



Knight Templar

VOLUME XXII

JUNE 1976

NUMBER 6



The Memory Will Linger On Through Flag Day And Independence Day As The Thousands Of Worshippers Watch 921 Templars March To Arlington National Cemetery For The Easter Sunrise Memorial Service



Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle, lower right, salutes as Cross of Lilies is placed on the tomb of the Unknowns.



KNIGHT TEMPLAR

Templary Salutes



the Bicentennial

JUNE: On the eve of our 200th anniversary, our nation's flag becomes the theme of the *Knight Templar Magazine*. This year Flag Day becomes of even greater significance than ever before. The cover pictures show Knights Templar amid some of the most cherished shrines of Americana as they assembled from the West Coast to the Atlantic, from the Gulf to the borders of Canada, to worship in Arlington National Cemetery. Additionally the June issue features Dr. Harold Blake Walker's essay, "Worthy To Be Free"; a salute to an American hero, Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson, Jr.; a feature on the "Story of the Flag," the husbands of Betsy Ross by Harold V. B. Voorhis, also the James R. Case story about Samuel Holden Parsons — plus other features and news we hope you will find of interest.

Paul C. Rodenhauer, Editor

JUNE 1976

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of the United States of America.

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OUR NATION'S FLAG



This month marks Flag Day, a special holiday. Always significant, it takes on added meaning in this period of observance of our country's 200th Anniversary. Display your flag often and proudly. It's a symbol that represents two centuries of Liberty and Freedom.

Within the hallowed Arlington colonades at Easter, we were surrounded by a wealth of inspiration. With a

Grand Master Riegle reviews the procession of 921 uniformed Templars and colors at Eastertide in Arlington

heart bursting with pride, I watched the procession of hundreds of Templars as they filled the amphitheater to the strains of the U.S. Marine Band's "Onward, Christian Soldiers." Its memory will be forever.

Damascus Commander Harry M. Smit, Detroit, perhaps best expresses the profound appreciation of Christian worship in these lines:

"Easter Son Rise"

I marched today — in celebration of life —
At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,
I joined with those, from every nation,
to greet the dawn, in white chapeau, and glistening sword,
reflecting the rays of early morning light.
With uncovered head, held high in prayer —
the only sound —
that of a lone man singing the Lord's Prayer —
and
the lone song of an early morning bird.
Fresh Easter lilies
fashioned in a cross, were placed
on a grave guarded night and day
and lo,
the grave was opened —
and the unknown soldier became known to each of us there.

The Easter Service exemplified a Faith greater than my words can convey.

Ray Clifford Riegle



EDITOR'S JOURNAL

Appreciation: Sir Knight John Wesley McKinney, Jr., Watauga Commandery, Johnson City, Tennessee, wrote to set the record straight about Brother William Jennings Bryan, subject of a condensed sketch last month. Prominent reference books listed his death at Miami, Florida, but Sir Knight Johnson claimed he died in Dayton, Tennessee. So, we checked further — and are happy we did. Investigation revealed the first sources were incorrect, Sir Knight Johnson was right. Bryan died in his sleep at Dayton, Tennessee, after the arduous battle which pitted Bryan against Clarence Darrow in the Scopes trial.

An Adjustment: The April report from the A.M.D. Meetings in Washington listed Dr. William Peacher as Past Grand Commander of New York. Correctly, it should have read Past Grand Captain General.

General Chairman Grundy: A problem exists with several registrants for the August Triennial Conclave. Merlin R. Grundy reports some members “are registering without including the \$15.00 Registration Fee.” The \$15.00 fee is needed from each Knight in order for him and his lady to receive the Commemorative Grand Encampment Badge, a ticket to the Saturday evening entertainment, the souvenir program book, souvenir key chain and other materials without additional charge.

Correction from the Source: Sir Knight John Loayza's address (for Guatemala Temple Building) was listed as 1168 Washington Boulevard, Oak Park, Illinois 60302. All information is correct, we are told, except the address itself. It should be 1128.

Benefactor: The Grand Master's Club initiated last month has been augmented and partially revised by the addition of Grand Captain General Kenneth C. Johnson to position No. 7, a Masonic anniversary, and the relinquishing by Deputy Grand Master Willard M. Avery to position No. 16, a Masonic anniversary for him.

Jr. O.U.A.M.: In the March *Knight Voices* a reader asked for the identification of “Jr. O.U.A.M., Stalstown 362 Council.” Sir Knight Lee A. Lemos, West Palm Beach, Florida, provided the answer. He wrote: “This is a medal of the Jr. Order United American Mechanics, an organization which stood for the ‘Little Red Schoolhouse’ and had many Masonic principles and teachings.”

He says in younger days he was a member and Councilor and three times a Deputy State Councilor. He adds: “It had a beneficiary degree which I believe was badly hit during the depression . . . Believe it is still an active organization.”

“Foundations”: A new book “of nourishment, direction and a message for the tomorrows in life” has been published by Henry S. C. Cummings at \$5.00 each, available from Sir Knight Cummings, 33 Oak Hill Street, Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02159.

The Deuce: In the reduction of the Trumbull engraving on the \$2.00 bill, four signers appear to be blocked-off on the left, two on the right. As a point of information, Hancock is seated at the desk facing the five men who drafted the Declaration — John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, Thomas Jefferson. Brothers Hancock, Sherman, Livingston and Franklin were Master Masons. Status of Jefferson is doubtful; Adams definitely was not.

WORTHY TO BE FREE

by
Harold Blake Walker

Sir Knight Walker was born in Denver, Colorado, and now lives in Evanston, Illinois. He is a former Associated Press editor and writer, a retired clergyman and pastor, and now writes a column for the Chicago Tribune. He has also authored many books, including, most recently, Inspirational Thoughts For Everyday (Hawthorne Books New York, 1970).



Active in many branches of Masonry, Dr. Walker is a member of Evanston Commandery No. 58 and is a 33° Scottish Rite Mason. He is also a director of the Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Chicago.

The authors of the Constitution of the United States were realistic and practical men who viewed human nature with healthy skepticism as they labored on their historic document. James Bryce noted that the Constitution "is the work of men who believed in original sin and were resolved to leave open for transgressors no door which they could possibly shut."

John Calvin would have approved the Constitution. He had no illusions concerning the nature of man, the fallen creature who needed to be saved from himself. As Bryce suggested, "The aim of the Constitution seems to be not so much to attain great common ends by securing good government as to avert the evils which will flow not merely from a bad government but from any government strong enough to threaten existing communities and individual citizens."

The idea of centralized power disturbed Madison and his colleagues, even though they understood the necessity for a government strong enough to govern. Essentially, they mistrusted men who might be elected to positions of power or who, by virtue of wealth or influence, might be able to subvert the government.

Thomas Paine, unjustly described by Theodore Roosevelt as "a dirty little atheist," was a thoroughgoing Calvinist when he wrote, "Society is the fruit of our virtues, but government is the product of our wickedness." He understood that a government strong enough to deal with the wickedness of men was necessary.

History has justified the fears of the authors of the Constitution that corruptible human nature corrupts government. The checks and balances they wrote into their document were designed to guard the nation against the ambitions of the unscrupulous. They balanced their idealism with honest realism about human nature.

The checks and balances prescribed by the Constitution frequently make government difficult. When Congress and the President are at odds and the Supreme Court disposed at one time to be liberal and at other times conservative, the government appears to be devoid of power to act. Nevertheless, as Winston Churchill noted, "Democracy is the worst form of government ever invented — except for every other."

What stands clear now as in → → →

the early days of the nation's history is the need for incorruptible men and women in every area of our common life. Democracy always is threatened by the corrupt and the dishonest. It is saved by men and women who cannot be bought or coerced. Its strength is in a consensus of worthy ideals and values in the body politic.

Ralph Waldo Emerson was haunted by a lack of commitment to ideals and values and a "hollowness of heart" in those who shared the nation he knew and loved. "Genuine belief has left us," he lamented. "The underlying principles of the states are not honestly believed in. The depravity of the business classes of our country is not less than has been supposed but infinitely greater."

The question posed by Arnold Toynbee is worth pondering in this Bicentennial Year: "Suppose that in the next generation the ablest minds and most perceptive spirits were to come to the conclusion of Socrates that the most urgent business on mankind's agenda is to close the morality gap?" Closing that gap is certainly the most urgent business on our agenda.

Emerson was aware, as was Reinhold Niebuhr, that "only religion can create the unpurchasable man." Both insisted that only a firm faith in God can enable men and women to manage their freedom with dignity and integrity. Nothing less than high faith can nourish honesty and integrity, justice and righteousness. Essentially, we are what we believe.

Although the authors of the Constitution provided safeguards to protect us against the unscrupulous, they could not make us fit to bear the burdens of our own freedom. Nothing less than reverent faith in God can do that.

Sir Knight Walker lives at 425 Grove Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

‡



Pennsylvania Red Cross of Constantine

Orient Conclave, Bloomsburg; Williamsport Conclave, Williamsport; St. James Conclave, Shamokin, joined with Trinity Conclave April 30 at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to honor Intendant General John G. Eshleman and to meet the Grand Sovereign of the United Grand Imperial Council, Hoyt McClendon, K.G.C., Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauser, K.G.C., and Grand Trustee Walter B. Wilson.



Among Intendants General present were Franklin T. Shimer, "Pennsylvania Eastern," and Chester D. Minick, "Pennsylvania Western." A total of 231 attended the Bicentennial meeting.

Other honored guests included Grand Generalissimo John B. Cottrell, Jr., Grand Encampment; Grand Commander Francis R. Black, York, and Past Grand High Priest James D. Smith. The toastmaster was Robert D. Smink, Williamsport.



Principal speaker of the evening was David R. Perry, a Past Sovereign of Trinity Conclave, who noted that it was 187 years ago that Brother George Washington became the first President of the United States, a moment when "One Nation Under God began to function for the first time."

HERMAN NICKERSON, JR.

by
Melvin W. Byers

Sir Knight Melvin W. Byers, born in Clinton, Iowa, retired as Chief Warrant Officer December 31, 1963. His Masonic memberships range from Heidelberg to Florida. He is Past President, Old Dominion Chapter No. 364, Past Commander of Light Horse Harry Lee Camp, Heroes of '76.

Past National Secretary-Treasurer-Editor and National Adjutant, National Sojourners, Inc., he was Secretary, National Trustees, and served as President, 1975. He was reelected National Secretary-Treasurer in 1975 for three year term. First recipient of Houghton Memorial Award, National Sojourners.

Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson, Jr., United States Marine Corps, Retired, was born July 30, 1913 in Boston, Massachusetts, and was graduated from high school in Arlington, Massachusetts and the Boston University, where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1935. He immediately accepted an appointment as a Marine Second Lieutenant and thus began a career in which he saw service in China, the Central and South Pacific, Korea, the Middle East and Vietnam.

During the Korean Conflict in 1951 Sir Knight Nickerson was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Cross. Included among his other military decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal (Navy) (2), the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" (3), the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Medal. He has also received foreign decorations from Korea and Vietnam.

Quotes from his Citation for the award of the nation's second highest combat award, the Army Distinguished Service Cross, point out his outstanding military duty:

"Learning that two of his battalions were heavily engaged and that the enemy was grouping for a counter-attack, Colonel Nickerson unhesitatingly left the comparative safety of his command post and fearlessly moved forward over rugged

mountainous terrain under intense enemy mortar and artillery fire, to the most forward elements of his command. Unmindful of his personal safety, he advanced to an exposed vantage point under heavy enemy fire and through his brilliant guidance, his troops repulsed the ferocious counter-attack, taking the offensive and overwhelming the fanatical foe to secure the high ground dominating the vital road junction of Yang-gu."

In 1958 Sir Knight Nickerson was appointed fiscal director of the Marine Corps, a position he held until 1962. He served two annual terms as President of the American Society of Military Comptrollers, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General January 12, 1968. He retired from Active duty March 31, 1970.

Boston University Alumni Association presented Sir Knight Nickerson with its outstanding public service award in 1959. He also received the national recognition award, Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, 1965, and the Navy League of the U.S. John Paul Jones Leadership Award in 1970.

His Masonic career started on January 31, 1964 when he was received as an Entered Apprentice in Barstow Lodge No. 682, F. & A.M., Barstow, California. Sir Knight Nickerson was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft March → → →

20, 1964 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason May 18 of that year. He served on the Barstow Lodge Degree Team in 1964-65. Joining Warren G. Harding Lodge No. 39, F. & A.M., in Washington, D.C., in 1970, he was the Worshipful Master of that lodge in 1972-73 and is a life member.

In National Sojourners he has served as a Chapter President and, Camp Commander, and took over the Danang Chapter in the field of battle as Secretary-Treasurer in 1966-67, and reorganized it.

He served as a member of the Committee of 33; was elected National Third Vice President in 1968-69; served as National President, National Sojourners, Inc., 1971-72, and is presently serving as a National Trustee of that organization.

He became a member of the California Consistory, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, Valley of San Francisco, Orient of California in 1965. He was invested as a Knight Commander, Court of Honour, in 1965 and coronetted an Honorary Inspector General 33°, December 18, 1965. He has served as Grand Steward of the Supreme Council, 33°, of the Southern Jurisdiction, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite from 1973 to present. He is a member of Sudan Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., New Bern, North Carolina, since 1965 and serves as Ambassador at Large. He holds honorary life memberships in Okinawa Shrine Club, Aloha Temple, Al Malaikah Temple, and San Bernardino Shrine Club.

Sir Knight Nickerson's York Rite memberships are in Onslow Chapter No. 94, Royal Arch Masons, Jacksonville, North Carolina; Onslow Council No. 34, Royal and Select Masters, Jacksonville, North Carolina, and St. John's Commandery No. 10, New Bern, North Carolina; Super Excellent Master, Fayetteville Council No. 27, Royal and Select Masters, Fayetteville, North Carolina; Red Cross of Constantine - United



Imperial Council, St. Simeon Stylites Conclave, D.C., since 1974; York Rite Governor General's College and others.

He is also a recipient of the Legion of Honor of DeMolay in 1966 (Active), and an Honorary Member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.

He received the Distinguished Achievement Award, Grand Lodge of New York, A.F. & A.M., in 1970; the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Distinguished Service Medal (Joseph Warren Medal), June 12, 1974; Purple Cross of York, York Rite Sovereign College of North America, 1970, Royal Order of Scotland, 1971, and an Honorary Life Member of the National Defense Masonic Club, Washington, D.C.

On September 21, 1970 Sir Knight Nickerson was sworn in as the first Administrator of the National Credit Union Administration. (N.C.U.A. was established on March 10, 1970 by P.L. 91-206 as an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the Federal Government.) He began the tenure as Head of the Federal Credit Union Program after serving thirty-five years in the Marine Corps. This is an appointment of the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate. The incumbent serves at the pleasure of the President.

In 1972 Nickerson served as a member of the Committee on Interest → → →

On June 7, 1776, Patrick Henry of Virginia rose in the Continental Congress and offered the following resolution: "Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States . . ."

Consideration was postponed for three weeks. In the meantime, a committee was appointed to draft a declaration to the effect of the resolution.

In Virginia, on June 12, the Virginia Bill of Rights, standard for all American bills of rights, was passed by the Virginia Convention. On June 29 they adopted a constitution for the independent Commonwealth of Virginia.

The committee of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Brother Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Brother Robert Livingston made their report to the Continental Congress on June 28 but it was held over while the independence resolution was debated.

A new nation was about to be born.



... HERMAN NICKERSON, JR.

and Dividends until the committee ceased operations April 30, 1974.

Sir Knight Nickerson presently is a member of the Walker Chapel United Methodist Church in Arlington, Virginia, and is married to the former Phyllis Anne Winters. They now reside in Arlington, Virginia, but maintain a legal residence in Lincolnville, Maine. They have two married children: a 33-year-old son, John Herman, and a 23-year-old daughter, Dennis Anne Higginbotham, a dental hygienist.

Sir Knight Byers address is 4600 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22304.

‡

Three by three in line they come
 Courteous men of Templardom!
 Christian men who've bowed the knee
 At the cross of Calvary,
 Each with dedicated sword
 To the glory of the Lord,
 Guarding still the faith they hold
 As was done in days of old.

Far their history trails away
 To the dark and bloody day
 When the Christians made their stand
 In the troubled Holy Land
 And the followers of the Christ
 Ruthlessly were sacrificed.
 There amid the inky gloom
 Shone the Templars' spotless plume

Now the need for strife has gone,
 Still the Templars follow on,
 Though their swords in silence sleep,
 Still the faith of old they keep,
 Still beneath their glittering arch
 Candidates for knighthood march
 And by taper and by sword
 Pledge allegiance to the Lord.

Templars all, my hand I wave,
 Be you steadfast, be you brave!
 Old the order! Old the need
 For the valiant Christian's deed.
 Bigotry no more holds sway,
 But for valiant knights today
 And for Christian gentlemen,
 Still the need is now, as then.

Edgar A. Guest
 Detroit Commandery No. 1
 1881 - 1959

A TEMPLAR'S PASS

"Beatitudes" a Templar's password is
 As Christ proclaimed it, and the pass was His;
 "Beatitudes" will overcome all things
 And give a Templar's heart celestial wings.

Milford E. Shields, P.C., K.T.C.H.
 P.O. Box 1217
 Durango, Colorado 81301

Triennial Conclave Meetings

Presently scheduled for the Triennial Conclave meetings at Kansas City in August are the following:

August 26 — 2:30 p.m. Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Roy Wilford Riegle, President. (Conclusion early afternoon, August 27)

August 27 — 2:00 p.m. Knights Templar Educational Foundation. Ralph B. Mitchell, Chairman.

August 27 — 4:00 p.m. Committee on Ritualistic Matters. G. Calvin Dyson, Chairman.

August 27 — 4:30 p.m. Judges, Drill Team Competition. S. Lewis Smith, Chairman.

August 27 — 7:30 p.m. Captains, Drill Team Competition. S. Lewis Smith, Chairman.

August 28 — 10:30 a.m. Committee on Templar Jurisprudence. Herbert D. Sledd, Chairman.

August 28 — 3:45 p.m. Committee on Finance. Arch M. Dullnig, Chairman.

August 28 — 3:00 p.m. Committee on Dispensations and Charters. Robert S. Schoedinger, Chairman.

All Meetings of the Grand Encampment Committees will be held at the Muehlebach Hotel. A number of the committees will be in consultation during the Triennial Conclave sessions.

By July all Voting Members of the Grand Encampment will receive the Grand Master's General Order No. 11. It will list all appointments for the 53rd Triennial Conclave and specify any replacements required during the triennium. The Notice of Conclave will be mailed at the same time. It will contain all Amendment Proposals which Voting Members have submitted.

Briefing Session for New Officers

The Grand Master-elect of the Grand Encampment has announced that a general briefing session will take place Thursday evening, September 2, at the Muehlebach Hotel, Kansas City. An introductory dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., followed by a business session and briefing for the Sir Knights — the Grand Encampment Officers, the Committee Chairmen and the newly appointed Department Commanders.



Supplement Editors Meeting

The State Supplement Editors will meet with the *Knight Templar Magazine* Editor and staff representatives Sunday afternoon, August 29, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., in the Lido Room, Hotel Muehlebach, Kansas City. All interested Templars are invited.

The *Knight Templar Magazine*, in addition to its standard 32 pages, prints an average of 46 two-page Supplements for each of the 48 Grand Commanderies. Grand Commanderies do not match states for a number of reasons. Massachusetts and Rhode Island form one Grand Commandery; there are Subordinate Commanderies in Delaware, Alaska and Hawaii. The District of Columbia constitutes a Grand Commandery, as does the Grand Commandery of the Philippines.

An average of 124 pages is prepared in camera-ready form in the Grand Encampment office, printed and distributed on a standardized schedule each month to nearly 365,000 Templars.

LEADERSHIP, THE KEYNOTE

by

Dennis A. Daugherty

Director of Public Relations, DeMolay International

The 1976 Edition of DeMolay Leadership Conferences will get underway June 13 and will run through August 28. The conferences will be held in almost every corner of the United States and provide a unique opportunity for individual growth to DeMolays, with resulting growth to chapters and to jurisdictions.

The three-fold purpose of these conferences is: to stimulate and help develop individual leadership qualities; to educate members on basic DeMolay programs and procedures, and to establish and foster an increased understanding of brotherhood between and among DeMolays from a wide distribution of jurisdictions.

As in 1975, a total of 13 conferences will be held during June, July and August. The cost for each conference is \$95.00, which includes food, lodging and linen for six days (except for the Trinidad, Texas conference, which will be five days); plus a Leadership Conference notebook containing an outline of the lectures and group discussions, special publications, and other materials; and two conference T-shirts.



Lecture and discussion topics cover a wide variety of subjects, including ritual, DeMolay Week, how to conduct a good

chapter meeting, how to organize chapter projects, the art of communication, awards and other similar DeMolay oriented general knowledge subjects.

Many Masonic and DeMolay groups have established the pattern of providing scholarships to attend Leadership Conferences, and the Junior Councilor is especially urged to attend.

Mornings at the conferences are filled with classes on DeMolay subjects, question and answer sessions, and slide presentations. Afternoons are devoted to athletic competitions and general recreational time, while the evening hours are used for optional sessions and entertainment.



Transportation to and from each Leadership Conference is normally the responsibility of the individual conferee. Once he arrives, all expenses are included in the basic fee, with the exception of snacks and other extras, such as additional camp T-shirts or sweat-shirts, or personal items.

While at a conference, typical DeMolay chapters are formed for the week. Officers are elected and sports teams are organized. A great deal of good-natured competition is encouraged. Some DeMolays participate in →→→

a ritual display, which is given the last night of the conference; and some work on the daily conference newspaper. Certificates of achievement are presented at the closing banquet on the final night of the conference, and later in the evening a meaningful rededication service is held.

Attending a conference will provide potential DeMolay chapter leadership with skills to more effectively plan and develop chapter activities, membership programs, ritual proficiency, public relations efforts and jurisdictional activities.

Reservations should be submitted early so that the conferee may be certain he may attend the conference of his choice. Reservation forms may be obtained by contacting DeMolay Headquarters, 201 East Armour Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. The dates and locations of the conference are as follows:

- June 13-19: Midwest No. 1
Mt. Vernon, Iowa
- June 20-26: Northeast No. 1
Colebrook, Connecticut
- July 11-17: Southeast
St. Simons Island, Georgia
- July 11-17: Western No. 1
LaHonda, California
- July 17-23: Northwestern
Seabeck, Washington
- July 18-24: Middle Atlantic
Lynchburg, Virginia
- July 18-24: Midwest No. 2
Potosi, Missouri
- July 25-31: Southern
Jonesboro, Arkansas
- August 1-6: Southwest
Trinidad, Texas
- August 8-14: Northeast No. 2
Lebanon, New Jersey
- August 15-21: Rocky Mountain
Greeley, Colorado
- August 15-21: Great Lakes
Akron, Ohio
- August 22-28: Western No. 2
Lake Arrowhead, California



The Black Horse Troop Excursion

Late arrival of information prevented earlier mention of the annual Black Horse Troop ride from Dubois to Cody and back the beginning of July. Reservations are needed immediately for those who will make the trip.

Sir Knight Albert W. Cross, Past Grand Commander, The Cross Ranch, Dubois, handles all details. His letter to the Editor is quoted verbatim.

"We leave here the morning of June 30 and spend the night on top of the mountain, arriving in Cody the night of July 1. This gives us one day to rest the horses and get ready for the parade and drill the 3rd and 4th.

"On the return, we leave the Cody side the morning of July 5, spend that night on the mountain, and back on the 6th. Going to Cody is restricted to Knights Templar but the return is open to anyone, 18 or older. Confirmation needed immediately."

For details of the fee for the trip by horseback, write: Albert W. Cross, The Cross Ranch, DuBois, Wyoming 82513.

Aubrey C. Martindale Heads Horse Show

The 13th Gulf Coast Arabian Charity Horse Show at Heart of Texas Fairgrounds, Waco, Texas, is scheduled to start October 29 and conclude Sunday, October 31, for the benefit of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Sir Knight Martindale, P.G.C., announces that there will be three shows at which admission will be required by purchase of tickets - Saturday afternoon at 1:00, October 30; Saturday evening at 7:30; Sunday afternoon, October 31, at 1:30.

Each of the 10 Constituent Commanderies in Templar District No. 5, says Sir Knight Martindale, will be co-hosts for the show and will assume the duties of promoting advance ticket sales and providing uniformed Knights Templar during the performances.

STORY OF THE FLAG

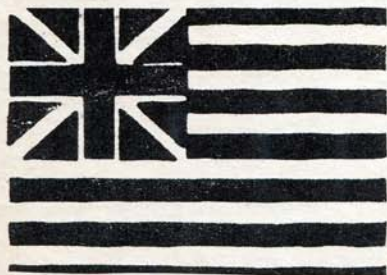
A Flag Day Salute

Our country celebrates June 14 of each year as Flag Day. It commemorates the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress first adopted the Stars and Stripes as the banner of the new United States.

The flag is a quite familiar sight and, obviously, everyone knows the red and white stripes stand for the 13 original colonies, and each one of the 50 stars represents a state. Most everyone can also recall the legend of Betsy Ross stitching the first American flag.

But the true fact is that nobody really knows for sure where or when our country's first flag was made or flown, or even who was responsible for designing it. Revolutionary War artist John Trumble, for example, had two flags in the scene when he painted the Battle of Bunker Hill, and neither of them had any stars or stripes.

The Grand Union Flag, however, is often considered the first flag of the United States. It was the banner Brother George Washington displayed at Continental Army Headquarters at Cambridge — an improvised version of the British Union Jack with 13 red and white stripes representing the colonies.



Pine Tree Flag

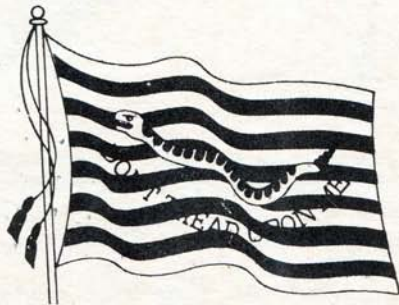
The first date of use of the Grand Union Flag is said to have been January 1 or 2, 1776, when the Continental Army came into existence.

But many different flags could be seen hovering as banners among the American Revolutionary Forces. Regiments created their own flags, adorned with snakes, eagles, trees and stripes of varied colors. Several of the most popular flags featured a pine tree in the center and the motto, "An Appeal to Heaven."



Pine Tree Flag

The flag of several Navy ensigns, the South Carolina regiment and perhaps several other states included a rattlesnake and the words, "Don't Tread on Me." This flag signified the danger that was in store for those who would deny the people their inherent rights of freedom from oppression.



Rattlesnake Flag

The varied flags continued to fly for some time because Brother → → →

Washington had more important and immediate things to concern himself with.

In 1777 a member of the Continental Congress proposed a resolution calling for a single flag for the new United States. But the resolution proposed no exact form for the flag; it merely suggested a banner with 13 red and white stripes and 13 white stars on a field of blue.

Since the resolution didn't say whether the stripes should be horizontal or vertical, or how the stars should be arranged in the blue field, flagmakers began to design their own versions. Many different kinds of red, white and blue flags began to appear.

One of the earliest and most popular versions featured 13 red and white stripes, horizontally arranged with red at the top, and the 13 stars in a circle like a coronet on the blue background. Descendants of Betsy Ross attribute this flag to her, but there is no exact proof that she did actually make it.



Betsy Ross Flag

Another popular flag, believed to have been raised at the Battle of Bennington in Vermont, depicted a half-circle of stars with the number "76" within it on the blue field.

Although the flags were becoming increasingly more consistent, there were still variations. Even as late as 1781, following the Revolutionary War, North Carolina's version of the flag had red and



Bennington Flag

blue stripes. Later, when Vermont and Kentucky joined the Union in 1795, Congress amended the flag to one with 15 stars and stripes.

Following more alterations, Peter Wendover, New York Congressman, proposed a single flag of 13 original stripes and a star for each state. This gradually became accepted. It was amended as recently as 1959 to include Alaska and Hawaii.

‡

Honolulu in 1977

Officers of the United Grand Imperial Council are planning to journey to Honolulu in June of 1977 for the 105th Annual Assembly, Red Cross of Constantine. The line of succession in June at Birmingham, Alabama, where the 103rd Annual Assembly will be held, will advance Harold W. Kent to the station of Grand Sovereign. He will preside at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Honolulu, June 3-5, 1977. The Chicago office of the United Grand Imperial Council currently is arranging special rates and schedules with United Airlines for transportation. Exact arrangements will be announced next month.

June 4-5 will mark the 104th Annual Assembly, Red Cross of Constantine, at Birmingham, Alabama, with Grand Sovereign Hoyt McClendon, K.G.C., presiding. Committee chairman is George W. Sorrell, who is also a Trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

THE CUP OF BROTHERLY LOVE

The first anniversary of the home-coming of the Cup of Brotherly Love was observed May 26, 1959. A booklet published by Evans Lodge No. 524, A.F. & A.M., Evanston, Illinois, tells that the Evanston Masonic Temple on that date was rededicated with an address by Brother Stanley Crosland to mark the return of the Cup donated by Worshipful Brother Norman B. Hickcox. Fred C. Hanover was Master of the Lodge in 1958; J. Herbert Witte was Master in 1959.

The foreword to the booklet refers to a quotation by John B. Vrooman, St. Louis, Missouri, who wrote: "May the message of the Cup of Brotherly Love continue to stir the hearts of men the world around, and thus fulfill its high mission."

for the excerpts of the story which follows.

"Very early on the beautiful spring morning of May 24, 1958, sixteen members of Missouri Lodge No. 1, together with delegates from 12 other Missouri Lodges and Grand Lodge officers of Missouri, joined in an impressive Masonic motorcade. For this was the day for the return of the Cup of Brotherly Love to its home in Evanston, Illinois, on the shores of Lake Michigan... This was the last relay of a journey lasting more than 28 years, more than 40 thousand miles!"

Sir Knight Carl W. Lutz spoke during the rededication and said, in part: "On September 9, 1929, the Cup was presented to Evans Lodge by Norman B. Hickcox, who had been Master in 1923." He quoted from the Evanston newspaper: "A curiously beautiful-loving cup, recently presented to Evans Lodge by a former Master will start on a journey around the world Tuesday evening next, November 19, leaving Evanston for a Chicago Masonic Lodge.

"The Cup is to be carried by traveling Masons from one Lodge to another in an easterly direction, and on its journey will pass through the hands of thousands of the Masonic Order in many lands."



Sir Knight Alvin L. Crump, Past Department Commander, is the source



Grand Recorder, Rodenhauer, Past Grand Commander Fowler and G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., Executive Director, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, present picture donated by Sir Knight Crump to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS

Grand Master Honored on Law Day

Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle was honored on Law Day, May 3, when the State Bar Association at a Chamber of Commerce meeting in Emporia, Kansas, saluted him for his 51st year as an attorney. The Grand Master was surrounded by friends and World War I and World War II "buddies." He, with Mrs. Riegle at his side, briefly addressed the group. He said in the next world, he "wants to live in the United States of America, the greatest country in the world; in Emporia, Kansas, among his friends; as a lawyer, a noble profession — and married to the same wife."

Sir Knight Riegle noted that no lawyer still practiced in Emporia who maintained an office when he began his own practice.



Dr. Daniel Poling to Speak

A Bicentennial theme will be included in the St. John's Day Service to be held at the Cathedral of Pines, Rindge, New Hampshire, at 11 a.m., June 27.

The service is a combined effort of the Grand Lodge, F. & A.M.; Altemont Lodge No. 26, Peterboro; St. John Council No. 7, Keene, and the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire. Vernon L. Harris, Chairman, Albion R. Lane and John A. Fitzgerald are in charge of arrangements.

M.W. Grand Master Paul Talbot has invited the Grand Masters of the 13 original colonies to be present. Grand Commander Agnew Walker requests members to attend in uniform if possible for an escort.

The speaker will be Dr. Daniel K. Poling, Pastor of the Fort Washington Collegiate Church, New York City, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New York. A 40 girl chorus from the Order of Job's Daughters, representing Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, will sing. There are nearby picnic areas for family outings writes Leonard D. Rowell, Supplement Editor for the New Hampshire edition of the *Knight Templar Magazine*.

Gain of 337 in Tennessee

Leslie L. Farmer, succeeding Louis D. Hudgings, was elected Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee April 24 at Nashville. Deputy Grand Commander is Ernest Edwards, Oak Ridge.

The Knights Templar Cross of Honor was presented to Sir Knight Shack Franklin by Paul Rodenhauer, Representative of the Grand Master, Sir Knight Roy Wilford Riegle.

For the 35th consecutive year, the Grand Commandery of Tennessee showed a gain in membership. Current gain was 337. A report by Grand Recorder John C. Stracener showed that a total of \$14,558 had been contributed to the 8th Voluntary Campaign — including a donation of \$1,667.50 from the Grand Court, Order of the Amaranth.

East Bay York Rite To Tour Denmark

Sir Knight Russell G. Worth, President, East Bay York Rite Association, Oakland, California, announces an excursion to the land of the Vikings September 25-October 5, 1976. The Association will fly to Denmark in an SAS DC-10 wide-bodied jet. The tour will depart from Oakland and return to Oakland. Says President Worth: "Book now to avoid disappointment. This will be a superb one-week holiday (\$499 plus 15 percent) to remember for a long time." His address: 5278 Manila Avenue, Oakland, California 94618.

June 4-5, R.C.C. at Birmingham

New Providence Medal

Hoyt McClendon, Past General Grand Master of General Grand Council, R. & S.M., International, presides over the United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine, June 4-5 at Birmingham, Alabama.

Activity will begin June 3 with a reception for the Grand Sovereign. Formal Proceedings will start the morning of June 4 with meetings of the Committee on Jurisprudence and Intendants General.

The Kahler Plaza Hotel is headquarters for the gathering. Grand Viceroy of the Order, Harold W. Kent, Honolulu, is in line to succeed Grand Sovereign McClendon. Chairman of the Alabama Committee is Past Grand Commander George W. Sorrell, a Trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. Recorder is Grand Secretary-Recorder of the York Rite Bodies of Alabama, Thomas W. Mann, Birmingham.

Leaders in York Rite, Scottish Rite



John Lawson, center, Commandery No. 8, Carlisle; Joseph P. Dechert, No. 24, Lebanon, and George H. Hohenschildt, Pilgrim Commandery No. 11, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania — all Past Commanders of their respective Commanderies — became Commander-in-Chief, First Lieutenant Commander and Second Lieutenant Commander of the Consistory, Valley of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in May.

knight templar

St. John's Commandery No. 1, Providence, Rhode Island, offers a new medal with ribbon and pin bar — or the coin without ribbon or pin bar. The one bronze medal is topped by a bar depicting the forthcoming 175th Anniversary of St. John's Commandery. It is attached to a red, white and blue ribbon for the Bicentennial.



The bronze coin attached to the bottom of the ribbon shows on the obverse St. John's 1802-1977 celebration of the anniversary. The reverse is dedicated to the Bicentennial — 1776-1976. Either the medal and ribbon or the coin is available.

Sir Knight Fredrick Hyatt, Providence, says: "St. John's person-

nel will proudly wear this medal on their uniform from now until the year 2002 and we would like to share this masterpiece with any Sir Knight who would like to have either the medal or the coin.

"Each medal is \$8.50 and each coin is \$5.00, including boxing, wrapping and postage. Kindly forward check or money payable to the order of St. John's Commandery in care of:

Norris G. Abbott, III, Recorder
195 Chestnut Drive
East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818".



W. Ray McNay, Butte, Montana, may be the oldest candidate in the United States to have a Masonic degree conferred. He received the degree of Royal and Select Master in Zabud Council No. 2, R. & S.M., Butte, in February at the age of 91 years, 3 months, 16 days.



McNay is not a novice in Masonry. Born on a farm near Mendon, Illinois, November 9, 1884, he received his Royal Arch and Templar work in Hannibal, Missouri, in 1909, the 32° of the Scottish Rite in Little Rock, Arkansas, and became a Noble of Sahara Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. in Pine Bluff in 1911.

Ward L. Ekas, M.D., Past Department Commander, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, has been honored for his dedication to Seneca Lodge No. 920 F. & A.M., where he is an honorary member. Sir Knight Ekas, a 33° Scottish Rite Mason, is a 50 year member of Williamstown Lodge No. 129, A.F. & A.M., Williamstown, West Virginia; Past Commander of Monroe Commandery No. 12, Rochester, New York; Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the State of New York, and Past Department Commander of the Northeastern Department of the Grand Encampment.

Worshipful Brother J. Rayford Whitley, Master of Seneca Lodge presented a plaque to Sir Knight Ekas with this tribute: "His activities and honors in medicine, education, and community service are extensive, as is his encouragement of men through Masonry."

Constellation of Junior Stars



Amy L. Tower, Exalted Star of the Constellation of Junior Stars, presents the family gavel to her father, Richard Tower, Jr., upon his installation as High Priest of his R.A.M. Chapter. Sir Knight Tower is a member of Niagara Commandery, Niagara Falls, New York.



Dr. Ekas is pictured above (center) with two men whom he inspired to become Masons, R.W. Robert W. Avery, D.D.G.M. (left) and W. B. Whitley. Both Avery and Whitley are Sir Knights of Monroe Commandery No. 12.



SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS

by
James R. Case, K.T.C.H.

Samuel Holden Parsons, a Major General in the Revolutionary Army, was "...esteemed...as a bold, resolute, enterprising soldier, and by the British prisoners as a man of the most humane, generous and benevolent disposition..." When seen at the General Assembly in Hartford in 1780 he is described as a "plain...looking...man, had more the appearance of his original occupation (shoemaker's apprentice) than that of a soldier; he had long hair which hung about his ears, a brown homespun coat, buckskin breeches, a red laced waistcoat, blue yarn stockings, a pair of shoes I fancy were made by himself, and an amazing, long silver-hilted sword."

This strange costume adorned the person of one of the most prominent figures in post-Revolutionary Connecticut Masonic circles since Parsons played a quite conspicuous part in the early attempts to perfect the organization of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. A classmate at Harvard of Sir Knight Joseph Warren, Grand Master of Ancient Masons in Massachusetts who was slain at Bunker Hill, and also of The Reverend William Walters, Grand Master of Masons in New York City in 1783 to whom the Connecticut committee turned for advice on forming a Grand Lodge.

Parsons served on various committees and in different capacities at the several "conventions" preliminary to the final formation of our Grand Lodge in 1789. Had he been alive and in the state he would have been the logical choice to head the fraternity.

But he had become interested in the Ohio Land Company which in part developed the North West Territory. He acted as Commissioner to the Indians in clearing the title, was appointed a Federal

Judge of the newly formed territory, and led surveying parties in laying out the tract west of Pittsburgh which the company was selling. He preached the first Thanksgiving Day sermon at Marietta, Ohio, in 1788 where the territorial administration was then centered. In 1789 while on an errand of mercy, taking an injured comrade down the Big Beaver River for medical attention, their canoe was overturned and both men were lost. Weeks later his body was found, identified by certain metallic objects, and given a decent interment. However, the winter floods which followed washed away all traces of the grave and its location was lost forever.

Born the son of the minister at Lyme in 1738, Parsons left the cobbler's bench for Harvard College, graduating in 1756. He was granted an MA degree by his Alma Mater in 1781, the same year that Yale gave him an honorary LLD. He practised law in New London, became King's Attorney for the county and was often in the legislature. When the Revolution broke out he espoused the patriot cause and as a Colonel of the 6th militia regiment was at Bunker Hill and the Siege of Boston.

During 1776 he was in action at the Battles of Long Island and White Plains, and was made a Continental Brigadier General. For the next few years he was in command of troops in Western Connecticut, watching the British garrison at New York, guarding against Tory activities and conducting an extensive intelligence and counter espionage network. One of his agents was William Heron of Redding, whose code name was Hiram, later a member of the Lodge at Fairfield and first Master of Ark Lodge when it was chartered a few years later. →→→

Parsons was among the group which sat on the court martial that tried and convicted Andre, the famous British agent and spy.

He was made a Mason in the Lodge at Middletown in 1763 and a Fellowcraft at New Haven in 1765. As such he became a charter member in 1776 of American Union, the famous military traveling Lodge in the Connecticut line, in which he was among the first to be raised. At the Redding Encampment in 1779 he was elected Master but his military duties interfered so that at the next election he was succeeded by Jonathan Heart. Having settled in Middletown when he left the service he became Master of St. John's Lodge there in 1783, also being on record as a Royal Arch Mason. In the Mark Masters' Lodge he most appropriately chose as his mark the "twin stars" of a Major General, as he had been promoted to succeed Brother Israel Putnam in 1780.

As was the case with many others in those days, his career and his business suffered from the neglect of war times, and he saw an opportunity to reestablish both in the West. The Grim Reaper however, cut him down in his prime, although he died a glorious death in sacrificing his life for another's welfare. His untimely death ended a most promising career of service to his country and the fraternity, but his earlier accomplishments and attainments mark him as one of Connecticut's greatest but an unsung hero.

Sir Knight Case, an Honorary Member of American Union Lodge, resides at 39 Highland Avenue, Bethel, Connecticut 06801.

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"Our Town" for Triennial Conclave

Merlin R. Grundy, Chairman, announces the Tuesday evening August 31 entertainment at the 53rd Triennial Conclave will be Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," one of the playwright's most discussed plays. Those pre-registering for the production will receive their tickets, at \$5.00 per couple, in their Triennial packets.

Engineering School Founded June 9, 1778

General Bruce C. Clarke, Ret., Commandery No. 2, District of Columbia, notes that two years from this month will mark the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the first Engineering School in America. It will be observed at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, June 9, 1978.

Sir Knight Clarke, a distinguished Army Engineer, quotes from the presentation by Hon. J. Kenneth Robinson, Virginia, in the Congressional Record, a portion of which reads:

"On a monument at Valley Forge can be seen a bronze plaque bearing the words of President Herbert Hoover, himself a notable engineer, dates November 19, 1930, recalling the substantial achievements of George Washington as an engineer . . .

"General George Washington's most trusted staff officer, Maj. Gen. Lord James Stirling, was his Chief Artificer. In the spring of 1778, realizing that technical education was sorely needed in America, General Washington directed Lord Stirling to establish a school for such a purpose in the Continental Army at Valley Forge. Eleven enlisted men made up the first class. This event is now marked by a plaque on a monument on the grounds of Freedoms Foundation."

"Let's Make Templary Visible"

A Bicentennial Rededication Program on June 10 will immediately follow the stated Conclave of Allen Commandery No. 20, Allentown, Pennsylvania. The program will be dedicated to "Our Principles of Templary." The public is invited for the Rededication which will feature patriotic music, a vow of rededication and "an Inspirational Ceremony for All." The theme: "Let's Make Templary Visible." Allen's Eminent Commander is Harold A. W. Stuber.

8th VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN RESULTS

"A surge of last minute reports from State Chairmen," says Campaign Chairman Charles S. McIntyre, P.G.C., Michigan, "is expected to carry the 8th Voluntary Campaign past the \$400,000 level." Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle has expressed appreciation for fund-raising efforts and indicates that final figures, to accommodate the receipt of those in the mail at this point, will be announced next month. Current results of individual Grand Commanderies and Subordinate Commanderies are as follows:

Alabama —	\$ 3,930.49	Utah —	4,153.94
Arizona —	4,105.43	Vermont —	586.90
Arkansas —	5,239.20	Virginia —	6,194.50
California —	12,903.28	Washington —	718.00
Colorado —	4,013.16	West Virginia —	3,146.11
Connecticut —	2,784.91	Wisconsin —	5,736.40
Dist. of Columbia —	4,299.36	Wyoming —	1,864.69
Florida —	13,073.22	Philippines —	450.00
Georgia —	18,291.39		
Idaho —	3,015.45	Subordinate Commanderies	
Illinois —	8,066.71	Delaware No. 1 —	740.00
Indiana —	2,804.00	Hawaii No. 1 —	130.00
Iowa —	1,864.31	Canal Zone No. 1	393.00
Kansas —	1,793.72	Porto Rico No. 1	350.00
Kentucky —	6,668.58	Alaska No. 2 —	450.00
Louisiana —	8,298.07	Mexico No. 2 —	30.00
Maine —	3,120.26	Japan No. 1 —	1,160.00
Maryland —	8,792.75	Germany No. 1 —	380.00
Mass.-R.I. —	16,300.03	Germany No. 2 —	550.00
Michigan —	13,155.84	Saudi Arabia No. 1 —	1,216.00
Minnesota —	6,340.50	Mexico No. 3 —	60.00
Mississippi —	9,541.78	Miscellaneous —	4,000.00
Missouri —	5,782.07		
Montana —	3,012.91		
Nebraska —	855.00	TOTAL TO DATE	\$345,767.63
Nevada —	3,981.87		
New Hampshire —	1,576.55		
New Jersey —	3,630.12		
New Mexico —	1,561.88		
New York —	7,842.55		
North Carolina —	5,366.19		
North Dakota —	301.25		
Ohio —	33,090.48		
Oklahoma —	1,196.61		
Oregon —	3,009.47		
Pennsylvania —	35,371.40		
South Carolina —	7,393.50		
South Dakota —	748.55		
Tennessee —	17,582.56		
Texas —	22,752.69		

As the above totals were in preparation an additional \$42,000 was received with four days remaining to allow for reports from Grand Commandery Chairmen and from Subordinate Commanderies. The additional figures make it almost a certainty that the total will approach last year's successful fund-raising activities. A new Voluntary Campaign will be launched December 1.

R. Lee Lockwood Heads Bicentennial

Past Grand Commander Ed Bloomquist, Texas, says "July 3 will be a great day for Texas Masons. It is the day set apart for the Celebration of the Bicentennial of our Nation."

Worshipful Master Thomas C. Y. Yantis has requested Illustrious Brother and Sir Knight R. Lee Lockwood to serve as chairman of the observance.

Sir Knight Lockwood is a Past Grand Master of Texas, Past S.G.I.G., Texas; Past Grand Sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine, Past Grand Master, International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.

The scheduled program:

- 10 a.m. to 12 Noon, Grand Lodge Memorial Temple, open for tours
- 12 to 2 p.m., Registration, Waco Convention Center
- 2 p.m., Bicentennial Program, followed by Installation of Officers.
- 7 p.m., Masonic Brethren and Families to participate with the City of Waco in their Bicentennial Program at Baylor Stadium.

On Sunday, July 4, 1976, a religious service will be conducted in the Grand Lodge Memorial Temple from 8 to 9 a.m.



June Depletion — *Masonic Americana*

Estimates based on present orders indicate the 35,000 copies of *Masonic Americana* — at \$1.50 each — will be depleted before July. They will not be re-printed.

For those who may have failed to order this latest edition, the Grand Encampment offers a small quantity of *Masonic Americana* in original form and at the original cost of \$1.00 each — post-paid. While the limited supply lasts, orders will be filled as received at the office of:

The Grand Recorder

14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604

From the Grand Master and Mrs. Riegle

The Grand Master has requested the *Knight Templar Magazine* to convey his and Mrs. Riegle's appreciation for the "hundreds, literally thousands, who were so kind and thoughtful to remember us in April when we observed our 53rd Wedding Anniversary."

Sir Knight Riegle says he would be more than pleased if he could acknowledge all of the greetings and good wishes expressed to them. Since that is impossible, he sends his "deep sense of appreciation for having friends in Templary throughout the world. We will ever be thankful for that friendship."

Saskatoon for Sovereign Great Priory

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, will be the setting for the 93rd Annual Assembly of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada August 7-10 inclusive. Headquarters, according to Grand Chancellor Charles E. Wells will be the Sheraton-Cavalier Motor Inn.

It is anticipated that Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle will be in attendance, also Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauser, and their ladies.

Grand Master of the Sovereign Great Priory is Sir Knight R. V. Weir.

Grand Commandery 100 Years Old

The Grand Commandery of Colorado, Ray H. Slaybaugh, Grand Commander, will celebrate its Centennial Anniversary with a banquet June 19, Denver. The observance will take place in the Rocky Mountain Scottish Rite Temple, 1770 Sherman Street, in Denver.

Dispatch from Alabama

Because of the inability of Governor George C. Wallace to be present May 15, the Alabama Statewide Festival was cancelled this year. Three district festivals replaced the Statewide Festival.

HUSBANDS OF BETSY ROSS

by

Harold V. B. Voorhis, P.M.

During the last year several items have appeared in Masonic publications concerning the husbands of Betsy Ross, reputed maker of the first American Flag. Many of the articles are simply figments of the vivid imaginations of the writers — often replete with errors.

The misnomer, “first American Flag,” is one of those unrealistic statements like “American Citizen” or “American born” and other such statements, when what is really meant is “first United States of America Flag” and “citizen of the United States of America.” After all, there are other countries in America besides ours — north and south.

Betsy Ross was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 1, 1752, the eighth of the 17 children of Samuel and Rebecca (James) Griscom. She died January 30, 1836, at the age of 84, in the home of one of her seven daughters. There is no proof that she made the flag attributed to her, the story being first made public in March 1870 by her grandson, William Canby, in a paper that he was permitted to read before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. It is fairly well established that she continued the ship and flag furnishing business of her husband after his death in 1776, for there is a record in the minutes of the Pennsylvania State Navy Board covering the ordering, on May 29, 1777, of a payment to her of L14-12-2 for “making ships colours, etc.” Our flag was adopted by a resolution of the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. (*Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-89, Volume VIII, 1907, page 464.*)

Now let us look into the Masonic and other records of her three husbands.

JOHN ROSS was the son of Rev. Aeneas Ross of New Castle, Delaware. His

birth date has not come to light but he died on January 21, 1776 as a soldier in the militia when an explosion of gunpowder on a wharf on which he was patrolling took place. He married Betsy November 4, 1773 when she eloped with him to Gloucester, New Jersey.

He was a member of Lodge No. 2, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for December 20, 1779 state “The Worshipful Master of No. 2 produced his warrant, granted June 7, 1758, No. 69 of Ancient York Masons, in England, but held as No. 2 in Pennsylvania, and desired the same might be renewed under the authority of this Grand Lodge, preserving the precedence of the said No. 2 in Pennsylvania, and reciting the date and preamble of the same, which was agreed to.”

From *Freemasonry in Pennsylvania 1727-1907 as shown by the Records of Lodge No. 2, F. and A.M.*, by Barratt and Sachse, page 275, August 27, 1774 — “Mr. John Ross was proposed by Bro. Parks to become a member — Ordered to lie on the books till the next Stated Meeting.” Then on page 276, September 14, 1774 — “Mr. John was ballotted for, approved and received the first step of Masonry.” In the same minutes it was “Resolved that Bro. Ross make a couple of cushions for the use of the Lodge.”

On April 12, 1775 (page 297) John Ross is noted as being present and further along in the minutes that “Bros. John Ross and Isaac Melchoit some time since entered, underwent their examination and being found upon such due and proper Examination well Qualified were admitted to the degree of Fellow Crafts.” In an index showing pages of the minutes covering “initiations” we find “24 — John Ross.” → → →

Note that the above John Ross, who was the husband of Betsy, is not to be confused with John Ross, born Jan. 29, 1726 in Twain, County Ross, Scotland, who was elected a member of Tun Tavern Lodge (Moderna No. 3) in Philadelphia on September 11, 1749. Nor still another John Ross who was "entered" in this same Lodge on October 5, 1754 and "passed" June 18, 1755. (See minute books of the Lodge, June 28, 1749 to July 2, 1755. The last notice of the existence of the Lodge is found in *Pennsylvania Journal of June 19, 1760*).

It is not known when CAPTAIN JOSEPH ASHBURN was born but he died March 3, 1782. He was the first mate of the brigantine *Patty*, which was captured at sea by the British. Imprisoned in Old Mill Prison, Plymouth, England, he was taken ill and died there. He married Betsy June 15, 1777, at Old Swedes' Church, Wicaco, Pennsylvania. They had two daughters.

No record of any Masonic membership has come to light.

JOHN CLAYPOOLE was born in Mt. Holly, New Jersey, August 15, 1752 and died August 3, 1817. On a mission to France he was captured by the British and sent to Old Mill Prison in Plymouth where he met his friend, Captain Ashburn. At the first exchange of prisoners he was returned to Philadelphia bearing a letter from Ashburn to his wife, Betsy, stating that he was ill. He died soon thereafter. Claypoole married Betsy May 8, 1783 and they had five daughters.

In the *History of Freemasonry in Maryland*, Volume I, page 137, there is a certification dated December 17, 1779, signed by James Claypoole, Secretary of Lodge No. 7 at Chester Town, Maryland, that John Claypoole was Entered, Passed and Raised in that Lodge. This Lodge became No. 2 when the Grand Lodge of Maryland was formed. It ceased working in 1794. Claypoole Lodge No. 13, Fort Madison, Iowa, has a Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania certificate dated March 30, 1780, which shows that John Claypoole was made a Mason in Lodge No. 7, under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. A

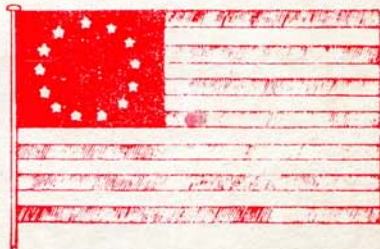
reproduction of it may be found in the *Iowa Grand Lodge Bulletin* of March 1930.

In the work of Barratt and Sachse, previously mentioned (pages 81, 88 and 168), we find John Claypoole listed as a visitor in Montgomery Lodge No. 19, on January 6, 1785; as a contributor to the Lodge Building Fund for Lodge No. 2, and a visitor from No. 19 (of which, by then, he was a member). In the *History of Montgomery Lodge, No. 19*, by Alexander H. Morgan, 1887, page 169, John Claypoole is listed as a member as of March 19, 1787. The same is true in the By-laws of that Lodge, printed in 1871, but as "admitted from another Lodge." He also visited Lodge No. 2 on July 12, 1790 and again on August 9, 1790.

As a further note, a daughter of Betsy Ross, Mrs. Clara Wilson, spent the closing years of her life in Fort Madison, Iowa, with her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Albright. She is buried in City Cemetery in Fort Madison, where three granddaughters are also buried. The Masonic certificate now owned by Claypoole Lodge No. 13 was owned in 1930 by Mrs. Kate Robison of Fort Madison. She was a great granddaughter of Betsy Ross Ashburn Claypoole and John Claypoole, and at the time was over 90 years old.

Sir Knight Voorhis is a member of Corson Commandery No. 15, Red Bank, and practically every other Masonic body. He lives at 105 New England Avenue, Apartment B2, Summit, New Jersey 07901.

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ANOTHER WORD ON UNIFORMS

by
Lt. Col. Edson W. Card

Continuing discussion about uniforms has prompted Lt. Col. Card to forward the following to the Knight Templar Magazine. He quotes an 1890 monograph by Lt. Col. William J. B. MacLeod Moore (1810-1890), who was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Scotland in one evening, August 17, 1827 at the age of 17. Sir Knight Moore was first Eminent Commander of Hugh de Payens Encampment in Ontario in 1854 and Grand Inspector General 33° Supreme Council of Canada. In 1873 he was elected Supreme Grand Master Ad Vitam, Sovereign Great Priory of Canada. The Prince of Wales, as Grand Master of the Order of the Temple, conferred on him the Grand Cross of the Temple that same year.

Discussions about the costume for Knights Templar in the United States have interested me because of the incalculable effect the costume has on the reputation, if not the character, of the Order. In an 1890 monograph titled "British Templary," written by Lt. Col. W. J. B. MacLeod Moore for inclusion in a *History of Freemasonry and Concordant Orders*, he sets forth how ridiculous he thought the practice was in our Grand Encampment. (Pages 785 and 786; all emphases by the author):

"Templar Costume and Processions — In the Templar costume of the Empire we follow that of the ancient Knights, intended to symbolize the character of the Order, but never meant to be paraded before the *eyes of the public*. Such exhibitions are not the custom of the British Empire, all public displays being looked upon as most objectionable, and a Templar procession with us would appear as ridiculous to the common observer as if the Knights of the 'Garter' and the 'Bath' in their state robes, or gentlemen in *court dresses*, were to parade the *streets* for the admiration of the multitude. Show and parade are sometimes necessary; but in matters connected with Freemasonry, 'the less, the better': like Christianity, it is more appreciated in its unobtrusive character than in public

demonstrations, and the unnecessary expense incurred by such exhibitions would be better applied in promoting the object and aim of all Masonic and allied bodies.

"Imitation military public displays and processions of the Knights Templar body, so much indulged in on this Continent, quite unknown in the British Empire, are out of place, although harmless in themselves. They are entirely opposed to the true meaning and object of Christian Templary, entailing a great and unnecessary expenditure, and serving no other purpose but to pander to the vanity and self-gratification of the members who take part in them. Are all the poor and needy in the land provided for? Are there no more hospitals and schools required, to which the great outlay at those gatherings might and could be legitimately applied, instead of wasting the means in idle shows?

"When, for His own wise purposes, God permitted the hordes of banditti that infested the land at the commencement of the Crusades and the vast multitude of fanatics to accompany the pilgrims to Palestine, actuated by a wild religious enthusiasm to recover the Holy Land from the Infidel Saracens, they swept like a torrent over Europe, and were nearly all annihilated before reaching → → →

their destination. They were replaced by noble Christian Knights with their following, and mail-clad ascetic pious warrior-monks — in whom the latent fire of religious fervor burnt, with the light of battle in their eyes, to serve the Divine Master — and who established the religious and military Order of Knights Templar. But they are certainly *not* represented by modern Masonic Templars at *mock* military processions, with bands of music, flaunting of flags and banners, decorated with emblems — not always consistent with the laws of heraldry and Christian symbolism — banging of drums, braying of horns and fanfaronade of trumpets in self-laudation, only tending to vulgarize and change the representation of the once famous military Templars into a mere ‘circus exhibition to attract attention for the amusement of the idle and gaping multitude.’ ”

It is 86 years since that was written and the costume has not gained the respectable patina of tradition. Sir Knight Card says that “where it has not fallen into tarnished destitute, it only appears ludicrous.”

Sir Knight Card is a member of Okinawa Commandery No. 2, Grand Commandery of the Philippines. He lives at 4819 Kelly Drive, Carlsbad, California 92008.

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Louisiana Conclave Publicized

Effective publicity was given in the *Shreveport Times* to the Annual Conclave of Louisiana, Bossier City, with A. J. Lewis, presiding as Grand Commander.

The newspapers announced the appearance of Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle, Emporia, Kansas, who was the keynote speaker at the April Conclave.

Grand Recorder Bowdre McDowell relayed the clippings which indicated also a special feature article on Joseph M. Greer, Minden, Louisiana, who was the recipient of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor.

New Grand Commander of Louisiana is Jay A. Poche, Lafayette.

Recipients, Haverhill Senior Citizens



Trustees of the Charitable Fund, Haverhill Commandery No. 14, Haverhill, Massachusetts, present a check for \$250 to their Commander to buy 100 tickets for the “Senior Citizens of Haverhill” to enjoy a night of entertainment with the Arruda Accordion Band at Bradford College. Combined Masonic Bodies of Haverhill sponsored the event to buy new banquet hall tables and chairs. Shown is Commander John H. Fotos accepting check from Sir Knights Decius Veasey and Robert D. Forsyth, Jr.

To go fishing is the chance to wash one's soul with pure air, with the rush of the brook or the serenity of a lake, and the shimmer of the sun on blue water. It brings meekness and inspiration from the decency of nature, charity toward tackle-makers, patience toward fish, a mockery of profits and egos, a quieting of hate, a rejoicing that you do not have to decide a darned thing until next week. And it is discipline in the equality of men — for all men are equal before fish.

— Herbert Hoover

William Bryan Phelps
 North Carolina
 Grand Commander — 1968
 Born October 19, 1893
 Died March 21, 1976

Glenn Hunter Spittler
 Mississippi
 Grand Generalissimo — 1976
 Born September 30, 1913
 Died April 15, 1976

Edward Earl Warmath
 Mississippi
 Grand Commander — 1942
 Born May 18, 1891
 Died April 23, 1976

Sir Knight Michael Mooney, Jamestown, was elected and installed Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of North Dakota April 26. Retiring Grand Commander Urban Blaisdell, Moorhead, Minnesota, was elected to the office of Grand Recorder. Interim Grand Recorder Leo Osman was named Grand Recorder Emeritus.

Grand Commander Mooney, installed by Grand Recorder Paul Rodenhauer, was assisted by Past Grand Commander James C. Newland, Grand Forks, North Dakota, as Grand Marshal.

Reorganization of North Dakota affairs, necessitated by the death a year ago of Grand Recorder Albert G. Tverberg, after a long career and a lengthy illness, is progressing under the leadership of the present Grand Officers. Almost \$1,500 was raised for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation from contributions to the Albert G. Tverberg Memorial Campaign.

Sir Knight Shahan Composition

A release from Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky, announces that a new musical composition by Professor Paul Shahan, a West Virginia Templar, was commissioned by the "Jackson Purchase Historical Society" and received its premiere performance by the Murray State University Symphony Orchestra in April.

Dr. Harry M. Sparks, president of the society, said that plans were set in motion in 1975 "to celebrate not only the Bicentennial of our country, but to give specific attention to, and honor our Jackson Purchase Heritage. To do this, we commissioned Professor Paul W. Shahan to compose a new composition for orchestra with historical narrative."

The composition commemorates the 1818 treaty negotiated by Governor Shelby and General Andrew Jackson and bears the title, "Beat the Drums Proudly."

Sir Knight Shahan, for 20 years Professor of Music at Murray, has been called upon by many organizations to compose music for special occasions, including those for the Bicentennial Observance.

Job's Daughters and Spirit of '76



Grand Generalissimo W. Boyd Sibold, Ohio, receives a check for \$145.00 for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation from Gail Ann Call, Honored Queen of Bethel No. 25, International Order of Job's Daughters, who choose the Eye Foundation for her service project. She added a competitive note to the campaign by observing: "I hope Ohio comes in ahead of Texas and Pa.!"



INDIANA SUPPLEMENT



RICHARD M. STEPHENSON, Editor
224 South 23rd Street, Richmond, Indiana 47374

INDIANA INSTALLS NEW GRAND COMMANDER

David Robert Poling, Jr., of Lafayette Commandery No. 3 was elected and installed as the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana as it concluded its 122nd Annual Conclave at Fort Wayne on Saturday, May 1st. Sir Knight Poling succeeds James S. DeMond of Fort Wayne.

Other officers of the official Grand Commandery Line were duly advanced and Ronald D. Simpson, living at Greentown, Indiana, and belonging the York Rite bodies including KoKomo Commandery No. 36, of Kokomo, was elected to the starting station of Grand Sentinel.

All business sessions, luncheons, and dinners were held at the same location, the Marriott Inn in Fort Wayne. Devine Religious Services, under the direction of Sir Knight Bernard L. Smith, Grand Prelate, were held in the Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Fort Wayne Friday afternoon commencing at 5:00 p.m. Competitive drills were held starting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday morning at the Memorial Coliseum.

The Grand Commandery Banquet on Saturday evening climaxed the two day meeting with awards being presented to the competing drill teams, various Commanderies, and individual Sir Knights. The Grand Commander's Cup Award was won by Bloomington Commandery No. 63 for the second successive year. This award is given annually to the Commandery with the greatest number of Knightings during the past fiscal year.



Bloomington Also won the J. Rufus Hinshaw Trophy for having the greatest net membership gain in 1975. This is also the second successive year Bloomington Commandery has won this award and if they are successful for another time this present year, they will gain permanent possession of this trophy.

Guide-On Awards in each of the Battalions for having the highest officer's grades at Annual Inspections were as follows: Battalion 1, Valparaiso No. 28; Battalion 2, South Bend No. 13; Battalion 3, Fort Wayne No. 4; Battalion 4, Kokomo No. 36; Battalion 5, Tipton No. 52; Battalion 6, Knightstown No. 9;

Battalion 7, Franklin No. 23; Battalion 8, Baldwin No. 2 of Shelbyville; and Battalion 9, Bloomington No. 63.

Emil L. Steffey, Recorder of Baldwin Commandery No. 2 at Shelbyville, was presented and introduced as the recipient of the Indiana Knights Templar Cross of Honor Award for the year 1975. It was presented to Sir Knight Steffey by the grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Roy Wilford Riegle.

Winners of the Competitive drill teams were announced as follows: Class "A" was won by Knightstown No. 9, they being the only contender. Class "B" had five teams contending with Fort Wayne No. 4 winning with a score of 939; Bloomington No. 63 was second with 933; Greenfield No. 39 was third with 932; Raper Commandery No. 1 of Indianapolis was fourth with 927; and Baldwin No. 2 placed fifth. Winner of the class "C" Tactics Division was Hammond No. 41 and a drill team from Battalion 3 won the class "C" Drill Division.

The newly installed Grand Commander introduced his appointive Grand Prelate, Ray G. Glick, a Past Commander of Lafayette Commandery and the new Grand Organist, Sir Knight Omar Rybolt of Indianapolis. He also announced that the Grand Conclave next year would be held at Lafayette on May 6, and 7, 1977.

DAVID ROBERT POLING, JR.

David R. Poling, Jr. was born March 8, 1918 in Perry County near Bremen, Ohio where he attended the Bremen elementary schools and graduated from the Rush Creek Memorial High School in 1937.

Before entering the military service in 1941 he managed a dairy farm for his grandfather and also was associated with the W. K. Kellogg Cereal Company in Philadelphia. After serving more than four years in the Army Signal Corps with 47 months in the South Pacific, he completed his military service in 1945.

He became affiliated with the General Telephone Company, where he has spent the last 30 years, and is now serving as field supervisor over the cable division.

Sir Knight Poling resided for a time at Liberty, Indiana, south of Richmond. While there he married Leona Mae Rittergs in 1946. He started his Masonic career by joining Liberty Lodge No. 67, and also joining Liberty Chapter R.A.M. and Liberty Chapter R. & S.M. in 1948. Shortly thereafter they moved to Lafayette and he transferred his membership to West Lafayette Lodge No. 724 and served as their Worshipful Master in 1964. He also affiliated with Lafayette Chapter and Council and Joined Lafayette Commandery and is a Past Presiding Officer of all three York Rite bodies and a member of Indiana Priory No. 8, K.Y.C.H. of Fort Wayne.

Sir Knight Poling holds membership in the Indianapolis Valley of the Scottish Rite, Murat Shrine at Indianapolis and a Past Patron of West Lafayette Chapter No. 507, O.E.S., and a Past Royal Patron of the Order of Amaranth. He is also a member of Gennesaret Tabernacle H.R.A.K.T.P. of Fort Wayne and the White Shrine Bethany No. 8. He is also a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and an Honorary Member for Life, Legion of Honor in the DeMolay.

Sir Knight and Mrs. Poling are both members of the Central Presbyterian Church in Lafayette.

HOOSIER MASONIC DATES

- July 17, 1976 — Indiana Grand Commandery Summer meeting at Nashville.
- July 17, 1976 — Indiana Grand Council will make deposit in Crypt at New Albany.
- July 28, 1976 — Group 6 York Rite quarterly meeting at Connersville.
- July 25, 1976 — Reception for Mary Helen Foster, Supreme Worthy President of Social Order of Beauceant, at Indianapolis.
- August 21, 1976 — Group 9-N and Mesopatamia Royal Arch Chapter Association will hold annual Quarry Festival at Bloomington.
- August 28-Sept. 2, 1976 — Grand Encampment meets at Kansas City, Missouri.



KNIGHT VOICES

COMMENTS FROM READERS



□ Wanted: Genealogical information on THOMAS PEACH/Y COATES, born ca. 1750 (where?), died 1795-1799; wife MAJOR(orie) NORMAN; Sussex County, Delaware. Son THOMAS P. COATES, b. 1795 m. 1817 ELIZA GRIFFITH/PRATT. Both are believed to have been Masons. *Lawrence O. Kupillas, 220 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016*

□ There has come into my custody a Knights Templar sword, bearing on it the name of W. Mack Stevens. It came to me from an acquaintance who retrieved it some years ago from a derelict craft in Asian waters.

It is in poor condition; rusted and one of the hilt guards was broken off and has been mended. While unlikely that it could be restored to pass inspection for ceremonial purposes, it may have sentimental value to the original owner or a member of his family. If such person is interested, please apply to me. *Lt. Col. Edson W. Card, U.S.M.C. (Ret.), Okinawa Commandery No. 2, 4819 Kelly Drive, Carlsbad, California 92008*

□ I read every word of my *Knight Templar Magazine*. . . It is a very great inspiration to me. Due to my physical condition, I spend most of my time reading and praying and would be very grateful to hear from any Mason that would care to write. Also I appreciate any Masonic literature.

I have two hobbies. One is collecting rare stamps, or any stamps anyone would care to send me. My other hobby is collecting old auto tags or license plates from every state and country. I would be very appreciative for any. *S.K. George Phillip Bradford, 1210 East Columbus Drive, Tampa, Florida 33605*

□ I have in my possession — found among my Dad's belongings after he passed away — a Royal Arch Mason Penny about the size of a half dollar. Printed on one side is *Western Sun Chapt. No. 11, R.A.M., Missoula, Mont.* In the center is printed *one penny*. On the other side is the Keystone with the mark of a three leaf clover upside-down. The coin is the color of a penny. On the coin is the date, Sept. 1892, Chartered. Anyone interested may contact me. *Sir Knight Robert H. Greenlund, 14815 Cerritos, Sp. 24, Bellflower, California 90706*

□ I have a fine collection of Masonic memorabilia, especially York Rite material, but have been searching for years for paperweights with the Chapter Keystone. I have the Knights Templar emblem paperweights.

If any Sir Knight has either for sale, I would like to know about it. State cost, size, color, whether glass or crystal, etc. Swapping material also available. *Sir Knight Otis V. Jones, Jr., Junior Warden, Raleigh Commandery No. 4, Box 5366, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607*

□ I would like to locate my Commandery Sword burned or misplaced in the Galveston Lodge fire several years ago. Call *J. N. Mulloy collect Area Code 214/586-4624, or write Rt. 6, Jacksonville, Texas 75766.*

□ I am trying to buy Volume No. 1 to 9 inclusive of the *Royal Arch Magazine*, hard bound. Will be glad to hear from any who will sell one or all. *C. Clark Julius, P.C., York No. 21, 2260 Carlisle Road, York, Pennsylvania 17404.*

□ I have a blue Masonic Pitcher, about 11 inches high, with the following inscription: "Concordia Lodge No. 67, F. & A.M. - 1795-1913, W.M. Frederick W. Anton, S.R. Harvey J. Lutz, J.W. Harry R. Stevenson."

It was made by "Tho's Maddock's Sons Co.," a pottery firm in Trenton, New Jersey, which is no longer in business.

If any Sir Knight knows anything about this Lodge, I would appreciate it if he could give me some information. *Oscar G. Fielitz, Lafayette Commandery No. 7, R.D. 1, Overlook Drive, Hillsdale, New York 12529*

□ I extend my sincere fraternal thanks to the half-dozen Sir Knights who sent me Chapter pennies to begin a collection. Equally, I thank two generous brothers and the Masonic Museum for copies of *Morals & Dogma*.

In moving from Parsons to Kansas City, the envelope from which I was to copy names and address was lost and I am embarrassed to issue an en masse "Thank you."

I'm still begging for pennies, Brothers, and any other items of keepsake value of our grand fraternity. *David B. Gwinn, 1439 South 33rd Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66106*

□ On April 3, the girls of District No. 25 held a walk-a-thon, with the proceeds going to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

I would like to thank you for sending us all of the pamphlets and information that we needed to carry out our plans. Your helping out made the walk-a-thon more successful. Thank you for your aid. *Roxanne Wehrli, District No. 25 Service Representative, Grand Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Washington and Iowa*

Editor's Note: Thank you for your kind note to the Editor and for your assistance to the Eye Foundation.

□ Last year my request resulted in the purchase of a lovely fob and I wrote other fratres telling them of some I learned about. While I could use one more fob this time I would like to buy any lapel pins which might be for sale since I have in mind one set for my lodge and one for myself.

I would also like to purchase a Masonic ring to wear. Since I belong to York and Scottish Rite and the Shrine, any style would be fine. The older the lapel pins the better, but all styles can be used. *Kenneth Kendall, 805 Tenth Street, Silvis, Illinois 61282*

□ Harry M. Smit's article in the December issue of *Knight Templar* was greatly appreciated. His suggestion for pilgrimages to the Holy Land by Sir Knights who could possibly do this would certainly be a Christian's time well spent.

My son-in-law, an Episcopal priest, has been in Jerusalem with my daughter for better than a year and a half. He is studying at the Hebrew University for his Doctorate in Hebrew.

We were with them a year ago. It was a great experience to see where the earlier Sir Knights, as Crusaders, had Maltese Crosses carved into the walls. Also, to us it was a wonderful feeling to see and be where our Saviour walked, rode on a donkey on Palm Sunday, His temptations on the pinnacle and the mount, His tomb, etc., where the rock had been rolled away. This trip makes anyone appreciate the New Testament much more. *J. Smith Hoffman, Past Commander, Columbus No. 69, Columbus, Ohio 43214*

□ Jacques DeMolay Chapter, Order of DeMolay located at Largo, Florida, is in need of 3 or 4 Swords and Sheaths, along with 2 belts size 38 and 40, to be used when they present the DeMolay Degree. Any Sir Knight that would be willing to part with these (in any condition) can forward them to: *Sir Knight James B. Terry, Chapter Dad, Jacques DeMolay Chapter, 1056 Madison Street, Largo, Florida 33540*



*"These are the times that try men's souls . . .
What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly;
. . . and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an
article as Freedom should not be highly rated."*

— Thomas Paine, 1737-1809