GRAND ENCAMPMENT REPRESENTATIVES

We particularly wish to thank the Department Commanders of the Grand Encampment who have served so willingly and with such dedication during the present triennium period. As our term nears its conclusion, I express appreciation to all who have served as official Representatives of the Grand Encampment and Grand Master — whether visiting an Annual Conclave or attending any of a dozen or so other assemblies associated with the family of Freemasonry and Templar.

All who had the opportunity to know him mourn the untimely loss of the Right Eminent Department Commander for the Northwestern Department, Merlin Forrest Purcell, who died October 10 in Boise, Idaho, at the age of 62. He was a valiant and concerned Templar who long will be remembered for his devotion to our Order. For the continuity of Templary, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to appoint and install a worthy successor, William H. Thornley, Jr., of Denver, Colorado. A capable and thorough leader, he is serving the Northwestern Department faithfully and well.

Outstanding in their service during this triennium are six other Department Commander stalwarts. The largest number of Grand Commanderies, 10 in the Northeastern Department, are ably represented by Alton G. Billmeier of Maryland. Gains are the greatest in the eight Grand Commanderies served by J. Willard Register, Columbus, Georgia, representing the Southeastern Department. Five Grand Commanderies constitute the populous and tight-knit East Central Department, effectively administered by Department Commander K. Edwin Applegate, Bloomington, Indiana.

J. Shubel Robbins, Department Commander from the South Central area, is an efficient and personable representative for the Knights Templar of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. He and his lady live at Jennings, Louisiana. The quiet but knowledgeable Hugh E. Hossle, of Ames, Iowa, commands the present North Central Department of seven progressive Grand Commanderies. And, in the Southwestern Department, the Commander of the area as well as the present Grand Captain General, Grand Encampment, is William P. Wilson, California.

To all — a hearty "thank you" for exceptional services extended.
MAY: The Old Farmer’s Almanac, without fear of successful contradiction of any kind, says that May, “the fifth month, hath 31 days.” For the benefit of celestial scanners it mentions also that “on the 23rd of this month, there will be a conjunction of both Mars and Venus with the moon ... both these planets will lie very close to each other in the early evening sky.” For readers of our Templar magazine, we wish to inject the thought that May also brings an issue of celestial attractions with special emphasis upon the District of Columbia and the points of interest contained therein or nearby. We continue to be appreciative of both the wealth and the excellence of contributing authors.

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

Burgess: Knighted recently in Mt. Vernon Commandery No. 73, Hazelton, was Thomas H. Burgess, Junior Grand Warden of the R.W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania "and Masonic jurisdictions thereunto belonging." He received the Orders of Red Cross, Malta and the Temple on February 24, 1979.

Beware of Records: So says Past Commander William N. Woodland, St. Bernard Commandery No. 12, Boston. His letter to the Editor reads:

"Beware of records!

"Peninsular Commandery No. 8 of Kalamazoo may indeed be proud of its ten 33rd Past Commanders, as reported in the Knight Templar of March 1979. But St. Bernard Commandery No. 12 of Boston can top that.

"Of 23 living Past Commanders, 14 hold the 33rd of the Scottish Rite. Seven others are also 33rd Masons, for a total of 21 out of 92 members.

"Five Past Grand Masters of Masons in Massachusetts are members of St. Bernard, four of them being Past Commanders. Three more have been elected to receive the 33rd in September. Our present Grand Master, who is on leave from our line, is one of them.

"We have one other record in St. Bernard Commandery which we would be glad to share with other Commanderies: 100% of our members are Life Sponsors of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation."

Invited: The Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment has been invited to present an address at the 10th Annual W. B. Jack Ball Lecture series, presented by Albert Pike Lodge No. 1169 in San Antonio, Texas, on May 24.

Simons, Simons and Axland: A letter from Past Grand Commander Blaine M. Simons, Utah, tells it best:

"I am not sure if there is a story here or not, but the three top officers of Utah Commandery No. 1 [Salt Lake City]: Richard H. Simons – Eminent Commander, Blaine H. Simons – Generalissimo, and Le Roy S. Axland – Captain General, are all under 40 years of age.

"I guess only a proud father would think of this.

"Sir Knight Axland is one of our leading attorneys even at this age."

107th: The United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine, will meet in Lincoln, Nebraska, home area of Grand Sovereign Charles F. Adams, from Thursday evening June 14, to Sunday morning, June 17, when Grand High Prelate Carroll H. Prouty will offer a closing service. As required by the Constitution, information was distributed May 16 – sixty days in advance of the Annual Assembly. This invitational Order numbers 6,000 in the U.S., Mexico and the Philippines, also Japan, Guam, Okinawa, Guatemala and Puerto Rico.

McIntyre: Charles S. McIntyre, Jr., Chairman of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Annual Voluntary Campaign, expresses his appreciation and that of the Trustees, for the exceptional results of the Campaign which ended April 30. Final returns are permitted until the 15th of the current month. In a later issue, complete totals will be announced – including those Constituent, Subordinate and Grand Commanderies who rate special mention because of Campaign productivity.
MEMBERSHIP AND INFLATION

by

Raymond C. Ellis, Retiring President
George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association

A n a s t u e observer once said that the main objective of politicians is to postpone problems long enough to pass them on to their successors — or, at least, postpone them until after the next election.

The officers and directors of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association are not politicians and do not subscribe to this thinking. Year after year we have emphasized the financial problem with which this great Memorial is confronted. We feel it incumbent upon us to do so again this year.

Simply stated, our income is slightly less than our expenditures. But each year this deficit has been offset by the contributions of the several Grand Lodges. However, our deficit increases annually for two reasons: (1) Inflation — with which we are too familiar; (2) Capital Expenditures — because of the age of the Memorial.

We will be confronted with extensive repairs in the near future. The building is over fifty years old and there will be major expenditures for wiring and plumbing, as well as for our roadway and parking areas. Shortly we will have to have a new roof, particularly over the Lodge Room areas. Such repairs will be mandatory — just for the preservation of the building itself.

By reason of our program to celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States, we received contributions sufficient to increase our Endowment Fund by approximately $200,000. The results have been disappointing, but at least we have $200,000 more in the Endowment Fund than we would have had — had we done nothing. The record of a few of our Grand Lodges is outstanding — but, unfortunately, these are too few in number. The names of all Grand Lodges, individuals and organizations contributing $1,000 or more have been registered on a bronze plaque, which was unveiled at our meeting last year, and which has been enshrined as a permanent record near the entrance of the Replica Room and just to the left of the main entrance of the building. The names of additional contributors of $1,000 or more will be added.

Currently many of our Grand Lodges contribute $1.00 for each new member. It has come to our attention that some Grand Lodges have under advisement a contribution of $5.00 per new member. The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia already has taken steps in this direction. We suggest that every Grand Lodge give it serious consideration. Such a contribution would not be a charge to any Grand Lodge since it would merely be added to the initiation fee.

We regret the necessity of stressing our financial problem, but we would be culpable if we were to remain silent and let matters drift until a major crisis is reached and when time would not be on our side.

We should bear in mind that we are living in a day and age of
catastrophic change — changes which affect not only our country, but our churches, synagogues and fraternities. It is important that we recognize this fact. In a fraternity, whatever may be suggested that is different opposition is certain. There are always those who stand to the end for customs and traditions grown hoary with age — simply because their ancestors followed them. Until there is skepticism and doubt, progress is impossible. Those who are not aware of the darkness can never see the light. There is no progress without doubt — for doubt leads to inquiry — and inquiry leads to knowledge. Few people have the will to seek knowledge — for it does not come to one whether he will or not — it comes at the price of great labor and therefore of great sacrifice. Those who are thoroughly satisfied with the past, and the thinking of their ancestors, will never have reason to expend energy on behalf of change in the new world in which they live.

For example, in most areas we are confronted with a decrease in membership. Perhaps the time has come for a reappraisal of our custom and tradition that no one be invited or encouraged to become a Mason. Most of us have had the experience of asking a man in his 50’s or 60’s why he never became a Mason, and have been disturbed by the answer: “Nobody asked me.” We assume that non-Masons are familiar with our traditions and customs. The cold, hard fact is, they are not. Perhaps our practice should be modified, and in some reasonable manner, we should encourage young men to membership in our fraternity. It is our understanding that the Grand Lodge of England has no such rigid custom — that they have the practice of encouraging certain well-qualified individuals, whom they believe would be an asset to the Craft, to become members. We might give this subject careful study. In doing so, we should keep in mind that our custom of not encouraging anyone to become a member of the Craft is not a landmark. I do not believe that Mackey (who lists some twenty landmarks) or Pound (who lists about eight) refer to it as a landmark. It is, of course, a custom, and a tradition. In this new day and age in which we live — a time when we are in competition with the radio, television and the automobile, we might do well to reconsider this tradition. With a shifting population, “Father’s Lodge” no longer has the same appeal to membership in the Craft as in the past.

About 500 B.C. Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher of the Milesian School, said that there is nothing permanent but change. To a major extent, he was right; and in this world today, those who don’t change at best are out of step, and at worst, out of existence — and this applies to groups as well as individuals.

We have much to be concerned about in our world today when man has in his hands a power so great that he could wipe all life off this planet and turn it into a blackened cinder whirling through the awful depths of interstellar space. But in looking at the world today, may I say that I am more afraid of the Americans than I am of the Russians or any outside power on this earth.

I am afraid of Americans who have become victims of apathy, indifference and complacency,

I am afraid of Americans who have become indifferent to the decay of national ideals — who have become so accustomed to every form of political chicanery, graft and corruption that these are accepted as a normal part of our life.

I am afraid of Americans who are apathetic to the tender loving care with which, so it seems, the red, the pink, the traitor and other subversive elements are treated by our courts.

I am afraid of Americans who have become so hardened to all types of
crime, including murder, that the chief offense is no longer the criminal act itself but in having been found out.

I am afraid of Americans who are indifferent to the use of the ballot — who don’t vote on Election Day on the theory that one vote more or less won’t count. For example, less than 38% of the electorate voted for Governor in the State of New York last November, and it appears that throughout the nation, only 40% of the electorate took the trouble to go to the polls.

I am afraid of Americans who ought, and do know better, who give lip service to the fight against inflation, and then, for financial profit, do all they can to promote it.

I am afraid of Americans, who also know better, who succumb to the siren call of policies of fiscal idiocy and sell the economic future of their children down the river.

I am afraid of Americans who put first things last and last things first, who, if we were to have a recession, would first economize by cutting their contributions to churches, hospitals and schools, and later economize by reducing their liquor and luxury bills.

We should remember: No nation in history has survived if it has turned its back on the moral and spiritual values responsible for whatever of greatness to which it may have attained. We would do well to remember that basic historical fact, as well as that “the price of liberty is eternal vigilance,” and that we will be the “land of the free” only as long as we are the “home of the brave.”

Finally, as Masons, we should ever keep in mind that the only guide one has is his conscience; the only shield to his memory the rectitude and sincerity of his actions. It is a tragic error to go through life without this shield because time and again our hopes will end in frustration and our best laid plans come to naught. But with this shield, no matter what may

New York Research Grant Continued

For the last ten years the Knights Templar Eye Foundation has provided the major support for research into the effective use of artificial corneas at the Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. Knight Templar funding for this project began in 1958, and with the most recent grant of $25,000, K.T.E.F. support for continued study in this area totals $202,500.

Teammates — From left to right, Drs. Anthony Donn and Charles K. Koester, directors of the keratoprosthesis project at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, note with approval Past Grand Master Bell’s presentation of $25,000 check to Dr. Charles J. Campbell, as New York Grand Commander David Aiken looks on.

Periodic Knight Templar Magazine articles have featured recipients of artificial corneas made and surgically implanted by the New York “team” of physicians.

be the fate of our efforts and ideals, we will march forward always in the ranks of honor.

Sir Knight Ellis is Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York, an Active Member of the Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, and formerly Deputy for the State of New York. He is a member of DeWitt Clinton Commandery No. 14 in Brooklyn, and lives at 11 Park Place, New York City 10007.
Roast for Past Grand Monarch

Aletheia Grotto, M.O.V.P.E.R., Worcester, Massachusetts, will host a dinner honoring Sir Knight Gerald N. Steeves, immediate Past Grand Monarch of Grottoes of the World, on May 19, 1979, at the Holden Hills Country Club, Holden, Massachusetts. Steeves, a member of Worcester County Commandery No. 5, will be cordially roasted by “National, regional and local fratres and friends.”

Porter Lodge Mortgage Burning

On March 15, 1961, the Masonic Temple in Valparaiso, Indiana, was struck by fire that destroyed the building and much of the contents belonging to Porter Lodge No. 137 and appendant Masonic Bodies in Valparaiso. The following year excavation began for construction of a new temple which was dedicated November 16, 1963.

On March 3, 1979, members of the Valparaiso Bodies celebrated another “burning” — of the mortgage for the new Masonic Temple.

Most Worshipful Grand Master of Indiana Masons, William E. Hepley, headed the list of distinguished guests, and Sir Knight Neil Lane, Worshipful Master of Porter Lodge, presided in the East. Past Master William D. Blasingame described the occasion and the affect on those present:

“Each person in attendance was given a candle ... the candles were lighted, starting in the West and passed from person to person until the original flame reached the Worshipful Master who ignited the mortgage. The Lodge was beautiful, lit only by candle light.”

Ford Honored by DeMolay

Former President Gerald R. Ford was awarded a Past Honorary Grand Master’s collar and jewel by the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, in Kansas City, Missouri, for his “outstanding leadership and service to the country.” Grand Master the Honorable Thomas C. Raum, Jr., presented the honor to Ford who acknowledged “the work of DeMolay in leadership training and development and community service.” Ford was elected an Active Member and Honorary Grand Master at the 1976 Annual Sessions of the Supreme Council, and served in honorary capacity until January 1977 when he became a Past Honorary Grand Master.

On hand for the presentation was Kansas Senator and Sir Knight Robert Dole, Ford’s running mate in the 1976 Presidential Campaign. Dole, no stranger to DeMolay, was elected to receive the Honorary Legion of Honor in 1974. Ford received the Honorary LOH in 1968.

Ye Cohorn Caravan Still Available

Additional copies of Ye Cohorn Caravan, a book which details the life of Revolutionary War hero Brother Henry Knox, are available upon request from the author, Brother William L. Bowne. “My desire,” says Bowne, “is to place as many copies as possible from the remaining supply where they will do the most good — in libraries and historical research collections.”

Individual copies will be sent postpaid on receipt of payment of $4.75 per copy to 1079 Lexington Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12309. Orders of three or more copies sent to a single address will receive a discount. Groups or individuals may take advantage of the “bulk discount” to order copies to use as gifts for brother Masons or as donations to libraries, Lodges, etc.
A phrase frequently heard concerning Washington, D.C., is, "Politics as usual." From its conception, our Nation's Capital has been embroiled in political rhetoric. The selection of the Potomac River site is said to have been the result of a political "deal" between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson — that Jefferson would vote for the assumption of the war debt of the states in return for Hamilton's support for the selection of the Southern site.

Prior to 1800, Congress sat in eight cities — Philadelphia, Baltimore, York, Lancaster, Princeton, Annapolis, New York, and Trenton. After the Battle of Yorktown, Congress was situated in Philadelphia. The army was being disbanded and furloughed as there were no funds with which to pay the troops. Some of them mutinied, including some Pennsylvania troops, who surrounded the building where the Executive Council and Congress were in session. Neither the state nor the city offered any protection. This made for some unhappy politicians. Madison said that it was high time to remove the Congress to another place if the city would not support the Congress.

Competition to lure the seat of government became the order of the day. Boston, where the first shot was fired, was considered, as was Philadelphia, where independence was proclaimed, and Yorktown where it was won. Other competitors were Wilmington, Reading, Lancaster, New York, Newport, Kingston, and Williamsburg. In 1790, Congress definitely directed that the location would be on the river Potomac and would not exceed ten miles square, and "the same is hereby accepted for the permanent seat of the government of the United States."

Thus it was that what is now the City of Washington in the District of Columbia become the location for our Nation's Capital.

Originally designated the territory of Columbia, it consisted of a ten-mile square, laid out obliquely with the compass. Slightly over 69 square miles of the square were within the State of Maryland and the remaining 30 plus square miles in Virginia. However, in 1946, Congress, in its infinite and questionable wisdom, re-ceded the latter portion back to the Commonwealth of Virginia. What was left when the city was finally laid out amounted to much less than the original plan.

A grandiose plan was made for the city to accommodate The Congress House, the President's House, government offices, statues, monuments, gardens, a grand canal, wide avenues, and scores of squares, circles, and triangles at intersections. The plan was designed by Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, a French Engineer who had served under General Washington in the Revolutionary War.

Progress was slow. Funds were scarce. Political intrigues, foot → →
dragging, heavy rains and snows, and a host of other factors resulted in many changes to the original plan. The Washington Monument was not completed until 1884.

President Lincoln demonstrated his faith in the Union and his belief in the Capital by insisting that work on the Capitol dome be continued during the War between the States. It wasn’t until 1901 that interest in the L’Enfant plan was revived. Most of the public buildings built since then have abided by the spirit, if not the letter, of the plan.

The Executive Mansion, built of Virginia freestone, was gutted by fire when the British occupied the Capital. In 1814, to cover the scars of the fire, it was painted white, resulting in its being referred to as the “White House.”

Masons have played many important roles in the development of the Nation’s Capital. On September 18, 1793, the historic Masonic procession through the streets of Washington, and the Masonic ceremonies of the laying of the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol, have been beautifully recorded. Less well known are some of the other cornerstone layings accomplished by the Masonic Fraternity.

The following account appeared in a Philadelphia paper.

Alexandria, April 21, 1791

On Friday, the 15th inst., the Hon. Daniel Carroll and Hon. David Stuart arrived in this town to superintend the fixing of the first cornerstone of the Federal District.

The Mayor and the Commonalty, together with the members of the different Lodges of the town, at three o’clock, waited on the Commissioners at Mr. Wise’s, where they dined, and, after drinking a glass of wine to the following sentiment, viz: “May the stone which we are about to place in the ground, remain an immovable monument of the wisdom and unanimity of North America,” the company proceeded to Jones Point in the following order:

1st) The Town Sergeant. 2nd) Hon. Daniel Carroll and the Mayor. 3rd) Mr. Ellicott and the Recorder. 4th) Such of the Common Council and Aldermen as were not Freemasons. 5th) Strangers. 6th) The Master of Lodge No. 22, with Dr. David Stuart on his right, and the Rev. James Muir (for many years an active Mason) on his left, followed by the rest of the Fraternity, in their usual form of procession. Lastly) The citizens, two by two.

When Mr. Ellicott had ascertained the precise point from which the first line of the District was to proceed, the Master of the Lodge and Dr. Stuart, assisted by others of their brethren, placed the stone. After which a deposit of corn, wine, and oil was placed upon it.

That was the very cornerstone of the District of Columbia.

On February 19, 1811, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was born. It had a glorious history of activity and still remains as a viable bedrock of community involvement, working hand-in-hand with all other Masonic allied, concordant, appendant and related bodies, including the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia, which was organized January 14, 1896.

Sir Knight Pollard’s mailing address is 8120 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge
THE PYRAMID OF LIFE

by
General Bruce C. Clarke, United States Army, Retired

Twelve years ago, General and Sir Knight Clarke wrote "Progressing Up the Pyramid of Life" for the Military Review. Its Editor has given permission to the Knight Templar Magazine to republish the article in the May issue. General Clarke, member of Columbia Commandery No. 2, Washington, D.C., served almost five decades in the Army. A combat command commander in both the 4th and 7th Armored Divisions during World War II, he led the 1st and 10th Corps in Korea and successively served as Commanding General, U.S. Army, Pacific; 7th Army; U.S. Continental Army Command; U.S. Army, Europe. He was Vice Chairman of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and presently serves the Grand Encampment as Honorary Chairman of the annual Easter Sunrise Service at Arlington.

It has been truthfully said that, at the end, when one looks back on his life, he should measure his success by the number of rungs up the ladder of life he has climbed since he started, and not by the particular rung on which he finished.

The basic concept of our Government under the Constitution is that all men are created equal. This means not that all men are equal, for they are far from it. It only means that all men should have equal opportunities and rights under our laws. This concept is a great step in the progress of man.

When any group of men such as Army officers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, scientists, clerks, or accountants start out in any corporation or in other organizations, they fit into a pyramid which is broad at the base, but becomes smaller and smaller as they approach the peak.

Assuming that those people in each category start with approximately equal backgrounds, there is a selection process which starts as soon as they tend to rise in the pyramid of life.

Also, assuming that the selection of those who rise in the pyramid of life is based upon ability, experience, need for special capabilities, and leadership, how does one prepare himself for being chosen to advance in competition with his associates and colleagues?

Everybody who is a leader, director, or commander at any echelon of an organization is also a follower. He never gets to the point where he is not.

The Chief of Staff of the Army is a follower — he follows the desires and directives of the President, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Defense, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Even the President of the United States is a follower in that he follows public opinion.

What each one of us is today is the result of years of following whereby we have taken into our makeup knowledge, ideas, instruction, and concepts. Through a process of discernment, acceptance, and elimination, we have stored away in our personal ability banks certain characteristics, ideas, and procedures, and we have discarded others as not being worthy.

In the process of sifting the good from the poor, or what we considered the good from the poor, we have...
created, as of today, our present makeup and a character which is ours as individuals. If we have attained good characteristics and a storeroom of good ideas, learning, techniques, and concepts that we can use effectively in the future, we have been good followers. We have a good basis for being successful leaders and, in all probability, will advance. A good follower is able to react quickly and effectively to an emergency or a crisis. Hence, he has the potential to become a fine military commander.

This process must be continuous during our active careers if we are to continue to grow in judgment and balance. Some call this experience, but it is more than that. It is the constant and critical sound evaluation of experience that causes us to progress in stature and move up the pyramid of life.

Early in life, some members of society fall into limited categories due to handicaps of opportunities, health, and physical and mental ability. These people start life with ceilings over them that few are able to pierce.

But how about those whose opportunities, education, and apparent ability seem to start them off on common, equal footings as they begin to move up the pyramid of life? Each one eventually reaches his own peak and levels off at various distances from the top.

Very few have an apparent ceiling over them at the start, but they develop ceilings at various levels as they go along. What causes this leveling off process on the part of an individual? What factors tend to cause this ceiling to form over him?

Wrong decisions.
Wasted opportunities.
Deterioration of attitude and enthusiasm.
Excesses; lack of self-control.
Lack of honesty of purpose.
Tendency toward lowered standards.
Poor ethics.
Loss of self-respect.
Loss of motivation and ambition.
Lack of ability to express himself orally or in writing.
Poor associations.
Wrong scale of values.
Failure in carrying out responsibility.
Lack of loyalty, up or down.
Unfortunate family situations.
Deterioration of physical condition.
Bad habits.
Poor financial management.
Disregard of rules.
Procrastination.
Failure to keep up with progress in his field.

Poor followership is a great contributor to ceiling formation. Once a ceiling is formed, or starts to form, it is difficult to break through. A few do break through despite handicaps, however. There are those who would try to dispel these ceilings by social laws and values. To be sure, they are partially successful on the lower reaches of the pyramid of life, but not as they reach the apex of the pyramid. They only warp the shape of the pyramid at certain levels. The Bible says that many are called but few are chosen. It is ever thus as we try to progress up the pyramid or ladder of life.

Sir Knight Bruce C. Clarke can be reached by writing Route 2, Box 323, Palmyra, Virginia 22783.

Award for Volunteer Weather Observer

Brother Percy E. Dreher, Olive Lodge No. 52, Clinton, Louisiana, was honored this year with the John Campanius Holm Award for “volunteer weather observers.” The award is made each year to 25 observers from among more than 12,000 in the nation. News of the award was sent by Sir Knight K. Malcolm Cain, P.M., Olive Lodge, who received the award in 1971.
"Artist of his own sweet will"...

**AMOS DOOLITTLE, 1754-1832**

by

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

A "letter of credence" or diploma, issued by the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree at Charleston, South Carolina, to a member admitted in 1827, was done on parchment from a copper plate, measuring sixteen by twenty-four inches. To be seen at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C., it displays a number of emblems and seals, a well-executed example of the skill of the artist, whose credit line reads "Written and Engraved by Sr. Kt. A. Doolittle."

Brother, Companion and Sir Knight Doolittle of New Haven, Connecticut, produced many Masonic items among the dozens of plates which came from his burin (a steel cutting tool). The catalog includes bills of exchange, certificates, music, maps, book plates, and some fanciful subjects— even cartoons. He used a slightly different credit line on each of the Masonic engravings.

The most notable work he did on Masonic subjects was the assortment of emblems engraved for the "Hieroglyphic Monitor" of Jeremy Ladd Cross. Therein was depicted the "Weeping Virgin" with the credit line "Design’d & Engraved by A. Doolittle," which disappeared in later editions, after Cross bought out his interest in the book.

Not only did Doolittle’s reputation recommend him for employment by the Supreme Council at Charleston, but two members were old associates in Masonry in New Haven. Horatio Gates Street had been made a Mason in Hiram Lodge, of which Doolittle was a Past Master; and John Barker was the first Commander of New Haven Commandery, of which Doolittle was a charter member.

Born in Cheshire, Connecticut, May 18, 1754, Doolittle came to New Haven as an apprentice silver-smith, and seems to have been self-taught in his work as an engraver. He advertised his skill as a varnisher and engraver, also as a dealer in silver and metal eagles, and ornaments for militia uniforms.

When the Second Company of the Governor’s Foot Guard was organized early in 1775, Amos Doolittle’s name was fifth on the list of petitioners to the General Assembly. In April he was one of the volunteers who followed Benedict Arnold over the road to Boston after the Lexington Alarm reached New Haven. Years later he became Commandant of the Foot Guard.

In December 1775 he engraved four copper plates illustrating scenes of the conflict at Lexington and Concord, reproducing the imaginative paintings by Ralph Earle. Among the earliest efforts of both young artists, they were rather crude productions, but today are priceless collectors’ items.

Doolittle was one of the pillars of Hiram Lodge for many years, a Companion in Franklin Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and Harmony Council of Royal and Select Masters. He engraved plates for traveling certificates, and for aprons of Chapter and Council, differing only by emblems on the flap.

In the nature of his business and for training his apprentices,
150th Anniversary Coin

Chardon Lodge No. 93, Ohio, celebrated 150 years of Masonry in Chardon on June 22, 1978. To commemorate the event, a limited number of coins in nickel silver, 1-9/16” in diameter, has been struck. On the obverse side are Masonic working tools; the reverse carries a shield with “150th Masonry” and dated 1828-1978. Sir Knight Wayne B. Tegner, Chairman, announces that coins are available for $3.50 each, postpaid (checks payable to Treasurer Anniversary Committee). Requests for information and orders may be sent to Sir Knight Tegner at P.O. Box 74, Novelty, Ohio 44072.

“In Good Hands”

Grand Master Willard M. Avery declared “Mississippi Templary to be in good hands” following his March visit at the 118th Annual Conclave in Meridian. One of the reasons is Sir Knight T. K. Griffis who, in addition to being Grand Recorder, is also Grand Secretary of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter and Grand Recorder of the Grand Council.”

Sir Knight Griffis, P.C., Cyrene Commandery No. 9, Meridian, “takes an active part in ritualistic work in all four Bodies and particularly in Festivals held throughout the state.” He served for seven years as superintendent of the Masonic Home for Children in Mississippi, and also as Recorder of Hamasa Shrine Temple for seven years.

To date, Mississippi shows a gain of 712 Sir Knights during the current Triennium.

Grand Encampment Contribution

During the 1979 Annual Meeting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association in Colorado Springs, Grand Master Avery presented a $1,000 offering from the Grand Encampment for upkeep of the Knight Templar Chapel at the Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. Receiving the contribution was Raymond C. Ellis, retiring President of the Association.
WHO WAS THAT YOUNG MAN?

Minnesota Grand Commander Monroe P. Kelly sent the following letter to the Grand Recorder of Grand Encampment. It illustrates another positive page in our appreciation for the "younger generation," those who will make even greater strides in the future.

Minnesota DeMolay Foundation, Inc.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416

Gentlemen:

On Friday, February 23, 1979, at about 5:30 p.m., my wife and I were driving west on Bass Lake Road nearing the intersection of Highway 52, when my car started to feel like I was getting a flat tire. I opened the door and looked and that was my problem. The traffic was heavy, but I managed to get over and proceed to start to change my tire. I had the lid on my trunk up and was starting to get the jack out when a young man appeared around my car and said, "I don't think you should change that tire with those good clothes on. Let me do it." For a moment I was taken by surprise, but he just pitched in and took over. I looked around the front of my car and noticed his car in front of mine, and there on his bumper was a sticker saying "DeMolay did it." I then asked the young man if he belonged to the Robbinsdale Chapter as we were in that area. He said he did, but right now he was an officer in the State Council. He probably told me his name, but in all the hustle to get done and out of the traffic, I have forgotten it.

At the next meeting of your State Officers, I would like to have you either read this letter or call this incident to their attention and again thank this young man for me, and at the same time, I wish to commend all of DeMolay for the great service they are doing for all mankind. These are the sort of things that make a man proud to be a Mason!

Very truly yours,

Leonard G. Mathison, Grand Sword Bearer
Grand Commandery of Minnesota

Mahram Surgery

Pari Mahram, an Iranian student at Indiana University, Pennsylvania, underwent a corneal transplant last May, and, according to Samuel H. Verner, P.C., Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1, "she will need a second operation on the other eye."

Another note from Sir Knight Verner confirms the newest surgery. He writes: "Miss Mahram has since had the operation - covered by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation - and she is doing very well."

In an earlier letter, Pari Mahram, 27 years old, said: "Without Knights Templar help I couldn't afford it, and I don't have my family here. Mr. Verner, your agent in Pittsburgh, has helped me in all the conditions and has been concerned with the whole problem. I got the best service in the Eye and Ear Hospital. Especially the doctor has done his best for me. I appreciate all the people and definitely Knights Templar Eye Foundation that gave me a chance for my future."
Mississippi Grand Master in Templar Line


The new Grand Captain General, a resident of Jackson and member of Mississippi Commandery No. 1, was elected Grand Master in February. He anticipates "a very active year ahead" in all four York Rite Bodies.

1979 Triennial Commemorative Buckle

A commemorative belt buckle depicting a mounted Templar has been developed specially for the upcoming 54th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, August 11-16, in Indianapolis, Indiana, according to Sir Knight J. Ahlbrandt, II, Washington Commandery No. 2, Atchison, Kansas. The buckle designed by Sir Knight Ahlbrandt, is of pewter or brass-plated pewter and measures 2 3/4" x 2 1/4". The item is available at $8.00 each plus $1.50 postage and handling. Orders may be addressed to Sir Knight Ahlbrandt at P.O. Box 19617, Kansas City, Missouri 64141.

In addition to the special Triennial item, buckles carrying Templar, York Rite, Scottish Rite, Blue Lodge, Chapter, Council, Shrine, K.Y.C.H., and other emblems are available at similar costs.

Des Moines

Iowa Congressman Neal E. Smith will be a candidate for the Order of the Temple at a Festival named in his honor scheduled for May 26 in Des Moines.

Representative Smith was first elected to the House from Iowa’s fourth district on November 4, 1958.

York Rite on Display – A Better Idea

Templars from the Blue Grass State are coordinating efforts with the Grand Lodge to publicize the York Rite in Kentucky. One practical result of these efforts is a display board with the legend "There Shall Ye Find Light" containing informative brochures on Chapter, Council and the Commandery of Knights Templar, including the K.T. Eye Foundation.

Grand Recorder Charles K. A. McGaughey writes, "We got together with the Grand Master, and a display board is going to every Symbolic Lodge anteroom in the state." The initial response, from area Master Masons, says McGaughey, "exceeds all expectations."
Corvallis Beaureant Active

Sir Knights from Bruce Commandery No. 17, Corvallis, Oregon, joined guests and members at the 1979 installation of officers for Corvallis Assembly No. 201, Social Order of the Beaureant. Mrs. Ralph Predmore was seated as President, with Mrs. Charles L. Willey, First Vice President; Mrs. Harvey B. Hamilton, Second Vice President; Mrs. Fred Renstrom, Preceptress; Mrs. C. C. Hanson, Recorder; and Mrs. G. R. Flood, Treasurer.

Oregon P.G.C. Charles L. Willey notes that Corvallis Assembly is “doing a grand job of benevolent work.”

Charleston, West Virginia

“Masonic Family” is more than just a phrase to the William M. Herralds of Charleston, West Virginia. The Herralds — husband, wife, sons and daughter — each hold membership in area Masonic bodies. Sir Knight William was coached in the Lodge degrees by his son, Donald, who then Raised his father in Kanawha Lodge No. 20, A.F. & A.M., of Charleston. Donald is presently Senior Deacon of Kanawha Lodge, and his father is head coach and acting Steward. Father and son are also members of Tyrain Royal Arch Chapter No. 13, were Knighted together last April in Kanawha Commandery No. 4, and are 32° members of the Scottish Rite in Charleston. Another son, Charles, is Master Councilor of Herbert N. Jarret Chapter, Order of DeMolay; and a daughter, Deborah, is Sentinel of Tiskewahe Chapter No. 45, Eastern Star.

Commenting on the effect of Masonry on his family life, Sir Knight Herrald says, “Masonic involvement has brought our family much closer together.”

Kansas Continuity


As Knights Templar, Leo has 54 years, Donald has 59 years, Archie has 33 years, Neil has 34 years, and Bernard has a mere 20 years. Sir Knight Gerdemann, who supplied the “family photo,” wrote, “I believe this is the only such group that can claim the honor of five members who are living.”

Walnut Chapter

“We of Walnut Chapter No. 172, R.A.M. of Ohio,” says Past Grand High Priest N. Emerson Taylor, “wish to thank you for printing on page 17 in your February 1979 edition the information concerning the coin we had for sale commemorating the visit of the London District Degree Team of Ontario, Canada, to our Chapter during the year of its 75th Anniversary, which was also the year one of our members was Ohio Grand High Priest.

“In addition to coins sold locally, we have sold 70 to various companions throughout the U.S., as a result of the article, and we are sure that we will still receive more requests.”
Theodore F. Voelter, 1893-1979

Theodore F. Voelter, retired Army Colonel and a Templar for 63 years, died March 29, 1979, at age 85 following an extended stay in the Hospital.

Prior to his appointment as North Atlantic Department Commander by Grand Master Walter DeLamater in 1955, Voelter had served the Grand Encampment as member and Chairman of the Drill Regulations Committee. In the almost 25 years since that appointment, Sir Knight Voelter continued to serve his state and the Grand Encampment in numerous capacities. At the time of his death he was a long-standing member of the Patriotic and Civic Activities Committee of the Grand Encampment.

He was the second oldest Past Grand Commander of New Jersey, holding that office in 1935. Membership included Salaam Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.; St. Paul’s Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, New York; Fraternity Post No. 101, American Legion; and National Guard Association.

Templar Services were conducted in Belleville, New Jersey, on March 30, and funeral services held March 31.

Raymond M. Jones, K.Y.C.H.

Sir Knight Raymond M. Jones, P.C., The Rose Commandery No. 43, Gallipolis, Ohio, died March 1 at age 87. Jones was a 62-year Mason and Past President of the Gallipolis City Commission. In 1959, he retired after 39 years with the Gallipolis Post Office. For more than 30 years he taught Bible Class at Grace United Methodist Church.

A Past Master of Patriot Lodge No. 496 and Morning Dawn Lodge No. 7, and member of York Rite Bodies in Gallipolis, he was affiliated with Aladdin Temple and recipient of K.Y.C.H.

A Masonic funeral was held including uniformed Sir Knights as pallbearers.

Edwin Merritt Demlow
Indiana
Past Grand Commander – 1957
Past Grand Recorder – 1958-71
Born October 2, 1903
Died March 3, 1979

Simon Milford Bunn
Texas
Past Grand Commander – 1946
Born February 17, 1897
Died March 6, 1979

Harold D. Hayes
Illinois
Past Grand Commander – 1943
Born August 30, 1892
Died March 16, 1979

Theodore F. Voelter
New Jersey
Past Grand Commander – 1935
Past Department Commander – 1955-58
Born December 17, 1893
Died March 29, 1979

Oregon Supplement Editor Passes

Norman A. Jenne, Editor for the Oregon Supplement of the Knight Templar Magazine, died suddenly March 23 at his home in Ashland. In addition to his editorial duties, Sir Knight Jenne concurrently served as Grand Historian of the Grand Commandery of Oregon, State Membership Chairman for the Philalethes Society and Treasurer of Malta Commandery No. 4.

The Knights Templar Cross of Honor was awarded posthumously to Sir Knight Jenne at the 93rd Annual Conclave held April 8-9 in Grants Pass. Jenne was P.C. of Malta Commandery, a past presiding officer of all York Rite Bodies in Ashland, and a member of Alpha Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star. Masonic services were held in the First Presbyterian Church of Ashland on March 26.
A TIME FOR RE-COMMITMENT

by
Paul E. Ellis, Past Grand Master
Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Delaware

Today, the Shrine is at a crossroads. Not only is the Shrine at a crossroads, but also Blue Lodge Masonry and every Masonic organization as well. Unfortunately, we do not know which way to turn. Shall we go on and continue straight ahead? Shall we turn to the right, or to the left? It is definite that we cannot stay still if we want to remain in existence.

Our dilemma is no secret. Masonry is losing membership. Blue Lodge membership attained its peak in 1960. Since then it has declined at an alarming rate. York Rite Masonry attained its peak in 1967. Its decline is equally alarming. Scottish Rite is barely holding its own. Now there is alarm about our Shrine membership. This decline should be a cause for concern to us foremost as Masons, and further as members of Masonry's appendant bodies.

The basis of all Masonry is the Blue Lodge. Without a stable and growing membership in Blue Lodge, it is impossible for the appendant bodies in Masonry to flourish. While decline in membership has not yet strongly affected the Shrine, it is bound to do so sooner or later. The Shrine cannot grow unless the source of its membership grows, and that source is from the Scottish Rite and the Commandery, and their source, of course, is from Blue Lodge.

During the past few years, every Grand Lodge in the United States with the exception of Arizona and a few Grand Lodges in the Southeast, has shown a decline in membership. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, for example, despite the excellence of leadership — and certainly it is outstanding — has shown a decline in membership. Since 1961, the loss in membership has reached 33,000. Yet in 1946, the year after World War II, membership increased by almost 13,000. And the story in Pennsylvania is repeated over and over throughout the country.

Alarm and concern have come from many quarters. One of the most alarming was a recent report of the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite to the Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction. Illustrious Brother Stanley F. Maxwell cited an actuarial study made a few years ago to show the then and present trend in Masonic membership. This study concluded that if we continue to lose members at the present rate, by the year 2000 there will be but 2 million Masons, or roughly two-thirds of what we now have. Thereafter, the report predicted that by the year 2037, there will be only about 100,000 Masons in the country.

This is a cause for distress, and so are reports from other areas. Perhaps there is too much talk, but foremost, there is very little action. Too many times when a man is down and out, we are more inclined to talk and stand by rather than extend a helping hand. But there is something we can all do which in the end will help the Shrine in general. We can help strengthen our Blue Lodges, and if this occurs, the good effects will be reflected all the way to the Shrine.

By our work and the hard and dedicated work of our forefathers, Masonry has grown in the United States, and we can be proud of our

→ → →
accomplishments. Certainly the work of the Shrine is known not only throughout this land, but overseas as well. Our work in the Burns Institute and in the Crippled Children’s Hospitals should make us all proud to wear a fez. And we must continue. But too many times in promoting the great charities of the Shrine, we forget the foundation of it all — The Blue Lodge. After becoming a Shriner, we too soon forget that we are but one of the many branches on the great tree of Masonry. We forget that the roots of the tree are the Blue Lodge, and unless the roots are nurtured, the tree will bear no fruit, but will wither and die. It is like the parable of the two builders. One built his house on sand; the other had a foundation of rock. When the storms of time came, the house with a foundation of sand washed away. So it is with us.

I encourage all Brothers not to forsake the Shrine, but continue to support and nourish it and continue the great programs that have been commenced. I also encourage you to give more support to your Blue Lodge. Some have labored in the quarries of Blue Lodge Masonry. You have served on committees, moved through the chairs and are now Past Masters, and continue to support your Blue Lodge. I am afraid, however, that too many have received the degrees of Blue Lodge Masonry, moved on to the York or Scottish Rite, then joined the Shrine, and have never returned to your Blue Lodge.

I have been a Mason for 25 years. I am a Past Master of my Lodge. I was elected Grand Master in 1972, and then Grand Treasurer in 1974. I have sat several times in every lodge in Delaware and I know Masonry in my state. But what disturbs me is to attend Shrine functions and meet brethren with whom I have never sat in Blue Lodge and whom I cannot truthfully vouch for as Masons. I am being blunt, but it needs to be said.

I challenge each Brother to reflect on his contributions to Blue Lodge Masonry. When was the last time you attended Blue Lodge? During the past year, what contributions did you make to your Blue Lodge other than the payment of your dues? These are serious questions, and unless you have answered these two questions favorably, then you need to take stock of yourself as a Mason.

I am not asking everyone to attend every meeting of his Lodge, but I do think that attendance should be frequent enough so that brothers recognize each other. You do not have to be an officer to contribute, but you can help your Blue Lodge by attending and supporting your officers. When your Lodge is having a special dinner and you are called, buy a ticket and attend. Go with a positive attitude. Speak to the Brother who is a stranger. Get to know him. You will find it rewarding.

If you support your Lodge, you will strengthen your Lodge. If your Lodge is strengthened, then your Lodge will present a good image within your community. Those who are not Masons will stand back and take note of the activity of your Lodge and the character of its members. This will encourage them to become Masons. Thus the Blue Lodge will be strengthened and the results will be felt here in the Shrine.

All of us recall the great lessons of morality and brotherly love which were taught when we received the degrees of Masonry in our Blue Lodge. We need to go back to the Blue Lodge and hear these lessons again from time to time. It helps keep our character in order. As Coach Vince Lombardi said, “To play football, you have to know the basics.” It is the same with Masonry.

One of the basics is the Five Points of Fellowship which sets forth the obligations we have with our brethren and his family — brotherly love. Other basics include a belief in a Supreme Being and the practice of the four cardinal
A Matched Pair

Colorful Masonically-significant placemats, a Grand Encampment service to Commanderies, have been joined by three-color Cross and Crown dinner napkins to provide a matching service to diners and snackers for Templar or Masonic events.

The placemats picture the 14 Master Masons who served as Presidents of the United States. The dinner napkins bear the Cross and Crown in three colors. Supplies of either or both are on hand in the office of the Grand Recorder.

Napkins at $15.00 per 500 — or Placemats at $15.00 per 500 — may be ordered from the Grand Encampment. Processing will be facilitated by indicating on the envelope “Napkins” or “Placemats” — or both. Combination orders are $30.00 per 500 napkins and 500 placemats. Available from the Grand Recorder, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Please supply a street address to facilitate return mailing.

(Special note: A truck strike, at this writing, has temporarily delayed the napkin shipment. We trust the strike will be settled by the time this item is printed.)

A member of St. Andrews Commandery No. 2, K.T. in Wilmington, Delaware, Sir Knight and Past Grand Master Ellis delivered the foregoing to the Lancaster County (Pennsylvania) Shrine Club in January 1979. He is a former attorney for the Delaware State Senate and currently serves as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Sussex County. Sir Knight Ellis’ mailing address is P.O. Box 592, Georgetown, Delaware 19947.
A new spring arrives and with it a new year for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Grand Commander’s and Grand Master’s Clubs. Contributions raised from this “project” approach the $150,000 mark, with funds being used to supply short-term (immediate surgery) and long-term (research) answers to the problems of defective sight and blindness.

Membership in either Club is open to any individual (not only Knights Templar), but is not available for groups. Contributions are also “free will” and do not carry credit for Commandery fundraising.

This month Vermont joins the flock of states represented in the Grand Commander’s Club.

Vermont No. 1 — Arnold H. Anderson  
Nevada No. 2 — William C. Sanford  
Wisconsin No. 2 — George F. Fischer  
Minnesota No. 3 — Harry C. Lightner  
Pennsylvania No. 4 — Donald S. Harpel

Of those individuals listed above, four began membership with $100 contributions; one began with a $200 donation. Membership is acknowledged with receipt and identifying wallet card. In ten years or less (with minimum successive annual contributions of $100), these individuals will “graduate” to the Grand Master’s Club, a group specially-recognized for $1,000 contributions.

In May, Sir Knight George W. Tope of Gallipolis, Ohio, is welcomed to the Grand Master’s Club as the 147th person to contribute $1,000. His membership included a metal wallet card and personalized desk plaque.

How can you join? “It’s very simple,” says Executive Director G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M.; “just write or call for more information or make out a check” to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., 509 South Sixth Street, P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Spotlight: Portrait of Success

Ninety-five year old Sir Knight C. Grattan Price of Harrisonburg, Virginia, completes 72 years in the Masonic Craft this year. In 1907 he was raised in Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. & A.M., Virginia, and was Knighted the same year in Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10. He has held the office of Eminent Commander; is a Scottish Rite Mason; member of Acca Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., and in 1969 was honored with a Shrine Ceremonial held in his name.

Sir Knight Price, however, has a colorful history aside from his Masonic interests. It begins in the 19th century when, as a boy in Dayton, Virginia, he was employed as a “water boy” on the C. & W. Railroad. Other early occupations included pumping a church organ and lighting street lamps. In the fall of 1901, he began employment at the Rockingham, Virginia, National Bank as clerk and stenographer. He resigned as President of the Bank in 1960 to become Chairman of the Board. In 1912 he helped establish an insurance agency which, today under the name of C. G. Price & Sons, Inc., is one of the largest in the state.

At a June 5, 1978, Stated Communication of Rockingham Union Lodge, the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia presented Sir Knight Price with a 70-year membership certificate from the Grand Lodge. But his recognition does not end there. He has been cited by many organizations for his years of devotion and work. At age 92, he was recognized as outstanding civic and community leader by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The future? Sir Knight Price looks forward to his 75th anniversary in the Craft.
WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A KNIGHT TEMPLAR?

by

The Reverend Charles Howard Lee, Past Commander
Tancred Commandery No. 48, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

What is expected of a Knight Templar? A variety of things, depending on whom you ask, or from what perspective the question is posed.

Former Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of California, The Reverend Richard Hewitt, first brought some of these thoughts to mind in his article, “Promises, Promises” in the September 1972 Knight Templar Magazine when he discussed the obligation each Mason takes first in the Blue Lodge and later in the York Rite. He wrote: “We’re familiar with the obligations as they are administered; we observe the position the candidates for our work are in at the moment; we notice the circumstances of that portion of the work.

“Now, my Brother Knights, I ask you to go back in memory to the time when you took your obligations and recall those events as clearly as you can. What position were you in at the moment? Where were your hands placed — and why? What were the words you repeated? Who was the guiding Light and Spirit of that portion of the ceremony? Did you hear — really hear — the words of the obligation? Did the significance of the moment penetrate deeply into your mind? Were you aware — then or since — that you were making a solemn promise to adhere to a specific way and manner of living?”

What position were you in at the moment? You were either kneeling at the Altar or standing behind a kneeling exemplar candidate.

Where were your hands placed? If kneeling, your hands rested on the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses, and Crossed Swords. If you were standing, you placed your right hand over your heart while assuming the obligation.

And why? It can best be answered in recalling that at that time each of us was assuming a most serious and solemn declaration while kneeling before his peers. Subsequently, each Sir Knight reaffirms that most dramatic event in the ceremony vow with its broad and binding nature.

Who was the guiding light and spirit of that portion of the ceremony? Although it is the Prelate who administers the Temple obligation, the answer to me should be that it is indeed God’s Holy Spirit of Truth who would be implanting those lessons into the mind and heart of the hearer-candidate. The effectiveness of any obligation rests in this, but even more, it is the nature of the Temple obligation to require literally a Spirit-directed life of a Sir Knight to carry out the demands of a true and faithful follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

All of us realize that it is one thing to know and repeat words, but it is something else to know what those words really mean. And it is still a completely different matter to put those word meanings into action in our daily lives. To ignore this thought is to separate our Masonic teachings from the conduct of our daily lives, and, if we do this, we miss out completely on the great worth and usefulness of those teachings.

One proceeds no further than the Inner Chamber of Solemn Reflection in the Order of the Temple → → →

knight templar
before the Junior Warden notes that the life of a Knight Templar is to consist of all the cardinal virtues inculcated, which he heretofore has had so strikingly illustrated in the preceding degrees —

Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice of the first three degrees of Masonry;

Charity of a Mark Master; Moderation of the Past Master; Industry of the Most Excellent Master; and Humility of the Royal Arch Mason;

The importance of Truth and the Almighty Force of Truth signaled by the Order of the Red Cross; and

The zealous vigilance for the Honor of Knighthood inculcated in the lessons of the Order of Malta.

Forthwith the Candidate is instructed to read Matthew 5:13-16 with all somber reflection. Those summary admonitions "Ye are the salt of the earth" and "Ye are the light of the world," signal that the Knight is to be the savory and seasoning ingredient for society in a way morally pleasing to God and brother as well as that shining light of radiance so that men "may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

First — A Sir Knight must reflect the faith he professes and those virtues of life adorned in these teachings. The petition signed and executed before the Fraters of a Commandery requires one to be a firm believer in the Christian Religion. A believer exhibits that mind-bentness so as to constantly practice the Christian Virtues.

Secondly — The Living of a Christian Life, is expected of a Sir Knight as he is instructed and guided by the Holy Bible, the Great Light of Masonry as well as Templary. Indeed to be included in this is the eleemosynary fashion of that life of Love in the Power of the Holy Spirit. This is the demand of the Sir Knight which pertains to the giving of Alms and the devotion to Charity, and yet also so dependent upon Charity.

For all intents and purposes, all that remains in the Order of the Temple and its accompanying status of Knighthood revolves around this goal for the life of a Sir Knight. The Sir Knight is to feed on the Word of God, the Great Light of Templary and Masonry, which will fill His Spirit so that he can be radiant — "Light" and "Salt" for the world.

"Love of Brothers" is the Rule of the Christian Life. And AGAPE is that outpouring love exhibited by God towards the sinner, which we know resulted in the death of the perfect Son of God, Emmanuel — God with us, on the Cross for our Salvation, a love poured out in true selfless humility.

Every obligation ever taken in any branch of Masonry ends with the demand for faithful allegiance to the vows just taken. But these statements are always couched in the penalizing language of failure, along with its inherent consequence in every instance.

Our Temple obligation has eight major points, which are intended to remind us of the ancient beatitudes. However, only two are completely negative; one is a mixture of positive and negative; and the other five are in the purity of positive statements. Let our attention be to the promises we made upon our assuming the Knight Templar obligation.

1) I will forever keep and conceal the secrets. I will not communicate them to anyone except a true Knight under lawful circumstances;

2) I will stand to and abide by the bylaws of the local Commandery; support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Commandery of my jurisdiction; plus adherence and obedience to the Constitution, Laws, and Edicts of the Grand Encampment;

3) I will answer and obey all due signs and regular summons unless prohibited by natural infirmity or unavoidable accident;

4) I will go to the distance of forty
miles, even barefoot and on frozen ground to relieve the distress of a Knight should his needs require and my ability permit;

5) I will help, aid, and assist with my counsel, my purse, and my sword if need be, all Knights, wives, widows, and orphans, wherever I may find them, as my ability permits;

6) I will wield my sword in defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans, and the Christian religion;

7) I will not attend at the forming or opening of a Commandery unless there shall be present at least nine regular Knights of the Order;

8) I will not assist or be present at the conferring of this Order of Knighthood upon any person who shall not have previously received the degrees of the Blue Lodge and the Royal Arch Chapter, together with the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, and the Order of Malta.

The Prelate's address after the obligation gives further information about what is expected of a Knight. Immediately after the obligation has been taken, the candidate is called upon to be a "Child of Humility" since Charity and Hospitality mark the Order with its identity as "salt" and "light" to the world. In so doing he is to observe the eleemosynary charity role of the extender of the dole or gratuity in being bound to give alms to poor and weary pilgrims traveling from afar. This could be in terms of the original connotation of the giving of money, food, clothes to the poor and the understanding of the doing of this type of deed of mercy, which has been now obsolete in many instances. The Knight is bound to feed the hungry; clothe the naked; and bind up the wounds of the afflicted at the command of Jesus Christ.

The Knight is to wage war continually against the enemies of the innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans, and the Christian Religion. He is to be vigilant in these efforts, not knowing at what hour Emmanuel will return.

These acts are all pertaining to Alms and devoted to Charity in the pure sense of that overflowing love, "Agape."

The example of true Humility is expressed in the prayer especially for the candidate as he participates in the most solemn and impressive manner. The thought and concern of the prayer is that the candidate may indeed be a follower and imitator of the virtues of the Immaculate Jesus.

Such a Sir Knight is to be the possessor of patience and perseverance as indicated in the symbolic Seven Years of Pilgrimage, representing indeed the great pilgrimage of life itself.

Likewise the journey of the Four Years of Warfare indicates the demand of courage and constancy amid the worldliness and vanities against which every man, woman, and child engages continually.

A Sir Knight above all must possess a penitential spirit of humility and forgiveness. The latter comes again after the sworn declaration made by the candidate after the scrutinies of the Chamber of Reflection as he openly declares the fact that in "truth and soberness" he entertains "no enmity, no ill will against a soul on earth, which [he] would not freely reconcile, should [he] find in him a corresponding disposition."

But the problem in most instances which causes continual consternation within and among Commanderies, Past Commanders, or within even Grand Commanderies is that the corresponding disposition for the execution of forgiveness is so sadly missing in the lives of too many Sir Knights. Too many Fratres as even Christians harbor the unforgiving attitude. And in so doing, we make ineffective God's charity for us in the sacrifice of Christ. This also will block the eternal happiness in the world to come - the goal of action for each Frater.
With April figures yet to be computed, the 11th Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation continues to "outshine" all previous years. Total for the week ending March 30 is $333,054.41.

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I feel that a summary of all that is expected of a Knight Templar will be found in the meaning of the Beauseant, the Battle Flag of the Ancient Templars, and in the standard of our Order. The former, half white and half black, born in memory of our ancient companions, was an incentive to emulate their self-sacrifice and devotion. These are cherished admonitions of a Knight's expectations, and are those of the examples of the distinguished ancient Companions of the Order.

The constant expectation of a Knight of the Cross as a Knight Templar is for him to be true to the vows of the Order and the teachings of the Great Captain of Our Salvation. May we sacredly observe these vows and teachings as we would carry out his cross which we wear and bear in our lives so that we may indeed be greeted and received into the widely extended arms of the blessed Emmanuel.

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory."

The above address was first delivered by The Reverend Lee to the Officers and Past Commanders Association of Division 2, Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, in 1975. Sir Knight Lee lives at 205 West Canal Street, Newcomerstown, Ohio 43832.
Mrs. Dorothea Rankin underwent successful surgery this year to remove a cataract and the lens from her right eye. The lens was replaced with a plastic model. After three years, Mrs. Rankin is able to see with her right eye — thanks to her son, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and two Sir Knights representing the Foundation in Pennsylvania and Florida.

It began when her son, Sir Knight Arthur L. Rankin, Mountain Commandery No. 10 in Altoona, Pennsylvania, visited his mother in Bradenton, Florida. In an effort to have Mrs. Rankin’s sight restored, Sir Knight Arthur contacted John Zimman, E.C. and Chairman of the Eye Foundation Committee for Mountain Commandery. Sir Knight Zimman called Gilbert G. Dodge, Eye Foundation Chairman for Trinity Commandery No. 16 in Sarasota, near Bradenton. Sir Knight Dodge (shown above with patient) asked that the story and picture be printed “to show other Sir Knights that the Eye Foundation is a great thing.”

The art of needlepoint is thriving, at least according to the volume of orders received for the Knight Templar Needlepoint Kit which was announced for the first time last September. In seven months, the Grand Encampment has filled 1,555 orders and has had to replenish its supply twice. Of 2,000 total kits ordered, only a few remain — and that number diminishes daily.

The kit (excluding frame) contains needlepoint canvas with the tri-color Knight Templar emblem printed atop, needle, instructions, and ample red, white, yellow and black yarn. Finished size is 10 inches square. The cost is $8.50 each (in quantities of 1 to 9); $7.25 each (for orders of 10 or more); and $6.75 each (for orders of 25 or more).

To order, send check (payable to Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A., 14 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Please provide a single street address for return mailing, and allow two weeks for delivery. All items are postpaid.

Order while supplies last!

St. Elmo Commandery Welcomes Scots Friend

John Smart (right), currently District Grand Prior — roughly equivalent to our rank of Grand Commander — of Fife and Kinross, Scotland, was made an Honorary Life Member of St. Elmo Commandery No. 12, Hyattsville, Maryland in January of this year. Eminent Commander Dr. Thomas E. Weir, retired Navy Chaplain, welcomed Sir Knight Smart as a “dual member” in St. Elmo ten years after the two first met in Scotland when Weir was stationed there. In 1969 Sir Knight Smart conferred the Order of the Temple on Dr. Weir in Aithernie Preceptory in Methil, Fife; later, the Order of Malta was conferred in “the ancient Masonic building of Canongate St. John, where the Knights of Malta had their Edinburgh Priory until suppressed.
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Thou to the Mercy-Seat our Souls dost gather,
    To do our duty unto Thee — Our Father,

To whom all praise, all honor should be given,
    For thou art the Great God — Who art in Heaven,

Thou, by Thy wisdom, rulest the world’s whole frame
    Forever, therefore — Hallowed be Thy Name:

Let never more delay divide us from
    Thy glorious grace, but let — Thy kingdom come;

Let Thy commands opposed be by none
    But Thy good pleasure and — Thy will be done,

And let our promptness to obey, be even
    The very same — On earth as 'tis in Heaven.

Then for our souls, O Lord, we also pray,
    Thou wouldst be pleased to — Give us this Day

The food of life, wherewith our souls are fed,
    Sufficient raiment, and — Our daily bread;

With every needful thing do Thou relieve us,
    And of Thy mercy, pity — And forgive us,

All our misdeeds, for him whom Thou didst please
    To make an offering, for — Our Trespasses,
And forasmuch, O Lord, as we believe
That Thou wilt pardon us — As we forgive

Let that love teach, wherewith Thou dost acquaint us
To Pardon all — Those who trespass against us,

And though, sometimes, Thou find’st we have forgot
This love for Thee, yet help — And lead us not

Through Soul or Body’s want to desperation,
Nor let earth’s gains drive us — Into temptation,

Let not the Soul of any true believer
Fall in the time of trial — But deliver,

Yes, save them from the malice of the devil
And both in life and death, keep — Us from Evil,

Thus pray we, Lord, for that of Thee, from whom
This may be had — For Thine is the Kingdom,

This world is of Thy work its wondrous story,
To Thee belongs — The power and the glory,

And all Thy wondrous work has ended never,
But will remain forever, and — Forever,

Thus we poor creatures would confess again,
And thus would say eternally — Amen.

Author Unknown
Trying to locate a gold Knight Templar watch fob which opens up and displays the R.A.M. emblem and (I believe but I am not sure) the Blue Lodge insignia also; then folds back as it was.

If there is a Sir Knight or anyone who may have one, please write and state price. I am not a wealthy Brother but would appreciate hearing from you. Curtis C. Conner, 5 Hamric Place, Lexington, Virginia 24450

I would like to locate a Templar sword with the name of Sir Knight Harry L. Threlkeld on it. He belonged to Patton Commandery No. 69 of Mt. Vernon, Illinois. He was my father and the sword was disposed of during early 1960 by sale to an unknown party in Kentucky (I believe), when other household effects were sold. I had not started Masonic work at that time. I'm currently active in Lodge, York and Scottish Rites and Shrine as well as being K.Y.C.H. in Texas. Any information or leads would be appreciated. Victor L. Threlkeld, 205 North College Street McKinney, Texas 75069

Elkanah Commandery No. 30, Bemidji, Minnesota, has 23 Baldric Banners which have not been used for 30 years. They are in excellent shape, but may need some cleaning. If any Commandery has a use for them, please write. Minnesota State Commanderies have first choice. We also have two of the old type coats. Edward A. Conrad, P.C., 719 Minnesota Avenue, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

I have a special interest in early California and Nevada history and would like to obtain several books on these subjects. I thought it possible that some of the Good Knights might have some that they are not using. In particular, I would like to obtain copies of Stewart's Reminiscences by William M. Stewart, and Nevada by Angel. To be used in connection with Masonic research. Would like to hear from anyone who can assist in my search. H. Raymond Lowe, 3933 Cumberland Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90027

As a member and Past Commander of Lorain Commandery No. 65, Lorain, Ohio, I receive the Knight Templar Magazine and enjoy all the articles.

My wife, Olga, collects old dolls in any condition, even if they need repair. She also collects cookbooks. Will pay reasonable price and postage. Please write. David Squires, 760 Brennan Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

Will sell Knight Templar sword which belonged to Dr. D. R. Ashe, active in the early 1900's, and who lived in Kansas City, Missouri.

The sword has an ivory handle with insignia and topped with a Knight's head in gold. The blade is 27 inches long (with handle, 34½ inches long). Fits in a gold colored scabbard all of which is decorated with insignia. Will sell for $100.

Also have a Shrine pocket knife from the World's Fair in Seattle, 1912, $10. Mrs. Eugene M. Ashe, 4457 Meade, Denver, Colorado 80211
 Interested in buying an unusual design wide band 32°, 18K gold ring with the York Rite emblem, on one side, and the Scottish Rite on the other — an eagle with or without a diamond. Prefer an old family heirloom. Price no object. N. D. McKay, P.O. Box 73, Flint, Michigan 48501 (Telephone: 313–239-7677)

 One of our residents located a “seal” while metal-detecting in San Marcial, New Mexico. (This city was located about 30 miles south of Socorro, New Mexico, on the banks of the Rio Grande. The settlement was somewhat ill-fated because it was destroyed by flood in 1866. With the coming of the railroad in 1880, New San Marcial was established higher up, but it too was flooded and destroyed in 1929.) The seal is round and reads “Washington Commandery No. 2 — San Marcial, New Mexico,” on the outer ring; “Instituted February 22, 1887” on the inner ring; and has a flag-draped shield with a center bar containing the initials “V.F.P.”

Any information would be appreciated by the Museum of Albuquerque. Byron A. Johnson, Curator of History, Museum of Albuquerque, P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103.

Editor’s note: Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of New Mexico, formed 1901, show that Commandery No. 2 was (and still is) Las Vegas Commandery.

 I am a member of St. Johns Commandery No. 20, K.T., Youngstown, Ohio, and also a Silver Beaver recipient in the Mahoning Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America. I have enjoyed the Scouting program for the past 40 years. I would like to start a collection of Boy Scout Handbooks to be used for display, so the young boys can see how Scouting activities started and the various changes made throughout the years. I would appreciate if any Sir Knights could help me to make this possible. Jack D. Br hamm, Sr., 379 West Omar Street, Struthers, Ohio 44471

 I am a Knight Templar, Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner. I have read your magazine faithfully for years and find it interesting.

I would like to acquire Masonic or York Rite watch fobs, and I would also like to obtain an antique York Rite ring. I will pay any reasonable price for the above items. Robert L. Perdue, D.P.M., 7526 Louis Pasteur Drive, Suite 304, San Antonio, Texas 78229

Would like to purchase Masonic items for my own collection. Am interested in a Masonic coverlet, rug, shaving mugs, watches and fobs, vases, etc. Please describe and price. Dick Zimmer, 1625 East Center Street, Warsaw, Indiana 46580

I need a Commandery Coat size 48 extra-long, and a chapeau size 7½. I would be glad to pay a reasonable price for a coat or uniform and chapeau in good or better condition. Donald W. Gerrish, 27 Ridgewood Drive, Burlington, Vermont 05401

I own a funeral home in a small community in Virginia and have been a Knight Templar for some time. I am very interested in collecting plates (Blue Lodge, Royal Arch, Council, Commandery, and DeMolay) for use as wall hangings in the mortuary. I feel the Masonic families we serve would appreciate this gesture. If anyone is interested, I have approximately 48 Royal Arch pennies to trade for plates. Thanks so much. David W. Samuels, P.O. Box 117, Beaverdam, Virginia 23015

I am looking for a supplier of Masonic emblems made of wood inlay in a size of 10 x 10 inches, etc. Anyone knowing of a supplier, please advise. Lew Burg, P.O. Box 132, Alexandria, Minnesota 56308
A SPRINGTIME PRAYER

ETERNAL GOD, our Father, who dost cover the dark arms of the trees with living green leaves each year, we thank Thee for Thy lifegiving power. Every springtime Thou dost fill the air with the scent of flowers and bring back the songbirds with their carols. We praise Thee for Thy gift of springtime. Somehow on these beautiful spring days, when everywhere there is the evidence of new life springing from the dead of winter, it is easy for us to believe in the resurrection of Christ. May the seeds of immortality planted in our souls in this season burst forth into bloom, in lives more devoted to things of the spirit, in a warfare more dedicated to service in Thy name.

Come into our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit and give our souls their spring housecleaning. The basements of our lives are often cluttered with petty and evil thoughts; clean them with Thy gospel and let the pure wind of Thy truth come in to air them out.

At this season we would also remember all that great cloud of witnesses who have been the soldiers of Thy kingdom since the days when our Great Captain walked the earth. Many there are who have "climbed the steep ascent of heaven through peril, toil, and pain." Raise up in this difficult and challenging day, we pray, stalwart soldiers of the Cross whose stature is equal to its need.

Grant us spiritual resources equal to our task, and let us never cease to grow spiritually until we have attained the fullness of the measure of Him, in whose name we pray, Thy Son, our Risen Lord. AMEN.

Dr. Howard W. Towne
Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Michigan

SECOND CLASS

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