



Knight Templar

VOLUME XXXVII

FEBRUARY 1991

NUMBER 2



"His fur cap and spectacles became as familiar as the face of the King on the louis d'or." —JOHN HAY

We should not be guilty of serious acts of misconduct...

Be Mindful of Our Excellent Tenets

As Christian Masons, we are taught to be good men and true, to live by the moral law and to be obedient to the laws of the country in which we live. We are taught to live by the Golden Rule and to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. We are taught to love our neighbor as ourselves. But we are not always mindful of these excellent tenets. None of us is perfect, and we often need to be forgiven for our shortcomings, but there are some acts of misconduct of which we, as Christian Masons, should not be found guilty.

Can one be a good Knight Templar who does not believe in the Lord Jehovah and worship him above all, when we are taught to favor our Creator as the Chief Good and bow to him with reverence? Can one be a good Knight Templar who does not revere our Lord and Savior as the true Son of God, our Redeemer, and our hope for eternal salvation?

Can one be a good Knight Templar who irreverently takes the name of his God in vain, who uses profanity in idle talk, when both our Fraternity and the church teach us that we should never mention His name but with that reverential awe that is due from a creature to his Creator?

Can one be a good Knight Templar who never prays when we are taught to implore the aid of our heavenly Father in all our laudable undertakings? And can one be a good Knight Templar who by falsehood, deception, or by any means, cheats or defrauds his neighbors when the Great Captain of our Salvation told us to love our neighbors as ourselves?

These are some of the acts that the Christian Knights of our order seek to eradicate from all mankind. Sir Knights, we have a priceless heritage. It is up to each of us to be worthy of that gift.

Easter in 1991 will be celebrated on March 31. You are cordially invited to attend the Grand Encampment sponsored observance, which will be held at 7:30 am. at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. Our headquarters will be at the Hotel Washington, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. Special rates are available for Knights Templar.

This will be my last Easter service as your Grand Master. I hope we will have a record attendance, and I would like to greet each of you on this most Holy Day. It would be a special joy to shake hands with you at the officers' reception on Saturday afternoon



Marvin E. Fowler, Grand Master

Knight Templar

"The Magazine for York Rite Masons - and Others, too"

FEBRUARY: Our practical and most inventive Brother, Benjamin Franklin, returns to our pages as we explore the details of his mission to Paris at the time of the Revolutionary War. Brother Ben was known and highly respected by the inhabitants of that city for his great wisdom, and could easily be identified by the fur cap he wore as he bustled about his diplomatic business. Also, some proffered solutions to our fraternal problems, and an explanation of the linkage of the Order of the Red Cross to the work of the Commandery.

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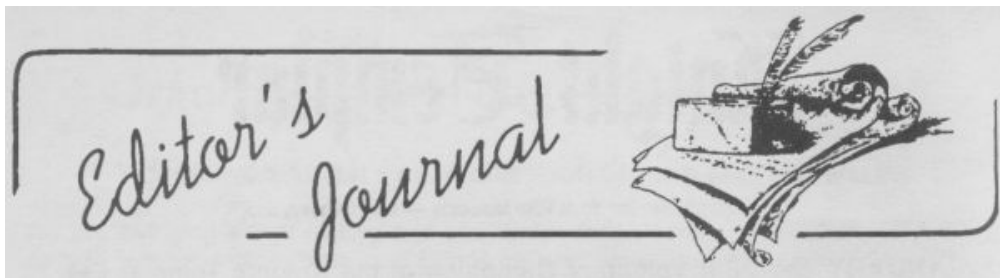
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Holy Land Pilgrimage Postponed: Owing to the crisis in the Middle East, the Grand Encampment has postponed the pilgrimage until further notice. For details, contact P. Fred Lesley, P.O. Box 498, Battle Creek, MI 49016; tel. (616) 965-0324.

Born In Blood: The exciting book by John J. Robinson about the Lost Secrets of Freemasonry and their relationship to the Knights Templar is now available from the Grand Encampment at the price of \$16.00.

Please send you check made out to the Grand Encampment to the Grand Recorder, Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700, Chicago 60604-2293.

1991 Annual Conclaves: The following corrections should be made to General Order No. 7 - the Virginia Annual Conclave will be held May 9-11; the Washington Annual Conclave will be held May 19-20.

1991 Masonic Conferences: The 119th Annual Assembly of the Red Cross of Constantine will be held on June 7-9 in East Brunswick, New Jersey, and not in Atlantic City as erroneously stated in our January issue.

Sir Knights, Attention! An important and invaluable booklet entitled *The York Rite of Freemasonry - a History and Handbook*, is available from the Grand Encampment. Authored by Sir Knight Frederick G. Speidel KYGCH, Grand Preceptor of the Grand

College, HRAKTP, and Past Grand Commander of North Carolina; this comprehensive, illustrated 78-page booklet explains the degrees, history, symbolism, and benevolent programs of the Blue Lodge, the Chapter, the Council and the Commandery, with illustrations of the jewels of the officers of each body and the Red Cross, Malta, and Templar banners.

You will find it a useful reference that belongs in the library of every member of your Commandery, answering many of the questions that are asked about the Rite; and it makes a perfect presentation to the new Templar at the time of his Knighting. It could be distributed as part of your membership program to officers/ members of the Masonic bodies in your area - and the price is right!

There is no limit on orders: \$1.50 each under 100 copies; \$1.00 each over 100 copies. Write your checks and mail to the Grand Encampment, 14 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700, Chicago, 11 60604-2293.

Summer/Winter Addresses: Sir Knights, a computer programming change enables the Grand Recorder's office to automatically change the addresses of those Sir Knights who have different summer and winter residences. In order to take advantage of this new flexibility, inform the Grand Recorder's office of both addresses and the dates of your annual migrations. This will provide for uninterrupted delivery of your magazine and will also ease the cost of returned mailings for this office.

Benjamin Franklin In Paris

by Sir Knight C. Clark Julius, KTCH

Franklin In

Benja
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Paris

by Sir Knight C. Clark Julius, KTCH

In December 1775, during the first year of the American Revolution, Benjamin Franklin met in Philadelphia with a secret agent of the French government. The subject of their conversation was the possibility of French aid to America in its rebellion against England. At the agent's request the meeting was as secretive as possible, held at night with no one present except the agent and Franklin.

The agent had been sent to Philadelphia by the Comte de Vergennes, the foreign minister of France, who, the agent said, wanted to encourage the Americans in becoming independent of England and in establishing trade relations with France. Vergennes had instructed the agent to find out whether the Americans intended to declare their independence from Britain. If independence was the goal of the Americans, Vergennes was interested in helping them achieve it, but if reunion with Britain was their aim, Vergennes had no desire to assist England's colonies. Franklin assured the agent that the colonies were about ready to declare their independence of England.

Franklin was a member of the Committee of Secret Correspondence of the Continental Congress, which was in charge of foreign relations for the rebellious colonies. He

arranged for the French secret agent to meet with other members of the committee, alone and at night. The other members of the committee reiterated Franklin's opinion that independence was imminent.

From the French secret agent Franklin derived a clear picture of the motives of Vergennes, the French foreign minister. Vergennes was seeking revenge against the British for the British defeat of the French in the „Seven Years War, known in America as the French and Indian War. In the rebellion of the American colonies against Britain, Vergennes saw a possible opportunity for France to humiliate Britain and obtain valuable trade with America.

Franklin also knew from the extreme secrecy with which Vergennes shrouded his agent's contacts with Americans in Philadelphia, that Vergennes did not want the British to know about his interest in helping Britain's insubordinate colonies. Vergennes was apparently afraid of provoking the British into a war which France was not yet ready to wage.

The visit of the French agent to Philadelphia in 1775 was most welcome to the Continental Congress. As the war with England progressed, the members of Congress became increasingly aware of their pathetic situation: a few rustic colonists challenging the greatest military



This is the house in which Franklin lived during his sojourn in France. From a drawing made in 1836 by Victor Hugo, and now owned by the New York Public Library.

power on earth. More and more members of Congress became convinced that their only hope of success depended on acquiring military partners.

After Congress took the fateful step of declaring independence in the summer of 1776, it destroyed any lingering hopes of possible reconciliation with England and committed America to war to the bitter end. The wish for allies now became acute. The most likely ally of America was France, England's traditional foe, which had already expressed some interest in aiding the Americans. In the early fall of 1776, Congress sent three commissioners to Paris: Silas Deane, Arthur Lee, and Benjamin Franklin, who had had considerable diplomatic experience as an envoy of the colonies in London. The commissioners' assignment was to secure a treaty of alliance with France.

Franklin was seventy years old when he sailed for France in October 1776. Accompanying him were his two grandsons: seven-year-old Benjamin Franklin Bache, his daughter's son; and seventeen-year-old Temple Franklin, son of Franklin's son William. Temple was to serve as Franklin's secretary in Paris.

Franklin arrived in France in December 1776. When he met with Vergennes, it was quickly apparent to Franklin that the French foreign minister had no interest in forming a military alliance with America at that time. Vergennes had just received news of General George Washington's most recent defeat by British general, Sir William Howe, at White Plains, New York. Howe's victory, which had occurred in October 1776, two months before Vergennes heard about it, had been preceded by Howe's defeats of Washington in Manhattan and Long Island. As a result of these setbacks for America, Vergennes had lost confidence in the eventual triumph of American arms. Franklin surmised that Vergennes did not want to ally France with a losing cause. It was clear to Franklin that achieving a French-American alliance would depend on American military success.

Another factor, in addition to the disappointing performance of Washington's army, that worked against Franklin's persuading Vergennes to ally France with America, was the opposition to the alliance within the French cabinet of ministers. The most outspoken and influential foe of the alliance was the economist Turgot, who was minister of finance. Turgot argued that France could not afford to join in America's war against Britain. He said that the American colonies would in a natural course of events become independent of England without fighting a war, and that the British would find it more profitable to trade with an independent America than a colonial America. France would gain nothing and lose much by joining America in its war



During a tribute to Benjamin Franklin attended by Marie Antoinette (seated), Countess de Polignac places a laurel crown on his head.

with England, said Turgot. Turgot's advanced political and economic theories, however, were not accepted by King Louis XVI of France nor by Vergennes.

While Turgot was arguing coldly and logically against an American alliance, an idealistic Frenchman named the Marquis de Lafayette did not wait for his country to join forces with the Americans. With Franklin's recommendation, Lafayette sailed in 1777 to America to offer his services to General Washington.

Although Vergennes was by no means interested as yet in a formal treaty of alliance with the Americans, clandestinely he was doing everything he could to supply them with money and arms. Working closely with Vergennes was Caron de Beaumarchais, the famous dramatist, author of *The Barber of Seville* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. Beaumarchais was a romantic democrat, who enjoyed acting in real-life dramas of international intrigue.

Sent to London as a secret agent by

Vergennes, Beaumarchais returned to Paris with accounts of American invincibility. Beaumarchais told Vergennes that the British could capture every American city along the Atlantic coast and still lose the war. Defeated along the coast, the Americans would simply retreat into the backwoods in the west and fight indefinitely. The American Revolution was destined to succeed in the long run.

In order to send firearms and ammunition to the Americans without being detected by the British, Beaumarchais organized a fictitious trading company which he called Roderigue Hortalez and Company. Ostensibly engaged in peaceful trade, the Hortalez Company was shipping arms to the West Indies, where they were transferred to American vessels. Franklin, finding it useless for the time being to press for an alliance, did what he could to facilitate Beaumarchais' covert operations.

Vergennes continued to fear that the British would discover his undercover support of the Americans and did his best



to conceal it. He made public statements expressing disapproval of the American Revolution. He kept his distance, in public, from Franklin and the other two American commissioners. He had a law enacted which made it a crime to express pro-American sentiments in France. He also launched a well-publicized naval campaign to intercept ships loaded with arms headed for America. Somehow, however, American ships captured by the French navy always managed to escape.

For all his deviousness in trying to conceal his assistance to America, Vergennes did not deceive the British at all. England operated a spy ring in Paris which kept London fully informed about all the dealings between the French and Americans.

The British had no trouble recruiting Americans who were loyal to Britain to spy on the American commissioners in Paris. Arthur Lee's secretary was a British spy. So was Silas Deane's secretary, Edward Bancroft, who lived in Franklin's house on the edge of Paris and reported to the British on both Deane's and Franklin's activities. Bancroft received two paychecks, one from the American Congress for serving as Deane's secretary, the other from the British foreign service for spying on his American employer and host.

Bancroft attended all meetings of Deane with the French, took copious notes, and forwarded them to the British ambassador in Paris. Bancroft put his reports to the British in a sealed bottle which he deposited at night in a rotten hole in a tree near the Tuileries. Before dawn, the bottle was removed from the tree by an employee of the British embassy, who replaced it with another bottle containing Bancroft's instructions from the British.

When Franklin and Deane began to distrust Bancroft's loyalty to America, Bancroft made a trip to London, where he was arrested and briefly imprisoned by the British foreign office, in order to restore Deane's and Franklin's confidence in him.

Other secret agents working in the American embassies in Paris intercepted the American commissioners' reports to Congress, removed them from the diplomatic satchels, and stuffed the satchels with blank paper. As a result of this sabotage of communications between the commissioners and Congress, and the excellence of British spying in Paris, the British were better informed on French-American relations than Congress was.

Franklin's attitude toward British spying was lackadaisical. He said that he tried to refrain from doing or saying anything he did not want anyone to hear about; his words and actions, he said, were all public knowledge. Consequently, spies could report nothing about him which was not already well known.

Actually, Franklin was not bothered by British spying on him because he wanted the British to worry about the possibility of an alliance between America and France. British fears of French aid to the Americans could weaken British morale in their war with America.

The behavior of one of Franklin's fellow commissioners was more

Continued on page 24

We Know About the Problems What Are the Solutions?

by Dr. and Sir Knight Stephen R. Greenberg, KYCH

Our beloved Craft stands today on the threshold of a new century. Like a ship sailing across a vast ocean, we are being buffeted by winds from all quarters; some moving us ahead in a positive direction; others pushing our vessel backwards in time. Cross winds of no purpose further confuse the course.

The problems which currently beset Masonry are legion and powerful. Through this century, they have haunted us; they are poised now to follow Masonry into the year 2000 and beyond - if there is yet to be a living Craft.

We all know well these difficulties: apathy, loss of membership, decline of fraternal interest; these are accompanied by a myriad of companions. The changing neighborhood, ever-increasing financial crises and the loss of temple properties have become dreaded realities. Every Mason recognizes these things; they are all too familiar.

There exists a moving play authored by a young Mason, a Past Master of a suburban Chicago Lodge, entitled, *Masonry 2000*. Introduced in this drama is the prospect of a bitter demise that awaits the Craft through the continuing spirit of apathy now seemingly rampant. Here, all Masonic Lodges have vanished from existence across our land. Only one Temple remains, boarded up. Three workmen have been dispatched to begin its demolition. As they begin their labors, they are stopped by a mysterious figure in formal dress, who orders them to rebuild the structure as a new Masonic Temple. The workmen refuse and endeavor to escape, only to find every exit sealed by a brick wall. They are then ordered by this

mysterious one to begin their new work. He gives them complete instructions on how they are to proceed in rebuilding, not only the Temple, but the Lodge, too. He appoints them to become the first three dais officers of a new Masonic era.

Under their inspired leadership, Masonry begins to rise again as a phoenix from the ashes of chaos. Though this is but a fantasy, the play leaves behind a chilling thought: that Masonry may, indeed, cease to exist; the end is not far distant.

What has transpired to bring about such a sad state of affairs. There are many reasons. We can recite them all. They add up to one all-encompassing concept - the loss of interest in Masonry.

But beyond this, there exists something else. Our good friend, Brother Keith Arrington, has, perhaps, best captured this when he recently observed 'the structure of society in former times, the agrarian society' was based solidly upon ideology, here intended to indicate religion - but an extension of our thought processes, might, in more recent historical times, include Freemasonry and other institutions which teach and promulgate principles of morality. Now, the structure of society has turned upside down; we are teetering on a fulcrum of ideology, with technology on top, followed by socialization and technology. Society today is definitely a technological one at the expense of ideology."

Masonry rests now on its most critical threshold. What we do now will determine, for the centuries to come, whether the Craft lives or dies.

Yes, indeed, we know full well the problems - What are the solutions? The

Measures To Turn The Tide

- Returning once more to a more careful selection of candidates who will fulfill our hopes and expectations. There are many Lodges that have neglected this, electing to swell their ranks with men of questionable background and principles.
- Having found men who measure up to our desires, It becomes beholden upon the Craft to meet their expectations of social responsibility and good works. Sincerity and friendliness must accompany all fraternal interchange, along with Initiatory work of high caliber.
- Some basic concepts must prevail:
 - * The sponsors of a candidate should attend him in Lodge.
 - * All ritual must be well conducted. There is no excuse for not providing each candidate with the best we have to offer.
 - * Each new Mason should receive knowledgeable assistance in understanding the forms and ceremonies of his degrees.
 - * From the start, he must be given a constant feeling that he is welcomed as a Brother; that he is Important as an individual.
 - * A job, a committee assignment, an office should be given to him at the outset. The new Mason must feel that he is truly needed in our ranks.
 - * Masonry should never price itself out of existence by placing undue financial hardships upon segments of its membership so that they are excluded from social activities which they would like to attend with their Brethren, and rightfully so. Fifty or one hundred dollar dinners or social events serve no real purpose for our Brethren. Many cannot meet these demands and drift away.

remedy, of course, is to remove apathy from our midst. Masonry can no longer be viewed solely as an organization of men meeting behind closed doors. Those doors must spring open so that others may share in our good works. The family of Masons must be welcomed, so far as possible, into our fraternal life. Not only as members of the Order of the Eastern Star or our youth groups, but as active participants in our symbolic activities. The phrase, "We never did it this way before," Past Grand Master of Ohio, Jerry Razor, points out, has brought fraternal ruin over the years and must never again be a part of Masonry.

What other measures should be employed to stem the tide of fraternal decay? In the box above are some of these.

In conclusion, the Master Mason's family should be invited to programs of education,

entertainment, dinners, and whatever else will stimulate fraternal interest. Masonry must be made to come into the 21st Century as a living, vibrant organization.

What I have said, the solutions I have proposed, are not new. We have heard them over and over again.

Our strongest desire is to move into a new and ever-greater Masonic century - LET US PUT WORDS INTO ACTION

Dr. and Sir Knight Stephen R. Greenberg, KYCH, a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education of Illinois, is a member of St. Bernard Commandery No. 35 in Chicago, Illinois, and Mizpah Commandery No. 53 in Oak Lawn, Illinois. He resides at 418 Huron Street, Park Forest, IL 60466

In recent times I have read many articles and heard comments from members of our great Masonic Fraternity regarding our membership problem. I have tried to cut to the quick, to see the solution from the positive side, to divulge the necessary parts of the actions we need to take to "save" our Masonic heritage from further decline and very possible extinction.

As a young DeMolay, growing up in Detroit, Michigan, I really loved to visit my Brother Chapters throughout the city and region. My Chapter, Findlater, held many activities that I truly enjoyed. We had a high level of ritual competence; we were active in our own way. But boredom is insidious, it made me want to see other Chapters operate. This visiting around let me keep an active interest in DeMolay.

Later, upon settling down in this part of Pennsylvania, I came to realize that the responsibilities of life did not permit the kind of traveling and visiting I had enjoyed as a youth. The type of district or regional activities that brought the variety of interesting relationships are not as available. I realized that the problem of our Fraternity's declination could possibly be involved with the lack of variety, by boredom, and the simple fact of incompetence.

Incompetence is an ugly word, one which normally does not find its way into our fraternal conversation. What is it? The sloughing off of responsibility to our Lodge, Chapter, Council, or Commandery. The inability to get the job done. The allowing of second rate activity, poor ritual, or half-measure work to be accepted as permissible for the needs of the Masonic body.

Our Past Masters, High Priests, T.I. Masters, and Eminent Commanders are the first line of defense within our Fraternity. They are the ones that must not allow mediocre work to be accepted as true work, poor ritual work to be

Find the men who have
the ideas and energy -
Hand them permission to act
in the best interests of our order.

Mediocrity Breeds Boredom

by
Sir Knight James A. Ray

correct work, and the goals of reaching membership quotas shifted from a priority because of inabilities of a few to get the job done.

"Competence means realizing what needs to be done and accepting that measures must be taken to carry out your action."

An example of incompetence exists in every body of Masonry: a Past Master that is delegated to be involved with a committee, perhaps not really caring. A Master that realizes the same old crew that is in charge is not getting the job done. The Annual Anything that is so time honored, no one loses out by not attending. Too many activities are never really planned, only repeated from previous years, ad nauseam, ad infinitum. New ideas and activities serve to infuse us all with the necessary new blood of enthusiasm.

If you were to take a test right now, I think you will find the result quite interesting. Brother Benjamin Franklin, when faced with a difficult decision, would divide a page in half. Heading one side Pro and one side Con, Brother Franklin would list the attributes of a problem on the Pro side, and the detriments on the Con side. When he could no longer write anything, he would add up each side, thereby finding a solution in arithmetical equation.

If you would do this with a Masonic body having trouble and activate a goal reaching Lodge, Chapter, or Commandery, I know you will plainly see my point. The list of what we can do to help ourselves is many times more than what we can do against ourselves. In fact, by not doing anything, or the status quo, we are really doing ourselves a lot of harm.

We should not accept the rubber stamped, same old tired ideas as an exciting membership building way to create an enthusiastic Masonic body. We

must strive to interact at every opportunity with our Brethren and Companions. Joint functions that involve our families and the community are easy to get started. Mediocre ritual and mediocre meeting planning is boring. Get a system going to more effectively and smoothly handle all business. Perhaps you can involve an aide to the Secretary to read the communications on a rotating basis. Or a special rotation of officers in the line as buddies to other new members for the purpose of visiting another body. By taking a new man elsewhere, introducing him around, he has learned how to visit and interrelate to the others in the area. The observation of others allows ideas to be transferred by example. By attending elsewhere, you rate a visit in return. Can you get one of their officers to rotate with you? Can you challenge another body to a ritual competition, judged by the district officer? Can you create excitement?

Perhaps you would rather attend the 23rd Annual Beans and Turkey Night, on the same schedule as before; why not add a twist and invite a special guest speaker? I don't suggest change where excitement is evident, only where it is obvious that attendance is dropping off by boredom.

Competence means realizing what needs to be done and accepting that measures must be taken to carry out your action. Don't accept boring or unenthusiastic activities. Go after the spark plugs in our Lodges and in every appendant body. Find the men that have the ideas and energy and hand them the permission to act in the best interests of our order. Get them involved, and you will find that others like them will become involved as well. Masonry will not die, if our ideas are allowed to live.

Sir Knight James A. Ray is a member of Brandywine Commandery No. 88, West Chester, Pennsylvania, and resides at 215 St. George Road, Coatesville, PA19320

Highlights

50-Year California Anniversary



Sir Knight O. Reed Bollin, Right Eminent Grand Commander of California, visited St. Bernard Commandery No. 23, San Bernardino, to present Sir Knight Cleveland Taylor a 50-year anniversary award as a member of the Commandery.

Sir Knight Taylor, who is 102 years young, served as Eminent Commander in 1945, and had many tales to tell the fifty-seven Sir Knights, ladies and friends who had gathered for this special occasion and dinner.

Pictured above left to right, are Sir Knights John Ward, Eminent Commander of St. Bernard No. 23; Past Commander and honoree Cleveland Taylor; and Grand Commander O. Reed Bollin.

125th Anniversary Coin in Florida

Waldo Lodge, No. 10, Waldo, Florida, celebrated its 125th year in January by issuing a bronze coin with a steam engine silhouette and underneath "The Seaboard Railway Lodge."

If interested, send check for \$4.00 each postpaid to Waldo Lodge No. 10, P.O. Box 281, Waldo, FL 32694.

Unusual Honor at Pennsylvania Lodge



Homewood Fort Pitt Lodge No. 635, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania, has the double honor of having its Lodge Secretary, Sir Knight John A. Games, serving as Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania; and its Lodge Treasurer, Sir Knight James H. Richards II, serving as Eminent Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Commandery.

Pictured above, left to right, are Grand Commander Games, Sir Knight Carl W. Feick, Master of Homewood Pitt Lodge, and Grand Junior Warden James H. Richards II.

Michigan Commandery Holds Outing



Battle Creek Commandery No. 33, Battle Creek, Michigan, held it's 1st Annual Golf Outing last year with Grand Commander Miller and 33 attending.



James Wilson Sweaney

**South Dakota
Grand Commander-1970
Born May 3, 1908
Died December 10, 1990**

Robert Melvin Mackenzie

**Massachusetts/Rhode Island
Grand Commander-1972
Born May 6, 1924
Died December 29, 1990**

Kenneth B. Gray

**Connecticut
Grand Commander-1981
Born November 18, 1913
Died December 30, 1990**

Charles R. Lang

**Louisiana
Grand Generalissimo 1990
Born December 29, 1928
Died January 8, 1991**

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation,
Inc. New Club Memberships**

Grand Commander's Club

Florida No. 42-Oswald Grimstad
Georgia No. 61-James B. Phillips
Georgia No. 62-John Eberle
Georgia No. 63-Howard W. Van Scoy, Jr.
Georgia No. 64-Wilbur Clay Culpepper
Georgia No. 65-Willis A. Hughes, Jr.
Georgia No. 66-Andrew Q. Wyatt
Georgia No. 67-John E. Norman
Georgia No. 68-George T. Anderson
Georgia No. 69-Douglas A. McCreary
Georgia No. 70-Wallace C. Pryor
Minnesota No. 12-Allen I. Koenig
New York No. 38-Wesley A. Daniels, Jr.
Pennsylvania No. 39-Robert S. Robinson
Pennsylvania No. 40-James T. Wagner
Florida No. 43-Virgil P. Brown, Jr.
North Dakota No. 5-Jeffrey N. Nelson

South Dakota No. 4-James D. Marrs, Sr.
Pennsylvania No. 41-Lance A. Smith
North Carolina No. 29-Charles Thomas Robbins, Jr.
North Carolina No. 30-Corwin J. Mitten
California No. 61-Alan W. Langworthy
Virginia No. 24-E. Carey Knight
Wisconsin No. 13-Donald James Childs

Grand Master's Club

No. 1,565-in memory of Mariam Lentz Crofts by
Fraser M. Crofts (CA)
No. 1,566-Frank E. Bell, Jr. (OH)
No. 1,567-Jon C. Williamson (TX)
No. 1,568-H. Wayne Cochran (GA)
No. 1,569-Betty G. Hall (GA)
No. 1,570-Harley W. Dillard (GA)
No. 1,571 -Winford A. Cruse (GA)
No. 1,572-James L. Bowles (GA)
No. 1,573-Pringle Brown (GA)
No. 1,574-Everett R. Pothier (GA)
No. 1,575-Harry E. Copeland (GA)
No. 1,576-Farris L. Burrows (GA)
No. 1,577-Marold J. Benson (FL)
No. 1,578-William H. Goedeke (MO)
No. 1,579-S. L. Dennison (TX)
No. 1,580-William R. Fisher, M.D. (GA)
No. 1,581-Ralph C. Di Iorio, M.D. (GA)
No. 1,582-Clifford M. Merrill (GA)
No. 1,583-James G. Brooks (GA)
No. 1,584-Henry T. Hooper (GA)
No. 1,585-J. Walter Cowart (GA)
No. 1,586-Zack Clem, Jr. (NM)
No. 1,587-Earl A. Hinds (TX)
No. 1,588-James Dickerson (GA)
No. 1,589-David Aiken (NY)
No. 1,590-Donald E. Jewell (OH)
No. 1,591-Viron F. Schumaker(SD)
No. 1,592-Dan Ward (NC)
No. 1,593-Robert J. Tullock (CA)
No. 1,594-Lewis R. Tamblin (MI)
No. 1,595-Gordon Schoonover (MI)
No. 1,596-Andre E. Lovas (GA)
No. 1,597-Arvin Spell III by Mr. & Mrs. Arvin F.
Spell, Jr. (GA)
No. 1,599-Earl William Ware in memory of Alice H.
Ware(CA)
No. 1,600-Bernard Stone Bayer (GA)
No. 1,601-J. C. Sutherland (NM)
No. 1,602-Mrs. Green M. Jones (GA)
No. 1,603-Alva Ray Hendershot (GA)
No. 1,604-William R. Squier (PA)
No. 1,605-Wallace B. Noll (TX)
No. 1,606-Otto Borchert (AZ)

How to Join the Grand Commander's or Grand Master's Club

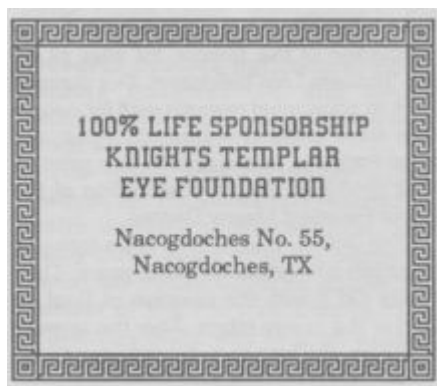
Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution will begin your Grand Commanders Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commander's Club pledge to make 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 now Commandery credit given for participation. Information is available from G. Wilbur Bell, Past Grand Master, Executive Director, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 579, Springfield, IL 62705.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. Twenty-third Voluntary Campaign

Campaign report by Grand Commanderies for KTEF Officers and Trustees for the week ending January 11, 1991. The total amount contributed to date is **\$203,460.88**.

Alabama	\$5,173.00
Arizona	1497.00
Arkansas	700.00
California	33,053.82
Colorado	1,965.34
Connecticut	605.00
District of Columbia	2,529.00
Florida	6,581.00
Georgia	29,995.09
Idaho	558.43
Illinois	5,426.00
Indiana	7,579.05
Iowa	2,143.40
Kansas	1,981.00
Kentucky	4,857.94
Louisiana	2,484.60
Maine	5,063.34
Maryland	710.00
Mass/RI	1,456.50

Michigan	5,245.00
Minnesota	1,622.32
Mississippi	1,417.00
Missouri	3,164.80
Montana	1150.00
Nebraska	1,340.00
Nevada	659.05
New Hampshire	1,045.00
New Jersey	408.75
New Mexico	2,709.50
New York	5,455.40
North Carolina	4,365.00
North Dakota	283.00
Ohio	3,128.57
Oklahoma	1,405.00
Oregon	200.00
Pennsylvania	7,510.50
South Carolina	2,392.70
South Dakota	2,372.16
Tennessee	4,371.38
Texas	14,706.72
Utah	2,237.00
Vermont	100.00
Virginia	7,124.00
Washington	464.00
West Virginia	770.00
Wisconsin	2,086.00
Wyoming	1,048.50
Philippines	60.00
St. John's No. 1 Wilmington, Delaware	130.00
Porto Rico No. 1	610.00
Heidelberg No. 2	600.00
St. Andrew's No. 2, Dover, Delaware	50.00
Trinity, U.D	150.00
Miscellaneous	8,720.02



The Order of the Red Cross - The Connection to the Commandery

by Sir Knight Ronald Sandritter

The Order of the Red Cross is the first of the degrees controlled by the Commandery, and some claim that it does not even belong with that group of degrees. However, I will make a connection and attempt to prove why it can fit within the realm of the Christian orders.

I would first like to present the background history between the last degree that the Council of Royal and Select Masters control and the first of the Commandery degrees. The Super Excellent Master Degree is the story of the fall of Judah and the destruction of the Temple. It is the only degree within Freemasonry that talks about the destruction of the Temple, for after all we are "Builders," not bulldozers. Our degrees seek to show what rewards wait for people who have good character qualities, not what happens to those who are false to their promises; with the exception of the Super Excellent Master Degree.

The Jewish people had been trying to establish a kingdom for many years. They finally did it with the creation of Saul as king of the twelve tribes. After the reign of Solomon, the kingdom divided - ten tribes

to the north and two in the south. These two kingdoms ceased to exist after the reign of Hoshea in the north and Zedekiah in the south. The kingdom broke apart after the reign of Solomon because his son wanted to become even greater than his father. Building temples and roads, etc., costs a lot of money. Solomon's son had to raise more taxes to do this, and the people rebelled and the kingdom broke. We today can understand why this would bring the people to revolt. Elsewhere in the Middle East many struggles were going on. Egypt was in a power struggle with Assyria and Babylon. Its power was beginning to give way. Babylon was the nation that came out on top and made Israel and Judah a vassal state. Gedeliah was appointed governor when the Temple was destroyed, and the people were exiled to Babylonia. However, not all of the people went to Babylonia; some did go to Egypt to flee from the wrath of the Babylonians. Now you must remember that the Jewish people were believers in the One - the True God - and that many other people around them believed in false gods. The Jewish people also forbade marriage

outside their society This was also one of the reasons that they were disliked by other inhabitants of the Middle East region. But let's go back to the captivity in Babylonia. The people taken to Babylonia were the priests and scholars, officers, elders, wealthy merchants, administrators and craftsmen. Without them Judah could scarcely continue to exist politically much less to rise up to a challenge of Babylonia's authority.

Those that remained in Judah were a little better off than their captives, and if you remember in the Super Excellent Master Degree, Jeremiah's last words are about those that remain in Judah to wait and "keep the faith" until one that will

"In the Super Excellent Master Degree, Jeremiah's last words are about those that remain in Judah and 'Keep the faith.'

rise up, and come back from Babylonia to rebuild the Temple. His words were true - he was a true prophet. Intermarriage in Judah with the Gentiles became common, children were raised with no knowledge of the scriptures and Jewish rites were intermingled with Babylonian and Canaanite practices. This, however, was not a time of strict slavery as we know it. The people were allowed to build homes, raise crops, and earn a living in any way they chose. They were allowed to assemble freely and maintain their community and religious life.

Now the sequence of books in the Bible: After *Jeremiah* comes *Lamentations*, a book that has to do with songs and poems of a people in captivity. I would imagine it is not unlike the Negro spirituals of the 1800's here in America. The Jews were lamenting their loss. The exile was to last seventy years, but life was not that bad; for after all, Babylon

was a great nation. They had large cities, irrigated canals, and gardens (the Hanging Gardens of Babylonia was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World). It was a fertile land. They grew dates, apricots, plums, figs, peaches and pomegranates. The sesame plant was cultivated for its oil. Gardens grew garlic, onions, leeks, saffron, coriander, fennel, and beets. As you can see, they had a wide variety in their diet. The Babylonians had fancy water collection devices; they moved cargo by water and land quite efficiently. The Babylonians had a numbering system, and they were the ones that created the number zero. They calculated the value of pi and had systems of squares and square roots, cubes and cube roots. Doctors were able to learn something of anatomy by dissecting animals. The code of Hammurabi was developed. Minerals were purified.

During the time of exile, a change took place in the speech habits of the Jews. The pre-exile language was Hebrew, but at that time the language of diplomacy between Assyria and the Western world was Aramaic. During the exile, the Jews learned Aramaic as a means of communication with their non-Jewish neighbors, and it was the language that they brought back to Jerusalem. It was to become the language of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The people of the exile also entered other fields of endeavor besides agriculture. Some became businessmen and others became politicians. They became very trusted as politicians.

The world was changing again, however, for Babylonia had reached its zenith under Nebuchadnezzar, and twenty-three years after his death, its capital fell before Cyrus of Ashan, the founder of the Persian Empire. The Babylonian State was in such despair that Cyrus virtually walked into Babylonia

with hardly any resistance at all. And although the Jews were still captives, they looked upon Cyrus as the great liberator. The Persians were disciples of Zarathustra who had taught that there were two forces on earth locked in a deadly struggle which would remain until the end of time: Ahura-Mazda, the god of light, and Ahriman, god of darkness and evil. This was not too much in conflict with the Jewish religion which believed in the forces of good and evil. The Persians did not make images to their gods, so the Persian religion escaped the scorn of the Jewish prophets. The major prophets that lived during this time were Ezekiel, Daniel, and Isaiah. Isaiah thought very highly of Cyrus as he called him a shepherd and even one of God's anointed. The Jewish and the Persian religions had much in common: ideas of God and Satan, Heaven and Hell, lightness and darkness. Now during the first year of his reign in Babylon, Cyrus issued a decree authorizing the rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple and the restoration of the gold and silver vessels remaining in Babylon. Some Jews wished to go back to Judah to help with the rebuilding, and others did not. As a matter of fact, only a small remnant wished to return. Remember, Babylon had been quite a nice place to live.

The return of the sacred vessels was led under a group of Jews led by a Jewish noble or prince of the house of Judah." His name was Shesh-bazzar. This name is the one that appears in I Ezra, as is the story line of the degree. Some scholars believe Shesh-bazzar and Zerubbabel were one in the same or that Shesh-bazzar died soon after the return and Zerubbabel became his successor. And so we continue our story: Cyrus installed his son Cambyses as governor of Babylonia. Cyrus died in a battle in 528 B.C. and Cambyses took over. The work stopped. In 522 B.C. Cambyses died. King Darius took over.

Tatnai, a satrap of Abar-nahara, was asked to investigate the building operation of the Jews. The Jews told him of the decree of Cyrus the Great and sent back work to the Persian court. Darius found the decree and ordered Tatnai to expedite the work and that monies be taken out of the royal treasury. The work on the temple was finally dedicated in

"Since the Red Cross Degree is founded upon 'Truth' - which is Christ the Lord - then, we can say that it is the bridge between the degrees that have to do with the virtues inculcated by the Jewish religion and Christianity."

515 B.C. The new temple was much smaller than Solomon's Temple. The building itself was cubical in form and surrounded by a great wall. The second Temple was called Zerubbabel's Temple, but actually Zebubabel disappeared quietly, if not mysteriously, from the scene. Some think that the Persians feared his political goals and removed him as a potential rebel. The Persians appointed Jeshua in his place.

So goes the historical background leading up to the Red Cross Degree found in the book of *I Ezra*, one of the books of the *Apocrypha*. The major theme in the story is the Time-Immemorial discussion, or Tale of the Three Guardsmen." And the most famous line in the story is the cry of approval which was raised by those who heard the exposition of the third guard (Zerubbabel). The text in the Latin form reads *Magna est Veritas, et praevalabit*" - Great is Truth and it shall prevail.' What is of special interest here is the use of these words by theologians of the early Church. Thus Augustine

commented that since Christ is Truth, and that this passage is referring to the greatness of Truth, Ezra was prophesying of Christ. Or in another way, we can read from the *Gospel of St. John* Chapter 14, 1-7, (KJV). Christ is making his farewell sermon at the Last Supper after Judas had left. Let not your heart be troubled: ye Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, And if I go and prepare a place for you. I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and

the way ye know. Thomas saith unto the Lord, we know not whither thou goes; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the Truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the father, but by me."

Since this degree is founded upon Truth which is Christ the Lord, then we can say that it is the bridge between the degrees that have to do with virtues inculcated by the Jewish religion and Christianity.

Sir Knight Ronald Sandritter is a member of Raleigh Commandery No. 4, Raleigh, North Carolina, and resides at 6229 Rushing Brook Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612

**Supreme Assembly, S.O.O.B.,
Receives Honor from KTEF**



On November 17, 1990, during the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner of Aldemar Commandery No. 5, Billings, Montana, and Billings Assembly No. 194, a plaque

from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., was presented to Mrs. Alice Danskin, Past Supreme Worthy President, Social Order of the Beauceant, in appreciation for the generous support given to our foundation by Mrs. Danskin and all the members of the Beauceant. The plaque was presented on behalf of the foundation by Sir Knight James W. Reineking, Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Montana. Shown in picture, left, are Sir Knight Reineking and Mrs. Danskin. Shown below is a copy of the plaque.



We have ourselves to offer - only.
If we do not offer this, we have failed our very own tradition!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MASON

by Sir Knight Robert E. Meyer

I'm presently celebrating my tenth anniversary as a Mason. I've never in my life ever been so proud of belonging to an organization as I have to this one. Being a part of Freemasonry has put purpose in my lifestyle as never before and has given me the ability to do things I never thought I was capable of before. I learned how by talking to, listening to, and watching other Masons. I learned from them. It's still happening for me.

As I progressed through these last ten years of being a Mason, I tried to understand its ancient history, most of all how and why it has been active for so long a time. I wanted to know why all of the members of this Fraternity continued its existence all of these years. I could not find the answer to that; however, I did learn what was missing in our Fraternity now, that we had before. It was something I referred to as "outreach." But many people did not seem to understand my meaning of that word, and it was not accepted as such.

Recently I came across another man's search for answers to our Masonic history, and in reading his work I found a much better explanation of my idea, presented in another way. I like his explanation better

than mine; perhaps I can use his words to explain my idea.

It seems our Fraternity has a tradition set by those members of generations before us - any organization requiring membership has to have a reason and more especially a purpose. What was that reason and purpose that allowed the Masonic Fraternity to survive for so long? It's the very same reason and purpose that started in ancient times which membership continued all through the many years up to, believe it or not, just recently; within the last twenty-five years.

What was that reason and purpose? I called it "outreach": thinking more about others than ourselves, or caring as much about others as we do about ourselves. In the writings of this other fellow, who was never a Mason himself, it is clear that Freemasonry had something to offer to the membership . . . themselves! The members themselves made Masonry not only interesting but at times even necessary. Members learned from other members. Members benefited from being a member.

Here, now, is exactly what I meant when I used the term "outreach." Fellowship was only a side benefit of

membership. Now it is the only real and reasonable objective for belonging or being a member of the Masonic Fraternity. With our ancient customs and ceremonies only being explained to us and then only fellowship following, membership itself is becoming boring and even unnecessary: Masonry no longer seems to have anything to offer in return for the time, money, and effort expended to become a member. Freemasonry has lost its PURPOSE for existing, and this has happened within only the last twenty-five years or so.

What happened? What changed? Changes occurred throughout all of history, but Masonry survived and even flourished. What is different now? The answer is OURSELVES! WE are different now than at all other times in history. The byword of today is greed, selfishness, inconsideration; not *outreach*. When we make this seemingly simple variation in our lifestyle, it has such a severe and drastic effect on so many people. People no longer need people. This is not just an effect within our own Fraternity; it is affecting everything today. Is it any wonder we have so few young people coming into our Fraternity? Is it any wonder we have such small attendance, participation, or involvement from those who are left? Can anyone still wonder why?

So now the big question: what does it mean to be a member? Or why become a member, or why remain one?

Our world is ever changing and progressing with new ideas and attitudes all the time, and the past is being forgotten quicker now than ever before. But why should the past be remembered at all? It cannot benefit us now, or in the future. We must adjust our priorities to our ever-changing world around us.

This possibly may include our Fraternity. It has been changed in the distant past for just such purposes. But Masonry still had that magic ingredient that made it important to be a member and belong. It had a

purpose. That is the thing that is lost now. We no longer have a purpose. We simply do not practice outreach as it once was practiced within our Fraternity. This small yet simple thing is all that needs to be changed to re-establish our Fraternity and membership. All it takes is *ourselves*. Can we do it? What does it mean to ME to be a Mason? The concept is something that very few among our membership would even appreciate.

Sir Knight Robert E. Meyer is a member of Belvedere Commandery No. 2, Alton, Illinois, and resides at 2109 Mulberry Street, Alton, IL 62002.

Grand Commandery of Florida Honors Doctors Dedicated To the Interests of KTEF

During the month of November 1990, the Grand Commandery of Florida awarded certificates of appreciation in recognition of outstanding cooperation and dedication in the interests of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to fifty deserving doctors in the state of Florida. These were presented by the Sir Knights of ten Commanderies. In the picture are Dr. G. G. Guggino (left) receiving his certificate of appreciation from the Florida Chairman of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Cornelius K. McAvoy (right).



**58TH TRIENNIAL OF THE GRAND
ENCAMPMENT, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, U.S.A.
August 16-22, 1991**



Your Grand Master and the 58th Triennial Committee have finalized the room reservations and the registration form. It must be understood that the room reservations' form must be sent to the housing chairman, Sir Knight Robert V. Hines, 115 East Street N.E., Vienna, VA 22180. All Sir Knights from the Grand Masters to the newest Sir Knight must send in a reservation form. Grand

Commanderies that want to have their group together should send the reservation forms together in one package. The housing chairman will process the requests and take the package to the hotel with written instructions for the reservation personnel.

If any Sir Knight or Grand Commandery requires a suite, please contact the Reservation Section of the Sheraton Hotel at A.C. (202) 328-2000 or write to this address: 2660 Woodley Road N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. You must mention that it is for the 58th Triennial Conclave of the Knights Templar. You should be able to get the reduced rate with this information.

**DO NOT MAIL RESERVATIONS TO THE HOTEL
(except for above)**

SEND RESERVATIONS TO HOUSING CHAIRMAN: Sir Knight Robert V. Hines, 115 East Street N.E., Vienna, VA 22180.

SHERATON WASHINGTON RESERVATION REQUEST FORM: PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Arrival day _____ Date _____ Check in time, 3:00 p.m.
 Departure day _____ Date _____ Check out time, 1:00 p.m.
 Circle room type: single (1 person), double (2 persons), one-bedroom suite, two-bedroom suite
 Rate requested \$ _____
 Name: _____
 Organization: _____
 Address: _____ City _____ State _____
 Sharing room with: _____

All guest rooms have one king size or two double beds. There is additional charge for rollaway. Single, \$98.00; double, \$98.00. Reservation deadline: July 17, 1991. After that date, as-available basis.

ADVANCED DEPOSIT: All reservations at the Sheraton Washinton require one night's deposit or credit card guarantee (including 11% tax plus \$1.50 occupancy tax). I have:

(A) Enclosed a check or money order for \$ _____
 (B) Enclosed credit card information authorizing my reservations to be guaranteed in the
 Amount of \$ _____ Check credit card used _____ American Express, _____ Visa,
 _____ Master Card, _____ Diners Club, _____ Carte Blanche, _____ Discover,
 Credit card No. _____ Exp. date _____ Signature _____
 Print name as it appears on card _____

Rooms will be subject to cancellation at 4:00 p.m., if not guaranteed; DON'T BE A NO-SHOW. If you must cancel your reservation, it must be 72 hours in advance of arrival time. Reservations confirmed when guaranteed reservations are received. Do not send reservations to the hotel. Send reservations to: Robert V. Hines, 115 East Street N.E., Vienna, Virginia 22180.

Newsfront...

National Eye Care Project/KTEF Meet In San Francisco

On November 12, 1990, in San Francisco, California, a meeting was held to discuss the National Eye Care Project of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation's possible collaboration in helping the needy elderly. While our Eye Foundation's principal purpose is to provide funding for the costs of hospitalization and surgery for injuries or diseases of the eye regardless of race, color, creed, age, sex, or national origin; the Eye Care Project goals are specifically for those persons sixty-five years or older. The Eye Care Project's volunteer physicians and surgeons provide free examinations and



care for eye diseases of qualified elderly individuals. Their project does not cover eyeglasses, prescription drugs, or hospital costs.

Attending the meeting were (left to right): Dr. Bronwyn Bateman, a member of the Eye Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee; Dr. B. Thomas Hutchinson, Director of the National Eye Care Project; G. Wilbur Bell, Executive Director of the Eye Foundation; Dr. Bruce Spivey, Executive Vice President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology; Marvin E. Fowler, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment and President of the Eye Foundation; Dr. Richard P. Milles, a member of the Board of Directors of the Academy; and Dr. Robert Reinecke, a member of the Eye Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee and a former president of the academy.

KTEF Reps from Gainesville Pilgrim Commandery, Florida, Present Award

Ophthalmologist Latif Hamed, M.D., was presented a special appreciation award Nov. 13 by representatives of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. from the Gainesville Pilgrim Commandery. Hamed is an assistant professor of ophthalmology at the University of Florida College of Medicine. From the left are: Dr. Hamed; Jim Young, Captain General; Hugh M. Smith, Past Commander; and Henry E. Smith, Past Commander. The Sir Knights surprised Hamed by arriving at the eye center in full uniform to honor him.



Ben Franklin in Paris - Continued from page 8

troublesome to Franklin than the activities of the spies who surrounded him. The troublemaker was Arthur Lee, who regularly sent letters to Congress in which he accused both Franklin and Deane of graft in their handling of French loans and gifts to America.



Franklin service plate, Huntington collection, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York—Franklin's likeness adorned brooches, rings, even chamber pots.

Lee even went so far as to accuse Franklin himself of being a British spy. The basis of Lee's allegation against Franklin was Franklin's employment of his grandson Temple as a secretary. Temple's father, Franklin's son William Franklin, had been the royal governor of New Jersey and remained loyal to Britain when the American patriots rebelled. Lee's reasoning was that Franklin showed his true loyalty by employing the son of an avowed Tory in the sensitive post of secretary.

So far as Franklin could tell, Lee's hostility toward him was caused by Lee's jealousy of Franklin's enormous popularity among the French people, who adored Franklin. Although George Washington was the outstanding American hero among the

colonists themselves, in Europe Ben Franklin was the best-known and most admired American. Always wearing his fur cap, spectacles, and plain brown coat, and carrying his walking stick, Franklin symbolized for Europeans the simple, free spirit of his homeland.

No other person of his time approached Franklin in his versatility. In addition to being a statesman, he was known as an eminent, and courageous, scientist who had brought lightning down from the skies on a kite string. The proverbs he published in *Poor Richard's Almanac* were quoted daily. He had invented ordinary but useful devices like a stove, bifocal spectacles, and the lightning rod. He had founded and organized a fire company, the colonial post office, a hospital, a university, a public library, and an insurance company.

In France Ben Franklin became a national fad. His portrait was available in large prints or on small cards. His likenesses adorned brooches, rings, even chamber pots. In a letter to his daughter in Philadelphia, Franklin said his face was as well-known in France as that of a man in the moon. When he attended the theater or opera in Paris, his presence was acknowledged by standing ovations.

Through his tremendous popularity, Franklin won wide support for the American Revolution among the French people. Although Franklin could not prevail on Vergennes to draw up a treaty with America until news of an American victory crossed the Atlantic, Franklin was accomplishing a great deal for French-American friendship. While Vergennes was stalling about a treaty, Franklin, attending many public and social functions, was constantly building a potent bloc of pro-American French men and women whose influence was felt by the king, Vergennes, and the other French ministers.

When the news of Washington's wintertime victories at Trenton and



The original clay model of Houdon's bust of Benjamin Franklin, done from life in Paris about 1780.

Princeton, New Jersey, reached Paris in the spring of 1777, Vergennes, predictably, began warming to the idea of a pact with America. He even told King Louis XVI that secret aid from France was not sufficient to insure American success. In order to guarantee a final American triumph, France would have to wage unlimited war in America against the English. Never holes s Vergennes was still not ready to take the plunge; after all, Trenton and Princeton were only skirmishes. Vergennes and the American commissioners were in a dilemma together. Vergennes did not want to openly and fully back the colonists until he was

certain that they were going to win. The American commissioners believed that their winning depended to a large extent on having France openly join them as an ally. With alliance depending on victory and victory depending on alliance the negotiations between Vergennes and the commissioners came to a standstill

In the summer and early fall of 1777, life in Paris continued as usual with Vergennes procrastinating, Beaumarchais intriguing the clerks in the American embassies' spying, Arthur Lee slandering his colleagues, and Franklin accepting the plaudits of the Parisian crowds.

Then in November 1777, news from America arrived in Paris which seemed to doom all hope that France would ever openly join the Americans. In the late summer of 1777, British General Howe had vacated New York and sailed with his troops to the head of the Chesapeake Bay,

Just south of Philadelphia, the American capital. Washington tried to halt Howe's progress along the Brandywine River but was outflanked. While Congress fled to the inland safety of York, Pennsylvania, Howe took Philadelphia on September 25, 1777. Vergennes lost all interest in forming an alliance with a struggling little nation which was losing its fight for independence.

During this bleakest period in French-American relations, Franklin assumed a belligerent attitude. To a French diplomat who said to him, "I hear Howe has taken Philadelphia," Franklin countered, "I beg your pardon, sir; Philadelphia has taken Howe." But Franklin's quick wit could not alter the dampening effect on Vergennes of the grim military news from Philadelphia.

Vergennes was not the only person in Paris who lost confidence in the American army when he heard about the fall of Philadelphia. Franklin's colleagues, Lee and Deane, were discouraged and depressed. With them, as with the

French, Franklin was assertive. He told Lee and Deane that America did not need the French. The Americans, said Franklin, could go it alone and win their fight for freedom without the aid of France or any other nation.

Then a miracle occurred. Early in December word reached Paris that British General John Burgoyne had surrendered his army at Saratoga in upper New York State to American General Horatio Gates. When the dramatist, Beaumarchais, heard this news he drove so fast to bring the good tidings to Vergennes that he overturned his carriage and broke his arm.

"Britain offered the American leaders of the Revolution titles of nobility and high ranks in the British army, if America would make peace with England. Franklin was indignant."

When Franklin met with Vergennes, the attitude of the French foreign minister had completely changed from that of a few weeks previously. Then, Vergennes had spoken rather disparagingly about the American army as "your friends." Now, he was speaking admiringly about the same army as our friends."

Vergennes told Franklin that France was about ready to sign a treaty of alliance with America and would send both troops and ships overseas. Vergennes also told Franklin that Spain had been invited to join the alliance with America, and that Vergennes was awaiting a reply from Madrid. Vergennes assured Franklin that a negative response from Spain would not affect France's commitment to America.

Spain did decline to ally herself with France and the American colonies. Spain was afraid that espousing the freedom of the American colonies would encourage the yearning for independence among Spain's own vast colonies in Central and South

America. Without Spain, Vergennes and Franklin proceeded to cement the bond between their own two nations.

Due to the excellent British espionage in Paris, the British foreign office was immediately aware of the imminence of a French-American pact and moved promptly to try to prevent it from taking place.

Franklin was approached by British agents who wished to negotiate satisfactory conditions for ending the war between England and her former colonies. Franklin saw one of the agents, not because he had any interest in coming to terms with him, but because he wanted to goad Vergennes into signing a treaty as soon as possible.

The British were willing to meet all the demands made by the Americans before they declared their independence. Parliament would no longer try to tax the colonies. The colonies could be virtually autonomous if they became part of the British Empire again.

As added inducement, Britain offered the American leaders of the Revolution titles of nobility and high ranks in the British army. George Washington would immediately be commissioned as a British lieutenant general, if America would make peace with England. Franklin was indignant at these offers of peerages and ranks, which he considered humiliating and undemocratic bribes.

Franklin's meeting with the British agent had the effect on Vergennes which Franklin had desired. "What do we have to promise you," asked Vergennes, "to keep you from negotiating with the British?" King Louis XVI gave his royal word that France would side with America.

The treaty was signed early in February 1778. It guaranteed that French troops and ships would join the Americans in their war with Britain, and that America would fight with France if war broke out between Britain and

France. Neither France nor America was to make a separate peace with Britain. America and France were to enjoy the status of most favored nation in their trade relations with each other.

By July 8, 1778, a French fleet under the command of the Comte d'Estaing arrived in Delaware Bay.

The American Revolution was won in October 1781 when the British General Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army at Yorktown, Virginia, after being besieged by the combined land and sea forces of America and France. The French-American victory at Yorktown had been made possible by the treaty of alliance signed three years before in Paris.

Ben Franklin's Masonic Career from 10,000 Famous Freemasons by William R. Denslow

"From 1785-87 he was president of the Pa. executive council. In 1727 he organized the "Leathern Apron Club" as a secret society in Philadelphia (non-Masonic); and on Dec. 8, 1730 printed an article in his paper pretending to reveal Masonic mysteries. Two months later (Feb., 1731) he received his degrees in St. Johns Lodge of Philadelphia and became active in its work from the very beginning. He was secretary of the lodge from 1735-38; elected junior grand warden of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on June 24, 1732 and the grand master on June 24, 1734. He was appointed provincial grand master (first native born) by Thomas Oxnard, q.v., of Boston on June 10, 1749. He was deposed as provincial grand master by William Allen on March 13, 1750, but immediately appointed deputy grand master. On March 12, 1752 he was named to a committee for building "the Free-Mason's Lodge" in Philadelphia and on June 24, 1755 took a prominent part in the dedication of the same as the first Masonic building in America. In 1760 he was named provincial grand master of Philadelphia. In 1734 he printed Anderson's Constitutions as Mason Book, which was the first Masonic book printed in America. In 1759 he was a visitor to Lodge Saint David at Edinburgh, Scotland and on Nov. 17, 1760 was present at the Grand Lodge of England, held at Crown & Anchor, London as "provincial grand

master." On April 7, 1778 he assisted at the initiation of Voltaire, q.v., in the Lodge of the Nine Sisters in Paris, and affiliated with the lodge the same year. On Nov. 28, 1778 he officiated at the Masonic funeral services held by that lodge for Voltaire. On May 21, 1779 we find him elected master of the Lodge of Nine Sisters. He served as master two years. On July 7, 1782 he was a member of the Respectable Lodge de Saint Jean of Jerusalem and on April 24, 1785 was elected honorary master of the same. He was also elected honorary member of the Loge des Amis of Rouen, France in 1785. He died April 17, 1790."

Sources

Benjamin Franklin by Carl Van Doren.

Susquehanna Magazine

A writer - Peter Huber

10,000 Famous Freemasons by William R. Denslow.

Sir Knight C. Clark Julius, KTCH, is a member and Past Commander of York-Gethsemane Commandery No. 21, York, Pennsylvania, and resides at 2260 Carlisle Road, York, PA 17404



French interpretation of Peale portrait, attributed to Vanloo.

History of the Grand Encampment

Chapter XXI The Rituals And The Work Of The Orders Of Knighthood (Continued)

Sir Knight Moore in his address before the Grand Priory of Canada in 1883 in his discussion of the Order of Malta stated;

"It is generally supposed that the Knights of St. John (Malta) had no secret ritual. I am fully persuaded that they had, and never could have lived so long together in harmony, and performed so many exploits, unless they were bound together by the strongest ties. After the union of the dispersed Templars, they certainly were in possession of the secret doctrines of the Order, and by them transmitted to the present day. Those who have received it, have never published it, but have studiously and sacredly concealed it, knowing it would only be derided by the scoffer and freethinker."

In an earlier address (1873) he stated that the ritual had come from Scotland:

"The introduction of the Malta Order into that of the Templar is comparatively very modern, irrespective of the legendary amalgamation, and many errors have been disseminated with respect to it by visionary and enthusiastic Masonic writers, asserting as facts wild theories of their own relating to the supposed common origin of Freemasonry and the old Military Orders of Knighthood. It has been stated that our Maltese ritual was brought from the island of Malta; this I can positively say is

not the case, for in 1849 I was the first to introduce the Templar Order there, and we did not work any degree of Malta. I have had for a long time in my possession, Malta Rituals said to have been used by Templar Encampments in the last century, but I could find no trace whatever in Malta that any said ritual had belonged to the old Knights or that they knew about our Encampments. It is from the Scottish Masonic degree of Knights of Malta our present ritual has been principally compiled."

When the General Grand Encampment was formed in June, 1816, the Constitution provided:

"The General Grand Master, Deputy General Grand Master, General Grand Generalissimo and General Grand Captain are severally hereby authorized and empowered to visit and preside in any and every assembly of Knights of the Red Cross, Knights Templar and of Malta, throughout the jurisdiction of the General Grand Encampment, and to give such instruction and directions as the good of the institution may require, always adhering to the ancient landmarks."

The instruction to be given was evidently in regard to the work which was that then used in the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts & Rhode island. Sir Knight William S. Gardner in his address in 1865 as Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts & Rhode Island stated:

"We have then for our gratification, not only the fact, which is now universally conceded, that this Grand

Encampment is the oldest Grand Body of Masonic Knighthood upon this continent, but also that it furnished the ritual which is now used by all the bodies, both grand and subordinate in the United States.

"This Grand Encampment (of Mass. & R.I.) was the germ of Templar Masonry as now organized in the United States, and the ritual adopted here has been taken as the true Templar work throughout the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States. I am aware that in Pennsylvania there was a Grand Encampment in the early part of this century, and that it professed to confer the Order of the Temple. It is impossible to tell what its ritual was, but there is evidence tending to show that it was entirely different from that taught by this Grand Body."

Alfred Creigh (29) took exception to these statements. In his "History of the Knights Templar of Pennsylvania" he stated:

"With regard to the second assertion, that 'the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts & Rhode Island has furnished the ritual which is now used in all the bodies both grand and subordinate within the United States,' is *true*, and it is equally true that that Prince of Imposters with innovations and new fangled theories, not understanding the great and glorious principles of our Order, and on purpose to secure to himself a name not only at the 'Hub of the Universe,' but elsewhere, resorted, in conjunction with Sir Knights Fowle and Snow, to establish Ancient York Masonry as Americanized, which we will demonstrate by New England teaching. Unfortunately for the Ancient Rituals of our Order, they succeeded, but it was at the expense of broken vows, of violated faith and of perjured principle."

At the third Triennial Conclave held in New York in 1826, the following motion was adopted:

"That no person shall be permitted to lecture on the several degrees of Knighthood, for which he shall receive compensation, in any State in which there shall be a Grand Encampment, unless he shall be duly authorized by one of the first four officers of the General Grand Encampment, and by a majority of the first four officers of the Grand Encampment of the State in which such person purposes to lecture, nor in any State in which there is no Grand Encampment, without a licence from a majority of the first four officers of this General Grand Encampment."

Provision had been made in the original constitution for a *General Grand visitor* whose duty it was "to superintend and perform such distant business, and to communicate such instructions as may come within the cognizance of the said Grand Officers," but this office was discontinued in 1829.

At the Triennial Conclave held in Boston in 1850 the work was exemplified before the Grand Encampment and the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That the thanks of this General Grand Encampment be tendered to the Grand Commander and Sir Knights of Boston and DeMolay Encampments for their prompt compliance with our request to exemplify, in the presence of this Grand body, the manner in which they admitted applicants to their Asylum as Knight of the Red Cross, Knight Templar and Knight of Malta or Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and express our gratitude on the same."



To place your "Knight Voices" item on the waiting list for publication, type or print it and send to Knight Voices," The Grand Recorder, Suite 1700, 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. Items submitted to Knight Templar that refer to Templar or Masonic subjects will continue to be printed free of charge. All other items should be accompanied by a \$5.00 remittance made payable to the Grand Encampment. Any submission may be subject to editing.

Wanted to buy: Past Commander's pin. If anyone is willing to sell one at reasonable price, I promise I will wear it with pride and keep the tradition going forward. Sir Knight Bob Bruce, 122 Lee Garden Condo., Bristol, VA 24201

Cyrene Commandery No. 23, Centralia, Ill., needs chapeaux, 7, 7 1/4, 7 7/8; new style coats, 50L, 52L, two 46R; and swords and scabbards. Cyrene Commandery No. 23, P.O. Box 726, Centralia, IL 62801

For Sale: beautiful gold and black belt buckle with Masonic or York Rite emblem, \$8.00, plus \$2.00. \$1.00 on each goes to Eye Foundation. Kenneth Adcock, P.O. Box 743, Mount Ida, AR 71957-0743

I have an older Templar sword and case and belt with holder - ivory handle, name on blade. Will trade for a nice Masonic ring. M. Mitchell, 997 VFW Rd., Leesville, LA 71446

Knight Templar Magazines available free: Vol. 15, No. 7, July '67 through Vol. 35, No. 12, Dec. '89; minus Vol. 25, No. 8, Aug. '79 and Vol. 26, No. 3, March '80. Available for cost of shipping, est. \$12.00. Martin D. Meyer, 5007 Haze/wood Dr., Newport News, VA 23605, (804) 826-8089

Wanted: Vermont Mason seeks to assemble Masonic library for research and scholarship. Would ask any Brethren with unwanted monitors, digests, rituals (current and old/all

jurisdictions), out-of-print Masonic books, dictionaries, exposes, histories, encyclopedias or sets of transactions of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, London, or the American Lodge of Research to please write Brother James P. W. Goss, Box 578, Rutland, VT 05702

Wanted: any items relating to Sir Knight Tom Mix, including photos, personal Masonic items, comic books, big little books, and Ralston premiums. Send description of your item including condition and asking price. Paul E. Mix, 13116 Billiem Dr., Austin, TX 78727

Wanted: Prelate's lectern. Contact Ray Smith, E.P.C., with price and delivery at 16127 Beth Ct., Oak Forest, IL 60452

Need to sell: 14K yellow gold ring with white gold square and compass, .10 ct. diamond at top of compass; 14K yellow gold ring with white gold Shrine emblem and over 1/2 Ct. diamond. Both were custom-made and are heavy gold rings. I work in the jewelry industry so can have the rings sized to order and they will be just like new. Lorraine Meehan, 6500 Gerald Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406, (818) 785-3891

Wanted to buy: Masonic Chapter pennies. Will pay at least \$2.00 each. Send me your duplicates and check will be in return mail. I am building a collection

for a Masonic museum; why not be sure your Chapter's penny is included. Maurice Storck, Sr., 775 W. Roger Rd., No. 214, Tucson, AZ 85705, (602) 888-7585

I would like to locate a copy of the autobiography of the well-known Masonic author, Joseph Fort Newton, entitled River of Years. Please contact E. Leslie Webb, Jr., 709 Jones Ave., Maryville, TN 37804

Several newly raised Brethren of modest means would like to acquire by purchase Masonic rings, sizes 10, 12, or whatever size. Edward J. Minor, PM., 2888 Pulima Dr., Hilo, Hawaii 96720

J For sale: double interment space in the Mountain Valley Memorial Park Cemetery, located at 60121 Twenty-nine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree, Calif. 92252. The section is special for Masons, called Sierra View Garden. It is an endowment care cemetery. The purchase price is below the most recent quoted amount. M. J. Owens, R.R. No. 4, Box 58-A, Logansport, IN 46947

As a new Mason, I would like to build my personal Masonic library. Also, as an avid reader I am interested in all books. Willing to pay reasonable prices for all used books related to our Craft. Daniel S. Jensen, 6544 Climax Ave., Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Tracing family ancestry on mother's paternal side. Grandmother was Elsie Ruth Johnston b. 5/16/1903 in Shelbyville, Ind. Her father was Clarence D. Magee (McGee?) b. 7/7/1880 (?) in Ind. Believe his father might have been Isaac Y. McGee b. 2/1845 in KY wife Sarah A. (b. 8/1846). Grandfather, Barney J. Todd, b. 5/26/1902 in Grove Spring, Mo. Father, Robert Todd, b. 1870 in Wash. Indian territory. His wife was born Laura Terry, 1875 in Mo. Her father was a judge and related to Patrick Henry according to unconfirmed family history. My grandfather was supposedly related to Mary

Todd Lincoln. Daniel S. Jensen, 6544 Climax Ave., Klamath Falls, OR 97603

For sale: two burial lots in Woodlawn Cemetery, Forest Park, Ill., currently selling for \$800 per lot. Will sell both for \$700. Contact Albert Todoroff, Rt. 1, Box 13-61, High Hill, MO 63350, (314) 5853277

Reunion: The USS Smalley (DD-565) will hold its third reunion at Gulf Shores, Ala., May 16-20, 1991. Contact Keith R. Lewis, R.R. No. 1, Box 211A, Brierfield, AL 35035-9732, (205) 665-4359

First reunion USS Kadashan Bay (CVE-76) and Squadron VC-20, October 17-19, Peppermill Hotel Casino, Reno, Nev. Contact Zack Z. Zink, 602 Sunrise Dr., Clarkson, WA 99403, (509) 7586253

Born in the year 1918? Join the International 1918 Club. We are a friendship club with members worldwide. No one can lie about his age. We have chapters in all states. They have meetings and get-togethers regularly. We hold a convention every two years. The next convention will be in Denver, Cob., June 1992. We expect to host between 300 and 400 members. Dues are \$6.00/year. If interested, contact Brother Chester Burn, 1838 Clermont, Denver, CO 80220, (303) 377-7407. List birth-date, anniversary, hobbies.

Wanted: old and unusual typewriters with names such as Hammond, Oliver, Blikensderfer, Caligraph, Yost, Sholes and Glidden, Lambert, and others. Also, interested in purchasing U.S. military swords. Fair prices paid for items that will be included in my collection. Darryl Kinnison, Drawer MM, Westwood, CA 96137

I have a Jim Beam train set, with contents like new - complete with engine, caboose, 5 cars, and train track. Please contact Lee Zumack, 15W-355 Fillmore, Elmhurst, IL 60126, (708) 279-5981

