



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

June 19, 2024

Editor : Don Jones, 33°

2024 SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

The Scholarship Committee of the McAlester Charitable and Education Foundation recently met and selected the following students for the John T. Liebrand Scholarships.



Nathaniel W. Moore.....	Senior...UCO.....	Accounting
Paige Lane.....	Grad.....N.S.U.....	Speech-Language
Madison Morris.....	Grad.....N.S.U.....	Physician Asst.
Aubrey Roden.....	Grad.....N.E.S.U.....	Masters
Makayla Baldrige-Leach...	Grad.....N.E.S.J.....	Masters
Jordan Wicker-Puente.....	Grad.....Cameron.....	Masters
Kaelen C. Estep.....	Junior...Cameron.....	Early Child E.
David Dimandja.....	Junior...O.U.....	Finance
Kasey G. McKee.....	Senior...O.U.....	Chem. Science
Abigail R. Clarke.....	Grad.....O.U.....	Bus. Admin; Tech

Congratulations to all of the Recipients of the Scottish Rite Scholarships from McAlester and Thank You for the work of the Committee in their time and effort.

Continuing a tradition that has been happening for several years, the recipients of this years scholarships will be presented to the Advisory Conference at its July 18th meeting. Our thanks goes out to Committee Chairman Brother Jay White, 33° for making this annual event happen.

Your contributions to the Charitable & Educational Foundation once again demonstrates that Scottish Rite Masons from the past and today support public education.



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 11:30 AM I40 & Meridian

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

Greg Stiedley, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

Mike Echols, 32° KCCH , Wise Master

Paul Larcade, 33° KCCH , Commander

Bryan Pumphery 32° KCCH , Master of Kadosh

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



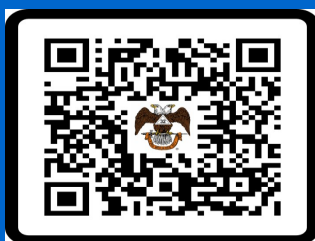
BeAFreemason.org



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

[Online Petition](#)

Or scan this QR Code



SCAN ME

Upcoming Reunions:

2024

October 12-13

2025

April 12-13

October 11-12

[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](#)

THE THIRTY-SECOND DEGREE MASTER OF THE ROYAL SECRET

It never hurts for us to occasionally be reminded of our Scottish Rite experience and what we gained personally.

The 32nd Degree, Master of the Royal Secret selects, clarifies, and unifies into a single, coherent doctrine all of the duties and lessons of the preceding degrees. We include them here for your quick review.

DUTIES

A Soldier of the Light seeks truth and Knowledge.

A Soldier of Freedom demands for the people free vote and voice and attains freedom vote, voice and opinion for himself.

A Soldier of True Religion combats spiritual tyranny with reason and truth.

A Soldier of the People encourage men to be self-reliant and independent.

A Soldier of Scottish Rite Masonry is zealous and ardent in the performance of his duties to God, his country, his family, his brethren and himself.

LESSONS

The human is ever interlaced with the Divine.

Only doctrines, faith and knowledge which bear in action are of value.

To Work is to Worship.

FOR REFLECTION

Do you endeavor to achieve the Royal Secret in your life and within yourself??

(from "A Bridge to Light")



ANY PICKERS OUT THERE?

At our last reunion, we showed the movie "The Man Who Would Be King" on Saturday evening for those who remained in the building overnight or for any who wanted to stay and see it. Now we are looking for an event for Saturday evening at our fall reunion. The thought has been put forward to having a jam session.

If you pick, fiddle, toot a horn, bang on drums or tickle the ivories we are looking for you. The proposed jam session would be from 8:00 to 10:00 PM on Saturday evening in the Richards Room. This will give everyone a chance to go out and eat after the day's activities.

If you are interested, give your name to the office. If there is enough interest, we will contact you well before the reunion.

SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

Wed., June 19; 12 noon; S.R. Luncheon
Muskogee Scottish Rite Chapter
Muskogee Masonic Lodge
Dining Room; basement level
Use South door

Thur., June 20; Summer Solstice

Mon. June 24; St. John's Day
John the Baptist Day;
Patron Saint of blue lodges

June 24, 1717; Grand Lodge of
England founded on this day.

Thur. July 4; Independence Day
Celebrate safely.
The Temple office will be closed.

NO Thursday Luncheon in OKC
due to holiday, July 4th.

Mon. July 8th 7:00 PM Stated Mtg.
McAlester lodge of Perfection
All members are welcome.

Oct. 12-13, 2024; Fall Reunion
2-Day, McAlester Scottish Rite
It's not too early to get candidates.

Support Your Blue Lodge

NEVER TOO OLD

In Australia, (Queensland), 103 year old RW Bro. Ted Smout, OAM, ASM, Legion d'Honneur, Past Assistant Grand Master has celebrated 83 years in masonry. He was initiated into Victoria Lodge, No.10, Brisbane, 10 May 1921; he was Master in March 1935.



2004 - 2024, 20th ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations are in order to our Executive Assistant in the office of the McAlester Scottish Rite, Ms. Cherie Hamilton.



In February, 2024, Ms. Hamilton started her 20th Year with the Scottish Rite Masons in McAlester. From the beginning, Cherie, as we call her, has demonstrated a dedication that is rarely seen today. Her willingness to do everything well has served the Valley and the brethren many times over.

Cherie certainly has "staying" power. During her tenure there have been four General Secretaries, two S.G.I.G.'s, three building custodians and a host of Masons. During the Reunions she runs the office quietly and efficiently.

May I speak for the membership and the officers when I say. "Thank You".

THE DECLINE OF FELLOWSHIP

First of all, we must not underestimate the Puritan influence on American Freemasonry. It is that influence which, almost without our knowing it, attaches some sort of holier-than-though stigma to the Hour of Refreshment, frowns anything cheerful and festive, and gives us that grim and silent staring at a wall. How many times have you heard a pious Brother refer sneeringly to the "Knife and Fork Mason" and to the "Six-Thirty Degree" as if there might be something reprehensible in the enjoyment of fellowship? How silly can we become?

For some reason, Freemasonry overseas was able to escape the more dour effects of Puritanism, but on almost every facet of American life we still suffer from it. The results of its influence on Freemasonry in the United States are far too numerous and controversial to discuss here, and I must not elaborate on the subject except to say that a great many of our problems today can be traced back to the period when it was deemed almost a mortal sin to eat, drink and be merry.

Dwight Smith, P.G.M., Indiana



More About SHEPHERD'S TAVERN

Not only was Shepherd's Tavern a place to eat and drink but also a place to do business, hold public meetings, and write or receive mail. As one of the principal public houses of Charleston, it played an important part in the development of the city. It shared this honor with the Exchange Coffee House at Alexander Chilsom's on the Bay and Marshall's on the Bay "Where gentlemen will have the Entertainment and Attendance usual in Coffee Houses abroad."

In 1734, a notice appeared in the "South Carolina Gazette" a weekly journal printed in "Charles-Town". It announced tickets would go on sale for a play "The Orphan or The Unhappy Marriage" which was to be held at Shepherd's Tavern at the intersection of Broad and Church Street on October 17th. This was the first season of plays of any type were presented in Charleston.

Also, in the October 28, 1736 "Gazette," the following paragraph appeared: "Last night a lodge of Ancient Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, was held, for the first time, at Mr. Charles Shepherd's Broad Street, when John Hammerton, Esq. Secretary and Receiver General for this province, was unanimously chosen Master, who was pleased to appoint Mr. Thomas Deene, Senior Warden, Mr. Tho. Harvin, Junior Warden and Mr. James Gorden, Secretary.

Shepherd's Tavern burned down during a fire in 1740. After the ashes had cooled, it was rebuilt in the same spot using as many materials as could be saved from the original building. A long list of items found was made and kept. The last item on the list was 'An advertisement found in the "South Carolina Gazette" of May 16, 1743, noting, "The Hon. William Ball, Esq., announces Charles Shepherd as Post Master for the province of South Carolina."

The Mason's Trowel

Whatever works.

A woman noticed her husband standing on the bathroom scales, sucking in his stomach. "Ha, that's not going to help," she said. "Sure it does," he said. "It's the only way I can see the numbers."



Discaleation (removal of shoes)



In the degree ceremonies, part of the candidate's preparation is to have at least one heel slipshod, i.e. bared. Some of you may not know that there are two reasons for this in the first degree. I will deal with the second reason in the next issue. In First Degree Lodges in the Ontario working, the V.S.L. is open at Ruth IV, 7. This verse provides a clue, and states:

"Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor: and this was a testimony in Israel."

Now this does not make sense in itself and, even if you read the whole chapter, it may not be clear, so I will summarize. Ruth had been married to Mahlon, who died. There were no children and, therefore, no one to care for Ruth. It was tradition in those times for a kinsman to take responsibility for a widow and her property. This obligation was signified in public by the responsible person removing his shoe. The person who took responsibility in this case was Boaz, who was not a kinsman. Ruth and Boaz were the great-grandparents of David, who was the father of Solomon.

So, it is entirely appropriate for the V.S.L., on which the candidate takes his obligation, to be opened at this position.

Article by W.Bro. Rob Lund

You know you're getting old....

- You're more worried about when the party ends rather than when it begins.
- You can't tell the difference between current band names and typos.
- All the names in your black book have MD after them.



HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

WILLIAM PERRY FREEMAN

Born: June 15, 1858, Brumley, Miller Co., MO

Died: July 9, 1944. McAlester, Oklahoma

Bro. William Perry Freeman is No. 23 of our members of the First Class. Bro. Freeman rose to great heights in his personal and professional life. He was described by his peers as being a man of ambition, industrious, a tower of moral strength and character and devoted to family and church.

He was born in June, 1858 to Andrew and Editha A. (Tunsley) Freeman, the only son of five children. William's early years were drastically affected by the early death of his father. His father's story so impressed me that I am taking the liberty of relating it in this first issue of our Brother's life.

Andrew J. Freeman, the father of our subject, was a farmer by occupation. He came to Miller County in 1857, and settled near Brumley. In 1861, he answered his country's call and enlisted in Company E , 33rd Regiment, Missouri Infantry Volunteers. Later, in 1864, on July 15, as a corporal, he was wounded by a gunshot in the right shoulder during the Battle of Tupelo, Mississippi. The wound was severe enough that he received a discharge for disability in December, 1864, He returned to Brumley where he died in November, 1874 from complications of the wound.

William, the son, was 16 years old at the time of his father's death. The years spent without his father's presence had a profound effect on the boy's life.

to be continued.

***We must pass through the darkness
to reach the light
Albert Pike, 33°***

Don Jones, 33° Editor

