



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

Newsletter Date

December 18, 2021

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 Friday 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

Jack Inman, 33, Chairman

Mike Ebert, KCCH General Secretary

William C. Cox, 33, Member

Thomas S. Crowl, 33 G.C., Member

Wade Massey, 33, Member

Michael Sexton, KCCH, Venerable Master

John Carter, KCCH, Wise Master

Shaun Callahan, KCCH, Commander

Donnie Higginbotham II 32°, Master of Ka-  
dosh

## IRISH CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*God, grant you lightness in your step,  
A smile on every face you meet,  
Loved ones together at your hearth,  
and at your door, good friends to meet.  
A holy hymn upon your lips,  
A window candle burning bright,  
And may the Good Lord bless your heart  
And come to dwell there Christmas night.  
Merry Christmas!*



## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS: Trees

-- The first American Christmas can be credited to a Hessi-an soldier Henrick Roddmore, who was captured at the Battle of Bennington in 1777. He then went to work on the farm of Samuel Denslow in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, where for the next 14 years he put up and decorated Christmas trees in the Denslow family home.

-- The first retail Christmas tree lot was established in 1851 by a Pennsylvanian named Mark Carr, who hauled 2 ox sleds loaded with Christmas trees from the Catskill Moun-tains to the sidewalks of New York City.

-- The 1st president to set up a Christmas tree in the White House was Franklin Pierce, and the 1st president to estab-lish the National Christmas tree Lighting Ceremony, on the White House Lawn was Calvin Coolidge.

-- In 1882, the 1st tree lights were sold in New York City.

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

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#### Upcoming Reunions:

**2022**

**April 2-3**

**October 22-23**

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

## ADVISORY CONFERENCE RETIREMENTS

### R. Bruce Hall, 33°

Bro. Hall was elected to the office of Valley Treasurer in January, 2005. In that office he was also the Treasurer for the C. & E. Foundation.

In 2015, Bro. Hall was appointed to the office of President of the C & E. Foundation. During his time in this office, he guided the RiteCare program through some major changes in location and financing. These changes improved the Rite's ability to "help more children communicate."

Bro. Hall's financial reports most always began the same way. "We made some money, spent some money and we have some money." Then he became serious and explained, "it was not really that simple."

Thank you, Bruce, for your years of service.



### Thomas Crowl, 33°, G.C.



What can one say about a brother when he has worked diligently as an officer for 33 years? Bro. Crowl served as the Vice-President of the C. & E. Foundation for many of those years. During those terms he worked with the Scholarship Committee, the

Teachers' Education program and has promoted the Museum & Library program. His contributions for Temple Restoration are many and have improved the Temples interior.

For the past several years, Bro. Crowl has been the elected Orator for the McAlester Scottish Rite Bodies and the Valley's Historian. he has served as the Personal Representative of the S.G.I.G.

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## ADVISORY CONFERENCE RETIREMENTS (Continued)

For his many years of labors for the Rite, he received the prestigious Grand Cross of the Court of Honor from the Supreme Council of the A.A.S.R.

Thank you, Tom, for your service. You have been a positive influence on the McAlester Valley.

Bro. Crowls and Bro. Hall's retirements are effective Dec. 31, 2021.

## SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY

**Tue., Dec. 21;** Winter Solstice  
Shortest day of the year.  
1st day of winter.

**Fri.-Mon, Dec. 24-27;** Office Closed  
for Christmas holiday

**Sat. Dec. 25;** Christmas Day  
Merry Christmas

**Mon., Dec. 27;** St. John's Day  
Celebration of St. John the Evangelist for Freemasons.

**Thur. Dec. 29;** Albert Pike Birthday, 1809

**Sat. Jan 1;** New Year's Day  
O.S.U. vs Notre Dame game

**Wed. Jan. 5;** Temple Fellowship  
9:00 a.m.; free coffee & donuts  
Men's Lounge Every Wednesday during the year.  
McAlester S.R. Masonic Center

**Thur. Jan 6;** Okla. City Luncheon  
McAlester Membership luncheon in  
Okla. City. Golden Corral at I-40 and MacArthur in Okla.  
City Prospective members welcome

**Mon. Jan. 10;** Lodge of Perfection  
McAlester S.R. Masonic Center



## WHY WE PAY DUES

"Dues are a standard, periodic fee charged the members of an organization" e.g. clubs, societies, fraternities, professional associations; all of which includes Masonic lodges and the Scottish Rite Valleys.

Your dues pay administration costs, insurance (a sizeable amount), utility bills, and support the philanthropies of the organization.

Paying your dues means something. It means that you have obligated yourself to the mission of the Masonic fraternity.

2021 dues are almost "past due." If you have a particular problem, please contact the Valley General Secretary, Mike Ebert, 33°, at 918-423-6362.

The Valley office also accepts credit cards for dues payment. 2022 dues may also be paid now.

## Election of 2022 Officers for the Four Bodies of the Valley

Elections for the officers of the 2022 Scottish Rite Bodies for the Valley of McAlester will be held at the Lodge of Perfection meeting on Monday, January 10th.

Brethren who are in line to move up to Master and serve on the Advisory Conference next year are:

Samuel Box, KCCH, L.O.P.  
John Cummings-Chapter  
Michael Wright, KCCH, Council  
Russel Davis, Consistory

Installation will be done at the February LOP meeting.

## YOU DON'T SAY

My definition of an intellectual is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking of the Lone Ranger.

Billy Connolly

We are all here on earth to help others; what on earth the others are here for I don't know.

W. H. Auden



## A LETTER FROM THE PAST

Dear Brethren,

The approach of the Christmas season should stir each of our hearts and attune them to Love, the Great Cardinal virtue of our Brotherhood.

"May we so live today that  
When tomorrow comes  
We will not cloud the day  
With vain regrets,  
But let our hands and hearts  
commit those deeds  
Which Faith in God and  
Love for Man begets."

Such is the sincere of

Your Brother,

M.W. H. L. Muldrow. 33  
Master of Kadosh, 1929  
Past Grand Master



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### The Night Before Christmas, Down At the Lodge

'Twas the Night before Christmas, and down at the Lodge  
Not a gavel was stirring, and in the hodge-podge

Of aprons and jewels and chairs East and West  
you could savor the silence, most gladly divest

All metal and mineral, it mattered not,  
since Christmas was nigh and the coals were still hot

In the hearth of your homestead, all Masons abed,  
as visions of trestle boards danced in their head;

When up on the roof there arose such a clatter,  
Our Tiler jumped up to see what was the matter!

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## The Night Before Christmas, Down At the Lodge

He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,  
three knocks shook the panels - he wondered 'What for?'

He answered the knocking with, raps of his own,  
and once the door opened he saw, with a moan

Of delight it was Santa, all jolly and red  
Except for one notable feature Instead!

Upon his large finger lie wore what we knew  
was compass and square on a background of blue!

'Why Santa!' he shouted and lowered his blade  
'I see you're a Mason!' the Tiler relayed.

He looked toward the Master's most dignified chair  
and said, voice near trembling, 'Most Worshipful there

Is a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!  
The Master replied, 'Let's allow him - but wait!

You tell me a Gentleman, but I don't see  
His Apron beneath that red suit, can it be

Our visitor hasn't been properly raised?  
Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?

'I do beg your pardon,' old' Santa said quick  
As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick

But a cane with, engraving, two balls did appear  
and oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear!

Adorned like the Master' complete with a sign  
Of "Lodge Number One, the North Pole" on one line!

"Now let man enter," the Master declared,  
and once in the Lodge room the Brethren all stared,  
Continued on next page



## The Night Before Christmas, Down At the Lodge

For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen  
for many a century - there in between

The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar  
gleamed two golden reindeer that shone like a dollar!

"It's Donner and Blitzen, who, I must confess  
Are actually images brought from the West

By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!"  
And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled

An ear of fine corn and some oil from the east,  
"My friend I have plenty, tonight we will feast

On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!"  
A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,

As presents and promises flew from his sack  
This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack

For making this Christmas the best you could glean,  
And soon even Deacons were laughing, they'd seen

On this very night only happiness reigned!  
This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained

That only a Mason could be so inclined  
to make all kids happy, make all people find

A Christmas so special, yes, Santa was right!  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Author Unknown

### **FREEMASONRY AND OKLAHOMA** (continued)

Bro. Peter Pitchlyn (also known as Colonel Pitchlyn), a Choctaw Chief, first set foot on what is now Oklahoma, in 1828, when at the age of 22, he headed a Choctaw delegation sent by the United States to the Osage to inspect the country to be accepted late by the Choctaws and Chickasaws.

In his American notes, Charles Dickens, describes his meeting with Col. Pitchlyn in his usual graphic manner. Dickens says of his Indian friend, that "he was a reasonably handsome man; some years past forty, I should judge; with long black hair, and aquiline nose, broad cheek bones, a sunburnt complexion and a very bright, keen, dark and piercing eye."

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## FREEMASONRY AND OKLAHOMA (continued)

Among Indian Masons whose intellect and energy had much to do with transplanting the seeds of Masonry in Oklahoma, was Chief William P Ross of the Cherokee Tribe who in 1851 was Worshipful Master of the Lodge in Indian Territory. By-laws and History of Federal lodge #1, Washington, D. C. contains the following interesting item:

"On April 25, 1848, William P. Ross, the Cherokee Chief, received the Master Mason's degree. He and other head men of The Cherokee Tribe were at the capital to arrange a treaty made necessary by the late enforced removal of the tribe from Georgia to the Indian Territory. These head-men were arranged in two hostile factions and negotiations were at a stand-still. But at one of the meetings of the Federal lodge, the rival leaders, all Freemasons, were brought together by the exertions of Worshipful Master S. Yorke Atlee and other members, and the treaty was then successfully concluded."

The official records of Federal Lodge show that Chief Ross petitioned for the Degrees, March 28, 1848, recommended by Brothers A. Hancock and Lockerman, initiated April 4, 1848/ passed April 18; raised April 25, 1848 ..... As the date of the raisings is the same as that of the famous meeting of rival Cherokee factions in the Lodge, Chief Ross's bittersweet political enemies must have witnessed the ceremony of his reception into the Craft.

Alexander McGilvery, Creek-Seminole Chieftain was a Brigadier General in the United States Army who fought with General Andrew Jackson in Florida. He wielded a tremendous influence over his people. He was buried Masonic honors at Pensacola. (to be continued)

Resource: "History of Freemasonry in Oklahoma."  
Oklahoma Lodge of Research





## HOW TO PREDICT THE WEATHER

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs from the natural world. In truth, neither of them had idea about how to predict the coming winter. However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang the National Weather Service

Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood. A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked. 'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him. As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find. A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.' 'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked. The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans are collecting wood like crazy.'

## A CHRISTMAS CARD FOR YOU

**That health, happiness and contentment may be with you on Christmas day and throughout the year 2022 is the wish of  
The S.G.I.G.'s Advisory Conference  
The Officers of the Valley's Bodies and  
the Administrative Staff:**

**Mike Ebert, 33° , General Secretary  
Cherie Hamilton, Executive Asst.**

**The Blast - Wade Massey, 33° , Publisher  
Don Jones, 33° , Editor**

***He (Jesus of Nazareth) was not only the benefactor  
of a disinherited people, but a model  
for humankind."***

***Wise Master, 18th Degree***

***Editor Don Jones 33°***

