



# Knight Templar

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# Knight Templar

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

# Grand Master's Message

August has rolled around, completing the first year of the 66<sup>th</sup> triennium of the Grand Encampment. The year has gone by very fast, and I sometimes really wonder just where it went.

Your officers have been very busy on your behalf. We have conducted Department Conferences, visited Annual Conclaves of the Grand Commanderies, visited our sister Masonic organizations, attended meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and visited Grand Lodges and some foreign jurisdictions. Everywhere that we go, your Grand Encampment is held in high esteem both within the fraternity and within the eye community.



We are presently developing the structure for the next series of Department Conferences starting in September. Please plan on attending. We guarantee that you will learn something that will help you with your Commandery or other Masonic organizations. These conferences are open to all Sir Knights regardless of rank. We will be looking for you soon!

## Mark the date now!

**The 66<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar**  
**Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo, NY**  
**August 8-12, 2015**

The 66<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave Committee invites you to come to Buffalo, New York for an enjoyable time in August of 2015. We will be planning trips to Niagara Falls for those who may be interested. We are planning to go to the United States and the Canadian sides. Please remember that you will need passports to enter Canada and return. Mark you calendars now and plan on joining us in Buffalo.

Please plan on attending your Grand Commandery's Annual Conclave this year. We look forward to meeting with you and learning your thoughts about our Templar Masonic order. We need your input so that we may continue to improve our fine Christian order.

Courteously,

A stylized signature of David Dixon Goodwin in black ink.

David Dixon Goodwin, GCT  
Grand Master

knight templar

The future is ours! We must seize the moment!  
Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar.

# Prelate's Chapel

by

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



**T**wenty years ago I was privileged to participate in a dedication ceremony of a statue at the Civil War battlefield in Gettysburg by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. It was a brand new sculpture, and thousands of people had gathered for the occasion. Of course, the statue was draped, and curiosity was high as to what it would look like when the wraps were taken off. Then, at the precise moment in the ceremonies, the Grand Master, assisted by the other Grand Lodge officers, gathered around the statue, each with a rope in hand, to unwrap this magnificent piece of sculpture. When the signal was given, each pulled his rope, and the draping fell off to the “oohs” and “aahs” of all assembled. The morning sun had broken through the clouds and shone full on the glistening, polished, and colored marble. It was indeed an awesome sight, the seeming perfection of a moment of history caught in stone for all posterity.

Even this magnificent experience was feeble in comparison to the moment when God took off his wraps on a mountain in Palestine long ago. It staggered the onlookers more than that crowd in Gettysburg in 1993. It began when Jesus took Peter, James, and John up to a mountain to pray. While praying, Jesus’ face began to shine with the intensity of the sun, and his clothing became blindingly white. Then Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with him about his departure. On that mountain that day, God took off his wraps, and fishermen’s eyes that were used to seeing a mass of squirming fish in a great net now looked on their master clothed with a glory brighter than the sun. It was like looking through a knothole in a fence to see a glorious mansion beyond. The voice of God the Father said, “this is my Son; listen to him,” and that voice comes down to us still today. Nobody can listen enough to our Lord.

With that voice of God, the miracle was over. There was only Jesus standing before his disciples, just as he was when they had come up the mountain hours before. The centerpiece of it all was the same Jesus, the Galilean carpenter who was also the beloved Son of God. As he was the centerpiece on the mountaintop that day, so he is intended to be the centerpiece of all life for all persons in all ages in the majesty of his love and his holiness.

When Jesus is the center of our lives, then indeed all is well. On the Mount of Transfiguration, God gloriously took off his wraps for us to see his divine majesty in his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus the Christ. It is enough for us to see and to live by until we behold him face to face in all his majesty and glory, when all voices are lifted in song to proclaim him “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

# **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.*

### **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



# Your invitation to join us on a Knight Templar Pilgrimage to France May 6-17, 2014

## 12 DAY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 10 night-accommodations at the following hotels or similar
- 1 night Hotel Belloy Saint Germain Paris
- 1 night Hotel Mercure Brive-La-Gaillarde
- 2 nights Hotel Mercure Millau
- 2 nights Hotel Le Donjon Carcassonne
- 1 night Hotel Holiday Inn Dijon
- 3 nights Hotel Belloy Saint Germain Paris
- 10 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 3 Dinners
- Sightseeing per detailed itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach (7 days)
- Services of English-speaking escort/guide per itinerary (7 days)
- Local guides as required
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Portage of one piece per person on arrival and departure at each hotel (not at the airport)



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## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

**May 6, 2014** Depart JFK in NY for your International flight R/t to Paris, France.

Optional add on air fare may be added at an additional cost from other gateways to join your group in JFK for your international flight. Call for details.

**May 07, 2014** Upon arrival at CDG airport, the group will be transferred by private coach to Paris. For your first day in Paris, enjoy a panoramic tour of Paris with guide - you will see : Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower (photo stop), Jardins du Trocadéro, Montmartre, Notre Dame Cathedral, and more! Check in in the afternoon at your hotel located in the heart of Saint Germain des Prés, in the Latin Quarter of Paris.

Overnight: Hotel Belloy Saint Germain  
Meals: No meal included

**May 08, 2014** Meet your guide and driver and start your 2-hour ride by private bus to the discovery of the Knight Templar First stop - COMMANDERIE D'ARVILLE. A 2-hour guided tour will be dedicated to explore the site, founded by the Templars in the early 12th century. The Commanderie remains, regarding the importance of the present buildings, a unique monument and one of the best preserved in France. After the visit, you will be driven to Brives la Gaillarde (4 ½ hour to 5 hours ride)  
Overnight: Hotel Mercure Brive-La-Gaillarde  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (3-course meal without drinks)

**May 09, 2014** Morning tour of the medieval town of Sarlat. This town is well known for its medieval heritage, in the heart of a beautiful region and a landscape full of superb feudal castles. The old town has a Templar cemetery around the cathedral, where you can see a number of tombs marked with the distinctive cross. There is also a curious tower in the form of an arch known as the "lantern of the dead". In the afternoon, you will be driven to Millau. (3 ½ hour drive) Visit the House of Causse - glove manufacturer of Millau, founded in 1892 and supplier of Chanel, Vuitton, Hermès. - Optional - if times allow  
Overnight: Hotel Mercure Millau

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

**May 10, 2014** Visit of the Larzac plateau, where the Knights Templar took possession in the 12th century thanks to the gifting of land to the order and from which the revenue served to maintain the Knights in the Holy Land. 10.00am - arrive at Sainte-Eulalie de Cernon, and visit the commanderie of Sainte Eulalie (1h30)  
2.00pm - visit La Cavalerie (1 hour)  
4.00pm - visit La Couvertoirade (1 hour)

Free time in la Couvertoirade to visit the traditional shops  
Overnight: Hotel Mercure Millau  
Meals: Breakfast

**May 11, 2014** 2nd day of your discovery of the Larzac: On the way, you will have the occasion to view the world record tallest bridge, Viaduc de Millau, culminating at 343 metres (higher than the Eiffel tower) and 2460 metres long. (15 min stop)

10.45am - Saint Jean d'Alcas

12.30pm - lunch inside the Fort

2.00pm - Le Viala du Pas de Jaux

After the visit, you will be driven to the fortified town of Carcassonne

Overnight: Hotel Best Western Le Donjon Carcassonne

Meals: Breakfast, lunch

**May 12, 2014** Today visit the cathar sites of Montségur and Foix in the Ariège Pyrenees. Chateau de Montségur: Situated at an altitude of 1,207 meters, Montségur castle is built on a natural site. The guided visit will allow you to hear all about the dramatic history of Montségur, conjuring up the lives of the Cathars on this mountain, the episodes of the siege until their horrendous end, burnt at the stake in 1244. The Foix Castle houses the collections of the Ariège Département Museum, where you can discover a range of themes as varied as the County's history, war in the Middle Ages and prisons in the 19th century. Before returning to your hotel, visit the church and village of Rennes-le-Chateau - known internationally for being at the center of various conspiracy theories, and for being the location of an alleged buried treasure discovered by its 19th-century priest Béranger Saunière.

Overnight: Hotel Best Western Le Donjon Carcassonne

Meals: Breakfast

**May 13, 2014** Drive to the Burgundy wine-growing region where you will visit the Commanderie of Bure-Les-Templiers. You can still see the "square courtyard", and the church "treasure" with a tombstone. Explore the village of Voulaines-les-Templiers which keeps alive the memory of another important commandery.

Overnight: Hotel Holiday Inn Dijon

Meals: Breakfast

**May 14, 2014** On the way to Paris, you will first make a stop in Troyes to visit its cathedral of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The site was originally occupied by an oratory in the 4th century, then a cathedral was built in the 9th century, and immediately destroyed by the Normans (or Vikings). A Romanesque style building was constructed in around 940, and was the seat of the Council of Troyes. This Council confirmed the important role played by the Order of the Knights Templar in about 1129 and its application of the Saint Benedict rule. The building was destroyed yet again 160 years later. A gothic cathedral was finally built in around 1200, but building continued up to the 17th century and was never fully completed! In the afternoon, stopping before returning to Paris we visit the Hugh de Paynes Museum in Paynes and Commandry of Avasseur, in Bar-sur-Seine

Overnight: Hotel Belloy Saint Germain

Meals: Breakfast

**May 15, 2014** Full day at leisure

Overnight: Hotel Belloy Saint Germain

Meals: Breakfast

**May 16, 2014** Full day at leisure. Farewell dinner in Paris and lot of memories to share!

Overnight: Hotel Belloy Saint Germain

Meals: Breakfast, dinner (3-course meal without drinks)

**May 17, 2014** Transfer to CDG Airport

Meals: Breakfast

Cancellation: Once a partial or full payment has been made, cancellations will only be accepted in writing. Cancellation terms will be applied based on the date that the written cancellation is received and based on the following dates prior to departure.

## PRELIMINARY RATES

From 20 to 24 passengers = **\$4,075**  
per person dbl. Includes R/T AIR

Allowance from JFK-Paris - Based On 2014 Estimated Group Air Cost of \$1,126 pp. Exact group air rate to be advise by late July 2013. Optional add on air cost to be advised from other US cities to connect with your group in JFK on request. Single occupancy room surcharge + \$1,400 additional. Guest paying by check and not a credit card may also reduce the above special group rates by an additional 5%

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# A Chat With The Managing Editor

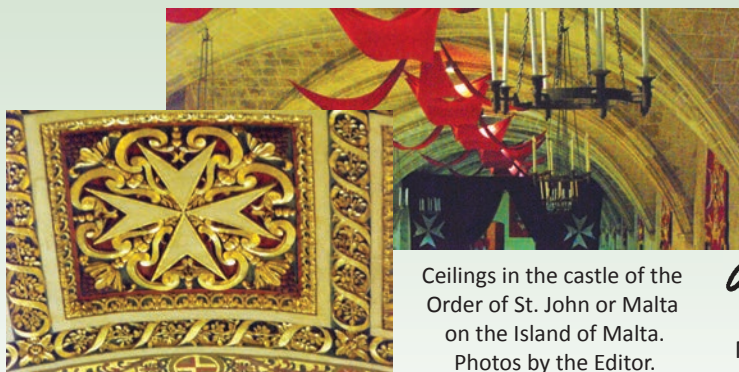
As I grow older, I find myself listening and observing a lot more. I probably should have started at an earlier age, but in those days I already knew everything I needed to know, right? I noticed a phenomenon at one of the York Rite regional conferences I attended this past year. As you know, there are separate sessions attended by the high potential emerging leaders (i.e. young guys who will be leading us in the future) and the current leaders, primarily the grand officers in the York Rite bodies from each jurisdiction in that region (i.e. the old guys like me who are currently in positions of responsibility). There was a striking difference in focus between the two groups.

The young guys in the leadership classes who had, by and large, paid their own registration, hotel bills, meals, and transportation were generally really focused on making the most of the time spent at the conference. Many even stayed after the session to ask questions and discuss some of the leadership concepts.

By way of contrast, many of the current leaders who were already in positions of responsibility were focused on how soon they could get out of their session in the afternoon, and indeed, several of them left early even though their session was nearly two hours shorter than the leadership training session. I think that most of these guys were having their expenses paid or at least subsidized by their respective organizations.

I am not sure what caused this. Maybe we tend to value things more if we have to pay for them. Whatever the cause, the optimist in me believes that when these younger leaders finally take the reins of our organization, we can expect great things of them compared to what we have seen in the past. I just hope that after we get these guys trained, we will actually appoint and elect them to positions of leadership.

Finally, on page 6 you will find what I believe to be the final and best information about our magazine pilgrimage to Templar sites in France next spring. Several have already committed to go. We will be observing the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of Jaques DeMolay in Paris about two months after the actual date on the actual site. Hope you will join us!



Ceilings in the castle of the Order of St. John or Malta on the Island of Malta.  
Photos by the Editor.

John L. Palmer  
Managing Editor

august 2013



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

Part 3 of a series

By

Sir Knight Douglas M. Rowe

## Time Line

### Christian Control of Jerusalem and the South (continued)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Jan. 1185 | King Baldwin IV died, and his son, Baldwin V, became the uncrowned ruler of the Kingdom of Jerusalem with Raymond of Tripoli as Regent again.   |
| Aug. 1186 | Baldwin V died, and Guy of Lusignan, husband of Baldwin IV's sister, was named to throne of the Kingdom of Israel as Guy I.   |
| Jul. 1187 | Saladin defeated King Guy at Hattin, and the captured Templars were publicly beheaded. Saladin attacked Jerusalem from the north, taking the Christian cities of Sidon and Beirut and made a tactical error by leaving Tyre in Christian control. King Guy and Templar Grand Master, de Ridfort, were captured. King Guy traded the city of Ascalon for his freedom, and de Ridfort traded the Templar stronghold at Gaza for his freedom.  |
| Oct. 1187 | Saladin captured Jerusalem and rode into city on the anniversary of Muhammad riding into heaven on the donkey or mule, Buraq, and Jerusalem was cleared of all Christian signs and buildings. The Templar headquarters in al-Aqsa was converted back to a mosque, and Saladin held the first Muslim prayers on October 9 <sup>th</sup> . Christians held Tyre and the territory in the North, but most of Holy Land was firmly in Muslim control. Pope Urban III died and was succeeded by Gregory VIII who appealed to every European monarch to organize another Crusade to free the Muslim controlled Holy Land. He called for every Christian to fast every Friday for next five years. Gregory served as Pope for only two months and was succeeded by Clement III. Clement III appealed to Henry II |

of England, Philip Augustus of France, and Frederick I of the Holy Roman Empire. Henry II and Philip agreed to fund and join a Crusade. Henry imposed a "Saladin tithe" on all English subjects with the Templars appointed as tax collectors. Henry and Philip, i.e. England and France, began hostilities before a Crusader army could be formed.

- Mar. 1188 Frederick of Holy Roman Empire took a Crusader vow, and Saladin continued raids on Christian cities.
- Dec. 1188 Saladin captured Kerak.
- Aug. 1189 King Guy with a large force of Templars laid siege to the Muslim city of Acre, and the Templar Grand Master was captured and killed by Saladin outside of Acre.
- 1190 Henry II died and was succeeded by Richard the Lion-hearted who made peace with Philip of France. They headed to the Holy Land with separate armies and a large force of Templars.
- Jul. 1190 Richard and Philip joined armies in Vezlay in south of France and sailed by different routes.
- Mar. 1191 Philip joined the siege of Acre while Richard remained trapped on the island of Rhodes.
- Jun. 1191 Richard and his army arrived at Acre, and Robert de Sable was named Templar Grand Master which had been vacant since death of de Ridfort in 1189.
- Jul. 1191 The city of Acre surrendered and agreed to pay tribute if its citizens were not killed.
- Aug. 1191 Richard broke his agreement and slaughtered several thousand Muslims. Then Saladin immediately retaliated by killing all Christians who were held captive. The Muslims named Richard "The Butcher of Ayyadieh" while Christians named him "The Lion-Hearted."
- Oct. 1191 – Mar. 1192 Richard and Saladin battled to a standstill and agreed on another truce. Christians got Beirut, and pilgrims were permitted to visit and worship in Jerusalem while Saladin retained control of the city.
- Jun. 1192 Saladin battled the Shiites from Kurdistan, and Richard broke the truce and marched on Jerusalem.
- Aug. 1192 The Templars moved their headquarters to Acre, and Saladin attacked Jaffa.

Oct. 1192	Saladin withdrew his attack on Jaffa, Richard returned Ascalon to Muslim rule, Henry of Troyes was crowned King Henry of Jerusalem based in Acre, and Richard and Saladin agreed on a five year truce. Richard was captured by Duke Leopold on his way back to England and was freed after the payment of a huge ransom. [Editor's note: See photo on page 32.]
c.1192- 1193	The Third Crusade halted the Muslim advance and gained minor territory in Holy Land while Jerusalem and most of the Holy Land remained under Muslim control.
Mar. 1193	Saladin died leaving seventeen sons and two brothers; his son al-Azaz held Cairo, his son al-Afdal held Damascus, and his son al-Sahir held Aleppo.
c.1194	Genghis Khan was named the leader of all Mongols and began an expansion east.
1199	Richard the Lion-Hearted was killed, and Gilbert Erail was elected the 12 <sup>th</sup> Templar Grand Master.
c.1200	Pope Innocent III tried to solidify secular Europe and began forming another Crusader army.
1201	Templar Grand Master Erail died and was replaced by Philip de Plessiez.
Jun. 1202	The Crusader army left for the Crusade against Greek (Christian) Byzantium.
Apr. 1204	The Crusader army captured the city of Constantinople and looted its treasure.
May 1204	Count Baldwin of Flanders and Hainault was crowned King of Byzantium, and Pope Innocent III became the sole authority over all the Christian Church. Innocent III released the Crusaders from their pledge to go to the Holy Land and redefined the goal of future crusades to extend the power of the Pope and not to specifically free the Holy Land.
c.1205	The Pope sent legates under protection of the Templars to convert heretic (Christian) Cathars who refused to recognize the authority of the Pope. Innocent III called for a Crusade against the Cathars in southern France, and Arnald-Amalric was named to head the army against the Cathars. The Crusader army captured the French city of Beziers and slaughtered 20,000 citizens in the name of God, and the Pope established the doctrine of burning one hundred innocents as preferable

to allowing one heretic to go unpunished, the rationale of Inquisitions to follow in 1223 with Gregory IX founding the Holy Roman and Universal Inquisition. Simon de Montford from the Constantinople looting was named the new head of the Papal army, introduced burning at the stake as a new method of execution, and sanctioned public torture, i.e. cutting off of noses and lips and gouging out eyes.

- 1208 Innocent III targeted King John of England for taxing Church property and threatened to excommunicate him. Philip of France agreed to lead a Crusade against John of England, and the Templars were ordered to support Philip against England. John of England accepted the Pope's terms and placed all of England under "His Lord Pope Innocent III and his Catholic successors." Philip disbanded the army and declared that France would not participate in future calls to arms from the Pope.
- 1210 Templar Grand Master Plessiez died, and William de Charters was named the 14<sup>th</sup> Templar Grand Master.
- c.1213 King Pedro II of Spain lead an army against Grand Master de Montford and the Templars impinging on Spanish territory in southern France and abandoned southern Spain to the Muslims while battling fellow Christians in France. Pedro was killed in battle, and the Albigewisian Crusade against de Montford ended.
- c.1215 Muslim raids on Christian held parts of Holy Land increased under Sultan al-Adil, and John Brienne was crowned King John of Jerusalem and asked the Pope for a new Crusade to free the Holy Land in 1217 when the current truce would expire. King John of England also requested permission from Innocent III to sanction a Crusade to the Holy Land in 1217 when the current truce would expire, and Innocent III called a Lateran Council, believing that the time was nearing for a great Christian victory by his interpretation of a verse found in the Chapter of Revelations: "Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man and his number is six hundred three score and six" i.e. 666. Muhammad was born in 570 A.D. and 1236 would represent his 666<sup>th</sup> year. The council approved absolutions and indulgences to be granted to the Templars.
- Jul. 1216 Innocent III died, Cardinal Savelli was installed as Honorius III, Honorius imposed a 5% Crusade tax and appointed the Templars as tax collectors, and the Crusader army left Europe

without a clear leader.

- Nov. 1218      The first wave of Crusaders left the city of Acre on an eastward march toward Damascus, Muslims fortified Damascus and Jerusalem in advance of the army, and the Templars created a new fortress at Athht and renamed it Chastel Pilerin, (English name Castle of Pilgrims). King John of Jerusalem with a Crusader army lead the invasion up the Nile river to city of Damietta. Sultan al-Adil died in Cairo and was replaced by son al-Kamil; al-Kamil's brother, al-Mu'azzum, declared himself ruler of Syria; Cardinal Pelagius arrived in Egypt as the Papal choice to lead the invasion, replacing John of Jerusalem; and Sultan al-Adil moved Muslim forces to the city of al-Adiliya up river from Damietta.
- Aug. 1219      Templar Grand Master de Chartres died, and Spanish Pedro de Montaigne was named the 15<sup>th</sup> Grand Master.
- Aug. 1219      French Francis of Assisi and al-Adil negotiated a truce, offering Crusaders the cities of Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem in return for Crusader withdrawal from Egypt. Cardinal Pelagius rejected the al-Adil offer, and the City of Damietta fell to the Christians. Al\_Mu'azzam of Damascus moved his army into Syria, and al-Adil broke off the battle with Christians and moved his forces to halt the invasion of Syria. The Mongols invaded the Christian territory of Turkey presenting a new and unforeseen threat.
- Apr. 1221      Frederick, the Holy Roman Emperor, sent fresh troops to Egypt, al-Kamil defeated the Crusader army south of Damietta, and the Fifth Crusade ended with the Christian forces surrendering Damietta and withdrawing from Egypt.
- c.1222-1224      The Christian and Muslim truce following the fall of Damietta held, and trade between Muslims and Christians increased with the Templars gaining huge wealth. King John of Jerusalem sought a successor from outside the Holy Land, and his daughter, Yolanda, married widowed Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II with the agreement that John would remain on the throne of Jerusalem until his death.
- Jul. 1223      Philip of France died leaving a huge treasure to the Templars.
- c. 1224      Saladin's Muslim empire was divided among three brothers, all nephews of Saladin, Iraq or Mesopotamia to al-Ashraf, Damascus to al-Mu'azzum, and Egypt to al-Kamil. Frederick agreed to join al-Kamil to fight against al-Mu'azzam and to receive Jerusalem in return.



Mar. 1227	Pope Honorius III died, and the Cardinal of Ostian became Pope Gregory IX.
Aug. 1227	Gregory IX petitioned Frederick to send more troops to the Holy Land under the command of Duke Henry of Limburg.
Jan. 1228	Gregory IX excommunicated Frederick for disobedience by leading troops to Holy Land, Yolanda died, and Frederick's claim to the throne of Jerusalem disappeared.
Jun. 1228	Frederick landed in the Holy Land, AL-Kamir invaded Syria and took Jerusalem, and Gregory IX excommunicated Frederick for a second time. Al-Kamil and Frederick reached an agreement, giving Jerusalem and Bethlehem to Frederick with the Muslims retaining Hebron, al-Kamil retained the right to maintain Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, and the Templars were denied permission to return to al-Aqsa Mosque.
Mar. 1229	Frederick entered Jerusalem and crowned himself King of Jerusalem while still under Papal excommunication.
May 1229	Frederick returned to Europe.
c.1230	Frederick and Gregory III reconciled, and the excommunication was voided with the following terms: Churches in Sicily and Southern Italy would be returned to Pope, Frederick would have no say in naming Bishops, and confiscated land and property would be returned to the Templars.
c. 1230-1239	Constant civil war persisted among the European Monarchs, i.e. Frederick vs. John of Ibelin, King of Cyprus, and similar internal strife on the Muslim side ensued as Saladin's united empire disintegrated into an unstable and divided rule thirty years after his death. Gregory began a call for a new Crusade.
1239	Grand Master de Montaigu died, and Armand de Perigold was named the 16 <sup>th</sup> Templar Grand Master. The Duke of Burgundy, Count Peter of Brittany, and Count Henry of Bar were the first to take up the cross for a new Crusade to be led by Tibald of Champagne.
Sep. 1229	Tibald and the Crusader army landed in the city of Acre. The Templars and the arriving Crusaders disagreed on the first target, the Templars favoring Egypt to preserve the lucrative trade with Syria and the European Crusaders favoring a march on Damascus. Tibald agreed to attack Cairo, and the army took Ascalon near the Muslim held city of Gaza. The

Egyptian army under Sultan an-Nasir defeated Tibald outside of Gaza and reoccupied Jerusalem, the Templars negotiated a truce between an-Nasir and Ismail of Damascus, and the defeated Tibald was permitted to make a pilgrimage into Jerusalem and then to return to Europe. The latest Crusade was considered an abject failure as Gaza and Jerusalem remained under Muslim control. The Templars began a struggle against the fellow Christian Order of Hospitallers over control of trade routes, and Rukn ad-Din Baibars appeared among the Muslim warriors.

- Oct. 1241      The Templars attacked and captured the city of Nablus and slaughtered the population.
- 1243      The Templars reached an agreement with Ismail of Damascus allowing Christians free access to Jerusalem, the Muslim Imams withdrew, the Templars began rebuilding the walls and reclaimed al-Aqsa Mosque as the base of their operations, and Louis IX of France took a vow to lead a Crusade.
- Aug. 1244      A new enemy in Kwarismian Turks invaded the Holy Land from the north, taking the city of Tiberias and threatening Jerusalem while the Templars defended Jerusalem against overwhelming odds with aid from an-Nasir attacking from Egypt.
- Aug. 1244      Kwarismian Turks occupied Jerusalem, allowing Christians free passage from the city. These were the last Christians to pass through the walls of Jerusalem for over four centuries. Fleeing Christians tried to return to the city, and five thousand were massacred by the Turks who looted the city and desecrated the Christian holy sites before leaving the city to attack Egypt.
- Oct. 1244      The Templars, lead by Grand Master de Perigord, met five thousand Muslims under the command of Rukn ad-Din at La Forbie near Gaza where five thousand Christians including de Perigord were slaughtered by the Turks who swept north through Palestine and captured the last Christian city of Acre.
- Apr. 1245      The Turks with aid from the Egyptians under Sultan Ayub took Damascus.
- c.1247      Sultan Ayub reestablished the empire of his uncle, Saladin, from fifty years earlier, and William Sonnac was named the 17<sup>th</sup> Templar Grand Master.

**To be continued next month**

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## Letters to the Editor



The letter published in the December 2012 *Knight Templar* from David L. Meissner offended me as I am sure it did many others. Your editorial response is greatly appreciated and not only showed you as a thoughtful Sir knight, but also as a great patriot.

Courteously and Fraternally,  
Sir Knight Gerald E. Goacher



Dear Sir Knight John:

Thank you for the ever-improving magazine. It seems to be more interesting each month. Excellent choice of subjects.

Sir Knight James A Beverley,  
Dallas Commandery No 6. Texas



Sir Knight Palmer:

In reference to the letter in the January 2013 issue from Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, I doubt that the "lack of record tends to minimize the knowledge of the award," because very few of the members actually are aware of the content of the records.

However I do concur with his concern about any "lack of record." As an amateur genealogist and historian, I am often concerned about things missing from the records. In the Fraternity in general, we seem to only keep records of what happens in an official tiled meeting. All too often there is no record made of the unofficial events like fraternal visitations, public service awards, member-knight templar

ship awards, golden anniversary awards, community participations, etc.

When generations that follow set out to review the historic records left by their predecessors, then they will miss out on learning of most of these types of events.

One way to correct for this "lack" is for the responsible committee chairmen or presiding officer to report on these events at the next meeting, and thus have his statements become a part of the recorded history, albeit a meeting-cycle later.

However, for meetings like the Triennial Conferences, the three-year time lag becomes a bit awkward. In such cases, the activity should be sufficiently stated for the recorded minutes before the event. In situations involving some degree of confidentiality or surprise, the recorded minutes might note that the chair reserves until after the event, the right to revise and extend the specifics into the written records of the current meeting. This could allow for a more timely inclusion in the records.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Sir Knight Hugh T. Hoskins  
Golden West No. 43  
Bellflower California



John Palmer, Managing Editor:

In the February 2013 issue of *Knight Templar*, there stands a beautiful picture of the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia submitted by you.

**Continued 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.





Granada, Spain. Photos by the editor.



knight templar



## Letters to the Editor



Continued from page 17

It's such a great structure and I would urge any of the Brothers who haven't already explored it to see it. Among many of the floors on exhibit, they will see a donation of a fine Oscar Isberian rug. Oscar was quite a guy and was a brother of my Lodge. It was my pleasure to see the Memorial, the rug, and all the rest of the exhibits there. Best,

Dave Woods, P.M.  
Wayfarers Lodge No. 1001  
Evanston, IL



Dear Sir Knight Palmer,

Just want to commend you on the fine work you are doing with the *Knight Templar* magazine. The content has been improved during your tenure, and the use of color greatly improves the "reader eye appeal."

Your editorial comments about the Knight Templar uniform even gave me a chuckle when you referred to the uniform as "resembling a nineteenth century navel uniform." While the uniform does cover the navel, I'm certain that you meant to say "naval."

On the subject of uniforms, I believe that I once read an article which stated that the uniforms came into use shortly after the Civil War when many surplus military uniforms became available at bargain prices.

Unfortunately I don't recall the source of this information, so I cannot verify it. (Maybe you could check it out on Google!)

Fraternally,  
Bill Block, P.C.  
Samuel S. Yohe Commandery No. 81  
Stroudsburg, PA

*Sir Knight Block,*

*Whoops! Would you believe I proofed that six times? It brings to mind my first experience of the rude awakening that spell check will betray you. Many years ago when I was an IT professional and had installed the company's first e-mail system, I sent out the first e-mail intending to welcome the users to the world of electronic messaging. After reading my e-mail, one of my co-workers found it amusing to inform me that he wasn't aware that we offered the service of electronic massaging. I don't suppose you would believe me if I said I put that in there to see if anyone was paying attention would you?*

Thanks!

The Ed.



Dear Sir Knight Editor:

May I compliment you on having assembled an outstanding issue of the *Knight Templar*. From your forthright statement of your opinions, to the very thought provoking and informative article by Sir Knight Tom Jackson, Sir Knight Tribe's biographical sketch on Brother and Noble Mel Blanc, which should please those who have commented on the recent lack of similar articles, to the interesting history on Capitular Masonry. I found much to enjoy and contemplate.

Thank you again.



## Letters to the Editor



Randall Foster, Claremont Commandery  
Rockland, ME



In this letter I hope to explain page 11 of *Morals and Dogma* for Reverend Donald Heacock.

Brother Pike wrote *Morals and Dogma* when we were a conservative nation. The war between the states had just ended and Lodges across our nation were experiencing revival. This is what he has said to us on page 11.

"The *Holy Bible*, Square, and Compasses are not only styled the Great Lights of Masonry, but they are also technically called the furniture of the lodge, and as you have seen, it is held that there is no Lodge without them. This has sometimes been made a pretext for excluding Jews from our Lodges, because they cannot regard the New Testament as a holy book. The *Bible* is an indispensable part of the furniture of a Christian Lodge only because it is the sacred book of the Christian religion. The Hebrew *Pentateuch* in a Hebrew Lodge, and the *Quran* in a Mohammedan one, belong on the Altar; and one of these, and the Square and Compass, properly understood, are the Great Lights by which a Mason must walk and Work."

Listed there are three (3) different lodges... Christian, Hebrew, and Muslim. True, he tells us that the candidate's book of faith is to be on the altar, but he does not tell us to remove the *Holy Bible*. That simply cannot be done and be properly tiled. The *Pentateuch* is included. As Masons, we must understand Islam and knight templar

the *Quran*. For instance, the god of the *Quran*, is not the God of the *Holy Bible*, or the *Pentateuch*. We know that the *Holy Bible* teaches God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Allah of the *Quran* cannot be the God of the *Bible*. For a Muslim to say so is an unforgiveable sin (shirk). The greatest sin a Muslim can commit is to say "Allah is a trinity of persons." In fact at (Sura 37:152) in the *Quran*, it says that if anyone says so he is a liar. In (Sura 4:171) the *Quran* says "say not Trinity" for Allah is one God glory to him.

A question on our petition asks, "Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you firmly believe in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures?" If a Muslim candidate says "yes" to this question he commits a sin (shirk).

The Grand Master of Texas has made it clear in his charges (VI,2) that we are of the catholic religion.

Sir Knight James D. Robbins  
Ivanhoe Commandery No 8  
Bryan, Texas



RE your chat with the managing editor: Right on Sir Knight Palmer. I agree with you 100% on the content of your chat in the March issue of the *Knight Templar*. Please count me in as one of the 110,000 members who think you have done a great service with this chat.

Sincerely,

Leland D. Cobb, Jr.  
Washington Commandery No. 1, CT

# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*

Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting

## PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY GRANT REVIEW 2013

**T**he Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. supports research that can help launch the careers of clinical or basic researchers committed to the prevention and cure of potentially blinding diseases in infants and children such as amblyopia, cataract, glaucoma, optic nerve hypoplasia, nystagmus, and retinopathy of prematurity. It supports clinical or basic research on conditions that can or may eventually be treated or prevented.

Each year the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. invites eligible investigators to submit applications for pediatric ophthalmology grants:

- Career-Starter Research Grants - up to \$60,000 per grant. Applicants for these grants are at the beginning of their academic careers and must have received a M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree.
- Competitive Renewal Grants - up to \$60,000 per grant to extend the original 2012 grant project for one additional year if the data accumulated in the first 7 months of the original grant awarded in 2012 are compelling.

At an annual meeting held every March, officers and trustees of the Foundation come together along with eight doctors specializing in pediatric ophthalmology from many leading hospitals and research institutions throughout the country to review the applications and recommend which applications should be awarded a 2013 grant.



Doctors review and discuss each grant application to determine which should be approved for funding based on the merits of the research.



David D. Goodwin, presents to the outgoing Chair, Dr. A. Linn Murphree, the Companion of the Temple award for his distinguished service rendered to Masonry and humanity.



Back Row – left to right: David D. Goodwin, President and Most Eminent Grand Master; A. Linn Murphree, M.D., Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee; Robert W. Bigley, Assistant Secretary; Jeffrey N. Nelson, Vice President and Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo; Lawrence E. Tucker, Secretary and Right Eminent Grand Recorder. Front Row – left to right: Duane L. Vaught, Vice President and Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master, and William Jackson Jones, Trustee and Most Eminent Past Grand Master.





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## Knights Templar Eye Foundation

### 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., 1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5, Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230, Phone (214) 888-0220 Fax (214) 888-0230.

# The Tragedy of Sir Knight Daniel D. Tompkins: Grand Master, Governor, Vice President

By  
Sir Knight Ivan Tribe

**I**n the first decade of the nineteenth century, Daniel Decius Tompkins seemed destined for future greatness. Well educated and described as “gentle, polished, and unpretentious” by contemporaries, Tompkins achieved great success both in his Masonic and his public life. Yet false accusations of malfeasance in office and mishandling state funds, followed by years of near endless litigation drove him into depression and chronic alcoholism. Although eventually vindicated, he died “an embittered and tortured old man,” although he was just short of his fifty-first birthday.

Daniel Tompkins was born in Westchester County, New York on June 21, 1774, one of seven children of Jonathan G. and Sarah Hyatt Tompkins. His father, a tenant farmer who attained middle class status, provided his son with a nickname “the Farmer’s Boy” when he sought public office in later years. The self-educated elder Tompkins wanted young Daniel to obtain the best schooling possible, and accordingly the son graduated from Columbia in 1795, first in his class. Two years later he began the practice of law and also married Hannah Minthorne, the daughter of well-connected merchant Mangle Minthorne. The couple subsequently had eight children.

Tompkins’ father-in-law was an active participant in the Jeffersonian political party, in particular the Tammany group (this was decades before that name became a virtual synonym for ur-

ban corruption). The Federalists in New York were led by John Jay and Alexander Hamilton, while the Jeffersonian Republicans had such factions known from their leaders as Burrites, Livingstonians, and Clintonites. All sought Tammany support, and loyalties frequently shifted in efforts to mount winning coalitions. Into this political maelstrom an ambitious young Daniel Tompkins sought favor and success.

Tompkins entered politics in 1800, helping in his father-in-law’s ward on behalf of favored legislative candidates. The following year, both he and Minthorne served as delegates to the state’s constitutional convention. In 1803, Daniel served in the New York legislature, and in 1804 he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives. However, he resigned his seat before Congress convened to accept an appointment as an Associate Justice on the State Supreme Court. During his service on the Court, the young judge won wide respect for decisions characterized as “popular and fair-minded.”

In those same years, Daniel Tompkins also became deeply involved in the Empire State Masonic scene. According to the best available data, he “was made a Mason” in Hiram Lodge No. 72 in Mt. Pleasant and later became a member of Salem Lodge No. 74, both in Westchester County. From 1801 to 1805, he served as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York. Although he was both a Royal Arch Mason and a

Knight Templar, details are lacking. In 1809, he received the 32° in the Scottish Rite, and on August 5, 1813, the 33°. In both his Masonic and his political career, Tompkins was first a close friend and later a rival of New York's other best known Masonic and political figure, DeWitt Clinton.

In 1807, Daniel D. Tompkins became a candidate for governor with the active support of the Clinton faction that included not only DeWitt but his uncle George, a former governor and current Vice President (and probable Mason). His opponent was incumbent Morgan Lewis, a favorite of the Livingstonians and the landed gentry. Lewis, an older man, was the cousin of Robert Livingston and like Tompkins and Clinton, a future Grand Master. Styled "the Farmer's Boy" to contrast him with the aristocratic Livingston supporters, Tompkins won an April 30, 1807, victory over Lewis 35,074 to 30,989, garnering slightly over 53% of the total. Inaugurated on July 1, he went on to serve as Governor for nearly a decade. Tompkins won each time by a larger vote except in 1813 when dissatisfaction with the War of 1812 reduced his victory margin to 3,606.

The Chesapeake Affair in which a British warship fired upon an American frigate and the resulting Embargo Act of December 1807 put a strain on the hitherto cordial relations between Tompkins and the Clintons. The governor strongly supported both the new federal law and Virginian James Madison to succeed Jefferson as President. DeWitt Clinton, on the other hand, hoped to elevate his uncle George, then serving as Vice President, to the top spot. Neither Clinton favored the Embargo Act which had damaged mari-

time shipping and commercial interests in New England and New York City (where DeWitt was Mayor). Although both sides remained outwardly friendly, their close alliance began to erode.

With the outbreak of the War of 1812, the gulf between Tompkins and Clinton widened.

The governor supported the conflict and the Madison administration while Clinton emerged an opponent to the President running as head of a coalition of "Peace" Republicans and Federalists. Madison won the election by an electoral count of 128 to 89. Tompkins found himself literally caught between the proverbial "rock and hard place," forced to alienate either the White House or the Clintonites.

As wartime governor, Brother Tompkins provided strong leadership and supported the American cause to the best of his ability. Much of the state legislature remained less than enthusiastic and limited funding for the conflict. To arm and support the militia, Tompkins spent a great deal of his own money and borrowed heavily, signing his own name on numerous notes. While both patriotic and unselfish, these actions left him open to later charges of mishandling public funds and ultimately wrecked his personal finances. After leaving the State House in February of 1817, much of his eight-year tenure as Vice President was marred with numerous lawsuits, litigation, and court squabbles which caused him to seek solace in the bottle. The latter in time not only cost Tompkins his career but ended his life.

Despite public controversy, Brother Tompkins continued his Masonic activities. Shortly after receiving the 33° he was named Sovereign Grand Com-



mander of the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, a post he held until his death in 1825. It is but fair to say that in that era this Scottish Rite membership was quite small and also contended with the Cerneau group. Ironically, Brother DeWitt Clinton who was Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar also held high office in the Cerneau Rite. In 1820, Tompkins was chosen Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York and was re-elected in 1821, subsequently declining a third year in the office.

Meanwhile, the American position in the War of 1812 was much stronger in the latter part of 1814 and led to a resurgence in American pride capped off by Andrew Jackson's victory at New Orleans on January 8, 1815. Daniel Tompkins' popularity soared, and knight templar

in April 1816, he won his biggest success as governor, defeating Federalist Rufus King—reputed to be a Mason—by over 6,700 votes in spite of the charges of mishandling money. It represented the high point of his political career, and that fall he was easily elected Vice President on a ticket with James Monroe.

Just before departing from Albany for Washington, D. C., Tompkins sent one of his most significant messages to the legislature. On January 28, 1817, he recommended that slavery in New York cease to exist. On March 31, the assembly adopted his plan, setting the date in 1827 that all remaining slaves would be free. Although the governor had resigned on February 14 and departed for the national capital, he played perhaps the key role in abolishing slavery in New York.

As Vice President, Brother Tompkins performed ably when present but was frequently absent. Much of the time he was back in his home state, trying to clear up his mounting debt problems. As Grand Master he also tended to Masonic business, trying to mediate tensions between lodges in the city and those upstate; he attended some meetings but missed others. In 1821, the Sir Knights of Morton Commandery No. 4 awarded him an honorary membership.

Meanwhile, the stress encountered by the Vice President over his financial

problems continued to mount. Increasingly, he tended to try drinking away his troubles. In a sense, his new rival Sir Knight Clinton, now Governor of New York, was being kind when he wrote in September 1819 that "Our friend on Staten Island is unfortunately sick in body and mind. His situation upon the whole is deplorable . . ." Rumors suggested that Tompkins sometimes passed out when presiding over the Senate.

Still in his search for vindication, Tompkins opted to seek again the governorship of New York. All things considered, he came remarkably close to victory, losing to Clinton by a vote of 47,447 to 45,990. Ironically, he made one of the few policy miscalculations of his career by opposing the construction of the Erie Canal as an extravagant expense when he believed another war with Great Britain was on the horizon (he missed on that one too). Nonetheless, he still easily won another term as Vice President that fall, garnering 218 electoral votes out of a total of 232. William Plumer of New Hampshire voted against both Monroe and Tompkins, citing Monroe as a big spender and Tompkins for his frequent absences along with the "fact that he is grossly intemperate." Many New Yorkers took offense for the attack on their native son.



With Congress not in session in the spring and fall of 1821, Grand Master and Vice President Daniel Tompkins chaired the New York Constitutional Convention. The delegates honored his service with a unanimous vote of commendation and thanks. Returning to Washington in December, he diligently presided over the Senate for a month but then fell ill. He soon left for New York. A group of angry Senators introduced and passed a law to withhold salaries of absentee officials and those with outstanding debts. Senator Martin Van Buren, a Tompkins ally, ably defended the Vice President and saw the bill as a slap at one who had sac-



rified so much during the late war.

In New York, the Vice President sought vindication by persuading the federal district court to bring suit against him to recover the "supposed balance for which I have been reported among the defaulters." Bankers who had loaned him money to arm and pay soldiers testified for him as did his one time opponent in the 1816 governor's race, Senator Rufus King. After deliberation, jurors not only exonerated him but also proclaimed that the federal government owed Tompkins \$136,799.97 (the latter a non-binding judgment). However, the money to settle would have to be approved by a congressional appropriation.

Back in Washington for the December session of Congress, observers noted that the Vice President "seemed a changed man." Sober and dignified, he became his old self again. His salary was restored, and a writer for *Niles Weekly Register* said no Vice President had ever "filled the chair" of his office "more satisfactorily or with greater dignity." Tompkins felt vindicated. Debate within the halls of government over the amount owed to Tompkins varied. Some recommended \$35,000 while others including President Monroe wanted \$60,000. Finally in May 1824, the Senate approved the latter amount.

During the frustration over the long delay, Tompkins began drinking again. With the conclusion of the session and his term expiring, he returned to New York where he died on June 11, 1825, three months after his retirement, a broken man. Most of his extensive properties were sold at sheriff's sales. Hannah Tompkins lived on four more years, dying in 1829. Some years later congress awarded his heirs another amount of

nearly \$40,000, but like the first payment, it was not enough to save his life.

The career of Daniel Tompkins had both high and low points. He was perhaps best remembered by his Masonic brethren. A lodge was named for him. In 1911, the Grand Lodge dedicated and named for him the Daniel D. Tompkins Memorial Chapel at the Masonic Home in Utica. Elsewhere his name lives on in a county, towns, a school, streets, and a square in New York City. Whatever his flaws, Brother Tompkins ranks in the words of his biographer, Ray W. Irwin, as a man of "integrity" and "conclusively certified by the government of New York State, a federal jury, the accounting office of the Treasury Department, President Monroe, and both houses of Congress."

Sir Knight Tribe, Ph.D. is a professor emeritus of history at the university of Rio Grand in Ohio, and a holder of the KCT, KYCH, and 33°. He has been a regular contributor to the *Knight Templar* magazine for many years and resides at 111 E. High Street, McArthur, OH 45651.

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>.



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# 2013 Holy Land Pilgrimage



2013 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage group two picture at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.



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Castle ruins along the Rhine in Austria  
where Richard the Lionhearted was held  
captive by Leopold V, Duke of Austria.

Photo by Editor.



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Max Ludwig, Jr.  
Massachusetts and Rhode Island  
Grand Commander 1990

Born: May 10, 1924

Died: April 12, 2013

august 2013



# Beauceant News



(Mrs. Joe) Lei Lani Cortez, Supreme Worthy President, at the opening of the California Grand Commandery at the California Grand York Rite Sessions in Bakersfield, California on Wednesday, May 22, 2013. Pictured with Mrs. Cortez are Sir Knight Richard S. Butterfield, Past Grand Commander of New Mexico and Past Southwest Department Commander; Sir Knight Robert C. Coe, Past Grand Commander of California and Past Southwest Department Commander; Sir Knight Michael B. Johnson, Right Eminent Grand Captain General; and Sir Knight David Kussman, Past Grand Commander of California and Southwest Department Commander.

(Mrs. Joe) Lei Lani Cortez is seen with the guests at her Homecoming held in Tempe, Arizona May 31 to June 2, 2013. In addition to the many Sisters and Sir Knights from her home assembly, five Supreme officers, one Past Supreme Worthy President, and other guests from Utah and California were present.



The members of Long Beach Assembly No. 39 and their Sir Knights and guests are shown at the Official Visit of (Mrs. Joe) Lei Lani Cortez to their assembly on February 13, 2013. Each is holding a puzzle piece. These pieces have traveled many miles with Mrs. Cortez this year. Each piece signifies the long road to finding the cure to autism. Mrs. Cortez hopes that by stringing the pieces together perhaps the missing piece of the puzzle to cure autism will be found by the time of Supreme Assembly in Indianapolis.

## **Carnegie Assembly No. 80, Installation of New Officers on January 24, 2013.**

Seated: Mrs. John Habel, First Vice President; Ms. Chyrel Klaas, Past President and Oracle; and Mrs. Gerald A. Sutherland, Worthy President. Standing: Mrs. Thomas Kyle, Past President and Color Bearer; Mrs. David Kearns, Preceptress; Mrs. Paul Uhlemann, Director of Music; Mrs. Harry E. Killen, Past President and Marshal; Ms. Donna Killen, Assistant Marshal; Ms. Amy Movic, Past President and Standard Bearer; Mrs. Nicholas Vaccarello, Chaplain; Mrs. David Esterburg, Outer Guard; Mrs. Orvil B. McMullen, Second Vice President; Mrs. Robert Averell, Past President and Recorder; and Mrs. Theodore Bergfelt, Inner Guard.



knight templar



# Knights

## at the Bookshelf

By  
Sir Knight Stephen Clements

*Charlie Chaplin's Uncle*. Okell, Ian. Feedaread.com, 2012. 362 pages. Available on Amazon in book and Kindle formats for \$14.95 and \$6.70, respectively, in the United States.

Reviews of terrible books are sometimes painful, sometimes hilarious events, as the reader has to endure the reviewer's report of the horrors he experienced at the hands of an incompetent wordsmith. As luck would have it, neither you nor I will have to worry about that this time, though, as *Charlie Chaplin's Uncle* is a rollicking good time! The story is set in England in 1892 when railroads ruled the world of industry and were the objects of romance and adventure, and the British Empire stretched around the globe. The main character is a brother Mason, an ex-sailor of the Queen's Navy, and a train driver by the name of Mr. Fowler, and he is plunged into a rather gripping tale of cloak-and-dagger espionage and royal assassination.

To be perfectly honest, I had no idea what railroads, Charlie Chaplin, and Freemasonry were doing in the same story. Having finished the book, I can assure you that while there are no indelible links between this story and a real, historical event from Charlie Chaplin's childhood (he appears in the story as a toddler), it does not matter, because the story and Okell's ability to turn a phrase and write vivid characters sucks you in and keeps you wondering what will happen next. Okell's witticisms and biting observations kept me laughing and looking for the next zinger, and the action of the story (and the climbing body count) kept the plot and the pages moving right along.

The book, though entertaining, is not devoid of short-comings. For instance, the author is not a fan of the rules of punctuation, and this alone keeps the book from achieving a certain level of professional polish. As can also be seen from the eventful but confusing book description on the back cover, this book really needed a competent editor to clean it up and cut out some of the sections where the book kept going without adding anything to the story. For these faults, one thing must be kept in mind: the most important thing in telling a story is to tell a good story. While rough around the edges, I would highly recommend *Charlie Chaplin's Uncle* for any reader looking for adventure and a good time.



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Castle ruins along the Rhine in Austria. Photo by Editor.

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**I am the Lord  
thy God, which  
have brought  
thee out of the  
land of Egypt.  
Exodus 20:2**

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