



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

November 20, 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 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° Elect Member

Stephen Gragg, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

John Cunningham 32°, KCCH, Wise Master

Rodney Ryder, 32°, KCCH, Commander

Bobby Peters 33°, Master of Kadosh

THANKSGIVING & THE FEAST OF TISHRI

Why does the Scottish Rite observance of the Feast of Tishri occur in the autumn? And what does it have to do with our American tradition of Thanksgiving Day? Let's talk about it.



To begin with, Tishri is the name of the seventh month of the Jewish religious calendar. Therefore, it occurs about the same time as our autumn months. So traditionally, those of the Jewish faith make it an "Autumn Feast".

The origin of the feast is found in the Old Testament's Book of Leviticus where it is said, "the Lord spoke to Moses saying, 'that in the 15th day of the 7th month when you have gathered in the fruits of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord'

Therefore, it was a day of thanksgiving for the successful harvest and, additionally, a remembrance of the exodus out of Egypt.

So, how is all the above concerned with Scottish Freemasonry? We get the Thanksgiving part but why else do we gather together as brethren to celebrate the ancient Hebrew festival?

Okay, we read in the Old Testament, again, from the First Book of Kings that when it came time to dedicate the First Temple, King Solomon set the dedication to be the 15th day of the 7th month --- The Feast of Tishri.

It is only natural that we gather, as Masons, to celebrate the dedication of the First Temple.

It was the construction of that great edifice upon which Freemasonry lay the foundation of its principles, tenets and symbolism.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your Family.

Upcoming Reunions:

2024

April 13 & 14

October 12-13

Masonic Website

**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

HAUNTED HOUSE -- A HOWLING SUCCESS

It was a series of three dark, rainy nights at the end of October when hundreds of men, women and children made their way through the "haunted" Masonic temple. The inclement weather caused the spooks, ghosts and goblins of Halloween to find shelter and the public came to check it out.

Some didn't make it through the "haunted house". Some ran screaming, crying for an exit. But those that marched on to finish had been delightfully SCARED!

And it is to all of you fearless folks that, we, the Masons, thank you for making our haunted house a most successful fund raiser.

We had some great actors. The young people really got into it. Even some of them would jump if someone unexpectedly said BOO!



Group Picture of Actors from Haunted House

On behalf of the members of the Scottish Rite, we thank all the workers, actors and brother Masons who participated in the event. We noticed that you had fun too.

Thank you, Steve Gragg. Bro. Gragg exhausted himself getting everything together. Our success was his success.

There is something we need though, and that is more member participation. Brethren who live outside of the area could make it a family weekend and still help. Actually, by making a family weekend out of it, everyone can be happy.

So we say again, Thank You to all the people who worked and those who enjoyed being Spooked!

SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

Tue., Nov. 21; Birthday

Bro. F.M. Arouet ; better known as "Voltaire" was born on this day in 1694. He was a noted writer, historian, philosopher & Freemason.

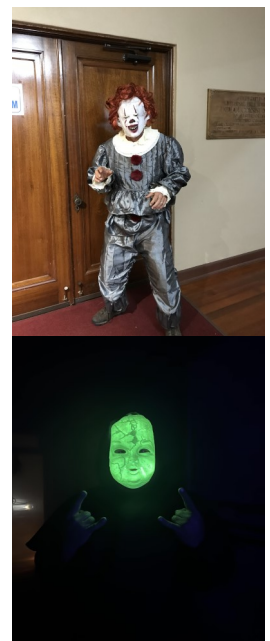
Thur., Nov. 23; Thanksgiving Day
A holiday celebrated in the United States and its Territories, The holiday was initiated by President A. Lincoln.

Sat. Nov.25; United Grand Lodge of England was organized on this date in 1813.

Thur., Dec. 7; S. R. Luncheon
Golden Corral, I-40 & MacArthur.
10:30 a.m. - meeting
11:15 a.m. - Lunch
All Masons are welcome to join us for fellowship & good food.
Host: McAlester Scottish Rite
New 32nd Degree brothers are especially welcome!



Actors from the Haunted House. The top two were in our last issue working on the lights on top of the building. Can you figure who is who?



JOHN F. CARTER, ELECTED GRAND MASTER of the GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.



A Brother of the McAlester Scottish Rite, John F. Carter, K.C.C.H., was elected and installed last Saturday, November 11, to the office of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma for the year 2024.

We congratulate our Bro. Carter for his elevation to the highest post in Masonry in the State of Oklahoma.

Grand Master Carter is also an active Scottish Rite Mason and has served on the McAlester Advisory Conference in the office of Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix. In the Rite, he holds the rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor.

At the Scottish Rite Valley of McAlester, Our Grand Master is the Director of the 4th Degree Lone Grove Team and is a participant in the 9,10, and 11 Degree, Carter County Team. He also has a Perpetual Membership in the Valley of McAlester.

Our Brother is also active in the Oklahoma York Rite degrees and a member of the India Shrine. He is also a recipient of the Medal of Honor from the Grand Lodge.

We extend our best wishes to our brother for a successful year.

We also wish to express our best wishes to all the brother Masons who also were elected to important Grand Lodge offices. And to those brethren who served on committees.

IT IS HOW YOU LOOK AT IT

Michael Jordon

I was standing in front the bedroom mirror one evening admiring my reflection, when I posed this question to my wife of 30 years. "Will you still love me when i'm old, fat and balding?"

She answered, "I do."



A THANKSGIVING POEM

*May your stuffing be ready,
May your turkey plump,
May your potatoes and gravy
have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious
and your pies take the prize
and may your
Thanksgiving Dinner
Stay off your thighs.*



ACACIA GUILD NEWS

An Oklahoma Scottish Rite Mason has joined the Supreme Council's Acacia Guild. Brother James L. Parham, 32°, of the Valley of Tulsa is on the list of new members in the latest "Scottish Rite Journal." We congratulate Bro. Parham for his decision to further the cause of Scottish Freemasonry.

The Acacia Guild is an effort by the Supreme Council to fund the preservation of the House of the Temple in Washington, D. C. For a contribution of \$1,000, the donor's will receive the insignia of the Guild and have his name engraved on the roll of the Acacia Guild and is on display in the House of the Temple.

Thursday, November 16, 2023

STATEMENT OF SCOTTISH RITE FREEMASONRY AND RELIGION

"As with many facets of human life, a full understanding of the truth provides enlightenment. Scottish Rite Freemasonry welcomes men of all faiths and encourages each man to faithfully pursue his personal religious beliefs. Reasonable men can judge for themselves whether such an organization is something our Creator, by whichever name we call Him, would surely smile."

James D. Cole, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, A.A.S.R.



PAUSE and REFLECT

Do you endeavor to achieve the Royal Secret in your life and within yourself?

LET'S TRY FREEMASONRY

Dwight Smith, PGM, Indiana

Looking at the overall picture of American Freemasonry candidly and thoughtfully, it seems to me the greatest single need of our Craft today, is a membership with a better understanding of what our Fraternity is and especially of what it is not.

Few indeed are the Master Masons who know what Freemasonry really is, even more rare is the species with a comprehension of what Freemasonry is not. Seniority and rank seem to have little relationship to our ignorance. The number of Masters, Past Masters and Grand Masters who are hazy as to what our Craft is all about is appalling.

What has happened?

Well, we seem to assume that Freemasonry is a fly-by-night fad of the mid-20th century; something to be tossed higher and yon by every wind that blows. In the restless, superficial age in which we live, we are impatient unless our organized bodies have slogans, and carry banners, and make official pronouncements on about every subject under the sun, however trivial. We want them to follow the conventional pattern; to maintain lobbies, to publish aims, and objectives, conduct drives and campaigns, strive to get into the headlines and on the airwaves, write checks to everything that sounds benevolent and has a board of directors, and, in general, to have a finger in every pie.

Freemasonry does none of these.

Strange, is it not, that our ancient Craft should have gained for itself a preeminent position of honor and prestige when it does almost nothing in the conventional manner!

"Then what is this Freemasonry to which I urge our Brethren return? What are its aims and objectives? What does it do?"



HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

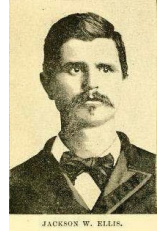
The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

Jackson W. Ellis (continued)

The following statement is from Bro. Ellis's gravestone:

"Captain Jackson W. Ellis, a pioneer Indian resident and prominent figure of Territorial days, died at home near Bunch Saturday at the age of 73."

He was buried at an Adair, OK cemetery.



From a post on Find A Grave website:

"Jackson W. Ellis was born in Sweet Town, Cherokee Nation, in 1859. In youth he attended the public schools, and as early as 16 years went to work on a farm. Jackson was the only son of the late Edward Ellis, who, with his brother Samuel, was killed at Fort Gibson during the war while corralling the horses of the company. At the age of 21, he was appointed deputy Sheriff of Tahlequah district, also sheriff of commissioner's court, and later, in 1872, deputy warden of the national penitentiary, and in the same year commissioner of the quarantine district. In 1876, he went into the drug business till 1878, when he clerked for two years following in a mercantile house. In 1885, he was appointed Deputy United States Marshall for Western District of Arkansas, and the same year was appointed on the Indian police force. He had not been employed in this capacity over 6 weeks when, in self-defense, he shot down Bud Turner on the streets of Tahlequah. Jackson then moved to Fort Gibson, where he was appointed city marshal. Here he shot and killed Dick Vann, who resisted arrest. Dick was the murderer of Captain Sixkiller, of the Indian police, and a noted desperado. From there went to Atoka, where he was appointed officer of the peace. During his 4 years here, he shot and arrested David Fields, an escaped convict.

Continued on next page



HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

Soon afterward he shot and killed Haney Finn, a desperado who had killed his father in Missouri, and was following the business of whiskey peddler. This was followed by the shooting and capture of Charley Carter, a desperado, and murderer, who the officer was tracking for some time. Jackson Ellis also shot and captured Watson and Whitrock, both whiskey peddlers and desperate men. In all these instances, Officer Ellis never outstepped the bounds of duty; such is the public verdict, and all law-abiding citizens feel themselves indebted to this fearless officer for cleaning the country of so many "terrors to society." In 1890, the subject of sketch, in partnership with D. J. Folson, commended the practice of law in Atoka, but the former was soon after appointed constable for the second division United States court at South McAlester, under Judge Shackelford. Jack Ellis married Miss Beatrix Becklehymer, by whom he had two children, neither of whom survived, their mother following them to the grave inn 1883. In 1885, he married Miss Lydia C. Smith, daughter of N. J. Smith of Cherokee, principal chief of the eastern band of Cherokees. Mrs. Ellis was a young woman of great personal attractiveness, highly educated and possessing talents, which in the social scale, place her on a footing with the most accomplished of her sex. Jackson Ellis is fully six feet, 5 inches in height, a fearless, determined man and a fine specimen of his race."

More exploits of Bro. Ellis may be found at "Legends of the America in the section on [Old West Lawmen](#)" where he is listed with the more famous Earps.

No records of Masonry were found in his file at the McAlester Temple. We suspect that they have been removed for "research" and perhaps not returned. (Editor)

(to be continued)

"God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift as well."

Voltaire; writer, philosopher

Don Jones, 33° Editor

