THANKSGIVING SEASON

O, it sets my heart a clickin' like the tickin' of a clock, when the frost is on the pumpkin and the fodder's in the shock.

James Whitcomb Riley
MAKE WAY FOR BROTHERHOOD

One of Freemasonry’s most eloquent and creative spokesmen was Brother Edwin Markham, an American poet and educator who died in 1940 at the age of 91. Brother Markham, considered by many in his day to be the “poet laureate” of Freemasonry, put into words those emotions and beliefs universal within our Fraternity. His poetry gives voice to the laws upon which you and I base our actions. Those rules serve as a foundation for living the Masonic life, and underlying all is that fundamental maxim which draws together men of different backgrounds and religions and political beliefs – the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. That belief is constantly in our hearts and in our minds during this month of Thanksgiving.

Brotherhood implies a selflessness, a desire to reconcile those things which separate individuals from one another. It was most apparent that Thanksgiving day celebrated so long ago by Governor Bradford and his fellow pilgrims. In a sense, we are no less pilgrims than were those men and women of 360 years ago. Like them, we look toward a better tomorrow; like them, we recognize that we are neither alone, meaningless, nor powerless creatures in an overwhelming cosmos.

Like our Masonic forefathers, we must help survey the future for our children. Each day as we thank God for our bounties, let us also push a little farther on the road to complete brotherhood. As Markham wrote,

The crest and crowning of all good,
Life’s final star, is Brotherhood;
***
Come, clear the way, then, clear the way:
Blind creeds and kings have had their day.
Break the dead branches from the path:
Our hope is in the aftermath –
Our hope is in heroic men,
Star-led to build the world again.
To this event the ages ran:
Make way for Brotherhood – make way for Man!

If we believe these words, then it all comes back to one thing: With God’s love and help, and our own positive strength, we can correct the errors of the past and mold a finer world. Thank God for Freemasonry and for the men who enlist to her cause.

Ned E. Dull

November 1984
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NOVEMBER: For this month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, Knight Templar Magazine offers an enlightening article on one of the little-recognized founders of our country — Robert R. Livingston, who made possible the acquisition of the entire Louisiana Purchase. November always brings the traditional “Salute to Grand Commanders” which readers will find on page 11. Specifically Masonic are the articles “Freemasonry: Progress Through Education,” and “Something Masonic to Think About, II,” a follow-up to the original. Information on the Eye Foundation and the 17th Annual Voluntary Campaign which begins on December 1 is on pages 22-24. For those who love turkey, a tribute to the turkey awaits on the back cover.

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Address corrections from members are to be sent to the local Recorders.
Family Week: President Reagan has proclaimed the week of November 19, 1984, as “National Family Week.” Many Masonic bodies have planned family activities for this Thanksgiving week to promote recognition and appreciation for the American family as “the foundation of our free society.”

Walter E. Yohe: The Riverside Chapter, Order of DeMolay, which meets in Columbia, Pennsylvania, and is sponsored by Cyrene Commandery No. 34 in Columbia, recently donated $1,000.00 to Cyrene Commandery in honor of Sir Knight Walter E. Yohe, Past Division Commander (1970-73). He served as Chapter Advisor of Riverside Chapter from 1962, the time of the Chapter’s formation, to 1983. Sir Knight Yohe is also a holder of the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

Thanksgiving: This is the 364th year since the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. According to Martin Greif in The Holiday Book, the first record of a thanksgiving service being held within the limits of the United States was by the members of the Popham Colony which settled on the coast of Maine in August of 1607. Of course, we all know about the Pilgrim thanksgiving in 1621 led by Governor Bradford, one of the ideological founders of Thanksgiving Day. This year, being an election year, will have one of the presidential candidates being very thankful indeed. But for Masons, Thanksgiving will always bring to mind God who gives us all that we have.

Ohio Drill Teams: At the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Ohio on the 4th through the 6th of October, 42 Drill Teams from among the state’s 84 Constituent Commanderies took part in the drill competition at the Ohio Union Building on the campus of Ohio State University. In all, says Grand Master Ned E. Dull, 812 Templars marched in competition. That’s a far cry from the situation 25 years ago when only several teams competed. Sir Knight Dull helped to create this drill competition and for the past quarter century has served as Chairman of the Competitive Drill Program. He is also Drill Captain of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 54’s Drill Team in Van Wert. Incidentally, Ivanhoe Commandery took first place again this year as they did in the first state competition in 1959.

Hurricane Birthday: William Wallace Youngson, Jr., Past Grand Sovereign of the United Grand Imperial Council recently celebrated his 70th birthday along with his and Neva’s 50th Wedding Anniversary by taking a cruise. This cruise encountered Hurricane Marie. In a note to the Grand Recorder, he said: “Seriously, for twenty-four hours, the Captain, crew and 1,000 passengers were sick – nearly died! It was awful!” Perhaps a quieter celebration will be in order for next year.

Sir Knight Youngson has become associated with an old family friend as a Public Relations Representative for a major mortuary — chiefly for Masonic services.
CHANCELLOR ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

by
Sir Knight James Grafton Carter
Dayton Commandery No. 68, Dayton, Ohio

Standing on the second story portico of Federal Hall in New York City that April 30, 1789, Robert R. Livingston administered the oath of office to George Washington. With his right hand on the altar bible of St. John's Lodge No. 2, Washington repeated the oath, kissed the bible, and became the first president of the United States of America.

Then the Chancellor of New York, Livingston was the presiding officer of the Court of Equity. In this period of time, during which he was the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York, Livingston served as one of those illustrious men who helped create the United States. He had a propensity for success in every activity he undertook.

Brother Robert R. Livingston came from a long line of manorial landowners in New York State. He was born in New York City November 27, 1746, and graduated from King's College (now Columbia University) in 1765. Upon leaving college he studied law as his father and grandfather had done. He was admitted to the bar in 1770 and practiced in New York City.

Livingston had an active Masonic career, becoming a member of Union Lodge, New York City and serving as Master. He was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York in 1784 and served in that capacity until 1801.

In 1775 Livingston was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress in which he served during the years 1775-77, 1779-81 and as Secretary of Foreign Affairs 1781-83. Not only did he serve well in Congress but he was deeply involved in the affairs of the State of New York. He was a leader in setting up the revolutionary government of 1776 to replace the colonial government of New York. He was a member of the committee to draft a New York Constitution in 1777. He became Chancellor under the new constitution in 1777 and served until 1801. In his role as Chancellor he was a member of the powerful committee composed of the Chancellor, Governor and Supreme Court Judges that could exercise veto power over any act of the legislature. In the New York convention to ratify the U.S. Constitution, he led the influential Livingston faction in support of the Federal Constitution.

None of his contributions to his country and its welfare surpasses
the successful part he played in the Louisiana Purchase. Although President Jefferson received history’s credit for the Louisiana Purchase while the vital role of Robert R. Livingston has been overlooked and forgotten, without Livingston, what may still be considered the greatest diplomatic success recorded in American history might never have occurred.

In June 1800, Bonaparte, the First Consul of France, had defeated Austria; this forced England into a maritime truce with France and made it possible for Bonaparte to proceed with his plan to recover New France in North America. He made a deal with the Spanish to exchange Italian Tuscany for Louisiana. The Americans heard about the treaty as well as Bonaparte’s plan to recover New France. President Jefferson appointed Robert R. Livingston, because he considered him to be the ablest lawyer in America, as Minister Plenipotentiary. He left for Santo Domingo in the West Indies with twenty thousand men and thirty ships. In Santo Domingo the French troops were first to crush the rebellious black slaves before continuing on to New Orleans. Another French army was being assembled at Dunkerque to take over New Orleans as soon as King Charles IV of Spain signed the retrocession treaty.

Upon arriving at the American legation, Livingston was met by two old friends, Lafayette and Francois de Barbe-Marbois. The latter had been a minor French bureaucrat stationed in America during the Revolution and now was the Minister of Public Treasury.

On December 6, 1801, Livingston met Bonaparte and they were mutually impressed with each other’s candor. Bonaparte detested men of the people, and Livingston was no man of the people. Bonaparte detested intrigue, and Livingston was too honest to engage in intrigue.

Livingston spent 1802 writing up pamphlets that pointed out the difficulties the French would encounter by taking possession of New Orleans. His tracts argued that the possession of Louisiana had no value to France and would instead bring about an Anglo-American alliance to the detriment of France. He distributed copies to those close to Bonaparte.

On October 15, 1802, Charles IV signed the treaty of retrocession. But the picture was changing rapidly. The French army in Santo Domingo was being destroyed by yellow fever, debauchery and revolution. By January 1803 the remnant had barely managed to escape and sail home leaving behind huge amounts of armament and ships. The French army at Dunkerque was re-deployed to do guard duty in the
English Channel. War with Britain was imminent. In New Orleans, the up-river shippers who had been able to deposit their goods duty-free for the last three years at the port of New Orleans pending transfer to sea-going craft were stopped from so doing by the Spanish authorities on October 16, 1802. By mid-November Congress was besieged by demands to declare war on somebody. A resolution was introduced to raise an army of

50,000 men and appropriate five million dollars to fund the war.

In January 1803 President Jefferson nominated fellow Virginian James Monroe to work with Livingston. The appointment of Monroe, a man of the people, was calculated to appease the western war hawks who generally distrusted aristocratic easterners like Livingston.

On Tuesday, April 12, 1803, Monroe arrived in Paris. He reviewed his instructions with Livingston to buy all or part of New Orleans and Florida for 50 million francs. The United States would assume the spoliation claims of 20 million francs, making a total of 70 million francs.

Barbé-Marbois showed up in the legation garden during dinner that night and was introduced to Monroe. He told them that he was to represent Bonaparte in the upcoming negotiations. Privately he told Livingston to meet him later at his office. When Livingston met his old friend at the latter's office, he was informed of Bonaparte's decision to renounce Louisiana. The French Minister explained that he had spent the entire preceding Sunday discussing Louisiana with Bonaparte and the Minister of

Maritime without coming to a decision. That following Monday morning, he was summoned to Bonaparte's room to read some messages from the French embassy in London which revealed that all over England people were frantically preparing for war.

Bonaparte then told him, "I will guard against an Anglo-American alliance by taking steps to keep the friendship of the United States. Therefore, I renounce Louisiana. Do not wait the arrival of Mr. Monroe. Have an interview this very day with Livingston. I want 100 million francs and they pay their own claims, no less." Thus it was Bonaparte's intention to by-pass his own Foreign Minister and Monroe by delegating the negotiations to Barbé-Marbois and instructing → → →
him to negotiate with Livingston regarding the selling of Louisiana.

Livingston then realized that New Orleans was now irrelevant, and that Bonaparte was making a firm offer (through Livingston's old friend) to sell all of Louisiana. The time to do it was now — before war broke out. The French Minister of Public Treasury told him that if he would agree to a price of 60 million francs and pay the claims of 20 million francs, then he, as the French negotiator, would try to see how far this would be accepted by Bonaparte. This total of 80 million francs was $1,500,000. Livingston responded that the sum was beyond the means of his country. The Frenchman's reply was to try to see if he could come up to the mark.

The next day Livingston conferred with Monroe who soon shared Livingston's enthusiasm. Two weeks later the old friend presented to Livingston a projected treaty which he said Bonaparte would sign. Livingston and Monroe spent the day reviewing it. They left the boundaries imprecise and agreed to France's ill-defined interest. On Monday April 29 Livingston and Monroe called on the French Minister of Public Treasury. They made a 70 million franc proposal within Monroe's instructions. The Frenchman stopped them and told them that there was no point in going further unless they raised the sum to 80 million francs since Bonaparte had been very explicit on this point and that he could not proceed unless the agreement was for a total of 80 million. The Americans agreed to the 80 million francs and all three men shook hands. The next day a Treaty of Purchase between the United States and the French Republic was approved by Robert R. Livingston, James Monroe and Barbe-Marbois; two days after the final agreement, Monroe was presented to Bonaparte as Minister Plenipotentiary.

On Wednesday, November 30, 1803, the Spanish flag came down over New Orleans, and the French flag went up. On December 20 the French flag came down, and the American flag went up.

Livingston resigned his ambassadorship in the fall of 1804 and returned with his family to Clermont. Turning his attention toward his steamboat partnership with Robert Fulton, they both contributed to the economic development of the United States by reducing the cost of transportation.

Historians are doubtful whether Fulton, without the financial backing, prodding and close supervision of Livingston would have ever developed a steamboat feasible for commercial usage. Yet at the beginning of the maiden voyage that August 17, 1807, and before the assembled family gathered to experience the momentous event, Livingston said, “The name of the inventor, Fulton, would descend to posterity as a benefactor to the world. Before the close of the century vessels might even go all the way to Europe without sail.” Both predictions came true. Robert Fulton is far more widely known today than Robert R. Livingston, and steam-powered vessels began and maintained scheduled transatlantic crossings from 1840 on.

Robert R. Livingston died February 26, 1813, and is interred on his estate, Clermont, near Clermont, New York. He was one of the many Masons who contributed years of arduous, thankless toil to create this country and provide for its well-being.

Sir Knight Carter lives at 2500 Wickliffe Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221.
SOMETHING MASONIC TO THINK ABOUT, II

by
Sir Knight Willard Porter Billingsley
Malta Commandery No. 19, Monroe, North Carolina

There was absolutely no thought of a follow-up article to the one which was printed in the July 1984 Knight Templar Magazine entitled "Something Masonic to Think About." This changed as letters began to come in as a result of that article being published; thus, here is part two.

The crux of the first article was this: "the decline in membership in the Masonic Fraternity is directly tied to the moral decline." The July article stated that the moral decline had been progressing since just after World War II. It was probably at its height during the sixties and early seventies. This brings to mind, then, that it took nearly forty years for a progressing moral decline to be reflected in declining Masonic membership. By the same token, it will take a period of years for Masonic membership to increase after the moral turn-around is accomplished. The suggestion has been made that it might take as many as twenty years: not as long as the membership decline took to really exhibit itself.

To bring about the end of the moral decline which is needed to increase Masonic membership, the individual Mason must take it upon himself to conduct himself in a manner that is strictly upright, on the level, on the square, honest, true; one that really shows sincere friendship, true morality and earnest brotherly love. These can't be feigned.

Not much has been said about it, but we are all being watched and listened to while we conduct business or even engage in conversation. The Right Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, William A. Carpenter, has said in the August issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason, "The good name of Freemasonry is not the result of what we do not do; it is the result of practicing outside the Lodge those great moral lessons we are taught within the Lodge. At no time in the history of our Nation has there been a greater need to exercise the principles and moral teachings of Freemasonry than now."

It is believed that those measures suggested for a membership increase (for example: change in antiquated Ritual [including the obligations], relaxation of membership requirements, invitation and lowering of the age requirements) are short-sighted, and although they just might bring about an immediate stop to membership decline, they will prove detrimental to the Craft in years to come. They could best be described as stop-gap, short-range methods whereas we need long-range, lasting changes. Putting a stop to the moral decline is the only true and lasting solution to our considerable problem.

While seeking peace for a troubled post-war world, President Dwight D. Eisenhower is reported to have said, "If all the Masons were to decide there would be peace, we would have peace." An analogous statement could go like this: "If every Mason decided to do something about the moral decline then there would be no more moral decline." Judging from the mail received
Something Masonic . . .

as a result of the July article, there are many Masons in agreement with this.

The decline in morals will have to be turned around by Masons. No other group has yet started to accomplish this. Many wonderful organizations and bodies come to mind and we quickly recognize that their efforts have been valiant. They just haven’t worked, so far.

One simple move on the part of the individual Mason will do much to heal our society of whatever sickness it has. We believe that this sickness is revealed in the moral decline, and the moral decline leads to the decline of membership in the Masonic Fraternity.

W. P. Billingsley resides at P.O. Box 365, 205 W. Morgan Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

Commandery Confers Order of Malta

On September 18, 1984, after Fresno Commandery No. 29, California, was opened in full form and the business concluded, the Commandery was closed and a Priory of Knights of Malta was opened for the conferral of the Order of Malta. The present Eminent Commander of Fresno No. 29, Thomas P. Butler, served as Eminent Prior for the conferral.

Ten candidates from the San Joaquin Valley received the Order of Malta. They were (from left to right): Keith Emmert, Fresno; Roy Batemen, Visalia; Virgil R. Shoemaker, Visalia; Richard E. Wehle, Hanford; Tommy D. Cox, Merced; William A. DeFries, Fresno; Max C. Taff, Fresno; Roy J. Goodman, Fresno; J. D. Dixon, Merced; Russell D. Roberts, Fresno; Thomas P. Butler, E.C., Fresno No. 29.

Manchin Awards “Spirit of Freedom”

Kanawha Commandery No. 4, Charleston, West Virginia, celebrated a special Flag Day observance on June 25, 1984. A large group of Sir Knights, their ladies, and guests assembled in the Masonic Temple for a dinner preceding the program. The special guest at the dinner was West Virginia Secretary of State A. James Manchin.

Following dinner, the “Pitch-Hitters,” a local barbershop quartet, entertained the group with a program of traditional and patriotic numbers. After introductions and announcements, Secretary of State Manchin addressed the Sir Knights and ladies, on the matter of Flag Day with a talk entitled “Can We Wave the Flag Enough?” In addition to his speech,

Mr. Manchin (above, right) presented a number of West Virginia State Seals. The highlight of the evening was his conferral of the “Spirit of Freedom” award on Sir Knight Poston E. Drake (pictured above, left). Eminent Commander of Kanawha Commandery No. 4 and Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery of West Virginia. Following the program, the officers and Sir Knights concluded the business of the June stated Conclave of Kanawha Commandery No. 4 in the Asylum.
1984-85 SALUTE TO GRAND COMMANDERS

Grand Master Ned E. Dull and all the officers of the Grand Encampment congratulate the 48 Grand Commanders of the United States and the Philippines for the new year. In this Knight Templar Magazine salute, readers will find the names and photographs of those men who have been elected Grand Commander as a reward for years of hard work and dedication for the cause of Templary.

The 1984-85 Grand Commanders portrayed below now hold the premier office of their state and as such are responsible for guiding their Grand Commanderies through another year in the history of the great Christian order of Masonry, the Knights Templar.

Richard S. Hamilton
ALABAMA

B. Kendall Pitkin
ARIZONA

Jimmie Jackson
ARKANSAS

Samuel A. Woods
CALIFORNIA

George G. Field, Jr.
COLORADO

Gail N. Smith
CONNECTICUT

J. Milton McDonald
DIST. OF COL.

Joe W. Aspley
FLORIDA

Robert E. Hughes
GEORGIA

Burrell Lirgg
IDAHO

William J. Jones
ILLINOIS

Ronald D. Simpson
INDIANA
George S. Clapsaddle  
IOWA

Frank G. Woods  
KANSAS

James C. Gillum  
KENTUCKY

Horace Alexius, Jr.  
LOUISIANA

Arnold H. Lundquist  
MAINE

Carl J. Wisner  
MARYLAND

Henry Betcher, Jr.  
MASS - R.I.

John F. Adams  
MICHIGAN

Picture Not Available at Time of Printing

Leonard G. Mathison  
MINNESOTA

James F. Laughter  
MISSISSIPPI

Robert G. Bird  
MISSOURI

Floyd P. Jenni  
MONTANA

Adolph J. Schlaman  
NEBRASKA

Edward M. Block  
NEVADA

Arnold M. Ashley  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

John J. Sheehan, Jr.  
NEW JERSEY

George H. Ross  
NEW MEXICO

Steven L. Wing  
NEW YORK

Gerald W. Ringler  
NORTH CAROLINA

James H. Johnson  
NORTH DAKOTA

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november 1984
William Ammer  
OHIO

Ellis L. Sappington  
OKLAHOMA

Richard C. Elofson  
OREGON

Leon E. Anderson  
PENNSYLVANIA

Glenn R. Watts  
SOUTH CAROLINA

Carl V. Olson  
SOUTH DAKOTA

Fred T. Goddard  
TENNESSEE

Wallace E. Dunn  
TEXAS

Bill A. Bayes  
UTAH

Roger F. Spaulding  
VERMONT

Edward R. Saunders  
VIRGINIA

Olaf C. Haugen  
WASHINGTON

Donald E. Summers  
WEST VIRGINIA

John R. Wahlquist  
WISCONSIN

Jack E. Nixon  
NYOMING

William Bozel, Jr.  
PHILIPPINES

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Route 1, Box 100 No. 36, Cottonwood, Arizona 86326
Jimmie Jackson  
P.O. Box 222, Mount Ida, Arkansas 71957
Samuel A. Woods  
773 Alaska Drive, Santa Rosa, California 95405
George G. Field, Jr.  
1698 South Glencoe Street, Denver, Colorado 80222
Gail N. Smith  
P.O. Box 333, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226
Sixty-five Years of Membership

Nicholas Andin presented Adelbert W. Cummings with a certificate in order to recognize his 65 years of membership in the Grand Commandery of New York.

In the photograph (1 - r), are Edward Trosin, G.S.W., Adelbert Cummings, and Nicholas Andin, E.C., Dunkirk Commandery No. 40, Dunkirk, New York. S.K. Cummings is a member of Dunkirk Irondequoit Lodge No. 301 and Ismailia Shrine Temple, Buffalo. He has been awarded certificates in Dunkirk Council of Cryptic Masons No. 25 and Dunkirk Chapter 191, R.A.M.
Sir Knight and Chaplain (Captain) Arthur C. Pace, former Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey and son of the Northeastern Department Commander, S.K. Thurman C. Pace, Jr., has been awarded the Army Achievement Medal for his contributions in Grenada.

In August and September, Sir Knight Pace, a Battalion Chaplain in the 426th Signal Brigade stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, spent 32 days as the Armed Forces Chaplain for soldiers on Grenada.

The country of Grenada, according to Sir Knight Pace, “for the last five years was under the influence of a Communist administration which was powerfully backed by Cubans. They completely ignored their social and moral responsibilities of providing care for the orphans and elderly as well as for the local churches. Natives on the island of Grenada are very vocal in their appreciation of the American intervention resulting in the removal of the Cubans and the Communist regime and become incensed when someone says Grenada was invaded.”

It didn’t take Chaplain Pace long to discover the needs of the young as well as the elderly natives of the island. In addition, the U.S. Army detachment on the island was bored due to the lack of local activities and entertainment. Pace began by using his free time to entertain and teach the orphans in the Queen Elizabeth Home for Children and to counsel those in the Home for the Elderly. As an amateur magician, he quickly attracted their attention with his “bag of tricks.” Noting that the children and the elderly in both homes were not getting adequate food, he was able to obtain ample food for them from surplus Army rations, much of which was previously being discarded.

The children, as well as the soldiers who had been reluctant to approach them, had a wonderful time together when Chaplain Pace invited them to swim in the pool located in the U.S. Army Compound. This led to Chaplain Pace organizing a highly successful program whereby each soldier adopted one orphan for a day. Next, Chaplain Pace suggested to the public relations officer the idea of a Grenada Olympics. Games, races, and swimming events were organized with money contributed by the various units. The money received was given to the orphanage in the name of the winners to be used to purchase much needed pots, pans, and cutlery for their kitchen.

The orphanage building was in sad disrepair. Chaplain Pace wrote the U.S. Aids Program itemizing their needs and requesting a grant of $8,000.00 to cover such work. The grant was issued and the repairs began immediately.

Chaplain Pace is continuing his work for the orphanage by soliciting furniture and equipment to be shipped to Grenada—he shipped them a hot water heater in September.

In recognition of Chaplain Pace’s outstanding efforts toward helping the orphans and the aged, as well as improving the morale of the soldiers stationed on the island of Grenada, the U.S. Army has awarded him the Army Achievement Medal.

If any Sir Knight would like to know more about Chaplain Pace’s efforts or to assist his efforts in any way, he may be reached at the following address: Chaplain (Captain) Arthur C. Pace, HHC 426 Signal Bn., Ft. Bragg, North Carolina 28307-5000.
The Valley of Toledo, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, N.M.J., has named its Fall Reunion class of candidates to honor Ned E. Dull, 33° and Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. This class will be held November 2 and 3 in the Heatherdowns Masonic Temple.

In commemoration of the naming of a Scottish Rite class after a York Rite member of national significance, the Valley of Toledo has created a special coin which will be given free to everyone who attends the Fall Reunion. This unique coin shows both the symbol of the Scottish Rite and of the Knights Templar. Along with the date of the reunion class on one side of the coin is the double-headed eagle insignia. The flip side bears the symbol of Templary — the Cross and Crown — with the words: Ned E. Dull, 33°, Class, Grand Master, Grand Encampment, K.T. The Most Eminent Grand Master presented the first minted coin to Sovereign Grand Commander Stanley Maxwell at the Supreme Council session of the A.A.S.R., N.M.J., in Boston in September.

For those not attending the class where coins will be given for free, the coins may be ordered from the Valley of Toledo by mail by sending $3 to: Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Toledo, P.O. Box D, Heatherdowns Station, Toledo, Ohio 43614.

Texas Priory No. 23, K.Y.C.H., was honored with the presence of the four presiding officers of the four grand bodies at its September meeting. Pictured in the photograph from left to right are Wallace E. Dunn, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, Texas; E. Frank Smith, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters; C. H. “Cliff” Randsell, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, Royal Arch Masons; and Robert H. “Bob” Waters, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Texas.

Arizona No. 1 Centennial Coin

Arizona Commandery No. 1, Tucson, celebrated its centennial in 1983 and produced a coin for that occasion. Coins are still available and are 1½ inches in diameter. One side bears a Sahuaro cactus with four branches, surrounded by “Deo Duce Comitant” and “Tucson A.T. 1883.” Coins, at $4.50 each postpaid, may be ordered from Sir Knight Schaeffer, 5749 East 6th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711.
Knight Elected Explorer Chairman

Michael P. Knight from Lansing, Illinois, has been elected to the office of National Law Enforcement Explorer Chairman at the National Conference held in Columbus, Ohio, in August 1984. The Law Enforcement Explorer is a career-oriented Boy Scout Explorer Post. Mike will be representing more than 42,000 active men and women as he devotes the next year to working with the top law officials in the nation promoting the relationship between law enforcement and Explorers. He is currently scheduled to address the delegates at the National Sheriff’s Association, The International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners.

Mike has been extremely active in Illinois DeMolay for a number of years and at the DeMolay Conclave this year he became DeMolay Association of Northern Illinois Master Councillor for 1984-1985. He hails from Stanley Garrity Chapter of DeMolay. Commander Robert Knight, Jr., his uncle, and Generalissimo William Knight, his father, are currently serving on the dais of Chicago Heights Commandery No. 78 and are “anxiously awaiting the day that Mike Knight will be Knighted.”

Louisiana Closing Day Masonic Covers

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, F. & A.M., is sponsoring covers postmarked on the closing day of the World Exposition in New Orleans on November 11, 1984, and they will be available containing the U.S. Postal Service’s 1984 Louisiana World Exposition commemorative postage stamp. A limited number of sets are also still available with the official first day of issue (May 11, 1984) postmark.

Either the “First Day of Issue,” or “Closing Day” postmarked sets (2 covers each) may be ordered while supplies last by mailing $3.25 per set (or $2.75 plus a No. 10 self-addressed, stamped envelope with 37 cents postage affixed) to: J. R. Allen, Chairman, Grand Lodge of LA/FDC sets, P.O. Box 26135, Richmond, Virginia 23260. He requests that orders should specify which set is desired.

Louisiana Lodge No. 102, F. and A.M., also produced a single Masonic first day cover saluting the 1884 and 1984 World’s Fairs in New Orleans, which may be ordered by adding $1.50. Proceeds will benefit the respective organizations. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for filling orders (year-end for closing day times). While limited supplies last, all 5 cover varieties (Grand Lodge First Day of Issue, 2; Closing Day, 2; La. Lodge First Day, 1) may be ordered for $7.00 postpaid.
Battles Banquet Bequest

David W. Battles, a prominent Mason who was Mayor of Brockton, Massachusetts at the turn of the century, will be remembered annually in the Brockton Masonic Temple thanks to his daughters who left a $20,000 bequest for that purpose.

Once a year, members of Bay State Commandery No. 38, Brockton, will gather in a pleasant social manner for a banquet in Brother Battles' honor. This banquet, paid for by income from the bequest, will be free to all members of the Commandery.

David Battles was Mayor of Brockton in 1902 and served three terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He was also very active Masonically, being a member of Paul Revere Lodge, A.F. & A.M., and a Past Commander of Bay State Commandery.

Sir Knight Battles' daughters, Edith H. and Mildred B. Battles, ensured his remembrance in the Commandery by the joint bequest of $20,000 to be presented upon their deaths. Following Edith's death in 1973, Mildred had an artist paint David W. Battles' portrait which now hangs in the Temple. When Mildred died on March 28 of this year, the two bequests of $10,000 each were presented by the estate's co-executors, George Wainwright and Mrs. Stephen Bates (left in photo). In hope that a room could be dedicated to S.K. Battles and his portrait placed within it, the bequests were presented to Commander Charles Clark (photo center) of Bay State Commandery, Raymond Allen, president, Brockton Masonic Temple Association (second from right), and David D. North, Masonic building manager (right).

Grand Encampment
Roll Call of Honored Dead
IN HALLOWED MEMORY

Ehm J. Sorensen
Nebraska
Grand Commander – 1971
Born March 19, 1906
Died September 17, 1984

Lincoln L. Shreve
Iowa
Grand Commander – 1962
Born October 17, 1893
Died October 2, 1984

Centennial Coin

North Bend Lodge No. 119, A.F. & A.M., Nebraska, has issued an antique bronze commemorative coin honoring the 100th anniversary of the Lodge. The coin may be ordered for $5.00 each postpaid from Sir Knight Ben Harvey, P.O. Box R, Fremont, Nebraska 68025.
FREEMASONRY: PROGRESS THROUGH EDUCATION

by

Donald H. Smith, Deputy Grand Master


Let us stop for a moment to consider the effects of both Freemasonry and public education on our nation in the nearly three centuries each has been with us.

As an educator, I have been amazed at how many men have received a basic and working knowledge of the humanities and their uses over the centuries—first, as students in the Masonic Degrees and then as teachers in the Degree conferrals.

As a citizen, I have been astounded by the number of men from all walks and conditions of life who have learned the arts of politics and leadership by being officers in Masonic organizations.

As a student of history, I am astonished at the lack of credit given to Freemasonry as one of the important forces for progress in government, in education and in technology in this great nation over the past few centuries. I realize that much of this is caused by our own fraternal desire for some secrecy regarding the previous centuries, but it is ironic that the only information taught in most history textbooks relating to Masonry concerns the anti-Masonic movement of the early 19th century. Surely when an organization has a national political party formed to oppose it, there can be no doubt that it has influenced the social and economic structure of both the nation and the world.

Freemasons are part of an organization that taught our early leaders to preside and our early members to want liberty, equality, and fraternity. We have taught our children what public education is, and how to teach technology and ethics together for progress.

Are we an outmoded, unnecessary organization?

I say that we are as timely as technology, as current as a computer, and as necessary as the news.

In many communities in this nation, the second public edifices built after churches were Masonic halls. The first government was started by men who were trained in Masonic halls. In many communities in this nation the first schools for ethics and technology were in Masonic halls.

Today we still teach the ethics of a good life; and outside of our churches and good homes, it is difficult to find them taught elsewhere. Temperance, prudence, fortitude and justice are the cornerstones of truth and brotherhood. On these words stands the feeling of trust: you are my brother; you were taught as I was. I trust you.

I trust you! These are the words of progress.

The seeds of technological progress that built the steam engines also built the computer. The ethics that taught that temperance and justice should rule the world must control our weapons; the character that provides the fortitude and prudence to stand up for our rights and the rights of our brothers.
must continue to be our strength and support.

The idea of building for eternity in this generation that isn’t quite sure which day will be the last is no different from building for eternity in a world two and a half centuries ago that was afflicted with epidemic disease that killed millions, with hunger that starved more, or with despair that caused internal strife. The symbolic builder who had a foundation of ethical understanding was as able as us today to control epidemic disease, to provide food for the hungry, and to establish government (even for those as desperate as we are in the closing years of this century).

Our lessons are eternal, and the history of this nation for the past 250 years has been affected by those ethical precepts taught Freemasons everywhere for the benefit of mankind.

We hear that public education today is at its lowest ebb in this century. I think that may be because about half of the knowledge of mankind has been acquired during this century.

As an educator, I am appalled to see primary school reading, arithmetic, and social sciences taught under the guise of remedial education in public colleges. Somewhere the system has let down; and as the problem grows with population growth, we blame each other for the problems. Each group has its scapegoat: the parent blames the teacher for not teaching, the teacher blames the administrator for not enforcing rules and the parent for non-support. The administrator blames the school board for not backing him, the school board blames the politician for not giving enough money, and the politicians at each level blame everybody except the voters, and the student doesn’t seem to care, which is the greatest problem of all.

Most people who have a solution base it on money. More pay, more programs, more computers, more everything except the basic idea of education.

Education starts at birth, not in kindergarten or the first grade. It progresses because of a team of child, family, and school teacher: A team that gives a reason for learning. When we were ten years old, you couldn’t motivate us by saying we would need a good education to get a good job, but my father could motivate me with some good old fashioned punishment if I failed, and some wonderful praise if I succeeded. He convinced me that it was in my best interest to do my best — or else!

And so it was then, and is now.

Throwing money around may provide newer buildings, better pay for teachers and new computer programs, but money won’t make better students, so let’s get the truth out on the line: We educate by motivation, and we have to want to learn. I do not advocate the woodshed, unless it is necessary, but I do advocate praise where warranted, practice where needed, and promotion where earned. We cannot educate our children with money alone. It takes people who are patient and prepared.

As with education, so it is with Freemasonry. We take our candidates through the Symbolic Degrees in weeks. We make them learn by rote, not by understanding. We put them in a hall to see the higher degrees all in one day, and we expect understanding from them. We then wonder why they never really understand that they are members, that they are needed and wanted.

In comparison, they are like the students who get a college degree without being able to write a full paragraph, or tell you who William Shakespeare was, or give any cheerful facts about the square of an hypotenuse, to quote Gilbert and Sullivan.

We are the teachers; we are the administrators in this area of education.

I hear the words “Masonic education” spoken at Communications, Conclaves, Assemblies and Convocations, but I don’t
see much of it going on outside the conferral of degrees. Masonry has been a strong supporter of public education for two centuries. Masonry has supported education because Masonry is education.

We believe that an ethical education in truth is the basis of a good life and morality.

Freemasonry, like public education, should not promote without proof, should praise when deserved, and must reprove when necessary.

We need to think like a school, to be the administration and faculty, pupils and alumni, all in support of the institution, its charities, and its ethics because all members understand them. I believe that we can equate the problems of Masonic membership loss to the loss of Masonic educational standards. We blame roughly the same groups as public education does: The members blame the lecturer for not teaching, and the lecturer blames the ritual team for poor performance. The ritual team blames the officers for not leading the lodge, the officers blame the Past Masters for not working enough, and the Past Masters blame the grand bodies because they do not give enough guidance for the money. The grand bodies blame everybody but the voters, and the candidate doesn’t even know what he has missed.

This is our problem. We need to look where we are going and to teach our candidates where we have been, what we have done, and how they can participate in making the future better for themselves and for their brothers. This is the same thing that public education is trying to do for young people.

The word education comes from the Latin verb educere, meaning “to lead out of.” It means, at all stages of learning, to bring one from the darkness of ignorance into the light of knowledge. Very little leading from the darkness is done unless the teacher takes the pupil’s hand and moves him willingly toward the light.

We, as Masonic educators, are more fortunate than the public educator because we can select our pupils to a certain extent.

The desire to learn, the desire to teach, the desire to bring our fellow humans from darkness into light, has been the driving force behind both Masonic and public education. The significance of a life that understands temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice is inestimable. The importance of a system that teaches what it believes to be truth is incalculable.

As we cannot increase the number of educated citizens merely by throwing money at our educational system, so we cannot increase the number of Masonically educated Brethren merely by seating them in a Lodge.

Education still needs the application of the receptive mind and a transformation of knowledge by way of the senses. So we must touch their hands, open their eyes, whisper in their ears, and let them taste the fruits of our wisdom and feel the meaning of friendship and brotherly love. We can’t do it in one hour or even one day. It often takes long periods of truth and understanding on both sides.

To the many of you that will say that I have oversimplified the problem, I say this: are we so busy trying to get our young people into college that we forget to educate them in the primary grades? And are we so busy trying to get our Master Masons into the Rites that we forget to educate them in the Symbolic Degrees?

These questions end my remarks, but you will have to answer them for yourselves. I hope that your answers will strengthen our attempts to improve all our work to lead human beings out of the abysmal darkness of ignorance and failure into the brilliant light of knowledge and love.

Sir Knight Donald H. Smith resides at Route 10, Idylwild Estates, Richmond, Kentucky 40475.
Plaques Awarded for Service

The Trustees of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation authorized Executive Director Bell to present plaques in appreciation for years of distinguished service to Drs. F. Phinizy Calhoun, Jr., and Richard G. Chenoweth.

Both these doctors have served on the Committee of Ophthalmologists-Advisors for the Eye Foundation. According to Sir Knight Bell, the plaques represent a "small token of our gratitude for the time and talent given to assist us in the restoration and preservation of sight of those who are less fortunate."

Dr. F. Phinizy Calhoun, Jr., of Atlanta, Georgia, has served the Eye Foundation for twenty-eight years, and Dr. Richard G. Chenoweth, Portland, Oregon, has given ten years of service to the Eye Foundation.

Donations to the Eye Foundation

Mrs. Charles L. Randles, Worthy President of Salina Assembly No. 229, Salina, Kansas, presented Mrs. Harold N. Kinsey, Supreme Worthy President of the Social Order of the Beauceant, with a check for $415.77 for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation earlier this year. This check was only part of the money raised for the Eye Foundation by the Assembly. A total of $627.17 was donated, including money raised from personal gifts, memorials, providing food for the annual Toy Show, and Craft Shows.

Director Bell Accepts Contributions

G. Wilbur Bell, Executive Director of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Social Order of the Beauceant held in Kansas City. Mrs. Carl A. Anderson, General Chairman of the Eye Foundation Committee for the Social Order of the Beauceant, presented Sir Knight Bell with a check totalling $50,198.74 as part of their annual contributions for 1984.
A Letter of Thanks

Dear Mr. Bell:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Trustees of the Retina Research Foundation, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for the generous donation of $17,250 to further the studies of Dr. Helen M. Hittner.

We are truly grateful for your continued support of this most valuable project and I am pleased to report that 1983 statistics from the Jefferson Davis Hospital Nursery indicated a substantial increase in survival rates for high risk preterm infants. Your contributions are helping to give the gift of sight to thousands of children each year.

Thank you again ... and again for your valuable contribution to this most important work.

With best wishes,

Alice McPherson, M.D.

GRAND COMMANDERY CHAIRMEN
for the 17th Annual Voluntary Campaign

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<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>ALABAMA</td>
<td>Arthur C. Harding</td>
<td>P.O. Box 9869, Birmingham 35215</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARIZONA</td>
<td>Wilhelm A. Amstutz, Jr.</td>
<td>3748 E. Hazelwood, St., Phoenix 85015</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARKANSAS</td>
<td>Ezra S. Cook</td>
<td>820 North Cleveland, Little Rock 72205</td>
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<tr>
<td>CALIFORNIA</td>
<td>Richard W. Williamson</td>
<td>R. I, Box 157, E. Tabor Ave., Fairfield 94533</td>
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<td>COLORADO</td>
<td>Howard R. Caldwell</td>
<td>8108 Grandview Avenue, Arvada 80002</td>
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Knights Templar Eye Foundation
New Club Memberships

Grand Commander’s Club:

Tennessee No. 21 — Howard L. Watkins
Kansas No. 7 — Agnes McLeod
New Jersey No. 15 — Everett L. Labagh

Grand Master’s Club:

No. 545 — Warren W. Clute, Jr. (NY)
No. 546 — Roy E. Cross (MA)
No. 547 — C. William Gaylor (NY)
No. 548 — Ralph Matthew James (AZ)

How to join: Any individual may send a check in the amount of $100 or more to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation 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. Once contributions total $1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master’s Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and there is no Com mandery credit given for participation.

Information is available from G. Wilbur Bell, P.G.M., Executive Director, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 579, Springfield, Illinois 62705.
Several thousand Masons, including Grand Masters from all over America, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the laying of the original cornerstone for the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. On August 5, 1884, then Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York, A.F. & A.M., William A. Brodie, laid the cornerstone with full Masonic honors.

In commemoration of the Centennial Anniversary, a program was conducted by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of New York. Providing the “Arch of Steel” for the entrance of Most Worshipful Grand Master Calvin G. Bond were the Knights Templar of the Grand Commandery of New York. The United States Merchant Marine Academy Regimental Band provided music for his entrance as well as the rest of the program.

Opening remarks were made by Arthur Markewich, P.G.M., the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Statue of Liberty Committee. The Reverend Gerald Walsh gave the invocation. Remarks and introductions were given by various guests, and three Masonic historical items were presented: the Washington 1789 Inauguration Bible of St. John’s Lodge No. 1; the gavel used by George Washington at the cornerstone ceremony at the Nation’s Capitol in 1793; and the cornerstone trowel used by Grand Master Brodie in the 1884 ceremony.

In remarks about the Statue and the Centennial Anniversary, Grand Master Bond said, “the basic values contained in the teachings of Masonry, tested through the years, remain as sound today as those tested 100 years ago in the laying of the cornerstone of this world famous symbol of liberty. And we must transmit these values to the younger generation.”

Lieutenant Governor Alfred B. DelBello was the main speaker for the event, and he thanked the Freemasons for “the great contribution they have made to this country and to so many countries throughout the world.” In addition, he thanked the Masons from France and the French people for their “contributions ... to the preservation of freedom as we know it in the United States.” A highlight of the program was the dramatic air borne-unveiling of the bronze tablet commemorating both the 1884 and 1984 ceremonies. This tablet, pictured above, is signed by Most Worshipful Calvin G. Bond and is a
lasting reminder of the Masons who helped build, design and dedicate this memorial to Freedom which will remain standing due to this restoration. According to Grand Master Bond, “we know that this symbol must continue to inspire every heart and nation.”

The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World was designed by Frederic A. Bartholdi of France. He was one of the early members of Lodge Alsace-Lorraine, Paris. (For more information see the October 1983 edition of Knight Templar Magazine).

A nationwide Masonic goal of $3 million has been designated for the restoration which is now in progress and is to be completed by 1986, when the Statue is to be re-dedicated by the President of the United States in a ceremony on Independence Day.

Chapeau Cases Presented at Conference

At the South Central Department Conference on September 8 and 9, Grand Master Ned E. Dull was presented with an ornate chapeau case handcrafted exclusively for him by Joe L. Alexander. S.K. Alexander also gave a case to Blair Mayford, Dept. Chairman. These cases were presented at the joint dinner of the South Central Department Conference. The case is tooled in genuine leather with the cross and crown on one end with the words “King of Kings,” and on the other end (see pictures below) it bears the Knights Templar insignia with the words “Lord of Lords.” The Grand Master’s name is on the front along with the dates of the triennium and the name of the Fraternity.

A master leather craftsman, Joe Alexander is a member of A. C. Garrett Commandery No. 103, Dallas, Texas. He has offered to make and sell similar chapeau cases on commission. Sir Knight Alexander is asking $500 per case and for each personalized case sold, Alexander will donate $300 to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Joe Alexander may be reached at 2318 Mockingbird Lane, Garland, Texas 75042.
Ordination of Sir Knight Brings Masons Together

On Sunday evening, September 9, 1984, The Right Reverend William G. Black, Bishop of Southern Ohio, ordained Sir Knight Donald F. Davidson an Episcopal Deacon. This ordination marked the first diaconate ordination in the history of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church in Gallipolis, a community along the Ohio river. The Masonic influence was felt, according to Sir Knight Davidson, when the ancient sacrament of laying on of hands was included in the service.

The Reverend Davidson is a Past Master Councilor of DeMolay in Ohio and is the son of Past Grand Commander George W. Davidson and Mrs. Davidson. The Sir Knights Davidson are the grandson and great-grandson of Past Commanders of Bellefontaine Commandery No. 61. The Reverend Eugene H. Buxton, Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment, preached at the ordination and the Old Testament Lector was Past State Master Councilor and Sir Knight Paschal A. King, Jr., a minister in the local United Methodist Church.

Attending the service were Past Grand Commanders Cecil S. Blair and Eugene H. Loose, Grand Commander William Ammer, Honorary Past Grand Commander and Grand Recorder George R. Fitez, and Grand Sword Bearer Richard Dennis. In addition to the Grand Commandery family, Bellefontaine Commandery's Past Commanders David Vassar, James W. Shaw and Richard E. Groves were present along with Edgar L. Miller, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Past Commander Richard Carter, Rose Commandery No. 41, Gallipolis, served as an usher. Also in attendance was Mrs. Ned E. Dull, the wife of Most Eminent Grand Master Dull and their daughter and son-in-law, Sir Knight and Mrs. Pat Lewis.

S.K. Davidson currently serves as Chaplain of Saint John's Military School in Salina, Kansas, where S.K. Keith Duckers, a Past Potentate of Isis Temple, Salina, is president.

Kansas Hosts Conference of York Rite Masons


Among the changes made and adopted at this conference was the changing of the name to "The Southwest Conference of York Rite Masons" from "The Southwestern Conference of Grand York Rite Officers." This was to more reflect the proper understanding of the purpose or mission of this Conference.

W. G. Updegrove, Grand King, R.A.M., Kansas presented a paper entitled "Trust In Our Member" by M. R. Grundy, P.G.C. (Kansas), Chester Hazen, G.S.W. (Missouri), gave his paper "Visibility." Additional papers presented were: "What Is Our Mission?" by Homer Chamness, G.M., (Arkansas), and "Perpetual Membership" by Gerald R. Butcher, G.C.G., Knights Templar, Kansas. According to Gerald Butcher, "During the critique period many good points were brought to mind and all learned a lot — not only from the papers, but also the critiques." This Conference will be held again in 1985 September 6-8 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
HISTORY OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

Chapter XII (continued)

THE PERIOD OF CIVIL STRIFE
AND RECONSTRUCTION

Fifteenth Conclave

As was to be expected, the representatives to the fifteenth Conclave in September 1865 were from the northern states, as those from the southern states could not be there. However, only a few of the southern Grand Commanderies renounced their fealty to the Grand Encampment.

The Grand Master, in his address, referred briefly to the national struggle and to his official circular of April 18, 1861, in which he asked that each one “cast aside every political feeling, every political aspiration, and every Templar do the same as one man, uniting in one grand effort to prevent the shedding of fraternal blood, and inaugurate here that blessed result which our Lord and Master initiated: ‘Peace on earth and good will to men.’ He further stated:

But if war must come — which dread calamity may God, in His infinite mercy avert, then I call upon every Knight Templar to perform that sacred duty, which so well becomes our Order, of binding up the wounds of the afflicted and comforting those who mourn.

It is a matter of record that all the Masonic Bodies, both North and South, maintained a magnanimous good will throughout the long struggle.

Before the outbreak of the Civil War, seven Grand Commanderies authorized at the last Conclave had been established. With the upheaval affecting both North and South, only three dispensations had been granted in the past three years, one for Orleans Commandery at New Orleans, which at this Conclave had its dispensation continued. The dispensation to Oregon Commandery presented a new problem due to the change in the Constitution. Prior to the revision, nine Sir Knights regardless of their residence could petition for a dispensation for a new commandery. Now it was necessary that all be residents of the jurisdiction where the new commandery was to be located. In Oregon there were only five Sir Knights. To overcome this difficulty, the Grand Master gave a dispensation that all or any three could open a Commandery and create a sufficient number of Knights to present a constitutional petition. This was done and later a regular dispensation was granted to establish a permanent commandery. The preliminary dispensation as found in the Grand Master’s “Letter Book” reads as follows:

Know ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in our valiant and magnanimous Knights Sir Amory Holbrook, hailing from DeMolay Commandery, Boston, Mass., E. P. Henderson, hailing from Hubbard Commandery, Pennsylvania, James R. Bayley, hailing from Reed Commandery, Ohio, David Rutledge, hailing from Clinton Commandery, Ohio, and James A. Graham, hailing from California Commandery, California, I, Benjamin B. French, Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States of America, by virtue of the high power in me vested have authorized and empowered them, or any three of them, and by these presents do authorize and empower them, or any three of them, at their pleasure and convenience, to proceed to Oregon City in the State of Oregon, and there, in a suitable room for an
Asylum to open a Commandery of Knights Templar, and then and there to create a sufficient number of Knights Templar to sign, with the Knights aforesaid, now residing in Oregon, a Petition for the organization of a Commandery in said City by Dispensation, and then to close said Commandery sine die, making due record of their said proceedings, and returning a copy of the same to me, with their petition duly signed by nine Sir Knights resident in said Territory. For doing which this is their sufficient Warrant.

Given under my hand and seal at the City of Washington, this 19th day of March, 1860. A. O. 742.
B. B. French, Grand Master

Further changes in the uniform were reported, and a full description published in the Proceedings. A committee was appointed to propose a suitable Devotional Service for the Grand Encampment. Apparently there was some variation in conferring the Order of Malta, so it was directed that all use the ritual and confer the Order with as much of a separate ceremonial as in conferring the Order of the Temple.

At the election, Sir Knight French was reelected to continue the work he had carried on so faithfully. It is of interest to note that J. Q. A. Fellows of New Orleans was elected Grand Standard Bearer in spite of the fact that the Civil War was in progress and he could not be present.

Sixteenth Conclave

The sixteenth Conclave was held in Columbus, Ohio, in the Hall of Representatives of the State Capitol, September 5, 1865. At the last Conclave, it was ordered that a religious liturgy be prepared for the opening of the Grand Encampment, and at the opening of the 1865 Conclave, this formal ceremony was carried out.

The Grand Master, Sir B. B. French, the Grand Officers and the representatives, were escorted by Columbian Commandery of Washington, D.C., which had accompanied him to a meeting. With the banner of the Order waving proudly, they formed a procession and proceeded to the Congregational Church where a Devotional Service was conducted by Sir Robert McMurdy. This formal service covering fourteen pages in the proceedings, while receiving the praise and approbation of the Sir Knights, was not adopted as a regular form of opening by the Grand Encampment. However, as a ceremony for the first public appearance of the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment, coming at the first meeting following the Civil War, this religious ceremony was a fine symbol of the Christian character of the Order, even though it had the appearance of a military organization.

At this service, the Grand Master stated:

I believe that we are the first national organization to meet since the strife has passed, assembling here from the North, and from the South, from the East and from the West, to do our endeavor to sow the seeds of concord, to reestablish the ties of brotherly affection, and to exhibit it to the world as evidence that discord can not long endure among a great people determined to live under a free and popular government. Assembling under these circumstances, instead of pursuing our wanted course, and gathering quietly within the walls of our Asylum, we have thought proper that the nation should see a band of patriots and Christians, from all parts of the Union, publicly acknowledging, as did the Templars of old, that the will of God is far stronger than the will of man, and expressing their earnest desire that henceforth there should exist in all our borders that peace and good will which our blessed Redeemer so earnestly taught to his disciples.
We are trying to trace our family history and wish to hear from any descendants of the Wohlgemuth Family who came to this country from Germany, on the vessel Mobile, at the Port of New Orleans, on May 31, 1852. The names of the children were Johann, age 13; Margathe, age 12; Ana Marie, age 9; Cathrine, age 7; Jacob, age 6; and George, age 3. Jacob was my grandfather, but we can find no trace of the other children and we wonder why there was no adult listed with them on the ship's manifest. My grandfather, Jacob, was born in Bavaria, Germany. His father's name was Tobias Wohlgemuth and his mother's maiden name was Lena Berdlemann. We would appreciate any information we can get on these children. Mrs. Clay Adams, 7503 Donal Avenue, Liberty, Missouri 64068

Wanted — information on the Masonic memberships or any other genealogical information on: Chester John Blandin/Blondin of the Minnesota and or Kansas City areas and a William T. Blandin of the State of Iowa and or Minnesota area. Shirley R. Lewison, 330 South Park, Mora, Minnesota 55051

I am seeking information on the name "Sickels" which appears at the lower left-hand corner of the Templar coat of arms shown on the cover of the August 1983 Knight Templar Magazine. Any date on the illustration and the artist would be greatly appreciated. Kenneth G. Sickels, N-65 W-30818 Beaver Lake Road, Hartland, Wisconsin 53029

I have become crippled and am in need of a three-wheeled vehicle such as a three-wheeled cart or a similar vehicle, either gasoline or electric. Roy James, Box 1555, Logan, West Virginia 25601 phone (304) 725-2830.

I would like to exchange genealogical information with other Sir Knights named Goodman, Falconberry, Fortenberry, Bales, Neal, Athens, and Hinton. Harold E. Goodman, 422 Oak Street, Tipton, Indiana 46072

I have for sale several old silver dollars, one over 100 years old, and I would like to hear from coin collectors or Knights Templar who are interested. Homer Linebaugh, Route 2, Box 91E, Burlington, Kansas 66839

Seeking genealogical information on the parents of my great grandfather, Ezra Mead Needham, born in 1832 somewhere in Vermont; he came to Ohio at an early age, with an adult relative also unknown. He married Lydia Wright in Lancaster, Ohio, before the Civil War. He also served in Co. K, 114th Ohio Volunteer Inf., during the Civil War. He had a brother, Truman Needham, also born in Vermont, who moved to Iowa and died there after establishing a family there. Ezra could be son of either Truman Needham (born 1800 at Pittsford, Rutland Co., VT) or Stephen Mead Needham (born same town 1802) the fourth and fifth children of Abner and Elizabeth (Mead) Needham, who was fifth generation from Anthony and Ann (Potter) Needham of Salem, Mass. Richard Mead Needham, 708 North Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, Ohio 43130-2697
□ Seeking information on Briggs family: Coleb, Revolutionary Veteran, 9th Reg. Conn. Militia, enlisted Nov. 15, 1776. Had son James, married Eliza Ann; nothing is known about births or deaths. Dr. William Briggs, "Veternary Surgeon," b. 1824, m. Martha, b. 1825 in KY; had five children — Anna (b. 1846, PA); Henrietta (b. 1853, PA); Sarah (b. 1857, NY); Frank (b. 1856, NY), and Martha Washington (b. 1859, d. 1861). Family resided in Armonk, NY, owning large farm. Have hopes of locating family Bible.

Also seeking information on Davis family: Frederick b. 1810, m. Phoebe Birdsall, b. 1818; had nine children all born in New York — Thomas Jefferson (b. 1838), Mary (b. 1840), John Westly (b. 1842), James K. Polk (b. 1844), Theodore (b. 1846), Evilens (b. 1848), George (b. 1851), Lucy (b. 1853), and Sarah (b. 1856). Anna Marie Briggs married Thomas Jefferson Davis June 23, 1862. They were married by Justice Samuel Merritt in Armonk, NY, Westchester Co. If anyone is related, have large amounts of information to give. Timothy J. Keller 39 East Lincoln Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11580

□ I am seeking information on a cup which I have that belonged to my grandfather who was a Mason. The cup was made in Germany for C. S. Pool, Joplin, Missouri, Designs. It reads: "Souvenir, Grand Conclave Knights Templar Missouri 1908, Ascension Commandery No. 39, Joplin, Missouri." It has a crown, cross or sword design, and the words "In Hoc Signo Vinces" around the design. It also includes pictures of the Carnegie Public Library, government building, mining scene, pitcher, lead works, and Main Street. Any information on value of the cup will be appreciated. Roy R. Langendoerfer, R. No. 2, Chamois, Missouri 65024

□ Does anyone have the following in their genealogy? Capt. John Potts, born 1816 in Bradley Co., Tennessee, who married Malinda Davis, a cousin of Jeffers. Davis. Who were their parents and where were the parents born? Harriet Hanes, wife of Benjamin Pierce, born in Tennessee c. 1813 — when and where? David Lane and Martha Ross were the parents of Robert Ward Land; I need dates and places, as well as information on Nancy Ann Lyday, the wife of Robert Ward Lane.

Who were the parents of George W. Cariker (from Georgia), father of Sarah Elizabeth Cariker? Who were parents of Tabitha Bryant, who married William I. Sears August 20, 1835? Who were parents of Moses S. Glenn, born February 4, 1824, and married Emily Broyles, born October 22, 1827, and who were the parents of Emily Broyles? Judith Middleton, daughter of John Middleton, married William Richard Wornel in 1818. When and where was Judith born? (Her mother was Rebecca — name not known.) Who were parents of Anne Buffington, born 1811, and married John Jordan Cumbie, and who were parents of Matilda Turner, wife of James Cumbie? William T. Roach, Box 165, Robert Lee, Texas 76945
Along with all of the cranberries, pumpkin pie and sweet potatoes stands the noble turkey. Thanks to the Pilgrims (and before them, the Indians), we have this fine bird as a symbol of Thanksgiving Day. After all the thanks given, the fellowship and family gatherings shared, — would it be the same without the turkey?