

ARIZONA SUPPLEMENT

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KNIGHTS TEMPLARISM

A study of the record of the valiant acts of the Templars in the Crusades is interesting and instructive, and even if the study does not satisfy the student that modern Templarism is founded on that ancient system of knighthood, it will at least give him and idea of the moral caliber of the members of the order, ancient and modern. It seems generally conceded that the first Commandery of Knights Templar in the United States was that which existed in Charleston, S.C. in 1783. This was a self-created, and although a regularly organized Templar body, worked without a charter. The oldest chartered commander is that of St. John's Commandery No. 1, of Providence, R.I., organized in 1802. The first Grand Encampment or Commandery was that of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, organized on May 6, 1805. Thereafter, Grand Commanderies, from time to time, were organized in different states, and on November 16, 1893, was organized the Grand Commandery of Arizona.

ARIZONA COMMANDERY NO. 1 K.T.

This Commandery has its home in Tucson. On February 2, 1883, a meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, Tucson, when a petition was drawn up praying the Grand Commandery of the Grand Encampment of the United States to grant a dispensation for the formation of the Arizona Commandery. The petition was signed by Sir Knights residing in Tucson, who were affiliated with Commanderies in California, Nevada, Wisconsin, Ohio, Missouri, Washington, D.C., Illinois, New York, Michigan, and Arkansas. The officers named for this new Commandery were Ansel Mellin Bragg, Commander; Merrill Pingree Freeman, Generalissimo; and George Wiley Brown, Captain General. A dispensation dated February 22, 1883, issued by M.E. Sir Benjamin Dean, Grand Commander, was duly received and was proclaimed at the first conclave, which was held on March 16, 1883. Arizona Commandery was then opened in due form, and twenty-two petitions for the orders were received. On April 23, 1883, James McCandless Elliott, Geo. James Roskruge, Robert Lloyd, and Henry Davis Russell were created companions of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross. The following evening John Tabor Alsop and Newell Herrick were also created companions, and both dubbed Knights Templar the next evening. A charter was received from the Grand Encampment on August 23, 1883, and No. 1 was fairly started on its good

work, and since has rolled up a membership of brave and bold knights now hovering around the century number. The Grand Commandery of Arizona has been supplied from the ranks of the Pioneer Commandery with no less than five Grand Commanders, to-wit: Sir George James Roskruge, Sir John McQuaid Ormsby, Sir George Shand, Sir Thomas Owen Rouse, and Sir Richard Lee Fuller.

Reprinted from A History of Freemasonry in the State of Arizona, Henry J. Lloyd, ed. (1912).

CALVARY COMMANDERY NO. 8 ASCENSION DAY OBSERVANCE



Calvary Commandery No. 8 of Winslow presented an Ascension Day Observance on May 13th for the stated meeting of Chalcedony Lodge No. 6, Holbrook. Presenting the Flag are SK Peter Johnson, PGC, SK Frank Edens, PGC, and SK Richard Young, PC. Those uniformed Sir Knights participating in the Observance were SK Peter Johnson, PGC, SK Frank Edens, PGC, SK Richard Young, PC, SK Harry Hoppe, PC, KTCH, and SK Dean Powell, PC. In attendance were members of Chalcedony Lodge No. 6 and Liberty Chapter No. 23 OES of Holbrook and their families.

