

History of

El Hasa Shrine Temple

1906 – 2019

In the latter part of the year 1905, a small group of York Rite and Scottish Rite Masons conceived the idea of forming a Shrine Temple in Ashland, Kentucky as the nearest temples were located at Louisville, KY; Cincinnati, OH; Columbus, OH; Charleston, WV; and Chattanooga, TN; thus leaving an immense territory for wonderful Shrine possibilities, unoccupied, and accordingly, this group of men, composed of seventeen Shriners representing membership in five different Temples, but all living in Ashland or immediate vicinity, banded together in an organization known as the Henry Clay Club.

After working among the Nobility in this section for a time, an application signed by eighty-three Nobles was made to Kosair Temple, Louisville, KY, the only Temple then in the state, asking their consent to a dispensation for a Temple at Ashland, to be known as El Hasa temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., and after considering the matter the Mother temple voted unanimously to approve the petition. The petition was forwarded to Illustrious Noble Henry A. Collins of Rameses Temple, Toronto, Canada, who was Imperial Potentate at that time, and after due consideration he issued a Dispensation to El Hasa Temple, dated March 3, 1906.

The first meeting of the temple under the dispensation was held on March 24, 1906. At the time, Noble William B. Trumbo, Jr., Potentate of Kosair Temple, Louisville, KY, presented the communication from the Imperial Potentate granting dispensation for El Hasa Temple from the Imperial Council. Noble Trumbo also regularly installed the first officers of the temple at this time, the first Potentate being A.N. Richardson, and the first Recorder being Noble John S. Hager.

At the thirty-second Annual Session of the Imperial Council held in Chicago, convening June 12, 1906, a Charter was granted to El Hasa Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., the Charter being dated March 3, 1906, the same as the Dispensation, and signed by Imperial Potentate Alvah P. Clayton.

The first meeting of the Temple under the Charter was held on August 15, 1906, at which time Noble William B. Trumbo, Jr., Potentate of Kosair Temple was again present, and instituted El Hasa Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., and regularly it's Officers under a commission

from the Imperial Potentate. It was noted that the Temple had ninety-one Charter members. Noble J. Marshall Hawkins, Potentate of Bendi Kedem Temple of Charleston, WV, was present at this meeting.

The first Officers of El Hasa Temple were as follows: Arthur N. Richardson, Illustrious Potentate, Timothy A. Field, Chief Rabban; Louis R. Putman, Assistant Rabban; Jesse W. Craig, High Priest and Prophet; Edgar B. Hager, Oriental Guide; Thomas Boggess, Jr., Treasurer; John S. Hager, Recorder; Laban T. Everett, First Ceremonial Master; Phillip C. Montague, Second Ceremonial Master; J. Willard Alexander, Director; Willard U. Carr, Marshal; Thomas H. Bullington, Captain of the Guard and C. Edward Horrocks, Outer Guard.

In selecting a name for the Temple, a committee of three was appointed for this purpose, composed of Nobles D.J. Taft, Frank R. Henderson, and Jesse W. Craig. After some consideration each member of the committee suggested a name, and the name El Hasa presented by Noble Craig, was selected by the other members of the committee in preference to their own suggestions, and the name of El Hasa as recommended by the committee was then unanimously adopted by the Nobility.

The word El Hasa is Persian, and signifies a fertile valley or adjacent to the mouth of a river, and near the mouth of the Big Sandy River, the committee considered the name El Hasa very appropriate for this Temple.

Noble Jesse W. Craig was also the one designated to go to the meeting of the Imperial Council in Chicago, June 12th, 1906, and present the claims of the Nobles to that body for a Charter. The Committee on Dispensations and Charters had before them for consideration, six applications for Dispensations, and twelve applications for Charters, one Dispensation was granted, and El Hasa was the only Temple to be granted a Charter, which indicated the merits of the petition, and the able manner in which the matter was presented to the Imperial Council by Noble Craig.

In the regular meeting December 21, 1906, Noble John M. Hutton was appointed to organize a Patrol and employ a drill master, and on November 11, 1908, a committee was appointed to purchase uniforms.

At the regular meeting February 12, 1909, a proposal was made to raise the dues from \$2.00 to \$3.00 annually but at the next meeting the proposal was withdrawn.

The first official visitation to El Hasa Temple by the Imperial Potentate was made on October 24, 1910, when Imperial Potentate Imperial Sir Fred A. Hines, of Al Malaikah Temple of Los Angeles, attended the ceremonial on that date, and was made an honorary member of El Hasa.

On November 11, 1908, a committee of Captain L. M. Humphrey, Lieutenant Gus Wilde, I. Austin Kelly, Hugh Russell and O.V. Gammon was authorized to purchase uniforms for

the patrol and at the same meeting a resolution was adopted for the Temple, including the Patrol, to attend the Imperial Council Session to be held in Louisville, KY in June 1909.

On the tenth anniversary of the Temple in 1916 the membership of El Hasa was 423, an increase of 332 over the original Charter membership roster list of 91.

A thirty-six piece brass band was organized and uniformed in the early 1920's and the Patrol was outfitted with black broadcloth uniforms with gold braid. These units attended the Imperial Sessions in Washington, Philadelphia, and Atlantic City in 1923, 1926, and 1927, and received much favorable publicity for their showing in the parades.

At the Annual Session of El Hasa Temple, held on January 3, 1927, a resolution was adopted to endorse Noble J. Tom Field, Past Potentate, for the Imperial Outer Guard of the Imperial Council of A.A.O.N.M.S. He was the only Noble of El Hasa Shriners to be formally nominated for the distinction of an Imperial Office.

Noble Field was elevated to the post of Illustrious Potentate of El Hasa in 1922. He filled this position with honor and dignity and by his able administration brought El Hasa Temple into most favorable mention from the Imperial Officers. Noble Field gave much time and attention to the Shrine work, perhaps, than any other Potentate filling this position. One of the outstanding marks of his administration was the organization of our Shrine Band, the enlargement of the Arab Patrol and the drilling of these organizations so that they were able to make a creditable showing on all occasions.

An avid advocate of El Hasa Shrine, Noble C. W. "Benny" Dawson who was Illustrious Potentate in the year 1944 served the Temple with honor and distinction. Illustrious Sir Dawson was President Emeritus of the El Hasa Uniformed Units. He served in the capacity of President for numerous years in running the Uniform Units in a professional, organized and dignified manner. He was noted for running the units with an iron hand and orderly way. El Hasa was saddened by his passing on November 19, 1979. Illustrious Sir Dawson was a member of Poage Lodge No. 325, F.& A.M., all of the York Rite Bodies in Ashland, Indra Consistory, Valley of Covington, Scottish Rite, the Order of the Eastern Star, and a Kentucky Colonel. He was owner and operator of Kilbourne Machine Shop in Ashland. Dawson's hard work, dedication and enthusiasm were an inspiration to all who met him and knew him.

El Hasa has been honored to have several Shrine Masons as members of the fraternity to serve the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F. & A.M. as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Kentucky Freemasonry. They are Fred M. Gross in 1948-49, James W. Elam in 1962-63, Thomas Burchett, Jr., P.P for the year 1965-66, R. Gaylord Price for the year 1974-75, Patton R. Hart, P.P. for the year 2005-2006, F. Keith Dreier for the year 2007-2008, L. Todd Eastham for the year 2009-2010 and Todd Jones for the year 2016-17.

Some notable Shrine Masons of El Hasa Shrine served the Shrine in various leadership capacities. Illustrious Sir George C. Wells who was Illustrious Potentate in year 1951

served the Southeastern Shrine Association as President in 1977. Charles V. Hobbs, Illustrious Potentate in 1978, served as President of the South Atlantic Shrine Association in year 1993-1994, Illustrious Sir and Past Recorder Clyde I. Blevins served the Shrine Recorders Association as its President in 1998-99 and Illustrious Sir Jerry McConnell, Illustrious Potentate for year 2008 served the South Atlantic Shrine Association in 2009-2010. He fulfilled the unexpired vacancy due to resignation and death of Illustrious Sir Dan R. Simpson, Potentate for year 2005.

Illustrious Sir Past Potentate Joe A. Hart, Past Treasurer was elected by temple membership as Treasurer Emeritus for his years of dedicated service for nearly 17 years in serving as Treasurer for El Hasa Shrine. Illustrious Sir Past Potentate Clyde I. Blevins was also elected by temple membership as Recorder Emeritus for his faithful years for 10 years in his service as Recorder for El Hasa Shrine. Through Clyde's dedicated service and attendance at the annual session of the Imperial Council for Shriners International, he was designated a Colorado Corporation Emeritus Member.

The Shrine Hospitals for Children in Cincinnati and Lexington are two facilities that El Hasa Shrine support and raise awareness for our philanthropic mission. The Shrine Hospitals system makes a huge impact upon the lives of the children that we treat and care for at our 22 facilities. We should be proud to wear the red fez and to acknowledge that we are Shrine Masons with a significant purpose in support of "the World's Greatest Philanthropy."

The Board of Trustees along with the doctors and staff at Shriners Hospitals do marvelous work in treating and taking care of children. Serving on the Lexington Board of Trustees were some outstanding Nobles of El Hasa Shrine: Illustrious Sir George Wells, PP for a number of years, Illustrious Sir Pat R. Caniff, PP who served a distinguished and dedicated term of 22 years on the Board from 1983 to 2005, Illustrious Sir Walter Swift, PP, Noble Joe Charles, Illustrious Sir Larry S. Evans, PP, and currently Noble Clyde Tarr. Charlie Adkins serves as an associate member to the Board with the Lexington hospital. Serving at the Cincinnati Hospital Board of Governors for burn children with distinction and dedication were Illustrious Sir Wayne Adkins, PP for six years from 1995-2002, Illustrious Sir Richard L. Patrick, PP, Illustrious Sir Paul R. Daniels, PP and Noble James Smith.

Vic Hopper, Jr. who presently serves as Treasurer for El Hasa Shriners was elected at the 2018 Imperial Session in Daytona Beach, FL as a Colorado Corporation Emeritus Member for Shriners Hospital for Children in his continuing service to the Shrine.

With a membership of 1,259 on December 31, 1955, El Hasa Temple has grown to a membership of 3,006 on December 31, 1989. El Hasa experienced positive growth in membership for the year 2002, 2003, 2009 and 2010 under the administration respectively of Illustrious Sir Richard L. Patrick, Illustrious Sir Larry Evans, Illustrious Sir Jack McClelland and Illustrious Sir Patton R. Hart and they were inducted into the Imperial Shrine Hall of Fame. In year 2010, we maintained our loyal and enthusiastic membership with a positive growth of one member as of 12/31/2010 for 2155 members.

During existence of El Hasa Temple, over one hundred-five Nobles have served as Potentate. We are indebted to our Past Potentates and their colleagues for their wisdom and labor, for it is by their efforts that El Hasa Temple was brought into being and has maintained such a high sphere in Shrinedom for the past 105 years.

Charter Members of El Hasa Temple

1. Arthur N. Richardson
2. Timothy A. Field
3. Louis R. Putman
4. Jesse W. Craig
5. Edgar B. Hager
6. Thomas Boggress, Jr.
7. John S. Hager
8. P.C. Montague
9. Charles F. Weaver
10. J.W. Alexandria
11. W.U. Carr
12. T. H. Bullington
13. C. E. Horrocks
14. J.W. Mayo
15. John H. Wade
16. Smithfield Keffer
17. J. E. Corwin
18. J. M. Prichard
19. B.L. Wesley
20. L.M. Humphrey
21. W.H. Tippet
22. J. J. Gates
23. O. F. L. Beckette
24. A. G. McCullough
25. Joseph C. McCullough
26. George C. McCullough
27. Thomas R. Young, Jr.
28. Joseph B. Eifort
29. Samuel P. Hager
30. William R. VanSant
31. Joseph A. Salmon
32. W. W. Hall
33. D. J. Taft
34. James Trimble
35. W. H. Castner
36. David E. Davis
37. Rufus H. Vansant
38. Edwin F. Poague
39. J. S. Ogden
40. Roscoe E. Olmstead
41. Harry Kilgore
42. H. J. Seibert
43. W. L. Watson
47. Harlow D. Savage
48. Samuel P. Moorhead
49. F. B. Moore
50. John F. Haney
51. Joseph O. Mathewson
52. I. Austin Kelly
53. Ed S. Hughes
54. Theodore J. Shaut
55. W. A. Ginn
56. John H. McCleary
57. Lewis N. Davis
58. J. A. Meredith
59. A. J. McCullough
60. B. F. Forgey
61. W. E. Faulkner
62. J. W. Kitchen
63. William H. McCullogh
64. J, B. King
65. F. R. Henderson
66. W. Coverston
67. R. M. Taylor
68. W. L. Geiger
69. D. G. Putnam
70. Conrad Watts
71. George R. Burgess
72. J. C. Adams
73. Leonidas H. York
74. J. A. Brubaker
75. Gus H. Hampton
76. T. D. Marcum
77. Laban T. Everett
78. Robert D. McDonie
79. John Walker Crawford
80. James Milton Litteral
81. Monroe J. Webb
82. Charles C. Wilson
83. Charles R. Holbrook
84. Winfield Scott
85. R. B. Leedy
86. William Cooksey
87. W. T. Womack
88. John M. Waugh
89. W. A. Davis

44 Virgil V. Adkins
45 John B. Kelly
46 John M. Hutton

90. S. M. Bradley
91. John H. Fraley

FIRST POTENTATE OF EL HASA

Noble A. N. Richardson was born at Catlettsburg, KY and educated in the private schools in Ashland. He held a C.P.A. certificate issued by the State of Ohio.

He began his business career by entering the service of Ashland's pioneer industry, the Ashland Coal and Iron Railway Company in 1893. Later this company formed the Ashland Iron and Mining Company, and Noble Richardson was the Auditor in charge of the accounts of both companies until their purchase by the American Rolling Mill Company of Middletown, Ohio, January 21, 1921. When the City of Ashland was made a city of the second class, Noble Richardson was appointed City Auditor, and held the position until his retirement in 1940.

He was one of the charter members of Ashland Lodge No. 350, B.P.O.E. and served as Secretary for several years.

He was initiated in Poage Lodge No. 325, F. & A.M., and August 13, 1895 and after filling the various chairs, was elected Master and served during the year 1900.

He was exalted a member to the Royal Arch Degree in Apperson Chapter No. 81, R.A.M. on November 8, 1895. He was elected and served as High Priest in 1901.

He was a member of Everett Council No. 65, R. & S. M. and served one year as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1920-21.

He was a knighted as a member of Ashland Commandery No. 28, K.T., on January 21, 1896. Sir Knight Richardson was elected and served as Commander in the year 1906, serving one year. At the session of the Grand Commandery held in Ashland in 1908, he was elected Grand Captain of the Guard, and after filling the intermediate stations, was installed as Grand Commander of Kentucky, Knights Templar at Covington in 1917. He served the year with distinction during 1917-18.

He received the 32nd degree of Scottish Rite and became a member of the Grand Consistory of Kentucky, Ancient and Accepted Order of Scottish Rite on April 5, 1902. He was a member of the Indra Consistory in Covington, Kentucky.

Noble Richardson became a member of Kosair Temple in 1899 and was one of the local Nobles who were instrumental in securing the consent of the Mother Temple – Kosair – for dispensation to form El Hasa Temple in Ashland. He was designated as first Potentate, and also served the second year 1906-1907. He was one of the Representatives from El Hasa Temple at twelve meetings of the Imperial Council, and also held the position of Treasurer and Trustee, in which positions he served more than twenty years.

He was honored at the Shrine Ceremonial on Saturday, May 21, 1949 with over 50 dedicated years of Shrine Service. Illustrious Potentate Noble Arthur N. Richardson

was a distinguished Shrine Mason who offered his time and talent with many outstanding contributions to Freemasonry, York and Scottish Rite and the Shrine fraternity.

EL HASA TEMPLE

PAST POTENTATES

* A.N. Richardson	1906	* W. Clyde Sanders	1945
* A.N. Richardson	1907	* David Arnoberg	1946
* T. A. Field	1908	* Chauncey E. Forgey	1947
* L. R. Putnam	1909	* Arthur J. Kinkaid	1948
* E. B. Hager	1910	* Edward C. McGhee	1949
* J. S. Hager	1911	* Howard M. Kash	1950
* P.C. Montague	1912	* George C. Wells	1951
* C. F. Weaver	1913	* James R. Barbee	1952
* J. W. Alexander	1914	* Thomas Burchett	1953
* W. U. Carr	1915	* * Robert M. Sirkle	1954
* I. Austin Kelly	1916	* Ora Jack Waggoner	1955
* A. Gordon Susler	1917	* Clair F. Mateer	1956
* D. H. Putnam	1918	* Warner W. Fell	1957
* C. E. Williams	1919	* William T. Smith	1958
* R. S. Kilgore	1920	* Joseph L. Baker	1959
* A. W. Humphrey	1921	* J. Fred Miller	1960
* J. Tom Field	1922	* Moses C. Adams	1961
* J. A. Meredith	1923	* George E. Hobbs	1962
* J.O. Mathewson	1924	* Warner Kenyon	1963
* J. Walter Mayo	1925	* Bill E. Barnett	1964
* J. A. Dodson	1926	* Douglas P. Roberts	1965
* C. R. Callihan	1927	* * Don C. Keyser	1966
* George P. Ginn	1928	* George S. Polley	1967
* James I. Rathburn (Jan.-Feb.)	1929	* Thomas Burchett, Jr.	1968
* Roy S. Stalnaker (Mar.- Dec.)	1929	* William A. Mordica	1969
* B. F. Forgery	1930	* Dewey C. Rice	1970
* W.C. Hilberg	1931	* William C. Crawford	1971
* Perl J. Wonn	1932	James H. Melvin	1972
* Matt M. Prichard	1933	* Perry Justice	1973
* Owen R. Meadors	1934	* Charles Roberts	1974
* Charles E. Rous	1935	* George W. Waggoner, III	1975
* Henry D. Shanklin	1936	* William M. Refitt	1976
* John L. Steele	1937	* Henry Graf	1977
* James T. Norris	1938	* Charles V. Hobbs	1978
* John T. Diedrich	1939	Joe A. Hart	1979
* G. Wilmot McNeilly	1940	* Thomas N. Cox	1980
* Fred M. Gross	1941	Pat R. Caniff	1981
* William R. Dickenson	1942	* Fayette May	1982
* Clyde R. Levi	1943	Dr. Alva Burton Payne	1983
* Clarence W. Dawson	1944	* Gene Waggoner	1984

Ronald B. Lemaster	1985
*Clyde I. Blevins	1986
* H. Kenneth Holmes	1987
John Avila	1988
* Walter G. Swift	1989
Kenneth P. Armstrong	1990
Rondall D. Kendall	1991
L. Wayne Adkins	1992
* Samuel L. Waggoner	1993
* Paul R. Daniels	1994
* Billy Joe Callihan	1995
* Freeman J. Hamilton	1996
Thomas M. Hurtz	1997
* W. Thomas Craft, Jr.	1998
* James E. Boggs	1999
James E. Barker	2000
Vic Hopper, Jr.	2001
* Richard L. Patrick	2002
Larry Evans	2003
Donald K. Hall	2004
*Dan R. Simpson	2005
Michael E. Dalton	2006
Fred Wood, Jr.	2007
Jerry McConnell	2008
Jack McClelland	2009
Patton R. Hart	2010
Rodger Raybourn	2011
L. Joe McSweeney	2012
Carl Wellman II	2013
James "Kip" Barker	2014
Richard Thompson	2015
Bob Pigman	2016
John 'Skip' Holley	2017
Woodrow Mitchell	2018
Jerry R. Blevins	2019

EL HASA TEMPLE

Prior to the present location of El Hasa Temple, El Hasa had its meetings and activities at El Hasa Club Rooms located on Winchester Avenue in Ashland, the former Clyffeside Park Casino, the Masonic Temple, located on 1500 Central Avenue and the El Hasa Units Building referred to the sand hole building in Ashland. El Hasa Temple lost its Clyffeside Park Casino building and property due to the Depression.

El Hasa Temple purchased 18.68 acres in 1976 at Cannonsburg, KY to erect a mosque. The 100-by-125 foot mosque is located on highway Route 180 adjacent to the Boyd County High School football field. Ground was broken in the spring of 1977 and dedication was conducted November 18, 1978. Commemorating seventy-two years of Brotherly Love and Fellowship, the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony was held on Sunday, September 30, 1979 by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Kentucky Freemasonry Tom Roberts and the Grand Lodge Officers. Serving as the Illustrious Potentate of El Hasa Temple was Illustrious Sir Joe A. Hart.

On May 7, 1979 construction was started for a second 60-by-100 building in the rear of the mosque, this being erected to house equipment for the Shrine and additional meeting rooms under the administration and leadership of Illustrious Sir Joe A. Hart. Illustrious Sir Joe served El Hasa Shrine as Potentate in 1979, Trustee and Treasurer for 17 years.

In 1986 under the administration and leadership of Illustrious Sir Clyde Blevins a 60-by-80 garage was erected and the old garage was converted into a units meeting room.

In 1987 a new front was added to the mosque giving it a more Arabic appearance. In August 1990 under the administration and leadership of Illustrious Sir Kenneth Armstrong a new shelter building was added to the existing garage to provide a place for family activities and Temple outings and also to house temple equipment during the winter.

EL HASA SHRINE UNITS

A – TEAM

CLOWN UNIT

DIRECTORS STAFF

HILLBILLY UNIT

KENTUCKY COLONEL UNIT

LEGION OF HONOR

MOTOR CORPS

ORIENTAL BAND

PATROL

RITUAL UNIT

UNIFORMED UNITS

MOTORCYCLE UNIT

EL HASA SHRINE CLUBS

BIG SANDY SHRINE CLUB

CARTER COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

ELHORN SHRINE CLUB

ELLIOTT COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

FOUR STAR SHRINE CLUB

GREENUP COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

JENNY WILEY SHRINE CLUB

KNOTT COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

LAWRENCE COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

MARTIN COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

MAGOFFIN COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

MOREHEAD SHRINE CLUB

MORGAN COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

PIKE COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

STONE SHRINE CLUB

WHITE WATER SHRINE CLUB