



Issue #4 - June 2026

Thumb York Rite

Caro Royal Arch Chapter #96

Thumb Council #90 | St. George Commandery #52

Mount Moriah #226 | Hubbard Winsor #420

www.thumbbyorkrite.org

Upcoming Dates

Mount Moriah #226

1st Wednesday of the month | Fellowship 6:30 | Lodge 7:30 |

Hubbard-Winsor #420

3rd Monday of the month | Fellowship 6:30 | Lodge 7:30 |

Thumb York Rite Bodies (RAM, Council, Commandery)

3rd Thursday of the month | Fellowship 5:30 | Gavel 6:30 |

Reminder! The 2nd Roadside Pickup is July 11th, meeting at Mount Moriah 8:00am for donuts before departing.

Updates and Upgrades

Things are happening here at the Thumb York Rite! Please see the below snippets of the most recent happenings around the Lodge, State and Country.



Grand Assembly of Michigan

International Order of the Rainbow

*Article by Isabella Albin - Petitioner, New Hope
Assembly #61*

On Saturday, June 27th my father and I had the absolute pleasure of attending the installation of the 2026-2027 Grand Family.

From the moment we walked in, we were welcomed with warm smiles and cheerful attitudes that immediately made the event feel open and inviting. Within minutes, a group of helpful adults guided us where we needed to go and I was introduced to a few members who kindly offered me some advice and insight. Even though everyone was scrambling to get ready on time, they all maintained their bright spirits and wide smiles.

My Dad and I then watched a beautiful Majority Degree. (continued)

Transfer Application Submitted!

Mount Moriah continues to expand our membership as we've received yet another transfer. SK Steve Dennis has decided to join the blue ranks of Mount Moriah. Steve brings with him decades of Masonic experience with all York Rite bodies and we couldn't be more thrilled that he will be sharing that Light with us in the future. Steve resides in the Harbor Beach area with his wife, Lady Faye.

Royal Treatment

Caro Royal Arch Chapter #96 is on a roll! We have received yet another petition to join our ranks. Brother Brandon Harter, hailing from Marion Lodge #392 in Deckerville, turned in his petition to start the next quest on his Masonic journey. We welcome all Blue Lodge members to expand their stories and look into their local Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

It was incredibly clear how much that young lady meant to everyone in the room as the ceremony came to a close. The emotions beautifully surfaced. Afterwards during the pizza party, I met some of the friendliest members who didn't hesitate to say hello and make me feel welcome even though I wasn't part of the organization yet.

Earlier in the day I also had the pleasure of meeting the Grand Worthy Advisor of Canada and her Sisters, who were so kind and excited to support their Michigan sisters.

When it came time to settle in for the installation itself, I had the privilege of sitting with the members from New Hope #61. Getting to know them a little bit was a true highlight. As the installation got underway, the fruits of everyone's hard work became obvious. The ritual work was beautifully precise and an absolute joy to watch during every event. These Rainbow girls showed well-tuned effort with a smile.

I loved being able to meet and talk with all of these wonderful people, each of whom put a wide smile on my face. This is truly an organization and a community worth being around and this annual event has officially earned a permanent spot on our family's calendar!



Look Out for the Cookout!

Saint Bernard Commandery No. 16 has graciously invited all Brothers, Companions, Sir Knights AND their family to an upcoming summer cookout on July 11th. Reach out to them if you plan to attend for further details as they request an RSVP.

New Battalion Medals Are In!

SK Eric Read was kind enough to journey to Central Battalion and while he was there he brought back with him a stock of new medals. If you're missing your Central Battalion pin, please swing by our next St. George Commandery regular at the Caro Masonic Center and grab one for \$5.00



The Plume and Sword

School of Instruction

St. George Commandery #52 received a School of Instruction at this past meeting. Drills and cuts were covered and practiced with Sir Knight William Dover answering any questions that arose. With guest Sir Knights in attendance it was an excellent opportunity to see what works for other Commanderies as well as how we can adapt the best practices into St. George. We are as ever grateful for Sir Knight William and his dedication to the Order.

Knights in Shining Honor

Drawing inspiration from the medieval Crusades rather than traditional stonemasonry, the earliest recorded conferral of the Masonic Templar degree occurred in Boston in 1769. While the modern order adopts the names, symbols, and hierarchy of the original crusaders, historians agree there is no direct, (*cont.*)

unbroken lineage between them. Instead, 18th-century romantic legends suggested surviving medieval Templars hid within Scottish freemasonry, a myth the fraternity adopted not as literal history, but as a powerful allegory for teaching moral philosophy and courage.

Today, the Masonic Knights Templar stand out within Freemasonry due to their unique requirements and distinct traditions. Unlike standard Masonic degrees open to men of any monotheistic faith, Templar membership requires candidates to be Master Masons who swear to defend the Christian faith. Dressed in striking, 19th-century military-style uniforms—complete with ceremonial swords and chapeaux—modern Templars focus heavily on philanthropy. They dedicate substantial resources to charitable causes worldwide, most notably through the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, which funds medical research and treatments to preserve human sight.



Beneath the Arch

Caro Chapter #96, Royal Arch Masons, holds a distinguished place in the history of Capitular Masonry within Caro and surrounding areas, serving for generations as the essential venue where local Master Masons complete their journey in the Ancient Craft. Operating from the historic Masonic Center on N. State St. in Caro, the Chapter provides the foundational degrees of the York Rite: the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and the Royal Arch, which expand upon the themes of loss, recovery, and the rebuilding of the Second Temple.

Chapter #96 has long been an anchor for Masonic education and fellowship in the Thumb region, drawing dedicated brothers together to preserve the deep allegorical traditions of the fraternity. From hosting Grand Officers' visits and historic regional gatherings, like the traditional George Washington dinners, to fostering cross-jurisdictional brotherhood with honorary memberships spanning across the state, the Chapter has consistently punched above its weight in leadership. Its enduring history is written in the dedication of its Past High Priests and companions who have spent over a century ensuring that the "true word" and the virtues of Capitular Masonry remain a vibrant, living force in the Caro community.

Chips from the Chisel

Hubbard-Winsor Lodge No. 420



Hubbard-Winsor No. 420 continues to meet throughout the Summer, so make plans to join us on Monday, July 20th for fellowship before the business meeting. WB Steve Kinde is bringing a meal for us to share as we connect and catch up before heading upstairs. Our Renovation Committee has been authorized to conduct their business at their own pace, watch for invitations to throw in and help out on much needed work around the Temple. The Scholarship Committee awarded 6 scholarships to area students this year. We thank WB John Champagne for his leadership in this sphere. Thumb area Masons are meeting up to support the **Bayport Fish Sandwich** festival on **Friday, July 31st** at **5pm**. See flyer. Wear something Masonic so people can see we are involved in the community. Plan to hang out and enjoy fish sandwiches and live music, if you can't make 5pm, come when you can. Another opportunity for community involvement is coming up this Fall in the Caro Pumpkin Parade, details coming in September. Hubbard-Winsor No. 420 just keeps on truckin'!

-WM Jack Ruby

**Keep On
Truckin'...**



Mount Moriah No. 226

Mount Moriah #226 F&AM met in due form with a number of Brothers and guests in attendance. We were excited to move our plural membership petition forward as well as read (2) other petitions into the record with a possible (2) more on the way!

We kept the meeting short and sweet this month due to the heat as well as having a Royal Arch Mark Master Mason Degree practice directly following the meeting. We discussed the new officer lineup for 2027 so we can start to adapt to the chairs we are working towards. Dinner and desserts were provided to the Brothers and a good fellowship was had by all. A motion was made to donate some LCA charity funds to the Senior Center in Caro to provide arts and craft supplies to those that attend.

The Lodge was put at ease to hear a short speech by Isabella Albin on news from the Grand Assembly in Alma. The NPD committee also is trudging along forward with contacting Brothers that are delinquent in their dues. The next phase will be calling and/or visiting these Brothers directly. Stay safe, Brothers!



Cryptic Symbols: The Triple Tau

The primary emblem of Royal Arch Masonry is the Triple Tau—three "T"s joined at their bases. In ancient times, the Tau cross was marked on the foreheads of those acquitted in judgment or spared in battle, symbolizing life and salvation. In the Royal Arch, its intersection forms a series of right angles, representing the mystical union of the standard elements of architecture and a profound emblem of the Deity.

Welcome WB Jack Ruby

The verdict is in and it's official; Mount Moriah welcomes Worshipful Brother Jack Ruby to The plural membership scrolls of Mount Moriah #226 F&AM. We don't have to remind everyone of the years of dedicated service he's given all of us to the craft. May the Light you bring to our humble Lodge of Brothers help guide our way to spreading the word of Freemasonry to those in need.



Double Raising!

Members from Mount Moriah AND Hubbard-Winsor Lodge attended a *double* Master Mason degree night at Verona-Huron Lodge No. 365 this past Friday. We were lucky enough to have the assistance of Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Craig Lehrke. Food was provided in abundance by the Brothers of Verona-Huron. Congratulations to our two newest Brethren on their journey!

★ 2026 ★
 BAY PORT

FISH SANDWICH FESTIVAL

• A Classic Summer Tradition in BAY PORT, MICHIGAN •

Delicious Fish Sandwiches - Live Music - Family Fun

— **FRIDAY - JULY 31** —

12 PM - 8 PM

— **SATURDAY - AUGUST 1** —

11 AM - 7 PM

★ **FREE Live Entertainment** ★

Friday, July 31 • 6 PM - 9 PM

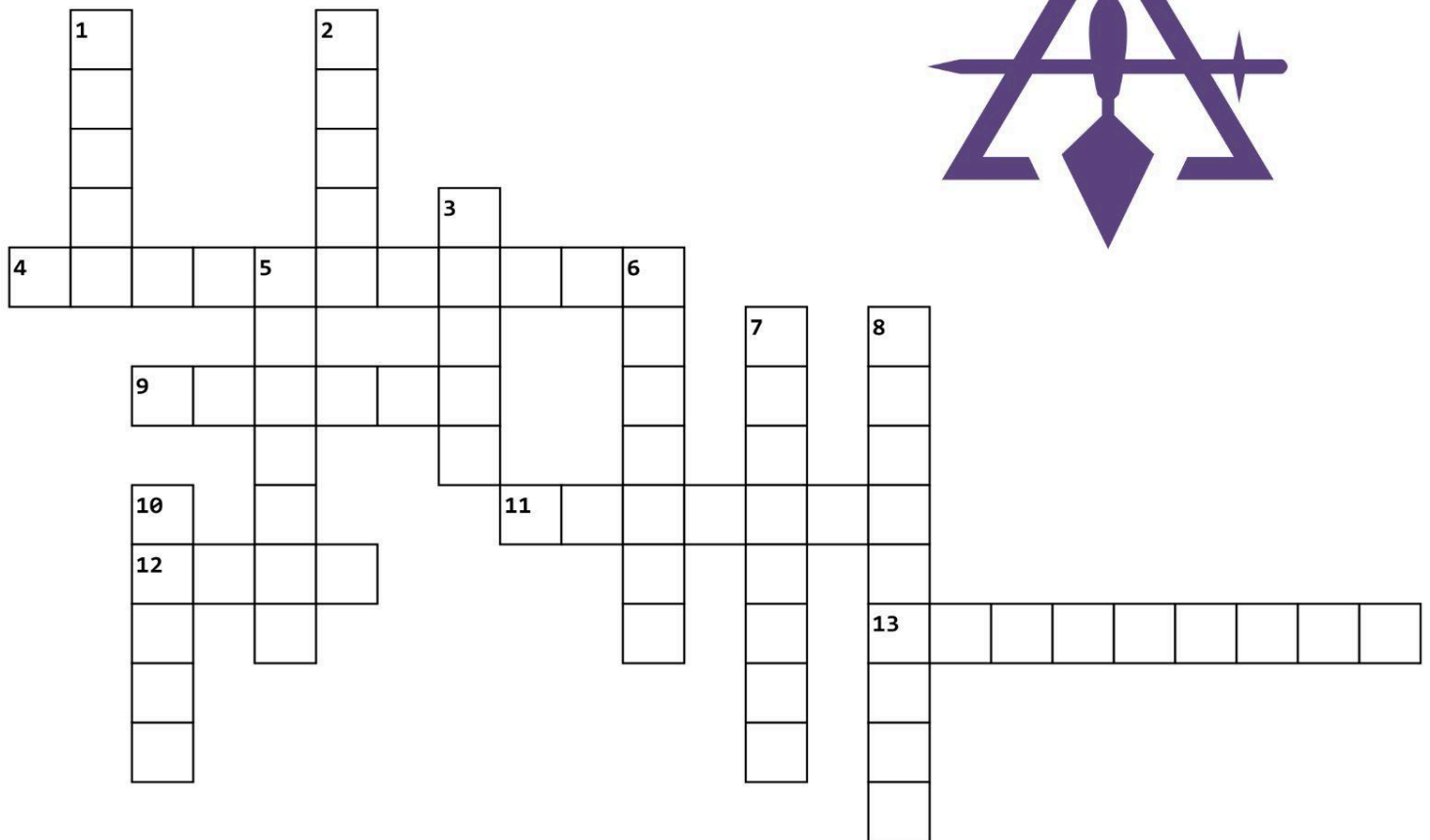
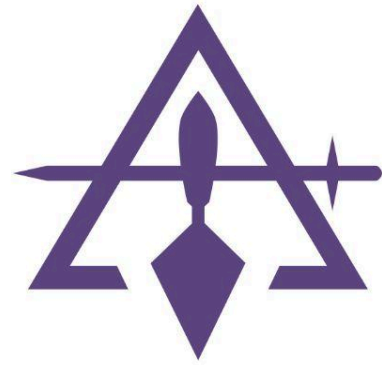
Saturday, August 1 • 7 PM - 10 PM

★ **Food ★ Fun ★ Community** ★



★ **Bring your lawn chairs & celebrate summer!** ★

Who's Guarding the Arch? Cryptic Council Clues



Across

- 4.** The formal honorific title given to the Master of a Council.
- 9.** The second half of the Council's degree structure (___ Master).
- 11.** The officer who guards the Council door from the inside.
- 12.** There are nine of these subterranean structures in the Secret Vault.
- 13.** How members of the Cryptic Council formally address one another.

Down

- 1.** The first half of the Council's degree structure (___ Master).
- 2.** An underground vault or chamber that gives this branch of Masonry its name.
- 3.** The specific arch where the sacred treasures were safely deposited.
- 5.** Paired often with secrecy; a fundamental lesson of the Select Master degree.
- 6.** A core virtue of the Cryptic Rite, emphasized by the preservation of the word.
- 7.** It is often described as "broken" in Cryptic symbolism until the work is complete.
- 8.** The Council officer tasked with leading candidates through the arches.
- 10.** The secret underground room built beneath Mount Moriah.