

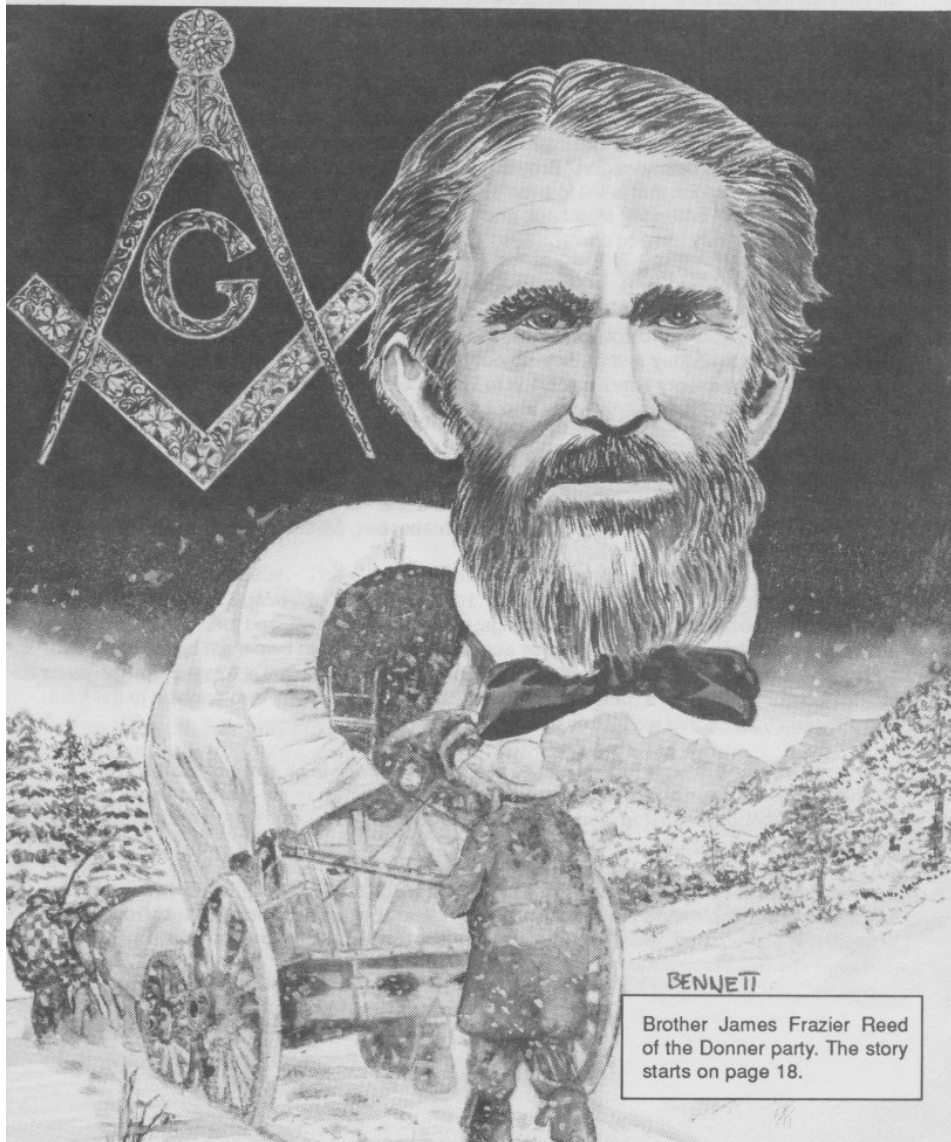


# Knight Templar

VOLUME XLV

MARCH 1999

NUMBER 3



Brother James Frazier Reed  
of the Donner party. The story  
starts on page 18.

## From the Imperial Potentate

As the Imperial Potentate of the Shrine of North America for the 1998-99 Imperial Year, and especially as a fellow Mason, I've been extremely pleased and gratified to witness the strength of our fraternal bonds as I've traveled throughout North America this year.

I feel very strongly about the importance of the prerequisite bodies, because I know what a difference my Blue Lodge and my York and Scottish Rite memberships have made in my life. My involvement with the Shrine adds to and complements the fraternal experience. Taken as a whole, Freemasonry, together with its appendant bodies, has so much to offer, not only to the men who join us as fraternal brothers, but also to our wives and families.



I can't emphasize strongly enough my belief that in our efforts to attract good men as members of our fraternal brotherhood, we must sell Masonry as a whole. There's an old saying that goes, "You can't sell from an empty wagon. Brothers, we have to realize that we do not have an empty wagon; we have a wagon that is full to overflowing with exactly what today's men and their families need and want. When we step back and take an introspective look at ourselves, we can see how much we truly have to offer.

Over the past few years, all the Masonic bodies have become much more family-oriented fraternities. We are becoming as much a family-type organization today as any organization in existence, but if we don't promote and sell this fact, no one will know it. One of the chief complaints among adults today is that they do not have enough time to spend with their families. The family of Freemasonry offers a solution to that problem, one that I'm sure many, many men would gladly embrace if they only knew about it.

The Shrine's efforts in this area provide some good examples. Our Temples sponsor many dances and other activities for Nobles and their ladies. Some of our Temples even provide daycare facilities for young children, in order to make it easier for Nobles and their ladies to attend such functions. In addition, Temples hold picnics, barbecues, parties and more, not only for our Nobles and their ladies, but for their kids as well.

The Shrine formed a special committee in 1997, called the Fleming-Florence Committee, whose sole purpose is to focus on three things: leadership, finances, and fun. This special committee has been working with our Temples across North America to help them build strong leadership and a strong financial foundation, which form the necessary infrastructure for us to strengthen our position as a fraternity of fun and fellowship. All of this is in addition to the traditional fraternal bonds that we all treasure.

This type of focused effort is representative of what is occurring in all areas of Masonry, and that is what we need to remember in our membership activities. The entire Masonic family is working to build stronger leadership, a more solid financial base, and providing more and more activities in which our fraternal fellowship can flourish.

If we keep in mind all that Freemasonry has to offer, if we continue building on our strengths, if we make sure to let people know about the family of Freemasonry; we can't help but see a resurgence of interest in Masonic membership that will ensure our success well into the next millennium.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John C. Nobles". The signature is stylized and fluid.

John C. Nobles  
Imperial Potentate, Shrine of North America

**Knight Templar**  
**"The Magazine for York Rite Masons—and Others, too"**

MARCH: Our guest editorial on page two, by Brother John C. Nobles, concerns the fraternal bond, the family bond and how the two can converge to strengthen the Fraternity. When you read this, there will be less than two months left of the 31st Annual Voluntary Campaign for KTEF. Read Chairman Garnes' essay on page 5, and let's bring the Campaign to a spectacular close! The Templary 2000 Crusade will lead to an exciting and historical event. Read all about it on page 7. Sir Knight and Judge Wofford's examination of Christ's trial from the legal point of view concludes with part II starting on page 11, and we begin a story about the Donner Party and its Masons on page 18. Next month: Easter messages from the Easter Sunrise Service in Alexandria, Virginia, and from the Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment.

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March 1999

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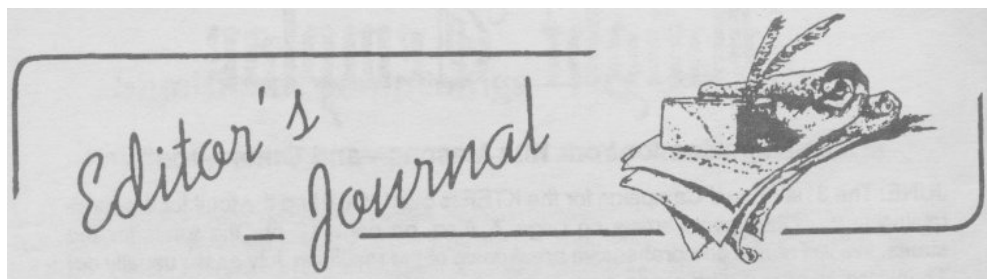
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Material for the Grand Comianderiee two-  
page supplements is to be directed to the  
respective Supplement editors.

Address corrections from members are  
to be sent to the local Recorders.



Correction: There are two corrections to the article on the Easter program as printed in the November issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine. The Hotel Washington package for singles is \$218.00. For Grand Commanders and their ladies, only, the Saturday luncheon is complimentary. Since this is difficult for the hotel to handle, please pay the full package amount, and the Grand Encampment Recorder will reimburse you \$25.00 for yourself if alone or \$50.00 for you and your lady.

Correction: There is incorrect information in the January 1999 issue, *Knight Templar*, concerning the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. The Supreme Worthy Advisor is Mrs. Mary Muhs, 1002 2nd Avenue, SW.; Jamestown, ND 58401. Their Supreme Session will be held in Buffalo, New York, July 20-26, 2000.

Announcement: Knight Commander of the Temple Award: All nominations for the Knight Commander of the Temple award should be made to a HOLDER of the award in the state of the nominee. These nominations will be reviewed by the holders and then forwarded to the Grand Encampment. NO nominations will be accepted if sent directly to the Grand Encampment office. Any further questions should be directed to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment.

Announcing: The Widow's Pin - commemorate those who were active Templars: The Grand

Encampment continues a program to honor widows of Knights Templar. A green pin is for widows of those below the rank of Commander, and a red Templar Cross pin is for widows of Sir Knights who held office below the rank of Past Grand Commander (this includes Commanders, Past Commanders and grand officers). Honor your widows at regular or special programs of your Commandery. Order in lots of 10 at \$5.00 apiece, payable to the Grand Encampment, and send to the Grand Recorder; Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Ave, Suite 101; Chicago IL 60630-2460.

Sir Knights, Attention!: An important and invaluable booklet entitled *The York Rite of Freemasonry - A History and Handbook* is available. It is authored by Sir Knight Frederick G. Speidel. 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. There are illustrations of the jewels of the officers of each body and the Red Cross, Malta, and Templar banners. There is no limit on orders: \$1.50 each under 100 copies, plus shipping and handling; \$1.00 each over 100 copies, plus shipping and handling. Write your checks to and mail to the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Ave, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

#### YORK RITE FREEMASONRY ON THE INTERNET - Official Web Sites

Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America  
<http://www.knightstemplar.org>

General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, international  
<http://members.aol.com/GGCOUNCILJHomePage.html>

General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International  
<http://members.aol.com/GGCHAPTERIHomePage.html>

York Rite Freemasonry . The International Information Site  
<http://members.aol.com/YorkRiteFM/HomePage.html>

## The 31st Annual Voluntary Campaign Which Road Will You Take to Help In the Preservation of Sight?

by Sir Knight Charles A. Garnes, Honorary  
P.D.C. and Chairman of the 31st Annual  
Voluntary Campaign



We frequently hear the term "fair share" as it applies to support through financial giving to what is often considered our charitable responsibilities. The term is frequently used when referring to community charities, churches, and other worthwhile projects throughout America. But what about fraternal organizations? Is it not the responsibility of a member to give financial support or his "fair share" because he is a member and pays annual dues? Annual dues failed to keep up with inflation many years ago, yet we have Sir Knights who feel that because they became a "Life Sponsor" they should no longer be expected to financially support the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. Sir Knights, the income from that \$30.00 for a Life Sponsorship in the financial world today is not very significant. I ask you, how much medical support can you get for \$30.00? The only thing the Life Sponsorship did for the member was to have his annual dues reduced \$1.00 for the year. It is not a further reduction in dues each year. What it did for The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., was to put that \$30.00 in the Endowment Fund. Members can have as many Life Sponsor donations as they wish.

Annual giving is really the key to not only maintaining the work of charitable organizations but is the best possibility of growth for the future. Those who belong to fraternal organizations know that there are many and that the total dollars spent each day and year is in the millions. It would be impossible to put an exact number on the amount the Masonic Fraternity spends on charity and helping those in need. Each organization has its own charitable responsibility from Masonic Homes under the Grand Lodge to the Shriners' Hospitals for Children.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., does not maintain property making it possible for as many dollars as possible to go to help those in need or for research. The 31st Annual Voluntary Campaign has two months to go. This amount of time is more than sufficient for 200,000 Sir Knights to reach in their pockets and send \$10.00 each to the Chicago office of the Foundation so that we can continue to help others to see, and just maybe we could finally reach our goal of \$2 million during a Voluntary Campaign.



Sir Knights, we need to plan for the future; please seriously consider the following:

Do you have a Vision for the KTEF in the 21st century?

If you don't have a Vision, most likely the KTEF will be lost what it has been in the 20th century but with less purchasing power, which means helping fewer people.

A Vision must exist for the good works to continue for those in need of help by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

For 900 years the name "Knights Templar" has been revered; your vision will produce the results needed for this great Christian Order of Knighthood to survive in the 21st century.

**Where there is a Vision, the Light will not go out!**

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., now has a web page. You are invited to contact the Knights Templar Web Page and look at the link for this new public relations approach of your foundation.

Sir Knight Charles A. Garnes, Honorary Past Department Commander and P.G.C. of Pennsylvania, is the Campaign Chairman of the 31st Annual Voluntary Campaign and a member of Duquesne Commandery No. 72, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania. He resides at 1700 Jamestown Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-4944; Send personal e-mail to: [cagarnes@aol.com](mailto:cagarnes@aol.com). For information on the KTEF, send e-mail to [ktet@lcnightstenplar.org](mailto:ktet@lcnightstenplar.org)

## Letter to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

I am writing to let you know how thankful I am to Mr. Messick and the Knights Templar for your help in enabling you are doing for other people is a true act of charity for the less fortunate and it is me to receive both my cataract surgeries. Now I can see like I've never seen before. Good eyesight is the greatest, treasured gift a person can receive.

You, Mr. Messick, and the Knights Templar can continue to stand proudly among other great humanitarian figures knowing what deserving of national acclaim.

You, the Knights Templar, and all others involved can expect the good Lord to smile upon you all, and I know He knows what a great job you are doing!

Carl H. Fischer, Jr.  
Blakeslee, Pennsylvania

I am writing this to let you know how much I appreciate your help with the cataract surgery I have had. The difference in my vision is astonishing. I had no idea how much difference there would be. My doctor was even amazed at anyone read things for me anymore. Once I get the left eye done, how well I can see now. Before surgery everything was blurry and ran together. I couldn't even read the T.V. guide. Now, it's all clear and bright, and I don't have to have I'm sure my vision will be close to perfect.

Once again, thank you so much for your help. May God bless you always!

Barbara J. Hampton  
Columbus, Ohio

My family and I would like to say a heartfelt "thank you" to your organization. Without your help it would have been a great hardship for me to have the needed surgery. We are on a very limited income, and I do not yet have Medicare. Since getting my new glasses, I can again sew and make quilts. Again, thank you and God bless your good work.

Jean Thomas  
Frenchburg, Kentucky

This is to let you know how grateful I am to your great charity. This Christmas I received the best gift of my life, my eyesight. I am still in treatment, and I'll be getting my eye glasses soon. Thank you.

Enrique Chavez  
El Paso, Texas

This is just to let you know that the surgery performed on my right eye was a success! I now have 20/20 vision in that eye, and I am grateful for the help I received from your organization. I have been treated with the utmost respect from the time I applied for help until the release from the doctor.

It is a blessing to know that there are still wonderful people in this world. Again, I say thank you.

Mrs. Anna F. Ivard

The Grand Master Announces:

## Templary 2000 Crusade

With the approach of the year 2000, I believe that the Knights Templar have a unique opportunity to positively increase the publicity of our good works and thus increase our membership. We have established for the current triennium a 5/50 Program, which establishes a goal for each Commandery to increase its new membership by 5% with a 50% decrease in non-death losses. A new century begins, and we should celebrate our Christian, Masonic heritage by promoting our mission of "the Support and Defense of the Christian Religion" for the many that have not joined our ranks.

In this spirit, I am announcing the establishment of the Templary 2000 Crusade. This program is designed to encourage each Commandery within the Grand Encampment to Knight new members on the same day, and that day will be February 5, 2000. Think of it - hundreds if not thousands of new Christian Masons becoming members of this great Fraternity at one moment!

I have asked Bill Clutter; KCL P.G.C. of Indiana, and a member of the Grand Encampment Publicity and Public Relations Committee; to be Chairman of this special event. We envision each Department Commander, Grand Commander with his officers, and the Membership and Publicity and Public Relations committees in these jurisdictions working diligently with constituent Commanderies

to make this magnificent event both successful and spectacular.

The Templary 2000 Crusade will launch an entire year dedicated to publicizing our Christian Order and increasing membership. There will be more details forthcoming on this Crusade in each subsequent issue of the Knight Templar magazine. Membership is our greatest asset and the key index by which the progress of our great order is being judged. A growing membership reflects a healthy condition.

I call upon each of the Templar leaders in each jurisdiction of this great order to support the Templary 2000 Crusade and to meet its goal. This will require a lot of planning and coordination among the members of each Commandery as well as the other York Rite bodies. But you have done it before, although perhaps, on a smaller scale. Begin the planning now, and remember the special date - February 5, 2000!

I know this Crusade will be a success because of you!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Ward", with a stylized, flowing script.

James Morris Ward, KGC  
Grand Master

## In Memoriam



Wilhelm Albert Amstutz, Jr. Arizona  
Grand Commander-1987  
Born June 16, 1924  
Died December 23, 1998

Gordon Clifford Player  
Massachusetts/Rhode Island  
Grand Commander-1967  
Born August 2, 1912  
Died January 15, 1999

### Grand Commander's Club

No. 100,952-William G. Naef (CA)  
No. 100,953-Mrs. Dona Jean Childs (WI)  
No. 100,954-Arthur R. Bodine (MO)  
No. 100,955-Robert A. McCrummen (TX)  
No. 100,956-Paul D. Jones (HI)  
No. 100,957-Robert Scott Duvall (TX)  
No. 100,958-Robert A. Dove (Japan)  
No. 100,959-Jack R. Euler (KS)  
No. 100,960-Kenneth L. Barrett (VT)  
No. 100,961-Charles O. Ashcraft (AK)  
No. 100,962-Richard D. Mougey (NE)  
No. 100,963-Charles P. Foster (MO)  
No. 100,964-William Mark Brantley (KS)  
No. 100,965-Terry D. Lincoln (OR)  
No. 100,966-John M. Kaufman (NY)  
No. 100,967-B. B. Bauer (TX)  
No. 100,968-Vincent Webb (SD)  
No. 100,969-Gene E. Dill (PA)  
No. 100,970-James W. Waller (VA)  
No. 100,971-Willard E. Eubanks (GA)  
No. 100,972-Charles R. Luke (GA)  
No. 100,973-Alvin R. Davis, Jr. (GA)  
No. 100,974-James E. Blair (GA)  
No. 100,975-John C. Wilson (GA)  
No. 100,976-Daniel R. Donahey (PA)  
No. 100,977-George H. Amsler (PA)  
No. 100,978-Harold E. Hartdung (PA)  
No. 100,979-Reynold W. Halsman (FL)  
No. 100,980-Robert Forrest Poyton (MA/RI)  
No. 100,981-Leonard H. Jansen (MN)

### Grand Master's Club

No. 3,166-Eldon Elder (OH)

No. 3,167-in memory of Reubin Alexander Keicher  
by Charles William Davis (TN)  
No. 3,16B-Wayne A. Syverson (IA)  
No. 3,169-4n honor of Thurman C. Pace, Jr.  
by Donald D. Miller (NJ)  
No. 3,170-Floyd Emory Edmondson (GA)  
No. 3,171-Charles W. Flowers (GA)  
No. 3,172-Earrest German (GA)  
No. 3,173-Dr. Wallace D. Mays (GA)  
No. 3,174-Charles R. Shaw (CA)  
No. 3,175-Robert G. Burns (MO)  
No. 3,176-in memory of Colonel Robert Peters by  
Urban T. Peters (DC)  
No. 3,177-David Hanisch (CA)  
No. 3,178-David Hanisch (CA)  
No. 3,179-Harley James Phillips (GA)  
No. 3,180-Charles R. Livingston (MD)  
No. 3,181-Larry L. Anderson (SD)  
No. 3,182-in memory of Robert E. Withers,  
M.E.P.G.M., by James W. Wailer (VA)  
No. 3,183-Robert Leo Fielder (VT)  
No. 3,184-Robert Leo Fielder (NJ)  
No. 3,185-Charles E. Rhoads (PA)  
No. 3,186-Charles H. Nalls (DC)  
No. 3,187-Britton Miller (CA)  
No. 3,188-Robert A. Weinberger (PA)  
No. 3,189-J. D. Buddy Baccus (TX)  
No. 3,190-William L. Blanks (TX)  
No. 3,191-Maurice L. Blackman (TX)  
No. 3,192-Phillip C. Boley (TX)  
No. 3,193-Graham H. Childress (TX)  
No. 3,194-John E. Gibson (TX)  
No. 3,195-Sam E. Hilburn (TX)  
No. 3,196-Charles A. Hudnall (TX)  
No. 3,197-Jerral F. Knox (TX)  
No. 3,198-Roland J. Maddox (TX)  
No. 3,199-Jerry L. Mann (TX)  
No. 3,200-Richard T. Porter (TX)  
No. 3,201-Michael H. Shively (TX)  
No. 3,202-Donald L. Smith (TX)  
No. 3,203-fl. Furman Vinson (TX)  
No. 3,204-Charles W. Wesbrooks (TX)  
No. 3,205-James M. Willson, Jr. (TX)  
No. 3,206-Thomas C. Yantis (TX)  
No. 3,207-F. Douglas Mitchell (TX)  
No. 3,208-Leonard O. Pierce (TX)  
No. 3,209-Jerry N. Kirby (TX)  
No. 3,210-Thomas N. Turner (TX)  
No. 3,211-Wayne D. Groce (TX)  
No. 3,212-James P. Smith (TX)  
No. 3,213-Edwin S. Malone (TX)  
No. 3,214-Loyd L. Chance (TX)



No. 3,215 - Lawrence E. Tucker (TX)  
 No. 3216 - A. Glen McCandless (TX)  
 No. 3,217 - Thomas W. Snyder (TX)  
 No. 3,218 - F. E. Skip Smith (TX)  
 No. 3,219 - in memory of Boyd Frederick  
 Buckingham by Joanna Buckingham (PA)  
 No. 3,220 - in memory of Laura May Park by  
 Bobby C. Park (AL)  
 No. 3,221 - in memory of Robert E. Withers,  
 M.E.P.G.M., by James Withers Wailer (VA)  
 No. 3,222-4n memory of Othel P. (Jack) Frost by  
 James P. Rose (TN)  
 No. 3,223 - William T. Green, Jr. (NJ)  
 No. 3,224 - Robert F. Shurtz (KY)  
 No. 3,225 - Thompson Murray (CO)  
 No. 3,226 - Donald Whitfiel (GA)  
 No. 3,227 - Harry W. Lister (CA)

**How to join:** 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 of \$100 or more will begin your Grand Commander's 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 Commandery credit given for participation. Information is available from: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.; 5097 N. Elston Ave, Suite 100; Chicago; IL 60630-2460; (773) 205-3838.

Campaign report by Grand Commanderies for KTEF Officers and Trustees for the week ending February 12, 1999. The total amount contributed to date is \$317,294.97.

Alabama	\$8,290.00
Arizona	2,752.50
Arkansas	3,676.55
California	15,668.40
Colorado	4,083.25
Connecticut	3,500.00
Delaware	400.00
District of Columbia	4,106.00
Florida	6,242.09
Georgia	35,410.52
Idaho	368.00
Illinois	9,543.00

Indiana	3,563.00
Iowa	10,005.02
Kansas	2,008.00
Kentucky	6,558.98
Louisiana	5,405.00
Maine	310.00
Maryland	5,312.00
Mass./R.1	4,319.25
Michigan	6,401.32
Minnesota	755.00
Mississippi	2,210.00
Missouri	3,684.97
Montana	5,743.32
Nebraska	962.33
Nevada	2,923.00
New Hampshire	1,075.00
New Jersey	7,480.00
New Mexico	846.00
New York	14,426.14
North Carolina	4,669.99
North Dakota	180.00
Ohio	5,153.00
Oklahoma	1,286.00
Oregon	3,821.00
Pennsylvania	24,901.00
South Carolina	8,007.66
South Dakota	6,560.00
Tennessee	6,602.38
Texas	43,374.27
Utah	2,215.00
Vermont	1,335.00
Virginia	8,489.33
Washington	2,687.53
West Virginia	5,572.50
Wisconsin	3,683.50
Wyoming	747.00

Philippines	720.00
Honolulu No. 1	2,083.00
Anchorage No. 2	430.00
Tokyo No. 1	260.00
Heidelberg No. 2	1,205.00
Miscellaneous	5,283.17

### Largest Trusts to KTEF – 1-31-1999

Otto Rinderhagen (WA) - 151,003.45  
 Jason L. & Carrie M. Smith (FL) - 5,526.25  
 Elenora Amstein (IN) - 5,000.00  
 Merrit J. Crawford (NC) - 22,435.53  
 Mary Adde Beck (AZ) - 5,394.15  
 Lenn Magill (ID) - 138,472.43  
 Robert F. Boyler (CA) - 14,170.00

## A Message From the Chairman of the Annual Southwest Regional York Rite Conference

To: All Companions and Sir Knights:

The York Rite Grand Bodies of Mississippi would like to invite you, your lady, and your guests to attend the 1999 Annual Southeast Regional York Rite Conference, which will be held Thursday, June 24, 1999, through Saturday, June 26, 1999, at the Holiday Inn Airport in Gulfport, Mississippi. We have also booked the Holiday Inn Express-Gulfport for additional rooms. Holiday Inn will provide sleeping rooms between the two hotels at the rate of \$65.00 per night plus tax (\$71.50 per night). You should make your reservations directly with the hotel. The toll-free number is: (800) 441-0892.

The two hotels are located on Highway 49 and Interstate 10, just 1.2 mile from the Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport. The two Holiday Inn properties have a total of 264 rooms. The hotel offers a swimming pool, coin-op laundry room, an award-winning restaurant, a lounge, and there is a rental car agency on the property. Complimentary shuttle transportation is available to the airport, factory outlet shops, and the casinos. You may choose which hotel you want based upon the different amenities offered by each Holiday Inn.

The Holiday Inn Airport has 152 tastefully decorated rooms and offers a choice of king-size or two double beds. This is the hotel where we will be having our meetings and banquet.

The Holiday Inn Express-Gulfport has 112 rooms and is located directly adjacent to the Holiday Inn Airport. This hotel won the Quality Excellent Award from Holiday Inn Worldwide in 1995 and 1996. They offer special complimentary features such as a continental breakfast bar and evening happy hour.

Last year we had an outstanding conference in Dothan, Alabama, and your committee has decided to follow the same format for this conference. On Thursday we will have registration, an ice cream social, and dinner on your own. Friday we will have a general session and then break up into our individual meetings and conclude with a banquet that evening. Saturday morning we will regroup in a joint meeting, and each Southeast Department Representative will give an overview of his particular breakout session. We should be adjourned before noon.

A detailed program, giving the conference fees and registration forms, will be mailed out in the near future. If you do not receive yours, please let me know.

The 1999 Annual Southeast Regional York Rite Conference promises to be an outstanding event. Mississippi is proud to host this conference, and we look forward to being with you on the Gulf Coast.

Fraternally,

Van A. Evans, Chairman  
Earl Douglas Barlow  
Southeastern Department Commander

# The Illegal Trial of Jesus The Christ – Part II (Conclusion)

by Sir Knight Charles A. Wofford  
Senior Judge Superior Courts

## *Record of Facts*

(Continued from February)

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if Jesus were a Galilean. When he knew that Jesus belonged to Herod's Jurisdiction, he sent him to be tried by the tetrarch of Galilee.

Herod never intended to condemn Jesus because he had lost a great deal of popularity by beheading John the Baptist. Herod was extremely superstitious and was afraid Jesus might be the Messiah. He really thought that Jesus was John the Baptist reincarnated. Herod questioned Jesus in many words, but Jesus did not answer him. After allowing his soldiers to taunt and harass Jesus, Herod returned him to Pilate.

Pilate was disappointed in Herod's action, and although having previously acquitted Jesus, he proposed to have him scourged as an attempt to placate the rabble. At this moment Pilate thought of another way out: It was the custom during the Passover for the procurator to release a prisoner selected by the Jews. There was an infamous prisoner named Bar Abbas, who had been convicted of robbery, murder and insurrection. Pilate asked the rabble who he should release, Bar Abbas or Jesus, and they answered Bar Abbas. He asked what he should do with Jesus, and they said, "Let him be crucified."

Pilate's wife Claudia sent a warning saying, "Have thou nothing to do with that just man; for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him." This warning filled Pilate with dread; however, he felt that Jesus could not be set free without some form of punishment. Pilate had Jesus scourged, and the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns and put it on his head.

They clothed him in a purple robe and hit him and mocked him. Then Jesus was brought out and exhibited to the rabble and Pilate said "Behold the Man."

The thief priest and officers cried out saying, "Crucify him, crucify him." Pilate still hesitated and questioned Jesus further. The Jews seeing Pilate's indecision threatened an appeal to Caesar. Pilate feared such an appeal, and when he saw the mob could not be placated except by yielding to them, "He took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just person; see ye to it.'" The people replied, "His blood be on us, and on our children." Pilate released Bar Abbas, had Jesus scourged, then delivered him to be crucified. Pilate could have easily enforced his judgment of acquittal, using the Roman centurions at his command to disperse the mob, rendering his yielding even less understandable.

The crucifixion began at the third hour, or nine o'clock in the morning. All action which we have described occurred from six o'clock in the evening, beginning with the "Last Supper," to nine o'clock in the morning of the same day, Friday, the 14th of Nisan. Remember, the Hebrew day began at sunset, approximately six o'clock in the evening.

"The Christ" died at three in the afternoon. He was on the cross six hours "when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost." This was an extraordinarily short time since it usually took two or three days for death to ensue, "Now from the sixth hour" (that is, 12 o'clock noon), "there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour" or three o'clock, "and behold the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom." With his dying breath, Jesus said "Father unto thy hands, I commend my spirit."

The cross on which Jesus "The Christ" was crucified was not the cross generally pictured by artists. It was slightly longer than the person to be crucified, and there was a projection at the middle of the cross on which the body rested. As a rule, the feet of the condemned were no more than twelve inches from the ground.

It is an interesting fact that two of the richest men in Jerusalem, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, each made a request of Pilate concerning the burial of Jesus' body. Nicodemus requested the right to furnish ointment to anoint, and Joseph asked the privilege of burying Jesus in his sepulcher. Both men were known members of the Sanhedrin but probably were not present at the trial and conviction of Jesus.

#### Record of Hebrew Law

1. Hebrew law forbade the use of accomplice testimony during any part of the process or trial.
2. Hebrew law prohibited conviction based solely on a confession.
3. Hebrew law required two or more witnesses whose testimony must agree in all essential details.
4. Hebrew law prohibited a trial or hearing by a sole judge. (The lowest court consisted of three judges.)
5. Hebrew law prohibited a judge from being a relation, a friend, or an enemy of either the accused or accuser.
6. Hebrew law required the great Sanhedrin to hold all capital trials in the "Lishkath Haggazith" of the temple.
7. Hebrew law provided capital trials could not be held at night.
8. Hebrew law provided capital trials could not be completed and sentence passed until the second day.
9. Hebrew law prohibited court sessions on a Sabbath or a feast day.
10. Hebrew law provided a verdict of guilt could not be unanimous.

#### Record of Roman Law

1. Roman law required a preliminary hearing and an indictment specifically charging the crime.
2. Roman law required at least two witnesses.
3. Roman law prohibited night trials.
4. Roman law required trials to be public.

Roman law forbade execution of any uncondemned person.

#### Arguments as to Hebrew Law

1. In the United States the general rule of law is that the testimony of an accomplice is admissible but must be corroborated in order to sustain a conviction. The weakness of such evidence is characterized by the nature of corroboration required. This type of evidence is untrustworthy at best. The main reason for the acceptance of such testimony apparently is based upon the supreme necessity of the preservation of the state, but not withstanding this consideration, the ancient Hebrews forbade the use of accomplice testimony. The Hebrew law against accomplice testimony must have originated from the rule laid down in Leviticus, chapter 19, verses 16 through 18: "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people; neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor. Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart; thou shalt not in anywise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Therefore, this arrest and trial were illegal.
2. The death sentence pronounced against Jesus by the Sanhedrin was not legal because it was founded upon his uncorroborated confession. A confession, like the testimony of an accomplice, must be fully corroborated in every detail by at least two witnesses.

The ancient Hebrews discovered a very unique reason for the rule against confessions: that the witness who confessed was "his own relative," and relatives were not competent witnesses under ancient Hebrew law.

Hebrew law required two or more witnesses to convict an accused person. This requirement of two witnesses was not unusual because most ancient codes contained a similar enactment in that witnesses were required to agree in all essential details else their testimony was invalid.

4. Under ancient Hebrew law the lowest Hebrew court consisted of three judges, sometimes called the "court of three." No judge or magistrate sitting alone was ever permitted to judicially examine or interrogate a defendant, or sit in judgment upon his legal rights or seek to obtain evidence to be presented to a different court. There was no such thing among the ancient Hebrews as a court with a single judge. The reason for this rule is founded not only in religious reasons but in the principle of publicity which provided for the accused, in the very number of judges, a public hearing. The examination of Jesus by Annas and Caiaphas was before them alone without any other judges being present and therefore illegal.
5. Ancient Hebrew law prohibited the judge from being a friend or enemy or relative of either the accused or the accuser. In fact, it was very clear on this point. A special disqualification of the Sanhedrin was that the members of this court "were burning enemies" of Jesus. It was illegal, under Hebrew law, for them to act as his judges.
6. The Sanhedrin lacked jurisdiction or venue to try Jesus since the trial was held in the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas. According to the ancient Hebrew law in the trial of capital cases, the great Sanhedrin was required to meet in an apartment set aside in the national temple at Jerusalem. It was known as the Hall of Hewn Stone or Lishkhath Haggazith, and outside this hall no capital trials could be conducted, and no capital sentence could be pronounced. The trial and sentence were illegal.

Ancient Hebrew law positively forbade the trial of capital cases at night. It is clear from the facts that the Hebrew trials were concluded by 5:00 a.m.; therefore, it was before sunrise and was still considered night when the Sanhedrin had its second trial of review. The rule of Hebrew law that proceedings and capital trials could not be held at night applied to each step of process and trial. The authorities of the time have stated that it applied to the entire proceedings

from the arrest to the execution. The great French advocate Dupin explicitly stated that the arrest was illegal because it was made at night.

8. The trial of Jesus was completed within one day. This rendered the trial illegal based upon the Hebrew law requirements that a capital trial must last at least two days where the accused was convicted. Of course, if a case ended in acquittal then it could end or terminate in a single day, but before an execution could finally take place, a night had to intervene where the judges could sleep, fast, mediate, and pray. They were quite respectful of life in those days, despite our thoughts of how the Sanhedrin may have been a bloodthirsty group. The Sanhedrin always had a second trial which was in the nature of a review. A review was intended to detect errors, if there were any, in the first trial. The Sanhedrin actually held two trials, but they were both concluded by 5 o'clock in the morning; in actuality, they were both held at night. It should also be noted that court could not begin on the second day until after the morning sacrifice, and morning sacrifice couldn't come until after sunrise.
9. Ancient Hebrew law provided that no Hebrew court could lawfully meet on a Sabbath or a feast day or on a day preceding a Sabbath or a feast day. Since this was Friday, the 14th of Nisan, it was actually the beginning of the Passover, a feast day, and at sunset it became the Sabbath: Jesus was being tried between 1 o'clock a.m. and 5 o'clock a.m. which was a Sabbath day. Therefore, He was illegally tried on the Sabbath day in violation of the ancient Hebrew law.

A very unique rule of Hebrew law provided that if a verdict was instantaneous and unanimous, it was invalid and could not stand. If the prisoner did not have a single friend in court, the element of mercy was wanting in the verdict. The interpretation of the ancient Hebrew law was that where the verdict was unanimous the proceedings were regarded in the light of conspiracy and mob violence.

## Amendment to Roman Law

1. Roman law requiring a preliminary hearing and an indictment charging the crime was clearly violated as illustrated by the question Pilate put to the Sanhedrin, "What accusation bring ye against this man?" The priest, answering, attempted to evade the question by saying, "If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up to thee." The mere information that he was a "malefactor" was not sufficient.
2. Roman law required at least two witnesses whose testimony must agree in all details from the beginning to the end of a trial. Here we have no witnesses, only the judges who conducted the so-called Sanhedrin trial.
3. Roman law absolutely prohibited trials at night. This point of procedure was very strictly observed by Roman law and included all legal process.
4. Roman law requiring trials to be public was stringently followed. This was one of the main reasons trials at night were prohibited.
5. Roman law forbade the execution of any uncondemned person. When Pilate said, "I find in him no fault at all" he proclaimed an acquittal, and this pronouncement alone indicated the close of the trial. Any further proceedings would have been subjected to a plea of *res adjudicata* or former jeopardy. The second appearance of Jesus before Pilate had no resemblance to a regular trial because the characteristic elements of a Roman criminal trial are completely wanting. When Pilate found "no harm in him, he should have immediately released Jesus. The Roman law of the Twelve Tables on this point is absolutely clear in Table IX, verse 6.

The pages of human history present no stronger case of judicial murder than the trial and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth, for the simple reason that all forms of law were outraged and trampled under foot in the proceedings instituted against him.

Although the trial was a farce and a mockery of justice, it was the most eventful and meaningful in the history of the human race. The Christian revelation was spread to all countries, and all people as a result of the martyrdom of "The Christ." His teachings and his precepts exist today as the insurmountable barrier separating civilization and barbarism.

## Epilogue

I heard two soldiers talking as they came  
down the hill;  
The sombre hill of Calvary, black and bleak  
and still;  
And one said, "The night is late, these thieves  
take so long to die,"  
And one said, I am sore afraid and yet I know not  
why."

I heard two women talking as down the hill  
they came;  
One was like a broken rose, and one was like a  
flame;  
And one said, "Men shall rue this deed their  
hands have done";  
And one said, only through her tears, "My son,  
my son, my son."

I heard two angels singing ere yet the dawn  
was bright;  
And they were clad in shining robes and  
crowns of lights;  
And one sang, "Death is vanquished," and one  
sang in golden voice,  
"Love has conquered, conquered all, O heaven and  
earth rejoice."

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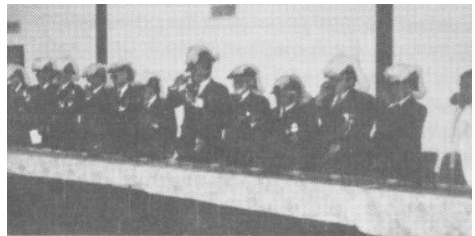
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 Annas: Merciful  
 Antipas: like the Father

Barabbas                      Son of the Father  
 Caiaphas                    Depression  
 Christ: Son of God - the Anointed One  
 Gethsemane - an oil press  
 Golgotha (Calvary in Greek) Skull, or Place of  
 a Skull  
 Herod: Hero - like  
 Jesus: Jehovah is Salvation  
 Pilate: Armed with a spear  
 Sanhedrin (Greek) . .Legislative Assembly  
 or an Ecclesiastical Council, deliberating in  
 a sitting posture

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### Christmas Observances in New Mexico

At right Sir Knights of Pilgrim Commandery No. 3, Albuquerque, New Mexico, are shown performing the Toasting Ceremony during the 1998 Christmas program. New Mexico was a territory in 1883; that year also marked the beginning of the Knights Templar Christmas Observance in the Rio Grande Valley. One hundred fifteen years later, Pilgrim No. 3 is still performing the same Christmas observance of our Savior's birth.



(Photo and news item by Sir Knight H. William Hart)

Las Vegas Commandery No. 2, Las Vegas, New Mexico, held its traditional Christmas Observance at the Masonic Lodge. A delicious dinner was followed by a period of fellowship and a tour of the lodge. This lodge room was used in the filming of the movie, *Red Dawn*.

Masters of New Mexico, made his official visit and presented an interesting and informative talk about the future of York Rite Masonry in New Mexico. (submitted by Sir Knight Schauer)

Twenty-seven people were in attendance for the Christmas Observance, including three Past Grand Commanders and the present Grand Commander, who are shown left to right above: Louis Gonzalez, M.I.G.M. and P.G.C. (1992); Jose Vasquez, P.G.C. (1990); Kermit Schauer, P.G.C. (1995); and Antonio Astorga, G.C. (1998-99). Sir Knights Vasquez, Astorga, and Schauer are from Las Vegas No. 2. Sir Knight Gonzalez, M.I.G.M. of the Grand Council of Royal and Select



## History of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America: Book II

### Chapter V

#### **Fifty-sixth Conclave, 1985**

(continued)

The report of the Committee on Drill Regulations showed that requests for information had been received from eleven Class "A" Teams and twenty-eight Class "B" Teams. Eight Class "A" Teams and twenty Class "B" Teams competed in the Drill Competition. "Preceding the awards meeting, the drill teams passed in review before the Most Eminent Grand Master." The Most Eminent Grand Master, Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master, Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo, and Right Eminent Grand Captain General assisted in the presentation of awards. Each member of each Drill Team which was judged First, Second, Third, or Fourth Place received an award: a ring for First Place, a table clock with plate inscribed for Second, Third and Fourth Place teams.

Following the short report of the Committee on Ritualistic Matters, the Chairman moved for an optional addition of spoken ritual for the Jewish Council in the Order of the Red Cross; it carried without anyone speaking against it.

The report of the Committee on Dispensations and Charters, in addition to what the Grand Master had reported in his Allocation, stated that Pierre Teilhard de Chardin Commandery, U.D., Dusseldorf, Germany, had affiliated with the Great Priory of Germany, under charter of the Great Priory of Scotland and recommended that their dispensation be terminated.

Also, Dionysius Areopagites Commandery, U.D., and Constantine Paleologos Commandery U.D., both of Athens, Greece, had become a part of the Great Priory of Greece, chartered by the Great Priory of Scotland. Finally, that Alberto Carrocci Commandery, U.D., Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, was in violation of the Statutes and Constitution of the Grand Encampment. The Committee recommended that these dispensations be terminated; the recommendation was approved, and the dispensations were terminated.

The report of the Executive Director of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation showed that the total assets at the beginning of this triennium were \$11,752,737.00 and at the time of the Triennial Conclave were \$18,219,999.00, an overall increase of 55%. During the same period, 3,510 cases were authorized for surgery, and in that time \$4,839,763 was spent for treatment.

During the election of officers on Tuesday afternoon, the three dais officers were advanced and four Sir Knights were nominated for Grand Captain General: Blair C. Mayford, P.G.C., Missouri, and South Central Department Commander; Thomas K. Rosenow, P.G.C., Wisconsin, and North Central Department Commander; Donald L. Smith, P.G.C., Texas; and James M. Ward, P.G.C., Mississippi, and Southeast Department Commander. On the third ballot Sir Knight Mayford won with 213 of the 425 total votes cast. Sir Knight Charles R. Neumann, Assistant Grand Recorder, was elected Grand Recorder without opposition; the Grand Treasurer was reelected.

The Committee on International York Rite Cooperation reported that "A 'York Rite Mason Magazine' which would take the place of the four magazines then in existence was discussed. Further study was suggested."

The report of the Committee on Templar History began "Supplementing the report of this committee to the 55th Triennial, this will advise that approximately two-thirds of the updated version of Sir Knight Francis Scully's *History of the Grand Encampment* has been typeset, and work on the remainder is continuing."

In its second report, the Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage, which had been



established by the 54th Triennial Conclave, reported considerable success. Eighteen ministers from eight states in 1983, twenty-two ministers from nine states in 1984, and twenty-eight from twelve states in 1985, had made up the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Holy Land Pilgrimages, respectively. This was a total of 68 ministers for this triennium. Since there had been 72 in the 55th Triennium, this meant that there had been a total of 140 Christian ministers who had been the guests of the Knights Templar of the Grand Encampment on a Holy Land Pilgrimage. The Committee rightly considered this a notable achievement.

The Committee on the Knight Templar Cross of Honor reported the presentation of 155 of these awards during the triennium.

At 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, the following Sir Knights were installed: Donald Hinslea Smith, Most Eminent Grand Master; Marvin E. Fowler, Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master; William H. Thornley, Jr., Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo; Blair C. Mayford, Right Eminent Grand Captain General; Harold S. Gorman, Right Eminent Grand Treasurer; Charles R. Neumann, Right Eminent Grand Recorder; Walter M. McCracken, Right Eminent Grand Prelate; and the Department Commanders: John C. Werner II, Northeastern Department; Edward R. Saunders, Southeastern Department; Clyde Curtis, East Central Department; William Jackson Jones, North Central Department; James M. Willson, Jr., South Central Department; Lawrence A. Blanchard, Northwestern Department; Ralph H. Emerson, Southwestern Department.

#### Fifty-seventh Conclave, 1988

Monday morning, August 8, the Grand Encampment held its public opening for the Triennial Conclave sessions beginning at 9:00 A.M. in the Patterson Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky. It began with the procession of officers of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky. Grand Commander James Leslie Grigsby welcomed those assembled, then introduced the processional for the dignitaries of the Grand Encampment. All were received under an

arch of steel. Grand Recorder Neumann then introduced the procession of distinguished guests of the 57th Triennial Conclave. The procession of flags followed, representing all of the different jurisdictions in which the Sir Knights meet; each Grand Commander was preceded by a member of the National Sojourners dressed in Revolutionary War costume and carrying the state flag. The Stars and Stripes were then saluted by the singing of the national anthem.

After welcoming remarks by Brother William Petry, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and various Masonic dignitaries and affiliated women's groups, the public opening was concluded and the business session was opened. The various committees of the Grand Encampment reported on their activities during the 1985-1988 Triennium. Various amendments - previously printed in the July 1988 issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine - were proposed for deliberation at the Triennial Conclave. Approved amendments include: 1) caps and mantles may now be worn for all Templar occasions, but an entire Commandery must be dressed in either uniforms or caps and mantles when appearing in public; 2) Past Department Commanders' jewels will be the same size as those of Department Commanders; 3) the Grand Master now has the authority to give Subordinate Commanderies outside the United States of America whatever hardship figures he feels are necessary (regarding conferral fees); 4) any Grand Prelate who is a permanent member of the Grand Encampment will be granted the status of past grand officer upon completion of his term of office; 5) receipts of the Grand Encampment and funds not required for current expenses will be deposited in federally insured financial institutions; and 6) voluntary non-affiliation in a Lodge or Chapter, or Council where required, or suspension or expulsion from required bodies for six months, will suspend Commandery membership without due notice or hearing.

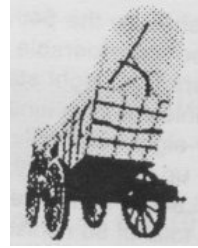
There were six Class "A" and eighteen Class "B" teams in the 57th Triennial Competition.

Masonic Trace at Donner Pass - Part I  
by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, KYCH, 33<sup>0</sup>, FPS

Each fall one of the great American tragedies of the 19th century comes to mind when newspapers carry the overnight low temperatures across the country. A frequent winner in the frigid derby is Truckee, California, a town of some 3,500 souls today. Truckee is situated on Interstate 80, at the summit pass of the towering Sierra Nevada mountain range leading to the lush Sacramento Valley to the west. During the winter of 1846-47, it was the scene of one of the most publicized wagon-train disasters in the history of the west. The catalyst for the morbid attention the event received were the stories of cannibalism committed by the starving members of the wagon train. The statement itself conjures up a recollection of the unhappy Donner wagon train and their travail during that fateful winter.

It is of interest to the Masonic community that a few members of the Fraternity were involved in day-to-day events during that long wagon journey of nearly 2,000 miles.

The ill-fated venture began in the spring of 1846 at Springfield, Illinois. At that point in time, a great period of anti-Masonic sentiment was just winding down, following the infamous Morgan affair in Batavia, New York. It began in 1826 with William Morgan, a disgruntled Royal Arch Mason who published an expose" of the secrets of the Craft when he was denied membership in a Batavia lodge. His disappearance and the discovery of a decomposed body washed ashore near Fort Niagara fueled a story that Morgan had been murdered by Masonic enemies. The national newspapers, condemning Freemasonry, gave birth to an anti-Masonic political party, and our Fraternity was nearly destroyed by the furor. Since Masonry had not yet totally emerged from the upheaval caused by the unfounded charges in 1826, it is interesting to note that Masons in the Donner Party chose to reveal their affiliations at that time. It had been the darkest hour for American Masonry, and



journalists like Horace Greeley helped extinguish the light.

A prosperous and prominent civic leader of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, by the name of James Frazier Reed is the most prominent Masonic character in our story. He joined with George and Jacob Donner in planning a joint wagon-train venture to California. They departed on April 14, 1846. The three men enlisted a number of Springfield citizens of like mind to join them in the small wagon train. The oxen-drawn wagons were bound for Independence, Missouri, a jumping-off point for trains heading toward the western frontier.

Both Donner brothers were prosperous farmers, but Reed surpassed both in worldly wealth. He had prepared three wagons for the journey, one of which was an immense creation built to provide far more comforts than one usually enjoyed in a conventional prairie schooner." Reed also carried an abundance of supplies, three teamsters, a hired camp handyman, and Eliza Williams as their hired girl and laundress. Milford "Milt" Elliott was Reed's most trusted driver and personal friend, and the other teamsters, Walter Herron and James Smith, were experts too.

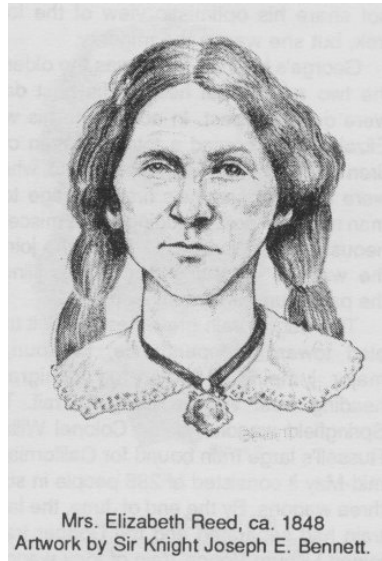
The Reed family consisted of James himself; his frail semi-invalid wife, Elizabeth Backenstoe Reed; their four children; and James' stepdaughter, Virginia Backenstoe. They also carried Mrs. Sarah Keyes, Elizabeth's mother, in the over-sized wagon. James Reed immigrated to Virginia with his mother as a small boy. He was born in

County Armagh, Ireland, on November 14, 1800. His ancestors, of Polish nobility, chose exile rather than life under the rule of the Czar of Russia. The original family name was Reednoski (or Reedowsky), although the spelling may be open to question. James' Scottish mother was of the Clan Frazier, accounting for his middle name. Young Reed spent twenty years in Virginia prior to relocating to Illinois to work in the lead mines. He remained in that occupation until he was thirty-one, when he moved to Sangamon County.

The energetic young man was industrious, fearless, and active in community affairs. He was a veteran of the Blackhawk Indian War, and his name appeared on the muster roll with those of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, a member of Reed's lodge. After hostilities ended, Reed established a cabinet manufacturing business near Springfield. He founded the town of Jamestown, which later became Riverton, Illinois (renamed after Reed moved to California). James also dabbled in railroad construction, general merchandising, and operated a farm he owned. With those pursuits, he became quite wealthy, but his fortunes were waning somewhat by the end of 1835. That was one of the factors which convinced him to seek a more lucrative life in California.

Although a personable, generous, and loyal individual; Reed was known to exhibit a short temper if aroused. He was also endowed with considerable leadership ability. A slightly imperious manner with a tendency toward ostentatiousness served to blunt his popularity among the less affluent. In spite of these minor personality traits, he was a loving father and husband. James Reed was an enthusiastic member of Springfield Lodge No. 4 and Springfield Royal Arch Chapter and remained so until the end of his life. His Masonic history in California will be addressed later.

George Donner was a highly respected farmer in Sangamon County, known for his wisdom and sage advice in matters agriculture.



Mrs. Elizabeth Reed, ca. 1848  
Artwork by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett.

He was equally esteemed for his affability and generous nature. In 1846 George was a sixty-two-year-old, married to his third wife, Tamsen. She was a diminutive woman of forty-five, no more than five feet in height. Tamsen was a schoolteacher and a lady of many skills. She was one of several members in the Donner Party who kept a detailed account of the trek to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, primarily through personal correspondence. Others kept day-to-day journals of the trip, providing an exhaustive record of their experiences.

In addition to his wife Tamsen, George Donner had five children from his second and third marriage. Their belongings were distributed among three wagons, which also included a large amount of expensive trade goods plus equipment to start a seminary for their children upon arrival in California. Donner's livestock included twelve yoke of oxen, saddle horses, beef cattle, and a few milk cows. Along with the chattels, Donner carried \$10,000 sewn into a quilt. The venerable father of fifteen children subscribed to the starry-eyed descriptions of California and regarded the journey as a pleasure trip. Tamsen did

not share his optimistic view of the long trek, but she was in the minority.

George's brother Jacob was the older of the two and in frail health. His best days were definitely past. In addition to his wife Elizabeth, he carried a total of seven children in their three wagons, two of whom were from his spouse's first marriage to a man named Hook. Including some miscellaneous families and passengers who joined the wagons departing Springfield, Illinois, the party numbered thirty souls.

The wagon train grew steadily as it traveled toward Independence, Missouri, a major jumping-off point for immigrants heading west via the Oregon Trail. The Springfield wagons joined Colonel William Russell's large train bound for California. In mid-May it consisted of 288 people in sixty-three wagons. By the end of June, the large train had separated and the Donner trains joined Liliburn Boggs' train of forty wagons. They had completed 635 miles of their journey when they arrived at Fort Laramie.

There was no cohesion in the large train, just a collection of diverse people bound for the same destination. They were town dwellers, farmers, and tradesmen, without a modicum of knowledge about life on a wagon trail. The travelers were devoid of any survival skills in the wilderness or how to read weather signs.

They were totally ignorant of Indian fighting or how to deal with Indians and totally unequipped to defend themselves. They had their first taste of reality when Mrs. Sarah Keyes, James Reed's mother-in-law, died on May 30, 1846. She was seventy years of age, rather than otherwise frequently stated. Sarah died near present-day Manhattan, Kansas, at the Blue River. Her grave marker gave her age and May 29, 1846, as the date of death. She had been physically unable to cope with the rigors of travel.

The wagon train party members bickered constantly from the time they left civilization and crossed the Mississippi. The diversity of nationalities was likely part of the problem. Another problem was that nobody on the train had an inkling of the hardships awaiting them.

By the time they arrived at Fort Laramie in Wyoming Territory, they met their first Sioux Indians in significant number. The wagon train party found them friendly and curious. In fact, a band of three hundred accompanied the train for a while when they took the trail westward toward Fort Bridger. Probably the wagon train party members were convinced the tales about Indian hostility were exaggerated.

When the train arrived at the Little Sandy River on July 20, 1846, George Donner was elected "commander" of their group of wagons. Donner's popularity among the members of the party was the

"James Reed was an enthusiastic member of Springfield Lodge No. 4 and Springfield Royal Arch Chapter and remained so until the end of his life."

deciding factor in his having been chosen over James Reed. Reed was regarded as too "highbrow" for most of them with his lofty manner and penchant for ordering folks about. Another reason for Reed's lack of popularity was jealousy over his obvious wealth. The huge wagon and James' blooded saddle horse, Glaucus, were ample proof that he was "putting on airs."

Reed had enemies on the train, one of whom was particularly bitter. He was Lewis Keseberg, one of the Germans traveling with his wife and child. Keseberg had arrived two years before from his native Westphalia. The tall, young German was suspected of being a wife beater and a pilferer. He had also been caught stealing buffalo robes from an Indian burial site, a serious offense. James Reed was one who demanded the taciturn German be driven from the train as a thief and troublemaker. Keseberg harbored a deep resentment toward Reed, even though he was allowed to continue with the Donner train.

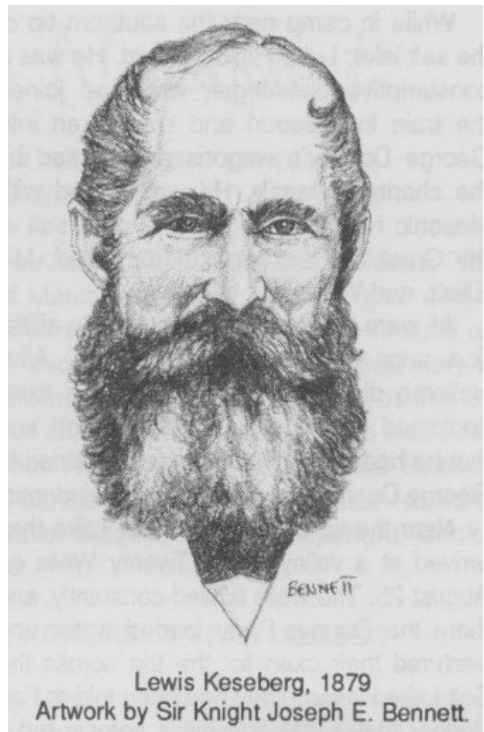
Game was plentiful, and the ride continued to be pleasant as the Donner train rolled toward Fort Bridger, just east of the present-day town of Evanston, Nevada. The Liliburn Boggs' wagons turned north on the new Greenwood cutoff toward Fort Hall on the Oregon Trail before reaching Fort Bridger. The Donner Party, now a train of eighty-seven travelers with twenty wagons, continued to Fort Bridger, arriving on July 28. It was really a trading post with fortifications built for protection against hostiles. It included a stock corral, a blacksmith shop, and two stockade buildings. The post had been built three years before by Jim Bridger, the famous guide and mountain man. His partner was Louis Vasquez.

The Donner Party was welcomed enthusiastically at the trading post and invited to replenish their supplies, to make any necessary repairs to equipment, and to avail themselves of the bad whiskey offered - all at a very steep price. At Fort Bridger, their most myopic and fateful decision of the journey was adopted.

The Donner Party had heard about a new southern route to California known as the Hastings cutoff, which was claimed to save three hundred miles or more.

Too late they learned that Lansford W. Hastings was just a promoter who knew little more about the route he enthusiastically recommended than the unsuspecting Donner folks. They were completely ignorant of the terrible obstacles they were about to encounter. Later, there was some speculation that Bridger and Vasquez may have been shilling for Hastings in order to convince California-bound travelers to take his cutoff, rather than have wagon trains opting for the Greenwood trail.

Bridger's biographer, Stanley Vestal, claims that no record exists of Bridger or Vasquez ever talking to the Donner train's leaders about the Hastings' route. Vestal stated that the immigrants were simply gullible and paid little heed to warnings about the Hastings cutoff while they were at Fort Bridger. Whatever the truth, eighty-seven souls turned at the Hastings cutoff, just west of the trading post and aimed for the southern tip of the Great Salt Lake.



On August 6, 1846, the Hastings trail ended abruptly, and the train was halted at Weber Canyon. James Reed and two riders were sent ahead to overtake Hastings, who was leading another wagon train to California. Hastings returned with Reed and remained only long enough to give them instructions about how to proceed.

When Hastings left the Donner train, they started forward again, expecting to reach the southern end of the Great Salt Lake within a week. The trail was so grueling that they were almost a month reaching the lake. It was necessary for a party to clear a trail through the brush ahead of the oxen and climb over torturous, broken terrain before reaching the Great Salt Lake. It was a fatal delay, and the Donner Party was now doomed to spend the winter in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, east of the summit. Supplies were desperately low, and the oxen pulling the wagons were almost exhausted. It was late August, and autumn had already arrived. There was early snow on the peaks of the distant mountains.

While in camp near the southern tip of the salt lake, Luke Halloran died. He was a consumptive passenger, who had joined the train in Missouri and was taken into George Donner's wagons and nursed by the charitable family. He was buried with Masonic honors in a grave of pure salt at the Great Salt Lake by James Reed, Milt Elliott, and William H. Eddy.

All were Masons, although Eddy's affiliation prior to 1850 was unknown. After Halloran died, they learned that his trunk contained regalia of a Master Mason and that he had left \$1,500 in cash he carried to George Donner, in payment for his kindness.

Near the tip of the Great Salt Lake they arrived at a valley called Twenty Wells on August 25. The wells flowed constantly, and there the Donner Party loaded water and pastured their oxen for the trip across the Salt Lake Desert. They had been told at Fort Bridger that it was fifty miles across, but it turned out to be over seventy-five. Among the obstacles along the trail was a steep climb of a thousand feet, which required superhuman effort from both drivers and oxen. The trip had already taken a terrible toll on the oxen, and by the end of the steep climb they were nearly in a state of collapse. They still faced a forty-mile stretch of desert which was a sandy crust over a salty bog, nearly devoid of any vegetation. The heavily-laden wagons began to break through the crust immediately, into a sandy slush which oozed salt water. By that time, the water reserves were nearly exhausted, and the oxen were dropping rapidly. James Reed had one ox and a single cow remaining. He

abandoned two wagons, loading his goods on the oversized one. Reed divided his excess cargo among the other members of the train and borrowed two more oxen to assist his own mixed yoke of one ox and a cow hitched to his single huge wagon. The train was now reduced to eighteen wagons.

After completing the torturous Salt Lake Desert crossing, they were forced to stop and allow their exhausted animals to recuperate. When they resumed travel, they found the trail somewhat easier than it had been in weeks. On the evening of September 30th, the Donner Party camped at the Humboldt River where they intersected the well-traveled California Trail. They rested briefly before resuming the trail westward. The morning they left the Humboldt River, the first snow of the season fell. After consultation, the wagoners decided to send a volunteer ahead to John (Johann August) Sutter's Fort to arrange for relief supplies to be sent back to the train. That meant a perilous journey over the Sierra Nevada Mountains into the Sacramento Valley. C. T. Stanton and William McCutcheon volunteered to make the trip.

Part II of Masonic Trace at Donner Pass Will Appear in the April Issue of Knight Templar.

Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, KYCH, 33, FPS, and P.D.D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, is a member of Holy Grail Commandery No. 70, Lakewood, Ohio. For correspondence: P.O. Box 2735, Bandera, TX 78003

## Washington Brother Receives 50 Year Award

At a Whitman County Shrine Club meeting in Colfax, Washington, Excellent High Priest of Pullman Chapter No. 31, R.A.M. of Washington, Fred C. Lange, presented a 50-year certificate and pin to Virgil Michaelsen (right), a retired wheat farmer who was a German POW in WWII. Brother Lange (left) is a retired USAF command pilot, a 32° Scottish Rite Mason, KYCH, and present Governor, Kamiaken York Rite College No. 28, Yakima.



## On the Masonic Newsfront...

### Georgia Sir Knight's Attendance Record Makes Him A Record Holder of the Guinness Book of Records

Judge and Sir Knight Charles A. Wofford; the author of "The Illegal Trial of Jesus, The Christ," which is included in the February and March issues of *Knight Templar* magazine; has never missed a Communication, called or regular, since he was initiated on Tuesday, August 26, 1947. We have this information from George L. Evoy, Secretary of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia, Inc. Brother Evoy has also informed us that Sir Knight Wofford is "officially a *Guinness Book of Records* record holder" and has been awarded a certificate to commemorate this fact. According to the Guinness Editorial Department: "The Keeper of Records will now consider your long attendance record at Gate City Lodge for entry into the world's biggest selling copyright book." Congratulations, Judge and Sir Knight Wofford.

### Colorado Assembly, S.O.O.B., Honors 50-Year Member

Pictured is a member of Pueblo Assembly No. 11, Colorado, S.O.O.B., Mrs. J. T. Greenwalt (Vashta), who received her 50-year membership pin as a Beauceant member at a luncheon in September 1998.

She was initiated into Pueblo No. 11 on February 5, 1948, and was a active member, serving in almost every station. She was Worthy President in 1985. She was also an instructor for many years. Our reporter writes: "Declining health has kept her from even attending meetings for the last couple years, but she still keeps up with the Assembly's members and activities." (submitted by Mrs. [Albert] Dorothy Young, Recorder, Pueblo No. 11)



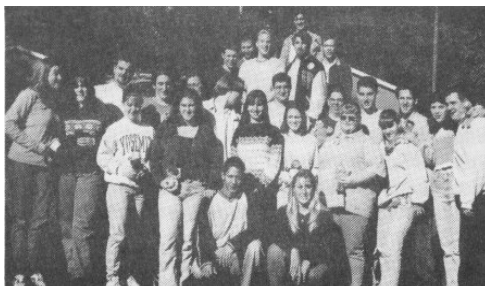
### Texas Assembly, S.O.O.B. - Children's Day Project

Pictured are the seventeen members and Sir Knights of Park Place Assembly No. 205, Houston, Texas, who visited the Shriners' Burn Institute in Galveston as a Children's Day project. While there this energetic group donated thirty-six handmade teddy bears and a monetary gift to the children. (submitted by [Mrs. John D.] Mary Hackward, W.P.)



The Northern California DeMolay held its Annual All-Officer Retreat at the Regional Learning Center in Sonora. During this weekend, the newly installed Northern California DeMolay Association officers met with the new divisional officers and members of the Sweetheart Honor Court. In the picture are the participants. Among the topics discussed were: membership, program planning, event planning and execution, budgeting, time management, public relations, how to utilize resources, the importance of teamwork, image expected of a Nor-Cal or divisional officer. This is one of the leadership programs that is supported financially by a yearly grant from the California Masonic Foundation and the Grand Lodge, F. & A.M., of California.

The 1998 Convention of Northern California DeMolay was a great weekend in Sacramento with close to 600 participants, making it one of the largest in all of DeMolay. The leaders of the California Masonic family were



honored at a banquet, the first-ever Youth Summit was held, another banquet honored thirty-one Chapter Master Councilors, and the new officers and Sweetheart Honor Court were installed.

The Youth Summit at the Convention was held to bring together the youth and adult leaders of the Masonic Youth organizations in California. Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters, Pythagorean Knights of California, and the DeMolay jurisdictions in California were represented, and the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California and Chairman of the Grand Lodge Youth Orders Committee was present for the meetings, expressing their full support of the concept of the Masonic Youth organizations working more closely together.

#### Southside Commandery, Fort Worth, Texas Present Scholarship

Southside Commandery No. 83, Fort Worth, Texas, awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Julie Naomi Forrester. Sir Knight William L. Blanks, P.G.C., presented the award. Mrs. Forrester was accompanied by her husband Shane and their young daughter Colby. She graciously thanked the Commandery for the award and shared with all the Sir Knights present her pleasure at receiving it. Mrs. Forrester has a 3.5 grade average, is a social work major with criminal justice minor, and plans to go into law enforcement. (submitted by Sir Knight J. Young, Recorder, Southside No. 83)





## Another Successful Clothing Drive for Maine Commandery

Again this year the clothing drive of St. Amand Commandery No. 20, West Kennebunk, Maine, exceeded its goal. Over 2,900 items of clothing were collected and turned over to the Salvation Army at the Christmas Observance. The Commandery has been successful in getting the community and business involved in the project. They had announcements on the local cable TV channels and collection points at many businesses in the area. Included in the collection were 431 coats, 772 sweaters, 484 pants, 533 shirts, and boots and socks as well as other things. Ronald Terry, representative of the Salvation Army, was present again to receive the token items. The bulk of the donations had been previously given to them for immediate distribution. Lady Mary Billings, President of Auburn Assembly No. 262, S.O.O.B., and



the Assembly's members collected 122 sets of hats, mittens, and scarves for the project. All of these were hand knit by the members or friends.

Sir Knight David J. Billings, chairman of the project, has announced that next year's drive will start in October 1999 with a higher goal.

Pictured, left to right, are: W. Robert Morgan, Commander; Lady Mary Billings; David J. Billings, G.G., Chairman; and Ronald Terry, Salvation Army. (submitted by Sir Knight Fred Lombard, editor, Maine Supplement)

## Illinois Commandery presents Holy Land Pilgrimage

The Reverend Edwin E. Evans of First United Presbyterian Church in Centralia, Illinois, was selected by the Grand Commandery of Illinois for the 22nd Holy Land Pilgrimage. The tour was presented to Reverend Evans at church services in January 1999. He was sponsored locally by the Sir Knights of Cyrene Commandery No. 23, Vandalia, Illinois. At left, Sir Knight Richard Young (left), V.E.D.G.C., Grand Commandery of Illinois, presents a certificate for the Holy Land Pilgrimage to Reverend Evans.



At right, from left, front row: Glenn McCoy, P.C., Cyrene; Wayne Brizendene, Chairman, Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee for Illinois; Rev. Evans; Richard Young, D.G.C., Illinois; and Michael Greek, Commander, Cyrene. Back row: Bill Jones, P.C., Cyrene; Michael Lewis, Gen., Cyrene; Jim Thompson, P.C. and Recorder, Cyrene; and Bill Bivens, Color Bearer.

## DeMolay Executive Officers Receive KCT in California



The rank of Knight Commander of the Temple has been awarded to the two Executive Officers of the Order of DeMolay in California. Shown in the photograph above, from left, to right, are: Sir Knights Fred O. Waldrop, Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of California; W. Bruce Pruitt, KCT, Past Southwestern Department Commander, Grand Encampment; Gaylord V. Roten (Los Angeles No. 9), Executive Officer, South; and Edwin D. Clarke (Recorder, H.P.C, San Jose No. 10), Executive Officer, North. The presentation was made at the banquet during the annual convention of Northern DeMolay. Over five hundred DeMolay members, sweethearts, and supporting adults were in attendance at the banquet. All three of the York Rite presiding officers of California were present, as was the Deputy Grand Master of Masons, Very Worshipful Alvin J. Weis, who gave the featured talk of the evening. (submitted by Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, P.D.C.)



L.L to r: Michael S. Kaulback, E. C., Jerusalem No, 19; Right Honorable Lord Malcolm Sinclair, Earl of Caithness and head of the Sinclair clan; and W David Boushea, PG. M. of Michigan



L. to r: Sir Knight Charles Austin, E G. Sr. Warden; Knight Templar in kilt; three Gunn clan members in period dress; Sir Knight Warren Wilson, G. inspector/instructor; Sir Knight Michael Kaulback

The Loon Mountain Scottish games, the largest in the US, acknowledged the Sinclair and Gunn clans. It was a four-day event, and Saturday was the busiest day with 45,000 people attending. The Grand Commandery of MA/RI represented the Knights Templar by staffing a booth in the clan village and marching in the Parade of Clans. The Knights Templar made some 150 contacts equally split between Masons and non-Masons, including three Past Grand Masters of three different states. They received several petitions for membership and gave out a great deal of Masonic literature.

Gunn, a companion of Henry Sinclair, is buried in Loon, New Hampshire. The Sinclairs were hereditary Grand Masters of the Templar Order and also built the famous Roslyn Chapel in Scotland. (submitted by Sir Knight Michael S. Kaulback)

Knight Templar Band Music  
by Sir Knight Peter H. Johnson, Jr., DGC, Arizona

Many consider the Golden Age of the American Concert Band and the hay day of the prolific march composers to be from about 1876 to 1926. This is roughly the era from the American centennial to the dawn of commercial radio. The belief that march music is exclusively connected to the military is indeed a mistake. None can deny the great and stirring military marches of Sousa such as "Semper Fidelis," but a random check of old march titles reveals a plethora of material related to small town happenings, sporting events, commemorative *affairs*, fraternal organizations, and an almost bottomless pit of music composed for the circus, minstrel shows, and other traveling extravaganzas.

An overlooked fact by music historians is the strong Masonic tie of the great masters of the American march. Virtually all were Masons, Knights Templar and Shriners, including John Philip Sousa, Henry Fillmore, Karl L. King and Fred Jewell. The musical outpouring of these Brothers, though staggering in quantity, is of unusually high quality. Their music is, above all, tuneful, spirited, and full of good humor. As radio began to kill the great concert bands around 1930, the strains of the great marches began to grow fainter. Since the 1960s the wonderful, inspired works of King, Jewell, Fillmore, and to an extent Sousa have largely disappeared from the programming of the typical American band.

There are a number of fine march compositions with a Knights Templar connection. The "March King" Sousa composed two such pieces following his Knighting in 1886 in Columbia Commandery No. 2 in Washington, D.C. An heroic sounding march, "The Crusaders," dates from 1888.

The other work is the famous street march, "The Thunderer," composed in 1889 and dedicated to Sousa's home Commandery. This is still a well known school band piece and is said to have been quite popular at the 24th Conclave of the Grand Encampment. The elder Sousa also wrote a famous Shrine march, "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine" in 1923. It was premiered by a band of over 6,000 Shriners in Washington, D.C.'s Griffith Stadium at the 1923 National Shrine Convention with Sousa conducting. The tune of this composition is of a minor/Oriental quality, and it is truly a unique work.

Another fine Knight Templar march dates from 1892 by the unknown T. M. Carter (1841-1934), a Boston area bandleader. This is a real double-header. The trio section of the march is the well loved hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers" by the renowned Sir Arthur Sullivan. Running scales in the clarinets sing out over the melody scored for the brass. Carter was a fifty-eight-year Mason, and the march (score shown on page 28) is dedicated to Eminent Commander Eugene A. Holton of the Boston Commandery. This selection is not entirely unknown having been recorded by the Boston Pops under the baton of Arthur Fiedler.

Sir Knight Karl King (1890-1971), the great circus march master of Fort Dodge, Iowa, also composed a Knight Templar march, "Forest City Commandery," in 1915. This tune is well known to serious march buffs but is seldom heard due in part to its difficulty. The cornet parts are high, and the woodwinds fly at frightening speed at the trio section. Along with a couple offbeat chords "Forest City Commandery" rates in greatness to Mr. King's most famous work, "Barnum and Bailey's Favorite."

Price 50¢ *Dedicated to E. Sir Eugene A. Holton, Eminent Commander Boston Commandery.*  
**Boston Commandery March.** K. T.  
 Solo Bb Cornet. (Conductor.) Onward! Christian Soldier. T. M. CARTER.

No 294

Cl.

TRIO.

Onward! Christian Soldier. (Sir Arthur S. Sullivan.)

Copyright 1892 by T. M. Carter.  
 E. C. Ramsdell, Boston The Cundy Bettoney Co. Boston, Mass.

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Fred Jewell (1875-1936), the "Indiana March King," is regrettably becoming a forgotten man. Contemporary reviews indicate that the Barnum and Bailey band under his baton could play Wagner selections on a-par with Sousa. His marches are often more advanced in terms of the rhythm, melody, and chordal structure than his contemporaries. Jewell also had a long career in Shrine and Masonic bands. Some of Jewell's Masonic related march titles include Murat Temple Band" and "Sahara Grotto." A Knight Templar related piece exists also, "Jacque DeMolay." The author has never heard this march and is presently trying to obtain a recording of it.

Other remote Commandery marches include "Baldwin Commandery" by Harry J. Lincoln and "Mt. Vernon Commandery" by Sir Knight J. F. Blumenberg. The selection by Sir Knight Blumenberg, subtitled "Sacred March," was supplied to me by

Bob Hills of Columbus, Ohio, in manuscript. It is an unpublished work based on the hymns, "Rock of Ages" and "Stand Up For Jesus," in march time. It appears to be a most stirring effort from the solo cornet part. According to Mr. Hills the now defunct Mt. Vernon Commandery was based on Mt. Vernon Avenue in Columbus, Ohio. In a letter Mr. Hill goes on to say: "The music came to me when I found they were going to burn their music library. Mt. Vernon Commandery had their own band at one time in the 1920s and '30s. Their library was limited, about twenty-some tunes."

Numerous other Knights Templar band works appear on lists in *The Heritage Encyclopedia of Band Music* and other sources. These compositions are probably long out of print; however, many of the composers will be familiar to serious traditional band buffs. Some of these march

titles include "DeMolay Commandery" by R. B. Hall, "Knight Commander March" by F. H. Losey, "Knighthood March" by Harold Bennett (aka Henry Fillmore), "Knights Escort March" also by Losey, and "Knights of Chivalry Grand March" by Louis Panella. There is also a listing for "Knight Templar Ballet Music" by H. Litloff. There are at least six selections entitled "Knight Templar March," a funeral march by C. S. Grafulla, and other marches by E. E. Bagley, W. Paris Chambers, G. Prutting, and G. L. Rothermel. Hopefully, scores of these pieces will turn up.

There are certainly many more band compositions with Knight Templar connections that lie neglected and yellowing in collections of old music. They are a symbol of the greatness of Templary and American music. It is a shame that music of this ilk is so seldom performed or when performed is played badly without the needed enthusiasm or verve. These compositions would be interesting as short concert pieces and should be resurrected and performed. A well played march would be a welcome change from the standard band concert fare of watered down pop tunes and sub par contemporary compositions. Recording Knights Templar and other fraternal band works with modern digital sound would also be a worthwhile way to

preserve these fine compositions and make them accessible again. This music is a proud reminder of our Templar heritage and deserves to be heard again.

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Sir Knight Peter H. Johnson Jr., D.G.C. of the Grand Commandery of Arizona, KYCH, and P.C. of Calvary Commandery No. 8, Winslow, Arizona, is the Fine Arts Coordinator for the Holbrook Public Schools in Holbrook, Arizona. He is also the composer of numerous compositions for band including "Knight Crusaders March." He resides at 1524 Smith Drive, Holbrook, AZ 86025

**KCT and OCT Award Recipients:** A 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- inch diameter, embroidered emblem has been produced for use on mantles and blazers of KCT recipients. Emblem is to be centered on the Cross that adorns the left side of the mantle or ceremonial robe or on the left side (on pocket) of a dress blazer. The same use for the GCT emblem which is bordered with a wreath. The cost of the KCT emblem is \$8.50 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling, and the cost of the OCT emblem is \$10.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Contact Jon Patrick Sweet, 7474 Benton Street, Westminster, CO 80003-7001, or phone at (303) 430-8483





# Knight Voices

To place your "Knight Voices" item on the waiting list for publication, type or print it and send to "Knight Voices," The Grand Recorder, 5097N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101, Chicago, IL 60630-2460. 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. You must submit a written request and check, if applicable, for each time you want your ad to run. Each request must be separate and at monthly intervals, not several at the same time. All other requests for repeat ads will either run just once or will be returned to sender.

For sale: Knights Templar shoulder straps, all ranks, embroidered in gold and silver bullion on velvet with Velcro backs: Past Commander (red); serving Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Prelate (green); Generalissimo, Captain General, and Prelate Emeritus serving 7 or more years in rank (red): \$40.00 pair plus \$5.00 S & H. Also: Honorary Past Commander with H.C. in Old English, \$45.00; Grand Commandery, \$45.00; extra fancy Grand Commandery, \$50.00; Past Grand Commander (purple), \$50.00 (all plus \$5.00 S & H). Also: chapeaux crosses: Sir Knight, \$35.00; Past Commander,

\$40.00; Grand Commandery, \$45.00 all plus \$5.00 S & H. Part of all monies go to Masonic and York Rite charities. Checks to and mail to *Jacques N. Jacobsen, Jr., PC.*; 60 Manor Road; Staten Is/and; NY 10310-2698.

U For sale: one complete Templar uniform with all required accessories: coat. 44 long; trousers, 42/32; chapeau, 7/8, complete with case; sword complete with cover and case and belt strap/hook; Sir Knight and Past Commander shoulder straps. *Max E. Simons, 949 Rosewood Drive, Peru, IN 46970, (765) 473-7989.* Reasonable offer accepted.

For sale: C.P.O. coats, poly-wool, summer weight; sizes: 44 short, 44X Tong, and 46 short. \$23.00 includes shipping and handling. **10% of all sales will be donated to KTEF.** *General Merchandise Company; 13690 Broad Street, SW.; Pafaskala; OH 43062, (614) 927-7073.*

For sale: new C.P.O. coats, polyester/wool, summer weight, sizes: 42S and 44XL. \$20.00 each plus S. & H. Also used chapeaux, size 7, with new plumes. A percentage will be donated to KTEF or HLP. *John Meyers, 2120 N., SR. 127, Angola, IN 46703, (219) 665-8419 or J. William Meyers, 1460 E. U.S. Highway 20, Angola, IN 46703, (219) 665-5686.*

For sale: sword purchased some 20 years ago at an antique sale in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Sword was made by Ames Sword Co., Chicopee, MA. One side of blade is inscribed "St. Johns Commandery No. 1, K.T." The other side has the name "George R. Hussey." Sword and scabbard in excellent condition. *Mem! Waugh, 101 West MacPhee Road, R.R. No. 1, Elmsdale, Nova Scotia, BON 1M0, Canada*

Wanted: a Prelate's cap, size 7 or 8 or points in between, in good condition. I will pay reasonable price and mailing costs. *W K. Heyer, Sr., P.O. Box 4785, Missoula, MT 59806*

Sullivan/Hugh de Payens Commandery No. 6, Claremont, New Hampshire, has received donations from two Sir Knights in Australia, through Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Philip H. White, with their thanks after receipt of used ceremonial Past Commander swords, along with related equipment. We have donated these monies to the Holy Land Pilgrimage in the name of the two Sir Knights and the Commandery. We are informed that there are at least three other Sir Knights in Australia desiring to obtain similar items. Please contact *Philip H. White, P.O. Box 644, Grantham, NH 03753-0644.*

N Wanted: information on mounted Commanderies: location, history, activities, tactics. *James M. Malone, P.O. Box 717, Schenectady, NY 12301-0717.*

Trying to locate Templar sword with scabbard of my late grandfather: Sir Knight Joseph H. Gauthier, originally a member of Oklahoma Commandery No. 3 (1910-1915) and later a member of Illinois Commandery No. 72, which consolidated with Evanston No. 58. Sword may have his name on it or initials and is pre-1921 vintage. His daughter died in 1968 in San Francisco, and it was given by his granddaughter to James Leslie Randolph of Alta Vista Lodge No. 464, which merged with Columbia Lodge No. 461, San Francisco. I have checked with Sec. of that Lodge as well as with Brother Randolph's stepson in Texas. Mr. Randolph moved to North Little Rock, Arkansas, after 1968 and passed away there in 1978. Brother Randolph also resided in Phoenix and Dallas. Any info welcome regardless of how insignificant it may seem. *Sir Knight Joseph H. Gauthier P.O. Box 12445, Reno, NV89510-2445.*

The Grand Lodge, F. & AM., state of New York, will be hosting the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team on June 5, 1999, held at Grand Lodge building, 71 West 23rd Street, New York and beginning at noon. This will be a 3 with the Degree Team exemplifying the Drama in full dress. Tickets are \$15.00 each and can be purchased from *Stewart C. McCloud II, 91-24 86th Street, Woodhaven, NY 11421-2933, (800) 3MASON4.* Checks payable to Second Queens Officers Association.

Clarkrange Lodge No. 605, A.F. & AM., Clarkrange, Tennessee, is having a fund-raiser sale: now available history books and commemorative coins celebrating our 100th anniversary. Books sell for \$5.00 each plus \$2.00 postage, and coins are \$5.00 each Plus \$1.00 postage. Checks payable to *Clarkrange Lodge No. 605*, and mail to *Harvey Peters, 6940 S. York Hwy., Clarkrange, TN 38553*.

Beautiful centennial coins are available celebrating 100 years of existence of Matador Masonic Lodge No. 824, A. F. & AM., Matador, Texas. Coins are dollar size and in gold or antique bronze. The cost is \$10.00 each, which includes handling. Both sides were designed by Brothers, and local jewelers at Roaring Springs molded the coins. You will be proud of one of these beautiful, unique centennial coins. Please send stamped, self-addressed envelope and \$10.00 to *Matador Masonic Lodge, P.O. 707, Matador, TX 79244, Attn: Wes Campbell, WM*.

The Edwin J. Kiest Lodge No. 1310, Dallas, Texas, has a limited supply of its 50th anniversary, antique bronze coins for sale. The coin has a picture of the present Lodge with the dates 1948-1998. The reverse of the coin has the square and compass with the working tools of a Master Mason. The price is only \$5.00 and \$1.00 postage. Checks to *Claude G. Miller, Edwin J. Kiest Lodge No. 1310, 10210 Hermosa, Dallas, TX 75218*.

Sprig of Acacia lapel pins: Each handcrafted pin is sterling silver with a 24 karat gold vermeil finish. Price per pin is \$10.00 ea. including S & H. New item available: The Masonic bridge builder pin in sterling silver with antiqued finish. Price per pin is \$10.00 ea. including S & H. Both Pins are available only through *S. Kenneth Rain, 1630 Orchard Hill Road, Cheshire, CT 06410-3728, (203) 272-7579*. 10% of proceeds will benefit the KTEF.

For sale: *The Medal of Honor The Letter G in Valor*, a 268-page digest with the names, congressional citations, and Lodge membership of all Masons who have received our nation's highest military award for bravery. Check or money order for \$21.95 (CT residents, \$23.27) to *Weidner Publishing Group, Dept K., 490 Cornwall Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410*, or credit card order by calling 1(800) 783-9654. Author's portion of profits donated to KTEF.

I have copies of *The Royal Arch Mason Magazine*, *The Cryptic Freeman*, *Knight Templar*, and *Scottish Rite Journal* that I want to dispose of. I hate to throw them out if anyone wants them. *Francis L. Dancy, P.O. Box 457, Fort Pierce, FL 34954-0457, (561) 464-0853*. If no one answers, leave message; I will get back to you.

Wanted: Masonic Chapter pennies by avid collector. I have been building this collection for 26 years, and still need many pieces as I am collecting all varieties. These one day will end up in a Masonic museum. Why not find a home for your mark? I will gladly send you a check for one piece or will buy your collection. If you collect, I will gladly exchange. I will answer all letters. *Maurice Storck, Sr.; 775 W. Roger Road, No. 214; Tucson; AZ 85705; (520) 888-7585*.

Wanted: to buy Case Trapper knife to replace my own, which has been stolen. *Otis Dennie, 8894 Cox Road, Westchester, OH 45069*.

For sale: all kinds of customized specially imprinted items: die cast coins, medallions, lapel pins, wooden nickels, round tufts, pens, pencils, markers, yardsticks, mugs, raps, key tags, knives, belt buckles, aprons, bumper stickers, calendars, business cards, awards, plaques, magnetic items, license plates, ornaments. Celebrate the millennium and use these promotional items in your Blue Lodge, Royal Arch, Council, and Commandery. All items reproduced to your specifications using your camera-ready art, or we can create the art from your sketch. Masonic organizations have an automatic \$2,500 line of credit. 3% goes to KTEF. *Brother Frank Looser, (800) 765-1728*. All messages will be answered. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Wanted: information as to where to purchase the book titled *The Meaning of Masonry* by W. L. Wilmshurst, P.M. 275, Past Provincial Grand Registrar, West York, England. *Derek C. Freer, APDO Postal 279, 28000 Colima, Colima, Mexico*.

Wanted: Goebel Masonic figurines: No. FR33 depicting two colonial gentlemen looking at a globe wearing Masonic aprons and dressed with 3-sided colonial hats; and No. FR34 depicting one colonial gentleman standing next to a pedestal also dressed in colonial attire with 3-sided hat. *Gene DeFilippo, 5-34 College Place, College Point, NY 11356-1034 or call (718) 762-3159*.

Wanted: gold, folding, hinged Masonic watch fobs to buy for distinguished historical fob collection. *Marshall Jacobowitz; 159 Madison Avenue, No. 11J; New York; NY 10016; (212) 532-9882*.

Buying all U.S. and foreign coins, paper money, tokens, medals, silver, proof sets, etc. Buyer has 40 years experience. *Randy Mogren, 8 Gould Street, Millbury, MA 01527, (508) 865-4816*.

For sale: Mount Emblem Cemetery, Elmhurst, Illinois, 2 lots, section J; asking \$700.00 for both or \$400.00 each plus cemetery transfer fee. *Fred Thompson, P.O. Box 981, Eufaula, AL 36072, (334) 687-4835*.

Wanted by fellow Mason: any condition, toy electric trains or sets, Aurora "model motoring" race cars/sets, *US military items*, and *Indian arrowheads*. Call collect or write *um Rici/4heim, (734) 854-3021, 14761 Turwiiclliff Road, Petersburg, MI 49270-9716*.

Reunion: The 50th reunion of the 93rd SEABEES will be held at Clearwater, Florida, Oct. 21-23, 1999. Contact *Bill Woodward, 364 121h Avenue North, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785, (727) 593-2025*.

