



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

January 28, 2025

Editor : Don Jones, 33°

2025 OFFICERS FOR VALLEY OF McALESTER INSTALLED AT JANUARY MEETING

Installation ceremony for the 2025 officers of the McAlester Bodies was held on Monday, January 13 at the McAlester Scottish Rite Masonic Center. The Masters installed were:

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master, Christopher Botts, KCCH

Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master - Ronald Gragg, Sr., KCCH

Council of Kadosh

Commander - Brian Engleman, KCCH

McAlester Consistory

Master of Kadosh - Craig B. Smith, KCCH



The officers of Orator, Almoner, Treasurer and Secretary/Registrar were all re-elected from the previous year.

All the appointed officers will move up as per Masonic tradition.

Serving as installing officers where William C. Cox, 33° as Installing officer and Brett Cable 32°, KCCH as Marshall.

The Masters duties include opening their designated Body during the Reunions and representing their respective Body on the S.G.I.G.'s Advisory Conference and will attend its meeting.

Our congratulations to all the Brethren elected and chosen to serve in the governance of our Valley's degree rituals and business. We wish you a prosperous and successful year.



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 Thursday of the Month

Oklahoma County Scottish Rite Chapter, OKC 11:00 AM McClintocks, Stockyards

2nd Monday of the Month

Lodge of Perfection Meeting, Meeting at 7:00 pm

3rd Wednesday of the Month

Muskogee Chapter, Scottish Rite Masonic Temple Noon

5th Thursday of the Month

McIntosh Chapter Scottish Rite 6:00 pm Lake Country Dinner

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

Advisory Council and Officers

Wade Massey, 33°, Chairman

Mike Ebert, 33° General Secretary

William C. Cox, 33°, Member

Phillip Johnson, 33°, Member

Harrison Bartlett, 33° Member

Chris Botts, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

Ron Gregg, Sr, 32° KCCH , Wise Master

Brian Engleman, 32° KCCH , Commander

Craig Smith, 32° KCCH , Master of Kadosh

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

You can petition the Scottish Rite for membership online at the following link:

[Online Petition](#)

Or scan this QR Code



Upcoming Reunions:

2025

April 12-13

October 11-12

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

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF RAINBOW

for GIRLS.....I.O.R.G. History

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls was formed in 1922, by William Mark Sexson, a 33rd degree Mason, in McAlester, OK. Rev. Sexson, a Christian minister and active member Masonic fraternity, was asked to make an address to South McAlester Chapter #49, Order of the Eastern Star in McAlester. As the order of DeMolay had come under his close study and observation during his masonic activities, he decided that another Organization for girls setting forth some of the principles of Freemasonry, would be welcomed if it did not have to have a Mason parent or grandparent as a requirement, as the Job's Daughters did. Today membership is open to any girl regardless of Masonic affiliation.



The first class of girls that was initiated into the Order consisted of a class of 171 girls, on April 6, 1922, in the auditorium of the Scottish Rite Temple in McAlester.

(Editor) A "bio" of Bro. W. Mark Sexson's life and Masonic history at the end of this issue under the heading - HISTORY - The Giants of the McAlester Consistory

TWO MORE OKLAHOMANS BECOME MEMBERS OF THE ACACIA GUILD.

Valley of McAlester

Bro. Lester E. Nunn, 32° from Pauls Valley, OK has become the latest member from our Valley to join the Acacia Guild of the Supreme Council. He is a member of Valle 6 in Pauls Valley. Bro. Nunn became a 32nd D tish Rite Mason at the Fall Reunion of 2012. Our congratulations go to Bro. Nunn for taking this step for the preservation of the House of the Temple.



Valley of Tulsa

Bro. Rick A. Moore, 32°, KCCH. Congratulations to Bro. Moore for his commitment to the Scottish Rite.

The Acacia Guild was established by the Supreme Council to raise funds for the preservation of the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. Brethren become members of the Guild with a \$1,000 donation to the Preservation Fund of the House of the Temple. Membership may be renewed on an annual basis.

SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

Thur., Feb. 6, 11:00 am; Luncheon
1st Thursday Scottish Rite Luncheon
McClintock's Chop House
2229 Exchange, Ave. OKC

Join us for good food and fellowship. Valley updates
by Mike Ebert, 33°, Gen. Secretary. Candidates eat free.



Mon. Feb. 10, 7:00 pm, stated mtg
McAlester Lodge of Perfection
Richards Room McAlester Scottish Rite Temple
All members are welcome.

Mon. Feb. 17; Presidents' Day
Official Holiday; Temple Office will be closed.

Sat. Feb. 22; Birthday
Bro. George Washington was born on this date in 1732.

April 12,13; 2-Day Spring Reunion
McAlester Scottish Rite Valley
Contact the Temple Office for Information. 918-423-6360

THE ACACIA

It is no accident that this tree has been associated with Freemasonry for centuries and is featured prominently in the organization's most famous symbols.

The ancient Egyptians also considered it a symbol of rebirth and immortality because they believed that the god Osiris was buried under an acacia tree by his brother, Seth.

In Judaism, there is a reference to the Book of Exodus about Moses' Tabernacle which featured this type of tree.

The bible also mentions these trees when listing materials needed to construct King Solomon's temple.

This symbol is also referenced in Freemasonry through its rituals which are modeled on King Solomon's Temple.

So, the Acacia is a symbol of immortality and resurrection and Freemasons use it as such. It has been used for centuries to signify the everlasting nature of life and death.

Loodgia de Los Caballeros Racionales



KNIGHT OF THE EAST

We have now reached the portal of a new allegory with an even more elaborate symbolism than previous degrees, for here we begin the Masonic allegory of the Second Temple. The people of Israel, having fallen into the worship of lesser gods, find themselves abandoned by the Lord. Taken as captives to Babylon, they serve a period of 70 years of retribution. Before leaving Israel, the Babylonian army completely destroyed Jerusalem and leveled the Solomon's Temple after removing its treasures.

Serving as a representative, Zerubabel appears before the court of King Cyrus and pleads for their release. After Cyrus has tested Zerubabel's fidelity to his (masonic) secrets, and tempting him with the treasures of the Temple, including the Ark of the Covenant, Cyris accepts Zerubabel's plea.

King Cyrus appointed Zerababel to be the governor of Judea, Medea and Persia. Zerubabel, with an escort of soldiers, returns to Jerusalem. He meets with a group of Hebrew leaders who had remained there and the rebuilding of Jerusalem began.

DUTY

Rebuild the Masonic Temple of liberty, equality, and fraternity in the souls of men and of nations.

LESSONS

Fidelity to trust, honor and duty.

Perseverance and constancy under difficulties and discouragements.

FOR REFLECTION

Is equality the basis of all freedom?

...let us remember that the only question for us to ask, as true men and Masons, is, what does duty require; and not what will be the result of our reward if we do our duty. Work on, with the Sword in one hand, and the Trowel in the other!

from "The Bridge to Light"



"A RELEVANCY FOR ALL TIME"

Excerpt from a Blog by Robert G. Davis, 33°, GC

" If this is true,.....If Freemasonry is not practiced out in the world, it may indeed make little difference whether we say we belong to a civic club, a literary society, or a fraternity. We simply belong for the sake of belonging.

But here is the catch. Freemasonry was not designed for this result. Freemasonry is different from all other community groups in the sense that it has a singular design in tradition. Freemasonry is a transformative art. It is not about belonging. It has always been about becoming. It is a state of mind wherein the initiated individual can move to a higher level of awareness within himself of who he is, what he is supposed to be doing and what has meaning to his life. He develops a compulsion that he is going to become a better person not because of his belonging to the group; but by what the organization can teach him about himself."

(Please check online for Bro. Davis's Blog in order to read the complete Blog. It is enlightening, Editor)

ANSWERS TEACHERS GET

Teachers ask a lot of questions, here are some of the answers they get:

Q. What is the opposite of main?

A. New Hampshire

Q. Who was Joan - of -Arc?

A. She was Noah's wife.

Q. Use etiquette in a sentence.

A. I don't know the meaning of etiquette.

Q. Which state is a peninsula?

Pennsylvania

Q. What percentage of the European population died during the outbreak of the plague?

A. One-hundred percent, eventually.



That Fellow's on the Square

*It matters not whate'er your lot
or what your task may be
One duty there remains for you,
One duty stands for me.
Be you a doctor skilled and wise,
Or do your work for wage,
A labourer upon the street,
An artist on the stage;
One glory still awaits for you.
One honour that is fair,
To have men say as you pass by:
"That fellow's on the square."*

*Ah, here's a phrase that stands for much,
Tis good old English, too;
It means that men have confidence
In everything you do.
It means that what you have you've earned,
And that you've done your best
And when you go to sleep at night
Untroubled you may rest.
It means that conscience is your guide,
And honour is your care;
There is no greater praise than this:
"That fellow's on the square."*

*And when I die I would not wish
A lengthy epitaph;
I do not want a headstone large,
Carved with fulsome chaff.
Pick out no single deed of mine,
If such a deed there be,
To 'grave upon my monument,
For those who come to see.
Just this one phrase of all I choose,
To show my life was fair:
"Here sleepeth now a fellow who
Was always on the square."*



HISTORY: "Giants of McAlester Consistory" William Mark Sexson, 33rd

William Mark Sexson was born at Arnica Springs, Missouri, July 18, 1877. He was the son of Thomas and Hanna Sexson who came from Illinois as pioneers in the early settlement of southwest Missouri, located upon a farm in the valley of Sac River, Cedar County, Missouri, near the village of Arnica Springs. At 12 years of age, he joined the church, and at 14, began his ministry. At age 17, he was ordained a minister of the Christian Church by Elder John H. Breeze. He married Miss Susan Edith Edwards of Windsor, Illinois, and they went to Bloomfield, Indiana, where he became pastor of the First Christian Church. After serving for 2 years as minister of this church, he moved to Indianapolis where he entered Butler College in further preparation of his ministry. He served as Evangelist in the Christian Church conducting revival meetings in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and other western states. He came to Cleveland, OK, in 1896 as minister of the Christian Church there. He afterwards served the church at Cherokee and Stroud, OK.

Bro. Sexson came to McAlester in 1912 where he lived until his death in 1953.

On December 9, 1953, Bro. Sexson passed away in a McAlester hospital, following a short illness. The funeral services were held at the First Christian Church where he served as minister for many years and where the Ritual for the Order of Rainbow for Girls was written many years before. He was survived by his wife of the home and children Annie Walker, Claire and Frank. He was buried in the Masonic section of the Oak Hill Cemetery in McAlester, OK.

Masonic history: to be continued.

"The great works of making a difference in our environment is best accomplished by the mental signals of the mind."

Dr. Orville Dewey, "Dialogues"

Don Jones, 33° Editor

