

The background of the cover is a close-up photograph of a lit candle. The candle is white with a bright yellow flame. It is set against a dark, textured background that appears to be a white cloth or fabric, possibly a shroud, draped over something. The lighting is warm and focused on the candle, creating a solemn and atmospheric mood.

voice of the **orient**

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE SCOTTISH RITE, ORIENT OF ARKANSAS

What Came You Here to Do?

PAGE 9

AUGUST 2024

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AUGUST 2024

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What Came You Here to Do?

Ill. Mitchell Hensley, 33°

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This question has been posed once or twice, in one form or another, to those seeking initiation throughout the ages but I believe it serves an even greater purpose in today's Craft. As interest in the fraternity has ebbed and flowed over the centuries, generation after generation has brought not only their individual gifts and graces to Masonic institutions, but ...

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Sometimes brethren with more time in the fraternity forget the natural confusion that arises from

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Scottish Rite is my Favorite...

Bro. Brett Wolfe, 32°
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Roughly a year or so, I was having a conversation with a Past Grand Master of my Jurisdiction and he caught me saying "Scottish Rite is my favorite part of Freemasonry". As any inspiring Past Grand Master would do, he challenged me on that statement by asking me to...

Your Lodge Needs You

SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

I am writing this on a Thursday evening after I got home from a meeting of my lodge. We practiced a Master's degree tonight in preparation for a degree next week. I needed to be at lodge tonight not only to practice, but mostly because I am Master of my lodge this year. When some brethren have heard that I am serving as Master of my lodge, they have expressed surprise that an SGIG and Past Grand Master would be Master of his lodge.

I joined Freemasonry in 1994 and became a very active member of my lodge. I went through the chairs and served as Worshipful Master in 2000. I also became a member of a number of appendant bodies, including the Scottish Rite and to a greater or lesser extent have been active in many of them as well. I went through the Grand Lodge line and was honored to serve as Grand Master in 2008. Over all of this time, I remained pretty active in my lodge; I was there most of the time when the door was open and something was happening.

Of course, the pandemic affected everyone and my lodge was dark like most others. Since the pandemic, however, I just didn't get back into the habit of attending my lodge.

I was there infrequently, enough so that sometimes the brethren would jokingly call me a "visiting member".

It wasn't because I had had any sort of bad experience at lodge. Or because I had grown tired of it. Or because I didn't enjoy it. Things were just busy at work and with the appendant bodies in which I am active and I just let my lodge attendance and participation slip.

Last fall, a couple of brethren who I consider to be very dear to me came to me and said "your lodge needs you". We had a break in the line of officers and the lodge needed someone to step in to be Master in 2024 and then the progressive line would be ready to move up. I have to tell you that serving as Master was not on my radar. But when close brethren say to you "your lodge needs you", what do you do?

So I am Master this year. And it has been fantastic! My lodge, Albert Pike #714, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. How cool to be master during a centennial year!! And I did not realize how much I missed the brotherhood at lodge. So, I am very blessed that some brethren said to me "your lodge needs you".

Your lodge needs you as much as my lodge needs me. So, I'm writing to say to all Ark. Scottish Rite brethren: **Your lodge needs you!**



Ill. C. James, Graham, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Orient of Arkansas



Fraternal Greetings

GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN ARKANSAS

Greetings My Brethren,

It is remarkable how fast this year is passing. Over half of 2024 is gone! I wonder how that it can be. We have just celebrated the 248th anniversary of Our Great Nation! And here in our grand jurisdiction we can look back on several accomplishments with pride.

In March, the Scottish Rite Valley of Jonesboro celebrated its 50th anniversary with a Reunion. I visited with Bro. Lloyd Gathright, a 106 year old Master Mason. He is the oldest Scottish Rite Mason in America.

In April, I was privileged to confer the Master's Degree on Bro. Paul Hackney at the statewide degree. He is all of 18 years old and will be the next State Master Counselor of the Order of DeMolay in Arkansas in just a few days.

In May, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the completion of our beautiful Albert Pike Temple with special recognition from our Governor, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, at the State Capitol. The Scottish Rite Valley of Little Rock held a Reunion on the same day where 24 candidates received their degrees. Also the Celebrating Arkansas Masonry dinner was a huge success, raising approximately \$3000 for charity.

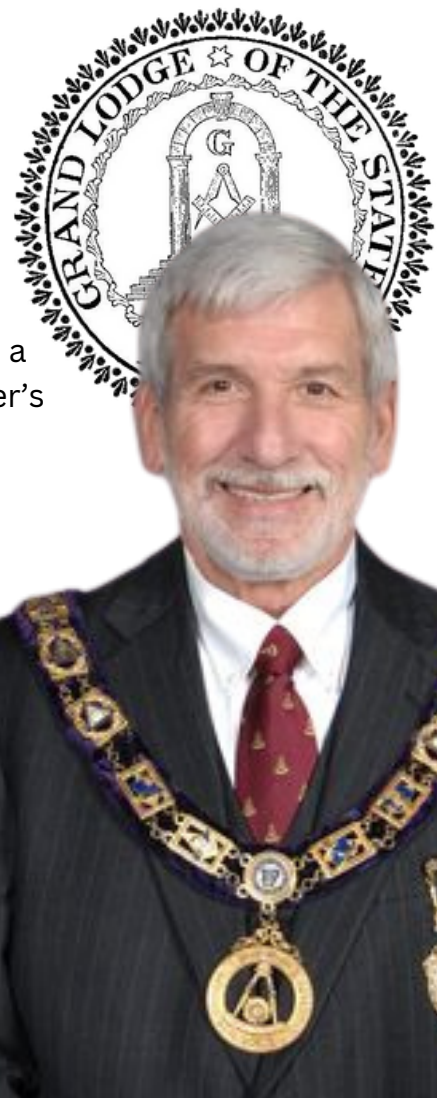
In June, we held the first Mid Year Conference we've had in a while. It was a great success. I was honored by the Order of DeMolay with a Grand Master's class of about 12 candidates, several of whom are Honorary DeMolay.

Yet we have many more things to do. In just a few days the International Order of Rainbow and the Order of DeMolay will hold its 2nd combined state convention. I am excited for the opportunity to attend this grand convention and to be with these wonderful young men and women; they are OUR FUTURE!

Lastly, August 10th the Grand Lodge will be hosting a special pizza night with games, a magic show and lots of pizza. I want to thank each of you again for the opportunity to serve as your Grand Master. I hope that you are as well pleased as I am.

Fraternally yours, I AM,

M. ∴ W. ∴ Darrell Gifford, 32° KCCH
Grand Master of Masons in Arkansas



Paul Hackney, 32°: DeMolay Freemason

BY BRO. JOHN KYLE DAY, 32°, KSA ✚

Bro. Paul Hackney is the first sitting Arkansas DeMolay Master Councilor to become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason! Serving two consecutive terms as Master Councilor of SEARK Chapter in Sheridan, Bro. Hackney was awarded the Past Master Councilor Meritorious service award, while SEARK was voted DeMolay Chapter of the year! He was appointed State Chaplain for Arkansas DeMolay in 2021, elected State Junior Councilor in

2022, and currently serves as State Senior Councilor. Last year, Bro. Hackney was dubbed a Chevalier, the Order's highest honor!

At Sheridan Lodge No. 260, F. & A. M. of Arkansas on February 10, Bro. Hackney received the Entered Apprentice degree, then was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on March 12th. At the masters' class held at Little Rock's Albert Pike Memorial Temple on April 13, he was raised to

the sublime degree of Master Mason, serving as the exemplary candidate. At our Centennial Class Reunion, May 10-11, he became a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. "I expect great things from our newest brother," says fellow DeMolay, M.:W.: Brother Darrell Gifford, Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of Arkansas. "I know that he's going to prove me right. I am very proud of this young man!"



MWB Gifford's Masters' Class, Albert Pike Memorial Temple. April 13, 2024



Bro. Hackney showing off his black cap to Grand Commander Pike



Bro. Paul Hackney with father, WB Paul "Link" Hackney, 32° and MWB Darrell Gifford, KCCH, February 10, 2024

A Day at the Capitol

BY HON. TOBY CROW, 32°, KCCH 



Albert Pike Memorial Temple 100th Anniversary Day proclamation by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders on May 10, 2024 along with Congratulatory Special Commemoratives were presented by Ill. State Rep. Johnny Rye, 33° to Sovereign Grand Inspector General Orient of Arkansas Illustrious C. James Graham 33° and to Most Worshipful Grand Master Darrell Gifford, 32° KCCH. Gathered in the Capital Rotunda were about 50 Scottish Rite brethren attending this historic event.

Peace and harmony prevailed with the majority of the brethren after the ceremony going back to the Scottish Rite Temple to segue way into the Spring 2024 Reunion. The 100th Anniversary Temple Dedication Spring Reunion was a two day with 25 candidates for the degrees. A hearty thanks to the brethren in attendance at the Capitol and also those at the Spring Reunion.

Ill. State Rep. Johnny Rye, 33° makes a presentation to our Grand Master, Hon. Darrell Grifford, 32° KCCH, and Past Grand Master C. James Graham, 33° SGIG



Rick Rasnick, 32° KSA

BY HON. TOBY CROW, 32°, KCCH †

Spend much time at the Albert Pike Masonic Center and you can meet any number of interesting brethren, Lt. Col. Rick Rasnick is an outstanding example. Brother Rasnick is often spotted in and about the temple as well as in far off quarries such as mentoring in Masonic Schools of Instruction and participating at Masonic degrees. He graciously accepted and blessed us with the following insights as to what's made him the Brother he is today.

I was born March 26, 1956 in Norton, Virginia. I was six weeks old when I moved to Morocco, North Africa. My dad was a career Air Force non-commissioned officer. We relocated to Little Rock Air Force Base in 1959 and remained until my dad retired in 1966. I met President John Kennedy in October of 1963 at Little Rock Air Force Base when he flew in to dedicate Greers Ferry Dam. He was assassinated in November almost one month to the day I met him. After leaving



2nd LT. Rick Rasnick with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

LRAFB I lived one year in Magazine, AR, my mother's home town. I finished the 4th grade before moving to my Dad's hometown, Wise Virginia. I attended the 5th through 10th grade there and began playing organized football which I continued until graduation. We left Wise, VA and returned to Booneville, AR., in 1972 as I started my junior year of high school. I graduated in 1974 and attended the State College of Arkansas in Conway, later renamed the University of Central Arkansas in January of 1975. I joined the Army ROTC program there. I married my lovely wife Rebekah Brownlee in July of 1976 and we both finished college, graduating

in 1977 and 78 with BSE and BS. I was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in Armor, December 18, 1978. My first assignment to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fulda, Germany. Our regiment guarded the frontier of freedom which was the Iron Curtain separating East and West Germany. I left Germany in 1982 and continued my military career for the next 18 years with assignments to Georgia, Texas, Kansas and Little Rock, AR. I received my Masters Degree while attending the Army's Command and General Staff College. I retired February 1, 1999 as a Lieutenant Colonel and afterward settled in Conway, AR. Following my military retirement my second vocation for the next 18 years was in sales.

I was raised at Sul Ross Lodge #1300 in College Station Texas while on duty at Texas A&M in May of 1990. I attended a German/American lodge in Stuttgart, Germany and joined Green Grove #107 in

Membership Spotlight

VALLEY OF LITTLE ROCK

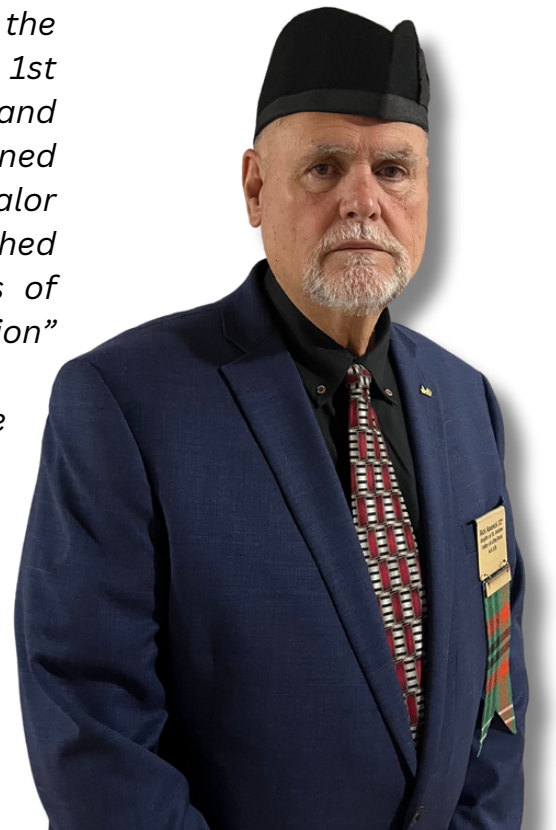
Conway, AR in August of 1996. I was WM there at Green Grove in 2003 and 2021. I was selected to serve as a Deputy Grand Lecturer in 2023. Both were great honors for me. I was installed as a District Deputy Grand Master in February 2024, which has been another great honor for me. I joined the Scottish Rite in October of 2018. My thoughts on Freemasonry are that it isn't dead by a long shot. Yes, changes need to be and will be made to attract and keep the younger generations of men. I joined Masonry because my uncles were Mason's and my curiosity was piqued by their Masonic rings. To me, being a good man means so much. It means doing the right things all the time and promoting kindness, charity, and love for our fellow brothers and men of good standing. You shouldn't have to know if a Mason is a good man or not by being around him for sometime. If he is a Mason, then he should be a good man that you can trust with

your wife and pocket book. They are far and few in between in my mind and to me that is a major problem.

-Who is your hero? *"My first hero is Woodrow (Woody) Wilson Rasnick born 1914. He was my second cousin on my dad's side of the family. Woody loved to play pinochle and smoked a pipe. The most genteel man I ever met. Woody was at Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. He landed at Normandy on Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944 (in the lead wave of the 1st Infantry Division) and fought in Korea. He earned 4 Bronze Stars for Valor and the Distinguished Service Cross. He was of 'The Greatest Generation' and my hero. My second hero is my Uncle June Roberts my mom's youngest brother. He was captured on Bataan and spent three years in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp. He turned 104 in November 2023.*

He raised a family of 4 kids, worked 40 years, and never gave his community or country anything but praise."

-What is your proudest accomplishment? *"My four grandchildren. Life is a rough and rugged road for sure. I am glad that I continued my journey through many peaks and valleys and have ended up in life with four wonderful grandkids that have an excellent opportunity to make it in this crazy world."*



50th Anniversary Banquet

BY HON. JON WALTER, 32°, KCCH 

We had the honor of presenting 50-year pins and certificates to Jimmie Don Williams, 32° and Ill. Boyd Wayne Russell 33°. Both had also been members of the Eastern Arkansas Scottish Rite for 50 years as well, which was a first for our bodies. Bro. Russell affiliated with our bodies on August 7, 1974 and Bro. Williams was one of our first new members, receiving courtesy work from the Valley of Little Rock on August 10, 1974.

Celebrating 50 years in our Scottish Rite fraternity is a monumental achievement that underscores our enduring commitment to brotherhood, personal growth, and community service.

The Eastern Arkansas Scottish Rite Bodies proudly marked this milestone with a packed house on June 10th, reflecting on half a century of shared history, traditions, and accomplishments.

This golden anniversary not only honors our past but also inspires us to continue fostering the principles of Freemasonry for future generations.



^Ill. Larry Berry, 33° GC with Ill. Boyd Russell, 33°

√ Ill. Brad Phillips, 33° with Jimmie Williams, 32° and Ill. Larry Berry, 33° GC



Scholarships

This year, we were able to award three \$500 college scholarships – two from the Valley and one from the Knight of St Andrew. Two of those students were able to attend and were recognized.

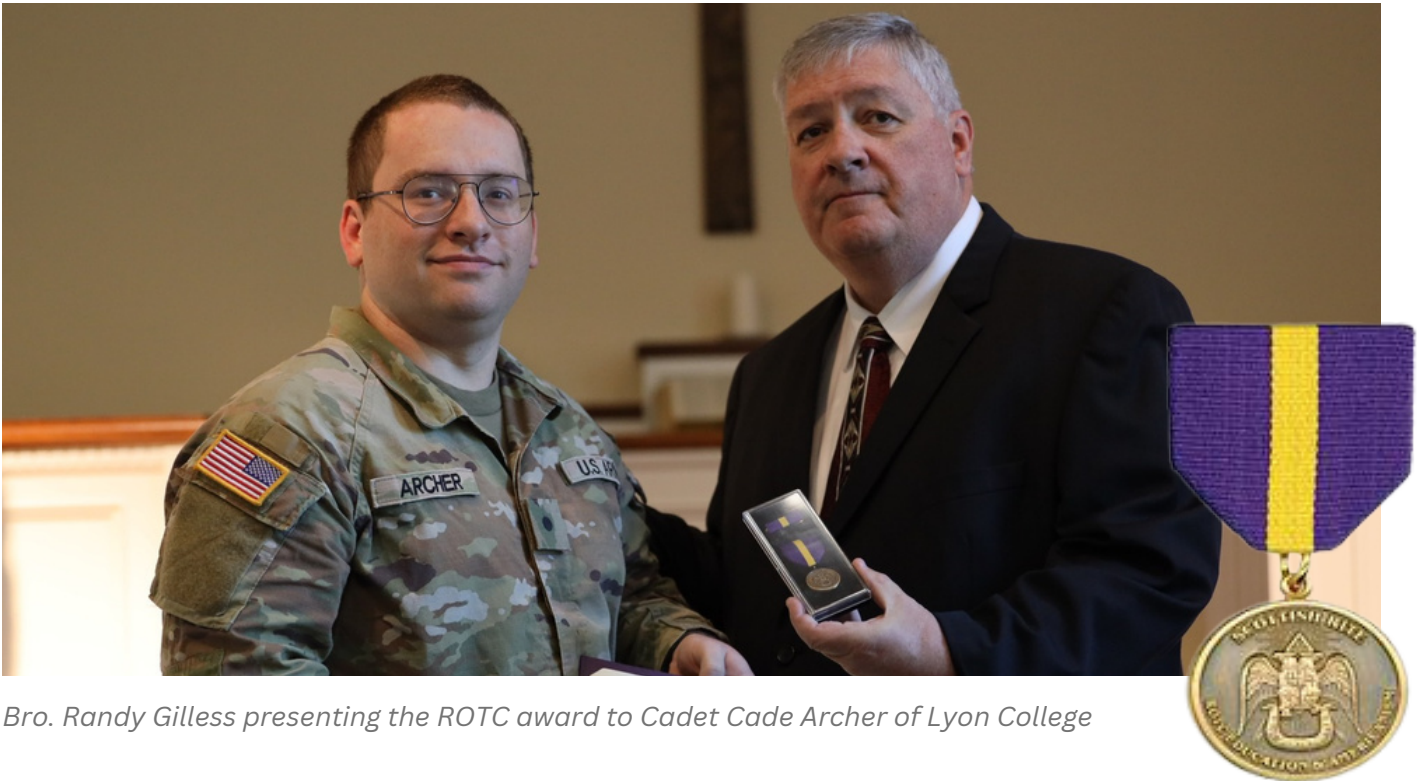
- Elizabeth Burgess – Highland High School
- Carrie Beth Denton (KSA Scholarship) – Walnut Ridge High School
- Michelle Moore – Walnut Ridge High School

(L-R) Carrie Beth Denton and Michelle Moore



ROTC Presentations

VALLEY OF JONESBORO



Bro. Randy Gilless presenting the ROTC award to Cadet Cade Archer of Lyon College

Since 1998, the Supreme Council, S.J. has implemented a program to honor JROTC Cadets. This program highlights high school youth enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) for their academic excellence and dedication to Americanism.

This year, our Valley awarded five JROTC honors and three ROTC awards to local schools. The recipients greatly appreciate these awards, especially when presented by a representative of our Valley. If any brother is interested in presenting at a school in your area next year, please inform the secretary. These programs are exemplary, and the students are the best.

The following Cadets were presented medals from the Valley of Jonesboro:

- Cadet Chief Aaron Hale - Mountain Home JROTC
- Cadet Marquesha Murphy – Osceola JROTC
- Cadet 1LT Jaden Hicks – Brookland JROTC
- Cadet Ezekiel Dewitt – Wynne JROTC
- Cadet John Porbeck - Jonesboro JROTC
- Cadet Madelyn Cunningham - Arkansas State University ROTC
- Cadet Elizabeth Crow - Harding University ROTC
- Cadet Cade Archer - Lyon College ROTC

What Came You Here to Do?

BY III. MICHELL HENSLEY, 33° ≠



A candidate travels through terrors of Hell in the 18th degree.

This question has been posed once or twice, in one form or another, to those seeking initiation throughout the ages but I believe it serves an even greater purpose in today's Craft. As interest in the fraternity has ebbed and flowed over the centuries, generation after generation of men has brought not only their individual gifts and graces to Masonic institutions, but also their own perceptions of what the fraternity was in their time and what it was to be in the future.

The Masonic fraternity can be whatever its members, in a given time-frame, want it to be. Organizations and institutions are shaped by the people that call them

home, Freemasonry can be as fluid as any other organization, if we want it to be, but do we want that? What kind of organization does our Craft have the right to be?

There are three other organizations doing great work out in the world. For example, Susan G. Komen, Habitat for Humanity, and Samaritan's Purse. Three superb organizations that are doing great and meaningful work for humanity, and are worthy of consideration financial support. That said, we can't join any of them. We can assist them in the work they are doing by providing financial support, which is the first appeal you will see on all three websites, but

we can't be brought into the organization. That is why I believe it is just as important or perhaps more important for organizations to know what they are not rather than what they are.

The Masonic fraternity is not comparable to these three wonderful charities I listed because it is **not** a charity, it is exactly as I referred to it, a fraternity. Masonic sponsored charity is simply the natural by-product of a well-regulated and benevolent institution, however our charity does not define us. Fraternalism, self-improvement, and relief are the terms that ought to define our Craft. I believe, that is what our true destiny has always been and why men around

WHAT CAME YOU HERE TO DO? CONT.

the world continue to seek us out.

The Scottish Rite tells us that Masonic work is, ***“To assist, encourage, and defend the brethren; to protect the oppressed, right the wronged, raise the fallen, relieve want and distress, enlighten the people. Serve well the commonwealth and be fruitful of all the good works.”*** We are meant to view our beautiful degrees, read about them, reflect on them, and then go forward in a new direction that will make us better husbands, fathers, employees, supervisors, brothers, citizens, and practitioners of our own faith and creed.

Personally, I try to be as objective as I can but it does not come naturally for us. If we find ourselves wondering why our fraternity continues to decline, we should ask a question: “Have I been a good representation of the fraternity lately? Have I been attentive to others? Have I been sincere in

addressing the specific flaws that are inherent to my character? When I’m in public, do I speak and act in a way that brings honor or shame upon my brethren? Does my community, children, friends and family see me actively participating in my faith, or do they only see me go to work and Lodge?”

What good are the great truths of Masonry if they are but half-learned? Just as it is not wisdom to simply know the titles of books, there is no growth or introspection in simply reciting the various Masonic lectures without missing a word. While Masonic ritual must be preserved and its proficient performance is always appreciated by all, the true meaning is lost if it is just a regurgitated piece of “Parrot Masonry”, and the unknown victim is the brother doing the speaking. I am not suggesting that each member must learn the esoteric meaning of all facets of ritual or study root-words to be a good

and true Mason, but it is my belief that the more we deviate from the rich contents of our ritual, as well as the reasons for its existence, we will continue driftaway from our fraternity’s noble intent. That the noble intent, I believe, is for each initiate is to arrive at a greater realization of himself and to re-institute that that “Divine Harmony” which man instinctively knows and yearns to observe.

I leave you with these words, delivered by the Minister of State in the 32nd Degree, Master of the Royal Secret, *“When Freemasons shall have faith in their creed and have men of faith to lead them, Masonry will be what it has the right to be, and what, we do believe, God means it to be: a mighty, yet beneficent power in every civilized land. The Holy Empire will be everywhere, the Empire of Intellect, Reason, Philosophy, and Wise Morality.”*

Prince of Jerusalem: From Few to All

BY HON. JAMES KRING, 32°, KCCH ✚

Editor's Note: This article is an examination of the lessons of the taught in the "Princes of Jerusalem" whose body and degree was first explored by Brother Hon. James Kring, 32° KCCH in the March 2024 installment of the "Voice of The Orient."



Zerubbabel for Darius, Jan Luyken, Pieter Mortier, 1704

In the 16th Degree, we are admonished to build temples of the Living God in our hearts by adhering to the fundamental masonic truth of justice, equity, morality, wisdom, labor, fidelity, and brotherhood. This means that once our time on Earth is completed, we leave behind a legacy in which our families, friends, and Brethren can take pride. As a Prince of Jerusalem, our duty is made clear. We must uphold our Brethren (as well as the entire

human family) in their fallen fortunes, thereby serving as an example for all to follow. We gently remind our brethren of the duties inculcated in our Lodges. Therefore, we no longer need a formal Council of Princes of Jerusalem. All Scottish Rite Masons are that Council. We maintain those Landmarks which have held true for millennia. When there are times we inevitably fail to uphold that truth, we do not treat this single failure as the

totality of our manhood. Instead, we are men, creations of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, made in His image. Our fallen nature is inherent in us. As Princes of Jerusalem, we acknowledge this truth and judge our Brethren's conduct accordingly, understanding that our Brethren are fallible men too. Someday, we too may find ourselves in a similar predicament.

How do we then reconcile

VALLEY REPORT

the duties of a Prince of Jerusalem with the rest of our Masonry? Historically, Princes of Jerusalem served as a trial commission for the Scottish Rite's first fifteen degrees. While a formal council's time is passed, perhaps we Jerusalem Princes can serve Masonic jurisprudence in another less formal manner. We can work to ensure amity amongst the Brethren during the most contentious of times. Masonic trials are an irreplaceable means to both regulate and ensure the integrity of our beloved Craft. Nonetheless, Scottish Rite Masons need to remember their role as a Prince of Jerusalem. We must dispassionately and objectively assess all facts, judge according to the law and not according to our opinion, ever remembering that God calls us to practice mercy, not vengeance. If we can become true Princes of Jerusalem, perhaps we can avoid internecine disputes within our respective

lodges.

The Council function may be gone, yet the lessons are more relevant than ever. Mortal men make mistakes, and our Father in Heaven calls upon us to be merciful. Not all infractions need a full Lodge trial but, neither can we ignore egregious conduct. As Princes of Jerusalem, we can thus slow the path towards truly un-Masonic conduct by reminding us of our promise to whisper good counsel in a Brother's ear. We can thus stand witness or resolving conflict in humanity that typically expects divine perfection from imperfect and mortal creations. We must strive to leave immortal examples of nobility, justice, and equity, casting aside our emotional and illogical responses to wrongs and differences. Rather, let us practice lives dedicated to the fundamental Masonic Truth of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. As Princes of Jerusalem, that is our

prime duty as a servant of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Arturo De Hoyas, Albert Pike's *Morals and Dogma: Annotated Edition* (Washington D.C., Masonic Publishing), 237.,

Freemasonry's *Royal Secret: The Franken Manuscript* (Washington, D.C.: Scottish Rite Research Society).

Masonic Formulas and Rituals (Washington, D.C.: Scottish Rite Research Society)

Rex Hutchins, *A Bridge to Light: A Study in Masonic Ritual & Philosophy* 4th Ed. (Washington, D.C.: Supreme Council, 33°, 2010).



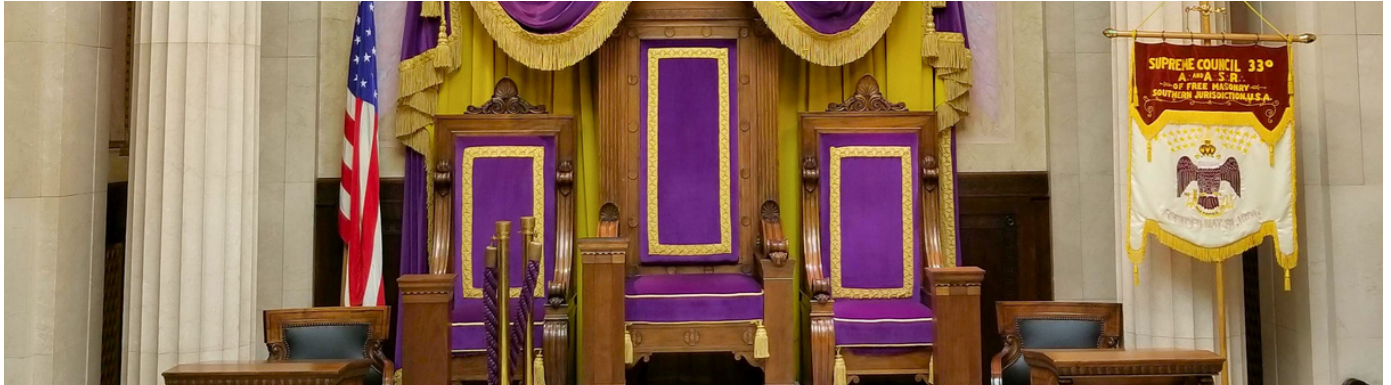
*Jewel of a 16th degree
Prince of Jerusalem*



*Apron of a 16th degree
Prince of Jerusalem*

Who is on the Dais?

BY HON. T. LUCAS MINTON, 32°, KCCH†



Executive Chamber at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C.

Sometimes brethren with more time in the fraternity forget the natural confusion that comes from a brother going to his first Scottish Rite stated meeting. It's always daunting starting something new, but not understanding the mechanics of an organization can make it significantly more challenging than it needs to be.

Sovereign Grand Inspector General or Deputy to the Supreme Council:

The Sovereign Grand Inspector General "SGIG" or Deputy to the Supreme Council is responsible for the ordering and administration of an Orient, often a state, territory, or country. He is responsible for the actions

of all the Valleys and bodies in his Orient. He appoints his Personal Representatives for the Orient and Valleys, Secretaries, Treasurers, and the Chairmen of Orient committees. He is the Orient's link to the Supreme Council and submits the names of brethren who he deems to be worthy of honors.

Personal Representative of the SGIG for the Orient:

This brother serves as the eyes and ears of the SGIG across the Orient or jurisdiction for which he is appointed. Sometimes, such in Arkansas, he is invested with the authority to make decisions as it pertains to the finances and the day to day running of the Orient.

Personal Representative of the SGIG to the Valley:

This brother serves as the eyes and ears of the SGIG at a Valley. The SGIG of each Orient appoints his Personal Rep. "PR" for a term of 1 Biennial or two years. The "PR" serves as the eyes and ears for the SGIG or Deputy of the Supreme council. He can be invested with powers of appointment for certain offices such as Director of Work or Chairmen of various Valley committees. At the conclusion of his two year appointment the SGIG can choose to renew his appointment or appoint a new PR. Some Orients have a tradition of having their PR write a letter of resignation and present it to the SGIG.

The Masters:

If you'll remember your Reunion there are 4 bodies

WHO'S ON THE DAIS? CONT.

that compose the modern Scottish Rite: The Lodge of Perfection, The Chapter Rose Croix, The Council of Kadosh, and the Consistory. Each of these bodies has an officer line composed of 3 principle officers, like a symbolic lodge, whose head sits upon the dais. The Lodge of Perfection has the "Venerable Master, Senior, and Junior Wardens. The Chapter Rose Croix has the

Wise Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, The Council of Kadosh has the Commander of Kadosh, 1st, and 2nd commanders. The Consistory has the Master of Kadosh, Prior, and Chancellor. Each body is responsible for their "Feast" and in some jurisdictions the Masters are responsible for the degrees which comprise their body.

Treasurer and Secretary:

These are the components of a Valley that is very nearly identical to a symbolic lodge. The Valley secretary is responsible for keeping the minutes, informing the Valley of deaths, and receiving dues. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping up with the finances of the Valley and its investment accounts.

Valley of Little Rock

- August 13 - Stated Meeting & Camp Guard Practice
- September 10 - Feast of Tishri
- October 8 - Stated Meeting & Camp Guard Practice
- October 25 & 26 - Fall Reunion
- November 12 - Stated Meeting
- December 10 - Family Christmas dinner

Valley of Fayetteville

- July 24 - Stated Meeting
- August 28 - Stated Meeting
- September 21 - KSA Stated Meeting
- September 25 - Stated/Feast of Tishri
- October 23 - Stated Meeting, Officer Elections
- December 14 - KSA Stated Meeting
- Dark for November & December

Valley of Jonesboro

- August 10 – Summer Reunion (100th Reunion)
- August 12 – Stated Meeting
- September 9 – Feast of Tishri
- October 14 – Stated Meeting



*Cap of a Sovereign
Grand Inspector General*

Scottish Rite is my Favorite...

BY BRO. BRETT WOLFE, 32° 

Roughly a year or so, I was having a conversation with a Past Grand Master of my Jurisdiction and he caught me saying “Scottish Rite is my favorite part of Freemasonry”. As any inspiring Past Grand Master would do, he challenged me on that statement by asking me to elaborate and explain. I gave a “good enough” answer at the time, but it is something that has stuck with me this past year.

This led me to ask myself why I felt this way. I am much more active in Blue Lodge than in Scottish Rite, after all, the primary purpose of any Blue Lodge is to make Master Masons, and few pursuits are more noble in my opinion. So why did I still feel this way?

I have been a Scottish Rite Mason since April 3rd 2016. That day I was given the Royal Secret in Guthrie Oklahoma, and it was not lost on me. I was completely enamored with the Beauty of the Degrees that I had witnessed. It was



Bro. Brett Wolfe, 32°

so inspiring that I have made time and put in the effort to continue this pilgrimage to Guthrie for every Spring Reunion since my own in 2016.

Approaching three years ago there was a Brother who left his “bustling metropolis” of Little Rock Arkansas to visit my “quaint and quiet” hometown of Seattle Washington. His wife and kids had plans one evening that didn't include him, so he decided to find if there were any Blue Lodges opening that evening. As fate would have it he walked right into my Lodge. We had a shared experience that we could bond over without needing to discuss the proper way to hold a Deacon/Steward rod or how many raps of the gavel it takes to change

a light bulb. We were meeting upon the level because we were both given that Royal Secret, and we both had a passion for the Scottish Rite.

Not long after that encounter I found myself visiting Little Rock multiple times a year and even joining the Little Rock Valley. There, I met two other members who were likewise interested in the deeper meaning of the degrees. We bonded over the late-night discussions of the symbols, words, and translations of various Scottish Rite rituals. Together, we are now the Education committee in the Orient of Arkansas. Every third Tuesday of the Month we deep-dive the next degree with Scottish Rite Masons from across the Southern Jurisdiction who are willing to attend. In just a small bit of time, seven months, it is now a tradition I look forward to every month. Not only do I gain enlightenment through the teachings of the Scottish Rite, but I also continually build a

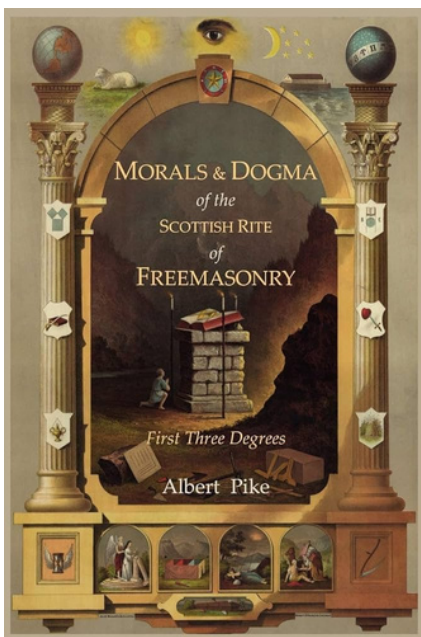
SCOTTISH RITE IS MY FAVORITE...CONT.

Fraternal Bond with Brothers across our Jurisdiction. I get to learn firsthand about the boons and hardships that are happening across our nation. I can share with Brothers who wouldn't otherwise know that most places outside of the Pacific Northwest overcook their salmon. Honestly think about it, how else would a "small-town" Seattle-ite like me find out that McClard's BBQ is worth the detour if you

happen to be in the "big city" Little Rock?

EUREKA! Think back to when you became a Master Mason. Someone inevitably told you the importance of travel as soon as you attained that Third Degree. What does it mean to gain the right to "travel in foreign countries" or to "work and receive Master's wages"? Our "jurisdictional boundary" is something many of us don't often contemplate. It is the

Southern Jurisdiction that brings so many of us across this great nation together. We may not have the same foods, weather patterns, or tire stores, but we have all been through the 29 Degrees of the Southern Jurisdiction. It is THIS shared experience that leads us to harmonizing the rest...and that is why the Scottish Rite is my favorite part of Freemasonry. See you at the October Reunion Brothers!



Join Ill. Kevin Hatfield, 33°, Hon. Brad Kohanke, 32°, KCCH, and Bro. Brett Wolfe, 32° for the

MORALS & DOGMA BOOK CLUB

Every third Tuesday at 7:30 PM via Zoom

Your participation is not just welcome; it's essential. Let's build a community of shared wisdom and fraternity. Details on how to attend will be shared a week prior to each class.

Ronald A. Seale Scholarship Recipient

BRO. COLE HENDRIX, 32° - VALLEY OF FAYETTEVILLE



Brother Cole Hendrix of Russellville Arkansas began his bachelor's degree in Emergency Management at Arkansas Tech University (ATU) in 2010 while simultaneously serving as a Combat Medic in the Arkansas Army National Guard. He completed his degree in 2015 and embarked on a career in corrections, which soon transitioned into law enforcement. As a Public Safety Officer for ATU, Cole pursued a Master in Student Affairs Admin., which he completed in the fall of 2023.

Cole's next academic endeavor is to pursue a

PhD in Higher Education and Student Affairs at Indiana University in Bloomington, with the aspiration of becoming a university president. At Indiana University, he will serve as a Proposal Consultant with the Graduate Grants Center and a Military Community Advocate through the National Veterans Leadership Foundation.

His Masonic journey began with joining Russellville Masonic Lodge #274 in 2013, followed by the Russellville York Rite in 2014, the Scottish Rite Valley of Fayetteville in 2015, and the Order of the Eastern Star as of 2024. Currently, he has the honor of serving as the Worshipful Master of Russellville Lodge #274.

Receiving the Ronald A. Seale Scottish Rite Scholarship is a significant milestone in Cole's journey. This prestigious scholarship, named in honor of the former Sovereign Grand

Commander of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, provides financial support to individuals demonstrating exceptional leadership, academic excellence, and commitment to the principles of Freemasonry. For Cole, the scholarship not only alleviates the financial burden associated with pursuing advanced studies but also serves as a recognition of his dedication to both his academic and Masonic endeavors.

The Ronald A. Seale Scottish Rite Scholarship will enable Cole to focus on his doctoral studies and his roles as a Proposal Consultant and Military Community Advocate. This support is instrumental in helping him achieve his goal of becoming a university president, where he hopes to make a lasting impact on higher education and student affairs.



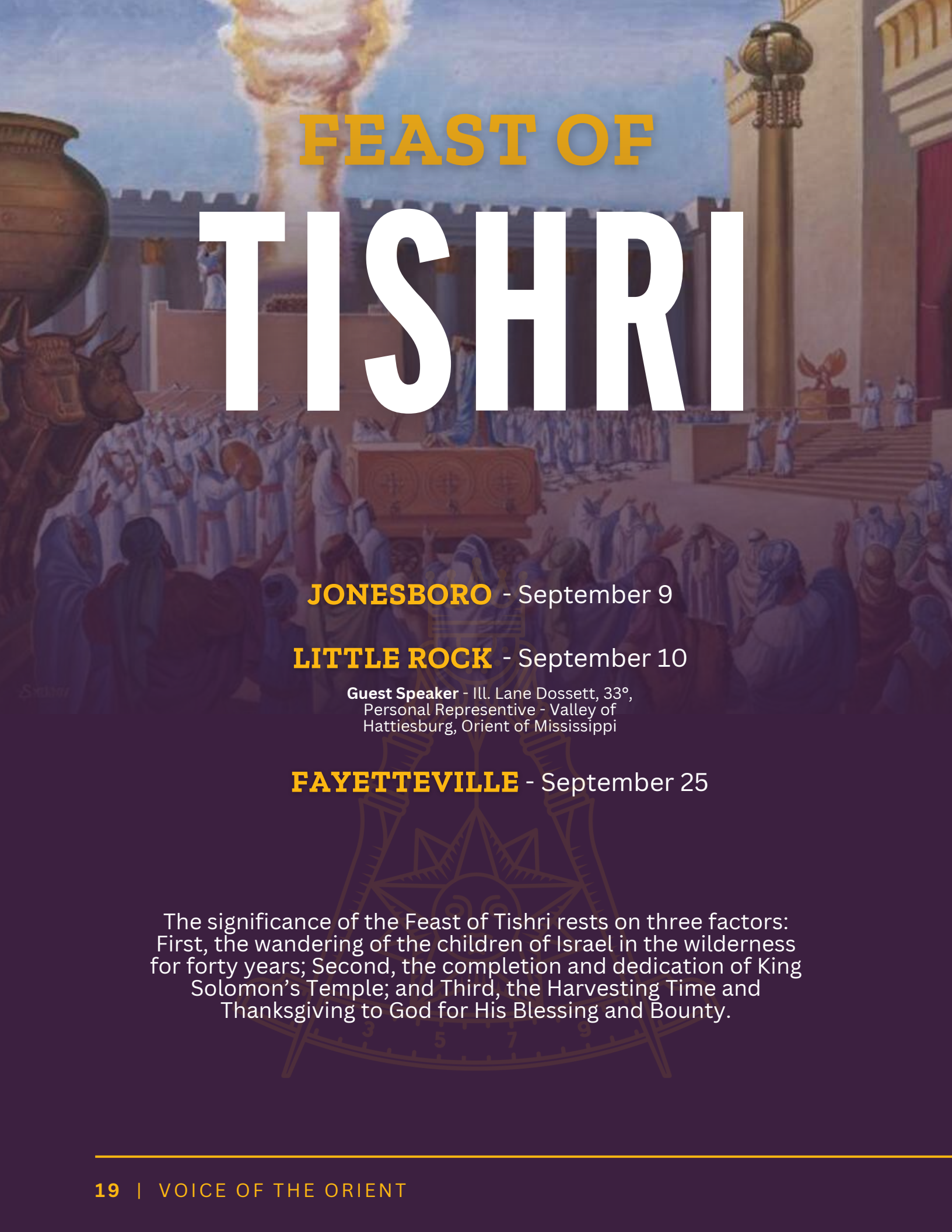


Take Ownership of a Scottish Rite Degree!

Is your lodge home to several Scottish Rite members? Do you have ritualists eager to delve into the Scottish Rite degrees?

If the answer is yes, then it's time for your lodge to connect with your Valley's Director of Work and explore the opportunity for your lodge to adopt one of the Scottish Rite degrees.

This can be seamlessly incorporated during a Reunion or presented as an exemplification. It's an excellent method to involve brethren at your lodge, especially if your schedule clashes with Scottish Rite Stated Meetings or if distance poses a challenge for active participation.



FEAST OF TISHRI

JONESBORO - September 9

LITTLE ROCK - September 10

Guest Speaker - Ill. Lane Dossett, 33°,
Personal Representative - Valley of
Hattiesburg, Orient of Mississippi

FAYETTEVILLE - September 25

The significance of the Feast of Tishri rests on three factors: First, the wandering of the children of Israel in the wilderness for forty years; Second, the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple; and Third, the Harvesting Time and Thanksgiving to God for His Blessing and Bounty.

A Gift for You and the Future



As a Scottish Rite Mason in the Southern Jurisdiction and a friend of the Scottish Rite Foundation, SJ, USA, Inc., you can use FreeWill to create your legal will for free, along with a revocable living trust. The process takes about 20 minutes. FreeWill guides you on how to file your will properly. You can name nonprofit organizations as beneficiaries, such as your Church or the Scottish Rite Foundation at the national or local level. By doing so, you create a lasting legacy and become a member of the ***Intendant of the Building Society***, recognized by the Supreme Council.

How It Works:

Notify us if you've included a Scottish Rite charity in your will or living trust, charitable remainder trust, a charitable gift annuity, pooled income fund, transfer on death account, life insurance policy or retirement plan (IRA, 401(k), etc.).. If you create a will through traditional means or have already named the Scottish Rite as a beneficiary, send us the relevant pages to the address list to the right.

*The Supreme Council, 33°
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Upon receipt, we'll recognize you as an Intendant of the Building and honor requests for anonymity or dedicating a legacy gift.

**Visit freewill.com/scottishrite
for more information.**

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mitchellhensley@att.net