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# Michigan Triple Tau

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## AUGUST 2016

Greetings from your editor, Jane Todd! The August issue is a rough time for some of the Grand Officers because this is their last communication before leaving office. This has to be the hardest issue to say thank you and remember everyone that helped you along the way. Then, you have the new, incoming Grand Officers and they have to try and put their best foot forward before the Election of Officers.

My best wishes to those leaving office and congratulations to those of you going onto the next step of your Masonic career. To those going to the Grand York Rite Session, this is a great time to mingle, listen, and learn from each other as Masons. You can find out how your old pals are and make some new ones. Learn from each other what projects worked in their areas and what projects didn't work out. A project might work out better with some Companions and/or Sir Knights than others depending on the group of men involved. You will never know what project will take off unless you try something new.

I look forward to all the pictures from the serious sessions to the fun luncheons and banquets. It does drive me nuts not being able to go because of doctor's orders. Just make sure you all have a good time in Bay City.

### The U.S. Department of Defense owns over 200 golf courses all around the world.

As of 2012, the U.S. Department of Defense operates over 200 golf courses on military bases around the world. Although the majority are located on bases in the United States, there are also U.S. military golf courses in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Of course, these golf courses represent only a tiny fraction of the land owned by the U.S. Department of Defense, which owns close to 30 million acres (121,400 square kilometers) of land worldwide and has 737 overseas military installations.

(Check it out at [www.wisegeek.com](http://www.wisegeek.com)!)



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**"COMMUNICATION IS KEY"**

## **Comments and Observations**

### **From the East**

This is a bitter sweet article for me to write, for it is my last, as the Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan. I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the companions of this state for allowing me this great opportunity. Lady Sherry and I have eight years of great years as we traveled up the ladder to the top, and they were given to us by each and every one of you. Through our travels we have met many great people along with making many new friends, here in Michigan as well as other states, but none are better than the ones we have made along this journey. Lady Sherry and I wish to thank you for all of the memories and friendships.

The month of July has been a whirl wind of activity, with Jobs assembly, Illinois grand session, Sprague Picnic and golf outing, along with preparing for our session. There are times that I wish someone would invent a forty-eight-hour day, but it still would not be enough. The check list just keeps getting longer and longer, and the time gets shorter and shorter. Our grand session is coming together and our Grand Secretary is working his fingers into nubs getting it together, at the end of it I think I will buy him a large and tall glass of caffeine free diet Coke so he can relax. Having said that I have to add here that the Grand Chapter office has received a large number of annual reports that were not complete. We appreciate the financial reports and monies turned in on time, but the rest of the report is needed so the condition of Grand Chapter can be assessed and reported. The information that each chapter reports determines the condition. We need your gains and loss's so we know how many members we have also, for awards to be given for the largest gain. Losses are broken into categories to help with future programs. The Grand Chaplin needs the information on deaths for the Necrology report. When you turn in the gains we also need the new member information to add to the data base, all of the lines on the petition. Most cases we receive the name and nothing else, when the dust settles we will be reaching out to the secretaries for the information on their new members.

August yes I know this article is for August, but I want to pass along some information for it. First up is DeMolay conclave August 12<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup> in Flint, on Hill Rd., next is our Grand York Rite session in Bay City August 17<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>. The end of August we have the Tri- state degree day in Kingsford, Michigan, with Wisconsin and Minnesota. Michigan is performing the Royal Arch degree on the candidates. This is a great weekend and a chance to see degrees from our neighboring states. Information is on the web-site if you wish to attend.

Once again Lady Sherry and I wish to thank each and every one of you for a wonderful eight years. We will never forget the friends we have made and the memories we have.

Thank You Very, Very Much  
Donald and Sherry Galway  
God Bless



**Louis C. McCray, PGHP**

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**Secretary's Scribbles**

This issue of the Triple Tau marks my swan song as an active officer in your Grand Chapter. I am not going to disappear altogether as I still plan to submit articles of general interest to the Triple Tau from time to time. It has been quite a ride since I began my journey through the line as Grand Master of the 1<sup>st</sup> Veil. I have been asked if, knowing what I know now, I would do it again. I have to say no, I would not do it again, but I certainly am glad I had the opportunity to do it the first time. I would not trade the experiences I have had or the friends I have made while involved with this Grand Chapter for anything. I wish you all the very best you can possibly attain.

As of this writing in late July we still have several chapters who have not yet submitted their Annual Returns. Remember, if your Annual Return and per/capita are not in by the opening of the Grand Chapter, your representative(s) will not be allowed to vote, cannot address the membership, or be elected to an office. Also, a number of chapters have sent only the recap and financial pages from the Annual Return. There is much other information we need about the chapters to include in the various reports for the Grand Convocation and to update the directory. If your chapter did not submit the complete return, please get the rest in to us as soon as possible.

If any of your chapter dais officers cannot attend the Grand Chapter, your Secretary can give a voting proxy to any Royal Arch Mason member of your chapter to replace the missing officer(s). Proxy slips are available in both the July and current issue of the Triple Tau or in the *downloads* link on our website, [www.grandchaptermi.org](http://www.grandchaptermi.org). Companion Secretary, if you do have to issue a proxy, it must be fully completed and sealed to be valid.

Upcoming events for August include the York Rite Joint Grand Session August 17-20 (Grand Chapter Officers meet on Tuesday afternoon, 8/16) at the Doubletree Hotel in Bay City and the MI/MN/WI Tri-State Royal Arch All degree Day on Saturday, August 27 in Kingsford. I know it can be a long trip to Iron Mountain/ Kingsford for you trolls but it is well worth the effort. Seeing some of the differences in the work as it is done by other jurisdictions is always a treat and, as Michigan is the host this year, our own Grand Chapter will be conferring the Royal Arch Degree, with a little help from whatever local talent we can muster.

And now, a few more quotes gathered by Terry Spalding Martin and posted on the Canada Masons email group:

"I'm getting kind of tired always slowly raising my hand when someone asks, 'Who does something like that?!?'" - Anonymous

"Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army." - Edward Everett (1794-1865)

"What you allow, you encourage." - Michael Josephson

"If God had intended us to fly he would have made it easier to get to the airport! - Jonathan (Harshman) Winters (III) (1925-2013).

May the blessings of Heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons, and all mankind as well. May Brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

Fraternally,

Lou McCray PGHP



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**King's Korner**



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**Scribe's Scratches**

Have you ever taken some quiet time for yourself and read the several Masonic Lectures? I don't mean just read them, I mean read them and take the time to comprehend and reflect on how their message should apply to us as Masons. How we should act and conduct ourselves in our everyday lives with family, friends and strangers. How their teachings can help make us better men than we are, or should be.

How many times have you sat in lodge when degree work was conferred, and usually after a small break, when it came time for the lecture, several of the brothers and even some officers were absent? How sad. Sad for two reasons. First, the special meeting was held for the benefit of the candidate. For those who decided not to be present for the lecture shows disrespect. Second, they have done a disservice to themselves. They might argue that they have heard these lectures many times over and don't see the need to hear them again and again, but have they really grasped what the lectures are attempting to teach us? I have to confess there were times that I was not present to hear some lectures, but not very often. Almost every time I hear a lecture I pick up on something I hadn't done in the past. There is usually always something new to learn.

There are valuable lessons that are learned during the degree work. There is no question about that, but, to me, there is also a wealth of knowledge in those lectures if we just take the time to reflect on their teachings.

The next time you have some quiet time pick up your ritual, relax, take your time and read to yourself the several lectures and see if you don't come away with a different perspective. Then reflect upon yourself How do you measure up to what Masonry really has to offer you?

\*Note our R. E. Grand King did not get a chance to put in a new article due to time conflicts. Go see him at the Michigan Royal Arch Grand Communication in Bay City.

Summer is finally here. I do hope that everyone is enjoying time with their loved ones as most Masonic Bodies are dark.

A short note this month as my military career has had me quite busy this month. As we prepare for the Grand York Rite Session in August, I want to remind everyone to make your reservations now, if you have not already done so. Also, as I will be seeking election to the Grand King, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support so far. I would especially like to thank Wayne Chapter #182 for their continued support. It has been a great time for me ascending the various chairs. There have been some low moments but for the majority of the time great moments. I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting wonderful men who have taught so much, and I am still learning. However, I could not have done it without the help, compassion, and encouragement of ALL of you. THANK YOU!

The Grand York Rite Session will begin with Grand Chapter on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, followed by the Grand Council on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>, and Grand Commandery on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. This year the Headquarters Hotel will be the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Bay City – Riverfront, One Wenonah Park Place, Bay City, MI 48708, 1-989-891-6000. Make your reservations now so you won't miss any of the fun.

Fraternally,  
Rich Hitch,  
R. E. Grand Scribe

#### WORDS OF WISDOM:

I'm not giving up, I'm just starting over! – Anon

Hating someone makes them important. Forgiving them makes them obsolete. - Quozio.com

Explain your anger, don't express it and you will immediately open the door to solutions instead of arguments. – havingtime.com

Be an encourager! The world has plenty of critics already. – Dave Willis





## Edward P. James Lady Vera

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Companions,

This month's offering for Cryptic Education is written by Sir Knight Richard W. Van Doren. Dr. Van Doren is a retired psychologist and Past Commander of Boston Commandery, No. 2.

This is part three and the final part of a series, and comes from the Grand Council of Massachusetts.

### European Beginnings...

As we have seen from the previous segments of this history, there are a multiplicity of theories about the pre-historic, pre-organized genesis of the Cryptic Rite. One that has not been discussed before, and which we will treat here, will be the last of the speculations about where it came from originally. The difference and why it is placed here, is that this story has actual records which support it in some detail and therefore, constitute "history" as academically recognized.

The birthplace of so many rites and degrees is seated in southeastern France, specifically the area surrounding Bordeaux. This is the homeland of various degrees of both French and ultimately English and Scottish derivation. One such notion is that it also gave rise to the Cryptic degrees. However, they did not remain there long. Instead, like those prompted by Ramsey's famous oration, they were associated with and travelled with the "Eccosais" tradition from Bordeaux to Berlin.

It was in Berlin that the Scottish Rite and the Cryptic Rite found an enthusiastic patron, no less a personage than King Fredrick the Great. It was he who saw to it that there was a Scottish Rite Constitution (dates differ from 1761, to a lesser agreed upon 1751) and as the theory goes, also a rite for Cryptic Masons. The former went back to Bordeaux and thence by Morin et al. to Jamaica and thence to South Carolina, Albany, New York, etc. The Cryptic Rite degree(s) went to the United States of America directly via Wilmans and Cohen. Certainly, this is the theoretic tradition of the Royal Master Degree.

The similarities of degrees in Berlin, Bordeaux, and the United States of America are interesting. The engraved Word is placed on a triangular plate of pure gold. Fearing loss, it is worn around the neck of Hiram Abif with the name engraving on the inside. At the time of the death of the Grand Master, it is cast into a dry well in the southeast corner of the Temple. Eventually, over time, it is then found by three Masters who see the glint of the metal shining at just the right time of day. One of the Masters carries it to King Solomon. The current ritual is a variation and more in accord with the symbolism which permeates and surrounds this degree.

The Select Master is known to have been actively performed in France prior to 1751. It is considered to be older than the degrees of the Rite of Perfection of the Scottish Rite (ca. 1760) and was also apparently worked by the Chapter of Clermont in 1754. The Title of "Select Master of Clermont" (later shortened to Select Master) is thought not to relate to the Abbey of Clermont. The reason for that thinking is that the Abbey is operated and administered in the Jesuit tradition. The Jesuits are and were not fond of the Knights Templar, and all the degrees in the "Scots" system lead back, eventually to Ramsey's Oration and the Knights Templar. Instead, it is thought that the title of the degree is most likely a compliment to the Duke of Clermont, the French Grand Master of Masons (1743-1770).

### The United States...

The early years of the Cryptic degrees, first named such by Robert Morris of Kentucky, are marked by multiple theories of origin. All of them appear to have some truth, and all of them have some areas that are easily disputed by the trained historian. What we can conclude with some certainty is that, like many of the so-called "higher degrees," those of the Cryptic Rite originated in France. They were conveyed to the United States by one of two different routes and were first conferred in Lodges of Perfection administered by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (AASR).

Between the years of 1817 and 1829, active Cryptic Degree work and Councils began to appear in a number of states such as Connecticut, Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland. Massachusetts conferred their first Cryptic degrees in 1817 and formed a "Grand Council" in 1826. However, there was still a lot of push and shove with regard as to who would ultimately

have authority over council activities. Who would ultimately have control, the AASR, the Royal Arch, or the Cryptic Rite itself?

An early historian named Moses Holbrook left the following comment in 1829: "I hereby certify that the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master or Select Master of 27 were regularly given by the Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection (No. 2 in the United States) by Brother Isaac DeCosta in Charleston in February 1783..." The committee, of which Holbrook was the chair, included three living members of the original four Supreme Council members associated with these degrees; Frederick Dalcho, Isaac Auld, James Moutrie, and Moses Levy. None of them contradicted the statement.

The Committee recommended that the supervisory Masonic authorities at the time surrender the custody of the Cryptic degrees. That would have included the AASR as well as the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry of South Carolina.

On January 28, 1828, a convention had been called in New York to decide the future. Following the lead of the South Carolinians, the New York companions formed a General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in 1829. Other Grand Councils formed and became subordinate. In the period 1847-53, the General Grand Council won the on-going struggle with Grand Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, but the AASR of both North and Southern Jurisdictions continued until the 1867 union of the Cerneau and Raymond Councils in the Northern Jurisdiction. The handwriting was on the wall, and the inevitable emergence of the General Grand Council as supreme authority of the degrees was finally acceded to in 1872.

In 1873, the order of the degrees was agreed to and finalized. The order would be the Royal Master, the Select Master, and the Super Excellent Master. The latter, according to such experts as Henry Coil, does not actually constitute a "degree" but rather is considered to be a "ceremony." The ironic part of that is that the Super Excellent Master contains a vibrant drama which originated with the Principal Sojourner's part in the Royal Arch Degree and which concludes the period of the First and Second Temples.

The final chapter in organizing the Cryptic Rite began in 1952 with the acceptance of New Mexico's Grand Council into the national organization. In 1881, at a meeting held in New York, the Grand Council of Massachusetts led the charge to establish a General Grand Council of the Cryptic Rite of the United States of America.

Fraternally,  
Edward P. James  
M. I. Grand Mason

### **What came first? The chicken or the egg? Now you know!**

A protein discovered in eggshells is only produced in a hen's ovaries, suggesting that chickens existed before eggs. In a major breakthrough for the dedicated riddle solvers of the world, British scientists may have answered the age-old question: Which came first? Researchers at Sheffield and Warwick Universities found a protein in chicken ovaries that accelerates the process of creating an egg's hard shell. And since it was found inside the chicken, the chicken had to come first, they reasoned. ([www.wisegeek.com](http://www.wisegeek.com))

### **Theophilus Van Kannel patented the revolving door in 1888; he disliked holding doors open for other people.**

In more polite societies of the past, a gentleman always opened doors for women. Some say the practice dates to medieval times, when long and heavy dresses made getting through doors difficult. Chivalrous men of the day always assisted a lady in need. Today, of course, people kindly open doors for others, men and women, but this "ladies first" custom bothered Theophilus Van Kannel, so he invented the first revolving door in 1888 to allow women to fend for themselves. Bless his pea-picking heart, eh?!? ([www.wisegeek.com](http://www.wisegeek.com))



## GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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### GRAND COMMANDERS CORNER --- August Message

#### Grand Commanders Farewell Message

Well Sir Knights, my tenure as your Grand Commander will soon come to an end. What an incredible journey it has been. Never have I been so grateful for not having a valid excuse to turn down an opportunity. Not only has serving as a Grand Officer for this fine organization taught me what an outstanding world bettering organization Masons and the Knights Templar are, but also, how to become a better human being. It is this selfless, compassionate desire and drive to serve that makes Templary great and makes me proud to have served as your Grand Commander. All the travel around our State and out, acting as ambassador for you and our great organization. Having opportunity to attend inspections and important functions at all our Commandery's. Being able to personally meet every one of you. With such dedicated and capable members, I have no doubt the future of our Order is a bright one. I will never forget this humbling occasion to serve the Craft and extend my many thanks for your confidence in promoting me to this. On behalf of Lady Nancy and Myself, be well, do good work, and keep in touch.

Peace be with you  
SK Albert Johnson  
R. E. Grand Commander



**This big guy  
leaned in real  
close to make  
sure his new pal  
didn't need  
anything.**

