A number of writers of American history have paid tribute to the Masonic fraternity (in the era of Brothers Benjamin Franklin and George Washington) as the motivating force that created a national unity among our 18th century colonies. It has been said that without the example of Freemasonry, American liberty could not have been established and, in fact, “there would have been no United States.”

Definitely and wholeheartedly, as Masons and Templars, we today must give earnest heed to those early leaders of our fraternity in America and cherish with ever-greater fervor the patriotism and Masonic principles they practiced so estimably. There is always the danger that we can become so accustomed to the fact that George Washington, for example, was an active and concerned Mason that we sometimes fail to appreciate exactly what it means to us as a fraternity and to the country we love and support.

Across the land, we need practitioners of Masonry as never before. We must work in a concerted effort to instill in our nation a similar dedication to the country’s unity which motivated Benjamin Franklin, Ethan Allen, Henry Knox, Joseph Warren, Paul Revere, among many others — and Brother George Washington, who took his vow of office as first President of the United States on a Masonic Bible.

In a toast at dinner in Versailles, Benjamin Franklin, with modest exaggeration, proposed a well-received toast: “To George Washington, Commander of the American armies, who, like Joshua of old, commanded the sun and moon to stand still, and they obeyed him.” As we celebrate Washington’s birthday this year, I ask that we demonstrate the spirit of Masonic unity in our own lives, in the examples we exhibit to others and, most certainly, in the men and women whom we elect to represent us in government.

Grand Master

February 1983
FEBRUARY: There is a little something for everyone in this issue of Knight Templar. For the student of history, we recall Mt. Vernon, home of George and Martha Washington, also the lesser known “haunts” around Fredericksburg, Virginia, and a review of the beginnings of Temples in America. For those interested in the present, we offer Dr. Russell Anthony’s treatise on the state of Masonry, and Dr. Sidney Kase’s report on Washington’s attempts to “make Masonry visible.”

We also include, on pages 5 and 6, background on the Easter situation. (Information on a new program for Easter Weekend in Washington is planned to be forwarded to Templar officers as soon as received.)

P.C.R.
Holy Land Update: Just before February presstime, the Editor received word from P. Fred Lesley, P.G.C., Michigan, and co-Chairman of the Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage, that the dates for the 7th Pilgrimage have been changed. Departure date is now Thursday, February 24, with return Sunday, March 6. Among the 18 ministers sponsored this year is The Reverend Eugene H. Buxton, Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment. P.G.C. Lesley will accompany the Ministers as Servant.

Pea Ridge: Thanks to a letter from Sir Knight George L. Johnson, Omaha, Nebraska, we now know that Albert Pike was present at the Battle of Pea Ridge, rather than Pine Ridge, Arkansas, during the Civil War. His comment came in response to the December feature on Brother Pike by James R. Case. Johnson, a Civil War buff, notes that the battle was a decisive one, for “if the South had won, they would have pushed into Missouri and made it part of the Confederacy.”

Sword Case: Albeny J. Sawyer, P.C., Washington Commandery No. 33, Saratoga Springs, is well known in New York, not only because he was 1982 recipient of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor in that jurisdiction but because of his work as a leather craftsman. Among other items, he makes leather sword cases with hand-tooled York Rite emblems. Sir Knight Sawyer’s handiwork, according to P.G.C. David Aiken, has “raised thousands of dollars for the Eye Foundation and the Holy Land Pilgrimage project in New York.” The most recent recipient of one of his cases is Sir Knight Bertram W. Barrows, P.C., Massena No. 72, New York.

Advance Notice: The Grand Recorder’s calendar discloses the following York Rite Regional Conference dates for fall 1983:

- South Central – September 10, 11
  Waco, Texas
- Northeastern – September 23, 24
  Newark, New Jersey
- North Central – October 1, 2
  Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
- Northwestern – October 22, 23
  Boise, Idaho
- Southwestern – November 11, 12
  Reno, Nevada

And as a reminder, the East Central Conference is now set for March 26-27, 1983, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with Department Commander Max L. Clark presiding for the Grand Encampment.

Howarth Book: So many readers were desirous of obtaining copies of The Knights Templar by Stephen Howarth (reviewed in the December magazine by H. C. Arbuckle, III) that they contacted both the reviewer and the Grand Encampment office in hopes of purchasing the book. Of course, neither Sir Knight Arbuckle nor the Chicago office purports to sell copies of any book reviewed in the Knight Templar Magazine. The publisher of Howarth’s history is Athenium, a division of Scribner Books, New York City.

However, in this particular case, we do know a Templar who can supply copies to Brethren, and at a discounted rate. As reported in January, Sir Knight Jack Wilkins, 17333 Brill Drive, Fraser, Michigan 48026, offers the book for $12.50 plus 90 cents postage (four to six weeks should be allowed for delivery).
DISRUPTION IN EASTER SERVICE

Sir Knight George M. Fulmer, Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on the Easter Sunrise Service, after receiving brief preliminary notice, met with officials of the Military District of Washington October 22, 1982. His report to the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment follows in part:

Summary of Meeting

Friday morning, October 22, 1982, the committee composed of George M. Fulmer, Marvin E. Fowler and William E. Barkman, having been designated by our Grand Master, M.E. Ned E. Dull, paid a courtesy call to Lt. Col. Paul C. Miller in his office in the Headquarters Building, Military District of Washington at Fort Leslie McNair, D.C. We were conducted by Col. Miller to the main conference room where we were joined by Major General Jerry R. Curry, Commanding General of the Military District of Washington, and two military chaplains.

Promptly at 0900 General Curry opened the meeting by stating that he had received guidance from the Department of the Army to meet with us and inform us that the Military District of Washington, in coordination with the other services chaplains, would be the sole sponsors of the 1983 and subsequent Easter Sunrise Services in Arlington National Cemetery, and that he had called this meeting to discuss how to minimize the impact on our organization. General Curry stated that the Department of Defense directive of July 3, 1974, did not permit them to support a fraternity among others. (The earlier directive called for the service to be jointly sponsored by the Grand Encampment and the Military District of Washington, which has been carried out until the present time.)

Subsequent Efforts

As a result of Sir Knight Fulmer’s report, the Most Eminent Grand Master immediately made telephone contact with a wide range of Templar and Masonic leaders in Government to inform them of this action and to enlist their possible assistance in changing the Easter Sunrise Service situation. After innumerable calls and letters, meetings with Grand Encampment officers and considerable efforts to address the President of the United States to request a modification of the ruling, Sir Knight Dull formally sent the letter which follows on the next page. There is no assurance the letter has reached the President at this time, and the ruling of the Military District of Washington currently has not been altered. It was hoped that the situation would be resolved before it became necessary to distribute this notification.

Present Easter Plans

As long as the current ruling is in effect, there will be no service at Arlington as in the past. However, the Grand Master plans to announce — through the Knight Templar Magazine, as well as in direct letters to Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery members — a new program for “Easter Weekend” in Washington. Says Grand Master Dull: “New information will be issued as promptly as possible, hopefully without changing your advance plans in any respect.”
December 21, 1982

President Ronald Reagan
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. President:

This is to express my profound regret that the time-honored and deeply significant Christian service conducted annually each Easter morning at Arlington National Cemetery by the Knights Templar of the United States is being terminated by the Military District of Washington. This historical event has been held annually without interruption since 1931.

The sponsoring body is composed of 350,000 Knights Templar who strictly adhere to the Christian religion and deem Easter as one of its most revered observances. It is a vital part of the fraternity of freemasons, numbering some 3 1/2 million members in the United States.

The Grand Encampment has had the responsibility for arranging and conducting the service each year. Several years ago, we invited the Military District of Washington and the Tri-Service Chaplains Committee to co-sponsor the service with us, but we continue to arrange and conduct the service with their active cooperation and participation.

We have now been informed by Major General Jerry Curry that the military has decided to take complete control of the service next Easter, and the Knights Templar will be invited to attend as a part of the general public. We are to be completely excluded from this Christian religious service that we initiated in 1931 and have conducted for more than half a century.

This action by the Military District of Washington appears to be another example of reverse discrimination whereby a long standing and traditional Easter service provided by a fraternal organization is being terminated. The general public has always been invited, encouraged and urged to attend, responding consistently year after year.

I am sure you will appreciate our feeling of regret and our hope that some action can be taken to restore our responsibility for arranging and conducting this service.

Most sincerely yours,

Ned E. Dull
Grand Master

NED:vk

February 1983
Student Loan Acknowledged

Sir Knight Robert E. Fielden, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma and Secretary-Treasurer of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation in that Division, referred the following letter of thanks to the Grand Encampment office. It comes from one John P. Durie who was recently granted a Knights Templar Loan from the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma:

Dear Mr. Fielden:

Please extend my sincere appreciation to your committee for the interest they have taken in my educational pursuits by granting me a Knights Templar Student Loan. In a period of such financial strain, this assistance is most welcome.

My association with Masonry has been a long and happy one through the Order of DeMolay, and I am most anxious to build upon that foundation as I continue with the degrees of the Craft. My hope is that once I begin my professional career, I may return to our organization and the youth of tomorrow much that it has given me.

Thank you once again, and be assured that I will do everything within my power to see that your trust is well-founded.

John, now a junior at Oklahoma University, is a Past State Master Councillor of Oklahoma DeMolay and also a Past International Congress Secretary.

Reference: Case No. 28402

Pasco Commandery No. 21, Knights Templar in the State of Washington, sent a letter of appreciation to Past Grand Master G. Wilbur Bell, Executive Director of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, following successful surgery on a four-year-old Washington lad this fall. Past Commander Frank C. Fisher wrote:

Dear Sir Knight Bell:

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we extend to you and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation our sincere thanks for authorizing and assuming the entire cost of hospitalization and surgery rendered to Ryan Hogan, age 4, on September 22, 1982. He was operated on for strabismus of the right eye in Kadlec Hospital in Richland, Washington, by Dr. Mushen and released to his parents the following day. The operation was deemed a success, and today the lad is enjoying normal eyesight.

The total cost of the operation amounted to $1,410.95 which has been paid in full by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Not only the parents of Ryan, who are deeply grateful for our philanthropy, but also the members of Pasco Commandery No. 21 and myself are amazed at the expeditious manner in which this entire operation has been consummated. In behalf of all concerned, we say thank you very much for a job well done.

Four-Color, Sew-On Templar Patch

Unable to trace the source of a dated Templar patch in his possession, Sir Knight E. Carey Knight, Richmond, Commandery No. 2, Virginia, decided to solve the problem by finding a manufacturer who would duplicate the piece for him. Twelve companies confessed “no interest”; the thirteenth agreed to copy the patch and produce a minimum of 180 pieces. He says, “I have already sold 70 of them and would now like to offer them to readers of the Knight Templar.

The patch ($2.00) is four-color, iron-on or sew-on, 3” square, with the motto “In Hoc Signo Vinces.” Those interested may send check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to Sir Knight Knight, 2603A West Grace Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220.
Kalakaua Ceremony of Constitution

A new Commandery of Knights Templar was constituted December 13 at ceremonies held in the Elks Lodge, Kailua, Hawaii, and attended by officers and members of the “Windward York Rite Bodies” of Kailua in the State of Hawaii — Kalakaua Chapter No. 2, Kalakaua Council No. 3, and Kalakaua Commandery, now styled “No. 2.”

Also on that evening, the 1983 officers for each body were installed, with Homer A. Cundiff, Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter of Hawaii, acting as Installing Officer for Kalakaua Chapter; and Robert C. Kong, Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Hawaii, acting as Installing Officer for Kalakaua Council. Edward B. H. Yee, Past Commander of Honolulu Commandery No. 1, served as Installing Officer for Kalakaua Commandery.

Officers for the newly constituted Commandery include: Frederick F. Dunsmoor, Commander; C. William Scharff, Generalissimo; and Howard C. Titus, Captain General.

By recent action of the Grand Master, a third Commandery of Knights Templar has also been constituted in Hawaii — Hilo Commandery No. 3, Hilo.

Future Bright for LaCrosse Assembly

Two years ago, in some doubt about its future, La Crosse Assembly No. 215, Social Order of the Beauceant in Wisconsin, voted to keep its Charter. Today, with Mrs. Martin Callaway as immediate Past President and Mrs. Wesley Denny as Worthy President-Elect, the Assembly is “going great.” Their current projects include providing food items for the Emergency Food Store; collecting labels for Shriner’s Hospitals; providing necessary items for a local veteran’s home; assisting with Job’s Daughters and DeMolay; helping at nursing homes; and, of course, helping to raise funds for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Members of LaCrosse Assembly ended a successful 1982 with an annual Christmas party for their husband Sir Knights. Included among the guests were Sir Knight Arthur N. McBain, Jr., Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, R.A.M., and Deputy Grand-Governor of Wisconsin’s York Rite College, and Sir Knight George Jolivette, Jr., Grand King of Grand Chapter.

Masonic Medallions, Booklet II

Sir Knight Samuel H. J. Womack, Past Commander of Montgomery Commandery No. 13, Maryland, has published a second “Treatise on Commemorative Medallions Issued by Lodges and Grand Lodges” which he offers for sale to other Masonic collectors. The 47-page Booklet No. II contains information on 72 commemorative medallions issued for centennial anniversaries and other occasions, and is a sequel to Booklet No. I, a treatise on the Masonic coins issued during the Nation’s Bicentennial in 1976.

The booklet is available, postpaid, “for a suggested donation of about $2.54” from A. C. Gramling, Jr., Coin Book Committeeman, P.O. Box 6273, North Augusta, South Carolina 29841.
The annual meetings of the Allied Masonic Degrees and attendant Masonic bodies are scheduled for Friday, February 11, through Sunday, February 13, at the Hotel Washington in the Nation’s Capital. A 50th Anniversary Dinner is planned for Saturday, February 12.

February 11  7:00 p.m.  Philalethes Society – Annual Assembly and Feast
February 12  8:30 p.m.  Registration
                  9:30 a.m.  Grand College of Rites, U.S.A.
                  10:30 a.m. Grand Master’s Council, A.M.D.
                  11:30 a.m. Grand Council, Allied Masonic Degrees, U.S.A.
                  12:30 p.m. Luncheon – Dutch Treat
                    2:00 p.m. Installed Master’s Council, A.M.D.
                    2:30 p.m. Council of the Nine Muses, No. 13, A.M.D.
                    3:00 p.m. Great Chief’s Council, No. 0, Knight Masons
                    3:30 p.m. Grand Council, Knight Masons of the U.S.A.
                    4:30 p.m. Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis Recess
                    6:00 p.m. Annual Banquet – Allied Masonic Degrees
                    8:00 p.m. Grand Council, Allied Masonic Degrees
                    10:00 p.m. Masonic Order of the Bath, U.S.A.
                    11:00 p.m. Ye Ancient Order of Corks
February 13  7:30 a.m.  Convent General, Knights York Cross of Honour
                  9:00 a.m.  Society of Blue Friars
                  9:30 a.m.  Grand Preceptor’s Tabernacle, H.R.A.K.T.P.
                  10:00 a.m. Grand College of America, H.R.A.K.T.P.

A “Good Word”

Following his contribution of $1,000 to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in 1979, Emil C. Iseli, Morton Commandery No. 4, New York City, was designated “No. 140” in the Grand Master’s Club. Not long after that, the 82-year-old Sir Knight “mentioned” the work of the Eye Foundation to his sister Ethel.

Ethel Iseli passed away in 1982, but before her death, she included in her will a $2,000 bequest to the Eye Foundation.

The ink was barely dry on the note of appreciation written by Executive Director G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., when yet another contribution came in – this one for Grand Master’s Club membership for Emil’s wife Lillian. She is “GM No. 424.”

This Month in Dallas

Site for the 1983 Conference of Grand Masters in North America is the Dallas, Hilton, Dallas, Texas, February 20-23.

In the same period, annual meetings will be held by the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association and the Masonic Service Association – also the Conference of Grand Secretaries in North America.

Additional events will be a luncheon by the Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, February 21, and a Shrine breakfast in honor of DeMolay’s Frank S. Land, February 22. The United Grand Imperial Council, Sunday, February 20, will host its usual dinner-discussion meeting for Masonic leaders.
On December 2, 1907, Preston Young Luther, just turned 21, received his Master Mason degree in Macon Lodge No. 5, Georgia. The 75th anniversary of that event was marked by a gathering of family and Masonic friends at the Living Center Nursing Home at Griffin, Georgia, December 2, 1982, when Sir Knight Luther was presented a 75-Year Grand Lodge Award from Brother A. Charles Knowles, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Georgia.

Sir Knight Luther is accompanied by (from left) son-in-law James Ray, daughter Mrs. Ray, and A. Charles Knowles, M.W. Grand Master of Georgia.

In addition to his years as a Master Mason, Sir Knight Preston has been a member of Constantine Chapter No. 4 for 74½ years, a member of Washington Council No. 6 for 74 years, and a member of St. Omer Commandery No. 2, Macon, for 73½ years. He is Grand Lecturer Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of Georgia and Past Prior of Georgia Priory No. 39, K.Y.C.H. He is also the premier recipient of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor in Georgia and holds the Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Award and the General Grand Chapter, R.A.M., Bronze Medal.

Sir Knight Luther celebrated his 97th birthday on January 31, 1983.

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Knights Templar Eye Foundation
New Club Memberships

Grand Commander's Club:

North Dakota No. 4 – Ralph Scott
Wisconsin No. 4 – W. C. Schroeder
Arizona No. 5 – Donald R. Tapia
Minnesota No. 6 – Theodore A. Berg
Maryland No. 8 – J. Walter Starkloff
Florida No. 12 – Michael J. Terlecky
Florida No. 13 – Everett S. Hopper
Massachusetts No. 13 – Everett W. Harrington
Pennsylvania No. 14 – John Baldwin
Tennessee No. 14 – Anonymous
Tennessee No. 15 – Anonymous
Tennessee No. 16 – Anonymous
Illinois No. 16 – Harold F. McKay
Illinois No. 17 – Otto H. Vondrasek
Texas No. 34 – Charles S. Dale
Texas No. 36 – Paul C. Fleming
Texas No. 37 – William A. Evans
Texas No. 38 – M. G. Shelby

Grand Master's Club:

No. 412 – John G. Wright (TX)
No. 413 – Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Fraser (CA)
No. 414 – A Concerned Pennsylvania Sir Knight
No. 415 – Charles F. Debord (IN)
No. 416 – Mrs. Lillian D. Walker (WA)
No. 417 – Fred C. Hardin (MD)
No. 418 – William H. Thornley, Jr. (CO)
No. 419 – John W. James (TX)
No. 420 – Henry E. O'Neil (NY)
No. 421 – In Memory of Louis A. Beaudoin (MA)
No. 422 – Winthrop H. Owen (CA)
No. 423 – In Memory of Naomi E. Mayer (IL)
No. 424 – Mrs. Lillian Iseli (NY)
No. 425 – Robert L. Halstead (FL)
No. 426 – Earl H. Goetz (OH)
No. 427 – R. Neil Gerdemann (CA)
No. 428 – William B. VanSant (MD)
No. 429 – William D. Snapp (MT)
No. 430 – Mr. & Mrs. Alvin L. Crump (IL)
No. 431 – Virgil J. Almand (TX)
No. 432 – In Memory of Mrs. & Mrs. Fee M. Mayfield (TX)
No. 433 – H. Allen Ohrt (ND)

Information on how to join is available by writing to the Executive Director: G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705. (217-523-3838)
Well-meaning Brothers often rationalize or justify our Masonic membership loss by stating that it is not the quantity of Masons that is important; it's the quality. Using the same logic and membership loss statistics, they should also state that by the year 2006 A.D. there won't be any high quality or any other type of Masons around for that matter. In short, these Brothers are saying we must go first class in the Masonic Fraternity; but those first class tickets are on the Titanic.

We aren't getting new members to join Masonry today because of our policy of non-solicitation. Such a statement is most assuredly going to be labeled anti-Masonic or just plain heresy by many Brothers. If I hadn't made the statement, I might even label it anti-Masonic myself. So mote it be. But it is a factual statement, and we must face facts if Masonry is to survive.

The word solicitation has a negative connotation in most Masonic circles. The reason for this is that most Brothers feel that solicitation in some way violates Masonic code and principles. Such an interpretation of the word from a Masonic standpoint is probably erroneous.

If we define the word solicitation, we find that it is a noun meaning an earnest request or invitation. Analyzing this definition we can deduce that we are talking about invitation, not solicitation so far as Masonic ideals are concerned.

Since it may be almost impossible to substitute the word "invitation" for the word "solicitation" in our Masonic thinking, we could do the next best thing. We could continue to use the word "solicitation" but define it on the basis of "proper" versus "improper" solicitation. Solicitation does not have such an ugly connotation when we add the prefix "proper." We have changed the meaning without changing the word.

Let us consider what proper solicitation means so far as Masonic ideals are concerned. It would allow us to extend invitations to anyone we consider good candidates for Masonry. There would be no compromising of the Masonic principle of candidates coming into Masonry of their own free will and accord.

The Grand Lodge of England mandates that solicitation is Masonically correct and proper. The following statement is reproduced in its entirety and was taken from the Quarterly Communication, November 27, 1981, of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England. Most Worshipful Grand Master, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent states:

"Solicitation of Candidates for Freemasonry"

The question of improper solicitation of candidates has been raised on many occasions and the Board feels that a statement on this matter would be helpful to the Craft.

There is no objection to a neutrally worded approach being made to a man who is considered a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. There can be no objection to his being reminded once that approach was made. The potential candidate should then be left to → → →
make his own decision without further solicitation.

After reading and analyzing this statement of Masonic policy by the Grand Master of England, doesn’t it follow that our American Grand Masters should consider doing likewise? Following England’s leadership in this matter could certainly be a step forward in solving our membership loss problem.

If our United States and Canadian Grand Lodges pursued the same course and philosophy of the English and Australian Grand Lodges, several things would happen. First of all, solicitation could not be used as a vehicle for Brothers to hide behind as an excuse for not bringing in new candidates. No longer could Brothers justify their failure to recruit new members because of a non-solicitation policy.

Secondly, higher quality candidates would be joining Masonry. To prove that this is already happening in England let me state that most English lodges have the candidates sit in Lodge at the same time they are balloted upon. This is possible because the candidates have been thoroughly screened before being invited to join. Chances of rejection by the ballot are almost non-existent.

If any Brother deemed a particular candidate to not be worthy and well-qualified, he could make his wishes known during the screening process. The right of free association would still be in effect, but the end result would mean a higher quality as well as a greater quantity of Masons.

Masonry today is not nearly as visible as it was one hundred years ago. Shrine, on the other hand, is much more visible. The visibility of Shrine is an advantage to all of Masonry.

It follows that Masonry today is benefitted by the growth of Shrine since all Shriners must first become Masons. This is particularly true now that most Shrine jurisdictions are encouraging the Shrine Mason philosophy and seeing that this philosophy is being instilled in and adopted by their membership.

To illustrate how the foregoing concept helps Masonry in membership, let me narrate a true story. A local Shrine Mason was a long-time member of the Shrine drum and bugle corps. His son was a member of the local high school drum and bugle corps. When the son became too old for his corps, his dad invited him to join the Shrine corps after explaining that he would first have to join Masonry.

The son petitioned Blue Lodge, was accepted and progressed through Masonry and Shrine at a rapid pace. He soon became an active member of the Shrine drum corps. The icing on the cake, however, is that he is going through the chairs of his Blue Lodge and helps out at York Rite festivals and Scottish Rite reunions.

The term “solicitation” should no longer be a part of our Masonic vocabulary, my Brothers. We should replace it with the word “invitation.” If we feel we can’t go so far as to substitute the word “invitation” for the word “solicitation,” we can at least do what our English Brothers are doing by rejecting improper solicitation and accepting proper solicitation.

We must realize that we must make some changes in our recruiting policies if our Masonic Fraternity is to survive the membership crisis it is now experiencing. After all, life itself is change, and change is life. If we are afraid to change in our Masonic thinking, we are afraid of life.

The year 2006 A.D. is not very far in the future. Will we as Masons welcome its coming with an active, thriving Fraternity, or will it be nothing? It all depends upon us. Let us adopt a modern-day approach to proper solicitation or invitation. Let’s not buy first class tickets on the Titanic.

Dr. Anthony is a member of Apollo Commandery No. 26, Cedar Rapids; his address is 801 A Avenue, N.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402.

February 1983
CURIOSA AND ODDITIES IN TEMPLAR HISTORY—PART I

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

In Part I of his two-part essay, Connecticut Historiographer James R. Case examines the history of Knight Templar in America and the several disputed theories of "precedence of rank" among Commanderies. Part II, to be printed in a future issue of Knight Templar, looks at the organization of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar under Thomas Smith Webb and its growth under several early Grand Masters.

Returning to Virginia from service in World War One, I was Knighted in Hampton Commandery No. 17 at Newport News on February 3, 1919. Complete uniform, sword, chapeau and carrying cases cost only $75 in those days! An immediate change of residence and occupational demands were such that I never entered the asylum of my parent Commandery after the Conclave at which I was Knighted.

My career in World War Two tapered off with an assignment in the Pentagon. At every opportunity, I pursued my genealogical interests, as well as Masonic reading and research in the library at the House of the Temple, in National Archives and the Library of Congress, storing in my God-given computer bank more facts and names than I realized at the time.

Upon relocation at the University of Connecticut in 1951, I resumed activity, or at least more frequent attendance, at Lodge, Chapter and Council, and affiliated with Washington Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar at Hartford, for which the claim was proudly made that it was the only Commandery in the United States to have been chartered from England.

Since the charter was non-existent, or at least not in the Commandery's possession, and no one knew how it read, much less the exact source, I added that search to a number of other mysteries I hoped to resolve. Not having been involved in present-day Templar ritual, legislation or procedure, I feel that I worked without any built-in convictions, and with more perspective than some of my predecessors or contemporaries exploring Templar topics, history and personalities.

I soon learned that the charter from London, which had disappeared from the treasure chest of Washington Commandery, was not the only one to have come from overseas. In fact, Charter Number Two was in existence and on display in the Grand Lodge Museum in New York City. No one knew much about it, though, and after exposure at the World’s Fair in Flushing Meadows the writing was faded. Strangely, today that has now been lost! The late Ward K. St. Clair, a thorough student of Templary, especially the ritual, identified the source as the Grand Conclave of England, of which Rancliffe, the grantor, had been the head, succeeding Dunckerley. The story of Charter Number Two was printed in the New York Outlook for December 1940.

Soon afterwards, I ran across an item in the Masonic Review Volume XXVI, No. 4 (1862), with reference → →
to a curious document then in the hands of the editor at Cincinnati. No one seems to have come forward with an explanation of what it was. However, from the text as printed, it became apparent to me that this was the charter of Washington Commandery from London bearing the number “one.” The proof was in the names of the grantees, all familiar characters to me from research in other projects. My surmise is that Masonic author Rob Morris “borrowed” the old charter while on a visit to Hartford, along with other items which we know came into his possession. He was an avid “collector” of Masonic memorabilia, many of which never found their way back to the place from whence they came — on fraternal loan.

Now, having the lithograph framework of Charter Number Two, and the text of Charter Number One, I could inform Washington Commandery of just how their charter looked and read, although it is nowhere to be found today! My reward was appointment as “Historiographer” of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, the obsolete title of an appointment which had been vacant for nearly 100 years, previously filled by an ex-governor of the state.

The pattern of the border surrounding the "London Charter" was used for a painted panel over the fireplace mantel of a Lodge room in a Lebanon, Connecticut, tavern occupied by Eastern Star Lodge No. 44 for a few years in the early 1800s. The varied assortment of symbols or emblems also appears on the wall of a former Lodge room of Harmony Lodge No. 20 in Berlin, Connecticut. That grouping additionally shows an oval with a figure within, and the motto "We Stop at Phillippi!" for which I have found no reference or explanation. Perhaps the future will find out the right!

Having determined that the “only” charter from London was not such, I began to challenge some of the other claims of “first” this and “first” that in Templary in the United States. Not having to defend any valid claim by Washington Commandery, I was not on the defensive, but rather on an exploration, reconnaissance or estimate of the situation. Neither was my review to be done with rose-colored glasses.

According to the record, which no one disputes, the earliest extant internal minute of Masonic Knight Templar activity in all the world was made at Boston in 1769, when the Knight Templar DEGREE was conferred in a Royal Arch Chapter opened under sanction of the Lodge of Saint Andrew, conferred by visitors from one or more of the Lodges in British regiments just sent from Ireland to augment the garrison. The Lodge conferred no “higher” degrees after 1794.

The earliest mention of the Knight Templar degree appears in a list of members of an early Grand Encampment of Ireland in which it is noted that the senior member had received the degree in 1765.

Just what the ritual may have been for the Templar “degree” at that time, no one knows. It was probably no more than an introduction, a challenge or test, an obligation, laying on the sword, and a lecture.

Most of the British regiments during the mid-1700s were trained and largely recruited in Ireland. It is remarkable that the earliest printed reference to the Royal Arch was in a newspaper notice at Dublin in 1774, although oblique reference had been made to it earlier. The Red Cross of Babylon and other side degrees seem to have been known in Ireland as early as in other places. Quite possibly the Knight Templar degree was among them and that, as a side degree, no minute was entered in the record books concerning the exemplification, conferral or communication.

Among the rites which existed or were invented on the Continent was the Rite
of Ramsay, dating from about 1728, comprising six degrees, of which the last was Knight of the Temple, still conferred in certain Grand Priories of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City, known in the United States as C.B.C.S. Something of the sort may have been known among those in the Rite of Perfection or some other Rite and brought to Ireland, being incorporated in the Knight Masons.

During the 20-year period beginning in 1763, when the British occupied Florida, a provincial Grand Master for the Southern District of America was appointed by the Ancients, and army lodges were active at both Pensacola and St. Augustine. When Florida was about to be returned to the Spanish, some of the troops were moved to Charleston, South Carolina, and there is evidence that the Knight Templar "degree" was conferred then and in successor organizations. Mackey's claim that the Encampment/Commandery in Charleston is the oldest in America is rather hard to accept. The evidence offered is the existence of a diploma, dated 1780 according to the seal. When the British evacuated Charleston in 1782, knowledge of the degree was undoubtedly left behind, but dates on a seal are not necessarily indicative of the age of the document to which it is attached, or the organization which may have sponsored or conferred the degree. Any seal made an impression. It was not unusual for a seal to be re-engraved. Throughout the early decades of the 1800s, the continuity and vitality of any particular body in Charleston is very dubious. Even the Mother Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite had its lapses. It is significant, however, that on the diploma in question, there are emblems of a number of "higher" degrees then known in Ireland.

The army lodges in garrison at Philadelphia during the winter of 1777 were numerous and seem to have left some knowledge of a Knight Templar "degree" behind them, which led to the formation of at least four Encampments/Commanderies in the state and formation of a Grand Encampment in 1794. Creigh in his history of Knights Templar in Pennsylvania is very forceful in his claim to the "honor, glory and immortality of constituting the first Grand Commandery in the United States at Philadelphia on May 12, 1797." He is also critical of the several claims of Webb and others.

Baltimore was a busy seaport in the late 1700s and, of course, still is. Not only commercial but Masonic intercourse with the West Indies was considerable. The claim that Templary was known there as early as 1790 is acceptable but has yet to be documented. However, that anything like a Templar organization had been established by that date, even by agency of an Inspector of the Rite of Perfection or the Ancient Accepted Rite, is hard to believe.

Headquarters of the British military forces in America was established in New York City in 1776 and continued there until November 1783. During those six years, many regiments with Masonic Lodge "attached" were in the city, and under date of 1780 a charter for a Provincial Grand Lodge was obtained from Atholl, Grand Master of Ancients of England. This document is the basic authority for existence of the present Grand Lodge of New York state. While the history of those military Lodges has been researched in depth, and the identity of hundreds of members (largely military or loyalist) has been determined, nothing was uncovered concerning any Templar activity. It was apparently just a side degree, yet as early as 1785 a newspaper notice mentions the appearance of Knights Templar in a procession on St. John's Day. References and records for the next twenty years are spotty, but we do have a list of officers of a Commandery in 1796, including names of the city's elite.

Sir Knight Case lives at 55 Masonic Avenue, Apt. 302, Wallingford, Connecticut 06492.
HIGHLIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS

Educational Materials Available

Dr. Allan Boudreau, Librarian of the Grand Lodge of New York State, reports on a variety of educational materials for Lodge programs. Chapter or open meetings now available from The American Lodge of Research of New York. A Masonic Guide for the Empire State ($6.50) is an illustrated compilation of New York’s buildings, sites, monuments and legends of interest to Freemasons. In addition, four educational cassette recordings are available: “Community Service” by Dr. William Pearlman (23 min.); “200 Years of Freemasonry in New York” by Dr. Boudreau (40 min.); “General George Washington” by Wendell K. Walker (25 min.); and “Masonic Vignettes” by Wilmer E. Bresee (60 min.). The cassettes may be ordered at a cost of $6.00 each and are designed for use on standard home or auto players.

Any and all of the above items may be obtained by writing to Brother Charles A. Banten, Secretary, The American Lodge of Research, Masonic Hall – Box 210, 46 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10010. (Checks payable to “The American Lodge of Research.”)

Tri-Jurisdictional Banquet Guests

The Templar jurisdictions of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia shared sponsorship of a November 20 banquet to honor Ned E. Dull, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, and Mrs. Dull. In addition to the guests of honor, other Grand Encampment officers in attendance included Grand Generalissimo Marvin E. Fowler, Grand Captain General William H. Thornley, Jr., and Northeastern Department Commander Thurman C. Pace, Jr.

The speaker for the evening was The Reverend and Sir Knight Edward B. Lewis, Minister of the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church and member of Columbia Commandery No. 2, D.C.

Hal Shafer, Ohio Chairman

Voluntary Campaign Chairman for Ohio Sir Knight Hal Shafer distributed Campaign appeals to Templars in his jurisdiction. Quoted in part: “For an explanation of how to increase Templar productivity within your Commanderies, simply try enthusiasm – by supporting the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and adhering to those magnificent principles which we as Christian soldiers are charged to inculcate. Practice universal benevolence and make a tax-deductible contribution today.”

February 1983
St. Asaph Installation and Dinner

St. Asaph Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine in Montgomery, Alabama, held its Christmas dinner and installation of 1983 officers at the Bonnie Crest Country Club on December 11. Outgoing Sovereign The Reverend William O. Graham (below, left) presented the jewel of office to new Sovereign Sam L. Garrett (right), M.E. Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Alabama. Assisting in the installation ceremony were Past Sovereigns C. C. McCoy, P.G.H.P., Alabama; William M. Newsome, Jr., Past Grand Commander of Alabama; and Joseph P. Jones.

The evening’s program was arranged by The Reverend Graham who also serves as Chaplain of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Montgomery. The guest speaker was Mrs. Gaynell Darnell Taylor, wife of The Reverend Frank Taylor, Chaplain at the V.A. Medical Center in Tuskegee. Her talk centered on the benefits she received from the Shriners’ Hospitals for Crippled Children, where she was a patient between 1931 and 1939. She took the opportunity to relay her “personal thanks to the members of Masonry for the Christian love showered upon her.”

World’s Fair Finale

In April of 1982, the Knight Templar Magazine published an invitation from Sir Knight and Mrs. Howard J. Watson of Sieversville, Tennessee, to share their home with any Knight Templar brethren planning to attend the Knoxville World’s Fair between May 1 and October 31. Apparently several readers enjoyed the Watsons’ hospitality because Sir Knight Howard wrote the Grand Recorder on December 6: “My wife and I met so many Sir Knights and families and made so many wonderful friends from the response to the Knight Templar article. We enclose a $200 check for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.”

Detroit Concert Band “Goes” Hollywood

The name of Sir Knight Leonard B. Smith, Detroit Commandery No. 1, Michigan, is well-known to music connoisseurs across the country — especially those with an interest in the great American marching-band era. Dr. Smith is director of the Detroit Concert Band, acknowledged worldwide as the foremost interpreter of the music of Sir Knight John Philip Sousa and other turn-of-the-century American bandmasters.

In November 1982, the Detroit Concert Band completed five 3-hour recording sessions for Anacapa Productions, Ltd., of Hollywood, California, to provide background music for the forthcoming motion picture “The Indomitable Teddy Roosevelt” (another Mason). The music, says Smith, is “predominantly Sousa,” including many of his great marches and also excerpts from several non-march compositions.

The film is expected to be aired on television early in 1983.
Knights Templar Eye Foundation  
15th Voluntary Campaign

7th Week Total — $170,375.25

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"Birthday" Needlepoint

For several years, the Grand Encampment office has offered for sale Templar needlepoint kits consisting of canvas imprinted with the "cross and crown" insignia, red, white, yellow and black yarn, needle and instructions. A number of needlepoint "craftsmen" have shared their pleasure with the item and some have sent pictures. By far the most unique rendering of the Templar needlepoint was created by Brother William J. Dyke, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania.

Using every inch of space, Brother Dyke "personalized" the canvas to commemorate the 45th Masonic birthday of William J. MacCauley, P.M., Lanxdowne Lodge No. 711, who was initiated into the Craft on February 11, 1938, and who is also a Past Commander of Ascension Commandery No. 97, Ardmore, Pennsylvania. A second wallhanging was prepared by Brother Dyke and presented to his Templar son.

Editor's Note: Templar Needlepoint kits are still available at a cost of $6.75 each (or $6.00 each when purchased in quantities of two or more) from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, 14 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60604.
CHAIRMEN OF TEMPLAR STANDING COMMITTEES

HERBERT D. SLEDD
Templar Jurisprudence

Herbert D. Sledd, Lexington attorney, was re-appointed Chairman of the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence to serve during the 1982-85 triennium. He has served as Chairman since 1966 and is one of Templary's leading parliamentarians.

A native of Paris, Kentucky, Sir Knight Sledd served in the U.S. Marine Corps and later studied pre-law at the University of Kentucky. He earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1952 and since then has been associated with the firm of Brown, Sledd and McCann, Lexington. He served as President of the State Bar Association in 1965 and holds membership in the American Bar Association House of Delegates which he served as Secretary 1971-79. Since 1959, Sir Knight Sledd has been a member of the Board of Trustees, Lexington Theological Seminary and currently serves as Board Chairman.

Sir Knight Sledd is a Past Commander of Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 16 in Paris. He is Past Grand Commander of Kentucky; Chairman, Board of Governors, Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, Lexington Unit; 33°, A. & A.S.R., S.J.; Past Sovereign, St. Barnabas Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; a member of Golgotha Tabernacle XIV, H.R.A.K.T.P., Royal Order of Scotland, and Honorary Member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.

GEORGE H. THOMAS
Finance

Sir Knight George H. Thomas of Cincinnati was elected this past August to Chair the Committee on Finance.

Originally from Williamsburg, Sir Knight Thomas attended Williamsburg High School and Campbell School of Business. He has been Chairman of the Board of the Thomas-Sysco Corporation, a business which he founded, for almost 60 years. He has also served as Chairman of the Cincinnati Convention Bureau and Chairman of the Greater Cincinnati Distributor Association.

Masonically, he was Raised in Clermont Social Lodge No. 37, Williamsburg, currently a member of Harry Eversull Lodge No. 754, Cincinnati. In the York Rite, he is a member of Kilwinning Chapter No. 97, Royal Arch Masons, Cincinnati (a 50-year member); Cincinnati Council No. 3, Royal and Select Masters; and Hanselmann Commandery No. 16, Knights Templar, Cincinnati (50-year member).

In 1954, he was elected Grand Commander of Ohio Templars. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite in Cincinnati, N.M.J., and received the 33°, Inspector General Honorary, in 1958. His appendant Masonic membership includes: St. Columbia Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Cincinnati; Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; and Syrian Temple, Shrine.

GORDON J. BRENNER
Religious Activities

Sir Knight Gordon J. Brenner, President of M & M Realty Services, Hackensack, New Jersey, was re-appointed Chairman of the Committee on Religious Activities. He has served as Chairman of this Committee since 1970.

A Deacon Ad Vitam of the Carlstadt Baptist Church, Sir Knight Brenner’s civic and religious affiliations include: Magistrate, Carlstadt, New Jersey; Past Deputy District Governor, Lions International District 16A; Charter President, Carlstadt Community Chest; Past President, → →
Carlstadt Republican Club; Executive Secretary, Jersey Jobbers Credit Group, Inc. and President, Allied American Corporation.


WALTER M. McCracken

Necrology

Retired Army Chaplain and LTC, Sir Knight Walter M. McCracken was re-appointed to his third term as Chairman of the Necrology Committee.

He is a graduate from The Harvard School, Los Angeles (then Military Academy), and studied at Trinity College in Toronto. He received a B.A. from Chapman College, Orange, California, and did graduate work in philosophy and music at Northwestern University. He also received his L.Th., B.D. and M.Div. from Nashotah House in Wisconsin. For 17 years, Sir Knight McCracken was affiliated with Staunton Military Academy as ancient and modern languages teacher. He is a past member of Modern Language Association of America; Classical Association of the Atlantic States; The American Classical League; and The Virgilian Society.

Masonically, he is Past Master of Lodge Han Yang No. 1048, Seoul, Korea; past presiding officer of Union Royal Arch Chapter No. 2, Staunton; Rolla Council No. 39, Missouri; and Stevenson Commandery No. 8 in Virginia. He was elected Grand Commander of Virginia in 1974 and has also served as Grand Chaplain of both Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter. He is currently Great Chief, Knight Masons, U.S.A.

A resident of Staunton, Sir Knight McCracken’s interests include world travel, modern and ancient languages, history, grand opera and acting.

ROBERT S. SCHOEDINGER
Triennial Conclave

Sir Knight Robert S. Schoedinger, a Columbus, Ohio, funeral director, was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Triennial Conclave by fellow Ohioan, Grand Master Ned E. Dull. His Committee will handle all preparations for the 56th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment which is scheduled to take place August 10-14, 1985, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

A native of Columbus, Sir Knight Schoedinger is a graduate of Cleveland College of Embalming and has been president of Schoedinger Funeral Service since 1961. His civic offices have included: Director, Mid-America Federal Savings & Loan; Director, Chamber of Commerce; and President of Trustees of the Pauline Home for the Aged.

A member of the Masonic Fraternity for more than 46 years, Sir Knight Schoedinger was Raised in Goodale Lodge No. 372, Columbus, serving as Worshipful Master in 1941. In the York Rite, he is a member of Temple Chapter No. 155, R.A.M., York Council No. 115, R. & S.M., and Mt. Vernon Commandery No. 1, K.T., all in Columbus. In 1965, he was elected Grand Commander of Ohio.

He is a member of Scottish Rite Bodies in Columbus, coronetted an Inspector General Honorary of the 33° in 1953, and his appendant membership includes Red Cross of Constantine, and Aladdin Temple, Shrine. He is President of Trustees, Masonic Temple Association, and First Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Masonic Home. Sir Knight Schoedinger also holds the DeMolay Legion of Honor.
THOMAS W. MANN
Educational Foundation

Sir Knight Thomas W. Mann has been re-appointed to his second term as Chairman of the Committee on the Knights Templar Educational Foundation.

Sir Knight Mann is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, moving to Birmingham as a boy. Following high school in Birmingham, he attended the University of Alabama in that City. During WW II, he was a member of the 96th SeaBee Battalion; currently a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A member of East Lake United Methodist Church, Sir Knight Mann was Chairman of the Administrative Board in 1972-73, President of Liles Brotherhood Sunday School from 1960 to 1962, and is a member of the Board of Stewards.

In 1973, Mann retired as foreman of Chicago Bridge and Iron Company after 36 years with that firm. He now serves as Grand Secretary-Recorder of Alabama.

Raised a Master Mason in Woodlawn Fraternal Lodge No. 525, Birmingham, he is past presiding officer of that body and all York Rite Bodies in Birmingham. He was elected Grand Commander in 1972, and has served the Grand Encampment previously as a member of the Patriotic and Civic Activities Committee.

Sir Knight Mann holds the 32° in the Scottish Rite, S.J., and is Sovereign of St. Dunstan Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine. He is also a member of Zamorah Temple, Shrine, National Sojourners, Royal Order of Scotland, K.Y.C.H., Order of Eastern Star, and H.R.A.K.T.P. He is the Grand Sentinel of Knight Masons, U.S.A., and holds appendant membership in the Grand Council, A.M.D.; Grand College of Rites; Mutual Guild; and Alabama York Rite College No. 51.

JOHN H. LOREE
Drill Regulations

Sir Knight John H. Loree, a retired metallurgist from Flint, Michigan, was reappointed Chairman of the Committee on Drill Regulations, an office which he held previously from 1967 to 1973.

Born in Sandusky, Sir Knight Loree graduated from Sandusky High School in 1928 and received his Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from Michigan State (College) University in 1933. For 37 years he was employed in the Chevrolet Motor Division, General Motors Corporation.

Sir Knight Loree was Raised in Custer Lodge No. 393, Sandusky, which he served as Worshipful Master in 1936. He is a member of Sanilac Chapter No. 145, Sandusky (dual membership in Washington Chapter No. 15, Flint); Past Illustrious Master of Sandusky Council No. 77; and Past Commander of Lexington Commandery No. 27. He is currently a member of Genessee Valley No. 15, Flint, and is a life member of all York Rite Bodies.

In 1963, Sir Knight Loree was elected Grand Commander in Michigan. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite in Bay City, coronetted an Inspector General Honorary of the 33° in 1965. His appendant membership includes: St. Martin Conclave, R.C.C.; Elf Khurafi Temple, Shrine in Saginaw; and Royal Order of Scotland. He is also a recipient of the DeMolay Honorary Legion of Honor.

PAUL W. SWEET, JR.
Ritualistic Matters

Dr. Paul W. Sweet, Jr., Centralia physician, was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Ritualistic Matters for 1982-85. Dr. Sweet has served in a number of Grand Encampment offices in the past — including Chairman of the Patriotic and Civic Activities Committee (1973-76), and Department Commander (1970-73).

Born in Sellick, Washington, Sir Knight Sweet is a graduate of the University of Washington at Seattle and Northwestern University Medical School (Evanston, Illinois). During World War II, he served five years in the U.S. Army Air → →
Corps, then spent two years in residency training. Since 1949, he has practiced medicine (obstetrics) in Centralia.

Dr. Sweet is a member of the United Methodist Church in Centralia. He has been a Cub Master, later a District Commissioner, of Boy Scouts of America; a member of Rotary International; and is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

He was Raised in 1942 in Centralia Lodge No. 63, and is a dual member in Little Falls Lodge No. 176 of Vader. He is past presiding officer of Centralia Chapter No. 44; Alpha Council No. 20, Centralia; and St. Helens Commandery No. 12, Chehalis. In 1965, Sir Knight Sweet was elected Grand Commander of Washington.

A member of the Scottish Rite Bodies in Olympia, Washington, Dr. Sweet also holds membership in Red Cross of Constantine (Intendant General for the Division of Washington); Afifi Temple, Shrine, in Tacoma; and K.Y.C.H.

EDWARD T. BLOOMQUIST

Membership

Re-appointed Chairman of the Membership Committee, Sir Knight Edward T. Bloomquist of Waco, Texas, is a retired businessman currently holding the positions of Grand Secretary of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas and Grand Recorder of the Grand Council, Royal & Select Masters of Texas.

He was born in Palestine, Texas, and graduated from the Houston Public Schools and Central High School. He attended the University of Houston and Smalley Business College. He is now retired as owner of an air-conditioning company.

Sir Knight Bloomquist was Raised in 1950 in Austin Lodge No. 12, which he served as Worshipful Master in 1959-60. He is also past presiding officer of Lone Star Chapter No. 6, R.A.M.; Austin Council No. 2, R. & S.M.; and Colorado Commandery No. 4, also in Austin.

In 1970, Sir Knight Bloomquist was elected Grand Commander of Texas. He was coronetted an Inspector General Honorary of the 33° in 1973 by the Waco Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction.

His appendant Masonic membership includes: Ben Hur Temple, Shrine; Royal Order of Scotland; and Austin Chapter No. 304, Order of the Eastern Star. He is currently Intendant General, Division of Texas Southern, Red Cross of Constantine.

ANDRES E. MOYNELO

Patriotic and Civic Activities

Maryland businessman Andres E. Moynelo was re-appointed Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on Patriotic and Civic Activities, an office he first succeeded to in 1976.

Sir Knight Moynelo is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, and attended the University of Maryland School of Engineering and George Washington University, studying psychology, business administration and electronic engineering. He is currently president of the Empire Electronic Supply Company in Bethesda, having founded the company 23 years ago.

A U.S. Marine Veteran, Sir Knight Moynelo served with the Marine Corps in the First and Third Marine Aircraft Wing in the South Pacific; he was discharged as Commissioned Warrant Officer in 1946.

His civic and community interests include Bethesda Chamber of Commerce; Bethesda Chevy Chase Rotary Club, of which he is past president and chairman of the Youth Exchange Program for his district; and the Congressional and Chesapeake Country Clubs.

Knighted in 1948, Sir Knight Moynelo is Past Commander of Potomac Commandery No. 3, D.C., and Past Grand Commander of the District of Columbia. He is a member and present Registrar of INRI Tabernacle No. XXXVII, H.R.A.K.T.P.; member, Knight Masons of Maryland; and Past President and present Secretary-Treasurer, Forty-Fivers Past Grand Commanders Association.
MAKING MASONRY VISIBLE IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST

reported by Sir Knight and Dr. Sidney Kase
Ivanhoe Commandery No. 4, Tacoma, Washington

For too long a time, Freemasonry has been considered to be a secret organization with sinister overtones, or perhaps part of the "occult." Why else would we be so introspective and reluctant to talk about it with anyone except other Masons? In fact, how many Masons would have joined the Fraternity years before they finally did if only they had found out something about it, even how to apply? This writer has long winced at going into a bookstore to look for a Masonic book and being directed to the "occult" section. We are in no way connected with the occult. Why then act as if we were?

It is said that necessity is the mother of invention, and it is also oftentimes the stimulus to action. In the period 1960 to 1981, the number of Masons in the State of Washington dwindled from a high of 69,000 to about 44,000, a decline of 36%. In the same period, the population has increased 36% — a spread of 72%. No group can long sustain that type of trend without facing extinction. It is or has happened to the Forrester, the Odd Fellows, and the Knights of Pythias. It happened to the carrier pigeon and the plains bison, and the dodo bird. For many years, we fretted over this and watched passively. The causes were attrition due to age and death, N.P.D.‘s, and demits. There is little one can do about age and death, but there is something we can do about the rest.

The most important thing to do when a body is hemorrhaging is to replace the blood volume — a transfusion! There is really no substitute for it. Masonry needs more, younger members. And the Grand Master of Masons in Washington, George R. Bordewick, and the Grand Lodge of that State decided the time had come to DO SOMETHING about it.

One decision for action was made at the Grand Lodge session in June 1982. The delegates voted to assess every Lodge $2.25 per member to pay for a newspaper supplement about Freemasonry and its Concordant branches. That supplement is to appear in every major newspaper in the State during the month of February 1983. The object of this supplement is to inform the public about Masonry. The Bible, our Great Light, teaches us not to hide our light under a bushel basket, but to set it high on a hill, so all can see the light.

Another idea came to light via the Grand Master of New South Wales, Australia. Most Worshipful Brother Harold Coates has been going around Australia and New Zealand preaching "Freemasonry Is Good; Let's Talk About It." The Chairman of our Public Relations Committee, V.W.B. Ben Robertson, assisted by his cohort W.B. Wendell Kuecker (both of Thornton F. McElroy Lodge No. 302), latched onto this and adopted it and modified it as a title for the "Masonic Information Booth" at the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup. Brothers Robertson and Kuecker spent many hours researching the experiences of other jurisdictions and other fairs. Many meetings were held with the Grand Master and other Grand Lodge officers, and with the Puyallup Fair administration. The actual time in preparation was over two years. The planning came to fruition September 11–26, 1982.

Special recognition must be given to W.B. Fred O. Weber, a vice-president of the Fair Board and a Past Master of Phoenix Lodge No. 154.
was invaluable in expediting the miles of red tape always involved in initiating such a project. After all hurdles were cleared, Brothers Ben Robertson and Wendell Kuecker went into high gear. There were more meetings plus the rounding up of various paraphernalia, furniture, emblems, signs, arranging for a telephone, printing, recruiting people to man the booth, and contacting the various organizations for support and participation. It was no small task! But they did it, and the Grand Lodge of Masons, and the Shrine of Seattle and Tacoma, and the Scottish Rite of both cities, and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, the Grand Commandery, the Rainbow Girls, Job’s Daughters, and the Order of DeMolay all joined in the project. Later, the White Shrine of Jerusalem joined in. We were United! (The Masonic Tribune contributed hundreds of complimentary copies for distribution.)

The Fair is now history. Over 1.1 million people went through its gates. The bottom line is this: Our Masonic Booth was a smashing success! Just ask any Mason who worked at the booth or who stopped to visit it. Brother Keucker had done a great job of recruiting manpower (or should I say Mason-power): 156 signed up to work, only 4 failed to show up — an attendance rate of 97%. I think that shows dedication.

A total of 1,849 Masons stopped to see the booth. No attempt was made to solicit anybody; there were no petitions available at the booth. We were there to provide information, answer questions about Masonry and its concordant groups, and perhaps most important, to correct misinformation and myths about us. The modus operandi was “soft sell” — no high pressure, no prizes, no drawings, no solicitation.

What were the results? 188 men (mostly in the younger age groups) asked how they could join the Fraternity and filled out registration cards. These have been referred to the Lodge nearest the applicant for follow-up and investigation. (A candidate still has to ask the question.) 173 Sojourners sought to affiliate, and these are being handled in a similar manner. 7 were interested in joining the Scottish Rite and 51 in affiliating with that Rite; 6 were interested in joining the York Rite, and 15 Sojourners wished to affiliate with the York Rite. 3 wanted to join the Shrine, and 38 sojourning Shriners sought affiliation. Of course, the 361 who comprise the first two groups may be potentially members of the Rites or Shrine in later years. 244 youths also signed cards as members or potential members. And 2 were interested in joining the Grotto.

There were many others who were interested, asked questions and took literature to ponder but who were not ready to sign cards. The Masonic Booth was indeed a success. Much was learned in the process and will be applied towards such projects in the future. One thing, at least, was learned: Masonry is alive and on the move. The “Sleeping Giant” is rousing.
Revolutionary haunts...

FREDERICKSBURG GHOST STORIES

by
Sir Knight Thomas E. Rigas
St. Bernard Commandery No. 35, Chicago, Illinois

Fredericksburg, Virginia, is rich in colonial and Civil War history, and, to this very day, the Masonic presence and spirit continues to be quite noticeable everywhere, just as it was during the early years. Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M., the "Mother Lodge" of Brother George Washington, is located there, as is Brother James Monroe’s old law office. In the old Masonic Cemetery rest the remains of many early American personages, including Brother Basil Gordon, claimed to be "America’s first millionaire."

An important colonial seaport, Fredericksburg was the home of many leaders, and, during Revolutionary War days, it was a hotbed of colonial dissent. To this very day, the voices of Thomas Jefferson and other colonial leaders still seem to resound through the Rising Sun Tavern. Brother George Washington’s footsteps seem to echo on the paths and streets of his former hometown, as the spirit of the past still lives on in that city.

Many residents and visitors to Fredericksburg, however, seem to have been touched by the city’s historic spirit in an extraordinary way. These people claim to have seen and heard the ghostly apparitions who haunt many homes and historic attractions there, and who keep alive the memories of the past.

Ghost legends seem to be a part of the American heritage, and Fredericksburg seems to have more than its share of haunted houses. The tales of Fredericksburg’s ghosts have survived many years and even more skeptics. Children love to hear about them, and adults continue to be fascinated by them. Whether you are a believer in the supernatural or a skeptic, hopefully you may find the following ghost stories of haunting interest.

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During the American Revolution, many residents of Fredericksburg gave their lives for the American cause, but at least one Freemason, Brother and Col. Fielding Lewis, sacrificed as much in another way. One of the most prosperous planters in Fredericksburg, Brother Lewis lost his fortune when Virginia’s government failed to reimburse him for financing the Fredericksburg Arms Manufactory, which made guns for the Revolution. His Georgian mansion, The Kenmore Estate, built in 1752 by him for his bride, Betty Washington Lewis, only sister of Brother George Washington, was sold to satisfy Brother Lewis’ Revolutionary War debts. He died penniless soon afterward, but reportedly his ghost often returns to Kenmore.

No one can say with certainty why Brother Lewis haunts his 18th century estate. Some say the ghost of Brother Lewis is himself “haunted” by his financial problems. Others claim he returns to Kenmore simply because he cannot bear to leave his beautiful plantation. But that he often returns to Kenmore cannot be denied. From the sound of heavy footsteps echoing through empty halls to fireplace andirons mysteriously crashing to the floor, Brother Lewis has made his ghostly presence known to many visitors in the mansion. And Brother Lewis has been seen as well as heard.

His apparition usually appears in an upstairs bedchamber where
Brother Lewis attended to business matters. There the ghostly Brother Lewis, attired in Revolutionary era clothes, has been seen standing and reading a document he holds in his hands. In the same room, he has also been seen busily studying his account ledgers with a look of deep concern in his eyes. A seance was held in this bedchamber in recent years, and the attending psychic said that “the spirit of a colonial gentleman, tired and weary of life, dwells within Kenmore.”

Brother Fielding Lewis, a man who sacrificed his fortune to the cause of American independence, may still be troubled by his financial difficulties as he wanders the rooms of his beloved estate.

*****

Across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg, high on a bluff overlooking the city, stands the imposing 18th century mansion called Chatham. Built in the mid-1700’s, the mansion has hosted many important personages including Brothers George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette, and during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, and Walt Whitman. The ghost of Chatham, however, is none of these illustrious figures. The spectral apparition haunting the estate is an English girl who returns in memory of a lost love. Dressed all in white, she walks upon her favorite path at the estate, in fulfillment of a deathbed vow.

She was brought to Chatham by her father, who wished to end the young girl’s romance with an English drysaltar. Despite the enjoyable social life of the Virginia estate, the girl pined for her lover across the sea. Before long, however, the young drysaltar followed her to America, and the lovers secretly planned their elopement. Finally, the chosen night arrived. The young man silently moored a boat on the Rappahannock and cautiously placed a ladder against his lover’s window.

The young girl anxiously climbed down the ladder, expecting to find herself in the arms of her beloved. Instead, she found herself enveloped by Brother George Washington. A guest at Chatham at the time, General Washington was informed of the elopement plans by his servant. Washington had the young drysaltar arrested on the fateful night, then delivered the girl into her father’s custody.

Taken back to England by her father, the girl ultimately married someone deemed of a more suitable social standing. But she never forgot her true love, or the events at Chatham and vowed to walk her favorite path on the anniversary of her death.

Several visitors and residents of Chatham have watched the English woman as she makes her anniversary journey on the path now known as “Ghost Walk.” Always seen between noon and midnight, the lady in white has visited Chatham once every seven years since her death on June 21, 1790.

*****

The Rising Sun Tavern was once the center of colonial life in Fredericksburg. It was built about 1760 by George Washington’s younger brother, Charles. In its heyday, the tavern served as the city’s post office and stagecoach stop, as well as a popular meeting place. During the Revolutionary period, local patriots and colonial leaders such as Thomas Jefferson and Brother Patrick Henry often met here to plot the nation’s independence.

Although its days of challenging and lively political discussions and games of cards and chess over pints of ale are past, the Rising Sun Tavern is still a lively historic attraction today, and its ghostly inhabitant maintains the spirit of cheer and mischief that once thrived at the tavern.

For instance, one tavern wench (as tour guides there are called) found that the ghost delighted in unplugging the lights in an upstairs room. Tired of having to replug the cords, she finally exclaimed, “Come on now, stop it!” As she turned to leave the room, the wench suddenly felt herself
slipping to the floor as the tavern ghost pulled the rug out from under her. The lights remained plugged in for the rest of the day, however.

Another wench was coming down the steps early one morning when she felt something tugging at the hem of her dress. She looked to see if her colonial gown was caught on something but found nothing amiss. As she tried to proceed down the steps, however, she felt herself tightly held in place. Long a believer that the tavern's ghost was its last owner, John Frazer, the wench exclaimed, “All right, John, let go!” Immediately she felt herself freed as the ghost let go.

Evidently the ghost is a playful apparition, for he delights in pulling the mobcaps from the tavern wenches’ heads. He also moves objects, such as candles, from their regular storage places. The tavern ghost may also be filled with the Christmas spirit since he delights in pulling his pranks during the holiday season.

* * * * *

Organized in 1732, St. George’s Episcopal Church played a significant role in Fredericksburg’s religious history. Virginia patriot Brother Patrick Henry once defended three Baptist preachers arrested for “preaching the Gospel contrary to law” at the church. Past worshipers at the church include Brother George Washington and his mother Mary. The present stone structure was built in 1849, and St. George’s still has an active congregation.

Another lady in white haunts St. George’s Episcopal Church. It was early one evening in 1858 when this ghostly specter first appeared. A young woman who sang in the choir, Miss Ella McCarty, arrived early for practice and found the church nearly dark. While her companion and the church organist searched for more lamps, Miss McCarty ascended the stairs to the choir loft where a single lamp was burning.

Glancing down into the church vestibule, Miss McCarty was astonished to see a lady in white, her face covered by a veil, kneeling at the altar. The mysterious woman rose from her prayers, turned and looked at Miss McCarty. Beneath the veil, Miss McCarty saw the woman’s sad and troubled face. But just as Miss McCarty was about to call to her, the lady in white disappeared into the air. Her identity remains a secret; she was never seen again.

Perhaps she was once among the church’s parishioners. Possibly she came to pray for the final rest for fellow ghost Brother Fielding Lewis, who is believed to be buried under the church’s front steps.

* * * * *

These are only a few tales of the Fredericksburg ghosts and hauntings. Many more stories prevail in Fredericksburg, along with much Masonic history, in what is considered one of America’s most historic cities.

Sir Knight Thomas E. Rigas lives at 2600 West Farwell Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60645.

†

Kunitachi, Japan

Worshipful Master Ron Napier, Past Grand Master of Japan, and the Brethren of Square and Compass Lodge No. 3, Kunitachi, Japan, relayed thanks to the Editor following magazine announcement of several Lodge mementoes which commemorated the November 7 dedication of the New Masonic Center, home of Japan’s Grand Lodge. Items included a coin, plate, spoon, pictures and a set of coasters.

Sir Knight Robert D. Stansbury, Assistant Secretary, notes that the orders received have helped the Lodge “realize a goodly dent in its mortgage.” He adds that just a few sets of coasters remain at $6.00 a set, postpaid. Those wishing to order may send a check (payable to “Square and Compass Lodge No. 3”) to Sir Knight Stansbury, P.O. Box 1023, Vacaville, California 95688.
HISTORY OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

Chapter VI (continued)

KNIGHT TEMPLARY IN AMERICA PRIOR TO 1816

New York (continued)

As quoted from the 1860 Proceedings of the Grand Encampment of New York, relative to a gathering of April 18, 1814:

"... The object of the meeting being announced, the Grand Orator took occasion to deliver a discourse, in which he stated the proceedings and ceremonial which took place at the formation of the Grand Encampment by the Sovereign Grand Consistory in the City of New York in January, 1814.

"That the numerous Encampments of Knights Templar, now existing within this State being self-created bodies, are consequently governed by their own private and individual laws, acknowledging no superior authors, because in fact none heretofore existed, a longer continuance of this state of things could be but productive of ill consequences, inasmuch as it was to be apprehended that these sorts of unconstituted Associations, so rapidly increasing in number, would sooner or later have lessened, if not entirely destroyed that commanding respect due to so dignified a degree as that of Knight Templar.

"Accordingly, the Sovereign Consistory, fully impressed with the necessity and importance of this subject, has, at its session on the 22nd of January, A. D., 1814, as aforesaid, decreed by a unanimous vote the establishment of a "Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders for the State of New York" and immediately proceeded to its formation by choosing the Grand officers thereof, taken (for this time only) from among its own members, as follows:

DeWitt Clinton, Thrice Illustrious Grand Master
Martin Hoffman, Grand Generalissimo
John W. Mulligan, Grand Captain General
James B. Durand, Grand Senior Warden
Jacob Schieffelin, Grand Junior Warden
Elias Hicks, Grand Orator
Anthony Rainetaux, Grand Recorder
Joseph Gouin, Grand Treasurer
Jonathan Schieffelin, Grand Marshall

"They were accordingly installed into their respective offices, and the establishment of the Grand Encampment of Sir Knights Templar and Appendant Orders for the State of New York was next proclaimed in ample form."

Thus we have the Grand Encampment of New York established without a single subordinate body.

The honorable DeWitt Clinton was selected as the first Grand Master. Careful search of membership records of the Encampments then in existence fails to show him as a member, though there is an old diploma bearing his name from "The Castle of Holland Lodge Room,"
dated 1792. It is possible that he was not knighted until the time he was chosen Grand Master. He was most likely selected for this high office to give prestige to the new Grand Encampment, because of his prominence in the political world and his activities in other branches of Masonry.

What authority Joseph Cerneau had for conferring the Orders of Knighthood is not known. James Hopkins, Past Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment, in a report at the Triennial session in 1889 stated:

“No authority to confer the Orders of Knighthood is contained in his patent — at least there is no authority in the patent of July 15, 1806, granted to Matthew Dupotte. If he had any other patent, or if he himself had ever received the Order of Knighthood I have been unable to find any evidence of the fact.”

Whether or not the members of the Consistory who formed the Grand Encampment of New York had received the Orders of Knighthood does not appear. They were not required to do so to be eligible to admission to the Scottish Rite. The precise relationship between the two organizations is difficult to determine.

In 1816, Columbian Encampment was granted a charter as No. 5, the first four places on the roll being reserved for the old Encampments then in existence. At a special conclave on May 6, 1816, a charter was granted to a group in New Orleans, to be known as Louisiana Encampment No. 6. This Encampment, later known as Indivisible Friends Encampment, and Columbian Encampment were the only two to acknowledge the authority of the Grand Encampment of New York until 1823, when Utica Encampment No. 7 was chartered. Temple Encampment at Albany and Montgomery Encampment at Stillwater, even though solicited to do so, never joined with the Grand Encampment.

**Massachusetts and Rhode Island**

As we noted previously, the first conferring of the Masonic Knight Templar degree in America was in St. Andrew’s Royal Arch Lodge of Boston, Massachusetts, on August 28, 1769. The records of the minutes of that meeting show:

“The Petition of Brother William Davis coming before the Lodge begging to have and receive the Parts belonging to a Royal Arch Mason, which being read was received and he unanimously voted in, and was accordingly made by receiving the four steps, that of an Excell’t, Sup. Excell’t, Roy’ Arch and Kt. Templar.”

At this early period there were no separate Templar Bodies, and the degree was conferred under the authority of “Blue Lodge” warrants. St. Andrew’s Royal Arch Chapter, then the “Royal Arch Lodge” had its warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. As early as 1762, St. Andrew’s Royal Arch Lodge had applied to the Grand Lodge of Scotland for permission to confer the Royal Arch degree and subsequently under this warrant conferred not only the Royal Arch, but also the Knight Templar degree.

It is therefore quite certain that the Masonic degree of Knight Templar, introduced into America, had its origin in Ireland.

(continued)
KNIGHT VOICES
COMMENTS FROM READERS

Would appreciate any and all information, on my great grandfather Joseph Heckart or Heckert. He was born in 1819 and married a Susannah Kilgore. They lived at Butler at Middlesex Township. They had several children. Any information regarding this family would be appreciated. I am mainly interested in who Joseph's father and mother were. Elmer B. Heckart, 1318 E Street, Apt. 708, Sacramento, California 95814

I would like to offer for sale, either singly or as a whole, a collection of approximately twenty medallions commemorating the 30th Triennial Conclave held in Saratoga, New York, in 1907. These represent primarily the New England states. James C. Henry, P.O. Box 823, Paris, Kentucky 40361

Recently I was in the home of Mrs. Joe Davis in Taylor and saw a Knight Templar sword with the name “Andrew D. Griffis” engraved on the blade. She said a man gave it to her husband several years ago in Gilham, Louisiana, and never came back for it. Possibly someone reading “Knight Voices” would recognize the name and communicate with me so we might find out more about the man and the sword. Gweneon E. Thomas, P.O. Box 221, Taylor, Arkansas 71861

Seeking information on Dennis McMahon who was born about March 15, 1794, probably in Belmont Co., Ohio, or Ohio Co., West Virginia. He died June 23, 1862, in or near Leesville, Indiana, and was buried in Houston Cemetery there. Cecil L. Dunham, 1009 Pearce Drive, No. 204, Clearwater, Florida 33520

I am 13 years old and endeavoring to collect license plates from all 50 states. Am in need of the following states to complete my collection: Florida, Alabama, West Virginia, Maine, Kentucky, Idaho, Nevada, Delaware, Rhode Island, Vermont and Connecticut. My grandfather is a Sir Knight of Concordia Commandery No. 42, Concordia, Kansas.

If any reader of this request has any of the above mentioned, I will gladly pay postage. Glen J. Archer, Box 33, Cuba, Kansas 66940

As Grand High Priest of Vermont, I had a special Mark penny stamped for my annual convocation in Burlington, Vermont, which I handed out to all those in attendance. These bear the name of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Vermont and the date is June 8, 1982. I have several left and would be happy to trade with collectors on a one-for-one or swap basis. If someone sends me a Royal Arch Chapter penny from their Chapter or some other Chapter, I will send them one of these Vermont pennies by return mail. Stephen J. Marshall, 2 Highland Ave., White River Jct., Vermont 05001

I am interested in knowing of any Brother who has knowledge of a Michael Thomas Connally who left Waltham, Massachusetts, around 1860-63. He is said to have joined the Craft in the Maryville, California, area. Krist Anderson, 1810 Main St., Concord, Massachusetts 01742

For sale: 1 chapeau (7 1/8) and 1 sword with scabbard, both in good condition. Hugh L. McArthur, Box 332, Hemmingford, Nebraska 69348

February 1983
Would appreciate information on parents of Lewis Winans – b. July 18, 1772; d. May 14, 1861. Married Lydia, b. August 15, 1784, d. July 29, 1862. Lydia was daughter of Benj. Winans, b. 1740, Essex Co., New Jersey, d. 1842, Miami Co., Ohio. He was a Revolutionary War soldier. Benjamin Winans’s wife was Elizabeth (?). They came to Miami Co., Ohio, about 1809-10 from Rahway, New Jersey. Lewis Winans was a War of 1812 veteran. Carrol E. Winans, Route No. 2, Box 134, Spencerville, Ohio 45887

I have picked up two articles that might be of some interest to some Brother. 1) An aluminum book match holder with the following inscription: “Compliments of Onward Lodge U.D., A.F. & A.M., Commemorating its first work, Feb. 25, 1922.” 2) A watch chain that slips over the belt with the following inscription: “Prospect Lodge No. 957, A.F. & A.M., 400 night, 1921.”

If any interested member of these Lodges will get in touch with me, I will give them to the first one who writes. If the Lodge wants them, they will get first consideration. I have a collector that gets first chance after the Lodges or a collector from either of the Lodges. K. Arthur Wehr, 2018 Mansard, Griffith, Indiana 46319

Seeking information on Wm. H. Cushman, b. Fonda, New York, 1816, moved to Augusta, Georgia, 1835, thence to Texas in 1841. Possibly his father was James Cushman/Cushannah of Montgomery Co., New York, 1810/1820; possible grandparents John Cushannah and Catrina Denniston, Marbletown, New York, Reformed Church. Possible brother Richard H. Cushman (in Fonda, New York, in 1850’s). My great-great grandfather Wm. H. Cushman was a Mason and a prominent contributor to the early Republic of Texas in the 1840’s. Anxious to hear from any relatives. Mrs. Nolan Kelso, 10555 Le Mans, Dallas, Texas 75238

New Washington Cachets

The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club has designed two new Washington commemorative cachets: The first, a “GWMSC Purple Heart First Day Cover,” recognizes the Armed Services Purple Heart award which was originated and presented by Brother George Washington to three Revolutionary soldiers (Its use was revived in 1932 in honor of Washington’s 200th Birthday.) The second commemorates “Touro Synagogue” where, in the 1790s, President Washington gave a speech, an excerpt of which is contained in the U.S. Bill of Rights.

The cachets are available at a cost of $1.25 each, plus self-addressed stamped envelope, from Cover Chairman S. R. Longenecker, P.O. Box 7244, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17604.

Readers interested in obtaining an order list of the more than 125 GWMSC covers now available should contact the Club President, Sir Knight John R. Allen, P.O. Box 26135, Richmond, Virginia 23260.

When Masonry enters the threshold of the Commandery, it becomes Christian.
WASHINGTON'S "MANSION HOUSE FARM"

"No estate in United America is more pleasantly situated than this.... It lies in a high, dry and healthy Country... on one of the finest Rivers in the world."

In 1752, George Washington inherited 2,700 acres of land, known as "Mt. Vernon," adjacent to the Potomac River in Virginia. It had been owned formerly by his half brother, Lawrence, who had named the location, ironically, in memory of British Navy Admiral Edward Vernon under whom Lawrence had served in the West Indies.

In the 1750s, while Washington was an aide to General Braddock and later Commander of Virginia Militia, Mt. Vernon was managed by his younger brother, John Augustine.

George married Martha in 1759 and for the years prior to the Revolution they lived a comfortable and happy life with Martha's children, Jacky and Patcy. Washington wrote, "I am now, I believe, fixed at this seat with an agreeable Consort for Life and hope to find more happiness in retirement than I ever experienced amidst a wide and bustling World."

During the war years, the estate was managed by a cousin, Lund Washington. Martha lived there through the spring and fall, then joined her husband at his various winter encampments.

Resigning his commission at Annapolis in 1783, George returned to his mansion. He lived the life of a gentleman farmer until 1789 when he was elected President.

By the time of his death in 1799, Mt. Vernon had grown to more than 8,000 acres. The land passed first to a nephew, Bushrod Washington, and from him to a grandnephew, then a great-grandnephew. The Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association brought the property in 1858 and slowly restored it to a splendor befitting the memory of its most famous owner.