AUGUST: The cover shows the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel at 12th and Baltimore Streets, Kansas City, Missouri, scene of the 53rd Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment from August 28 to noon Thursday, September 2, 1976. Several committees will meet in advance, and a concluding briefing session by the incoming Grand Master will take place the evening of September 2. Those of you who register beforehand will find a packet of tickets, badge, program and other materials ready for you at the Registration Area of the Muehlebach on the mezzanine floor. Registration starts at 1 p.m., Friday, August 27.

Sir Knight John Quinn’s review of Triennial events is featured on page 5 in the current issue, highlighting activities for Templars and their families and friends, including the Monday morning open-session. Election of Grand Encampment officers takes place September 1.

Paul C. Rodenhauser, Editor

AUGUST 1976

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

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Material for the Grand Commanderies’ two page Supplements is to be directed to the respective Supplement Editors. Address corrections from members are to be sent to the local Recorders.


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Although an Order of Templars existed since 1118 A.D., our Grand Encampment, as a sovereign body, dates from 1816 when the Honorable DeWitt Clinton became General Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment. The title became the Grand Encampment some years later, and the individual Grand Encampments became Grand Commanderies.

With nothing but Knightly intentions and with deep appreciation for all who have cooperated, I direct the attention of Grand Commanders, Subordinate and Constituent Commanders, and their respective Recorders, to a situation I would not like to transmit to my successor in office a few weeks hence.

I speak of the monthly reporting by Recorders, via their Grand Recorders, to the central office of the Grand Encampment in Chicago. Of some 1,550 Commanderies, 1,000 are forwarding update information regularly for their membership. Our problem exists only with the sporadic reporting of the 550 which can mar the efforts of those who take pains to see that the corrections of addresses, Knightings and similar changes in membership status are properly forwarded.

This updating makes it possible for each member, among other rights and privileges, to receive the Knight Templar Magazine. The magazine is extremely important because each Grand Commandery has the opportunity to send two pages of news, information and Grand Commanders’ messages (and 30 pages of national information) to every Knight Templar in each jurisdiction — 12 times a year! Use of the supplement pages is truly a bargain in every respect.

Sir Knights, this need for accurate reporting is more than a “choice”; it is a requirement. We emphasize its necessity in this message specifically directed to every Grand, Subordinate and Constituent Recorder — especially to the Knight responsible for compliance, the Grand Commander. Prompt and accurate reporting each month of the year makes it possible for your Grand Encampment to perform a variety of services for you — with membership printouts, labels, dues cards where desired, lists of Commanders and Recorders, Past Commanders, Life Sponsors. It is quite possible that the central office can provide Annual Returns for Grand Recorders, but only if information is regularly updated.

May I suggest as a phase of this request that each individual Recorder, with the approval of the Grand Recorder and Grand Commander, forward this report several days before the end of each month? Changes or missing information can be added readily the following month without delaying the process.

I ask for your cooperation; I thank those who are giving it during this 160th year of our Grand Encampment.

Ray Milford Folsom
Triennial Elections: For a number of years, it has been possible to announce the election and appointment of Grand Encampment officers in the September issue of the *Knight Templar Magazine*. In 1976, Templars will meet two weeks later than usual because of the National Republican Convention in Kansas City. The results of the election and appointments necessarily will be deferred until the October issue.

Currently, as this copy goes to press, the retiring Grand Master will be Roy Wilford Riege; the Deputy Grand Master is Willard M. Avery, Indiana; present Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment is John B. Cottrell, Jr., of Pennsylvania; Kenneth C. Johnson is completing three years as Grand Captain General. One candidate has announced his candidacy for the Grand Encampment line — Sir Knight Ned E. Dull, P.G.C., Ohio, Past Department Commander, East Central Department. Two Past Grand Masters, members of the official Grand Encampment family, are G. Wilbur Bell and John L. Crofts. Present Grand Treasurer is Harold S. Gorman; Grand Recorder is Paul Rodenhauser.

Pending: J. Behrens shortly will be featured in the *Knight Templar Magazine* with a story on the School of Nursing at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Chicago. A number of inquiries indicate there are daughters and friends of Templars interested in nursing careers, particularly in schools with Masonic background. In the interim, inquiries may be directed to the School of Nursing, Illinois Masonic Medical Center, 836 Wellington Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

Lord Chesterfield: He was the gentleman who wisely said: “There is time enough for everything in the course of the day if you do just one thing at a time; but there is not enough in a year if you do two things at a time.”

Happiness Is: Learning that the 8th Voluntary Campaign of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation brought a total of $421,531.77 in fund-raising projects. A new campaign for the continuing work of the Foundation begins December 1, 1976, concluding April 30, 1977.

Committee Meetings: Members of Standing Committees received notices if their respective committees will be meeting in Kansas City. Those scheduled include: Knights Templar Eye Foundation August 26 at 2 p.m.; Drill Team Judges, Friday Afternoon, August 27; Ritual Committee Friday afternoon and Drill Team Captains Friday evening; Committee on Jurisprudence Saturday morning, August 28; the Committee on Charters and Dispensations Saturday afternoon, and, at 3:45 p.m., the Committee on Finance—all at the Radisson-Muehlebach. Committee on Credentials will be open for business Friday afternoon, August 27, starting at 1 p.m.

Changing our Tone: At 2:00 p.m., on July 4, 1976, bells across the nation announced our 200th Birthday. In our May issue we stated that the Liberty Bell would also ring at 2:00, “precisely 200 years from the moment” it proclaimed the birth of the nation in Philadelphia. Sir Knight Harry M. Potter responded to our report with a correction: The citizens of Philadelphia, says Potter, “were summoned to the State House (now Independence Hall) by the ringing of the State House Bell on July 8, 1776, not July 4.” Although it was rung to “Proclaim Liberty” throughout the land, it was not known as the Liberty Bell until later. Our research corroborates Sir Knight Potter’s statement.
REGISTRATION FOR THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

by
Sir Knight John Quinn
Triennial Committee Public Relations

If you plan to attend the 53rd Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar in Kansas City August 28-September 2, 1976 and have not yet registered, you are urged to do so as promptly as possible. Registration forms have been supplied to voting members of the Conclave and all Grand Recorders. If you need a registration form, it should be available from your Grand Recorder, or from H. M. Kreeger, Registration Office, P.O. Box 5902, Lenexa, Kansas 66215. Remember to include your $15 fee and payment for any of the Conclave additions which you elect on your order form.

Pick it up on your arrival. Nothing is being mailed by the registration committee.

Military Ball Cancelled

The schedule of the 53rd Triennial Conclave originally listed a Military Ball to be held following the presentation of drill team awards Saturday evening in the Municipal Auditorium. Owing to a full schedule of events which take precedence during the evening, the Committee believes the hour will be too late and the Military Ball, accordingly, has been cancelled.

Radisson Muehlebach

Sir Knights and ladies attending the 53rd Triennial Conclave in Kansas City will see a virtually new Radisson Muehlebach Hotel, headquarters for the Grand Encampment. The extensive remodeling and refurbishing project in progress there for over two years now is completed at a cost of about $7,000,000.

The project has brought about a highly attractive hostelry through a renewal of all the facilities – the guest rooms and suites, convention and meeting rooms, banquet rooms and ballrooms, kitchens and restaurants and lounges. As Harley J. Watson, general manager, said, “All we kept was the tradition of one of America’s landmark Hotels.”

Dining facilities include Le Carrousel for fine dining, dancing and musical entertainment; the Haberdashery for fun and food in a turn-of-the-century pub with a contemporary flare; the Lobby Lounge, a reception area for great conversations, embellished by →→→
Maxfield Parrish Murals; the Greenery Coffeehouse for breakfast, lunch and dinner at family prices.

The Conclave registration center will be on the mezzanine floor, and meetings will be at various facilities of the hotel throughout the week as listed in your program. Only the large public meetings will be in the Municipal Auditorium, just a block from the hotel. These include the Drill Team Competition and the Detroit Drill Team exhibition; the Apollo Club stage entertainment and the Divine Service Sunday. The Celebrity Night presentation of "Our Town" will be in the Music Hall of the Auditorium.

Celebrity Night

Especially outstanding entertainment is in store for those who elect to attend the Celebrity Night in the Music Hall Tuesday, August 31, 1976 while at the 53rd Triennial Conclave. The committee feels especially fortunate in being able to present one of the all-time great plays of the American stage, the Pulitzer prize-winning "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder.

The play is presented exclusively at this Conclave through a special arrangement with Custom Theatre Productions, an affiliate of Kansas City's famous Bell Road Barn Playhouse, directed by Jenkin David.

Since its debut on Broadway 30 years ago, "Our Town" has been constantly presented on the stages of America, one of the most enjoyed plays of all time. It catches the essence of grass roots America and displays it with unabashed and unaffected sentiment.

Celebrity Night is an addition to the regular Conclave events, and attendance at the theatre should be so specified on your registration form. The committee has been able to hold the admission to a minimum, and the cost is only $5 per couple, $2.50 per person. If your order already has been submitted, your tickets will be included with your registration packet. Seating is being dispensed on a first come, first served basis. If you did not select the Celebrity Night on your registration form and now wish to see "Our Town," tickets may be obtained at the registration desk at the Radisson Muehlebach. This is an open event, and Knights and ladies are invited to bring friends and families.

All Are Welcome

Several events at the 53rd Triennial Conclave in Kansas City are open meetings. Sir Knights and ladies are welcome to bring friends, relatives and neighbors to these events. The general public, in fact, may attend. Open events include the drill team competition all day Saturday in the arena of Municipal Auditorium, and the Divine Service Sunday morning, also in the arena, both admission free, no ticket necessary. The Apollo Club Bicentennial Song Fest Saturday evening in the Arena, and the presentation of "Our Town" Tuesday evening in the Music Hall also are open events, but tickets are required. Tickets for these may be obtained at the registration desk on the mezzanine of the Radisson Muehlebach.

New Bartle Exposition Hall

An interesting sight which will greet visitors to the 53rd Triennial Conclave in Kansas City will be the new Bartle Exposition Hall, 12th to 14th Street, Central Street to Broadway, two square blocks. It is simply huge by any standards, one of the very largest clear-span exhibition halls in the country. The main exhibition hall measures 690 feet by 270 feet, larger than two full football fields under one roof. Tractor trailer trucks may drive right into the exhibition hall, and will be dwarfed by the 30 foot high ceiling. The Bartle facility was built with funds from a $30,000,000 bond issue. It was dedicated July 8 during the Imperial Council Session of the Shrine of North America. It is now 95 per cent completed and will begin housing conventions in October. It may be seen across Barney Allis Plaza from the Radisson Muehlebach.
JOHN HANCOCK, THE FIRST SIGNER

by
J. E. Behrens
Staff Associate

When John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence in his capacity as President of the Second Continental Congress, he is quoted as saying that he wrote his signature so grandly and so boldly courted the hangman’s noose in order that George III “can read my name without spectacles and may now double his reward for my head.” Such a statement, whether or not it bears truth, is indicative of the man — a proud, self-serving, at times petty aristocrat who nonetheless was a hero to the populace of a burgeoning republic at a time when the common man needed strong and influential figures to idolize.

John Hancock was born in January, 1737, in North Braintree (now Quincy), Massachusetts, of Puritan heritage. His father, a Congregationalist minister, died when John was only seven, and within a year the handsome boy was chosen by his rich Uncle Thomas to live in his mansion on fashionable Beacon Hill in Boston. Thomas Hancock, who had spent his early years as apprentice to a bookbinder, had, by 1745, built up one of the wealthiest and well-known mercantile establishments in the new world.

It took no time at all for young John to forget his humble beginnings and to assume the niceties of genteeel life. He was pampered by his over-indulgent foster-parents, his uncle viewing him proudly as one of his finer possessions. John was tutored at home until age 8, then placed in the Public Latin School, whose curriculum included Latin, Greek, and, of course, penmanship.

At age 13 the young Hancock entered Harvard University, to which Uncle Thomas was a continuing benefactor. (When the library burned, he commissioned in his will that books should be replaced in the amount of 500 pounds at his own expense.) John graduated from Harvard with his Master of Arts at age 17.

For the next six years he gained practical experience in the House of Hancock, working in the countinghouse. It was probably at this time that John received his first instruction in smuggling — a practice indulged in by all the best colonial merchants as a means of avoiding the taxes imposed by the British government, America’s absentee landlord.

It is interesting that at this time, 1755-56, the House of Hancock was recognized as the main military provisioner of the British Government in America.

In 1760, John was sent overseas to conduct business for his uncle, and to meet British foreign agents to the House of Hancock. While in England, John attended the funeral of King George II who died on October 25, and who was succeeded by his grandson, George III. It may be that the young merchant stayed in England long enough to witness the coronation of the new king, but this is conjectural.

In 1762, while in Quebec on business, he was made a Freemason in Merchants Lodge No. 277. Records show that on October 14 of the same year he affiliated with St. Andrew’s Lodge, the same Lodge of Warren, Revere and many other patriots.

Upon his return to the colonies, John continued as second in command in his Uncle’s business. Thomas must have recognized his end nearing, because in 1763 his protege became a full partner. Thomas died the following year, and at age 27 John Hancock fell heir to an estimated 80,000 pounds sterling, equal to around $1 million today.
It is uncertain at what point Brother Hancock began his political activities. As a Boston mercantile aristocrat instructed by his uncle, he was a more conservative patriot than Samuel Adams, whose association with the Sons of Liberty branded him early as an agitator. Yet, by the time of the first open battles with the British, Hancock and Adams were both known throughout England as traitors.

In 1765, however, with the announcement of the Stamp Act (coming on the heels of the Sugar Act), Hancock and other businessmen chose the conservative road and entered into a nonimportation agreement. Hancock himself wrote his London agents that if the Stamp Act were not repealed, they should stop shipments. Hancock, having one of the largest London interests, soon became recognized as one of the fomenters of the American merchant resistance.

When the Stamp Act was repealed the following year, the benevolent Hancock also made himself known to the townspeople of Boston by passing out wine for the celebration. His reputation was growing.

As the British continued their taxations, Hancock increased his political involvement. Perhaps it was Samuel Adams and his feverish words which influenced Hancock, or perhaps it was his growing ego which caused him to take a more active part in pre-revolution activities. Whatever the cause, Hancock, in two overt acts of defiance, confirmed himself as a staunch supporter of the radical patriots.

The first episode involved his ship, the *Lydia*, and the newly proclaimed Townshend Acts (import duties on tea, paper and glass). He personally led ten strongmen aboard the ship and prevented a British agent from searching it. The second incident, not quite so respectable, but nonetheless hailed by the town, took place aboard the *Liberty*. Hancock's ship claimed only 25 casks of wine as taxable. When the skipper tried to unload the wine (which indeed exceeded 25 casks), he was halted by a British tax representative who was quickly intimidated into silence. Later, the British seized the *Liberty* for importing illegal (smuggled) wine. Hancock was arrested in November, 1768, but he was released on lack of evidence.

Though the *Liberty* was impounded by the King's Navy, Hancock had gained in popularity. However, his public-spiritedness came less from his love of fellowman than from his own promotional desires. For example, it is true that Hancock gave a fire engine to the town of Boston — but the engine was engraved with his name.

Brother Hancock's earliest political involvement was as one of four Boston representatives to the General Court in 1766. On October 5, 1774, 260 representatives from all Massachusetts gathered in Salem to organize the First Provincial Congress of that colony, of which Hancock was elected president.

Fear and anger at continued British infractions on the personal liberty of the colonists, aristocrat and commoner alike, were approaching critical stages. In anticipation of the bloodshed which was to begin in another six months, the assemblage at this First Provincial Congress voted to recruit 12,000 volunteers for the defense of Massachusetts. These 12,000, the famed Minutemen, would soon be tested at Concord and Lexington.

At this same Provincial Congress, Hancock was named as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress, which was to meet in May of 1775. Before leaving for the Congress, however, the Second Provincial Congress of Massachusetts convened. As Hancock was again being elected president, orders were sent to Governor Gage, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in America since 1763, to seize John Hancock and Samuel Adams and others, with the intention of taking them to England, there to try them for treason. At the outbreak of actual fighting with the Battle of Lexington, Adams and Hancock fled from the advancing Redcoats toward Philadelphia and the Second Continental Congress. Brother Hancock's work was just beginning.
On May 24, 1775, Hancock was unanimously elected president of the Congress, succeeding Peyton Randolph, and one of the first jobs of this body was to choose a Commander of the Continental Army. It was predictable that Hancock should seek the office, even though he had no military training or experience, except for his "command" as Colonel of the Independent Corps of Cadets—a show troop sanctioned by the British. Fortunately for the young country, however, the office did not seek him. George Washington was chosen over Hancock and the nomination was seconded by both the Adamses. The clef between Hancock and the Adamses was widening. Hancock was needed as a statesman, though, and as mediator among the 13 at times discordant colonies.

After the Battles of Concord and Lexington, Gage, wisely wishing to avoid further war, issued a general "pardon to all persons who shall forthwith lay down their arms and return to their duties as peaceful subjects." This pardon was extended to everyone, excepting only Samuel Adams and John Hancock, "whose offenses are of too flagitious a nature to admit of any other consideration than that of condign punishment."

Ironically, many colonists also wanted to make a final try for reconciliation. As late as August 8, 1775, the Olive Branch Petition was signed by Hancock and a large majority of delegates and sent to George III. The Petition called for a settlement with Britain, if the King would accept colonial self-government. George III refused to even read it.

The affairs of the new government, however, were apparently not so time consuming that Hancock could not take some time off for himself, and in the summer of 1775, John Hancock married Dorothy Quincy. They had two children, both of whom died in infancy.

The Congress reconvened on September 5 with much work to be completed in only a few months. Hancock, as President, had the difficult job of convincing some of the more conservative colonies toward total severance. Pennsylvania, for example, as late as the spring of 1776, still hoped that some accord with the Mother Country could be achieved.

Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston had been appointed by Hancock to draw up the Declaration of Independence. On July 2, the Congress approved Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence, and on the evening of July 4, 1776, the delegation approved the Declaration of Independence.

That day, John Hancock, President of the Second Continental Congress, was the only member to sign the historic document. His signature was attested to by Secretary Charles Thomson, and copies were immediately sent to all the Provincial Congresses and to General Washington. When, on August 2, the Congress met for the formal signing of the Declaration, John Hancock once again signed with great flourish—just in case they missed his name the first time. Interestingly, though most of the delegates did sign on August 2, some still withheld. Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last to sign—in 1777.

Brother Hancock served as President to the Second Continental Congress for almost two and a half years, during which time he received no salary; and he resigned in October, 1777, due to ill health. Ironically, he was later commissioned a major general of militia in 1778. Recalling that Hancock had aspired to Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, this appointment was no doubt quite an anticlimax for the patriot.

Hancock was never to revive the grand stature of the House of Hancock built under Uncle Thomas, but he had little time to devote to business. In 1780 the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention elected him first governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which office he held almost continuously until his death.

In January, 1788, the Massachusetts Ratification Convention met, and Hancock was elected its President. Hancock felt that this post, in
Sir Knight Ernest Dove, Melita-Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 17, Scranton, Pennsylvania, celebrated his 100th birthday on July 2. Dove, a native of Denver, Colorado, moved to Scranton in 1900 to take up work as a printer. Among his achievements, he has the distinction of being the first baby born in the newly-formed state of Colorado in 1876.

Sir Knight Dove received a 50-year plaque from Green Ridge Lodge of Masons, and holds 50-year membership in all bodies: Lackawanna Royal Arch No. 185, Scranton Royal and Select Masters No. 44, Melita-Coeur de Lion No. 17, Valley of Scranton Scottish Rite, and Irem Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. He credits his 100 years to hard work, an even temperament, and taking things day by day.

...JOHN HANCOCK,

addition to his governorship, gave him an excellent chance at the presidency of the United States. He was further encouraged to try for the office when he learned that Virginia might reject the proposal for ratification of the constitution. Virginia and Massachusetts, the two largest of the 13 states, would influence the others in their vote. If Virginia did reject, and Massachusetts voted to ratify, Hancock would be the obvious nominee. But Hancock was foiled, and Virginia ratified the Constitution. Once again, he lost to George Washington, from Virginia, who, with his outstanding exploits as Commander of the Continental Army, was easily the favorite son of all 13 states.

Brother John Hancock died on October 8, 1793, in Quincy, Massachusetts. Hancock died as he lived — his funeral was among the grandest and best attended in Massachusetts. He was known throughout the state for his generosity, and he was recognized best by the common man for his devotion to a burgeoning republic. But he is remembered not less today for his love of country than for his desire for fame.

#

Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle salutes the Commandery effort which achieved a grand total of $421,531.77 in the 8th Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

"I especially want to thank the Chairmen who initiated and correlated the work of fund-raising, with particular credit to these Templar leaders who "led the pack" in either per capita or dollar returns: Howard S. Payne, Chairman for the District of Columbia, with a total per capita of $5.28; Eric L. Meale, Chairman for Nevada, whose Commandery per capita was $4.61; Norman L. H. Sprinkel, Chairman for Utah where fund-raising activities resulted in a per capita productivity of $4.47.

"In the dollar totals, a special tribute is in order for the Sir Knights of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Texas, and to their respective Grand Commandery Chairmen: Warren R. Williams, Jr., now Grand Commander of Pennsylvania, who finished in top place with $42,121.65; W. Boyd Sibold, Chairman for Ohio, whose consistent and dedicated efforts raised the Grand Commandery of Ohio total to $40,656.73, and to William D. Snipes of Texas whose chairmanship brought in $25,700.39.

"I know that the General Chairman, Sir Knight Charles S. McIntyre," says the Grand Master, "joins me in expressing heartfelt appreciation for the many hours devoted to encouraging and arranging these fund-raising projects.

"May the next Voluntary Campaign raise an even greater total — all for the continuing work of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation."

Miscellanea

The first Commandery to be chartered in Southern California was Coeur de Leon Commandery (1870). Today, it is known as Los Angeles Commandery No. 9, the second largest in the United States.
CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCES DRILL TEAM REGISTRATIONS

Sir Knight S. Lewis Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Drill Regulations, announces the following registrations of Drill Teams for the 53rd Triennial Conclave competition at Kansas City, Saturday, August 28, 1976:

CLASS “A” TEAMS

Golden West Commandery No. 43
Los Angeles, California
Jack E. Davies, Captain

Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 12
Wichita, Kansas
David F. Snyder, Captain

Ivanhoe Commandery No. 54
Van Wert, Ohio
Ned E. Dull, Captain

Trinity Commandery No. 20
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Robert L. Taylor, Captain

Dallas Commandery No. 6
Dallas, Texas
Earl E. Tweed, Captain

Knightstown Commandery No. 9
Knightstown, Indiana
Steven J. Barton, Captain

Lansing Commandery No. 25
Lansing, Michigan
Miles D. Grant Jr., Captain

Lawton Commandery No. 18
Lawton, Oklahoma
James C. Taylor, Captain

Gethsemane Commandery No. 25
Okmulgee, Oklahoma
Jack Freeman, Captain

Worth Commandery No. 19
Fort Worth, Texas
Billy J. Sellers, Captain

CLASS “B” TEAMS

Los Angeles Commandery No. 9
Los Angeles, California
Palmer E. Grindheim, Captain

Austin Commandery No. 84
Glenview, Illinois
Ronald E. Erickson, Captain

Fort Wayne Commandery No. 4
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Bernard L. Smith, Captain

Greenfield Commandery No. 39
Greenfield, Indiana
William O. Heiden, Captain

Bethlehem Commandery No. 45
Washington, Iowa
Larry D. Shalla, Captain

Long Beach Commandery No. 40
Long Beach, California
David B. Slayton, Captain

Raper Commandery No. 1
Indianapolis, Indiana
George D. Kivett, Jr., Captain

Muncie Commandery No. 18
Muncie, Indiana
James A. Andrews, Captain

Bloomington Commandery No. 63
Bloomington, Indiana
James G. Wright, Captain

Arkansas City Commandery No. 30
Arkansas City, Kansas
L. E. Kunkle, Captain
St. Omer Commandery No. 14
Great Bend, Kansas
Paul E. Starbuck, Captain

Howell Commandery No. 28
Howell, Michigan
Ben R. Johnston, Captain

Shawnee Commandery No. 14
Lima, Ohio
W. Boyd Sibold, Captain

Palestine Commandery No. 33
Springfield, Ohio
Earl D. Yerian, Captain

Ascension Commandery No. 25
Tyler, Texas
W. G. Kortmann, Captain

Ivanhoe Commandery No. 24
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
John R. Vredenburg, Captain

Genessee Valley Commandery No. 15
Flint, Michigan
W. Jack Dover, Captain

Bethlehem Crusader Commandery No. 53
White Plains, New York
Charles S. Borger, Captain

Hanselmann Commandery No. 16
Cincinnati, Ohio
Lonnie R. Jackson, Captain

Ruthven Commandery No. 2
Houston, Texas
Charles D. Browder, Captain

Park Place Commandery No. 106
Houston, Texas
Kenneth B. Fisher, Captain

Henry L. Palmer Commandery No. 42
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Robert Illian, Jr., Captain

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Detroit No. 1 Drill Team to Perform at Triennial

At the invitation of Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegel, Detroit Commandery No. 1 Drill Corps will present an Exhibition Drill during the 53rd Triennial Conclave, on Saturday, August 28, 1976, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium Arena at Kansas City.

The Drill Corps will be accompanied by a DeMolay unit (representing Missouri, Kansas and Michigan) carrying the flags of the States and marking the perimeter of the drill area. Ararat Temple Shrine Pipe & Drum Unit will play the drill team on and off the arena floor.

The Detroit Commandery Drill Corps has performed at many Triennial Conclaves through the years, beginning with Baltimore in 1871. In the past 102 years, it has presented Exhibition Drills at 28 of the 34 Triennials from coast to coast.

The Exhibition Drill at the Triennial will be under the Command of Sir Knight Charles Reisdorf, Jr., Captain General. This Templar presentation, according to Sir Knight Albert B. Firth, Commander, "promises to be a most colorful and impressive attraction – a real crowd pleaser."
SOME BICENTENNIAL THOUGHTS ON FREEMASONRY

by

J. J. Humphrey

The following is a talk delivered by Sir Knight Humphrey, Professor at the University of Arizona, submitted by Sir Knight Alan Smith.

Historically, there can be no question of the important part that the Masonic Order has played in the development of our nation. We have the dubious distinction of being the only fraternal organization in America to have had a national political party organized for the avowed purpose of accomplishing its destruction. That the Anti-Masonic party, which existed from the late 1820's until the early 1840's, failed is significant, but it must be remembered that during its short lifetime this party fostered many suspicions of our Order which remain alive today.

The Anti-Masonic party was short-lived, but the influence of its former members upon the future course of American affairs cannot be easily dismissed. Anti-Masonic leaders such as Secretary-of-State William F. Seward, Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, George W. Bancroft, and Thurlow Weed, held positions of trust and influence in our national government during the middle period of the 19th century, and these men remained completely unsympathetic to the purposes of our Order.

It should also be noted that the Anti-Masonic Party might have achieved its purposes had it not been for the moral integrity of such prominent members of the Masonic Fraternity as Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk. Clay possessed a boundless ambition for the presidency, yet he never let this ambition lead him to denying or repudiating his Masonic membership. By encouraging the former members of the Anti-Masonic party to support the Whig party, Clay might have been elected president, but the great Kentuckian stood four-square on Masonic principles throughout his life and repeatedly defended the Order in public.

Andrew Jackson, one of the two American presidents who served as Grand Masters of their Masonic Jurisdictions, always defended Freemasonry from the attacks of its enemies and from those who cried out that the Masonic Fraternity sought to make its members a political and social caste which would control American life. His personal devotion to the cause of the common man was in itself a refutation of this accusation, and his name has ever been associated with the effort to attain greater political rights for the majority of the populace. Jackson's courage, Clay's personal integrity and James K. Polk's later uncompromising stand on the Masonic issue led to the abandonment of the doctrines of Anti-Masonry as a political issue for all time.

The Civil War and Reconstruction period constituted another watershed in American Masonic history. During this time, Freemasonry advanced with the frontier, and the social acceptability of the Order reached its zenith.

During the formative years of our century, the Masonic Order exerted a powerful political and social influence upon Western history which cannot be justified by the number of Masons actually in residence in the territories at that time. As in the 18th century, Freemasonry was accepted as an enlightened moral and intellectual Order dedicated to the progress of civilization and intellectual enlightenment.
Freemasonry had first proved itself a vital force during the colonial period. Later it brought many of the benefits of the European Enlightenment to our shores. As our nation developed into an agrarian and rural civilization in Jeffersonian times, Freemasonry again played a major role, adapting itself to the changing pattern of American life.

By 1893, the western frontier had ceased to exist at all intents and purposes, and the nation was rapidly completing its transformation from a rural and agrarian society to a complex urban-based industrial civilization. The very bigness of America offered challenges to almost all of the values and ideas which had previously dominated the American scene.

In the years immediately before the Civil War, Protestantism and the Protestant ethic were the principal influences upon the intellectual and religious life of our nation. The advanced social ideas of the Jeffersonians had largely broken down by the 1830's, and evangelistic Protestantism was virtually unchallenged until well after the conclusion of the Civil War.

Increasingly after 1870, the ideas of the post-revolutionary nationalists were to come under serious attack from the many diverse elements which then made up the American social and religious scene. The successive waves of predominantly Roman Catholic southern European immigrants during this period made Catholicism an important factor in our national life.

But Roman Catholicism was only one factor and a relatively insignificant one at that, for, after all, in spite of the Roman Church's long opposition to Freemasonry, the Catholics were Christians and did not threaten the existence of religion itself. This was not true of the new philosophies of Social Darwinism and Marxist Socialism. Protestantism was vitally affected by the theories advanced by Darwin and by the attempts of men like Andrew Carnegie and William Graham Sumner to evolve a social philosophy based upon the theory of the "Survival of the Fittest."

Freemasonry survived these powerful cross-currents in American life, due to its lack of dogmatism on religious issues. The Order proved to be amazingly adaptable to great changes in the religious habits and beliefs of the American people.

The last years of the 19th century saw the rise of several important movements of social, political and economic protest. The first of these movements was that of the Grangers in the seventies, and even the form of their organization was greatly influenced by that of the Masonic Order. The Knights of Labor, the first powerful labor organization to appear upon the American scene, had a ritual based upon that of Freemasonry. The Populists of the 1890's and the Progressive movement of the early 20th century numbered many Masonic leaders, including Bryan and Theodore Roosevelt.

In the 1920's, Freemasonry successfully resisted the attempts by the then recently revived Ku Klux Klan to recruit members from the rank and file of the Masonic Lodges. The Grand Masters of the various jurisdictions uniformly denounced the Klan, accurately penetrating the disguised appeal to violence which underlay its external trappings of revived Americanism.

The Depression of the 1930's probably had a greater impact upon American Masonry than anything that had previously occurred in our country. The erosive effects of years of poverty and hopelessness have yet to be completely erased, and the rapid growth of Masonic bodies during the second World War, and the immediate post-war period, probably did not compensate for the deep traumatic effect of the Depression years.

Mid 20th century materialism seems to be a greater threat to the ancient ideals of our Fraternity than were the Anti-Masons of the early 19th century or the radical social and religious philosophies of the latter part of that period.

Along with a decline in the number of candidates for the degrees of Masonry, we have faced a continuing decrease in attendance at Masonic meetings during the last 12 years. Masonic
influence continues to be considerable, but must of a necessity become greatly diluted if the present pattern is allowed to continue. In other words, now is the time to take action to prevent a catastrophic decline in Blue Lodge membership during the next few years.

Actually, we have more to fear from the apathy of the regular membership in the Order than from any outside influences. In the past, Freemasonry has demonstrated its ability to retain the timeliness of its message in periods of profound change. Today, it is our duty as Masons to cultivate the interest of the less active members of our fraternity in the affairs of Masonry. Ours is still the world’s largest fraternal body. There is no danger of an immediate catastrophic depletion in our ranks. No individual or group seeks our sudden destruction in more than theoretical terms. Therefore, it is obvious that our problem today is more internal than external.

Our immediate task then is to make Freemasonry more appealing to the Mason. We must impress upon our members the relevancy of our moral philosophy to the times in which we live. We must bring the mere pin-wearing and card-carrying Mason to a more acute realization of the significance of his obligation to the Order and encourage his frequent attendance at our gatherings. If these things can be accomplished, Masonry has no reason to fear the future.

Sir Knight Humphrey is a member of Immanuel No. 3 in Wyoming, and lives at 6901 East Potawatami Road, Tucson, Arizona 85715.

June 1776: An article accepted for June reported that Patrick Henry offered the Resolution for independence to the Second Continental Congress. However, the Resolution (“... That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States ...”) was presented by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, and not Patrick Henry.

Walter, Director of Development

Henry G. Walter, currently Vice-President and Director of Development, is soliciting funds for the unique Knights Templar Home in Illinois.

In 1954, the Illinois Knights Templar Home for the Aged Infirm began its work as a facility for aged and destitute Master Masons. Located in Paxton, the residents today number 49, including Master Masons having any Masonic affiliation in Illinois, or close lady relatives. The only requirement is that the Master Mason be in good standing with his Blue Lodge, or have passed away in good standing. He need not be a Knight Templar.

The finances for support of the Home are obtained mainly by the residents themselves through savings and social security allowances; but almost one-third the total cost (about $83,450) is subsidized by gifts from friends of the Home. Based on an Illinois membership of approximately 14,000, this amounts to about $6.00 for each Sir Knight in the state. And the costs are rapidly rising.

The Home (a not-for-profit corporation), is currently sponsoring a fund-raising campaign to satisfy the immediate need to redeem the outstanding bond issue of $350,000 during 1976, and also to provide an endowment fund of $1,000,000 through pledges payable over a three-to-five year period. The income from this fund would then be used to meet future increasing operating costs of the Home.

The Home exists to ease the needs — physical, emotional, and spiritual — of the older Masons of Illinois who have given of their youth to support our Order. Sir Knight Walter says, “To relieve the distress” of our aged brethren, “is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly, Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection.”

For information on gifts and/or pledges, write to Henry G. Walter, Illinois Knights Templar Home for the Aged Infirm, 450 Fulton Street, Paxton, Illinois 60957.
Joint Anniversary Observance

Jersey Commandery No. 19 and Lebanon No. 31 held a joint Anniversary Dinner and Celebration at the Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield, New Jersey, June 5. Jersey No. 19, celebrating 75 years, was constituted May 28, 1901, and Lebanon No. 31, 50 years extant, was constituted June 23, 1926.

The celebration noted the consolidation of Lebanon Commandery with Jersey Commandery, with Sir Knight Theodore F. Voelter, Past Department Commander, as Master of Ceremonies. Shown (l-r) are William F. Burns, Eminent Commander, Jersey No. 19, Thurman C. Pace, Jr., R.E. Grand Commander of New Jersey, and Harold D. Elliott, E.P.C., Cyrene No. 7.

General Nickerson Retires

C. Austin Montgomery, former director, Department of Financial Institutions, Illinois, was sworn in as the second Administrator of the National Credit Union Administration by President Gerald R. Ford at the end of June. He replaces General and Sir Knight Herman Nickerson, Jr., who became the first Administrator of the newly formed agency September 21, 1970. Sir Knight Nickerson has retired after more than 40 years of Federal service.

Bicentennial Essay Contest Winners

The Illinois Masonic Bicentennial Committee has announced the winners of its essay contest on “The Contribution of George Rogers Clark to the War of Independence.” The contest, under the direction of Brother Alphonse Cerza, Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee, was open to all Illinois high school students in good standing.

Winners with their respective high schools were:
1st Place – Michael Infeld
($500) Freeport High School
Freeport, Illinois

2nd Place – Carolyn Kerr
($300) Central High School
Camp Point, Illinois

3rd Place – William Noble
($200) Community High School
Downers Grove, Illinois

The monetary prizes will be awarded in the form of cash or a scholarship, whichever the winners prefer.

More than 130 essays were received from high school students throughout the state. Brother Cerza and the contest judges reported on the “excellent quality of the essays received.” Because of this, the Committee has decided to award approximately 100 certificates of merit to those contestants who submitted well-written and researched essays.

Formal presentations will be made later. Judges included John R. Murphy, Louis L. Williams, Benjamin C. Willis, and Paul C. Rodenhausen, the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment.

Knight Turns 95

Sir Knight Walter Lemon celebrated his 95th Birthday on May 28. An Ohio Templar, Sir Knight Lemon holds 50 year pins from all Masonic bodies: Highland Lodge No. 38, Royal Arch Masons No. 40, Hillsboro Council No. 16, and Highland Commandery No. 31.
American Union Lodge Medal

Glen S. Swaney, Past Master and Secretary, American Union Lodge No. 1, F. & A.M. of Marietta, Ohio, reports that there are still Bicentennial Medals available at $6.00 each.

The handsome medal, designed by Benjamin Franklin and engraved by Paul Revere, features a colonial design showing a circular chain with 13 links (for the 13 colonies) attached to two clasped hands. Within the chain circle are the square and compass, with sun, star and moon above, and the three burning tapers beneath. Checks may be made payable to Glen S. Swaney, Secretary, 414 Mulberry Street, Marietta, Ohio 45750.

Tiffin, Ohio, Presentation

Past Department Commander Ned E. Dull is flanked on the left by Grand Generalissimo W. Boyd Sibold as he presents a sword to Duane Kemerly, Past Chaplain Ohio Order of DeMolay; on the right by Grand Standard Bearer Raymond E. Loose who presents a sword to his son, former International Master Councilor of DeMolay, Mark A. Loose — all from Ohio.

Master Councilor and Master Mason

Wayne A. Briesemeister (center), State Master Councilor, Wisconsin DeMolay, was recently raised a Master Mason in Waukesha Lodge No. 37, Brother Briesemeister, the first state Master Councilor of Wisconsin in recent history to be raised while serving in that office, petitioned Waukesha Lodge on February 26, the day after his 21st birthday.

Shown with Briesemeister are (l-r) August Luhrs, Worshipful Master of Waukesha Lodge No. 37; Past Grand Master Robert Billings; Executive Officer and Junior Grand Warden James A. Benz; and Todd Duhring, Director of Development for Wisconsin DeMolay.

Briesemeister was the first State Master Councilor to address the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in session in the 132-year history of the Grand Lodge.

Grand Total — $421,531.77

The Spirit of '76 Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation resulted in a total of $421,531.77. Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegel, President of the Foundation, joined with Chairman and Trustee Charles S. McIntyre, Michigan, in a salute "to the individual Commanderies who participated in these fund-raising projects and whose combined efforts brought the campaign to another successful conclusion."
Additions to Grand Master’s Club

The 26 members of the Grand Master’s Club have had the following individuals added to the list of $1,000 contributors to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation:

No. 27 – James P. Hancock
No. 28 – Robert B. Mackey
No. 29 – Albert E. Hoetker
No. 30 – Robert E. Pfaeffle
No. 31 – Gordon J. Brenner
No. 32 – Robert M. Snyder
No. 33 – Andrew E. Barton

Contributors of $1,000 each to the Grand Master’s Club receive a numbered metal registration card and a desk plaque, both personalized, from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., 509 South Sixth Street, P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

The Grand Commander’s Club

New members of the Grand Commander’s Club now include these $100 benefactors:

No. 3 – California – Harold B. Wright
No. 1 – Michigan – Edgar H. Clark
No. 1 – Pennsylvania – W. H. Alexander
No. 1 – New York – James A. MacAdam

Former contributors are listed in the July Knight Templar Magazine. Neither Club offers any exemption, credit or Commandery benefit. Its full purpose is to aid in the continuing work of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation; its only reward is benefactor satisfaction.

Club membership is available to individuals only—not to organizations. Gifts to the Foundation from organizations are recognized and acknowledged separately.

Those wishing to become a benefactor for the Grand Master’s Club contribute $1,000; to become a member of the Grand Commander’s Club requires a payment of $100 or more annually toward a goal of $1,000. Each is tax deductible.

$500 to Eye Foundation

The Jacksonville, Florida, Scottish Rite Bodies recently presented a $500 check to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Raymond C. Park (right), Eminent Commander, Damascus No. 2 in Jacksonville, accepted the check on behalf of the Eye Foundation from Sir Knight Roy T. Lord (left), representative of the S.G.I.G., and Sir Knight W. Fred Hoyle, Almoner of the Jacksonville Scottish Rite Bodies.

50th Anniversary Medal

The Valley of Lehigh of the A.A.S.R. has issued a 50th Anniversary Medal in commemoration of the constituting of all four Bodies in 1926. The bronze medal displays a relief of the Scottish Rite Cathedral located in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on the obverse, and a rendering of the symbols of each Scottish Rite Body on the reverse, and is available at $2.50 each (price includes mailing) from Richard A. Clauser, Secretary, Scottish Rite Cathedral, 1533 Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 18102.

Rainbow Biennial

The 26th Biennial Session of the Supreme Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, was held July 20-22, in Anaheim, California. Coordinating the Supreme Assembly were Mrs. Agnes McLeod, Supreme Worthy Advisor, and Sir Knight Herbert D. Grout, Jr., Supreme Recorder.
“One of the most active and picturesque” among the pioneer lecturers of American Freemasonry, Jeremy Ladd Cross’ enduring fame is due largely to his True Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor. This was the first aide-memoire of its kind to contain pictures in company with the lectures. It came off the press at New Haven in 1819 and was such a success that Cross himself put out twelve editions. Some rights were sold, and with the expiration of the copyright and death of the author, many more editions appeared with additions and modifications by numerous co-authors. The illustrations were engraved by Amos Doolittle, a prominent Mason and artist.

Cross was made a Mason in old St. John’s Lodge at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1808, received a certificate of proficiency from the Grand Lecturer, and began to circulate in northern New Hampshire and adjacent Vermont and Quebec, lecturing wherever his services and fees were acceptable. When exalted in the Royal Arch Chapter at St. Albans he agreed to “take his fees in lecturing on the lower degrees.”

Rob Morris, in an obituary notice, said Cross was “unlettered, his knowledge of English limited, his orthography was bad, his grammar execrable,” and that the real secret of his success was “his literal accuracy of repetition.” If that were true, Cross had some good teachers and editorial assistants.

The ritual of the Craft degrees which Cross taught was the Webb arrangement of the Prestonian lectures, modified by Henry Fowle and Benjamin Gleason in Boston, and standard in St. John’s Lodge at Portsmouth when Cross was made a Mason and when he served as Deacon. Along with George Richards, the Grand Master and Grand Secretary of New Hampshire conferred with a committee from Massachusetts to agree on uniform work. Fowle had demitted from the Lodge of St. Andrew and organized Mount Lebanon Lodge in Boston with the intention of developing the Massachusetts ritual. Gleason was associated with Fowle and in 1806 became the salaried Grand Visiting Lecturer of the Grand Lodge, continuing as such for decades. Both were influenced, if not taught, by Thomas Smith Webb, the Founding Father of the American Rite.

In May 1816, Cross went to Providence to “perfect himself in the Chapter Work.” He then accompanied the delegates to the General Grand Chapter and obtained a certificate of proficiency from the officers of that body which he used as an entry to Masonic circles as he began a tour of the south. He took in the “several Lodges and Chapters in New Jersey” and lectured in all of those in Delaware. Setting out for the west and south he left a long trail of visitations and lecturing in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Mississippi and Louisiana.

In Baltimore he had picked up an authorization to confer the Royal and Select Masters degrees, and soon found a good market for them, assuming the right to grant warrants to local Councils. He managed to get along pretty well on a five dollar fee from every Companion advanced and $20 for the warrant. The next step was to organize grand bodies in the state having a certain number of Councils.

Cross settled down in New Haven under an agreement with Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter to serve as Grand Lecturer, but after a few years he seems to have worn out his welcome. Actually the sale of his Monitor was
Cross was giving instruction in "the work of the valiant orders of Knighthood." He affiliated with Washington Commandery in 1823, and although he was living in New Haven when the Commandery there was organized in 1825, he never affiliated with his home town associates.

It appears that Cross received the work of the valiant orders from Henry Fowle, because when a Knight Templar Chart or monitor was planned and printed in 1821, it was done in partnership with Fowle, who was to have one-third of the profits.

Therein is a description of the Knights Templar "Dress" at the time. If the General Grand Encampment ever goes back to the first published description of what a Masonic Knight of 1821 was expected to wear it will be "a full suit of black, a black velvet SASH, trimmed with silver lace, hanging on the right shoulder and crossing the body to the left side; at the end of the sash is suspended a poniard, or small dirk; on the left tip of the sash is a Maltese Cross; on the right shoulder a black rose; on the left breast a star of nine points; in the centre of the star, a cross and serpent of gold, surmounted by a circle on which is engraved or enamelled, 'In hoc signo vinces,' An APRON of black velvet, of a triangular form, trimmed with silver lace. On the top or flap is a triangle with twelve holes perforated through it; in the centre of the triangle is a cross and serpent; on the centre of the apron is a skull and cross bones, and at equal distance from them, in a triangular form, a star with seven points, in the centre of each star a red cross."


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Benjamin Franklin

"Speak kind words and you will hear kind echoes."
On June 12 nearly 200 Sir Knights, ladies and guests attended a public rededication service in observance of the nation's Bicentennial in the Masonic Temple, Allentown, Pennsylvania, sponsored by Allen Commandery No. 20. A keynote address, "The Past Becomes the Present," was offered by Donald B. Hoffman, P.C., followed by toasts to Brotherhood, Patriotism, Truth, Integrity and Faith. Seventy-five Sir Knights participated at the triangle taking a "Vow of Rededication to the Principles of Templar: support of church, youth, community, our American way of life and Masonry." Patriotic music highlighted by a solo, "The Impossible Dream," emphasized the blessings and challenges that belong to us all.

The Rededication Service was initiated by Allen Commandery and will be conducted in similar fashion by each Commandery in Pennsylvania during the Bicentennial year. Sir Knights from Pennsylvania or any other jurisdiction who attend and participate at any ceremony will receive a certificate from the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania attesting to their rededication.

A BICENTENNIAL PLEDGE

Failure is never fatal and success is never final: in both, we must realize always, our full share. Knowing that the best and the worst we deserve, can never measure the full goodness of Divine Providence: Let us be grateful for our heritage; True to the counsel of our dreamers; Ever proud of our country and our flag; Confident of our destiny; Fearless of the future. Then, shall we rededicate ourselves, Almighty God, to the proposition that all men have an equal right to Liberty, Justice, and Morality in the pursuit of their Happiness.

Glorious God, who hast given us so much; lest we forget: Every right, privilege, opportunity, or heritage, does not come prepaid. There is a freight bill at the delivery window.

Gilbert H. Hill, P.C.
Coronal Commandery No. 36, Denver
Civic Leader of the Year

Texas Grand Lodge Salute

Sir Knight Harold S. Gorman, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment, was named "Civic Leader of the Year" by the Greater Reno Chamber of Commerce.

Sir Knight Gorman is Past Grand Commander, Grand Treasurer and Division Chairman of Knights Templar Educational Foundation for the Grand Commandery of Nevada, Past Department Commander, South Pacific Department, and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment.

A retired bank executive, Gorman was born in Carlin, Nevada, and came to Reno in 1916. He is past president of both the Reno Rotary Club and the Nevada Bankers Association. Sir Knight Gorman is also a supporter of the Scouting program and holds the Silver Beaver Award, the highest offered in Scouting.

G. Wilbur Bell Speaker for Rainbow

More than fifteen hundred Rainbow Girls gathered at the Conrad Hilton Hotel for their 45th Grand Assembly for Illinois July 9, 10, 11 and 12, under the direction of Mrs. Hester M. Kolmer, Supreme Deputy, Jacksonville, Illinois.

Miss Lee Renda, Grand Worthy Advisor, had selected the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for her Charity of the Year. She made a presentation of a check for $1,666.66 during the banquet program, July 10, when the speaker was Executive Director G. Wilbur Bell, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment.
CONFERRAL ON THE GREAT LAKES

Saugatuck Lodge No. 328, Saugatuck, Michigan, will host a “Centennial and Bicentennial” event August 14 aboard the S. S. Keewatin. This event, the ninth in a series of 13 Masonic programs — one for each of the original Colonies — will be attended by the Masonic Lodges from District 14A in Michigan.

Following a Yankee pot roast dinner with colonial trimmings, all Master Masons will adjourn to the Sun Deck where the degree work will begin. Each Lodge represented will present a candidate, with the Worshipful Master of each Lodge performing the conferrals.

Along with the Bicentennial programs planned for the year, Saugatuck Lodge celebrates its own Centennial anniversary. The first of the 13 events, held December, 1975, commemorated the 100th Anniversary; and the last, to be held this coming December, will honor the 101st. The Grand Lodge of Michigan is celebrating its 150th Anniversary.

All Worshipful Masters present at the conferral on board ship will be made honorary Captains of the S. S. Keewatin, owned by Brother R. W. Peterson.

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Templar Etiquette and Gratitude

Several letters addressed to the Editor from time to time have commented on lack of acknowledgments when requests, particularly in “Knight Voices,” are honored. One such letter — received in mid-July — makes a point that he sent two sets of back copies of the Knight Templar Magazine in reply to two requests. He received a thank you note from one. The second never acknowledged receipt of them. About six weeks later I wrote to ask if he had received them, but still no reply.

“I do not expect the Knight Templar Magazine to be a school to teach its readers proper conduct, but without mentioning names perhaps you could tactfully say a word to the readers about gratitude.”

Supplement Editors Meeting

Sunday afternoon, August 29, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., in the Lido Room, Hotel Muehlebach, State Supplement Editors will meet with Grand Recorder Paul C. Rodenhauser, Editor of the Knight Templar Magazine, and Joan Behrens, editorial assistant. The meeting will include a discussion of the work handled in the Grand Encampment Office in Chicago, and will focus on some of the problems Supplement Editors face in the preparation of monthly material. A general question-and-answer session will be featured. Interested Templars are invited.

It is estimated that changes of approximately 50 percent have occurred among Supplement Editors since the start of the Triennium.
IN HALLOWED MEMORY

Leo H. Edwards
Colorado
Grand Commander — 1960
Born January 4, 1901
Died June 15, 1976

Elroy E. Tillotson
Kansas
Grand Commander — 1951
Born May 1, 1895
Died July 1, 1976

Leslie M. Greene
Arkansas
Grand Commander — 1959
Born February 26, 1894
Died July 12, 1976

The Reverend Elroy E. Tillotson

The Reverend Elroy E. Tillotson, Grand Commander of Kansas in 1951, died July 2 in San Antonio, Texas. He was also a Past Grand High Priest of Kansas. Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegle said “he was a great Mason and a great Templar.”

Dispatch from Guatemala

“I am very proud to be able to tell you that this week we had a Raising in Union Lodge, in the house of a member. We have our own equipment — all the York Rite Bodies have their own — and we loaded part of it on a pick-up and installed a Lodge within half an hour, and it looked gorgeous.”

These are words from Joh. M. van Beusekom, Commander, Guatemala Commandery No. 1, K.Y.C.H., Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine and recipient of other Masonic recognitions.

“The quake is behind us,” he says, “and I thank you in the name of all Companions of the York Rite Bodies in Guatemala for contributions received. We are making up inventory, then we can see that the damages were worse than we originally estimated. It will take a long time before we will be back to normal. Too much has been destroyed. The only thing we are talking about; how we can rebuild quickly.”

Church “In the Round”

Sir Knight Harold V. B. Voorhis, New Jersey, sent in the above post card of a church built by Knights Templar in about 1200. The card was sent to him by his colleague, Fred Smyth, in England. According to Smyth this church, like all other Knights Templar churches in London, is built “in the round.”

Double Eagle Decanter

Donald P. Smith, Past Commander, Malta Commandery No. 31, informs us that the Masons of Ottumwa, Iowa, have available a double-eagle decanter, 9 1/4 inches high, 9 inches long, and 2 1/2 inches wide. The decanter is on sale to raise funds for a new Temple to accommodate two Blue Lodges, York Rite Bodies, and Scottish Rite Bodies (if a charter is approved for Scottish Rite), and several ladies organizations.

The decanter is available from The Wendon Corporation, a non-profit corporation formed under the Iowa laws for charitable and educational purposes. For more information write to The Wendon Corporation, P.O. Box 955, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501.

August 1976
SEED THOUGHTS FOR MASONSON

by

The Rev. Robert E. Anderson

Religion and Masonry

Masonry is not another religion. It has no creeds, dogma, ecclesiastical structure. It does not engage in theological debates. Masonry is religious in terms of what it teaches and what it offers to man. The consciousness and convictions concerning the Supreme Architect of the Universe are at its center. The foundations are spiritual, moral and ethical as well as philosophical. The ageless and timeless truths of Sacred Scripture are a vital part of the system of truth. The bedrock foundation is God. The ancient wisdom of both sage and prophet carry the indelible mark of the Eternal. Masonry is for all times and for all seasons.

Masonry gives a man a far reaching perspective of the highest standards of living. A Mason ought to be a man who has wide horizons rather than narrow and restricted sectarian views. Masonry does not dictate to conscience. It enlightens the inner man and quickens the mind in the ever continuing quest for truth.

Masonry shows us that the Bible is light, a guide, a source of wisdom and spiritual power. Masonry recognizes Divine authority and yet it does not seek to impose upon any brother rules of interpretation. It encourages each brother to study, read, ponder, meditate and become acquainted with the depth of wisdom, the pages of history and the eternal truths therein.

Wise men read it. Foolish men scoff at it. Wise men follow its teachings. Foolish men seek to discredit it. The Bible is at the center of our life as is the altar. That is where wisdom begins. Masonry uses the Holy Book as a source for building not only the strength of the Craft but also the strength of the Craftsmen.

Masonry does not take the place of any formal religious body, whether it be a church, temple or house of prayer. Masonry expects that brothers will be practicing men of faith in their own religions. It hardly seems possible that any man, who is a Mason, who is diligent in the application of Masonic truth, could or would be less than what his own religion would teach or expect.

Masonry does not force belief. Belief is the result of seeking truth and finding it. Masonry does not tell a man he “must” go to church on Sunday or any day. It doesn’t tell a man he “must” attend Lodge. It is expected that he will because of what he is and what he has received in his religion as well as in Masonry.

Masonry offers a system of truth which gives to a man something beyond himself. It offers a broad spectrum of religious ideals and values. Masonry doesn’t waste time with endless theological discussions. It offers no opinions as to religious speculation. Masonry is not a substitute for a man’s own responsibility to his own faith. It can and does, however, strengthen that faith. There is nothing in Masonry which contradicts or violates a man’s own conscience or system of religious belief.

Because of the religious nature of what a Mason receives and learns, he is enabled to understand the deep values of life. He is enabled to grasp the significance of brotherhood, friendship and morality. He is able to understand what Jesus meant when he said, in summation of the Law, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two
commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Masonry encourages a man to be faithful in worship. It is important to remember that though a Lodge meeting has many elements of worship, it is no substitute for worship of the Supreme Architect of the Universe in a corporate body. Worship is essential for every man and even more so for every brother. A Mason who understands his Masonic obligations will also be true and faithful in regular worship within the body of his religion.

A Mason is also enabled to understand and appreciate all religions other than his own. That doesn’t mean a surrender of his own beliefs. It doesn’t mean he is any less sure of his own convictions and views. It does mean he is tolerant of divergent views.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "I write with freedom because, while I claim to believe in one God, or my reason so tells me, I yield as freely to others that of believing in three. Both religions I find, make honest men, and that is the only point society has any right to look to." In the same manner John Gogley wrote, "Tolerance implies a respect for another person, not because he is wrong or even because he is right, but because he is human."

In Masonry we are aware that the power, presence and spirit of the Supreme Architect of the Universe surrounds us. He is captive to no man and yet all men owe him allegiance, for in HIM all men exist and have their being.

Masonry shows us that truth is not independent of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. He is the source, the power, the totality of all else. The beauty of Masonry in all its teachings, symbolism, ritual, lessons and truth is the expression of the Eternal and the reliance upon his order of things from time immortal.

"So many stars in the infinite space – So many worlds in the light of God’s face. So many storms after the thunders shall cease So many paths to the portals of peace. So many years, so many tears – Sighs and sorrows and pangs and prayers. So many ships in the desolate night – So many harbours, and only one Light. So many creeds like the weeds in the sod – So many temples, But only one God."

Frank L. Stanton

While Masonry is not a religion, I assure you it will never be anything less than a source of deep religious experience and truth expressed in symbolism. When all is said and done what you are, what you become, what you want to be is in your hands. Masonry is an open door. It is opportunity. It is truth. It is adventure. It is a way of life. What are you going to do with it?

"Wisdom and Spirit of the Universe! Thou Soul that art the eternity of thought, That givest to forms and images a breath An everlasting motion, not in vain By day or starlight thus from my first dawn Of childhood didst thou intertwine for me The passions that build up our human soul; Not with mean and vulgar works of man, But with high objects, with enduring things – With life and nature-purifying thus The elements of telling and of thought. And sanctifying, by such discipline, Both pain and fear, until we recognize A grandeur in the beatings of the heart."

William Wordsworth
From "The Prelude"

Friendship and Fellowship

Friendship is a key link in the fraternal life of Masonry.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "I awake this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new..." In Masonry we are introduced to a new world of friendships and friends.

We can be poor in material things but if we have friends we are rich indeed. The basis for our friendships in Masonry is Masonry itself. It is the fact that we meet as brothers and we share the life of brothers on our journey.

→ → →

august 1976
It was Karl Heim who said, “Every relationship of trust between two men has its roots in a faith which extends far beyond their relation to one another, the faith that there exists an obligation valid for all subjects, all places and all times.”

A friend is one with whom we can share a mutual trust. A friend is one with whom we can share the deepest interior of our hearts. A friend is one with whom we can bare our souls and not feel condemned. A friend is one who does not drain us emotionally but adds strength to our lives. A friend is one with whom we can be at ease and not worry about deception.

The Eternal spirit unites us to a common cause, a common brotherhood and a common fraternity. As we share together, meet together, work together we find the common denominator of friendship and brotherhood in our trust and unity of purpose.

Without friends and friendship we become lonely, isolated and detached in life. No man can be an island forever. In the world about us we may have other friends and rightly so. To develop new friendships is always enriching. There is something about the friends we make in Masonry that transcends all others. We have a common cause and we are also equals. There is no need nor place for pretense, masks or trying to make impressions.

We have those friends who walk with us every step of the way. They are with us when we reach out in darkness. They are with us when we enter the world of Masonry and discover the beauty of light. They are with us when we seek and when we stumble. They are with us in our search for meaning. They are with us in moments of laughter and in moments when we share the common meal of brotherly love.

Perhaps we all have friends and then special friends. Perhaps some mean more to us than others. Perhaps some are more fragile than others. Yet as brothers, they are all friends and we must ever seek to cultivate the highest and best between each. We must value those friendships for what they are in our Fraternity.

As we find new friends, new relationships we also discover that our world expands. We discover something of the Divine in each man. There is something of all of us in each other. We discover that in our Masonic friendships our own lives become deeper and our own spirit becomes richer.

A friend, a true friend, does not seek to exploit the friendships formed. He does not seek to “use” a friend or seek gain for his own benefit. He does not seek friendship for status or self glory. The only gain we should receive from a friend is the enrichment of our lives through sharing our mutual concerns.

“He is no friend who in thine hour of pride
Brics of his love and calls himself thy kind.
He is a friend who hales his fellow in
And clangs the door upon the wolf outside.”

Fellowship is what we have with good friends. Fellowship is what we have when we take time from our busy lives and share in times of happiness and joy. Someone once said that “fellowship is liking everybody on the ship.” That makes good sense. Fellowship is what we have in the Lodge when we are joined together through every ritual and ceremonial.

Martin Luther once said, “God has created mankind for fellowship and not for solitariness.” I agree.

Our fellowship is formed with the best in human spirit and the bond of unity. The kindred spirit burns as a warm glow and we are one. When we meet together we do not just meet as men from outside. We meet as brothers in the great family of Masons past, present and future.

The Reverend Robert E. Anderson is "a Brother of Bedford Lodge No. 14," Bedford, Indiana 47421.

†

Have a Nice Day
and a Good Hereafter!
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<td>1914—Panama Canal opened</td>
<td>1777—Patriots crush Hessians near Bennington 1896—Gold discovered in the Klondike</td>
<td>1790—Congress moved to Philadelphia 1807—Robert Fulton’s steamboat made 1st run</td>
<td>1587—Virginia Dare became 1st English child born in America 1920—Women’s Suffrage adopted</td>
<td>1821—Victory of “Old Ironsides” (The Constitution) 1971—Orville Wright born 1890—DAR organized</td>
<td>1741—Alaskadiscovered by Vitus Bering 1833—Benjamin Harris 23rd President, born</td>
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<td>1778—Battle of Rhode Island at Newport 1945—1st U.S. flag raised over Japan</td>
<td>1781—French fleet arrives off Yorktown, Virginia</td>
<td>1785-92—Painter John Trumbull records Revolutionary scenes</td>
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**AUGUST 1976**

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FREEDOM'S SONG

This great day of our Nation's birth,
Spanning some ten score years,
Reminds us of our storied worth
Achieved through toil and tears.

Now Freedom's song in sweet refrain,
Comes ringing from the past;
With theme composed of varied strain,
By which the whole is cast.

The pious tone of pilgrims' song
Blends with the Indian call;
Patriots sing in concert strong
Of liberty for all.

From old battlefields far and near
The phantom voices sob
Of brave men, holding duty dear,
Who sleep beneath the sod.

While upon the plains vast and wide,
Some rich in verdant green,
Are heard the shouts of cowboys' ride
Beside the rambling stream.

The cadence of this noble theme,
Involves a host of men,
Who toil in Labor's mighty stream
Amidst the noise and din.

For all must share as best they can
For Freedom's cause unite,
To hear her voice throughout the land
In concord strong and bright.

Then let the mighty chorus swell,
Let each join in the throng,
The ring of old Liberty Bell
Add glory to her song!

Reverend Ernest G. Rice, G.P.
Grand Commandery of West Virginia
P.O. Box 869
Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101

120th Michigan Conclave

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan held their 120th Annual Conclave June 3-5. The host city was Howell, Michigan, home town of William R. Parker, P.G.C. in Honor of the Conclave, the mayor of Howell, James Young, proclaimed the week as Knights Templar Week.

The Conclave was attended by 1,500 Sir Knights, wives and guests, including voting delegates from 52 constituent commanderies throughout the state. Sir Knight John B. Cottrell, Jr., R.E. Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment, represented Grand Master Riegel during the ceremonies, and he was featured in newspaper articles and on radio interviews.

Highlighting the close of the Conclave was a parade, which displayed 25 marching units and bands, along Grand River Avenue, in the heart of Howell.

The New Grand Commander of Michigan is Sir Knight Richard M. Strauss, Damascus Commandery No. 42, Detroit. A testimonial dinner will be tendered Sir Knight Strauss August 21.

Williamsport Parades

A news clipping from the Williamsport Sun-Gazette (Pennsylvania), supplied by Sir Knight F. Parson Kepler, Sr., described two Knights Templar Parades held in that city - 1905 (52nd Annual Conclave), and 1911 (58th). The parades, held on Tuesday, May 23 of the respective years, both followed a route leading to Market Square in downtown Williamsport. The 1911 parade had two main attractions - the Masonic Archway or Barbican (towers connected by arches to form the entrance to a medieval castle), and ten automobiles carrying the banners of the Commanderies marching in the parade.
Several months ago I wrote to "Knight Voices" and requested information regarding any existing program pertaining to "Discounts for the Aged."

Letters poured in with clippings, pamphlets and letters that have since been used to plan a program for Carteret County, North Carolina.

My sincere appreciation to those Sir Knights who responded. Sir Knight Waldo Gray, P.O. Box 548, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina 28512

I am a seventy-six year-old Knight Templar whose main hobby is collecting oldtime books for boys by Horatio Alger, Oliver Optic, etc. I am also interested in series books such as Rover Boys, Frank Merriwell, Tom Swift, etc. Would appreciate hearing from Sir Knights who have books of this type for sale or trade. Herb L. Risteen, P.O. Box 161, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913

Wanted: Genealogical and Fraternal information on William REID, son of John Reid, born in North Carolina in 1774. Married Anna Jones, daughter of Revolutionary War soldier David Jones, October 2, 1798, in Madison County, Kentucky. Moved to Arrow Rock, Cooper County, Missouri in 1811. Died in 1860. All three are believed to have been Masons. Robert E. May, R.R. 4, 840 S.E. Tecumseh Road, Topeka, Kansas 66605

A miscellaneous box at a recent public sale contained a Knights Templar medal with this inscription: "Kinsey F. M. Asher, Baltimore, Md., Commandery No. 1, 1790-1871".

Any inquiry or information should be directed to Glenn Mains Jr., R.D. No. 2, Box 37, Newville, Pennsylvania 17241

I would like to locate my father's Commandery sword which he had given me and which was lost during moves of station during WW II, probably in Texas. It bears the name "W. N. STOKES." Robert C. Stokes, Colorado Commandery No. 4, 5401 Ridgeoak Drive, Austin, Texas 78731

Glasgow Commandery No. 13, Glasgow, Montana, needs large uniform coats and belts. Please write Douglas Stiles, Gen. Box 474, Frazer, Montana 59225.

1976 is the 150th Anniversary of Watertown Commandery No. 11, the original Charter having been granted on June 9, 1826. In celebration of that event we have had a bronze commemorative coin struck bearing the Knight Templar emblem on the obverse and the name and dates (raised) on the reverse. We are asking $4.00 each for these coins, postpaid. They can be obtained through Harold E. Wheeler, Recorder of Watertown Commandery, 1605 Columbia Street, Watertown, New York 13601.

Twin Cities Commandery, No. 39, Neenah, Wisconsin, lost part of their Knights Templar equipment to a thief. Perhaps some Commandery may have extra skulls, silver candle holders and libation cups. If any Commandery has any of these items, we would indeed appreciate hearing from them.

Please write to Jerome Slaasted, 730 Woodfield Road, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956. Sir Knight Howard N. Nelson, Twin Cities Commandery No. 39, 714 Congress Street, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956
A friend of mine (Scottish Rite) bought a Knight Templar Sword, sometime ago, and would like to contact interested parties as he believes some member of the Family would be interested. The inscription on the sword reads, "Raymond L. Dollings" (Manufacturer, Cincinnati-Regalia Co.). Please contact Phillip E. Thomas, Manager, El Sombrero Restaurant, 5401 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22207. Carl I. Jensen, Greenbrier Commandery No. 15, 5010 North 25th Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207.

Olympia Chapter No. 29, located in Greece, has been chartered by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Germany. Also in Greece is Delphi Chapter No. 21, chartered by the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Germany.

We wish to invite any Sir Knights visiting Greece to get in touch with us. Please write to Leon E. Frangakis, Deputy Grand High Priest for Greece, 43 Academy Street, Athens 135, Greece, or myself, Nicholas R. Higby, 8 Ferron Street, Athens 104, Greece

I have rescued one of your member's Commander's Dress Sabre from a notion shop located in Central City, Kentucky.

The item is 'very ornate' and seems to be quite dated. It is described as follows: Sabre or sword is complete with scabbard, blade and scabbard fully engraved. Manufactured by the Pettibone Mfg. Co. of Cincinnati. The blade carries the name of SHERIDON V. PATRICK, handle and scabbard initialed SVP.

Anyone having information on this sabre should contact: Daniel H. Hughes, Jr., 648 Dalton Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301.

I collect any items connected with Masonry - plates, mugs, etc. Will pay any reasonable prices. Robert B. Adams, P.M., 6141 Erdrick Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19135.

The National Camping Travelers Inc. (N.C.T.), organized in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 1966, has grown from 21 members to almost 10,000, with units in almost every state including Alaska and Canada. Members of the club are Master Masons and their families who enjoy camping and traveling.

Each year a National Rally is held in August. The 1976 rally will be held at Point Mallard in Decatur, Alabama.

Mrs. Thomas J. Guice, National Historian and wife of the National Treasurer (member of Monumental Commandery No. 3, Baltimore) writes that Masons can readily obtain more information about N.C.T. Mrs. Thomas J. Guice, National Camping Travelers, P.O. Box 34, Dayton, Ohio 45449.

I have available if any readers of our magazine would like, the following book, cost postpaid for $5.00.

Xerox copy from only two original books known, titled: "History of International Lodge, A.F. & A.M., Peking, China, 1915-1940," compiled by Officers of International Lodge to commemorate its 25th Anniversary. Lists original founders, giving Nationality, Lodge, Location and Country. Also list of members 1915-1940. Contains scarce information on Square and Compass and illustrations back to Han Dynasty, etc., Chinese script with English translations on some pages. Other valuable information for researchers; 65 pages with index. Edward E. Becher, Demolay No. 7, 58 Springfield Street, Belmont, Massachusetts 02178.

C. Clark Julius, Secretary Grand Master's Council A.A.M.D. sent me a badge containing the enameled State New Jersey which looks like a possible meeting of Grand Encampment but "Supreme Conclave" mixes me up. Obviously the meeting was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1911 - but the "H" etc. makes no sense unless we determine the body. There was no Grand Encampment Conclave in 1911.

Maybe you would like to ask for "dope" about it. Harold V. B. Voorhis, K.G.C., 105 New England Avenue, Apt. 2-B, Summit, New Jersey 07901.
1. Continental
2. Crown Center Hotel
3. Dixon Inn
4. Executive Motor Inn
5. Hilton Inn
6. Holiday Inn
   Municipal Auditorium
7. Muehlebach Hotel
8. Phillips
9. President
10. Prom-Sheraton Motor Inn
11. Travelodge
   Convention and Visitors Bureau