

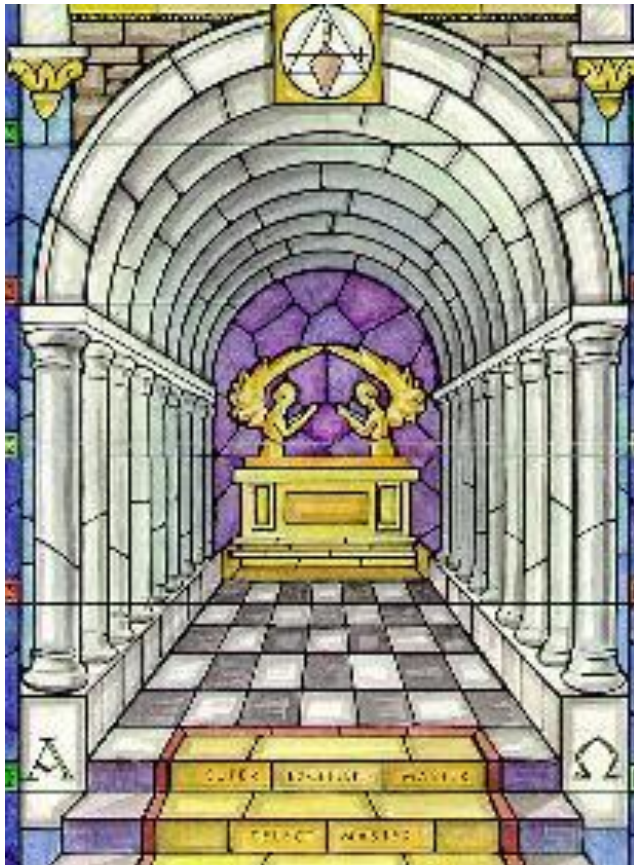
# TALES FROM THE CRYPT

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND COUNCIL OF  
CRYPTIC MASONS OF COLORADO – INSTITUTED DECEMBER 6,  
1894

OCTOBER, 2023

## Greetings, Companions -

We are honored to present to you the first edition of our publication, "*Tales From the Crypt*". We hope that you will read it, enjoy it and take time to contribute.



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*Help us  
make the  
Tales  
interesting*

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We want this newsletter to be of value to our Companions. We plan to share information useful to Cryptic Masons throughout the state. We also will include photos and writeups on past events as well as information and plans for upcoming events. We will include educational content, hopefully in a readable and useful format. Most importantly, we will feature information, announcements and photos that you provide. We want this to be your publication. Something that each of us looks forward to receiving and that hopefully will spark interest in Master Masons throughout the state to become part of the York Rite.

## Most Illustrious Grand Master's Corner



**Greetings from the Crypt!** Thank you all very much for putting your faith in me to lead the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons for the coming year. I am humbled! I promise to do my very best to lead and to set the example on how best to be a Cryptic Mason. I thank my installation team – Companions Tommy Thompson, Jim Crenner, Grover Sardeson and Ron Birely - for executing an outstanding and memorable installation. This honor is truly a high point in my Masonic travels. These Companions have been with me for my entire Masonic career. Each of them is a dear and close friend.

***My theme for the year is Integrity*** which to me means that all officers and Companions will fully perform the duties they swore on the Holy Bible to perform as they were initiated and installed. Personal integrity is defined with the five following attributes: follow a set of values; be honest, help others, lead by example, and take responsibility. In other words – reliability, honesty, loyalty and trustworthiness. All traits that each of us as Masons should embrace.

That being said, part of my responsibility as MIGM is to offer the opportunity for all of Companions and officers to be trained and to understand how best to execute the duties of their respective offices. In order to accomplish this goal, three regional training sessions have been set up to provide that training. The training sessions will be free and all Cryptic Masons are invited to attend.

**The training sessions will be held at the Pueblo Lodge #31 on October 14, 2023 and the Grand Junction Masonic Center on October 28, 2023.** Our Illustrious Grand Lecturer, MIPGM Rick Benish will be in charge of the training sessions, each of which will last about three hours. The training will be interactive and will address concerns and questions of the participants. The Grand Council will perform the opening and closing of the sessions, with commentary and instruction by Companion Rick. The application for the training sessions can be found later in the newsletter.

We feel that communication is very important for a successful Grand Line and therefore two new avenues of communication are being established. First is the monthly newsletter – *Tales From the Crypt* - that you are now reading. Companion Danny Tomlinson has agreed to be the editor/gatherer of information/photographer/complaint department. Each of the three Grand Council dais officers will contribute articles each month. If you have newsworthy information on activities or events, send them to Danny at [dtomlinson@msn.com](mailto:dtomlinson@msn.com) for inclusion in the *Tales*.

Another initiative will be a new web page for the Grand Council which will be set up and maintained by MIPGM Lyle Wilkes. The new web site will contain useful information, links to other useful web sites, links to the *Tales From the Crypt*, and will feature an online store where the Companions may buy CMMRF merchandise from the current and previous years.



Once again Companions, please accept my most humble gratitude for the honor you have bestowed upon me to lead our team this year. Also know that I have an open door policy regarding communications and how we might best work together for the good of Freemasonry, especially the York Rite and the Council of Cryptic Masons. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any Grand Officer including myself. Your District Lecturer/Grand Representative is always your first resource and is there to help you at all times.

With gratitude and brotherly love,  
Bruce E. Lawrence MIGM



### **Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado 2022-23 Officers**

L-R – Don Shearer, Bruce Lawrence, Grover Sardeson, Lyle Wiles, Robert Tresize, Lee Miller, Clinton (Rusty) Keithline, Rick Benish, Ralph Newby, John Francis, Craig Fabec, Danny Tomlinson, Mike Brewer

## **Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado**

## 2023-24 Officers – Contact Info

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Grand Companion</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>District Lecturer</b>
<b>MIGM</b>	Bruce Lawrence	303-906-9265	<a href="mailto:Bruce.e.lawrence@gmail.com">Bruce.e.lawrence@gmail.com</a>	Council 1
<b>RIDGM</b>	Lee Miller	303-961-6455	<a href="mailto:jlmwrite@gmail.com">jlmwrite@gmail.com</a>	Councils 8, 24, 27
<b>RIGPCW</b>	Clinton Keithline	303-257-8380	<a href="mailto:K_autotop@msn.com">K_autotop@msn.com</a>	N/A
<b>RIGT</b>	Thomas Thompson	720-422-0608	<a href="mailto:tom@denverconsistory.org">tom@denverconsistory.org</a>	N/A
<b>RIGR</b>	Grover Sardeson	720-884-7259	<a href="mailto:groversard@aol.com">groversard@aol.com</a>	N/A
<b>ILGL</b>	Rick Benish	970-554-0250	<a href="mailto:rbenish@gmail.com">rbenish@gmail.com</a>	N/A
<b>ILGC</b>	Joe Kier	303-919-6768	<a href="mailto:joekier@earthlink.net">joekier@earthlink.net</a>	N/A
<b>ILGCOG</b>	Craig Fabec	719-568-2690	<a href="mailto:Cj.fabec@hotmail.com">Cj.fabec@hotmail.com</a>	Councils 2,5,6
<b>ILGCOC</b>	Mike Brewer	303-961-2718	<a href="mailto:Mike.brewer@allurdata.com">Mike.brewer@allurdata.com</a>	N/A
<b>ILGM</b>	Danny Tomlinson	303-638-6509	<a href="mailto:dtomlinson@msn.com">dtomlinson@msn.com</a>	Councils 11, 13, 20
<b>ILGSTEW</b>	John Francis	720-350-0635	<a href="mailto:jwfbama@msn.com">jwfbama@msn.com</a>	Councils 7, 19, 21
<b>ILGH</b>	Donald Nichols	303-877-9651	<a href="mailto:Don5cents@yahoo.com">Don5cents@yahoo.com</a>	N/A
<b>ILGSENT</b>	Gregory Harris	720-204-0850	<a href="mailto:Gregharris1413@gmail.com">Gregharris1413@gmail.com</a>	N/A
<b>ILGMUS</b>	Robert Tresize	970-827-9134	N/A	Councils 3, 10, 16

## COUNCILS 2022-2023

<p><b>Denver Council No. 1</b>  Meets: 1614 Welton St. Denver  4th Monday each Month 7:30 PM  Except June, July, August, December  Dan Rivers Thrice ILL. Master  Todd Warburton III Deputy Master  Keith Anderson III. P.C. of Work  Grover L. Sardeson Recorder</p>	<p><b>Rocky Mountain Council No. 2</b>  Meets: 132 E Main St. Trinidad  2nd Tuesday each Month 7:30 PM  Except January, February  Larry Childs Thrice Illustrious Master  Russ Sharpe ILL Deputy Master  Reuben Vigil III P.C. of Work  Allen C. Nicol Recorder</p>
<p><b>Durango Council No. 3</b>  Meets: 304 E. 1st St. Cortez 81321  1ST Wednesday each Month 7:30 PM  R. Bruce Koons Thrice III Master  Peter Dumont III. Deputy Master  Ellis Miller III. P.C. of Work  David Wilson Recorder</p>	<p><b>Pueblo Council No. 6</b>  Meets: 126 Broadway Pueblo  3rd Tuesday Nov., Feb., May, June  7:30 PM  Tom Scheulen Thrice Illustrious  Master  Keith Benbow Illustrious Deputy  Master  Bill Goodman III. P.C. of the Work  Ralph Newby Recorder</p>
<p><b>Hiram Council No. 7</b>  Meets: 701 Baseline Rd. Lafayette  Alternate 3rd Wednesday each Mont  7:30 PM  Darren Klinefelter Thrice III. Master  Ty Colemere III. Deputy Master  Ken Matens III. P.C. of Work  Patrick Dey Recorder</p>	<p><b>Zabud Council No. 8</b>  Meets: 1150 Panorama Dr. Colorado  Springs  2nd Thursday each Month 7:30 PM  Except July and August  Gerald Underwood Thrice III. Master  Joseph B. Surek III. Deputy Master  Vincent Johnson III. P.C. of the Work  David Reitan Recorder</p>

<p><b>Telluride Council No. 10</b>  Meets: 178 Hotchkiss Ave., Hotchkiss  1st Wednesday each Month 7:30 PM  Except July, August, September  Michael Briscoe Thrice III. Master  M. Scott Wilson III. Deputy Master  Jeff Bush III. P.C. of Work  Jeff Cyriacks Recorder</p>	<p><b>Tyrian Council No. 11</b>  Meets: Georgetown &amp; Central City &amp;  Idaho Springs.  Published at  mastermason.com/Tyrian- Council-  11/index.html  Danny Tomlinson Thrice III. Master  Tom Dailey II. Deputy Master  Ashley Buss III P.C. of the Work  Stephen P. Davis Recorder</p>
<p><b>Alpha Council No. 13</b>  Meets: 619 Harrison Ave. Leadville  2nd Monday Each Month 7:30 PM  Except July and August  Lee G. Anderson Thrice III. Master  Joe Edwards III. Deputy Master  Edward C. Shober III. P.C. of Work  Robert C. Trezise Recorder</p>	<p><b>Grand Junction Council No, 16</b>  Meets: 2400 Consistory Ct. Grand  Junction  2nd Monday each Month 7:30 PM  Michael S. Briscoe Thrice III. Master  Greg Foster III. Deputy Master  Chad Rilling III. P.C. of Work  Jeffery G. Bush Recorder</p>
<p><b>Sterling Council No. 19</b>  Meets: 198 Springdale Rd. Sterling  4th Tuesday. Each Month 7:30PM  Charles R. Hicks Thrice III. Master  Merlin Wright III. Deputy Master  Cleat Young III. P.C. of the Work  Harry A Peterson Recorder</p>	<p>Salida Council No. 20  Meet: 140 W 3rd St. Salida  3rd Tuesday each Month 7:30 PM  Dwight Wilson Thrice III. Master  Dave McCann III. Deputy Master  Bailey Velasquez III. P.C. of Work  Ronald Garrett Recorder</p>
<p><b>Larimer County Council No. 21</b>  Meets: 225 W. Oak St. Fort Collins  3rd Tuesday each Month 7:30 PM  Except June, July and August  Timothy Sanks Thrice III. Master</p>	<p><b>Jefferson Council No. 24</b>  Meets: 400 10th St Golden  2nd Thursday, Dec. Jan. Feb. 7:30 PM  Miquel Galvez-Estevez Thrice III.  Master</p>

<p>Ian Greenwood III. Deputy Master Greg Todd III. P.C. of Work David Vaughan Recorder</p>	<p>Tim Lambert III. Deputy Master Peter Finnie III. P. C. of Work Lee Miller Recorder</p>
<p><b>Eastlake Council No. 27</b> Meets: 1625 Florence St. Aurora 1st Wednesday each Month 8:00 PM Ed Sisk Thrice III. Master Don Nichols III. Deputy Master Diego Rodriguez III. C. P. of Work John Francis Recorder</p>	



## WHAT IS CRYPTIC MASONRY?

The question is often asked, “What is the Council of Cryptic Masons”? Why is it called Cryptic Masonry? Why is it part of the York Rite? We suspect that a number of our Companions, some long-time Cryptic Masons may stumble in trying to fully explain what Cryptic Masonry is and what it refers to in its origins. Many Brothers and Companions view Cryptic Masonry as the “York Rite, Part 2” or a necessary step to becoming a Knight Templar. Both of these statements are accurate, but don’t adequately explain Cryptic Masonry. Perhaps we can share some information that may help our Companions to have a better understanding.

An outstanding source of information is the “***Cryptic Masonry Education Course***” – a Modern Monitor, published by the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International. The author is Robert G. Davis, a Past Master of three Oklahoma lodges, a 33° Scottish Rite Mason and recipient of the Grand Cross, a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma and Past Grand High Priest for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Mason in Oklahoma. The book is available on Amazon for about \$25 and is highly recommended reading. We will share some key points and direct quotations from the book with you in this brief communication.

The author explains that the Council Degrees are an elaboration and explanation of the Master Mason Degree of the Craft Lodge and the Royal Arch Degree of the Chapter. In both the Royal and Select Master, one of the essential themes in all of Masonry is explained and expanded upon. In the process, the deepest secret in Masonry is unveiled.

The word cryptic is derived from the Greek *crupe* or the Latin *crypta*, which means to hide, or conceal. All Cryptic degrees are centered on stories involving a vault or crypt.

The beginnings of the Royal and Select Master, or Cryptic Degrees may be traced to the forerunner bodies that later evolved into the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the mid 1760’s or soon after. In the early 1870’s the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States was organized for the sole purpose of watching over and protecting the interests of Cryptic Masons in the United States.

“The apron of a Cryptic Mason is white, bordered on the sides and bottom and lower edges of the flap with a band of purple, with purple strings or tape. The jewels are, described in ritual language, “*The sword and trowel have been adopted by Masons of the Royal Arch to commemorate the valor of those worthy Masons who carried on the building of the Second Temple, with the trowel in their hands and the sword by their sides, that they might ever be ready to defend the Holy City and sanctuary against the unprovoked attacks of their enemies; but which they left a sacred and impressive lesson*”

*to succeeding ages: that next to the obedience due to lawful authority; and many and determined resistance to the lawless violence is the first step to social justice.”*

“The sword and trowel of a Royal and Select Master’s Council are therefore appropriate emblems because the Council represents a union or bridge between the Ancient Craft and Royal Arch Masonry.”

We hope that this brief refresher on Cryptic Masonry will have piqued your interest anew and that you will further your education on the Royal and Select Master Degrees.

Future issues of *Tales from the Crypt* will include material written by the well-known Masonic scholar and ritualist Albert G. Mackey. We will also feature instructions, written in 1870 by Jackson H. Chase, 33° and Grand Lecturer to the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of New York.



## Cryptic Mason Training

In order to help new Council officers perform their duties to their Councils, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado is providing training to assist these new officers. The training will cover several different subjects which will be of interest to all members. Admission is free. Training will include the duties of the Council officers, proper opening and closings, Cryptic Pass Award and several other topics pertinent to a well-run Council.

Please send this application in ASAP so we can get a head count. We must have a minimum of 5 pre-registered attendees to hold the training sessions.

Hours:

Registration – 8:30AM - 9:00AM (coffee and doughnuts will be provided.)

Training begins – 9:00AM

Walk-ins will be accepted, but handouts are not guaranteed. Please pre-register

Training will be conducted at the Longmont Lodge (9/16), Pueblo lodge (10/14), and at the Grand Junction Masonic center (10/28). All Council members are encouraged to attend. Training is flexible, interactive and will last 3 – 4 hours depending on the needs & wants of the attendees.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Council: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Check desired training session:

- Longmont Lodge (9/16), 312 Main St., unit B (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Longmont 80501, (parking in back)
- Pueblo Lodge (10/14), 126 Broadway, Pueblo
- Grand Junction Masonic Center (10/28), 2400 Consistory Ct., Grand Junction

Application must be received by September 10, 2023 for the Metro area session and by September 16, 2023 for the Pueblo & Grand Junction sessions to be considered pre-registered.

Return to:

MI Greg Harris

1423 Linen St.

Longmont, CO 80501

or email copy to [gregharris1413@gmail.com](mailto:gregharris1413@gmail.com)

Companions – we hope that you enjoy this newsletter and that you have found the lessons educational. As well, we hope that you are inspired to become even more active in York Rite Masonry, and encourage your Blue Lodge Brothers to expand their Masonic knowledge and experience through the York Rite.

As I mentioned earlier, please feel free to contribute to the content of this newsletter. And please let me know of updates on your officer lines, your meeting times or places or any other information that might be helpful for the directory portion of this newsletter. Send any articles, photographs or announcements of upcoming events to me at [dtomlinson@msn.com](mailto:dtomlinson@msn.com)

We are truly blessed, Brothers and Companions – Be well and thank you!

**Bruce Lawrence**

Most Illustrious Grand Master

And

**Danny Tomlinson**

Illustrious Grand Marshall and Editor