



Knights Templar

NUMBER 7

JULY 2009

VOLUME LV

"THEY SHALL NOT PERISH"

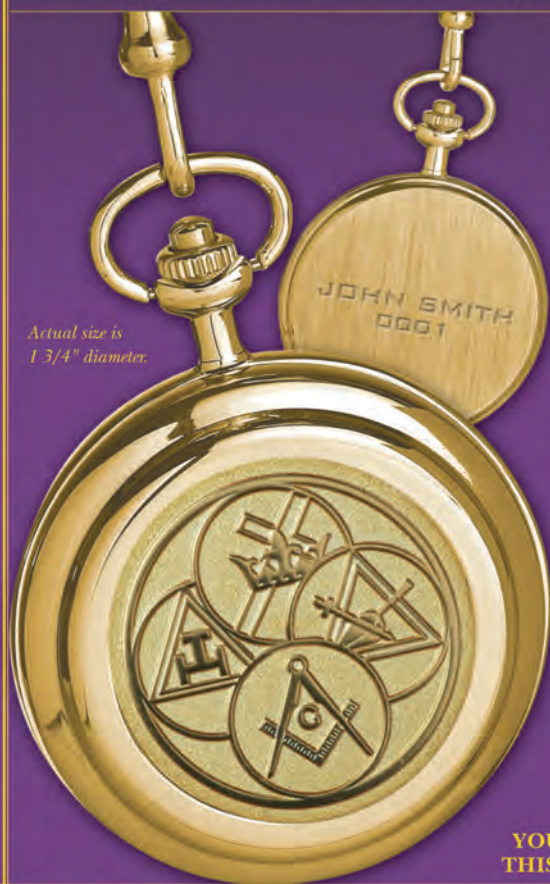
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Signature: _____

Name: _____

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Phone: _____

Email: _____

* Plus \$12.95 for engraving, shipping and handling. PA residents add 6% (\$4.95) sales tax.

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Knight Templar

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**Address changes or correc-
 tions and all membership ac-
 tivity including deaths should
 be reported to the Recorder
 of the local Commandery.**

Magazine materials and correspon-
 dence to the editor should be sent in elec-
 tronic form to the managing editor whose
 contact information is shown above.

Materials and correspondence concern-
 ing the Grand Commandery state supplе-
 ments should be sent to the respective
 supplement editor.

Lawrence E. Tucker
Grand Recorder

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The front cover is a photo of *They Shall
 Not Perish* poster art (1918) by Stephen
 Arnold Douglas Volk - a statement of
 America's role as protector of the op-
 pressed peoples of the world during WWI
 and is copyrighted by Victorian Traditions.

Grand Master's Message



When we celebrate the 4th of July, thoughts of freedom, liberty, and independence all come to mind. In our country, thirty places have 'Liberty' in their name, eleven have 'Independence', five have 'Freedom', and one has 'Patriot'! Obviously these were all important concepts to our forebearers as they spread across this beautiful land.

Along with freedom, liberty, and independence, Freemasonry is part of our heritage. Freemasonry bound many of our leaders together in those early days. Of the fifty-six signers of the *Declaration of Independence*, nine are confirmed Freemasons, and another eleven are thought to have been, but insufficient records exist to prove the claim one way or the other. Twenty-seven Masons signed our *Constitution*.

Is this just coincidence? The patriots who formed our country believed in freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and equality among other freedoms; the very things Freemasonry has stood for since the fraternity became recognized. Is it also coincidence that Simon Bolivar, known as "El Liberador" (The Liberator) and considered to be the George Washington of South America was a Mason?

As we join with our families during the 4th of July holiday, remember that our forefathers of the United States of America gave much that we may enjoy this wonderful country. Remember also, that you are part of Freemasonry, a common thread with many of those leaders and a source of strength to them in those troubling times. Freemasonry was a bastion of strength to the new idea of freedom in those days. We have a proud heritage.

I wish for you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer.

Fraternally,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Koon, II".



William H. Koon, II, GCT
Grand Master

From the Grand Recorder's Office...



GRAND ENCAMPMENT 64TH TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE

Last month, an official NOTICE OF CONCLAVE was sent to all voting delegates of Grand Encampment. If you did not receive your notice, please contact the Grand Recorder's Office immediately.

DEPARTMENT CONFERENCES

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

JOINT NORTHEASTERN AND MID-ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

September 11-12, 2009, in Baltimore, MD

NORTHEASTERN DEPARTMENT

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts/Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont

MID-ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT

Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia

SOUTH CENTRAL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas
September 18-19, 2009, in Oklahoma City, OK

NORTHWESTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming
October 16-17, 2009, in Boise, ID

NORTH CENTRAL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota
October 23-24, 2009, in Mandan, ND

SOUTHWESTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah
October 30-31, 2009, location to be determined

YORK RITE INFORMATION SYSTEM

GRAND RECORDERS: Grand Recorder training began at the Southeastern Department Conference in Atlanta, GA last month. The remaining Grand Recorders are being trained in online conferences through July. Constituent Recorders will begin following their Grand Recorder's orientation.

RECORDERS: Once you have completed the short training session, Constituent Recorders will be able to enter membership changes, i.e., Knightings, Deaths, Suspensions, Demits, Reinstatements and Address Changes for your Commandery. This will make the current monthly reports obsolete.

MEMBERS: Members may still update their contact information by visiting the Grand Encampment website www.knightstemplar.org. This information will be forwarded to your local Commandery Recorder, your State Grand Recorder and the Grand Encampment Office. Please be assured that this information is secure and is available for fraternal use only.

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.
knight templar



Photo copyrighted by JustASC

Prelate's Chapel

by
Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr

If you will examine the back of a dollar bill, you will see some significant insignia which can remind us of our thankfulness for being American. Look at "The Great Seal" on the left and observe some Latin wording. It tells us a new nation has begun as it emerges from a revolution. Another quotation around the top of the pyramid says "He (God) has favored our undertaking." The pyramid suggests something of Egypt, maybe referring to the time when Jewish people were emancipated from slavery. At the top is a "seeing eye" - a symbol of God's watch over a new land of freedom. There are thirteen blocks of the pyramid to correspond to the thirteen original colonies.

On the right side is a floral medallion with an eagle on top. Thirteen stars can be seen, and the eagle is a replica of the American flag with a vertical row of thirteen stripes emblematic of the original thirteen colonies.

The eagle, once considered the symbol of America, holds an olive branch in one of its talons - symbol of peace. The other talon holds either some arrows or sheaves of wheat - symbols of military preparedness or growing industry.

Around the head of the eagle is written "E Pluribus Unum"- out of many one nation. At the center are the words. "In God We Trust" - words not written by chance.

In earlier as well as in recent times there were internal conflicts and people were anxious. So, at this holiday time let us be thankful and celebrate the honor and grandeur of the United States of America.

The Reverend Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr, a member of Beauseant Commandery No. 8, Baltimore, MD, is Pastor-emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. He resides at 700 John Ringling Boulevard, Apt. E202, Sarasota, FL 34236-1586

GOING TO THE 64TH TRIENNIAL IN ROANOKE?

Don't forget:

THE SOUTHERN BREAKFAST

The Tradition Returns!

Come! Join in the hospitality! The Southern Breakfast is back! On Monday, August 17, 2009, at 7:30 AM, the Southern Breakfast will begin with scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, breakfast potatoes, and all the trimmings, not to mention good ole southern hospitality! Gather together for good fellowship, good food, and a great start to your Grand Encampment day....and....all this for only \$25.00 per person!

Send your reservations & check to:

S.K. Vaughn Shafer
2136 Breezy Drive
Charleston, WV 25311-1706
wuneff@verizon.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Number in party: _____

Don't forget your check!!!

SEE YOU THERE!!

A Chat With The Managing Editor

So many of you are writing in each month that I've added an extra "Letters to the Editor" page this one month to help me catch up. I am pleased to hear from you and that you are reading our magazine!

I hope you will take the time to read Sir Knight Jackson's thought provoking article about the process of initiation and his views concerning where we should be focusing our efforts. It begins on page 21. We would welcome additional articles about your view of the state of our fraternity, the direction you feel we need to pursue as we move into the twenty-first century, and what influence it brings to our society. Perhaps some of the elected leaders of our fraternity would like to weigh in on the subject.

On a sad note, we mourn the passing of Sir Knight Sam Hilburn, our Past Grand Treasurer. His obituary is on page 32. I hope to meet most of you who attend our Triennial Conclave in Roanoke next month. I also hope you will take the time to stop and chat when we meet. I am interested in what you would like to see in future issues of the magazine.

Finally, as you enjoy that bar-b-que, hamburger, hot dog, or homemade ice cream and spend time with your friends and family on Independence Day, don't forget to thank Almighty God for the freedoms we enjoy and to remember how easily they can be taken from us, if we cease for even an instant to be eternally vigilant.

John L. Palmer
Managing Editor

Grand Encampment Membership Awards

728 John Wesley Pearson
Arlington Commandery No. 29
Arlington, VA 23-Apr-2009

729 John I Christman
Sidney Commandery No. 46
Sidney, OH 8-May-2009

730 Dennis L. Hughes
Sidney Commandery No. 46
Sidney, OH 8-May-2009

731 Cecil A. Ryder, Jr.
Kalakaua Commandery No. 2
Kailua, HI 21-Apr-2009



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Beauzeant Standard



Mediterranean Pass



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Ark of the Covenant



Ark of the Covenant
Past High Priest



Order of the
Silver Trowel

Tennessee Commandery Continues Sale of Lapel Pins To Benefit the KTEF

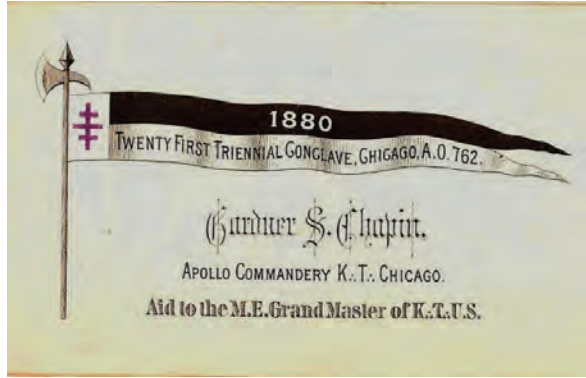
Manchester Commandery No. 40, Manchester, Tennessee, is pleased to announce that it is continuing its fund-raiser for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and has added a new Blue Lodge/Knights Templar pin to its selection of unique lapel pins! In the past five years of pin sales, donations to the Campaign 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.

“It’s In The Cards”

by
Sir Knight Robert C. Hazelton

Having read, with great interest Sir Knight Kenneth G. Hope’s article in the March 2009 issue entitled “One Man Can Make A Difference”, detailing the story of Most Worshipful Brother, and Right Eminent Sir Knight George Perkins of California and his efforts to bring the



22nd Triennial of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America to San Francisco in 1883, I was inspired to locate and re-examine a “scrapbook” given to me by my father several years earlier.

Inside is a collection of more than 300 “Calling Cards”, from Sir Knights from all across the United States. Some of the cards were collected at the 21st Triennial in Chicago in 1880, but most appear to have been collected at the 22nd Triennial in



San Francisco in 1883, and were printed specifically for that event.

Of course, I was hoping to find a card displaying the name, "Sir Knight George Perkins", but alas, it was not among them. But I may have found the next best thing. At the very least, it was the



Triennial Conclave, Chicago, 1880.

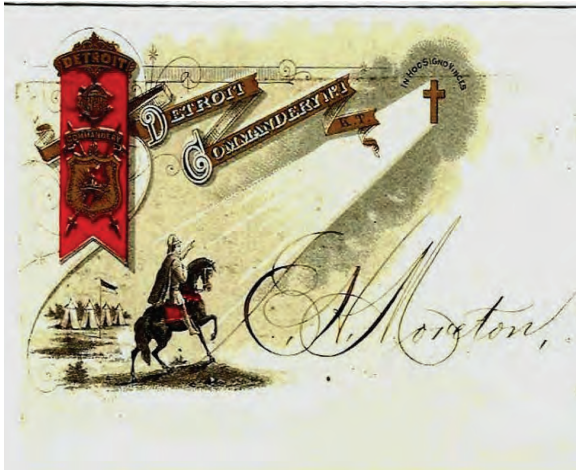
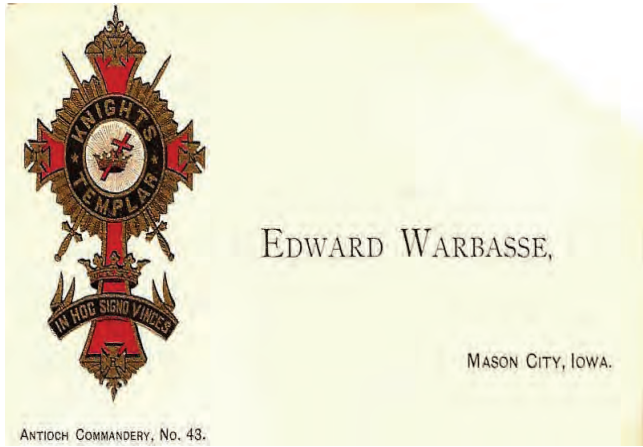
card of someone who was very close to him and undoubtedly accompanied him to the Chicago Triennial. It's the card of Sir Knight Alex Martin of California Commandery #1, in San Francisco.

And as I leafed through page after page of these delightful knight templar



fully ornate cards, it became increasingly evident what a grand and glorious time this was for Templary.

The cards in this collection represent Sir Knights from Commanderies in Ohio, Iowa, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Massachusetts, Texas, Georgia, Minnesota,



Vermont, Wyoming, Connecticut, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Kentucky, Indiana, Texas, Nevada, Illinois, Michigan, Maryland, Kansas, Wisconsin, Oregon, Tennessee, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Louisiana, Arkansas, and of course, California, and there are even a couple from a place called "Seattle, Washington Territory."

None are identical, and many display designs that

were no doubt unique to that individual Sir Knight. Some display the seal of the Commandery from which the Sir Knight hailed. Others combine symbols of the Scottish Rite, as well as those of the York Rite. Many list the Sir Knight's Masonic awards and achievements. One, interestingly enough, lists the name and number of the Sir Knight's Lodge,



Chapter, Council, Com-
mandery, and Consistory,
and at least one also lists
the name of the Shrine
to which the Sir Knight
belonged. All of them
proudly promote Tem-
plary and Masonry.

How many of you
carry cards promot-
ing Masonry or, more
importantly, Templary



with you at all times?
How we promote our
grand fraternity is
very important. It's
in the cards! It's obvi-
ous by these examples
that those who came
before us spared no
expense in promoting
our fraternity. Take
pride in letting those
you meet know that
you are a Mason and a
member of the Knights
knight templar





Templar. It could make all the difference. Remember, as Sir Knight Kenneth Hope pointed-out, one man CAN make a difference.



W.M. A. KELSEY.



Sir Knight Robert C. Hazelton is the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Maine. He resides at 188 Cumberland Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097, and his e-mail address is buckshot0@msn.com.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

1000 East State Parkway, Suite I

Schaumburg, IL 60173

Phone (847) 490-3838

Fax (847) 490-3777



NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

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- | | |
|---|---|
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| No. 5,459 JOHN W. PEARSON (VA) | No. 5,460 RICKEY LEE KELLEY (AL) |
| No. 5,461 MITCHELL C. BARRON (AL) | No. 5,462 HOWARD EARL WALDEN (AL) |
| No. 5,463 JOHN D. LAWTON (CO) | No. 5,464 LYLE D. ADAMS (CO) |
| No. 5,465 ELLSWORTH L. MOYNIER (CA) | No. 5,466 DAVID F. LAPOSTA (WV) |
| No. 5,467 LLOYD E. BRADSHAW (OH) | No. 5,468 JOHN B. HALL (IL) |
| No. 5,469 JOHN ERNEST PORRITT (MI) | No. 5,470 DANIEL C. PRYOR (OK) |
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| No. 5,503 JACK R. EULER (KS) | |

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Correction from May list: No. 102,874 Joseph A. Raubar (NY)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| No. 102,895 MICHAEL A. RILEY (VA) | No. 102,896 MAX ELTON LANTZ (TX) |
| No. 102,897 CHARLES M. WESTBROOK (CA) | No. 102,898 DONALD C. MURRAY (VT) |
| No. 102,899 STEVEN RUSSELL (MA-RI) | No. 102,900 DOMINGO A. GOMEZ (MO) |
| No. 102,901 PAUL E. CROWELL (IN) | No. 102,902 BRUCE W. HAMMOND (TX) |
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| No. 102,915 C. RICHARD LANE (SC) | No. 102,916 ALEXANDER J. JORDON (WA) |
| No. 102,917 HAROLD E. JACKSON (TN) | No. 102,918 JOHN WILLIAM RICHTER (LA) |
| No. 102,920 BRUCE T. FYKES (GA) | No. 102,921 MILES SCANDRETT (CA) |
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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 Commandery credit is 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.



Knight

Items for this section may be submitted by e-mail to ktmagazine@comcast.net. Items send by mail will no longer be accepted.

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

<http://knightstemplar.org/knightvoices/>

■ **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.*

■ **WANTED to BUY:** 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, Oklahoma 74133-1802, Phone 1-918-252-4981. I will answer all inquires-Thank You.

Knight Templar Summer Uniform



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Knight Templar Eye Foundation

knight templar

Voices

■ For sale: **KNIGHTS TEMPLAR SHOULDER STRAPS AND OTHER INSIGNIA**, over 20 different patterns available. See **Grand Encampment /Knight Voices web site** for list or call (386)-304-6157; Cell (386)-871-0842 for details, description, and prices. *Sir Knight Jacques Noel Jacobsen, Jr. PC, 3 Oceans West Blvd. #4A4, Daytona Beach, FL 32118. ALL PROFIT TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION.*

■ **WANTED to BUY:** Daggers, swords and any other military items—U.S., German or others. American Flyer, Lionel or Marx trains or train sets (in any condition). Civil War articles, including, money, stamps (Confederate or Union), and pre-1924 US stamps, German or German (Axis) WW II stamps. Retired Sir Knight Tim Rickheim, 14761 Tunnicliffe Road, Petersburg, MI. 49270-9716/ email: vonRueckheim@hotmail.com or call collect (734)854-3021— I will answer ALL inquires—THANK YOU !!



THE GREATEST AMERICAN by Sir Knight Dale Greenwell is a larger than 9x12 inches, highest quality, and gold and green cover and jacket. The story of WWII Africa and Europe. Photos from General Omar Bradley's personal collection. \$39.95 includes S&H and, \$7.00 to KTEF. This special only from author. P. O. Box 426, Biloxi, MS 39533. **Proceeds to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.**

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.

Photo of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier copyrighted by Jason Maehl.





Photo copyrighted by JustASC.



Photo copyrighted by Andrew Ketchum.



Photo copyrighted by James Steidl.

**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.



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.

Milford Commandery sells “A Song in Stone” benefiting KTEF

A Song in Stone by Walter H. Hunt is a great read about a modern day young man visiting Rosslyn Chapel when he suddenly finds himself in the thirteenth century working his way to becoming a Templar. He knows that the Templars face dissolution and death at the hands of the French King and the Pope. He even meets the Grand Master, Jacques DeMolay but can do nothing to change history. The end is amazing, but you will have to read that yourself. For your hard copy edition, signed by the author, send \$25.00 (postpaid) to Milford Commandery No. 11, PO Box 321 Ashland, MA 01721-0321. All profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

CRAFTING THE MASON

By

Sir Knight Thomas Jackson

The following opinion piece is a speech given by Sir Knight Jackson to Benjamin French Lodge in Washington, DC on Feb. 9, 2005.

I have been asked to speak to the application of change as it can apply to North American Freemasonry in making the initiatic experience a value when introducing one into the craft. Brothers Robert Davis and Kirk MacNulty are far more qualified to address the idealism of the historical application of Masonic philosophy than am I. However, with twenty years experience as a Grand Secretary, I suspect that I am as qualified as anyone else to analyze the obstacles we must face in *Crafting the Mason* in the future of North American Freemasonry.

My brothers, it is important that you understand that when I speak, I speak as one who has spent the last twenty-six years of his life working full-time in Freemasonry. Twenty-two of those years were spent as an officer of the Grand Lodge. Therefore, you must realize that I have full commitment to the structure of Grand Lodge operation. What I have to say, therefore, is not a criticism of the system but of the direction that we have taken with Freemasonry in North America.

It is a sad commentary, my brothers, that North American Freemasonry has been de-emphasizing the significance of the initiation ritual as the foundation of first exposure of the candidate into a new dimension of life. Indeed we have been de-emphasizing the significance of all of our ritual. So why should we be surprised when we see the lack of quality of the ritual that exists today. It would pay us to not forget the old adage that says, "You have only one chance to make a first impression."

For over thirty years I have been expressing a great concern about the future of North American Freemasonry. For many of those years, there were very few of the North American leadership who wanted to listen to anything I had to say concerning that subject. Today, it has become the **dominant** subject of Masonic discussion. Now, the future of North American Freemasonry is seriously clouded, and even its survival must be brought into question.

An observation I made several years ago was that if we continued on the pathway we are following and fail to recognize a need to adapt to what society needs, that we would probably not exist in North America in 25 years, at least not in any form that we recognize today. Please note that the adaptation must be for what society needs, not what society wants. I suspect that this character of the craft might well be paramount for our past success. Our efforts at adaptation in the recent past have been to change into what we feel society wants rather than what society needs. The practice of the philosophy of Freemasonry should always direct that we bring others up to meet with us not climb down to meet with them.

Very few, if any, Grand Lodges in recent years have failed to institute some type of a program designed for the purpose of increasing membership. Indeed, very few Grand Lodges have any other type of major program other than raising money to give away to charities. If other

types of programs do exist, they have the ultimate end of increasing membership, even with the raising of money to give to charity. My brothers, that is not the purpose of Freemasonry. This Craft did not impact the world by crushing it with large numbers or through supporting charities, even though much of our leadership seems to think that to be the case, or at least necessary today, in order to be successful.

Even with all of these programs, however, we have failed in almost every way to even slow down the rate of decline in membership numbers. And yet, we continue year after year to beat the same dead horse. Unless we begin to realize and acknowledge that we are failing to succeed, you can bet that we are going to fail, period.

One of our glaring weaknesses as leaders today is our inability to see the big picture of the Craft. We have become so enmeshed in issues of lesser magnitudes that we ignore the great ones for which the craft is known, and we have become so engrossed with issues that are not paramount to the purpose of Freemasonry that we have ignored those that are.

It is imperative, if we have any hope of succeeding, that we must once again develop a long-range vision of where we are going and where we want to go. If we are going to develop that vision, then our leadership must once again begin to comprehend the philosophical purpose of Freemasonry. We must decide whether we wish to remain simply a funnel for monies into charities or to once again participate in the evolution of civil society. We participated in that evolution in the past by accomplishing our goal of making a good man better.

Please do not feel that my evaluations amount to a condemnation of our present-day leadership. They are simply representative of what amounts to the culmination of an evolutionary process that changed North American Freemasonry from an elite, philosophical, learned, highly respected society into a less than elite, almost ignored organization devoted to charitable objectives.

More than fifteen years ago, I began looking at what was taking place in Australia and suggesting that we should seriously consider a similar program in North America. I made an observation at a Landmark's committee meeting, "that we will never change our old lodges, and if we cannot change the old, there is only one thing left to do, and that is to create new". I am convinced today that creating new lodges of a different style is perhaps our one hope for survival, and that is the intent of an organization that has been created for the purpose. Both Brother Davis and I serve on the council of the "Masonic Restoration Foundation." The MRF is structured to promote the study and understanding of traditional Freemasonry and to provide education and support for Traditional Observance Lodges in recognized jurisdictions in North America.

When discussions first began several years ago regarding a "Foundation for Masonic Reconstruction", we were referring to adopting a European Concept style of Freemasonry. We found, however, that there were those within the leadership of North American Freemasonry who opposed this change, using the rational that North America had its own style of Freemasonry and that we should not change to the style of somewhere else.

Well, my brothers, we can argue all

we wish against changing to a different style of Freemasonry, but like it or not, we are rapidly showing the characteristics of a dying organization while most of the world's Grand Lodges are continuing to thrive. Is it not time that we begin to recognize that all of the programs that we have instituted in the last twenty years to solve our membership issues have shown no major significance in the direction that we are going and begin to study and emulate a style of the craft that is succeeding? I have made the observation during my many years of travel to Masonic jurisdictions around the world, that even though the philosophical purposes of Freemasonry are universally the same, the operational philosophy varies depending upon the environment in which it exists. Thus far I have placed European Freemasonry into a philosophical style, South and Central American Freemasonry into a sociological style, Mexican Freemasonry into a political style and North American Freemasonry into a charitable style. There are probably other styles that exist but I have not been able to pinpoint enough specifics in other regions to define it.

What is significant, however, is that only in the charitable style found in North America has the leadership lost its vision of the purpose of the craft and its obligation to its roots of taking good men and making them better via a stimulus to learn and a commitment of time to the craft. We continue to lower requirements to become a member, requirements to remain a member, and almost any requirement to improve a member.

As a result we have evolved into a form of Freemasonry ignorant of its heritage, its purpose, and its potential. As this self knight templar

perpetuating ignorance increased, it has been followed by an ongoing erosion of the general quality of the membership followed by an increasing rate of decline of not only an interest in membership, but of our image in society; a phenomenon that was highly predictable.

I have spent a considerable amount of time over the last dozen years visiting Grand Lodges as well as subordinate lodges throughout the world, and I am greatly impressed with how much influence they continue to have in the society in which they exist. Freemasonry is probably growing and expanding into new territories at a more rapid rate than it has perhaps in over the last one hundred years, while we here in North America struggle to sustain its life, and we, my brothers, must shoulder the responsibility.

I speak now to what I consider our greatest hope not only of regaining our rightful place in society but of survival as a viable institution. We can continue to de-emphasize the significance of the initiatic experience of the new candidate and ignore our greatest opportunity of impacting him in his introduction to what could very well become his **way of life**, or we can examine its significance in our past or where it retains its significance in the present, and change. I know without the shadow of a doubt that without it, I would not be speaking now. Think back to the impact you felt on that first night that you walked through the preparation room door.

When I began contemplating this presentation, even though I am on the foundation council, I found that I did not fully understand the difference between what we referred to as a European Concept Lodge and a Traditional Observance (T.O.) Lodge. I presented this question

to the president of the foundation, and his response was that “it is so named because of an observance of the traditional initiatic elements of continental European Freemasonry”. He went on to write that “this means the lodges have a very solemn approach to holding meetings and conferring degrees, the chamber of reflection is used as part of the initiation ceremony, they incorporate higher dues and fees, include festive boards, require a strict dress code, have longer time frames between degrees and required learning, along with other nuances. Most European Grand Lodges incorporate these characteristics into their operations. It is perhaps the other nuances that make the greatest difference. A significant goal of the foundation is to create an atmosphere where the members can learn the lessons of Freemasonry and how they can be inculcated into their daily lives.

Very frankly, I find that the definition and practice of a Continental, European Concept Lodge and a Traditional Observance Lodge to be very similar. Much of what is required in a Traditional Observance Lodge will also be found in a European Concept Lodge. The most significant difference is the emphasis placed upon the initiatic process of the individual.

The foundation also recognized early on, that what we were trying to create must operate in full accordance with Grand Lodge regulations in all jurisdictions. The Masonic Restoration Foundation readily acknowledges the supremacy of Grand Lodge authority in any given jurisdiction. For that reason these new lodges must conform to the operating requirements of Grand Lodge law. Out of necessity, this will mean

that flexibility must be an integral part of the goals of the foundation. Each Grand Jurisdiction may show variation in the new lodges created, but in order to be termed Traditional Observance, they will have to meet certain criteria as established by the foundation.

My brothers, this is not an attempt to subvert Freemasonry, but rather, it is a goal to restore Freemasonry to its age of grandeur. Perhaps in the long run the greatest contribution that Freemasonry has made to the evolution of civil society was in providing an environment wherein great minds were stimulated. It was through that environment that it played such an integral role in the age of the enlightenment. Traditional Observance Lodges should be far more suited for that environment.

I have no delusion that I will live to see the impact of what this approach may produce in North American Freemasonry, but I am convinced that it offers our greatest potential to reclaim what our past brothers bequeathed to us.

The greatest challenge that will confront us is that it represents change. We are all familiar with the phrase, “we never did it that way”. Well, my brothers, **we did**. What we have ended up with today is a result of change. What the foundation is looking to do is restoration.


We in North America have excised from the Craft, those intellectual and philosophical standards for which it was known throughout most of its existence. The goal of the foundation is to restore those standards. We have made elitism a dirty word when applied to the Craft. The foundation hopes to restore elitism to the Craft. If we enforce our goal of accepting only **good** men, then we restore elitism.

We have spent far too much time in recent years in seeking excuses to justify failure. It is far past time that we recognize that our failures are our fault. We are the ones responsible for converting North American Freemasonry into something it was never meant to be, and now we are the ones who must shoulder the responsibility of restoring it. Ask yourselves, my brothers, this question; would I have joined Freemasonry when I did, if it were then, what it is today? I doubt whether I would have, and that is not that long ago.

Now we are being given the opportunity to participate in the reconstruction of the Craft and the restoration to its deserved greatness. My brothers, we can restore our influence to impact the ongoing evolution of civil society. It is going to require change, and it is going to require visionary leadership with a commitment to a higher standard for Freemasonry. We have within our power the ability to change the ultimate destiny of our Craft. I would not want for our generation to become a footnote in some future historian's book that it was we who destroyed Freemasonry in North America.

Sir Knight Jackson is a Past Commander of Continental Commandery #56 in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Tom served for twenty years as the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary of Pennsylvania and now serves as the Executive Secretary of the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges having served in this position since its inception in 1998. He is a Past Division Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania and a Knight Commander of the Temple of the Grand Encampment. He resides at 210 Middlespring Rd., Shippenburg, PA 17257, and his e-mail address is twjcowboy@aol.com

knight templar



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Enough about the Hoax !

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

by

Sir Knight John L. Palmer, KCT

Managing Editor

In the last issue, Clement had established judiciary bodies to try the Templars in an attempt to wrestle control back out of the hands of King Philip. Clement either drug his feet or was being extremely meticulous, because it was November 22, 1309, before the Papal hearings began. On the 26th of November, DeMolay again demanded to see the Pope. After some delay, the hearings

began again in February of 1310.

On April 1st, two Templar lawyers, Peter of Balogna and Reginald of Provins, stepped forward to defend the Order and convincingly charged Philip with a viscous and greedy plot against the Templars. Philip, angered and realizing that his torture induced confessions were being retracted left and right during testimony before the Papal commissions, retaliated by hav-



This photo of a copy of an engraving included in the Vatican documents package shows the trial of the ancient Templars before Pope Clement V.



This photo of a copy of an engraving included in the Vatican documents package shows Phillip the Fair of France.

ing fifty-four of the recanting knights burned at the stake as relapsed heretics; a sentence he was not empowered to pronounce. Suddenly, both Templar lawyers disappeared, and on June 5, 1311, the Papal hearings ended.

The Council of Vienne was convened on October 16, 1311, and seven Knights Templar who had thus far evaded arrest showed up as surprise witnesses requesting to testify before the Pope. The Pope and the council consented to hear them. Philip then once again showed up with his troops on March 20, 1312.

Clement, knowing that he was surrounded, issued on March 22nd the document entitled *Vox in Excelso* in which he did not find the Templars guilty as charged, but essentially dissolved the Order forever. A subsequent decision knight templar

dated May 5, 1312 and entitled *Ad Providum* transferred all the wealth and property of the Templars to the Hospitallers thus depriving Philip of the funds as well as the army he had been seeking. A third document entitled *Considerantes Dudum* and dated May 6th set up provincial councils to deal with the fate of individual Templars but reserved decisions concerning the fate of the leaders to the Pope alone.

In December of 1313, Clement instituted a council to decide the fate of DeMolay and the four other Templar leaders. He clearly considered the proceedings at Chignon to have been part of the Templar trial. On March 18, 1314, these leaders, still in the custody of the commission, were abducted at Vespers by the King's soldiers and subsequently burned at the stake without consulting the Pope. Still being ill,

Clement died on April 14th.

As you can see, Dr. Frale does not portray the Pope as a “puppet” of the King, a “weak character”, or a vicious and greedy man, but as a leader of the Church at a time when it was under a very real threat by the King of France. He is shown as valiantly trying to defend the Order while preserving the power and sovereignty of the Church. He was a man surrounded by enemies on every side, legitimately fearful for his own life, and trying to maintain the status quo in the face of superior military force and a completely ruthless enemy.

He finally sacrificed the Order in an attempt to protect the lives of its members and to stop the constant and successful assaults of the greedy and ambitious monarch upon the authority

of the Church. In short, it seems that she thinks Clement got a raw deal in the history books and that the Chinon Parchment helps to prove that.

On the other hand, although Dr. Frale seems to be a premier expert on the Templars and a formidable historian, we should keep in mind that she is, or at least was, an employee of the Vatican. In the end, we will all have to dig out the facts for ourselves about this Pope Clement V and make up our own minds. At least, the good doctor has called our attention to some of the facts which had been, heretofore, somewhat obscure.

Next month, we will take a look at the actual contents of the Chinon document and what the Templars really confessed to while they were not being tortured and try to figure out why they confessed to anything at all.

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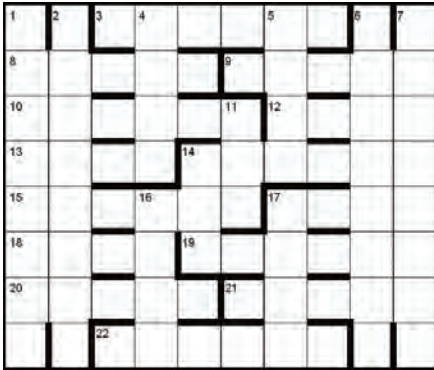
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CRYPTIC (Freemason) PUZZLE
by Loki

Solution in Next Month's Issue



DOWN

1. Sisters who went to restless sleep around 1 A.D. (8)
2. Hairless Richard's sword belt (8)
4. Secret word from long-ago sound? (4)
5. Drink that comes out of percolator (4)
6. Measure taken from beginning of Christian Era over diverging path to cryptic place (8)
7. Entranceway to a crucifix (reversed by marriage) (8)
11. Briefly, it passes through the point in a circle to fetch back help (3)
14. Ideologist uses Roman god (3)
16. Sham modeling scale for a cutter (4)
17. Bagpiper's attire enabled Crockett to do it to a b'ar (4)

ACROSS

3. Clean up a tree (6)
8. The peaceful Spanish capital to the south (2,3)
9. Vatican City's home to rotund character found in Shakespearian play (5)
10. Mantled prophet invoked Eli's laughter (6)
12. Stretch from Long Island to Missouri (4)
13. Identity discovered by directions near the middle of the month (4)
14. It covered the bottom, and paid back reverses (6)
15. Searched, mostly, as it's done with swords (6)
17. Young vixens boxed models (4)
18. Mythical queen of Carthage has done nothing (4)
19. Biblical mount has no dog doctor over fifty-one (6)
20. Great success found at east-central latitude (5)
21. "Big", "Large", are description of bugle's loud sound (5)
22. Ways out describing sinuousness which is real (6)

The 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>.

IN MEMORIAM



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

James W. Roberts
Indiana
Grand Commander 1995
Born: February 12, 1937
Died: April 27, 2009

William Hiram Ealy
Alabama
Grand Commander 1983
Born: April 1, 1926
Died: April 25, 2009



Letters to the Editor



Hey John Palmer:

I offer some comments of mine as follows:

I hope we all have had enough about "The Early Templars" and "A Continuing Analysis of the Mystery of the Trials of Ancient Templars" by now. I liked the article "Brother Bill McKechinie." I liked your write up "A Chat With The Managing Editor" on page 10 and agree with you that "It's good to share this space with the other Masonic bodies." Lastly, although I'm a member of the Commandery #58 Evanston Illinois, I guess my heart is with the Blue Lodge. Since I'm a Past Master, I tend to think your magazine is really the only national one that can speak to all American Masons. It is nice to read stories about famous members throughout the country as well as other interesting stories. I am not sure if you are aware of the "Cup of Brotherly Love" story about a cup that went around the world. It was done well by another Blue Lodge that meets in our temple called Evans Lodge.

Keep up the good work

David N. Woods, PM
Evanston, IL

Thanks, David! We have actually received a good deal of positive feedback on the articles about Templar History. I have a couple of more months worth of material to go on the actual contents of the Chinon Parchment, and then I thought I would like to see a few articles from some of our readers about the similarities and the differences between our Order and

the ancient Templars. It may be time for us to examine our role as modern Templars and the impact we hope to have on society. I plan to run another of Sir Knight Tribe's biographies this fall.

The Ed.



Dear Sir,

I recently read the nice article in the April magazine about the Blue Ridge Parkway. When I lived in South Carolina I traveled the Parkway numerous times. I enjoyed it, and those that have not visited it will enjoy it I am sure. However, I can speak more about the mountains in Virginia at the Northern end of the Skyline Drive.

I spent a very fine four years in Randolph-Macon Academy, a military prep school in Front Royal, Virginia. It is the northern entrance to the Drive. However, I spent many a Wednesday and Sunday horseback riding through the parkway, and I can't begin to tell you the beauty that abounds there and my being able to enjoy it.

I am eighty three, and your article brought many fond memories back to that period of my life. I am looking forward to many more nice articles in the *Knight Templar* magazine.

Sir Knight Walter D. Ogle

As information, that article was written by our Grand Master.

The Ed.



Letters to the Editor



Dear SK John,

You have finally made this thing worth reading. When I first started getting this Magazine I read it to see what was going on in Templary. After a year or two I found it boring and not of much interest to me. I began to toss them out without reading them. When I became an elected officer I started looking at the center section to see what my Grand Commander was up to and that was about all. I would thumb through to see if there were any gems worth my time but I was usually disappointed.

What you have done in the last few months is miraculous. You have made me look forward to reading the *Knight Templar*. You have provided me with informative and thought provoking articles. The full color magazine look is a nice touch. Keep up the good work you are doing a great job

James Green



Been reading some comments being sent to you regarding your "New Look" and here are some of my views. I focus on interesting historical articles about people and places and find it particularly interesting when biographies are written about past fellow brother Master Masons. In your January 2009 issue, there was an extremely interesting article titled "The Chapter in the Tower" by Sir Knight Mark A. Tabbert (page 7). Having been personally to visit the George Washington Masonic Memorial in DC, this article meant more to me because I saw many of the very interesting things that were written about. The article "So What's in the Package" by you (Sir knight templar

Knight John L Palmer, KCT) was another (starting on page 29) I liked. It is particularly a treat for me to find more than one interesting historical article in the *Knight Templar* magazine. Lastly, I make it a habit of providing the magazine as my gift to new Master Mason friends. I believe they enjoy the *Knight Templar* magazine as well.

Keep up the good work
Best in the Brotherhood
David N. Woods



In response to "To Learn" in the March publication written by Sir Knight Richard D. Carver, what a fantastic article; so eye opening. Thank you so much for the enlightenment. I've been a Mason for 25 years and a Past Master of my lodge, and never once did this occur to me. Great article and thank you very much for putting it into print for all to read and learn.

Sir Knight Steven L. Hardbarger



This came in from the web site. It appears we have electronic readers in Great Britain.

The Ed.

I think you have a great site. We are from Strathcone No. 1 Lodge in South Norfolk England.

Lord Duffy

SAM E. HILBURN
Right Eminent Grand Treasurer (1993-2003)
Honorary Past Grand Master
Deceased April 12th, 2009

Sam E. Hilburn was born in Grandfield, Oklahoma on June 15, 1921, and graduated from Wichita Falls High School in 1938. He attended Tarleton State University and Texas A. & M. prior to military service and graduated from Oklahoma University with degrees in Geology and Petroleum Engineering. An independent oil operator in Midland, Texas, he resided there for more than sixty-two years during which time he served in various civic capacities as a member and president of the Midland School Board. He was predeceased by his wife Millie. They had three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. They were members of St. Luke's Methodist Church of Midland where he was a past chairman of the board, lay leader, trustee, and adult Sunday School teacher. He served as chairman of the board of Midland American Bank for twelve years.

His was initiated on December 1, 1949, served as Worshipful Master of Midland Lodge No. 623 in 1959-1960, District Deputy Grand Master of the 81st Masonic District, Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1970, and as the 141st Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

He was a Director of the George Washington Masonic Memorial, President of the Texas Grand Lodge Library and Museum board, and Director of the Masonic Home and School of Texas.

He was District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 44th Capitular District, Grand Orator of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, chairman of the Grand Chapter Purposes and Policies Committee, and President of the Board of Directors of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center.

He was District Deputy Grand Master of the 44th Cryptic District and served on the Grand Council, Purposes and Policies committee.

He served as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas in 1975-76 and as Chairman of the Purposes and Polices Committee. In the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America he served as Chairman of the Finance Committee, Grand Treasurer, and as Trustee and Treasurer of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, U.S.A., Inc. He was elected an Honorary Past Grand Master on August 20, 2000.

He received the Scottish Rite degrees in El Paso Scottish Rite Bodies in 1953, was coroneted with the 33° in 1973, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas, chairman of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital Family Scholarship Fund, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Scottish Rite Dormitory at the University of Texas, chairman of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Texas and of the Educational and Fellowship Program of Texas, chairman of the Scottish Rite Foundation of the Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc., Grand Treasurer General of the Supreme Council Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., and Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Orient of Texas.

Other affiliations include Suez Temple, AAONMS, Chinar Grotto in Houston, Omala Grotto in San Antonio, National Sojourners, Holy Grail Council Allied Masonic Degrees, Texas College SRICF VIII°, Eminent Prior of Texas Priory No. 23 KYCH, Preceptor of Nazareth Tabernacle XXXIV Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Sovereign of St. Alphege Conclave Red Cross of Constantine, Grand Sovereign of the United Grand Imperial Council Red Cross of Constantine, Deputy Grand Governor in Texas, member of the Finance Committee of the York Rite Sovereign College, twice Past Patron of Midland Chapter No. 253 Order of the Eastern Star, Past Chapter Advisor of Midland Chapter Order of DeMolay, Cross of Honor and Honorary Legion of Honor, and State Dean of the State Preceptory Legion of Honor.



Beauceant News



Members of Indianapolis Assembly No. 90 have been working on their major benevolent project, the "Linus Project". The fleece blankets will be donated to Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. Pictured are Mrs. Philip Whisner, PP, and her daughter Ms. Tracy Whisner, 1st Vice-Pres.

The bottom photo shows Mrs. Andrew Jackson, Worthy President, holding up one of the many recently finished blankets.





Knights



at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight John L. Palmer

A review of *The Templars, Two Kings, and a Pope* by Grigor Fedan
Fiction: 317 pages
Publisher: Hafiz Press

Many recent publications on the subject of the ancient Templars have either been fictional pieces with a setting in modern times or have been wild speculation disguised as a serious academic study. This exciting historical novel is set in the last twenty-five years before the ancient Templars were suppressed. The characters are actual Knight Templars and the people they loved, hated, and feared.

Unlike most of the fiction currently being published about the Templars, this book has been painstakingly researched. The places, the battles, and the circumstances are authentic. Many of the characters were real historical people. Those times and those people are long gone, yet Grigor Fedan brings them alive again and gives them personalities, passions, hopes, and fears.

This story is one of the rare ones that is packed full of action for the guys and romance for the ladies. It sort

of reminds me of the popular John Jakes series about American history published back in the seventies.

It tells the story of a nobly born knight, the politics and misfortunes which drive him to join the Templar army, and his quest to discover a great secret that results in his discovering himself. The story is really a saga of this man's pilgrimage through war, religious persecution, and divine revelation.

The detail in this story is incredibly accurate so if you are interested in the day-to-day lives of the ancient Templars, here is presented an opportunity to learn about them and to have a fun read at the same time. This is a great book for an airplane ride or a hammock in the back yard.

Fedan takes one of the more popular mythical legends and weaves it into an exciting drama with a surprise twist at the end, as any first rate novel should do!

**Beauseant Commandery No. 86
Masonic Knife**

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**Solution to Cryptic Puzzle on Page 12
of June Issue**

1	S	W	2	O	R	D	3	A	4	B	O	M	5	B
6	A	R	A	7	B	I	8	C	9	O	10	D	O	R
	W	11	C	R	U	S	A	D	E	12	S	I		
13	M	A	L	T	14	A	L	K	C	E	G			
	I	F	O	C	S	15	F	I	L	T	H			
	L	16	E	C	H	I	D	N	A	S	T			
17	L	A	K	E	18	A	S	S	I	Z	E			
19	S	K	I	R	L	20	A	R	M	O	R			

ACROSS

1. S(wear)+WORD
3. A+BOMB
6. A+RABBI+C-B
9. O.D.+OR
11. CRUS(hing par)ADES
13. MALT+A
15. FILTH homophone of FILLETH
16. ECHIDNAS = SEND CHAI anagram
17. LAKE dbl.def.
18. AS+SIZE
19. SKIRL near homophone
20. ARM+OR

DOWN

1. SAW+MILLS
2. OAR+LOCK
4. BODKINS = SKIN DOB(bin) partially reversed
5. REB reversed > RIGHT
7. BUT+CHER
8. CALF dbl.def.
10. DECLAIM dbl.def.
11. CA (Internet domain for Canada)+FE
12. SETS dbl.def.
14. AS I A(ssume)

The author is a Knight Templar and 32° Scottish Rite Mason who follows Cryptic Crossword tradition by setting puzzles under a crutonym, 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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