



THE KENTUCKY KEYSTONE

A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF KENTUCKY
ROYAL ARCH MASONS



VOLUME 30

NUMBER 11

AUGUST 2019

Message from the Grand High Priest



Greetings Companions.

I hope that all is well with each of you as we progress through the heat of summer. This insulation I carry with me holds in a bit too much heat this time of year.

We don't have the final figures for the RARA banquet yet, but

hopefully we will come close to matching last year's total. Our attendance was down a bit from last year, but many donated who weren't able to attend. As information, please mark your calendars for July 18th, 2020 as this will be the date for our next banquet.

All reports should be in the office now so that Jim and Noel can get all the information in the directories correct. This is extremely important so the Grand officers and other visitors can be at the right place at the right time to attend each Chapter's meeting.

We have also invited both candidates for Grand Captain of the Host to attend our monthly luncheon/meeting. We feel that anyone getting into the line should be as well informed as possible about the direction we are heading in, as well as what is expected of them.

Please get your room and meal reservations in as soon as possible for the Grand Session next month. The meals and room sales are what get the meeting rooms for us at little or no cost, so please support your sessions.

Fraternally Thine, Ron

GRAND YORK RITE SESSIONS

SEPTEMBER 15 - 18, 2019

EMBASSY SUITES LEXINGTON

1801 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40511
859-455-5000 use code: Grand York Rite of KY

BOOK YOUR ROOMS BY AUGUST 16, 2019

Grand Commandery K.T. Annual Conclave

Monday, September 16, 2019

Grand Council R.&S.M. Annual Assembly

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Grand Chapter R.A.M. Annual Convocation

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

BANQUETS

MEMORIAL SERVICE DINNER

Sunday, September 15, 2019 *Dress Attire*

Dinner at 6:00 pm - Service at 7:00 pm

GRAND YORK RITE OF KENTUCKY BANQUET

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 *Formal Attire*

Doors Open 6:30 pm - Dinner 7:00 pm



Continue the York Rite Journey

August 24, 2019

Williamsburg York Rite Bodies

One Day Festival

All Chapter, Council, and Commandery

Degrees and Orders

Work Begins 8:00 AM Eastern Time

For more information

Contact Larry Carte at 606-425-6989

From the Grand Secretary's Desk



Companions and Sir Knights,

No submission was received from the Grand Secretary this month.

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

Some Important Dates and Deadlines

- August 15 – Committee Reports Due in Grand Secretary's office to be included in the Advance Proceedings
- August 16 – Room Reservation Deadline at Embassy Suites for Grand Sessions
- September 6 – Banquet/Meal Ticket Deadline for Grand Sessions



...(R)espect for our Nation, family, community; paying your debts and an appreciation of the gift of labor are all Masonic virtues. ... I ask you to exemplify these same virtues so that your family and friends can see them as well.

- Gary Rose, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Kentucky

From the Editor

Greetings, Companions!

Sorry we're a couple of days late this month. We've been waiting on a couple of items that we wanted you to have.

Welcome to our new subscribers this month, especially those who have just become part of the York Rite. I am pleased to report that the distribution list for the *Kentucky Keystone* has now grown to over 400! Thank you all for making that possible. A big 'Thank You' as well to those who consistently send the photos of events across the state, particularly George Arnold and Greg Raque, and welcome to a new contributor this month from the western part of the state, Bruce Outlaw.

It was good to receive a submission from the Order of DeMolay this month. Companion George Turner submitted a photo and brief article on behalf of E C Nickles DeMolay Chapter in appreciation for the support of the Grand Chapter. Companion Turner is a member of Jackson Chapter and one of the DeMolay Advisors in Jackson. We welcome photos and submissions from the youth groups.

August 16 is fast approaching. That's the deadline for room reservations for the Annual Sessions. You can find more information toward the back of the newsletter. Meal reservations need to be in by September 6.

Please look over the proposed legislation which has been submitted. Proposals for amending the governing documents of the Grand Council and Grand Commandery have been submitted and are published a few pages on in the *Keystone*. We have also published the current regulation or guidelines as best we have them for you to compare. The Grand Council line is proposing a dues increase and we have a brief explanation from Grand Master Charles Durham discussing the need for that increase.

Next month, we plan to cover those who are running for the bottom of the line. Currently, as far as I am aware, no one has put their name out for consideration in the Grand Council. If you're interested and plan to be nominated, send a brief biographical sketch and masonic history and we'll include you.

On a personal note, I'd like to express my appreciation to Jackson Commandery and the Western Kentucky York Rite Festival in Paducah for the invitations to confer the Orders. Pictures are posted later in the newsletter. It is an honor to be asked and I hope everyone enjoyed the work.

Fraternally,

Randall Partin, Editor

Royal Arch Research Assistance

"your research arm for better hearing health"



Companions

The 6th annual Royal Arch Research Assistance Dinner was held on July 20, 2019 at Danville, Kentucky. I would like to thank all of the Companions from W R Selby Chapter #4 for all of the hard work with the setup and cooking. My Wife Sally for the table decorations and my daughter Courtney for all of the homemade pies. Without all of the help that these Companions and family members give this event would not be possible.

This year we had something new at our dinner. We held a pie auction for the left over pies and raised \$200.00.

Companion Steve Maxwell and his wife Joyce came down from Indiana to see what our event was about. Companion Steve has been appointed RARA director for Indiana.

MEPGHP Bill Riggs spoke to us about Royal Arch Research Assistance. How they also support research with the Hearing Health Foundation and Autism Speaks. The goal is to one day find a cure for Central Auditory Processing Disorder, Companion Bill also said that they think they will have a cure for deafness in the next 15 to 20 years. Companions this shows that your donations and hard work does make a difference

Companions because of your support, this event averages 18 to 20 thousand dollars each year. This includes the donation from Kosair Charity. Because we do this charity event, Kosair donates 15 thousand dollars for this event for Royal Arch Research Assistance.

The 7th annual RARA Dinner will be held on July 18th next year please put this on your calendar and come out and support RARA.

Sincerely,

MEPGHP Thomas Bustle





Royal
Arch
Research
Assistance

Continuing the York Rite Journey

Jackson Commandery Orders, July 11, 2019



Congratulation to the two new Knights in Jackson Commandery. Five members of Williamsburg Commandery, including Grand Generalissimo Bill Jackson and Sir Knights Nick Simpson and Pat White, traveled to Jackson confer the Orders. (Photo by editor)

WESTERN KENTUCKY YORK RITE FESTIVAL



On the 20th of July the York Rite bodies of Madisonville, Mayfield, Paducah and Princeton held the Western Kentucky York Rite Festival. Special thanks for the great help to: DGHP's for areas # 1, 2, and 3, PGHP Stewart Strickland and PGIM Robert Stanford for the Chapter degrees; to Western Kentucky York Rite College, MIGM Charles Durham, and RPCW Michael McQueary for conferral of the Council degrees; and to PGC/RIGCG Larry Carte, PGC Randall Partin and DGC Marvin Blaine for a great job of conferral of the Orders of the Commandery. Without their help the day would have been much longer and a lot less proficiently done. Next year's Western Kentucky one day festival will be held on July 11. Make plans now to join us. Submitted by DGHP Miles R. Ward



Past Master and Most Excellent Master at Iroquois Chapter #193, July 24, 2019. (Photo Greg Raque)



*Monticello Chapter
Royal Arch Degree
July 23, 2019*

*With Grand High Priest Ron
Ledford and Grand Scribe
George Arnold*

LOUISA CHAPTER OFFICER INSTALLATION



With GHP Ron Ledford, PGHP Wendell Trent, and Grand Scribe George Arnold

**MOREHEAD YORK
RITE OFFICER
INSTALLATIONS**

*(Photos courtesy
George Ralph Arnold)*

*2019 Chapter Officers
with Deputy Grand High
Priest Rick Sears*



*2019 Council Officers
with Grand Master
Charles Durham and
Deputy Grand Master
Tom Bustle*

*2019 Commandery
Officers with Grand
Senior Warden Fred Bate*



OWENSBORO COUNCIL OFFICERS INSTALLATION



MIGM Charles Durham installing the officers of Owensboro Council #34. Companion Mike Jones is Illustrious Master (Photo Bruce Outlaw)

LEBANON COUNCIL OFFICERS INSTALLATION



(Photo Greg Raque)



OFFICER INSTALLATION

Louisville York Rite

(Photos Greg Raque)

2019 Officer Installation

King Solomon Chapter #5, RAM

*2019 Officer Installation
Louisville Council #4, R&SM*



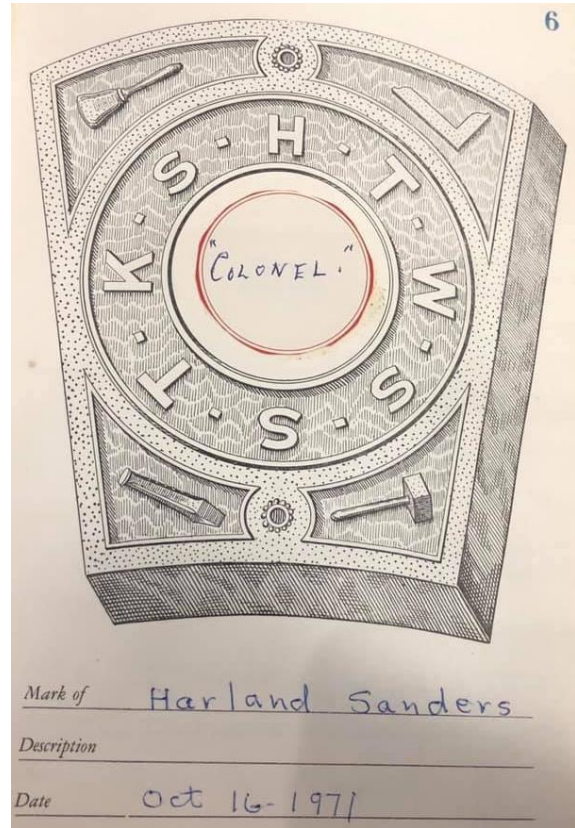
*2019 Officer
Installation
Louisville DeMolay
No 12, KT*



Mark of the Month



Grand Generalissimo Bill Jackson and Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky James Gibson at the South East Department Conference. Bill was attending the Grand Encampment session and James completed the Leadership program Congratulations to James on becoming one of the program instructors



From King Solomon No. 5's 'Book of Marks'. Thanks to Companions John Johnson and Greg Raque for this bit of Masonic History. Companions, I'm betting there are a number of these out there - the Marks of 'famous' Masons, or just interesting designs. Send them my way and let's share them with the Craft.



Brother Terry Justice was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason by the Bluegrass Sovereign College #104, at Franklin Lodge in Danville on July 18th, 2019 with Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden James Gibson conferring the first section in an excellent manner.

Submitted by George Ralph Arnold, Governor

EC Nickles Chapter, Order of DeMolay would like to thank the members of The Kentucky Grand Royal Arch Chapter for all the kind words and support at Kentucky DeMolay Summer Conclave held at Nancy, Kentucky.



Front row left to right is EC Nickles DeMolay Chapter members Cayden Crank, Dalton Roberts, Layne Hollan and Alex Hudson. Right Excellent Grand Scribe George Arnold and DeMolay Advisor George Turner. Back row left to right is DeMolay Advisors Anthony Holbrook, Lloyd Roberts, Mark Benham and Most Excellent Grand High Priest Ronald Ledford. Picture and article submitted by George Turner, Jackson Royal Arch Chapter 160.



Steve Talbott, High Priest of Winchester Chapter No. 12 and Past High Priest of Lexington Chapter No. 1, received his High Priest Proficiency at Winchester's Chapter meeting on July 23.

Presenting the Proficiency is PMEGHP Don Powell, Secretary, and looking on is Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host and Past Grand Master Wilson Wilder. *(Submitted by Steve Talbott)*



From the Crypt

Message from Most Illustrious Grand Master Charles Durham

Companions:

The Grand Council elected officers have examined our current financial direction and feel that we need to address the situation at our Grand Session.

In the past several years, we have utilized an unforeseen inheritance grant to shore up our financial picture. This grant is nearly depleted and we are in need of additional funding to continue at our regular rate of operation. Least we would have to remove monies from the Permanent Fund for operational expenses, we believe a dues increase is the most logical way to effect this need. As it has been several years since our last increase, and since the proposed amount of \$5.00 is less than the cost of a Coke & Big Mac, the united Grand Council Line is favorably recommending this increase.

We thank you for YOUR consideration.

Charles A. Durham, MIGM

The Following Legislation has been submitted by Deputy Grand Master Thomas E. Bustle to amend the Grand Council Pandect

We propose that the Grand Council of Kentucky Pandect Bylaws Amendment D. Grand Council Dues Which now reads:

D. GRAND COUNCIL DUES

The dues payable to the Grand Council are **\$13.00** per member plus General Grand Council Dues.

Be amended to read:

D. GRAND COUNCIL DUES.

The dues payable to the Grand Council of Kentucky R&SM are **\$18** plus General Grand Council dues per member.



Mike Jones, Illustrious Master of Owensboro Council #34 receives his Council Proficiency from MIGM Charles Durham.



Companion Kenton L. Kelly receiving his Council Proficiency Card, Certificate, and pins from MIGM Charles Durham on May 16, 2019. Photos courtesy of MIGM Charles Durham



Proposed Legislation

The Following Legislation has been submitted by Louisville DeMolay Commandery to amend the Constitution of the Grand Commandery.



Section 27. AWARDS

(a) Knight Templar Cross of Honor

- (1) The Grand Encampment Knight Templar Cross of Honor nominee shall be recommended from nominations received from the Constituent Commanderies to the Grand Commander, who must approve the recommendation before it is forwarded to the Grand Encampment.
- (2) This award shall be given for exceptional service above and beyond what is generally performed by a Sir Knight.
- (3) Only one, (1) nomination may be received from each Constituent Commandery each Templar year.
- (4) Only one, (1) recipient shall be recommended to Grand Encampment from the nominations received.



(b) Conrad Cates Service Award

- (1) The Grand Commandery of Kentucky shall have a Distinguished Service Award to be known as the Conrad Cates Service Award.
- (2) The recipient shall be recommended by the Awards Committee to the Grand Commander for his approval.
- (3) This award shall be given for exemplary service to the Grand Commandery of Kentucky.

Present regulation or guiding authority

Section 27 would be a new Section

Regulations governing the Templar Cross of Honor are set out in the Grand Encampment Constitution in Section 237(b). Pertinent sections are as follows:

- (b) A nomination for the award shall be made by the Commandery of which the nominee is a member, by a motion adopted by the Commandery and must be submitted in writing and approved by the Grand Commander of the respective state and must give his name, address, Masonic rank, name of his Commandery and particulars outlining the nature of his meritorious service, thus justifying the nomination.
- (c) The award shall be made only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the Order, far beyond the call of duty, and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member.
- (d) One nomination may be made from each Grand Commandery, regardless of the number of members, plus one additional nomination may be made from a Grand Commandery for each 5,000 members or major fraction thereof, during any one year.

Current guidelines for awarding the Conrad Cates Award are found in the 1994 Proceedings.

CONRAD H. CATES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Grand Commandery of Kentucky Knights Templar hereby establishes the Conrad H. Cates Service Award. It may be given at the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery at the descension of an Awards Committee set up for that purpose. No more than one award may be given in any single year and it does not necessarily have to be given every year.

The award is given for service to the Grand Commandery of Kentucky Knights Templar for service above and

- (4) The award shall consist of a white bar with a small gold star in the center to be worn on the left breast of the uniform, above the pocket and either beside or above the Military Service Medal and / or the Knight York Cross of Honor Medal.
- (5) There may be only one nomination form each Constituent Commandery each Templar year.
- (6) There can be only one recipient of this award each year.

(c) Grand Commanders Award

- (1) There shall be established an award, referred to as the Grand Commanders Gold Star Award.
- (2) This award shall be given solely at the discretion of the Grand Commander for service rendered to either him or to the Grand Commandery of Kentucky.
- (3) The award shall consist of a single gold star to be worn on the left breast of the uniform, above the pocket and above the Military Service Medal and / or the Knight York Cross of Honor Medal. This award is to be deemed a Meritorious Service Award for the Grand Commandery of Kentucky.
- (4) There shall be no nominations for this award, as it is at the sole discretion of the Grand Commander.
- (5) The award shall be open to any and all Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky.
- (6) Up to, but no more than ten, (10) such awards may be given in any Templar year.

(d) Shoulder Cords (This portion would be removed from Section 22 (b) and become part of Section 27.)



beyond the call of duty. It is expected that this award would be given in recognition of such outstanding service over a long and sustained period of time by individual Sir Knights not necessarily in connection with a particular office or committee, but in recognition of total service and dedication to this Grand Commandery.

The award shall be an engraved silver tray paid for by the Grand Commandery. It is the obligation of the Grand Commandery to secure the award each year that it is presented.

The award is chosen by a committee consisting of the two immediate Past Grand Commanders and the current Grand Commander. Each of them will have an equal vote. In case that one of the two Past Grand Commanders shall not be available to serve on the committee, the current Grand Commander shall fill the vacancy for that year.

The award was first presented in 1992 and named in honor of Senior Past Grand Commander Conrad Hotop Cates, Past Commander of Elizabethtown Commandery No. 37 (now Conrad H. Cates Commandery No. 37)

The Grand Commanders Award would be a new award. The section on Shoulder Cords only moves the Shoulder Cord portion to the new Section 27. The wording is unchanged.



SK Bill Jackson, Grand Generalissimo and SK Larry Carte, Past Grand Commander at the Illinois Grand Conclave in Normal, Illinois. Photo by Bill Jackson



**GRAND COMMANDERY OF KENTUCKY
HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE**



TEN FOR TEN CAMPAIGN

What it is – an opportunity for you to contribute to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

How does it work – You donate \$10 per month for \$10 months, or a one-time contribution of \$100

What you get – a Life Membership in the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund

- a Life Membership in the Knights Templar Eye Foundation
- a Holy Land Pilgrimage polo shirt

Our goals – to send a Christian minister to the Holy Land every year

- to have every knight in Kentucky become a member of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

How you can participate –

send donations to **Larry Carte**
PO Box 2045
Williamsburg, KY 40769

On receipt of the full amount (\$100), the life memberships will be purchased in your name, and the shirt mailed to you.

For questions or additional information, contact Past Grand Commander Larry Carte at 606-425-6989





The Grand York Rite Bodies of Kentucky

Invites you to join us!

Grand Sessions 2019

Book your rooms by August 16, 2019



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://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/es/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=LEXES&spec_plan=CESYOR&arrival=20190914&departure=20190918&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

Special room rate for guest attending our Grand Session \$118.95 + tax.
If booking online use group code YOR to get rate.



Monday September 16, 2019

Grand Commandery K.T.
Annual Conclave



Tuesday September 17, 2019

Grand Council R. & S. M.
Annual Assembly



Wednesday September 18, 2019

Grand Chapter R.A.M.
Annual Convocation

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.

| | Hospitality Room | Men's Lunches | Ladies' Luncheons |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| <i>Commandery</i> | 9-15-19 Noon-4:00 p.m. And after Memorial Service | 9-16-19 at Noon | 9-16-19 at Noon A Hawaiian Experience |
| <i>Council</i> | 9-16-19 4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. | 9-17-18 at Noon | 9-17-18 at Noon Children are Our Future |
| <i>Chapter</i> | 9-17-19 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. And after Banquet | 9-18-18 at Noon | 9-18-18 at Noon America's Birthday |

Banquets:

Memorial Service Dinner

Dress Attire

Sunday 9-15-19

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Memorial Service

Amber Martin will be singing for us on Tuesday from about 5:30 until 6:20

Grand York Rite of KY Banquet

Formal Attire

Tuesday 9-17-19

6:30 PM Doors Open

7:00 PM Meal Served



2019 Grand Sessions

York Rite of Kentucky

ORDER 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.)**

| | # of Tickets | Price per Ticket | Total |
|---|--------------|------------------|-------|
| Sunday September 15, 2019 Memorial Service Banquet | | \$40.00 | \$ |
| Monday September 16, 2019 Sir Knights Lunch | | \$22.00 | \$ |
| Monday September 16, 2019 Commandery Lady's Luncheon | | \$22.00 | \$ |
| Tuesday September 17, 2019 Companions Lunch | | \$22.00 | \$ |
| Tuesday September 17, 2019 Council Lady's Luncheon | | \$22.00 | \$ |
| Tuesday September 17, 2019 York Rite Banquet | | \$40.00 | \$ |
| Wednesday September 18, 2019 Men's Fellowship Lunch | | \$22.00 | \$ |
| Wednesday September 18, 2019 Chapter Lady's Luncheon | | \$22.00 | \$ |
| Total of all tickets _____ | | ---- | \$ |

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.

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

Please Mark nights you will be staying at hotel

Sunday Monday Tuesday

(You will need to make your own reservation with Embassy Suites Lexington by Aug. 26th)

Enclose payment with this form and Mail to:

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

Make Checks Payable to: Grand Council of Kentucky York Rite

Note: Out of State Grand High Priests, Grand Masters, and Grand Commanders please contact our office for a special form phone 859-209-4120 or by email grandrecorderky@yahoo.com Thank you.

GRAND SESSIONS LADIES LUNCHEONS INFORMATION



*The Grand Commandery of
Kentucky, Knights Templar
Ladies invite you to*

Come join us on September 16, 2019 at Noon

*For a Hawaiian experience at the
Ladies Luncheon Hosted by Willetta Riggs.*

Tickets \$22.00 each



We will have live music by Matt Young.



*The Grand Chapter of Kentucky,
Royal Arch Masons
Ladies invite you to*

Come join us on September 18, 2019 at Noon

*For a Ladies Luncheon Hosted by Judy Ledford
tickets \$22.00 each*

Celebrating America's Birthday.

GAMES FOOD AND FUN



*The Grand Council of Kentucky,
Royal & Select Masters
Ladies invite you to*

Come join us on September 17, 2019 at Noon

*For a Ladies Luncheon Hosted by Wanda Durham.
Tickets \$22.00 each*

Theme "The children are our future"

Sally Bustle will be singing "His Eye is on the Sparrow".

*Brittany Carden will be talking about her time working in a children's
home.*



THE MORE YOU KNOW...

The following is a brief history and explanation of the importance of the Royal Arch degree. It is taken from Dr. Albert Mackey's 'Encyclopedia of Freemasonry'

Royal Arch Degree. If we except the Master's, there is no other degree in Masonry that has been so extensively diffused, or is as important in its historical and symbolical import, as the Royal Arch, or, as it has been called, on account of its sublime significance, the "Holy Royal Arch." Dermott calls it "the root, heart, and marrow of Masonry," and Oliver says that it is "indescribably more august, sublime, and important than any which precede it, and is, in fact, the summit and perfection of ancient Masonry." It is found, in fact, in every Rite, in some modified form, and sometimes under a different name, but always preserving those same symbolic relations to the Lost Word which constitute its essential character.

Whoever carefully studies the Master's degree in its symbolic signification will be convinced that it is in a mutilated condition, that is, that it is imperfect and unfinished in its history, and that, terminating abruptly in its symbolism, it leaves the mind still waiting for something that is necessary to its completeness. This deficiency is supplied by the Royal Arch degree. Hence, when the union took place in England, in 1813, between the two rival Grand Lodges, while there was a strong and hereditary disposition on the part of the English Masons to preserve the simplicity of the Old York Rite by confining Freemasonry to the three symbolical degrees, it was found necessary to define Ancient Craft Masonry as consisting of three degrees," including the Holy Royal Arch."

There was a time, undoubtedly, when the Royal Arch did not exist as an independent degree, but was a complementary part of the Master's degree, to which it gave a necessary completion. Ramsay introduced it into the high degrees on the continent; Dermott fabricated it for the use of his Grand Lodge; and Dunckerley is said to have dissevered it from the third degree in the legal Grand Lodge of England. The precise method and time of its disseverance from the third establishment, as an independent degree in England and America, constitutes an important and interesting part of the history of Masonry.

It is evident that the existence of the Royal Arch as an independent and distinct degree dates at a comparatively modern period. In none of the old manuscript records of Masonry is there the slightest allusion to it, and Anderson does not make any reference to it in his history of the Order. The true word, which constitutes the

essential character of the Royal Arch degree, was found by Dr. Oliver in an old Master Mason's tracing-board of the date of about 1725; and hence he concludes (Or. of the Eng. R. A., p. 20.) "that the word, at that time, had not been severed from the third degree and transferred to another," —in other words, that the Royal Arch degree had not then been fabricated. The earliest mention of it in England that he could find was in the year 1740, just two years after the schism which separated the Ancient from the Modern Grand Lodge, — I use the usually accepted titles, without any reference to their propriety, —and he attributes its fabrication to the former body. Stone, [Letters on Masonry, p. 60,) with a very imperfect knowledge of Masonic history, attributes its origin to the Primordial Chapter of Arras. But that body was established by the young Pretender in 1747, and Oliver, as is seen, recognized the existence of the degree in England seven years before. The truth, however, is, that Ramsay had long before incorporated a Royal Arch degree under a different title in his high degrees, and there is no doubt that Dermott, who was really the inventor of the English system, was indebted to him for many of his ideas, as Dunckerley subsequently was when he composed the Royal Arch for the legal Grand Lodge; but the system of Ramsay was very different in its main details from that of either. Ramsay, about the time of Dermott's innovation, had visited England, and attempted to introduce his high degrees, which were rejected by the legal Grand Lodge; and there is every reason to believe that he communicated to seceding Masons a portion of the inventions which he had engrafted upon the Masonry of the continent.

Oliver says of the Royal Arch that was invented by the seceders that, "although it contained elements of the greatest sublimity, it was imperfect in its construction and unsatisfactory in its result; which will tend to show, from the crude and imperfect state in which it then appeared, that the degree was in its infancy. The anachronisms with which it abounded, and the loose manner in which its parts were fitted into each other, betrayed its recent origin. In fact, it was evidently an attempt to combine several of the continental degrees of sublime Masonry into one, without regard to the order of time, propriety of arrangement, or any other consistent principle; and therefore we find in the degree, as it was originally constructed, jumbled together in a state of inextricable confusion, the events commemorated in Ramsay's Royal Arch, the Knights of the Ninth Arch, of the Burning Bush, of the East or Sword, of the Red Cross, the Scotch Fellow Craft, the Select Master, the Red Cross Sword of Babylon, the Rose Croix, etc."

As late as the year 1758, the Constitutional Grand Lodge had no Royal Arch degree, for in that year the Grand Secretary declared that "our society is neither Arch, Royal

Arch, nor Ancient;" and in the lecture of the third degree prepared by Anderson and Desaguliers it is said "that which was lost is now found," meaning, says Oliver, that the Master Mason's word was delivered to the newly raised Master in the latter ceremonies of the third degree, which would preclude the necessity for a Royal Arch degree.

But about the year 1766, Thomas Dunckerley, who had been authorized by the Constitutional Grand Lodge, or the "Moderns," to inaugurate a new system of lectures, commenced his modifications of the old system, which had been hitherto practiced by dissevering the Master's word from the third degree. This involved the necessity of a new degree; and Dunckerley, borrowing from Ramsay, from Dermott, and from his own invention, fabricated the degree of Royal Arch for the Modern Masons; a violent innovation, for the success of which he was indebted only to his own great popularity among the Craft and the influence of the Grand Master. Oliver thinks, for good reasons, that the introduction of the Royal Arch degree into the Modern system could not have been earlier than the dedication of Freemasons' Hall in 1776. Ten years after the regulations of the degree were first established, and at the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, the Holy Royal Arch was formally and officially recognized as a part of Ancient Craft Masonry, and so it has ever since remained.

The result of our investigations, in which we have mainly relied on the authority of the learned Oliver, is that, until the year 1740, the essential element of the Royal Arch constituted a component part of the Master's degree, and was of course its concluding portion; that as a degree it was not at all recognized, being but the complement of one; that about that time it was dissevered from its original connection and elevated to the position and invested with the form of a distinct degree by the body which called itself "the Grand Lodge of England according to the Old Constitutions," but which is more familiarly known as the Dermott or the Athol Grand Lodge, and frequently as "the Ancients;" that in 1776 a similar degree, fabricated by Dunckerley, was adopted by the Constitutional Grand Lodge, or the "Moderns," and that in 1813 it was formally recognized as a part of the York Rite by the United Grand Lodge of England.

In America, the history of the degree followed that of the English system. As most of the American Lodges derived their Warrants from the Athol Grand Lodge, the Royal Arch must have been introduced at the time of their constitution. The government of the degree was for a long time under the Master's Lodges, and many years elapsed before it was taken thence and placed under the control of distinct bodies called Grand Chapters.

In America, it was not until 1798 that a Grand Chapter was formed, and many Lodges persisted for some years after in conferring the Royal Arch degree under the authority of their Warrants from Grand Lodges.

Maintaining everywhere an identity in its symbolic signification, the Royal Arch varies in different countries in its historical details.

Ramsay's degree, from which all the continental systems originated, is entirely different from that practised in Great Britain, in Ireland, and in the United States. Its type may be found in the thirteenth degree, or Knight of the Ninth Arch of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

In England, Scotland, and the United States, the circumstance on which the degree is founded, or, in technical language, the legend, is the same; but the preliminary organization is different in each country.

In England, in 1834, considerable changes were made in the ceremonies of exaltation, but the general outline of the system was preserved. The degree is the fourth in the Masonic series, and a Master Mason who has been so for twelve months is eligible for exaltation. The principal officers of an English Chapter are: three Principals, Zerubbabel, Haggai, and Joshua; three Sojourners and two Scribes, Ezra and Nehemiah; a Treasurer and a Janitor.

In Scotland, the preliminary degrees are: Mark, Past, Excellent, and Super-Excellent Master, and the principal officers are the same as in England.

In Ireland, the legend was formerly different from that of England, and founded on events recorded in the Second Book of Chronicles, (xxxiv. 14,) where Hilkiah is said to have "found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses." The date of this degree was, therefore, 624 B. C, or ninety years after ours. The preliminary or qualifying degrees were: Past, Excellent, and Super-Excellent. But the Irish system was changed some years ago, and a new ritual, somewhat resembling the American, was adopted. The officers do not materially differ from those of English and Scottish Chapters.

In America, the legend is the same as the English, but varying in some of its details. The preliminary degrees are: Mark, Past, and Most Excellent Master; and the principal officers are: High Priest, King, Scribe, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, and three Grand Masters of the Veils.

I have said that, however the legend or historical basis might vary in the different Rites, in all of them the symbolical signification of the Royal Arch was identical. Hence, the building of a second Temple, so prominent a symbol in the English and American systems, and so entirely unknown in the continental, cannot be considered

as an essential point in the symbolism of the degree. It is important in the systems in which it occurs, but it is not essential. The true symbolism of the Royal Arch system is founded on the discovery of the Lost Word.

It can never be too often repeated that the WORD is, in Masonry, the symbol of TRUTH. This truth is the great object of pursuit in Masonry—the scope and tendency of all its investigations—the promised reward of all Masonic labor. Sought for diligently in every degree, and constantly approached, but never thoroughly and intimately embraced, at length, in the Royal Arch, the veils which concealed the object of search from our view are withdrawn, and the inestimable prize is revealed.

This truth, which Masonry makes the great object of its investigations, is not the mere truth of science, or the truth of history, but is the more important truth which is synonymous with the knowledge of the nature of God,—that truth which is embraced in the sacred Tetragrammaton, or omnific name, including in its signification his eternal, present, past, and future existence, and to which he himself alluded when he declared to Moses, "I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob by the name of God Almighty; but by my name Jehovah was I not known unto them."

The discovery of this truth is, then, the essential symbolism of the Royal Arch degree. Wherever it is practised,—and under some peculiar name the degree is found in every Rite of Masonry,—this symbolism is preserved. However the legend may vary, however the ceremonies of reception and the preliminary steps of initiation may differ, the consummation is always the same—the great discovery which represents the attainment of Truth.



Upcoming Degree Work and Events

The following list is as provided by various Companions and Sir Knights across the Commonwealth. If your organization is planning to confer the degrees or orders, please let me know – you can email me at the address on the back page of this publication – and I will put it in the Keystone.

- 8/13/19 – *Cynthiana Order of the Temple*
- 8/24/19 – *One Day Festival, Williamsburg*
- 9/16-18 – *Grand Sessions, Lexington*

Acknowledgments

- *RARA Dinner – Tom Bustle*
- *DeMolay – George Turner*
- *Photos – Bruce Outlaw, George Ralph Arnold, Greg Raque, George Turner, Randall Partin, Bill Jackson, Rebecca Partin, Noel King, Steve Talbott, Tom Bustle*
- *Western Kentucky York Rite Festival – Miles Ward*
- *All Masons Day Picnic – Mike Yount*



All Masons Day Family Picnic

August 24, 2019

At Masonic Homes Kentucky

Louisville Campus

10:00 am -2:00 pm

Food and beverages provided. Dunking Booth, face painting, live Bluegrass Music with your Grand Master on Fiddle, along with a Country Band. Tours of the Campus and other activities will be available. For more info, call 502-655-0702

Published monthly by:

The Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch
Masons

James H. King, PGHP, Secretary

400 North 4th Street

Danville, KY 40422

Phone: 859-209-4120

Email: grandrecorderky@yahoo.com

Editor

Randall Partin

2275 Tackett Creek Rd

Williamsburg, KY 40769

(606)524-9523

r_partin@att.net

Presiding Officers of the Grand York Rite**Grand Chapter**

Ronald Ledford

Grand High Priest

8307 Richmond Rd.

Paint Lick, KY 40461

859-304-1119

crazyron@windstream.net

Grand Council

Charles A. Durham (93)

Grand Master

293 Scotts Rd.

Greenville, KY 42345

270-338-3025

charlesdurham40@comcast.net

Grand Commandery

J. William Riggs (24)

Grand Commander

1044 Eagle Pass

Bardstown Kentucky 40004

502-344-2469

billriggs@hotmail.com



Continue the York Rite Journey

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KENTUCKY
KEYSTONE****Articles**

Send articles in electronic format to the Editor at r_partin@att.net. We reserve the right to determine suitability for publication, to exclude content at the discretion of the Editor, and to perform reasonable edits to any article submitted to better suit the purposes of the Kentucky Keystone.

Photographs

We will publish submitted photographs as deemed appropriate by the Editor. We reserve the right to crop and/or digitally enhance such photographs as we deem necessary. Digital images (JPEG) are preferred. Submitted print photographs may be published, if in the sole opinion of the Editor, the scanned image is of suitable quality. If you would like your print photographs returned, please include a self-addressed envelope containing sufficient postage with submitted photographs. Submitted photos will be credited to the submitter. If taken by someone else, please provide proper credit. Also, PLEASE identify the individuals and event in the photos.

Mailing List

We do not sell, rent or otherwise disclose our mailing list to any third party.

Disclaimer

Published articles and letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, the Kentucky Keystone, or the Editor. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of what we publish, and that we have rights to the material we use. Please notify the Editor if you have concerns about accuracy or copyright issues.

Past Editions

Can be found in the Kentucky Keystone Archive

<http://yorkriteky.org/kentuckykeystone.html>

on the York Rite of Kentucky Webpage -
www.yorkriteky.org