



Issue #6 – August 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 |



Farewell WB Kenton

York Rite Grand Session 2026

The Joint York Rite Grand Session of Michigan commenced with the **Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons**, setting a strong and unified tone for the August 20th–22nd gathering. Hosted at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City, the session saw an impressive and consistent turnout, with over 120 companions and guests in attendance each day. During the Grand Chapter convocation, crucial legislation was brought to the floor, thoughtfully debated, and voted on ensuring that Capitular Freemasonry in Michigan continues to operate on a solid foundation. The fellowship shared among the Royal Arch companions highlighted the enduring strength of the Craft as they handled the business of the Grand Chapter with both dedication and fraternal harmony.

Following the Capitular proceedings, the **Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters** convened, seamlessly continuing the momentum of the joint session. The Cryptic Masons brought their own deep reverence for York Rite traditions to Bay City, contributing to the vibrant atmosphere and helping to maintain the high daily attendance of over 120 individuals. Companions from across the state gathered to receive the reports of the Grand Officers, celebrate the accomplishments of the past Cryptic year, and honor the dedication of the councils



On August 9th, a solemn gathering of Freemasons took place at Ransford Funeral Home to honor the life and legacy of Worshipful Brother Kenton Colling. Fifteen brothers assembled in fraternal solidarity to pay their final respects to a man who had dedicated so much of his life to the Craft. The presence of these brethren served as a powerful testament to the impact Worshipful Brother Colling had on his lodge(s) and the deep, enduring bonds of brotherhood that unite Freemasons in times of profound loss.

During the service, the brethren performed the traditional Masonic funeral rites, a beautiful and time-honored ceremony that reflects the fraternity's beliefs in the immortality of the soul and the strength of brotherly love. Brother Steven Dennis officiated the moving tribute with dignity and grace, expertly guiding the assembled brothers through the solemn ritual.

throughout Michigan. The Grand Council session provided a wonderful opportunity for companions to strengthen their bonds of brotherhood while reflecting on the essential lessons of the Secret Vault.

The grand culmination of the weekend belonged to the **Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Michigan**, capping off the Joint York Rite Session with the impressive pageantry and solemnity unique to Templary. Just as in the earlier bodies, the Sir Knights conducted significant business, bringing forth and passing important legislation to guide the future of the Commandery in the state. With over 120 Sir Knights, ladies, and supporters actively participating, the discussions and subsequent votes reflected a profound commitment to the Christian virtues and knightly duties of the order. The closing of the Grand Commandery marked the successful conclusion of a truly memorable weekend in Bay City, leaving attendees inspired and ready to return to their local bodies with renewed purpose.

Free Heroes Dinner

Save the date for **September 12th** as we host our Free Heroes Dinner!

Masonic Majesty Meals, Tripod Transformations Photography and the Thumb York Rite have gotten together

The profound impact of the ceremony was deeply felt by all in attendance, especially the grieving family. Following the rites, Worshipful Brother Colling's relatives expressed their wholehearted gratitude to the brethren, deeply moved by the outpouring of support and the beautiful tribute paid to their loved one. The brothers left Ransford Funeral Home that day comforted by the knowledge that they had properly honored a cherished member of their lodge. Worshipful Brother Kenton Colling will be dearly missed, but his memory will forever live on in the hearts of his brethren and with the continued work of Mt. Moriah's Scholarship Foundation.

Marking the Masters

On August 12th, companions gathered in Lapeer for an inspiring evening of Capitular Freemasonry as the Mark Master Degree was conferred upon **Brother Brandon Harter**. The ceremony was graciously performed as a courtesy degree by the companions of Lapeer Chapter #91 of Royal Arch Masons, who were also advancing a candidate of their own that evening. This joint degree work highlighted the strength of fraternal unity and cooperation, providing a rich and memorable experience for both candidates as they took this pivotal step forward in their Royal Arch journey.

The gathering was defined by outstanding fellowship, ritualistic dedication, and genuine

to put on a dinner for our brave and steadfast local heroes. This dinner is free of charge and is open to any hometown hero and their family.

If you are a first responder, firefighter, nurse, doctor, active or retired service, or any profession that helps the general welfare of the community, please join us from 1 pm to 7 pm at the **Caro Masonic Center**.

Dinner will be a spaghetti and sides buffet as well as hot turkey sandwiches. Take-out and local delivery will be available for our heroes who are busy being heroes. We will also have a portrait studio setup for free patriotic photos for you.

Come let us celebrate your service!



camaraderie, making the night a resounding success for all who attended. Preceding the degree, the brethren gathered to enjoy a wonderful meal generously provided by the members of Lapeer Chapter #91.

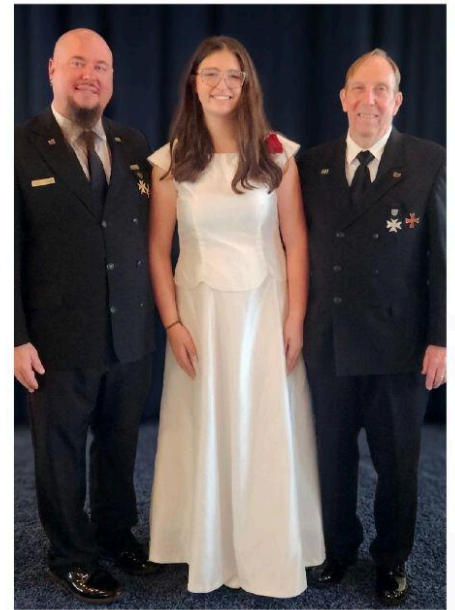


Don't Forget NPD Time!

September is NPD time and all Blue Lodges should be ready to give their final reports to their Brothers. Make sure to have your Form 52s ready and do your best effort to contact these Brothers before taking any action! If they are struggling, let's help them.

**Thumb York Rite's fall roadside cleanup is on the horizon! -
September 19th!**





Raising the Rainbow

By Sister Isabella Albin - New Hope Assembly #61

Saturday, August 29th, I had the pleasure of not only attending Grand Worthy Advisor Chloe Atkeson's reception, but also being officially initiated into the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls - Michigan Rainbow!

Despite the bright and early start to the morning, there was certainly no shortage of warm smiles, high energy, and positive attitudes. From the moment I arrived, every single person I spoke with was incredibly welcoming, encouraging, and helpful. The sheer amount of effort that went into organizing the event was obvious, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who devoted their time, energy, and care to making the day so special for all of us involved.

A particularly huge thank you goes out to all the girls who immediately reached out and made me feel right at home when I first walked in feeling like I didn't know anyone. Navigating a new space can be intimidating, but your warmth had turned any potential anxiety into genuine excitement. The initiation ceremony itself was absolutely beautiful and deeply meaningful, and I am so grateful to everyone who played a part in making it such a memorable experience.

Lastly, I want to share my sincere appreciation for the lovely people who took the time to sit with the other candidate and me throughout the day. Your thoughtful conversations, reassuring words, and inclusion meant more to us than you know. Stepping into this new chapter alongside such a supportive and inspiring group of people is an absolute honor. I am walking away from this weekend with a full heart, wonderful new friendships, and a deep excitement for everything that lies ahead on this journey together.

Michigan's York Rite History



The York Rite of Freemasonry has been an influential part of the Masonic tradition in Michigan since the early 19th century. The Rite operates through three distinct but cooperative organizations: Capitular Masonry, Cryptic Masonry, and Chivalric Masonry. The earliest roots of the York Rite in the state trace back to Detroit, where pioneering Freemasons worked to establish organized bodies that would eventually grow to encompass the entire jurisdiction.

Capitular Masonry: Royal Arch Masons

The history of Capitular Masonry in the state formally began on April 20, 1818, when Monroe Chapter No. 1 held its first meeting at the Masonic Hall in Detroit. This foundational body officially received its charter several years later on February 17, 1821. As Royal Arch Masonry spread to other areas of the territory, such as Niles, the necessity for a statewide governing body became evident. Consequently, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan was formally organized in 1848.

Cryptic Masonry: Royal and Select Masters

Cryptic Masonry emerged shortly after Capitular Masonry, with Monroe Council No. 1 originally organizing in 1847 from within the ranks of Monroe Chapter No. 1. For years, it operated as the only organized body of Royal and Select Masters in Michigan. To secure a legal organization and ensure its members were fully recognized, Monroe Council applied for and received a dispensation from the Grand Council of Connecticut in 1856. Following the successful sponsorship of additional councils in St. Clair and Pontiac, representatives from these three bodies

assembled in Detroit on January 13, 1858. At this convention, they unanimously resolved to form a Grand Council, officially creating the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Michigan.

Chivalric Masonry: Knights Templar

The Chivalric orders also consolidated their presence in Michigan during the 1850s. On January 15, 1857, six commanderies operating within Michigan gathered to organize the state's Grand Commandery. During this assembly, a committee nominated John Gilbert as chair and James Darrah as secretary to draft the statutes and regulations for the proposed organization. Later that year, on April 8, 1857, a convention was held in Detroit with the Detroit, Pontiac, Eureka, and DeMolay commanderies to finalize the request to become a fully recognized Grand Commandery.

Today, the York Rite in Michigan remains an active and cooperative Masonic system comprising three distinct governing bodies: the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar. While each branch maintains its own independent administration, they closely collaborate to support local chapters, councils, and commanderies across the state. This unified approach is highlighted during their joint Grand York Rite Annual Session, typically held each August, where members gather for statewide legislation, degree work, and fellowship.



True Freemasonry is never measured by the weight of lapel pins, the grandness of titles, or the collection of medals acquired along the journey, but by the quiet, internal transformation of the individual. At its heart, the Craft is about deeply absorbing the timeless principles of morality, truth, and brotherly love, then bringing those lessons to life beyond the lodge room doors. It centers on extending a genuine hand to help your fellow man, strengthening the fraternity through dedicated stewardship, and building up the next generation without seeking praise or accolades. Ultimately, a Mason's true value is defined not by the regalia he wears, but by the uprightness of his character and the positive impact of his daily actions.

York Rite Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to find each hidden word.

1. MULSAY
2. CRATILUAP
3. CHIVCLAIR
4. MCAYRENDMO
5. PNNOMOIAC
6. NOETVNAC
7. IYRCPCT
8. TLCNEXLEE
9. OYETSNEK
10. AMLAT
11. RAYOL
12. AYUTASCNR
13. CLEEST
14. AELARBECTN
15. TRMAPEL
16. LNETAGRI