



Knight Templar

VOLUME LV

MARCH 2009

NUMBER 3



**Triennial Conclave Announcement
See Page 7**

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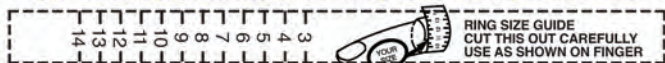
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Address changes or corrections and all membership activity including deaths should be reported to the Recorder of the local Commandery.

The front cover is a photo of a portion of the ruins of the Templar fortifications at Acre, the site of their last stand in the Holy Land and is copyrighted by Yuriy Chertok.



Grand Master's Message

Beware the Ides of March! In 1599 William Shakespeare penned these words as the soothsayer's warning to Julius Caesar in reference to his impending death. While a tragic story of deceit and intrigue, the assassination of Julius Caesar at the hands of his friends brought significant change to the Roman Empire. Cicero writes that nothing remained the same following the Ides of March. But isn't change always with us? Is it not our ever present companion?

Look around at what you're doing right now. See the things that are part of our everyday life that didn't exist 10 years ago! Take a look at the magazine you're holding as you read this message, if in fact you're not reading it on your computer! Two issues ago was the first time the *Knight Templar* ever appeared in full color. What a change! Certainly congratulations are in order for our publisher, Sir Knight Sid C. Dorris, III, GCT, and Sir Knight John Palmer, KCT our editor.

Change is going to happen whether we like it or not. March marks a definite change in the seasons, and as the weather warms, it is a welcome change. Why not make every change a welcome one? We all have a tendency to resist change. We want to continue to do things the way we've always done them. But why? Technology has certainly enhanced the lives of all of us. Do we really want a car without air conditioning? Do we want to go back to black & white television? Do we want to cook without a microwave? Of course we don't. The changes mentioned were at one time resisted until we realized how much better our life was once we tried these new gadgets!

Our lives have been impacted for the better by the changes we've seen. Many of us went "kicking and screaming", yet some joyously embraced change. But at the end of the day, we all changed how we lived our lives whichever path we chose. Why not embrace change early and enjoy the benefits sooner? Just a thought as we approach the "Ides of March!"

Fraternally,



⚔ William H. Koon, II.



William H. Koon, II, GCT
Grand Master

march 2009

From the Grand Recorder's Office...

DEPARTMENT CONFERENCES

The 2009 Grand Encampment Department Conferences are open to all Sir Knights. Please make your plans to attend.

East Central Department

Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin
Franklin C. Boner, Right Eminent Department Commander

The East Central Department Conference will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2009, in Perrysburg, Ohio. For more information, please contact Sir Knight Frank Boner, 10866 Butler Road, Newark, OH 43055, Residence telephone: (740) 345-0828, Business telephone: (740) 328-4035, Email: fcb@msmisp.com.

Southeastern Department

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee
Robert E. Burleson, Right Eminent Department Commander

The Southeastern Department Conference will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2009, in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, please contact Sir Knight Bob Burleson, 12157 Delaware Woods Lane, Orlando, FL 32824-8611, Residence telephone: (407) 859-4004, Email: bob_burleson@yahoo.com.

YORK RITE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Effective February 1, 2009, the Grand Encampment data processing system was replaced with our new YORK RITE INFORMATION SYSTEM. A select number of Grand Recorders will be trained on the membership module during March and April. The dues and donations module will be ready in April and May.

Members are still encouraged to update their own contact information, which includes: telephone numbers and email addresses. Many of you have responded by updating your contact information. This information will be available to your local Commandery Recorder, your State Grand Recorder, and the Grand Encampment Office. Please be assured that this information is secure and will be available for fraternal use only.

To assist you in accomplishing this task, please do the following:

- (1) Go to <http://www.knightstemplar.org>.
- (2) Click on **Membership Update**.
- (3) Enter First Name. Do not enter middle name or initial in this field.
- (4) Enter Last Name. Do not enter suffix, i.e. Jr., Sr. etc. in this field.
- (5) Enter Grand Commandery Jurisdiction, (State).
- (6) Enter Birth Date, (MM/DD/YYYY).
- (7) Click on **Next >**.

You can now update your information and make any necessary changes in your member record. When you have finished updating your record, click on **Submit** or **Cancel**.

If you need any assistance, please contact John Elkinton in the Grand Recorder's Office. He can be reached at (713) 349-8700 or by email at john@gektusa.org.



John Elkinton



Robert Cave
Right Eminent Grand
Prelate
of the
Grand Encampment

Prelate's Chapel

by

Sir Knight Jack Beardsley, KCT, KTCH



Photo copyrighted by
Margo Harrison

Libations: Oblations

Most Knights Templar remember the gift we each received before the Commander dubbed us Knights Templar. How many recall the connection to our ancient operative Grand Masters? Do we recall the passion of Jesus Christ?

We give holy offerings:

First to King Solomon

Second to Hiram King of Tyre

Third to Hiram, the Widow's Son

Fourth to Simon of Cyrene

First Lesson: "... woe unto that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It had been good if he had not been born."

Second Lesson: "... and said, Hail Master; and kissed him."

Third Lesson: "...they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross."

Fourth Lesson: "...Jesus met them; saying, 'all hail.' ...and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them and carried up into heaven."

The attention of many Christians is focused only on Christmas and Easter. Children remember only the presents of toys gotten during Christmas. We often recall only the Easter eggs and chocolate rabbits. Few Christians know the serious occasion of Whitsunday or the ascension of our Savior Jesus Christ into heaven to sit on the right of God our father.

This is a parade for all Knights Templar to march into a church as a temple for blessing.

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

Something a Bit Different!

The 64th Triennial of the Grand Encampment will be held in what can only be described as a “different venue”. Those of you who have attended Triennial Conclaves in the past have visited large, metropolitan cities, like Houston, St. Louis, Nashville, Denver, Washington D.C., Cincinnati, Chicago, and Kansas City. Certainly Roanoke is a departure from the usual location where one would expect a Triennial to be held.

Yet, Roanoke, Virginia is strategically located within 500 miles of two-thirds of our nation’s population! It is halfway between New York City and Atlanta, and is within driving distance for many.

Roanoke Regional Airport is served by, US Air, United Express, Northwest AirlinK, Delta Connection, and Allegiant Air, and all of the hotels have free shuttle service to and from the airport. Additionally, it is located in one of the most beautiful parts of our country. If you drive, you will have an enjoyable trip, and if you fly, Roanoke is a small quiet airport that is easy to use.

From almost every street, a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains can be seen. 500 feet across an elevated walkway from the Hotel Roanoke in the downtown area are small shops and stores of every description. Many of them are providing discount coupons for those who will be coming. There is an abundance of quaint restaurants, and everything is within easy walking distance. In many ways, it’s a slice out of our past.

At a population of 100,000, it is certainly smaller than many places we’ve been in the past, yet with small comes quaint, friendly, relaxed, and beautiful.

A short 30 miles from Roanoke is Bedford, Virginia, home of the National D-Day Memorial. Bedford lost more of its native sons on

a per capita basis than any other community in America. The “Bedford Boys”, 19 brave men, all of company “A” gave the last-full-measure at Omaha Beach on June 14, 1944. The memorial is a testimony to them and all those who lost their lives on D-Day. Much has been written, including a recent book about this town, along with the story of the



Western Union telegrapher who said that the death notices just wouldn't stop coming.

Bedford was home to Thomas Jefferson's 'Personal Retreat'. It was aptly named Poplar Forest, because it was tucked away in hundreds of poplar trees. Though little known, it was a place beloved by Jefferson where he could just get away from the activity at Monticello, and live like a hermit. Like Monticello, he designed and built this home. Poplar Forest provides much insight into Jefferson's private life.


When we look back at Grand Encampment Triennials of the past, some of the best attended were those enabling visitors and delegates a chance to combine the Triennial with sightseeing and vacation. Denver, St. Louis, Nashville, and Washington D.C. come to mind, and many of those who came availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the many sights of the area. Roanoke certainly lends itself well to such an idea.

Nearly all events will be held at the Hotel Roanoke. The drill competition will be held in the Roanoke Civic Center. The hotel was originally built by railroad magnate Frederick J. Kimball shortly after he combined two of his railroads, the Norfolk and Western. The hotel is still spectacular in its grandeur and as host to the Grand Encampment Conclave, will certainly add dignity and beauty to the event.

Two other hotels will be serving as housing. The Sheraton Roanoke Hotel and Conference Center is about 5 miles from the Hotel Roanoke as well as from the convention center. It is a beautiful facility, newly remodeled and is available at a lower room rate. Equally attractive at an affordable price is the Holiday Inn,

Roanoke Tanglewood. Located about the same distance from the Hotel Roanoke, near a large shopping area, it provides a wonderful lower price alternative. Buses are being set up on a loop style service to provide transportation to all events.

If you're tired of fighting traffic, searching for a parking place, and battling the crowds, Roanoke will most certainly be a "Different Venue!" The pace is slower, heavy traffic is non-existent, and parking is plentiful. There is a lot to see and visit. The people in Virginia are wonderful hosts, and keep in mind their slogan, "Virginia is for Lovers!" It's a sure bet that when you leave Roanoke, you will understand why people from Virginia love it so much. Our Past Grand Master, Sir Knight Richard Burdett Baldwin chose well when he selected Roanoke. It will be a time you will always remember.

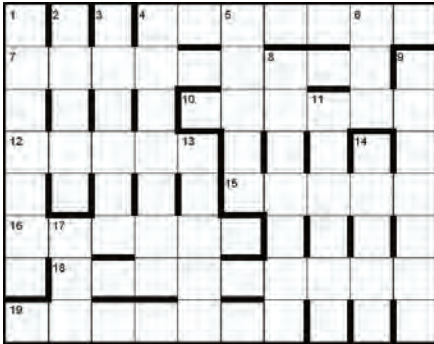


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**CRYPTIC (Freemason) PUZZLE
by Loki**

Solution in Next Month's Issue



ACROSS

- 4. Sound advice from a Royal Arch assembly (7)
- 7. Elias Ashmole, e.g., a Latin/British apothecary (9)
- 10. Circular explosion in Russian province (6)
- 12. Tyrannosaurus tears across hidden trap wires (5)
- 15. A small island in the middle of a congregation (5)
- 16. Open a spelling book (6)
- 18. Skating rink sight is companion's address (3,6)
- 19. Zip, zero, nil ritual books (7)

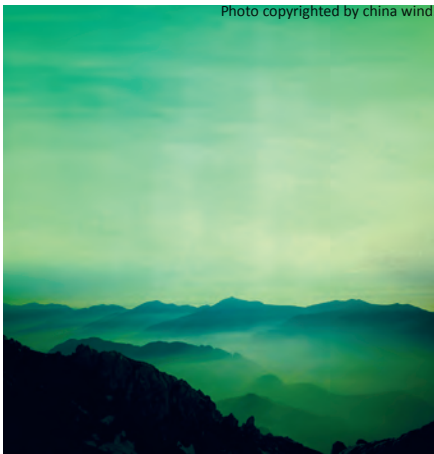


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DOWN

- 1. One dunked in a john (7)
- 2. Favorable mention of detailed rubble being scattered (5)
- 3. More gross than 99-thousand and one beer trailers (6)
- 4. They divide books among cryptic group (7)
- 5. Shadow caused by, um, feminine protuberance protectors (5)
- 6. Bits of bits of those without bits? (3)
- 8. It is swallowing tropical flowers that causes intestinal inflammation (7)
- 9. Roadways for martyr concerned with aliens (7)
- 11. Transfer like an omen (6)
- 13. Dairy concoction done by hand (5)
- 14. Mountain gets a laugh from Greek leader (5)
- 17. After writing Latin, I letter in Greek (3)



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A Chat With The Managing Editor

It is interesting to me that the Templar craze has even made its way into comic books as can be seen from the review on page 34. I am writing this in January, and I see that one of the major networks is running a mini-series next week based on one of the popular Templar fictions. What an interesting time to be a Knight Templar! It's probably important for us to know as much as possible about the ancient Templars just because of the questions from our friends and neighbors which are bound to be generated by all this publicity.

Dr. Barbara Frale, the lady who wrote the historical notes for the Vatican documents, has just published a book entitled *The Templars – The Secret History Revealed*. It was released in January, and I was fortunate to have received a (slightly) advanced copy. We will run a book review as soon as I can find space in the magazine. It expands on her commentary and adds a good deal of detail and history to the story. I am drawing from this book as well as from her historical notes contained in the Vatican package as we continue to explore the story of the Templar trials on page 12 of this issue. I have it on good authority that she is already working on a second book about Templars and the shroud of Christ. I can't seem to catch up with her.

We continue to learn about the use of color in a magazine. I am getting a good deal of feedback from you about my first attempt in the January issue and am learning a few things. We will continue to try to improve as we learn more about it. I know that we will never be able to please all of you, but we will continue to keep trying.

As I meet you while attending various Masonic meetings around the country, please take time to stop me and tell me how you think we can make the magazine more valuable to you.

Joan asked me to publish the notice below from her.



John

John L. Palmer
Managing Editor

Thanks!

Thanks!

Thanks!

Thanks to all for the kindness over the years, and also thanks for all the good wishes on my retirement.

Joan Morton, Assistant Editor 1988-2008



Letters to the Editor



Your December magazine looks great. Sometimes it just takes new faces with new ideas to improve a product. I'm certainly spending a lot more time reading the magazine although I do miss the baseball stuff (I'm into that sport). Keep up the good work. I've got to go now to read the magazine.

Jimmy James



My first issue of the magazine was the one where you announced your "new look" – so I have no idea what the "old look" was. With that in mind, I find the magazine to be an informative one, and I like getting it. I carry it with me, so I can read it when I have a few minutes here and there.

In your comments this time, you mentioned that you were going to start including articles from folks that might not have "proof" of their statements, and so they might be controversial and unsupported.

I have a few comments about that which I'd like to pass your way.

Many credible publications have some kind of opinion-based area where people can write in and express their thoughts and feelings. As long as there are limits on denigrating comments or pointed attacks on individuals, I feel like every organization is made better through the open exchange of feelings and opinions. That there might be limited "proof" backing up their feelings is not the issue. If they feel that strongly about it, they should be able to express

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it. At the same time, they should anticipate those who DO have proof concerning points expressed to return the favor. Perhaps you could group them into an "Opinions Page" section, so people know what they're reading.

I know things about the Knights Templar and the York Rite from my family (all of whom are now dead) that I have no idea how I could prove them, but I might be interested, given the "right forum" to send them in for others to comment on. I'd love to have some of the things I remember hearing from my father, grandfather, and great-grandfather either confirmed or clarified.

As a new Knight Templar, there are many things about our rites, rituals, history, etc, etc, that I am still trying to learn. Articles like "Brethren Persecuted" are what I anticipate most from your magazine. If there was more of that, I'd love it!

Thanks for your work in getting this out!

Lee Crites



Just finished re-reading your article "About the trial of the Templars 1307-1313" in the October issue, and just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed it. Being active in the Scottish Rite here, I can observe the teachings of both rites as being related, especially after a few visits to Guthrie, OK.

Thanks again and I am looking forward to the next issue.

Cliff Roberson

How Fair Was Phillip, Anyway?

A Continuing Analysis of the Mystery of the Trials of the Ancient Templars

by

Sir Knight John L. Palmer, KCT

Last month I promised we would look into the character and possible motives of one of the main characters in the Templar trial drama, Philip IV (the Fair) of France. There is one thing about this fellow; no matter whose account you read, he was a bad guy. He was apparently a handsome devil to have been called “the Fair”, but it appears that his beauty was only skin deep. His family had been involved in the crusades from the very beginning as far back as Louis VII’s participation in the second crusade.

Louis VII had managed to obtain the support of Bernard of Clairvaux for this crusade, the same St. Bernard who was instrumental in the legitimization of the early Templars. Louis was accompanied on this crusade by the Master of the Temple, the ranking Templar officer in France. During this crusade, Louis ran out of money, and the Templars financed the remainder of the Crusade for him. In the process they became, for all practical purposes, the treasury of France. They were so good at this that they increased the revenues of the real estate holdings of French King Philip II by an estimated 120 percent. In the long run, this turned out to be a bad move.

Louis VII’s great grandson, Louis IX,

was idolized by Philip the Fair. Louis IX was a participant and leader of the seventh and eighth crusades and apparently a very devout Christian and servant of the Church. He was captured on at least one occasion and was ransomed by the Templars although somewhat reluctantly and under duress. It appears that Philip IV wanted to follow in his grandfather’s footsteps and sort of pick up where he left off. He aspired to the leadership of all Europe and to the title of “Defender of the One True Faith.”

In reality, he lacked the finances and power to pull this off. By then, the Templars owned an estimated 9,000 manors, all profitable farming operations, and most of them in France. Because of the Templar relationship with the Church, none of these were taxable by the King.

Philip had an advisor and co-conspirator in the person of Guillame de Nogaret, the Keeper of the Seals who appears to have been as fully ambitious and fanatically religious as Philip. In 1294, Philip began his conquest by attacking and trying to seize the assets of the fiefdom of Gascony belonging to King Edward I of England. This war cost both sides so much that they both decided to tax the clergy. This taxation, of course, created a problem between King Philip and the Church in the person of Pope Boniface VIII who

threatened to excommunicate him. Since an excommunicated King could hardly claim the title of “Defender of the One True Faith”, this constituted a major roadblock to Philip’s plans.

Philip retaliated by taking the position that his ancestors were more Christian than the Papal line having been ordained directly by God and by taking the position that a King was completely sovereign in his own territory and not subject to any other authority. He then sent a delegation of French clergy to the Pope that assured the Pontif that the King would not interfere with the authority of the Church and convinced him to allow taxation of the clergy during times of national emergency. They also managed to convince the Pope to canonize Louis IX, thus making him truly Philip’s “sainted” grandfather. This did not resolve the issue because in 1301, Bishop Bernard Saisset spoke out against Philip’s abuses of the clergy and was sentenced to death for treason by the King. Philip subsequently proposed that the Pope be deposed by the Church.

Pope Boniface then drew up the necessary paperwork to excommunicate the King, but before the Pope published the document, the King sent soldiers who assaulted him and attempted to kidnap him and take him back to Paris for trial. The kidnapping was thwarted by the locals, and the Pope was rescued but died in Rome shortly thereafter. Unfortunately for Philip, the excommunication documents were lost (presumably not destroyed) in the fray, and he had to live with the fact that they might be found and enforced at any time.

Pope Clement V was elected as a compromise candidate between the French Crown who wanted a separate French Church under the control of the

knight templar

King and the Roman Church, but could not take office until the leader of the Roman contingent died because he refused to certify Clement’s election. Immediately, Philip bullied the Pope into being crowned in Lyon rather than in Toulouse, the site chosen by the Pope. He was then pressured into remaining in France rather than presiding from Rome.

At the coronation, the King told Clement of rumors of heresy about the Templars and asked him to investigate. He also began his own “investigation” and constantly fed condemning “evidence” to the Pope.

In 1306, Philip, again facing financial difficulties, devalued his currency which created a rebellion, and he took refuge in the Tower of the Temple in Paris under the protection of the Templars; another mistake on the part of our ancient brethren. It is thought that his time spent in the Tower gave him opportunity to see firsthand the riches of the Templars to whom he already owed a great financial debt. He knew the money was really there. He ordered the Templar in charge to loan him an enormous amount without collateral and received the loan. When the books were later audited by DeMolay, the Grand Master expelled the offending loan officer from the Order.

It seems pretty clear to me that Philip IV was motivated by a desire to follow in his grandfather’s footsteps and be accepted as the devout and indisputable leader of the Christian world. This required money, and he apparently would stop at nothing to get the money he needed to accomplish his ambitions.

Isn’t it bizarre what people will do in the name of the Christian religion? Or any other religion for that matter. Next month, we will begin taking a look at the circumstances of the Templars during the time just before their arrest and trials.

IN MEMORIAM



Ernest Almer Forthman
Georgia
Grand Commander 2005
Born: September 26, 1932
Died: December 9, 2008

Robert B. "Pete" Cargill
Idaho
Grand Commander 2006
Born: October 24, 1940
Died: January 2, 2009

Phillip A. Tilson
Maryland
Grand Commander 2003
Born: March 21, 1930
Died: January 17, 2009

Huston F. Boothe
Louisiana
Grand Commander 1988
Born: January 25, 1923
Died: January 16, 2009

Grand Encampment Membership Awards

703 Leland Aubrey Haynes
Chester Commandery No. 7
Chester, SC 31-Dec-2008
3rd bronze cluster

704 Stephen F. Cross
Borger Commandery No. 96
Borger, TX 8-Dec-2008

705 Gary E. Bilby
Borger Commandery No. 96
Borger, TX 8-Dec-2008

706 Orville D. Robison
Borger Commandery No. 96
Borger, TX 8-Dec-2008

707 Terry L. Flippo
Borger Commandery No. 96
Borger, TX 8-Dec-2008



708 John Lanckowski
John's Commandery No. 4
Philadelphia, PA 5-Jan-2009
bronze cluster

709 Jerry O. Richards
St. John's Commandery No. 4
Philadelphia, PA 5-Jan-2009

710 James Larry Martin
Patton Commandery No. 69
Mt. Vernon, IL 15-Jan-2009
4th Bronze Cluster

711 William H Haynes
Samuel S. Yohe Commandery No. 81
Stroudsburg, PA 15-Jan-2009

Correction

40 J. Larry Martin
Patton Commandery No. 69
Mt. Vernon, IL 18-Jul-2007
2nd, 3rd Bronze Cluster



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

1000 East State Parkway, Suite I
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Phone (847) 490-3838
Fax (847) 490-3777

A message from

Duane Lee Vaught, GCT

General Chairman of the 41st Annual Campaign
R.E. Grand Captain General
Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the USA



Greetings Sir Knights,

Intermission

Those of us who attend live theater (I attend the local university student productions) know the importance of intermission. About half-way through you get a chance to get a drink of water, discuss the first portion with the wife, or just to stretch and especially to discuss the progress of the play.

Our 41st voluntary campaign is now about half-over for this year, and it may be time to take a look at our progress. As of the date that this is written we aren't quite to that half-way mark but we can make a guess.

We run the official campaign for 32 weeks. As of the end of week 15, (January 16) our organization has raised \$481,418.64 for our primary charity. I work with a lot of charitable organizations and this year has been a big concern with them. Most of them are concerned that the economy will result in a big drop in giving. The severe investment loses of late 2008 have also cut endowment funds raising fears that investment income for 2009 will also be down. So how are we doing? The number just stated is actually UP! It's not even a little increase. We are up \$76,137 or 19% over last year at the same point.

How are we accomplishing this? An easy answer is that a lot of the money is coming in at less than \$100 a person but from a lot of people. But that answer is too easy. We need big contributions, estates and fund raisers, but we should remember that every contribution helps. Every contribution means someone is getting surgery to save their sight or a researcher is looking for the solution that will save the sight of hundreds, thousands, maybe millions of people not yet born as well as advancing the state of knowledge.

Huge things can be done if enough people each push a little. Have you made an effort? Every member that sends in a small contribution, every Commandery that sends in a \$100, every Grand Commandery that takes up a collection and raises a few hundred helps our progress. The economy isn't good, and we still have half a campaign to go. Will we be forced to help fewer people to save money or will our lead over last year hold up? Would you want someone you know to lose their sight to save money? It won't take much from each of us to maintain a level of charity we can all be proud of.

Let's all go to the lobby, get a snack and give... that others may see.

NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

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

Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution will begin your Grand 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.; 1000 E. State Parkway, Suite I, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173-2460. The phone number is: (847) 490-3838. The fax number is (847) 490-3777.

Grand Commandery of California Sesquicentennial Coins to Benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

The Grand Commandery of California is selling its Sesquicentennial coins for \$15.00, postage paid, and **all profits from the sale will be donated to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.** Make checks payable to and send to: Charles R. Waterman, Jr., 731 Scottsdale Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687.



march 2009



Knight

Voices

Items for this section may be submitted by e-mail to ktmagazine@comcast.net.

Please visit the classified section of our website. These and other listings can be found on the Grand Encampment web site at:

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■ **Wanted:** Masonic Chapter pennies by an avid collector. I have been building this collection for 36 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 are Iowa, Michigan, Hawaii, and Alaska pennies.** *Maurice Storck, Sr., 775 W. Roger Road, No. 214, Tucson, AZ 85705, (520) 888-7585.*

■ **For sale:** KNIGHTS TEMPLAR SHOULDER STRAPS, pairs of finest quality available. All ranks embroidered in extra fancy real gold and silver bullion on velvet and all have Velcro backs. Past Commander (red), Serving Commander, Generalissimo (specify either traditional or just lamb and square), Captain General, or Prelate (green);—\$50.00; Emeritus ranks; Generalissimo, Captain General, Prelate (red)—\$55.00; Honorary Past Commander with a silver “HC” at the

foot of the cross—\$90.00; Grand Commandery and Grand Representative—\$60.00; Past Grand Commander (purple) \$70.00. Grand Encampment and special orders \$85.00. We now offer special order Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment special order shoulder straps with the initials of the rank @\$15.00 per letter. An example: Past Grand Commander with P.G.C. embroidered in silver would add \$45.00 to the special order price. We have just received Treasurer and Recorder shoulder straps with crossed keys and quills on green velvet per the 1866 Uniform Regulations of Grand Encampment. Chapeaux crosses in extra fancy gold and silver bullion with Velcro back; Sir Knight—\$45.00, Past Commander—\$50.00; Grand Commandery and Grand Representative (red)—\$65.00, Past Grand Commander (purple)—\$70.00, special orders—\$80.00. Embroidered extra fancy quality gold and silver sleeve crosses, pair with Velcro back—\$45.00 Grand Commandery—\$50.00, Past Grand Commander (purple)—\$70.00, Grand Encampment and special orders—\$80.00. Embroidered extra fancy quality gold and silver sleeve crosses, per pair, with Velcro back: Sir Knight—\$45.00; Past Commander \$45.00; Grand Commandery \$50.00; Past Grand Commander (purple) \$70.00, Grand Encampment and special orders \$85.00. We can now have initials embroidered in silver on a pair of straps @\$15.00 for each initial (for the pair). Embroidered gold and silver fatigue hat bullion crosses: Sir Knight \$45.00; Past Commander—\$50.00. Metal cap crosses; silver—\$32.00, gold—\$38.00. Past Commander’s jewel—\$52.00. *All items plus shipping, handling, and insurance- \$5.00 for first item and \$1.00 shipping for each additional item. ALL OF PROFIT TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION. Checks and mail to Jacques N. Jacobsen Jr., 3 Oceans West Blvd. #4A4, Daytona Beach, FL 32118, PHONE 386-304-6157, Cell 386-871-0842.*

Tennessee Commandery Continues Sale of Lapel Pins To Benefit the KTEF

Manchester Commandery No. 40, Manchester, Tennessee is pleased to announce that it is continuing its fund-raiser for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and has added a new Blue Lodge/Knights Templar pin to its selection of unique lapel pins! In the past five years of pin sales, donations to the Campaign have exceeded the \$29,500 mark! Manchester No. 40 would like to thank those who have purchased these pins and encourage you to check out the new Blue Lodge/Knights Templar pin. The entire collection, along with 3 new York Rite pins, can also be viewed in color at www.yorkriteusa.org These pins are available for \$6.50 each or any 9 (nine) pins for \$45, with free shipping, and **100% of all profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.** Make check or money order in American funds payable to: Manchester Commandery No. 40. Send to Garry L. Carter, Recorder; 530 Winchester Hwy., Hillsboro, TN 37342. Thanks again for your continued support.



1800's Apron



KT/Blue Lodge



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Ark of the Covenant



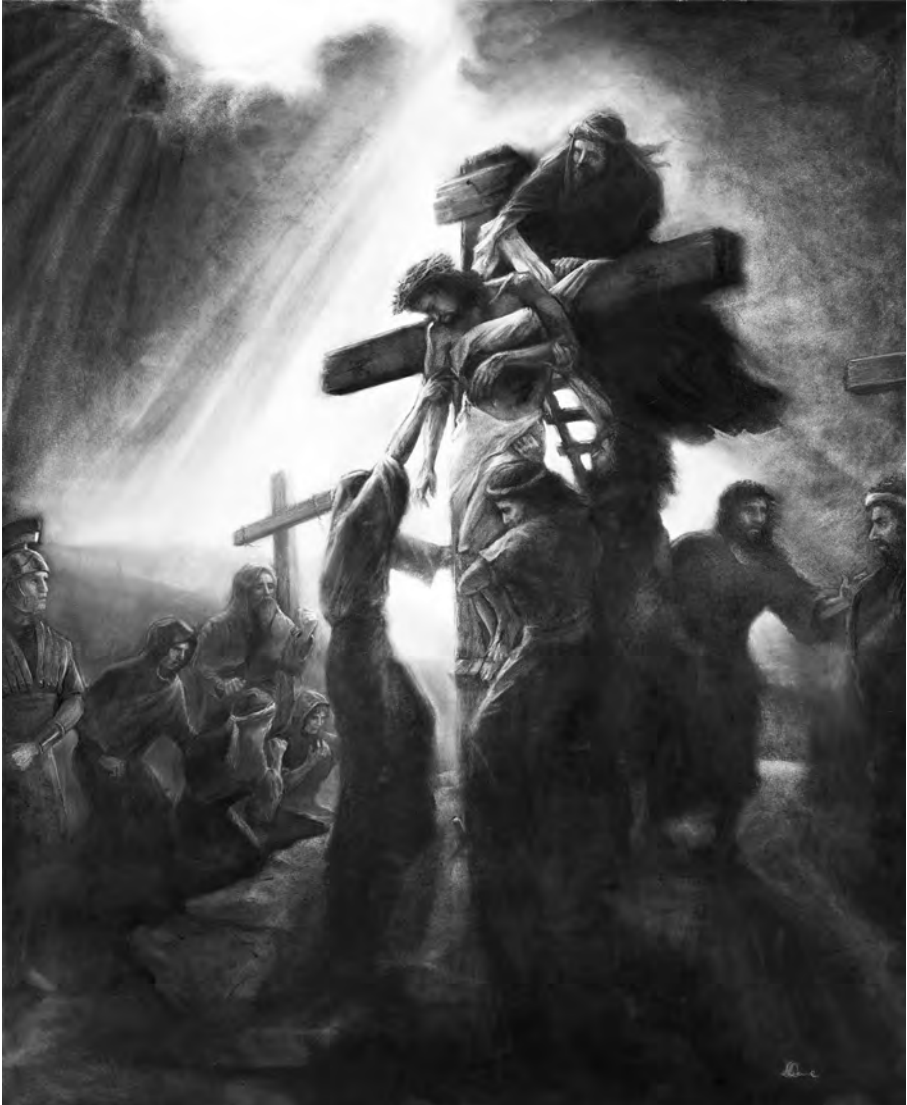
Ark of the Covenant Past High Priest



Order of the Silver Trowel

General Supplement

The space on these two pages is provided by the *Knight Templar* magazine to be used by the Grand Commanderies to communicate with the individual Sir Knights in their jurisdictions on a monthly basis. From time to time and for various reasons, we fail to receive any material from the editor of the state supplement for a given month. When this happens, we take the opportunity to offer you the information below. – The Ed.





Above is a close up photo of the now famous apprentices pillar of Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland. (See book review in last month's issue)

Photo Copyrighted by Chad Bontrager

The photo to the left is entitled "removal from the cross"

Copyrighted by Brian Dunne

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 \$165.00. (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 or to request an order form for your state (include a stamped, self-addressed envelope), send to Milford as indicated below 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.**

Sale of California Cookbook to Benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

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
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OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

Sale of Milford Commandery Polo Shirts Benefits 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, or Masonic Square and Compasses. 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 Compasses may be had on white or royal blue shirts. There are eleven other colors available by 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.**

How old was Jesus when He was Crucified?

by

Sir Knight Rex R. Hutchens
Past Grand Commander of Arizona

The crucifixion of Jesus is the focal point of Christian theology. At the time of the event, the nascent Christian community, if it can be called that, was thrown into turmoil and confusion. Jesus had declared Himself to the Samaritan woman to be the Messiah foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures, and it is certain that His apostles believed Him to be so. Yet, those same scriptures had no direct mention of such a fate for the Savior of Israel.

It was left to Paul to give meaning and substance to this otherwise unremitting tragedy. Despite its importance, theologically and historically, the actual date of the crucifixion is unknown and the New Testament texts only add to the confusion. Two events are necessary to establish the date of the crucifixion: the date of Jesus' birth and His age when He was crucified.

Two characters loom large in the problem of the date of Jesus' birth: Herod and Quirinius. Matthew tells us that at the time of Jesus' birth, Herod was king of Judea (2:1), and we know that Herod died in 4 BC by our present calendar. Luke, on the other hand, tells us that Quirinius was governor of Syria (2:2). From Josephus (*Antiquities of the Jews*, 18:1.1, where he is called 'Cyrenius', and is identified as a Roman senator and consul), we learn that Quirinius held such a position, and historians have set his accession to this rank in AD 6 by our present calendar. This gives us a full decade between the two events and probably even more since

the text of Matthew asserts that Herod lived for some period after the birth of Jesus, and Quirinius ruled Syria for several years (*Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, 1962, vol. K-Q, p. 976). If we accept the Herod date and place the birth of Jesus before 4 BC, say a year, then we are on more solid ground with respect to the rest of the story as Matthew tells it—the flight into Egypt, the massacre of the innocents, the wise men, etc. None of which are possible under Luke's chronology, and in fact, he mentions none of these events.

Now, the conventional date for the crucifixion is AD 33. Why this particular date was chosen is a mystery since the text of the *New Testament* clearly suggests an older age for Jesus as in John 8:57 where there is a claim that He is not yet fifty, unlikely if He is still in His thirties. An age of forty or a little more would accord with the assumption of His birth during the reign of Herod.

Right Eminent Sir Knight Rex Hutchens is the editor of *Heredom: The Transactions of the Scottish Rite Research Society* and author of *A Bridge to Light, A Glossary To Morals And Dogma, and Pillars Of Wisdom - The Writings Of Albert Pike*. He transcribed and annotated Albert Pike's *Lecture on Masonic Symbolism* and *A Second Lecture on Symbolism, The Omkara and Other Ineffable Words* and collaborated in the publishing of *The Book of the Words (Sephir H'Debarim)*. He resides at 4678 E. Coachlight Lane, Tucson, AZ 85718 and can be contacted via e-mail at rchutchens@comcast.net.

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The truth and the myths behind the Knights Templar!

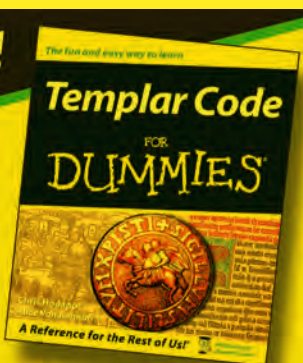
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ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by

Sir Knight Kenneth G. Hope, Grand Secretary-Recorder of California

How many times have you heard the phrase “one man can make a difference?” I’m sure you have heard it many times, and here I am saying it again . . . “One man can make a difference,” but this time, I am going to give you an example of such a man who changed the course of history in America and especially in California. Naturally he was a Mason, which you all know so well is not unusual, because Masons have been changing the course of history all over the world since the time they were founded.

The year was 1880 and Brother George Perkins was a Past Grand Master of Masons in California and was serving as the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery. In his spare time, he was the governor of California.

As the governor of California, he realized that the centers of power in America were on the East Coast, and that California was considered by them to be part of the “Wild West” full of Indians and desperados; a place you read about but wouldn’t want to visit and certainly not a safe place for women and children. Furthermore, the only way to get to the West Coast was by ship, train, or horseback; a long trip by any means. Plus it was expensive; so, who would want to go to California anyway? Without the movement of people to California, the state would not grow and prosper; business, real estate, and commerce would not grow; and everything would remain stagnant. Remember that California had just become a state in 1850.

Brother George had a great idea. If he knight templar

could only get those stuffy Easterners to come to California and see for themselves that San Francisco was a great city as modern as any on the East Coast; that bullets and arrows weren’t flying around; that it was safe for women and children; that it had all the modern conveniences of any city in the East; that it was a law abiding state; that it had some of the finest restaurants, hotels, and modern paved streets; and above all that the people were friendly. If only he could get those Easterners to see for themselves.

Governor George decided that it was high time that California be put on the map, and that for the first time in history, Americans were going to find out what a wonderful state this was and what a grand city San Francisco was. Sir Knight George decided that the Knights Templar would lead the way as only they could. First, he had to convince the Templars of California that they could achieve this formidable task. Remember that in 1880 there were only 1000 knights in California! Convincing the knights was no easy matter. How could they afford this endeavor? How could only a few knights do so much in such a short period of time? This had never been done before. All of you have heard these arguments many times. Leadership came naturally to this man, and he managed to convince his fraters that all was possible, and that if anyone could do it, the Templars of California could.

Sir Knight George, 145 Sir Knights, and 88 of their ladies departed for Chicago for the 21st Triennial of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United

States of America. They hired a military band, the 2nd Regimental band to go with them to Chicago. A grand standard for California was purchased specially to be taken with them, and a special train exclusively for the Knights Templar and their families was arranged. If they were going to Chicago, they would go in style. They had to convince the world that Californians were not a bunch of uncivilized cowboys.

Cowboy boots, hats, and Bermuda shorts were not packed on this trip. The correct Templar uniform was worn, swords were polished, and plumes were fluffed up. They were going to change the Easterners' concept of the Wild West.

At the 21st Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, Sir Knight George offered to host the 22nd Triennial in San Francisco! His leadership qualities and persuasive personality overcame the fears and tribulations of the Eastern Templars promising them Templar hospitality and knightly courtesies for one and all. Safety for women and children was guaranteed, special trains and escorts would be provided, horses for the Sir Knights, carriages for their ladies, the finest food and lodgings, and the best whiskey for the banquets would be theirs for the asking. After much deliberation and soul searching, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to hold the 22nd Triennial in San Francisco in 1883.

Sir Knight George and his fellow knights had accomplished the first phase of their plan to open the West. They came back to San Francisco feeling pretty proud of themselves, and rightly so. They also came back \$2,304 in debt. This sum was made up by subscriptions from the 1000 Sir Knights. To help finance the 1883 Triennial, each Sir Knight was assessed 50 cents. The Grand Commander also admonished the membership to be vigilant and not lower their

standards for admission into the Order that "stands pre-eminent above any other human organization." At this time, it was Templar law that it would be unknighly conduct if a Sir Knight solicited members for the orders!

It should be noted here that before one could become a Knight Templar, that is to say, before he received the Order of the Temple, he had to purchase his own uniform and equipment. After receiving the Order of the Red Cross, if the candidate did not purchase his uniform, he would not be knighted. There was no Order of Malta in those days. Initiation fees in 1880 were \$100, a very considerable sum of money equivalent to \$15,000 in today's dollars! The uni-



form and equipment would cost another \$100, and a horse would be extra. One had to be serious about becoming a Knight Templar in those days. The Orders were conferred on one candidate at a time. Commanderies conferring the Orders on more than one candidate were severely reprimanded!

Now that the Grand Encampment had agreed to come to San Francisco in 1883, Perkins and the Grand Commandery had to convince the people of San Francisco of what a wonderful thing the Knights Templar had done for them. They needed the total commitment of the public. They needed their homes, their horses and carriages, their donations, and their resolve to decorate the city and make the Easterners and their families feel welcome. The people of San Francisco responded with their hearts, pocketbooks, and great enthusiasm. This was going to be the first time in the history of California that any convention or large group of people would come to the West Coast, and they were determined to give them the best of everything they could offer. If it worked, more would follow. Business would pickup; people

would come from the East and buy houses; shops would open; schools would be built; money would start flowing into the state; more roads would be built; and more hospitals, hotels, stables, and carriages would be needed. New trains would be needed to accommodate the increased passenger load, and all this translated into more jobs and more money. The average citizen soon realized what Sir Knight George and his Templars had done in Chicago. They had a golden opportunity to show off the Golden State and the beautiful city of San Francisco, and they were going to do everything in their power in their own little way to show the Easterners that the West had grown up and was a match for anything the East had to offer; maybe more.

George and his committee left no stone unturned. They convinced the railroads

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to offer a 25% discount for any Templar and his family from the East. The railroad magnates also had an eye on the future, and they could see what profits lay in the not-too-distant future for them. The citizens responded by providing carriages and horses for the visitors from the East, and by decorating every building in the city with bunting and banners the likes of which had never been seen before. After all, Governor and Sir Knight George had told them that this was the most important event in Templar history in California and also for the State. They were not going to let him down.

George did one other thing to ensure success. It was not enough for the visitors to have a good time. He wanted everyone in America to know what a wonderful and safe place it was, how modern it was, and what a good place it was to raise a family. So he invited all the Eastern newspaper editors and writers to be the guests of the city. They responded and came west with the Knights.

George covered all the bases, as he realized early on that it was not enough to just get the Templars involved. He had to have every man and woman in California involved too. Hence, the whole community insisted on claiming a share of the honor and spontaneously resolved to make the

occasion a season of unrestricted hospitality, civic display, happiness, and social cheer.

Trainload after trainload of Templars, their families, and newspapermen arrived in San Francisco; were met at the railroad station by the various mounted patrols from the Commanderies; and escorted to their hotels. Bands played, and Sir Knights in full uniform presented swords for the visiting dignitaries. Finally, the Grand Parade took place. Ten divisions, strong with swords glistening in the sun marched past the review stand; a pageant never before seen in California, and witnessed by the public from sidewalks, balconies, and windows all along the parade route.

The 22nd Triennial was everything Sir Knight George had promised, and the Grand Commander was justly proud in claiming that it was the most notable event in Templar Masonry in Cali-

fornia. This feeling was shared by all who attended, and California Templary won the esteem and affection of their brothers as the newspapers on the East Coast attested. The West had won the hearts and minds of the Easterners, and nothing would ever be the same again. Not one visitor had been shot by an arrow,



**Grand Encampment
1883 Triennial Conclave Medal
San Francisco, California**

no train was held up and robbed, and all went home safe and sound.

The Grand Commandery did rather well financially. Not one cent of its funds was used. Donations paid for everything and left a balance of \$7,000; a considerable sum of money in 1883. The money left over from the Triennial was invested as a permanent fund called "The California Grand Commandery Knight Templar Drill Fund."

Tuesday, August 21, 1883, the Grand Encampment opened for business meetings which lasted until Friday. The Divine Service was a new feature at the Triennial and was "The greatest feature of the Conclave." Seventy banners of different Commanderies hung in the Grand Asylum. There was entertainment every evening in the pavilion with a different program each night. The ladies provided a "Garden of Welcome" for the visitors that was one of the most pleasing features of the Conclave. There were excursions around the bay by boat and excursions by rail to the vineyards and wineries of Napa Valley, to Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and other areas. The Grand Master was greeted by the Mayor of San Francisco and other officials. The Grand Lodge laid a cornerstone to the Garfield Monument in Golden Gate Park, and the military took part including veterans and government officials. The grand banquet was held at the Palace Hotel and was "everything the heart could wish." Three thousand rooms were taken by the Sir Knights. The San Francisco police cooperated fully with every wish, the grand parade had no interruptions, and the knights marched down the broadest and finest avenues in the city which had been cleaned the night before!

San Francisco, California and the West Coast have never been the same since the 22nd Triennial of the Grand Encampment.

knight templar

One man made a difference, and he was a Master Mason and a Knight Templar.

The above narrative shows what a person with vision, determination, and a positive attitude can do. Sure the odds were high, and sure the opposition was great. There was little or no money and very little time. The entire concept in the East was anti-West. But it could be and was overcome. We Masons today need to have a vision of tomorrow; a determination and positive attitude to make our fraternity significant to the next generation in a world that does not know how desperately our principles of brotherly love are needed if there is ever going to be peace in the world.

Sir Knight Hope is Past Commander of Golden West Commandery No. 43 in Bellflower, California and is the Grand Recorder for the Grand Commandery of California. He can be contacted at ca.yorkrite@verizon.net

Subscriptions to the *Knight Templar* magazine are available from the Grand Encampment office at a rate of \$15.00 per year. Individual issues in quantities of less than 10 can be obtained for \$1.50 each from the office of the managing editor if available. Inquire via e-mail to the managing editor for quantities in excess of 10. Some past issues are archived on our web site.
<http://www.knightstemplar.org>.

We publish letters and articles from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Encampment, the *Knight Templar* magazine, or the Editorial Review Board.

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TO LEARN

By

Sir Knight Richard D. Carver

As the Worshipful Master opens or closes a Masonic Lodge of Entered Apprentices, he performs a ritualistic catechism of sorts, whereby he asks questions and receives responses from various other lodge officers. At one point he inquires, “Brother Senior Warden, what came you here to do?”

With an almost monotonous tone that comes from pure repetition, we have all heard the Senior Warden drone a response: “To learn to subdue my passions [followed by a short pause] and to improve myself in Masonry.”

While this response is ritualistically correct, I propose for your consideration that this response is essentially erroneous. The essence and the nature of the lessons that are being presented have become blurred. I offer a respectful argument that, through our well-meaning intentions to convey a uniform wording in the ritual, the Senior Warden is not communicating the intended message.

Masonry knowingly accepts no man into its ranks who is not a moral and upright citizen and of good repute before man and God. Any acceptable candidate for Masonry must already possess and practice such traits. While it is the intent of Masonry to make good men better, it is not the design of Masonry to convert immoral or corrupt men into moral men, who, after Masonic initiation, are then capable of subduing their passions. Masonry rejects any candidate found lacking in virtue, morality or the ability to subdue his passions. This would likely occur during

the early stages of his candidacy, and any man found wanting of these traits would be quickly exposed as unworthy of efforts to make him a better man. So therefore, it would be logical to construe that a worthy Mason does not need to learn to subdue his passions. He instead observes the practice of subduing his passions.

These passions come in various forms and are not limited to the obvious example of sexual lust although he must keep that emotion in proper bounds as well. He keeps his passions for the rhetoric of religion and politics in due bounds so as to allow no discord to exist between his Brothers with differing and opposing views. He is free to remain passionate about such beliefs outside the walls of the Lodge, yet he subdues them inside the Lodge so that peace and harmony prevail.

Given such circumstances, this almost demands the following questions: Is “subduing passion” all that Masonry teaches? Is that enough? If a Mason subdues his passions, is there nothing more to learn?

More often than not, events in Masonry occur and present themselves in sets of 3. There are 3 knocks; 3 degrees; 3 stages of life – youth, manhood, and age; 3 ruffians; 3 Great Lights; 3 lesser lights; and so on. There are a few other recurring numbers in Masonry, but it is hard to ignore the repeated and intentional use of the number three. Likewise, there exists a possibility that the Senior Warden’s response is also a set of three separate tasks, and there exists the probability that by the simple omission of a discern-

able pause in the wording, they are interpreted as though they are only two.

I will submit for your consideration that a Mason is not a man who comes to a Lodge to learn to subdue his passions. A Mason is the man who has already learned to subdue his passions. The subduing of his passions is something that a Mason puts into practice in the Lodge; so it is more accurate to say that a Mason comes "to subdue my passions" and it is equally true that he also comes "to improve myself in Masonry." This leaves only the first part of the statement unresolved, which is "to learn..."

By acknowledging these three logical and separate tasks, it becomes accurate to say that a Mason comes to Lodge in order to learn, to subdue his passions, and to improve himself in Masonry. Not only does this wording better meet the common theme of the recurring number 3, it also seems to be a more accurate assessment of the goals and equally, a more realistic assessment of the Masonic ideals.

A Mason has an intrinsic desire to learn. His knowledge naturally increases through the study and application of ritual and through his innate curiosity about Masonry's more esoteric interests. The "Search for Light" itself becomes a passion, and it is a passion he subdues or at least suppresses in the presence of brothers having a differing opinion, in the presence of a more learned teacher, or when in the company of the profane. Masonic knowledge is ever abundant and holds no limits. His desire to learn will never be fully satisfied. The light of knowledge can never be fully obtained, but learning and the pursuit of knowledge remain among the most noble of our earthly endeavors.

I continue as a firm believer that we absolutely must convey Masonic ritual

as correctly and precisely as is humanly possible. It should always be done in strict accordance with all appropriate Grand Lodge laws, rules, and regulations of the various jurisdictions. Having said that, I would also propose that to better convey one of the often-overlooked lessons in Masonry, we can practice a smidgeon of creative license and yet not technically change it or violate any rules or obligations.

If you disagree with my arguments, then you should continue to do as you have always done. If you have discovered that you are in agreement with my assertion that the response would best be given in 3 parts, and if you find yourself seated in the Senior Warden's chair, you might simply pause to take a breath in the middle of the response at the appropriate point.

I do again wish to point out that it is not my intention to suggest that we make any change to our ritual, or in any way propose that it be done by others. My only desire is to better convey the meaning of our ritual, and to suggest that we should often pause to reflect upon those great lessons.

Brother Senior Warden, what came you here to do?

To learn...

To subdue my passions...

And to improve myself in Masonry!

Sir Knight Richard D. Carver is a member of Ivanhoe No.21 Commandery, the Secretary of Shawnee Lodge No. 54, and Secretary of the Kansas College of SRICF. He can be contacted at rickcarver@kc.rr.com.

Knightly News

History Is Created In Trinity Commandery New Jersey

By
Eugenio Melendez

Following a sumptuous banquet with Sir Knight Richard A. Hammill, Eminent Commander, Sir Knight William Howard Koon, II, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. made his third visit to Trinity Commandery where he is an Honorary Member. On this occasion he served as the Commander in the conferral of the Order of the Temple on fifteen candidates for Trinity plus two courtesy candidates. The conferral by Sir Knight Koon was flawless and inspirational.

Sir Knight Michael F. Lakat, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of New Jersey attended along with all his elected officers except for one. Three former Scottish Rite Deputies were in attendance; namely, Sir Knight Thurman C. Pace, Jr., Honorary Past Grand Master, Sir Knight Donald "Pete" Miller, Past Commander, and Sir Knight Verdon R. Skipper, Past Commander.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Sir Knight Richard A. Hammill, Eminent Commander of Trinity Commandery, assisted by Sir Knight Koon, presented certificates to the new Sir Knights. Sir Knight Lakat presented the Order of the Sword to Sir Knight William M. Krezewick, III, E.P.C. The Grand Master awarded Sir Knight Lakat and Sir Knight Robert B. Maynard with the prestigious Knight Commander of the Temple jewel and plaque.

Thus was concluded another memorable evening in Trinity Commandery.



New York Masonic Library Obtains 'Processus Contra Templarios'

By
Sir Knight Jay Hochberg

What better setting than the French Ionic Room could there be to display the documents of the Avignon Pope's trial of the French monastic order we call the Knights Templar?

There they were, October 29, at the Regular Communication of American Lodge of Research in the Grand Lodge of New York building in Manhattan: the spectacular reproductions of historic documents published as "Processus Contra Templarios."

It isn't only a book. In addition to the oversize multi-lingual tome, there are multiple facsimile copies published on a realistic synthetic fabric that retains the look and feel of medieval parchment – of many ancillary documents including one text that happens to record Pope Clement's absolution of the Templar Order of the most serious charges against them. This item, dubbed the "Chinon Parchment," was discovered in the Vatican Secret Archives in 2001 by a researching scholar who found it and recognized its significance. It had simply been misfiled all these centuries, obscuring a giant historical fact.

This stunning package of historical documents was purchased by the Grand Lodge of New York's Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library; disbursing \$8,600 from a fund donated to the library for the purpose of acquiring singular research materials that otherwise would elude the brethren. But what has the fate knight templar

of a crusading order of knights to do with Freemasonry, and why would one of the most important Masonic research libraries in the world acquire these archival reproductions?

R.W. Bro. Thomas Savini, director of the library, explained, saying that part of the library's mission is to "provide resources for the experiential side of Masonry – the intangibles that drove us all to become Freemasons – for our discussion, and study, and growth." (The other Masonic organi-



zation in the United States known to have acquired a copy is the House of the Temple, headquarters of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Washington D.C.)

Savini and R.W. Bill Thomas, who was acting Master of the lodge for the evening, continued the talk with a history of the medieval Knights Templar, from its founding to its dissolution. The details are known to the Sir Knights reading this article, so to make a long legal story short, the Order had been charged with the capital crime of heresy, plus a variety of lesser crimes, like sacrilege and sodomy, and were absolved by the pope of the former, but convicted of the latter.

R.W. Bro. Thomas, a trustee of the Livingston Library, noted the similarity of the Templar organization structure to Freemasonry, and how that affected the Inquisition's prosecution, explaining

how junior members of the Order were arrested, but were unable to answer the Inquisition's most serious questions due to their lack of seniority.

But about these wonderful documents and their value to historian and hobbyist alike, they provide "a real tactile experience," Savini said, explaining how both the synthetic material employed in the construction of the "parchments" and the deliberately placed folds, and even the replica mold stains all combine to replicate the original records. Having these facsimiles grants great freedom to scholars because these documents can be handled, studied, and admired as though they were the originals, while sparing the originals the wear and tear.

And the reproduction process involved much more than photographic copying. Because of the advanced age of the documents and the manner they were folded and stored, it was necessary for restorers to employ a Wood's lamp to project ultraviolet light onto the original parchments to reveal handwritten content otherwise misunderstood or unintelligible.

In addition to the massive book itself, the Chinon Parchment, and a six-foot long parchment, the package includes smaller parchments containing interrogation notes, summary documents, and executive findings, some of which show Pope Clement's handwritten notes and signature.

Other attractions appeal to a broader scope of researchers. The original documents' authenticity and authority were attested by the wax seals of the three Papal commissioners who examined the Templars. And sure enough, viewers of the replica collection are indeed greeted by three intricately molded replica wax seals, which brought students of that art to view the collection during its seven-stop tour

of New York State in October in the care of Thomas and Savini. The calligraphy likewise lured mavens of that craft.

"This is fascinating," said ALR Secretary Harvey Eysman. "I have a facsimile of Anderson's Constitutions. It's one thing to see the imperfections on those pages, but those are just copies. This is history!"

"Processus" is on hand at the Livingston Masonic Library. Library hours are:

Mondays, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, from noon to 8 p.m.

Wednesdays – Fridays, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The library, located on the 14th floor of the Grand Lodge building at 71 West 23rd Street in Manhattan, is open to the public. The Livingston Library also takes "Processus" on tour. Director Savini can be reached at (212) 337-6620 to make arrangements.

Sir Knight Jay Hochberg is a Past Grand Historian of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey. He can be contacted via The Masonic Society at themasonicsociety.com



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The painting to the left is a depiction of the trial of Jacques DeMolay and is displayed in the Templar Chapel, high in the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.

march 2009

Beauceant News

BEAUCEANT ASSEMBLIES WHO CONTRIBUTED OVER \$1,000.00 TO KTEF DURING THE 2007-2008 TERM

	Area 2	
Long Beach No. 39		\$1,536.55
Los Angeles No. 42		\$2,269.89
	Area 4	
Denver No. 1		\$1,901.00
	Area 5	
Omaha No. 91		\$1,000.00
	Area 7	
Port Arthur No. 160		\$1,081.96
	Area 8	
Oak Cliff No. 145		\$1,500.00
	Area 10	
Ocala No. 249		\$1,065.38
Orlando No. 256		\$1,030.38
	Area 12	
Fredericksburg No. 266		\$1,470.00
Westminster No. 245		\$1,695.00



Installation of the 2009 Officers for Elizabethtown Assembly No. 265, PA, was attended by the Sisters and Sir Knights pictured. Front row: Mrs. Howard Miller, P.P., Mrs. Joseph Chalker, Supreme Recorder Emeritus, Westminster Assembly No. 245, Mrs. David Alcon, P.S.W.P., Mrs. Thomas Miller, President, Mrs. Leslie Loomis, P.P., Mrs. John Ellermann, 1st VP, Mrs. Gene Bower, P.P., Mrs. William Baldwin, P. P., Westminster No. 245. In the back row center is the Right Eminent Grand Commander of PA, S.K. Leslie Loomis, and last row right, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, S.K. David Alcon.



Knights



at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight Chris Hodapp

A Review of *Outremer: The Saga of the Knights Templar* by Bob Prodor and Stephen Dafoe

Back in the days when I was a much smaller Hodapp, I engaged in that time-honored practice of kiddom: reading under the covers with a flashlight when I was supposed to be doing something more useful, like sleeping. Even at that age, I reckoned, there'll be plenty of time for sleep when you die.

Mad Magazine, comics from Stan Lee, or the DC guys would always land me in the preadolescent version of the slammer, but there was always one line of comics sure to save me from a late-night bawling out: *Classics Illustrated*.

This line of comics did just what it sounds like. They took classic stories (*The Three Musketeers*, *House of the Seven Gables*, *War of the Worlds*, and more than a hundred others), splashed them in full color across kid-friendly pages, and kept me far more interested than any of that malarkey about a guy in tights from Krypton.

Author Stephen Dafoe has written about the Knights Templar from almost every conceivable angle over the years—as straight history (*Nobly Born*), as speculation (*The Warriors and the Bankers*), and most recently,

the origins and growth of the Masonic Knights Templar Order (*The Compasses and the Cross*). Now, he and artist Bob Prodor's new comic book treatment of the medieval Knight Templar, *Outremer*, presents the Order in a way no one has done before, and it brings back my fond memories of those *Classics Illustrated* of my youth for all of the same reasons. It tells the legendary story of the origin, rise, and fall of the Templars in the Holy Land, and it does it with action-packed style. *Issue One: Origins* introduces Hughes de Payens and Geoffroi de St. Omer in the hills outside of Jerusalem, protecting pilgrims from attacks by Arab bandits. Through their eyes, the history of Jerusalem and the First Crusade to capture the Holy Land from the Infidel unfolds.

Outremer effectively illustrates the historic troubles of Jerusalem and the religious multi-culturalism that came and went over the centuries before the arrival of European pilgrims and knights. And it weaves the most famous "must-haves" of the Templar tales into the story, like the iconic image of two Templar knights sharing a

horse and the crowds whipped into a crusading frenzy, shouting “*Deus le volt!*” (God Wills It!). But best of all, it achieves that delicate balancing act of education and entertainment.

Outremer is just plain fun to read. It puts forth the true story of the Crusades and the beginnings of the Order in a compact and exciting way and is over much too quickly. Dafoe and Prodor have a real winner with *Outremer*.

Four issues are planned in the series, and I’m already impatient for Issue 2, even if I know how the story turns out in the end.

I even got bawled out by my wife for reading by flashlight under the covers.

The comic is available from www.templarcomics.com

Sir Knight Christopher Hodapp is the the author of *Freemasons For Dummies* and *Solo-mon’s Builders*, and the co-author (with Alice VonKannon) of *The Templar Code For Dummies* and *Conspiracy Theories & Secret Societies For Dummies*. He is the editor of *The Journal of The Masonic Society*. Chris is a member of Raper Commandery No. 1 in Indianapolis and a founding member of Levant Preceptory, Indiana’s medieval Templar degree team. He can be contacted at hodapp@aol.com



knight templar

Solution to Cryptic Puzzle on Page 32 of February Issue

1	F	I	2	F	E	R	S	4	H	E	5	A	6	T
	7	O	C	R	O	O	N	I	N	G	E			
8	O	9	P	E	N	10	G	A	R	D	E	N		
	L	A	E	11	S	U	12	M	A	S	O	N		
13	S	P	O	K	E	Y	M	14	P	L	Y			
15	C	A	V	I	A	R	16	D	U	D	S			
	A	17	Y	O	R	K	R	I	T	E	O			
18	P	A	I	L	19	P	H	O	T	O	N			

ACROSS

1. FIFERS: F(ine)+IF+E.R.S
4. HEAT: H(ouse)+EAT
7. CROONING: O+ON>C+RING
8. OPEN: O+PEN
10. GARDEN: homophone of GUARD+N
12. MASON: MA(n)S(i)ON - NI
13. SPOKE: double definition
15. CAVIAR: C(ol)d)+AVIA(to)R - TO
16. DUDS: double definition
17. YORK RITE: ROY reversed+TRIKE anagram
18. PAIL: homophone of PALE
19. PHOTON: HON(ey)POT anagram

DOWN

1. FOOL’S CAP: (SO+CAL+FOP) anagram
2. FREE: FRE(r)E
3. ROGUE: homophone of OH GEE > RUE
4. HIRAM: HI+RAM
5. AGE-OLD: A+GEOD(e)>L
6. TENNYSON: TEN+N.Y.+SON
9. PAPAYA: PAP (smear)+A+Y.A.
11. SKIRL: SKI+R+L
12. MYRRH: MY+R.R.+H(ead)
14. PUTT: hidden and reversed

The puzzle author is a Knight Templar and 32° Scottish Rite Mason who follows Cryptic Crossword tradition by setting puzzles under a crucinym, choosing Loki, the Norse god of mischief. If you would like detailed instructions on how to solve Cryptic clues, Loki would be happy to oblige. Contact him at <okl.loki@gmail.com> or at 2501 W. Zia Rd., #6104; Santa Fe, NM 87505.

He also maintains an e-mail discussion group for Cryptic Puzzlers at <sob_softly_small_spasm-subscribe@egroups.com>.

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