



THE York Scribe



Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2019

Installation of Officer of Fort Myers York

We would like to congratulate the new officers for 2019 at Fort Myers York Rite Bodies they are looking forward to an exciting year of serving the York Rite. They are excited to having our members being present at our meetings along with supporting the bodies in embracing new members and providing proficient degree work for our petitioners. If you have not visit Fort Myers York please take an opportunity to join us in our meetings.



Poinciana Chapter No. 50 Officers



Fort Myers Commandery No. 32



Fort Myers Council No. 25 Officers

New Beginnings

The new year is upon on us and as many take on New Year's resolutions and others look forward to better things in the new year, we here at Fort Myers York Rite are hoping to do the same. This is

the first quarterly Trestleboard "The York Scribe" that you will be receiving, our goal is to keep our members informed of the activities and meetings throughout the year. We hope to bring in-

formative materials and additional information to our members. We encourage any feedback on what you may like to see on this Trestleboard. We are also hoping to have a website establish for Fort

Myers York Rite in the near future as an additional method of providing member information. We hope you enjoy our first edition of "The York Scribe".

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Special points of interest:

- High Priest Address
- Illustrious Master Address
- Eminent Commander Address



From the Order of the Temple

I hope each of our Sir Knights had a safe New Year, as we all embrace a new year I would like to thank our Sir Knights of Fort Myers Commander No. 32 for the opportunity and privilege to serve as your Eminent Commander. I look forward to an exciting year for this Commandery and many of the Officers are looking forward to it as well. We hope to have an active year and are looking forward to engaging in activities to strive in the improvement and growth of this Commandery. Sir Knights, the only

way we are able to strive to be a Commandery worthy of the title of Templar is with each of us contributing and honoring our vows as Sir Knights. This Commandery has an opportunity to excel in building an Order of Sir Knights that many can be proud to be a part of, however that can only be achieved with the participation of each of you. I challenge all of our Sir Knights to join me and the many others that have a desire to travel the journey the few have traveled. Many that have become before us have demonstrated the sacrifices that is required of

being a Knight Templar, which at times can challenge even the best of us. Let's look towards a future of this Order, that can be a beacon for those seeking passage of Truth, Honor and Integrity. I hope to see many of you at our next conclave.

Jonas Seda

Eminent Commander



From the Cryptic Council

reetings Companions,
As 2018 comes to a close and a new year begins, I would like to wish one and all a wonderful and blessed New Year. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful and blessed holiday season and had the opportunity to enjoy the company of family and friends. I'm extremely humbled and honored to have been selected to serve Fort Myers Council No. 25, as your Illustrious Master for 2019. For the trust and confidence you have placed in

me, I pledge to do my very best as we work along side each other. Together WE can make Fort Myers Council No. 25 one of the best. Working together we will strengthen our Council, thereby strengthening York Rite and Freemasonry. I'm excited to see OUR Council grow in recruitment, ritual and self improvement. We can accomplish this by a commitment to ourselves and to each other, working as a TEAM to represent Royal and Select Masters and all of York Rite to the best of our ability. I'm ready to

get to work and I hope you are as well.

Thank you for all you do for Fort Myers Council No. 25, R&SM., York Rite and all of Freemasonry! I look forward to see all of you in January.

Your humbled servant,

Gene Sims

"what matters most is the dash"



From the Royal Arch

reetings Companions,
I would like to wish one and all a wonderful and blessed New Year. I hope you were able to enjoy a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

I'm extremely honored and humbled to have been selected to serve Poinsettia Chapter No. 50, as your Excellent High Priest for the ensuing year. Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I look forward to working along side *each* of you, striving to strengthen our Chapter, community,

fraternity, and most of all ourselves. I'm both excited and anxious to begin the many tasks and challenges that we will be undertaking this year. I believe our Chapter is second to none, and as a TEAM we will be able to accomplish much. I look forward to you sharing your ideas as how I may best serve you, my fellow Companions.

As a TEAM we can see OUR Chapter strengthen and grow. Royal Arch Masonry (also known as "Capitular Masonry") is the first part of the York Rite system of the Masonic degrees. Therefore, we the Chapter are the first expo-

sure for our fellow Brothers entering into York Rite. I challenge myself and all of you to do our very best to provide an opportunity and path new Companions will be craving and excited about pursuing. I look forward to standing side by side with you to set the example for others to follow. I'm anxiously looking forward to seeing you in January.

Your humbled servant,

Gene Sims

"what matters most is the dash"

Further Light...



Thomas Smith Webb was an American author and founder of the York or American Rite.

Webb was born on October 30th, 1771 in Boston, Massachusetts. He attended Boston public schools, it was there that he developed a love for and a study of music. At the age of 16 he was apprenticed to a Boston area printer. A few years later he moved to Keene, New Hampshire. Once in Keene, he would begin his masonic journey in Rising Sun Lodge.

In 1793, Webb moved to Albany, New York. There he established a paper staining company. In 1797, he would publish *The Freemason's*

Monitor, or Illustrations of Masonry. The book is now very rare to find an original copy. The book consisted of two parts. In the second, Webb placed an account of the "Ineffable Degrees of Masonry." He also included various masonic themed songs that he himself wrote. It was also in Albany that Webb got his first taste of Royal Arch Masonry which is the first body of the modern York Rite. He formed a Temple Royal Arch Chapter and became it's High Priest, which is the highest officer in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry.

In 1799, Webb moved to Providence, Rhode Island. By this time his reputation in masonic circles was well established. He was invited to join Providence Royal Arch Chapter. He also joined St. John's Lodge No. 1. As a member of a lodge under the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island he was able to attend the Grand Lodge session. Which he did at his next opportunity. He was immediately put on the constitutions committee and two significant pieces of legislation were adopted as amendments. The first allowed any officer to serve more than two years in any office. The second allowed a brother who was a member of a Rhode Island Lodge and who

had served as a Worshipful Master in another jurisdiction, which Webb had, to serve as the Grand Master of Rhode Island.

Sometime around or before 1804, Webb along with other brothers formed the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island. He served as Grand High Priest from 1804 until 1814.

In 1813 and 1814, Webb served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. During his second term a British Man-o-war appeared in the waters off of Newport, Rhode Island. Many coastal cities feared invasion by British forces so the Governor of Rhode Island directed citizens to build breastworks, a low temporary fortification. Webb called a special communication of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island and instructed all brothers to bring shovels, spades, pick axes and one day of provisions. After opening the Grand Lodge the brothers retired to Fox Hill and by sunset had created breastworks that were 430 feet long, 10 feet wide and 5 feet high. The structure was named Fort Hiram, a name that was later confirmed by the Governor of Rhode Island.

In 1802, Webb helped to establish St. John's Encampment of Knights

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From Our Scribe

Companions and Sir Knights,

The Officers wish each and every one a prosperous New Year. As the New Year is already upon us, we have much to look forward to moving forward with Degree work, continue to improve our openings, our Rituals, to improve in all aspects of York Rite. As Secretary, I promise the records will continue to improve, this will be accomplished by following the by-laws and regulations already in effect. For example, all should know that your 2019 dues were to be paid prior to December 27, 2018.

There are approximately 27 members that are in Arrears, at this time. There

have been 13 Companions and Sir Knights suspended as of December 28, 2018. I would like to inform all that have a tendency to procrastinate about paying your dues, especially if you get suspended, it gets expensive (reinstatement fees apply) Please, Please, none of us want to be suspended and the first step to take is to contact one of the Officers or the Secretary to inform us that you have a situation that is prohibiting you from keeping your obligation. As Secretary I have sent out e-mails, followed by snail mail and phone calls, every option has been used. Snail mail has been returned, several with notes informing us that the

companion having been deceased since 2008. E-mails with no response, phones disconnected or wrong number (this example costing you, me, all of us \$450.00 in per capita only). This is the reason all records have to kept up to date with the Secretary. Enough said, I do hope these things will change in 2019 and look forward to a great year.

Scribe,

Richard Bayly

Meeting Times & Dates



Poinciana Chapter No. 50
Meeting at Tropical Lodge
Meets every ODD month on
second Tuesday at
7:30 P.M.



Fort Myers Council No. 25
Meeting at Tropical Lodge
Meets every EVEN month
on second Tuesday at
7:30 P.M.



Fort Myers
Commandery No. 25
Meeting at Tropical Lodge
Meets every month on every
fourth Tuesday at
7:30 P.M.



www.ramint.org



www.ggccmi.org



www.knightstemplar.org

Excellent High Priest Gene Sims



E: fortmyerschapter25@gmail.com
P: 239-707-3080

Illustrious Master Gene Sims

E: fortmyerscouncil50@gmail.com
P: 239-707-3080



Chapter Officers

King	Jonas Seda
Scribe	John Donohoo
Treasurer	Chris Tilman
Secretary	Richard Bayly
Captain of the Host	Jim Record
Principal Sojourner	Scott Wilder
Royal Arch Captain	Ray Brownlee
Master of the 3rd Veil	Adam Saucier
Master of the 2nd Veil	Sean Williamson
Master of the 1st Veil	Eric Downing
Sentinel	Billy Ware

Council Officers

Principal Conductor of the Work	John Donohoo
Treasurer	Chris Tilman
Secretary	Richard Bayly
Captain of the Guard	Ray Brownlee
Conductor of the Council	Adam Saucier
Steward	Scott Wilder
Sentinel	Billy Ware
Chaplin	Sean Williamson
Marshall	Jim Record

Commandery Officers

Generalissimo	John Donohoo
Captain General	Sean Williamson
Treasurer	Chris Tilman
Secretary	Richard Bayly
Prelate	Gene Sims
Senior Warden	Ray Brownlee
Junior Warden	Adam Saucier
Warder	Scott Wilder
Sword Bearer	Eric Downing
Sentinel	Billy Ware

Eminent Commander Jonas Seda



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Templar, which is no St. John's Commandery No. 1 of Providence. Webb provided the ritual and ceremonial procedure of the Templar Orders. He was elected Eminent Commander, the highest officer in a Commandery of Knights Templar, after the formation of the Commandery and was re-elected every year until 1814 when he declined the position. In 1805, he with others formed what is now the Grand Commandery

of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. He presided there until 1817.

In 1816, Webb formed the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States in New York City, New York. Dewitt Clinton was elected the Grand Master and Webb became the Deputy Grand Master, a position he held until his passing. Webb passed away on July 6th, 1819.



Grand York Rite of Florida

www.flgyr.org