

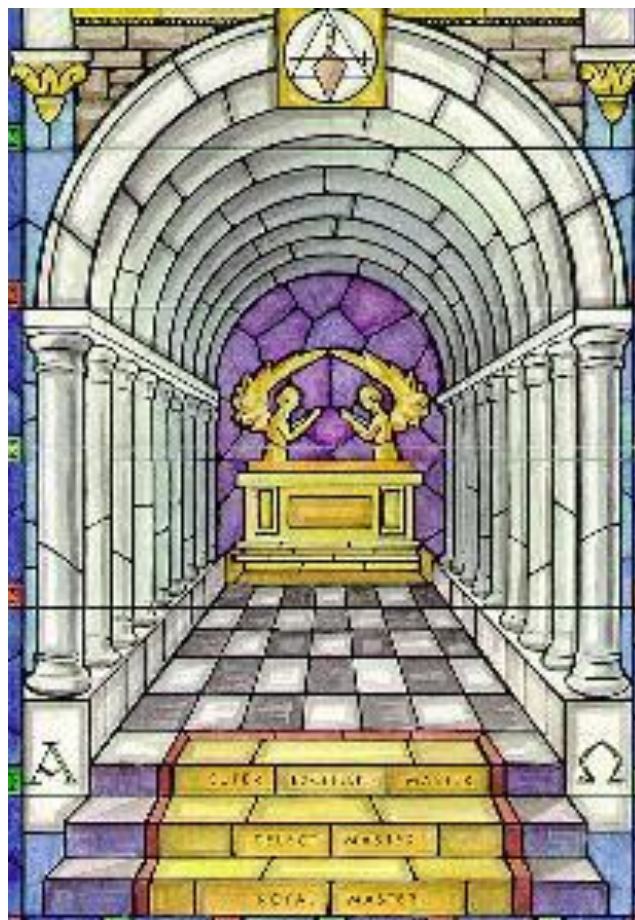
TALES FROM THE CRYPT

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

DECEMBER, 2023

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.



*Help us
make the
Tales
interesting*

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!

I had spent much time trying to figure out what to write for this joyous Christmas season and wasn't happy with anything I'd written. Then I got a Christmas message from a friend of mine, Doug Leech, and it was perfect, so I unashamedly am passing this on as my Christmas message.

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Luke 2:1-21 NIV

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! In a world full of despair, I wish you joy. In a world full of turmoil, I wish you peace. In a world full of hate, I wish you love. The Joy, Peace and Love of Christ can be yours! Just ask Him!!

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

Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master' Message

Who was Adoniram?

As the candidate in the Royal Master degree, we find ourselves representing Adoniram bringing a piece of work to the Council for approval. That work is acknowledged to be a design from King Solomon and is a depiction of the mysterious triad of Deity, and the Masonic virtues of faith, hope and charity. It is ordered to be deposited in the Holy of Holies.

Shortly thereafter, Adoniram asks Grand Master Hiram, who has just finished his noon devotions, a question which all Master Masons encounter in the Master Mason degree. Grand Master Hiram gives his answer, one that again is instantly recognizable from the Master Mason degree. He then delivers to Adoniram a prescient speech on death. Soon thereafter, we witness a silent representation of that tragedy which was enacted for an audience of one in the Master Mason degree. The candidate then returns to receive the secrets of a Royal Master.

Adoniram in Hebrew means "my Lord is exalted". In the Bible in *1 Kings*, he was in service of King Solomon and supervised the conscripted timber cutters for the construction of the Temple as well as collecting taxes. His service is similarly documented in the Tanakh (the Hebrew bible).

In the Royal Master degree, Adoniram is a Fellowcraft in search of the reward that would elevate him to the desirable station of a Master Mason. He is the laborer seeking his reward – the Word - which is symbolic of the search for Truth. The Royal Master degree beautifully illustrates this in which the promise when redeemed will reveal the divine truth. Adoniram in his speculative life has been building his own temple which will eventually be destroyed by death. Likewise, we as speculative Masons cannot achieve the Divine truth in this life. We must instead be content with the substitute we have previously learned.

- Lee Miller, Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master

Most Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work's Message

Cryptic greetings Companions. As York Rite Masons most of us are Christian and believe in the birth, life, & death of Jesus.

Please do your best to send cards, and if possible visit our sick and shut-in Companions and spouses at this Holy time of year. Our world is at a very troubling place, and religious tolerance in the Holy Land and around the world is being threatened. Please join in praying to God to help his people during these troubled times.

Psalm 117:1-2, Praise the Lord, all you nations! Because God's faithful love toward us is strong, the Lord's faithfulness lasts forever!

Praise the Lord!

Merry Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all to celebrate this beautiful time of year.

Rusty Keithline, MIGPCW



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

Officer	Grand Companion	Phone	Email	District Lecturer
MIGM	Bruce Lawrence	303-906-9265	Bruce.e.lawrence@gmail.com	Council 1
RIDGM	Lee Miller	303-961-6455	ilmwrite@gmail.com	Councils 8, 24, 27
RIGPCW	Clinton Keithline	303-257-8380	K_autotop@msn.com	N/A
RIGT	Thomas Thompson	720-422-0608	tom@denverconsistory.org	N/A
RIGR	Grover Sardeson	720-884-7259	groversard@aol.com	N/A
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ILGC	Joe Kier	303-919-6768	joekier@earthlink.net	N/A
ILGCOG	Craig Fabec	719-568-2690	Cj.fabec@hotmail.com	Councils 2,5,6
ILGCOC	Mike Brewer	303-961-2718	Mike.brewer@allurdata.com	N/A
ILGM	Danny Tomlinson	303-638-6509	dtomlinson@msn.com	Councils 11, 13, 20
ILGSTEW	John Francis	720-350-0635	jwfbama@msn.com	Councils 7, 19, 21
ILGH	Donald Nichols	303-877-9651	Don5cents@yahoo.com	N/A

ILGSENT	Gregory Harris	720-204-0850	Gregharris1413@gmail.com	N/A
ILGMUS	Robert Tresize	970-827-9134	N/A	Councils 3, 10, 16

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

COUNCILS 2022-2023

<p>Denver Council No. 1 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>Rocky Mountain Council No. 2 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>Durango Council No. 3 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>Pueblo Council No. 6 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>Hiram Council No. 7 Meets: 701 Baseline Rd. Lafayette Alternate 3rd Wednesday each Mont 7:30 PM Darren Klinefelter Thrice III. Master Ty Colemere III. Deputy Master</p>	<p>Zabud Council No. 8 Meets: 1150 Panorama Dr. Colorado Springs 2nd Thursday each Month 7:30 PM Except July and August Joe Surek Thrice III. Master</p>

Ken Matens III. P.C. of Work Patrick Dey Recorder	Ray Dunn III. Deputy Master Diego Rodriguez III. P.C. of the Work David Reitan Recorder
Telluride Council No. 10 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	Tyrian Council No. 11 Meets: Georgetown & Central City & 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
Alpha Council No. 13 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	Grand Junction Council No, 16 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
Sterling Council No. 19 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	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
Larimer County Council No. 21 Meets: 225 W. Oak St. Fort Collins	Jefferson Council No. 24 Meets: 400 10th St Golden

<p>3rd Tuesday each Month 7:30 PM Except June, July and August Timothy Sanks Thrice III. Master Ian Greenwood III. Deputy Master Greg Todd III. P.C. of Work David Vaughan Recorder</p>	<p>2nd Thursday, Dec. Jan. Feb. 7:30 PM Miquel Galvez-Estevez Thrice III. Master Tim Lambert III. Deputy Master Peter Finnie III. P. C. of Work Lee Miller Recorder</p>
<p>Eastlake Council No. 27 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.

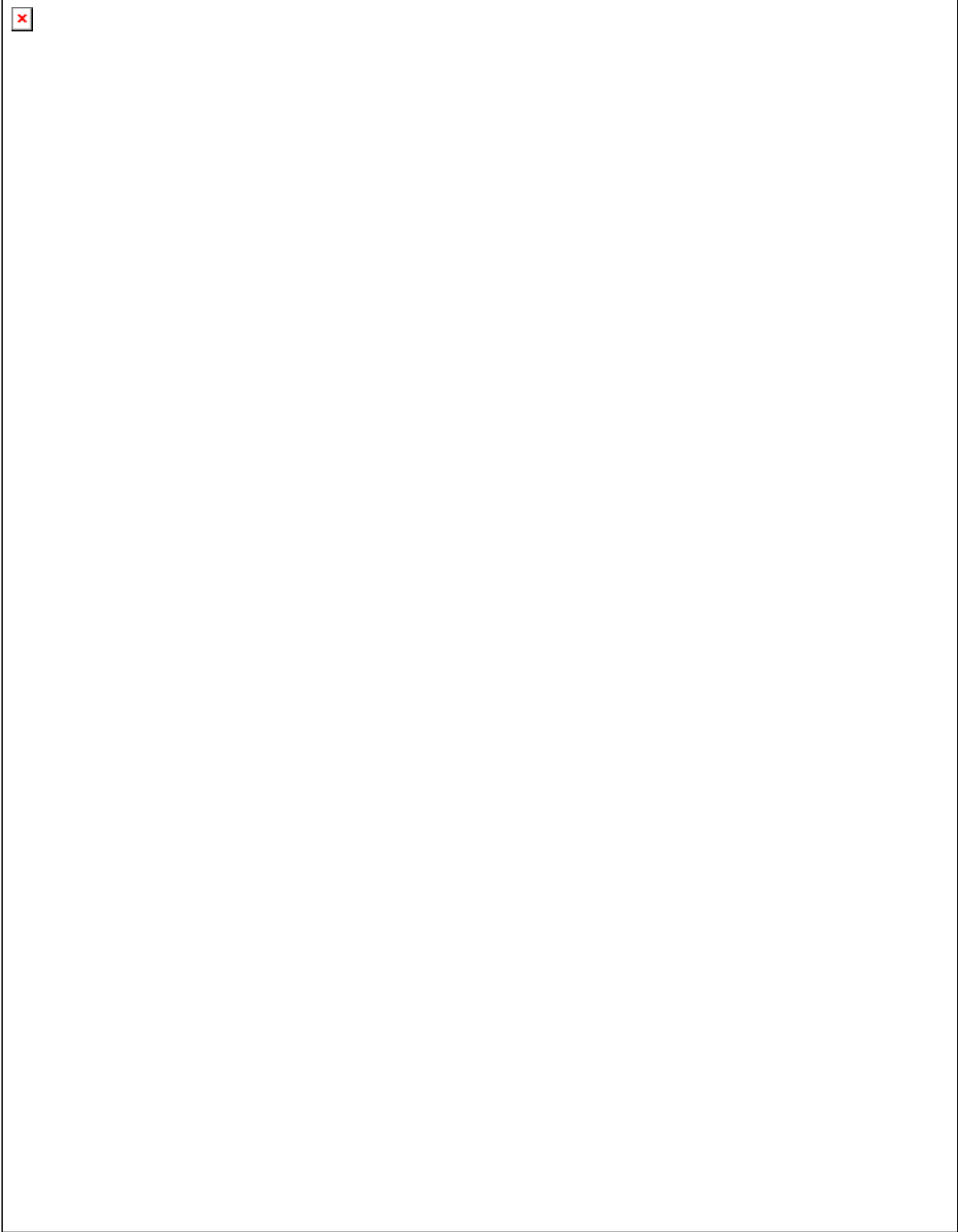
Henry Wilson Coil, in his excellent Masonic encyclopedia published in 1961. Posited that the Cryptic Degrees of the York Rite are “one of the smallest but one of the most important and certainly one of the most curious of all the rites.” Both the Royal Master and the Select Master Degrees are of the type known as French *Ecossais* 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 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 revolve around a vault, cave, or place of underground concealment. All Cryptic degrees are centered on stories involving a vault or crypt wherein certain treasures were hidden beneath King Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem for very specific purposes.

As printed in the Cryptic Masonry Education Course, A Modern Monitor

By Robert G. Davis, Masonic Scholar and Author



Please send any articles, photographs or announcements of upcoming events to me at dtomlinson@msn.com

We are truly blessed, Brothers and Companions – Be well and thank you! Have a wonderful Christmas holiday.

Bruce Lawrence

Most Illustrious Grand Master

And

Danny Tomlinson

Illustrious Grand Marshall and Editor