



Rosa B. Whitson Grand Guild



Tennessee Jurisdiction

Prince Hall Affiliation

Heroines of the Templar Crusade

The Rosa B. Whitson Grand Guild was issued its charter on October 23, 1954 by the International Grand Guild of the Heroines of the Templar Crusade for the state of Tennessee and Jurisdiction an organization organized and working under the sanction of the Austin W. Williams Grand Commandery Knight of the Templar Crusade.

The first officers were Princess Rosa B. Whitson, Grand Captain, Sir Knight Rufus Wilkins Jr., Grand Royal Advisor, Princess Nettie O. Cole Grand 1st Lieutenant, Princess Sadie Adams Grand 2nd Lieutenant, Sir Knight Clarence Cochran Grand Assistant Royal Advisor, Princess Johnnie E. Jenkins Grand Treasurer and Princess Bernice Kennedy Grans Assistant Secretary.

The following signatures were affixed to the charter Florence Mae Fields International Grand Princess Captain, Knight Jacob A. Hardy International Royal Grand Advisor and Knight Jessie H. Rogers International Grand Secretary.

Their Successors

Grand Princess Captains

Rosa B. Whitson	1954 – 1965
Almyra B. Bartlett	1965 – 1966
Bernice Kennedy	1966 – 1981
Bobbie L. Pettis	1981 – 1983
Teresa Lockhart	1983 – 1989
Frances K. Hightower	1989 – 1993
Loren Williams	1993 – 1995
Mae D. Houston	1995 – 2000
Charlie M. Reed	2000 – 2005
Ruby B. Meeks	2005 – 2010
Rhonda H. Norris	2010 -2015
Bessie M. Simms	2015 – Present

Royal Grand Advisors

Rufus Wilkins	1954 - 1962
Clarence Cochran	1962 - 1964
A. M. Dobbins	1964 - 1965
Jeff McKinnie	1965 - 1975
Dailey Greer	1975 - 1983
Rev Melvin Tolan	1983 - 1988
James Mason	1988 - 1989
Garry Williams	1989 - 1992
James Baldwin	1992 - 2010
LeBrone Roberts	2010 - 2013
Albner O. Mallory	2013 - Present

Original Thirteen Constituted Guilds on October 23, 1954 at Memphis were:

Guild	Number	Location	Princess Captain
Palestine	1	Memphis	Nettie O. Cole
Mt. Calvary	2	Memphis	Ruby D. Moody
Wolverine	3	Memphis	Sadie Adams
Chelsea	4	Memphis	Nonie Govan
St. Peter	5	Memphis	Almyra B. Bartlett
St. John	6	Memphis	Rose Willis
Bethany	7	Memphis	Lillie Matthews
Apollo	8	Memphis	Alice Arledge
Victoria	9	Whiteville	Rosa Polk
Mt. Moriah	10	Memphis	Johnnie E. Jenkins
Elnora	11	Grand Junction	Elnora Draine

St. Andrew	12	Jackson	Fannie Dobbins
St. Bernard	13	Knoxville	Lula McCoy

Since the constituting of the Rosa B. Whitson Grand Guild, five of the thirteen originally chartered Guilds became defunct.

1. Mt. Calvary #2
2. Chelsea #4
3. St. John #6
4. Bethany #7
5. Elnora #11

Only one of the aforementioned Guilds were reactivated. Mt. Calvary #2 Etta Selmon, Princess Captain (1957). Two of the remaining four were reorganized with new names but remained at the same location.

Original Guild	Reorganized	Location	Princess Captain
Chelsea #4	Onward #1	Memphis	Carrie T. Herron
St. John #6	Prospect #6	Memphis	Myrtle Banks
Bethany #7	Bethany #7	Clarksville	Esther Collier
Elnora #11	Bessie Peak #11	Chattanooga	Teresa Lockhart

A total of eighteen Guilds have been organized in Tennessee. The two additional Guilds are

1. St. Luke #14 Hartsville Annie Clark, Princess Captain 1976
2. Alcoa #15 Alcoa Bernice Kennedy, Princess Captain 1985

Unfortunately, the records and documents of the administrations of Grand Princess Captains Rosa B. Whitson (1954 – 1963) and Almyra B. Bartlett (1963 -1966) are unavailable. However, the following facts are known:

1. The Constitution and By-laws of the Rosa B. Whitson Grand Guild was drafted and approved.
2. The Ritual of the Rosa B. Whitson Grand Guild was written and adopted.
3. It was decreed that there be two distinct passwords one for use in Subordinate Guilds and the other be used at the Grand Conclave.

There were three Subordinate Guilds setup under the tenure of Bernice W. Kennedy, Grand Princess Captain (1966 – 1981).

1. Bessie Peak #11 Chattanooga 1973
2. St. Luke #14 Hartsville 1976
3. Prospect #6 Memphis 1980

Prospect #6 was reorganized and name changed to W. F. Lacey located in Dyersburg, TN.

The following listed below are the current Guilds as of 2017:

Guild	Number	Location	Princess Captain
Palestine	1	Memphis	Kathleen Jackson
Wolverine	3	Memphis	Erica Davis
Onward	4	Memphis	Carmen Moore
St. Peter	5	Memphis	Ruth Chalmers

W. F. Lacey	6	Dyersburg	Maria Starks
Bethany	7	Clarksville	Annetta Pickett
Apollo	8	Nashville	Jennifer Frierson
Mt. Moriah	10	Memphis	Elizabeth Nelson
Bessie Peak	11	Chattanooga	Dianne Hicks
St. Luke	14	Hartsville	Kathy Stafford

*St. Peter #5 located in Jackson, TN is in the process of reorganizing.

Deputies 2017

Autrey Whatley	East TN District
Martha J. Smith	Middle TN District
Helen Davis	West TN District

Assistant Deputies 2017

Dianne Hicks	East TN District
Odetta Ellington	Middle TN District
Lula M. Warren	West TN District