facing west on Broadway, Louisville, KY
1914, Ky Historical Society

Souvenirs from the 1901 Grand Encampment Triennial in Louisville





Demolay Commandery



Louisville had a long and hard fight covering a space of 12 years before being allowed the honor of welcoming the White-Plumed army, and only won at Pittsburgh in 1898 by 17 votes, defeating Milwaukee. It was at the Smoky City conclave that Right Eminent Sir Charles C. Vogt, of the Falls City, was chosen an officer of the grand encampment, the national governing body of Templary. He was elected grand captain of the guard, and although it will take 15 or more years for him to reach the highest position in the order, that of grand master, his home city considered the selection almost as great a reward as in getting the next meeting of the Knights. Mr. Vogt was therefore chosen president of the triennial committee and chairman of the executive committee, which have charge of the preliminary work of the twenty-eighth triennial.

Published monthly by:

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Continue the York Rite Journey

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