

# NEVADA SUPPLEMENT

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**Kevin McCans**  
**R.E. Grand Commander**



## GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights,  
Happy New Year!

The following article was contributed by SK Alan Troland who is working extensively in the Grand Lodge Library compiling a history of Masonry in Nevada. Enjoy.

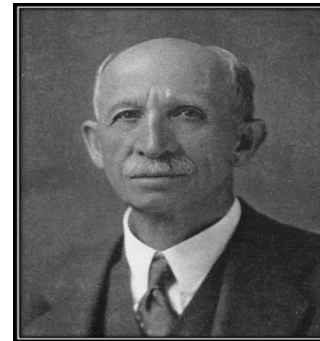
Sir Knights, this is the first of a series of famous Masons in Nevada and cannot be more fitting for the 100th year anniversary of the Grand Commandery. The first Grand Commander was Walter J. Harris 1918-1919. SK Walter was born in Dayton, Nevada Territory, April 20, 1863. His parents were William G. Harris and Sarah White Harris who crossed the plains in a covered wagon and settled in the Utah Territory in the early 1850's then migrating to Dayton in 1861.

He was united in marriage with Grace Ella Barnes at Dayton, June 27, 1888, three sons and four daughters were the fruits of this union. Two of his sons, Companions Gordon B., and Everett W., and two daughters survived him.

Few men have attained the prominence in Masonry as did our late Sir Knight. He was made a Master Mason in Valley Lodge No.9. at the age of 21, Worshipful Master in 1890 at the age of 27, and Most Worshipful Grand Master of Nevada 1906-1907 at the age of 43.

He became a Royal Arch Mason in Gold Hill No.8 Virginia City no date, Excellent High Priest 1896 at the age of 33, and Most Excellent Grand High Priest 1937-1938 at the age of 74. He became a Select Master no date, in Mountain Council (No #) Virginia City, Illustrious Master at the age of 34, and Most Illustrious Grand Master 1935-1935 at the age of 72. He was knighted on June 1, 1886 at De Witt Clinton Commandery No.1 while still in Virginia City, Eminent Commander in 1896, 97, 98 at the age of 33, and the first Right Eminent Grand Commander of Nevada, 1918-1919 at the age of 45. Sir Knight Walter belonged to many Masonic bodies, but I do not have the space to list them all. You be able to read "The rest of the story as Paul Harvey would say" in the DUK e-mail article in January by SK Larry Kesler SK Walter's sons, grandsons and great, great grandson became Sir Knights as well. Rob Harris the great, great grandson, sat as Generalissimo for two years in De Witt before moving to Florida. I can't think of a better tribute to him and his family on the 100th year anniversary of the Grand Commandery.

MW Walter J. Harris



Thank you all for your service to Templary.  
In the name of our Blessed Emmanuel, may Peace be with You.

Courteously,

SK Kevin McCans, KTCH  
Right Eminent Grand Commander