Thumb York Write

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Caro Royal Arch Chapter #96
Thumb Council #90
St. George Commandery #52
Mount Moriah #226 | Hubbard Winsor #420

Blessings Beside Us



As we gather to give thanks this season, our hearts are filled with genuine gratitude for our Masonic family across the Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery. The bonds of brotherly love, companionship, and shared purpose that tie us together are among the greatest blessings we carry outside the doors of our halls. From the Officers who prepare the work to the members, Ladies, and families who show up, pitch in, and keep the light of fellowship burning bright, every single person contributes to a community we are proud to call home.

True thankfulness calls us to slow down and take stock of the gifts that often go unnoticed in the rush of daily life. Whether it is a quiet conversation after a meeting, a helping hand during a busy stretch, a shared meal around the table, or the steady encouragement of friends who know us well, these everyday blessings deserve our full attention. Appreciating

the people right beside us - our spouses, children, neighbors, and Companions - means recognizing their value not just on special occasions, but in the ordinary moments that give life its real weight and warmth.

May this season of gratitude remind us to return the kindness we have received and to hold our relationships with care and humility. As we look toward the months ahead, let us carry forward a spirit of generosity, patience, and mutual support, cherishing both the gifts placed in our hands and the Masonic family that walks the path beside us.

Asylum & Autumn Art



On Thursday, November 19th, St. George Commandery #52 held its annual Inspection, welcoming a distinguished turnout of visiting Sir Knights and Grand Officers. The evening began at 5:30 PM with a hearty dinner, giving everyone plenty of time to catch up, share stories, and enjoy warm fellowship before the formal work of the evening got underway.

While the Sir Knights convened in the Asylum for the Inspection, the visiting Ladies enjoyed an engaging program hosted by Lady Sarah. She led the group in a fall-themed diamond art project, providing a relaxed and creative space for everyone to craft, visit, and enjoy each other's company throughout the evening.

Overall, it was a memorable night of fraternal hospitality, teamwork, and tradition. St. George Commandery #52 extends its *sincere* thanks to all the Grand Officers, visiting Sir Knights, and Ladies who made the trip to support the Commandery and make this year's Inspection a great success.

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KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Mud Runner Meetup

Mount Moriah No. 226's Lodge Charity Account (LCA) Chairman Steven Dennis and Daniel Albin recently visited a Thumb Area Mud Runners meeting to deliver a charitable donation in support of their annual Christmas program. Presenting the check in person was a meaningful way to connect directly with the group and support the hands-on holiday outreach they organize across our local community.

Through their annual Christmas program, the Thumb Area Mud Runners provide holiday gifts, food, hygiene items, and vital support to families right here in Tuscola County. Working alongside local partners such as DHHS and the Mayville Area Share Shop, they help bring warmth and practical relief to neighbors who need a little extra help during the holiday season.

We are proud to lend a hand to a group doing such steady, practical good for local families. Community members looking to learn more, get involved, or reach out about their holiday program can find updates on the Thumb Area Mud Runners Facebook page and their Tuscola County Christmas for Kids website, or contact them by email at tamrxmas4kids@yahoo.com.



Save the Date!



Pigeon Progress & Plans

Hubbard-Winsor Lodge No. 420 held its Stated Communication on Monday, November 16th, at the Masonic Temple in Pigeon, Michigan, opening in Ample Form at 7:30 PM. During the evening, the Lodge mourned the passing of Worshipful Brother Jack Muscat, received a memorial note reminding the brethren to stay attentive in checking on one another, and extended warm wishes for a speedy recovery to Worshipful Brother Jack Ruby following a fractured arm.

Progress continues on several fronts for the Lodge, including steady exterior work on the building where insulation is finished and the windows are installed and sealed as the crew awaits siding to keep construction moving. Members also unanimously approved the slate of 2027 officers presented by the Nominating Committee.

Looking ahead to the end of the year, Hubbard-Winsor No. 420 will host an open installation of 2027 officers on Monday, December 21st, 2026. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM with members encouraged to bring a dish to pass and the installation ceremony will begin promptly at 7:30 PM, with guests warmly invited to attend.



Squared by the Ring

The tradition of the Masonic ring draws from centuries of history surrounding the signet ring, which ancient rulers, nobles, and craftsmen used as a personal emblem of identity, authority, and trust. As operative masonry gave way to speculative Freemasonry, craftsmen and members adapted that familiar piece of jewelry into a quiet, lasting symbol of fraternal connection and moral character.

Most commonly worn after a Brother has been raised to the Sublime Degree

of a Master Mason, the ring centers on the Square and Compasses, reminders to square one's actions and keep passions and desires within due bounds. Over time, distinct emblems and styles developed to reflect further milestones and branches of the Craft, such as Past Master jewels or rings bearing symbols of the York and Scottish Rites.

Even how a ring is worn often carries personal meaning for the Mason. Some turn the points of the compasses outward to show their Masonic commitment to the world, while others turn them inward as a private reminder of the obligations and lessons they carry within. Passed down through families or worn through decades of Lodge service, a Masonic ring stands as a steady token of fellowship, integrity, and shared history.



The Timeless Triple Tau

Among the many emblems encountered in Capitular Masonry, few carry as much quiet depth and historical resonance as the Triple Tau. Featured prominently on Royal Arch jewels, aprons, and Chapter banners, this distinctive geometric figure, formed by three intersecting T-shapes, with one inverted at the base of an upright Tau, serves as the primary badge of a Royal Arch Mason. At a glance, its clean, balanced lines evoke the precision of the operative stonemason's square and plumb, yet its layered meanings reach far deeper into Masonic history and spiritual reflection.

Historically, Masonic scholars have offered several complementary interpretations of the Triple Tau's origin. One widely held explanation views the symbol as a monogram

formed by combining the letters **T** and **H**, standing for *Templum Hierosolyma*, Latin for the "Temple of Jerusalem" or alternatively representing *Hiram of Tyre*, connecting the Royal Arch directly back to the builders of King Solomon's Temple. Another perspective traces the single Tau cross to ancient antiquity, where it served as a mark of life, preservation, and divine protection, most notably referenced in the Book of Ezekiel as the mark placed upon the foreheads of the faithful in Jerusalem. By tripling that ancient mark, the emblem reflects completeness, triune harmony, and the foundational pillars of wisdom, strength, and beauty.

Geometrically, the Triple Tau also holds rich symbolism for the thoughtful Companion. Its lines form eight right angles, reminding us of the squareness of virtue and rectitude of conduct expected of every Mason. When enclosed within a triangle and a circle, as seen on many Royal Arch jewels, the emblem illustrates the relationship between the finite labor of humanity and the infinite, eternal nature of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. For Royal Arch Masons, wearing or contemplating the Triple Tau is a steady reminder that our work as builders is never truly finished, and that truth, light, and fellowship remain the cornerstones of our journey.

Beaver Moon Mumblings

November's full moon gets its name from the seasonal habits of beavers and the human traditions tied to them, as late autumn gives way to winter. Around this time of year, beavers finish reinforcing their lodges with mud and sticks and stock up on food before waterways freeze over, while historical lore also connects the name to Indigenous seasonal cycles and colonial-era trapping set before ponds iced shut to take thick winter pelts. Carried forward through almanacs alongside names like the Frost Moon or Freezing Moon, "Beaver Moon" became the best known marker for late fall's shift toward dormancy and winter's freeze. Stay warm out there!



Thanksgiving Trivia Tidbits

Most of us think we know the story of Thanksgiving: Pilgrims, roast turkey, pumpkin pie, and football, but plenty of quirky historical twists happened along the way. Here are a few lesser known details that often catch people off guard:

- **It Started With Fasting, Not Feasting:** Long before modern marathon meals, early New England days of thanksgiving were often solemn observances marked by prayer and fasting rather than big banquets. Even the famous 1621 harvest gathering in Plymouth wasn't called "Thanksgiving" by those present at the time.
- **No Forks or Pumpkin Pie on the First Table:** In 1621, forks were still a novelty in Europe and hadn't really caught on in Plymouth so diners relied mostly on knives, spoons, and fingers. And while pumpkins and cranberries were around, there was no pumpkin pie in the modern sense because sugar and pastry ovens were scarce.
- **A Campaign Fueled by Letters:** Credit for turning Thanksgiving into a recurring national holiday in 1863 goes heavily to magazine editor Sarah Josepha Hale (also known for writing *"Mary Had a Little Lamb"*), who spent decades lobbying presidents to unify the country around the observance.
- **The "Franksgiving" Shake-Up:** In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving up a week, to the third Thursday of November instead of the last, hoping to stretch out the Christmas shopping season. Some states went along with it, others stuck to the old date, and a few even celebrated both until Congress settled on the fourth Thursday in 1941.
- **How TV Dinners Got Their Start:** In 1953, Swanson reportedly ended up with a massive surplus of frozen turkeys after the holiday. To use the extra meat, the company packed sliced turkey with sides into aluminum trays, helping spark the frozen TV dinner craze.

Building Leaders of Tomorrow

Across Michigan and around the world, the **International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG)** gives young women a welcoming space to grow in confidence, friendship, and service. Founded in McAlester, Oklahoma, in 1922 by Rev. W. Mark Sexson, who inducted a remarkable first class of 171 young women in a single auditorium, the Order has grown into a cherished Masonic youth organization open to girls of all faiths and backgrounds.

At the heart of Rainbow's teachings are seven colors and virtues: Love, Religion, Nature, Immortality, Fidelity, Patriotism, and Service, paired with hands-on leadership that goes far beyond reading from a script. Through elected and appointed stations, precision drill work, public speaking, and charity projects, members learn how to organize events, support one another, and step up as capable leaders in their schools and communities.

For Masons and Masonic families, supporting Rainbow is a direct investment in the next generation—cheering on young women as they develop poise, teamwork, and a lifelong habit of helping others.

Shaping Young Men of Character

Founded in Kansas City in 1919 by Frank S. Land, **DeMolay International** began with a simple act of mentorship for young men, many affected by the aftermath of World War I, and grew into a worldwide leadership fraternity for young men ages 12 to 21. Taking its name from Jacques de Molay, the organization challenges young men to live by core principles including love, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanliness, patriotism, and reverence for sacred things.

What sets DeMolay apart is how much responsibility is placed directly in the hands of the young men themselves. Members elect their own chapter officers, plan service projects and activities, and learn how to speak, lead meetings, and work together, backed by supportive Masonic and adult advisors.

