

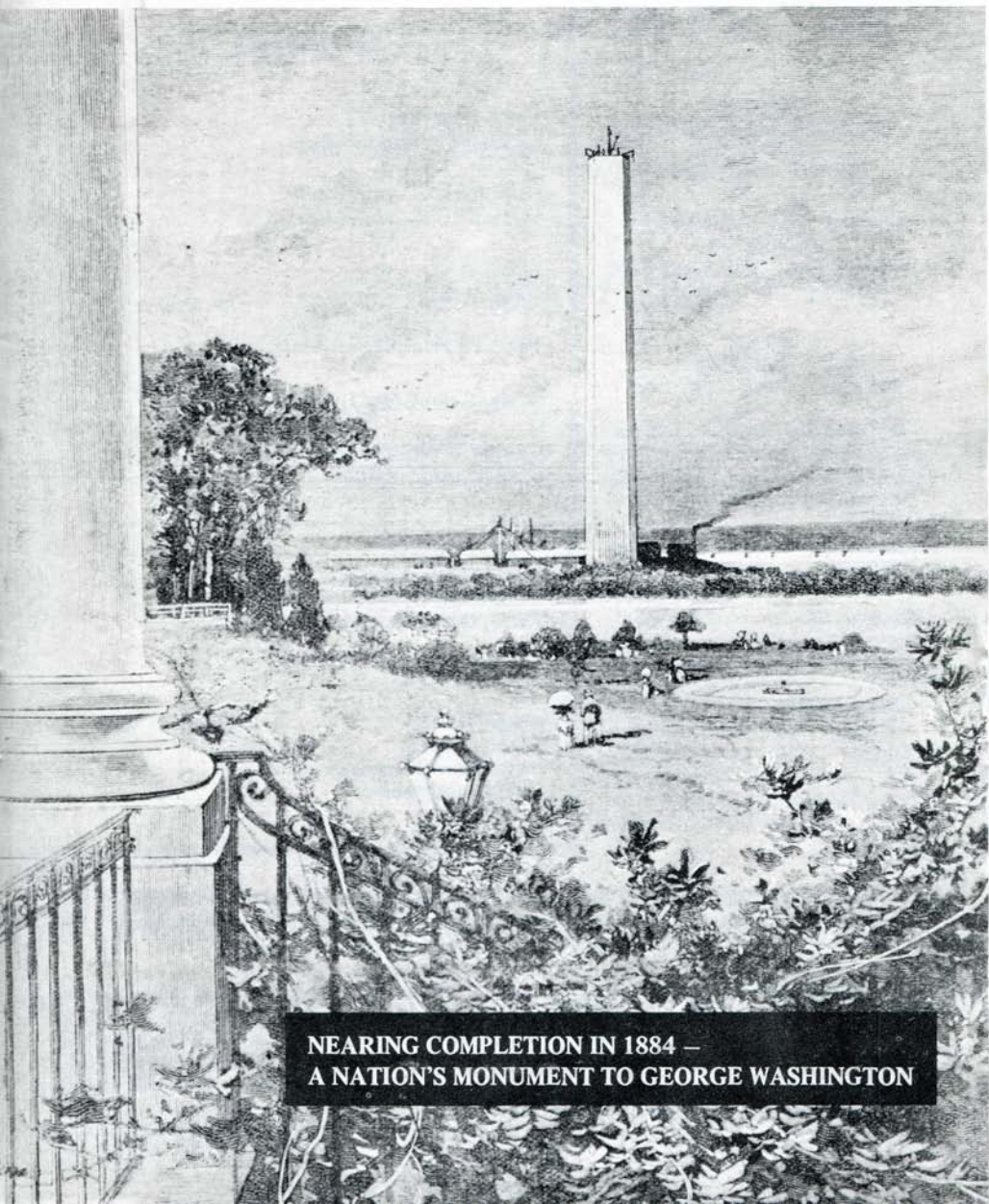


# Knight Templar

VOLUME XX

FEBRUARY 1974

NUMBER 2



NEARING COMPLETION IN 1884 —  
A NATION'S MONUMENT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON

# Knight Templar

FEBRUARY 1974

VOLUME XX NUMBER 2

Official Publication of the Grand  
Encampment of Knights Templar  
of the United States of America.

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**FEBRUARY:** The Historical Picture Service illustration on the cover is a *Harper's Bazaar* sketch from 1884, the year the capstone was placed upon the Washington Monument. The artist shows the Monument as viewed from the lawn of the White House.

Cornerstone laying ceremonies July 4, 1848, were conducted by M.W. Grand Master Samuel B. French, D.C., who two years later became R.E. Grand Recorder of Knights Templar, U.S.A. and was elected to the first of two triennial terms as M.E. Grand Master in 1859. Forty years after the cornerstone ceremonies the 81,120 ton Monument was opened to the public. Millions each year visit this inspiring tribute in stone to our nation's first President, one of the many founding fathers who were Masons.

Paul C. Rodenhauer, Editor

## INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

An encouraging note during the closing period of 1973 was a gain in Templar membership for three successive months in Commanderies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment. This certainly helps to dispel some of the recurrent complaints about the "problem of numbers" in our Order.

These gains are shown by the reports of Recorders of Constituent Commanderies, relayed through their Grand Recorders, also by the Recorders of our 18 Subordinate Commanderies — six in the United States, 12 in West Germany, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guatemala and the Canal Zone.



We have 1,581 Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies in the Grand Encampment. The Recorders of most of these Commanderies are reporting regularly and faithfully on a monthly basis; some are slower to report and, unfortunately, a few are negligent to a degree that tends to negate the conscientious work of the great majority. Also, this keeps the names of some members off the official membership rolls and prevents them from receiving the *Knight Templar Magazine*.

As Grand Master I call upon each Recorder at each level to cooperate fully in the monthly report system. It may appear to be additional work to some, but I assure you — with 100% cooperation — the reporting will cease to be a chore and become a true benefit in saving time and effort for every Commandery. It will aid each Recorder with his Annual Returns, it will eliminate much duplication of effort, it will provide complete Knights Templar Eye Foundation records and other information of value to officers and members — but only if we all work together with the realization that we are charged to maintain accurate membership and activity records, not just a mailing list.

The several months of successive gains do not necessarily indicate that we have turned the corner and that Templar membership is spiraling upwards. It does mean that congratulations and appreciation are in order for the officers and members of the many jurisdictions showing increases in membership — and for the Recorders whose love for our Order leads them to do a thorough job of reporting those gains.

Keep it up. Keep Templary on the Grow with More in '74!

*Roy Wilford Riegle*



# The KNIGHT WRITERS

## COMMENTS FROM READERS



□ Being an avid collector of old watch fobs as worn by our fathers and grandpas, I would like to find some to add to my collection. Many Lodge members may have these fobs in their possession and do not know what to do with them. I would be happy to buy them at a nominal price.

R. T. HOLLEMAN  
1211 South Lewis Place  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104

□ In October 1973 Temple Chapter No. 172, Royal Arch Masons, Dayton, Kentucky, celebrated their 50th anniversary. We still have some of our commemorative coins on sale for \$2.00. They may be obtained by writing to the undersigned.

RONALD GAYLE PARKER, High Priest  
407 Tenth Street  
Dayton, Kentucky 41074

□ Crescent Lodge, Pittsfield, has just celebrated her 100th year as an active Lodge. In commemoration of this event we have had struck a special medal with the Lodge emblem, etc., on it in golden bronze and the size of a silver dollar. We would now like to offer these to all of the brethren that may like to have one. The cost is two dollars a piece and they may be purchased from the undersigned.

STEPHEN J. TWINING, SR.  
77 Chickering Street  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

□ In case any of the Brothers can't find the 17 cent Andrew Johnson stamp for their collection I can furnish them at the following rates: \$.25 for a used stamp, \$.50 for a new stamp and \$3.50 for a mint plate block. Please include a self-addressed, stamped, envelope.

ALLEN E. WOLF  
522 Second Avenue, N.E.  
Waseca, Minnesota 56093

□ Just thought you might be interested in the enclosed clip taken from our local weekly paper. The quote, as you know, appeared on the back cover of the December 1973 *Knight Templar*.

The best to all in 1974 and also to the *Knight Templar Magazine*, which I consider tops in Masonic publications.

KENNETH L. MARSDEN  
48 Jackson Cove Road  
Oxford, Connecticut 06483

*Editor's Note: The reference is to editorial use of "Why were the saints, saints?" by The Newtown Bee (Connecticut).*

□ I have noted Sir Knight F. Gordon Smith's interest in dog tags and his response from readers of the *Knight Templar Magazine*.

He and I have two things in common at least — similarity in name and an interest in collecting. I collect political campaign buttons.

Incidentally, in the beginning everyone's name was Smith and then as they committed their various sins their names were altered . . . This last paragraph may or may not be quotable and I have no authority to quote for its authenticity but I am sure all Smiths would agree that it is true!

GORDON A. SMITH  
P.O. Box 644  
Lansing, Michigan 48903

□ In January Cyril Brubaker, Orange, Massachusetts wrote that he believed he was the only Brubaker in this part of the country. Lt. Carl Brubaker, 13 Bellview Avenue, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, was a World War I war buddy of mine in the 306th Field Signal Battalion, 81st Division. I am sure if Mr. Cyril Brubaker would contact him he would have a lot in common with Lt. Carl Brubaker.

PETER GALANTE  
P.C., Jersey Commandery No. 19  
529 North Grove Street  
East Orange, New Jersey 07017

□ Several years ago one of the Grand Matrons of the Eastern Star in California made saving cancelled stamps her project for the year for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. We collected them and turned them in to our Chapter. Since that time no one knows where to send the stamps.

PEARL HUTH, President  
Ladies Auxiliary  
California Commandery No. 1  
Van Ness Avenue and Oak Street  
San Francisco, California 94102

*Editor's Note: P.G.M. Bell, Executive Director, reports stamps are not solicited by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Readers may know of sources in need of them.*

□ Two years ago I retired and demitted from a midwestern Commandery and immediately joined Bruce Commandery No. 17 of this city. Recently received my 25-year K.T. Certificate. They say that the plans of "Mice and Men" often go astray. I have enjoyed a number of years of Templar activity, but never expected, or planned on, achieving the high honor of becoming Commander. That is just what happened this Fall. I have all the necessary equipment, with the exception of a Commander's Jewel. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who may know of such a Jewel that would be available.

AARON SCOBLIC  
575 N.W. Merrie Drive  
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

□ I am a new member of Monroe Commandery, No. 12, Rochester, New York. I am trying to reconstruct the Masonic history of my grandfather, Hiram Benjamin Whaley, who died in North Collins, New York, in 1896. I believe that he was in his early sixties when he died.

I have his Knight Templar regalia in a little trunk constructed for the purpose. It includes his sword, hat, gloves and cuffs. (All but the feather on the hat are remarkably well preserved.) On the trunk appears his name and address: Independence, Iowa.

CHARLES W. PFLAUM  
Dale, New York 14039

□ As we Templars are the Christian arm of Masonry I believe we should have a Masonic Bible Study program daily.

I receive the *Knight Templar Magazine*, the *Royal Arch Mason* and the *Georgia Masonic Messenger* and I read all three of them from cover to cover, then keep them for further use. I would like very much to receive the Council magazine if one is published.

A. E. PETERSON  
Generalissimo, Georgia No. 1  
Augusta, Georgia

*Editor's Note: Although no separate "Council" magazine is in general distribution, the Knight Templar Magazine endeavors to include news and articles on all branches of the Masonic family.*

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### Walter A. DeLamater Memorial Campaign Returns

Grand Commandery Chairmen, also chairmen from the 18 Subordinate Commanderies, reported \$56,714.38 in Voluntary Campaign returns after the fifth week of campaign activity. The 6th Voluntary Campaign extends until April 30, 1974. Announced goal is \$500,000.00. Officers of Constituent Commanderies are reminded that their reports of fund raising activities, together with checks, are to be sent to the respective Grand Commandery Chairmen. The Grand Commandery Chairmen, in turn — after retaining a copy of each report for their own records — will relay checks and reports to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., Box 191, Rhinebeck, New York 12572. Voluntary Campaign report forms, factsheets and promotional stuffers are provided by the Grand Recorder's office, Chicago.



# EDITOR'S JOURNAL

*No. 1:* A random reference by a contributor to the January issue listed Portland Commandery, in Maine, as Commandery No. 1. Kenneth A. Nott, Prelate of Maine Commandery No. 1 for 20 years, promptly responded. "Portland," he says, "is Commandery No. 2. Maine is No. 1." And to document it, Sir Knight Nott sent an illustration of the 150th Anniversary Commemorative Coin struck in 1971 for "Maine Commandery No. 1."



*150th at Virginia:* A printed program which recently reached the Grand Recorder's desk is a reminder that the Sesquicentennial Banquet and Program of the Grand Commandery of Virginia was held November 27, 1973, at Richmond. Grand Commander Frost presided; Department Commander Harrison presented the observance speaker — Grand Master Roy W. Riegle.



*Active Templar:* Sir Knight Ted Voelter, New Jersey Grand Commander in '35, Department Commander 1955-58, continues his active promotion and participation in Templary. Well known for his addresses and presentations on patriotic themes, he played another role in January when he served as Installing Officer at open Installation Ceremonies for the officers of Damascus Commandery No. 4, Lakewood, New Jersey. Arthur C. Bond is the new Damascus Eminent Commander. Deputy Grand Commander Reed was installing Prelate. Damascus was constituted in 1866.



*Pending:* Among features in 1974 issues will be continued vignettes of a "bicentennial flavor" on Masonic Americans of prominence. Included will be Presidents Buchanan, Monroe, Polk, Taft, Harding — also Charles A. Lindbergh, Admiral Byrd, General John A. Logan and Mark Twain. Come July a Bicentennial compilation of these and past magazine features will be printed and made available in book form.

*Vintage 1947:* Grand Commander Morrison L. Cooke, Kentucky, comments on the fine Christian fellowship enjoyed at the traditional Christmas Observance held for Louisville-DeMolay Commandery Knights at the home of Sir Knight William J. Netherton who, among other offices, currently is Grand Sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine. "This year," writes Sir Knight Morrison, "the libations were procured by Recorder Cliff Stigger, Jr., a 1947 vintage, a 'Commanderie of St. John Cyprus dessert wine' which is said to have been first made during the Crusades by Knights Hospitallers, Order of St. John's of Jerusalem, from the vines of the Commandery of Collossi Castle, Cyprus."



*Draft:* Found among the records of the late Wilber M. Brucker, former Secretary of the Army, Grand Master of Grand Encampment 1964-67, is the draft of an uncompleted message. What he jotted down as the nucleus of an address or article is more than worthy of consideration today. Here is an excerpt:

"Recently I attended a meeting of the Order of DeMolay and witnessed the consecrated idealism and unsullied enthusiasm with which these young boys conduct themselves. I still remember the days of my own youth, when we went to France in World War I, chanting the song, 'We Won't Come Back Till It's Over, Over There.' What a clean and wholesome wave of enthusiasm there was. How those young fellows put to shame the 'can't doers' and the calamity howlers, and those who said it can't be done! The slogan was 'Where Do We Go From Here?'"

"Only those who grow old in SPIRIT become afraid of tomorrow and want to keep the status quo . . . content to hold their hands, let nature take its course. Their thought is simply this: Why stir things up — let well enough alone. How little these people realize that to stand still is to slide backward with a vengeance . . ."



*Descriptive:* An appropriate description of the Washington Monument — "an exclamation point five hundred and fifty-five feet high."

## **LANDMARK OF AMERICANA**

by  
**Paul C. Rodenhauer**  
Editor

The 555 foot Washington Monument in the District of Columbia is an impressive marble tribute to the memory of the first President of the United States and one of the great Masons among our nation's founding fathers.

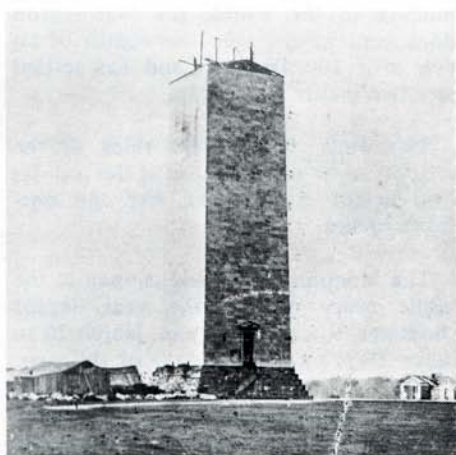
It was not a spontaneous overnight accomplishment. It was initiated by the Washington National Monument society with funds received by popular subscription and was authorized by Congress in 1848. Many of the subscribers to the Monument to Brother Washington were Masons, as fraternal records indicate – including Proceedings of the Grand Encampment.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, M.W. Benjamin B. French, laid the cornerstone July 4 of 1848, but it was not until February 21, 1885, that the Monument was dedicated, and October 9, 1888, before it was opened to the public.

Of special interest to Templars is that Brother French became Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in 1850, and M.E. Grand Master in 1859, serving as presiding officer of our sovereign Templar body through the years of the holocaust of Civil War.

After three triennial terms as Grand Recorder and two as Grand Master, Sir Knight French died in 1870 – 22 years after he had laid the monument's cornerstone, 54 years after the formation of the General Grand Encampment and 18 years before the towering shaft of granite and marble was opened to awe, and sometimes fearful, members of the public.

Work on the monument from 1848 to 1854 progressed slowly, with many hesitations and interruptions, caused primarily by lack of sufficient funds. Total contributions had reached \$300,000 by 1854, when work ceased, and the obelisk had risen to a height of 152 feet. It remained at that level through the Civil War and until the Centennial Year of 1876.



As a result of the observance of America's first 100 years, interest was revived and work was resumed in 1880 at government expense by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

When the project was reviewed, it was decided that the foundation would not be strong enough to support the complete shaft. New supports were added and the building progressed steadily. It had been backed by rubble masonry for the first 152 feet. From that point to 452 feet, Maine granite was used with marble backing for the remainder. → → →

The facing for the first portion is two-course Massachusetts marble. The facing for the rest of the monument is marble from Maryland. A slight change of color is discernible where the Massachusetts marble ends and the Maryland facing begins.

Pierre Charles L'Enfant had been chosen in 1791 to plan the design of the city of Washington. A memorial to George Washington was to be located at the cross-axis of the Mall, the White House and the Elipse. However, when construction of the monument began, the planned location was considered too marshy and the base is a few hundred feet southeast of the intersection.

Perhaps the tallest stone and masonry building in the world, the Washington Monument sways only one-eighth of an inch in a 30-mile wind and has settled only two inches in 30 years.

The walls, fifteen feet thick at the bottom, taper to 18 inches at the top. Its total height is 555 feet, five and one-eighth inches.

The Monument is listed as open to the public every day of the year except Christmas, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. March 20 to Labor Day; to 5 other days of the year.

Those interested in visiting or revisiting this impressive marble shaft to the memory of Brother Washington are reminded that there are 898 steps and 50 platforms, also high speed elevators which waft passengers to the top in one minute.

The top provides an unforgettable view of the city and its landmarks, a view that brings to even the "summer soldier" and "sunshine patriot" an overwhelming sense of pride in the greatness of our Capitol and our Nation.

To Templars — and to all Masons who shared actually or vicariously in its cost, its construction and ceremonies — it represents a milestone in the history of

the Order. It has stood in partial or complete form through 42 Triennial Conclaves of the Grand Encampment. Its marble spire pointed skyward can serve as a symbol of the solidarity and permanency of Templary for generations to come.

‡

### New Attorney General a Templar



Sir Knight William B. Saxbe, Clinton No. 5, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, was sworn in as the nation's 70th Attorney General in ceremonies January 4 in the Justice Department's Great Hall.

The Cabinet position tops a public service career which began in 1946 when he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives where he served as Majority Leader and Speaker before becoming Attorney General of Ohio, a position he held for 10 years. In 1968 he was elected to the U.S. Senate and was Ohio's Senior Senator when appointed Attorney General.

Sir Knight Saxbe promised to "bring credit to the law" during his tenure as Attorney General and to leave the department "better than I have found it."



## WORDS OF SINCERITY AND FAITH – 113 YEARS AGO

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863, is a recognized classic of speech. Another, although lesser known, is the address of farewell by the President-Elect to the citizens of Springfield as he prepared to leave for Washington.

The morning of February 11, 1860, was cold and wet. The sidewalks of Springfield were lined with people who gathered in spite of the weather to see Mr. Lincoln "off to the capitol." The President-Elect slowly mounted the steps of the observation platform of the train, turned to gaze upon the faces of his neighbors and friends, his fellow townsmen, then spoke these words which have been described as "eloquent with sincerity and faith."

My friends: No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting to Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good – let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.



# Let's give it our best...



### **BROTHER:**

**THE ORDER OF DeMOLAY BUILDS BETTER  
CITIZENS FOR TOMORROW. THERE'S A  
YOUNG MAN IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WHO NEEDS  
DeMOLAY NOW!!**

**RECOMMEND A YOUNG MAN FOR DEMOLAY!  
SEND IN HIS NAME TODAY**

Send To: DeMOLAY INTERNATIONAL – 201 East Armour Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64111

## GRAND MASTER RIEGLE'S GENERAL ORDER NO. 3

General Order No. 3, issued December 6, 1973, listed the Representatives assigned to Annual Conclaves of Grand Commanderies in 1974. Copies of the General Order were distributed to all voting members of the Grand Encampment — Grand Commanders, Deputy Grand Commanders, Grand Generalissimos, Grand Captains General, Past Grand Commanders and the Dais Officers of Subordinate Commanderies. The complete list of Representatives and the dates and locations of 1974 Annual Conclaves were officially printed on page 31 of the January 1974 *Knight Templar Magazine*.

The General Order includes these two paragraphs of directives:

Within 30 days after receipt of this General Order, the Grand Commander will open correspondence with the Representative assigned to such Grand Commandery and make suitable housing reservations and arrangements for the official Visitation thereto.

The Grand Commander of each Grand Commandery is hereby requested, upon receipt of this General Order, to open Correspondence with the Department Commander of the Department in which such Grand Commandery is located, and invite such Department Commander to attend such Annual Conclave, even if the Department Commander has not been specifically assigned by the Grand Master to attend the same as his Representative.

### Hawaiian Award to Boston K.T.



Massachusetts Governor Francis Sargent, left, presents the Hawaiian Good Fellow Award to Sir Knight Bernard A. Torri as John Woodruff, Hawaiian Visitors Bureau, observes.

Sir Knight Bernard A. Torri, DeMolay No. 7, Boston, received Hawaii's "Hui O Kane Loko Maikai" (Good Fellow) award in November in recognition of his efforts in behalf of the Hawaiian Sesquicentennial Celebration. Torri represented the governors of Massachusetts and Vermont at the event and made some 31 speeches in Massachusetts and Oahu on behalf of the island state.

### \$500 to Eye Foundation



Sir Knight Charles Unterreiner, center, Commander of Louisville-DeMolay No. 12, receives a check for \$500.00 from Sir Knight Maynard Basham, treasurer of the Helping Hands club, while Sir Knight Clayton Compton, K.T.C.H., Chairman of the Kentucky Eye Foundation Committee, looks on at left.

The Helping Hands is a unique group of friends and neighbors who sponsor activities to raise money for the sole purpose of giving it away. This is the second year they have given a check to the Eye Foundation through Louisville-DeMolay Commandery.

## **JOHN BARNEY**

by  
**James R. Case**  
Historiographer  
Grand Commandery of Connecticut

While the Grand Encampment was in session at Columbus in September 1847 a communication from the Grand Commandery of Ohio was received, read and entered upon the minutes. It conveyed information of the death of the "venerable and much beloved Sir Knight John Barney, who had ended his pilgrimage on earth, and having warred a good warfare had gone to his rest in the Asylum of Heaven: one who was not only a virtuous but an efficient co-worker for many years in the promotion of the sublime principles of universal benevolence."

John Barney went to Ohio in 1830, when the anti-Masonic excitement had caused a real depression in the Fraternity. In 1835 he located at Worthington, was appointed Grand Lecturer of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters. Before the year was out, he had assisted in organizing a Commandery at Lancaster. In 1838 he was appointed Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge. He was also the organizer and first president of the Order of High Priesthood in Ohio.

The following year he assisted in organization of a Commandery at Cincinnati and became Commander of the Commandery at Worthington when it came out of a few years quietude upon orders to "again proceed to business." In 1843 he was elected Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Ohio and had some part in establishing the Commandery at Massillon and Clinton Commandery at Mount Vernon.

He attended the Baltimore Convention



of 1843, called to work out a standard Lodge ritual for the United States and seems to have been among the most influential of the delegate ritualists.

When his wife died the following year, he left Ohio and went to Chicago. There and in neighboring Michigan he was active as lecturer in Lodge, Chapter and Council, and was appointed Grand Lecturer for the Grand Lodge of Illinois. When Apollo Commandery was formed at Chicago in 1845 John Barney was paid \$20 as instructor for the Sir Knights.

Returning from a trip into Missouri where he had been on a lecturing mission, he was taken ill at Peoria, Illinois, and died in a hotel room there June 22, 1847. He was given Masonic burial and the Grand Lodge erected a →→→

monument over his grave. Some years later, raging flood waters carried away that portion of the riverside cemetery where he had been laid to rest.

John Barney was born at Canaan, Connecticut, in 1780, the son of a tailor. He seems to have been crippled from childhood and incapable of farm work, so he learned his father's trade. He removed to Vermont, married and settled down for a while at Charlotte when he was made a Mason in Friendship Lodge.

In 1817 some of the Brethren financed his trip to Boston, where Barney perfected himself in the Webb work, being coached by Grand Lecturer Benjamin Gleason and by Henry Fowle, later Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. The Grand Lodge of Vermont approved Barney as a "Lecturing Master" and he was so employed around the state on request of the local Lodges. There is a record of visits to nearby New York and Quebec Lodges.

In 1822 some development brought him back to Connecticut. He affiliated with Montgomery Lodge in Salisbury and served as Master. He also affiliated with Meridian Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Canaan and served as High Priest. In 1824 he is on record as Thrice Illustrious Master of a Council of Royal & Select Masters in nearby Sheffield, Massachusetts. He occasionally lectured in Lodges and Chapters as he moved about Connecticut.

Just where he acquired the advanced Degrees has not been ascertained. Nor do we know where he received the Orders of Masonic Knighthood. He is presumed to have been Arched in Vermont. The Royal and Select Masters Degrees may have been communicated by Jeremy Ladd Cross. Lecturers in those days had the opportunity to pick up a knowledge of many Degrees and swapped them back and forth.

It is presumed, but not proven, that

Barney acquired the Orders while in Boston. We cannot say he was Knighted irregularly; the time and place are simply not known. The same is true of no less a person than Thomas Smith Webb, the great organizer of the American system called the York Rite. Barney was also a Scottish Rite Mason but apparently not very active as such.

His activity in Templary in Connecticut is rather unusual. In January 1827 he appears as one of the petitioners for the charter of Clinton Commandery, to be held in the remote hill town of Washington, Connecticut, about twenty miles from Canaan. He was named the first Captain General and attended four meetings. He was paid \$40 and his expenses for instructing the Commandery and then his name no longer appears on the minutes.

The organization of Clinton Commandery No. 3 made possible the formation of a Grand Commandery in Connecticut in September 1827, when John Barney was elected Grand Senior Warden. The next year he was replaced as he was probably on his way west to Ohio.

Extraordinarily talented as a ritualist and quite successful as an organizer, he persisted in spite of his physical handicap and family misfortunes, giving many years of service to the fraternity and becoming one of the Masonic greats of his generation, although not conspicuous as an officer holder.

The reader interested in more detail about the life and career of John Barney will find the best account that which Companion Rolfe C. Bradbury compiled and which appeared in Volume IX of the Proceedings of the Chapter of Research in Ohio.

Sir Knight Case, 43 Highland Avenue, Bethel, Connecticut 06801, is a widely recognized Masonic researcher and writer.

‡

## A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF SIGHT

*The following is a letter and prayer presented to Sir Knight J. Earl Smith, Phoenix Commandery No. 3, Arizona, by a grateful recipient of assistance from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The name of the correspondent is withheld by request.*

Dear Mr. Smith:

One month ago I did not know of the existence of Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the organization which was to play and will continue to play such an important part in my life and in the personal lives of those whom I love. May I send this letter of gratitude in the form of a prayer?

Our Father:

What can I say to you as I kneel again before your throne of grace but thank you. Thank you, Lord, for sending into my son's life the Knights Templar, the gentlemen who have given him the chance to see again.

You, the Omniscient, knew even in eternity past the quiet desperation, discouragement, despondence and distress faced by parents of a prodigal son. Such long, difficult years . . . 12 of them . . . heart-rendering suffering, which was unknown to most friends and acquaintances. Years of estrangement were capped not only by spiritual and mental blindness, but then physical blindness was to take its toll. The dreaded word, keratoconus. Oh! Lord! our son, State Aid for the Blind!

In your mercy you sent a friend who helped me carry this burden. "I know how to pray," he said, "let me help you believe in an existence which you want more than anything else in the world." We prayed that my son might have eyes to see. I prayed, "Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief."

Thank you for prayer answered. In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Gentlemen, your making possible the corneal transplant, precipitated decisions of lasting consequences, for the long hours endured by a loved one in surgery and in a hospital bed have brought our family back together again.

The breach is being healed daily, verbal encouragement, physical tenderness, strength is flowing to the one needing it.

Nine days after the transplant took place, I heard these words as I was applying medication, "Mother, I see you, I see your eyes, your moving lips, MOTHER I SEE YOU!" So emotion packed were the words they were barely audible.

Gentlemen, what can a grateful mother and father say but THANK YOU for making possible the return of our son's vision, for giving him eyes that he may see.



## CONSTITUTING CEREMONIES AT NURNBERG . . .

November 24 was the Constituting date for Walther Graf von Spelten Commandery No. 4, Nurnberg, West Germany. Representing Grand Master Riegle for the charter presentation was Sir Knight Ryoji Beutner, Grand Master's official Representative for the Subordinate Commanderies of Germany for the triennium. Pictures of the event were forwarded by Recorder Franz-Louis Kalwach.

Officers installed by Sir Knight Beutner are: Commander Rudolph Hofer; Generalissimo Heinz Schmidtchen; Captain General Karlheinz Goldmann; Senior Warden Gunter Kerres; Junior Warden William Adams; Prelate Wilhelm Howorka; Treasurer Heinz Heckel; Recorder Franz-Louis Kalwach; Standard Bearer Roy Mault; Sword Bearer Kurt Schonberger; Warden Georg Thurn; Sentinel Alfred Kallert.

Sir Knight Beutner was received by Sir Knight Hofer and officers-designate. His commission of appointment as Sir Knight Riegle's representative was presented by Commander William E. Smith, Heidelberg Commandery No. 2. At the banquet (combined Commandery and Red Cross of Constantine event) following the chartering ceremonies, Sir Knight Beutner responded to the toast to the Grand Encampment, "pointing out the necessity of good cooperation and mutual understanding between the German and American Sir Knights."

"Sir Knight Kalwach, Recorder," writes the Grand Master's Representative, "proposed a toast to his fellow Recorders in Germany and to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment."

In concluding the report of the constituting ceremonies and program, Sir Knight Beutner summarizes his impression of the Commandery: "It is difficult to conceive of a more dedicated and enthusiastic group of sincere Masons to whom a new Commandery could be entrusted. I can report that the first 'German Commandery' is in very capable hands, and that it has in my opinion a grand future ahead of it."

### Nurnberg Scenes



## ... AND AT GUATEMALA CITY, C.A.

Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, assisted by Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauer, represented Grand Master Riegle for the December 1 charter presentation to Guatemala Commandery No. 1, Guatemala City. Sir Knights Bell and Rodenhauer, accompanied by their wives, were house guests of Project Supervisor H. Chapman Marvel, American Embassy, and Mrs. Marvel. Visitors included John Carlos Loayza, now of Chicago, who had assisted in the Commandery's formation, and Orest A. Meykar, Old Dominion No. 1, Virginia, a systems engineer well known in Central America, who presented a Commandery sword to Commander Joh. M. van Buesekom for the Grand Commandery of Virginia.



Top left — five foot diameter floral decoration; right — Sir Knight Bell with Sir Knights Godoy, Marvel, van Buesekom and Loayza. Center — Rodenhauer, Marvels, Bells; right — Sir Knights Bell, van Buesekom, Rodenhauer with charter. Bottom — wood carving to Sir Knight Bell from Commander van Buesekom, while Chairman (and Prelate) Boden reads the next. Right — Commander holds sword aloft after presentation by Sir Knight Meykar, Virginia.

The original "Dispensation" officers of Guatemala Commandery, as filed with the Grand Encampment, included: Commander, Joh. M. van Beusekom; Generalissimo, H. Chapman Marvel; Captain General, Benjamin Godoy; Senior Warden, Rolando Camparini; Junior Warden, Heiko Schmooock; Prelate, William Boden; Treasurer, Paul Weihmayr; Recorder, Cecilio Juarez; Standard Bearer, Roberto Perez G.; Sword Bearer, Francisco Gross; Warder, Hans Ritz; Sentinel Mario Aquino.

# HIGHLIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS

## Montana Needs Man-Wife as Caretakers

The Masonic Temple Association, Butte, Montana, announces an employment opportunity for a man and wife team to serve as caretakers at the Butte Masonic Temple.

A letter from Sir Knight Andrew S. Sims of the Association reads: "There is a steam heating plant to look after; they would be furnished an apartment in the Temple for living quarters. In addition to salary, sources of income include catering lunches and dinners for the five Blue Lodges, the three York Rite bodies, the Scottish Rite and Shrine, as well as the two Eastern Star Chapters, the Daughters of the Nile, the White Shrine and the Amaranth."

Couples interested in the details of the opening may write to Sir Knight Andrew Sims, 3212 State Street, Butte, Montana 59701.

## Civic and Christmas Participation



Grand Standard Bearer Ralph McCracken, Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, reports on the annual participation of Calvary Commandery No. 37, Danville, in the town's annual "Put Christ Back in Christmas" parade. The 1973 float, "O, Worship the King," showed Sir Knights kneeling before an altar on which rested the Cross and Crown.

## Templars Give to Yule Fund

Lookout Commandery No. 14, Chattanooga, Tennessee, received front page coverage in the *Chattanooga News-Free Press* December 5 as the first to contribute to the News-Free Press Christmas Fund.

"Members of Lookout Commandery No. 14, Knights Templar, like to get an early start with the Christmas spirit," the paper said. "Again this year the local Commandery is the first group to contribute..." The Commandery "has faithfully mailed a check... early in the holiday season every year since the fund began."

The paper went on to tell of the Commandery's 100th anniversary and gave special mention to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation noting more than 150 of the 500 Templars were Life Sponsors.

## Limited Commemorative Coin Edition

Mt. Zion Commandery No. 9, Montpelier, Vermont, is celebrating its 100th anniversary with an especially designed Commemorative Coin, a limited edition of which is offered to Knights Templar as a collectors item. According to P.C. Charles W. Lewis, "a portion of these coins are serially numbered and will be recorded in the Mt. Zion archives following disposition of the orders."

All orders for serially numbered coins will be assigned according to "post mark date received" and will be shipped prepaid. Numbers one thru 100 are \$15 each; 101 thru 200 are \$10 each. Un-numbered coins are \$2. Check or money order made payable to Mt. Zion Commandery No. 9 may be mailed to: Charles W. Lewis, R.F.D. No. 2, Barre, Vermont 05641.



## \$100 to Order of Knighthood

A letter from John D. Travelbee, Director of Knighthood, International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, thanks Templars of Oriental Commandery, Kansas City, Missouri, for a contribution of \$100 to the Knighthood Convocation Fund of the Order of DeMolay. In his letter, Sir Knight Travelbee says: "Our Knighthood Advisors around the country point out that a very high percentage of all DeMolay Sir Knights join not only Masonry but also the appendant Orders."

DeMolay's Order of Knighthood is for young men of DeMolay between the ages of 17 and 21. The Order is a priority project of the Grand Encampment's current agenda.

## York Rite Festivals in Texas

After "a successful York Rite Festival" in honor of Illustrious Brother and Sir Knight Lee Lockwood January 5, the Grand Commandery of Texas, with P.G.C. Bloomquist in charge, has scheduled an All State York Rite Festival April 6 at Waco honoring M.W. Grand Master of Masons Dan B. Jordan.

A York Rite Festival at Lubbock April 20 will honor the Grand Commander of Texas, Sir Knight James M. Willson, Jr.

## Conference of Grand Masters

The 1974 Conference of Grand Masters of North America begins February 17 at the Shoreham-Americana Hotel, Washington, D.C. Meeting concurrently will be the Conference of Grand Secretaries at the same hotel. A.M.D. meetings, February 15-17, are headquartered in Hotel Washington.

## Templar Paraphernalia?

David Stonecash, Memphis, Tennessee, found a belt buckle, belt slides and scabbard holder in an old trunk in Buefort, South Carolina, many years ago. He has been unable to identify the pieces but believes them to be Templar in origin.

The buckle is made of brass with a Maltese Cross in the center. A small Passion Cross is superimposed on the Maltese Cross. The belt slides are



of a silver alloy. They have a Passion Cross covered by a suit of armor topped by a crown and backed by two swords. The red leather scabbard holder also has a Maltese Cross and the words: "Patent" and "1858." The loop holding the scabbard holder to the chain has a patent date of July 7, 1868.

Stonecash would appreciate any information regarding the paraphernalia. He can be reached c/o IBM Corporation, P.O. Box 4818, Memphis, Tennessee 38104.

## Ernest J. Comi Night

Sir Knight Ernest J. Comi, 1973 Knights Templar Cross of Honor Awardee of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, was honored by the Commander of Joseph Warren Commandery No. 26, Boston, on December 4 at the "Eminent Ernest J. Comi Knights Templar Cross of Honor Award Night." Sir Knight Comi's fellow Templars had stated in their nominating petition, "he preserved his Commandery in the face of adversity. His life epitomizes and glorifies Templary's concept of mankind's hope for the future."

Those in the Student Union of Dodge City Junior College December 8 may have thought a television show was being produced with a Kansas cast.

One of the "outstanding ministers of Kansas was being honored with a reception and banquet," writes Gerald R. Butcher, Kansas Supplement Editor. The theme of the evening was "This Is Your Life, Rev. Basil Johnson, R.E. Grand Prelate, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A."

Among the Past Grand Masters, Grand High Priests and Grand Commanders present were S. Lewis Smith, Keith Wilcox, Carroll Dean, Jim Collier, Pete Klein, Gerald Longton, Neil Gerdemann and Frank Yeoman. Many spoke about the year Rev. Johnson served them as Grand Prelate. Roy W. Riegle, M.E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, was present and participated in the program.

P.G.C. Keith Wilcox presented Rev. Johnson with a cassette tape recorder on behalf of the Past Grand Officers present, Columbia Commandery No. 38 and Leo Schisler, Dodge City Commandery No. 35 presented Sir Knight Johnson with an engraved Bible. Mrs. Johnson was presented a heart locket by Dodge City Beauceant Assembly.

Sir Knight Leroy Elwell composed the continuity for the program and acted as Master of Ceremonies.

### Nurses Get New Uniforms

As of January 1 the mandatory uniform of student nurses at Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Chicago, is a tailored blue and white pantsuit. The uniform phases out the blue dress and white pinafore uniform after six years. The students maintain the new uniforms are more practical and comfortable than dresses.

Sir Knight Roy W. Riegle, Grand Master, Grand Encampment; Edward M. Selby, G.G. High Priest, General Grand Chapter, R.A.M.; Hoyt McClendon, G.G. Master, General Grand Council, R.&S.M., were on hand January 12 for the East Central Regional York Rite Conference at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia.

Thirty five Templar officers and Past Grand Commanders from the five state area attended the Grand Encampment workshop session; 22 were present for the Chapter and nine for the Council conference.

Department Commander W. J. J. Fleming was in charge of the Templar meetings. Marvin L. Isley, D.D.G.G.H.P., Chapter representative, was chairman; William W. Harmon is the Regional Representative of General Grand Master Hoyt McClendon.

Participating in the sessions for the Grand Encampment were Deputy Grand Master Willard M. Avery, Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauser — also the Grand Encampment Chairman of the Committee on DeMolay, George W. Davidson.

Junior Vandall, General Grand Scribe; Charles K. A. McGaughey, General Grand Secretary; and Roger K. Becker, the General Grand Chapter's D.D.G. High Priest for International areas, participated. Next conference dates and locations were to be decided and announced by the three regional representatives.

### Observation from a Reader

**"If 20,000 ladies of the Social Order of the Beauceant can present \$30,832.58 to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, as they did in 1972, it should be easy for some 370,000 Knights, on the same ratio of fund-raising activity, to achieve more than \$555,000." The current Voluntary Campaign extends to April 30.**

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## THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION, INC.

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by  
Mrs. Virginia Gay  
of the Rhinebeck Staff

### History

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., was founded by action taken at the 46th Triennial Conclave in 1955 in New York City.

The physical Foundation itself was brought into being in 1957 through the leadership, guidance and organization of the late Walter A. DeLamater, the first Executive Director. One of the primary objectives today as then is to give financial assistance to those eligible for eye surgery and hospitalization.

Another objective, equally important, is to grant funds (when available) for research in the prevention of blindness. Operational funds are raised by an annual per capita assessment of \$1.00 levied upon each Grand and Subordinate Commandery. Exemption from the Eye Foundation assessment is made through the purchase of a Life Sponsor Certificate, Associate Patron Certificate or a Patron Certificate in the amounts of \$30.00, \$50.00 or \$100.00 respectively.

This exemption applies only to the assessment of the particular Commandery through which the Knight Templar has purchased one of the above. Although the "living memorial" of Life Sponsorship is limited to Knights Templar, any interested person or organization may become a Patron or Associate Patron. Additional funds are raised through the annual Voluntary Activities Campaign and are also received from individual wills, memorials and contributions. The current Voluntary Campaign is a Memorial to the late Executive Director, P.G.M. Walter A. DeLamater. The goal is \$500,000.

### Rhinebeck Office

Rhinebeck, New York, a small village approximately 100 miles from New York City, is the location of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., of which Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell is Executive Director. The Foundation occupies the top floor of a small building in this Hudson Valley Community. As the staff consists of only six full time members, teamwork and cooperation are essential.

The organization of the Foundation may be divided into two interdependent parts: i.e., Case Department and Financial Department. Duties are interchangeable among certain staff members of each department. Requests for financial assistance are received, scanned and processed by the Case Department. Bills for services rendered by doctors, hospitals and all other financial and statistical matters are processed through the Financial Department. The following is a general synopsis of the responsibilities of the staff members of each department.

### Case Department



Acting as department liaison is Mrs. Alyce Greco. Alyce's duties entail advising the Executive Director of activities of the Foundation, aiding the Application Coordinator in decisions on atypical cases and authorizing eye surgery and hospitalization. Alyce also assists in the preparation of informational brochures and is responsible for data → → →

pertaining to management of the office.

Mrs. Deborah VanEtten, the Application Coordinator, works closely with Alyce on requests for assistance. Debbie is responsible for routine applications for surgery and hospitalization and related correspondence. She also aids in taking the Executive Director's dictation.



Mrs. Virginia Gay, Secretary of the Eye Foundation office, has assignments



that include the Executive Director's dictation, booking details for the film, "Release From Darkness," receiving and recording Wills and Bequests and acknowledging applications for Patrons

and Associate Patrons. She is responsible for answering routine correspondence and maintains up-to-date files and listings relevant to the Eye Foundation. Ginny also assists the Executive Director in developing new promotional materials.

### Financial Department

Across the hall from the Case Department is the Financial Department with Mrs. Viola Olsen as bookkeeper in charge. Vi, one of the first employees of the Eye Foundation, since its beginning has been responsible for its records. A brief outline of some of Vi's various duties includes: maintaining the General Fund - Commandery assessments, voluntary contributions, bequests from wills and memorials; maintaining the Permanent Endowment Fund - monies re-



ceived from Life Sponsors, Patrons and Associate Patrons.

Assistant Bookkeeper is Miss Nancy McCarney. Nancy's responsibilities include handling invoices received from doctors, hospitals, etc., and, after checking appropriate records, issuing necessary checks. She prepares the monthly Financial Statement of the Eye Foundation.



Nancy is also in charge of the Rhinebeck processing of Voluntary Campaign returns with the exception of acknowledging individual donors. At campaign time, an extra staff member is employed. This Department is responsible for Eye Foundation Bank accounts, tax returns, budget control, payroll, Patron and Associate Patron exemptions and preparing records for auditing.

Also a member of this Department is



Mrs. Polly Chlystun, who handles records and correspondence regarding Life Sponsorships. She is responsible for advising the Grand Recorder's office in Chicago of all new Life Sponsors,

which, as one benefit, carries exemption from future Eye Foundation assessments. Contributions and memorial donations are also the responsibility of Polly.

### In Review

The work of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation calls not only for office skills, but a devoted interest in this Grand Encampment humanitarian project for those who need its help.

Sir Knight Walter A. →→→

DeLamater's last year as Executive Director ended August 16, 1973, when Sir Knight Bell, retiring Grand Master, was elected Executive Director by the Trustees — a selection that had been recommended by Sir Knight DeLamater a year earlier. Past Grand Master DeLamater died August 25, 1973 — nine days after the close of the 52nd Triennial Conclave.

By virtue of office, Grand Master Roy W. Riegle is President of the Foundation; Deputy Grand Master Willard M. Avery is First Vice-President. Trustees include the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Recorder, the Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment, also Past Grand Masters John L. Crofts, Sr., and G. Wilbur Bell. There are nine Trustees at Large, three of whom are elected to three-year terms at the meeting of the corporation during each Triennial Conclave.

Voluntary Campaign literature and forms are prepared each year at the Grand Encampment office, Chicago, and are available from that point. All other promotional materials — standard forms of application, forms for wills and bequests and related informational items — are prepared and distributed from Rhinebeck. Such materials — with the exception of Voluntary Campaign supplies — can be secured by writing to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Box 191, Rhinebeck, New York 12572.

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#### Meeting Dates Revised

Word from the Grand Council, Ladies Oriental Shrine, gives the organization's 1974 meeting dates as June 11-14, with Miami Beach, Florida, as the location. The 1975 meeting of the Grand Council will be in Chicago, May 20-23.

The 113th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi will be in session Friday and Saturday, March 15-16, 1974 — not in May as previously listed.

#### Life Sponsorships Hit 50,000 Mark

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation has announced that the 50,000th Life Sponsor certificate — a milestone attained in January — went to a Past Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, Marshall A. Chapman, who became a 50 year Grand Lodge member in December.

Sir Knight Chapman is a member of Georgia's Olivet Commandery No. 27.

Now moving past the 50,000 mark, Life Sponsorships — also Patron and Associate Patron applications — continue to be received at the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Rhinebeck, New York. Executive Director G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., and Campaign Chairman Charles S. McIntyre, P.G.C., Michigan, remind Templars that all three classifications exempt Templars from annual Eye Foundation assessment and are counted for Commandery credit in the Walter A. DeLamater Memorial Campaign.

Life Sponsorships are available for living Knights Templar only — at \$30.00. Patron and Associate Patron certificates — at \$50.00 and \$100.00 — are available to Templars and to non-members.

#### Two Letters

Excerpts from two letters to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation:

“Brian and I would like to thank you for all you have done for us. What you have done is something no one else could do. Brian has never been given a break in his life. Now, thanks to you, Brian has been given a chance to see. Thank you so very much.”

“This letter is difficult to write. How do you thank someone for saving such a precious thing as your eyesight? I have a cataract on one eye so when this happened I was ‘blind in one eye and couldn't see out of the other.’ Now I can see. Thank you and God Bless all of you.”

## IN HALLOWED MEMORY

**William E. Fitzgerald**

Nevada  
Grand Commander — 1964  
Born February 20, 1900  
Died November 28, 1973

**Clement Everett Smith**

New Hampshire  
Grand Commander — 1969  
Born November 26, 1910  
Died December 4, 1973

**Edward N. Shellinger**

Wyoming  
Grand Commander — 1958  
Born February 11, 1896  
Died December 15, 1973

**D. Peter Laguens, Jr.**

Louisiana  
Grand Commander — 1937  
Born June 25, 1894  
Died December 30, 1973

**Thomas E. Gibson**

Ohio  
Grand Commander — 1950  
Born October 17, 1893  
Died January 1, 1974

### D. Peter Laguens, Jr.

The late Sir Knight Laguens (June 25, 1894-December 30, 1973) was not only the senior Past Grand Commander of Louisiana, but also served as Grand High Priest of his Grand Chapter, R.A.M., in 1934, and Grand Master of Louisiana's Grand Council, R. & S.M., in 1958. He was Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, F. & A.M., from 1935 until the day of his death. Sir Knight Laguens was a Past Grand Preceptor of the Grand College of America, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests. He was serving the Grand Encampment during the current triennium as a member of the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence.

### Eye Foundation Woodwork



The piece of woodwork pictured above is the creation of P.C. Alvin R. Noble, Nativity No. 71, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The Keystone symbolizes the cornerstone of the spiritual temple. The three steps of Freemasonry are the base supporting the candle which signifies the Grand Architect of the Universe.

"Lighting the candle," writes Sir Knight Noble, "would signify the main purpose of our Foundation — helping people with eye trouble, bringing them out of darkness into light."

### Sam Houston

Sir Knight Phil A. Telic, Stamp Editor of the *Wisconsin Masonic Journal*, submitted this five cent stamp featuring Sir Knight Sam Houston from the American Patriot series. The Texan was Knighted in Washington Commandery No. 1, Washington, D.C., on February 23, 1853.



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## GRAND COMMANDERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

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by

Earl G. Helmick, Past Grand Commander

On May 17 the Grand Commandery of West Virginia will celebrate its 100th Annual Conclave at Martinsburg. The first Grand Conclave was held in Wheeling, West Virginia, Wednesday, February 24, 1874. For reasons of the Civil War, the Masonic Bodies needed the creation of a Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, and Grand Commandery. At the Triennial Conclave in Baltimore in 1871 the severance of the Masonic Bodies in West Virginia from the Old Dominion was mentioned and led to the adoption of a resolution declaring "That the Grand Commandery of Virginia is recognized as holding jurisdiction over both States of Virginia and West Virginia."

In the fall of 1872 the formation of a new Grand Commandery was deemed necessary. Accordingly, a memorial was prepared and presented and adopted at a Stated Conclave of each of the Commanderies in West Virginia, in courteous terms praying that the Grand Commandery of Virginia would give fraternal assent to the formation of a new Grand Commandery for West Virginia.

This memorial was presented at the Annual Conclave held in Richmond in December 1872 and met with equally courteous approval.

Application was then made to M.E. Grand Master J. Q. A. Fellows for the sanction of the Grand Encampment of the United States. This request was granted and a convention of representatives of several Commanderies of Knights Templar in the State of West Virginia was held in the Masonic Temple of Wheeling Wednesday, February 25, 1874.

The following Commanderies were

duly accredited: Wheeling Commandery No. 1; Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg; Star of the West Commandery No. 12, Morgantown; Kanawha Commandery U.D. at Charleston.

On motion, it was unanimously resolved that "it is now expedient and proper to organize a Grand Commandery of Knights Templar for the State of West Virginia."

A special Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. was held in the Masonic Temple in Wheeling, West Virginia, Wednesday, February 25th, 1874, R.E. James H. Hopkins, Deputy Grand Master, presiding. The remaining officers of the Grand Encampment were filled with pro tem appointments of Knights from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Steubenville; St. Clairsville and Zanesville, Ohio. The Warrant of Grand Master J. Q. A. Fellows was read dated the 21st day of November, A.D. 1873, A.O. 755. This Warrant being adopted, the officers elected by the Convention were then severally introduced, proclaimed and installed and the Grand Commandery was constituted with solemn ceremonies and in due form.

The *Wheeling Daily Register* reported in its newspaper of February 26, 1874, that the ceremonies connected with the forming of the Grand Commandery of West Virginia attracted universal attention, "notwithstanding the continuous snow storm." The streets were thronged with citizens to see the parade of Knights Templars and to hear the music of the three brass bands. Six Knights from Zanesville, Bridgeport, St. Clairsville and Steubenville, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Tancred and Allegheny, Pennsylvania, → → →



Pictured above are the officers installed at the 1973 constituting of St. Elmo Commandery No. 42, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, the first new Commandery in Florida in 10 years. Grand Commander Charles H. Green presided.

### Twin Falls Council Candidates

Grand Commander Thomas G. Crain, Idaho, writes of the Fall Festival for Twin Falls Council No. 7, when 12 candidates were initiated as Royal and Select Masters and Super Excellent Masters. Nine were from Idaho; three were from Elko, Nevada.

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### ... WEST VIRGINIA

were among the marchers in this parade.

There was a fine banquet at the McLure House in the evening at which many toasts were read from various Grand Commanderies wishing the success of the newly formed Grand Commandery of West Virginia.

This Grand Commandery in one century has grown from a mere 145 members to a present membership of 6,400 and has had a consistent gain in membership for the past six years. The future of this Grand Commandery situated in the beautiful mountains of the Appalachian Range, abounding with lakes and pictorial mountain streams, is assured.

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The Annual East-West Shrine Football game December 29 at Candlestick Park, San Francisco, was preceded December 28 by the Shrine Imperial Banquet in the St. Francis Hotel. Dignitaries included Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, Executive Director, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, left; Imperial Recorder George M. Saunders; the Imperial Potentate, Jacob A. Wingerter; and Frank F. Jones, R.E. Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of California.

The Executive Committee for the East-West game was headed by John E. Troxel, Potentate, Islam Temple. Islam's Frank Busse was Pageant Director. Shrine units participated from Aahmes, Ben Ali, El Katif, Kerak and Islam Temples. The East-West games have contributed more than \$7,000,000 to Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children. East won the December 29 televised classic 35-7.

The "top seven" on the VIP list issued by the committee: Imperial Potentate Wingerter, Deputy Imperial Potentate Jack M. Streight, Imperial Recorder Saunders, Imperial Outer Guard Daniel E. Bowers, Past Imperial Potentate Barney W. Collins, M.W. Grand Master of Masons Raymond Ebbage, and Past Grand Master of Knights Templar, U.S.A., Bell.

### Thought for the Month

There are millions of reasons for mistakes but not one single excuse.



## **GEORGE WASHINGTON—MASTER MASON**

by  
Brother William E. Parker

*For several years Brother William E. Parker has devoted a large portion of time and effort in compiling a written "encyclopedia" of Masonic bodies, Masonic events and personalities. The following sketch was written for the Knight Templar Magazine on the subject of Brother Washington, whose "tribute in marble" is the theme of the current issue. Brother Parker is a resident of Battle Creek, Michigan.*

Few indeed are the men revered as is Washington. As our nation approaches 1976 and our Bicentennial, the 200th Anniversary of the birth of this great nation, what are our thoughts for this man who gave so much for his country, without whose leadership during a trying moment of history it is doubtful that our nation would be as it is today.

It was in February of 1732, 242 years ago, that George Washington entered this world and in December of 1799, some 68 years later, that he entered the Grand Lodge Above. What can we say of this man that has not been said before, this man we call the "Father of our Country"? And yet, his place in history is so unique, so important, that a few words bear repeating on the life of this great American, the "Heartbeat of the American Revolution."

As Masons, we believe that his Masonic background was a significant part of his philosophy of life, a philosophy so important in the legacy he left to us — that which we now call our American Way of Life. His deep regard for human liberty and the dignity of man gave strength to our cause at a moment when strength was needed.

Most people are aware of his English ancestry but it is of note to mention that Washington also had a proud French heritage being a descendent of one Nicholas

Martiau, a French Huguenot who emigrated to the United States in 1620. The high moral and industrious qualities of these freedom-seeking people have left an indelible mark upon history.

"In the general darkness of the period of feudal decay," Roche writes, "the enlightenment of the Huguenots who were self-reliant burghers, business men and skilled craftsmen, was shown by contrast, though it was only relative. But the candle they lit in that darkness grew into a great flame; and the principles for which they were persecuted, were, in embryo, the same principles, moved from the theological confines, on which the United States of America was founded and for which both the pioneering American Revolution and its offspring, the French Revolution, was fought."

The qualities of character of these early Huguenots were passed down through succeeding generations to Washington that he, like a shining beacon, might illuminate the path amidst the darkness of despair.

Strange indeed are the ironies of history that the events in 17th century France contributed to the birth of a new nation in a new land almost two centuries later. And, stranger still, that it was yet another Frenchman, and a Mason, General Lafayette, who stood side by side with Washington during the → → →

stirring days of our nation's birth and whose contributions proved so vital to the successful outcome.

Washington the man — and Washington the Mason. Initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason in the Lodge of Fredericksburg, Virginia, in November of 1752, he was Passed in March and Raised in August of 1753 in that same Lodge. He was proud of his membership, saying "The object of Freemasonry is to promote the happiness of the human race," and in 1788 served as first Master of what is now known as Alexandria-Washington Lodge.

It was perhaps inevitable that, after Washington's magnificent contributions to the nation during the Revolutionary period, he should be named a Virginia Delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, where as Presiding Officer he played a key role in the success of the Convention and ultimately became our first President in 1789. Washington thus became the first Master of a Masonic Lodge to become President, holding, for a time, both that high office and that of Worshipful Master of his Lodge, a rare distinction indeed.

Washington's words upon becoming President reflect well his philosophy: "Integrity and firmness are all that I can promise." What more could a nation ask?

From the very beginning, Masonry has been closely associated with the history of our nation. And never more dramatically evidenced than in 1793 when, wearing a Masonic apron presented to him by General Lafayette and embroidered by Madame Lafayette, Washington in a Masonic ceremony laid the cornerstone of the United States Capitol at Washington, D.C.

In August of 1790, in a letter to King David Lodge, Newport, Rhode Island, Washington wrote: "Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic fraternity is founded,

must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society and to be considered by them as a deserving brother."

Washington had a deep sense of national union. In a response to an address of Charleston, South Carolina, Masons, he said: "The fabric of our freedom is placed on the enduring basis of public virtue, and will, I fondly hope, long continue to protect the prosperity of the architects who raised it."

In Washington's famous Farewell Address on his retirement from public life, he emphasized that the responsibility for America's destiny rests directly upon its citizens, and he urged Americans to forge a nation of high principles: "Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and morality enjoin this conduct."

Washington served both God and man with the firmness of his convictions. During the darkest days of the Revolution and the cruel winter at Valley Forge, it was Washington who stood firm in the face of adversity and knelt for prayer in the snow to reaffirm his faith in God and seek divine assistance in the justice of his cause.

As his hope was in God, so must we, too, place our hope in God. Washington carried in his heart the ideals of liberty, justice and freedom. As Masons, we must likewise carry forward those same ideals.

Much more could be said about this great American, but I believe the facts speak for themselves far more eloquently than any tribute I might be able to offer — "First in war, first in peace and 'indeed' first in the hearts of his countrymen."



## Reminder from Charles S. McIntyre, Chairman

Sir Knight McIntyre, Trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and national Chairman for the Walter A. DeLamater Memorial Campaign, reminds all officers and members that the Voluntary Fund-Raising Campaign ends April 30. The goal — \$500,000. Recorders of Constituent Commanderies are asked to send their reports and checks to their respective Grand Commandery chairman who, in turn, are to relay copies of the reports, with checks, to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., Box 191, Rhinebeck, New York 12572.

Forms and Voluntary Campaign promotional materials are available upon request from the office of the Grand Recorder, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Achievement plaques to Commanderies will be awarded on the basis of reports received at Rhinebeck from the Grand Commandery chairmen.

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### Cherokee Rose Degree Team

Cherokee Rose Priory No. 56, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, Georgia, has a team to confer the Super Excellent Master Degree of the Council in full form. They conferred the Degree at the Fifth District York Rite Festival in Atlanta in November and are scheduled for a conferral in Richmond, Virginia, April 20. The team is available for other conferrals by contacting Richard Sagar, 2824 Norgate Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30034.



### Templar Americana

Planned for printing in July of 1974 is a compilation of stories of Masons who have played key roles in the history of the United States.

The volume will contain biographies which have appeared in the *Knights Templar Magazine* over a period of three years and are designed as Templar's salute to the bicentennial of the United States of America.

Subjects will include the Templar and Masonic Presidents and others who have contributed to the history of the nation.

Availability information will be announced in the June issue of the magazine.

### Shawnee Observance



Attendance exceeded 100 at the Christmas Observance of Shawnee Commandery No. 14, Lima, Ohio. Picture shows Sir Knights toasting the Grand Master at table in shape of a cross. Sir Knight and Rev. Youkam was the speaker. Sir Knight W. B. Sibold dubs Shawnee as "the Pancake Day Commandery."

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### Confessions of a Housewife

While he's breakfasting, mute, my reaction is such  
That the sound of my own voice is cheering . . .  
Though I wouldn't be likely to talk half as much  
If I thought he was more than half-hearing

Ruth Chadwick

# CALIFORNIA SUPPLEMENT

E. BURNETT STEELE, P.C., Editor  
4267 University Avenue  
San Diego, California 92105

Frank F. Jones  
Grand Commander



*The following was written by Sir Knight George D. Yale, Grand Master of the Grand Council, at the request of our Rt. Em. Grand Commander. The Grand High Priest also has been requested to prepare a message. Sir Knight Yale's article is worthy of thoughtful reading.*

I was so pleased to be asked by Sir Knight Frank F. Jones, Right Eminent Grand Commander, to prepare a message to be part of the California Supplement of the Knights Templar Magazine. To the best of my knowledge, this is a first in the ever increasing cooperation between the Bodies of our California York Rite of Freemasonry. My thanks to you, Sir Knight Frank, for this opportunity.



Grand Master Yale

I would like to address my thoughts to the ever recurring and serious problem of loss of membership, which yearly faces all bodies of Freemasonry. It is a subject which has been explored to great depth, by many, more qualified than myself. Hopefully, the thoughts expressed here may fall on fertile ground and germinate into ideas to help us all.

There are those who believe that the success of a Chapter, Council or Commandery is measured by the number of new members which are received on their rolls each year. We all agree that that viewpoint certainly has great merit. New members is the life blood of any organization, and it is a definite, and certain fact, that without them, it will die.

Where do we, in York Rite, get our new members? Our main source, of course, is through our Blue Lodge, to which we all owe our allegiance. However, some of the most beautiful lessons taught in Masonry, are found in the degrees and orders of York Rite. Why do we hesitate to sell ourselves? Don't we love our York Rite, haven't we become better Masons because of what we have learned? Aren't we cheating our Blue Lodge Brothers by not telling our story.

Yes, our Blue Lodge is the main source of potential members, but an inexhaustible source is that of those who have not as yet joined our great fraternity. We can ask a Blue Lodge member to join York Rite, but our ancient Landmarks forbid us asking the uninitiated to join the Masonic Fraternity. So, we as York Rite Masons, must encourage them to become part of us by our deeds and actions as Masons. We should never forget, that "men judge Masonry by Masons, and they judge Masons by their acts."

However, it is my feeling, that success is measured more by our ability to retain members, once we have them. Our records continue to show a steady decline. That decline is reflected not only by the lack of new members, but also by the loss of those that we already have. We lose many beloved and dedicated Companions and Sir Knights each year through death. We can not still the unrelenting hand of the Grim Reaper, but we must do something to incite more interest in the attendance at meetings. We have endeavored to keep them interested by having dinners and programs, and by inviting their wives to those functions. We have endeavored to put on good degree work, although we all know that many times we have fallen far short of that goal. Yet, with all these efforts, we continue to lose members, and our membership continues to shrink. Have our members become disinterested because they have lost faith in Masonry, and the great and good principles for which it stands? I think not, because each one of us feels a great pride in our affiliation with this Brotherhood, and well we may, for nothing in history furnishes a parallel to its unselfish purpose in behalf of Mankind.

What then, do we need to stop this trend of loss in membership? It is possible that we have forgotten what Speculative Masonry is, the meaning of and the philosophy of our great Fraternity?

## GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

*Do DeMolays make good Masons; or do Masons make good DeMolays?*

This is a question which we must constantly ask ourselves and to which we must find an answer that will satisfy us. The statement is that it takes Masons to make good DeMolays. If we seek to form a new Chapter of DeMolay young men, it must have an Advisory Council made up of Masons. Before a Chapter can be formed it must have a sponsoring Masonic Body. Before a young man can become a DeMolay, he must have a Mason sign his petition and sponsor him.

DeMolay has appealed to our Masonic Brethren on many occasions for their help in any one of these three areas. Would you like to join in sponsoring a Chapter; could you give the time to serve as an Advisor for a chapter? Have you mentioned DeMolay to any of those nice boys in your neighborhood and offered to sponsor them in one of the chapters near you? DeMolay needs your help and this is the way in which you can give it. Past Grand Master William H. Price in his message to the 1973 annual Communication of the Grand Lodge stated: "Whether they be young men of DeMolay or young ladies of Rainbow and Job's Daughters I am convinced that a great measure of our future depends on these

young people and how they feel about the Masons who compose our fraternity.

"The impressions they receive by our actions today develop their concept of Masonry, what it is and whether or not a desire will be created in them to become members or to encourage their loved ones to become members. We will never convince them of the worth of Masonry by words—the young people of today depend on deeds to show them the way. If ever there was one, this is a 'show-me don't tell-me' generation."

Does this infringe upon your leisure time? Perhaps the sacrifice will be worth it for the youth of today will be the leaders of tomorrow; the background of our country, the Masters of our Lodges or the Commanders of our Commanderies, the fathers of another generation. He is our most valuable asset. Let us not sell him short for the lack of a little time.

If you don't want to help these boys, then please don't complain about the youth of today, for you have not helped to make it any better.

What will you, as a Templar, or your Commandery do to help the Order of DeMolay not only during DeMolay Week in 1974 but during the entire year.

Courteously and Fraternally Yours,  
**Frank F. Jones, Grand Commander**

Possibly we need a program of education to once again bring the great truths of Masonry in clear focus to each and every member? A "program" to remind us of the great heritage which we have, a heritage of love for our Country, for our Flag, and for our God. A "program" to remind us that Masonry has an important role to sustain. Its function is to inculcate the moral principles that build character. Her deep truths are drawn from the Holy Bible, which is always open upon our Sacred Altar. Her name will always be associated with obedience to law and order, to loyalty to government, and all that citizenship under that government stands for. The principles on which Masonry was founded, the compelling power of its ideals are the guarantee of that loyalty to government which will ever preserve the Liberty and Freedom of Man.

A "program" to remind us that Masonry operates as Almighty God operates, through the wills of men. Our Fraternity will cease to attract men of the calibre we desire, unless the mystic symbols are deeply interpreted and adequately applied to the morals and government of the land in which we live. Masonry is the great institution for

blissing and uplifting mankind. The gospel of democracy is taught more clearly in our beloved Order than in any other organization in the world. It is the gospel that places its value upon the rights of human life, and the dignity of the individual.

A "program" to acquaint us with the fact that the day is surely coming, perhaps it has already come, when we as Masons, must squarely face the question: what concrete influence are we exerting in world affairs, in morality, and in approach to God? Whether our Order, with its membership, and its potential influence, justifies its existence; or whether, like so many organizations, political and social, which have gone before, is in danger of becoming too self-centered, too self-serving, too self-indulgent to accomplish the purposes of God.

There is as great a need for the philosophy of Masonry in the complex life of our day, as there was centuries ago when the Masonic light first began its flickering flame. Possibly what we need today, is a "program of education" to fan that flickering flame of yesterday, into a burning fire of today.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
**George D. Yale, Grand Master**

In the biographical sketch of Benjamin Franklin printed in the January issue, it was noted that Benjamin was "the tenth son and fifteenth child of Josiah Franklin and his wife of Boston." This, despite later mention of a half-brother, gave the impression that the mother of Benjamin was the mother of 15 children.

"Not so," reminds Historiographer Harold V. B. Voorhis, New Jersey. "Franklin's father was first married to Anne Child. She bore him seven children. She died July 9, 1689. On November 25, 1689, he married Abdiah Folger and she bore him nine children, of which Benjamin was the eighth."

As an added fillip of information, Sir Knight Voorhis notes: "None of the seven half-brothers and half-sisters nor his eight brothers and sisters survived him. The last one died twenty-four years previous to 1790, Benjamin Franklin's year of death."

### Commemorative Cornerstone Medal

A sculpted medal commemorating the laying of the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol by President George Washington in 1793 is available from the Capitol Historical Society, 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20515. The bronze medal is 8.50; silver (limited and numbered), \$45.00 postpaid.

At the center of the medal, Washington is shown officiating in the traditional Masonic consecration of the cornerstone of the nation's capitol.

### Deadline Savings Time

As a reminder to Grand and Constituent Recorders, update reports relayed by Constituent Recorders are due in the office of the Grand Encampment, Chicago, by the 5th of each month in order for the data processing staff to incorporate membership status and address changes for current use. Reports received after the 5th delay processing one full month.

The dreamer said, "We could."  
The dauntless said, "We should!"  
The doubter asked, "What good?"

There was promise heeded.  
There was courage needed.  
There was challenge speeded.

Thus, are tasks begun.  
Thus, are battles won.  
Thus, life's fabrics spun.

They who said, "It could not be,"  
Have just begun to see  
The vision of mind set free.

No worthy purpose fails:  
All idle pretense pales,  
Where faith and hope prevails.

Gilbert H. Hill, P.C.

Oak Knoll Manor

P.O. Box 94

Camdenton, Missouri 65020

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### Available

Templar dinner napkins — 16 inches square, embellished with colorful Cross and Crown illustration — are available from the Grand Encampment office at \$13.50 per thousand, including shipping. Three-color placemats, featuring a reproduction of Trumbull's "Signing of the Declaration of Independence," are featured at \$9.50 a thousand, also including postage. Shipment made immediately upon receipt of check. Order from the Grand Recorder, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

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### Thought for the Month?

Christians are not sinless but sin less.

## Promises vs. Performance

Each of us has made at least three declarations of a most serious and solemn nature in the process of becoming a Knight Templar, and kneeling before his peers each has assumed and subsequently re-affirmed in a most dramatic ceremony a vow of broad and binding nature. Each of us has enjoyed the expressed confidence of all who considered our qualifications for membership. Yet, all who have served well must have observed that others do not.

It is most useful when active Templars, especially those serving officially, make an effort to discover and know all Knights within hailing distance to learn their special abilities, to offer them friendship in a fraternal way, to find an area of service in our ranks for each.

Let's remember that our Order is fraternal, that one can serve who has not developed an interest in ritualistic work, who may have responsibilities that actually prevent regular attendance, who may not be free to commit himself to serve our often unnecessarily long progressive official lines. The broad social interests of our Order in Christian religion, education, charitable works and civic activity offer a useful place to all.

Let's take the positive attitude that seeks to know and serve all members. Let's appreciate the social value of Templary and the tremendous potential of our idle legions. Let's re-enlist them, re-involve them, reactivate them. We can close the gap between promises and performance — if we will. To do so will serve the interests of our Order, the needs of our communities, and the teachings of our Master.

From a 1968 Message  
by Sir Knight John L. Crofts, Sr., P.G.M.



### Irish Freemasonry

The earliest definite date in Irish Freemasonry is inscribed on a brass square recovered from the foundations of Ball's Bridge in Limerick when the bridge was being rebuilt in 1830. The inscription reads: "I will strive to live with Love & Care Upon ye Level By ye Square." 1507. The brass square is now in the museum of Lodge 13, Limerick.

First recorded Lodge of Speculative Masons was in Dundee — 1536.

Extracts by  
Bro. Harper Moffet from  
*The History of the Grand  
Lodge of Ireland*

### Builders All

Because God made us builders all,  
Unbounded is our worth;  
In answer to each worthy call,  
Lord guide our talents forth.  
Deliver us from selfish gain,  
Enrich our hearts to build;  
Resplendent may our works remain,  
Sublime each task fulfilled.

Ervin H. Strub  
P.O. Box 124  
Edgerton, Wisconsin 53534

“IT IS OF INFINITE MOMENT, THAT YOU SHOULD PROPERLY ESTIMATE THE IMMENSE VALUE OF YOUR NATIONAL UNION TO YOUR COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL HAPPINESS... CITIZENS BY BIRTH OR CHOICE, OF A COMMON COUNTRY, THAT COUNTRY HAS A RIGHT TO CONCENTRATE YOUR AFFECTIONS. THE NAME OF AMERICAN WHICH BELONGS TO YOU, IN YOUR NATIONAL CAPACITY, MUST ALWAYS EXALT THE JUST PRIDE OF PATRIOTISM . . . WITH SLIGHT SHADES OF DIFFERENCE, YOU HAVE THE SAME RELIGION, MANNERS, HABITS AND POLITICAL PRINCIPLES. YOU HAVE IN A COMMON CAUSE FOUGHT AND TRIUMPHED TOGETHER. THE INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY YOU POSSESS ARE THE WORK OF JOINT COUNCILS, AND JOINT EFFORTS; OF COMMON DANGERS, SUFFERINGS AND SUCCESSES. EVERY PORTION OF OUR COUNTRY FINDS THE MOST COMMANDING MOTIVES FOR CAREFULLY GUARDING AND PRESERVING THE UNION OF THE WHOLE.”



From the Farewell Address  
of George Washington, 1796