



Knight Templar

VOLUME LII

JUNE 2006

NUMBER 6



In June we celebrate the anniversary of the *Magna Carta* (right above) or the "Great Charter." *Magna Carta* was influential in the development of our own *Declaration of Independence*. At right are instruments of government in 13th century England: charter and patent rolls. Above is art of a Crusader knight doing homage. See page 11 for Sir Knight Herbert D. Sledd's article about the *Magna Carta* and the people involved.



Instruments of government in 13th century England: charter and patent rolls in which the King's grants to his vassals were recorded.

Grand Master's Message for June 2006

Summer is here again, and this month brings vacation time, many special meetings, outdoor activities of all kinds, and much more.

Of course, we celebrate Father's Day, Flag Day, and St. John the Baptist Day this month. All of these should be special to Templar Masons.

I am sad to report that we lost a dear friend in April (too late for the May issue). Brother and Sir Knight Walter E. Webber, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, passed away on April 22. He was a great friend and leader and will be missed.



We will be attending the Southeastern Department Conference, the annual meeting of the United Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine, and the meeting of DeMolay International. All of these will be the last for me as Grand Master of this Grand Encampment

This term is winding down, and we should be preparing to elect the new leaders for the next triennium.

We are in the final stages of preparing for the 63rd Triennial Conclave and are moving forward with much anticipation to seeing many of you in Houston in August. There are still rooms available in the hotel and space available on the tours. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and we will hear from several very special speakers on that occasion. There will be several nice surprises during the course of the meetings, and we trust that you will enjoy them.

Flag Day
June 14



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth B. Fischer".

Kenneth B. Fischer
Grand Master, GCT

Knight Templar

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

JUNE: On page 2 Grand Master Fischer comments on days in June that are important to Templars: Father's Day, Flag Day, and St. Johns' Day. We celebrate the flag in this issue and also remember the anniversary of the *Magna Carta* with an article starting on page 11. There's more news from the Holy Land Pilgrimage—2006, including two more poems by Pilgrim Minister, Doug Ridley, on page 7. We continue listings of contributors to the KTEF on page 8 and 9. Our Grand Prelate has written two Easter messages for the Knights Templar Sunrise Service in Alexandria, Virginia, and the one on page 14 is the one that was delivered on April 16. The other one ran in the April issue. We are sure you will enjoy both! Sir Knight Charles Cicero's article on jewels of Commandery officers continues from May on page 21, and the musings on early Knights Templar history by Sir Knight John White also continue from May and start on page 25. This issue covers a lot of diverse interests, and we hope you will enjoy it!

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knight templar

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Editor's Journal



When you order any of the items below, make check or money order payable to: the Grand Encampment, and send to: Grand Encampment of Knights Templar; 5909 West Loop South, Suite 495, Bellaire, TX 77401-2402.

● **Attention: all Grand Commanders and all Deputy Grand Commanders who will be in office as Grand Commanders on November 1, 2006; or Grand Recorders:** In the upcoming November issue, *Knight Templar* magazine will again present pictures of those Sir Knights who are Grand Commanders. Please provide us with a photograph of yourself in uniform by September 15, 2006. If your installation will be in late September through October, order your photo NOW or it will arrive too late for inclusion in the November issue.

Photos may be of any size (they will be reduced as in previous years), preferably black and white of good, clear quality. Color is acceptable. Do not send polaroid prints as they do not reproduce well. We only use head shots, and jewels of office do not appear.

Indicate your name and state on the back of the photograph. **Photos are requested by September 15, 2006. After that date, it may not be possible to include them in the November magazine.**

● **The Order of Malta** is now available on DVDs. Each informative DVD is only \$15.00 each plus \$3.50 for S & H (\$18.50). Also, the **Order of Red Cross** DVD is now available at \$15.00 each plus \$3.50 for S & H. (\$18.50). Send in your order today!

● **PLACE MATS & NAPKINS:** The place mats have pictures of the Masonic Presidents of the USA, and the napkins have the Cross and Crown emblem. The cost of either one is \$15.00 per 250 in intervals of 250 (ie. 250, 500, etc.—NO exceptions) PLUS S & H — UPS charges vary by location.

● **62nd TRIENNIAL MEMORABILIA:** From the 62nd Triennial Conclave, we still have available the black carrying cases that were

given at registration—\$20.00 plus \$6.00 S & H (\$26.00). See above for ordering information.

● **GREAT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR GIFTS:** Available is the 2-volume set of *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America* by Francis J. Scully, M.D., and *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America—Book II* by Lt. Col. Jacob C. Baird, Chairman, the Committee on Knights Templar History. As a set, the two books are \$25.00 plus \$4.00 S & H (\$29.00). Separately, each book is \$15.00 plus \$3.00 S & H (\$18.00).

A Knight Templar magazine Index, including all previous indexes and covering the years, 1969–1999, is now available at a price of \$5.00, plus \$2.50 postage—total, \$7.50. This is your chance to invest at a bargain price in the index which covers main articles of the magazine from 1969 to the turn of the century.

A Pilgrim's Path: Freemasonry and the Religious Right: This is John J. Robinson's last book, and it is available as a hardbound copy. The book is available for \$15.00 each, plus \$2.50 S & H. **Born in Blood:** The exciting book by John J. Robinson is available at the price of \$17.00, including S & H. **Dungeon, Fire, and Sword:** This history of the Knights Templar by the late John J. Robinson is available for \$20.00 each, plus \$3.50 S & H (\$23.50).

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 is no limit on orders: \$1.50 each under 100 copies, plus S & H; \$1.00 each over 100 copies, plus S & H.

Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America:

**Web Site: <http://www.knightstemplar.org>
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More News from the Holy Land Pilgrimage—2006!

Holy Land Pilgrimage Presentation—Jacksonville, Florida

Damascus Commandery No. 2, Jacksonville, Florida, presented a trip to the Holy Land to Reverend Donald Cooley at Hart Haven Baptist Church. Reverend Cooley was nominated for the Holy Land Pilgrimage by Sir Knight Clarence Gruber, P.D.D.G.C., KYCH, a member of the church.

In the picture are Sir Knights of Damascus No. 2 along with the Grand Commander of Florida, William G. Ellis, and Grand Prelate, Reverend Robert Blackwell: left to right, front row: Ralph Jones, P.G.P.; Walter Hammond, Recorder; Clarence Gruber, P.G.S.; Rev. Donald Cooley; Rev. Robert Blackwell, G.P.; Fred Piasecki, P.G.C.; Billy Collier, D.D.G.C.; Darryl D'Angina, P.D.D.G.C. Back row: Sam Reasor, P.D.D.G.C.; Lewis Duffy; Charles Cooper, P.C.; William McClean, Commander, Damascus; Leland Stanford III; Lowell Crane; and Al Russ, P.D.D.G.C.



At left are members of Jacksonville Assembly No. 220, S.O.B., with Reverend Cooley and Mrs. Cooley at the presentation. The Assembly donated money to sponsor the trip and gave a personal donation to the minister for his trip. Pictured, front row, left to right: Mrs. Ben Jordan, Mrs. William Ferrell, Mrs. William Ellis; row 2: Mrs. Charles Cooper, Mrs. George

Dillinger; row 3: Mrs. James Robertson, Rev. and Mrs. Donald Cooley, Mrs. Clarence Gruber, Mrs. Robert Blackwell, Mrs. Ralph Jones, and Mrs. Fred Piasecki.

HERE IS WHAT A PILGRIM MINISTER HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE...

I was awestruck to see the Sea of Galilee and also to view across the lake the cities of Capernaum, Magdala, Tiberius, Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, and Armageddon! All these

places have such biblical significance: for instance, viewing the place where Gadera is supposed to be and where two men who were demon possessed were found at a grave yard. I also was impressed by the church of the multiplication and just seeing the shore line and imagining a bustling business of fishermen on the lake. The topology of the entire area fascinated me.

Most significant to me was crossing over the Jordan River for the first time in a bus. No one said anything, but that experience set in motion the feeling I had for the entire trip. Great things were there to be discovered at every turn.

I also was impressed with the Garden of Gethsemane. Knowing the trees existed so long ago and yet there they were! Understanding how the olive trees grow was significant. A shoot from the root of Jesse! Those trees grow from the hollow trunk. Another little thing but so significant were the Carobs that grow from the Carob evergreen tree. This is what the Prodigal fed the pigs when he came to his senses. I saw some of those carob pods.

There is just so much that had importance to me: Qumran! The Holocaust Museum! I could have spent an entire day there! The Temple Mount! The Western Wall! The City of Jerusalem and the wall around the city and the Valley of Hinnom. I could just go on and on. Every site had value, and fortunately, our guide knew how to draw out the small things. I hung on every word he said. Viewing the topology of the landscape and seeing how the places of Jesus' ministry fit together had the most educational value of all. The travel distances associated with the geography was important to understand. I have known this—but to view it means so much more now.

I want to thank you with all my heart for the opportunity that was afforded me to attend the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. I will cherish the memories forever. I also wish you would please extend my personal gratitude to those responsible for the trip so that they will know of my appreciation.

Pastor Morris S. Lewis III
Kingston Road Baptist Church
Shreveport, Louisiana

Ode to Our Flag and Our Commandery

Our Knights proudly carry the Stars and Stripes,
For the Masonic ideals, for truth and for right.
In honor of Knights with us and for heroes now dead,
May our flag ever wave white, blue and red.

Our flag waves aloft as the symbol and key
Of honor and faith and for sweet liberty.
With our freedom protected by our brave, loyal Knights
May our flag ever wave red, blue and white.

Commandery stands proud in service of love,
With a pledge to protect our banner above.
For liberty and justice and with our honor still true,
May our flag ever wave red, white and blue.

Dr. Edieann Biesbrock-Didham, Author
member of S.O.O.B No. 252, Findlay, Ohio
(Mrs. James Didham)

Written on the occasion of the Inspection Banquet for Findlay Commandery No. 49, on April 8, 2006, that was themed "A Tribute to Our Flag and Our Freedom." (Jim Didham, Eminent Commander)

Reverend Doug Ridley, a recipient of the Holy Land Pilgrimage 2006, is minister at Grace United Methodist Church, 501 Race Street, Cambridge, MD 21613. He wrote several poems (two of them here) while on the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. See the April and May issues for other poems by Reverend Ridley.

Our Peace

Bethabara,
the place where Jesus
was baptized by John,
is part of Palestine today,
so pilgrim tours
are detoured
miles away,
near Kinneret.
There
some have realized their dream
to be baptized,
or re-baptized.

I strolled around—
it was my way to stray,
and came upon
an ox-drawn plow,
which lay beside a post.
It must be analyzed.

Upon the post:
“May Peace Prevail on Earth”
Appropriate,
I thought.
Isaiah would be pleased,
for here the Prince of Peace
withstood the shame—
he bore our sins—
that caused his birth.

He is the peace
to which we all aspire:
God’s peace,
the everlasting hills’ desire.

Poet’s note: *A descriptive poem about an encounter with a prayer/wish/dream which becomes real for us in Jesus, “Our Peace” was inspired by our stop at the site just south of Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee) where tours go to see the Jordan (and the baptism stop). There was an old plow there, with a post, on which the words were painted in Hebrew and English: “Let Peace Prevail on Earth.”*

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Pilgrim Spirit

So many pilgrims
gathered here
in this small, holy space of land—
we’ve come
from all around the world,
with different views
of law
and Christ
and God,
and these we can’t dismiss,
because they’re part of us.
We’d be remiss
to set aside beliefs
that form our call
to faith
and faithfulness.
But here
no wall divides
our deep desire
to feel God’s kiss.

We all have journeyed here
for just one thing:
to know God’s presence near;
to have a sense of blessing
on our life—
have God dispense to us—
anointing us,
inspiring our souls
to sing
his song in us—
a dove
to call forth
deeper faith
and greater love.

Doug Ridley
(written 2–27–06)

Poet’s note on “Pilgrim Spirit”: *On our pilgrimage we came from many parts of the church and across the USA. We encountered other pilgrims from Nigeria, Brazil, Russia, Korea, and other countries, and we were all there for the same thing: to express our devotion and “feel God’s kiss.”*



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***The 38th Annual Voluntary Campaign—
Golden Anniversary of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation***

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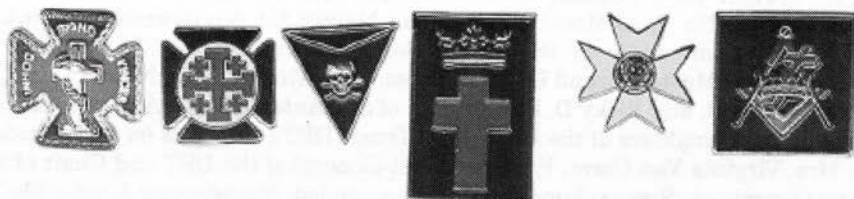
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TENNESSEE COMMANDERY SELLS LAPEL PINS TO BENEFIT THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION



In 2005 at the 144th Annual Conclave of Tennessee, Manchester Commandery No. 40 of Hillsboro, Tennessee, topped their donation of \$6,000 for the 36th Annual Voluntary Campaign of the KTEF by donating \$6,500 to the 37th Annual Voluntary Campaign.

Once again, the primary source of the year's donation was from the sale of a late 1800's Knight Templar apron lapel pin and 5 other pins. All profits go to the KTEF. The pins (above) are still available at a cost of \$6.00 each, postage included. They are, left to right, above: Mediterranean Pass, Knight Crusader of the Cross, 1800's Apron, Beauceant Shield, Malta, and Knights Templar/Blue Lodge. Remember: **All profits go to KTEF.** Send check or money order payable to: Manchester Commandery No. 40, C/O Garry L. Carter, Recorder, 424 Winchester Hwy.; Hillsboro; TN 37342. All 6 pins can be viewed at the website: www.YorkriteUSA.org.

IN MEMORIAM



Frederick William Vaughan
 Alabama
 Grand Commander—1978
 Born: February 6, 1914
 Died: April 3, 2006

Harley R. Kingsbury
 North Dakota
 Grand Commander—1970
 Born: March 9, 1913
 Died: April 24, 2006

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE TO BENEFIT KTEF



This beautiful membership certificate, left, was designed to keep a record of all 3 degrees of a person who reaches Master Mason. It is 11 x14 inches and is 100-pound, antique white, parchment paper with 8 different colors and 3 blended colors. The price is \$3.00 each, plus \$3.50 for shipping. For every one sold, \$1.00 will go to the KTEF. Send check or money order to: Sandra D. Knotts, P.O. Box 158, Trexlertown, PA 18087.

Texas Sir Knights Attend Wreath-Laying at Alamo

Knights Templar were present in uniform at the commemoration and memorial wreath-laying by the Grand Master of Masons in Texas at the Alamo in San Antonio on March 3, 2006. This annual event by the Grand Lodge of Texas held on the first Saturday in March was organized this year by the immediate Past Grand Commander of Texas, Sir Knight James N. Higdon, in his capacity as Grand Master Brian R. Dodson's Regional Coordinator for District 39, although he is not present in the photo. In the photo, taken in front of the entrance door to the Alamo, are, left to right: Robert Loflin, G. Sentinel; Kent Crickard and Joe O. Estlack, P.C.s of San Antonio No. 7; Al Machts, P.C. of San Marcos No. 56; Lawrence E. Tucker, then Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Texas; M.W. Brian R. Dodson, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Texas; Neil Winslow, P.C.; Nelson Dunn, G. Captain General; and Ricky D. Barnes, P.C. of San Antonio No. 7. Also present representing the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT), the hosts on this occasion, was Mrs. Virginia Van Cleve, Past President-General of the DRT and Chair of the Alamo Committee. Several hundred Masons attended, representing Alzarfar Shrine including their Honor Guard, Highlander Bagpipers, Shrine Band, and Provost Guard; as well as members of Alamo Camp, Heroes of '76.



This month we celebrate the anniversary of the...

Magna Carta — June 15, 1250

by Sir Knight Herbert D. Sledd

Honorary Past Grand Master, Chairman of the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence, and Trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

7 91 years ago in a meadow outside of London, within sight of Windsor Castle on the bank of the river Thames, a group of English Barons forced the King of England to sign a written guarantee that he would not exercise arbitrary power over the rights of the Barons, free men, the church, and widows, in 63 separate categories designated as chapters in the document.

It is difficult to fit this unusual document into any category of modern jurisprudence. It is not a formal constitution because it did not set up organs of government and define their powers. It cannot be considered a treaty because it was not a contract between two or more sovereign and independent powers. It is not a legislative enactment because it was not adopted in the manner customary for legislation in that day. It is probably most accurately described as a bargain agreed to by the King and the Barons for the purpose of settling the immediate issues at hand.

The King agreed to recognize the Barons' liberties, and in return the Barons promised to renew their oaths of fealty and homage. This document imposed limitation on the powers of the King. It has been called "the exemplar of the Bill of Rights."

Who were the players, and how did this document come into existence?

John Lackland (1167–1216), fifth and youngest son of King Henry II and Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, was so nicknamed because, unlike his

brothers, he received no significant continental fiefs from his father. In 1199 he succeeded his brother, Richard I—the Lionhearted—to the throne. His alleged failure to fulfill his feudal obligations to his overlord, King Phillip Augustus II of France, caused him to lose his feudal possessions of Normandy and Anjou. His first six years as King of England were spent waging war in France to regain his inheritance, which led to a disastrous defeat and the exhaustion of the English treasury. The next seven years, 1206–1213, involved an ongoing battle with Pope Innocent III. Among other areas of conflict, he refused to accept Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury. He wanted his own man in that position and was not consulted by the Pope before the appointment was made. He confiscated many of the church's properties and treasures throughout England. He was excommunicated by the Pope in 1209, and four years later the Pope authorized France to invade England. John was forced to capitulate and accept a humiliating settlement and Langton, and as part of his atonement, he turned England over to the Pope and received it back as a papal fief in 1213 when his excommunication was absolved. On March 4, 1215, John took the vow of Crusade, further obligating him to the Pope.

The final crisis of his reign began in 1213 when he sought to revive the war with the King of France. The Barons

refused to follow their King to battle. In retaliation, John prepared to march against the rebel Barons with an army of mercenaries to compel obedience. The Barons rallied around Stephen Langton who cited the Charter of Liberties announced by King Henry I at his coronation in 1100. A deputation from the insurgent Barons met with the King on January 6, 1215, demanding the liberties set out in Henry's charter. On April 27, 1215, the Barons presented their final schedule of demands with the added threat to seize the King's castles and properties if he refused to agree. He did refuse, and on May 5, 1215, the Barons formally renounced their allegiance to the King and invited the King of France to invade England. John's last chance to bring the Barons into line evaporated when the Merchants of London announced their support of the Barons and opened London's gates to them.

Stephen Langton (1165–1217) was born in Lincolnshire, educated in Paris, and called to Rome by Pope Innocent III, who consecrated him as Archbishop of Canterbury in June 1207. King John refused to accept him or allow him to return to England resulting in the King's excommunication. Learning that the French King was planning to invade England, King John needed the support of the Pope and the English clergy, so he reluctantly accepted Langton in July 1213, and Langton came to England, and as directed by the Pope, absolved the King. Langton sided with the Barons and negotiated between the two sides. He helped to draft the document that laid out broader powers and greater liberties for the Nobles, the Church, and the city of London, and less power for the King. This participation on his part ultimately led him into a con-

frontation with Pope Innocent III, who suspended him as Archbishop. He died in 1217 in ecclesiastical disgrace.

Innocent III (1160–1216) is considered one of the three greatest medieval popes. Born of an aristocratic Italian family and well educated in both Canon law and theology, he was elected pope at age 37, the youngest age of any pope before or since. Extremely active and highly controversial, he vigorously attacked heretical clergy and churches. He founded two new religious orders of friars, the Dominicans and the Franciscans, to preach against heresy and reinforce Catholic traditions. He called on the French nobility of Northern France to wage the crusade against the Cathars. To punish heretics, he formulated the Papal Inquisition. He brought the papacy to the pinnacle of power in European society and politics.

John assented to the Charter with tongue in cheek. He affixed his seal to the document four days later, on June 19, 1215, after it had been put in final form following his agreement on June 15, 1215, only because of the threat of armed might. In fact, he never intended to comply and had begun his preparations for repudiating the Charter before the historic Runnymede meeting. He gained the support of Pope Innocent III by arguing that he signed under threat and not voluntarily, and that the hostility of the rebel Barons interfered with his vow of crusade. On August 24, 1215, a Papal Bull was issued which declared *Magna Carta* void. The Barons were reminded that Innocent III was lord of all England and that nothing could be done without his consent. Excommunication was decreed for all those who had, in the Pope's words, persecuted John, King of England, crusader and vassal of the Church of Rome.

The Barons would not surrender their hard-won liberties, and again invited the King of France to replace John on the throne of England. Pope Innocent III refused to allow the King of France to take any such action.

Death removed the two men who stood in the Barons' way, and another crisis was averted. The Pope died June 2, 1216, and John died October 19, 1216. *Magna Carta* was reissued by the advisors of young King Henry III with the consent of Pope Innocent's successor.

The Charter was reissued three times by Henry III with many changes. It is the last reissue, 1225,

"Coke's concept of "the rule of law," limiting the power of government and securing to the individual the right to trial by jury and the guarantee that no person could be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, is the basis of the 5th and 14th Amendments to the *Constitution of the United States of America.*"

that appears in the English statute books and most legal treatises. Despite its historical significance, *Magna Carta* might have remained legally inconsequential had it not been resurrected by one of the great legal writers of all time in the 17th century.

While the Tudor rulers ignored the Charter, it was Elizabeth I's Attorney General, Sir Edward Coke, Chief Justice during the reign of James I and later a leader in Parliament opposed to Charles I, who reinvigorated the concept of the "rule of law" limiting the power of government and securing to the individual the right to trial by jury, the protection of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, and the guarantee that no person could be deprived of life, liberty, or

property without due process of law. In his treatise on *Magna Carta*, published in 1628, Sir Edward Coke's reinterpretation provided the argument for universal liberty in England and gave the American colonists a basis for their condemnation of British colonial policies.

Coke's use of the document as a weapon against the oppressive tactics of the Stuart kings and his argument that even kings must comply with the common law were thoroughly familiar to the young colonial lawyers; John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison; and these arguments were cited by the colonies' rejection of the Stamp Act, as against *Magna Carta* and the natural rights of Englishmen and therefore, they argued, according to Lord Coke, "null and void."

No clause has been cited more often than Chapter 39, providing that no free man shall be imprisoned, dispossessed, banished or destroyed "except by the legal judgment of his peers or by the law of the land." Coke's concept of "the rule of law," limiting the power of government and securing to the individual the right to trial by jury and the guarantee that no person could be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, is the basis of the 5th and 14th Amendments to the *Constitution of the United States of America.*

The citizens of today in the free countries around the world are indebted to the Barons of Runnymede for their gift to humanity of the great Charter—*Magna Carta.*

Sir Knight Herbert D. Sledd, H.P.G.M. is the Chairman of the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence, a Trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., General Counsel, and a Past Grand Commander of Kentucky (1965). He resides at 6326 Colby Road, Winchester, KY 40391-9801.

Easter Sunrise Sermon—April 2006

by Sir Knight and Reverend Thomas G. Keithly
Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment

Sir Knight Thomas G. Keithly, Right Eminent Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America, presented the message below at the 76th Annual Easter Sunrise Memorial Service at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, on April 16, 2006.

For those who were unable to attend the Easter ceremony in Alexandria or who wish to read the message in addition to being there, here we share it with you. Reverend Keithly resides at 1612 Kiltartan Drive, Dallas, Texas 75228.

“On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early...”

Imagine yourself in Jerusalem about the year 30 A.D. (Anno Domini—year of the lord). It is the first day of the week following the spring festival of Passover. This is an ordinary work day. Yesterday was an extraordinary Sabbath, with the weekly day of rest and worship coinciding with Passover. Where are the crowds that filled the streets a week ago? I was among them, curious to see the arrival of a man who had a reputation of being an especially effective, itinerate preacher. He was from up in the north country—Galilee. Some claimed he could even work miracles; curing the sick and making a crippled man walk and a blind man see. Wouldn't you be curious to see what he is like—and, perhaps, even see him perform some miracle?

Some are saying he is a prophet, maybe even the Messiah! It is curious, though. He didn't come dressed in rich purple, like a ruler, nor in armor, like a warrior-king, riding a fine horse—one who would throw off the hated yoke of Rome. No, he came in simple peasant garb, like mine, and riding on a donkey! But some of the people got carried away and cut palm branches and waved them, as if honoring a dignitary, and started shouting “Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!”

(save **now**—a present perfect tense you don't have in English with its emphasis on “SAVE” as a thing completely accomplished at the present moment). And I was caught up in the excitement, waving a palm branch, and shouting “Hosanna!” Where is the crowd **now**?

We were curious, even **hopeful**. In truth, some of his associates seemed more than curious. They acted as though they were **convinced**, sure that he was the true “Son of God.”

Unfortunately, we heard that he was arrested three nights ago and tried for heresy before the High Priest, then before the Sanhedrin (the Jewish Council of 70), and finally before Pilate, the Roman Governor. Some of the people went out to see what would happen. Many of them would have been present last week in the crowd shouting “Hosanna!” Now they shouted “Crucify! Crucify!” I was so hopeful that he was the Savior of Israel. But he was condemned and put to death by crucifixion, in the cruel and ignominious way of the Romans.

We would like to think that **we** would have been among the faithful and believing. But truth-be-told, most of us would have been merely among the curious—maybe hopeful, but also doubting.

Days later, word would begin to spread that he was alive, that he had risen from the dead. Two men, who had

been in Jerusalem to keep Passover, claimed they had met him while walking to their home in Emmaus. His Apostles said he appeared to them in an upper room in Jerusalem. Some women from among his followers claimed they had gone early to the tomb to anoint him, for there had not been time to make the proper preparation of his body for burial before the Great Sabbath began at sundown. And they found the tomb empty!

Obviously, *some* were convinced of the truth of the Resurrection. And *we* are convinced, or we wouldn't be here this early Easter morning. But convinced of what?

In my Easter Message for the April issue of *Knight Templar* magazine, I noted that the "Holy Saints John of Jerusalem" (both John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, author of the Gospel according to John) identify our Lord as the Lamb of God, the perfect Passover Sacrifice.

St. Paul also dwells on this point: that Jesus is the *only* sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world—my sins and yours, too. "Christ *our* Passover is sacrificed for us," he wrote to the Corinthians (I Corinthians 5: 7), "therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

And that most Jewish of all New Testament writings, the Letter to the Hebrews, sees Jesus as the true incarnation of the perfect priest. Unlike all the priests of the Old Covenant, none of whom could be perfectly worthy, Christ alone is pure enough to offer the perfect sacrifice. The Letter to the Hebrews sees him as the fulfillment of Melchizadek, that mysterious character of Abraham's day, the Priest-King of the ancient Salem (City of Peace),

which the Jews would rename Jerusalem, Peace of God—who was without beginning or end. Jesus was both *victim* and *victor*, the Sacrificial Lamb, and the Priest offering the sacrifice.

But it is not enough to be convinced of this core Christian truth. An insightful preacher once pointed out the distinction between the *curious*, the *convinced*, and the *committed*. Truth-told, most church folk are often wavering between the three. As the saying goes: "A lot of church members who are singing 'Standing on the Promises' are just sitting on the premises."

I often have to remind myself that as I recite the Creed I must mean more than "I believe *that* God exists." I must mean "I believe *in* God!"...and in all that the creed goes on to say. Believing *in* God means putting my trust in Him. It means actively seeking to know *His* will, and surrendering my will to Him.

If we are merely *convinced* of the truth, we are not allowing God to change us. We must be *committed*. And to be committed is to be changed. I started by asking you to imagine yourself in Jerusalem on that first Easter morn. Does what happened three nights ago—the "Last Supper," the "Agony in the Garden," the arrest, and three trials—strike to the very core of your being? ...Does what happened two days ago—on a hill called "Golgotha" (a place of a skull)—strike to the very core of your being? ...Does what happened this morning—an empty tomb—strike to the very core of your being?

An old saying goes, "Some want to serve God, but only as advisors." The challenge is to be changed. We have gone through the motions to be changed: we have been baptized. God's grace is given to us. But God also has blessed us with *continued to page 20*

The Flag of Liberty by P. A. Horton

The use of flags dates back almost to the beginning of civilization. They were used in Egypt prior to 850 B.C. The earliest were usually solid material carried on a staff. Later ones were of more flexible fabric to wave in the breeze and show both sides. There have been various forms and purposes known as standards, banners, ensigns, pennants, guidons, and burgees, usually with some insignia of leadership serving to identify friend or foe.

“The Lord spake: every man of the Children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard with the ensign of their fathers house.” (Numbers 2:2)

The royal flag had, however, all the attributes of kingship identified with the King himself, being treated with similar respect. It was thus a crime even to touch the flag-bearer. The flag was the first object of attention, and its fall would mean confusion if not defeat.

The story of the origin of our flag parallels the story of the origin of our country. With confident belief in divine providence, a people who loved freedom carved a nation out of an autocratic empire at a time when all nations were ruled by despots. The flags of the mighty kings and empires of that day have long since gone, but the Stars and Stripes remain.

The character of a flag is taken from the people who serve under it and may change with each generation. We inherit not only the noble deeds of our great men but all that is noble in their character as well.

Embodied firmly in the character of our flag is the foundation of American principles and the root of our government as drafted in the Mayflower Compact in the cabin of that frail craft in 1620.

These men resolved to obtain independence of thought, although it entailed giving up the comforts of a civilized land, crossing an unknown ocean, and wrestling a living out of a wilderness. “They cultivated independence to a point of sacrifice and learned that humble things with unbartered liberty were better than splendors bought with a price.” They were distinguished by that firmness of resolve that goes by the name of “character.” This rugged land proved the nurturing ground for a rugged breed of men—men hard as the granite hills that surrounded them. It was this breed that won our liberty by fighting for it and who founded a new nation.

For a century and a half the Colonists had been subjected to unjust laws and excessive taxation. The British Parliament had passed the five “Abominable Acts” to force the Colonies to pay for their expensive wars. The people of Boston refused to pay the tea tax and dumped the tea in the harbor in protest. The Port of Boston was closed with the intent to starve the Colonists into submission.

The protest was against unjust laws, unjust taxation, and no representative in government, not motivated by a desire to break with the British empire. It was the hope of the Americans until the last that they could win their rights under the framework of the existing government. Even Washington frowned on the suggestion of independence.

After Lexington and Concord and the bloodshed there, Washington was no longer of that opinion. Congress commissioned him to take command of what was the Militia of New England, to be the nucleus of the Continental Army. The

Pennsylvania Cavalry with their own ornate banner had escorted Washington to Cambridge where he found the different Colonies had various flags and banners, but we had no national flag.

The popular impression that our flag came in response to a spontaneous demand of the people is not supported by the facts. Congress appointed Mr. Harrison, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. Franklin to go to Cambridge to design a national flag. As a result they adopted the Grand Union or Cambridge Flag for the use of our troops. The Meteor Flag of England then in use in the Colonies was a plain red flag with the Union Jack of England in the canton. By using this flag and applying six white ribbons they had created thirteen stripes, alternate red and white. The Union Jack had been retained in the canton for even at this date they had no definite idea of separating from the mother country. The stripes were to represent the thirteen colonies.

This flag was flown at Washington's headquarters on Prospect Hill at Cambridge on January 2, 1776, and greeted with a thirteen gun salute. It was the flag used as the patriots besieged the British at Boston and was present when they were driven out on March 17, 1776, never to return.

When the British first saw the Cambridge Flag they greeted it with jeers. They noted the Union Jack in the canton and thought the white in the flag meant some sort of surrender. This annoyed Washington. He realized that some changes must be made. He made a pencil drawing of the flag with thirteen alternate red and white stripes and a canton of blue with thirteen five pointed stars in this blue field. This undoubtedly was suggested by the flag of Rhode Island.

On the fourteenth day of June, 1777, General Burgoyne was launching a new invasion of the Colonies from Canada. The progress of the Revolutionary War gave little cause for optimism, but Congress must resume the unceasing struggle. John Hancock called the meeting in order to dispose of the accumulation of routine matters. The Journal of that day records the formal proceedings but nothing for the discussions that may have taken place:

Two orders for the payment of money to John Murray; a letter from Amos Throop of Providence was read and referred to the Marine Committee, after which the Marine Committee was authorized to dispose of the Continental ships in the Delaware should the British succeed in their impending action upon "said river."

Next in the Journal of Congress for that day came a one sentence entry: "RESOLVED: that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation,"

Next came a communication from Massachusetts Bay.

"That Capt. John Roach who had been in command of the Ranger, was a person of doubtful character. Having next been read, the gentleman was suspended until an inquiry into his conduct be made. John Paul Jones was given the vacant command. These and a number of matters disposed of, Congress adjourned to 10 o'clock on Monday."

Thus, full fledged and without debate, our flag was unrolled to the sun; it is the symbol of all those holy truths that brought together the colonial American Congress. Less than one year after the *Declaration of Independence* this flag advanced to full height before GOD and all men as the FLAG OF LIBERTY.

The article on pages 16 and 17 was submitted by Sir Knight Charles A. Garnes; H.P.D.C., P.G.C. of Pennsylvania, and the Chairman of the Committee on Public Relations. He is a member

of Duquesne Commandery No. 72, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania. Write: Charles A. Garnes, 1700 Jamestown Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-4944 or e-mail: charles.garnes@verizon.net

On the Masonic Newsfront

KYCH Presents 50-year Awards at the Annual Conclave of Tennessee



At the Annual Conclave of Tennessee on March 21, 2006, Tennessee Priory No. 15, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, it was announced that George Henry Harding, KYCH, and Kelso Harris Renfro, KYGCH, had been inducted 50 years ago into Tennessee Priory No. 15.

George Henry Harding was presented the 50-year Award for his 50 years as a member of the KYCH by M.E. General Grand King Emory J. "Smokey" Ferguson, General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, International. Harding had served as Worshipful Master of Lebanon Lodge No. 98 in 1953, High Priest of Lebanon Chapter No. 25, Illustrious Master of Lebanon Council No. 109 in 1953, and E. Commander of Baldwin Commandery No. 7 in 1955. He was inducted into Tennessee Priory No. 15 on September 14, 1955.

Although Kelso Harris Renfro, KYGCH, was unable to attend the Conclave, M.E. General Grand King Emory J. "Smokey" Ferguson is planning to present him his 50-year Award in July 2006 on his way to the Great Smokies Assembly in North Carolina. Renfro was Worshipful Master of Bright Hope Lodge No. 557 in 1945, High Priest of Jeshua Chapter No. 207 in 1947, Illustrious Master of Knoxville Council No. 75 in 1946, and E. Commander of Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 9 in 1954. He was inducted into Tennessee Priory No. 15, 1954, and received his KYGCH in 1964 when he served as Grand High Priest. In the picture, M.E. General Grand King Emory J. "Smokey" Ferguson (right), General Grand Chapter, R.A.M., presents the 50-year Award to George Henry Harding (left), KYCH. (submitted by Joseph Warshawsky, P.C., PR Grand Commandery of Tennessee)

Bradford Commandery No. 43, Lawtey, Florida, Honors Veterans

In the fall of 2005, Bradford Commandery No. 43, Lawtey, Florida, was part of a program at Starke to honor our veterans. Sir Knights from the Commandery served as an honor guard



for flags and wreaths. In the picture at the bottom of page 18 are the following Sir Knights: front row, left to right: Frederick L. Piasecki, R.E.P.G.C.; Ernest Beeman, P.D.D.G.C.; Gurney Atwell, P.E.C.; Lloyd Wilkerson, P.D.D.G.C.; Francisco T. Camacho, E.M.; and James Holly, P.C.; second row: Perry Kemp, P.C., and Donald Dewitt, Standard Bearer.

Scottish Rite Supreme Council, N.M.J., to Meet in Chicago

Chicago will be the site of this year's annual meeting of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. More than 2,000 33° Masons and their ladies from 15 northeastern states are expected at the meeting on August 26–30, 2006. The Supreme Council last met in Chicago in 1992.

The 2006 Session will be highlighted by the conferral of the organization's 33° upon 238 Scottish Rite Masons who were elected for this high honor at last year's meeting in Grand Rapids. The 33° is awarded for outstanding achievement in the fraternity or for significant contributions to others, reflecting credit on Freemasonry. The impressive ceremony will take place on Tuesday, August 29, in the DePaul University Merle Redskin Theatre.

Introductory luncheons honoring the 33° candidates and their ladies will be on the schedule for Sunday noon. The Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers will be the scene of the traditional Supreme Council Vesper Service.

Earlier business conferences attended by the officers of the Supreme Council will be held on Friday and Saturday, August 25–26.

Sovereign Grand Commander John Wm. McNaughton will preside over the General Sessions of the Supreme Council on Monday, August 28. In the course of these sessions, prominent leaders from other Masonic organizations in the United States and throughout the world are expected to be in attendance.

A number of other events have been scheduled, including a Monday luncheon in the Sheraton Hotel for all ladies attending the Chicago meeting. Mrs. Judy McNaughton, wife of the Grand Commander, will preside over the luncheon and program. At the same time, another luncheon will be served for all Supreme Council members, distinguished guests, and members of the class in the same hotel.

That evening, Chicago's very own jazz lady, Spider Saloff, a gifted and elegantly talented jazz vocalist, will entertain members and their ladies. During the week, special sightseeing tours will be available for those attending the meetings.

In addition to the major events sponsored by the Supreme Council, a Masonic Marketplace will allow vendors to display Masonic-related items.

Seminars on Tuesday will provide an opportunity for those attending to learn more about estate planning and to gain an insight into the difficulties facing those with dyslexia. The Scottish Rite provides free one-on-one tutoring for dyslexic children at 52 learning centers throughout the jurisdiction.

There will be many smaller social functions occurring under the auspices of the 15 participating states and the 99 Valleys comprising the Northern Jurisdiction.

The 2006 meeting will end with the announcement of the names of those elected to receive the 33° at Washington, DC, in August 2007. The meeting in the nation's capital will be held in conjunction with a biennial meeting of the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction.

In Memoriam: Sir Knight Walter E. Webber, Sovereign Grand Commander (2003–2006) of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the USA, passed away on April 22, 2006. He was also President of the National Masonic Heritage Museum and of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, which provide for one-on-one tutoring for dyslexic children. He was a member of the York Rite in Portland, Maine, and a member of St. Bernard Commandery in Boston. He had been invested with the DeMolay Legion of Honor in late March. Sir Knight Webber will be remembered for his love of family, country, and Freemasonry. He was actively involved in church, legal, business, community, civic and fraternal matters. He is survived by wife Leslie, 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and a son and daughter-in-law.

“free will.” He will not change us against our wills...He will not change me against my will...He will not change **you** against **your** will. Another saying goes, “God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called.”

In our First Reading this morning, St. Peter wrote, “Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God’s sight chosen and precious: and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood...You are a **chosen race**, a **royal priest-**

hood, a **holy nation**, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

We are here this morning to bear **witness** to the Resurrection; to be a part of the **Chosen Race**, the **Royal Priesthood**, the **Holy Nation**. We are called to go forth **empowered** by God’s Spirit. Where do **you** see **yourself** in the crowd? ...among the “**just curious?**” ... among the “**convinced?**” ...or are you with the “**committed?**” Where will you be tomorrow? ...next week? ...next month? ...year-in and year-out?

Hail, thou once despised Jesus! Hail thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us; thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou universal Savior, bearer of our sin and shame!
By thy merit we find favor: life is given through thy name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, all our sins on thee were laid:
By almighty love anointed, thou hast full atonement made.
All thy people are forgiven through the virtue of thy blood:
Opened is the gate of heaven, reconciled are we with God.

Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory, there forever to abide;
All the heavenly hosts adore thee, seated at thy Father’s side.
There for sinners thou art pleading; there thou dost our place prepare;
Ever for us interceding, till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, power and blessing thou art worthy to receive;
Highest praises, without ceasing, right it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits, all your noblest anthems raise;
Help to sing our Savior’s merits, help to chant Emmanuel’s praise!

John Bakewell (1721–1819) and Martin Madan (1726–1790)

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation; grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ’s Body may show forth in their lives what

they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Jewels of the Commandery Officers—Part II

by Sir Knight Charles “Chic” Cicero, E. Grand Standard Bearer
Grand Commandery of Florida

The following, continued from the May 2006 issue of *Knights Templar*, is the original copy and illustrations (reduced sizes) printed in a booklet by Sir Knight Charles “Chic” Cicero, copyright 2005. Sir Knight Cicero has kindly given his permission for its reprinting by the Grand Encampment. Sir Knight Cicero resides at 4124 Raccoon Loop, New Port Richey, FL 34653-6452; e-mail: sprengel@microd.com

JUNIOR WARDEN: The Junior Warden’s jewel is an eagle with wings spread, holding in its talons a Flaming Sword.

Since ancient times the *eagle*, the swiftest, bravest, and strongest of birds, has been used as a symbol of majesty and courage. The Romans used it as a symbol of their highest god, Jupiter. In Christian symbolism it came to represent Christ in his divine character, bearing his earthly children on his wings, and teaching them with unequalled love and tenderness to soar upwards from the corruptions of earth to a higher and holier sphere.

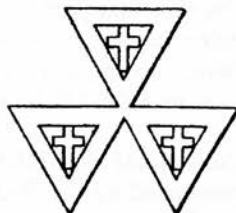
The *Flaming Sword* is a sword whose wavy blade resembles a fiery flame. Years ago this was the correct form of the sword held by the Tyler in Freemasonry, although in modern times it has been replaced by an ordinary straight sword. It is the flaming sword of the Kerubim which guarded the entrance to Paradise as described in the Book of Genesis: “the flaming sword which was placed at the east of the Garden of Eden, which turned in every direction to keep the way of the Tree of Life.” This form of the sword was without a scabbard, because it was ever drawn and ready for defense of the officer’s post.

The jewel of the eagle and flaming sword suggests that the Junior Warden should perform his duties with justice and valor, having an eagle eye on the prosperity of the Order.

PRELATE: The jewel of the Prelate is a Triple Triangle with a red Passion Cross in the center of each Triangle.

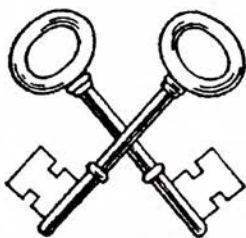
The *Triple Triangle* is also called the *Triangle of Pythagoras* or the *Pentalpha*, and it shares certain characteristics with the *Pentagram* or “five-pointed star,” which is also formed of three triangles. Both are symbols of Deity. In this version, three triangles are formed by intersection of the triangles’ sides. Like every variation of the Triangle, it is a symbol of God, but in the Knights Templar it further alludes to the mystery of the Trinity.

The *Passion Crosses* in the center of each triangle emphasize the essence of Christ within the Trinity. This jewel reminds the Prelate of the impor-



tance of the trust reposed in him as he officiates at the altar and offers up prayers to Deity.

TREASURER: The jewel of the Treasurer is Two Crossed Keys, which symbolize the key to the lock on the Treasury.



A Key is symbolic of a mystery or enigma, or of a task to be performed and the means of carrying it out. It is often used to symbolize a chamber containing precious objects. Among the ancients, the Key was a symbol of power, of opening and closing, and of silence and of circumspection. The well-instructed Brother sees in the Key a symbol which teaches him "to keep a tongue of good report." In early Masonry the symbol of the Key was said to hang "by the thread of life at the entrance,"

and it was closely connected to the heart, because the tongue "ought to utter nothing but what the heart dictates." This key is described as being "composed of no metal, but a tongue of good report."

The qualities which recommend a Treasurer are accuracy and fidelity—accuracy in keeping a fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements and fidelity in carefully preserving all the property and funds of the Commandery that may be placed in his hands, and rendering a just account of the same whenever called upon for that purpose.

RECORDER: The jewel of the Recorder is Two Crossed Quill Pens, which symbolize the writing tools of the early Knights Templar.



In ancient Egypt, the *feather* or quill was the symbol of Maat, the goddess of Justice and Truth. In the story of the Weighing of the Soul in the afterlife, the deeds of a person's life were weighed in a scale against Maat's single feather of Truth. If the person had lived an honest, generous, and upright life, his soul would weigh the same as the feather—the scales would then be perfectly balanced, and the deceased would be allowed to live in the glory of the afterlife.

According to St. Gregory, feathers symbolize faith and contemplation, and the Quill denotes the Word of God.

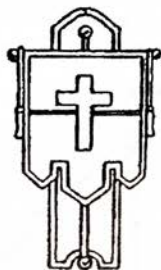
The essential qualities of a Recorder are promptitude in issuing notifications and orders of his superior officers, punctuality in attending the conclaves of the Commandery, correctness in recording the proceedings, judgment in discriminating between what is proper and what is improper to be committed to writing, integrity in accounting for all moneys that may pass through his hands, and fidelity in paying the same over to the Treasurer.

STANDARD BEARER: The jewel of the Standard Bearer is a Masonic Plumb surmounted by the Banner of the Order.

The *plumb* or *plumb-rule* is an instrument used by Operative Masons to erect perpendicular lines. It is a symbol of rectitude of conduct, and inculcates

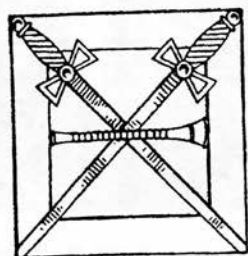
that integrity of life and moral “uprightness” or “straightness of course,” which can alone distinguish the good and just man. As the Operative Mason erects his temporal building with strict observance to the plumb-line, which will not let him deviate a hair’s breadth to the right or left, so the Speculative Mason, guided by the unerring principles of justice, is steadfast in the upright pursuit of truth, neither bending beneath the frowns of adversity, nor yielding to the crooked seductions of prosperity.

The Plumb, surmounted by the Grand Standard of our Order, is meant to remind the Standard-Bearer to be upright in his responsibilities to the Order. His duty is to display, support, and protect the Banner of our Order, which is our rallying point in time of danger. When unfurled in a just and virtuous cause, he should defend it as long as life endures.



SWORD BEARER: The jewel of the Sword Bearer is a Triangle with Crossed Swords. His duty, symbolized by the crossed swords, is to assist in protecting the Banner of our Order. The triangle, which represents the power of Deity, also keeps everything within due bounds.

WARDER: The Warder’s jewel is a Hollow Square with Two Crossed Swords and a Trumpet. His duty is twofold: 1) to guard the Asylum, symbolized by the crossed swords; and 2) to sound the assembly and announce the approach and departure of the Commander, symbolized by the trumpet.

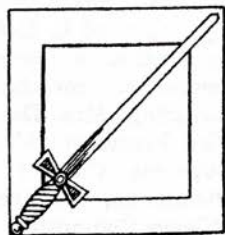


It is interesting to note the similarities between the jewels of the Sword Bearer and the Warder. Both contain two *Crossed Swords*—but one is in a triangle and the other a square. The triangle is a symbol of Deity, while the square is a symbol of man. Within the Sword Bearer’s Triangle, the two swords point upward in a salute to God. Within the Warder’s Hollow Square the two swords point downward as a barrier against the unjust and the impious—the hilts of the inverted swords forming Calvary crosses.

The square and the triangle together form the *pyramid*—a symbol of the unity between God and man.

SENTINEL: The jewel of the Sentinel is a Hollow Square containing a single upright Sword of protection. It is similar in nature to the jewels of the Sword Bearer and the Warder. The sword is placed in the hands of the Sentinel to enable him to effectively guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers and to suffer none to pass but such as are qualified.

The sword serves as a constant reminder to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts, to place a watch



at the door of our lips, and to post a Sentinel at the avenue of our actions, thereby excluding every unworthy thought, word, or deed.



GUARDS: The jewel of the Guards is a Hollow Square containing a Battle-Axe. It is similar to that of the Sentinel. The battle-axe is the equivalent of the sword, the hammer, and the cross. The twin-bladed axe of the jewel is related to the form of the Hebrew letter *Tau*, which means "cross." It relates to the idea of sacrifice, particularly sacrifice in the cause of defense or protection.

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL ORDER OF THE BEAUCEANT



At left are members of Warren Assembly No. 77, S.O.O.B., Warren, Ohio, at the Supreme Visitation and Inspection of Supreme Worthy President, (Mrs. Jack L.) Mary Ann Edwards. S.P. Edwards was pleased to present two 25-year pins and one 50-year pin. Pictured, left to right, front row: 25-year member, (Mrs. Delmar) Mary Jane Packard; 50-year member, (Mrs. Jack) Martha Darrow; 25-year member, Mrs. Donna Jarvis; back row: Worthy President, (Mrs. David) Commilla Rich, and Supreme Worthy President, (Mrs. Jack L.) Mary Ann Edwards.

Below are members of Carnegie Assembly No. 80 at Carnegie Masonic Temple, Carnegie, Pennsylvania. 5 new

members were initiated at the official visit of (Mrs. Jack L.) Mary Ann Edwards, Supreme Worthy President, S.O.O.B. Pictured, left to right, front row: new members: Mrs. Roland Flamgletti, Mrs. James Metsger, Mrs. Gerald Sutherland, Mrs. Theodore Bergfelt, and Miss Amy Movic; back row: Mrs. Charles H. Lee, P.S.W.P.; Mrs. Robert Averill, President of Carnegie No. 80; Mrs. Jack L. Edwards, S.W.P.; and Mrs. Howard L. McClure, P.S.W.P. Also in attendance were Supreme officers, committee members, and visitors, including: Mrs. David Alcon, S.W. 1st Vice President; Mrs. Robert Alloggia, Supreme Courier; and Mrs. Basil Plemmons, Chairman of Supreme Mileage Committee.



The opinions expressed in any article published in Knight Templar are the opinions of the author and are not necessarily those of the Grand Encampment.

The Holy Grail and the Shroud of Turin—Part II

by Sir Knight John W. White

New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, Connecticut

Is it possible that America is the result of a Templar/Masonic experiment intended to create a New Israel or New Jerusalem in the New World—not a Jewish nation but a universally God-centered society? John Adams and Ben Franklin spoke of that possibility. Here is the argument for that Templar project.

Several books about the Knights Templar and the Holy Grail indicate that the African kingdom of Mali should be credited with two momentous facts bearing profoundly on Euro-American history. According to Michael Bradley in his 1988 book, *Holy Grail Across the Atlantic*, and building on that, William F. Mann's 1999 *The Labyrinth of the Grail*; by the 14th century the Emperor of Mali had ships going to the New World, and other Africans had crossed much earlier. Pre-Columbian stone statues in Central America of men with Negroid features appear to testify to this extraordinary achievement.

Transatlantic travel could not have been done well without the development of a method to measure longitude. That means Africans solved the problem of determining longitude at sea long before Europeans did. However, the knowledge was lost and apparently had no influence on the solution developed by Europeans in the 18th century.

Why it was lost and why Malian seafaring culture declined are topics for research. The Bradley-Mann thesis contends that knowledge of longitude measurement was passed from Mali to Arabic culture and thence to the Knights Templar, whose interactions with Arab Muslims in the Middle East were sometimes friendly rather than hostile. (Sufi

mystics and Christian mystics would tend toward that, wouldn't they?) The Knights Templar, in turn, kept that knowledge secret, using it for their own purposes.

Those purposes may have included voyages to the New World a full century before Columbus, through Prince Henry Sinclair of Scotland and Orkney. Sinclair's forebears had granted shelter in Scotland to fugitive Knights Templar when Philip arrested Grand Master Jacques de Molay and hundreds of other knights and suppressed the Templar order. The Sinclairs of Scotland were related to the St. Clairs of France, a Templar family. A fleet of Templar ships fled La Rochelle, France, and sailed around Ireland to Scotland. (The fleet may have carried great Templar treasure, including those copper scrolls I mentioned; at any rate, when Philip entered the Treasury in Paris, it was empty.) Those exiled Knights Templar made Rosslyn Castle, the ancestral home of the Sinclairs just south of Edinburgh, their center of operations.

Rosslyn Chapel was begun there in the mid-1400s and completed before the end of that century. Its floor plan is identical to that of Solomon's Temple. It contains carvings of maize (Indian corn), aloe, and other plants, which are native to the New World. (For more on this see *The Lost Treasure of the Knights Templar* by Steven Sora and *The Hiram Key* by Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas.)

How did knowledge of New World vegetation get to Scotland before Columbus?

In 1398 Henry Sinclair led an expedition which reached Nova Scotia and the

East Coast of America. (A 15th century text called *The Zeno Diary* recorded the event.) In Nova Scotia there is a modern monument to Sinclair and the expedition; there is also a museum containing evidence of a nearby 14th century Scottish settlement, including a 14th century bronze cannon found there. In Westford, Massachusetts, there is an ancient engraving of a 14th century Scottish knight on a rock ledge which, experts say, indicates a Templar presence there, also. The knight's shield markings identify him as a member of the Gunn clan, which owed allegiance to Prince Sinclair. (Search the internet for "Westford Knight.") And in Newport, Rhode Island, the so-called Viking Tower likewise indicates the presence of the Sinclair expedition because it is based on 14th century Scottish architecture and has nothing at all in common with Viking stonework. (The just-published *Templars in America* by Tim Wallace-Murphy gives an excellent photo-illustrated summary of all this evidence, as well as commentary on the link between the Templar/Freemasons and the founders of America.)

It is speculated by Templar/Masonic scholars that because of their harsh experience with the political corruption of the Old World, the Templars conceived a secret plan for creating a new and better society in the American wilderness. Over several centuries, the Order of the Temple was transformed into Freemasonry, and the plan was carried forward through Freemasonry and its influence over the founding of America. Francis Bacon, who was a driving force behind the creation of the Royal Society for scientific research and exploration, was connected to the Templar remnant. He also wrote *The New Atlantis* about a mythical land to the west, and his account of that land shows remarkable parallels to later historical developments in the New World, as if his book were a kind of coded blueprint for Masonic endeavors in the vast and virgin continent.

Perhaps, there is a secret history to America, much like what has been

alleged by Manly Palmer Hall in *America's Secret Destiny* and by others who claim there is an occult (meaning "hidden") or esoteric (meaning "not publicly disclosed") foundation to America. Perhaps, just perhaps, America is in part a Templar/Masonic effort to advance human society on the basis of secret knowledge and secret activities, much as fables about the Illuminati claim. (Note that I refer to the true Illuminati, better known as "Ascended Masters," whose native state is the resurrection body or light body and who constitute what Freemasonry calls the "lodge on high not made with human hands." The Illuminati conspiracy launched in 1776 by Adam Weishaupt of Bavaria to take over Freemasonry for political ends was a false and corrupt use of the term, which was rightly denounced by cognizant Masons such as George Washington.)

I am not qualified to judge the validity of the evidence mentioned above for a Templar project in America; I simply report it. However, if there is anything sacred about America, it is the idea that God is the author of our being and the source of our freedom, our sovereignty, our rights, our justice, and our human dignity. The four references to Deity in the *Declaration of Independence* collectively express those ideas. They are very Masonic ideas, injected into the social-political institutions and world-view of America by those Freemasons who were among its founders. Moreover, the fundamental value of America is freedom, the same value expressed in the prefix of Masonry. Was it purely chance, or has a hidden hand been guiding American affairs through the centuries and working through barely visible means which carry the symbols and substance of Freemasonry?

Sir Knight John W. White, a literary agent, is a member of New Haven Commandery No. 2, New Haven, Connecticut. He resides at 60 Pound Ridge Road, Cheshire, CT 06410-3412.

News from the Social Order of the Beauceant

Official Visitations of Supreme Worthy President, Mary Ann Edwards

(Mrs. Jack L.) Mary Ann Edwards, Supreme Worthy President of the Social Order of the Beauceant, visited Shreveport Assembly No. 60 in Shreveport, Louisiana, and Pocatello Assembly No. 120 in Pocatello, Idaho.



Above are Shreveport members and visitors. Mrs. Jeanette Riffe, Supreme Worthy 2nd Vice-President; 3 Supreme committee members; and visitors from Dallas Assembly No. 63, Tyler Assembly No. 127, Texarkana Assembly No. 196, and McKinney Assembly No. 263, were in attendance. In front row center are: Mrs. Rife, Mrs. Edwards, and (Mrs. Thomas P.) Chloe Dickson, Worthy President of Shreveport No. 60.

At the Pocatello No. 120 visitation, S.W.P. Mrs. Edwards presented Mrs. Stockton her 50-year certificate and pin. The Assembly now has 3 active 50-year members. Left to right are: (Mrs. Jack L.) Mary Ann Edwards, (Mrs. Gardner) Eliza Phillips, 51-year member; Mrs. LaVerne Stockton, 50-year member; and (Mrs. Richard) Linda Roblee, Worthy President of Pocatello Assembly No. 120.

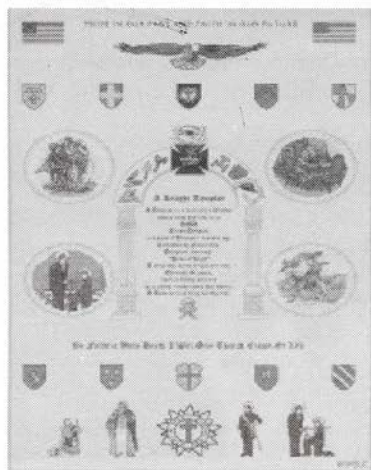


Fort Worth Beauceant Members Donate Lap Robes

(Mrs. C. Nolon) Florence Bilbrey (left), 90-year-old Past President of Fort Worth Assembly No. 59, Fort Worth, Texas, met monthly with a committee of Beauceant sisters starting in 1985. They made polyester, quilted lap robes which were given to many nursing homes in the Metroplex area. There were 73 lap robes donated in 2005. A grand total of 7,808 have been completed and donated. (Mrs. Charles W.) Shirley Modesitt, Worthy First Vice President, states: "We are very proud of these ladies!"



Sale of Knights Templar Tapestry Wall Hanging to Benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation



Beautiful Knights Templar tapestry wall hanging is a limited edition of 1,000 pieces. Made in the US, it is in full color with 360 threads per square inch. It is made of 100% preshrunk cotton and has a solid upholstery backing. The 1760 flag is on one side, and the present flag of our country is on the other side. The text states: "Pride in our past, faith in our future." It has the nation's bald eagle and the nine battle shields of the crusaders who founded the Knights Templar. It has a poem, "A Knight Templar," in the center and beautiful illustrations of Knights Templar past and present. It also has a Masonic arch and the York Rite working tools. It comes with a black lacquer wooden pole and a brass chain for hanging. The size is 26 by 32 inches. **A donation of \$5.00 for each one sold will go to the KTEF.** The price is \$43.00 each,

including shipping. For outside the US, please add \$15.00. Send check or money order payable to: Stanley C. Buz, and send to him at P.O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052.

How Will You Pay for Expenses That Medicare Doesn't Cover?

You owe it to yourself to find out about the Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Insurance designed for Sir Knights and their ladies.

With the high cost of health care today, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Insurance Program is becoming a necessity for more and more of us. That's why it is good to know that you now have a choice of Medicare Supplement coverages under our plan at very affordable rates.

Under the Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Plan, you will benefit in many

ways: You have the freedom of choosing your own doctors and hospitals, there are no health questions or medical exams to qualify, there is no waiting period for pre-existing conditions if you switch plans or are about to turn 65, and there is hassle-free claims processing in about 7 days!

To make sure you can pay for the expenses Medicare doesn't cover, call (800) 749-6983 for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan information and enrollment kit.

How Long-Term Care Insurance Can Help Protect Your Financial Independence

Chances are that you or someone you love will need nursing home or in-home care someday. With costs on the rise, this kind of care can diminish a lifetime of savings.

Long-term care insurance helps protect your financial independence and your dignity by giving you the freedom of choice to receive care in your own

home, if medically appropriate, or at a facility you select. Plan today, so that you can be better prepared to spend tomorrow on your own terms.

For more information about the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar endorsed Long-Term Care Insurance Program, call toll free of charge: (800) 336-3316.

SALE OF CALIFORNIA COOKBOOK TO BENEFIT THE KTEF

The Grand Commandery of California is selling cookbooks, shown right, to benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Entitled "California Gold," the book is a compilation of recipes submitted by Sir Knights and ladies of the Commanderies of California. It is bound in a 3-ring loose-leaf format and contains 750 recipes. The books sell for \$20.00 each, and **the entire amount goes to the KTEF.** They are able to do this because the publication cost of the books was covered by private donations. Make out checks to: Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Send to: Dan McDaniel, Attn: Cookbooks, 1250 Peterson Court, Los Altos, CA 94024.



A COLLECTION OF
FAVORITE RECIPES FROM
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR COMMANDERIES
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

SUMMER UNIFORM SALE AIDS KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

Milford Commandery No. 11, Milford, Massachusetts, is offering a complete summer uniform and accessories (no pants or shoes) for \$150.00. (G.C. and P.G.C. add \$35.00 for gold decoration on cap visor.) The uniform includes white military style cap with insignia, short sleeve shirt, shoulder rank insignia, collar insignia, metal ribbon bar, name plate, plain black tie, tie clasp with cross and crown, and shipping and handling. Send us your cap size, shirt size, rank, Commandery name and number, choice of engraving on the tie clasp (plain/Knight Templar/your state/Commandery name and number) to the address below. For further information request an order form for your state (include a stamped, self-addressed envelope) or e-mail: ccwinterhalter@aol.com. Make checks payable to: Milford Commandery No. 11. Mail to: Milford Commandery No. 11, C/O Robert P. Winterhalter, P.O. Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. **All profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.** Please order soon so you will have your uniform for the Triennial in Houston, Texas.

MILFORD COMMANDERY POLO SHIRTS BENEFIT KTEF

Milford Commandery also offers top quality white polo shirts with pocket. These shirts have your choice of embroidered insignia in full color (nonfading). Select from: Templar Cross, Cross and Crown, Royal Arch Mason, Royal and Select Master Mason, Cryptic Mason, York Rite, KYCH, York Rite College, and Masonic Square and Compass. We also offer a lady's shirt with Social Order of the Beauceant or any of the above emblems. Each shirt is \$30.00, plus \$5.00 S & H. You may add your name or nickname to the right side for \$5.00 additional. Royal Arch Mason shirts are also stocked in red, and Masonic Square and Compass may be had on white or royal blue shirts. There are eleven other colors available on special order. We also offer great 3-season jackets and a light weight flannel-lined jacket. Make checks payable to: Milford Commandery No. 11. Send to: P.O. Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. For further information, write us at this address or e-mail: Ccwinterhalter@aol.com. **All profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.**



Knight Voices

To place your "Knight Voices" item on the waiting list for publication, type or print it and send to Editor, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, Post Office Box 478448, Chicago, IL 60647-8448. 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: lapel pins. The 64th Triennial Conclave Committee is offering a lapel pin (2 knights on horseback) for \$6.00 each, including S & H. Checks payable to 64th Triennial Conclave Committee, C/O E. K. Longworth; 502 Wentworth Avenue, N.E.; Roanoke; VA 24012-3545. This is a fund-raiser for the 64th Triennial Conclave.

■ The Grand Commandery of Illinois is planning its 150th anniversary to be held in 2007. Part of the program is the issuance of a commemorative pin, available at \$5.00. Send to William H. Brown, V.E.D.G.C., 4100 North LeClaire, Chicago, IL 60641.

■ For sale: red, white, and blue "EYE-I GAVE" pin, a fund-raiser for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, sponsored by the Grand Commandery of Minnesota: \$5.00 each including S & H. All proceeds to KTEF. Checks payable to Minnesota Grand Commandery, and send to Allan Kauppi, 10508 Redwood Street, N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

■ For sale by Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling, West Virginia: KNIGHTS TEMPLAR license plates (aluminum) with Knights Templar logo, \$8.00 each, S & H included, USA. All profit to KTEF. Check or money order to C. H. Wyatt, Jr.; 18 Edglaun Avenue; Wheeling; WV 26003-6035.

■ For sale: Knights Templar shoulder straps, pairs, finest quality available, all ranks, embroidered in extra fancy gold and silver bullion on velvet with velcro backs: Past Commander (red); serving Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Prelate (green): all \$40; Emeritus ranks: Generalissimo, Captain General and Prelate (red): \$45; Honorary Past Commander with silver H.C. at foot of cross; Grand Commandery, Grand Rep., \$50; Past Grand Commander (purple): \$60; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$75. Also: chapeaux crosses in extra fancy gold/silver bullion w/velcro back: Sir Knight, \$35; Past Commander, \$40; Grand Commandery and Grand Rep.; (red), \$55; Past Grand Commander (purple), \$60; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$75. Embroidered extra fancy gold/silver sleeve crosses (pair), velcro back: Sir Knight, \$35; P.C., \$40; Grand Commandery, \$45; P.G.C. (purple), \$60; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$75. Embroidered gold/silver fatigue hat bullion crosses: Sir Knight, \$35; Past Commander, \$40. Metal cap crosses: silver, \$32; gold, \$38; Past Commander's jewel, \$50. All plus shipping, handling, and insurance: 1st item, \$5.00; each additional item, \$1.00. Percentage to Knights Templar and Masonic charities. Checks to and mail to Jacques N. Jacobsen, Jr., P.C.; 3 Oceans West Blvd., Suite 4A4; Daytona Beach; FL 32118; (386) 304-6157.

■ For sale: C.P.O. coats, poly-wool, summer weight; call for available sizes: (740) 927-3586. \$23.00, includes shipping and handling. 10% of all sales will be donated to KTEF. General Merchandise Company; 13690 Broad Street, S.W.; Pataskala; OH 43062.

■ For sale: Knights Templar triangular aprons, black with silver trim and silver bullion thread for embroidered crossed swords on flap, skull and crossbones on the apron.

These are identical to those worn by all Sir Knights in the last century and still worn in some jurisdictions: brand new: \$75.00 plus \$5.00 U.P.S. A percentage to York Rite charities. Sal Caradonna, P.C., D.Z.O., 23 Gail Court, Staten Island, NY 10306-2234; (718) 987-4532.

■ Sword slings available in 2-inch or 1-inch wide, white or black nylon straps with black, fine grade leather sword holder and with heavy duty black clips. They are adjustable to fit all sizes—\$19.00 each plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. For further details or brochure, write Tom Starnes, 3357 River Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30044-5537, (678) 923-6776 or e-mail tonawusta@comcast.net. Checks to K.T. Enterprises. % of net profits to KTEF.

■ For sale: Knights Templar ring, 14K gold, black/red enamel with words "In hoc signo vinces," and has diamond and cross/crown. Appraised at \$1,150. Write or call for more details Mrs. Barbara Scriver, 5613 E. Harbor Drive, Fruitland Park, FL 34731, (352) 787-8146.

■ For sale: Lloyd L. Gibson Chapter No. 481, R.A.M., Channelview, Texas, is selling their newly minted, 50-year commemorative mark/penny for \$10.00 each, postpaid. Penny is made of antique bronze (looks like gold). This is a fund-raiser for our 50th anniversary, and a portion of proceeds will go to KTEF. Checks or MOs to Lloyd L. Gibson Chapter No. 481, R.A.M., and send to Lloyd L. Gibson Chapter No. 481, R.A.M., P.O. Box 972, Channelview, TX 77530.

■ For Sale: Middle Georgia Chapter No. 165, R.A.M., the first R.A.M. Chapter to be chartered in Georgia in 25 years, is selling its newly minted shekels for \$10.00 each or 2 for \$15.00, postpaid. Each is mounted in a 2x2 coin folder and comes with a sealed certificate of authenticity. Orders to Chuck Smith, 6559 Cypress Drive; Eastman; GA 31023; e-mail chappy31023@yahoo.com

■ Stoner Chapter No. 46, R.A.M., Kenova, WV, merged with Huntington Chapter No. 6, Sept. 2005. A number of Stoner Chapter pennies remain, available for \$10.00 each, including S and H. Butler Adkins, Sec.; Huntington Chapter No. 6; 6th Floor Masonic Temple; 1104 Third Avenue; Huntington, WV 25701 or email golden@zewv.com Checks to Huntington Chapter No. 6, R.A.M.

■ For sale: diamond Shrine ring with sapphire in star. Estimated value, \$400; will sell for \$150. Ruth E. Heuss; 33 Christian Avenue, No. 126; Concord; NH 03301, or phone (603) 225-3007.

■ Fund-raiser: Lodge auto tags with blue vinyl letters on white, 6 x12-inch aluminum, include lodge name and number, square and compass, F & AM (AF & AM, AAFM, etc.), city and state: \$8.00 each—minimum order of 5. One free tag with each 10 ordered. Shipping for 5 is \$5.00, 10 is \$7.00, 20 is \$10.00 to same address in US. 25% of proceeds to the Georgia Masonic Children's Home Endowment Fund. Send info, check or money order to

■ **2008—200th anniversary of Masonry in Ohio:** Now, you can help insure that this celebration will be a great success by purchasing a beautiful, 200-piece jigsaw puzzle depicting Brother George Washington opening his lodge in 1788. This 16 x22-inch art reproduction is an exact copy of the painting that hangs in many Ohio lodges. Help us get ready for the 2008 bicentennial, and own a rare piece of Masonic history: price \$15.00 plus \$3.00 S & H. Each puzzle is packaged in a round, airtight can. To order call (614) 855-1401, or send payment and request to P. Pat Davis, 8359 Morse Road, New Albany, OH 43054; online at www.ppdavis1@earthlink.net. Proceeds to benefit the 2008 Bicentennial Fund.

■ For sale: commemorative coins, celebrating the 150th anniversary of Valley Lodge No. 175, Burnet, Texas, sold as a fund-raiser for the lodge and to help defray costs of the celebration. The face has the lone star of Texas and dates. The reverse displays the historic original lodge building and symbols to honor Commandery, Chapter, and Council and O.E.S. Beautiful, rich, antique brass finish. \$10.00 each, postpaid. Checks or MOs made out to Valley Lodge No. 175. Mail to Raymond Bronk, W.M.; 100 Quirt Drive; Burnet; TX 78611-5917. Phone (512) 756-2756.

■ For sale: *Georgia Freemasons 1861-1865*, a 290-page, hardbound digest reflecting the lodge rosters of membership that were originally published in the *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, F. & A.M.* When applicable, many of the listings also record the member's service and rank in the Army of the Confederacy. It's a valuable genealogical reference. Price is \$25.00, postage paid. Also available: past editions *Georgia Lodge of Research Transactions, 1994-1998* (softbound) and 1999-2003 (hardbound). Price is \$8.00 each, postpaid. Check or MO to *Georgia Lodge of Research, C/O Scott Cleland, 3752 Thornbrooke Place, Duluth, GA 30097*. E-mail glrsec@bellsouth.net

■ Cochran Lodge No. 217, F. & A.M., Cochran, Georgia, is continuing its long-term charity project: In addition to the Masonic and Shrine jewelry boxes, we are now offering O.E.S. jewelry boxes: all are approx. 5.5 x5.5 x2.5 inches in size, constructed of exotic woods from Central America, and hand-crafted with an interlocking design. All profits go to Masonic charity with a portion going directly to the Georgia Masonic Children's Home Endowment Fund. The price for each box is \$20.00, plus \$6.00 S & H. Postage is pro-rated on bulk orders; please contact e-mail below or call (478) 934-7236 for pro-rated S & H rates. Check or MO to Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217 and mail to Harry A. Bruno, Chairman; Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217, F. & A.M.; P.O. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014; or e-mail charry217@bigfoot.com

■ For sale: peel-off, vinyl, royal blue square and compass decals designed to fit on your license plate or window, 2 inches high, 1 inch wide. 6 vinyl decals for \$5.00, postpaid. Also, approx. 4-inch reflective-chrome, vinyl square and compass, Past Master or Shrine decals to fit on your tail-lights, only \$5.00 per set of 2, postpaid. Also, black vinyl, square and compass decals, 3/4 by 3/4-inch, designed to place on the photo or list of your Past Masters who have gone on to that Celestial Lodge Above. 10 decals for only \$5.00, postpaid. All profits go to our Masonic Widows' Fund. Joe Allen, P.M., Sec.; Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217, F. & A.M.; P.O. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014.

■ Wanted: Masonic Chapter pennies by avid collector. I have been building this collection for 35 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. Especially needed Hawaiian and Alaskan pennies. Maurice Storck, Sr.; 775 W. Roger Road, No. 214; Tucson; AZ 85705, (520) 888-7585.

■ New novelty book available: *Pythagoras, This Cross Is for You*, by P. Master and P. Commander, Jack N. Barricklo, priced at \$7.00 each, postpaid. It's for the serious craftsman with short history, illustrations, and instruction by the "Master" himself. % of profit to KTEF. (Please write "KTEF" in memo.) Checks payable to Ourland Enterprise, and send to

■ For sale: book, *Rationale of Freemasonry*: Includes the meaning of allegories, the influence of social changes and trends. 240 pages, \$20.00 postpaid. % to KTEF. Check payable to and order from Bob Demott, 3501 Equestrian Way, Knoxville, TN 37921.

■ I have an old ritual trowel, engraved "National Lodge No. 209," from the Virginia area. Can anyone tell me anything about this lodge, especially where it was/is? J. Dion, P.O. Box 734, Walpole, NH 03608, e-mail jdpd3@verizon.net

■ Planning a Rusty Nail Degree? We have pins and certificates available at \$35.00 per unit. (A unit consists of 5 pins and 5 certificates, S & H included.) Please include your lodge name and number with your order if you wish to have them printed on your certificates. Make check out to Tom A. Stevens, 5 Old Duxbury Court, Fairfield, OH 45014. Phone (513) 942-2490; fax (513) 272-2830. Proceeds go to the John Hayes Gerard Masonic Scholarship Fund and 10% to KTEF.

■ Sprig of Acacia pin: each handcrafted pin is 24 karat gold vermeil finished; it will make a nice gift for the newly raised Brother; price is \$10.00 each, including S & H. Also available is the four immortal chaplains lapel pin, a beautiful pin honoring the chaplains who sacrificed their lives by giving up their lifejackets in order to save the lives of others. The price per pin is \$8.00 ea. including S & H 10% to KTEF. New item: Sept. 11 Memorial Masonic lapel pin, \$8.00 each, including S & H—to commemorate members who lost their lives in terrorist attack—proceeds to KTEF. S. Kenneth Baril, 6809 Main Street, Apt. 2 West, Cincinnati, OH 45244-3470, (513) 272-2815, fax (513) 272-2830.

■ 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. Books may be obtained by contacting *Macy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., P.O. Box 9759, 3011 Old Dumbarton Rd., Richmond, VA 23228-0759, (804) 262-6551*. The price is \$16.95 plus S & H. Author's portion of profits donated to KTEF.

■ For sale: a 32° diamond ring that was placed in the offering plate of Ohio's Duncan Falls Presbyterian Church. Appraised at \$1,480. Minimum asking price, \$700. Contact for more info D. F. Presbyterian Church, C/O David Schroder, 526 Maple Street, Duncan Falls, OH 43734-9727, (740) 674-6376.

■ Wanting to buy: Masonic first day covers and cacheted covers and also buying stamp collections. G. B Adkins; 1675 Washington Blvd., Huntington, WV 25701, (304) 523-3111, e-mail BlueLodge2@EZWV.com

■ For sale: customized Masonic die cast coins and lapel pins. I will beat any published price for these advertised on the internet to include free shipping, die charges, art charges, setup charges and will offer a 100% guarantee! Simply hand sketch your design idea and send it to me. I will create camera-ready art to produce your imprinted items. For a free quote or brochure, call or write Frank Looser, P.M., 809 Cobble Cove, Nashville, TN 37211, (800) 765-1728 or e-mail mason@cnfintractive.com, web site www.cnfintractive.com % to KTEF.

■ Wanted: Oklahoma Sir Knight is collecting Lionel trains. Please look in your attic or your storage closet and call or write John Alexander, 7617 E. 66th Street, Tulsa, OK 74133-1802, phone: (918) 252-4981.

■ Wanted to buy: daggers, swords, and any other German military items; US military items; American Flyer, Lionel, and Marx trains or train sets (in any condition); Confederate or Civil War articles and money; and pre-1924 US stamps. Retired Sir Knight Tim Rieckheim, 14761 Tunnick Road, Petersburg, MI 49270-9716; e-mail vonrueckheim@hotmail.com; call collect (734) 854-3021.

■ For a free listing of VHS videos, DVDs, and radio program CDs related to Sir Knight Tom Mix and the Tom Mix of radio, please send a postcard or note with your name and complete mailing address to Paul E. Mix, 13116 Billiem Drive, Austin, TX 78727.

Knight Templar
5909 West Loop South, Suite 495
Bellaire, TX 77401-2402

Father

**If there ever was another man, that had done so much for me,
To show me all the ways of life, so I could decide what to be:**

**His helping hand for the big steps, a proud pat on the back for success,
A smile and look of confidence, whenever I showed my best.**

**If I could be one half the man and learn from what he had gone through,
I know I would lead a full and happy life and lead my son through, too.**

**Sir Knight Rodney R. Rufe
Samuel S. Yohe Commandery No. 81
Stroudsburg, PA 18360**

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