

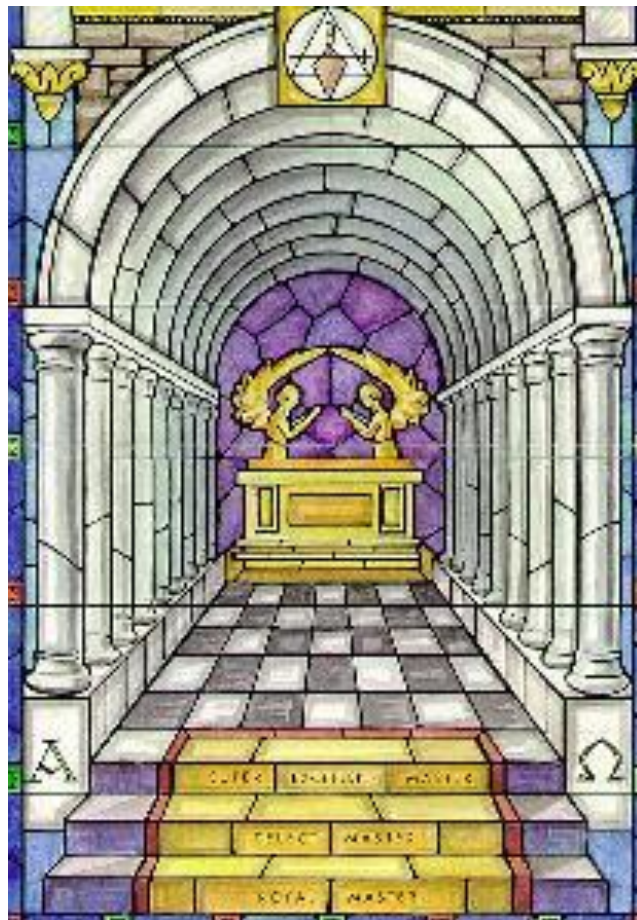
# TALES FROM THE CRYPT

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

APRIL, 2024

## Greetings, Companions -

We are honored to present to you 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!

Greetings, Companions - The Grand Pathways festival has been canceled for 2024 with the alternative being the Great Plains Rendezvous in Sterling, Colorado on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will be hosted by the Grand Council of Colorado. For those who have never attended, it is composed of Kansas, Wyoming and Colorado Grand Councils and rotates through the three states. Kansas will be putting on the Royal Master degree, Wyoming the Select Master degree and Colorado the Super Excellent Master degree. I encourage all Companions to attend. A flyer describing the event in detail along with a registration form appears below.

The Grand Council is in the middle of doing Official Visitations. On March 19<sup>th</sup> we attended a combined visitation with Rocky Mountain Council #2, Pueblo Council #6 and Salida Council #20 in Pueblo. We all enjoyed dinner and fellow ship beforehand over a great buffet dinner at the Pizza Ranch then moved on to the Pueblo Lodge for the OV.



On March 26 we had an OV with Sterling Council #19 held at the Ft. Morgan Masonic Lodge. They served a great pulled pork sandwich with all the fixings, and later we moved in to the beautiful Lodge room.



At both of these visitations, the MIGM presented the Cryptic Masonry Education Course and it is hoped that it will be used for Masonic Education over several meetings.

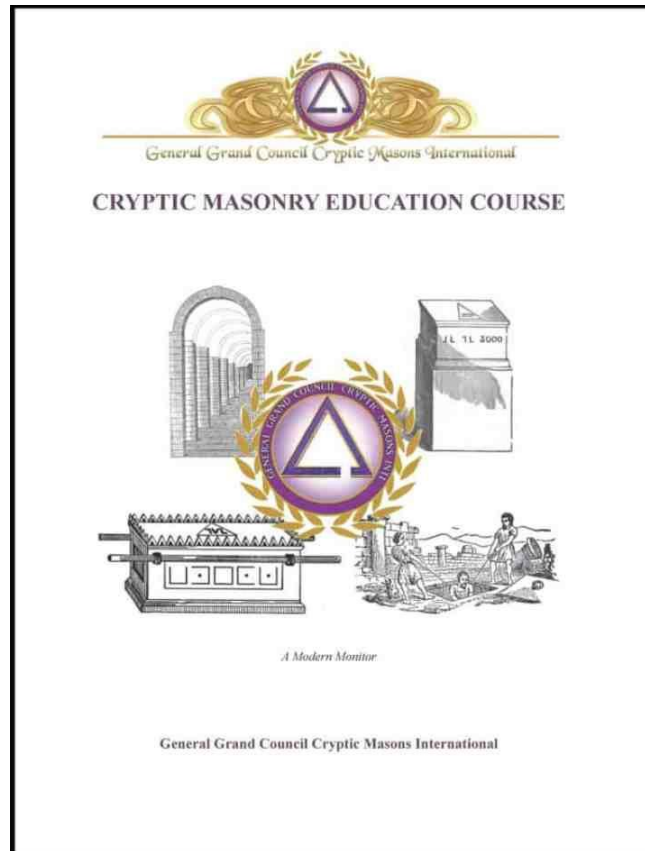
Excerpts from the Cryptic Mason Education Course, pages 7 – 8:

“... the Cryptic Degrees of the York Rite are ‘one of the smallest but one of the most important and certainly one of the most curious of all the rites.’ Both the Royal Master and the Select Master Degrees are of the type known as French *Eccossais* Degrees. There are numerous degrees under the same, or a similar name, but they all have one particular in common— they detail the method adopted for the preservation of the true Word.

“In the higher grades of Masonry, these (degrees) are often labeled the Ninth Arch, Secret Vault, or Sacred Vault Degrees, and carry the name ‘Cryptic,’ as derived from the Greek *crupe* or the Latin *crypta*, meaning to ‘hide’ or ‘conceal’ or ‘secret.’ Thus, the central theme of these degrees all resolve around a vault, cave, or place of underground concealment.”

This is a fascinating course. It also describes why the Cryptic degrees are presented out of chronological order with the other York Rite degrees. I hope this little snippet

above will encourage individuals and Councils to get the course. It can be purchased from <https://robertgdavis.net/product/cryptic-masonry-education-course/> for \$20.



**With gratitude and brotherly love,  
Bruce E. Lawrence MIGM**

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### **Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master' Message**

King Solomon is said to have placed the Ark of the Covenant in the Sanctum Sanctorum, or Holy of Holies, in the temple in Jerusalem. Biblical references tell us the Ark was built by Moses at the command of God in order to hold the Ten Commandments. The Israelites carried it for 40 years as they wandered in the desert,

where it was eventually brought to Shiloh, then to Jerusalem by Solomon's father, King David.

Masonic legend tells us that King Solomon built a replica of the ark, and it is this replica that is featured in the Royal Arch degrees, and in the Cryptic Council Select Master degree. One of the items placed in this replica Ark was Aaron's rod. Referring back to the Bible, in Numbers 17:10, we read

*"And the Lord said unto Moses, bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token."*

Aaron was the older Brother of Moses, and was appointed by God to be a prophet for Moses. Aaron carried a rod that Moses commanded him to cast on the ground. When it was cast on the ground, it turned into a serpent. The Pharaoh's sorcerers did the same with their rods, but Aaron's serpent swallowed theirs. Later, in order to stop the complaints of the Israelites, God commands that each of the Twelve Tribes provide a rod. Only that of the tribe chosen to become priests would miraculously sprout overnight. Aaron provides his rod to represent the tribe of Levi, and it budded and blossomed as evidence of the exclusive right to the priesthood of the tribe of Levi. This is why it was commanded the rod be stored "before the testimony".

The rod was said to have borne two types of fruit. On one end, sweet almonds to provide nourishment for God's people, and on the other bitter almonds if the Hebrews should ever stray from God's path. Bitter almonds contain amygdalin, which the body will metabolize into hydrogen cyanide – a deadly poison.

Our lesson of Aaron's rod in the Select Master degree is that as long as we are faithful and walk in the path of God, our lives too will bear the nourishment of sweet almonds. Should we stray, we will then suffer from the bitterness of almonds.

**- Lee Miller, Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master**

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**Most Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work's Message**

Companions,

I would like to start by thanking the Councils that MIGM Bruce and his officers have visited thus far. I'm sorry for any cancellations or changes. Many of our Masonic families are trying to finish a lot before the summer. Please remember that Official Visits need not be stressful. As a past presiding officer, I know it gets that way, many of our Grand Officers have tried to chill a lot while we watch over the bodies. We mainly want to know how we can help you.

MIGM Bruce has been promoting a Cryptic Mason Book that is full of excellent overviews of all the Degrees, as well as helpful questions in the back that can spark a lot of education and enlightening conversations for Councils, we are all hungry for more light. If we as Grand Officers can help in any way, please write it down, bring it up at your next O.V. or take a minute to call a Grand officer.

Thanks.

## **Rusty Keithline, MIGPCW**

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### **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:ilmwrite@gmail.com">ilmwrite@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:rcbenish@gmail.com">rcbenish@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



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Note: Please send updates and corrections to the Council information for 2023-24 below to [dtomlinson@msn.com](mailto:dtomlinson@msn.com)

**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          Joe Surek Thrice III. Master          Ray Dunn III. Deputy Master          Diego Rodriguez III. P.C. of the Work</p>

	David Reitan Recorder
<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  <a href="http://mastermason.com/Tyrian-Council-11/index.html">mastermason.com/Tyrian- Council-11/index.html</a>  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</p>	<p><b>Jefferson Council No. 24</b>  Meets: 400 10th St Golden  2nd Thursday, Dec. Jan. Feb. 7:30 PM  Miquel Galvez-Estevéz Thrice III.</p>

<p>Timothy Sanks Thrice III. Master  Ian Greenwood III. Deputy Master  Greg Todd III. P.C. of Work  David Vaughan Recorder</p>	<p>Master  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 THE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE YORK RITE DEGREES?

- I. **Entered Apprentice** – A few years before the death of Hiram Abiff
- II. **Fellowcraft** – A couple of years before the death of Hiram
- III. **Royal Master (First Section)** – Just prior to the death of Hiram
- IV. **Select Master** – Just prior to the death of Hiram
- V. **Master Mason** – At the death of Hiram
- VI. **Royal Master (Second Section)** – Just after the death of Hiram
- VII. **Mark Master** – Just before the completion of the Temple
- VIII. **Most Excellent Master** – Shortly after the death of Hiram
- IX. **Past Master** – Sometime after the death of Hiram
- X. **Super Excellent Master** – Beginning at the destruction of King Solomon's Temple
- XI. **Red Cross** – During the time of Prince Zerubbabel and the building of the second Temple
- XII. **Royal Arch** – At the building of the second Temple
- XIII. **Order of Malta** – Approximately 1,000 years after the birth of Christ
- XIV. **Order of the Temple** – Approximately 1118 A.D.

Please send any articles, photographs or announcements of upcoming events to me at [dtmlinson@msn.com](mailto:dtmlinson@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