

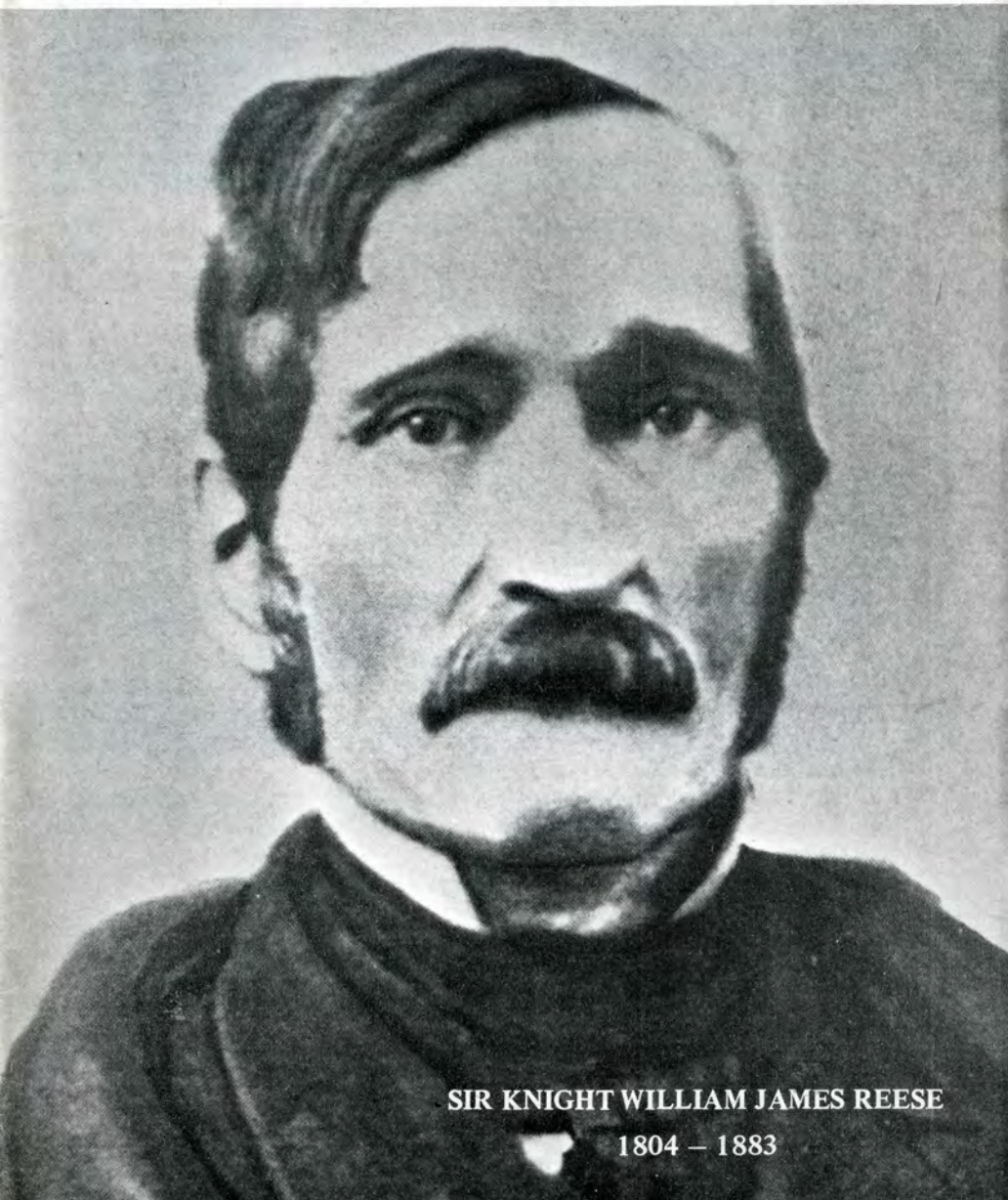


Knight Templar

VOLUME XXVI

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NUMBER 8



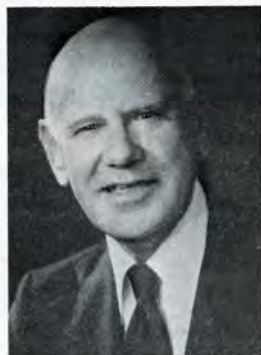
SIR KNIGHT WILLIAM JAMES REESE

1804 - 1883

THE FUTURE STILL REMAINS

Philosopher Will Durant once wrote, "Never mind your happiness, do your duty."

Let me remind all Templars, definitely but in all modesty, "duty" has been my prime Templar concern long before, as well as after, taking office as Grand Master just one year ago. Will Durant makes it appear that happiness and duty are incompatible. However, that Masonic "duty" has brought with it a considerable amount of "happiness," primarily because of the rewarding associations with you, my fellow Knights Templar.



Two more years in this triennium remain for us to accomplish our aims, our projects and aspirations. I need your continued and full-hearted assistance. I need your complete commitment to "duty." I need your concerted support to instill in ever-increasing measure a sense of pride in our select membership, and to inspire them to recruit other worthy brethren to our Order's service.

It is obvious that our membership depends, first of all, on the Symbolic Lodge, the fountainhead of all Masonry. Next, our statutes and ritual call for a petitioner to be a Royal Arch Mason and, in many jurisdictions, a member of the Cryptic Degrees. Those are steps necessary for one to advance to Knighthood.

Certainly we need and would welcome others who share our beliefs and convictions, but merely counting heads is not the most important phase of Masonry or of Templary. It depends upon what a man feels in his heart; it depends upon his sense of values, depth of dedication, his conduct and his integrity — and, in Templary, his firm belief in Christianity.

Millions of dollars are expended, virtually daily, by Masons and the appendant bodies upon philanthropies. You and I in particular can be proud that we use our revolving Knights Templar Educational Foundation funds of some seven million dollars to assist vocational and college students. And, in only a five-month period this past year, Templars initiated projects raising almost \$600,000 for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to help those who require our aid for eye treatment, hospitalization and surgery.

Take time to enjoy a good vacation this year — but not from Templary. You and I together can make the next two years even greater in accomplishments for our Order.

Remember — the future still remains. Let's make it a *good* future!

Kenneth Johnson

Knight Templar

The Magazine for York Rite Masons

AUGUST: A revealing likeness of William James Reese illustrates our cover. His 15 years of intense devotion to the York Rite of Freemasonry a century and a half ago saw both his practice as a lawyer and his health decline, but his beneficial efforts for the York Rite during the anti-Masonic period will long be remembered. His story is related by James C. Draper, Lancaster, Ohio. We think you will find it worthy reading. The Reverend Ernest G. Rice speaks of "The Gift of God" in this issue. Additionally Richard Harter Brown, Gordon B. Smith and Dr. Robert C. Briggs, as well as other welcome contributions, provide August features.

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EDITOR'S JOURNAL

East Central Location: Morrison L. Cooke, East Central Department Commander, announces the 1981 Regional York Rite Conference will be held in the Holiday Inn at South Point, Ohio — near Huntington, West Virginia, and Ashland, Kentucky — March 14 and 15. Jurisdictions include Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Wanted: As a result of several recent inquiries, rather surprising in number, information is requested by the Editor regarding "Knights of the Golden Eagle," an organization of the late 1890's which had "Castles, Temples and Commanderies." Their banners and paraphernalia strongly suggest Templar ties. The Knights of the Golden Eagle had a "Supreme Castle," which included "Grand Castles" of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Delaware, Michigan, West Virginia, Connecticut, Colorado, Kansas, New York, Missouri, Maine, California, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Kentucky and the "Grand Temple of Pennsylvania," apparently arranged more or less in order of affiliation. Apparently, a major purpose was insurance.

Cure-All: Holman G. Knouse, Esq., graduate of Bucknell and University of Pennsylvania Law School, veteran of World War I — former teacher, 50-year gold pin award from Pennsylvania's Grand Lodge, Past Commander No. 4 — has a Templar recipe for inflation. To acquire health, wealth and goodness, and to stop inflation, spend your income as follows: (1) 10% for God; (2) 60% for necessities; (3) 20% for wise investments; (4) 10% for pleasures and luxuries.

Adjustment: In the roster of members of the Grand Master's Club in the June issue, we correctly listed the name of Mrs. Rosalind G. DeLamater to acknowledge her contribution of \$1,000. Omitted was the information that it was presented in memory of the late General Walter A. DeLamater, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment and former Executive Director of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Great Seal: The July feature on the Great Seal of the United States brought us several letters of compliment — also two objections to the use of the phrase "democratic republic." One of them, a response from Irvin A. Uphoff, Illinois, points out that the words *democrat* and *democratic* and *democracy* are "alien to our American way of life." We hope to present an article from Sir Knight Uphoff in a future issue.

Suburbia: Austin P. Renn, Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Maryland, has been a Frederick County farmer since 1928. He says that land sold for housing subdivisions are being "supplanted by suburban-style bungalows." After 52 years raising heifers and corn, Renn is "totally disillusioned." He plans to sell the last of his herd of heifers and cut back on the small vegetable garden in his back yard. Past Grand Commander Renn, now 82, was Grand Commander in 1971.

He says one of the tragedies of agriculture is that people have decided there is more money in selling land than farming it. His convictions are indicated by his giving to the Maryland Environmental Trust an easement on his property to keep it in agricultural use.

THE GIFT OF GOD

by

The Reverend Ernest G. Rice

Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Commandery of West Virginia

A candidate in Freemasonry in the Symbolic Degrees, the York and Scottish Rites, the Shrine, and the various other honorary degrees which may from time to time be bestowed upon him, portrays many different characters. Some of these are historical, some symbolic, some mystic, and others legendary. It is of little value to him unless he learns to perceive, digest, reflect upon, and understand some of the lessons communicated in this fashion. This is certainly true when a Mason seeks to become a Knight Templar and eventually has the Orders conferred upon him. He is invited to play many diverse characters, each one conveying a certain truth, or a composite of truth and philosophy. This is especially true in the Order of the Temple as he journeys on his pilgrimage.

Out of the myriad array of characters, we could focus our attention upon two that are outstanding, one famous, the other somewhat obscure. One is well known because of his waywardness and degradation, and the other, because he was elected by his peers to fill the void and vacancy in the sacred college of the Apostles, due to the former's apostasy. The first one is Judas Iscariot. Even the casual reader or listener of the New Testament is acquainted with and knows the tragic story of Judas' life. He betrayed the very best and dearest Friend he could have had, and chose rather to follow his own greedy designs which eventually led to his demise. The spirit and power of Judas could lie within all of us, for the Bible says: "all we like sheep have gone astray, everyone has turned to his own

way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Each of us doubtless has soiled his innocence; has betrayed his own best self and aspirations; and has perhaps betrayed his best friends; his fratres; and has sadly failed Him, Who loves us all the most. Many of us have left undone the commissions He has given us, and done those things He forbade us to do. We have broken His heart. Judas symbolizes that savage, devilish, and degraded part of man's nature which, if unchecked and not eliminated by God's grace and forgiveness, will consume the finest of manhood, blight the noblest dreams, and bring life to a tragic demise.

It seems almost an anachronism and a paradox that in the same time frame with an Abraham Lincoln there could also be a John Wilkes Booth. We could find many other such examples in history when great men lived their lives in the same time span with terrible, treacherous, and vicious men who chose to degrade life rather than improve and upgrade it. To be more contemporary our various and daily news media reveal the same old story of good men and bad, living in the same time period and often in the same locality. A man attempts to kill another and the victim is rushed to the hospital where the surgeon endeavors to save the man's life. Thus it was with Judas. He had the opportunity to do well, but he chose to go the other direction. So must our sins, our savagery, our evil meet their demise, as we have "the old man crucified" and the new nature reborn and nurtured.

→ → →

There is a continued struggle, a constant warfare in this battle between the good and the evil in order to negate the nature of a Judas and to bring life into a higher and nobler experience. Even the great Apostle Paul said that he continually experienced a war going on within him between what he wanted and hoped to do and what he should be doing.

This brings us to the second and more important character — even though his life is rather obscure. That second man is Matthias, elected to restore the broken circle of the Twelve and to symbolically restore Divine government. The number twelve was held very sacred by the Jews and was carried over into the early Church by Christ Himself as He chose twelve to serve Him in the innermost circle of His ministry. But this is not the foremost or prime lesson in this instance, for his very name gives us the clue. Matthias means "The gift of God." We hear very little of his life, just a few verses in Acts 1:23-26. But this is significant in that each of us has but his own standard to set and his own personal discipleship.

This is the mystery that confounds and overwhelms us — that, in spite of our sinful natures, our degradation, our rebellion, God still loves us! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." What a bold statement, what a profound pronouncement, and each of us is permitted, by God's choice and our acceptance, to receive the great gift, the measure of grace, salvation, and redemption.

Every Sir Knight, whether he ever returns to participate, or whether he desires to serve as Commander, as Grand Commander, Department Commander, or even the highest office in Templary, Most Eminent Grand Master, must assume the role of Matthias, however briefly, and have the honor of bringing light in the

Grand Encampment

Roll Call of Honored Dead

IN HALLOWED MEMORY

Ben Wood

Washington

Grand Commander — 1955

Born July 14, 1889

Died June 9, 1980

Willard Lloyd Lyons

Washington

Grand Commander — 1966

Born September 28, 1893

Died June 23, 1980

place of darkness, honor in the place of shame, and service in the place of greed and avarice. Matthias exemplifies the acceptance of that new light from God, a light to guide us over the uneven and trying journey to that eventual Asylum above.

*O Love, that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depth its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Light, that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy, that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O Cross, that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.*

George Matheson

The Reverend Sir Knight Rice's mailing address is P.O. Box 869, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101.

CONSERVATOR OF THE YORK RITE

by

Sir Knight James C. Draper
Lancaster Commandery No. 2, Lancaster, Ohio

In 1826, the anti-Masonic movement came into existence with the disappearance of a Batavia, New York, newspaper publisher named William Morgan. Most of us know something of the Dark Years of Masonry during the 1830's, but few of us realize it was only by reason of the sacrifice and devotion of a small group of Masons under the leadership of William J. Reese of Lancaster, Ohio, that the light of Masonry in Ohio and the United States did not entirely flicker out and die. In fact, more than any other man, Reese can be called the "conservator of the York Rite" during that tumultuous era.

William James Reese was born August 3, 1804. He came to Lancaster, Ohio, in 1827, after being admitted to the bar in Philadelphia. Reese was influenced greatly by Charles Sherman, Judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio, Grand Master of Masons in Ohio in 1825, and father of William T. Sherman, famous Civil War General. Later Reese became Judge Sherman's son-in-law and next-door neighbor.

In 1828, William Reese was Raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Lancaster Lodge No. 57. That same year, Brother Andrew Jackson, Past Grand Master of Tennessee, was seeking a second term as president, but anti-Masonic propoganda followed the presidential campaign into the midwest.

The next year, Reese became a member of Lancaster Chapter No. 11, and Lancaster Council No. 4.

In 1830, anti-Masonry was growing and the loss in Masonic membership was more and more apparent. The Grand

Lodge of Ohio met that year in Worthington, with John Snow presiding. Only 55 subordinate Lodges were represented out of a total of 99 and six of those had been chartered the preceding year. At that meeting, Reese represented Lancaster Lodge and was elected Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge.

The next day, the Grand Chapter convened with 11 Chapters represented out of a total of 19, two of which were newly chartered. In the afternoon, the Grand Council of Ohio met, with five Councils in attendance, and Robert Punshon of Cincinnati was chosen as the first Grand Master. William J. Reese was duly-elected first Grand Recorder.

The only Encampment of Knights Templar West of Albany, New York, was Mt. Vernon Encampment located at Worthington, Ohio. Commander John Snow and 60 knights of the Order met in 1830, after three years of dormancy, to Knight William J. Reese and General George Sanderson. At that meeting, Reese was elected Grand Standard Bearer. Also at that meeting, D. N. Kinsman, Past Commander of Mt. Vernon Commandery, wrote: "Its [Mt. Vernon's] altar fires, extinguished in 1827, were again rekindled in 1830 with a fitful blaze which expired after having illuminated William J. Reese, with its dying gleam."

By 1831, the anti-Masonic movement had grown so strong that a National Anti-Masonic political party was formed and held its national convention at Baltimore, Maryland. William Wirt of Maryland was chosen as the party's candidate for president. The movement was → → →

gaining momentum in Ohio also, and when the Grand Bodies met in Columbus that year, only 42 of 101 Lodges were present, and 11 of 21 Chapters. In the Grand Council, Reese, now Master of Lancaster Lodge No. 57, was the only elected Grand Officer present, and only four out of the five Councils were present.

The presidential election for the Anti-Masonic Party in 1832 was a failure. Wirt carried only one state, Vermont; but the movement itself was still growing and men were still dropping their memberships in the Fraternity. Ohio's Grand Lodge met in Columbus with 35 out of 101 Lodges represented. Reese, again Master of Lancaster Lodge, was elected Grand King of Grand Chapter, but only eight of 21 Chapters were present. Not enough representatives were present in Grand Council for a quorum.

In 1833, Grand Lodge met with 38 of 101 Lodges represented. Reese, again Master of Lancaster Lodge, was elected Deputy Grand Master. In Grand Chapter, representation dropped to six Chapters, and Reese was elected Grand High Priest. Again there was no meeting of the Grand Council for lack of a quorum.

In 1834, William J. Reese was elected Grand Master of Masons of Ohio, with representation of 30 of the 101 Lodges. He was still Master of Lancaster No. 57. There were 9 of 21 Chapters at Grand Chapter, and Reese was present as High Priest of his own Chapter. He was also elected to preside over the Grand Council of Ohio; in fact, he was the first to preside over this body because Robert Punshon, the first-elected Grand Master, never attended a Grand Council meeting.

The Grand Bodies met in Columbus in 1835, with 26 out of 101 Lodges present; Reese, still Master of Lancaster Lodge, was re-elected Grand Master. William B. Thrall, of Circleville, Ohio, who was to work closely with Reese in the Masonic cause, was elected Deputy Grand Master.

Reese was at Grand Chapter representing Lancaster Chapter No. 11 as High Priest, where seven of 21 Chapters were present. In Grand Council, three of five were represented, and Reese was re-elected Grand Master.

On December 7, 1835, Reese and George Sanderson, both of whom had been Knighted in Mt. Vernon Encampment, appeared before the General Grand Encampment in Washington, D.C., and petitioned for a Charter for an Encampment of Knights Templar to be located at Lancaster, Ohio. The petition was granted, but the Charter was not delivered until two years later. At that meeting, Reese was elected General Grand Senior Warden of the General Grand Encampment of the United States.

In the following year, 1836, the Grand Bodies of Ohio met in Columbus. In the Grand Lodge, with 23 of 101 Lodges, Reese was again Master of Lancaster Lodge and was re-elected Grand Master, with Brother Thrall as Deputy Grand Master. In Grand Chapter, six of 21 present, Reese was re-elected Grand Master.

During the years 1830 to 1836, the anti-Masonic movement in Ohio had been growing steadily. Its leaders had become increasingly bold, until it was not uncommon for a mob to break into a Lodge room, destroying charters and other Masonic paraphernalia. Complete statistics of the loss of membership in the fraternity are not available, but it was enormous. All meetings were discontinued in a number of Lodges, and in others, the members were forced to resort to the utmost secrecy. But there were a few places in the State where the fires never ceased to burn openly on the Masonic altars, and where, by reason of the high character of the leadership, meetings were held openly and without opposition. Lancaster was one such place, and, for that reason, Reese called the 1837 meetings for all of the Grand Bodies

of Ohio for June 22-24 at Lancaster.

1837 marks the lowest point to which Masonic morale in Ohio would be brought by the vicious slanders of the anti-Masons. Only 17 out of 101 Lodges met in Lancaster, with Reese, still Master of his own Lodge, being re-elected Grand Master, and W. B. Thrall, Deputy Grand Master. Grand Chapter decreased to five out of 21 Chapters. Reese, High Priest of his own Chapter, was re-elected Grand High Priest. In Grand Council, where three out of five Councils were present, Reese, Master of his own Council, was re-elected Grand Master.

But there were two bright spots in the Masonic events of the year. One was a dispensation issued for a new Council at Wheeling, Virginia (West Virginia in 1863). The other was the arrival in December of that year of the charter for the new Encampment at Lancaster; for at that time, the light had been extinguished on practically every Templar altar west of Albany, New York.

From the time of William J. Reese's first election as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1834, he had been touring the State by horseback, stagecoach, and by canal boat. He stopped wherever a Masonic light flickered to encourage the few who still held true to their Masonic allegiance, and, by the very force of his character and unflinching belief in the ultimate triumph of Masonry, to counteract any thought that Masonry was doomed. That tireless devotion to the Masonic ideal began to bring results.

In 1838, the Grand Bodies again met in Lancaster. Representation of Grand Lodge was increased to 23 out of 101, with two new Lodges under dispensation. Reese was re-elected Grand Master with Thrall as Deputy Grand Master. In the Grand Chapter, five out of 21 Chapters were present with two new Chapters under dispensation, and Reese was re-elected Grand High Priest. Grand Council showed five Councils present and

one under dispensation. Reese declined re-election as Grand Master of the Grand Council by reason of the additional duties he had assumed in his purpose to re-establish the Order of Knights Templar in Ohio. His co-worker, W. B. Thrall, accepted the office.

On April 14, 1838, Lancaster Encampment No. 2 was organized, and William J. Reese was elected its first Commander. That fall, Reese was elected General Grand Captain General of the General Grand Encampment of the United States, and soon thereafter issued a dispensation for an Encampment at Wheeling, Virginia (West Virginia).

The Grand Lodge seemed at last to have absorbed some of Reese's confidence in the "manifest destiny" of Masonry in Ohio, for that year, 1838, they adopted a resolution to establish a permanent home. In the vote to determine the location of the home, Lancaster received 65 votes and Columbus five. A suitable site was secured (where the Fairfield County Library is now) and a few years later the cornerstone of the proposed building was laid; but the financial depression which swept the nation about that time made it impossible to proceed, and the project was eventually abandoned.

October 15-18, 1839, found the Grand Bodies again in Lancaster. The representation of the Grand Lodge had risen to 28 Lodges and four under dispensation. Reese was re-elected Grand Master with W. B. Thrall, Deputy. In the Grand Chapter, there were seven Chapters with one under dispensation. Reese declined re-election and W. B. Thrall was elected Grand High Priest. In the Grand Council, six Councils were present and W. B. Thrall was re-elected Grand Master.

That same year, Reese was re-elected Commander of Lancaster Encampment, and, as the General Grand Captain General of the United States, granted a dispensation for the formation of an Encampment at Cincinnati, Ohio.

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In 1840, Lancaster again hosted the Grand Bodies. In Grand Lodge, 31 chartered Lodges with four under dispensation were present. Reese was re-elected Grand Master with Thrall as Deputy. The Grand Chapter had 11 Chapters, and Grand Council had six with two under dispensation.

Reese was re-elected Commander of Lancaster, and as General Grand Captain General issued a dispensation for an Encampment at Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1841, the Grand Bodies were again in Lancaster. There were 34 Lodges, and nine under dispensation, representing Grand Lodge. Reese was again re-elected Grand Master with Thrall as Deputy. The Grand Chapter had 15 Chapters and Grand Council had six Councils. That year, Reese was again elected Commander of the Lancaster Encampment as well as General Grand Generalissimo of the General Grand Encampment.

In March of 1841, as General Grand Generalissimo, Reese received the dormant Encampment at Lexington, Kentucky, and two months later he issued a summons to the members of Mt. Vernon Encampment at Worthington, Ohio, to meet, elect officers and proceed to business.

The Grand Bodies met again in Lancaster in 1842, with 35 subordinate Lodges and 10 under dispensation. Reese was re-elected Grand Master. The Grand Chapter had 15 Chapters represented, and the Grand Council had five Councils, with two under dispensation. That year in Grand Lodge, the Committee on Numbering Lodges reported that *46 chartered Lodges in Ohio had ceased to exist without any hope of resuscitation*, leaving 63 working Lodges.

The battle against the forces of darkness had been won, but only at great cost to the leader of the Masonic resistance. To bring about the victory, William J. Reese had been compelled to be absent from home on Masonic affairs as much as four months in 1842. As a result, his legal

practice was gone and the primitive means of travel of that day had seriously impaired his health. The national panics of 1837 and 1839 had almost wiped out his financial assets. He had allowed his personal affairs to be neglected for what he considered the good of the Order. Now the situation had to be faced, and in 1843 he made arrangements to return to his boyhood home in Philadelphia and there accepted a partnership in a wholesale mercantile firm. However, there were still things to be accomplished before he gave up the work so dear to his heart.

On July 5, 1843, as General Grand Generalissimo of the General Grand Encampment, he issued a dispensation for an Encampment of Knights Templar at Massillon, Ohio, and on October 12 of that year, a dispensation for an Encampment at Mt. Vernon, Ohio. And on July 15, 1843, Reese had issued a call for Knights Templar of Ohio to meet in Lancaster during the assembly of the Grand Bodies to form a Grand Encampment.

Grand Master Reese was not at the October meeting when 45 Chartered subordinate Lodges and three under dispensation were present. Reese made it clear in his final farewell messages that he could not carry on, and William B. Thrall, Deputy Grand Master for six years, was elected in his stead. The Grand Chapter had a representation of 18 Chapters and two under dispensation; for the Grand Council, seven Councils and four under dispensation were present.

That same October, representatives of the five Ohio Encampments met and formed the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the State of Ohio. Of the eight official representatives who participated in that action, all except John Barney had been knighted by the hand of William J. Reese. M. Z. Kreider of Lancaster was elected to head the newly-formed Grand Encampment. Reese had Raised M. Z. Kreider in 1831 and

Knighthim in 1838. The following year, 1844, when the General Grand Encampment met, Reese could not be there; however, in the written report as General Grand Generalissimo, he declined further advancement in the line of General Grand Officers.

Thus, at the age of 39, the vivid personality of William J. Reese ceased to be the guiding light of Masonry in Ohio. Had he been able to do so, there is no doubt that he would have been the first Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Ohio and would have been elevated to General Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment of the United States.

He was gone, but his influence was felt for many years in the Grand Bodies and in the Masonic labors of that dedicated group of young men who, through association, had gained something of his vision of the future of the Craft in our American Way of Life.

During the decade from 1833 through 1843, Reese had served his Lodge as Master for seven years, his Chapter as High Priest for four years, his Council as Master for four years and his Encampment as Commander for five years. In the Grand Bodies of Ohio, he had served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge for nine years; Grand High Priest for four years; Grand Master for Grand Council for four years; and as an officer of the General Grand Encampment of the United States for nine years.

He had brought the representation of the Grand Lodge from a low of 17 in 1837 to 58 Chartered Lodges with eight under dispensation in 1844. Under his encouragement, the Grand Chapter and Grand Council had been well started on their road to recovery, and in Christian Masonry, he had planted Encampments at Lancaster, Cincinnati, Massillon, and Mt. Vernon in Ohio, and across the river at Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia), and Louisville, Kentucky. He had also revived the Encampments at Worthing-

ton, Ohio, and Lexington, Kentucky, and organized Ohio's Grand Encampment.

Reese sojourned to Philadelphia for a number of years and then, broken in health, he returned to Lancaster to spend his remaining days. Never again able to be active in Masonic affairs, we find just two more references to him in the annals of Ohio Masonry. In 1868, he acted as Grand Master of Masons of Ohio, in the dedication of a new Masonic hall; and in 1879, when the Grand Lodge met at Lancaster, his health would not permit him to be present and the Grand Lodge in a body visited him at his home.

He died on December 17, 1883, at age 79, and his mortal remains rest in Elmwood Cemetery at Lancaster, where it is said more distinguished Masons are interred than at any cemetery in the U.S.

Reese's Masonic writings are a priceless heritage to the Masons of Ohio. For lofty sentiment and beauty of phrase, consider the following: *"I regard the Masonic Institution as a powerful auxiliary in promoting the cause of sound morals, and, of course, thereby advancing human happiness. Most especially do the solemnities of the Templar's degree exercise a restraining and elevating influence over the minds and actions of men."*

While William J. Reese is said to have been the first Scottish Rite Mason in Ohio, his entire campaign for the saving of Ohio Masonry seems to have been upon a belief in the unity of the York Rite. He believed that a real growth in the Symbolic Lodge is necessarily dependent on a strong Chapter, Council, and Commandery; and upon this belief, he built for the future. His success would seem to prove that he was right, for under his leadership, Masonry was saved in Ohio and possibly in the United States.

Sir Knight Draper is Past Master of Lancaster Lodge No. 51 and Lodge Education Officer and Senior Warden in the newly-formed William J. Reese Council No. 141, A.M.D. He resides at 1600 Snoke Road, R.R. No. 6, Lancaster, Ohio 43130.

SPOTLIGHT: JOHN HARTSON ROBINSON

The fact that John H. Robinson of Auburn, California, has been a Mason for 60 years, while certainly noteworthy in itself, is not the main reason his Brothers call him a "Masonic Man for all Seasons." The main reason is twofold, says Sir Knight Russell E. Harris, Auburn Commandery No. 52: "For over 50 years, there never was a time that Sir Knight Robinson did not hold an office or perform some part of the ritual, in some Masonic body. John has the uncanny ability to memorize and retain any of the ritualistic parts of Blue Lodge or any of the three York Rite Bodies. He can perform King Solomon's work in Blue Lodge one night, and the next night he can do the Prelate's work in the Order of the Temple, or any lecture or charge in Royal Arch or Council. John knows all parts, and needs only a few moments of refresher to be able to step in and perform brilliantly for any degree."

Sir Knight Robinson was born December 22, 1898, and is a lifelong resident of Auburn. He completed his A.B. Degree in Economics in 1922 from Stanford University and worked for several years with the California Fruit Exchange. In 1927, he was appointed Assistant Postmaster of the Auburn Post Office which he served for 40 years.

He was Raised a Master Mason in Eureka Lodge No. 16, F. & A.M., Auburn, on May 25, 1920, and served as Worshipful Master in 1927. In 1929, he received the Chapter Degrees in Delta Chapter No. 27, and in 1930 joined Gateway Council No. 13. He presided as High Priest in 1936, and as Illustrious Master of Council six times between 1937 and 1946. He was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master of California's Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters (now Cryptic Masons) in 1952. His Templar membership began on March 19, 1930; in 1935 he served as Commander of Auburn Commandery. He is a charter member of San Francisco Priory No. 38, where he served as Eminent Prior in 1954. Sir Knight John is also Past Sovereign of St. Francis Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, and former Worthy Patron of Crystal Chapter No. 57, Order of the Eastern Star.

The Grand Lodge of California recognized John's 50 years of service to Masonry in 1976, and on March 31, 1980, he was feted for 50 years of "continuous and exemplary service to York Rite Masonry." On this occasion, he received 50-year jewels from Chapter, Council and Commandery.

Sir Knight Harris, writing for the Masons of California, states, "The recognition given to Sir Knight John is just a small token of the esteem and appreciation for his years of dedicated, unselfish and exceptional service. He is a unique person, and a gem among the membership. His contribution to his Blue Lodge and to the York Rite is monumental."

Illinois Honors Grand High Priest

Wilmette Chapter No. 253 of the Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois, will stage a reception in honor of Most Excellent Grand High Priest James B. Stoner, whose election took place Friday, July 25, at Springfield, Illinois.

The reception will be held Saturday, September 13, at the Illinois Athletic Club, 112 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, with a social hour beginning at 6 p.m. Reservations at \$15.00 per person may be addressed to Fred S. Westine, 939 Cherry Street, Winnetka, Illinois 60093.

THE COMPESIERES PRIORY

by
Sir Knight Richard Harter Brown
Blue Friar of 1979

In October 1979, my wife and I spent some days in Geneva, Switzerland. The travel agencies of that attractive city offer a tour called "to the Genevese countryside," taking the tourist by bus to the rural parts of the canton south and west of the city. The route passes the Villa Diodati where Lord Byron lived, and winds through fruitful farmlands and vineyards, through villages like Satigny and Bardonnex, the center of much of the wine production of Switzerland. The grape harvest was under way, and the ride was as pleasant as predicted; but there was a surprise. At Compesieres, the bus stopped near a group of ancient buildings; "here," said the guide, "we will make a brief visit to the Priory of the Knights of Malta."

Nothing had been said about such a visit in the tour brochure, and we got out of the bus, not expecting much, and walked a few steps back into the Middle Ages.

The Compesieres Priory was once the headquarters of the Knights of Malta in the French part of Switzerland. A booklet describes the Order as "Ordre

Souverain, Militaire et Hospitalier de Saint Jean de Jerusalem, dit de Rhodes, dit de Malte." Compesieres came into the hands of the Order in the 1200's; the buildings which remain are much as they were when they were built, partly in the 15th and partly in the 17th century. There are a chateau, a chapel and farm buildings. These latter constituted the storehouse from which, along with similar holdings all over Western Europe, the Knights of St. John, called "of Malta," for many generations drew the resources which enabled them to perform their stated function in the Eastern Mediterranean — to protect and minister to pilgrims to the Holy Land, and to guard the Holy Places from pagan incursion. Their full name (freely translated) was "The Sovereign Order, Military and Hospitaller, of St. John of Jerusalem, (later) called of Rhodes (to which they retreated for several generations when the pressure of Islam on Palestine could no longer be resisted), (still later) called of Malta" (to which they removed after a long and stubborn defence of Rhodes against the Turks). In both → → →



The Compesieres Priory, viewed from the road from Saconnex-d'arve to Charrot. From left to right: the chestnut grove, the church, the castle and farm buildings.

Rhodes and Malta, they left buildings offering vivid evidence of their power and industry: in Rhodes, the great Street of the Knights and the Grand Master's Palace; and in Malta, the vast church filled with memorials of their members. Mediterranean cruises direct one's attention to both cities.

But the main support of the Order was from Commanderies scattered all over Europe to manage property given to the Order by its members and friends. Of these, Compesieres is one of the few that remain much as it was in the Order's prosperous days. The Knights of St. John escaped the disasters which ruined their rival Order, the Templars; in fact, they succeeded to much Templar property; and the Order is still a lively body. It still extends aid to the victims of physical catastrophe and epidemic; it is especially active in the attempt to stamp out leprosy; and it makes its voice heard in international circles in Geneva, in support of Christian values and humanitarian causes. Its headquarters in Rome enjoy extraterritoriality; it is a self-governing enclave in the Eternal City, somewhat like the Vatican.*

The Compesieres Priory was lost to the Order during the disorders of the French Revolution and Napoleonic era (Napoleon, like all tyrants, disliked bodies which did good with no thought of return). The property is now in the hands of the municipality; part of the chateau is used for municipal offices, and the chapel, beautifully restored and maintained, is



Above, the frontispiece from the biography of Jacques Ier de Cordon d'Evieu, Commander of the Order from 1617 until his death in 1646.

the parish (Catholic) church. One of the chapel's principal monuments is inscribed as follows:

"Here rests, after a saintly life, F. Jacques de Cordon d'Evieu, Marshal of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Malta, Commander of the Genevese, 1568-1646."

It was d'Evieu who restored the priory after much damage had been done to it in

*Shortly after receipt of Sir Knight Brown's article, Sir Knight William S. Caldwell, Arcadia, California, relayed the following little known fact about the Order of Malta. It is quoted from author Leo Rosten:

The tiniest sovereign state in the world is . . . a mansion in Rome: number 68 on the Via Condotti, which houses the independent territory of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. This autonomous order of pious knights [was] founded to protect pilgrims to the Holy Land during the Crusades. . . . Unfazed by history, the Order still issues its own passports and has its own diplomatic corps. . . .

the local wars of the early 1500's. He left it appearing much as it does today, and as prosperous as at any time in its history.

The farm buildings seem to be in use, but I never found out by whom. And in the old Knights' Hall of the Chateau is maintained a lovely museum housing all sorts of relics of the Knights of Malta: seals, charters, coats of arms, weapons, artifacts of all kinds, established by the inspiration and diligence of a Polish member of the Order not too many years since.

G. A. Henty wrote a romance for boys around the Knights of Malta. He called it *A Knight of the White Cross*. It is about (of course) an English lad, who, having lost his parents in the Wars of the Roses, came under the protection of the Knights of St. John, and (of course) distinguished himself within and outside of the Order. Any old Sir Knight, who was in his boyhood a lover of G. A. Henty, can almost renew his youth by perusing that book, if he can find a copy. (Mine was picked up long ago in a small second hand shop for a few cents.)

Just how the Knights of Malta became (in name) a part of the Knights Templar, I shall leave to others to determine. But have we not all declared, on occasion, that we come from a Lodge of the Holy Saint John of Jerusalem? I have heard several explanations of that statement, none of them very satisfactory. But any Sir Knight must find absorbing such a living record of the Knights of Malta as the Compesieres Priory.

A sojourner in Geneva, by judicious use of the Post bus, can spend a day in Compesieres, and manage a more comprehensive inspection of the priory, the chapel and the museum.

Sir Knight Brown is a member of Nassau Commandery No. 73, Hicksville, New York. He was named Blue Friar for 1979 by the Society of Blue Friars, an organization of Masonic authors. He lives at 54 Fletcher Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11580.

Pictures courtesy Fondation du Musee de la Commanderie de Compesieres, Geneve.

Dear Brother Herman

A recent book recommended by Sir Knight Raymond R. Beardsley, Past Commander of Monroe Commandery No. 12, Rochester, New York, is *Dear Brother Herman*, by Herman Sarachan. Published by the Masonic Service Bureau of Rochester, the book is a collection of questions and answers which originally appeared in *The Monroe Masonic News* under a monthly column entitled "Dear Brother Herman ...". More than 275 questions and answers about Masonry are compiled in the book, covering such topics as Masonic symbolism, Allied Masonic Degrees, ritual, Masonic customs and traditions, and Masonic history. In his review, Sir Knight Beardsley writes, "This book is a rich lore for the Mason who may have questions regarding any Masonic topic and represents a handy resource where answers can be found quickly."

Brother Sarachan has served in the top offices of his Chapter and Council in the York Rite and has often been honored by Monroe Commandery for his many contributions to Masonry. He is a Past District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of New York and currently serves on the Committee of Custodian of the Work for Grand Lodge, which governs Masonic ritual.

Dear Brother Herman is available post-paid for \$8.50 (hardcover) or \$6.00 (soft) and may be ordered through the Masonic Service Bureau, 875 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14605.

Johnson Installed in Cabiri Line

At the annual meeting of the International Cabiri Association July 9 in Cleveland, Ohio, Grand Master Kenneth Johnson was installed into the officer line as Captain of the Guard. New Cabiri President is Kenneth W. Bumgarner, Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 12, Wichita, Kansas.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS

"Beauceant Dolls" of Newark Assembly

The members of Newark Assembly No. 75, Social Order of the Beauceant in Bloomfield, New Jersey, are working very hard for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, writes Past Grand Commander Charles H. Grenot. Mrs. James C. A. MacMillan, wife of the R.E. Grand Commander and Past President of the Newark Assembly, presented a check in the amount of \$400 for the Eye Foundation at New Jersey's Annual Conclave held earlier this year in Atlantic City. P.G.C. Grenot, Chairman of the Eye Foundation Committee in New Jersey, says "the entire amount was from the sale of their Beauceant Dolls — bed dolls dressed in hand-crocheted clothes" shown below.



The dolls have been purchased by individuals in many states and have been sent as far away as England and Scotland, and, according to Grenot, the women of Newark Assembly are "striving for even a better donation for 1981."

Grand Master Conducts Joint Installation

Grand Master Kenneth C. Johnson traveled to New York City for a joint public installation of the officers of two New York Commanderies on May 19. Johnson served as Installing Officer for Eminent Commanders Vincent Whitehurst, New York Commandery No. 1, and William Stemper, Coeur de Lion No. 23.

Second Annual Assembly

Joseph S. Lewis, Knight Commander of Constantine, Illustrious Grand Chancellor of the United Grand Imperial Council, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, announces that the second Annual Assembly of Oklahoma Conclaves of the Order will be held August 23, 1980, at the Holiday Inn Motel, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

An earlier Regional Conference of the Red Cross of Constantine was held in Arizona in May of this year; another will be held at Buck Hill Inn, the Poconos, Pennsylvania, October 31 and November 1 and 2. The new South Texas Conclave at Corpus Christi will receive its charter from the United Grand Imperial Conclave August 9, when Grand Sovereign G. Wilbur Bell, K.G.C., will make the official presentation and serve as speaker for a combined Assembly of both South Texas and St. Austin Conclaves.

Commemorative Coins Offered

Brother Nelson O. Newcombe, National Secretary of National Sojourners, Inc., announces the availability of two commemorative coins in his July 3 letter to the Grand Recorder. The first coin, from National Sojourners, observes the 60th Annual Convention of that body held June 25-28 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Cost is \$3.00 each, plus postage.

In addition, Warren G. Harding Lodge No. 39, Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, has struck a Golden Anniversary Commemorative Coin, available for \$1.00 each, plus postage. Orders for either item may be forwarded to Major Nelson O. Newcombe, 8301 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22308.

P.C. Simpson Receives K.T.C.H.



Sir Knight Richard D. Simpson (right), P.C., St. Aldemar Commandery No. 11, Barre, Vermont, is the 1980 recipient of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor in Vermont. He is shown with his wife, Nora, accepting the Award from Northeastern Department Commander William D. Geesey (left) at the 138th Annual Conclave of Vermont held in Bennington, June 2.

Dinner for Fulton VIP

Fulton Commandery No. 34, Knights Templar of Fulton, Kentucky, paid tribute to Past Commander Howard Rogers, Clinton, during a dinner at the Fulton Holiday Inn on Monday, June 30. Sir Knight Rogers, Commander for 1975-76, was appointed Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky last year to serve through the 1980 Annual Conclave set for mid-September in Louisville.

Retiring Constituent Commander Roy M. Taylor, Master of Ceremonies at the dinner, presented Sir Knight Rogers an engraved plaque from the members of Fulton Commandery commemorating his service as an appointed Grand Officer for 1979-80. Joining to share in the fellowship of the occasion were new Eminent Commander Richard McClure, Past Commanders Nelson Shelby, Travis Slayden, and Robert John, and Recorder Roy Taylor.

Tampa Festival Honors Lynn Blitch

A One-Day State-Wide York Rite Festival Class, sponsored by the York Rite Bodies of Tampa, Florida, and named in honor of M.W. Lynn Pierce Blitch, Grand Master of Masons in Florida, was held June 28 in Tampa's Scottish Rite Temple.

Beginning at 8:00 a.m., Tampa-Cushing Chapter No. 3, Royal Arch Masons, conferred the degrees of Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch. After lunch the Royal Master's, Select Master's and Super Excellent Master's Degrees were conferred by Tampa Council No. 8, R. & S.M.; and Tampa-Ivanhoe Commandery No. 8, Knights Templar, presented the Orders of Red Cross, Knight of Saint Paul, Knight of Malta and the Order of the Temple.

M.W. Blitch, a member of the Tampa York Rite Bodies, is also a member of Temple Terrace Lodge No. 330, F. & A.M.; St. Sebastian Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; Tampa Consistory, A. & A.S.R., S.J.; Zenda Grotto, M.O.V.P.E.R.; and Egypt Temple Shrine. He holds the DeMolay Legion of Honor and the Grand Cross of Color from International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

Rhode Island Graduate

Sir Knight Scott Bill Hirst of Ashaway, Rhode Island, was a June graduate of the University of Rhode Island at Kingston. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in political science and a minor in history. Hirst, a member of Narragansett Commandery No. 27, Westerly, Rhode Island, is son of Postmaster and Mrs. Robert S. Hirst of Ashaway, and the grandson of the late Connecticut State Representative J. Bard Bill.

A PREACHER WHO WOULDN'T DO

A church was in need of a preacher. One of the elders was interested in finding out just what kind of a preacher the church wanted. In order to do this he composed a letter as though it had been received from a preacher and read it to the committee selecting a new preacher.

"Gentlemen:

"Understanding that you need a preacher, I would like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications that I think you would appreciate. I have been blessed to preach with power and have some success as a writer. Some say that I am a good organizer. I have been a leader in most places I have gone.

"Some folks, however, have some things against me. I am over fifty years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years at a time. In some places I have left town after my work caused riots and disturbances. I have to admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any wrongdoing. My health is not too good, though I still get a good deal done.

I have had to work at my trade to help pay my way.

"The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I have not gotten along too well with the different religious leaders in different towns where I have preached, and I am sure that they will not recommend me. In fact, some of them have threatened me, taken me to court, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known even to forget whom I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you, even if I have to work to help with my support."

The elder read this letter to the committee, and asked if they were interested in the applicant. They replied that he would never do for their church. They were not interested in any unhealthy, trouble-making, contentious, ex-jailbird, and were insulted that his application had ever been presented! But one of them did ask the preacher's name, and the elder replied, "The Apostle Paul."

The above story appears on the bookmarks which Sir Knight William F. Jackson gives away in his store, The Book Bindery, located in Hot Springs National Park. Sir Knight Jackson has spent more than 44 years in the book-binding trade and specializes in the restoration of books and bibles. Earlier this year he was featured on the front page of *The Sentinel-Record* of Hot Springs National Park examining the oldest printed book he has ever restored — a Geneva version of the Bible originally published in 1576. Says Jackson, "It came from the Landmark Missionary Baptist Institute in Mauldin, South Carolina, and was considered so valuable it was brought to Hot Springs by special courier."

Sir Knight Jackson has been a member of Western Star Lodge No. 2 in Little Rock, Arkansas, for more than 30 years. He is also a member of Hot Springs Chapter No. 47, Council No. 23, and Commandery No. 5, and the Scottish Rite Bodies and Scimitar Temple of Little Rock. He welcomes visitors to see the "art of bookbinding performed by hand in its primitive method" anytime they pass through Hot Springs National Park.



ADVANCE REMINDER: The 55th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar will be held August 14-19, 1982, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Headquarters will be The Arlington Hotel. Grand Master Johnson extends a warm invitation to all Sir Knights to make plans to attend.

THE VACANT CHAIR

by

Dr. and Sir Knight Robert C. Briggs
Pilgrim Commandery No. 71, Richmond Hills, New York

They say that Freemasonry is not a secret organization but an organization of men who have secrets. But one item that is no secret, particularly within the organization, is the row after row of empty chairs in Lodges all across the country. Russell T. Townsley of St. Omer Commandery No. 14, Great Bend, Kansas, wrote about the empty chairs in the February 1973 *Knight Templar Magazine*. He described them as "monuments to absent brothers whose presence can neither be seen nor felt. They belong . . . they wear Lodge pins, carry membership cards. Some remember the grip and passwords and some can even recite, although often hesitantly, the cryptic, meaningful words which set them apart from other men." These men are not there in the Lodge; they belong, but they are not a part of things. The same is true in 1980, and the vacant chairs are growing in number.

Why are we confronted with so much apathy today? In the history of Masonry, when issues presented themselves to the fore, the Masons dealt with them, whether the issue was charitable, economic, or the defense of our political philosophy.

Masonry and all its subsidiary bodies have long been noted for their charitable activities whether through the Blue Lodge, the Knights Templar, the Scottish Rite or the Shrine. Each of these groups is recognized for its spirit of giving not only within Masonry, but by people everywhere. Financial and other help has not been given for publicity but by a genuine feeling for fellow human beings.

Today, many Masons feel, why bother? The government will take care of it. And

it appears that the government is "taking care of it" with a vengeance. The country is threatened with bankruptcy — social, economic and political. The issue is real, and there is a real need for responsible citizens, individuals as well as groups, to respond. Where are the Masons? Why are we not taking the leadership that the people so need and at the same time filling our "Vacant Chairs?"

Our country is in trouble, and it needs the help of all its citizens. There is a need for Masonry to respond. What do we do? We back away, fearful of getting involved (in "politics") and discuss trivia while the burning issues of the day are ignored.

Apathy feeds on lack of knowledge. Apathy empties the chairs in Lodges all over the country. This is not a case of Masonry looking for an issue to stimulate its members. The issue, the need, is real and immediate. If we communicate the urgency to members we will not have vacant chairs . . . our Lodges will have standing room only.

Americans in general, and Masons in particular, have never been slow to respond when duty and obligation to country call.

We must not fail to assume responsibility. All our ventures and fortunes depend on the maintenance of our present system. Let's answer our country's call; let's fill the vacant chairs.

The title is taken from the song *The Vacant Chair* by George F. Root. It was written at the time of the Civil War in reference to brothers and friends whose absence was caused by dying on the battlefield.

Dr. Brigg's mailing address is 5121 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Wyoming Masons at Independence Rock

Independence Rock, southwest of Casper, is a Wyoming landmark, carved with names and dates that tell a story of America's pioneers and covered wagon treks across the wilderness. But aside from its general historical importance, Independence Rock is also a Masonic landmark.

The first Masonic meeting at Independence Rock took place July 4, 1862, and every ten years since 1920 (including a special Bicentennial gathering in 1976), that first Masonic meeting has been remembered by Wyoming Masons. On July 4, 1980, the Commemorative Meeting featured remarks by Harold L. Mai, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Wyoming, and an address by Governor and Brother Ed Herschler.

John A. Mokler, Grand Recorder of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters of Wyoming, who reported on the 1980 meeting, has more than passing interest in the Masonic history of Independence Rock. He writes, "The original Commemorative meeting of July 4, 1920, was sponsored by Casper Lodge No. 15, with my grandfather, Alfred J. Mokler, Grand Historian of Grand Lodge, as Chairman of the arrangements committee. My father, Verne, several uncles and other relatives and friends served on the committee which planned the Commemorative held on top of Independence Rock."

Arkansas Praise for Jacob King

Hot Springs Lodge No. 62, F. & A.M., Arkansas, held a dinner honoring Jacob L. King for his 40 years of continuous service as Lodge Secretary at the Masonic Temple in Hot Springs on July 12, 1980. Sir Knight King, a Past Grand Commander of Arkansas and current Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on Finance, was Raised in Hot Springs Lodge in 1931 and served as Worshipful Master in 1940. He also served as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, and Grand High Priest of Arkansas, R.A.M., in 1959.



A member of Hot Springs Commandery No. 5, King's appendant Masonic membership includes St. Giles Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; K.Y.C.H.; Royal Order of Scotland; and Eastern Star. He holds the DeMolay Active Legion of Honor and the 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite.

Sir Knight King is Deacon, Trustee, and Treasurer of the First Baptist Church in Hot Springs and a Past President of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Medical Center System in Little Rock. He is Past President of Hot Springs (Downtown) Rotary Club and Hot Springs Y.M.C.A., and in June 1979 was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International.

Canadian Communique

Ronald H. A. George, M.M., K.T., and Secretary of Mystery Lodge No. 174, A.F. & A.M., G.R.M., Thompson, Manitoba, Canada, wrote to the Grand Encampment on behalf of the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Mystery Lodge: "We wish to thank you for the opportunity to view the film, *Soldiers of the Cross*. We found it very informative and appreciated learning about the activities of the Knights Templar in America, particularly the Eye Foundation and the other organizations sponsored by the Knights Templar.

"It is our hope that in the future we may use your services again."

The Sons of Daniel Boone Revisited

The June *Knight Templar Magazine* feature on Brother Daniel Carter Beard, one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America, prompted some interesting reader response. One letter came from Sir Knight James R. Case, a quarterly contributor to the *Knight Templar*, who forwarded the accompanying picture of the "charter members of Fort Roosevelt No. 1, Sons of Daniel Boone, organized at Colchester, Connecticut, 1906."



James Case writes, "Many of the Sons of Daniel Boone from our Fort became Boy Scouts; nearly all had service in the First World War, two being killed in action. There are two survivors, both of whom happen to be Masons. The third boy from the left (standing) is Alden Bunyan, retired insurance actuary and member of Wyllys Lodge No. 99, West Hartford, Connecticut. Standing behind him is James R. Case, Historiographer of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut."

Beard established the Sons of Daniel Boone several years before the birth of the Boy Scout movement in the United States. In 1905, while an editor for *Recreation*, Beard introduced his plan. The following year, working for *Woman's Home Companion*, the program was expanded, and by 1906 some 600 "forts" had sprung up throughout Canada and the United States. Case writes, "In 1906 my brother was a house-to-house agent for the *Woman's Home Companion*. When Uncle Dan Beard's announcement of the Sons of Daniel Boone caught his eye, no time was lost in getting signatures on a petition for a charter and the initial instructions. We became Fort Roosevelt No. 1, and we had a congratulatory letter from Teddy Roosevelt over his own signature. . . . My recollection of the 'ritual and floor work' is rather faint, but the photograph shows the 'tally-gun' on which notches could be added for certain accomplishments; the flag; the charter appropriately framed; and the *Woman's Home Companion* displayed down in front. It was a lot of fun while it lasted and until it became one of the earliest Boy Scout troops in America."

On the same subject, Dr. and Sir Knight Edward R. Pike, 50-year member of Mary Commandery No. 36, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, wrote of his association with the YMCA from 1907 to 1932 and his introduction to the Boy Scout movement. Sir Knight Pike, age 93, says that at age 19 he began a three-year apprenticeship in the Central YMCA. He writes, "The Secretary of the Senior Boys Work Department of the YMCA was E. L. Robinson who came back from Great Britain with news of the Boy Scout Movement, and a few Troops were begun in the U.S.A. One was at the Philadelphia Central YMCA. [The movement] grew like wildfire."

"I also knew Edward L. Wertheim (mentioned in June) of the West Side YMCA of New York City. I remember folks bringing Sir Robert Baden-Powell over here and the part Daniel Beard had in the early days." Sir Knight Pike recounts that many YMCA officials were involved with the Boy Scouts and several were named to the 35-member National Scouting Board. He adds, "I stayed in YMCA service for several years — had four sons of my own, three of whom became Boy Scouts and one Sea Scout."

Evans Home Restoration Planned

Potawatomi Festival, Inc., Attica, Indiana, has announced a plan for the restoration and preservation of the home of Dr. and Sir Knight John Evans who resided in that city between 1839 and 1846. Evans, born March 9, 1814, is noted for his contributions in the area of medicine and care for the insane and also as Second Territorial Governor of Colorado between 1862 and 1865. During his life he was Superintendent of the Indiana Hospital for the Insane, taught on the faculty of Rush Medical College in Chicago, founded what was to become Chicago's Mercy Hospital and Northwestern University in Evanston, founded Denver University, and was President of the Denver-Pacific Railroad. He has two cities, one mountain and one Masonic Lodge named after him.

Evans was Raised in Attica Lodge No. 18 and is reportedly the first member to be initiated into Raper Commandery No. 1, Indianapolis. He was also a charter member of Colorado Commandery No. 1, Denver.

Harold R. Long, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Potawatomi Festival, Inc., a non-profit organization which "strives to recognize the contributions of area citizens," invites interested individuals to assist in the restoration of the Evans home in Attica by sending contributions to Potawatomi Festival, Inc., c/o Dr. John Evans Fund, P.O. Box 408, Attica, Indiana 47918.

Named Diocesan Bishop

On June 28, 1980, Right Reverend and Sir Knight Frank H. Benning, Rector of Saint James Anglican Church, Atlanta, Georgia, was installed as first Diocesan Bishop of the newly-established Diocese of the East in the Anglican Episcopal Church of North America, by the Right Reverend Walter H. Adams, Bishop Primus. Bishop Benning, a member of Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 4, Atlanta, was unanimously elected to the post on April 26, when delegates from eastern congregations met in convention at Saint Michael and All Saints' Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. At that time, the Diocese of the East, the second geographical diocese of the national church, was established and its constitution and canons adopted.



Saint James Anglican Church will be the seat of the Diocese of the East which includes all parishes east of the Rocky Mountains.

The Anglican Episcopal Church of North America was organized in 1972. The government of the church consists of a representative body presided over by the Primus (Presiding Bishop). The parishes are independent parts of the church body and are represented by delegates in the convention.

Grand Master Serves as DeMolay Honorary Chairman

Grand Master Kenneth C. Johnson's July itinerary included a visit to Dallas, Texas, where he served as Honorary Chairman of the Third International Knighthood Triennial of the Order of DeMolay, July 3-5. Right Worshipful Dr. J. D. Tomme, Jr., Fort Worth, Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas, and Reese L. Harrison, Jr., San Antonio, Grand Senior Councilor of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, joined with delegates from some 20 states during the Triennial. Recounting his trip the Grand Master complimented those involved for making the meeting a success "despite the 105-plus temperatures."

THE GEORGIA GRENADIERS & GRENADIERS' LODGE

by
Gordon B. Smith
Savannah, Georgia

In 1772 Samuel Elbert, a young merchant of Savannah, Georgia, organized a military company in that town. This unit was formed as a grenadier company so as to round out the local regiment, which already had another flank company, the Light Infantry Company, formed in August of 1767.

As the leading figure in the organization of his new corps, Samuel Elbert was elected captain. Upon completing the unit's organization, Elbert went to London "to perfect himself in the duties of military life," and while in England he purchased the distinctive grenadier uniforms and equipment for his company. A miniature of the young captain painted about this time shows him proudly wearing his grenadier uniform. The wings at the shoulders of the coat carry a zig-zag design and are characteristic of the elite flank companies of that era.

Upon Elbert's return to Savannah he devoted his time and energy to the perfection of the new corps. He applied to Royal Governor James Wright for formal commissions for the officers of the grenadier company, a step which would have given formal recognition to its existence. Due to Elbert's political principles, which favored the "Liberty Boys" of 1765, Governor Wright would not give his consent to the commissions.

Undaunted by the Governor's refusal, Elbert and his grenadiers, on February 3, 1773, applied directly to the Commons House of Assembly for articles of incorporation. The results of this petition are unknown; however, in short order Elbert petitioned James Habersham, a family

friend and then President of the Assembly, for the long sought formal commissions. In the absence of Wright, Habersham was acting Governor of the Colony of Georgia and with this authority issued the precious commissions to the grenadier officers on June 4, 1774.

Governor Wright returned to the colony to find that the Indians on the frontier were talking of war. The *Georgia Gazette* of October 19, 1774, indicates that Wright ordered Captain Elbert and his grenadiers to escort a party of Indian chiefs from Savannah through the settlements to their villages. One can only imagine the motives of Governor Wright in utilizing the Grenadiers — a unit the existence of which he so opposed — for this duty.

The following year, 1775, was one of increased power and prestige for the Georgia Grenadiers, as the company was called. That year the corps made a move unique but predictable in the history of the Georgia military. It became constituted as a Lodge of Freemasons. Named *Grenadiers' Lodge*, this organization had a dual life like no other. It was a Masonic lodge and an elite military company in the Georgia militia. It is quite possible that Elbert had petitioned for a warrant for this Lodge while in England in 1772-1773. Whatever the case, the By-Laws of Grenadiers' Lodge are in the archives of the Grand Lodge of England and are identical with the By-Laws of Solomon's Lodge of Savannah.

Grenadiers' Lodge followed the precedent set in 1735 by the Scots of Savannah. Under the command → → →

of Captain Patrick Tailfer, these men formed the first volunteer company of militia in Georgia's history. Called the "Extra Company," Tailfer's unit experienced many of the same problems as had Elbert. While the Extra Company, like the later Grenadiers, was in the forefront of military activity at Savannah, the officers were unable to persuade Colonel William Stephens or General James Oglethorpe (founder of Georgia) to issue formal commissions for the unit. Likewise, the same Scots were the leaders in the organization of the earliest Masonic lodge in the colony, which lodge is now known as Solomon's Lodge No. 1. By 1740 the Savannah Lodge of Freemasons was carried upon the returns of the Grand Lodge of England as Arms Lodge No. 124. The military character of Colonial Georgia Freemasonry is clear.

In June of 1775 the Grenadier Company was ordered on a mission by Governor Wright. Clandestine activity against the King had reached a fever pitch at Savannah. Apparently the Governor's orders were politically distasteful to the men of the unit and the Grenadier Company "positively refused to pay any attention thereto, threw down their commissions, and declared they would fight in defence of their liberties." This was a desperate stand considering the hard-fought battle for the commissions in the first place and considering the Royalist sympathies of much of the colony.

Within a month the Grenadier Company proved its declaration to the Governor. That July the unit manned the schooner *Liberty* and captured a British powder vessel off Tybee; it was the first American capture in southern waters during the war. In the absence of Captain Elbert, the Grenadiers on the *Liberty* were commanded by First Lieutenant Joseph Habersham, commissioned in the Grenadiers on June 4, 1774, and Second Lieutenant Oliver Bowen, commissioned March 10, 1775.

Captain Elbert was promoted out of his beloved company to the grade of Colonel commanding the Second Georgia Continental Battalion. Ultimately he commanded the Georgia Continental Brigade. After the war he became Major General of the Georgia Militia, Governor of Georgia, Vice President of the Georgia Society of the Cincinnati, and Sheriff of Chatham County. He also became the leading figure of Georgia Freemasonry.

William Stephens, son of the hardnosed Colonel William Stephens, was commissioned to replace Elbert as captain of the Grenadier Company on June 17, 1776. In 1778 Stephens became Attorney General of Georgia.

Among the subalterns of the Grenadiers, Joseph Habersham became colonel of the First Georgia Continental Battalion. Oliver Bowen became Commodore commanding the Georgia Continental Navy. Second Lieutenant Benjamin Lloyd, commissioned in the Grenadiers on September 16, 1777, became a second lieutenant in the Fourth Georgia Continental Battalion by 1778, but upon the destruction of the Georgia Continental Brigade, Lloyd accepted a commission as a lieutenant in the Fourth Regiment of South Carolina Continental Artillery.

The British destroyed the First Regiment (Chatham Regiment) of Foot Militia at their capture of Savannah in December of 1778. Only the Light Infantry Company of Savannah escaped. This brave unit was destroyed with the Georgia Brigade, commanded at the time by Colonel Samuel Elbert, at the Battle of Brier Creek in March of 1779. Brother Elbert was captured during the Brier Creek engagement, and one of the more exciting episodes of his military career occurred during his imprisonment. A 19th century historian recounted the event in *Traditions and Reminiscences Chiefly of the American Revolution in the South* . . . He wrote, "While a prisoner, on parole, in the British camp,

Elbert was treated with great respect and kindness. Offers of promotion, honors and rewards were made to him, and courtesy, persuasion and blandishments used to seduce him from the American cause. It is a tradition in his family, that when these were declined, an insidious attempt was made, by means of two Indians, to murder him . . . Elbert, in his mercantile transactions with the Indians, was a favorite among them. He fortunately discovered these two in time, gave a signal which he had formerly been accustomed to among them, their guns were immediately lowered, and they came forward to shake hands with him." It is added that this "signal had probably been agreed upon and used, when, with his company of Grenadiers, by order of Governor Wright, he guarded the Indian chiefs back to the Creek nation."

Like the Grenadier Company, its alter ego, Grenadiers' Lodge, was destroyed in the fall of Savannah. Neither organization was reformed when the Patriots recaptured Savannah in 1782. There was, however, a revival of the military/Masonic tradition in the organization at Savannah shortly after the war of a new Lodge of Freemasons. Samuel Elbert was Provincial Grand Master.

The Georgia Grenadiers left a rich heritage, despite the short existence of the military company and the Masonic lodge. The military company furnished a number of the most distinguished officers in the Georgia and South Carolina Continental Lines. The unit's march, named *The Georgia Grenadiers*, was composed by James Alexander. This march is still in existence; considered "an excellent composition," the work was included for many years in the *British Books of Musick*. Colonial Williamsburg has recently recorded the work as one of the very few extant authentic pieces of martial music of Revolutionary America.

Gordon B. Smith lives at 9203 Garland Drive, Savannah, Georgia 31406.

knight templar

Ohio Newspaper Poet

Sir Knight James A. Razor is a member of Massillon Commandery No. 4, Massillon, Ohio. He is now retired, having worked as a career cost accountant with Republic Steel Corporation as well as clerk and zoning inspector of Perry Township, Ohio. But, according to Razor, his first love has always been writing. In fact, he is so well-known in northern Ohio that he has earned the title "The Gay Blade of Massillon."

Sir Knight Razor specializes in one-liners, puns, epigrams, wisecracks and poetry. In the 1920's he was also a ghost-writer cartoonist in the Gene Byrnes comic strip "Reg'lar Fellers" which ran in 125 newspapers nationwide. He is a "self-taught" man who never finished high school, and though his avocation has never brought much material profit, he did earn top prize of \$100 in a magazine contest which was restricted to college graduates. That was back in March 1924.

A reporter of *The Repository*, a local newspaper, recently interviewed Sir Knight Razor and discovered that his work has appeared "in Ring Lardner's column, in virtually every *Plain Dealer* over the last 45 years, in the *Massillon Evening Independent*, *Akron Beacon Journal*, *Cleveland Press*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Baltimore Evening Sun*, *New York Herald-Tribune* — even the *West Virginia Hillbilly*."

At age 84, Sir Knight Razor plans to continue writing. The fact that he has never worked for a newspaper is certainly no deterrent. He says, "I have printer's ink in my blood."

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is saying that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

Alexander Pope

LETTER FROM A VANISHED KNIGHT

Dear Sir:

I read with great interest Sir Knight Theodore Summers' article, "The Case of the Vanishing Knight." (February 1980 *Knight Templar Magazine*). It really rang a bell. As a charter member of Theodore Roosevelt Chapter of the Order of DeMolay, I then was admitted into Aurora Grata-Day Star Lodge No. 756 F. & A.M. (a member for the past 47 years), and continued through Flatbush Chapter No. 298, R.A.M., and another step to Bay Ridge Commandery No. 79, Knights Templar.

As far back as I can recall, not one single person ever asked me why, after going through the Orders of Templary, they did not see me at a single meeting, although I was at one time (when I lived in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, New York) active on the Lodge Degree team, held several offices in the Chapter, and rode horseback with the Long Island Grotto Mounted Guard. Not one person ever asked me how I liked the Knights Templar, why I did not attend the meetings, ad infinitum.

After moving away to New Jersey, and as my cable tow grew longer, it was harder to get to the Lodge; after all, over 100 miles round trip after a day's work is a little far. Seems to me, the Recorder knew my address, as I always got notices and my dues card, but nobody ever said, "How about coming down, old timer?" or "Why don't you go to a local Knight Templar Commandery - we will send your new address over to Lambertville, New Jersey, which is a lot closer to your new home." Nobody gave a thought that maybe if an invitation were sent to attend a more local Commandery, this "Vanished Knight" might be interested. All of the above is now twenty years past, and after one reaches 73, it's not so darn important.

The thought I would like to leave is that if a member moves away, why doesn't the Recorder send the member's name and address to a local Commandery? I feel sure as many men move into a new area they would like to be greeted by local Bodies. In other words, don't send me a magazine with a New Jersey Supplement; send me an invitation to visit a local Commandery. You never can tell, it might make me interested enough to hold joint membership.

I've always been proud to be a Mason, as my father and grandfather were ahead of me. But, of course, being hard-headed English and Episcopalian, one does get one's back up if no one, and I mean no one, ever thinks enough of you as a member to say, "Hello, how are you?"

Sir Knight Edgar G. E. Moss
Lebanon, New Jersey

(Sir Knight Moss is publisher of the NEW BRUNSWICK SPOKESMAN, New Brunswick, New Jersey, servicing the Raritan Valley Area.)



Grand Commander's, Grand Master's Clubs

Summer has a reputation for being a lazy season. Lights are turned off in the Asylum, things slow down, and people try to take life a bit easier. But the work of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation never stops. There is no slowing down, no vacation when it comes to the need for research into the causes of blindness and eye disease, or when a little child needs an operation to be able to see the beauty in the world.

G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M. and Executive Director, says: "Research and eye repair through surgery are the principal concerns of the Eye Foundation and, by association, of every individual who contributes to this Templar philanthropy." For the month of August, the Eye Foundation salutes three new members of the Grand Commander's Club and three new Grand Master's Club benefactors. The list for the Grand Commander's Club includes:

Kansas No. 3 - Warren M. Brown

Oklahoma No. 3 - Don Herbert

Alabama No. 5 - Bernice Belcher

According to the guidelines of the Grand Commander's Club, any individual may join with an initial contribution of at least \$100 - although larger initial donations are, of course, acceptable. Sir Knight Brown, for example, began his membership with a \$500 donation. A minimum annual contribution of \$100 is recorded thereafter, until \$1,000 is achieved. At this point, or upon receipt of a single \$1,000 donation, the individual gains membership in the Grand Master's Club.

This month the Eye Foundation welcomes:

No. 213 - Charles B. Moody (OH)

No. 214 - Alexander Stewart, M.D. (PA)

No. 215 - L. Walter Fix, M.D. (WV)

All donations are tax-deductible and are quickly acknowledged; however, there is no Commandery credit for these contributions. Grand Commander's Club members receive a wallet card sealing their

Leaders of Palestine Commandery

Palestine Commandery No. 2, stationed in Martinsburg, West Virginia, has a membership of 177 Sir Knights. It is neither the largest nor the smallest Commandery in the United States, but Calvin H. Kibler, P.C. and Past Grand Commander of West Virginia, as spokesman for Martinsburg Templars, feels that Palestine No. 2 maintains "an enviable record of office-holders" in the State of West Virginia.

Starting at the top of the Templar scale, Sir Knight Max D. Bovey of Palestine was elected Grand Commander of West Virginia on May 31, 1980. Newly-elected Grand Sentinel, Frank Dell, is also a member of the Martinsburg Commandery, as are Edward Marpole, current Deputy Inspector General, and three Past Grand Commanders, Calvin Kibler (1957), J. Iverson Carver (1965), and Milton G. Maisel, Jr. (1973).

Other Grand Bodies are also represented in Palestine Commandery - Patrick G. Henry was elected 1979 Grand Captain of the Host of the Grand Chapter, R.A.M., and Alonzo C. Puffingheger served as Grand High Priest in 1973. In the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, Paul Tederick is current Junior Grand Warden, and Dr. C. Vincent Townsend is a Past Grand Master.

Palestine Commandery was initially chartered in 1850 by the Grand Encampment of Virginia; in 1874, it was re-chartered under West Virginia jurisdiction.

pledge, and Grand Master's Club members are sent a metallic wallet card and engraved bronzed desk plaque.

Thus far, some 350 men and women have assisted the work of the Eye Foundation through the benefactor Clubs. For further information, inquiries may be sent to G. Wilbur Bell, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705. (Or phone: 217-523-3838).

SYMBOLISM OF COLOR IN THE YORK RITE

by

Wallace A. Knopp, P.C.

Calvary Commandery No. 3, Parkersburg, West Virginia

Color plays an important part in our daily lives, and has an intergral role in York Rite Masonry. As recorded in *Genesis*, "In the beginning . . . God said let there be LIGHT and there was light . . . and God divided the Light from the Darkness." Early mankind soon transposed the terms light and dark into the "color" terms of White and Black. But it is the entire range of spectrum colors that adds objectivity to what we see and do. For example, if everything in a room was an absolute White, or an absolute Black, we would not be able to see or define a single object.

The word "color" is a generic term, and has many definitions and phases. It has different meanings to different people: To a chemist color provides a means of identification for various materials and substances. To a physiologist or psychologist, color means a consciousness of a sensation, and of human observation and response — such as cool or warm; bright or dull; pleasing, cheerful, or depressing.

To a physicist color means the field of optics, a means of measurement, the human eye and visual process, the color spectrum such as the rainbow, or the refraction of light rays by a glass prism, with the visual range of colors being confined between the ultraviolet and the infrared light rays. White and black are not considered colors, a white body reflecting, and a black body absorbing all the rays of light. However, it is hard to imagine any color arrangement or color scheme without the use of white and black.

The colors used in York Rite Masonry were given by God to Moses for use in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness. They consisted of both natural and artificial colors. Natural colors are red, yellow, and green, with green the predominant natural color; artificial colors used were blue and purple and were made from shell fish and cochineal from Phoenicia and Tyre. Scarlet or red was made from insects from Armenia.

Dyeing was learned from the Egyptians who were well skilled in the art. They also used roots, bark and berries to produce a wide range of colors.

As commended by God to Moses, the Veils to be used in the Tabernacle were to be made of pure twined linen (white) with three sets of veils to be colored, or dyed, with blue, purple, and red or scarlet. The veils were fastened together with gold rings and supported by a wood framework, all of which formed a passageway leading to the most Holy Place or Sanctum Sanctorum which contained the Ark of Testimony, or the Ark of the Covenant.

In Royal Arch Masonry we recognize the importance of three Arks, and exemplify the division of the Veils.

First: The Ark of Safety, or of Noah and personified by his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The color of their veil is blue. God ordered Noah to build the Ark as a protection against the flood. This Ark thus symbolizes God's concern for the safety and deliverance of the future of mankind.

Second: The Ark of the Covenant, or of Moses, and personified by → → →

Moses, Aholiab, and Bezaleel. The color of their Veil is purple.

Third: The substitute Ark, or the Ark of Zerubbabel, and personified by Jeshua, Zerubbabel, and Haggai. The color of their veil is red or scarlet.

Fourth: The signet of truth. The color is white — in a Commandery of Knights Templar.

For the Order of the Red Cross, the robes or garments are of blue, purple and red or scarlet, embroidered with gold or silver, and set with jewels of various colors. The banners and insignia are green, red, and white.

For the Order of Knights of Malta, and the Order of Knights Templar the robes, garments, uniforms, altar cloths, table covers, banners, and insignia are black, red, and white, with some gold and silver trim.

The colors as used in York Rite Masonry indicate the following symbolism.

WHITE — Knowledge, truth, purity, life, joy, victory.

BLACK — Ignorance, evil, death, destiny.

BLUE — Truth, loyalty, friendship,

heaven, and God's protecting love for all his people. (Note that a Master Mason's Lodge is also known as a Blue Lodge.)

PURPLE — Penitence, authority, creativity, power, and unity between God and Man.

RED or **SCARLET** — Mankind, blood, the Passover, fire, aggression, energy; a desire for action and a zeal for the issues of life. Red is the emblematic color of the Royal Arch Degree.

GREEN — Life, hope, growth, and rebirth; green is nature's most predominant color.

As previously mentioned, color plays an important role in our daily lives. The colors we choose to use in our homes, the clothes that we wear, tell a lot about our likes and dislikes, and our individual personalities.

Sir Knight Knopp, "nearly blind with retinitis pigmentosa," belongs to the National R.P. Foundation. He writes, "Upon my death I am donating my eyes to the Berman-Gund Laboratories at Harvard Medical School" (a past recipient of funds from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation), and he adds, "My sister who is blind with R. P. is making a similar donation." Sir Knight Knopp is a member of Calvary Commandery No. 3 in Parkersburg and lives at 212 A Lakeview Estates, 824 Lakeview Drive, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101.

Ladd Named to IMMC Board

Sir Knight John W. Ladd, Evanston Commandery No. 58, Evanston, Illinois, was appointed recently to the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Chicago. The announcement was made by Sir Knight Warren N. Barr, President of the Board. Ladd is a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, and he is president of Ladd, Wells, Presba Advertising, Inc., an agency he founded in 1952. A resident of Oak Lawn, Illinois, Sir Knight Ladd is a member of the Board of Directors at the Scottish Rite, Valley of Chicago, and Medinah Shrine Temple.

A Modern-Day Knight's Quest

Sir Knight Arnold L. Walker, Lorain Commandery No. 65, Ohio, forwarded a newsclipping describing a modern-day "Knight" who had undertaken a 700-mile trek from Reading, Pennsylvania, to Kenosha, Wisconsin, scene of the 1980 King Richard's Medieval Festival. Crain, or "Sir Erane Valdier" as he calls himself, walked most of the 700 miles wearing "20 pounds of medieval attire" including a tunic and coat of mail, and carrying a 30-pound tote bag over his shoulder.

Sir Valdier of Akron, Ohio, is a student at Albright College in Reading.



KNIGHT VOICES

COMMENTS FROM READERS



□ The three files which I just recently received for my *Knight Templar Magazines* are so satisfactory that I am enclosing \$7.50 for an additional three files. Many thanks for this useful item. *Edgar R. Miller, P.O. Box 584, Pasco, Washington 99301*

Editor's Note: Plastic, collapsible holders for the *Knight Templar Magazine* are now available for \$3.25 each postpaid; in quantities of three or more, cost is \$2.50 each. Order through the Grand Recorder, Suite 1700, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

□ Can anyone help me locate seven members of the 1941 graduating class of Buchanan High School, Buchanan, Virginia, for a proposed class reunion in June 1981? It is believed that Vivian Fountain (Mrs. Carl Roller) is in Missouri and Gordon Stinnett is in California. The other five are females and I am only able to give their maiden names. They are Minnie Lee Johnson, Mary McCormick, Marian Louise Meadows, Dixie Smith and Kathleen Wirt.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of these classmates, please send me the address, telephone number or any information. *William M. Rhodes (P.C., Richmond Commandery No. 2), 2902 Rutland Road, Richmond, Virginia 23228*

□ I would appreciate hearing from Companions interested in Masonic and related philately. I am interested in purchasing commemorative covers on Masonic themes, commemorative stamps and F.D.C.'s concerning architecture (U.S. and foreign), and other philatelic items of interest to Masons. *William D. McLean, 3200 Hayes Court, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104*

□ Would like to purchase a Dudley Masonic pocket watch. The movement of these watches, which were made in the 1920's in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is in the form of Masonic emblems. I would want such a watch for my own use, not to re-sell, and would be glad to pay a good price for one. I am also interested in buying old or antique clocks of any kind; this is a hobby of mine. If anyone reading the column would have such a watch or clocks which he would sell, I can be reached by letter or phone. *Wesley G. Harding, 623 Smallwood Road, Rockville, Maryland 20850 (301-424-1504)*

□ My father, Benjamin Allan Fitzhugh, remembered his father Thos. telling of his sister (name unknown) or his father James' sister marrying a Lee (a relative of Robert E.) before the Civil War, when they lived in Virginia.

The last record I have is James Fitzhugh, my great great grandfather, born in Virginia, shot and killed while trying to stop a fight at Fristo Ferry, Benton Co., Missouri, in 1836. James also had a brother Robert in Virginia. This is all I have found on the family.

I would greatly appreciate any assistance or information concerning the Lee connection. *Beth Fitzhugh Elmore, 5109 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, Texas 77505*

□ For sale: One gold Masonic ring with diamond, size 8¼; appraised value \$300.00. Will take \$250.00. One diamond Lapel Shrine Emblem; appraised value \$200.00. Will take \$175.00. *Dr. A. O. Yoe, Jr., P.O. Box 515, Talladega, Alabama 35160, (205-362-4241)*

□ I have in my possession a white china sugar bowl, 2 inches high, and cream pitcher, 2½ inches high. The set belonged to one of my late grandfathers, Cornelius Eckhardt or Fred L. Aue, both of Washington, D.C. Printed on the cream pitcher in gold is "Mary Commandery, Phila., 1903, No. 36, K.T." They have whitish flowers with yellow centers and thin green leaves. On the bottom of the pitcher is "Made in Germany" and both have raised china crosses. Also, mug, 5 inches high in shades of brown with a colorful Indian bust in feathered head-dress. Lettering is "Columbia No. 2, K.T., Washington, D.C., April 1905, Mary No. 36, K.T." If interested in buying, write or call. *Mrs. Robert W. Swale, 702 North Vine Street, West Union, Iowa 52175, (319-422-3384)*

□ I have a Masonic sword between 60 and 75 years old in excellent condition, bone handle, engraved, silver, that I would like to sell. *Tom Crouch, 12860 Hillcrest, Suite 100 F, Dallas, Texas 75230*

□ Would like to obtain a Dudley pocket watch in operating condition. This watch was made by the Dudley Watch Company of Lancaster, Pennsylvania with all plates and movements in Masonic designs. I will appreciate hearing from anyone interested in selling such a watch. *Dr. Calvin B. Folds, 211 Hudson Lane, Monroe, Louisiana 71201, (318-323-8796)*

□ I want to take the opportunity to thank you for the note you put in the February "Knight Voices" about my father's Commandery ring which I wanted to sell. I had numerous phone calls and letters — so many I could not possibly get them all answered. The ring has been sold, but I wanted to thank everyone who corresponded. *Mrs. Norma L. Puckett, 105 Danville Road, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133*

□ I am interested in purchasing a Knight Templar watch fob. Would prefer yellow gold, one inch in size. *L. C. Bankston, 6521 E. Boise, Mesa, Arizona 85205*

□ I would like to buy a yellow gold Shriner's ring for my husband who is a member of Egypt Temple, Tampa, Florida, and who is a York Rite member. If anyone has such a ring to sell, please send complete description and price. *Mary Eck, 1691 Harbor Circle E., Largo, Florida 33540*

□ I am a Past Commander and current Generalissimo of Jerusalem Commandery No. 15 stationed at Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. I am writing a book called *Masonic Memories, Antiques & Guide on Collectibles*. I would appreciate anyone who collects Masonic items to send a list of the collection, the date of item, description and price. All information will be kept confidential unless so stated. I can be a clearing house for those who want to sell and those who want to buy. So many of these memories have been lost by those who don't know what they are, and this service will give the collector and the seller a knowledge of the going fair price.

At right is a picture of an item from my collection.

It is a large water pitcher; on the front is: *Lucius H. Scott Lodge No. 352, F. & A.M., A.D. 5865, A.L. 5913, Masonic Hall, Chester, Pa.*; on the back: *Worshipful Master William D. Pullen, Jr., 1913. Value: \$60.00.*



I am writing this book because I love collecting Masonic things. These works of art should not be lost or sitting in a Museum gathering dust. *Herbert J. Dawson, RD No. 2, Box 774, Boyertown, Pennsylvania 19512*

AN AUGUST RHAPSODY

by an Author Unknown

The little cares that fretted me,
I lost them yesterday
Among the fields above the sea,
Among the winds at play;
Among the lowing of the herds,
The rustling of the trees,
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what may pass,
I cast them all away
Among the clover-scented grass,
Among the new-mown hay;
Among the hushing of the corn
Where drowsy poppies nod,
Where ill thoughts die and good are born,
Out in the fields with God.

