

The Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M.

GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

Volume 127 Number 2

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

June 2025

“TEAM”

Alannah McKibben
Iowa Valley High School



“Alannah approaches challenges with determination and positive attitude, always striving to better herself and those around her”

Andrew Strodghill
Oskaloosa High School



“Andrew is an exceptional student who combines kindness with hard work, persistence, and service mindedness”

Aslynn Gunnerson
South O'Brien High School



“Ashlynn is the epitome of a talented young woman with exemplary goals and character”

Audrie Kohl
Missouri Valley High School



“Audrie is a remarkable young woman who excels in leadership, academics, athletics, and community service”

Atiksh Hood
Waukee Northwest
High School



“Given Atiksh's remarkable abilities, strong character, and commitment to his future, I have no doubt he will succeed in his college studies and beyond”

Brinkly Ann Sallach
Red Oak High School



“Brinkly exhibits integrity, responsibility, and kindness in all aspects of her life”



2025 Scholarship Recipients

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Deputy Grand Master Keith R. Voss, Jefferson
Senior Grand Warden Donald A. Drennan, Atlantic
Junior Grand Warden Ronald J. Mullenger, Hamlin
Grand Treasurer Bruce D. Thomas, Algona
Grand Secretary Craig L. Davis, West Des Moines
Grand Chaplain Theodore M. Boomgarden, Mason City
Deputy Grand Secretary Kelly H. Bruce, Boone
Grand Marshal Mitchell A. Petty, West Des Moines
Senior Grand Deacon Curtis A. Klyn, Boone
Junior Grand Deacon Skylar Watson, Adel
Senior Grand Steward Michael C. McClain, Creston
Junior Grand Steward Erik L. Brincks, Boone
Grand Tyler James C. Mason, Indianola
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A. Lyle Miller, P.J.G.W., Manilla

GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

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LODGE SERVICE COMMITTEE

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THE GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

"The Bulletin" is published four times annually (March, June, September, and December) by the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M., P.O. Box 279, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-0279, as a means of communication between its subordinate lodges and members. Mailed free upon request to Iowa lodges and Freemasons, and as an exchange to public institutions and representative periodicals throughout the world.

Address all mail subscriptions, change of address notices (P.O.D. FORM 3579), news releases and Letters to the Editor to the above address. Permission to reprint articles from "The Bulletin" is granted to all recognized Masonic publications with credit to the author and/or this publication.

2025 Iowa Masonic Scholarships

Pictures of the twenty-six recipients of a 2025 Grand Lodge of Iowa \$5,000 Scholarship and \$2,500 Scholarship are shown throughout this issue of the Bulletin. All quotes are taken from the recommendations of high school staff members that accompanied the student's applications.

Brother Craig A. Bargfrede chairs the Scholarship Selection Committee that sorted through over 400 completed applications, and selected 26 applicants for interviews. From those interviewed, sixteen outstanding students were chosen to receive \$5,000 scholarships, and the other ten received \$2,500 scholarships. The interviews were held by Zoom. Since the program began in 1970, 2,652 scholarships totaling \$4,130,900 have been awarded.

Environmental Hero Catharine Wieck



Dysart resident and wife of Past Grand Master Paul H. Wieck, Catharine Wieck, 94 has left a lasting legacy to her city. Her environmental passion has earned her the nickname "the tree lady." She serves on the city's tree board. "Trees help beautify our town, and they're crucial for the environment," she said. "It's about creating spaces where people can enjoy nature."

Wieck has led numerous projects, from establishing an arboretum to developing walking trails. "I want to see the ongoing efforts sustain themselves even after I'm gone," she said.



A Special Thank you to the Grand Lodge of Iowa Scholarship Endowment Fund for Sponsoring the June 2025 Bulletin!

Grand Master's Message In the Trenches

Are we having fun yet? I don't know about you, but this year's Grand Lodge Officers sure are! By the time this bulletin comes out we will be 3/4 of the way through the Grand Lodge year. We have had a busy year, accomplished much, but there is still much work to do "In the Trenches".

We have had dozens of cross committee meetings in person and via zoom. We are seeing the results of TEAM work! We are hearing the feedback of the craft and many of our committees are actively embracing new ideas, technologies and communications. A big thank you to all of our committees and board members who work hard "In the Trenches." We encourage all of the craft to reach out to the various committee members for individual and lodge assistance. Especially Lodge Service, Public Relations and Technology Committees. We have many tools available to enhance your individual and lodge engagement experience. Reach out to us, we are here to serve the craft and offer help to the lodges "In the Trenches".



The Iowa Masonic Charities Founders Campaign has raised over \$300,000 for the Library and Collections project with the Iowa Masonic Charities match that is over \$600,000! Thank you to all Iowa Masons and families and friends!

The trustees have decided to use this money to start with repairing and sealing up the stained glass windows which are needing immediate attention. This will help seal things up on the outside and prevent water from entering the building. Along with the windows will be a tuck-pointing project. This will help improve the efficiency of the building. The trustees are also considering a solar panel project to go on the roof. This will generate electricity to offset or completely eliminate our electric bills. This project will be funded by monies received from the sale of the Iowa Masonic Health Facilities in Bettendorf.

We have heard from the craft that we need to start marketing ourselves. We have started advertising ourselves in social media outlets, poker chips with QR codes and yard signs. Through our Grandview system we have seen a substantial increase in our "inquiries". These are men in Iowa looking to find out more about Freemasonry and potentially become members. We were around 70-75 before the first of the year and we are pleased to report that as of this writing 3 months later we are at 108 "inquiries" into Freemasonry in Iowa! We would encourage all of you to get behind us on marketing ourselves to the public. We have budgeted money for next year to continue our marketing efforts.

Our current membership numbers are:

108 Inquiries-with an average age of 38.1

46 Candidates-with an average age of 40.2

69 Entered Apprentices-with an average age of 40.2

61 Fellow Crafts-with an average age of 40.8

10,383 Master Masons-with an average age of 66.7

519 Plural Members

10,882 Total Members

I would like to personally invite every Master Mason and your significant other to attend the 181st Annual Communication in Sioux City on September 18-20. This is your opportunity to help make decisions for the future direction of our fraternity. This is your Grand Lodge and we encourage you to participate and celebrate with us upon the completion of the past year and look forward to passing the baton to the next TEAM!

Fraternally and Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A.J. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

A.J. Brown

Grand Master of Masons in Iowa

A Tribute to Charles L. Brinkerhoff

By Dennis M. Zahrt



The following words are from Most Worshipful Charles L. Brinkerhoff, PGM at Grand Lodge September 2006.

We must always remember and never forget that we are a significant part of a large Masonic Family. All members of the Masonic Family must be concerned about each of the others, each must work in cooperation with the others, and each must aid and support all to assure the survival, the thriving of us all. This includes the Masonic Lodges, York and Scottish Rites, Shrine, Order of Eastern Star, DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters, as well as other Masonic bodies. As a famous Mason, Benjamin Franklin, once said, "We must indeed all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall hang separately."

It is not a one-year program, but an on-going responsibility of all Masons. If we are willing to make some changes in our thinking, we can turn many of our problems into solutions in regard to membership, lack of public knowledge of our existence, and lack of financial stability of many of our Lodges; and truly "Leave a Legacy" for Masonry in Iowa in the future.

Most Worshipful "Charlie B", is how he liked to be called by his Masonic Family. He strongly believed in Freemasonry as one big family. He loved to spend a night at the Knoxville Raceway and enjoy a good cigar with some fine music.

Charles L. Brinkerhoff was born on June 21, 1943, in Lebanon, Missouri. His family moved to Des Moines in 1945. Charlie was a graduate of East High School and received his associates degree from Grandview College. He worked for several insurance companies as an underwriter. In 1991, Charlie began employment with Polk County as a Facilities Support Supervisor, retiring in 2005. He was a member of the Powell III Association and Alano Society. Charlie was a member of Plymouth Congregational Church.

Masonically, Brother Brinkerhoff was initiated in Home Lodge No. 370 in Des Moines on October 19, 1967, passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft on November 21, 1967, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on November 30, 1967. He served as Worshipful Master in 1994. He was a 57-year member.

Charlie served as Sr. Grand Deacon in 1996-1997, Junior Grand Warden in 2000-2001, and Grand Master in 2005-2006. He held District Lecturer Certificate No. 3010. He had served on the Committee on Division and Reference in 1997-1998 and chairman in 2004-2005. He was a member of South-Central MI-DL Club.

He was knighted in St. Bartholomew Conclave Red Cross of Constantine in 1999 and served as Puissant Sovereign in 2012.

He was exalted in Antioch Chapter No. 110, greeted in Alpha Council No. 1, and knighted in Temple Commandery No. 4 in 1968.

He became a 32° Master of the Royal Secret on April 22, 1995, in the Des Moines Valley of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. He was invested with the rank and dignity of the Knight Commander Court of Honour on October 3, 2001, and was coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary on October 4, 2005. He was a member of the Scottish Rite Research Society.

He was a member of Za-Ga-Zig Shrine and past president of the Shrine Past Masters' Club. He was a member of Des Moines Chapter No. 89 Order of the Eastern Star and Iowa York Rite College No. 37

He was a recipient of the DeMolay Honorary Legion of Honor and was an honorary member of the DeMolay International Supreme Council. He served as President of the Iowa DeMolay Foundation.

Most Worshipful Brother Brinkerhoff passed away on April 14, 2025, at his home in Des Moines. He was 81 years of age.

"Leave a Legacy"

2025 Iowa Masonic Scholarships

Claire Husen
Sergeant Bluff Luton
High School



"Claire gives of her talents and time without reservation"

Caleb Stocks
West Delaware
High School



"Caleb approaches every challenge with humility and determination, treating everyone with kindness and respect"

Ella Shannon
Manson NW
Webster High School



"Education is important to Ella and she strives to be the best at whatever she does"

Ellen Cook
Montezuma High School



"Ellen has and continues to demonstrate extraordinary leadership in all she sets out to accomplish"

Christian Buchli
Newton High School



"Christian has set high goals for himself and has not faltered in achieving those goals"

Gabrielle Ford
Fairfield High School



"Gabby's work ethic is exemplary"

Irelynd Mc Carthy
Exira Elk Horn Knibalton



"Irelynd is highly dedicated to everything she pursues"

Henry Groos
Norwalk High School



"Henry's love for learning, compassion for others, and his desire to make a difference in the world sets him apart from his peers"

Kendal Niemeier
Harris Lake Park



"Kendal's discipline and courage have driven her to achieve much. Her character and citizenship inspire all who know her, and her leadership sets a standard for others to follow"



2025 Iowa Masonic Scholarships

Kimberly Clarahan
Keota High School



"I have no doubt that Kimberly will excel in her future endeavors and continue to be a positive influence in her community."

Isaac Vosburg
Hampton Dumont
High School



"Issac is a student that truly has made a difference in all of the leadership positions he has held"

Lillie Hoffman
Storm Lake High School



"Lillie exemplifies the qualities this scholarship seeks to reward: academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to service"

Natalie Zimmerman
Southwest Valley
High School



"She is an excellent role model for all students in academics and character"

Tyson Osbahr
AHSTW High School



"Tyson's professionalism, empathy, and resilience in the face of adversity were nothing short of inspiring"

Rees Campbell
Oskaloosa High School



"Rees role on our award winning student council further highlights her dedication to her peers and her community"

Sescie Haan
Clinton High School



"I feel Sescie represents the best of what Clinton High School strives for"

Vaughn Auderer
Western Dubuque
High School



"Vaughn constantly demonstrates a drive to achieve more"

Zoe Castle
Cedar Falls High School



"Zoe represents the exact kind of student Cedar Falls High School hopes to produce"



2025 Iowa Masonic Scholarships

Rylan Edwards
Central Dewitt



"In every area of his life, Rylan exemplifies the qualities of outstanding individual intelligence, work ethic, leadership, service, and integrity"

Vaughn Zittergruen
Central Community
High School



"Vaughn's work ethic, kindness, positivity, and desire to serve others will lead him to success in any field he decides to pursue"

Spreading Masonic Light in Greene County

On April 4th Right Worshipful Brother Deputy Grand Master shared some Masonic light at the Greenwood Community Center in Jefferson Iowa for the Greene County Historical Society. Topics shared covered who we are, the process to join and what are the degrees in Masonry. Brother Keith also shared with those in attendance who some of the Freemasons of Iowa are and the history of lodges in Greene County. He included in his presentation information and history on the Iowa Masonic Library and Museum, Cornerstone Ceremonies at courthouses and a local famous story of Yankee Robinson.



Robinson operated "rep shows" under canvas which were quite successful. In 1857 he moved his operation to Charleston, South Carolina where he remained until John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia. on October of 1859. Having the name of "Yankee" Robinson emblazoned on his wagons, he feared for his life. Robinson immediately fled the south leaving behind all of his wagons, horses, props and equipment which he valued at \$40,000.00. In the years ahead the "Yankee Robinson Shows" became a huge success and one of the largest circuses on the road long before the Ringling Brothers were a known and only second to Barnum.

In 1884 while traveling by train, he became seriously ill between Bayard Iowa and Lake City Iowa and was taken off the train in Jefferson, Iowa, where he was placed in the hotel. He had little money, no identification, and only a masonic symbol in his pocket. The owner of the hotel was a mason and called the local brethren, who took turns staying with him day and night until he passed away several days later. The lodge appointed local brethren to serve as pallbearers, and most of the membership at that time walked alongside the casket in a horse drawn hearse all the way to the cemetery in the rain, 3 miles round trip.

Ludovic "Yankee" Robinson died on September 4, 1884 and was buried by members of the masonic lodge in the Jefferson Cemetery. A monument was erected at the grave site jointly by the Ringling Brothers and the Sells Bros. circuses in 1890.



2025 Mark Earl and Esther Ruth Spencer Technical Scholarships

Colby Booton
Burlington
Notre Dame



A smart, well-mannered, solid citizen with great social qualities – a quality individual and dedicated student.

Addyson Schreck
Central Decatur
High School



A highly decorated student athlete and a dedicated leader in many school clubs – she truly elevates those around her.

Ava Lassen
Hempstead
High School



A kind, caring, dedicated student who fosters a positive and collaborative environment in the classroom.

Jacob Meshek
Glidden-Ralston
High School



An excellent student who demonstrates initiative and responsibility – always considerate of different ideas and opinions.

Jamison Kramersmeier
North Iowa
Community School



A very coachable four-sport athlete and active class participant – holds himself and peers to a high standard of character.

Kimberly Clarahan
Keota High School



A remarkable student and dedicated athlete – exceptional communication skills, integrity, and strong character.

Colton Vander Wiel
North Mahaska
High School



A compassionate and responsible individual who puts in the effort to be successful – reliable, positive, and enthusiastic.

Ben Langel
IKM Manning
High School



A very good student and a bright spot among those in his graduating class – an outstanding leader, productive, hardworking, and caring.

Leena Boettger
Woodbine
High School



A kind, caring, dedicated, hardworking person you can count on – and a deserving candidate for this scholarship.

Reese Lundquist
South O'Brien
High School



A talented athlete and remarkable student with top-notch interpersonal and communication skills – diligent and high achieving.

**Grand Lodge of Iowa
181st Annual Communication**



September 18-20, 2025
Sioux City Convention Center
801 4th Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Meal Order Form

Thursday, September 18

Lunch – Provided by Iowa York Rite Bodies

Provide Number _____

Grand Masters Fellowship Banquet – 6:00 P.M.

Beef Medallions - \$55.00

Number_____ Cost_____

Herb Crusted Salmon - \$55.00

Number_____ Cost_____

Friday, September 19

Masons Lunch –

Provided by the Iowa Scottish Rite Bodies

Provide Number _____

Ladies Lunch – Plated Lunch \$28.00

Number_____ Cost_____

All – Masonic Banquet – 6:00 P.M

Beef Tenderloin - Provided by Iowa Masonic Charities

Provide Number _____

Chicken Roma - Provided by Iowa Masonic Charities

Provide Number _____

Saturday, September 20

Ladies Continental Breakfast

Number_____ Cost_____

Masonic Breakfast for Masons

Breakfast Buffet - \$30.00

Number_____ Cost_____

Total Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to the Grand Lodge of Iowa

Send to: Grand Lodge of Iowa

Attention: Tickets

PO Box 279, Cedar Rapids IA 52406-0279

Note: Reservation cut –off is Tuesday, September 3. Reservations are a must!

No meal tickets will be available at Grand Lodge Session

Your tickets will be available for pick up at the credentials table.

Name and Address: Please Print

TEAM Housewives of Iowa



G'day Ladies,

We have had a blast this year travelling across the state and building new friendships. It has been my honor along with the Housewives of the Grand Lodge Officers to serve you on this TEAM! We have met many new friends and have rekindled old friendships as well. We want to thank the local lodges and their ladies who have included us and made us feel welcome everywhere we have gone. It has been an amazing journey, along with visiting several surrounding states, your Grand Master A.J. Brown and I whole heartedly thank you for embracing our new ideas and trying different ways of having fun this year and being part of the TEAM concept. "We may not have it all together, but together we have it all!"

We are making plans for the 181st Annual Communication for the Grand Lodge of Iowa in Sioux City at the Convention Center located at 801 4th Street on September 18-20. We hope that you will join us for the Ladies Activities. We will also have a silent auction and a bake sale with proceeds going towards the Iowa Masonic Charities Founders Campaign for the preservation of the Iowa Masonic Library and Museums and the collections. We hope that you will be able to help support our project this year and donate items.

We look forward to seeing each one of you. Please come up to us and say hi to myself and the Grand Lodge Officers Housewives. We would love to meet you and get to know you. We want all of you to have a fabulous time and feel comfortable. You are all part of this TEAM!

Thank you,

Marlo (Toots) Brown



Housewives Schedule

Wednesday September 17, 2025

2:00-4:00 p.m. Women's Hospitality Room open to receive silent auction and bake sale items.

Thursday, September 18, 2025

7:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.- Women's Hospitality Room open, registration and bake sale and silent auction items arriving.

1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. -Wine tasting/Vinyeard at Oscar Carl

Friday, September 19, 2025

7:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.- Women's Hospitality Room open.

11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.- Chair Yoga/Lunch/Posture Photography

Saturday, September 20, 2025

8:30 a.m. -Continental Breakfast

Masonic Gifts of the Extraordinary

By Kelly H. Bruce

As Freemasons, it is common to give back to our communities through charitable donations and volunteer work. As a Fraternity we also give back to our brethren. Based on our core Masonic principle of "Brotherly Love" we are wired to give when the need arises, signifying the duty to assist those in need, which includes fellow Masons. Such an example happened on the evening of February 24th, at Operative Lodge No. 308.

On this particular night, Most Worshipful A. J. Brown and his Grand Lodge Officers attended a 3rd Degree. It was a great night; everything went as planned and fellowship was in abundance. At the close of the gavel, all the Grand Lodge Officers knew they were to stick around for a group meeting that Right Worshipful Brother Deputy Grand Master Keith Voss had called. Brother Keith produced a large, wrapped box with a bow on it. He went on about shipping issues and quality control issues of what was secretly in the box, building up the suspense. Finally, with the assistance of the Grand Master, the box was opened to reveal brand new Grand Lodge apron cases for each of the Grand Lodge Officers, which they were in dire need of as the current apron cases have seen better days. This extraordinary gift was donated by Brother Keith and his lady Nicole. I use the word extraordinary as this gift to the Grand Lodge is of course not just for the current Officers but, for future Grand Lodge Officers for the next several years.

However, the Masonic gifts of the extraordinary do not stop there. Three nights later, the Grand Master and his TEAM attended Harding Lodge No. 649 for another 3rd Degree. At the very end of the degree, Right Worshipful Brother Senior Grand Warden Donnie Drennan, the lead man of the surprise along with the Grand Master, presented Brother Keith with his own Founder's Circle Medallion as a "Thank You" on behalf of a collection of donations from the current Grand Lodge Officers for his gesture of giving back to the Fraternity. His lady Nicole also received an Iowa Masonic Charities Charter Member lapel pin.

Masons give financially and of themselves every day. Brother Keith would be the first to inform you that there are no better gifts than offering support to a family, community, education, mentorship, supporting our widows or simply offering a listening ear. But every member must take time out to celebrate the successes that we accomplish. By the art of this we become closer, bonding together for what our lodge goals are, and the value of our membership becomes realized and that is truly the most extraordinary gift of all.



Brother Ken Ray Anderson Raised at Operative Lodge No. 308



The Grand Lodge Officers of Iowa were in attendance for a Third Degree for Brother Ken Anderson at Operative Lodge No. 308 in Polk City Iowa. Worshipful Master Aaron Stegemoller opened the lodge and Worshipful Brother Erik Brincks assumed the oriental chair and conferred the first section. Brother Bryan Bever was Senior Deacon. The lodge was then called from labor to refreshment, and everyone retired for a hot bowl of chili and fellowship. Upon resuming labor, Grand Master A. J. Brown was in the East for the Second Section and Deputy Grand Secretary Brother Kelly Bruce was the Senior Deacon. Grand Chaplin Brother Ted Boomgarden gave the Charge. The Grand Master presented Brother Lucas with his Grand Master's Pin followed by Brother Allan Tedrow presenting Brother Ken a Masonic box and explained the significance of it. Brother Tom Nash presented him with his apron and a Masonic trowel. Grand 2nd Veilsman Brother Bryan Bever of the Grand York Rite presented Brother Ken with a York Rite poker chip. After presentations to Brother Ken, Brother Tom Nash of the Lodge Service Committee presented Brother Jeremy White of Operative Lodge with his Ashlar Award. Brother Ken shared he was moved by the Brethren taking time and distance traveled to attend his special night and thanked everyone for participating in his degree. The Grand Lodge Officers closed the lodge with Brother Erik Brincks in the East.

Mahaska Lodge No. 644

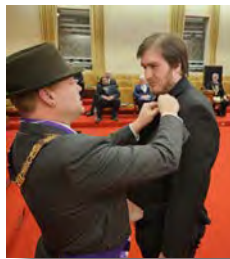


Brothers from Mahaska Lodges No. 644 presented Oskaloosa's 8th grade class their own pocket constitutions on February 3, 2025. The 8th grade class has been going over the constitution in history class. 150 students get the chance to review and use these resources to help them make their lives better.

Masons believe insuring that all children should have access to education is vital. Masons believe that education is important for serving humanity and that an inquisitive mind is a prerequisite to membership.

Executive Cleaning have purchased the Pocket Constitution, the last two years for this event. Mahaska Lodge No. 644 assisted in passing them out.

Brother Zane Stephan Raised at Harding Lodge No. 649



Grand Master A.J. Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers were invited to a reception and Third Degree for Brother Zane Stephan. Brother David Duncan opened lodge and Worshipful Brother Grand Chaplin Ted Boomgarden conferred the First Section with Worshipful Brother Sean Morgan as Senior Deacon. The Brethren then moved to the dining room for a roast beef dinner. The dinner also served as a fundraiser for Mason City community members Tucker and Brook Kroeze in helping to supply some financial relief for their three month old son Sutton who has been hospitalized for what they thought was at first pneumonia however discovered he has a neuro-genetic disorder. \$600.00 dollars was raised! Following dinner, the lodge resumed labor and Brothers John Determan and Shane Kellner were committeemen to receive and introduce the Grand, Past Grand Lodge Officers and Grand Master A. J. Brown. The Grand Master was in the East for the Second Section and Brother Ted Boomgarden performed the Senior Deacon duties. Brother Zane's father, Gerald assisted in the raising. The Charge was given by Worshipful Brother Senior Grand Deacon Curt Klyn. Grand Master Brown presented Brother Zane with his Grand Master's lapel pin and Brother Klyn presented him with a wood box and explained the significance of it. Brother Zane received several other presentations of which a tie clip from his father, Challenge coins by Brothers David Duncan, John Determan and Shane Kellner, a book on Masonry from Brother Ted Boomgarden and a framed Master Masons Diploma. Brother Zane thanked everyone for attending his special night and shared his excitement on moving forward with his Masonic Journey along with his father and members of the lodge.

Before closing, there was one last presentation. Brother Sean Morgan, along with the Grand Master, presented Brother Ted Boomgarden with his Masonic Instructors Certificate. To honor this accomplishment, Brother Ted Boomgarden was in the East, and along with the Grand Lodge Officers, closed Harding Lodge No. 649.



Grand Master One-Day Class



April 26, 2025 was a perfect day for the Grand Masters One-Day Class at the Des Moines Scottish Rite Center in Des Moines, Iowa. The day started off with registration. Kelly H. Bruce, Deputy Grand Secretary and Senior Grand Deacon Curtis A. Klyn handled the registration. The Custodians of the Work: Neil R. Paulsen, Past Senior Grand Warden, Terry E. Osborne, Grand Master, and W. Scott Hull, Past Deputy Grand Master held a review for the Guides for the One-Day Class.

The opening ceremonies were held in the auditorium with Past Grand Master William W. Post, Chairman of the Class presiding, Past Senior Grand Warden, Wade E. Sheeler served as Master of Ceremonies. Grand Master A.J. Brown brought greetings to the class.

The first degree got underway with the members of Central Iowa conferring the degree. William Post gave the prologue. John D. Lloyd was in the East for the conferral. Jeremy C. Long served as Senior Deacon. Brother's Drew C. Mathias and Michael S. Shannon gave the explanatory lecture. Bryan D. Bever gave the charge. After the first degree there was a short break for coffee and doughnuts.

The second degree team was made up of members from North and East Iowa. The prologue was given by William Post. Kenneth A. Hurmence, Past Grand Master was in the East for the degree. Robert J. Goeller was Senior Deacon in the first section. In the second section Kenneth A. Hurmence gave the geometry lecture and Brother David E. Duncan served as Senior Deacon and gave the stair lecture. Theodore M. Boomgarden gave the charge of the degree. After the second degree everyone enjoyed a grilled pork chop lunch with all of the fixings provided by the Iowa Masonic Foundation. Special thanks to the cooks, Sam G. Wise and Robert E. Koss.

The first section of the third degree team was made up of members of South West Iowa. William Post gave the prologue. Dennis R. Heflin, Past Grand Master was in the East for the first section and John F. Bricker III was Senior Deacon. The second section was conferred by the Grand Lodge Officers with Grand Master, A.J. Brown in the East. Grand Marshall, Mitchell A. Petty was Senior Deacon. Deputy Grand Master, Keith R. Voss gave the charge. Legacy Lodge No. 678 was closed with Deputy Grand Master Keith R. Voss in the East.

It was a great day for Masonry in Iowa. Thank you to the Des Moines Scottish Rite, Iowa Scottish Rite Foundation and all of the committees, ritualists for their time and effort for making this a great event. To our new Brother's Welcome!

Star Lodge No. 115 in Madrid By Carol Truckenmiller

Star Lodge No. 115 in Madrid, Iowa, has been invaluable to me recently. They have helped my family and I in the past, as well. The Masons are well-known in this area for all they do for the community.

I had quite extensive foot surgery a few weeks ago, I had five incisions and 46 staples. The surgery lasted four and a half hours. My prognosis for full recovery is twelve weeks. The lodge came to my aid! They have a well-supplied stock of medical devices that they loan out in these cases. I needed help from day one and until I am fully recovered. They supplied me with a cane, a walker, a knee scooter, and a wheel chair. I needed all of these.

One of the Masons checked up on me to see how things are going and if I need anything else. This is not the first time they have given us assistance. I had a total knee replacement last year and they helped me as well. A few years ago, my husband broke his pelvis and they supplied us with bathroom and shower aids.

The community benefits from the Masons greatly. They host dinners, scholarships, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, and coat drives. If you need help in Madrid, Star Lodge is the place to seek it. They are a very honored group in our town.



Grand Lodge Joint Reception in Audubon



Veritas Lodge No. 392 in Audubon and Pymosa Lodge No. 271 in Atlantic hosted a reception in Audubon on Saturday, March 22, 2025, to Honor Senior Grand Warden, Donald A. Drennan and Junior Grand Warden, Ronald J. Mullenger.

The Masons moved to the lodge where Veritas Lodge No. 392 was opened by Worshipful Master Mike Blevins of Pymosa Lodge No. 271 and received the Past and Present Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden. The Grand and Past Grand Lodge Officers were received and introduced with Brothers David Livermore and Travis Mullenger as committeemen. Grand Master A.J. Brown was introduced and received with Brothers Craig L. Davis and Theodore C. Wiley as Senior and Junior Committeemen. Right Worshipful Brother Mullenger was Introduced and Received with Brothers Travis Mullenger and Dennis R. Heflin as Senior and Junior Committeemen. Right Worshipful Brother Drennan was introduced and Received with Brothers John Bricker III and Kevin Wynn as Senior and Junior Committeemen. Brother Mullenger was in the East to close the Lodge and Brother Drennan was in the West.

The Masons joined their ladies in the Lutheran Church for the Banquet and Program. Most Worshipful Brother Dennis R. Heflin served as Master of Ceremonies. Grand Chaplain Theodore M. Boomgarden gave the invocation prior to dinner. Grand Master Brown introduced the Past Grand Master's and his Grand Lodge Officers. Grand Master Brown talked about the two choices he did not have when selecting his Wardens. Both Donnie and Ron are outstanding Masons and Officers, they are the glue that hold the family together.

Ron Mullenger introduced his family that were present and thanked Grand Master Brown for opportunity to serve as a Grand lodge Officer. Donnie Drennan thanked Grand Master Brown for the opportunity to serve with a great group of Officers and introduced his family. Several presentations were made to each Honored Brother and the Wardens received their 3X5X7 boxes. Grand Chaplain Theodore M. Boomgarden gave the Benediction.

Brother Bryce Loyd Raised in New London Lodge No. 28



New London Lodge No. 28 invited Grand Master A.J. Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers to a Reception and Third Degree for Brother Bryce Loyd and raised him to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason. New London requested dispensation from Grand Master Brown to move their Charter to Burlington to hold this degree.

Past Master David A. McGregor opened Lodge. Brother McGregor conferred the First Section with Brother Gary D. Dockendorf as Senior Deacon. The Masons then moved to the dining room for a chicken dinner prepared by the Eastern Star.

Past Grand Master Theodore C. Wiley and Past Junior Grand Warden Loren C. Stein served as Senior and Junior Committeemen to receive Grand Master A.J. Brown.

Grand Master Brown was in the East for the Second Section. Past Senior Grand Warden, Wade E. Sheeler gave the Charge. Grand Master Brown presented his lapel pin to Brother Loyd. Senior Grand Deacon Curtis A. Klyn presented Brother Loyd with a 3X5X7 Box. Brother Loyd thanked everyone for being part of his Third Degree, he introduced his family that were present at the event.

Deputy Grand Master Keith R. Voss was in the East to close New London Lodge No. 28.

Masonic Landmarks

By Wade E. Sheeler, P.S.G.W.

In the ceremony of installing a Master of a lodge, the installing Master states that as a Mason the Worshipful Master should cling to the old landmarks and be firmly opposed to their infringement. The ancient landmarks of Freemasonry are a set of principles that many Freemasons claim to be unchangeable precepts of Masonry. Issues of "regularity" of a Grand Lodge or Grand Orient are often judged within the context of these landmarks. Because each Grand Lodge is sovereign with no single body exercising authority over the whole of Freemasonry, the interpretations of these principles can and do vary and lead to controversies of recognition. Different jurisdictions have different landmarks.

Brother Percy Jantz cites the Book of Proverbs 22:28: "Remove not the ancient landmark which they fathers have set"; which refers to stone pillars set to mark the boundaries of land. He further quotes a Jewish law: "Thou shalt not remove thy neighbor's landmarks, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance", to designate how these landmarks designate inheritance.

Brother Albert Mackey writes that "The universal language and the universal laws of masonry are landmarks, but not so are the local ceremonies, laws, and usages, which vary in different countries. To attempt to alter or remove these sacred landmarks is one of the most heinous offenses that a Mason can commit.

There was no mention of landmarks in any Masonic connection prior to 1717 AD. Neither the Gothic Constitutions nor the minutes of lodges gave any hint of the matter. In England, lodges were self-directed under the Gothic Constitutions. The first occurrence of the word, landmarks, was in the General Regulations adopted by the Premier Grand Lodge in 1723. One regulation read "Every annual Grand Lodge has an inherent power and Authority to make new Regulations or to alter these, for the real benefits of this Ancient Fraternity; provided always that the old Land-marks be carefully preserved." The Land-marks were not defined.

Until 1858, no Masonic writer had attempted to write out the landmarks. In that year, Albert Mackey made the first attempt when he published "The Foundations of Masonic Law", where he laid out twenty-five landmarks. He subsequently published these in a book titled "Text Book of Masonic Jurisprudence". These were generally accepted by the American freemason of that day and many have been adopted by various North American Grand Lodges. Mackey's attempt was the first attempt to categorize the landmarks. Over the years, there have been revisions made to his life.

Albert Mackey's 25 Landmarks:

1. Fraternal modes of recognition
2. Division of Masonry into three degrees
3. Symbolic legend of Hiram Abiff
4. Government of the Fraternity by a Grand Master
5. Prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over every assembly of the Craft
6. Prerogative of the Grand Master to issue dispensations for conferring degrees at irregular times
7. Prerogative of the Grand Master to issue dispensations for opening and holding Lodges otherwise not established
8. Prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight
9. Necessity of Masons to congregate in Lodges
10. Government of a lodge by a Master and two Wardens
11. Necessity of a lodge to be tyled when congregated
12. Right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft
13. The right of every Mason to appeal from his Lodge's decisions to the Grand Lodge
14. The right of every Mason to sit in every regular Lodge
15. That no Lodge can interfere in business of another lodge
16. That no unknown visitor can sit in a lodge without being examined and found to be a Freemason
17. That every Freemason be amenable to the laws and regulations of the Jurisdiction in which he resides
18. That candidates for Freemasonry be required to meet certain qualifications; namely being a man, of mature age, not a cripple, and free-born
19. That a believe in the existence of God be a requirement for membership
20. That belief in resurrection to a future life be a requirement to membership
21. That a "Book of the Law" shall constitute an indispensable part of the furniture of every Lodge
22. Equality of Masons
23. Secrecy of the institution

24. Foundation of a speculative science upon an operative art, and symbolic use and explanation of the terms of that art for moral teaching
25. That none of the landmarks can be changed.

In 1911, Roscoe Pound (a noted Freemason and Dean of Harvard Law School), understanding Mackey's 25 landmarks to be a summary of Masonic "common law", distinguished seven of them as landmarks:

1. Belief in a Supreme Being
2. Belief in immortality
3. That a "Book of Sacred Law" is an indispensable part of the furniture of a lodge
4. Legend of the third degree
5. Secrecy
6. Symbolism of operative masonry
7. That a mason must be a man, free-born, and of lawful age.

In the last century several North American Grand Lodges have attempted to enumerate the landmarks ranging from West Virginia (7), New Jersey (10), Nevada (39), and Kentucky (54).

In the 1950s, the Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, upheld these three "ancient landmarks":

1. Monotheism – A unalterable and continuing belief in God
2. The Volume of the Sacred Law – an essential piece of furniture in the lodge
3. Prohibition of discussion of Religion and Politics (within a lodge)

The Grand Lodge of Iowa has never adopted a list of landmarks as a part of the Masonic Code of Iowa.

President's Day 2025 Celebration at Webb City Lodge No. 512

Four Iowa past Grand Lodge Officers traveled to Webb City Missouri to attend the 110th President's Day program honoring George Washington at Webb City Lodge No. 512. Making the 800 mile round trip journey were Past Grand Master, Dennis Heflin, Past Senior Grand Wardens, Neil Paulsen and Dick Humphrey, and former Senior Grand Deacon, Ian Decker. The format for the day was to confer the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degrees on candidates from Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas respectively along with a tribute to George Washington.

Webb City Lodge No. 512 was opened on the 1st degree at 10:00. Jim Kerr, Worshipful Master of Criterion Lodge No. 586 in Alba introduced the officers to confer the degree. Matthew Rame was then introduced and received in due form with Past Master, Jerry Gaddis in the East (note: Brother Gaddis is also a District Deputy Grand Master<DDGM> and a District Deputy Grand Lecturer<DDGL>). The Brothers did a very nice conferral with approximately 85 Masons watching from the sidelines.

Lodge was then called from Labor to Refreshment for the purpose of opening a lodge of Fellowcrafts and then called to Refreshment for the traditional meal of ham and beans, corn bread, and cherry pie served by the Order Of Eastern Star ladies.

After lunch labor was resumed on the 2nd degree under the charter of Grove Lodge No. 187, Steve McFaul, Worshipful Master, in Grove Oklahoma doing a courtesy conferral on Entered Apprentice, Nathan Hopskins from Broken Arrow Lodge No. 243 (Broken Arrow OK) with DDGL W. Delbert Wilson guiding Brother Hopskins through the Middle Chamber stair lecture with a very informative delivery. Also in attendance from Oklahoma were Most Worshipful Brother, James Rederick, current Grand Master and Most Worshipful Brother, Gary Biesly, Past Grand Master (2015).

Lodge was then called from Labor to Refreshment for the purpose of opening a lodge of Master Masons for Marvin A. Armstrong Lodge No. 187 in Pittsburg Kansas (Levi Patton, Worshipful Master). Right Worshipful Brother, Tom Hensley (DDGM area 7) was in the East for the 1st section for Brother Fellowcraft, Lane Ferraro and Right Worshipful Brother, Charles Blatchly (Past DDGM) as King Solomon in the 2nd section. Senior Deacon was Right Worshipful Brother, Jeremy Marshall (Past Master & Secretary Marvin A. Armstrong Lodge and DDGM and Assistant Grand Lecturer area 7).

Although the rituals and floor work were not all the same, the teachings of brotherly love, relief, and truth were all present. It was a great day in our Masonic fellowship and we hope to be able to travel about and find an event next year much like this. BCNU – Dennis Heflin, PGM.



Become Not Weary in Well Doing **By Brother Tom H. Nash**

Many Masons face challenges when they choose to do the right thing. The old adage, “no good deed goes unpunished,” often holds true. Yet, our fraternity’s strength lies in quiet humility, urging us to shun fanfare and embrace understated leadership. Our lodges are filled with men who act not for applause but because it is right. Men of action who keep the doors open and set the standard for all. Think of those in your lodge who tirelessly serve, embodying the essence of Freemasonry. This is one of their stories, a shining example of brotherhood and selfless service.

In Iowa, a recent event illuminated these values. A well-respected Mason passed away, leaving his widow with an overwhelming array of challenges. The tasks were daunting: legal complexities, financial burdens, and the emotional weight of relocating. The Masonic community responded with heartfelt sympathy, but words alone could not lift her burden. The Master of the Lodge, a man of quiet resolve, reached out to the widow. Her list of needs, though formidable, was within his ability to address. Without hesitation, he sprang into action to support the widow of an esteemed brother.

Leveraging his business connections and enlisting Masonic brothers in the legal profession, the Master resolved many of the issues. No debates were held, no questions asked—just a simple, “Tell me your problem, and I’ll help find a solution.” His efforts were a lifeline, a testament to the belief that the hand of God places the right person in the right place. Yet, this man of action was far from finished.

Among the widow’s challenges was selling her home, a significant undertaking made more complex by a move halfway across Iowa. The Master rallied support, sending a call for manpower to local lodges. A group chat buzzed with volunteers eager to pack and load the home’s contents. He also contacted lodges at the destination, and brothers in a different city dropped everything to assist, united by the bond of a Masonic brother. In all, Masons from at least ten lodges across the state converged to pack, load, move, and unload. Their collective effort transformed a daunting task into a seamless act of brotherhood.

The widow’s gratitude was profound. Far beyond mere thanks, she found solace and strength in the Masonic community’s support, enabling her to move forward and be with family on her healing journey. This act of Relief—a core Masonic principle—eased her burden and reaffirmed the power of Brotherly Love.

This story is kept general to honor the privacy of those involved, but its lessons resonate deeply. Freemasonry’s strength lies in its ability to forge connections that transcend distance and circumstance. Being a Mason lends instant credibility among brothers, turning strangers into allies. Few would pause their lives to help a stranger move, but mention a Mason’s widow, and action follows. This is the power of our obligations—vows taken at the altar that become a blueprint for deeds that shape better hearts and communities.

To the men who made this happen: your readiness to act proves that our obligations are more than words. They are a call to action, a commitment to serve. Each of us comes to Masonry seeking something—enlightenment, purpose, or belonging. Those who find it discover that the secret of Masonry is action. Action distinguishes between wishing for a better world and building one. The Master in this story, a humble man of action, reflects the countless unsung heroes in our fraternity. His accomplishments are many, yet he claims no credit, giving glory to God and the brotherhood. His reward is seeing the world around him improved, one selfless act at a time.

This story is not singular. Across the globe, Masons quietly uphold the principles of Brotherly Love and Relief. In small towns and bustling cities, brothers aid struggling families, mentor the young, and preserve lodge legacies. These acts, often unnoticed, weave a tapestry of good that strengthens our fraternity and communities. They remind us that Freemasonry is a living commitment to embody our principles through small miracles—moments where God places men with the tools and heart to serve. As we reflect on this Iowa story, let it inspire us to act, to be men of action building a better world, one deed at a time.



Grand Tyler James C. Mason



Masons from across Iowa gathered in Indianola, Iowa for a Reception to honor Worshipful Brother James C. Mason. The afternoon started with a Social Hour hosted by Warren Lodge No. 53.

The Masons moved to the Lodge, where Warren Lodge No. 53 was opened for the purpose of Receiving Past and Present Grand Lodge Officers by Worshipful Master Mark Terhune. Brothers Ronald Schlichte and William Eddy were committeemen for the Past and Present Grand Lodge Officers.

Brothers Floyd E. Brown and Craig L. Davis were committeemen for Grand Master A.J. Brown. Brothers Dennis R. Revis and Nathan Woosley were committeemen for Worshipful Brother James C. Mason. Jim had the privilege of closing Warren Lodge No. 53.

The Masons joined their ladies for the dinner and program. Brother Drew C. Mathias served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Grand Chaplain Theodore M. Boomgarden gave the invocation prior to dinner. Grand Master A.J. Brown introduced the Past Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officer's and their ladies.

Worshipful Brother Mason was introduced and he in turn introduced his family and friends. Grand Master Brown commented that James was very deserving and a great choice to serve as Grand Tyler. Grand Chaplain Theodore M. Boomgarden gave the Benediction.

Brother Ben Johnston Raised at George Washington Lodge No. 136



George Washington Lodge No. 136 invited Grand Master A.J. Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers to a Reception and Third Degree for Brother Ben Johnston and raised him to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason.

Past Master Mark Philip opened Lodge and conferred the First Section with Brother Bill Dahms as Senior Deacon. The Masons then moved to the dining room for a pulled pork dinner.

Grand Master A.J. Brown was conducted to the East and accorded Private Grand Honors.

Grand Master Brown was in the East for the Second Section. Grand Chaplain, Theodore M. Boomgarden gave the Charge. Grand Master Brown presented his lapel pin to Brother Johnston. Senior Grand Deacon Curtis A. Klyn presented Brother Johnston with a 3X5X7 Box. Bill Dahms presented Brother Johnston with his Masonic Apron. Brother Johnston thanked everyone for being part of his Third Degree. Grand Master Brown presented Bill Dahms with his Founders Club Jewel.

Deputy Grand Master Keith R. Voss was in the East to close George Washington Lodge No. 136.



**The Lost Tenet:
Freemasonry and The Philosophical Nature of Truth
By Grand Chaplain Theodore M. Boomgarden**

When a candidate first gains admission into a Lodge, the brethren reveal that the trust he has placed within them will not remain in them alone, but is further entrusted to Him who reigns above this institution of man. This is demonstrated to the candidate as he is prayed over with solemn supplication that the mysteries of the Order may be illuminated to him and instruct him to more perfectly exhibit the beauties of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. It is later revealed that these virtues were not arbitrarily chosen, but rather that they exist as the very Principal Tenets of our speculative practice. However, should a Mason recognize himself as an heir to the gnosis contained within these Degrees and devote even a grain of philosophical examination, the triad reveals a curious imbalance. Truth holds a place within the Principal Tenets similar to that of Morality within the Most Excellent Tenets, as both seem to be separate from the other values within their grouping. However, one could argue that Morality shares far greater affinity with Friendship and Brotherly Love than Truth does with either Brotherly Love or Relief. Furthermore, Brotherly Love and Relief lend themselves easily to the moral imagination, and their enactments are inevitably visible, but Truth, serving as that austere and elusive sibling, remains abstract.

It is no small irony that a word that is invoked so frequently in social and civic circles should suffer such horrendous definitional poverty. If a man were required to articulate the meaning of truth, he would respond, almost undoubtedly, by pointing to his perspective, cloaking solipsism in the language of authenticity, as if the term has been hollowed out and rendered toothless by misuse and relativism. "Truth" has become little more than a mirror for one's desires, resulting in a semantic wasteland where phrases like "my truth" parade as profundity, oblivious to the philosophical wreckage they leave in their wake.

If Freemasonry dares to pursue its purpose and present itself as an antidote to this postmodern delirium, where even words are divorced from their meaning, it must put forth men who are equipped with the understanding necessary to confront this contagion. It is therefore that the authors of our ritual, knowing full well that such an understanding could never be gained by man alone, wrote such an appeal to the ineffable wisdom of He who set forth the realities we aspire to explain.

However, should we as stewards of His Order attempt to initiate a candidate as an Entered Apprentice, without at least seeking for ourselves such a understanding of that which our predecessors deemed to be one of our Principal Tenets, we would not only be creating a breeding ground for inconsistency, but performing an irreverent act of disregard for our institution. Therefore, we must reclaim the word truth from the abyss in which society has cast it, restoring its original dignity, relearning to speak of truth not as something to be possessed, but in its proper form as a state of alignment between thought and reality, between word and world, between the soul of man and the very mind of God. If we are to do so, we must first look to those who dedicated their lives to define it, men such as Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Hegel, Peirce, and W. James.

Through these men, we discover that truth is not a static noun; rather, it is a condition to be met between the mind and the structure of reality. The relationship only occurs when thought is in accordance with the world it surrounds. Thus, to understand truth is to perceive the architecture of reality itself. Reality is structured by beings, whether material or immaterial, which are comprised of two indivisible aspects: substance and nature. Substance being what a thing is; nature describes how it acts or reacts concerning other beings. Truth is achieved precisely at the moment of intersection between the idea of a being and the reality of it. Where there is correspondence, there is truth. Where there is a fracture, there is falsehood.

How, then, could a man ensure that his thoughts and words meet the requirements to be deemed as truth? It is upon such a foundation that in his sixth lecture on Pragmatism, William James put forth the following concept: "True ideas are those that we can assimilate, validate, corroborate, and verify. False ideas are those that we cannot." The first gate, assimilation, requires that the idea must first be adequately understood, and subsequently, it must be determined whether it aligns with the viewer's verified understanding. The second gate, validation, is often the most misinterpreted aspect of Pragmatism, as it does not imply that all that is useful is therefore true, but rather that truth proves its utility by its very nature. The third gate, corroboration, can be divided into logical corroboration and social corroboration. Logical corroboration requires that the idea must stand in harmony with other verified truths.

Comparatively, social corroboration requires, when appropriate, that the collective mind of society accepts an idea, as some ideas, such as language and names, require social consensus to be real. The final gate, verification, stands as the ultimate proving ground to determine truth, as it is the very practice of submitting an idea to the

judgment of objective reality, testing the thought against the thing, and demanding correspondence. It is here that the cycle completes, where perception, reason, experience, and experiment converge, but verification is not a singular moment, but a continual act.

When Truth is understood as the alignment between reality and thought, it rightfully assumes its place within the Principal Tenets of our institution, as together they teach both the new and seasoned Mason how he should exist in relation to that which he perceives to be outside of himself. Brotherly Love instructs him that his relationship with the entirety of the human species is to be as though they are his family. Relief instructs him that his relationship with all men, but more especially his brothers, demands that he practice compassion. Finally, Truth, standing elusive no longer, instructs him to find intellectual harmony between his thoughts and reality. Thus, becoming the cornerstone of virtue, securing for our Order as a sanctuary from hypocrisy, and devoting the Masons within to genuine sincerity.

Camp Courageous Omelet Breakfast



The mission of Camp Courageous is to provide exceptional year-round recreational and respite care opportunities for individuals with special needs and their families. The camp is run primarily on donations, giving all individuals the opportunity to give through gifts of time, materials, money, and other means that support the camp. This year the Masons and Order of Eastern Star members volunteered at the Annual Omelet Breakfast.

April 27th was a beautiful spring day as the Grand Master A.J. Brown, the Grand Lodge Officers, their ladies, Worthy Grand Matron Sandy Meredith and Worthy Grand Patron William Howie, the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star Officers and their companions all journeyed to Monticello to assist at the Annual Omelet Breakfast. They cooked omelets, served sausage and toast, provided drinks, cleared and reset tables and generally assisted as a crowd around 1,500 were served omelets from 7:00 AM until Noon. It was a very successful and rewarding event that was enjoyed by all.

Brother Brandon Carter Raised at Adel Lodge No. 80



Adel Lodge No. 80 invited Grand Master A.J. Brown and the Grand Lodge Officers to a Reception and Third Degree for Brother Brandon Carter and raised him to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason.

Past Master Kim Jones opened Lodge and conferred the First Section with Brother Curt Klyn as Senior Deacon. The Masons then moved to the dining room for a beef and potatoes dinner.

Grand Master A.J. Brown was conducted to the East and accorded Private Grand Honors.

Grand Master Brown was in the East for the Second Section. Grand Chaplain, Theodore M. Boomgarden gave the Charge. Grand Master Brown presented his lapel pin to Brother Carter. Junior Grand Deacon Skylar R. Watson presented Brother Loyd with a 3X5X7 Box. Brother Loyd thanked everyone for being part of his Third Degree.

Skylar Watson was in the East to close Adel Lodge No. 80.

What Brings People into the Museum By Julia Wells Assistant Librarian

One of the biggest draws into the museum is our Grant Wood painting. Grant Wood was an Iowa artist, most famously known for his work entitled American Gothic. Wood was born in Anamosa, Iowa in 1891 and passed away in Iowa City, Iowa in 1942. Wood was an Iowa Mason as well. He was Initiated April 14, 1921, Passed May 6, 1921, and Raised May 19, 1921, all in Mount Hermon No. 263 in Cedar Rapids.

The painting in our gallery, The First Three Degrees of Freemasonry, was commissioned by Past Grand Master G.L. Schoonover in 1921 for the National Masonic Research Society in Anamosa. The painting was later donated to the Iowa Masonic Library and Museum in 1944 by Brother Otto A. Schoitz. Local art historians in Cedar Rapids have estimated that the frame was built in partnership with another local artist named Marvin Cone. Cone was a close friend of Wood who had a signature paint color that is similar to the color of the frame on The First Three Degrees of Freemasonry. Wood also lived in the Carriage House behind the Grand Lodge Building from 1924-1935, when it was owned by a prominent local family. This studio was where he painted American Gothic in 1930. While Wood did not paint The First Three Degrees of Freemasonry in the Carriage House, it is still an important part of Wood's legacy and a special place in Cedar Rapids history.

The First Three Degrees of Freemasonry has been on display in multiple locations inside the Iowa Masonic Library and Museum as well as on display at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York in 2018. The painting is one long continuous piece of canvas, however the picture changes with each of the three degrees. This was considered when framing the painting. The painting features famous statues like Auguste Rodin's The Thinker and Michelangelo's David. In November of 2023, we installed a plexiglass covering over the piece to protect it from all sorts of damage. The plexiglass is UV protected so that harmful light is filtered out and won't cause further damage to the painting.

Another draw into the museum is the Civil War flag and White House stones. The flag is one of my favorite pieces in the Masonic gallery. Being able to see a piece of history like this is awe inspiring. The flag was made by ladies in Marengo, Iowa in 1861 for Company B of the 28th Iowa Volunteer Regiment. We are working on a new plexiglass covering to replace the scratches that have shown up over time. The White House stones are so special to the gallery Fraternally as well as historically. The letter that President Harry S. Truman wrote that goes along with the stone ends with "Sincerely and Fraternally yours." This is one of the best ways to show the public how Masonry is truly a family. Truman was Initiated into the fraternity February 9, 1909, Passed March 9, 1909, and Raised March 18, 1909, in Belton Lodge No. 450. Truman also served as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Missouri in 1940-1941.





SAVE THE DATE!!

**25th ANNIVERSARY OF MUTUAL RECOGNITION
CELEBRATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF IOWA
AND THE PRINCE HALL IOWA GRAND LODGE**

Saturday, August 2nd

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

More Information Coming Soon!

Senior Grand Steward Michael C. McLain



Crest City Lodge No. 522 hosted a reception in honor of Michael C. McLain at the Lodge in Creston on Saturday, April 5.

The Masons moved to the Lodge Room where Crest City Lodge No. 522 was opened for the purpose of Receiving Past and Present Grand Lodge Officers by Worshipful Master Russell Orr. Brothers Jim Norman and Daid Reeve were committeemen for the Past and Present Grand Lodge Officers.

Brothers Wendall Leonard and Jack Cook were committeemen for Grand Master Brown. Brothers Jerry McLain and Caleb McLain were committeemen for Worshipful Brother Michael C. McLain. Mike had the privilege of closing Crest City Lodge No. 522.

The ladies enjoyed a program about the Train Depot in Creston.

The Masons rejoined their ladies for the dinner and program. Brother Daren Jaques served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Grand Chaplain Theodore M. Boomgarden gave the invocation prior to dinner. Grand Master A.J. Brown introduced the Past Grand Master's and their Ladies and then introduced the Grand Lodge Officers and their ladies.

Worshipful Master Russell Orr was introduced and brought remarks on behalf of the Lodge. Mike talked about how important Masonry has been in his life and thanked several brothers present for their mentorship. Mike received a nice hand-made clock, Rocks Glasses and a 3X5X7 Box. Grand Chaplain Theodore M. Boomgarden gave the Benediction.

Past Grand Master Charles D. Yates receives his 50 Year Certificate

Grand Master A.J. Brown traveled to Tyrian Lodge No. 508 in Sioux City to present Past Grand Master Charles D. Yates with his Fifty-Year Certificate. Chuck took his degrees in January of 1975, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1985 and 2012. He served the Grand Lodge in many capacities, Grand Marshal 1998-1999, Grand Treasurer in 2003-2004, and as Grand Master in 2014-2015. He served on the Finance Committee from 2000-2003, serving as Chairman in 2003. He is currently serving as Chairman of Jurisprudence, prior to that he served as Vice-Chairman for 3 years. He is currently serving as Personal Representative for the Sioux City Valley of Scottish Rite. He is also the Intendent General of the United Imperial Council of Red Cross of Constantine. He has many accomplishments in his Masonic career, and there are far to many for me to reiterate at this time. Congratulations Chuck!





2025 Iowa Masonic Charities Capital Campaign

ONLY
\$50
PER RAFFLE
TICKET

Join us in raising funds for the restoration and preservation of the Iowa Masonic Library and Museum by purchasing raffle tickets for a chance to win this 29-foot Aurora travel trailer.

Details

- Purchase a Raffle Ticket for a chance to win a 29' Aurora Travel Trailer.
- Upgraded 15K BTU Roof A/C.
- 200 Watt Solar Panel with Smartphone Control App.
- Extra Large 12V 10-Cubic Ft Refrigerator.
- Upgraded Bluetooth Premium Sound System.



* The drawing will be conducted on September 20th, 2025. (need not be present to win)

* For additional details, contact Iowa Masonic Charities at (515) 558 - 2038 or your local Masonic lodge at _____

* Winner pays all tax, title, and license fees.

* Purchase of Raffle Tickets by credit card is PROHIBITED by Iowa law.

* Iowa law requires that all Raffle Tickets be purchased within the State of Iowa.

** Iowa Masonic Charities is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization; however the IRS does NOT allow the purchase of tickets as a tax-deductible contribution. **



“TEAM: Transform Energy Action Market”

The Grand Master’s Annual Charity Golf Classic **Benefiting *Iowa Masonic Charities* and *The Founder’s Campaign*** **Monday, June 23rd, 2025 10:00 am**

Please support Grand Master AJ Brown’s 2025 charity project by sponsoring a hole or team.
We also accept donations. All proceeds go to the *Iowa Masonic Charities* and *The Founder’s Campaign*.

This Golf event will be a scramble. There are openings for (36) 4-person teams. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. To reserve your spot – advance payment is requested. Please make all checks payable to the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

When: Monday, 23 June 2025
Where: American Legion Memorial Golf Course
1301 S 6th St
Marshalltown, IA 50158



<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/2025-grand-masters-golf-classic>

Pre-registration \$360 per team (pre-registration ends May 31st, 2025) using the link or QR code above. Green fees, carts and meal following the event are included. Day of the event is \$400 per team

Meals only for those not golfing but attending is \$15 and includes:
Hamburger/hot dog, chips, and a drink

Schedule
0800-1000 Registration
1030 Shotgun start

Team contact phone number and email: _____

Make checks payable to: Iowa Masonic Charities (“2025 Golf Outing Hole Sponsor” on Memo line).

All pre-registration forms and payment must be received before May 31st 2025

Send registration Form and Checks to:

Mitch Petty
807 SE Trail Ridge Road
Grimes, IA 50111
563-271-6770



“TEAM: Transform Energy Action Market”

Lodge / Grand Family / Individual / Business Sponsor Form

The Grand Master’s Annual Charity Golf Classic **Benefiting *Iowa Masonic Charities* and *The Founder’s Campaign***

Monday, June 23rd, 2025

(08:00-10:00am pre-registration, shotgun start at 10:30 am)

American Legion Memorial Golf Course

1301 S 6th St
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Please support Grand Master AJ Brown’s 2025 charity project by sponsoring a hole or team.
We also accept donations. All proceeds go to *Iowa Masonic Charities* and *The Founder’s Campaign*.

A sign or banner will be placed on the golf course displaying your support!!

Please Check One:

____ \$100.00 Lodge Hole Sponsorship (Includes Sign) ____ \$100.00 Grand Family Hole Sponsor (Includes Sign)
____ \$100.00 Individual Hole Sponsorship (Includes Sign) ____ \$300.00 Business Hole Sponsor (Includes Banner)
____ Donation of \$ _____

Business Hole Sponsors will be given a hole to set up their business or organization. They can set up a shade tent or other advertisement in addition to their personalized banner that will be placed at the hole. We will use your old sign if you have sponsored before. If you are a new sponsor, send any logos or designs and indicate what you want to appear on the sign (25 characters/spaces per line)

Make checks payable to: **Iowa Masonic Charities** (“2025 Golf Outing Hole Sponsor” on Memo line).

All sponsorship forms and payment must be received before 15 April 2025

Send Sponsor Form, Sign Logos / Designs and Checks to:

Mike Shannon
902 NW Orchard Drive
Ankeny, IA 50023
michael.shannon4856@gmail.com
515-868-5367

You Are Cordially Invited to Join the Grand Lodge of Iowa
With Group Leader Wade Sheeler For The
Masons' Adventure / England & Scotland, 2025



Group Leader, Wade Sheeler
Submit your application
with the QR Code below.

\$5295.00 from Minneapolis*

October 13 - 22, 2025

YOUR ITINERARY

Tour Code: 226127

On **October 13th**, you will depart the U.S. to begin your Masons United Kingdom adventure, landing in the timeless city of London on **October 14th** to discover the hidden treasures of this city. Important sites of Freemasonry, fantastic excursions, preserved historical sites, delicious foods and wonderful shopping make this trip exciting and rewarding. Bring these memories home with you on **October 22nd**.

SPACE ON THE TOUR IS LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY! PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND \$500 DEPOSIT TO EATOURS.COM TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE ON THIS TOUR! SUBMIT YOUR DEPOSIT BY NOVEMBER 1, 2024, TO RECEIVE A FREE EVENING THAMES RIVER CRUISE.

London

October 14 - 18, 2025

On **October 14th**, you will arrive in England to begin your Masons United Kingdom Adventure as you transfer to the village of Windsor to visit **Windsor Castle***, one of the most important and famous residences of the Royal Family. From Windsor you will continue on to your hotel for check-in procedures. You will finish your first night in London with **dinner***. As the center of the glorious British Empire for numerous centuries, London has much to offer visitors in the way of entertainment and adventure. Start on **October 15th** with a **guided city tour*** offering such sites as Westminster Abbey, Piccadilly Circus, Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square. You then uncover history and culture at the **Tower of London**, one of the many iconic and exciting London sites that await you. The highlights of **October 16th** begin with your visit to the **Temple Church***, known as the Church of the Templar. From Temple Church you will proceed to **United Grand Lodge of England*** followed by a tour and time to explore the Churchill War Rooms Museum, an incredible place where Sir. Winston Churchill directed the British military during World War II. Time allowing, from the War Rooms Museum, you can plan for an optional visit to nearby Westminster Abbey. This evening you will enjoy a wonderful **Gala dinner*** at an important masonic venue. **October 17th** takes you on an excursion to the prehistoric monument **Stonehenge*** followed by an afternoon to the beautiful and charming town of Bath with its historic **Roman Baths*** and time to visit the **Bath Masonic Hall***. **October 18th**, you will bid farewell to London as you connect with your flight to Edinburgh.

Edinburgh - Glasgow

October 18 - 22, 2025

October 18th takes you to Edinburgh, Scotland, known as the "Prince of Cities". Upon arrival, you will transfer to your hotel for check-in. In the afternoon you will enjoy a **guided city tour*** including **Edinburgh Castle***, the historic fortress which dominates the skyline of Edinburgh. Begin **October 19th**, with a visit to the **Grand Lodge of Scotland*** followed by a visit to the nearby **Canongate Kilwinning Lodge***. Your afternoon takes you to visit the remarkable 15th-century **Rosslyn Chapel***, founded on a small hill above Roslin Glen as a Catholic collegiate church. **Dinner*** this evening is included and planned to be at the Rosslyn Inn. On the morning of **October 20th**, you will depart from Edinburgh and drive to the area of Ayr where you will enjoy a visit to **Kilwinning Lodge** and to **Barr Castle Lodge*** followed by lunch at the **Brigadoon Restaurant***. Following lunch, you will enjoy time at the **Robert Burns Museum*** where you can celebrate Scotland's national poet. From Ayr you will go to Glasgow for your overnight. **October 21st**, your final day in Scotland, begins with a tour of a local **Scotch Distillery*** followed by an afternoon visit to **Stirling Castle*** followed by your final Scottish overnight in Glasgow. On **October 22nd**, you return to the United States with fond memories, amazing experiences and perhaps a souvenir or two from your Masons United Kingdom adventure.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE SEE SPECIAL TOUR CONDITIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

SPECIAL TOUR CONDITIONS

SPECIAL TOUR CONDITIONS: *The estimated tour price, if payments are made by cash or check, is \$5295.00 otherwise, if paying by credit card, a 3% credit card service fee (charged by credit card company) will be due for, other than the initial deposit for which there is no credit card service fee, whatever amount is charged to the credit card. **If you wish to use a credit card for your initial deposit, you will be allowed to pay the remaining payments by check and still receive the listed tour price without a 3% surcharge.** Tour price is based on double occupancy and includes point-to-point transportation between cities while in Europe, all breakfasts and 3 evening meals. Additionally, entrance fees and/or transportation marked with an asterisk (*) as well as city tours or guided tours, are included in the tour price (I.E. Guided tours in London and Edinburgh), Windsor Castle, Churchill War Rooms, Tower of London, Stonehenge, Roman Baths, Edinburgh Castle, Distillery, Rosslyn Chapel, Robert Burns Museum, Barr Castle, Sterling Castle). Additional items may be offered optionally, are subject to availability and are not included in the tour price. *A guaranteed single room may be available for a per person supplemental charge, available upon request.* Included are the estimated applicable governmental international airline ticket taxes, fuel surcharges, security surcharges, and associated fees. If applicable, unforeseen tax increases will be billed on a supplemental invoice. A minimum number of paying participants may be required to operate the tour.

A \$500.00 non-refundable **(for any reason)** application fee / deposit is required to reserve your space on this tour. All tour participants must submit an online application. Please go to "Student/Traveler Sign Up" on the home page at www.EAtours.com. Your tour number is XXXXX and must be entered on your online application. A second payment of \$1000.00, for which you will receive an invoice, will be due no later than 30 days from the date that EA Tours receives your initial payment and online application. Final payments are due no later than one hundred ten days (110) days before departure.

Updated tour details (hotels, day by day itinerary, flights, etc.) are scheduled to be released approximately four weeks prior to departure. Please note: **Additional tour conditions apply, that also relate to potential Covid Virus issues and are listed in the Tour Conditions Section on the Online Application.** Applicable items listed above may supersede those listed in the tour conditions section on the online application.

SPACE ON THE TOUR IS LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY! PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND \$500 DEPOSIT TO EATOURS.COM BY NOVEMBER 1, 2024 TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE ON THIS TOUR!



Scan me!

Submit your application here.

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50 - Year Certificates Issued Since The March 2025 "Bulletin"

Congratulations to the following Brothers who earned their certificates.

Brothers are shown by Lodge No.

Lodge			Lodge		
No.	Town	Name	No.	Town	Name
5	Wapello	Jack R. Schmoll	269	Ottumwa	Tennis, Gary L.
8	Mt. Pleasant	Donald C. Wiley	299	Adel	Strait, Lester J.
22	Des Moines	Corwell, Douglas R.	301	New Virginia	Huston, Norvelle L.
26	Washington	Murray, Stanley D.	303	Ogden	Crouch, Deskin C.
29	Keokuk	Miller, James D.	312	Spencer	Skelton, Harold K.
37	Davenport	Heesch, Craig D.	325	Clarion	Morse, H. Dale
46	Hiawatha	Smith, Roger L.	335	Carson	Clark, Neil R.
65	Cedar Falls	Dix, Mark A.	335	Carson	Pilling, Dennis D.
65	Cedar Falls	Soska, Thomas L.	335	Carson	Adickes, Edward D.
72	Elkader	Kramer, Gerald R.	374	Oelwein	Berry, Maxwell C.
72	Elkader	Thomas, Jay R.	374	Oelwein	Lincoln, William F.
79	Boone	Nystrom, Gary L.	386	Greenfield	Tapken, Arthur G.
79	Boone	Peterson, Lyle E.	386	Greenfield	May, James P.
81	Shellsburg	Avis, Charles W.	386	Greenfield	Olson, James L.
81	Shellsburg	Hartgrave, Elmer W.	393	Dysart	Liston, Charles B.
87	Rowley	Doan, Kirk H.	505	Albia	Hackett, James L.
105	Waterloo	Clausman, Alan A.	519	Laurens	Pohlman, Joseph H.
107	Columbus City	Bell, Dennis R.	519	Laurens	Pohlman, Thomas H.
115	Star	Duroy, Franklin D.	519	Laurens	Gates, Gary G.
118	Tama	Jones, Jerry F.	519	Laurens	Pohlman, John H.
118	Tama	Hendricks, Jerry D.	522	Washta	Seeley, Randall S.
125	Dubuque	Cherba, Donald L.	549	Sharon Center	Smalley, Myron K.
153	Sidney	Nye, James J.	561	Melbourne	Hill, Robert A.
167	Wilton	Rowland, David A.	577	West Des Moines	Halsne, Harlan G.
192	Iowa Falls	Mensing, Verlynn, R.	592	Des Moines	Jackson, Michael E.
200	Olin	Butterworth, David C.	597	Lohrville	Palmer, Ned S.
205	Algona	Johnson, Larry C.	597	Lohrville	Irwin, Edward C.
205	Missouri Valley	Ley, David W.	597	Lohrville	Morris, Eugene C.
208	Davenport	Adams, Norman L.	615	Sioux City	Anderson, Carey C.
218	Prairie City	Bailey, Kevin L.	626	Bettendorf	Dusenbery, Jerry G.
223	Onawa	McCandless, Dennis L.	630	Des Moines	Opseth, Richard A.
249	Ames	Bailey, Keith O.	630	Des Moines	Tibben, Merlin E.
263	Cedar Rapids	Raasch, James L.	632	Des Moines	Shaver, John M.
263	Cedar Rapids	Griffiths, William K.	657	Des Moines	Brooks, Joseph A.
264	Carroll	Edwards, Gary N.	660	Des Moines	Matthias, Leonard N.