

THE ANCIENT CRAFT MASON.

September 2013

Oklahoma Edition

A few questions for new Master Masons.

Congratulations, by becoming a Master Mason, you've joined the oldest and most respected Fraternity in the world! But what's next?

Do you seek further Light in Masonry?

Do you desire to complete the Master Mason degree and fulfill the Second Landmark by receiving the Holy Royal Arch?

Do you wish to join a Christian Brotherhood by becoming a Knight Templar?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should take a closer look at the York Rite of Freemasonry.

What is the York Rite ?

The York Rite is a collection of several Masonic degrees and orders which are conferred upon those Master Masons who seek further Light in Masonry beyond that of the Master Mason degree.

According to the Second Landmark from the Constitution and Code of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, "Ancient Craft Masonry consists of three degrees: the Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft, and the Master Mason including the Holy Royal Arch."

The Royal Arch degree is thus central to both the Symbolic Lodge and the York Rite. In the Royal Arch degree, that which was lost in the Master Mason degree is found! It has been said that the Holy Royal Arch is "the root, heart and marrow of Masonry."

Other degrees of the York Rite further illuminate and explain the lessons of the three degrees of the Symbolic Lodge and the Holy Royal Arch. In addition, the York Rite confers three orders of Christian Knighthood, culminating in the Order of the Temple. It has been said that "no degree or order in Freemasonry is more solemn, more impressive or more soul-searching than the Order of the Temple."

It is the York Rite that offers the opportunity for a Master Mason to become a Companion of the Holy Royal Arch and a Knight of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple and much more.



York Rite Festival to Honor Grand Master Brad Rickelman.

On Saturday, September 28th, 2013, the York Rite of Oklahoma will be holding a one-day degree festival in honor of M.·W.· Bradley S. Rickelman, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of the State of Oklahoma. Grand Master Rickelman, along with many other dignitaries, will be in attendance.

All of the degrees and orders of the York Rite from the Mark Master thru the Order of the Temple will be conferred by degree teams from throughout Oklahoma. This will be a great opportunity to join the York Rite and we anticipate that candidates will be attending from all parts of the state.

It's not very often that a man can walk in the door as a Master Mason in the morning and leave as a Royal Arch Mason and Knight Templar in the afternoon.

The festival will be held at Oklahoma City Lodge No. 36, A.F.&A.M., which is located at 2935 W. Britton Road in Oklahoma City. Registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. and the degree conferral will follow at 8:00 a.m.

Please spread the Word and join us on this very special occasion!

The York Rite spans the state.

The York Rite holds regular monthly meetings, in a Lodge style setting, in eighteen different cities throughout Oklahoma:

Altus	Guthrie	Oklahoma City
Ardmore	Lawton	Okmulgee
Bartlesville	McAlester	Ponca City
Colbert	Midwest City	Stillwater
Drumright	Muskogee	Tulsa
Elk City	Norman	Woodward

Each Oklahoma York Rite Mason is a member of a local York Rite body in one of these eighteen cities. Most are members of a York Rite body near their homes or Masonic Lodges. However, an Oklahoma Master Mason is free to join any York Rite body he wishes.

Want more information ?

- See the enclosed brochure:
Welcome to the York Rite of Freemasonry.
 - Or visit our website www.okyorkrite.org. In the section "About Us," you will find a brief description. In the section "Information," you will find an historical sketch and the essential theme of the York Rite. In the section "Degrees & Orders," you will find a more detailed description of our Rite.
 - Or contact the regional membership chairman in your part of the state. He will be glad to speak to you individually or to arrange an informative presentation at your Lodge or District meeting.
- Central (Guthrie, Midwest City, Norman, Oklahoma City)
Clyde Schoolfield clyde.schoolfield@gmail.com
- North Central (Drumright, Ponca City, Stillwater)
Steve Singleton okmason1@coxinet.net
- Northeast (Bartlesville, Okmulgee, Tulsa)
Bob Rolseth bobrolseth@earthlink.net
- South Central (Ardmore, Colbert, Lawton)
John Carter carter5807@gmail.com
- Southeast (McAlester, Muskogee)
Robert Padgett troopd.comm@yahoo.com
- West (Altus, Elk City, Woodward)
Bobby Laws bobbylaws@altuslodge62
- Or contact our Grand Secretary-Recorder:
Gary Davis grandsecrec@sbcglobal.net
P.O. Box 1223 (918) 352-4622
Drumright, OK 74030

This is your invitation to join us !

The Royal Arch degree has been called "the crowning feature and glorious completion of Ancient Craft Masonry." Every Master Mason should consider completing his journey through Ancient Craft Masonry by becoming a Royal Arch Mason.

The Order of the Temple has been called "the most beautiful and inspiring of all the degrees and orders of Freemasonry." Every Christian Mason should consider becoming a Knight Templar.

If you believe, as we do, that your next step toward seeking further Light in Masonry is to join us in the York Rite, then we urge you to do so. We look forward to greeting you as a Companion and Sir Knight of the York Rite of Freemasonry on September 28th!

Donald G. Jones

M.·E.·. Grand High Priest of
Royal Arch Masons in Oklahoma

John L. Logan

M.·I.·. Grand Master of
Cryptic Masons in Oklahoma

L. Erik Stuckey

R.·E.·. Grand Commander of
Knights Templar in Oklahoma

How to join the York Rite.

There are basically two ways to join the York Rite:

- All of the degrees and orders conferred at a one-day festival, like the one on September 28th in Okla. City, or
- A few degrees and orders at a time over several months conferred at a local York Rite body.

In either case, begin by choosing a local York Rite body to join — your regional membership chairman can help you with that — and complete the enclosed petition. Don't worry about the Recommendations and Investigating Committee, we'll take care of that.

Submit your completed petition, along with the required fees of \$175, either (i) to your chosen local York Rite body, (ii) to your regional membership chairman, or (iii) to the Grand Secretary-Recorder. You may also submit your petition and fees during registration on the day of the Festival; but it is *extremely* important that you let your local York Rite or regional membership chairman know in advance that you will be attending, so that we can prepare for you.