Baron de Kalb introducing Lafayette to Silas Deane
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Let me state unequivocally that I thoroughly read and fully enjoy the range of Masonic news and features in our once-a-month Knight Templar Magazine. According to reports from other Templars, their wives, or the widows of Templars, as well as non-member subscribers, it is welcomed in equal measure.

Expressions at my numerous visitations to Annual Conclaves and other convocations of Masons indicate that our Grand Encampment publication is considered one of the more articulate fraternal magazines available. It’s a constant pleasure to see the hundreds of letters of commendation which arrive every month in our office in Chicago.

I have supported, and will continue to support in every possible manner, the editorial policy and the coverage given to all fraternal activities — to the Beauceant, Order of Eastern Star, Rainbow for Girls, Job’s Daughters, to DeMolay, the Grotto, Symbolic Masonry and all the varied Appendant Orders. A variety of news of their projects is carried each month in our official Grand Encampment publication. I am proud of our Knight Templar Magazine, and I hope my sentiment is shared by you and many others.

Obviously, as we are all aware, publishing and mailing costs have increased over the past several years, most of which can be attributed to inflationary postal rates. But there are many compensating benefits, by no means the least of which is the two-page Supplement provided in each issue of the magazine. The two pages devoted to local information in every jurisdiction are designed to reach every Templar in each Grand Commandery.

I am confident we have a fine magazine. If you agree — or if you disagree — I will consider it a special privilege to hear from you.

As Grand Master, I urge your support of our continuing efforts in our Grand Encampment for the constant progress of our Order. Your responses to my stated viewpoint will be personally welcomed if addressed to me at 19 Pine Manor Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207.

Whatever your views, I will be delighted to hear from you. So, I am sure, will the Editor and his staff.

[Signature]

June 1982
JUNE: Alonzo Chappell, New York (1828-1887), is the artist who preserved the scene of three Revolutionary War heroes depicted on this month’s cover. It is reproduced, with permission, from General de Kalb, Lafayette’s Mentor by A. E. Zucker, No. 53 in the University of North Carolina Studies in the Germanic Language and Literature Series, published by the University of North Carolina Press at Chapel Hill. (Photo on page 7, courtesy Independence National Historical Park Collection, Philadelphia.) Also this month, to help commemorate Flag Day, a planned nationwide “Pause for the Pledge” is detailed by Sir Knight Donald T. Fritz, and the “Official Salute and Courtesies to the Flag” is presented by the Committee on Drill Regulations.

P.C.R.

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Material for the Grand Commanderies’ two-page Supplements is to be directed to the respective Supplement Editors.

Address corrections from members are to be sent to the local Recorders.
DeMolay Executive Secretary: The International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay is seeking an individual to fill the position of Executive Secretary at its Headquarters Offices in Kansas City, Missouri. The Executive Secretary is a full-time, professional administrator reporting to the Grand Secretary of the Order of DeMolay.

Applicants should have a Bachelor's Degree with emphasis on business administration, association management, finance, or a related field. Recent experience in association management may be substituted for degree requirement and is highly desirable in conjunction with the appropriate degree. Responsibilities include the operational and administrative management of DeMolay Headquarters offices and staff; budget development, analysis, and control; supervision of sales, computer, and printing operations; convention planning; training program development and implementation; and comprehensive coordination with officers, committees, and jurisdictional elements of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.

The Supreme Council offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Resumes may be forwarded to the personal attention of: Paul E. Skoglund, Executive Secretary, 201 East Armour Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

Parade Time: M. C. Lewis, Jr., Chairman, Grand Encampment Triennial Committee, reports that the Divine Service of the 55th Triennial Conclave set for Sunday afternoon, August 15, will be preceded by a Templar Parade. Letters have gone out to various Drill Teams inviting their participation along with all other Sir Knights attending. The parade will run for eight blocks to the Downtown Auditorium where Divine Service will be held.

Comment from Dr. Lasky: Irving I. Lasky, M.D., writes from California to congratulate Assistant Editor Behrens on her recent feature about Al Jolson: “When I was very young, I heard him sing with such joy at the dedication of the Duarte Medical Center. I was astounded when, after his performance, he presented a very large sum of money to that institution. He loved America with all its greatness and ever greater potential. I always considered him a great and good man and highly dedicated Mason and always will.”

Switzerland Comment: Raymond Lowe, California, has relayed to the Knight Templar Magazine a card which he received from Hans Hch. Baumann, Ing., Lindenstrasse, Switzerland, expressing his appreciation for Sir Knight Lowe's recent article - “Dear Sir Knight Lowe: May I congratulate you very heartily upon your excellent lecture ‘Questing for Soul’ in the Knight Templar for January 1982. You should publish it all over the world so that all men could go into themselves: Soul. Again my compliments for such a wonderful and merited success.”

Emerson: The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.
HONORING THE PLEDGE AND THE FLAG

The Grand Encampment Committee on Drill Regulations has prepared and released regulations governing the official salute and courtesies to the flag of the United States of America. Committee members are John H. Loree, Michigan, Chairman; William E. Barkman, District of Columbia, and Richard D. Porter, Texas.

Official Salute and Courtesies to the Flag of the United States of America

(Regulations for individual honors to the United States Flag by Sir Knights not in formation)

The following general rules should govern all occasions whether in the Templar Asylum or in public:

- If in uniform — salute.
- If in civilian clothes — place right hand over heart.
- Never talk while at the salute.

Specifically:

a. In full Templar uniform or fatigue uniform, with sword drawn — salute with the sword. Officers and Past Commanders use officer’s salute; Sir Knights present sword. (In case of crowded conditions with the possibility of injury or damage, common sense should prevail, and instructions or orders should be given for return swords prior to the salute.)

b. In Templar uniform or fatigue uniform, covered or uncovered, without sword or with sword in scabbard — hand salute.

c. In civilian clothes — remove headdress with right hand, hold same at left shoulder, right hand over heart.

d. In civilian clothes, uncovered — place right hand over heart.

e. During playing of National Anthem — execute rules “a,” “b,” “c,” or “d” (above) at first note of music and hold until last note has been played.

f. For the Pledge of Allegiance:

In uniform, covered or uncovered, without sword or with sword in scabbard — hand salute and return hand to side. Then recite the Pledge. Follow the Pledge by repeating the hand salute.

In civilian clothes — execute “c” or “d” (above). Recite Pledge while in this position. Then drop hand to side.

Presented for the Committee on Drill Regulations
William E. Barkman, P.G.C.
PILGRIM MINISTERS DEPART FROM JFK AIRPORT

On Tuesday, February 23, 1982, seventeen Christian Ministers from Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, New York and Wisconsin, along with P. Fred Lesley, P.G.C., Michigan, as Servant, left Kennedy International Airport for a ten-hour non-stop flight to Israel on the 6th Annual Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. During the ten-day journey, the Pilgrims visited the Mt. of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of St. Anne, the Pool of Bethesda, the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Calvary.

The Ministers had Holy Communion Service at the Garden Tomb, visited the ruins of Masada, the Dead Sea, the Qumran Caves, Jerico, Bethany and Hebron, continuing on to Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee, Tiberias, Capernaum and Mt. Tabor, ending in Caesarea where they toured a Crusader’s fortress and a Roman Amphitheater.

The Pilgrim-Ministers, named below, returned March 5 “physically tired, but spiritually revitalized.”

MICHIGAN
Rev. Richard D. Robinson .................... Woodview Christian Church, Grand Rapids
Rev. Douglas R. Trebilcock .................... First United Methodist Church, St. Clair
Rev. Dennis F. Barger .................... First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham
Rev. William J. Fuerstenau .................... First Presbyterian Church, Niles
Rev. Geoffrey L. Hayes .................... Asbury United Methodist Church, Lansing

INDIANA
Rev. Jerry D. Elmore .................... First Christian Church, Remington
Rev. Andrew F. Stirrman .................... United Methodist Church, Whiteland
Rev. Charles M. Mills .................... Presbyterian Church, Clarksville
Rev. Thomas N. Haney .................... Christian Church, Indianapolis

NEW YORK
Rev. Wesley A. Smith .................... First Baptist Church, Saratoga Springs
Rev. Donald J. Gardner .................... Trinity Episcopal Church, Troy

KENTUCKY
Rev. Herman Meredith Bowers .................... Frankfort, Kentucky
Rev. Robert B. Horine, Jr., Church of St. Michael Archangel, Episcopal, Lexington
Rev. Howard Hicks .................... Elliston Baptist Church, Dry Ridge
Rev. John P. Weaver .................... Central Baptist Church, Ashland
Rev. Richard Clippinger .................... Strathmore Presbyterian Church, Louisville

WISCONSIN
Rev. Howard E. White .................... First United Lutheran Church, Sheboygan

Sir Knight Lesley reports that the 7th Holy Land Pilgrimage will leave New York on Tuesday, February 22, 1983, and return Friday, March 4.
BARON DE KALB—AN AMERICAN HERO

by

J. E. Behrens, Assistant Editor

As early as 1754, reports of disturbances in England’s colonies reached Europe. The news was favorably received in France: Aside from a sympathy with the rebel cause, France and England were hereditary enemies, and anything that rankled the British was supported by the French. Before the passing of the next quarter century, England was at war with her now united colonies. Europe also took sides.

Many professional soldiers from Europe petitioned the Continental Congress to serve in Washington’s army. In fact, so many foreign officers came to fight that Congress had to turn some away. Some sought only a higher rank, fortune and fame. A few believed unhesitatingly in the American cause and would have served without compensation. Of the many who came and were appointed, four names stand out: Lafayette — a French Marquis; von Steuben — a German soldier; Pulaski — a Polish Count; and de Kalb, born a German peasant, raised to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the French Army, and the only one of these four to die on an American battlefield.

Johannes Kalb was born June 29, 1721, at Huettendorf in the Margraviate of Bayreuth, which later came under Prussian, then Bavarian sovereignty. His father, John Leonard Kalb, was the son of a yeoman who could offer little in terms of wealth or status. There is brief record of Johannes’ early schooling, but for the most part he was self-taught.

In Europe of this era, a man born a peasant usually died a peasant. If he stayed in his own village, he could not hope to achieve any distinction. Following a common practice, Johannes joined a German corps of the French Army, and the next record of him appears in 1743 when he is listed as “Jean de Kalb” on the roll of the Loewendal Regiment of the French Infantry.

At this point, also, we note the addition of the rank of nobility, the “de” before his surname. There are two possible explanations for Kalb’s new status. In the armies of that day, promotion to commoners was disallowed. So Kalb may have “assumed” nobility as a means of advancement — another common practice. This may have been the case when we hear of him in 1743.

Another way to achieve nobility was to be granted the honor as a result of bravery in battle. And it may well be that it was by this method that Kalb’s nobility was legitimized: In 1763, the King of France bestowed on Kalb the Order of Military Merit which carried with it the title of “chevalier” and the right to use the “de,” also, perhaps, the title of Baron. The honor was made for the hero’s “outstanding bravery in the Battle of Wilhelmsthal” during the Seven Year’s War. It is to be noted that this Order was awarded to only one other officer who served in the American forces during the Revolution — Brother John Paul Jones. (The “Ordre du Merite Militaire” was given to Protestants in lieu of that of St. Louis which was presented only to Catholics.)

De Kalb was described as an officer of “political intelligence and
military acquirements.” He advanced to adjudant in 1747, and major in 1755.

When the Seven Years War ended in 1763, de Kalb was a Lieutenant Colonel, the highest rank he would achieve in France. He was a recognized professional, well-versed in the science of war. In 1764, then 43, de Kalb married 16-year old Anne Elisabeth Emilie van Robais. They were wed in the only Protestant church in Paris, and the two lived quietly near that city for the next few years.

England had emerged the victor of the Seven Years War, but victory had been expensive. The country, badly in debt and turning to its colonies to recover some of its losses, imposed the Stamp Act. The colonists objected, and the tax was repealed in 1768. But the cries of “oppression” only grew stronger.

France, of course, was delighted with England’s new trouble and waited anxiously to hear of further conflicts. Because of a treaty of neutrality with England, France could not openly provoke England or foment trouble in her colonies. But this did not prevent the Duc de Choiseul, then prime minister, from enlisting the aid of certain undercover “agents.”

In 1767, de Kalb was secretly commissioned to go to Amsterdam to determine whether rumors about colonial insurrection were true and, if so, to proceed on to America to learn 1) the true intentions of the Americans, 2) the extent of materiel and supplies at their disposal in the event of all-out war, and 3) whether the Americans were in need of engineers and military personnel. De Kalb was chosen for the mission because of his knowledge of warfare, his trusted association with de Choiseul, the fact that he was not French by birth, and because he was fluent in English, as well as French and German. That June he left for Holland, travelling as a German colonel on business. He reported to de Choiseul on July 18 that, after travelling through the Dutch seaports, he was unable to claim the fact or myth of the rumors. He was instructed to proceed on to America.

Embarking incognito from London, de Kalb arrived in Philadelphia in January, just as Massachusetts was suggesting the colonies convene “a congress which was to obtain a certain and speedy redress of grievances.” His reports provide a wealth of information about colonial attitude as viewed by an outsider. His first read in part:

For the moment it is difficult to tell what the end will be. All depends upon the policy of [King George III] which promises to be a conciliatory one, as the advantage derived by the British people from their connection with the colonies is too great to permit the government to stop short of any efforts to preserve this invaluable magazine of raw productions, and this most profitable market for its manufacturers.”

On February 25, 1768, he wrote:

All classes of people here are imbued with such a spirit of independence and freedom from control, that if all the provinces can be united under a common representation, an independent State will soon be formed. At all events it will certainly come forth in time.

Yet de Kalb was also impressed by the colonists’ heartfelt love for the mother country” and by the belief that it would “admit” herself to have been in the wrong, and do her best to repair it.”

Further, he rejected the idea that America was actively seeking European allies, and so he wrote de Choiseul.

... there will be no means of inducing them to accept of assistance from abroad. In fact, they are so well convinced of the justice of their cause, the clemency of the King, and of their own importance to the mother country, they have never contemplated the possibility of extreme measures.

He returned home in 1768. For the next several years, de Kalb was devoted to his family. At every opportunity he sought to acquire an appointment as brigadier general, promised him by de Choiseul. But a new minister was in power.
and de Kalb's requests were ignored. Then in 1776 events transpired which would change the lives of many men — de Kalb included.

Silas Deane was in Paris as American agent with vague instructions "to transact such business as would benefit the thirteen united colonies."

Deane was pressed with offers from European soldiers seeking preferment in the American Army. He said in an early letter to the Congressional Committee on Secret Correspondence:

The rage ... for entering into the American service increases, and the consequence is that I am pressed with offers ... Count Broglie, who commanded the army of France during the last war, did me the honor to call on me twice yesterday with an officer who has now a regiment in this service, but being a German, — the Baron de Kalb, — and having travelled through America a few years since, he is desirous of engaging in the service of the United States of North America.... [He] is by every one recommended as one of the bravest and most skillful officers in the kingdom ... This gentleman has an independent fortune, and a certain prospect of advancement here; but being a jealous friend to liberty, civil and religious, he is actuated by the most independent and generous principles in the offer he makes to the States of America.

Deane "engaged" de Kalb as a major-general on November 7, 1776.

One month later, de Kalb again had occasion to meet with Deane. This time he brought a protege, a youth barely 20 years old who had "a burning desire to flesh his sword in a transatlantic crusade." That young man was the Marquis de Lafayette, filled with youthful enthusiasm and offering his services without compensation. Deane was duly impressed and he promised Lafayette, too, a major-general's commission.

In all, 16 French officers concluded a formal agreement with Deane on December 1, 1776. De Kalb was 56 at the time.

Unfortunately, while Deane was thus acting on his own initiative to "benefit the thirteen colonies," Congress faced a different problem. With so many foreign applications, it passed a resolution March 13, 1777, to discourage officers seeking service in the United States army. The resolution never reached de Kalb and his fellows who set sail April 20.

The Victoire arrived in South Carolina in June 1777, with de Kalb the only member to speak fluent English. The following month, they entered Philadelphia and presented themselves to the president of the Congress. Instead of a warm greeting, they were told that Congress refused to ratify Deane's contracts. As Friedrich Kapp wrote in 1864, Deane had been accused of having "transgressed his powers, not having been authorized to fill the highest positions in the army with men of his choice." In fact, Generals Sullivan, Greene and Knox threatened to resign if Congress approved the appointments.

Such a rebuff might have ended French participation then and there; luckily, diplomacy won out. The French officers quit their claims, either offering service as volunteers, or returning to France, simply requesting travel reimbursement. Ten stayed, and six decided to return home. One of those who did leave, Rousseau de Foyolle, was especially bitter about the turn of events. In his journal he makes this comment: "The Americans are disunited regarding their common cause, and I do not think that they will ever do anything remarkable."

Lafayette was the first to receive his promised appointment as major general (but with no command), probably due to a letter of support he carried from Franklin and Deane. Eventually, de Kalb, too, accepted appointment with seniority equal to Lafayette.

Then on March 20, 1778, a treaty of Alliance was signed by King Louis XVI, whereby France recognized the colonies as a sovereign nation. When
news of the Alliance reached America, there was much celebration. De Kalb, now reverted to an officer of the French Army, swore his Oath of Allegiance on May 12.

Although de Kalb had been in the American service since November 1777 and had shared the miseries of Valley Forge and, later, Morristown, his troops (one Delaware and seven Maryland Regiments; about 2,030 men), saw no action until the summer of 1780, when de Kalb was placed in command of the Southern Army. He fell during the Battle of Camden, South Carolina, where he met Cornwallis' troops on August 16. It was an astounding American defeat; but it left de Kalb the title of American hero.

Major Dubuysson, de Kalb's aide, reported on their treatment under the British, and of the Baron's last words:

Having received wounds in the action of the 16th instant, I was made a prisoner, with the Honorable Major-General the Baron de Kalb, with whom I served as aide-de-camp and friend, and had an opportunity of attending that great and good officer during the short time he languished ... It is with particular pleasure I obey the baron's last commands, in presenting his most affectionate compliments to all the officers and men of his division. He expressed the greatest satisfaction in the testimony given by the British army, of the bravery of his troops; and he was charmed with the firm opposition they made to superior force, when abandoned by the rest of the army. The gallant behavior of the Delaware regiment and the companies of artillery attached to the brigades, afforded him infinite pleasure. And the exemplary conduct of the whole division gave him an endearing sense of the merits of the troops he had the honor to command."

Friedrich Kapp then adds this:

Kalb was buried by his victorious adversaries, among whom there were many free masons, with military and Masonic honors.

On October 14, 1780, Congress resolved to raise a monument at Annapolis to de Kalb's memory: but the plan was not realized until 1886 when a life-size bronze statue was erected and unveiled by the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

The question of the Baron de Kalb's Masonic membership may never be satisfactorily solved. Several sources suggest membership in Army Lodge No. 29, "chartered by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania [April 27, 1780] in the Maryland Line (which de Kalb commanded)." The Transactions of the American Lodge of Research, Vol. 5, No. 2, mention de Kalb as a member of this Lodge. In any event, in 1825, the citizens and Masons of Camden raised their own monument: Quoting from Kapp:

The inhabitants of Camden and especially the Free Masons, of which fraternity Kalb had been a member, conceived the design of erecting a monument over his grave. The call issued by them met ... with the most enthusiastic reception and encouragement; almost every citizen of South Carolina furnished his contribution. ... General Lafayette, then on his visit to the United States ... [was] requested to lay the cornerstone. ...

On March 9, the monument was "inaugurated":

The procession was headed by volunteer soldier, followed by the Kershaw Lodge of Free Masons ... Then came the hearse with the ashes of Kalb. ... At the grave the remains were inearthed with Masonic ceremonies ... 

The event is confirmed in Gould's History of Freemasonry.

When he fell in battle, America lost a hero of the first magnitude. As Washington declared when he visited de Kalb's grave: "So here lies the brave de Kalb, the generous stranger who came from a distant land to fight our battles, and to water with his blood the tree of our liberty. Would to God he had lived to share with us its fruits!"

COMMUNICATION OR CHATTER?

by

Dr. Harold Blake Walker

Evanston Commandery No. 58, Illinois

Some time ago I clipped a cartoon picturing a father and a son working together on an old jalopy. The father, his face smeared with grease, remarked, “Son, do you know that we are really communicating?” The two were working, thinking and talking with their minds focused on a common project. They were sharing and communicating.

We communicate when we are working together on a project in which we are interested. It may be fixing a jalopy, painting the kitchen or planning a United Fund Drive. We are stimulated by a common objective. We may find areas of difference, but the differences are overcome as we think together and plan together to accomplish a common end.

Without some objective of mutual concern, conversation sometimes becomes a problem, like trying to open a can of beans without a can opener. Most of us have been at parties where we have found ourselves with strangers. Getting a conversation started is something of a chore. The weather and the problems of the RTA can take us only so far. Unfortunately, there isn’t much in the way of genuine communication.

If we are lucky enough to find some common interest, conversation gets off the ground; if not, we are likely to seek an exit. Now and then we blunder into someone who has developed the art of small talk and we find ourselves responding with our own small talk, anything from our latest automobile trip to the food at a local restaurant. Small talk keeps things from becoming utterly dull.

Small talk, however, has its limits. Now and then someone gets started and can’t seem to stop. The result is a monologue that is devoid of communication. A lady I once knew had a way of monopolizing a conversation, rambling on and on about anything from her dental problems to her grandchildren and from her neighbor’s affair to a stopped-up sink, all linked together with “and-a’s.” There was no stopping her once she got started.

I often wondered what made the lady tick the way she did. There is a clue, I think, in the comment of Theodore Isaac Rubin, M.D., who says that “Many people talk a great deal as a way of getting rid of anxiety.” They want “to be reassured, as a way of attempting to be liked.” Rubin went on to suggest that “Others talk to mask real feelings, as a way of fending people off, keeping many, many words between themselves and other people because the closeness of people is threatening to them.”

The trouble with non-stop talkers is that they thwart communication. Not only that, but we are totally uninterested in what they are saying. Their chatter defies conversation and leaves us standing or sitting mired in minutiae and drowning in triviality from which we find it difficult to escape without being impolite.

Equally as troubling are those whose conversation seems to be limited by “uha” and “I guess so” in response to any subject that is presented. Now and then I have listened to John D. Callaway → → →
interviews. Occasionally he finds himself struggling to elicit more than a mumbled "yes" or "no" from the interviewees, literally having to frame responses for them. It must be frustrating.

It is frustrating to communicate with anyone who is unable or unwilling to respond with anything more eloquent than a monosyllable. Communication is a two-way street wherein minds rub against each other and generate both heat and light. The lad and his father fixing a jalopy, grappling with their common problem, found their minds challenged and their conversation animated. Each had something meaningful to say to the other concerning their project.

One helpful conversationalist began a conversation that turned into communication when he talked about a recent trip to the Grand Canyon. Two others in the group had been there, too, and they found themselves sharing what they remembered about the canyon, the hotel in which they stayed, and the delight they shared on Bright Angel Trail descending into the canyon.

Occasionally we are fortunate enough to generate conversation dealing with ideas that inspire fruitful communication and we find ourselves making genuine contact with others on a meaningful level. When that happens, we feel rewarded and grateful.

The Reverend Walker lives at 425 Grove Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

Cabiri Breakfast

The Cabiri, International Past Potentates Association, will hold its 33rd Annual Breakfast on June 16, 1982, 7 a.m., in the Grand Republic Ballroom, 2nd Floor, Contemporary Resorts Hotel, Disney World, Florida. The event is sponsored during annual sessions of the Imperial Council, A.A.O.N.M.S., which meets this year June 14-18 in Orlando.

Roy Wilford Riegel Class a Success

The "Roy Wilford Riegel Class" commenced Saturday, April 24, in the Masonic Hall of the Pennsylvania Homes, Elizabeth-town, in "eastern Pennsylvania farmland country." As reported by Sir Knight C. Clark Julius, K.T.C.H., Grand Commander Burnell C. Stambaugh greeted the class of 67 candidates, followed by a full form opening by Bethel Commandery No. 98, Hanover. Sir Knights from Divisions 15 and 16 conferred the Order of the Red Cross, and the Order of Malta was presented by Templars from eastern and southern Pennsylvania. Some 250 Sir Knights attended, with 79 ladies also making the trip.

"Part 2" of the Class was held Saturday, May 1, at the Williamsport Scottish Rite Cathedral in the northeastern mountain section of Pennsylvania. Knights from Baldwin II Commandery No. 22 opened, and the Order of the Temple was conferred by Knights of Division 14, with Past Grand Master Roy Wilford Riegel taking the part of Commander. Forty-nine candidates were Knighted; 130 attended the conferral, including several Officers of the Grand Encampment and members of the Grand Line of Pennsylvania.

Citizen Fellow Award to Barr

Warren N. Barr, Sr., President of the Board of Trustees of Illinois Masonic Medical Center, elected to receive the distinguished Citizen Fellow Award from the Chicago Institute of Medicine, formally received the presentation May 12 at the Drake Hotel, Chicago. Announcement of the award had been made by Wallace D. Johnson at the Annual Meeting of the Board May 11.
WILLIAM GIBBES HUNT (1791-1833)

by
James R. Case, K.T.C.H.
Grand Historiographer of Connecticut

In the early 1800's, Lexington was the most flourishing settlement in eastern Kentucky. Literally at the crossroads of travel at that time, it was the center of agricultural, commercial and social activities, unrivaled until steamboat transportation on the Ohio river caused a shift in choice of traffic routes.

Here, Transylvania College, then Seminary, chartered by Virginia in 1780, became the first institution of higher learning in that part of the state "over the mountains," and Lexington became an educational and cultural center — the "Athens of the West." Present day Lexington lacks none of its early luster, having no superior in the variety and quality of products of farm and factory, and noted for other typical "Bluegrass" activities.

The advantages offered by such a thriving community attracted the attention of William Gibbes Hunt, a Harvard diplomat of 1810. He graduated from Harvard after finishing preparatory studies in the Boston Latin Grammar School of which his father was Principal. As a young journalist and law student, he came to Kentucky in 1813, earned a degree in law from Transylvania and began his career as writer and publisher. From his bookstore, law office and print shop, the first literary magazine of the region appeared, the Western Review and Miscellaneous Magazine. He became editor then owner of the newspaper Western Monitor. He later issued the Masonic Miscellany and Ladies Literary Magazine. He was also author of a now rare booklet, an Address on the Principles of Masonry.

Freemasons of Lexington were chartered as a regular Lodge in 1788, and, under aegis of the Grand Lodge, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was formed in 1814. Hunt's arrival in Lexington was closely followed by his appearance in both Davies Lodge and Lexington Chapter.

A move towards organization of a grand body for Chapters existing in Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee might have materialized except that Thomas Smith Webb, Deputy General Grand High Priest, heard of the proposal, came to Lexington, and through his persuasive personality obtained acquiescence of the Grand Lodge and organized a Grand Chapter for the state. William Gibbes Hunt was High Priest of Lexington Chapter, elected the first Grand King, and advanced to the office of Grand High Priest for 1822-23.

Jeremy Ladd Cross trailed Webb into Lexington, conferred the degrees of Royal and Select Masters on a number of qualified Royal Arch Masons, and later chartered a Council of Royal and Select Masters, according to his diary.

We must depend on indirect reference to support the belief that during Webb's sojourn in Lexington, a sufficient number of Knights Templar were created to warrant application for a dispensation to open a Commandery (then Encampment). A misprinted and widely reprinted date of the charter to Lexington was corrected by the late Sir Knight Wylie B. Wendt, and the date was confirmed as January 1, 1820.

A rather curious request is found in a follow-up letter from
Isaac Thomas to Webb, who had returned to Boston after his visit to Lexington and a check on his business interests at Worthington, Ohio. Isaac wrote that while the Lexington Templars expected a dispensation at Webb's earliest convenience, his presence was much more to be wished for, as they wanted to learn the ritual and receive his first hand instruction.

Hunt turned to greater opportunities in his chosen field of literary, Masonic and news publications and in 1824 removed to Nashville, Tennessee. He arrived there just in time to be chosen Orator during the tremendous civic and Masonic ovation arranged for the visit of Lafayette, May 4-5, 1825. Hunt was already known as a simple, forceful and vigorous speaker. He consecrated the Chapter organized at Nashville and was Grand High Priest of Tennessee in 1826-27; at the same time he served as the first T.I.M. of the Council of Royal and Select Masters. He owned and edited a newspaper, The Banner. He was eulogist at the commemorative exercises in Nashville following the coincidental deaths of former Presidents Adams and Jefferson on July 4, 1826.

Hunt attended the General Grand Chapter at New York in 1826 as the Grand High Priest of Tennessee and proxy for the Grand High Priest of Kentucky. He was then elected General Grand Marshal, but was not present and not re-elected at the 1829 Triennial, and is not further mentioned in Proceedings. He attended the concurrent Grand Encampment meetings in 1826 and was elected Grand Captain General. No mention of him appears in 1832, but in 1835 the Grand Recorder reported that Hunt had not responded to a request to report on the fees he had collected. But death intervened and the shortage forgiven and forgotten.

Templary followed the spread of Freemasonry into the then southwest, and the fact that he had collected some fees indicates that he did propagate the Order to some extent, quite possibly in Nashville. Hunt was an ardent admirer and supporter of Andrew Jackson and a staunch defender of the Fraternity during the anti-Masonic frenzy. In the midst of his activity, Hunt was called by the Grim Reaper during a cholera epidemic in 1833.

The death of Thomas Smith Webb which occurred unexpectedly at Cleveland, July 6, 1819, with re-interment at Providence some months later, prompted a number of memorial services. At Worthington, Brother and Right Reverend Philander Chase, Bishop of Ohio, officiated. At Boston, the Handel and Haydn Society and the Philharmonic Society joined the Grand Lodge in services. At Providence, the "Solemnization of Interment" was conducted by the Grand Master and Grand Chaplain, with the Psalmonian Society furnishing the music in the church and taking part in the large procession to the vault.

At Lexington, a great assembly was held. The Grand Chapter in session was joined by the Grand Lodge in procession from assembly rooms to the Episcopal church, where the services were conducted by the Grand Chaplain and the eulogy was pronounced by William Gibbes Hunt.

The death of Hunt left the promotion of Templary in the southwest to others, but they did not falter. Hunt's example, leadership and admonitions in speech and in print were forceful and helpful. In Tennessee the burden fell on Wilkins Tannehill, a co-worker and great Masonic leader in his day. While the Order suffered a grievous loss when Hunt died, the onward march of Templary was not halted. Our subject only lived on earth for 42 years, about the same life span as Webb's. In the eulogy lamenting the early death of a great leader in Templary, Hunt used words that might well be applied to his own — how melancholy!

Notes on William Gibbes Hunt's sojourn in Lexington, Kentucky, provided by Sir Knights J. Winston Coleman, Jr., and Charles K. A. McGaughery, are gratefully acknowledged by Sir Knight Case who resides at 55 Masonic Avenue, Apt. 302, Wallingford, Connecticut 06492.

June 1982
For the third year, a symbolic idea will again take shape in every city and most towns, villages and hamlets in the nation. At 4:00 p.m. EDT, Monday, June 14, the President of the United States has been invited to lead the country in a "Pause for the Pledge." The ultimate goal is to have 220 million Americans simultaneously pause to repeat the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" on Flag Day 1982.

Remember the national patriotic enthusiasm this nation reached after our Olympic hockey victory at Lake Placid? Who can forget the U.S. hockey player calling, "Where is my father? Where is my father?" after aiding in winning the gold medal for America, climaxing one of the proudest moments in sports history? The spectators shouting "U.S.A., U.S.A." were reminiscent of those throngs that greeted the returning hostages a year later. That pride and enthusiasm can be recalled by observing the "Pause for the Pledge."

General George S. Patton speaking to his troops during World War II stated, "When you return to the U.S., you brave men will breed more brave men."

An admiral who was a prisoner in Vietnam for seven years, stated he was "Grateful for every day of his life that he wakes up in the U.S.A." Another admiral commented upon his return to freedom after seven years of captivity, "God Bless America."

Clearly, the message stated by these heroes is that, as diverse and argumentative as we are, ours is still the best system on earth — a powerful reminder to all that Americans do have a great love for and pride in their country.

National trade associations, patriotic organizations and major business corporations have been spreading the idea of a "Pause for the Pledge" through publicity in their publications and notices to customers and employees. Baltimore, home of the Flag House, where Mary Pickersgill's flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key to write The Star Spangled Banner, realizes that if the country is to do well, Baltimore must lead the way in making "Pause for the Pledge" a success.

That undefinable spirit sparked across the whole spectrum of American people could ignite a reaction certain to cause a surge of national confidence and a reaffirmation of our love of country.

Great Americans have stated that patriotism belongs in our daily lives because it is part of the timeless fabric of the American dream and is the means whereby all citizens can express their gratitude for being Americans.

Let's show the world we still believe in these words. Fly your flag and say the Pledge at 4:00 p.m. EDT, on Flag Day. "One nation under God, indivisible."

Sir Knight Fritz lives at Mays Chapel Road, Lutherville, Maryland 21093.
Sir Knights Arthur B. Ledbetter (center), Visalia Commandery No. 26, and George C. Holstein (right), Fresno Commandery No. 29, were awarded the 1982 Knights Templar Cross of Honor at the 124th Conclave of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of California, at Sacramento, April 27. They are attended, above, by Sir Knight Chester R. Lindholm, E.C., Fresno No. 29.

Washington Statue to President Reagan

President Ronald Reagan was presented a statue of Brother George Washington in Masonic regalia by Stanley F. Maxwell, president of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, on the occasion of Washington's 250th birthday anniversary. The event took place in the Oval Office at the White House.

Riverside Chapter, Order of DeMolay, Columbia, Pennsylvania, has been honored by the participation of Knights Templar in full uniform during its Installation of Officers since 1965. That first year, Cyrene Commandery No. 34, the Chapter sponsors, was represented by three Past Commanders, with Sir Knight Paul C. Rodenhauser, then a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, serving as Installing Officer. Since 1969, an escort of four to fifteen Sir Knights has participated in installations.

Past Division Commander Walter E. Yohe, after eight years as a DeMolay District Deputy, serves again as Advisor of Riverside Chapter. He says, "All Commanderies should be involved with Chapter installations in their areas. It has greatly improved Chapter discipline and respect." Harry E. Gohn, Eminent Commander in 1962 when the Chapter charter was received, is back as Chairman of the Advisory Council.

P.C. Gerald E. Johns was a recent Installing Officer, assisted by Harry M. Baritch, Jr., Earl L. Gerfen, John Leithiser, and George R. Weaver, Past Commanders; Eminent Commander Dale H. Fantom; and Generalissimo Raymond E. Fantom.
65 Years in Royal Arch Masonry

Sir Knight Alvah Kaylor (center) was honored for 65 years of membership in Royal Arch Masonry at an April 14 dinner sponsored by Barry Chapter No. 88, R.A.M. He is pictured with William Dean Jarrett (left), Grand Scribe of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois, who made the presentation in behalf of the Grand Chapter, and Dr. Bill E. Doyle, District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 6th Western District of Illinois. Sir Knight Kaylor also received 65-year jewels from his Lodge and Eastern Star Chapter on this occasion.

A past presiding officer of Lodge and each York Rite body, Sir Knight Kaylor is a member of Illinois Priory No. 11, K.Y.C.H. He was commissioned a Grand Lecturer by the Grand Chapter of Illinois in 1929 and served on its Board of Examiners for a number of years.

Installed President, Council of Bishops

Bishop Finis A. Crutchfield, Houston, Texas, a member of Muskogee Commandery No. 2, Oklahoma, was recently installed as President of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church. Past Commander and Recorder of Muskogee No. 2, Ned T. Prater, relays the information with the comment, “We are happy to have this distinguished Sir Knight as a member of our Commandery.”

White Shrine Installation

Marguerite White, Roswell, New Mexico, took office as new Worthy High Priestess of Artesia Shrine, White Shrine of Jerusalem, following installation ceremonies on March 28. Also installed were James A. White (member of Rio Hondo Commandery No. 6, Roswell), Watchman of Shepherds; Opal Funk, Noble Prophetess; and Joe Funk, Associate Watchman of Shepherds.

Past Supreme Worthy High Priestess Frances Auinger of Sun City, Arizona, served as installing officer. She is pictured above with Sir Knight and Mrs. White.

York Rite Class Honors Harold Kelley

York Rite bodies throughout Florida have been invited to sponsor candidates for the “Harold W. Kelley One-Day York Rite Festival” scheduled to take place June 5 in Orlando, Florida. The Festival will precede the June 6 Statewide Shrine Ceremonial to be held in honor of Potentate Randy Thomas.

Sir Knight Kelley, known as “Florida’s Mister Mason,” has been active in the Fraternity for 53 years. Among his extensive Masonic credentials, he is a Past District Deputy Grand High Priest, Past Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council, R. & S.M., and holds the Grand Knight York Cross of Honour.
14th Voluntary Campaign Tally

As of May 7, 1982, contributions to the 14th Annual Knights Templar Eye Foundation Voluntary Campaign total $689,450.42, with the final week yet to be recorded. The total contributions for the 13th Annual Campaign were $690,543.89.

Alabama .................. $3,310.26
Arizona .................. 17,226.80
Arkansas .................. 7,268.90
California .................. 15,926.69
Colorado .................. 24,448.83
Connecticut .................. 6,414.36
District of Columbia ........... 7,789.00
Florida .................. 16,530.04
Georgia .................. 33,054.14
Idaho .................. 4,220.48
Illinois .................. 15,924.25
Indiana .................. 5,030.50
Iowa .................. 10,980.02
Kansas .................. 2,124.00
Kentucky .................. 9,538.96
Louisiana .................. 4,823.85
Maine .................. 2,445.32
Maryland .................. 24,762.88
Massachusetts-Rhode Island .... 25,357.70
Michigan .................. 37,271.25
Minnesota .................. 11,876.50
Mississippi .................. 3,314.48
Missouri .................. 4,530.93
Montana .................. 7,147.89
Nebraska .................. 1,601.00
Nevada .................. 15,989.54
New Hampshire .................. 2,170.00
New Jersey .................. 5,270.35
New Mexico .................. 2,154.10
New York .................. 14,296.69
North Carolina .................. 4,617.40
North Dakota .................. 1,529.20
Ohio .................. 44,309.34
Oklahoma .................. 1,907.53
Oregon .................. 7,978.90
Pennsylvania .................. 46,304.80
South Carolina .................. 9,570.21
South Dakota .................. 1,769.07
Tennessee .................. 36,878.71
Texas .................. 149,361.11
Utah .................. 2,962.15
Vermont .................. 2,990.05
Virginia .................. 10,120.20
Washington .................. 2,558.00
West Virginia .................. 6,127.65
Wisconsin .................. 5,728.30
Wyoming .................. 5,432.54
St. John’s No. 1 ............... 380.00
Wilmington, Delaware

Knights Templar Eye Foundation
New Club Memberships

Grand Commander’s Club:

New York No. 18 — Henry Lausenberg
Texas No. 31 — John W. James

Grand Master’s Club:

No. 365 — Claud L. Austin (TX)
No. 366 — Daniel S. Johnson, Jr. (CA)
No. 367 — Roger H. Crockett (ME)
No. 368 — Daniel M. Clapham (IN)

How to Join: Any individual may send a check in the amount of $100 or more to begin membership in the Grand Commander’s Club. With this initial contribution, the member pledges to make additional annual contributions of $100 or more. When Grand Commander’s Club contributions total $1,000 — or when a single $1,000 contribution is made — the individual is then enrolled in the Grand Master’s Club.

Membership is open year round to individuals only (no groups), and there is no Commandery credit given for Club participation.

Additional information on membership in either Club may be obtained by contacting G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., Executive Director, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705. Or call: 217-523-3838.

Honolulu No. 1, Hawaii .................. 11.25
Panama Canal No. 1, Republic of Panama .................. 2,499.85
Porto Rico No. 1, Puerto Rico .................. 711.50
Anchorage No. 2, Alaska .................. 230.00
Tokyo No. 1, Japan .................. 80.00
Bavaria No. 3, Munich, Germany .................. 210.00
Hermann von Salza No. 1, Frankfurt, Germany .................. 90.00
Heidelberg No. 2, Germany .................. 840.00
St. Andrew’s No. 2, Dover, Delaware .................. 298.05
Miscellaneous .................. 2,165.00

June 1982
Most of us, no matter what our age, can relate to the basic, simplistic, old-fashioned adages taught us as being valid truths.

I can relate to "a loud laugh speaks of a vacant mind," or "live and let live," or "first things first," or "nothing beats common sense." These adages were taught to me by my mother and father although a few came from my early grade school teachers.

Likewise, most of us, no matter how long we have been Masons, can also relate to the basic, old-fashioned Masonic adages. I can relate to "meet on the level, part on the square," or "two balls and a cane," or "Brothers," or "coming to the point," or "a traveled man," or "sat in the East." Most of these were taught to me by my fellow Brethren, or I picked them up in Masonic discussions.

We hear a lot of talk these days about the extreme loss of membership in our Masonic fraternity. The reasons given are almost as numerous as our membership.

Lots of solutions to the loss problem are presented by concerned Masons. Many have merit; many don't. By far too many have a negative approach to solving the problem; far too few have a positive approach. What is even worse is the lack of concern by many Brothers, period.

The solution to the membership loss problem is possible if we take a positive approach by getting "back to basics." We must "plan our work and work our plan." We must "keep it simple." "Take one step at a time" and "make the most of it." Search out prospective Masons in "your own backyard" or "girdle the globe" in search of them. "Preach the gospel" to prospective candidates when asked to do so. Probably the best approach to solving our problem is "don't put off until tomorrow what we can do today."

It is interesting to note that the more complicated a problem appears to be, the more complicated the approach we take to solve it. We need only to look at the federal budget as an example of a complex problem and witness the different approaches recommended by government economists for solving it.

It is likewise interesting that the more complicated a problem becomes, the greater our tendency to shy away from trying to solve that problem. We think that if we forget about or don’t concern ourselves with a problem, it will disappear.

What is the best approach to solving our Masonic membership problem? Is it a simple or a complex one? Does it merit our concern or should we simply forget about it? Where do we begin, and who does the beginning?

Let us try to answer these foregoing questions by getting "back to the basics." The Masonic membership perplexity is complicated, not simple. It does merit the concern of each and every Mason, and we cannot forget it for it’s here to stay. We must begin now, not tomorrow, in trying to solve the problem, and we all must do the beginning.

We must first consider the fundamental reasons for a loss of membership for we must seek out the causes of our illness before we can cure it.

High death rate is the largest contributing factor to...
Masonic membership loss. While it is true our members have a longer life expectancy now, this did nothing but delay the onset of the loss.

Many Masons will say you can do nothing about a high death loss and they are technically correct. We can do something about the consequences of a high death loss, however. How? By simply going back to the old Masonic adage, "replace yourself and add one to grow on." This means each Mason must be responsible for one new Mason to replace himself and another for the Fraternity to grow on. If every Mason were responsible for adding two new Masons during his lifetime, the Fraternity would not only endure but grow forever.

Suspensions due to non-payment of dues is the second largest contributing factor to our membership loss. Many Masons will argue that you can do nothing about suspensions, but that is sheer nonsense. We can do something about suspensions if we again go "back to the basics" and search out the about-to-be suspended members before they are suspended. Once they are identified, contact them and find out why they are either knowingly or unknowingly dropping out.

If money or poor health is a problem, remit their dues. If dues notices have been sent to a wrong address, or if the notices are just being ignored, visit these Brothers in person and don’t leave until you get their dues payment.

If the about-to-be suspended members are just sick and tired of paying dues and never attending Lodge, the "back to the basics" rule is still applicable. Simply tell them we need them even if they don’t want to participate. After all, the Masonic Fraternity has never had an attendance requirement to my knowledge and the card-carrying members are unfortunately way and above in the majority. Tell them that the benefits of brotherly love, making good men better, fraternalism, esprit de corps and the pride in living and dying a Mason are the important reasons for continuing in Masonry.

Demits are a large contributor to Masonic membership loss. This is an area over which we have little control as we come into Masonry of our "own free will and accord" and are entitled to leave in the same manner. We can and should ask why Masons are requesting demits, however. Oftentimes it is because they are upset with other members because they weren’t patronized in business or because they were supposedly wronged by a Brother. Remind them that when they take a demit they lose all the privileges of the Fraternity such as visiting Lodges, benefits to themselves and their families and Masonic burial. The old cliche, “once a Mason, always a Mason” does not apply if they demit, and they should be informed of that fact before they are given their demit.

Raising more Masons is the most important aspect of solving our Masonic membership loss problem. It is the area in which you and I can be most effective if we will only try. We must be successful if Masonry is to survive in its present form.

We must encourage, but not solicit or persuade, our good friends, brothers, brothers-in-law, fathers, fathers-in-law, sons, sons-in-law, cousins and uncles to inquire about becoming Masons if we know they would be a credit to the Fraternity. Think of the worthy men who go through their entire lives without ever reaping the benefits of our great Masonic Fraternity simply because, “Nobody ever asked me.”

The Masonic Fraternity competes with television and other forms of family entertainment today. Sociologists tell us that the man who stays home and watches TV sees all sorts of sports, movies, specials, and feels his horizons are broader as a result of his viewing and can care less about going to a Monday night Lodge meeting when he can watch Monday night football.
We can use television to work for us instead of against us in our membership efforts, however. We can put thirty- and sixty-second "spots" depicting important Masonic personages on TV. Some of these spots can be paid for and some can be public service announcements. The Masonic film, "Symbol of Pride" is an example of an ideal movie for TV viewing because it is just the right length for a thirty-minute TV segment including advertising time for the sponsors. Using these and other ideas, TV could very well prove to be the best membership tool ever devised.

We must look to our Masonic leaders in solving our membership dilemma. They must dedicate themselves to a positive and optimistic long range plan of action. The membership programs they adopt must be in accord with the future programs of their successors, however, or the best-laid plans are doomed to fail.

Once long-range membership plans have been adopted by our Grand Lodge, York and Scottish Rite and Shrine leaders, these leaders should communicate, cooperate and coordinate their plans of action. They should search for plans that unite rather than divide. Subsequently these should be communicated through the membership chairmen of the respective organizations to their members. It is up to the membership chairmen to induce the rank and file members into action.

The "back to the basics" rule applies when choosing membership chairmen as well. They should have the ability to hold a course of action and should have the rare qualities of being level-headed and middle-of-the-roaders as well as being able to motivate and stimulate people.

When ideal membership chairmen are chosen, we must provide them with an adequate budget. The best membership chairmen will not be successful without money to implement their plans.

Probably the most essential ingredient for a successful membership program is maintaining perspective. While we will have temporary setbacks because of Masonic leaders who are simply not interested in the problem, others will follow who are interested. We should not become excited and stampede into unwise decisions resulting in immediate gains while sacrificing long-range plans. We should look way down the road as we determine our course of action.

In conclusion we should keep in mind that the "back to the basics" plan is not only for the Lodge; it is also for the York and Scottish Rites and the Shrine. We should be ever mindful that the Lodge comes first, however. This philosophy doesn't diminish nor demean the credit due concordant bodies for their great accomplishment and stature. It simply means we have to build up by going back to our old "Mother Lodge." The working tools we find there were meant for us to use in building temples of charity, brotherly love and morality in our hearts. These tools were also meant for use in building those temples in the hearts of other men by bringing those other men into the Fraternity with us. So Mote It Be.

Dr. Anthony Ilves at 801 A Avenue, N.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402.
Initial Support from Knights Templar Eye Foundation Leads to Federal Grant

Mr. Burnell C. Stambaugh
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Knights Templar of Pennsylvania
Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

Dear Mr. Stambaugh:

You will be pleased to know that I have just received a grant from the National Eye Institute of the HEW Public Health Service to continue my work on the liposome project involving corneal virus infections. The award totaling $223,030 will be for a three-year period beginning April 1982.

I cannot begin to tell you how important a role was played by the Knights Templar in making this award possible. Their grant of $29,420 in October of 1980 made it possible to perform important basic experiments and accomplishments that became the foundation for the present grant proposal. Without the support from the Knights Templar, this grant would not have been possible. My colleagues and I again wish to express our gratitude and our thanks.

(signed)
Theodore W. Sery, Ph.D.
Director of Basic Research
Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia

St. John’s Centennial Banquet

Kenneth C. Johnson, M.E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, was guest speaker at the 100th Anniversary banquet of St. John’s Commandery No. 11 of Windham, Connecticut, April 26. A large delegation of Sir Knights and ladies were present, including the newly-installed Grand Commander of Connecticut and his wife — Sir Knight and Mrs. Leonard D’Amico; also Northeastern Department Commander and Mrs. William D. Geesey; and Sir Knight James R. Case, Grand Historiographer of Connecticut and internationally-recognized Masonic scholar.

The Grand Master congratulated the Sir Knights of St. John’s Commandery and encouraged them “to expand the influence of Templary in their community and state during the next 100 years.”

Missouri No. 36 100th Anniversary Coin

As part of its 100th Anniversary, celebrated May 3, 1982, Missouri Commandery No. 36 has had a nickel-silver commemorative coin prepared. One side has the Templar cross and crown and the words, “In Hoc Signo Vinces”; the other carries the legend, “Missouri Commandery No. 36, Knights Templar, Marshall, Missouri” and “100th Anniversary 1882 to 1982.”

Coins are available at a cost of $3.50 each, and checks made payable to “Missouri Commandery No. 36, K.T.” may be sent to Past Commander L. C. Saverda, P.O. Box 626, Marshall, Missouri 65340.

June 1982
A man and a fort...

ST. ELMO

prepared by
Sir Knight Cyril H. York, P.C.
St. Elmo Commandery No. 12, Hyattsville, Maryland

In order of popularity, the most common names used for Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar are: Ivanhoe, Palestine, DeMolay, Malta, Cyrene, Calvary and Trinity. These names denote men or events of historical and religious importance well known to the reader. The next most popular choice for Commandery name is St. Elmo, taken by fourteen Constituent bodies. In the following, Sir Knight York discloses some biographical and historical background on this little known name.

St. Elmo

Spanish and Portuguese sailors have great veneration for Blessed Peter Gonzales, whom they invoke as St. Elmo or St. Telmo — a pseudonym which he shares with another patron Saint of Mariners, St. Erasmus. Peter came of a noble Castilian family and was educated by his maternal uncle, the Bishop of Astorga, a man more concerned with material than spiritual advancement. Appointed Canon of the Cathedral while still under age, the young Peter came proudly riding into Astorga on Christmas Day in splendid array to assume his new dignity.

Great, however, was his mortification when his horse stumbled and threw him into the mire amid the jeers of the populace. “If the world mocks at me, I will mock at the world,” he is reported to have exclaimed in words which were prophetic; for the incident opened Peter’s eyes to his own vanity and led to a complete change of heart. Resigning his office, he entered the Order of St. Dominic, and in due time he was professed and sent forth to preach.

From the outset his ministrations were abundantly blessed. King Ferdinand III was so impressed by him that he appointed him his Chaplain. The Friar immediately set about reforming the morals of the Courtiers and the Soldiers — a most difficult task in the face of great opposition from the younger nobles.

He also preached the crusade against the Moors and contributed much to the success of Ferdinand’s campaigns by his prudent advice, his prayers and by the good spirit he instilled. He was with the army during the siege of Cordova, and at the surrender of the city exerted all his influence to restrain the victorious soldiers from excesses, while the clemency of the terms granted to the vanquished must be attributed in a large measure to him.

As soon as he could obtain leave, Peter quitted the court to devote the rest of his life to evangelizing the country districts. Often the Churches could not contain the people who flocked to hear him, and he had to preach in the open air. Legend has it that he especially loved sailors, whom he visited on board their vessels. His last weeks on earth were spent at Tuy, where he died on Easter Sunday, 1246. He is buried in the Cathedral at Tuy, and was beatified in 1254 by Pope Innocent IV.

(St. Elmo’s fire is a pale electrical discharge sometimes seen on stormy nights on the tips of spars, about the decks and rigging of ships, in the shape of a ball or brush, particularly at the

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mastheads and yardarms. Mariners believed this to be the souls of the departed, whence they are also called corsosant.)

(above from Butler’s Lives of the Saints)

**Defense Of Fort St. Elmo**

The White Cross of the Order of St. John waved over the towers of Rhodes for 255 years. In 1552, after a desperate resistance, the Turks, under the Sultan Solyman the Magnificent, succeeded in driving the Knights Hospitalers from their beautiful home.

They were resolved, however, to continue the work of protecting the Mediterranean travellers, and accepted as a gift from the Emperor Charles V the Island of Malta for their new station. It was a great contrast to their former home, being little more than a rock rising steeply out of the sea — white, glaring, and with very shallow earth, unfit to grow crops, though it produced plenty of oranges, figs and melons. It had very little water and no wood. The buildings were wretched and mostly uninhabited. The few people who did live there were mostly Arab, Greek and Sicilian. They were constantly oppressed by Moorish pirates.

It was a poor exchange for the fertile fields of Rhodes, which was about five times larger. But the Knights needed a hospital, a fortress and a harbor. After attending to the first two, they found a good harbor on the northern shore. Within only a few years the dreary island became a notable city, with fine castle-like houses, infirmaries and churches fenced in with walls and battlements. The harbors were filled with war vessels, and deep vaults hollowed out of the rock were used to store supplies to withstand a possible siege.

The red flag with the eight-pointed cross could be seen all over the island. When there was a disaster in Italy or Sicily, the Knights were on hand to relieve them. In every battle with the Turks or Moors, the Knights were in the midst of the fray to aid the peaceful merchants. They became the terror of the raiders.

Solyman the Magnificent decided to sweep these obstinate Christians from the seas, and 12 years after their arrival at Malta, he prepared an enormous fleet, which he united with the Barbary pirates, and placed under the command of Mustapha and Piali, his two bravest Pashas, and Dragut the terrible Algerian. Dragut had already attacked the island but had been defeated by the English Knight, Sir Nicholas Upton.

The Grand Master of the Order of St. John was Jean Parisot de la Valette, noted for his piety and tenderness as well as for his great courage. It was up to him to see to the defense of the island. After he learned of the intended attack, he summoned the Knights and, warning them of the danger, said, “A formidable army and a band of barbarians are about to burst on this island. Brethren, they are the enemies of Jesus Christ. The question is the defense of the faith.” After speaking this warning, he led the way to the church, and there was not a Knight who did not confess and receive Holy Communion after which they were as new men.

The chief harbor of Malta is a deep bay, divided into two large bays by a large tongue of rock. On the point of this rock stood a strong castle called Fort St. Elmo. There were other points in the Harbor to be guarded — two smaller fortifications, Fort Ricasoli to the west and II Borgo. All of the other forts and the island itself depended on St. Elmo. To defend all this, the Grand Master had 700 Knights and 8,500 soldiers. He sent messages to summon all those who were dispersed in other Commanderies in France, Spain and Germany. He also entreated aid from King Philip II of Spain who considered himself the champion of Roman Catholic Christendom. The Duke of Alva, who was Viceroy for Philip in Sicily, said that he
would send help if they could hold Fort St. Elmo till the fleet could be gathered. On the 18th of May, 1565, the Turkish fleet came into view. It consisted of 159 ships, rowed by Christian slaves. It carried 30,000 Janissaries and Saphis, the terrible warriors to whom the Turks owed most of their victories. After them came a multitude of ships loaded with horses and heavy battering cannon.

The Janissaries were bound by a strict brotherhood of arms. They were not married, so they cared for nothing but each other, the Sultan and the honor of the troop. They were ferocious warriors, and almost equally dreaded were the Saphis, who were known as great plunderers.

These troops were chiefly for the land attack and were put ashore at Fort St. Thomas where Mustapha and Piali held Council to decide when to attack. Piali wished to wait for Dragut, but Mustapha was afraid that the Spanish fleet would arrive. He insisted on laying siege to Fort St. Elmo which he did not think could hold out more than five or six days. Fort St. Elmo could hold only some 300 men who were the bravest of the Knights. The Fort was attacked from the land side, so at night the defenders could put off boats to confer with the Grand Master. The Turks fired their cannon on the fortifications, and a breach was opened in a few days. That night, when the usual boatloads of wounded were brought from the Fort, the Bailiff of Negropont sent the Knight La Cerda to the Grand Master to give an account and to ask for help. La Cerda spoke strongly and before a great number of Knights, said that there was no chance of the place holding out for more than a week.

La Valette well knew the extreme situation but was hoping they could somehow hold out till the Sicilian fleet should set sail. The Grand Master was one who would ask no one to go where he would not go, and he was determined to defend St. Elmo, rather to be buried in the ruins than to leave the barbarians free a moment sooner so that they could attack the other forts. But the Knights would not let this happen. There were so many Knights who volunteered for this desperate service that it was difficult to choose from among them.

The next day there was a respite, when a cannon shot from Fort St. Angelo fell into the enemy camp and shattered a stone which splintered and struck down Piali Pasha. He was at first thought to be dead, and their camp and fleet were thrown into confusion. This lull enabled the Grand Master to send his nephew to Messina to try to get the Sicilians to dispatch their fleet at once, or, at least, to send the two ships which belonged to the Order and were loaded with Knights who had arrived from distant lands, to come to St. Elmo at once.

The Viceroy informed him that the ships would sail by June 15 and exhorted him to hold the Fort.

Again the sea was specked with white sails. There were six galleys from Egypt bearing 900 Mameluke horsemen. And the fleet came from the South bearing 600 Moors from Tripoli under Dragut himself.

After reviewing the situation, Dragut did not approve of having begun the siege by attacking St. Elmo. He thought the inland towns should have been attacked first. Mustapha offered to discontinue the attack, but Dragut said it could not now be done with honor, and attacked even more furiously than ever.

The 15th of June passed and nothing could be done to move the Sicilian Viceroy. Nor would he allow the ships of war belonging to the Order to sail loaded with their own Knights. Still the Fort that was expected to hold out for only a week had held for more than a month.

At last Dragut, though severely wounded, set up a battery on a hill commanding the strait. This
prevented help from reaching the Fort by water and it also meant the Knights could not bring out their wounded who now had to be laid in the Chapel.

It was the night of June 23 when the brave men knew that their time had come. They prayed all night and prepared themselves to die by giving each other the last rites of the church and in the morning went to their posts. By the middle of the day every Christian Knight in St. Elmo was dead at his post, and the pile of ruins was in enemy hands. Dragut died of his wounds but lived long enough to hear that the Fort was won. The battle had cost the Sultan 8,000 men!

The siege of Il Borgo went on for three months longer with battles daily, but still no help came from Spain. It is believed that Philip II thought that the Turks would exhaust themselves against the Order and forbade the Viceroy to hazard the fleet. He was finally shamed into permitting the armament to be fitted out. Two hundred Knights waited at Messina, in great despair because they were not able to assist their brethren.

At last on September 12 the fleet sailed. They landed 6,000 men and then returned to Sicily. The news of their approach spread panic among the Turkish soldiers now exhausted from the long siege. They abandoned their heavy artillery, removed the garrison from St. Elmo and re-embarked in great haste and confusion. No sooner was the Pasha in his ship, however, than he became ashamed when he learned that his 16,000 men had been put to flight by 6,000. He resolved to give battle but his men were angry and unwilling and had to be put out of the ships by force.

In the meantime the Grand Master had again put a garrison in Fort St. Elmo, which had been greatly repaired and restored by the Turks, so that once more the Cross of St. John was waving to greet the Spanish allies. A battle was fought and the Turks were defeated.

After a four-month siege, walls were shattered and streets destroyed by the heavy artillery. Of the whole garrison, only 600 were left able to bear arms, and, for the most part, they were covered with wounds. The newcomers could not hold back tears and all proceeded to the church to return thanks for the conclusion of their perils and afflictions. Rejoicing spread all over Europe, especially in Italy, Spain and Southern France where the Order of St. John was the sole protection against the Barbary corsairs. The Pope sent La Valette a Cardinal’s hat but the Grand Master would not accept it, claiming it was unsuited to his office.

Philip II sent him a jewelled sword and dagger. La Valette replied that many plain swords sent several months earlier would have been more acceptable, and a better testimony of the King’s constancy to the many brave men whose lives were lost by the cruel delay of Spain.

Il Borgo was afterward called Cita Vittoriosa, but La Valette decided to build the chief town on the peninsula on which stood Fort St. Elmo. In this work, he spent his latter days until his death by sunstroke, while superintending the new works of the city that is now known as Valetta in his memory.

The Order of St. John was finally swept from Malta in the general confusion of revolutionary wars. Britain now owns Malta, but the steep rocks will always bear the memory of the self-devoted endurance of the beleaguered Knights – especially those who perished at Fort St. Elmo.

The above was condensed from the MASONIC REVIEW AND KEYSTONE, published in 1867. Sir Knight York lives at 503 Greenbrier Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

60 Years a Mason

Hope Lodge No. 124, F. & A.M., Lincoln Park, New Jersey, sponsored a dinner-reception for Worshipful Stanley P. Matthews on May 19, marking his 60th year in Masonry.
In Memoriam — James A. Buford

James A. Buford, Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar and, at the time of his death, Intendant General of Red Cross of Constantine in Tennessee, was buried May 2 with graveside services at Greenwood Cemetery, Chattanooga. He passed away after an apparent heart attack on April 30, at the age of 81.

Sir Knight Buford was Raised in Chattanooga Lodge No. 199 in 1922, serving as Worshipful Master in 1927, later District Chairman for Grand Lodge.

In 1938 he was Knighted in Lookout Commandery No. 14, and he was elected Grand Commander of Tennessee in 1979.

He was also Past Prior of Tennessee Priory No. 15, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, and Past Sovereign of St. Gregory Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine. He was a Past Grand Master of the Grand Council, R. & S.M., Tennessee, and received the 33rd, Inspector General Honorary, of the A. & A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction.

Father’s Day Remembered

Charles S. “Tiny” Spencer, after a long record with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, died April 20 at Toppenish, Washington, at the age of 78. One of his daughters, Mrs. Jean Sweeney, Alameda, California, writes: “My dad was a very tall man and the year he was the Commander of Knights Templar at Lander, Wyoming, he and several other Knights all in their plumed chapeaus visited our little Episcopal Church at Ft. Washakie. It was splendid. The church has a large picture window giving a magnificent view of the Wind River Range. It was rare to have curtains open because the sun melts the candles, but on this day it was so special the curtains were open. What a memory!”

Daniel R. Smith
Wyoming
Grand Captain General — 1982
Born January 28, 1913
Died March 24, 1982

Walter Henry Stanford
Virginia
Grand Commander — 1964
Born April 9, 1898
Died April 4, 1982

Coy Edward Zachry
Tennessee
Grand Commander — 1960
Born October 12, 1896
Died April 17, 1982

Virgil Connor Tottman
Maine
Grand Commander — 1970
Born June 15, 1909
Died April 19, 1982

James Ambrose Buford
Tennessee
Grand Commander — 1979
Born April 1, 1901
Died April 30, 1982

Earl Franklin Torell
Illinois
Grand Commander — 1979
Born April 5, 1919
Died May 7, 1982

A journey’s end, a life well-filled
A burden bravely borne
Now at the closing of the day,
Tired and weak and worn
With labor for their fellowmen
And world with heart strings torn,
A kindly hand has led the way
To other spheres more bright
And, in the passing of our friends
We will not call it night
For God above, around us all,
From gloom will bring the light

— Anon
Chapter IV (continued)

MEDIEVAL KNIGHTHOOD
AND FREEMASONRY

In a discussion of his theory on the origin of the Masonic Templar Order (presented last month), R. E. A. Land calls attention to the existence of Scotch Masonic Lodges and particularly the degree of Knights of St. Andrew, which had been established in France by Irish and Scotch Jacobite leaders who did not find the French nationalistic tinge of the non-masonic “Ordre du Temple” suitable for their purposes. These Scotch lodges were used as political headquarters for the propagation of the interests of the Stuart Cause.

Chevalier Ramsey, an Englishman who made his home in France probably because of his Jacobite sympathies, was a leader in the movement which resulted in the formation of many of the higher Masonic and Templar degrees. Following his oration before the Grand Lodge of Paris in 1737, various elements combined to form the composite picture which we now call the Malta Templar Order.

From the Knights of St. Andrew and the Scottish Lodges come the Masonic component. Ramsey was of the opinion that Freemasonry had come down from the remote past and had been restored at the time of the Crusades in the Holy Land. It was his theory that all Freemasons had originally been Knights. From the grade of Elu, or that of Kadosh, with a change in the martyred victim, came the theory of Templary vengeance. From the Order of Malta came the chivalric character. From the “Ordre du Temple” came the Templar name, the DeMolay tradition and a theory of transmission. By 1743, the new Order began its extension over the continent. The old Knight Templar name was adopted to aid its reception in England. Because the Jacobite cause was already popular in Ireland, there could be no doubt of its acceptance there.

Crawley, however, is of the opinion that Chevalier Ramsey’s activities in Freemasonry had no influence whatever upon the establishment of Templary in Ireland and England, pointing out that the Templar work and ritual in those countries differed materially from that on the continent.

2. “Ordre Du Temple” in France

The “French theory” that the Order was not destroyed by the acts of Clement V and Philip IV, but continued on in France, has many advocates. It is mainly supported by the supposed “Charter of Transmission,” which is as follows:

Charter of Transmission

“I, Brother John Mark Larmenius, of Jerusalem, by the grace of God, and by the most secret decree of the venerable and most holy martyr, Grand Master of the Militia of the Temple (to whom be honor and glory), confirmed by the Common Council of the Brethren, invested with the Supreme and Grand Mastership over the universal Order of the Temple, to all who shall see these secretory letters, thrice greeting:

“Be it known to all, both present and future, that with declining strength, owing to extreme age, and having duly considered the perplexity of affairs, and the weight of government, for the greater glory of God, the protection and safety
of the Order, of the brethren, and of the statutes, I, the aforesaid, humble Master of the Militia of the Temple, having resolved to deposit the Grand Mastershup in more able hands;

"Therefore, by the help of God, and with the unanimous consent of the Knights of the Grand Convent, I have conferred, and by this present decree do confer for life the Grand Master-ship, authority, and privileges of the Order of the Temple upon the eminent Commander, and my very dear brother, FRANCIS THOMAS THEOBALD, of Alexandria, with power, according to the laws of the time and affairs, to confer the Supreme and Grand Mastershup and supreme authority of the Order of the Temple on another brother, eminently endowed with nobility of the institution and of quality, and with probity of manners. Wherefore, for the perpetuity of the Mastership, that the line of successors may be uninterrupted, and for upholding the integrity of the statutes, I also decree that the Mastership be not transferred without the consent of the General Convent of Fellow-Soldiers of the Temple, as often as it shall be necessary to assemble this Grand Convent, and matters being thus arranged amongst them, a successor may be elected at the will of the Knights.

"And lest the duties of the supreme office languish, let there be now and perpetually four Deputy Grand Masters, having supreme power, eminence, and authority over the universal Order, saving the rights of the Grand Master, which Deputy Masters are to be elected from among the seniors according to the rank of profession. Which statute I commend to the brethren of our aforesaid sacred, worshipful, and most happy Master, the Martyr (to whom be honor and glory). Amen.

"Lastly, with the decree of the Grand Convent of the Brethren, by my supreme delegated authority, I will, declare, and decree the Scotch Templars deserters of the Order, cast off with an anathema, they and their brethren of St. John of Jerusalem, despoilers of the dominions of the Militia (to whom may God show mercy), without the pale of the Temple, now and for ever.

"Therefore I have appointed signs, unknown to and out of the reach of the false brethren, to be orally delivered by Fellow-Soldiers, and in the manner that in the Grand Convent it has already been pleased to deliver them.

“But which signs are only communicated after due profession and consecration as a Knight, according to the statutes, rites, and usages of Fellow-Soldiers of the Temple, transmitted by me to the aforesaid eminent Commander, as I have had them delivered into my hands from the Worshipful Master and most holy Martyr (to whom be honor and glory). Let it be done as I have said. Let it be done. Amen.

"Given by me, John Mark Larmenius, the 13th day of February, 1324."

It is presumed that Jacques DeMolay, in anticipation of his death, appointed John Mark Larmenius to be his successor as Grand Master of the Order. In 1324 by this "Charter of Transmission," authority was further transferred to Francis Thomas Theobald. On the basis of this transfer of authority, a regular and uninterrupted line of Grand Masters (see Appendix V) was maintained down to Sir William Sidney Smith who assumed the office of Grand Master in 1838. Following his death in 1840, no further Grand Masters were appointed; there being then a Grand Master in each country in which the Templar Order was maintained as a Masonic organization.

(continued)
I am working on my family tree and would appreciate information on Edward Wilson Stonehill, wife Elnora, probably deceased, who lived in Ohio (somewhere around Ada, Rawson, Lima, etc.). Their daughter, my mother, was named Luella Mae Stonehill. Ronald Combs, 711 S.W. Second, Hamlin, Texas 79520

Handcrafted, authentic, Zuni Indian made. Shriner’s lapel pin or tie tack; silver with turquoise, coral, onyx and mother-of-pearl inlays; size: 1” by ½”; priced: $60.00. John F. Wolf, P.O. Box 927, Crossroads, New Mexico 88114 (Telephone: 505-675-2480)

Looking for a source of U.S. coins (usually pennies) that have been stamped or embossed with Masonic or Shrine emblem. James M. Hughey, 6610 Harwin Drive, Houston, Texas 77036

Information wanted — genealogy of the “Finch” families around Atlanta and Macon, Georgia. No particular Christian name; just Finches in general. W. D. Finch, 59 Candlewood Park, Danbury, Connecticut 06810

Need to part with my father’s old style Commandery coat, but do not wish to discard or destroy it. Perhaps some Sir Knight or Commandery would have a use for it. The coat is about size 42 long, and the crosses have been removed from the cuffs. It is the long coat with the stand-up collar (circa 1912). It is offered for the cost of mailing. Hugh M. Gilmore, Jr., K.T., 11749 Francis Drake Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32225

I am interested in knowing of any Sir Knight living in or around Hadley, Bowling Green, Kentucky, that might have any knowledge of the Higginbothams that moved to this area from Virginia.

I would like to know about James and his son Robert. James Higginbotham, Jr., was born November 22, 1789. He left Virginia sometime between 1835 and 1839 and settled in Hadley, Bowling Green, Kentucky. His first wife’s name was Eliza A. (Thomson) Higginbotham; the second marriage was to Sarah (Shields) Higginbotham. James Jr. served in the war of 1812.

Robert Higginbotham was 27 on 1860 census (born Virginia); Rhoda (wife) was 24 on 1860 census (born Kentucky); Joseph Henry (son) was 3 on 1860 census (born Kentucky). I would like to know if there are any church records and where these folks might be buried, or name of cemetery, or if there might be a genealogist willing to do some research for me. D. J. Higginbotham, 7000 Hollyberry Road, S.W., Roanoke, Virginia 24018

I have a Templar sword with “Wallace S. Peake” on the blade. I would like to know who he was and as much about him and the sword as possible.

The blade, case and sheath are run down, but the blade has been restored by me, and the sheath will be soon. I intend to display in honor the sword and would like to know as much as possible about the person that owned it. Francis W. Rasen, 6921 East Thomas Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251
I am still collecting Masonic Commemorative Coins from all of the Masonic Bodies and would trade what duplicates I have for ones I don’t have. Also I collect Syria Temple memorabilia and would be grateful to hear from any Brethren that could help me out in this hobby. I am willing to pay a fair and reasonable price for any of the above articles. Richard C. Beaulieu, 1, Carney Place, Massena, New York 13662

Key rings with glow-in-the-dark fobs stating “I helped send a deserving student to college,” complete with Templar emblem, are available from Newport Commandery No. 13, Newport, Kentucky, by sending $1.00 along with self addressed stamped envelope to: Bill Lorenz, 135 Uhl Road, Cold Spring, Kentucky 41076

I am trying to trace the genealogy of the name of Mothersbaugh or Motherbaugh. I would like to correspond with anyone with that surname. I am the wife of a Sir Knight in St. Omer Commandery No. 11, Sedalia. Mrs. Ray Crosslin, 1528 E 6, Sedalia, Missouri 65301

Land — Partee — Seaton: Have considerable information on these families and will share without cost. Am particularly interested in ancestors or descendants of Aaron, Enos and Jacob Land who were in Spartanburg District, South Carolina, in 1790 to 1840 and ancestors of Samuel Seaton, born about 1788 in Alabama, died 1882 in Lafayette Co., Mississippi. Frederic H. Land, 709 Byrd Blvd., Greenville, South Carolina 29605

My great grandmother, Elizabeth Kishbaugh was born February 7, 1811, in Oxford, Sussex Co., New Jersey, today known as Warren Co., Harmony, New Jersey. She married Aaron Van Natla of same area March 3, 1831. Does anyone know who her parents were? Or anything about them? Ruth Taylor, 555 Stevens, Platteville, Wisconsin 53818

“Military Night” at Belmont Shore Lodge

U.S. Navy Captain William Edward Kehans, medical corps surgeon, Raised to the degree of Master Mason during April 20 ceremonies, is congratulated by James R. Miller, Worshipful Master of Belmont Shore Lodge No. 716, California. Several Master Masons of the U.S. Armed Forces who were present for the conferral are shown in the background in the uniform of their respective services: (back row, left to right) Colonel Lawrence A. Scott, U.S. Army Retired; Captain Raymond F. Berbower, U.S. Navy Reserve; Lt. Colonel John Johnson, U.S. Army Retired; Lt. Commander William Hull, U.S. Navy Retired; Major Benny Walton, U.S. Army; and Major Richard L. Gandt, U.S.A.F. Retired, Secretary of Belmont Shore Lodge and member of Long Beach Commandery No. 40.

I have in my possession a white granite bust on a square base. The bust looks like President Grant, but it’s hard to tell. The front has the square and compass; one side has the sprig of evergreen; and the other side has the hand and lamb. On the back in capital letters is inscribed “Ex. By.” Below it is the date April 20, 1872, or could be 1878.

It came from my grandparents and could have belonged to John Abraham Noll (1847-1927). I’m sure it came from the Southern part of Ohio (around Marietta, Ohio). If any Sir Knight can enlighten me on this bust, it would be appreciated. Wallace B. Noll, 9309 Roanoke, El Paso, Texas 79924
DE KALB'S OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, John Baron de Kalb, Major General, do acknowledge the United States of America to be Free, Independent and Sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great Britain; and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him, and I do swear that I will to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend the said United States against the said King George the Third, his heirs and successors and his or their abettors, assistants and adherents, and I will serve the said United States in the office of Major General, which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding.

[Signature]

John Baron de Kalb

Sworn before me, Camp at Valley Forge, the 12th day of May, 1778

[Signature]

G. Washington