



Chapter Notes

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



Winter 2025

John T. Staton, MEGHP 2024-2025



From the Grand High Priest

Greetings to all of the Royal Arch Chapter Companions of Kansas!

Fall is here but with the high temperatures and new record highs it does not seem like fall. I grew up in Arkansas during the 50s and 60s. September was cool and the killing frost was always the second week in October. We are having strange weather.

There were two Chapter schools of instruction this fall. One was in Independence, Kansas, and the other was in Baldwin City, Kansas. Congratulations to those who planned and conducted those schools. I was unable to attend either one.

There are some new things going on in the web site of the Grand York Rite of Kansas. Companion Patrick Carr has revised the website and added new member packets for Chapter, Council, and Commandery. The packets will be accessed by new members using a QR code on a card that will be given to new members after they are initiated into each body. The cards were the idea of Companion Andrew Mosley, current Grand Royal Arch Captain. The files are available under the downloads section of the website and can be used for your new members.

A fund raising jewel for the Grand Chapter of Kansas is being developed for RARA (Royal Arch Research Assistance), the charity of the General Grand Chapter. I appointed a committee consisting of Thomas Krauss, Grand Captain of the Host chairman, Daron J. Woelk, Grand Master of the First Veil, and Patrick Carr, Grand King, to design and price the jewel. A preliminary design has been done and it is in the process of being priced.

I attended the South Central York Rite Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma and made my MEGHP report to General Grand Chapter. There was a lot of information at the conference especially about the RARA. I was to go to the Social Order of the Beauceant Supreme session afterwards, also in Tulsa. Unfortunately Covid intervened and Ruth Ann and I ended up going home on the first day.

My Companions, try to stay well, and I will see you down the road.

Fraternally,

Companion John T. Staton
M.:E.: Grand High Priest of Kansas 2024-2025

Send submissions to Editor Patrick C. Carr, PHP — carrs@cox.net



South Central York Rite Conference

The annual South Central York Rite Conference was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma on September 20-21, 2024. It was an excellent session with much information which was shared between Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Listening to the passion and energy each of these Companions brought to the Conference made it enjoyable. Their energy, and their ideas, provided those who attended with ideas which they could return to their respective jurisdictions and discuss, modify, or put into their planning.

The Grand Chapter of Kansas was well represented this year with a majority of the Grand Chapter Officers in attendance. MEGHP John T.



Staton gave an excellent presentation on the state of the Capitular Craft in Kansas to the assembled delegates and leadership. The RARA jewel the MEGHP wrote about in his introduction was the idea of the Royal Arch Masons of Louisiana, and one which we believe will increase the giving levels to RARA from Kansas.

Be sure to attend the 2025 Conference which will be held in League City, Texas. More information will be coming as the date arrives.

RARA

Royal Arch Research Assistance continues to be an important part of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, and our preferred charity for the Grand Chapter of Kansas. There are new levels of giving, and new pins and badges available to those who donate to RARA. At the South Central Conference, Most Excellent Companion Dick Browning, the Right Excellent General Grand Secretary of Royal Arch Masons International, gave a wonderful presentation on the various awards and on what RARA is doing with their research.



Unity Meeting 2024

Masonic Unity was again on the minds of our Grand Chapter as they attended the 2024 Masonic Unity Meeting in Salina, Kansas on August 24, 2024. The Grand Chapter was well represented and Companion Justin D. Crippen made a presentation to the gathered Masonic Bodies of Kansas on the York Rite and its current state in Kansas. The meeting was a bit different this year, but the same zeal for our Craft was evidenced by the presentations from those who attended.





Schools of Instruction

Thank you to Companion Ivan DeTevis who put together a school of instruction for the Chapter, Council, and Commandery in Independence. Companion DeTevis worked with Most Excellent Companion H. Wayne Rector to make sure those who attended had the best opportunity to receive current and accurate instruction for the rituals and floor movements for our York Rite bodies in Kansas.

Our ritual is beautiful, but it does take some time and some effort to learn not only the correct words, but to know when and where we should be when we are moving about the Chapter room. There is an exact place for all movements in the Chapter, and Most Excellent Companion Rector knows exactly where and how to teach those movements in a meaningful and lasting way.

Be sure to attend the schools of instruction which will be announced for 2024-2025. They are a valuable tool to create a more cohesive ritual experience which can make a lasting and deep impression on our candidates as they become Royal Arch Masons.

2025 Grand York Rite Session

Before we realize it, the 2025 Grand York Rite meetings will have arrived. The sessions will be held on May 1-3, 2025, at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas once again. The hotel is beautiful and accommodating, and the meals have been excellent.



The format will be a bit different from what we have had previously. On Thursday, May 1, the individual chair degrees and bodies will meet and confer their degrees and orders on those who are eligible. The York Rite College and the Masonic Order of Athelstan will meet that day as well, and the evening will

conclude with our memorial service.

On Friday, May 2, there will be a public introduction of the visitors and dignitaries in the morning, before the private session of the Grand Chapter opens. There will be a break for lunch and after lunch the Grand Council will open for their respective business. The Grand York Rite banquet will continue on Friday evening as before.

On Saturday, May 3, the Grand Commandery will have their open meeting and inspection, before opening the Grand Commandery and continuing their work.

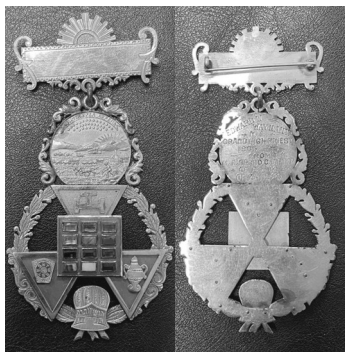
The shortened session is intended to save both money and time for our membership and to allow the business of our Grand York Rite to be completed in a more timely manner. We look forward to seeing you in Manhattan! More information will be coming, but be sure to save the date for the Grand York Rite sessions.



Recovered Past Grand High Priest Jewel

Sometimes you just get lucky. Companion Patrick Carr was visiting Great Bend Lodge No. 15 with the newly installed District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother James Lyle, on April 14, 2022.

On one a wall in the dining hall, he discovered a large frame filled with various jewels, pins, and badges. This is where he made a discovery.



While many of the items held within the frame were from either capitular, cryptic, or templar masonic origin and history, one of them stood out to him as being quite different: it had the breastplate of King David adorned with twelve jewels, the headpiece of the High Priest on the bottom of the jewel, and it had a small hanging badge near the top. This hanging badge was easily recognized as an emblem of masonry in Kansas. It had written on the top "Ad Astra Per Aspera" which is the state motto of Kansas. Within that circle were the mountains with the setting sun, a native

American on horseback hunting buffalo, a log cabin, a steam driven paddle wheel boat, and a man with a team of oxen ploughing a field. This was more than a mere delegate or visitation badge for attending an event. He knew it had to be a Past Grand High Priest Jewel!

On Saturday, October 26, 2024, a school of instruction was held in conjunction with a 150th anniversary celebration of the granting of the charter to Great Bend Lodge in 1874.

Companion Carr arrived and went to the frame and made a closer examination of the jewel through the glass. He decided it must have been a Past Grand High Priest Jewel from the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas. Brother Greg King, the Secretary of the lodge, approached him and saw the excitement on his face. He asked what Companion Carr thought was so great in the frame. Companion Carr explained to Brother King what he suspected, and how these jewels were typically returned to the Grand Recorder for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons after the individual passed away. Brother King told him he did not know there was a jewel of that importance within the lodge, much less within the frame before them. Companion Carr offered to purchase the jewel, or to donate to the Lodge so he could return the jewel to the Grand Chapter. Brother Greg simply smiled, looked at him, and gave him the jewel!

Why is this important? The jewel belonged to MEPGHP Edward W. Waynant, who served as Grand High Priest in 1906-1907. It is a rare find, and it will be returned to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas to be recycled and worn by another worthy Grand High Priest in the future.



Council Cliff Notes

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



Winter 2025

L. Kent Needham., MIGM 2024-2025



From the Illustrrious Grand Master

Greetings Companions.

It has been a very busy fall!!! It started with the South-Central Department Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Much to my disappointment, due to an unavoidable business commitment, I was unable to attend. I want to thank all those Grand Council Officers that attended and Patrick Carr for sharing an update on our progress toward the goals we, as a Grand Council, have established. Thank you.

While I was able to visit Iola Council #8 and Ellsworth Council #9 in August, most of my Council visits took place in October and November. This fall, I enjoyed the hospitality of the following Councils in Kansas: Wichita Council #12, Lawrence Council #14 and Leavenworth Council #1 at a joint Council School of Instruction, Independence Council #15, Jericho Council #26 in Hays, Junction City Council #22 and Zabud Council #4 in Topeka. Unfortunately, my visit to Silver Trowel Council #27 in Pittsburg was cancelled but we will work to get the visit rescheduled.

During these visits I enjoyed providing an update on our Grand Council projects under consideration and reviewing the progress made. By the time this article is published, I expect that the Strategic Plan will be in the final stages, if not completed. Completion by year-end is important to the planning process for the 2025-2026 leadership. Regarding the Committee Restructuring goal, a meeting was held in November which included all the elected officers of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery to begin the process of restructuring the committees in all three bodies. When finalized, I anticipate the new committee structure will be more streamlined and efficient. We will keep you updated.

As our local Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies elect and install their new officers for 2025, I would ask those officers to consider attending the 2025 Kansas York Rite Annual Communication. All are welcome, but the elected officers will benefit greatly from the experience. It will be held in Manhattan, Kansas during the first few days in May. There will be more to come on this subject, but please mark your calendar and consider attending.

The holiday season has come and is almost gone. I prayed and continue to pray for the safety of all of you and your families as you enjoy the holidays this year. Since Christmas is my favorite holiday, I never want to forget the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Enjoy!



From the Illustrious Grand Master (cont.)

As I close out this edition of Council Cliff Notes, I have quotes on Leadership for your consideration. They are as follows: *"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."* *"Leadership is the art of giving people a platform for spreading ideas that work."* *"A leader is best when people barely know he exists."* Something for all of us to think about.

This continues to be a very busy year in the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Kansas. Many thanks to both the Grand Council Officers and Committees for their willingness to serve in their respective roles. We are working diligently to secure our future.

Again, it is an honor to serve you. Enjoy the holidays and we will see you down the road.

Respectfully,

Kent Needham

M:I.: Grand Master 2024-2025

South Central Meetings Wrap-Up

Another South Central Conference meeting has come and gone. Everyone had a great time in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the annual gathering of the Grand Councils in our region. There were many excellent presentations and reports. Our Most Illustrious Grand Master, L. Kent Needham, was unable to attend, and he asked Illustrious Patrick C. Carr, Grand Conductor of the Council, to attend and bring greetings from the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas and our Most Illustrious Grand Master.



Most Illustrious Companion Matt Ruth, the current Most Illustrious Grand Master from the Grand Council of Missouri, gave a stirring and thought provoking presentation during his time to discuss what has been happening in Missouri. He made a statement concerning the number of members they had. During this part of his discussion, he told everyone its not about the number of members, its about the quality of the members and the masonic experience each group can provide for its members.

It was a great time of fellowship and education. Next year the South Central Council Meeting will be held in League City, Texas and it appears to be another great lineup of speakers and topics.



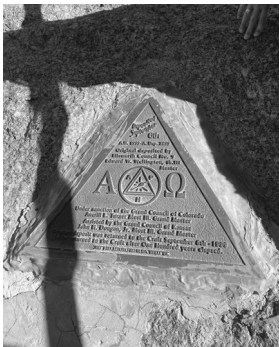
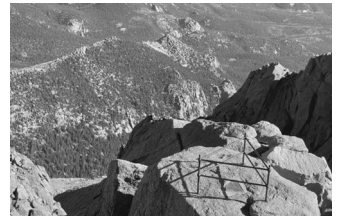
Pike's Peak Cryptic Deposit Inspection



The Pike's Peak Deposit Annual Inspection was held the weekend of August 13-15, 2024. There were seven Cryptic Masons in attendance, and several had arrived the day before and attended a wonderful dinner at a German restaurant in the area. Those who were present included Most Illustrious Companion John T. Staton, PMIGM, who was accompanied by his wife, daughter and another family member, Companion Jamie Carwell,

Right Illustrious Companion Robert Haynes, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Illustrious Companion Patrick C. Carr, Grand Conductor of the Council, Illustrious Companion Andrew G. Mosley, with his wife, Abbey, Grand Sentinel, Illustrious Companion Justin D. Crippen, Grand Marshall, and our current Most Illustrious Grand Master, L. Kent Needham.

Saturday evening included a visit to the Flying W. Ranch, where a fantastic meal was served, and the entertainment included a western music group. One of their members just happened to be from Wichita. It was a great event held near the Garden of the Gods, which is another beautiful place to visit. This annual event held by the Grand Council of Kansas started off well and was exciting for those who were attending for their very first Inspection.



Sunday morning arrived and it was time to ascend the mountain. The visitor's center could be viewed from the motel. Pike's Peak loomed high over the location. Several of our number could not ascend the mountain because of prior health conditions. It is better to listen to your doctor than to make an ill-advised trip at high altitude. A group picture was taken of the Grand Council members in attendance with Pike's Peak looming behind them. Afterwards, they managed to pack five of them into Companion Mosley's Toyota Camry and made the 19-mile drive up the mountain to Pike's Peak. It is not a drive for

the faint of heart, and explains why so many Companions in the past paid the fee and rode the Cog Rail Train up the mountain. There are few guardrails, and a lot of hairpin turns, some of which included stop lights to be sure drivers did not meet someone who ventured onto the wrong side of the road in the turn.



Once the group arrived, which took well over an hour, it was time to remove the Cryptic Deposit repair bag from the trunk, attempt to get their bearings, and find the location of the Deposit. It was not as difficult as they originally thought, because Most Illustrious Companion Needham had informed them the Deposit was near the end of the Cog Rail Train tracks. The altitude was a bit of an issue because it made some of them a little lightheaded and gave them low-level headaches, but nevertheless, they continued to persevere through the minor discomfort and discovered the Deposit off the northeast corner of the train tracks. Quite the fitting location for a masonic deposit. They were able to see it from the location where the Cog Tail Train ended, just as they had been instructed.



The group ventured out onto the walkway overlook and discovered the Deposit! It was sure high up, and the group would still have to ascend a sandy part of the mountain beneath the metal walkway to get to the Deposit. They made our ascent and eventually cleared the sandy areas, before venturing out through several large rocks to arrive at the Deposit on the area known as Cryptic Rock. Cryptic Rock has a cliff off to the west of the rock, which has a drop of approximately fifty feet. The area to the north of the rock is known as Bottomless Pit and it was a long, long way to the bottom.



There it was! The beautiful triangular plate made of bronze. The original plate had been placed in 1899 and was scheduled to be opened in 1999, which was one hundred years later. They examined the plate and discovered the surrounding silicon was in excellent shape and there would be no need to place additional silicon around the plate to protect it from the elements. The view from Cryptic Rock was unbelievably beautiful! Such a beautiful place to make a deposit in the honor of all Cryptic Masons. The group took several photographs, left the rocky area, and worked their way back up to the metal walkway before entering their vehicle and making their way down the mountain.



This is a wonderful, and moving, experience for any Cryptic Mason who desires to connect in a more personal manner with our forefather in the Cryptic Rite. They made the original journey in 1899 and left a legacy for each of us to enjoy. Come with the Grand Council in 2025 and enjoy the trip, the food, the fellowship, and the experience!