



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

**Newsletter Date**

**March 27, 2025**

**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**

Oklahoma County Scottish Rite Chapter,  
OKC 11:00 AM McClintocks, Stockyards

### **2nd Monday of the Month**

Lodge of Perfection Meeting,  
Meeting at 7:00 pm

### **3rd Wednesday of the Month**

Muskogee Chapter, Scottish Rite  
Masonic Temple Noon

### **5th Thursday of the Month**

McIntosh Chapter Scottish Rite  
6:00 pm Lake Country Dinner

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

### **Advisory Council and Officers**

Wade Massey, 33°, Chairman  
Mike Ebert, 33° General Secretary  
William C. Cox, 33°, Member  
Phillip Johnson, 33°, Member  
Harrison Bartlett, 33° Member  
Chris Botts, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master  
Ron Gregg, Sr, 32° KCCH, Wise Master  
Brian Engleman, 32° KCCH, Commander  
Craig Smith, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh

## **HOW MANY REUNIONS?**

This April 12-13 will be the 350th re-  
union for the Valley of McAlester! This  
got me to wondering how we know  
that it is the 350th. Well, a phone call  
to Cherie got an answer. They have a log that tracks each re-  
union. I could not let it go at that and asked when was the  
300th reunion. That reunion was in the Spring of 2000.

# 350

Now, it is my sincere hope that each of you is around to at-  
tend the 400th reunion which will be in another 24-25 years.  
But just in case you have plans then, you might not want to  
pass up on the 350th!

Activities will start on Friday, April 11th in the morning with  
10 brothers receiving their 50-year caps and pins from SGIG  
Joe R. Manning Jr. That afternoon the Advisory Conference  
will meet. Friday evening the Ducks will meet and there will  
be an informal gathering at Beirkraft for some pizza and fel-  
lowship before the work starts on Saturday.

Saturday will be filled with degrees and good fellowship. If  
you don't have a place to work in the reunion, come and pick  
up a degree you have not seen or haven't seen in a while. At  
8:00 PM that evening we will be having a game night in the  
Richards room. We will have a corn hole game as well as  
cards and dominoes. Bierkraft will provide their famous Root  
Beer and we will have the popcorn machine going. If we can  
find a basketball or baseball game, we will probably have it  
going on the tv.

On Sunday afternoon, we will have a Rose Croix service in  
remembrance of those members who have passed away in  
the last few months.

**WE STILL NEED CANDIDATES FOR THE REUNION!** If  
you know of a master mason, give him a petition or the link  
to the online petition. Let him know that he can always tell  
everyone that he joined at the 350th Reunion of the Valley of  
McAlester.

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

You can petition the Scottish Rite for membership online at the following link:

[Online Petition](#)

Or scan this QR Code



Upcoming Reunions:

**2025**

**April 12-13**

**October 11-12**

**2026**

**April 18-19**

**October 24-25**

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

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, reach out for help immediately by calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988; you can also text HOME to 741741 to access the Crisis Text Line. This service is available 24/7 and can connect you with a trained crisis counselor who can provide support and guidance

## ORIENT PASSPORT PROGRAM

A program has been developed known as the "Passport of the A.A.S.R.". This program is to encourage all Oklahoma Scottish Rite masons to witness the exemplification of all 29 of the Scottish Rite degrees. Candidates are given, and members may request, a passport booklet. At each Reunion, certain degrees are designated as "passport degrees."



Passport degrees change with each Reunion. When a member observes such a degree, the CLASS director will attest the same in his booklet. When a member has completed his passport booklet, he will receive a beautiful 32nd degree or KCCH jewel from his home valley.

- Rules for Earning Degree Stickers---
- Must witness the entire degree in the auditorium.
- Must have the Passport booklet with you.
- Maximum of 1 mandatory and 3 non-mandatory degree stickers to be awarded at each Reunion.
- Degrees for which stickers will be given will be marked in the Reunion schedule.
- Member can attend Reunions receive stickers from other Oklahoma Valleys. At the Valley of McAlester, the passport degrees may only be attested by the Class Directors. (Signatures by other McAlester officers will not be recognized.)
- One booklet per member. Passports cannot be combined.

## IMPORTANT

Brother John Salisbury 33° has negotiated a special rate with the Comfort Inn in McAlester during the reunion. The regular rate is \$125 a night but the special is \$95 a night. Here is the catch, you must make your reservation **by March 30** in order to get this rate.

Contact the Comfort Inn in McAlester at (918) 426-9391 and ask for the Scottish Rite special rate. Don't let this deal pass you by!



**VALLEY OF MCALESTER REUNIONS**  
**APRIL 18-19, 2026**  
**OCTOBER 24-25, 2026**

## SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

**Thur. Apr. 3**, 11:00 am; Luncheon  
OKC Scottish Rite Club  
First Thursday Luncheon  
McClintock's Chop House 2229 Exchange Ave., OKC  
All Masons are welcome, Candidates eat free.  
Good food and fellowship

**Sun., Apr. 6**; Anniversary  
The International Order of  
Rainbow Girls was founded  
on this day in 1922.  
Bro. Mark Sexson, 33°, Founder

**Fri. Apr. 11**; Reunion Weekend  
...50 yr membership awards  
,,,Ducks dinner and Hatching  
McAlester Scottish Rite Center

**Sat./Sun.; April 12,13**; 2-Day Reunion  
McAlester Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
Petitions are available or use QR Code on Page 2

**Mon. Apr. 14**; 7:00 pm; stated mtg.  
McAlester Lodge of Perfection  
McAlester Scottish Rite Center, Richards Room  
All Members are welcome

**Wed. Apr. 16**; 12 Noon; Luncheon  
Muskogee Scottish Rite Chapter  
Muskogee Masonic Lodge  
Dining Room in basement, Please uses south door.

**Thur., Apr. 17**; Maundy Thursday  
Scottish Rite observance is optional.

**Sun.-Wed.; Aug. 17-19**; Biennial  
Supreme Council Biennial Session  
House of the Temple, Washington, D.C.  
Online registration opens on May 1.  
"Honors Year"



## The 29th Degree Scottish Knight of St. Andrew

St. Andrew is said to have been crucified on an X-Shaped cross, although there is no historical evidence to support this claim. Andrew is a Greek name that means "manly". St. Andrew was the brother of St. Peter one of the first disciples chosen by Jesus.

St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland' and the cross bearing his name appears on the Scottish flag. He is said to have appeared to King Hungus of the Picts in the 9th century, promising him victory in a battle with the English King, Athelstan. who sought to conquer Scotland. In the sky that night St. Andrew placed the shape of the cross on which he was crucified as a token of his promise or covenant. The Picts defeated the English army and preserved their liberty for a while longer.

### **DUTIES:**

Reverence and obey the Deity. Serve the truth.  
protect virtue and innocence. Defend the people against tyranny.

### **LESSONS:**

Ideas and institutions wax and wane in the great cycle of time which is but change.

### **FOR REFLECTION:**

Is virtue an armor stronger than the strongest metal?

### **The LECTURE**

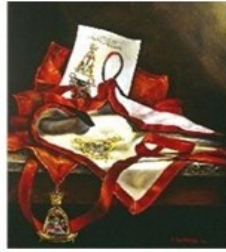
The Lecture includes a section by another author, Bro. Rev. W. W. Lord, 32nd degree. Bro. Lord's contribution discusses religion, science, great calamities and Masonry in the 19th century, which he calls the Age of Iron and characterizes as a troubled time. His discussion of events current at the original publication of "morals and Dogma" as intermingled with instruction on Masonic attitudes and philosophy. From this addition, we clearly see the timeless quality of Masonic instruction. He concludes with the thought what we are responsible for ourselves "

"Men are great or small in stature as it pleases God. But their nature is great or small as it pleases themselves. Men are not born, some with great souls and some with little souls..... By an act of the will, he can make himself a moral giant, or dwarf himself to a pigmy."

from "A Bridge to Light"







## KNIGHT OF 18° ROSE CROIX

This degree teaches that, in reality, what causes us to be immortal is affection; is love. Only if one loves is he conscious that he lives, and that he therefore loves life. As Masons, we should practice virtue that it may produce fruit. We should have faith in God, mankind and ourselves. And we should be loving men. Masonry teaches that, so long as a man is loved, so long as he is remembered with love; he continues living in this way even in his grave. And a brother who conveys this image and this message This degree emphasizes that life and its strength come from God. The rose signifies the dawn and the cross is a sacred symbol of antiquity in many cultures. One is also taught to be tolerant of other's errors and faults. The apron is of white leather or satin, bordered in red, with a skull and cross-bones, a red passion cross and three red rosettes. The grand jewel is a gold compass open a quarter circle. A rose-cross is between the legs of the compass and under it is a pelican, tearing its breast to feed its seven young on the obverse and an eagle with wings extended on the reverse. On the circle are the letters I.N.R.I. The duties are to practice virtue; to labor to eliminate vice; to purify humanity; to be tolerant of the faith and creed of others.

### NOLAN WATSON DEGREE TEAM



**Donnie Higginbotham, KCCH—Director**

13447 County Rd 1560-Ada, OK 74820

580-919-7769 / dhiggi@mntnllc.com

Gary Scarber, 33°-Wise Master

Tom Dafforn, KCCH-Wise Master

Mike Wright, KCCH-Senior Warden

Donald G. Jones, 33°-Senior Warden

John Paul Todd-Expert

Joe McCullar &

Stephen Smith-Junior Warden

Richard Heelan, KCCH-Master of Ceremonies

## HISTORY: "Giants of McAlester Consistory"

### III. William Busby, 33°, S.G.I.G. in Oklahoma

*"From "History of Labette County, Kansas and Representative Citizens."*

" William Busby, an extensive coal operator, and the mayor of whose portrait is shown, is one of the best citizens of Labette County, Kansas. The life of this gentleman stands out as a shining example of what may be accomplished by industry. Granted only a limited education, he was thrown upon his own resources at an early age, and the success which has attended his efforts is the result of persevering Diligence and keen foresight. Taking advantage of opportunities as what presented themselves, he steadily increased his operations until they assumed vast proportions. He employs about 600 men, and his daily payroll is about \$1,500. He has been identified with many of the most worthy enterprises instituted for the good of the city, and as executive of the city of Parsons is as successful as in the management of his private affairs. He was born near Trenton, Jersey, Sept. 4, 1954 and is the oldest son of George and Margaret (Lunney) Busby."



William Busby grew up working on his father's farms and the constant moving severely limited his chances of a formal education. Working on the farm, he married, and 2 years later decided to seek opportunities elsewhere. His search began at Mathewson, KS where he bought and sold grain on commission and saved his money for capital for future use. After one year he decided to expand the business and relocated to McCune, KS. There he expanded into dealing with coal and continued in McCune for 9 years. In 1889, he re-located to Parsons, KS while retaining his business interests at McCune. Using his business acumen and sound judgement, he began to acquire considerable property in the Indian Territory. It was there that new coal deposits had been found and was claimed to be of too low a grade to be profitable. This did not deter Busby as he increase his holdings. His coal mines were located at Wilburton, McAlester and South McAlester in the Territory, and at Mineral, KS. The total of his businesses required a large work force.

Continued on next page

## HISTORY: "Giants of McAlester Consistory"

### Busby (Continued)

In addition to his mining interests, Busby became the general sales agent for the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company. In this capacity, he established an office in Oklahoma City with the main office being in Parsons. Parsons continued to be his base of operations until 1903 when he moved his family to McAlester, I.T. Also, at this time, he was president of the Parsons Building & Mercantile Company and the vice-president and treasurer of the Parsons Crystal Ice Storage Company. His residence was one of the most prominent in Parsons where he also had large holdings in other real estate.

Mr. Busby is a self-made man in every sense of the term and the people of the county are proud of his achievements. Mr. Busby is united in Marriage to Sarah Bell, with whom he has had the following children; Mabel L., Edna, Ralph H., Roy C., Paul D., Ruth A., and two who died in infancy.

The following is a very brief summation of Busby's Masonic affiliations:

Master Mason from McCune Lodge; the Royal Arch Chapter, Ellsworth Council, and Commandery of the York Rite; Valley No. 1, A.A.S.R., 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason; and Ararat Temple of the Mystic Shrine. It is assumed that his interest in Masonry was the incentive to be active in Oklahoma Masonry in an outstanding way.

Next: The move to McAlester, I.T.

(to be continued)

***"Go forth into the world and be a  
light among men."***

***32nd Degree***

**Don Jones, 33° Editor**

