



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

April 23, 2021

Editor : Don Jones, 33°

WELCOME TO THE SCOTTISH RITE, BRETHREN



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

Jack Inman, 33, Chairman
Mike Ebert, KCCH General Secretary
Vacant, 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
Donnie Higginbotham II 32°, Master of
Kadosh



McAlester Scottish Rite Bodies
342ND CLASS REUNION
April 17, 2021

"Congratulations! to the 52 Master Masons who became "Masters of the Royal Secret" 32nd Degree last Saturday, April 17. As Scottish Rite Masons, you have opened more doors to Masonic fellowship and activity.

You received the five most important degrees of the Rite, but more knowledge may be found in attending the other degrees at later Reunions. The degrees of the Rite will teach you much but much is also available elsewhere.

The Scottish Rite's Valley of McAlester has local organizations that meet between Reunions. There you will meet more Brethren of the Rite, make new friendships, and enjoy, not only Masonic activity, but recreational and family activities. Being involved is the best way to enjoy begin a 32nd Degree Mason. (Continued Next Page)

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



BeAFreemason.org



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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questions or comments email
news@mcasr.org.

Upcoming Reunions:

2021
April 17
October 23-24

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

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Welcome! (continued)

In one of the degrees, you heard the words:

DUTY IS THE ONE GREAT LAW OF MASONRY.

SO,,,WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? HERE IT IS:

"Ten Duties of a Scottish Rite Mason"

1. **God.** A Scottish Rite Mason demonstrates reverence and love for God by aligning his behavior with God's spiritual law.
2. **Physical body.** A Scottish Rite Mason examines and controls all forms of gluttony and excesses.
3. **Family.** A Scottish Rite Mason's moral obligation is to care for his spouse and children. He provides food and shelter and sees to the education of his children.
4. **Relatives.** A Scottish Rite Mason supports, respects and cares for his parents. He understands all his dealings are to be fair with his extended family.
5. **Occupation.** A Scottish Rite Mason develops his mind to its highest potential and pursues his vocation with energy.
6. **Neighbors.** A Scottish Rite Mason does unto others what he would have them do unto him.
7. **Government.** A Scottish Rite Mason supports good government and resisting tyranny. He opposes unjust government by demonstrating courage to bring about appropriate change.
8. **Humanity.** A Scottish Rite Mason understands that he is a brother to all races, colors and creeds. He understands that when he helps others, he is, in effect, helping himself.

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Ten Duties (continued)

9. **Enemies.** A Mason focuses his anger. He gathers information, and discusses differences when he is involved in conflict. When he is wrong, he concedes. When he is right, he sets limits. When he is attacked, he retaliates appropriately. When victorious, he seeks a just peace, and honors his word. When defeated, he learns and prepares for the future.

10. **Passion.** A Scottish Rite Mason subdues, but never eliminates his passion. He knows his true passion is to serve God by serving his brother.

MASONIC ACTIVITY

Sat. April 24, 2021; Grand Sessions
Oklahoma York Rite Bodies at the
India Shrine Center, OKC
Pre-registration required; forms
on the Grand York Rite web site.
registration is \$10.00
Grand Chapter 8:00 a.m.
Grand Council - 10:00 a.m.
Break; no Food service at Center
Grand Commandery, 2:00 p.m.
No Virtual Participation
COVID-19 precautions apply



April 1st OKC luncheon Report
John Salisbury Chairman -- we had a
good crowd as you can see by the pic.



Most in attendance were members
with 2 or 3 candidates. Good food and
fellowship was enjoyed by all.
Join us on **Thursday, May 6** at the
Gold Corral, I-40 & MacArthur, OKC
11:30 a.m..

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MASONIC ACTIVITY(CONTINUED)

Mon. May 10; LOP stated mtg.
 McAlester S.R. Masonic Center
 7:00 p.m.
 Richards Room of the
 S.R. Center.

Sat. May 15; Car Show (fundraiser)
 Host- So. McAlester #96
 Place - North Town, McAlester
 For more information'
 call Gunner Tarron, 918-916-9105

July 4-8, 2021; Imperial Session
 Shrine International ; Houston, TX

August 20,21, 2021; Biennial Session
 Supreme Council, S.J., AASR.
 Attendance is limited to the Active
 Members and Deputies.
 Registration available on web site

OBLIGATORY DEGREE TEAMS
32nd Degree, Master of the Royal Secret
Indian Consistory Team

Director -- Wade Massey, 33°
 Prelate -- Dan Earley, KCCH
 Master of Ceremonies -- Johnny Allford, KCCH
 Preceptor -- David Cathey, KCCH
 Prior -- Mark Halyard, 33°
 Minister of State -- Patrick Brooks, KCCH
 Master of Kadosh -- Tom Keenze, 33°
 Chancellor -- Bret Cable, 32°
 Vedic Poet -- Don Higginbotham, KCCH
 Expert -- Gary Scarber, KCCH
 Marshal of Ceremonies --

Donnie Higginbotham, II, 32°, Kyle Halyard, KCCH
 Prompters – Mike Wright, KCCH, Steven Viner, KCCH
 Robert Denton, 32°



QUOTES from "CHERRY THOUGHTS"

Joy does not happen. It is the inevitable result of certain lines followed and laws obeyed and so a matter of character.

Madeline D. Babcock

True bravery is shown by performing without witnesses what one might be capable of doing before all the world.

La Rochefoucauld

Noah was 600 years old before he knew how to build an ark -- don't lose your grip.

Elbert Hubbard

Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. Seize common occasions and make them great.

O.S. Marden

Thrift of time will repay you in after-life with a thousand folds of profit beyond your most sanguine dreams.

William Gladstone



Morals & Dogma in Audio Book

Scottish Rite Supreme Council is pleased to offer members—free of charge—an audiobook of Albert Pike's *Morals & Dogma: Annotated Edition* by Ill. Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross, as each chapter becomes available!

"Over the years, I've spoken with Brothers who told me they would love to read *Morals and Dogma*, but just didn't have the available time," Ill. de Hoyos said. "This free audiobook is a remarkable opportunity to have the text of my annotated edition accompany you during a work-out, long drive, or a flight. "

[Click Here](#) to listen to the book. Please note that you will be asked to log in to the Members-only section of scottish-rite.org, if you are not already.

M.W. ROBERT G. DAVIS, GRAND MASTER OF OKLAHOMA LIFTS COVID RESTRICTIONS

From letter issued April 21, 2021)

...., Pursuant to Section 202A.3, giving the Grand Master authority to do what he deems necessary for the welfare of the Craft, it is my decision that Oklahoma Lodges can now return to pre-COVID-19 lodge practices and activities, using reasonable judgement in regard to attendance, meals, fundraising, activities, district meetings, or public participation. For those who have not been vaccinated, social distancing is still recommended. Masks may still be worn by those who prefer to wear them; and lodges will be tolerant of the wishes of their individual members and guests in this regard. The Worshipful Master still has the authority to govern his lodge when exceptions may necessitate a decision to return to more restricted practices. All previous decisions issued this year pertaining to COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted until further notice.

Robert G. Davis, Grand Master of Oklahoma
issued this 21st day of April, 2021.

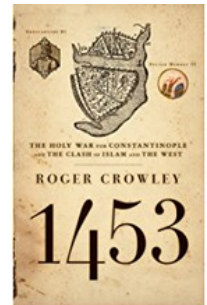


BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST "1453: THE HOLY WAR FOR CONSTANTINOPLE"

By Roger Crowley

Reviewed by George Marshall, Jr. PGC

(Ed. Note: I have chosen this book because the subject is historically significant in world history.)



This is the third of Mr. Crowley's books written on the strife between Christianity and Islam in the Middle East during the late Middle Ages and Early Modern Era. This book, like the two previous ones, was a pleasure to read due to its vivid and eminently readable style that makes you feel as if you were present at the event related in the narrative.

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BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST (Continued)

April of 1453 saw a multi-ethnic army of 80,000 Muslims arrayed against 8,000 Greek, Italian, and Spanish Christian defenders of the city who were led by the 57th emperor, Constantine XI

.....the conquest of Constantinople not only saw the end of the Christian Byzantine Empire but also the end of the medieval world

SPRING-TIME MALADY STRIKES OUR MASONIC BRETHREN "Fishin Fever"

Gee! a feller gets lazy, dreamin' on a river bank.
Cornfield needs cultivation; weeds are gettin' awful rank.
Don't know what it is that makes you lie an' doe an' dream;
Maybe so it's locusts singin' in the trees along the stream;
When the fish are bitin' lazy, where the pools are still and deep;
Everything seems sorta drowsy., like the world was half asleep;
Let the cornfield go to blazes, it can wait another time;
Man don't feel like doin' nuttin' when the fishin's in its prime.

Luther Fisherman



MASONRY TAKES THE BEST OF ALL PHILOSOPHIES.

Masonry takes the best from Greece: be moderate, know thyself; from Rome; be strong, order thyself; from Confucius: be superior, correct thyself; from Buddha; be disillusioned, forget thyself; from Islam: be submissive, bend thyself; from Jerusalem: be holy, conform thyself; from Materialism: be efficient, cultivate thyself; from Dilettantism: be broad, enjoy thyself; from Christianity, be God-like, give thyself.

"The London Freemason"



THE SCOTTISH RITE & ANTI-MASONRY DURING THE 1990'S (continued)

The author of my source, Mr. Fox chose to reverse engineer the anti-Masonry movement and give the reader how and why the movement came when it did.

(Quote) "Major scholarly interpretations of American religious prejudice, nativism, anti-Semitism and anti-Masonry in the early 1990's drew upon analyses developed during the 1950's and early 1960's which tended to lump most American countersubversion into a broad category of "extremists" stirred by "status anxiety". As a historian studying the American right, Leo Ribuffo points out that older studies of the Christian and political right "underestimated conspiratorial and xenophobic attitudes within the cultural mainstream, slighted economic origins of ethnic conflict, to nearly divided villains from victims, missed continuities between psychological normality and abnormality." (unquote)

Sometime around the mid-20th century, the religious right began to expand and broaden its definition of what constituted a religious group. The Scottish Rite and Masonry in general fell into this broadened definition. In the "extremist" view, or opinion, since Masons opened their meetings and closed them, with prayer, they must be a religion. We will see later how this reasoning has led to, not just anti-Masonry, but many other organizations in our society.

(continued next issue)

THE SCOTTISH RITE & ANTI-MASONRY DURING THE 1990'S (continued)

This misguided thought by the "extreme" Right caused American religious prejudice to become a dominant movement in the U.S. Our author uses the game of football as an example of how it worked. Quote "How a football game may qualify as a form of "religious experience" because a broad interpretation can qualify in a sporting event ritual acts and gestures, the human of time running out, forms of congregational chanting, and even the antiphonal characteristics of alternating offense and defense. Certainly, a religious impulse is present in the transformation of athletes into half-gods despite its challenge to the Decalogue's first admonition against idolatry." (unquote).

The new broadened interpretation of "what constitutes a religion" brought on the concept of "civil religion" and "non-church" religion in America in 1975 and evolved into the American psyche, by the 1990's was an accepted part of our culture. Also, during that time, a "New Age" phenomena became a popular thing. (Song? "This is the Age of Aquarius", Ed. note) It may be noted that it was about this time that the name of the Scottish Rite magazine name was changed from "The New Age" to the "Scottish Rite Journal."

Therefore the "extreme Right's interpretation caused changes in Freemasonry, Boy scouts, Girl Scouts, and generally any organization that expressed a moral character and used ritual and/or prayer. (quote) The religion-moral character of Masonry has long been acknowledged by scholars. But these claims became better focused later in viewing fraternal associations as a form of institutions of civil religion., (unquote). We get a good idea of how much "nativism" has become popular in our country when in 1975, "one nation under God" was added to our Pledge "This is from William Fox, author of "Lodge of the Double Eagle"

***"If you want to make an enemy,
try changing something."
Woodrow Wilson, U.S. President***

Editor Don Jones 33°

