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VOLUME LIX

JUNE 2013

NUMBER 6

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The cover photo is of the WW I
monument in Kansas City, Mis-
souri where the new 2013 Easter
observance was held. Photo by
the editor.

Grand Encampment Web Site: <http://www.knightstemplar.org>
knight templar

Grand Master's Message

During the course of my travels in New York over the last six months, I have run into an old friend on two occasions. Mrs. Gale Gould is the Supreme Deputy in New York for the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. She has worked tirelessly for Rainbow for decades, and we have worked together for the New York state Masonic youth organizations since the mid 1990s. She asked if I might be able to attend their annual Grand Assembly session. I just happened to have a free weekend and said I would be happy to attend.



I arrived just in time for dinner. The dining room was full of lovely young ladies in white gowns that you could tell were ready to have fun. They were talking, yelling from table to table, singing, and just enjoying their time together. There were also some of us older folks, advisors, and guests who were not quite as exuberant.

After dinner we retired to the resort theater for the ceremony of initiation and the retiring of the 2012 Grand officers. Frivolity left the girls, and they became dedicated to precise marching floor work and the presentation of perfect ritual. As the Rainbow Girls were marching around the floor, I was thinking to myself how great it would be if our Sir Knights could be as precise. Well, maybe it's the old knees. The conferral of the ceremony of initiation was outstanding. Each of the girls knew their part and the required floor work. It was impressive to me who has seen much degree work, so I can only imagine how impressed the candidates were. The retiring of the officers was a touching ceremony as the retiring Grand Worthy Advisor, Miss Callie Trustchel, returned her crown to the altar after a year of leading New York Rainbow and many years of hard work leading up to it. She has done a wonderful job representing Rainbow, and the crowd properly showed their appreciation.

Although some of you may find it hard to believe, my remarks were relatively short. Having congratulated all who participated, I left them with some food for thought. I noted the great importance of our Masonic youth organizations to the members, how they develop confidence and leadership skills, and how they learn the values of faith, charity, brotherhood, and patriotism, all values that will contribute to the success of the members and to our society as a whole.

Our Masonic youth organizations need our support to flourish in the future. They need our participation as advisors and sideliners the most. They also need financial support to accomplish their goals. Please honor your Masonic and Templar obligations by supporting our great youth organizations.

Thanks, New York Rainbow, for a great evening and for impressing and inspiring those of us who attended!

Courteously,



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Dixon Goodwin".

David Dixon Goodwin, GCT

From the Grand Recorder's Office...

GRAND ENCAMPMENT 2013 DEPARTMENT CONFERENCES

*The 2013 Grand Encampment Department Conferences are open to all Sir Knights.
Please make your plans to attend.*

SOUTHEASTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

H. Ted Burgess, Right Eminent Department Commander
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee
June 7-8, 2013 – Tampa, Florida

NORTHEASTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Thomas X. Tsirimokos, Right Eminent Department Commander
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts/Rhode Island, New Hampshire,
New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont
September 6-7, 2013 – Albany, New York

SOUTH CENTRAL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

T. Michael Fegan, Right Eminent Department Commander
Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas
September 20-21, 2013 – Little Rock, Arkansas

MID-ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Jeffrey G. Burcham, Right Eminent Department Commander
Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland,
North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia
September 27-28, 2013 – Alexandria, Virginia

NORTHWESTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Steven L. Guffy, Right Eminent Department Commander
Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming
October 18-19, 2013 – Boise, Idaho

NORTH CENTRAL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

Lauren R. Handeland, Right Eminent Department Commander
Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
October 25-26, 2013 – Sioux Falls, South Dakota

SOUTHWESTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

David J. Kussman, Right Eminent Department Commander
Arizona, California, Hawaii, Mexico, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah
November 1-2, 2013 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Prelate's Chapel

by

Rev. William D. Hartman, Right Eminent Grand
Prelate of the Grand Encampment



An encounter with the risen Christ is a liberating experience. Paul, in his Letter to the Galatians, says, “for freedom, Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” (Gal.5:1). Paul repeats this same thought in his Letter to the Romans: “for you have not received the spirit of slavery, to fall back again into bondage, but you have received the spirit of kinship.” (Rom. 8:15). Paul recognized an important psychological truth; that too often we forge our own shackles; we enslave ourselves and then find that we cannot free ourselves to live as God intended. Only through Christ can we gain release.

Charles Wesley, 18th century evangelist and hymn writer, captured that idea in one of his most popular hymns, *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, when he wrote: “He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood was shed for me.” Wesley wrote of the truth of freedom in Christ from the only perspective from which it can be written; that of freedom for you and me from the power of sin and death given by God through Jesus Christ.

We must want to give up the shackles that bind us. Many people walked away from Jesus because they were unwilling to give up their own lifestyle, their own comforts, and their own interpretation of things like the “rich young ruler” walked away from the offer of Jesus to follow Him (Matthew 19:16-22). A farmer one day came across an eaglet who had apparently been injured and abandoned. He picked it up, carried it back to his farm, and nursed it back to its normal strength. As the eaglet regained his health and strength, he seemed to become a brother to the chickens in the barnyard as he ate with them. The farmer wanted the eaglet to know the life for which he had been born, so he would pick up this now full-grown eagle and say, “You are an eagle; to the skies you belong,” and toss it into the air. The eagle would flap its wings, circle the barnyard, and then come back down to peck around with his chicken friends. Several times the farmer tried this but each time to no avail. Some weeks later in the early morning, the farmer took the eagle in his arms and carried him to a nearby mountain. There the farmer turned the eagle’s eye upwards toward the lofty peaks. As though the bird could understand, he said again, “You are an eagle; to the skies you belong,” and then tossed him into the air. With a tremor of wild joy and a thrust of its kingly strength, the eagle lifted itself and soared into the sky - its native realm.

As John Gillespie Magee began and concluded his poem *High Flight*, “Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth ... Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.”

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A Chat With The Managing Editor

We published an article in the April issue by Sir Knight James M. Keane entitled "God's Word and Work, The Importance of the Masonic Chaplain." Being a Southern Baptist, I am relatively ignorant about the inner workings and titles associated with the Episcopal Church. I firmly believe that everybody is ignorant, just about different subjects. Believing that anyone who is an Eucharistic Minister and Eucharistic Visitor in the Episcopal Church must surely merit the title of "Reverend," I inserted it before his name in three places. I am informed that this was a grievous error; therefore, I apologize profusely to any that might have been offended by this. The fault was mine.

I have discovered a few of you who attended the High Potential Emerging Leader program last year who have not yet been contacted about this year's training. If you are in this category, please contact Steven Rubinstein at yorkriteemergingleader@aol.com to make sure you haven't fallen through a crack. The schedule can be found at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/dc.html>. Remember that the training is a three year process, and our first graduates will be graduating in September in Albany.

If you are interested in taking the course, there is no charge, but you must be recommended by one of your Grand York Rite officers in order to participate.

June always reminds me of Flag Day. Many of our folks now don't know about the flag etiquette we were taught in elementary school. I guess that dealing with the flag is not as common as it used to be. At least at Masonic meetings we still pledge allegiance to the flag at almost every gathering. One of my pet peeves is for someone to say "play ball!" at the end of the pledge. It was probably funny the first time it was done fifty years ago, but now it is just disrespectful and embarrassing. I guess I'm getting cranky in my old age, but to me the flag is the symbol of all the ideals upon which this country was founded, and as the benefactors of all those ideals, we ought to take the time to learn how to respect it properly.

Maybe your Commandery will have an opportunity this month or next to participate in a parade or other public appearance and demonstrate the patriotism inculcated in our order.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John".

John L. Palmer
Managing Editor
June 2013

Meet Our New Department Commanders

Sir Knight Emilio Attinà

Right Eminent European Department Commander 2012-2014

Sir Knight Emilio Attinà was born in Reggio Calabria, Italy on August 31, 1960. After receiving a degree in Agricultural Science, he became a university researcher in the Department of Agriculture and is a professor of soil chemistry, plant physiology, and molecular biology. In 1991, he was initiated in La Concor dia No. 1038 in the Orient of Reggio Calabria, Italy. In 1996 he was exalted into Reghion Davide Pelaia No. 37 of the Grand Chapter of Free Masons of Royal Arch and since 2003 has served as Excellent Grand Scribe.

He was among the founders of Enzo Di Vece Council in Reggio Calabria and the Alessandro Amarelli Commandery of Knights. He served as Secretary of the College of the District of Venerable Masters in Calabria and as Assistant Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Italy.

He has served as the Ancient Master in La Concordia No. 1038 and was the Secretary of the Ancient Master Council in the Orient of Reggio Calabria. He was exalted in the High Order of Grand Priesthood and served as Eminent Commander of Alessandro Amarelli Commandery. He served as Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Italy and as Illustrious Master of Enzo Di Vece Council. He has received the Order of the Silver Trowel and served as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Italy.

He serves as Grand Deputy of Grande Orient of Italy for the State of Delaware and is a member of the Committee on Dispensations and Charters of the Grand Encampment. He has been initiated into The Grand College of America, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, and the Knights of the York Cross of Honour.

He was awarded the Knight Commander of the Temple and is Jurisdictional Deputy for Italy of the Grand Encampment College of Honors. He was elected High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Free Masons of Royal Arch in Italy and also very Eminent Preceptor Tabernacles Cristoforo Colombo of Italy.

He is a member of Thurman Pace, Jr. No. 1 of the Societas Rosicruciana in Lusitanea Colégio Metropolitano Colégio and an Honorary Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Portugal and Romania.



Photo by John P. Westervelt

Announcing the 2014 *Knight Templar* Magazine Pilgrimage to Ancient Templar Sites

As promised, we have arranged another Templar trip to visit the sites of the ancient Templars. Next year we will go to France, visit at least fifteen ancient Templar sites, and stop at the mysterious Rennes-le-Chateau in the Pyrenees for our avid Masonic scholars. There will be two and one half days in Paris especially planned for the enjoyment of the ladies. Those who want to, may accompany the editor to visit the site of the burning at the stake of Jacques DeMolay exactly 700 years and one month after the fact and the famous Notre Dame Cathedral. Optional guided tours of the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and a dinner cruise on the Seine will also be available.

This 13 day and 12 night tour includes round trip air fare from New York, and pricing should be in next month's issue. It includes admissions, accommodations in four star hotels, transportation, guides, and 17 meals. Just like our last pilgrimage, this will be a first class trip only several days longer and with more time on the ground actually visiting the sites! Discounts will be available for payment by check.

Depending on the number of people who choose to go, the price could go down almost \$1,000 per person. We know that airline prices will vary until we are signed up and lock the tickets in.

The Templar sites on the list currently include:

Commanderie D'Arville
Condat sur Vezere
Sariat
The Commanderie of Sainte-Eulalie de Cernon
La Cavalerie
La Couvertorade
Saint Jean d-Alcas
Le Viala du Pas de Jaux
Carcassonne
Chateau de Montsegur
Foix Castle Commanderie of Bure-Les-Templiers
Voulaines-les-Templiers
Troyes
Coulommiers

The trip is currently scheduled to depart New York on May 6th and return on May 18th. More detailed information to follow next month, or you can contact the editor with questions at (615) 283-8477 or ktmagazine@comcast.net.

A Chronological View of the Crusades c.A.D. 550 – c.A.D. 1325

Part 1 of a series

By

Sir Knight Douglas M. Rowe

Editor's Note

I think that many of you might be just as confused as I am about the history of the crusades and the ancient Templars. We read articles about a battle, a Grand Master, or something else that happened to them, and it is difficult sometimes to put it into the big picture. I think that if you are going to actually understand some of this history, you need two things; a score card to keep up with the players and a time line with a comprehensive list of the happenings in chronological order.

Sir Knight Doug Rowe of Pennsylvania recently shared with me such a time line which he had developed for a paper presented elsewhere. It is just what I had been looking for, so I reformatted it, added just a few things that I thought were important, and decided to print it as a series in the magazine. I think it might be useful as a big picture reference for those of you who are seriously studying ancient Templar history. Because of its length, I will have to spread it across several issues beginning with this one. Perhaps in the future some of you would like to do a little research on some of the players, either individuals such as some of the Kings of Jerusalem, the ancient Grand Masters, or the military and political leaders on all sides or on the groups such as the Mongols, the Moors, the Berbers, the Shiites, the Sunnis, the Cathars, or the Assassins and submit them so we can publish them as sort of a list of the players. Please feel free to do so. I think it would be helpful to all of us.

Initially, this work was begun as a review of John Robinson's book, *Dungeons, Fire and Sword*. Immediately after beginning the book, I realized that chronicling the history of Christian – Muslim conflict from the time of Mohammed in the mid-7th century A.D. until the suppression and disbanding of the Knights Templar in the early 14th century was a much larger task than a simple book review.

The object of this article is to track and logically follow the ebb and flow between Christian and Muslim control of the Holy Land. Before addressing the actual conflict, I detailed the background of Mohammad and his early successors in an attempt to set the stage for the first Christian invasion of the Holy Land. Although Mohammad lived some four and a half centuries before the Crusades, the Muslim theology he knight templar

laid down was virtually unchanged during that period. Islam rests on five pillars of faith as follows:

Five Pillars of Islam

- First: Shabada** There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger
- Second: Salab** Pray five times per day
- Third: Zakah** Charity to poor and needy
- Fourth: Sawm** Fasting during daylight for Holy Month of Ramadan. Holy month ends with the new or Crescent moon
- Fifth: Hajj** Pilgrimage to Mecca

It is perhaps the first pillar, Shabada - There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger, that was the true foundation of the bloodshed to come. True believers in Islam could not accept the existence of other religions. This intolerance taught that armed warfare to spread the true word of Allah was not only accepted but demanded of the truly Islamic righteous.

Robinson's work is an extremely detailed and complex history of the role the Knights Templar played in the Crusades. However, to provide an accurate chronology in the detail I wanted, I needed additional sources of references. A partial list of those sources can be seen at the end of this article. For all but the professional historian, tracking events and persons during the roughly two hundred years of Knights Templar existence becomes an impossible task. One particular difficulty is tracking individual Christian Kings and their assumed titles, i.e. Baldwin I, Baldwin II, etc. The similar situation arises and is even more complicated on the Muslim side as names and places are less familiar to western readers. Overlaid on top is the obviously difficult and often inexact or confusing translation of Arabic words, terms, and names into English. For example, specific places have both Christian and Muslim names, neither of which may correspond with the modern.

In similar fashion, I detailed the situation in Christian Europe prior to the beginning of warfare with special attention to the creation and early history of the Knights Templar. My research uncovered much conflict and little agreement on the early Templars. Conventional thought has attributed the creation of the Order of the Temple as a force of protectors for Europeans visiting the Holy Land. While that fact is or maybe be accurate, the role of the early Templars was far more involved. In the first decade of their existence, the order consisted of less than a dozen Knights, which posed the obvious question as to how much protection could be provided to how many pilgrims. A discussion of the myths and early history of the Templars is not within the scope of this article.

I have arbitrarily elected to break the article into three time periods and create a linear time line of events and persons involved. My arbitrary time periods are as follows:

- Part 1: The Birth of Muhammad c.550 A.D. to the First Crusade, the Creation of the Knights Templar, and the founding of the Kingdom of Jerusalem in c.1150 A.D.
- Part 2: c.1150 A.D. to the Crusade of King Louis IX c.1250
- Part 3: c.1250 A.D. to the end of Templar order in c.1325 A.D.

I have adopted a format which has a graphic time line of events with narrative explanations.

Conclusions

From a purely military viewpoint, the Crusades were a decisive victory for the Muslims. The Christian high water mark of two centuries of warfare was in the first two decades of the conflict. Following the rise of Nur ed-Din and Saladin in the mid-1100s, the Christians were gradually driven north toward Europe. Christian controlled territory never again reached the extent of that held in the twenty years following the initial invasion around 1100. Despite the tens of thousands of casualties on each side, the death total paled in comparison to the great plagues that were to devastate Europe and the Middle East in the following five or six decades. The Roman Catholic Church emerged from the Crusade era as the sole unified political force in Europe. Despite the justified harsh criticism of the Church as a reactionary force retarding social and scientific thought for the next several centuries, the unified Church can be credited with preserving western civilization during the 200-300 years of the Dark Ages. The armed and trained Christian Crusaders can be credited as one significant factor in halting the invasions from the East of the Mongols and preserving Christianity. The returning Crusaders, victorious or not, brought back to Europe parts of Muslim culture, consumer goods of the day, and Arabic thought and scientific knowledge. A modern logical comparison can be made with the American troops returning from Europe at the close of World War I. (How can you keep the boys down on the farm after they have seen Paris?)

Time line entries noted by c. are events occurring over a period.

Time Line

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 570 | Muhammad was born in Mecca to a prosperous merchant family of the Hashimite Tribe. |
| c.610 | Muhammad receives divine words from God. |
| 622 - 623 A.D. | <p>Muhammad flees Mecca to Yathrib. The Arabic for the "The City" becomes the English word Medina.</p> <p>Muslim Year 1 - Muhammad was taken into the sky aboard a white half mule-half donkey named Buraq; meets earlier prophets, Moses, Abraham, and Jesus; refuses wine; and climbs a ladder through</p> |

knight templar

strata from Hell to Heaven.

- 625 Muhammad returns to Mecca in triumph.
- c.630 Finishes writing Holy Words – Koran or Qur'an
- 632 Muhammad died without naming a successor. Abu-Bekr announced the death and became Khalifa, which becomes the English word Caliph. The word was slow to reach distant tribes, and civil dissention began immediately. Caliph Abu-Bekar sent an army to quell rebellion.
- 640 Abu-Bekr conquered Jerusalem.
- 646 Abu-Bekr conquered Alexandria.
- c. 650 Abu-Bekr died and was succeeded by Umar ibn-Khattab of the Umayyad tribe as the second successor.
- c. 655 Umar ibn-Khattab was killed in battle and succeeded by Uthma ibn-Affan, another Umayyad.
- c. 660 Ali ibn-Talib of the Hashimite tribe assumed the role as a second Caliph, and the Hashimite and Umayyad tribes began clan warfare.
- 691 Caliph Abd al-Malik built Haram-es-Sharif in Jerusalem on site of Solomon's temple. The Arabic word for the farthest Mosque is al-Aqsa.
- c. 600-700 The tribes split into followers of Ali, the Shiites based in Egypt, and followers of the Path, the Sunni based in Damascus.
- 710 The Muslim Invasion of Spain was led by Tariq. The Arabic words for Mount of Tariq became the English word and place Gibraltar. The now Islamic Moors conquered Visigothic Christian Hispania. Their general, Tariq ibn-Ziyad, brought most of Iberia under Islamic rule in an eight-year campaign. They moved northeast across the Pyrenees Mountains but were defeated by the Frank, Charles Martel, at the Battle of Poitiers in 732. The Moors were the medieval Muslim inhabitants of Morocco, western Algeria, western Sahara, Mauritania, the Iberian Peninsula, Septimania, Sicily, and Malta. The Moors called their Iberian territory Al-Andalus, an area comprising Gibraltar, much of what is now Spain and Portugal, and part of France.
- 732 Battle of Tours in Spain. Christians were led by Charles Martel who defeated Tariq, deciding Europe would remain Christian.

- c. 1075 The Muslim world split between Shiite control in Egypt and Sunni control in Damascus, opening the Holy Land, Israel, to Crusader invasion from the North.

To be continued next month

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Sir Knight Douglas M. Rowe is Grand Recorder of the Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, a member of the Editorial Review Board of the *Knight Templar* magazine, and a Pennsylvania Master Masonic Scholar. He can be contacted at gndrec1@verizon.net.



Night view of Al-Aqsa mosque with Olive Mountain as background
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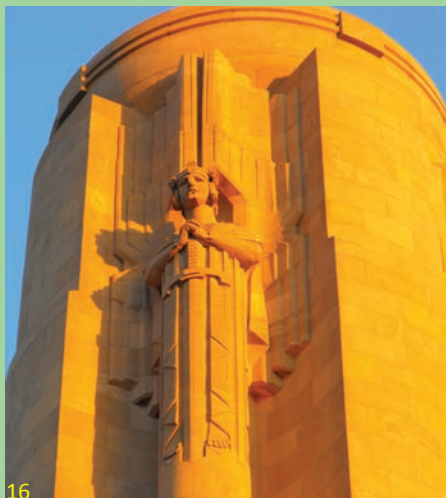
2013 MIDAMERICA EASTER OBSERVANCE

By Sir Knight David Bingham, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander of Kansas

On a crisp and clear Easter morning at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, the Grand Encampment's Midamerica Easter Observance set out on its first pilgrimage. As the sun rose that day, Most Eminent David Dixon Goodwin, Grand Master, led the charge with more than 100 Sir Knights from all over the Midwest with Knights from New York, Kentucky, Texas, Alabama, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Arizona in attendance as well. There was also a significant presence from the co-host Commanderies of Kansas and Missouri, the attendance totaling more than 200.

The Social Order of the Beauceant was in on the charge as well, with Supreme Worthy President, Mrs. Joe (Lelani) Cortez, in attendance as well as several ladies from the surrounding Beauceant assemblies. The message was brought by Sir Knight William Hartman, Grand Prelate, with a powerful spirit to go with it. In addition to the Easter service, there were 85 Sir Knights and ladies who attended the banquet on Saturday night. Everyone enjoyed a laugh as well as the good food!

We had a great time at the Midamerica Easter service, and if you did not make it, please plan to join us next year on April 20, 2014. You won't want to miss it!



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Letters to the Editor



Dear Brother Palmer;

John Palmer, Editor:

A little over sixty-seven years ago I was raised in a little lodge in Iuka, Illinois while I was on a short leave from the service and have tried to live up to my promises.

In doing that, I have read practically all the information that has become available to me regarding the craft. Some of it I am not sure I understood, but in the September issue of *Knight Templar*, which I read from cover to cover, I came across your article "The Symbolism of the Cable Tow in the Symbolic Degrees."

Having been raised in wartime when the whole world seemed to be in a rush, I only barely understood the "cable tow" section. Your article just happens to be the first one I have seen that throws a little more light on it, and I simply want to tell you it is one of the best articles of a great many that I have read that deals with Masonry. It is not only informative but well written and easily understood.

I admire your writing ability and dedication to the craft and commend you for it and wish to personally thank you for all your effort. It is outstanding, and once I was able to connect the dots and associate your name with the *Knight Templar*, it makes perfect sense!

Keep up the good work, and please accept my sincere compliments.

Fraternally yours,

Lemuel Douglas Middleton
103 Pepper Bush Lane,
Shavano Park, TX 78231-1416
Dmiddleton@aeii.net

knight templar

Another fine issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine. I especially enjoyed the item on the Temple Church in London and the item on the fob.

The item on the Knights Templar Eye Foundation award was lacking in information on the location of the site for the research. There was much information about people and department names but no information as to location of the facility in which the department and people are located. Normally, the Grand Commandery officer in the picture is identified by location but in the October 2012 issue, there was no specific reference for Sir Knight White except that he is with the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Perhaps location information can be included in future Knights Templar Eye Foundation grant release information.

Thank you for your fine efforts with this monthly periodical.

Fraternally,
David P. Miller, PC

David,

David White was the Grand Commander in Tennessee, and from the sign on the wall behind them, I presume that the presentation was for the University of Tennessee medical school in Memphis. Your point is well taken. Thanks! Sometimes we can't see the forest for the trees.

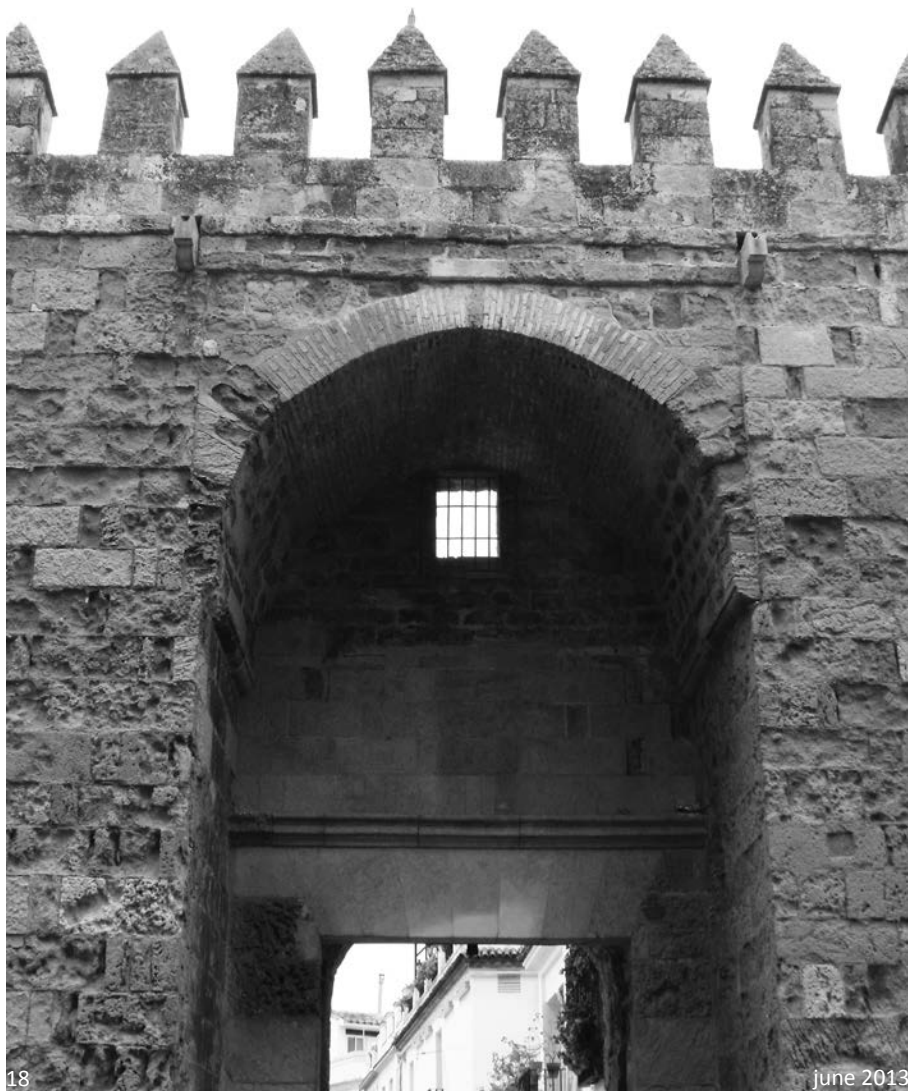
The Ed.

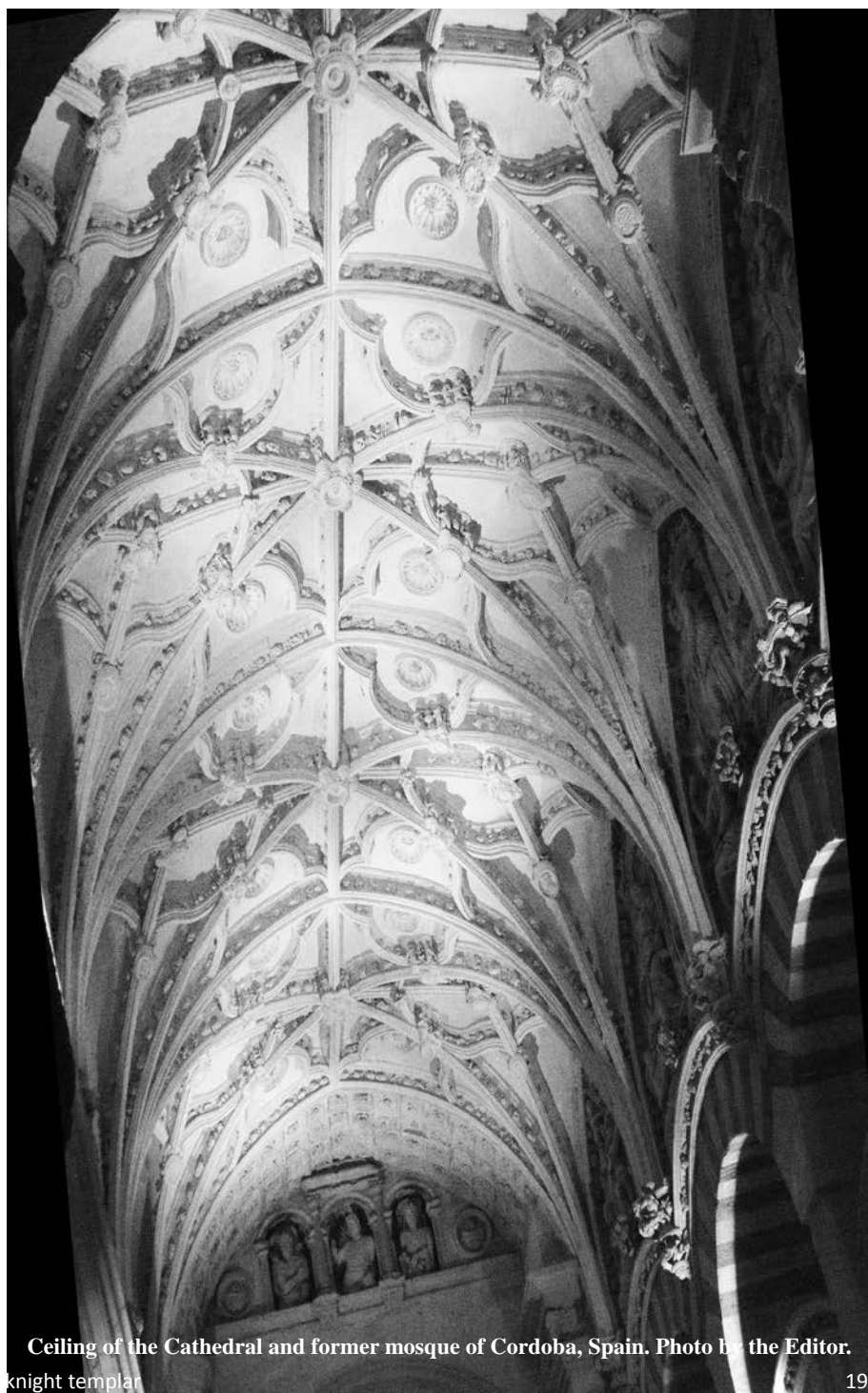
Continueud on page 20.

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.

Gates of the city of Cordoba, Spain. Photo by the Editor.





Ceiling of the Cathedral and former mosque of Cordoba, Spain. Photo by the Editor.
knight templar



Letters to the Editor



Continued from page 17

Sir Knight Palmer,

I have two reasons to contact you aside from the fact I think you are doing a great job. First, as to the apron in the back of the August Issue, while it does appear to be one of ours, it is not. It belongs to The Ancient and Illustrious Order of the Knights of Malta. They were at one time a large organization in the mid-Atlantic states with their national headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They still exist, and their current headquarters is in Washington, DC. Most of their regalia resembles ours and is easily mistaken as ours, but it is not.

I would also like to address Sir Knight Love's letter in the September issue. While it is true that we don't hear or see much about the other parts of our obligation, it does not mean they are not there nor that there is nothing to do about them. As a Past Commander, what did you do to meet these requirements? As the Marine Corps taught us, adapt, overcome, show some initiative. We here in New Jersey have no "official" policy as to these obligations, but our Grand Commandery does support "The Wounded Warrior Fund" as do most of our York Rite Bodies. As the Past Commander of Olivet No. 10, let me say this; unless you live in "wonderland," you have food banks in your area, and we constantly have food drives. Is there a Salvation Army post nearby, a homeless shelter, and a women's shelter? They are all look-

ing for any help they can get. Both our lodges and our Commanderies are involved in service to the veterans homes in the state, and they love to see us show up in uniform for special occasions. If you want things to change, change them. You are the leader. As Ghandi said "be the change you wish to see in the world." Don't sit back and point fingers; do something; any move in the right direction is better than nothing and ten times better than looking for an excuse to do nothing.

We here in New Jersey are not perfect, never were, and never will be. We can only try to do better today than we did yesterday. This may be part of the reason the Grand Encampment has been asking how our numbers continue to grow while other states shrink. While we do these things regularly and don't put it in print for all to see, we all also took a vow of humility.

Sincerely,

Newlin R. Williams, PC
Olivet No. 10, New Jersey

Sir Knight Williams,

I think Sir Knight Love and you are both right. Now we know not only what needs to be done but also who should be doing it!

The Ed.

Sir Knight DeWitt Clinton, First Grand Master of the Grand Encampment

By
Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., P.G.C.

“Pleasure is a shadow, wealth is vanity, and power a pageant; but knowledge is ecstatic in enjoyment, perennial in frame, unlimited in space, and indefinite in duration.” — DeWitt Clinton

As Chairman of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar History Committee for the current triennium, I felt it might be appropriate to author a series of articles on some of the more notable Grand Masters of the Grand Encampment. I chose to begin with our first Grand Master, DeWitt Clinton, whose eminence extended beyond the boundaries of Freemasonry and Templary. (Depending on the source consulted, his first name is spelled either Dewitt or DeWitt. I will use the latter style.)



DeWitt Clinton was born on March 2, 1769, in New Windsor, Orange County, New York, the son of James Clinton (1736-1812), a veteran of the French and Indian War and a Continental Army General of the American Revolution, and Mary DeWitt (1737-1795), a descendant of early Dutch settlers in New York. Four sons resulted from this union, of whom DeWitt was the second.

Young Clinton's early education was begun by a Reverend Moffat, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in the community where he was born. In 1782 he was transferred to the Academy of Kingston, one of the few public schools that had not been disrupted during the

Revolutionary War. Kingston itself had been sacked and burned, but its Academy had managed to continue its mission unimpaired. In 1784, after he had mastered all its curricula, his father removed him from the Academy and carried him to New York to be enrolled at Columbia College, where he was admitted to the junior class. Clinton proved to be a very capable student and graduated in 1786 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with highest honors.

After graduation he entered upon the study of law and was diligent in his studies, and his admission to the bar took place after the usual course of three years study and passing the examination prescribed by law. However, before he could establish a practice, the direction of his life was changed. His uncle, who happened to be the governor of New York, had need of a person both of great capacity and unquestioned fidelity as secretary. (This post had been filled by the elder brother of DeWitt Clinton, who unfortunately drowned in the Hudson.) Thus, from 1790 to 1795, Clinton filled the post of private secretary to the Governor, abandoning the profession of the law and entering into the career of politics. The life of Clinton was subsequently to become one of political strife into which he threw all the force of his

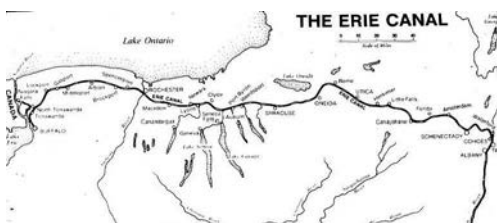
ardent personality and brilliant talents, and in which he acquired but few close and really attached friends and made many bitter enemies.

During this period, he was raised in Holland Lodge No. 16 (now No. 8) on September 3, 1790, and served as its master in 1793. He was knighted in "Holland Lodge" May 17, 1792.

He then served in the New York state legislature from 1797 until 1802, where he pushed for the passage of sanitary laws, the relief of prisoners for debt, and the abolition of slavery in the state. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1802 but resigned a year later to become Mayor of New York City, an office he held from 1803 to 1807, 1810, 1811, 1813, and 1814. While Mayor he organized the Historical Society of New York in 1804 and was its president; he also organized the Academy of Fine Arts in 1808. He served as lieutenant governor of New York 1811-1813. In 1812 Clinton ran for United States President under the Federalists and anti-war Republican nomination but was defeated by James Madison, Madison receiving 128 electoral votes to Clinton's 89.

Politically, perhaps Clinton's greatest claim to fame was his championing the construction of the Erie Canal. A canal connecting the Hudson River at Albany to Lake Erie at Buffalo was an early dream for New York settlers. Such a canal was needed to connect the eastern and western parts of the state be-

cause of overland traveling difficulties and impediments as well as to provide an avenue for commerce to Lake Erie and beyond. The distance proposed for the canal was 363 miles, longer than had ever been attempted in the United States. The project was considered impossible by many who cited lack of funds, untrained engineers, and difficult terrain. Clinton, then mayor of New York City, believed that such a canal was vital to the interests of his state. Wanting his city to be perceived as being as progressive and cosmopolitan as Boston and Philadelphia, Clinton threw all his political weight behind the project, beginning a canal fund and enlisting the support of future President Martin Van Buren in the state senate. He enthusiastically backed a popularly supported petition to the legislature, demanding that a canal be built; eventually, it carried over one hundred thousand signatures. Impetus for the project increased during the early teens, surveys continued, engineers were trained in England and Holland, and the federal government was expected to provide partial financial aid. In 1816, the plans were delayed when the *Bonus Bill*, the vital legislation for national funding, was vetoed by President James Madison. Clinton, although he did not have adequate state funding at the time, decided to go ahead with his plans. As he was running for state governor at the time, he could not delay the canal any longer. However, the veto of the *Bonus Bill* fortified the state's sense of resolution and independence, and by April of 1817, a canal bill was passed, guaranteeing funds for the completion of the project. On July 4, 1817, ground was broken at Utica, New York and construction began si-





Horses Pulling a Barge on the Erie Canal

multaneously to the east and west.

The building of the Erie Canal continued for eight years. As Clinton's political fortunes varied, so did the popularity of the canal project. Often known as "Clinton's Ditch" and "Clinton's Folly," the canal and its supporters were frequently criticized by the New York press. Clinton, who had won the governorship in 1817, was voted out of office in 1822 and removed from the Canal Board by his political enemies in 1824. Using his "martyrdom" and popular support, Clinton rode the excitement as the canal neared completion and was re-elected as governor in 1825, in time to preside over the Erie Canal's opening ceremonies in October of 1825. The celebration lasted ten days as Governor Clinton traveled the length of the canal in a packet boat, receiving plaudits at every town.

The canal provided outstanding revenue for the state of New York. Making a profit in its first year, the canal steadily made money until the tolls were abolished in 1883; this was not usually the case with later canals. Also unique to the Erie Canal was the fact that it survived the rise of the railroads. The tonnage on the canal continued to increase well past the time of the Civil War, finally peaking in 1872.

The year 1825 was marked by an incident which produced a change in the New York political scene and for a time

upset the calculations of the most experienced politicians. A certain William Morgan, residing at Batavia in Genesee County, had undertaken to publish the secrets of Freemasonry. This had been resented by some overzealous brethren of the Craft, and Morgan was abducted, never to be seen again, and was assumed by many to have been murdered by the Masons. Clinton, as we have seen, became a Freemason at an early age and had been elected to the highest offices of the Fraternity. In this capacity, it appears from his correspondence that he was repeatedly asked for advice as to the nature of the Masonic obligations. Replies to such requests occur in his letters long before the excitement caused by the disappearance of Morgan arose. They are of consistent wording and declare Masonic obligations to be lesser in nature to the duties of the man, the citizen, and the Christian, to which, if found in opposition, they, in his opinion, should in all respects yield. When Clinton became a candidate for re-election in 1825, the fact of his being a Mason was made use of by his political foes in an attempt to weaken his popularity.

The opponents of Clinton were unable to decrease his established popularity with the people, but that very popularity was the cause of overconfidence on the part of his friends. From this cause, the vote was smaller than that of the previous election. It was estimated that from twenty to thirty thousand voters did not put in their ballots and that all of these were persons, who had they voted, would have voted for Clinton.

In spite of this, he was re-elected by a majority of upward of four thousand. He did not, however, waver in the strict

fulfillment of his duties. Every power of his mind and every prerogative he possessed as governor were called into action for the purpose of bringing the Batavia offenders to justice, and the anxiety he felt that the supremacy of the law should be vindicated seems to have pressed upon his already declining health. On the other hand, he could not avoid expressing his surprise that the unauthorized and disavowed acts of a few ill-judging persons should be made the grounds of proscription against all the members of the Masonic fraternity.

In addition to his interest in politics and public improvements, he devoted much study to the natural sciences. Among his published works are a *Memoir on the Antiquities of Western New York* (1818) and *Letters on the Natural History and Internal Resources of New York* (1822). He also had the distinction of being pictured on the \$1,000 United States note, series of 1880.

Turning now to his Masonic career,

Royal Arch Masons of the United States from 1816-1826. He served as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of New York from 1814-1828 and as Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States from 1818-1828.

The birth of the Grand Encampment in the United States is not without interest. The most important event in this era of Templar history was the organization in 1805, at the city of Providence, of the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. This is especially true because the Templars responsible for its organization were almost identically those who subsequently in 1816 participated in the organization of our present governing body.

Thomas Smith Webb, founder of St. John's Encampment in Providence in 1802, presiding officer from 1805 to 1817 of what is now called the Grand



he served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York from 1806-1819. He also served as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of New York in 1798 and General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter

Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and Deputy Grand Master from 1816 until his death in 1819 of the General Grand Encampment of the United States, was born in Boston in 1771, and was made a Mason in New Hamp-

shire in 1792, a Royal Arch Mason in Philadelphia in 1796, and a Knight Templar sometime previous to 1802, either in Temple Encampment at Albany, in a Philadelphia encampment, in the Boston Encampment, or in the Old Encampment of New York City, all four of which still claim the honor. He was the author of several successive editions of *The Free Mason's Monitor*; was an organizer of great ability; and had an attractive personality, a winsome manner with indefatigable energy, and a great versatility of language, both written and oral, all which joined in making for him the high reputation which he has since held as a Masonic ritualist and organizer. He has been said to have invented the American system of Templary, and there is no doubt that he, along with Fowle (see below), was responsible for the present impressive ceremonies, not only of the Templar order but, in a large measure, of Craft Masonry and the Royal Arch system. He died suddenly on July 6, 1819, while on a visit to Cleveland, Ohio and was buried there just shortly prior to the second Triennial session of our Grand Encampment. His remains were subsequently removed to the North Burial Ground at Providence, Rhode Island where a monument of white marble has been erected to his memory.

Henry Fowle, first Sovereign Master of Boston Encampment of Red Cross Knights and Grand Master of that Encampment when it was reorganized as a Templar body in 1806, which office he held until 1824, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island from its organization in 1805 until 1817, then its Deputy Grand Master and subsequently its Grand Master from



1820 to 1825, was named Grand Generalissimo of the General Grand Encampment at its organization in 1816 and was elected Deputy Grand Master at the Triennial Conclave in 1819. Sir Knight Fowle was a member of St. Andrew's Chapter of Boston, where he received the Knight Templar degree on the 28th of January, 1795. He was a great friend of Webb and a ritualist of a very high order. He was a well-known lecturer, and his powers of organization made him, when working in conjunction with Webb, a potent factor in all branches of Masonic work. To the efforts of these two men is due the organization of what is known at present as the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island and also that of our present governing body to which reference will be made later.

DeWitt Clinton, as we have seen, was a lawyer, a statesman, and a patriot and with Webb and Fowle formed a combination to which is largely due the present status of Templary in the United States. The Grand Encampment of New York was organized in 1814 and was in a great measure an outgrowth from the "Sovereign Grand Consistory," a purported Scottish Rite body organized by Joseph Cerneau.

There were thus in existence in 1816 three sovereign grand bodies of the Order: Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and New York, in addition to which there were isolated encampments working in Connecticut, Maryland, and South Carolina. The great organizers, Webb and Fowle, having about twenty years previously launched the General Grand Chapter of the United States, endowed by their state Grand Encampment with more or less authority, along with some Templars from New York, held

a convention in Philadelphia on June 11, 1816, where they met with delegates from Pennsylvania and endeavored to organize a United States Grand Encampment. Opposition developed thereto on the part of the delegates from Pennsylvania who refused to concur in the adoption of a proposed constitution, preferring rather their own ritual, their own customs, and their own powers of government, being influenced largely by their connection with the Mother Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, to which they were then and until 1857 subject. Unsuccessful in their efforts but still undaunted, Webb and Fowle stopped over in New York City on their way home and there, within ten days, organized what is today the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America; adopted a constitution, carefully prepared by Webb, which remained essentially unchanged until 1856; prepared a roster of officers substantially the same as at present; and named candidates for those offices from their two state jurisdictions, Webb and Fowle wisely subordinating themselves to Governor Clinton, whose civil position along with his Masonic record and his powerful



influence rendered him eminently fit to act as Grand Master of the organization. It remained only for the Knights of Massachusetts and Rhode Island and New York to ratify this action and make such changes in the constitution of their different bodies as were thereby necessary.

DeWitt Clinton died suddenly while still in office on February 11, 1828, in Albany, New York. He was reinterred in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York in 1844. His grave and monument are shown at left. In February 1998, the Freemasons of New York added a plaque to his monument listing his civil and Masonic offices, shown below. Unfortunately, the plaque contains an error. It lists Clinton as the first General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter. This is incorrect. That distinction belongs to Ephraim Kirby who served as General Grand High Priest from 1798-1804. Clinton served as General Grand High Priest from 1816 until his death.

Sir Knight Marshall is a Past Grand Commander and Past Grand High Priest of Alabama and is currently serving as Grand Illustrious Master of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Alabama. He is the author of several articles and book reviews in the *Royal Arch Mason* and *Knight Templar* magazines. He can be reached at geomarsh@yahoo.com.



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Knights of Malta fortifications, Rhodes.



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Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage - 2013. Group 1 in Jerusalem at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

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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.



Beauceant News

On February 8, 2013, Denver Assembly No. 1 honored their past presidents with a delicious 123rd birthday luncheon prepared by Sister Mrs. Mark King followed by their regular meeting. During the meeting, President Mrs. Tim Miller gave a



delightful history of our order, explaining that 2013 was also a special year as it was 100 years ago that the name of the Denver Lodge No. 1 SOOB was changed and became Denver Assembly No. 1, Social Order of The Beauceant. Until that time,

the SOOB stood for "Some of Our Business." It was also at that time that the ritual which we now use was adopted. Another exciting event of 1913 was the constituting of Boulder Assembly No. 2, with 59 ladies riding the train from Denver, 30 miles west, to welcome in the new Assembly.

At a meeting held on Friday, February 8, 2013, the sisters of Denver Assembly No. 1 celebrated the 123rd anniversary of the founding of the "Some Of Our Business" society which ultimately became the Social Order of the Beauceant.





Knights



at the Bookshelf

By
Brother Bruce W. Barker

Templar Eclipse at Runestone Hill, by Gunn Sinclair. Published in 2012 by Robert Voyles, ISBN 978-1-47751-117-6.

Because of today's prolific use of historical fiction and the use of popular titles and subjects, I was a little suspect in reviewing this book. Surprisingly, I found *Templar Eclipse* to be well written for the age group intended.

Lately, it seems that authors tend to use this genre to weave a story or to present an opinion of events in addition to the known facts or places in history. Gunn Sinclair creates a story that steers clear of this tendency while still highlighting the fact that accepted understanding of history may differ from the truth in its historical context.

The target age of this book is well served by a light plot that flows well. The characters are both believable and relevant, and the story stands on its own even if it were not based on historical places, cultures, iconic elements, and intrigue.

Although I anticipated and later desired to have had more Templar content included in the story, there was a consistent and adequate presence of the Templar theme to create a desire in the reader to want to learn more about the Templars and Runestone Hill as well as about early American Indian cultures beyond what is available in textbook presentations. It is in that regard that I find this book worth recommending to younger adolescent or pre-adolescent readers.

This book is not an alternative history or even a direct tale of Templars endeavors surrounding the Runestone Hill Legend in Minnesota, but this does not mean it misses the point. It does include specific references to times and places and creative inclusions of subjects such as the "hooked X" to connect it all together. The added use of cultures, moral dilemmas, and realities of oral and written histories within the story add to the relevance which might encourage a reader to appreciate that understanding history is a process in which you can participate, and that reading it can be entertaining.



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Mark 13:26

Arenal Volcano, Costa Rica. Photo by the editor.

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