



# Chapter Notes

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



Fall 2022

Wayne H. Rollf, MEGHP 2022-2023



## **Hope**

Just a couple of years back our lives changed. Covid! Some believed it was a real threat and yet others did not. Regardless of what you or I believed, it changed our lives. We found ourselves not doing things we had always done. There were those became hermits or maybe I should say became secluded, did not get out, and made no contact with anyone. Yes, there are still some that way. Others looked for ways to stay in contact, were careful, maybe took the vaccine, maybe wore a mask, and worked to make their way.

Masonry like other organizations and even churches suffered from the Covid. Everything slowed down and some say everything came to a stop. Our Masonic organizations looked for ways to stay in contact. Emails, testing, and telephone conversations continued and so we keep in contact. Zoom meeting became frequent. But it lacked the personal interaction and fellowship. Staying away for the Masonic buildings was common. Some found ways to gradually meet. Keeping social distance (even twice the distance), some brought their lawn chairs, some with face masks, came to a parking lot and found that fellowship that was missing. As things improved, we gradually started back to what we called normal. We are still not to that stage. There is Hope!

About fifteen years or more back I saw some disturbing things. Too many Lodges were either closing or merging. This was true also with the York Rite Bodies. Attendance dwindled. Learning ritual almost stopped. Apathy! Masonic-Covid! Is there no hope for the widow's son?

I have often said, "It only takes one person to turn it around". That special Brother, Companion, or Sir Knight can make the difference. He may just find that new petitioner who can change everything. There is Hope! Closing, merging, or pulling a charter is not always the answer. Once that Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is gone, it is gone. True for all Masonic bodies. Don't let that happen to your Chapter. There is Hope!

The Grand York Rite leadership last year worked hard to save a couple of York Rite Bodies. Their efforts appear to have achieved their goal. I cannot take credit for their efforts, but only say thank-you. In the last several months, with dedications of about a dozen dedicated Companions and Sir Knights, traveling many miles (some up to four to nine hours each way), and sometimes two nights lodging, have conferred work on twenty-seven new members. All traveling at their own expense. There is hope for these two York Rite Bodies to thrive and grow. One Brother needs to complete his degrees. Some Companions still need the Commandery Orders. We are working to find a date that will



work. Dodging Lodge schools of instruction with their erratic schedule has been a problem. There is Hope! We all need to continue to support these York Rite Bodies as the endeavor to rebuild. We cannot walk away and say it is up to them. There is Hope!

Not everyone is a ritualist. Some of us can help with other things. Some of us are not able to learn new ritual. Some of us need to teach what do know to new members. If we do not let and give the new members a change to participate, they will leave and what have we gained? "Let somebody else do it?" But there is Hope!

As I review the results for our neighboring state, Missouri, with the "Grand Master's Class", I have Hope! If we can find such results in Kansas..... There is Hope!

When I was installed as Grand High Priest, I used the "yard stick" to measure the many years of the York Rite advancement and goals. Why not the twelve-inch rule? I wanted everyone to look beyond the normal and search for something greater. Don't leave your "yardstick" in my yard but pick it up and put it to use. Don't forget the York Rite consists of four bodies, the Masonic Lodge, the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Council of Cryptic Masons, and the Commander of Knight Templar. It all starts with the Blue Lodge. Remember your obligations. Search your conscience and listen. By your endeavors, the grace of God, ..... There is HOPE!

God speed thee on thy way and assure thee of success.

### ***Chapter Degrees Conferred in Liberal***

Friday, July 8, and Saturday, July 9, 2022, was a big day! Officers from the Grand Chapter of Kansas and members from across the state came together in Liberal to assist the Companions in bringing new members into the York Rite Bodies of Liberal. There were nine candidates who started their Capitular Degree journey on Friday night and completed in on Saturday afternoon. Thank you to all who attended, received the degrees, helped with the conferrals, and prepared and served the meals for the conferrals. It takes an entire group to make this happen and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas is pleased to have been a part of the conferrals.





## ***Visitations to Your Chapter***

The District Deputy Grand High Priests of each district are well into this Capitular year and have been making their official visits to each Chapter within the jurisdiction. Remember, the DDGHPs are visiting to be a help to you and your Chapters. If you have any questions, or need help in any way, do not hesitate to ask them. They are here to serve and to assist each Chapter in their growth and continued successes. If your Chapter has not yet received its official visit, you can be assured it will happen soon. A list can be found later in this publication.

## ***Why Capitular Masonry?***

Many masons do not know why the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was started or why it is a needed part of the Master Mason's natural completion of their degree search.

The Holy Royal Arch used to be conferred within the blue lodges. This is because it was deemed important to the Master Mason to receive this important degree as the completion of their degree study within the blue lodge. Before the Holy Royal Arch degree could be conferred upon a mason, he must first have passed the chair. This meant he had to be a past master of a blue lodge. This created an issue with the conferral of this important degree because not everyone was a past master. This created the necessity for a past master degree, even if it only honorary or virtual. Thus the beginning of the Past Master degree as started. It was conferred originally on brother Master Masons who desired to advance to the degree of the Holy Royal Arch. The first conferral of the Past Master degree was in England around 1768.



Now that the brother was a Past Master, even if only virtual, they could receive the degree of the Holy Royal Arch. Research reveals the degree was first conferred in Ireland in the late 17th century. Another instance was recorded in England in 1738. There was evidence of the degree being conferred through the British Military Lodges as early as 1752. These traveling or occasional lodges were responsible for bringing the degree, along with the Mark Master degree, to the new world. The first such conferral in the new world, or North America, was in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on December 12, 1753. This is interesting because Brother George Washington was raised a Master Mason in that lodge only a few months earlier.

Receiving the True Word of a Master Mason should be the goal of every mason. Invite your Brothers to join the York Rite. The light they receive will continue their search for more education and more light as they continue their masonic journey.



## ***More New Capitular Members***

With the success of the Chapter festival in Liberal, the Goodland Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is seeing some new activity. Under the leadership of Companion Tom Krauss of Salina Chapter No. 15, a festival was held on Saturday, August 27, 2022, at Goodland. There were 11 new members of the Chapter who took the Capitular Degrees and proceeded to the Cryptic Degrees.



Congratulations to the new members on receiving their degrees, and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas is ready to assist them in growing their York Rite in Goodland.

## ***District Deputy Grand High Priests***

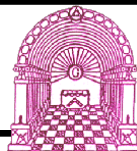
The year is underway and the DDGHPs are conducting their visits to the constituent Chapters within the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas. Below is a list of the DDGHPs and the Chapters they will be visiting and assisting when needed.

- District #1: Companion Jamie L. Carwell (Mt. Horeb #43)  
Washington Chapter #1 in Atchison, Leavenworth Chapter #2 in Prairie Village, Wyandotte Chapter #6 in Kansas City, and Mt. Horeb Chapter #43 in Hiawatha.
- District #2: Companion Warren L. Hughes (Iola Chapter #8)  
Iola Chapter #8 in Iola, Keystone Chapter #22 in Independence, Parsons Chapter #18 in Parsons, Pittsburg Chapter #58 in Pittsburg, and Coffeyville Chapter #89 in Coffeyville.
- District #3: Companion Wayne D. Drake (Lawrence Chapter #4)  
Lawrence Chapter #4 in Baldwin City, Topeka Chapter #5 In Topeka, Junction City Chapter #17 in Junction City, and Temple Chapter #26 in Burlingame.
- District #4: Companion Ronald J. Mozingo (Winfield Chapter #31)  
Winfield Chapter #31 in Winfield, Wichita Chapter #33 in Newton, Kingman Chapter #71 in Kingman, and Conway Springs Chapter #94 in Conway Springs.
- District #5: Companion Patrick C. Carr (Salina Chapter #15)  
Salina Chapter No. 18 in Salina, Hays Chapter #68 in Hays, Liberal Chapter #65 in Liberal, and Goodland Chapter #74 in Goodland.



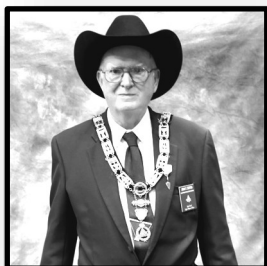
# Council Cliff Notes

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Kansas



Fall 2022

John T. Staton., MIGM 2022-2023



## ***Illustrious Thoughts***

I do not write this article as a happy camper, I got home on May 8 and immediately came down with Covid. It took till the 1<sup>st</sup> of June to become functional again.

In July we went to the Eastern Star Kansas Nebraska Exchange. We returned home on July 17 and Ruth Ann immediately came down with Covid. About two weeks later she got over Covid.

On August the 7 we returned from attending the Session of the Sovereign York Rite College of North America Session. I immediately came down with Covid. Saturday August 13 I was not recovering as well as I wanted to so I went to the emergency room and spent about four hours. The Doctor said I had the beginning of pneumonia. So I went home with some prescriptions.

We were told to get your vaccinations, get boosted and you will be fairly safe. With the new variants this does not appear to be true. I urge everyone to be a little cautious, because mister variant is waiting out there to walk through your vaccination.

M.:I.: Companion John Staton  
Who has been completely slapped by Covid.

## ***South Central York Rite Meetings***

The South Central York Rite meetings will be held on Friday, September 16, 2022 and Saturday, September 17, 2022, in Shreveport, Louisiana. The host hotel will be the Sam's Town Casino. On Friday the Grand Chapter meetings will be held in the morning. The Grand Council meetings will be held after lunch. The Department meetings will be held from the Grand Commandery on Saturday.

It would be great to see as many Kansas York Rite masons as possible attend these meetings. The South Central Region is comprised of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. It is great to hear from the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA, at these meetings. Plus it provides the opportunity to meet York Rite members from the region. More information can be found at [southcentrallyr.org](http://southcentrallyr.org).



## ***Liberal has new Cryptic Masons***

On Saturday, July 9, 2022, officers from the Grand Council of Kansas and members from across the state came together in Liberal to assist the Companions in bringing new members into the York Rite Bodies of



Liberal. The Chapter degrees were conferred the previous evening and completed earlier in the day to prepare the Companions to receive the knowledge and wisdom of the Cryptic Degrees. There were nine candidates who started their Cryptic Degree journey on Saturday afternoon. Thank you to all who attended,

received the degrees, helped with the conferrals, and prepared and served the meals for the conferrals. It takes an entire group to make this happen and the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas is pleased to have been a part of the conferrals.

## ***The End is Near. . .***

The end of the year, that is. It is almost the end of another Cryptic year and as it ends, so ends your opportunity to make a donation for 2022. We only have a few more months to make a tax deductible donation to Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. All donations receive Council credit. Lets see how many of our Councils during this year can make a donation of \$10 per member. That is a great honor for our constituent Councils and one which is within each of our grasp.



# **CMMRF**

**CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION**



## ***The Super Excellent Master Degree***

*From the Cryptic Masons International Website*

We hear a lot about the Super Excellent Master Degree, yet it is rarely exemplified. So just what is this degree all about? As has been stated before, the degree of Super Excellent Master is not a degree of the Crypt. But, it relates events that lead to the recovery of the lost Word. This degree beautifully tells of a period in history in which all Freemasons are interested, that period following the destruction of the First Temple. The essence of the degree is foretold in the presentation by the Principal Sojourner in the Royal Arch Degree when he makes the following reference: "Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem, and he did which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God," etc.

The degree of Super Excellent Master is one of the best devised, most impressive, and beautiful degrees. It is most enlightening and relevant to one's daily life. In a display of exciting events, Biblical characters come to life exemplifying this historic event. Here Nebuchadnezzar rules again, Zedekiah proves the results of his wicked life, and Ezekiel and Jeremiah prophesize the promises of Almighty God.

It is a beautiful and meaningful degree. It takes many Cryptic Masons to confer the degree because there are many parts. The next time the degree is offered, make it a point to travel and witness it. You will not regret the time you spent getting there to see it.

## ***More Cryptic Masonry Happening in Goodland***

Another festival has been held for Kansas Cryptic Masonry. On August 27, 2022, in Goodland, Kansas, 11 new members were added to the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Kansas. The degree work was excellent and was organized by many Companions. A special thanks goes out to Companion Tom Krauss of Ellsworth Council No. 9 of Salina for all the hard work he has provided to arrange the festival for the Companions in Goodland. Great job!







## **Why the Sword and the Trowel?**

*Companion Patrick C. Carr, Editor*

The sword and the trowel are important symbols and implements used in Masonry in general and specifically in Cryptic Masonry. The sword is an implement of protection and sometimes violence. The sword reminds us of the Tiler who protects the door to the Lodge during meetings. We see it mentioned as well in Old Testament scripture. We read in Nehemiah 4:15-18, "When our enemies heard that we knew their scheme and that God had frustrated it, every one of us returned to his own

work on the wall. <sup>16</sup> From that day on, half of my men did the work while the other half held spears, shields, bows, and armor. The officers supported all the people of Judah, <sup>17</sup> who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried the loads worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other. <sup>18</sup> Each of the builders had his sword strapped around his waist while he was building, and the trumpeter was beside me." It was therefore necessary to have the sword present when the workmen were building the walls of Jerusalem to secure protection of themselves from their enemies.

In the Lodge, the trowel is an implement used to spread the cement which is used in constructing the building. It is symbolically used to bring the Brethren together in harmony and brotherly love. The scripture quoted earlier from Nehemiah does not specifically mention the trowel as being used in building the walls of Jerusalem, however we know it was the implement used by the operative stone masons who were employed in the construction. Nehemiah used workmen who were not only skilled in construction, but skilled in warfare as well. This was necessary to protect the walls of Jerusalem during the construction and those who were working on the building. The trowel can be viewed as a symbol of completion as well. This includes the building upon which it is used. It also can be viewed as being used to build our own spiritual buildings and temples.

Combine this with the Perfect Ashlar from the Lodge, and we see how the three can come together spiritually for each of us. The sword is used to protect ourselves spiritually from the enemy who would seek to bring us down. The trowel reminds us to continue to work to complete our spiritual temple in all of our actions. The Perfect Ashlar reminds us we need to strive to hone our own stones from the Rough Ashlar to prepare it for the completion of our spiritual temple. All of these work together to remind us to constantly seek to make ourselves better as men and Masons as we travel through this imperfect world.

