

ARKANSAS SUPPLEMENT



Timothy J. "T.J." Henwood, PGC(H), KCT, Editor
P. O. Box 6681, Sherwood, AR. 72124-6681
Phone: (501) 413-8181 e-Mail: content@aryorkrite.org
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Happy New Year, 902 A.O.!
From the Grand Commandery of Arkansas.

Have you ever wondered about those odd years you hear your Secretary or Recorder read in the minutes added to the regular A.D. year? Here is an explanation of "Masonic Years":

James Ussher, an Anglican priest born in Dublin in 1580, interpreted the time of the Creation in the Bible as being 4,004 BC. This was generally accepted by the Church as well, and was adopted in Anderson's (Masonic) "Constitutions", the basic text of modern Freemasonry. Hence, a Masonic date adds 4000 years to the currently accepted origins of the Christian era, and is called "Anno Lucis," or the year of light.

However, other Masonic bodies have different interpretations. For example, the Knight Kadosh of the Scottish Rite use "anno hebraico (a.k.a. anno mundi)", taken from Hebrew months and a calendar based on Jewish chronology. This thinking begins in September and adds 3,760 years on the Gregorian calendar. In the Royal Arch, the date of Creation is "Anno Inventionis", or 530 BC, the date when work commences on the second temple by Zerubbabel. The Royal and Select Masters degree uses the time of the dedication of K.S. Temple, or 1,000 BC and is called "Anno Depositionis." The Knights Templar (especially in Europe) count the beginning as 1118 AD, the founding of the Order and is called "Anno Ordinis."

So to calculate the dates in Masonic Years:

Lodge: AD plus 4000: 2020AD, 6020 A.L. Anno Lumini (year of light)

Chapter: AD plus 530: 2020AD, 2550 A.I Anno Inventionis (year of discovery)

Council: AD plus 1000 2020AD, 3020 A. D Anno Depoitous (year deposited)

Commandery: AD minus 1118 2020 AD, 902 A.O. Anno Ordinis (year ordained)

R.: E.: Grand Commander
Ronald Shinall Tucker
gc@aryorkrite.org

Greetings, Sir Knights:



This year, REGC Tucker is asking each of his officers to write an article for the "AR Supplement". This month's article is from ESK Troy Cole, Grand Warder.

Have you ever been interested in your ancestors? Recently I searched for my ancestors and discovered that I had several Ancestors that had served in the American Revolutionary Army. Knowing that some of my ancestors help bring America into existence is gratifying and interesting but what is more comforting is the fact that we Masons today are also help keeping America strong. Masons have long supported American Patriotism and our freedoms. But we use our Masonic past to help us focus on improving the future of Masonry.

I have the privilege to serve as the E. Grand Warder in the AR Grand Commandery. Having the opportunity to travel with the R. E. Grand Commander, Ron S. Tucker to visit AR Commanderies is a pleasure. We meet so met many great Sir Knights faithfully serving in their Commanderies.

ALL Sir Knights contribute to the "Knights Templar Eye Foundation" (KTEF) either voluntary or not. (There is a \$1.00 assessment added to per-capita for those not "Life Sponsors".) The Foundation focuses on "improving vision through research, education and supporting access to eye care". We are

informed that 80% of learning occurs through sight and the KTEF encourages research that potentially prevents or corrects many eye problems. They support awards for eligible investigators on research of diseases and problems of the eye. These grants have helped develop new nonsurgical treatment and further eye care cures.

Sir Knights can contribute to KTEF by: 1. Volunteering to become a Life Sponsor by donating \$30 to the KTEF which is tax deductible. (Thereby removing the \$1.00 annual assessment.) It is suggested that all new candidates for the Commandery have \$30 added to their initiation fee which would pay for their KTEF Life Sponsorship. Eventually we could have every SK in AR a KTEF Life Sponsor.

2. Also, Sir Knights should volunteer to contribute to your Commandery KTRF Eye Foundation Annual Campaign. Currently AR ranks 41st in the Annual Voluntary Campaign and the R E Grand Commander requests that contributions increase this year.

3. If the SK is not a KTEF Life Sponsor, your Commandery contribute for you. Sir Knights let's all become a KTRF Life Sponsor.

Troy W. Cole
E. Grand Warder