

# New Hampshire

SK David S. Collins  
REGC  
david.collins@tds.net  
(603) 344-5146



SK Patrick J. O'Sullivan,  
VEDGC & Editor  
patosully\_1@yahoo.com  
(603) 487-1644

To keep you better informed of the happenings in the jurisdiction, I will dedicate a portion of this column to upcoming events. Below are our events for October and beyond:

- Monthly Grand York Rite bodies educational series, at 7:00pm online (details provided in advanced) – We will resume in September
- As a reminder (and to clear the confusion), at the time of this publishing, the Gran Encampment is still only allowing online Conclaves -- -no in person commandery meetings or orders are allowed

## Who was King Darius?

In continuing our look at the various characters and persons portrayed within our orders, we next must examine the figure of King Darius. He is the person whom Zerubbabel seeks out as we talked about in our last supplement and is the other prominent player in the Order of the Red Cross.

I will first say, there is much known about Darius beyond what I can fit in this space and suggest you take some time to read more about him. He had a very fascinating history, he was a practitioner of Zoroastrianism (although there were other influences), one of his four sons, Xerxes is best known for battling the Spartans in Thermopolis, and it was Darius who appointed Zerubbabel as the governor of the province in what is today Jerusalem.

His rise to power was not without conflict as he overthrew the rightful heir in his assumption of the throne of Persia. He expanded the kingdom into parts of Greece, established an official currency, and built up the infrastructure in his Empire much like the Romans did in theirs. He established provinces as we mentioned

and appointed Governors (like Zerubbabel) known as satraps to ensure his reign. Much of our knowledge of his life comes from his own inscriptions he had completed in the town of Behistun on the large rockface of the same name. I would recommend you look up those carvings for more details.

Darius, in his wisdom, allowed for the local religions to remain in place and encouraged them, whether in Egypt and their rites or as we know from the order, he allowed for the rebuilding of the second Temple as was decreed by Cyrus. He was a brilliant organizer and strategist who truly understood the best way to rule was by ensuring peace for his subjects.

He was known as being a great architect and there are many of his original buildings and structures that remain in some capacity. It is interesting that we don't hear about this in our order given it's a masonic one. His capital city had walls that were said to be sixty feet high and thirty-three feet thick! Not much could penetrate that in his time.

Overall, we can say that the character as portrayed in our order is actually fairly accurate to the real person. He understood the importance of honoring the commitments of Cyrus and it makes sense that he would have offered help and assistance to Zerubbabel and the Jews in the rebuilding of the temple. As we said, he knew architecture and would have had experts who would be valuable in the rebuilding.

So, as I said in the beginning, take some time to look further at Darius, particularly the artifacts that still remain. The photos of them are really amazing and I don't think you will be disappointed.



York Rite Calendar -- <https://nhyorkrite.org/calendars/>

IHS,

SK Patrick J. O'Sullivan, DGC – Editor