

DECEMBER 2020

VOLUME 32

NUMBER 3



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

### Message from the Grand High Priest



Fraternal Greetings  
Companions:

Merry Christmas!

This is the time we celebrate the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing can compare to God coming to be in the flesh, except at Easter when he dies for

our sins. Please do not lose sight of the importance of the role God plays in our lives, as York Rite Masons.

It is time to be thankful to God for all his miracles. It is not wrong to practice Christmas, American Style! Gift giving at this time of year is a tradition we need to continue. I encourage you to make a special effort to include those who have no one to care for them; There is nothing to lift your spirits like that of a laughing child. The elderly crave companionship but let them watch the Children opening presents, and they will be uplifted beyond our ability to measure. Jesus said "Suffer the little Children to come unto me". At this time, we should also remember the Masonic widows; they would love to be included in the decorating of the lodge, making candy or the lodge meal.

Include in all the activities the safety of our Brothers, and their families. Follow the edicts of the Grand Lodge concerning the virus.

At this time, we are reminded of the way Jesus wants us to live. Think about a quote from Will

Rogers "live in such a way that you wouldn't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip"!

We need to remember our elderly, do they have food, water, heat, electricity? Masons established the widows and Orphans homes for the Veterans who lost their lives in the civil war. Now, we need to remember our widows and orphans of the war our military is fighting and dying in, overseas.

We have many philanthropies we can support. We need to find some new and different ways to support these Charities.

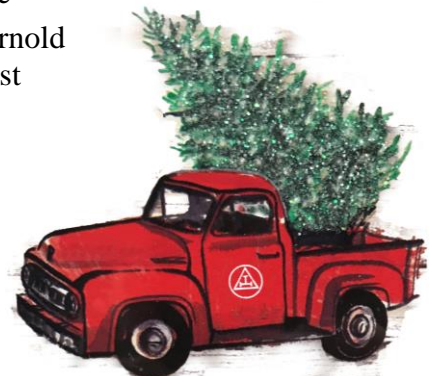
This year because of the virus we did not celebrate Veterans day, but we still need to remember them.

It doesn't look like we are going to do the Christmas observance this year. Why can't we just have a Lodge dinner, and celebrate Christmas in our Hearts?

May God bless our Country, our families, our Masonry, and all our members. Have a very Merry Christmas!

Fraternaly Thine

George Ralph Arnold  
Grand High Priest



***Merry Christmas!***

## From the Grand Secretary's Desk



Companions and Sir Knights,  
Greetings,  
Noel and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to serving you throughout the coming year.

The York Rite Office in Danville will be closed for Christmas Thursday, December 24 through the following Monday.

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



***Want to hold a virtual meeting for your York Rite Body and need more than the 40 minutes allowed***

***on free Zoom accounts? Now you can!***

Contact Greg Raque at [knight734@gmail.com](mailto:knight734@gmail.com) or 502-376-2067 for further details.

## From the Editor

Greetings, Companions!

I hope this continues to find everyone healthy and safe. If you're like me, you have friends and family on both sides of the current social/political debate about the virus and its effects. The stress is doing more damage to many than the disease would. We are also entering a season which has enough stress of its own, and more so this year when shopping opportunities are limited. I hope we can all remember to be tolerant toward those with different opinions, and that we will allow the Peace of that Child whose birth we celebrate to indwell us. Remember that while the angels proclaimed "Peace" at his birth, the grown man promised it: *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* John 14:27

*Peace*



*On Earth,*

*Good Will*

*To Men,*

From my family to yours, a Very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Year's.

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

Fraternally,  
Randall Partin, Editor

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



**THE GREATEST  
GIFT**

1. *And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Ceasar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.*
2. *(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)*
3. *And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.*
4. *And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)*
5. *To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.*
6. *And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.*
7. *And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*
8. *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*
9. *And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*
10. *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*
11. *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*
12. *And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*
13. *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*
14. *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

*(continued next column)*

15. *And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*
16. *And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*
17. *And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*
18. *And all that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*
19. *But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.*
20. *And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.*

*Luke 2:1 - 20*

The greatest gift ever given to mankind was the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus brought light into a world of darkness. His death on the cross and resurrection from the tomb brought salvation for one and all. He died for the sins of the entire world and his resurrection gave us victory over death and the grave.

We hear so much about the Christmas Season being a time of love and of giving. As Christians we celebrate the birth of our Savior. So as Christmas Day approaches and the times get busier and busier, take a moment now and then to say, "Happy Birthday Jesus, Thank you for your Gift".

Companions, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you and your families. I pray that 2021 will be a great year for you. Please stay safe. Protect yourself and loved ones from covid-19. Remember, as we face the new year with all it's challenges, God loves each of us and he is always in control.

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



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



Matthew 1:21-23

*21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

*22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was*

*spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,*

*23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

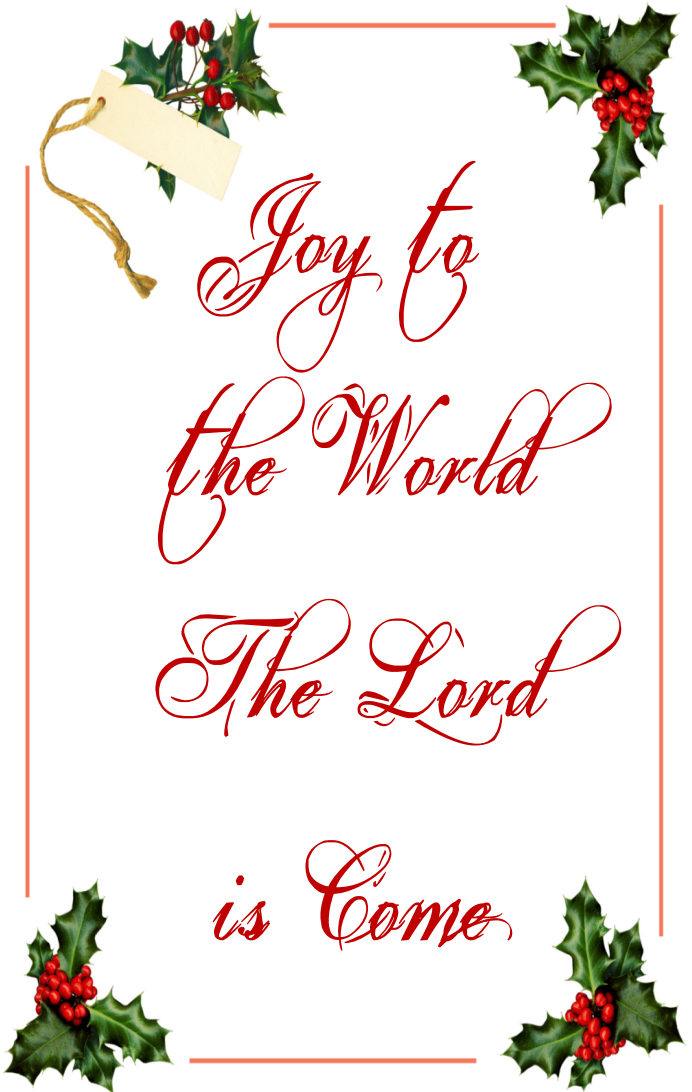
Approximately 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, Isaiah prophesied the birth of Jesus (Isaiah 9:6-7). December is a time of year we think about gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holidays. Let us never lose sight of the fact this is a time of celebrating the most amazing event in history; the birth of our Lord and Savior. Some of the best gifts we can give during this time of year is the gift of kindness, showing appreciation to others, helping someone in their troubles and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Due to the current restrictions, we aren't supposed to be shaking hands but we have those in our Masonic bodies that could use a helping hand, a phone call or a random act of kindness. As I am writing this I am thinking about brothers I need to check on, so maybe this is just for me.

Our most kind and gracious Heavenly Father I thank you for Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I thank you for each of my brothers, companions, Sir Knights and their families. I ask you to bless each one and keep them safe, bless them with good health and shelter them from the evil one.

Amen,  
SMIB

The greatest man in history is Jesus.  
He had no servants, yet they called Him Master.  
He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.  
He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.  
He had no army, yet kings feared Him.  
He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.  
He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.  
He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

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



**Message from the Grand Prelate of the Grand  
Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky  
S. K. Archie R. Smallwood, PGC**



Sir Knights we have heard many times the saying that every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar. The statement then seems to bring about the question why? The answer is that we as Templars believe in the Christian Religion and

that our Saviour and the Captain of our Salvation is Jesus Christ. I know that I believe and I hope and pray that you also believe this. Then why do we say that every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar, and the answer is that to go through the orders of being a Knight Templar we find that we are reminded of just what the Captain of our Salvation taught while here on earth. We find in the orders the way we should act, and how we should be humble, and to help, aid, and defend the widows and orphans throughout life. To be a Knight Templar is an honor that we share with the hope that we would treat others as we wish to be treated.

This time of year we recognize more readily the birth of our Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ. For without Him we could do nothing but with Him we can do what He called us to do. At Christmas time we give gifts and have dinners with the family, but I would suggest that maybe we should share our good fortune and share with others. We have many opportunities to do so with many worthy organizations.

Each day we live we owe it all to God Almighty and through His beloved Son Jesus Christ we not only have a leader of faith, but also one who forgives us when we may not be perfect. The teachings that Jesus gave us were to first Love God and second to Love our neighbor as ourselves. This was the first and second of the 10 Commandments that God gave to Moses.

Now let us hear the teaching from the Holy Bible, King James Version starting in the Book of Matthew 1:16-25.

*(continued next column)*

*16. And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.*

*17. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generation; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.*

*18. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

*19. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.*

*20. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto the Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.*

*21. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

*22. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,*

*23. Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

*24. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:*

*25. And knew her not till she had brought for her firstborn son; and he called his name JESUS.*

These are words from the Holy Bible concerning the Captain of our Salvation, Jesus Christ. Let us take heed and look to Him for our guidance and salvation.





## **John Baxter Hitt, II**

May 10, 1939 – November 17, 2020

### **Grand High Priest**

Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons  
1986 - 1988

**John Baxter Hitt, II**, a native of Louisville, was introduced to Masonry by his father, a member of the Louisville York Rite, and as a member of DeMolay. Raised a Master Mason in 1960 by Lexington Lodge No. 1 while attending school there, he shortly thereafter joined the York Rite, receiving the Orders of Knighthood in November of that same year. An active member, he served as both High Priest and Illustrious Master in 1968.

He graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy in 1963, and remained in Lexington for several years. He returned to Louisville in 1973, moving his Symbolic Lodge membership to St. Matthews Lodge No. 906 where he served as Master in 1980. He also became an active member of the Louisville York Rite bodies, serving as High Priest of King Solomon Chapter in 1976, Illustrious Master of Louisville Council in 1977 and Commander of DeMolay Commandery in 1979-80. In 1986 he was elected Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons, serving two terms, and continued to serve the Grand Chapter in a number of capacities. Elected Grand Treasurer in September, 2011, he served until September, 2019, when poor health led him to decline to serve further. He and Elaine are also members of Crescent Hill Chapter, OES, where they have served as Worthy Patron and Matron.

JB was also a member of the Valley of Louisville Scottish Rite and Kosair Shrine Temple. He served on the Board of Directors of Kosair Charities. He was a member of the Red Cross of Constantine, the Philalethes Society, the York Rite College, and many other appendant bodies.

In 1993, he was elected as a Trustee of the General Grand Chapter and served in that position for six years, until elected General Grand Treasurer in 1999. He also served as Regional Deputy for the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, International from 1993-1996.

He was awarded the Knight Commander of the Temple by the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, USA in 2013 and the Lifetime Achievement Award by Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons in 2016.

JB is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Elaine; his grandchildren, John Spencer Hitt (Maggie), Aileen Hitt Stuecker (Brian), Eric (Meagan), Sharyn Jameson (Russel), Tim (Jessica), Matthew (Amanda), and Patrick (Kelly) Wemes; his sisters, Barbara DeGeorge, and Suzanne Bolus; and nine great grandchildren, Quinn, Tinsley and Willow Stuecker; Ford, Birdie and Sonny Hitt; Russell Jameson and Bella and Lucy Wemes. He was preceded in death by two children, John Baxter Hitt III and Susan Hitt Wemes.



## ***NOTICES AND UPDATES***



### **GRAND CHAPTER OF KENTUCKY ROYAL ARCH MASONS**

**George R. Arnold, Grand High Priest**

### **AREA MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED**

**A Virtual Meeting will be held after the first of the year at a date to be determined.**

**Details will be posted on the Grand Chapter Facebook page, on our website at [yorkriteky.org](http://yorkriteky.org), and via email.**

### **KYRIS TRAINING**

**For all Secretaries/Recorders**

**There will be a virtual online KYRIS training class sometime after the first of the year.**

**It will be held via Zoom**

**You will be able to ask questions.**

**All Secretaries/Recorders are encouraged to participate, especially those who have accepted the office in the last couple of years.**

**Let me know specific topics you'd like to see covered.**

### ***Upcoming Degree Work and Events*** ***(as we have it)***

- *12/11/2020 – Grand Commandery Virtual Christmas Observance 8:00 pm ET*
- *12/14/2020 – Council Degrees, Cumberland Council, Williamsburg*
- *12/15/2020 – Louisville-DeMolay Virtual Christmas Observance*
- *1/15-16/2021 – Paintsville Winter Festival, Chapter and Council Degrees.*
- *2/6/2021 – Paintsville Winter Festival, Commandery Orders*

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



**Eminent Commander Al Clark  
and the Knights of  
Louisville DeMolay Commandery No. 12**

Invite you to join them for a  
**Virtual Christmas Observance**  
Dec 15, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88531970110?pwd=aTN5ZnBOOXIYcXNPdHc4NTVCMmR3QT09>

Meeting ID: **885 3197 0110**

Passcode: **742016**

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,88531970110#,,,,,0#,,742016#

US (New York)

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US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)



Companions, the Grand Chapter Officers have decided to make a revision to the Inspection Report. We've added a section for visitation points. We realize that many times, most Chapters are only missing or need one or two members to be able to open. So we thought we would try to give some bonus points for visiting another chapter. There are some basic requirements to get the points, the visiting Chapter must have either, the High Priest and two members or two Officers and one member present when visiting another Chapter. The date of the visit, chapter visited and members present must all be recorded on the Inspection Report. We have added the revised form to the website. If you have any questions please contact one of the Grand Officers.

*Greg Raque*

*(A copy of the revised form can be found on the next page. – Editor)*



***Commandery Christmas  
Observances***

- *12/6/2020 - Franklin Commandery Christmas Observance - 3 pm CST*
- *12/11/2020 – Grand Commandery Virtual Christmas Observance - 8:00 pm EST*
- *12/15/2020 – Louisville-DeMolay Virtual Christmas Observance - 7:00 pm EST*
- *12/25/2020 - Owensboro Commandery Christmas Observance – 11 am CST*

## GRAND CHAPTER OF KENTUCKY OFFICAL VISIT FORM

**Chapter:** \_\_\_\_\_ **No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**DGHP Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Area:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL POINTS EARNED** \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance: Members \_\_\_\_\_ < 2 years (Bonus) \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

1Ea. HP \_\_\_ K \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ TR \_\_\_ SEC \_\_\_ COH \_\_\_ PS \_\_\_ RAC \_\_\_ M3V \_\_\_ M2V \_\_\_ M1V \_\_\_ SEN \_\_\_ 1Ea. \_\_\_

Convocations: Stated \_\_\_\_\_ Called \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_ 1Ea. \_\_\_

Full Form Opening & Closing (max. 36) (both required) Total \_\_\_\_\_ 3Ea. \_\_\_

Stated Convocation Average Attendance \_\_\_\_\_ (9 or more to qualify, Max 24) 2Pt. \_\_\_

HP \_\_\_ K \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ TR \_\_\_ SEC \_\_\_ COH \_\_\_ PS \_\_\_ RAC \_\_\_ M3V \_\_\_ M2V \_\_\_ M1V \_\_\_ SEN \_\_\_ 3Ea. \_\_\_

(9 or More to qualify, Max36)

Area Meeting: Five Officers Attending \_\_\_yes \_\_\_No 10Pt. \_\_\_

HP \_\_\_ Officers \_\_\_ Members \_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ 2Ea. \_\_\_

Grand Session: HP \_\_\_ Officers \_\_\_ Members \_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ 2Ea. \_\_\_

Ritual: Rituals NOT used in Opening and Closing by Officers: (Max 24)

HP \_\_\_ K \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ TR \_\_\_ SEC \_\_\_ COH \_\_\_ PS \_\_\_ RAC \_\_\_ M3V \_\_\_ M2V \_\_\_ M1V \_\_\_ SEN \_\_\_ 2Ea. \_\_\_

HP Proficient or Proficient in Station \_\_\_\_\_ (Max 12) 2Ea. \_\_\_

Capitular Degrees Conferred (Not Candidates): MM \_\_\_ PM \_\_\_ MEM \_\_\_ RA \_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ 2Ea. \_\_\_

Visitation: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Chap# \_\_\_\_\_ HP \_\_\_ Officers \_\_\_ Members \_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Chap# \_\_\_\_\_ HP \_\_\_ Officers \_\_\_ Members \_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Chap# \_\_\_\_\_ HP \_\_\_ Officers \_\_\_ Members \_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ (Max 15) 5Ea. \_\_\_

HP w/ 2 Companions or 2 Officers w/ 1 Companion if HP is absent 5Ea. \_\_\_

Membership: No. Exalted (Own Chapter) \_\_\_\_\_ 3Ea. \_\_\_

N. Exalted (Festival-Your Members) \_\_\_\_\_ Membership & delinquent Committees \_\_\_\_\_ 4Ea. \_\_\_

York Rite Program in a Symbolic Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ (Max of 20Pt.) 6Ea. \_\_\_

York Rite Program in a Symbolic Lodge District Meeting \_\_\_\_\_ (max 12Pt.) 2Ea. \_\_\_

Education in Chapter Convocation \_\_\_\_\_ 5Pt. \_\_\_

Secretary Making Key Stone Available and/or reading at Meetings

RARA: RARA Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraiser(s) for RARA \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ 5Ea. \_\_\_

\$1 per Member to RARA \_\_\_yes \_\_\_No 10Pt. \_\_\_

Comments/ Grand Chapter Appointment

Recommendations \_\_\_\_\_

*Chapter Work Begins Friday January 15th at 6:00 PM*

*Saturday January 16th Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.*

*Degrees Continue 9:00 a.m.*

*Council Degrees Conferred 1:00 PM*

*Commandery Orders to be Conferred*

*February 6th Starting at 9:00 AM*

*Cost 125 per candidate*

*courtesy work no charge*



# WINTER FESTIVAL

*please join*

*The Paintsville York Rite Bodies*

*January 15th and 16th, 2021*

# News from the General Grand Chapter Triennial

## GENERAL GRAND OFFICERS

**General Grand High Priest**  
M.:E.:C.: Steven G. Tiner

**General Grand King**  
R.:E.:C.: Teko A. Foly

**General Grand Scribe**  
R.:E.:C.: Chadwick B. Burks

**Congratulations to the following Kentucky Companions on their appointments in General Grand Chapter:**



**Deputy General Grand High Priest**

**East Central Region**

**James H. King Jr.**  
(W. R. Selby, Sr. No. 4)

**General Grand Sentinel**

**Archie R. Smallwood**  
(King Solomon No. 5; Bullitt No. 44)



**General Grand Chapter Ambassador for Kentucky**

**George Ralph Arnold**  
(W. R. Selby, Sr. No. 4)



**GRAND COMMANDERY OF  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF KENTUCKY**

*From the Apartments of the Grand Prelate*

**A TOAST  
TO OUR RIGHT EMINENT GRAND  
COMMANDER  
CHRISTMAS 2020**

We the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Kentucky propose a toast to our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight William Jackson. You have taken us through the most dreadful times with this Pandemic of the Corona Virus and now living under the time of governmental shutdowns you have led us through all of this with our integrity and confidence intact following after our guidelines of our name Knight Templar. We applaud you for your dedication to this Order of Knights Templar in Kentucky. May God grant you continued leadership throughout your term in office.

Christmas time is normally one of cheer and giving of gifts to family and friends, but we as Knight Templar remember our orders, we also recall the message that has been taught us, we give praise to the Captain of our Salvation, Jesus Christ. When we think of the birth of the baby Jesus and all the struggles that he went through from birth at Christmas till death on the cross we given reverence and praise for the birth and suffering he went through so that we may have the hope of life forever more. This is a time we recall our vows to welcome the poor and weary pilgrim, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. These are the vows we still recognize today and every day.

Right Eminent Grand Commander your term has been one of trials and still you give us hope through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Your leadership, as well as your guidance gives us hope for the future during this time of travail. We know that through your leadership we will maintain patience, energy, wisdom, creativity, and love for Masonry, wheresoever dispersed.

To you, Right Eminent Grand Commander we raise our cups and unite our voices in fraternal love and admiration. We give this pledge of our support for your term as we give to you our service and friendship, and honor. We know that you will carry us through this time of 2020 and into 2021 as true Knights Templar.

A toast to you, Right Eminent Grand Commander

In His Name,

*Sir Knight Reverend Archie R Smallwood, PGC*  
Grand Prelate



**GRAND COMMANDERY OF  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF KENTUCKY**

*From the Apartments of the Grand Commander*

**Grand Commander's Response  
Christmas 2020**

To the Eminent Grand Prelate and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky.

Knightly Greetings:

I sincerely thank the Eminent Grand Prelate for his praises of my leadership in this time of COVID-19. As you know God blessed me with a stroke on 24 September 2020; since then I have been learning to walk again. But as you also know God never gives us more than we can bear. There are lessons for us to learn through all of this; not the least of which is the value of family. Anytime we think we have it tough we only need to remember what our Savior went through for our ability to have peace and everlasting life. He is the One and Only "whose rising has brought health to the nations, and light to those who sat in darkness and in the valley of the shadow of death.

As we traverse the pitfalls of COVID-19 and those of our personal lives, let us always remember that we are not alone. Keep remembering what God did for us by sending His only Son, Jesus Christ. Let us be mindful every day of Christ's trials and the pain He endured just to give us eternal life. May we try to emulate Him by caring for those less fortunate. Let us be mindful of all God's creatures in these trying times. Let us remember that we are a brotherhood, looking out for fellow Sir Knights, wherever dispersed. Let us also never forget that we are family, the most valuable thing we are blessed with on this earth.

All the Officers of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky and their Ladies join with Lady Carol and me in wishing everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Courteously,

*William J. Jackson, M.D.*

Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky

## THE YORK RITE AT WORK



*Ken-tenn Chapter No. 148 exalted four companions to the August Degree of Royal Arch Mason on November 9, 2020. Welcome to Companions Clay Kennett, Justin Johnson, Blake Kennett, and Houston Nolan. Photo submitted by George Arnold, GHP*



*Graham Chapter No 80 in Franklin, KY, exalted 5 companions to the August Degree of a Royal Arch Mason on December 1, 2020. Congratulations to the new Companions. Photo submitted by George Arnold, GHP.*

## THE MORE YOU KNOW

*I found the following article to be interesting, and while there is almost no supporting evidence given for the presented idea, it makes for interesting reading. It is taken from the *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, Volume 10, published 1897. Please keep in mind as you read the last couple of paragraphs that this was published long before the Nazis co-opted the swastika for their purposes, and that the swastika has been used as a much more benign symbol for thousands of years and by many cultures. - Editor*

Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge

### THE LETTER G.

BY BRO. JOHN A. COCKBURN, Adelaide.

*By letters four and science five  
This G aright doth stand.*



HE more closely we adhere to the ancient landmarks in Masonry the clearer will be our comprehension of its teaching. Owing to a departure from tradition the letter G has become a puzzle both as to its shape and meaning. Though supposed to represent Geometry and occupying the place of honour in the Lodge, the outline of this letter stands pronounced as the most ungeometrical and therefore the most unmasonic of our emblems. The reason of this discrepancy is not far to seek when we call to mind the fact that the present form of the letter dates no further back than the middle of the third century B.C., and its intrusion among Masonic emblems can be regarded in no other light than as a comparatively modern innovation. In its original form the letter G was held to be sacred by the Pythagoreans; it was the initial letter of the Earth Goddess Ge or Gaia in whose honour the Eleusinian mysteries were celebrated; it also stood for geometry, a word derived from Ge and used by Pythagoras as synonymous with Tetractys or the Divinity. When however, our ancient brethren turned their eyes towards the sacred symbol they beheld, not the unmeaning form of the letter G, but the gimel or gamma  $\Gamma$ , the emblem in all ages the most revered by our Craft, the true Masonic square.

The second tracing board tells us that the letter G denotes God and depicts certain Hebrew characters, these characters are the four letters which spell the holy name Jehovah, the awful Tetragrammaton. In the opinion of the ancients the most fitting geometrical representation of the number four was by means of the square; Plutarch says that "The number four is a square" and according to Philo Judaeus "Four is the most ancient of all square numbers, it is found to exist in right angles as the figure

of a square in geometry shows," and "Four is the first number which is a square being equal on all sides, the measure of justice and equality." What then could be more appropriate than the representation of the Tetractys or the Tetragrammaton by the square letter gamma? And to what letter other than that bearing the form of the square could the attention of the Craftsman about to receive his wages be with equal propriety directed? The square is one of the working tools of a fellow-craft, and is the emblem of that just relation between man and man which entitled the workman relying on the honesty of his work and on the integrity of his employer, to claim without scruple and without diffidence the due reward of his labour.

In short, the gamma or the square falls into its place in the mosaic of masonry as readily as the modern G refuses to be assimilated, and this harmony goes far to establish the antiquity of our ritual; for, if the text is obscure with the letter G but becomes luminous with the gamma, there is proof that the ritual must have been settled before the disappearance of the ancient and the introduction of the modern letter.'

The fifth science was geometry which explains the G or  $\Gamma$  in its operative aspect, and the letters four, or tetragrammaton, would elucidate its other, or symbolic, meaning.

Is it not just possible that the form in which the letter G formerly appeared in the lodge may have been that of the Swastica,  $\卐$ , one of the most frequent and sacred of figures in both Eastern and Western Symbolism, whose absence from modern Craft Masonry is a matter of surprise? The Swastica is composed of four gammas combined and was known among old time craftsmen as the tetragrammaton.

It is impossible to avoid a feeling of regret that the beautiful symbolism of the square has been marred by the usurpation of the letter G in the place of the gamma, and it appears to be a question worthy of consideration whether it would not be well to show our respect for the ancient landmarks by restoring to the sacred symbol its original form.

## THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP

*The Bible Lecture in the Kentucky Monitor instructs us that “the Great Light of Masonry” is “the one Volume which has lived in the hearts of the people, moulding and shaping their destinies...” and charges us to “make it the rule and guide of our life and conduct.” Where better to turn for lessons on leadership? A few passages and some thoughts on their application. Scripture passages are from the ESV.*

**1 Timothy 4:12** ... set ... an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

*Personal character is essential to being a good leader, to maintaining the peace and harmony of the lodge and to having members follow your lead to accomplish the goals you have set.*

**Philippians 2:3** Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

*Trying to outdo others for personal aggrandizement leads to conflict and failure, and ultimately to the detriment of the organization.*

**Exodus 18:21** Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. *Surround yourself with good people who are seeking the good of the organization and are willing to work toward that purpose with you.*

**1 Timothy 3:1-7** The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

*Again, personal character is essential; more especially for a Masonic leader.*

**Romans 12:9-13** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. *A passage loaded with good advice for leaders; show character, care for your members, have a good attitude.*

**Galatians 6:9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. *Keep a positive attitude, keep on keeping on.*

**Matthew 20:26** It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, *Place the needs of the organization before your own desires for power and prestige.*

**Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. *To be a good leader, you must also be a good follower; give your utmost to those over you, support their goals wholeheartedly.*

**Proverbs 11:14** Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety. *Surround yourself with wise and faithful members; listen to their advice and ignore it at your own peril.*

**1 Peter 5:3** Not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

*Let those you lead see your character, your love for the craft. Put the needs of the organization above your desires for attention and accolades.*

**Philippians** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

*Masonry teaches that we look to the interests of our brothers, that we help, aid and assist, that we come to his relief and that we guide him back to the right path when he strays.*



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