

## The Oldest Masonic Body in Chicago

La Fayette Chapter No. 2, constituted in 1844, has a rich fraternal history with a membership that includes the following distinguished Companions:

- REV. WILLIAM F. WALKER**  
Grand Master of Masons of Illinois, 1845
- JAMES VAN ZANDT BLANEY**  
Grand High Priest of Illinois, 1851  
Grand Commander, Knights Templar, 1857-58
- WILLIAM W. MITCHELL**  
Grand High Priest of Illinois, 1861
- HOSMER A. JOHNSON**  
Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Illinois, 1861
- GEORGE W. DEERING**  
Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Illinois, 1862
- WILEY M. EGAN**  
Grand High Priest of Illinois, 1864
- Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Illinois, 1871  
President, Chicago Board of Trade, 1867-68  
Member, Illinois General Assembly, 1871
- HENRY C. RANNEY**  
Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Illinois, 1865  
Commander in Chief, Oriental Consistory, 1871-72
- JAMES H. MILES**  
Grand High Priest of Illinois, 1868
- DEWITT C. CREGIER**  
Grand Master of Masons of Illinois, 1870-71  
Mayor of Chicago, 1889-91
- THEODORE T. GURNEY**  
Commander in Chief, Oriental Consistory, 1873-75  
Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Illinois, 1875  
Grand Master of Masons of Illinois, 1878-79
- CARTER H. HARRISON**  
Mayor of Chicago, 1879-93
- Grand Master of Masons of Utah, 1897
- EDWARD COOK**  
Grand Master of Masons of Illinois, 1897-98
- JAMES B. MCFATRICH**  
Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Illinois, 1899  
Commander in Chief, Oriental Consistory, 1903-05
- SMYTH CROOKS**  
Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Illinois, 1907
- JAMES HAMILTON LEWIS**  
United States Senator from Illinois, 1913-19
- HARRY W. HARVEY**  
Grand High Priest of Illinois, 1915
- THOMAS ALBERT STEVENS**  
Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Illinois, 1915
- RALPH H. WHEELER**  
Grand Master of Masons of Illinois, 1915-16
- WILLIAM HALE THOMPSON**  
Mayor of Chicago, 1915-23, 1927-31
- WILLIAM ANTHONY EICHLER**  
Grand High Priest of Illinois, 1922

York Rite Freemasonry consists of four bodies that confer the following degrees and orders:

### LODGE OF ANCIENT CRAFT MASONRY

- Entered Apprentice or First Degree
- Fellowcraft or Second Degree
- Master Mason or Third Degree

### CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS

- Mark Master or Fourth Degree
- Past Master or Fifth Degree
- Most Excellent Master or Sixth Degree
- Royal Arch Mason or Seventh Degree

### COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS

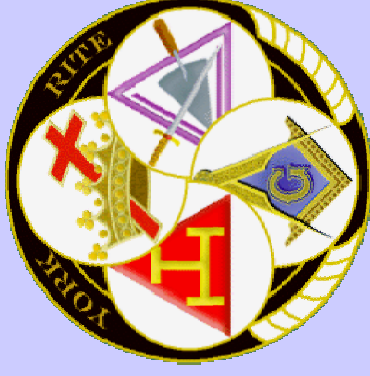
- Royal Master or Eighth Degree
- Select Master or Ninth Degree
- Super Excellent Master Degree

### COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

- Illustrious Order of the Red Cross
- Mediterranean Pass and Order of Malta
- Order of the Temple

In completing the three degrees of the Blue Lodge, you become a York Rite Mason. But only in the Capitular degree of Royal Arch Mason can you discover the Lost Word for which a substitute is given you in the Third Degree. Only in the Cryptic Degrees can you learn how the Word was preserved through the ages. And only in the Chivalric Orders can one fully appreciate from their inspiring perspective the role of the Divine Word in the immortal destiny of the human soul. We encourage you to seek the further Masonic light which only the York Rite Bodies can impart. Many of your Blue Lodge brethren can assure you that you will thoroughly enjoy the journey!

## THE OLD CHICAGO YORK RITE BODIES



JEFFERSON PARK MASONIC TEMPLE  
5418 WEST GALE STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60630 U.S.A.  
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MAILING ADDRESS:  
OLD CHICAGO YORK RITE BODIES  
P.O. BOX 7123, CHICAGO, IL 60680  
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FOURTH TUESDAYS 7:30 P.M.  
FELLOWSHIP DINNER 6:30 P.M.  
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LA FAYETTE CHAPTER No. 2  
ROYAL ARCH MASONS  
CHICAGO COUNCIL No. 4  
CRYPTIC MASONS

ST. BERNARD COMMANDERY No. 35  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
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**La Fayette Chapter No. 2**  
**Royal Arch Masons**  
Constituted July 12, 1844



### The Capitular Degrees.

Royal Arch Masonry provides an opportunity for Master Masons desirous of further light to explore some of the deeper mysteries of the Craft. The four degrees of the Chapter, in which candidates take an active part, are truly some of the most profound and impressive in Freemasonry. In the Royal Arch Degree itself, the Lost Word of a Master Mason is rediscovered in a beautiful ceremony that takes the candidates through the destruction of King Solomon's Temple, the seventy years of the Babylonian captivity, and the ultimate return to the Holy Land to aid and assist in the rebuilding of the Temple of the Most High. No other degrees are so intimately linked with the Blue Lodge or have so ancient and noble a history.

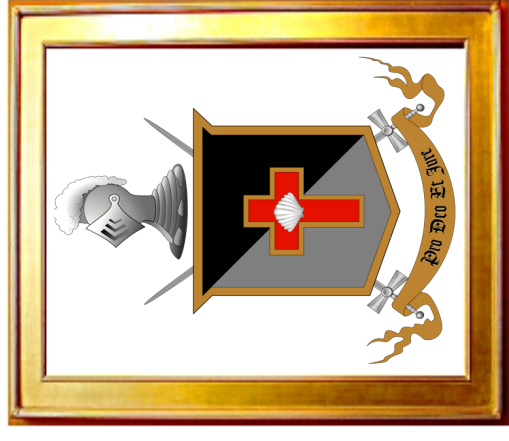


**Chicago Council No. 4**  
**Cryptic Masons**  
Chartered September 26, 1855



### The Cryptic Degrees.

The Council of Royal and Select Masters is also known as the Cryptic Rite and provides continuity for what otherwise would be a significant void in the complete story of the York Rite. The degrees controlled by the Grand Councils in the United States are Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master. The first two degrees are known as the "Degrees of Preservation" because they recount the concealment and preservation of the treasures revealed in the Royal Arch. Councils were not formed until the early 1800s and only in the United States. During the late 1800s, as a result of an economic crisis, the Council degrees were temporarily transferred to the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapters in certain states, including Illinois.



**St. Bernard Commandery No. 35**  
**Knights Templar**  
Chartered October 26, 1870



### The Chivalric Orders.

Freemasonry demands only a belief in a Supreme Being, whereas the Commandery provides transition to the ideals of Christian chivalry. The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross tells the story of the Jewish Prince, Zerubbabel, securing permission of the Persian King Darius to rebuild the Second Temple at Jerusalem. In the Order of the Knight of Malta, the candidate represents a knightly warrior of the Crusades prior to his departure for the Holy Land. In the Order of the Temple, the candidate represents a knight aspirant desiring to join the Knights Templar during the period after the Crusades. Following several trials of his faith, courage and humility, he is rewarded by achieving his desire.