



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

January 3, 2024

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 Center

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, 33° Member

Stephen Gragg, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

John Cunningham 32°, KCCH, Wise Master

Rodney Ryder, 32°, KCCH, Commander

Bobby Peters 33°, Master of Kadosh

WELCOME TO 2024!

Brethren, I don't know about you but I am looking forward to a year of change. That's right, change. Yes, I used that "dirty" word.

You will soon begin to see changes in how the Valleys communicate to you. Then there will be reunions, observances, meetings and those other almost "mundane" activities. But if we take on the enthusiasm a "new year" can bring, who knows what will be accomplished.

The Supreme Council has scheduled its 2024 Leadership Conferences. It is at these events we see the best of the Scottish Rite. A great addition is the Council's renewal of the "Fellows" program. This program was initiated by Past Grand Commander Ron Seale, 33°. Our current Sov. Grand Commander is introducing an updated program this year.

With the New Year here and soon past, I urge all of us to carry the enthusiasm to 2024. Resolutions? We can have some at McAlester.

Better degree exemplifications, better technical and stage production for degrees, more opportunities for fellowship, more attendance at Scottish Rite events, more events, and new members.

How about more new members. As Scottish Rite Masons it is our duty to bring Master Masons to the Rite light.

Support our Blue Lodges in 2024!

HAPPYNEWYEAR!

DUES -- Reminder

January 20th. That is the last day Brethren that 2023 dues can be paid and your membership be current. That is the date that the Annual report goes to the Supreme council, and it goes electronically, not by "snail mail."

So, I say to you, on the Oath of a Mason, let's keep our membership current.

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. For questions or comments email news@mcasr.org.

Upcoming Reunions:

2024

April 13 & 14

October 12-13

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](#)

INSTALLATION OF 2024 OFFICERS

The 2024, elective and appointive officers for the McAlester Valley of the Scottish Rite will be installed into office in ceremonies following the January 8, 2024 Lodge of Perfection meeting.

The Masters for this year will be:

- Gregory Steidley, KCCH,
Venerable Master; Lodge of Perfection,
- Michael Echols, KCCH,
Wise Master; Chapter of Rose Croix,
- Paul Larcade, 33° ,
Commander; Council of Kadosh,
- Bryan Pumphrey, KCCH,
Master of Kadosh; McAlester Consistory.



The primary duty of a Master is to open and preside over the Scottish Rite Body of which he is the Master. He represents his Scottish Rite Body as a member of the Advisory Conference of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General and will attend its meetings. Therefore, the Master is also a representative of the Craft on the Conference.

It is important that all the officers of each Body be installed in his office. So, if you are in the line of officers, please plan to attend this event.

Congratulations and Best Wishes for a successful year in 2024.

L.O.P. HOST CHRISTMAS WAITING PARTY

FYI: Each year just before Christmas the city of McAlester has an event that brings people to town. During the year the merchants give tickets to customers who may win up to \$10,000 at the event. The event is held on "main" street, outdoors, and sometimes it can be really cold.

As a fundraiser for the Lodge of Perfection, our brethren in McAlester opened the dining room of the Temple for people to get out of the weather, for \$5 per person. The radio broadcast of the drawing was connected to the sound system, refreshments and soft drinks available. This causes the Temple to be a popular place to wait for your number to be called.

Thanks to our McAlester brethren who made this effort successful.

SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY



Thur., Jan. 4; S.R. Luncheon
OKC McAlester membership Area
Golden Corral, I-40 & MacArthur, OKC
10:30 a.m., Meeting
11:30 a.m., Luncheon
Program: Membership Pin Presentation....
Join us: good food & fellowship

Mon., Jan. 8, 7:00 pm; L.O.P.
Stated Meeting
2024 Officer Installation for
the 4 Bodies of the Valley.
open to all members.

Wed, Jan. 17; Ben Franklin
born on this date in 1706.

Wed., Jan. 17; S.R. Luncheon
Muskogee Scottish Rite Chapter
Muskogee, OK
basement - Dining Room Use south door,

Thur., Jan. 25, Birthday
Robert Burns, Poet, was born on this date in 1759.
Freemasonry Poet Laureate

Sat. Jan. 27 , Birthday
Wolfgang A. Mozart born on this date in 1756
Composer of "The Magic Flute" a Masonic opera.

Sat-Sun. April 13,14, 2024
Spring Reunion
Valley of McAlester

April 19–20
2024 RITE Way Leadership Conference
Kansas City, MO



ALBERT PIKE: Masonic Leader

Albert Pike was born in Boston, Mass. on December 29, 1809, the son of Benjamin and Sarah (Andrews) Pike. His education prepared him for the profession of an attorney, but he was a man of many talents. In life he was, besides a lawyer, an author, poet, politician, scholar, and soldier, just to name a few.



The year 1838 found Pike settled in Arkansas. He had a home in Fort Smith but traveled often to Little Rock, the state capital.

As a Freemason, he was a member of, and active, in the symbolic lodge, York Rite and Scottish Rite. It was in the Scottish Rite that he grew to Masonic leadership. In the Scottish Rite, he quickly went from member to Active Member of the Supreme Council and to Sovereign Grand Commander.

During his rise in Masonry, he worked diligently on organizing and revising the degree rituals. They were accepted by the Supreme Council and are still the basis of our degrees today.

Albert Pike served as the Sovereign Grand Commander for many decades. This long term of leadership is credited with creating a stable and continuous Rite.

His most well-known Masonic writing is the book "Morals and Dogma" which gives the reader a complete foundation on what is called, "Masonic Light."

He died early in the spring of 1901.

What's Up Doc?

Daffy Duck and Elmer Fudd break into a distillery. Daffy turns to Elmer and says "Is this whiskey?"

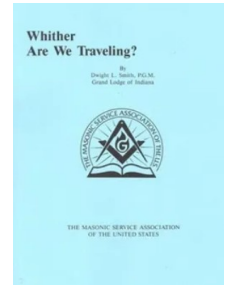
Elmer says, "Yeth, but not as whiskey as wobbing a bank!"

My body is turning into an old car. Everytime I sneeze or cough, my radiator leaks and little bit and my exhaust backfires.



WHITHER ARE WE TRAVELING?

For the past several issues of "the Blast", I have used excerpts from the book, "Whither are We Traveling?" by P.G.M. Dwight Smith of the Grand Lodge of Indiana. The book was written, and published by the Masonic Service Assoc., in 1952.



Let's look at his questions of Self-Examination. Something may have changed since 1952.

1. Can we expect Freemasonry retain its past glory and prestige unless the level of leadership is raised above its present position?
2. How well are we guarding the West Gate?
3. Has Freemasonry become too easy to obtain?
4. Are we not worshipping at the altar of bigness?
5. What can we expect when we have permitted Freemasonry to become subdivided into a score of organizations?
6. Has the American passion for bigness and efficiency dulled the spirit of Masonic charity?
7. Do we pay enough attention to the "Festive Board"?
8. What has become of that "cause of moral instruction, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols"?
9. Hasn't the so-called Century of the Common Man contributed to making our Fraternity a little too common?
10. Are there not too many well-meaning Brethren who are working overtime to make Freemasonry something other than Freemasonry?

Let's think about these questions and discuss them this year of 2024.

It is not what we eat, but what we digest ... that makes us strong.

It is not what we earn, but what we save ... that makes us rich.

It is not what we read, but what we remember ... that makes us learned.

It is not what we profess, but what we practice ... that makes us Masons!

Author Unknown



BOOKS WITH MASONIC INTEREST

(This book may be out-of-print, but i'll bet a stamp collector can find one)

"Freemasonry in the Making of a Nation."

Gregory R. Lucy, 32°

Publisher: Sade Wilson & Son, St. Louis, MO

You don't have to be a philatelist (stamp collector) to enjoy this recently (1962) published stamp album. Such books usually offer little or no historical or biographical data on the subjects portrayed on stamps.

This 'new' album, authored by the president of the Masonic Stamp Club of Missouri is plastic bound book that for 323 United States stamps to illustrate 15 chapters of stirring American history from the War for Independence to the space age.

The album demonstrates that a handful of dedicated Freemasons contributed more than half the leadership in the making of the United States.

(Brethren, you now have a winter project. Happy collecting! hint: try the Masonic Service Assoc., they may have a copy.)

"The New Age" magazine Dec. 1962



HISTORY; Members of the First Class

(continued)

Dr. Everard B. Hamilton

Born: August 6, 1871, Louisiana, U.S.

Died: April 5, 1966, Poteau, OK, U.S.

When Everard G. Hamilton was born, his parents, Joseph Hamilton, age 41, and his mother, Josephine Almida Wilson, age 32, were living in Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana. The record shows that in 1880, Everard was still living in Minden.

Everard Hamilton married Mary Kelton Kidd on June 6, 1900 in Poteau, Indian Territory. Miss Kidd's parents were the publishers of the Poteau News. It is not clear as to where they lived when first married but they ended up in Wilburton.

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HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

Everard and Mary were, at least, the parents of two sons

When or where, Brother Hamilton received the honorific of "doctor" was not in the record. He was using the title Doctor when the following was published:

From the Wilburton Gazette, (Wilburton, I.T.) Friday, September 23, 1904

"Dr. E. B. Hamilton left Monday for Kansas City to enter the Kansas City Medical College. He will be there for 6 months."

Wilburton News (or Gazette), (Wilburton, I.T.)Friday, March 31, 1905

"Dr. Hamilton has returned from Kansas City where he has been attending a College of Pharmacy."

Professionally, he served in the office of Vice-President of the Latimer County Medical Association and as a County Health Officer. Brother Hamilton also owned the Palace Pharmacy, a fact we learned from news clippings. The Guthrie Leader reported that on February 19, 1906, Doctor Hamilton escorted the body of a deceased brother to a Charleston, Arkansas lodge, at the request of the lodge, though the lodge was never named.

In 1918 the Wilburton paper reported that:

Dr. E. B. Hamilton has sold the Palace Pharmacy to W. T. Brown, a prominent stock man of Latimer County and his business building to to Joseph W. T. Maddux and his son.

Dr. Hamilton and family are planning on moving to the west . His going will leave a vacancy in our business circles and an empty place on the Local Board. The Hamilton family have a long number of friends here who regret to see them leave. They have the best wishes of us all.

(Continued on next page)



HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

The move was for health reasons and the Hamiltons ended up in California. But by 1919 they had returned to Wilburton and Dr. Hamilton repurchased the Palace Pharmacy.

Since Dr. Hamilton was a member in McAlester's First Class, he only received the Lodge of Perfection degrees (4-14). He finished the Scottish Rite degrees to the 32nd Degree at Guthrie on September 29, 1903.

He died on April 5, 1966 , at the age of 94, and was buried in Oakland Cemetery Poteau Township, Leflore, Oklahoma.

To be continued

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal. —Scottish Rite Creed



"Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason." ~ Benjamin Franklin

Don Jones, 33° Editor