



Knight Templar

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"MOTHER AND CHILD"

The above is a drawing by the wife of Sir Knight Walter G. Finch of Baltimore, Md. © 1961 Mary Roberts Finch, Catonsville, Md.

A Message From the Grand Master - -



WILBER M. BRUCKER, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment

that Templary stands stoutly by the Christian Church. Whether we march to church or not, duty requires every Commandery to have a church-related program.

2. Religious Sunday. Selection of a special Sunday for church attendance by the Commandery gives impulse to the Cause. Ascension Sunday, Easter, Hospitalers Sunday and Christmas are so closely woven around the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Risen Lord, that each one of these dates is an appropriate time to unfurl our Beauceant to public gaze, and to challenge the forces of evil by our attendance in large numbers at a church service.

3. Grand Commandery Participation. Divine service is just as central to the Annual Conclave as the Annual Parade. Both proclaim our allegiance to the Great Captain of our Salvation. Divine Service is geared to putting God first in actual reality. Divine Service is an opportunity which no Knight Templar should be allowed to miss.

4. Christian Burial. Believing as we do in the immortality of the soul, who can bring greater comfort to the widow and next of kin of a deceased Frater than Knights Templar who have served with him in the ranks? What could be more appropriate in such an hour than to conduct the beautiful Commandery Memorial Service, in cooperation with a Christian clergyman?

While individual religious conviction and strong devotion are indispensable in a Templar's daily life, the effect of **group action** is simply tremendous—not only upon the community, but upon each Knight Templar who participates. Our great battle song exalts the importance of the Christian Church in these words:

“Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the Saints have trod,
We are not divided, all one Body we,
One in hope and doctrine; one in charity;
Onward Christian Soldiers, marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus going on before.”

When Masonry crosses the threshold of the Commandery, it becomes Christian. Templary is not solely a fraternal brotherhood. In addition to their fraternal ties, Knights Templar have solemnly pledged to advance Christ's Kingdom on Earth. We are endowed with a sense of mission which transcends all ordinary fraternal objectives, and commits us to support Christ's Church. It is not enough to say we “favor” good ethics and morals. We stand for these, but we stand for vastly more! The Order of Knighthood requires that we live up to the high calling of Christ in our lives; that we take out stand as Christian warriors in the fierce struggle against evil in every-day life; and that we support the Christian Church with all the zeal we possess.

Since we profess these principles, it behooves us to consider a few of the methods of **group-action** to put them into practical application.

1. Attendance. Church attendance by a Commandery in full Templar uniform with chapeau and swords, makes an impact that nothing else can approach. In some places, a Commandery marches to church, thus affording a practical example to the community

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Challenge Of Our Incredible Christmas

By HOWARD R. TOWNE, D.D. — G.P. of Grand Encampment

Once again our cold and dreary world is experiencing the warmth of our incredible Christmas. What an hour it was, long ago, when the heavens stood breathless and God's Son left his Father's glory to share our lives with all the attendant suffering, calamity, fear and sin. Out of the night a blazing Star shone in the sky over Palestine. Its silver beam pointed like a great searchlight to a baby in a manger. Cradled there in some hay, lay the Captain of our Salvation and the resurrection of hope for human hearts. This was the moment to which all the ancient world looked forward, and to which the modern world looks back.

What a way for God to invade our world! No royal fanfare. No proclamation. It was all done so quietly. "How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift was given." Yet once you have the picture you can't forget it. A Prince, yes a Redeemer, born in a cattle barn! He who was the Prince of Heaven stooped low to become a Son of man that we might become the sons of God. "Incredible!" we cry. No wonder the nations turn aside each year to remember the glorious event. Everybody celebrates Christmas. The enchanting season gathers into its exciting compass the Christian and the non-Christian, and for a short time dispels the ugly realities of this earth, and life is transformed with glowing splendor. No wonder we say, "Incredible!"

Incredible means astonishing, fantastic, hard-to-believe, too-good-to-be-true, paradoxical, miraculous. Sir Knights, Almighty God born as a babe in a manger is miraculous! Don't you ever doubt it. How incredible it is that the Prince of Heaven should agree to become the Saviour of men; that He who was the creator of all things should condescend to be born of woman; that He who sat on a great white throne in glorious majesty should agree to be born in a bleak, Bethlehem barn! One writer says, "The

wonder of His Being, the glory of His Incarnation, beggars all human speech."

You remember the messenger of God said, "This shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." That was all. How utterly different from the mythological tales which tell of the entrance into this world of ancient emperors, who became legendary supermen!

Christ did not descend as a fabulous, flaming, creature from the skies, but was born amid circumstances of greatest poverty and discomfort. He came as a helpless little One, lying in a food trough, from which cattle daily received their hay. This was the sign of our Saviour! When the story of Christ's amazing birth was first told abroad, it is written, "And all they that heard it wondered!" Of course they did. Wonder is inescapable when the simplicity and the mystery of Christ's coming first dawns upon us. What Matthew says about this is also so expressive. When he quoted Isaiah's prophecy, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call his name Immanuel," he was inspired to add this simple explanation, "Immanuel," which being interpreted means, "God with us."

Sir Knights, I am so thankful for that interpretation, for without it the word, "Immanuel" would not mean much more to us than to say, "Thou shall call his name George." But the explanation makes the sacred page light up like a dreary morning in late December when the sun suddenly explodes and illuminates the eastern sky, warm with joy, and bright with hope. "Immanuel — God with us!" Those three words sum up the Christmas fact, the most incredible and important fact that ever happened. St. John puts it another way. He says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory." What a declaration! Both of these momentous

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statements mean that the living God, who made this Universe, who put the stars in their places, who formed the earth, who made your life and holds it in His Hands; this same living God came down to earth, took upon Himself human flesh, and became bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. Our God has come to us! This is the incredible fact! He has come to share our human plight, to fight our tempter, to bear with us our burdens and redeem us from the destructive forces of sin and death. Our God is not far away, transcendent and untouchable. He is available! This is the most earth shaking news ever to come to human ears. God is with us! How wonderful! The personal, creative, redemptive God is actually with us, the pilgrim of our journey and the companion of our days.

Some years ago, in December, two missionaries were imprisoned in Korea by Chinese Communists. Their possessions had been confiscated and the two men were placed in a dismal cell and were not permitted to speak to each other. Wakening early one morning, one of them remembered it was Christmas. He had been keeping track of the days by marks on the wall. This missionary wanted very much to give a Christmas greeting to his friend across the room but dared not alarm the guard. Then he had an idea. Pulling several pieces of straw from his bedroll he set them up beside them, carefully spelling out the word "Immanuel." Suddenly, a great smile lighted up the face of the other missionary as the wonderful word, "Immanuel," reached his sagging spirits. And there, in that dreary prison, Christmas carols began to sing in the hearts of these men. Later, when they were released, these men were able to tell their families of the comfort of that Christmas, with no gifts, no home joys, but the real meaning experienced—God available, to share the common strife and the common lot.

Sir Knights, at this Christmas time, as through the ages, our great Captain Christ is available. He stands ready to enter human hearts and make His

abode there. But so many still shut Him out, send Him to the stable, as did the innkeeper. Christmas always challenges us with this thought:

"Though Christ in Bethlehem a thousand times be born,

If He's not born in thee, thy soul is all forlorn."

Here is the core of the Christmas message: The Incarnation must be repeated in the life of every one of us. The Christ must be born afresh in us through faith, and the human heart is the manger. The angel's song must echo in our hearts as it did over the fields of bethlehem.

When the angel proclaimed our Saviour's birth he said, "This shall be a sign unto you." As Sir Knights, we also have a Sign which we wear on our breasts near our hearts—a Cross. Let us never forget that Christ, the Messiah, who was born in an animal feeding trough in the stench of an eastern stable, died in loneliness and dereliction on a Cross, having drunk to the bitter dregs the cup of human tears for our salvation. Christmas should reach to the Cross, and His Cross should challenge us to exalted deeds, as surely as it did Constantine and his crusaders when it first appeared in the heavens. In the pageantry of the Crusades, in the humanity of the Hospitalers and in the chivalry of modern knighthood, the Cross was, and is, an ever present sign of our divine leader. There are today, more than ever before, the pagans of fear and frustration, selfishness and materialism to war against! In the sign of the Saviour, let us conquer and become victors over our inner lives. There are today the infidels of indifference and criticisms of the Word of God to be driven back! In the sign of the Saviour let us show renewed loyalty to the liberating truths of His divine revelation! There are today the Saracens of insidious pleasure and careless living to win us away from stern duty, but in the Sign of the Saviour may we be given grace to conquer the subtleties of evil and combat the moral crisis in our country. There are today millions of persecuted

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and dispossessed victims of Communist captive countries. In the Sign of our Saviour let us contend against this false and godless ideology and stop its surge. May the challenge of Christmas awaken the urgent responsibility that each Christian Knight must accept, to keep Calvary's Cross before the eyes of the world.

Our Blessed Immanuel invaded our troubled world and changed all things. Life will never be the same again. May we, at this sacred season, renew our vows of allegiance to Him, with courage and determination, and go forth with a fresh vision of the Templar possibilities for Christendom. May we lift Christ's banner, with its sacred Sign, higher than ever before

Henry Robert Grochau, P.G.C. Of Minn. Leaves Part Of Fortune To K.T. Eye And Education Foundations

A Past Grand Commander of Minnesota has exemplified his devotion to the principles of the Order of Knights Templar even in death, probate of his will in St. Paul, Minn., revealed in October. He was Henry Robert Grochau who died Dec. 26, 1963, at the age of 90.

His will provides 5 per cent shares of his residuary estate each to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and to the Knights Templar Education Foundation in addition to similar bequests to other Masonic organizations dedicated to human welfare.

He served as Grand Commander of Minnesota from 1926 to 1927, Sir Knight William H. Spry, present Grand Commander, notes.

Though one would hardly expect a railway clerk to become a millionaire, Mr. Grochau achieved that distinction. His estate inventory lists at \$1,951,604. After bequests to two sons reduce this amount by \$200,000, the 5 per cent shares total about \$87,500. This will help many in being brought "from darkness unto light," and assist many young people in furthering their education.

During his 52 years as freight claims agent for the Chicago and North Western Railroad this solid citizen watched early investment of a few hundred dollars burgeon into a fortune. It was in 1902, as a young family man, he got together the money to purchase 371 shares of Minnesota Mining and

Manufacturing Co. stock. Three-M shares cost \$1 each then, but economists will tell you the equivalent in today's inflated currency is several times that amount.

Throughout his long life Mr. Grochau kept a lively interest in Masonry. Other organizations benefiting besides the Eye and Education Foundations are the Twin Cities unit of Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children and the Minnesota Masonic Home.

His wide concern for sound values showed also in bequests to the Lexington Parkway Presbyterian Church of St. Paul and to the American Red Cross.

Relatives indicated he enjoyed life to the full, paying winter visits to his sons in Tennessee and California from his home, after his wife's death years ago, at the St. Paul Athletic Club. He saw the University of Minnesota football games and drove his own car until the time of his death.

IN MEMORIAM

Maine

Paul Revere Baird, G. C., 1945—
October 7, 1964

Montana

Robert Lowell Watkins, G. C., 1953
—August 21, 1964

Tennessee

Robert Lee Ramey, Sr., G. C., 1963
—October 14, 1964

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General Grand Chapter O. E. S. — Cooperating Division Of Eye Foundation



MRS. JOSEPHINE H. BROWNING

Mrs. Josephine Harkins Browning (Mrs. Iley B.), of Henderson, Kentucky, was installed in a most beautiful and impressive ceremony as the Most Worthy Grand Matron of the General Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, and Walter L. Fowler of the District of Columbia was installed as the Most Worthy Grand Patron at the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Chapter held in Dallas, Texas, November 22-26, 1964.

Mrs. Iley Baker Browning was born in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, and is the daughter of the late Walter S. Harkins and Josephine Davidson Harkins. She was married in 1923 to Iley B. Browning, prominent geologist and oil producer of Ashland and Henderson, Kentucky, and is the mother of two sons, Iley Baker Browning, Jr., and Walter Scott Browning.

Mrs. Browning is a member of the First Methodist Church, Prestonsburg, Kentucky; Director and Chairman of the Board of the Bank Josephine of that city; member of the National Association of Bank Women, Inc. She is an accomplished singer and musician

and a member of many musical clubs and organizations.

Mrs. Browning is a member of Adah Chapter No. 24, Kentucky, O.E.S. and served as its Worthy Matron. She was elected to serve as Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, O.E.S. in 1942, and in 1955 was elected to the office of Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress of the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, which office automatically leads to the top office of the World Organization, Order of the Eastern Star.

The newly installed Most Worthy Grand Matron has held the highest offices, and is the recipient of many honors in the Daughters of the American Revolution, and related organizations. Many other honors, local, state, national and international have been bestowed upon her, bringing reflected glory to her home town, her state of Kentucky, and to the World Wide Order of the Eastern Star.

Among the first announcements made by Mrs. Browning was that during her term of office as Most Worthy Grand Matron for the period of three years, 1964 to 1967, that Great Humanitarian Charity, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., would be one of their major projects and thus the General Grand Chapter O.E.S. would become a Cooperating Division thereof.

The Most Worthy Grand Matron stated, "My selection of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Project was because of my father, Walter S. Harkins', of Prestonsburg, Kentucky, great love for the Knights Templar, and from my own personal experience of facing complete blindness. I shall dedicate what influence I may have for a great measure toward a creditable financial consideration for this project."

The General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, covers the world with the exception of Scotland, New

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York and New Jersey.

The General Grand Chapter has a total of 12,876 Chapters with a total membership of over three million members.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., a tax exempt non-profit corporation is sponsored by the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America, in continuous existence since 1816 and having jurisdiction over all the Knights Templar of the 50 states comprising the United States, the District of Columbia, and commanderies in all of our possessions and seven foreign countries.

OBJECTIVES

Its objectives are for Research, Surgical Treatment and Hospitalization of those who suffer from diseases

or injury to the eye which if untreated might result in blindness, and for the correction of strabismus, cross eyes, in children.

Admission for treatment of such persons shall be without regard to race, creed, color, age, sex or national origin. The treatment of patients for this purpose shall be free and limited to persons unable to pay, or to those who cannot receive assistance from Welfare, M.A.A., State Aid or other organizations.

NOTE: Over 8300 applications for surgery and hospitalization have been processed at a cost of nearly two and a half million dollars (\$2,500,000).

In addition thereto five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) has been allocated in grants to various Medical Colleges for research into Ophthalmology.

A meeting under the direction of the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Mrs. Josephine Harkins Browning was held on Friday morning, November 27, 1964, attended by the General Grand Chapter Line Officers, General Grand Chapter Committees, Officers and Members of the Order of the Eastern Star throughout the World.

General Walter A. DeLamater, Executive Director of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., addressed the meeting and presented each one present with a specially prepared pamphlet.

Harry L. Beach, Past Grand Commander, Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, District of Columbia, and Past Grand Patron, Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of the District of Columbia, has been appointed by the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Mrs. Josephine Harkins Browning as the General Chairman for the Eastern Star for this Great Humanitarian Charity. His address is 714 Sligo Avenue, Apt. 101, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

The Administrative Office of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., is at 30 East Market Street, (P. O. Box 248), Rhinebeck, New York 12572.



Sir Knight Walter Scott Harkins of Prestonburg, Kentucky, father of the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Josephine Harkins Browning (Mrs. Hey B.) This photograph was taken 60 years ago.

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Arkansas And Kentucky Hold Successful York Rite Festivals

ARKANSAS YORK RITE FESTIVAL



GOVERNOR ORVAL E. FAUBUS RECEIVES YORK RITE DEGREES AND ORDERS IN WALTER H. ESTES MEMORIAL CLASS A great day for York Rite Masonry in Arkansas.

The Walter H. Estes Memorial Class was held in Little Rock, Arkansas in the Albert Pike Masonic Temple on October 17, 1964.

This day honored the memory of Walter Henderson Estes, P. G. C. of the Grand Commandery of K. T. of Arkansas, and an ardent and dedicated York Rite Mason. It proved to be of great interest to all York Rite Masons in Arkansas. There were 88 in the class, from all parts of the state, and including Governor Orval E. Faubus, who received all of the York Rite Degrees and Orders. Masons from all over the state came to not only take part in this memorial class, but to do honor to the memory of Walter Estes.

The York Rite Advancement Committee for Arkansas, composed of the Committees on Capitular Advancement, on Cryptic Advancement, and on Templar Advancement, sponsored this great class.

The work started at 8:00 a. m. and the Degrees of the Chapter and Council, to-

gether with the Orders of Christian Knighthood, were all conferred in one day and evening. Luncheon and dinner were served in the Temple. A special dedication service to the memory of Walter Estes was given by Dr. R. D. Adams, Past Commander, Hugh de Payens Commandery, and by Bro. Frank A. Smith, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge F & AM of Arkansas. Mrs. Estes and her son were present to receive the memorials. A special painting of Sir Knight Estes, together with his Past Grand Commander's Jewel, were loaned to the York Rite Bodies for display in the archives.

Truman Nolen, Eminent Commander of Hugh de Payens Commandery, was Chairman of the General Committee, with Hal Moore, Grand Junior Warden, and Kenneth Johnson, P. G. C., forming the General Committee. It was a great day for York Rite Masonry in Arkansas.

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KENTUCKY YORK RITE FESTIVAL



Front Row Center: Otho F. Ward, G. H. P.; Joseph E. Martin, G. C. (in uniform); Joe E. McClanahan, G. M. of Masons; William S. Conaway, M. I. G. M. (in uniform).

The first Kentucky all-state York Rite Festival was held in Louisville, November 13 and 14, 1964, and all degrees and orders of the York Rite of Freemasonry were conferred.

The class for the chapter degrees numbered thirty and the class for the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master numbered thirty-five, with fifty-five receiving the degree of Super Excellent Master. The class receiving the three orders of Templary numbered thirty-four.

Ashland Commandery No. 28, K.T., who conferred the Order of the Temple, traveled across the state a distance of 212 miles and return to confer this Order, bringing all their equipment and paraphernalia.

The festival was held in the beautiful Scottish Rite Temple, furnished through the courtesy of the Grand Consistory of Kentucky, A. & A. S. R. Dinner was served each evening by the Scottish Rite Guard.

The heads of the four York Rite Grand Bodies were present and participated in the program. Joseph E.

Martin, G.C.; William S. Conaway, Grand Master, R. & S. M.; Otho F. Ward, Grand High Priest, R.A.M.; and Joe C. McClanahan, Grand Master, Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., who was the speaker at the banquet the final evening. Many other Grand Officers were present.

The area of Kentucky is too big to expect York Rite Masons in large numbers to come from the four corners of the state to attend or participate, and in future years it is quite likely that the York Rite Festivals will be conducted in each of nine areas, of which the Grand Commandery has nine districts, the Grand Council has nine arches and the Grand Chapter has nine zones for their thirty-two districts.

Sir Knight William S. Conaway, M.I.G.M., was the General Chairman.

Those in attendance were enthusiastic and loud in their praises of the excellence of the degree work and the fine fellowship.

Wylie B. Wendt,

Kentucky Correspondent

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Distribution of Rituals

(General Order No. 2)

..NOW, THEREFORE, I HEREBY PROCLAIM THAT THE FOLLOWING RULES SHALL GOVERN THE DISTRIBUTION OF RITUALS:

(1) That all Standing Resolutions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, United States of America, on the subject of the distribution of Rituals, have been and are repealed;

(2) That all Grand Commanderies are authorized and shall have the right to purchase from the Grand Encampment all Rituals now in their possession, both loaned and leased, for \$2.00 each;

(3) That all Grand Commanderies are authorized and all have the right to purchase from the Grand Encampment up to 15 new Rituals for \$2.00 each, without exchange, for each new Constituent Commandery constituted after August 25, 1964;

(4) That all Grand Commanderies are authorized and shall have the right to purchase from the Grand Encampment new Rituals for \$5.00 each, provided, that there shall be an allowance of \$3.00 per Ritual for each leased or loaned Ritual, which shall have been purchased by them under the provisions of Item (2) above, and tendered by them for exchange, making the net cost \$2.00 for such Ritual;

(5) Constituent Commanderies shall not deal directly with the Grand Encampment for the purchase of either new or old rituals or the exchange thereof, but all such purchases of either new or old rituals or the exchange thereof for or on behalf of Constituent Commanderies shall be accomplished exclusively by the Grand Commanderies.

(6) That all Subordinate Commanderies of the Grand Encampment shall have the same rights as are hereinabove accorded to Grand Commanderies, including the purchase of Rituals for new Subordinate Commanderies constituted after August 25, 1964, and for the purchase of Rituals now in their possession, as well as for new Rituals, as hereinabove provided for Grand Commanderies in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this General Order.

All Officers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America and all Officers of the several Grand Commanderies, as well as all Officers of all Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies shall govern themselves in accordance with the foregoing provisions.



Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, at Detroit, Michigan, this 24th day of October, A.D. 1964, A.O. 846.

Courteously,

Attest:

WILBER M. BRUCKER, *Grand Master*
JOHN TEMPLE RICE, *Grand Recorder*

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Columbian Palestine Commandery No. 1, K.T. Constituting Ceremonies — New York City



Installation of Officers of Columbian Palestine Commandery: (l. to r.): John Brett Langstaff, Acting Grand Prelate; Samuel T. Farmer, P. G. C. and Grand Chaplain, G. C. of District of Columbia; Gordon J. Brenner, G. C. of New Jersey; Charles J. Chandler, Acting Generalissimo; Edward Holloway, Past Dept. Comm., Installing Officer; Bernard Whitehurst, Prelate; Edward Holloway, Jr., Commander; William T. Moree, Capt. Gen.; Howard L. Adams, G. C. of New York; J. George Lang, P. G. C.; and Warren H. Deck, D. G. C.

The evening of Tuesday, September 15th, marked an historic event second to none in Templary in New York State. That evening before a record group of Sir Knights, Howard L. Adams, G.C., K.T. of New York and his staff constituted a new Commandery to be known as Columbian Palestine Commandery No. 1, K.T. The formation of this new Commandery was the result of a merger following six years of continual effort on the part of the memberships of Columbian Commandery No. 1 and Palestine Commandery No. 18. The new Commandery will retain the old charter formerly issued to Columbian Commandery No. 1 when it was originally constituted December 10, 1810. The charter of Palestine Commandery No. 18, constituted June 4, 1851, was retired to the Archives of the Grand Commandery. Following

the constituting ceremonies, J. George Lang, P.G.C., presided over the election of officers. Edward Holloway, Jr., P.C., was elected Commander; Kenneth Haile, Gen.; William T. Moree, C. Gen.; Fred G. Coleman, P.C., and P.G.R., Treasurer and Benjamin T. R. Balch, P.C., Recorder.

The installation ceremony was conducted in due form. Edward Holloway, Past Department Commander North Atlantic Department Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, and father of the new Commander installed the newly elected and appointed officers. Immediately following the ceremonies, the new Commander immediately formed a committee which will seek additional mergers with other Commanderies in the metropolitan New York area.

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SUGGESTED LETTER

COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT DUES

Dear Sir Knight:

I feel sure that you have enjoyed your membership in our Commandery. We are certainly pleased to count you one of the members and will always appreciate your support and active participation in the affairs of Commandery.

It has been called to my attention that you have not paid your dues for the year, amounting to Your check in the amount of will place you in good standing for the current year.

Our earliest teachings in Masonry point out our duty to pay our dues so that our great Order may live and progress. Your Commandery needs your regular support to carry on its program. Feeling sure that there is some very good reason why you have not been able to make payment, or that it is an oversight on your part, due to demands on your time, this is written to advise you of our concern for the status of your standing in our Commandery.

If there are any reasons, based on personal hardship or extenuating circumstances, which have prevented you from keeping your dues on a current basis, please do not hesitate to tell me so in order that proper steps may be taken to relieve you of this responsibility until you are in a position to reassume your obligations.

Your Commandery is interested in your welfare, and of course would like to have you attend our meetings when it is possible for you to do so. If you are unable to attend your own Commandery, we hope that you will visit with the Sir Knights of the Commandery nearest to you.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience, and look forward to seeing you in Commandery in the very near future.

Courteously yours,

(Signed)

Eminent Commander (or Recorder)

(Submitted by George A. Weeks,
Grand Recorder, Mass. & R. I.)

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, at this sacred season when we remember the birth of Thy Son, our Saviour, we rejoice in this unspeakable gift of Thy love, the giving of the Child of Bethlehem, who became the great Captain of our Salvation. We approach this season not in solemnity but in great joy, for the blessings which were poured out upon us the first Christmas, were numberless. Grant us Thy grace during this Christmastide that with the Heavenly Messengers we may give glory to God in the highest and show forth His good will to men. Give us, O God, both the lowly faith of the shepherds, and the wisdom of the Magi that we may be among those to whom is given the privilege of seeing the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. May we welcome Christ into our hearts, and may all selfishness be cast out by His coming into our souls. O God, may the same holy compassion that led thee to send Thy beloved Son to save us, move us to deeds of charity and beneficence that no child or needy widow may be cold or hungry at this time or any other because Knighthood was unfaithful. As the light of another Christmas dawns let all Sir Knights arise brave and zealous and obedient to Thee, ready for greater service; for we pray in His Name who was a child and a man and Thy Son.

AMEN

**Howard R. Towne, D.D.—
G.P. of Grand Encampment**

THE YORK RITE

The York Rite takes its name from the ancient English city of York, around whose cathedral cluster many Masonic traditions. Here, those traditions tell us, Athelstan, a British king, was converted to Christianity, and nearly a thousand years ago granted the original charter to the Masonic guilds. Here a Grand Lodge was formed and functioned for perhaps a half-century, to whose constitution the Grand Lodge in London appealed as the true source of authentic Freemasonry. Though early disappearing from the Masonic scene this Grand Lodge left an indelible impression upon the Masonic institution, and its name —York—will survive.

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From Our Readers

DISTINGUISHED MASONS AT RECENT GRAND COMMANDERY CONCLAVE OF MASS. & R. I.



(Left to Right): John L. Crofts, Sr., Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment K. T. of U. S. A.; Most Wor. A. Neill Osgood, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts; Louis A. Beaudoin, G. C. of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Mass. and R. I.; and John B. Cottrell, P. G. C. of Penna. and Dept. Comm. of the N. E. Dept. of the Grand Encampment K. T. of U. S. A.

A very unusual recognition was paid to C. Byron Lear, Past Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment, when he was recently honored by the Grand Commandery of New Jersey. A beautiful scroll was presented to him making him an honorary member of each Commandery of the State of New Jersey. The name of the Commandery was inscribed on the scroll and each Commander signed.

Beaver Valley Commandery, Pennsylvania, recently honored Paul Miller Moore, P.G.M. of the Grand Encampment, at a testimonial banquet. More

than 300 distinguished guests, Sir Knights, and ladies were in attendance.

TEMPLE COMMANDERY NO. 4 CELEBRATES 100th ANNIVERSARY

On Sept. 26, 1964 the white plumes and glittering swords of the Knights Templars were very much in evidence in the city of Des Moines as Temple Commandery No. 4 celebrated its 100th anniversary. The celebration began with a full scale parade through downtown Des Moines featuring units of Za-Ga-Zig Shrine, floats, clustered flags and many, many, marching knights, led by Temple Commandery's own drum and bugle corps.

After the parade Temple Commandery was opened and a prize winning drill team from Godfrey de Bullion Commandery No. 24 of Trenton, Missouri conferred the first section of the Order of the Temple, with William R. Robbins, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Missouri, presiding.

At 6 p.m. work ceased and the crowd of approximately four hundred persons gathered in the dining room of the Masonic Temple for the centennial banquet. James F. Milligan, General Chairman of the Centennial Committee presided as toastmaster and introduced the distinguished guests. Sir Knight Robbins introduced the distinguished guests from Missouri and then turned the microphone over to Dr. F. Curtis Cox, Eminent Commander of Godfrey de Bullion Commandery, who presented the drill team and other members of his commandery.

Merlin S. Rufer, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Iowa, introduced his Grand Officers and the Past Grand Commanders of Iowa. D. W. Rayburn, Grand High Priest of Iowa R.A.M. was presented and introduced his Grand Chapter Officers. Rex E. Evans, P.C. of Temple Commandery, gave a concise history of Temple Commandery from its founding until the present day with many humorous sidelights.

"Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar"



Standing (l. to r.): William R. Robbins, G. C. of Missouri; F. Curtis Cox, Comm. of Godfrey De Bullion Commandery No. 24, Trenton, Missouri; Frank N. Parr, Comm. of Temple Commandery, No. 4, Des Moines, Iowa; and Merlin S. Rufer, G. C. of Iowa.

Sir Knight Milligan then introduced the centennial committee consisting of Claude K. Bradley, VEDGC of Iowa, Frank Parr, Commander, Wm. C. Albright, Recorder, Jack K. Miller, Clarence M. Brown, Marion Wilson, and Jerald E. Marsengill.

After dinner, while the ladies were entertained with games and contests, the Knights repaired to the asylum where the Commandery was opened in full form by Godfrey de Bullion Commandery No. 24. Eminent Commander Sir Frank N. Parr then received the distinguished guests from both Iowa and Missouri, and Sir Knight Robbins completed the conferring of the Order of the Temple.

Sir Knight Robbins gave the lectures and attributes and requested Sir Jerald E. Marsengill, a former member of his commandery, to present roses to the candidates and give the Missouri rose lecture, after which Sir Knight Marsengill returned the commandery to Eminent Commander Parr, who then closed.

On Sunday, September 27th, at 7:30 a.m., a centennial breakfast, concluding the celebration, was served in the Country Kitchen of the Kirkwood Hotel to the distinguished visitors, officers and Past Commanders of Temple Commandery.

James F. Milligan, Correspondent

HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY (INCLUDING KNIGHT TEMPLARY), by Dr. Calvin I. Kephart. Publisher: Henry L. Geddie Co., 358 Majestic Bldg., Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Price \$3.50, postpaid.

The continuity of modern Knight Templary including Freemasonry from the original Order of Knights Templar, organized by First Crusaders at Jerusalem in 1118, has been demonstrated by Dr. Calvin I. Kephart, Col. USAR-Ret., Shady Side, Maryland, in his new Concise History of the Order just published by Henry L. Geddie Co., of Fort Worth, Texas. He has intricately traced the various historical aspects of the Order from 1118 down to the time of its suppression, but not dissolution, by a papal bull in 1312, the martyrdom of its Grand Master Jacques de Molay in 1314 by French authorities, its convolution about 1315 at York, England, and subsequent evolution from operative Masonry through speculative Masonry to its present status, with some philosophic facets.

York Rite Bodies of Oregon cooperated in a Council Festival on Saturday, October 31st, at Eugene, at which the Super Excellent Master's Degree was conferred. The heads of the three York Rite Bodies were in attendance. Max G. Cogill, chairman of the committee on Public Relations, says:



From left to right: Gene Caswell, G.H.P.; Harold W. Keep, M. Ill. G.M.; and Harold W. Given, G.C.

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"While we have three separate secretaries and recorders of the three Grand York Rite Bodies in Oregon, they cooperate and the officers of all three Grand Bodies as well as the subordinate or local bodies, cooperate in all York Rite programs in the state and local area."

Grice Commandery No. 16, Virginia, received Walter H. Stanford on October 26, 1964.



Miss Jo Anna Ryals, Honor Queen; (Left to right): Mrs. Forbes and her husband, Luther E. Forbes, Eminent Commander; Walter H. Stanford, G. C. of Virginia, and Mrs. Stanford.

A large number of Templars were present for the official visit of the Grand Commander. The evening was unusual in itself, in that twelve petitions were presented for first reading and at the close of the Conclave, Bethel No. 33 of Job's Daughters performed for an audience of both ladies and Sir Knights. A delightful banquet preceded the Conclave, with Mr. Stanford being entertained by a number of Commandery ladies.

G. J. Butcher, P.G.C., Correspondent

YORK RITE OF HONOLULU ACTIVE

The York Rite Bodies of Honolulu held their FIRST EVER York Rite Festival on October 29-30-31 and had 29 candidates for the Chapter and Council and 30 for the Commandery.

These bodies are now promoting the building of a York Rite Temple and as a part of the campaign to raise

funds are offering a special pocket piece (a real beautiful York Rite PENNY) to anyone wishing to contribute.

Kansas Bulletin and News Letter
—Nov. 12

Knights Templar work for closer relations between Masons and Knights of Columbus—New York.

The members of the Schenectady Council No. 201 Knights of Columbus were the guests of the Fellowcraft Club of New Hope Lodge No. 730, F. & A. M. After a tour of the temple in which the lodge rooms were shown to the Knights of Columbus the joint group met and enjoyed a talk given by Vernon K. Bailey, special agent in charge of the Albany Bureau of the FBI, who spoke on "The Crime Problem." Approximately 60 Masons and Knights of Columbus attended this evening of good fellowship sponsored by the Masons and spearheaded by Knights Templars and a prospective Knight Templar, the present leader of New Hope Fellowcraft Club.



Seated, left to right, Gordon F. Knowlton, president of New Hope Fellowcraft Club and Charles Reedy, Council No. 201, K. of C. Standing, Carlton A. Newton, P.C., St. Georges No. 37, K.T., and arrangements chairman for the club; Joseph F. Gamage, District Deputy for the Rensselaer-Schenectady District of Masons; Edward F. Cape, New Hope Fellowcraft member; and James F. Todd, Grand Knight of Council No. 201, K. of C.

Carlton A. Newton

"Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar"

GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE

To the Christmas Toast of 1964

. For us, there is a cause to serve. Its duties demand complete fidelity to the everlasting principles. There is no room for a divided allegiance. We serve God and the Great Captain of Our Salvation, or we serve a lustful materialism which is destructive of those fine disciplines which are Christianity and Templary in action.

Christianity and Templary united are a formidable bulwark against the hosts of wickedness and ignorance. How sturdily they stand will depend upon their rank and file. Templary leagued with the Christian Church may be the decisive element in winning the struggle for the earth and all that is in it. We are called to choose sides in a power play for the minds and bodies of humanity.

In the confines of home, or meeting place, read aloud the chronicles of His birth. Ponder the meaning of the Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 2, Verses 1-20; likewise the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 2, Verses 1-12. Repair to the church of your choice and to Commandery Asylum on Christmas Day, there to reaffirm your allegiance to Him.

My charge to Sir Knights this Christmas is to raise high the banner of Christ, higher than ever before. We need so desperately—for the sake of mankind—to revitalize our moral and spiritual senses. Only if this we do can we bequeath to the next generation the great heritage of a free America, a land hospitable to the good will proclaimed by the Heavenly Host, a light to groping men, women and children wherever they be.

I covet much for Templary. If we fail, we fail God, Country and mankind.

May God bless and inspire Knights Templar and their households to the high challenge which is Christmas in its real significance. Your Grand Master wishes for all of the family of Templary a full and meaning-purposed Christmas Season. Keep Christ in Christmas!

In Christmas Good Will,
WILBER M. BRUCKER, Grand Master

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