

NOVEMBER 2020



THE KENTUCKY KEYSTONE

VOLUME 32

NUMBER 2

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

Message from the Grand High Priest



Fraternal Greetings
Companions:

November, with a date for giving our Thanks to God for our Country, and our Families. The pilgrims enjoyed a feast for their thanks giving and so will we. We are supposed to be with our Families if at all possible and in many of

our families, hugs are an expected part of the festivities. I'm not sure how that's going to work with social distancing.

I want to also add in our thanks to God for Masonry, and for having the time and opportunity to be with our Masonic Brothers.

As Masons it is a time to gear up for the Charities we support. This is the time of year of snow, and fun, and giving, but with the need to collect something for the less fortunate. Our Charity is ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE, and during this time of giving we need to put our efforts into high gear to find ways of collecting for RARA, the Veterans home, the Masonic widows, the Shriners hospital, and all the other people we support. I would encourage each Chapter, Council, and Commandry to stretch our minds and come up with some new and innovative ways to encourage people to give from their hearts. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow puts it well - "The life of a man consists, not in seeing visions and dreaming dreams, but in active charity, and willing service."

We need to check on our Masonic Brothers that can't for whatever reason, come to the Lodge. We need to see that the elderly have those basic

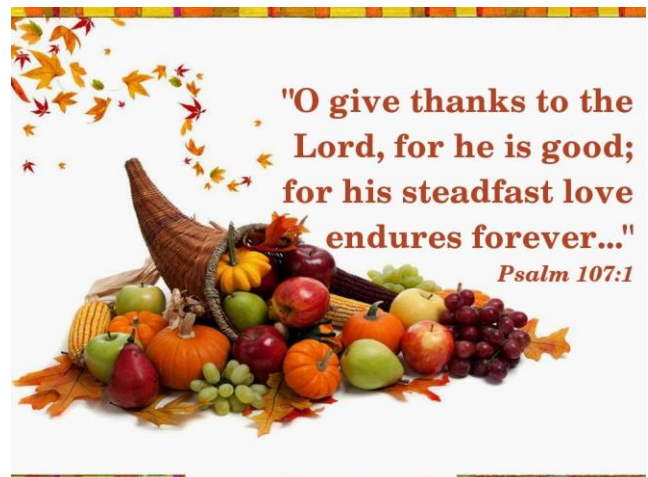
necessities like food, water, heat. The Grand Lodge does have some funds, for Masons in need, but before we ask the Grand Lodge, isn't it OUR duty to provide relief for our Brothers? "Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." Let's make a difference!

We have Christmas right around the corner; the kids will be bouncing off the walls wanting this and that new geegaw or thingamabob! Yes, we need to bring them happiness as much as we can, but we absolutely have to think about the elderly, the shut ins, the people who have no one to check on them. There are people out there who would give anything for a little companionship, a dinner they did not have to prepare. We need to find out and do what we can, keeping in mind the clear edicts handed down by Grand Master Geary Laird.

I want to wish you each and every one a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I pray to God above for our Country, our State, and each Mason and their families! May God Bless you all!

Fraternally Thine

George Ralph Arnold
Grand High Priest



From the Grand Secretary's Desk



Companions and Sir Knights,

Greetings, I hope everyone is doing well and safe from the virus. It is once again the time of the year when we have our area meeting, and hope that many of you will be able to attend. It is very

important that you represent your chapters and take back as much information as you can to help them throughout the year.

November brings cooler weather in the beginning of the holiday season; may it be a happy and joyful time for each of you. It also brings new opportunity to attend Masonic meetings and have in person meetings with some restrictions. We should strive to maintain safety, but is important to continue with our work in the Masonic fraternity and your local York Rite bodies need your attendance.

The Grand Encampment will begin to allow meetings of Commandery's in 2021, General Order 14 which deals with this has already been mailed to the recorders.

Please, remain safe and God bless each of you!

Fraternally,

James King Jr., PGHP, PGC
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.

I just found out a few days ago that a former coworker, who also happened to be a friend and lodge brother, passed away last January. We traveled many a mile together and accomplished what I believe to have been some good things. I hadn't thought of him in some time, as we didn't work together much the last few years he worked, and he retired a few years before I did. The news still left an empty place, as such news always does when someone passes who left their mark on our lives.

In memory of Earl, who was enough older than me to have experienced the draft and seen action in Vietnam, and in appreciation of all of you out there who have served, I submit the image below. The sentiment is heartfelt.



God's richest blessings to you all; stay safe.

Fraternally,
Randall Partin, Editor



**GRAND CHAPTER OF KENTUCKY
ROYAL ARCH MASONS
George R. Arnold, Grand High Priest
AREA MEETINGS**

AREA 1

Area Coordinator – Ron Dockery

270-338-5317

(Areas 1, 2, 3A, 3B)

Saturday, November 14, 2020, 10:00 am CST

Hosted by Madisonville Chapter No. 123

(Note location change)

667 Park Avenue

Madisonville, KY

AREA 2

Area Coordinator – William Brown

502-680-0175

(Areas 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6)

Saturday, November 21, 2020, 10:00 am EST

Hosted by W. R. Selby, Sr. Chapter No. 4

(Note location change)

400 North 4th Street

Danville, KY

AREA 3

Area Coordinator – Danny Staton

606-855-7447

(Areas 7A, 7B, 8, 9A, 9B)

Saturday, December 12, 2020, 10:00 am EST

Hosted by Jenkins Chapter No. 164

835 Lakeside Drive

Jenkins, KY

GRAND COMMANDERY
OF
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF KENTUCKY



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

8:00 PM EST

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
SIR KNIGHT REV LARRY CARTE, PGC

SPECIAL GUEST
REV JOEY BUCK

PILGRIM MINISTER TO THE HOLY LAND

Live streamed on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/buffalomissionarybaptistchurch/>

For further information, contact Larry Carte at 606-425-6989

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
BROTHER ERNEST C. JACKSON**



**Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F. & A. M.
2020 - 2021**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
BROTHER RICHARD F. SHORT**



**Grand Junior Warden
Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F. & A. M.
2020 - 2021**

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



**IN ALL THINGS
GIVE THANKS**

Companions, this month we celebrate Thanksgiving. It is a National holiday in the United States set on the fourth Thursday in November each year. It is a time to gather with friends and family for

that "traditional" Turkey Dinner and to give thanks for the many blessings God has given us.

The first Thanksgiving in the United States or The New World, was celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1620. They were thankful for not only the bountiful harvest, but for their survival through the first year in the new world. However, Thanksgiving dates back to the earliest of times. Originally known as "The Days of Harvest" or "The Harvest Feast", it was a time set aside to celebrate and be thankful for the bountiful harvest.

Today, many families take a few moments, either before, during, or after the meal to verbally express what they are thankful for. Each family does things differently; but the idea is to thank God for His many Blessings.

The words of the old gospel tune "Thank You Lord for Your Blessings on Me", are most appropriate at this Thanksgiving time of year;

*"There's a roof up above me, I've a good place to sleep,
There's food on my table, and shoes on my feet,
You gave me your love Lord, and a fine family,
Thank you, Lord, for your Blessings on me."*

The year 2020 has been a year of many trials and tribulations in our Country and in our world. Civil unrest, the covid-19 Pandemic, riots and chaos, has caused our people to suffer. However, the Holy Scriptures tells us to be thankful in all things; In all things give thanks. We should be thankful that God continues to bring us through the fire.

(continued next column)

Ephesians 5:20 states, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;"

So, Companions, as we celebrate the Thanksgiving Holidays, and enjoy the blessings God has given each of us, take a moment and thank Him for His many Blessings. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

May the Lord Bless and keep you is our prayer.

HAVE A BLESSED DAY!

Don Powell, PGHP

Grand Chaplain
Grand Chapter of Kentucky,
Royal Arch Masons

NOTICES AND UPDATES

***Upcoming Degree Work and
Events***

(as we have it)

- 11/9/2020 – Royal Arch Degree, Williamsburg
- 11/14/2020 – Chapter Area 1 Meeting, Madisonville; 10:00 AM
- 11/21/2020 – Chapter Area 2 Meeting, Danville; 10:00 AM
- 11/21/2020 - General Grand Chapter Triennial virtual meeting
- 12/11/2020 – Grand Commandery Virtual Christmas Observance 8:00 pm ET
- 12/12/2020 – Chapter Area 3 Meeting, Jenkins; 10:00 AM

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



Thanksgiving

Psalm 100:1-5 KJV

¹Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

²Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

³Know ye that

the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

⁵For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

In all the chaos that has taken place in the past few months there are some things that have not changed. As we enter into this holiday season let us take time out of our busy schedules to reflect on our blessings of the past year. God in heaven is still on his throne and he loves us. I have been blessed to be part of a loving family my entire life and for this I am thankful. I am a member of the church I grew up in and part of a loving church family for over 50 years. I have been a Master Mason and member of Williamsburg #490 for over 34 years and I have experienced way more than I ever imagined. In my 34 years as a Master Mason and member of Ken-Tenn Chapter #148, Cumberland Council #77 and Williamsburg Commandery #50 I have traveled the state and beyond, I have been blessed to meet some of the finest people God has placed on this earth. (I am sure some are reading this article.) So I can say with God, family, friends, brothers, companions, and Sir Knights, I am blessed.

Our most kind and gracious Heavenly Father thank you for you goodness you have bestowed on me. Lord I ask that you bless each one that is reading this today. Thank you for being part of my life,

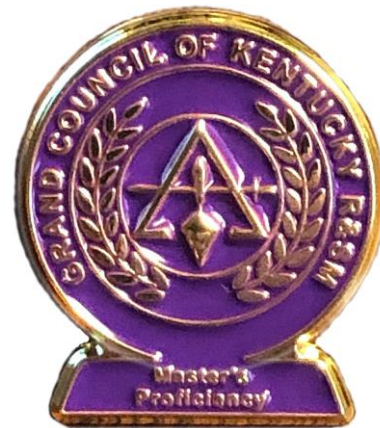
thank you for my family, my church family, my friends and I pray your continued blessing on each. Lord be with those that travel the state on behalf of our great fraternity; bless them to arrive at their destination safely and return to their families safely.

In the name of Blessed Redeemer,
Amen

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



The Grand Council's Proficiency Pin, below, will be awarded to any Companion who turns in their proficiency, either for the first time, or for a repeat. (Submitted by MIGM Mike McQueary)



C.M.M.R.F.

Message from the Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky



Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky. Before we can look forward to November we should reflect to September, and honor the wishes of the election of our Grand Line of Knights Templar of Kentucky, and one especially, the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight, William (Bill) Jackson who was elected at our Grand Convocation which was held virtually.

This has been a hard 2020 with the Pandemic which has spread a virus called COVID 19, and has taken some of our Knights. We mourn the loss of those who are no longer with us, and keep them in our memories forever. Shortly after taking office our own Grand Commander took ill, and for a short time was in the hospital. However, he is out and under the Doctors orders. Sir Knight Bill is doing well and progressing in his rehab. We give thanks to God Almighty that he is recovering and keeping us all in line.

On October 24th there was a Grand Reception for the York Rite of Kentucky held in Williamsburg, with all three heads of the York Rite Bodies of Kentucky present. Yes, including our Grand Commander with his family.

Now looking forward on the month of November, we are still under the regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States and following regulations. What you may ask, is special about November? One thing will be that on November 3, 2020 is election day and we all who can vote should go out and vote for the candidate of your choice. When it comes time we should attend our York Rite meetings and our Lodges to show support for all. Then you may ask what else would happen in November? On November 26, will be Thanksgiving Day for all of us. Why should we remember that day? Let me refer you to our Holy Bible, King James Version

(continued next column)

from the Book of Psalms. Psalms chapter 100 we read:

1. *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.*
2. *Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing*
3. *Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and sheep of his pasture*
4. *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*
5. *For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*

The words of the Holy Scripture tell us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, also it tells us be thankful unto him, and bless his Name. So as you remember this Psalm remember that Thanksgiving is a time for all of us to be especially thankful to God for His blessings and those that he gives to us in the great land of the United States of America.

I am thankful that the Grand Commander was gracious enough to appoint me as the Grand Prelate of this Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Kentucky. Through this venue I have the opportunity to tell you knights my belief in the Captain of mine and your Salvation, Jesus Christ the son of the living God and through the blessings of the Holy Ghost that I can say freely Happy Thanksgiving and Praise be to God!

Sir Knight Archie R Smallwood, PGC,
Grand Prelate,
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky

“The north is in all the ancient mysteries the abode of darkness; and there is exhibited a dash of grim humour in placing the Secretary and Treasurer of the Lodge there, for whatever may have come to light in the Arts and Sciences, finance has remained an unsolved mystery from the time of Solomon to the present day.”

– Brother Sir Charles Warren, 1888

Reprinted from "Masonic Songs, Old and New," published 1885 with the following disclaimer: "Delivered January 14th, 1774, before a Play performed by desire of the Union Lodge, Exeter." Author unknown

EPILOGUE.

As lately, brethren, from the Lodge I came,
Warmed with our royal order's purest flame
Absorbed in thought; — before my ravished eyes,
I saw the Genius, Masonry, arise:
A curious hieroglyphic robe he wore,
And in his hand the sacred volume bore:
On one side was divine Astræa placed,
And soft-eyed Charity the other graced;
Humanity, the general friend, was there,
And Pity, dropping the pathetic tear;
There too was Order; — there, with rosy mien,
Blithe Temperance shone, and white robed Truth was seen.

There, with a key suspended to his breast,
Silence appeared; his lips his finger pressed:
With these, soft warbling an instructive song,
Sweet music, gaily smiling, tripped along.
Wild laughter, clamorous noise, and mirth ill bred,
The brood of folly, at his presence fled.

The Genius spoke, — "My son, observe my train,
Which, of my order different parts explain.
Look up — behold the bright Astræa there,
She will direct thee how to use the Square.
Pity will bid thee grieve, with those who grieve,
Whilst Charity will prompt thee to relieve;
Will prompt thee every comfort to bestow,
And draw the arrow from the breast of woe;
Humanity will lead to honor's goal,
Give the large thought, and form the generous soul,
Will bid thee thy fraternal love expand,
To virtue of *all* faiths, — and every land.
Order will kindly teach her laws of peace,
Which discord stop, and social joys increase;
Temperance instruct thee all excess to avoid,
By which fair fame is lost and health destroyed:
Truth warn thee never to use perfidious art,
And bid thy tongue be rooted in thy heart;
Silence direct thee never to disclose,
Whatever thy brethren in thy breast repose;
For thee shall Music strike the harmonious lyre,
And whilst she charms the ear, *morality* inspire.
These *all* observe; — and let thy conduct show,
What real blessings I on man bestow."

He said, and disappeared; — and Oh! may we,
Who wear this honored badge, accepted, free,
To every grace and virtue temples raise,
And by our useful works our Order praise.

From The Park City Daily News, Bowling Green, KY, Wednesday, May 17, 1933. Submitted by Larry Flowers

**KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
PARADE TODAY AT
DAVIESS CAPITAL**

**Annual Meeting Of State
Members Of Order Gets
Under Way**

OWENSBORO, Ky., May 17.—(AP)—
Hundreds of white plumed Knights
Templar paraded through the
streets of Owensboro today follow-
ing the official opening of the eigh-
ty-sixth annual convocation of the
grand commandery. Knights Tem-
plar of Kentucky at the First Bap-
tist church.

The visiting Knights were wel-
comed to Owensboro by Mayor
Logan Meredith. The response to
the welcome was given by C. Holland
Allison, Lexington. "World Brother-
hood," was the subject of the an-
nual sermon by the Rev. E. E. Smith
of Owensboro.

Every commandery in the State
was represented in the line of
march. DeMolay Commandery,
Louisville, was accompanied by a
drum and bugle corps of 36 Boy
Scouts of Louisville, who were cheer-
ed by the crowds that lined the
streets. A large delegation of
Knights Templar from Evansville
took part in the parade. Paducah
commandery was represented by a
large delegation.

Election of officers of the grand
commandery will take place tomor-
row morning.



Comments by the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight William J. Jackson, addressing General Order No. 14

The Most Eminent Grand Master Jeffery Nelson of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA has issued General Order #14. This is effective 1 November 2020. This order supersedes General Order #12.

This will be implemented in stage zero. All Commanderies must be ready on a moment's notice to pause or even shut down. Every Commandry must comply with all "Federal, state, Masonic, and local protocols." This means no meals are to be served, PPE (i.e., masks and maybe in some instances gloves) are to be worn. We are to observe social distancing at all times; so

no close contact or hand shaking.

No ritual is to be performed. No Orders conferred. Divisional meetings and Grand Commandry meetings may be held by Zoom.

The Grand master feels that since the average age of our knights is 67.4 years of age, that we need to be extremely careful and that no one be pressured to attend. He wishes that "vulnerable individuals, those with underlying health problems including High Blood Pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and by other conditions requiring such therapy feel free not to attend. He feels that anyone who has a problem or has a family member who has any of these problems feel free not to attend.

Lastly, let's use some common sense. Get your Flu shots, take your medicine as required and see your doctor regularly. If you feel bad, have a cough, cold, or fever, then don't come. Just because he says we can meet doesn't mean COVID-19 has gone away. It's still as dangerous as before.

You can read the full text of General Order # 14 at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/downloads/GO14.pdf>

You can read the full text of the Reopening Protocols at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/downloads/GO14guidelines.pdf>

Sir Knight William J. Jackson
Grand Commander

Please continue to remember Bill and Carol in your prayers. He is home and continuing rehabilitation. You can send cards to:

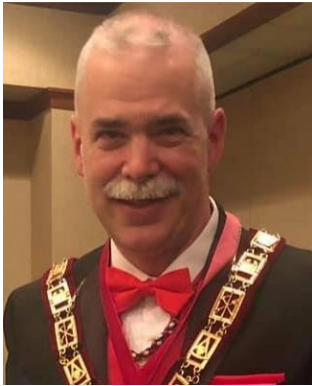
*William J. Jackson
7850 LaGrange Rd
Smithfield, KY 40068*



We also see that Companion Kerry Sluss is continuing to have serious health problems. Please continue to remember Kerry in your prayers, and Marilyn as she cares for him. You can send cards to Kerry at:

*Kerry Sluss
P.O. Box 283
Flatwoods, KY 41139*

Submitted by Greg Raque, Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons



Many of our Chapters are having issues with not being able to open. Not getting enough members to attend is quite frustrating. We the Grand Chapter Officers don't have any magic cure that will fix the attendance issues within a Chapter. One

thing that we have learned from our travels is what some different Chapters are doing across the state. There are many ways that different Chapters have tried to try to resolve these issues. Hopefully, we can learn from each other, mimic those things that work, and possibly have successes together. Now what works in one chapter may not work everywhere.

Take a look at what you've been doing. If you're just meeting, doing the opening ritual then reading the minutes it might be time to change things up. Most Chapters enjoy a fellowship meal before the meeting, but some have had success without a meal. With the increased costs and issues brought on by the pandemic. Fixing a meal might not be available to your membership right now. You'll have to decide when it's appropriate, but the Grand Masters orders don't forbid food, it just regulates how it's prepared and distributed.

Have you tried texting or emailing your group members? Sending out a reminder might or could help? Ultimately it might take a phone call, asking for help. Making contact with your members and showing them your thinking about them and that they are needed. Some have made social media groups where they can discuss issues or concerns about things that are going on with the Bodies. It's a good way to pass along information about our sick and distressed. You might consider having some type of education topic that could be of interest to your meetings. Have a walk-thru of the degree work. We all could use some practice. You don't have to go over things

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word for word but going over the floor work is always helpful. It's a skill that diminishes, so practice and knock off that rust. Have you tried a family night at the time of installation, or a Brother to Brother Night? Most new members might not or don't know anything about the Royal Arch Widows Degree, it's a fun night for all, and if you're not laughing that night you're doing it wrong.

Now for something different, I've been on some Facebook groups in other states. Something that piqued my interest was the Cigar Night, and Game Night at the Brewery. Now, these types of events, might not appeal to all the members of the group, but might be a great way to introduce York Rite Topics to our Blue Lodge Brothers. These types of activities happen every evening during the Grand Sessions. These events would allow us to socialize and participate in activities outside of the regular meetings. Getting to know each other and exchanging ideas in this setting might be just what we need. The thing is to not give up. Keep fighting to preserve Royal Arch Masonry. We the Grand Officers don't have all the answers but we're willing to help. Just reach out and let us know how we can assist you.

Greg Raque



Companions, the Area Meetings will soon be upon us; this year we will be raising money for RARA by raffling off these Royal Arch insulated mugs, so bring a couple extra dollars. There are also a limited number available for purchase for only \$25 dollars. All proceeds raised go to RARA. - *Greg*

Contact Greg at knight734@gmail.com or 502-376-2067 for more information.

THE YORK RITE AT WORK



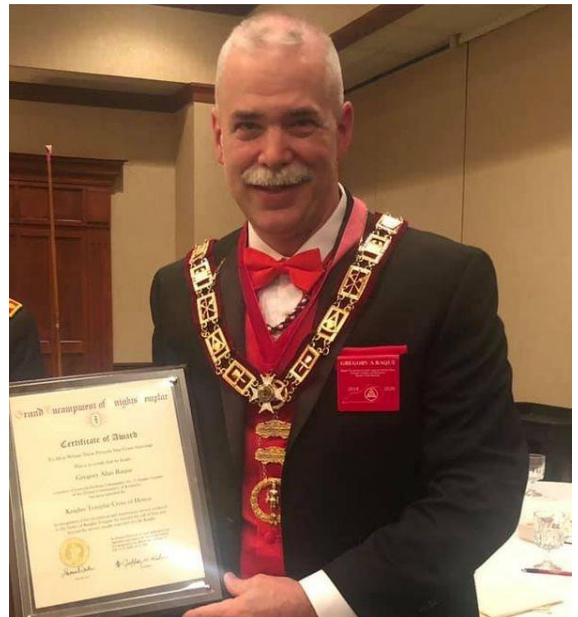
Congratulations to Sir Knight Bobby Hayes, left, recipient of the 2020 Conrad H. Cates Distinguished Service Award. Junior Past Grand Commander Marvin S Blaine made the presentation during Warren Council's meeting on October 13, 2020.



Congratulations to Sir Knight Carl Jones, right, on receiving the Knight Commander of the Temple award. Past Grand Commander Randall Partin, left, made the presentation at the Williamsburg York Rite meeting on October 12, 2020 (photo Nick Simpson)



Grand High Priest George Arnold presents Companion Tom Harper, right, his proficiency card and pin at King Solomon Chapter No. 5, October 21, 2020. (photo Greg Raque)



Congratulation to Sir Knight Greg Raque, recipient of the 2020 Knights Templar Cross of Honor..





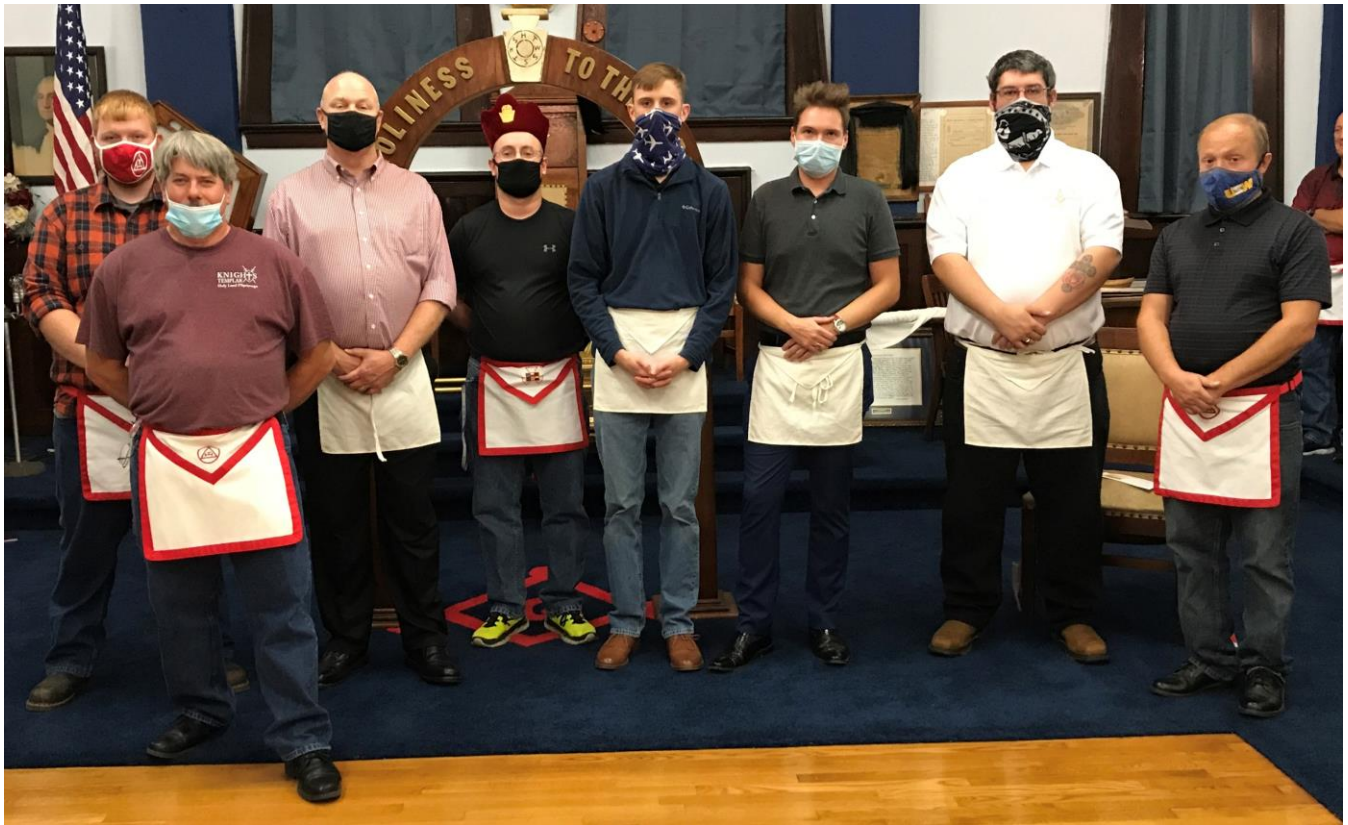
Outgoing Grand Commander Marvin S Blaine presents the Knight Commander of the Temple Award to, left to right, Sir Knights Miles Ward, Chris Smith and Bobby Balthis at the Grand Banquet on September 22, 2020. Congratulations Miles, Chris and Bobby.



Iroquois Chapter No 193 conferral of Mark Master degree, October 28, 2020. Welcome Companions Larry Singleton and Harold Johnson of King Solomon Chapter No 5.

Congratulations to Companion Lonnie Demoranville, right, recipient of the General Grand Council Adult Youth Leadership Award. Jim King, far right, presented the award October 22, 2020 (photo submitted by George Arnold)





Ken-Tenn Chapter in Williamsburg conferred the Most Excellent Master's degree on four candidates at their meeting on October 12, 2020. Pictured above are, left to right, Matthew Hinkle, Corbin Wright, Clay Kennett, Nick Simpson, HP, Blake Kennett, Houston Nolan, Justin Johnson, and Matthew Taylor. (photo Editor)



Grand High Priest George Arnold, Grand Scribe John Johnson and Companions of Irvine Chapter No. 42, October 13, 2020. (Photo George Arnold)



Grand High Priest George Arnold and other Grand officers at Morehead Chapter No. 168, October 20, 2020. (photo George Arnold)



Greensburg Chapter No. 36 conferral of the Mark Master and Past Master degrees. Welcome Companion Daniel Glass. (photo Greg Raque)





GRAND OFFICERS RECEPTION



Congratulations and Best Wishes for a successful year!

“The reception was very well put together by Larry Carte and his family. The food was excellent. We had in attendance Deputy Grand Master James Gibson, Grand Senior Warden Darren Wilson and his lovely wife Brenda, MIGM Mike McQueary, REGC Bill Jackson and his lovely lady Carol, and REGHP George Arnold. We had a good meal, good comradeship, and we have to thank Larry Carte for putting it together for us.” ~ George Arnold, REGHP

“I would like to thank those for coming and Williamsburg York Rite bodies for putting on a great event. Food was delicious, entertainment was great and had a great time.” ~ Mike McQueary, MIGM

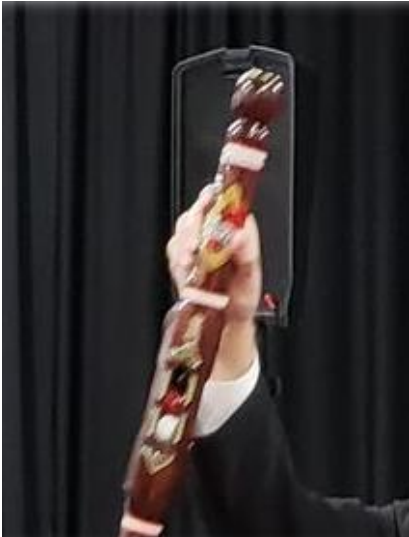
“The reception was quite excellent. Food was great. Larry Carte coordinated everything perfectly. Many thanks to all those involved and to all those who came.” ~ William J. Jackson, REGC















Thanks to Haley (editors neice) and Andrew, top, for providing the entertainment; Tory, far left (Larry Carte's daughter) and her crew who served the food; Nick Simpson's Aunt Hileanna for the cake; Jerrita Gray (Mike 'Caneman' Gray's wife) for the potato salad; Nick Simpson for taking the pictures; to all who helped out in any way; to those who attended the event, and especially to Companion and Sir Knight Larry Carte who did a fantastic job putting the whole thing together!

THE MORE YOU KNOW

*This month we offer something possibly a little more challenging to think about. The following is taken from the *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, Volume I, published 1888, and is extracted from a much longer paper, well worth reading, delivered by Brother Sir Charles Warren titled "On the Orientation of Temples." Keep in mind that this paper was presented to the assembled brothers as the opinions resulting from the research and travels of a well-educated gentleman, but also to obtain their opinions and thoughts on the validity of his conclusions. - Editor*

...

I put forward as a solution that modern masonry is a combination of the mysteries of the Hebrews, the Phoenicians (including the Greeks) and the Egyptians, that it thus forms the chief of the triads running so remarkably through all Masonic lore.

In making this combination you are not to suppose that any portion of the common or popular superstitions or symbols have been taken up, except so far as they are pure and decent, but rather that the mysteries have been grasped; mysteries which were in older days unknown to any but the high priests of the several orders, and which were entirely apart and distinct from the popular rendering of them.

I take it that the knowledge derived from these severally was as follows: —

From the Hebrews,	W.—or a knowledge of the true God.
From the Egyptians,	S.—the Sciences.
From the Phoenicians & Greeks	B.—the fine Arts

And that these are symbolised in the Lodges: —

The W.M.—W.—a Hebrew or G.M.S.
The S.W.—S.—an Egyptian or G.M.H.
The J.W.—B.—a Phoenician or G.M.H.A.B.

Having so far laid bare my view of the matter, I will now point out the discrepancies and show how to me they appear not only consistent with but as indicating the very high antiquity of our order.

I must point out that it was not, and there is no reason from the legends to suppose it was, the actual Temple itself of Jerusalem where our G.M.H.A.B. lost his life. In English the word Temple is used indifferently for the Temple proper, the porch, the inner court, the outer court, and the whole of them together, though in ancient times there were distinct names for each. When, therefore, we picture to ourselves H.A., the master of work, attending at a certain fixed hour to offer his adorations to the Most High, we are not to suppose that he went into the Temple itself, for this building was only accessible to the Priests and Levites, and would not be entered for the sake of prayer by the builder. It may be retorted that

as the building was not then consecrated, H.A.B. would go in there; but the answer is that if it was not consecrated why should he go there in preference to the proper place of prayer at that time—viz., on Mount Zion.

It has been related that there were three doors to the Temple, south, east, and west; but there never were three doors to either the Tabernacle or the Temple. There was an eastern door and no more so that neither ingress nor egress was possible in any other quarter.

Again, in other traditions we find recorded that the fellow crafts were paid their wages in the middle chamber of King Solomon's Temple, and that this chamber was approached by a winding staircase.

There are three reasons why this cannot be the case. In the first place, there never was a middle chamber to the Temple. There was a winding staircase certainly, but this only led to little chambers or cells a few feet square in the thickness of the Temple wall, in which the functionaries kept their stores for the votive offerings.

Secondly. — As the fellow crafts were only employed during the building of the Temple, they could not have used this chamber for the service mentioned even if it had existed.

Thirdly. — Even if this chamber had existed during the time they were employed on the Temple, they would not have been allowed to desecrate it by use as a pay office, and they could not possibly have reached the chamber by this staircase so as to get paid in a reasonable time. If it was not in the Temple itself where these occurrences took place, the question arises, where did they occur? It may have been in the chamber where the Sanhedrim afterwards sat, in the Temple Court, approachable either from the outside or inside.

I have to make a suggestion which may clear this up, and which may account for the discrepancies mentioned.

Masonry has unquestionably come down to us through the Gentiles and not through the Hebrews. Have we not here a clue to the difficulty, viz.: —That the Phoenicians instituted our present order of Masonry with the concurrence of the Hebrews; and on their own ancient mysteries (including the knowledge of the Arts and

Sciences), engrafted the knowledge of the true God, learnt at the building of the Temple; that they were aware of the untimely death of Hiram Abiff, assisted at the last ceremonies, and carried their account into their own Lodge. That the Master of Work lost his life somewhere in the Inner Court, where there are three gates, east, north, and south, but that the Phoenicians made the story suit their own Temples in which the doors are placed somewhat differently, as I will explain. There are few remains of Temples showing this, but we have certain evidence that the early heathen Temples of Syria, Greece, and Italy, were of a different construction to those which followed at a later period. The latter, from some singular reason, which I have alluded to previously, followed the shape of the Temple of Solomon, but the early Temples were far different. Solomon's Temple had but one door, that to the east, whereas the early heathen Temples of the same period had the sanctum to the east, so that devotees in making their offerings faced the rising sun. These Temples, however, had three openings, one towards the east to allow the sun at rising to fall upon the image, one to the south to admit the sun at noontide, and the principal entrance to the west.

That this was the case with the Great Temple at Tyre I think there is little doubt. The Temples and the Lodges of the Phoenicians were made on the same model. They were constructed with windows at the east, south, and west, through which lights shone to represent the sun in its three phases, and this continued until quite a recent date.

This then accounts for the singular positions of the Officers of the Lodge, the Worshipful Master in the east, the highest position of the heathen, their sanctum sanctorum; the Senior Warden in the west at the great entrance to represent the sun at even; and the Junior Warden to represent the sun at high twelve. The north is in all the ancient mysteries the abode of darkness; and there is exhibited a dash of grim humour in placing the Secretary and Treasurer of the Lodge there, for whatever may have come to light in the Arts and Sciences, finance has remained an unsolved mystery from the time of Solomon to the present day. ...

Let it not be supposed, however, that Masonry has anything whatever to do with actual sun-worship — the manner in which the legend is here suggested to have risen cuts away the ground from under the feet of those who would bring such an accusation against us. The fact seems simply to be that the Phoenicians obtained from the Hebrews the knowledge of the true God, and added it to their own mysteries, together with the details, legendary or otherwise, of the death of the Master of the Work, and incorporated the latter into a ceremony

symbolising the whole matter to suit their existing Temples. This was done probably to prevent the Phoenician cowans from opposing this institution, so contrary to the popular form of worship. Just in like manner did some Christian sects in later years take from the Hebrews their idea of Messiah, and disguise the whole subject under heathen forms and symbols, in order to secure their secrets ; so that even to the present day they are accustomed to range themselves under banners, and signs which, if examined into, point to some of the grossest forms of heathen indecency. Even the cross itself is no original Christian sign, but is derived from the ancient mysteries, and is used at the present day among all sects in the east as a tribal sign. Let it not be supposed that I would infer that the symbols were indecent themselves. Originally, when first employed, no doubt they had the pure significations they at present possess, but in lapse of time they became degraded to suit the depraved tastes of those who worshipped under them. I mention this because there can be no doubt that the symbols in our Lodge did at one time among the rabble of the Egyptians and the Phoenicians, signify gross indecorum, but equally so did they in a previous epoch embody ideas as pure as they now uphold.

In speaking of this subject, it is necessary to bear in mind that in early days in Masonry the Master Masons were the exceptions, though now they are the rule, and therefore the secrets appertaining to that degree were known but to a few. Then it was the system to keep knowledge as exclusive as possible, while now each true-hearted man will do his utmost to instruct his brother.

It is interesting to find that the mysterious ash tree of the north is similar as to its legends to the palm tree which the Mahometans suppose to underlie the sacred rock marking the position of the sanctum sanctorum of Solomon's Temple, from the roots of which spring all the rivers of the earth.

In a word I think there is not a doubt that in our order we are the direct descendants from the Phoenicians, who first moulded Masonry into its present form, and who were unable to openly worship the true God for fear of the people.

If it were not so, I would not be here tonight to speak, for if we cannot trace our descent from the Phoenician craftsmen who worked on the Temple of Solomon, and if it be only an allegory, then our position descends from the sublime to the ridiculous.

(Dr. Mackey and Albert Pike, contemporaneous American Masonic writers, offer differing opinions on parts of the article extracted above; both of which are also worth perusing. – Editor)

THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP

As we seek to identify, and rectify, the problems leading to the declining membership across the Masonic family, and the multiple solutions which have been tried and failed, I would ask that you consider the following quote from the late Steve Jobs:

“If you are working on something exciting that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you.”

I have heard much the same statement from a pastor friend who says his best sermons are usually dealing with those things that he is passionate about.

Apply that thought to our lodges and ask see how it fits. Is Masonry in its current state in Kentucky causing excitement among its membership? Is it something our members care about? Are we passionate about its teachings, about our Grand bodies' programs? Do we find a clear and consistent vision of what our organizations are attempting to accomplish to get excited and passionate about? Our attendance, our participation, our declining membership says no.

What does this have to do with an article on leadership? Because the excitement, the passion begins with our leaders, both at the state and local level. That's where the vision of who we are, of who we want to become, and the programs that promote that vision begin; its where the excitement starts. To reverse the course, to change our current status, we must better develop the men who will lead us in the future.

“The biggest stumbling block for most leaders happens at the beginning—setting the vision for a clear direction going forward. The vision is the component of the planning process that's meant to inspire everyone in the entire organization.

The biggest problem, though, is getting everyone engaged and excited about the future.”

Randy Goruk, leadersedge360.com

Take a moment and think about the following questions. Feel free to respond to the Editor with your thoughts. He's chairman of the Grand Commandery Membership committee and would like to hear from you.

How would you define the current vision of your local Lodge, or York Rite bodies? of Grand Lodge and the York Rite Grand bodies? What should it be?

Any organization, to be successful, must create a clear, concise, and inspiring vision that motivates their membership to accomplish that vision.



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Continue the York Rite Journey

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