



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



[www.mcalesterscottishrite.org](http://www.mcalesterscottishrite.org)

**Newsletter Date**

**January 25, 2023**

**Editor : Don Jones, 33°**



**Masonic Center Hours:**  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM ( closed Noon  
to 1:00) Monday–Thursday, Closed  
on Fridays  
305 2nd St.  
McAlester, OK 74501  
918-423-6360

## Upcoming Events:

### 1st Wednesday of the Month

Duncan Scottish Rite Chapter, 11:30 AM,  
Jimmie's Egg, Duncan

### 1st Thursday of the Month

Oklahoma County Scottish Rite Chapter,  
OKC 11:30 AM I40 & Meridian

### 2nd Monday of the Month

Lodge of Perfection Meeting,  
Meeting at 7:00 pm

### 2nd Wednesday of the Month

Indian Chapter, Scottish Rite Noon  
McAlester Scottish Rite Cente

### 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Muskogee Chapter, Scottish Rite  
Masonic Temple Noon

Note: Scottish Rite Chapters and Societies, be  
sure to notify the office of any changes in  
meeting place and times.

## Advisory Council and Officers

Jack Inman, 33°, Chairman  
Mike Ebert, 33° General Secretary  
William C. Cox, 33°, Member  
Thomas S. Crowl, 33 G.C., Member Emeritus  
Wade Massey, 33°, Member  
Phillip Johnson, 32° KCCH Member  
Samuel Box, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master  
Brent Heilman 32°, KCCH, Wise Master  
Mike Wright, 32°, KCCH, Commander  
Russell Davis 32°, Master of Kadosh

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

In February, there will be a "Special Issue" of the Blast. The entire issue will be devoted to an essay by Bro. Tom Keenze, 33°; Valley of McAlester. The essay's title is:

"Freemasons/ Why is our Membership Declining?"

It is this editor's opinion that Bro. Keenze has written one of the most informative and concise thoughts about our current situation.

Look for the Special Issue in February.

**EVERY MASONS SHOULD READ THE  
ABOVE-MENTIONED ESSAY.  
WHY?**



It will answer some questions. Such as this one -- our Membership Model: "The problem facing modern Freemasonry, and its decline in membership, is its 'membership model.' To require interested seekers to pay to join a lodge that offers no 'intrinsic' value of no 'tangible' service isn't working. Sure, by joining a lodge, dues payers get access to an esoteric library (maybe), something we all need these days.

Other topic:

The Death of Freemasonry; when change changes you.  
How much does it cost to be a Freemason?  
Is Freemasonry dying or evolving?  
Why is union membership in decline??  
Is AA membership declining? (interesting)

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



BeAFreemason.org



Dr. G. David Donathan, 33° President  
Brett Cable, 32° KCCH Vice-President  
Jeremy Warren, 33°, Trustee  
Bruce Hall 33° Trustee Emeritus  
Advisory Council Trustees  
Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33° SGIG

If you do not wish to receive this email, please send an email to [enews-unsubscribe@mcasr.org](mailto:enews-unsubscribe@mcasr.org). For questions or comments email [news@mcasr.org](mailto:news@mcasr.org).

Upcoming Reunions:

**2023**  
**April 1-2**  
**October 21 & 22**

Masonic Website on Interest

[Supreme Council 33 Southern Jurisdiction, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry](#)

[Supreme Council 33 Northern Jurisdiction, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry](#)

[Grand Lodge of Oklahoma](#)

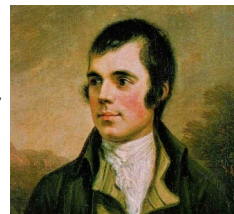
[Scottish Rite, Valley of Guthrie](#)

[Scottish Rite, Valley of Tulsa](#)

[Scottish Rite Research Society](#)

# ROBERT BURNS, Poet of Freemasonry

It is in honor of Bro. Burns birthday this month, that we include a brief memorial to his honor.



Bro. Robert Burns was born on January 25, 1759. At the age of 22, he initiated into the Mysteries of Freemasonry in St. David's Lodge at Tarblton, Scotland, on July 4, 1781.

A brother named Lockhart says he (Burns) was introduced to the Lodge by John Rankin

The minutes record initiation read: sederant for July 4th, Robert Burns in Lochly was entered an Apprentice.

signed: Jo Norman, Master

Bro. Burns wrote and published over 800 poems during his life, The subject of many of the poems was Masonry. In 1787, he was praised as the poet of Scotland by Francis Christian, the Grand Master of Scotland.

Some of Burn's poems were lyrics for Masonic music. The following is an example:

## "A Mason's Song", (excerpt)

*"I cryed and wailed but nought availed  
He put a forward face  
And did avow that he was now  
A free accepted mason.*

*.....  
.But when the grip he did me slip,  
I gloried in my Mason.*

Bro. Burns died on July 2, 1796.

## ZIG ZIGLAR Speaks Positively

--- Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude.

---- Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking will.

---- Failure is an event, not a person.

--- A goal properly set is halfway reached.

—The foundation stones for a balanced success are honesty, character, integrity, faith, love and loyalty.

—Expect the best. Prepare for the worst. Capitalize on what comes.

## SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

Weekly, Wednesdays 9:00 am  
Social Hour; coffee & pastries  
McAlester S.R. Center, use South Door

**Wed. Jan. 25;** Birthday  
Robert Burns, poet  
(See article in this issue)

**Fri. Jan. 27;** Birthday  
Bro. Amadeus Mozart, composer  
Born 1756. Composer of the  
masonic opera, "The Magic Flute."

**Mon. , Feb. 13,** Officer Installations for  
Lodge of Perfection,  
Chapter of Rose Croix,  
Council of Kadosh,  
McAlester Consistory

**Mon. Feb. 20;**, Presidents' Day  
Special Guests; our Ladies  
6:30 pm - Dinner (Daughters of the  
Nile); Followed by Bingo.  
India Shrine Center, 3601 NW 36th

**Sat & Sun. April 1,2;** Spring Reunion  
McAlester Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
McAlester, OK. Top Line Signers get  
a special gift from S.A.G.S.

### MAKING THE SALE

The salesman finally convinced the store owner to buy 10,000 personalized pens for his business with the promise that he would be eligible to win a 32 foot yacht. Being a gambler, the owner agreed.

Well, he won, and a few weeks later the pens arrived, his prize showed up: a 12-inch plastic yacht with 32 plastic feet glued to the bottom.





## V. M. A. P.

### Number 3. Degree Conferral Proficiency

- A. Add one new degree per year to the Reunion.
- B. The Valley performs a minimum of 18 degrees per year with accuracy and effectiveness.
- C. The Degree Production program has a Valley Supernumerary Dept. providing volunteers for non-speaking parts (guards, knights, crowds, etc.) for degrees.
- D. Degrees not conferred are communicated either by memory or are delivered extemporaneously by Brethren well versed in the lessons of the degree.
- E. The Degree Production program includes a Wardrobe Dept. whose purpose is to keep the costumes properly stored, in good repair, and replaced when needed.
- F. Acting classes using Jim Tresner's instructions are to be offered to Degree participants.
- G. The Degree Production program includes a vocal and instrumental music department that provides a range of appropriate music for degree conferral and develops a pool of talented musicians.
- H. A Valley Technology Dept. / Committee exists that provides for quality sound, lighting and equipment upgrades for the enhancement of degree conferral.
- I. All character parts exemplified in Degree conferral, are memorized and/or are augmented by audio recordings (eg. prologues, ancient law givers changes, etc. may be amplified off stage).
- J. Degree Conferral Teams must have practiced sufficiently to enable a Degree performance that will be interesting, educational and enjoyed by the Reunion Class.

### **BIG PROBLEM? SIMPLE FIX.**

The wife had tossed and turned all night and couldn't sleep. Finally, she sat on the edge of the bed. This woke the husband up and he asked, "What's wrong?"

"I can't sleep," she said, "My nose is all stopped up."

The husband began to get out of the bed, saying, "I'll get the plunger."

## BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST

### "Heaven on Earth: The Lives and Legacies of the World's Greatest Cathedrals."

by Emma J. Wells

"Our ancient brethren wrought in operative Masonry only."

While modern Masonry is indeed speculative in nature, it is worthwhile and fascinating to study and examine the handiwork of our ancient brethren.

This book takes the reader on a vivid tour the world's most famous cathedral. Although the author's subtitle promises a portrait "the world's greatest cathedrals", her scope is much more specific.

This is a beautiful book that is well-researched and well-written, with stunning illustrations. It is a fascinating look at how commerce, civic authorities, labor, and clergy in the Middle Ages combined spirituality, symbolism, mechanical principles, and toil to create some of history's most enduring structures.

Published by InterArt, 202, Scotland. 512 pages

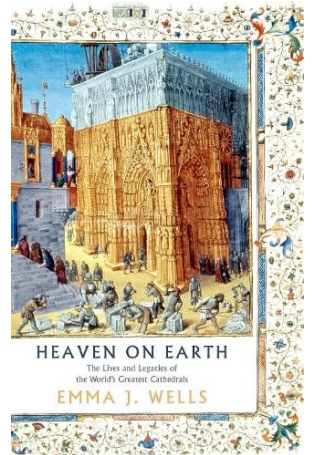
Reviewer: George Marshall for "The Knight Templar"

### NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT FROM OKLAHOMA

Past Grand Master Michael L. Dixon, KCCH 32° of Oklahoma and a member of the Valley of McAlester S.R. was honored by the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

P.G.M. Dixon was one of nine (9) Companion Knights who received the Award at the 65th General Assembly in 2022.

Bro. Dixon has continued his service to Oklahoma Masonry by accepting the office of Grand Secretary at their recent annual Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma Communication.



## DID YOU SEE IT?

If you didn't watch the annual "Rose Bowl" parade then you missed seeing a beautiful float with Masons involved.



Shriners Children planned and held a super-sized celebration in Pasadena, California, at the 134th Rose Bowl Parade on Monday, January 2nd, 2023. The theme of the float, which was built and decorated with beautiful flowers, was "Back in the Game." The sports-themed float featured a patient playing wheel-chair basketball and a patient wearing a prosthetic playing golf.

Imperial Potentate Kenneth A. Craven and First Lady J.J. along with others were present to fill the role of "Ambassadors".

Congratulations to our Shrine brethren for celebrating your philanthropy to the nation.

## BEFORE GOOGLE there were libraries.

Here are some queries posed to the staff at the public library:

@ A woman wanted "inspirational material on grass and lawns."

@ "Who built the English Channel?"

@ "Is there a full moon every night in Acapulco?"

@ "Music suitable for a doll wedding to take place between a Shirley Temple doll to a teddy bear?"

@ "Can the New York Public Library recommend a good forger?"

**A Brother somewhere is looking for More Light. Give him a petition and help him find it at our next reunion.**



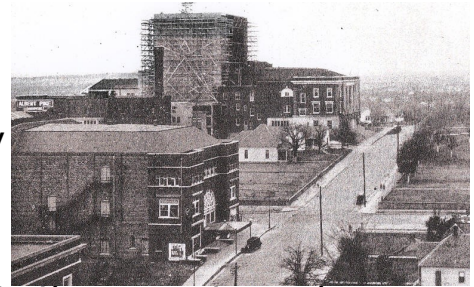
## HISTORY: RE-BUILDING THE TEMPLE

### "The Work Progresses"

June, 1930 Oklahoma Mason

#### Bricks and Bricklayers

The last big job of cement pouring -- that of the balcony -- was finished at 2:30 a.m. a few days ago. Now there remains only the roof, and a few minor patches to complete the concrete work.



In my story of the progress of the Temple, I said something about the old brick walls being taken down brick by brick and that the new walls were going up slowly but surely. This statement of mine seemed to nettle Bro. Joe Atkins, foreman of the brick-layers, and he came to "have it out" with me. "You just wait," he said, "till they give me a free hand I'll show you what my boys can do. Nearly every one of them belongs to the Blue Lodge and are very anxious to see this glorious Temple completed so that you brethren may hold your reunion in November." (1930) From the way they talk one might be led to believe that they think they are working on the Temple on Mount Moriah under the direction of 'Hiram and Adoniram.'" And Bro. Atkins is sure making good his promise.

(to be continued)

W. P. Freeman, G.S.

***"At age 60,70, later, you have so much more to contribute -- don't just sit down and say, "I'm done."***

***Donna Mills, T.V. Star***

Editor Don Jones 33°

