



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

**Newsletter Date**

**October 10, 2020**

**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 Thursday of the Month

Duncan Scottish Rite Chapter, 11:30 AM,  
Jimmie's Egg, Duncan  
Comanche County SR Chapter dinner mtg.,  
Salsa Mexican Cafe, Lawton

### 1st Firday 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 Thursday 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

D. Larry Roberts, 33 Chairman  
Mike Ebert, KCCH General Secretary  
Jack Inman, 33, Member  
William C. Cox, 33, Member  
Thomas S. Crowl, 33 G.C., Member  
Michael Sexton, KCCH, Venerable Master  
John Carter, KCCH, Wise Master  
Shaun Callahan, KCCH, Commander  
Douglas R. Worden, 32°, Master of Kadosh

## GRAND LODGE OF STATE OF OKLAHOMA REPARES FOR ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

As you all should know by now, the 2020 Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge will be done on as a "virtual" event. M.W. Bobby Peters, 33° has made the decision and work has begun to make it so.

If you haven't signed up to be available for the ZOOM format and you want to participate, contact the Grand Lodge office. It may not be too late.

As we get closer to November 14, more information will be forthcoming as necessary.

## TAKING A BREAK FROM SHELTERING IN PLACE (but not from COVID-19 precautions)

Kish Thomas, 33° and Don Jones, 33°, spent most of September on the road. During that time they passed through 8 states, not including Oklahoma.



In the span of a little over 2 weeks, they visited 5 national parks (including Yellowstone), one Scottish Rite Center, a state capitol, the Mormon Temple and Tabernacle, the Grand Canyon and other places of interest, even the childhood home of Butch Cassidy. They met former Okies in Kanob, Utah, Boise, Idaho, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. They visited with Masons from Utah and Texas. Everyone seemed to be enjoying their time from home.

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Charitable & Education Foundation

R. Bruce Hall, 33 President  
Dave Donathan, 33 Vice-President  
Jeremy Warren, 33°, Trustee  
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:

**2021**  
**April 17-18**  
**October 23-24**

Masonic Website of 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

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## **TAKING A BREAK**

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The travelers had been advised to stay in the better motels or hotels. Seems the more expensive the motel the more attention is paid to disinfect and take other precautions against the COVID bug.

Masks and social distancing were required everywhere. Only in Sedona, Arizona and Yellowstone Park were they not strictly enforced. While in Sedona, it was noticed that the East Coast of the U.S. was well represented. New York, Brooklyn, Chicago, states of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee,, Mississippi, and even New Jersey were heard mentioned.

The travelers had now been home 14 days and no sign of the COVID. However, for two 80 yr old's going all day, unloading and loading the car, driving most of the day, they were mostly "very" tired.

But it was worth it!

## **MASONIC BOOK CLUB**



At the McAlester OKC membership luncheon last week, the brethren were talking about this, so I looked it up. You may want to participate in this.

The Masonic Book Club was formed in 1970 by 2 Illinois Masons. At the beginning, the MBC reprinted out-of-print Masonic books for scholarly introduction. Occasionally, they would print original texts. After some 40 years of service to the Craft, directors decided in 2010 to dissolve the MBC. The club originally was limited to 33 members, but the number eventually increased to almost 2,000 before it dissolved in 2010.

It was revived in 2017 and all ownership and assets were transferred to the Supreme Council, S.J.

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## Masonic Book Club (continued)

The new Masonic Book Club will have a different business model than the old MBC. Most significantly there will be no dues. Your membership will entitle you to purchase books at a pre-publication discount.

Enrollment is free. More information and an enrollment form may be found on the [Supreme Council's web site](#). Also, you are not obligated to buy every book. It is a win-win deal.

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## MASONIC ACTIVITY

--- Supreme Council has re-scheduled the Fellows' Leadership Workshop which was cancelled in August, 2020. The new date is for **June 4-6, 2021**. More info is available on the Web site.

--- Two Day S.R. Reunion, **Oct. 1-2, 2020**  
**Boise, Idaho Scottish Rite Center, Boise, ID.**  
Bob Julian, 33°, Secretary stated that only the Obligatory Degrees will be exemplified.

Only one degree team will be allowed in the degree presentation room. The room will be disinfected after each performance. Costumes for each degree are all ready put aside. A costume will not be used again until properly cleaned.

Candidates will be in a room across the hall and properly social distanced. All persons will wear masks.

The degrees will be shown to the candidates via close-circuit t.v. (continued on next page)



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



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## MASONIC ACTIVITY (continued)

Meals will be at a near-by restaurant.

--- Following the Perpetual Pathway Degree day, several lodges are back to doing degree work that has been postponed.

The special Pathway day raised 29 Master Masons. Congratulations! are in order to those candidates and to the workers. Good Job.

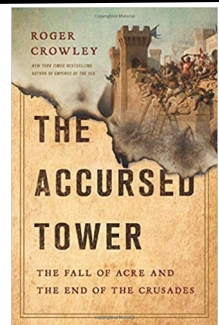
--- Oct. 8, 2020, Guthrie York Rite is conferring the Mark Master and Past Master degrees on 2 candidates as a courtesy of Norman York Rite. The petitions were received 6 months ago.



## BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST

### "The Accursed Tower: The fall of Acre and end of the Crusades." by Roger Crowley

(Review by George Marshall, Jr.)



In this book, the author presents a vigorous narrative of the events which lead up to the siege and then a vivid, blow-by-blow account of the final climactic battle. Beginning with Louis IX's failed crusade of 1249-50, he examines the rise of the Mamluks in Egypt and their conquest under the sultans Baybars, Qalawun, and al-Khalili in the Holy Land leading up to the siege of Acre. Drawing on contemporary Arabic, French and Latin primary sources thought the book, he eventually sets the stage for the first battle with a detailed description of the implements used in siege warfare by both sides and by taking us on a tour of ancient Acre and its fortifications.

The book presents an extraordinary picture of the conflict, known for its individual heroism and savage slaughter on both sides.



## **DAY TRIPS FOR OKLAHOMA MASONS**

Bored at home and wanting to get out for awhile? How about packing a picnic lunch and making a day trip. May I suggest the Boggy Depot.

The Boggy Depot State Park is located about 7 or 8 miles west of Atoka and 10 miles south. Boggy Depot is a ghost town now, but once was a bustling community. It is located near the Clear Boggy Creek. It is a quiet, serene place and welcomes visitors.

What is the Masonic interest? Well, the first Masonic lodge the Indian Lands to be named "Oklahoma" was there. An obelisk-like monument was placed at the site of the lodge by the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma.

The monument has names and history engraved on the four sides. The lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Arkansas with the assistance of Bro. Joseph P. Murrow.

A visit here can make for a relaxing day in a historical setting.

I will vouch for it.

## **The DAYS OF AUTUMN**

### **Irish Proverb:**

Autumn days come quickly, like the running of a hound on the moor.

### **Autumn Folklore:**

--- Trees snapping and cracking in the autumn indicate dry weather.

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## Autumn (CONTINUED)

--- If in the fall in October,  
many of leaves wither on the boughs and  
hang there, it betokens a frosty winter  
and much snow.

--- Spring rain damps;  
Autumn rain soaks.

---- Of autumn's wine, drink your fill'  
the frost on the pumpkin, and snows  
on the hill.

--- A football team that leads at the half  
in the sun; should not ease up on its  
"gun and run".

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## OKLAHOMA FREEMASONRY DURING THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918

by T.S. Akers (continued)

In January of 1918, something strange was afoot in Haskell County, Kansas. A newspaper there, The Santa Fe "Monitor" , reported, "Most everybody over the country is having lagrippe or pneumonia." Loring Miner, a local physician, believed the situation was severe enough to report an influenza outbreak to the U.S. Public Health Service. At this time. influenza was not classified as a "reportable" disease. Historians have held some time that the Spanish flu of 1918 began in Kansas. More recent research has pointed to China as the place of origin. The British Commonwealth mobilized around 94,000 Chinese laborers for service behind the lines in France and transported them by rail across Canada to expedite their arrival. In November of 1917, a respiratory illness had begun to spread across northern China.

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# OKLAHOMA FREEMASONRY DURING THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918

by T.S. Akers

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Chinese health officials later identified this malady as being identical to the Spanish flu. A British legation official in Beijing would go on to confirm the illness as influenza in a 1918 report. Of the 25,000 Chinese laborers that had been transported across Canada in 1917, 3,000 ended up in medical quarantine with flu-like symptoms. Regardless of where the Spanish flu began, it had certainly made its way to Kansas. Several men in Haskell County soon found themselves at Camp Funston, in central Kansas, for induction into the U.S. Army. On March 4, 1918, the first case of influenza at Camp Funston was reported. Within 2 weeks, there were 1,100 soldiers sick in hospital and thousands more confined to their barracks. Twenty-four of thirty-six of the large induction camps reported influenza outbreaks, sickening tens of thousands. With the war, the virus had an ultimate destination of Europe.

Over the course of 15 months, the Spanish flu killed between 50 and 100 million people worldwide, though the true death toll will likely never be known. In the early days of the pandemic, there was little concern, as the virus was not particularly deadly, despite its high infection rate. With the British Grand Fleet 10,313 sailors were admitted to sick bay in May and June of 1918 with influenza, but only four died. Both the Allied and Central powers saw influenza outbreaks in the field in April, but it was dismissed as a "3-day fever." What was unusual was the way in which the virus afflicted the young and was showing signs of gaining severity. At one French Army camp, 688 soldiers of 1,018 were hospitalized and 49 died. The virus only gained real attention as it swept through Spain, sickening the king.

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# OKLAHOMA FREEMASONRY DURING THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918

by T.S. Akers

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The Spanish press, which was not being censored owing to the nation's neutrality, wrote at length on the virus which garnered it the name "the Spanish flu." By July, the U.S. Army reported the "epidemic is about at an end." A British medical journal was so bold as to state that the malady had completely disappeared.

(to be continued)

## An Old Masonic Toast

"To him that all things understood,  
To him that found the stone and wood,  
To him that hapless lost his blood  
    In doing of his duty,  
To that blest age, and that blest morn  
Wherein those three great men were born,  
Our noble science to adorn  
    Wisdom, Strength and Beauty"

***"But Masonry still survives, vigorous and strong...its..truths as imperishable as the Deity and undeniable as Light."  
Morals and Dogma***

***Editor Don Jones 33°***

