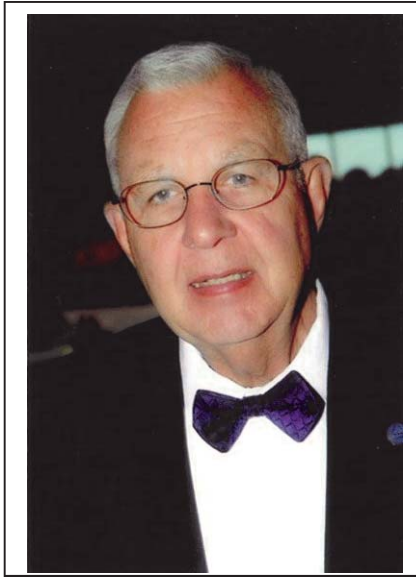


THE CRYPTIC FREEMASON

George C. Sellars Most Puissant General Grand Master



If all goes as planned, on August 29, 2011 Right Puissant Companion George C. Sellars will be installed Most Puissant General Grand Master of the Most Puissant General Council of Cryptic Masons International.

Companion

George was born June 23, 1938 in

Detroit, Michigan, the son of George and Anna Sellars. He attended Detroit Public Schools and St. Thomas and St. Peters Lutheran Schools, and graduated from Edwin Denby High School, Detroit. While in high school he was Captain of the football team and President of the choir. He attended the University of Michigan, Lawrence Technical University, and Detroit Institute of Technology, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology, History, and business. He has also taken postgraduate study in Engineering, Economics, and Management.

George has been married to Brenda Grace Sellars for 48 years. They have children Barbara Anne Saylor and husband David, and Brother and Companion Paul G. Sellars. George and Brenda are members of Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church, St. Claire Shores, MI.

George served in the Army and Navy, where he was an instructor. He worked thirty four years in marketing, engineering, and management for a Public Utility Company, and for fifteen years was Owner, President and C.E.O. of a Construction and Consulting Firm.

George was initiated in Metropolitan Lodge #519 in 1961. Later he was a member of Composite Lodge #459, and a dual member of Grosse Pointe Lodge, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1973 and 1989. He served the Grand Lodge of Michigan as District Deputy Instructor 1974-77, on the Board of General Purposes 1978-83, and on many committees over the years.



George was exalted in Composite Chapter #178 in 1971, and was High Priest in 1983. He is a member of the Michigan Holy Order of High Priesthood, where he was Most Excellent President in 1994.

George was greeted in Jeremiah Council #88 in 1975. The next year he became a member of Mt. Clemens Council #8, where he was Thrice Illustrious Master in 1979, and Recorder for several years thereafter. A dual member of Marine City Council, he was Recorder there 1998-2000. He is also a member of Essex Council #12 of Ontario, Canada. He received the Order of the Silver Trowel from the Michigan Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters May 16, 1980, and was elected Thrice Illustrious Master of the Council May 21, 1993.

For the Grand Council of Michigan he was Founder, Editor, and Publisher of the "Michigan Compendium" in 1979. On May 19, 1984 he was appointed the Grand Marshal of the Grand Council. Proceeding through the Grand line he was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master on May 21, 1988. Serving on many committees for the Grand Council over the years, he has served as Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee since 2000.

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*George C. Sellars...**Continued from page 1 -*

For the General Grand Council, International he was appointed Ambassador for Michigan for the Triennium 1984-96. He was appointed Regional Deputy General Grand Master for the East Central Region 1996-99. He was elected General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work in Rapid City, SD in 2005, and Deputy General Grand Master in Indianapolis, IN in 2008. He was Editor of the Cryptic Freemason Magazine 2007-09.

George was Knighted in Mt. Clemens Commandery #51 in 1975, and served as Eminent Commander 1976 through 1978. He was Recorder for several years. For the Grand Commandery of Michigan he served as Grand Sword Bearer in 1978 and Grand Sentinel in 1984. He was awarded the Knight Commander of the Temple by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America in 2002.

He was initiated into Prince Edwin York Rite College #8 in 1977. He served on the degree team 1978-81, after which he joined the line, serving as Preeminent Governor 1989, and then as Secretary 1990-2000.

George received the Order of the Purple Cross from the York Rite Sovereign College of North America in Wheeling, WV in 1983, and served as Grand Governor for Michigan 1992-98. In 1999 he was elected and inducted a Regent of the Sovereign College, and in 2000 he was elected and inducted as Secretary General and member of the board of Directors of the Sovereign College, serving until 2004. He received the Knight Commander of the Purple Cross in 2003. In 2007 he was the General Chairman for the General Assembly held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

George was elected a member of Michigan Priory #22, Knights of the York Cross of Honour in 1984. He served as a lecturer 1985 through 1988, and then joined the line, serving as Eminent Prior in 1993. He received the Knight York Grand Cross of Honour with one Quadrant in 1988. He became Registrar/Treasurer 1994-2004.

For Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour he was the Personal Representative of the Grand Master General for District #8 1998-2003, and was Eminent Grand Prelate 2003-04.

George was a Charter Member of Michigan Forest #190, Tall Cedars of Lebanon in 1990, and a Charter member of White Pine Forest #191 in 1991, where he served as Charter Scribe 1992-98., and as Grand Tall Cedar in 1998., and has been Chairman, Trustee, and Budget and Finance for the Board of Directors since then.

George participates in several Masonic research and educational activities, including the Philaethes Society; founder and director of Michigan Masonic Research Association; Masonic Book Club; Scottish Rite Research Society; Quatuor Coronati Lodge #2076, London, England, Secretary for MI 1989-2006.

George is also a member of several other Masonic organizations, including Moslem Shrine Temple, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite; Valley of Detroit, Thistle and Rose Council #27, Allied Masonic Degrees; International Lodge #4, Royal Ark Mariners; The Grand College of Rites of the U.S.A.; the Royal Order of Scotland; Both IL and MI Colleges of SCIRF; Gates of the Temple Tabernacle #LXV, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; St. Clemens Conclave Red Cross of Constantine; Detroit Chapter, National Sojourners; received the Legion of Honor, Order of DeMolay; Great Chiefs Council, #0, Knight Masons of the U.S.A., Excellent Chief 2002 & 04; dual member of Trinity Council #36, Knight Masons of the U.S.A; The Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon; and Noruh Grotto.

George has been awarded Honorary Membership in 12 Councils of Royal an Select Masters, 29 Grand Councils, 5 Councils of Ish Sodi, 14 Councils of Thrice Illustrious Masters, 5 Grand Commanderies, 13 Pories of Knights of the York Cross of Honour, 15 York Rite Colleges, 3 Past Commanders Associations, and 5 Orders of High Priesthood.



*Friendship isn't a big thing.
It's a million little things.*

THE ORIGIN OF THE CRYPTIC DEGREES THE TRAVELING LECTURERS PART 6 BY RICHARD A. EPPLER, EDITOR

The system for teaching Masonic ritual in the first half of the nineteenth century was very different from what we experience today. Traveling lecturers, who acquired a reputation for skill in the ritual were given permission or authority to teach "The Work". They did this as their vocation by charging fees to attend their lectures. While there were several brothers who participated in this effort to some extent, two stand out.

In the History of the Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry 1801-1861 we find a passage that, although in a discussion of John G. Barker (see below) is applicable to most of the traveling lecturers "like the others, Barker's interests were primarily ritualistic, stemming from a ready talent in the conferring of the degrees. When confronted by organizational problems, Barker and others who were primarily ritualists tended to improvisation and showed little capacity for being informed on the constitutions, rules, and regulations".

As has been discussed in the preceding two issues of the Cryptic Mason Magazine, the first of the traveling lecturers was Jeremy Cross. In addition to the ten Councils he established in Connecticut in 1818 and 1819, he established several Councils on a trip to New Orleans and back. In Kentucky he established Lexington Council November 23, 1816, and Shelbyville Council on January 15, 1817, neither of which survived. In Mississippi he established a Council at Natchez March 15, 1817. Returning to the North, he established Councils at New Castle, Delaware, Windsor and Bradford Vermont. In the Fall he visited Tyrian Council of Royal Masters at Hopkinton, New Hampshire, which had been formed April 5, 1815 and established a Council of Royal and Select Masters. Next he established Boston Council in Massachusetts before going South, where he established Councils at Richmond, Virginia on Christmas Day, one in Fredericksburg on St. John's Day, and one in Dumfries in January, 1818.

The second important traveling lecturer is John G. Barker. He was a native of Connecticut and Master of a Lodge in Wallingford. He received the Royal and Select Master Degrees in Harmony Council #8, New Haven, CT on December 15, 1818. He subsequently settled in South Carolina, where in 1823 he is listed as a Past Master of Union Lodge #8, Franklin Lodge #2, and Washington Lodge #5. On May 13, 1823 he was admitted an Active Member of the Supreme Council 33^o Degree of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, and listed an agent of the Supreme Council. In the Supreme Council 33^o at Work (1931) it says "We have a reprint of a blank patent issued to him and signed by all the other Active Members for use in conferring

degrees and while the portion specifying what the degrees were has not been preserved we may infer that it was not less extensive than those specified in the one issued under date of February 10, 1829 to Perez Snell".

He subsequently used his Scottish Rite patent for authority in his travels establishing Councils of Royal and Select Masters in the name of the Scottish Rite. He was also appointed Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, and the next year affiliated with South Carolina Encampment #1, Knights Templar.

In 1827 he was sent to Alabama by the Supreme Council to retrieve a copy of the 33rd degree ritual. He used the trip to establish Councils of Royal and Select Masters in Georgia and Alabama. Unfortunately, most of these Councils seem to have disappeared, as none of the Councils that participated in forming their Grand Councils claimed to have been formed in 1827. On May 27, 1827 in Claiborne, Alabama he granted a patent to Perez Snell expressly authorizing him "to confer the Degrees of Royal Master and Select Master", and signed it as "Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Thirty-Third Degree and General Agent of the Supreme Council". Snell then conferred the degrees across the South, especially in Louisiana where he was active in New Orleans Masonry.

Later in 1827 John Barker traveled North. On September 26 of that year he established a Council of Royal and Select Masters in Louisville, Kentucky, signing it as above, and probably six others, as the seven Councils organized the Grand Council of Kentucky on December 10, 1827.

In October he established Council #1 in Cincinnati, Ohio, "agreeably to the powers vested in him by the Supreme Council" (according to Mackey), followed by five others. These six Councils organized the Grand Council of Ohio.

In 1873 Albert Mackey wrote "there are many old Masons now living in the Southern and Western, as well as the Northern states who received them (the Cryptic Degrees) from Brother Barker, the accredited agent of the Supreme Council".



General Grand Council of
Cryptic Masons International
PO Box 332, Meridian, ID 83680-0332

Address Service Requested

GENERAL GRAND ELECTED OFFICERS 2008-2011

General Grand Master

Joseph J. Vale
3609 Southwood Dr., Gastonia, NC 28056
704-824-3444
jvalemasonic@aol.com

Deputy General Grand Master

George C. Sellars
25159 S. Magdalena, Harrison Twp., MI 48045
586-791-3009
gsellarsggci@aol.com

General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

Lawrence (Larry) O. Weaver
19433 S. Prospector Ter., Oregon City, OR 95045
ggpcw@ggccmi.org

General Grand Treasurer

Kenneth D. Chandler
2288 Coy Road, Mason, MI 48854-9205
517-676-2172
ggt@ggccmi.org

General Grand Recorder

David A. Grindle
PO Box 332, Meridian, ID 83680-0332
ggr@ggccmi.org

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