



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

**Newsletter Date**

**March 24, 2022**

**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

### 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 Wednesday of the Month

Indian Chapter, Scottish Rite Noon  
McAlester Scottish Rite Cente

### 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Muskogee Chapter, Scottish Rite  
Masonic Temple Noon

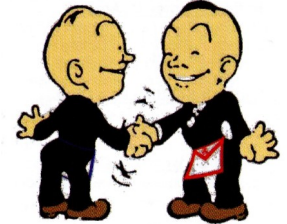
Note: Scottish Rite Chapters and Societies,  
be sure to notify the office of any changes in  
meeting place and times.

### 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 Emeritus  
Wade Massey, 33, Member  
Phillip Johnson, KCCH Member  
Samuel Box, KCCH, Venerable Master  
Brent Heilman 32°, KCCH, Wise Master  
Mike Wright, 32°, KCCH, Commander  
Russell Davis 32°, Master of Kadosh

## IT'S REUNION TIME!!

Define reunion: "It is an instance of two or more people coming together after a period of separation. " How true that is."



And that is why the Scottish Rite calls its gatherings "reunions". After 2 years, or more, of isolation, due to the pandemic. we, in the Rite, are eagerly anticipating seeing old friends, new members, a weekend of Masonic ritual, and education. Plus a little Choc and spaghetti.

Talk with your prospective candidates; tell them about all the positive experiences available at a reunion in McAlester. We will all meet at the Scottish Rite Center on April 2nd and 3rd and plan for a pleasant experience.

The "reunion" experience is not one to have alone. If you have found pleasure in being a 32nd Degree Mason, bring a brother or Master Mason with you. The weekend is worth sharing.

Welcome back to the Valley of McAlester, where you always meet a friend.

A REUNION SCHEDULE is in this issue (See the Back Page). Check it out and plan accordingly. Not on the schedule for early arrivals on Friday, April 1 (This is no Joke!) is a Master Mason Degree to be conferred on the stage. There may even be a meal before the degree. Check with the office for details when you arrive.

## See you in McAlester on April 2nd & 3rd!

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



[BeAFreemason.org](http://BeAFreemason.org)



Charitable & Education Foundation

Dr. G. David Donathan, 33° President  
Brett Cable, 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](mailto:enews-unsubscribe@mcasr.org). For questions or comments email [news@mcasr.org](mailto:news@mcasr.org).

#### 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

## **FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED AT SPECIAL EVENT**

On Saturday, March 19, four brethren were recognized for their 50 years of continuous membership in the Rite.



The event began at 12 noon with a luncheon prepared by our Temple kitchen crew. Following a delicious meal of chicken fried steak and all the fixin's, our S.G.I.G. Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33° presented the awards. Those recipients that were present were:

Scotty R. Helms, Mannford, OK

Ralph Zeller, Maud, OK

Rea Sparks, Tecumseh, OK

Walter Bigger, Madill, OK

Thirty-one brethren that were unable to be present will have their certificates mailed to them.

Congratulations to all of you!

Thirty, or more, family, friends and brethren were also in attendance.

Thank you to the Temple staff; Bro. Morris Chiles, 33° and the Kitchen Crew for your work. Your effort helped to make the event more enjoyable.

### **(ANONYMOUS)**

--- The government not only has the bad habit of living beyond its income, but also beyond ours.

--- We never could understand why other people do not profit from their mistakes.

--- Want Ad..."Young man who gets paid on Monday and is broke by Wednesday would like to exchange small loans with a young man who gets paid on Wednesdays and is broke by Monday."

---Customer to head waiter, "Just for a point of information, did the waiter who took my order leave any family?"

## SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY

**Wednesdays, weekly 9:00 a.m.**

Free Coffee & Donuts at the McAlester Scottish Rite Center. All welcome for fellowship & treats. Enter South door and go Rite.

**Sat./Sun., Mar.26-27**, 2-Day Reunion

Tulsa Scottish Rite Center  
1630 S. 101st East Ave .,

"A different way of degree exemplification."

**Sat./Sun., April 2&3**; 2-Day Reunion

McAlester Scottish Rite Center

Petitions are available; check out  
our Facebook page for information.

or download from Valley web site.

Check the Reunion Schedule in this issue of the Blast!

Walk-Ins welcome, with current blue lodge dues card and/  
or Masters' Proficiency.

**Fri. April 8; 6:30 pm**; Dinner & Bingo

Central Okla. Scottish Rite Chapter at the India Shrine  
Center 3501 NW 36th St. OKC

**Thur, Fri. Sat. April 8,9,10**; 3-Day

Reunion at Guthrie Scottish Rite Center, Guthrie, OK  
29 Degrees to be exemplified.

Need a Passport completed??

This is the Reunion to get it.

**Mon. April 11**; 7:00 pm; LOP Stated Meeting;

Valley of McAlester Scottish Rite

**Sunday, April 17**; Easter

McAlester Temple office will  
be closed on Monday the 18th.





## THERE'S A NEW FACE AT THE TEMPLE



Our historic building would not be in the good shape that it is, without the work of this person; the Custodian of the Temple

Bro. Leonard Howard, a member of the Valley was recently hired as the new

Custodian for the Building. He has already started on the job and you will see & meet him at the Reunion.

Bro. Howard is a Past Master of the Hartshorne-Haileyville Lodge. He has been a 32nd Degree Mason for more than 20 years. He is retired from the Prison after 30 years. In his spare time he raises bees.

Be pleased to welcome Bro. Howard and thank him for his "labor in the Temple".

## ANOTHER BROTHER OF OUR VALLEY JOINS THE "ACACIA GUILD"

Bro. Michael Dixon, 32° KCCH, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma and an active Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of McAlester recently renewed his annual membership to the Supreme Council's Acacia Guild.



He is also a Dual member of the Guthrie Valley. Thank you, Mike, for your commitment to the Scottish Rite and to Masonry.

The Acacia Guild is a fund-raiser by the Supreme Council, AASR, for the preservation of the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. The contributor's name is placed on a special plaque in the House of the Temple to further recognize the donors as supporters of our national presence.





## GOOD MEN BETTER?

Does Freemasonry really make good Men better? Well, let's see. Check this out:

"A Real Man"

A real man never talks about what the world owes him, the happiness he deserves, and the chances he ought by right to have, and all that.

A real man is just as honest in the dark in his own room as he is in public.

A real man does not want public tips and favors. He wants work and an honest wage.

A real man does not want something for nothing, so the get-rich-quick people cannot use him.

A real man does a little more than he promises.

A real man is dependable.

A real man is loyal to his friends, and guards their reputations as his own.

A real man does not hunt dangers, but never dodges it when he ought to meet it.

A real man is glad to live and not be afraid to die.

"The Masonic Beacon"



## FAMOUS DeMolays (Who were not Masons)

**Ruben Askew**

**Gov. of Florida; U.S. trade rep.**

**Mel Blanc**

**Voice of "Bugs Bunny"**

**Frank Borman**

**Apollo astronaut**

**Bill Clinton**

**42nd U.S. President**

**Walt Disney**

**Art & entertainment icon**

**Mark Hatfield**

**U.S. Senator & Gov. of Oregon**

**Harmon Killebrew**

**Baseball Hall of Famer**

**Pete Rose**

**Baseball record holder**

**John Steinbeck**

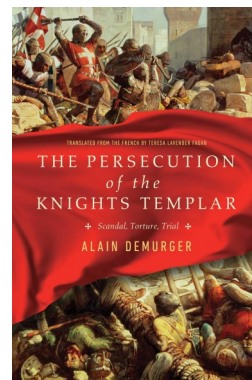
**Pulitzer Prize winning author**

**Fran Tarkenton**

**NFL Hall of Fame quarterback**

## BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST

Persecution of the Knights Templar,  
(Scandal, Torture, and Trial)  
by Alan Demurger; c. 2015



The author of this book is a senior lecturer at the university of Paris and also the author of "The Last Templar." He is recognized as France's foremost scholar on the "Crusades". "Persecution" was written in French, but has been translated to English by Penguin books. The book is probably the most notable book with a complete and readable account of the Knights Templar. It is extremely detailed and well documented.

This book essentially provides all the reliable information any one could want about the how, why and when account of the Knights of the Temple. It is highly recommended for any student of Templary.  
(Review by W. Bruce Pruitt)

### **THE CUP OF BROTHERLY LOVE**

On September 7, 1929, after raising his son, Brother Norman B. Hickox, Master of Events Lodge No. 524, Illinois, formally presented a beautiful silver cup to the lodge. He also presented a book of travel and a specially prepared carrying case. The cup was to be sent on a journey, traveling always from West to East by land sea or air, and always in the custody of a Master Mason.

On November 19, 1929, the book and cup were taken to Ashlar Lodge No. 308 in Chicago to start the journey. The book recorded the places and circumstances of each visit of the cup.

On the journey the cup was received by more than 150 host lodges. It touched places all over the world. On May 24, 1958, a homecoming celebration was held at Evans Lodge to commemorate the return of the cup to the lodge. The Cup of Brotherly Love, an illustrated account of this odyssey, was published by the Masonic Service Association in 1959.

## HISTORY; FREEMASONRY AND OKLAHOMA

(continued)

"Footnotes to previous events in this account.'

(1) General Matthew Arbuckle was born at Greenbrier, VA in 1774. He entered the U.S. Army as an ensign in 1800. He died at Ft. Smith, Ark. June 11, 1851. He was given a military funeral with all the honors of the Army, and Masonic burial. He came to the frontier in 1821 and was in command of troops at Ft. Smith, Ft. Gibson, and one time at New Orleans. Fort Arbuckle was named in his honor. A newspaper account of the funeral reports that:

"The minute gun uttered its thunder, the flag fluttered in the breeze at half mast, the fife and muffled drum were heard. The soldiers, survivors of the pestilence, fired their guns over the grave of their General. But all this, solemn and appropriate as it was, could not so well express the general sorrow as the half-repressed sigh and the silver tear. The burial service of the Church, the Masonic ceremony, and the Military honors closed the solemnities of the grave. The long procession dispersed and left him 'Like a Warrior taking his rest.'"

The remains were afterwards reinterred at his birthplace which he himself had planted.

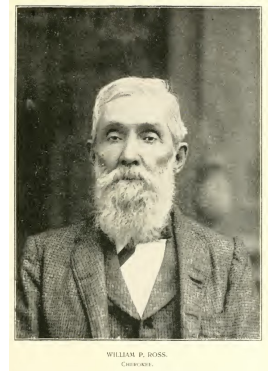
(2) Sam Houston was born Lexington, VA March 2, 1793. He was left fatherless in 1807. Disgusted with quiet life in a country store, he ran away and lived for a time with the Cherokee Indians. He returned to Tennessee and divided his time between politics and the army and succeeded in both. He was a close friend of Bro. Andrew Jackson with whom he pleaded constantly in behalf of the Indians. He was made a Mason in Cumberland Lodge No. 8 at Nashville, TN in 1817. He later became a member of Holland Lodge No. 36 in Texas which was then under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. He presided over the convention which organized the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. He was at one time an officer in the Royal Arch Chapter at Huntsville, TX. No record has been found of his Masonic relations while he lived among the Cherokees.



# HISTORY; FREEMASONRY AND OKLAHOMA

(continued)

(3) William P. Ross was born August, 28, 1820, a nephew of Chief John Ross who bore the expense of the boy's liberal education. Graduated from Princeton, in 1842. In the Cherokee country, he taught school, was clerk of the Senate and, in 1844, became editor of the Cherokee Advocate". He was frequently sent to Washington on official errands. He participated in the Grand Council of Indian Tribes at Okmulgee in 1871. Chief of Cherokees, in 1874. He was editor of the "Indian Journal", at Muskogee; "Indian Chieftain" at Vinita and also the "Indian Arrow" at Ft. Gibson. He died July 28, 1891 while a member of the Cherokee Senate.



to be continued

Resource: "History of Freemasonry in Oklahoma."

Oklahoma Lodge of Research

## AN IRISH MESSAGE ON STONE

In 1860, at Limerick, Ireland, there was found in a small chapel a stone dated 1517 with the following inscription:

"I will serve to live with love and care, Upon the level, by the square."

***"Go out into the world, my Brothers; and be a Light among men."***

***Thirty-second Degree***

***Editor Don Jones 33°***





344th McAlester Valley Reunion  
**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**  
 April 2-3, 2022

**Saturday, April 2, 2022**

6:30 AM...	Breakfast.....	Dining Room
7:00 AM...	Candidate Registration.....	Main Lobby
	Single Class Pictures.....	Main Lobby
7:45 AM...	Assemble Class.....	Class Director
8:00 AM...	Opening Ceremony.....	Auditorium
9:00 AM...	Open Lodge of Perfection.....	Venerable Master
9:05 AM...	4th Degree.....	Lone Grove Team (Clay Roberts)
9:55 AM...	5th Degree.....	Communicated
10:00 AM...	6th Degree.....	District 19 Degree Team (Bubba Pingleton)
10:35 AM...	7th Degree.....	Knights of St. Andrew Team (Brent Heilman)
11:15 AM...	8th Degree.....	Garvin County Team (John Sprowls)
12:00 PM...	Lunch.....	Dining Room
1:00 PM...	9th - 13th Degrees.....	Communicated
1:30 PM...	14th Degree.....	Oklahoma County Team (Harrison Bartlett)
2:40 PM...	Open Chapter Rose Croix.....	Wise Master
2:45 PM...	15th-17th Degrees.....	Communicated
3:10 PM...	18th Degree.....	Nolan Watson Team (Donnie Higginbotham)
4:30 PM...	Open Council of Kadosh.....	Commander
4:35 PM...	19th Degree.....	Communicated
5:00 PM...	Approximate Class Dismissal.....	Class Director

**Sunday, April 3, 2022**

6:30 AM...	Breakfast.....	Dining Room
7:45 AM...	Assemble Class.....	Class Director
8:00 AM...	20th Degree.....	David J. Williams Team (Charles Manning)
8:50 AM...	21st Degree.....	Stigler Team (Sam Box)
9:55 AM...	22nd Degree.....	Shawnee Team (Bobby Peters)
10:30 AM...	23rd - 25th Degrees.....	Communicated
11:00 AM...	Class Picture.....	Larry McManus, KCCH
12:00 PM...	Lunch.....	Dining Room
1:00 PM...	26th Degree.....	McAlester Boys (Stephen Gragg)
1:45 PM...	27th - 28th Degrees.....	Communicated
2:00 PM...	29th Degree.....	Muskogee Team (Mark McFadden)
3:00 PM...	30th Degree.....	Shawnee Team (Steve Dawson)
4:10 PM...	Open Consistory.....	Master of Kadosh
4:15 PM...	31st Degree.....	Communicated
4:20 PM...	32nd Degree.....	Indian Consistory Team (Wade Massey)
5:30 PM...	Certificate Presentations.....	Auditorium
6:00 PM...	Approximate Class Dismissal.....	Class Director