



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

**Newsletter Date**

**May 27, 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 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

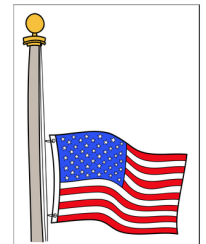
## MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is a reminder to our nation of the persistence of Life. Formerly known as "Decoration Day", the commemoration of our men and women who gave their lives for our nation. The first Decoration Day was held on May 30, 1858. The events of the day were done at the Arlington National Cemetery at Alexandria, Virginia. On that day the graves were decorated with flowers and other items of remembrance by the families and friends of the deceased. Therefore, "Decoration" Day.

The holiday was celebrated on May 30 every year until 1970. Then the name was changed, officially, to "Memorial Day". Later the date for the holiday was moved to the "last Monday in May." Thus, providing for a 3-day holiday weekend for the American people.

Sometime, since 1868, the Memorial Day came to be the day when decoration of the grave began to be extended to include family members and relatives who had passed on.

A military observance is usually conducted at the cemeteries on the morning of Memorial Day. The U.S. Flags across the nation begin the day at half-mast. At noon, or following the military service, the Flag is raised to the top of the pole. (This is proper procedure for all U.S. Flags).



Some people consider the Memorial Day weekend as the "real beginning" of summer. It may be. So, enjoy your holiday and please take time out to remember your departed loved ones.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



[BeAFreemason.org](http://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

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:

**2021**  
**October 23-24**

**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](#)

## **A PERSONAL REFLECTION**

Let's not forget our deceased brethren who have gone before us to the Grand Lodge of Above. Especially those who have been major players in our Masonic journeys.

I remember: David Luster, 33°, who taught my Lectures and "forced" me to attend my first Scottish Rite reunion Also, from Ada Lodge: Dale Hougas, 33°; Lester Craft, 33° Cordy Hudson, 33° Nolan Young, KCCH: Ray Linebarger, 32°; Ott Free, 33°; and a host of others. Later in my Masonic life: Joe Jennings, 33°; Fred Austin 33°; Gene Harper, 33°; Paul Fitch, 33°; John Williams, 33°; Don Hackler, 33°; Jerry Grubbs, 33°; Keith Madden, 33°.

Thank You, Brethren and all the others whose names would make a list as long as a football field.

Donald G. Jones, 33°

## **McALESTER'S MASONIC CEMETERY**

The Masonic section of the McAlester Cemetery is located on the west side. The Masonic part was purchased (date unknown) before the present temple was built.

The Masonic section is owned by a Trust. The Masons who serve as the trustees are Brett Cable, Johnny Allford and Brian Engleman.

The section is commonly called the "Scottish Rite Cemetery" because of the "Double Eagle" on one of the graves. However, the Scottish rite Lodge of Perfection only is the administrator for the Trust. The Eagle, which was originally on the first Temple; is placed on a pedestal that also serves as a tombstone for the individual whose name is engraved on it.



The plots in the Masonic section sell for \$350 each. This does not include other burial costs. Those are extra and that cost is determined by the City of McAlester and the funeral homes.

## LODGE MEDAL IDENTIFIES CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

Hanging on the wall Relief Lodge #284, of Pierpont, Ohio, is a letter with a Masonic coin in the corner. There is an interesting history connected with the coin. It belonged originally to Sylvester Brower who was made a Master Mason at a special communication of the lodge on October 4, 1861, two days before he went south with the Union Army. For 50 years he was unheard of and it was thought that he was among the unknown and unidentified dead of the Civil War.

Then came the letter. It was from a Mason in New Orleans and stated, in effect, that about two years after the end of the War, a laborer in one of the writer's fields plowed up an old grave, indications pointed to it being that of a soldier. In this grave was found the medal which had engraved on one side a Square and Compass in the center and the following engraved around the Bible, which was the base of the coin, "Relief Lodge No. 284" and the letters "S. B. "

The writer wished to return the medal to the family of the soldier but was unable at that time to ascertain the location of the lodge mentioned. The coin was misplaced a number of years later it was found in an old trunk and Relief Lodge was communicated with and the name of Sylvester Brower found on their records. The family had moved away and at the request of the lodge the medal was returned to it and now as mentioned above hangs on the wall of the lodge.

(The Oklahoma Mason, 1929)

## THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

If you wish to be miserable, you must think about yourself, what you want, what you like, what respect people ought to pay you, and what people think of you.

Ambition is like a treadmill; it knows no limits; you no sooner get to the end of it then you begin again.

Josh Billings



## MASONIC ACTIVITY

**Tuesday, June 1;** Reopening House of the Temple reopens for Tours. Check the Supreme council web site for hours and days. While there look at the portrait of our Brother Will Rogers. Our McAlester Temple is in the background.



**Thur., June 3;** 11:30 a.m. Luncheon McAlester Membership Mtg & luncheon Golden Corral, I-40 & MacArthur, OKC Fellowship, food and conversation. New 32nd Degree brethren welcome.

**Mon. June 14;** 7:00 p.m., McAlester LOP Stated Meeting of the Lodge of Perfection McAlester S.R. Center, Richards Room

**Monday, June 14;** FLAG DAY  
Display your U.S. Flag at home.

**Fri. June 19; 6:30 pm,** BBQ & Bingo  
Host: Central Okla. Scottish Rite Chapter, OKC.  
India Shrine Center, , OKC  
\$15 for dinner & bingo cards. Fellowship, food, and fun.

A list of Scottish Rite Chapters and Clubs is the right margin of this issue. Check the list for a meeting in your area.

**August 20-21, 2021** Biennial Session of the AASR Supreme Council.  
Limited to Deputies & Active Members of the Council.

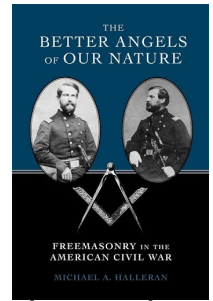


## BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST

### "The Better Angels of Our Nature: Freemasonry in the American Civil War"

By Michael A. Halleran PGM Kansas.

The first in-depth study of the Freemasons during the Civil War



One of the enduring yet little examined themes in Civil War lore is the widespread belief that on the field of battle and afterward, members of Masonic lodges would give aid and comfort to wounded or captured enemy Masons, often at great personal sacrifice and danger. This work is a deeply researched examination of the recorded, practical effects of Freemasonry among Civil War participants on both sides.

From first-person accounts culled from regimental histories, diaries, and letters, Michael A. Halleran has constructed an overview of 19th-century American freemasonry in general and Masonry in the armies of both North and South in particular, and provided telling examples of how Masonic brotherhood worked in practice. Halleran details the response of the fraternity to the crisis of secession and war, and examines acts of assistance to enemies on the battlefield and in POW camps.

The author examines carefully the major Masonic stories from the Civil War, in particular the myth that Confederate Lewis A. Armistead made the Masonic sign of distress as he lay dying at the high-water mark of Pickett's charge at Gettysburg.

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## QUOTES

Out of monuments, names, verbs, proverbs, traditions, private records and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of books and the like, we do save and recover from the deluge of time. Francis Bacon

The object of education is to give children resources that will endure as long as life endures, habits that time will ameliorate, not destroy, occupations that will render sickness tolerable, solitude pleasant, age venerable, life more dignified and useful, and death less terrible.



## WAS SHERLOCK HOLMES A FREEMASON?



No, but his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, was a Freemason, and he used Masonic references in many Holmes stories.

In "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder, " he wrote: "...You mentioned your name, as if I should recognize it, but I assure that, but beyond the obvious facts that you are a bachelor, a soldier, a Freemason, and an asthmatic, I know nothing about you"

"Familiar as I was with my friend's methods, it was not difficult for me to follow his deductions, and to observe the untidiness of attire, the sheaf of legal papers, the watch -- chain, and the breathing which had prompted them. Our client, however, stared in amazement"

## COMPUTER SAVVY

An I.T. man was called to a couple's home to fix their internet connection. The husband called out to his wife in the other room for the password. "Start with a capital S, then 123, " she shouted back.

They tried S123 several times, but it didn't work. So, they called the wife in. As she input the word, she muttered, "I really don't know what's so difficult about typing, "Start123."

Before I got married, I didn't even know there was a wrong way to put the milk back in the fridge.

--- Don Jones

*"Masonry is too great an institution to have been made in a day, much less by a few men, but was a slow evolution through long time, unfolding its beauty as it grew. Indeed, it was like one of its own cathedrals which one generation of builders wrought and vanished, and another followed, until, amidst vicissitudes of time and change, of decline and revival, the order itself became a temple of Freedom and Fraternity." – J. F. Newton*



## MATH PROBLEMS

- What do you get when you take a bovine and divide it by its circumference? A cow pi
- Why don't calculus majors throw house parties? Because you should never drink and derive.
- What do you call a number that can't keep still? A roman numeral.
- Did you hear about the statistician who drowned crossing a river? It was 3 feet deep, on average.
- Old mathematicians never die; they just lose their functions.
- Why should you never mention the number 288? It's too gross.



**3 OUT OF 2  
PEOPLE  
HAVE  
TROUBLE  
WITH  
FRACTIONS**

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

Masonry, which maintained its concept of being a secular organization, open to men of all religions and ignoring the accusation of being a "civil religion" that attracted the animosity of the religious right. In the religious rights effort to re-Christianize the American nation beginning in the 1980's, Masonry was considered a major obstacle. to their plans.

The immigration of large numbers from other countries into the United States also may have been considered "unwelcome religious competition." Freemasonry was also seen as a competitor for members. Several times in U.S. history church membership had been up and down. The 20th century overall had seen the decline of church membership. so who do you blame. Certainly not yourself.

"At the same time, the fraternity became increasingly identified with a middle way, as a link between nonbiblical nationalism and Christianity's practice of piety."

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

When the late 19th century began to see a rapid growth of Masonry the reaction to the fraternity was "largely religious in motivation and character because most of its momentum was powered by the belief that Masonry was 'an engine of Satan.'" Therefore, in the minds of its early opponents, Masonry was anti-Christian.

Another effort to smear Masonry was the "Illuminati scare" by a Calvinist named Morse. At the time this activity was recognized as a desperate attempt to regain control of his church.

Even the Father of his country, George Washington, came under criticism for being a Masonic Deist. The religious leaders had to be desperate to disparage a man of his character and reputation.

(I, personally, think it is interesting that people, usually "radicals" continue to accuse Freemasonry of what it isn't.)

to be continued

Editor's note: I have found this chapter of William Fox's book to be the most difficult to follow and reduce to any comprehension of thought. Maybe it is just me,,,,,,and maybe not.

***""The choice is yours. Choose wisely, and you will create a a smile on the face of our Supreme Architect."***

***James Cole, 33° Sovereign Grand Commander***

***The Scottish Rite Creed.***



***Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.***

