

Knight Templar



VOLUME LIX

SEPTEMBER 2013

NUMBER 9



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Knight Templar

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Address changes or corrections and all membership activity including deaths should be reported to the Recorder of the local Commandery. Please do not report them to the editor.

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knight templar

Grand Master's Message

We are now two weeks into the second year of the 66th triennium. I am not sure where the time has gone, but I do know that your officers have been busy working on behalf of Templary.

The time has come when we need to talk about that dreaded word—membership. While we have slowed our losses dramatically over the last few years, and while some Grand Commanderies are experiencing a small growth, still some are declining. We are so close to turning the trend around that we must push forward with even more effort.

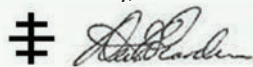
Every member is responsible to grow our fraternity. Have you visited your Symbolic Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter encouraging our Brothers to follow the path to Templary? Have you brought your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and co-worshippers into the Masonic Family?

Are you living our principles in your daily life? Are you following our theme, Chivalry, Christianity, Templary.....a way of life? Are you treating each Sir Knight as a Brother showing true caring? Are you including our Christian faith in Templar activities? Are you making Templary visible in community and Masonic circles? Are you showing pride in our Masonic Templar fraternity? These are all questions that each Knight Templar must ask himself on a regular basis.

We do not, however, believe that we must constantly think about how we get more members. If we make ourselves visible and live by the precepts that we believe in, then good Christian Masons will want to join us. Hopefully it is that simple!

This month we will begin the new cycle of Department Conferences with new content. Please plan on attending your conference. Every Sir Knight is invited and encouraged to participate regardless of rank or station. Please come, learn, and enjoy the fine Templar camaraderie!

Courteously,



David Dixon Goodwin, GCT
Grand Master



The future is ours! We must seize the moment!

Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar. september 2013

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

Prelate's Chapel

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



Our faith is more than an abstract idea. It is founded on our experience of a real person, Jesus Christ. Jesus told a story about the importance of having a firm foundation for our faith.

In his "Sermon on the Mount," he tells a little parable about a wise man who built his house on the solid foundation of a rock. This man's house survived the strongest storms because of a firm foundation. Yet, Jesus warned that this is not true of every house. The foolish man built his house on sand, and the storms demolished the house. Great is the fall of all those who do not build their faith on a firm foundation. In times of trouble, a belief or faith without a firm foundation cannot survive the storms of life.

That foundation is one "which no man can lay." That foundation is our Lord Jesus Christ. As Peter said in the Temple before the chief priests and elders of Israel: "... the stone which was rejected by you builders, ... has become the head of the corner, and there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (The Acts 4:11-12) St. Paul, in his Letter to the church at Ephesus says the same thing in a similar way: "...now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief of the corner in whom the whole building fitly framed together grows unto a holy temple in the Lord, in which you also are built together for a habitation of God through the Holy Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22)

What does a firm foundation look like? It's more than a loosely held private sentiment. It implies spiritual discipline which includes regular worship, daily prayer, reading the Bible, "doing good unto all." As an early American hymn writer reminds us: "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!

What more can He say than to you He hath said, To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?" (author unknown)

Edward Mote reminds us in the hymn he wrote: "On Christ, the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand."

Charles Albert Tindley, Philadelphia Methodist minister a century ago who knew how hard the storms of life can blow against us, wrote during one of his trying times: "When the storms of life are raging, stand by me ... when the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea, thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me."

When all else fails, "Jesus never fails."

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A Chat With The Managing Editor

After reading (several times) the Grand Master's message, the Grand Prelate's message, and the article about the symbolism of the sword in this month's issue, it occurs to me that sometimes we get so caught up in doing Templary that we forget what it really is. What is the foundation upon which Templary is erected? Our Grand Master refers to the theme "Chivalry, Templary, Christianity... a way of life!" For me, Templary is built on the foundations of Christianity and Chivalry, and though it shares most values with Freemasonry, it is a distinctly different thing, not just a continuation of the Masonic degrees.

Christianity, as taught by Christ, himself, is a gentle religion, not warlike at all in its nature. Chivalry, on the other hand, at least superficially appears to be war-like in nature. How are these reconciled? The term "Gentleman" comes to mind. Templary, for me, unites the gentleness of Christianity with the courage, fortitude, and bravery of knighthood. In one of the books I recently read, the author points out that it is essential that a gentleman learn how to fight. This seemed curious to me until he asked the question: "How can a gentleman defend the helpless from the bullies in this world without knowing how to fight?"

Then it dawned on me what links this gentleness and bravery together. It is called "selflessness." It is the opposite of "selfishness," which is a form of greed, or maybe greed on a grander scale involving things other than money like prestige or fame, or position, or power. Selflessness is not often noticed. It keeps a low profile, but it is extremely powerful and effective in making this world a better place to live.

A way of life is made up of a lot of little moments. How are you doing? What did you do for your neighbor this week? How about your driving? Were you considerate, pleasant and selfless when someone needed to change lanes, even if they caused the problem themselves? Did you stand up for what was right? Better yet, did you stand up for someone else's rights?

Anyway, that's my thought for this month. I'm going to try to be more selfless, gentlemanly, and chivalrous in the future, because I am proud to be a Knight Templar!



Handwritten signature of John L. Palmer.

John L. Palmer
Managing Editor

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

Part 4 of a series

By

Sir Knight Douglas M. Rowe

Time Line

Christian Control of Jerusalem and the South (continued)

- Aug. 1248 The Crusade promised by Louis IX three years earlier departed for the Holy Land.
- Sep. 1248 Louis IX landed in Cyprus to join forces with King Henry of Cyprus and Grand Master de Sonnac to plan the invasion of Egypt, Louis IX ordered the Templars to cease all private negotiations with the Muslims, and Grand Master de Sonnac agreed that all future negotiations would go through Louis IX.
- Jun. 1249 Louis IX and the Crusader army landed on the Nile River; the Egyptian army under Rukn ad-Din engaged the Christians at the city of Damietta, the site of Cardinal Pelagius' defeat twenty years before; the Egyptian army retreated; and the Christians captured Damietta without opposition. Emir Fakr al-Din of Cairo offered to trade Jerusalem for Damietta. Louis IX refused the deal and planned an attack on Cairo.
- Nov. 1249 The Crusader army left Damietta and headed upriver toward Cairo.
- Dec. 1249 Rukn ad-Din set a trap at city of Mansoural, and Louis IX entered the unguarded city.
- Jan.–Mar. 1250 The Christian and Muslim armies fought numerous battles, with the Muslims winning by attrition. Templar Grand Master de Sonnac was blinded in battle and died; Louis IX and five hundred Christians were captured and taken to Cairo in chains.
- Apr. 1250 Louis IX bought the freedom of all prisoners with a loan from the Templars and surrendered the city of Damietta. Renaud de Vichers was elected the 18th Templar Grand Master, and Louis IX remained in Egypt under house arrest to avoid the disgrace of another failed Crusade.
- knight templar

Situation 1250 A.D.

After one hundred years of warfare and five major Crusades, the Christians held less of the Holy Land than in 1150. There were tens of thousands of casualties on both sides, including five Templar Grand Masters killed in battle, and Jerusalem was firmly in Muslim hands. Frederick of Germany, the Holy Roman Emperor, was the most powerful monarch in Europe, and Templars remained richest and most powerful Christian order, holding mortgages on many European crowns. The Mongol Hordes having conquered parts of China, India, Afghanistan, Russia, and Georgia, swept into Eastern Europe and the Holy Land. The Mongol threat was greater to both Christian and Muslim than either could pose to the other. The Mongols were interested only in plundering cities and had but two options for the overrun cities and population, pay tribute or be killed. The option of conversation like Christianity or Islam did not exist in the Mongol culture.

- c.1250 Renaud de Vichiers was named the 19th Templar Grand Master; Louis IX remained in the Muslim held city of Damietta, raising funds to buy his and the other captives' freedom; and the Templars loaned Louis IX a large sum.
- Jul. 1250 Prince an-Nasir Yusuf captured Damascus and moved an army toward Egypt.
- Feb. 1251 Sultan Aibek of Cairo defeated Syrian forces lead by an-Nasir Yusuf at the river city of Zagazig, and an-Nasir Yusuf asked Louis IX to join the attack on Egypt, offering to return Jerusalem to Christian control as a reward. Louis IX refused the offer, fearing that the Christian prisoners held by Aibek would be slaughtered. Aibek replied by releasing three thousand Christian prisoners held in Cairo and countered an-Nasir's offer by including the entire Kingdom of Jerusalem as well as the city. The Templars negotiated a private deal with an-Nasir Yusuf in Damascus with the Templars recovering a large area of land, and Louis IX became furious at the Templars for making private deals, forcing Grand Master de Vichiers to make a humiliating public apology. Grand Master de Vichiers knelt at the feet of Louis IX and withdrew from the agreement with an-Nasir Yusuf. As penitence, the Templars turned over all Templar property in the Holy Land and Europe to Louis IX who refused the property, fearing retaliation by the Pope, protecting the Church order. Louis IX then moved south and made an agreement with Aibek of Cairo, and An-Nasir Yusuf's army divided the Louis IX and Aibek forces, resulting in a year long standoff.

- c.1252 Aibek and an-Nasir Yusuf made peace, Aibek ruled Egypt and Palestine east to the River Jordan, and Louis IX retreated to Acre.
- c.1253 Louis IX sought an alliance with the Mongols in the north after Sar-taq Khan, the great-grandson of Genghis, became a Christian; and the Mongol response was to demand a huge annual tribute from Louis IX or he and every Christian in the Holy Land would be slaughtered. Louis IX returned to France after five years in Holy Land. The Louis IX treaties with Damascus and Egypt went into effect.
- 1256 Civil strife between Venetians and Genoese merchants threatened the peace in the Holy Land. Templar Grand Master de Vichiers met with an unknown fate, and Englishman, Thomas Berard, was named as the 20th Templar Grand Master. The Templars sided with Venetians, and the rival Hospitallers order sided with the Genoese in disputes over trade with the East.
- 1258 Queen Plaisance of Cyprus used this dissention to push her five year old son to become King of Jerusalem with herself acting as Regent. The Genoese sent an army and fleet to the Holy Land to settle the dispute with Venetians, and the Venetians and Templars combined to defeat the Genoese.
- c.1260 The Pope sent an emissary from Rome to resolve the Venetian – Genoese dispute. The Mongol army under Kitbuqa reached Aleppo in the far north of the Holy Land and took Damascus in March. The Venetians and Genoese reached a settlement with Constantinople to be returned to Greek Church control but the port to be open for trade. Pope Innocent II died, and Patriarch Pantaleon who settled the Venetian – Genoese dispute was named Pope Urban IV. Internal strife became secondary as the Mongol threat became the first priority, and Kitbuqa headed toward Egypt, demanding tribute from Sultan Qutuz of Cairo. Qutuz killed the Mongol emissaries and publicly displayed their severed heads on the walls of Cairo. Mongol Hulagu returned to central Asia for a council to elect the next Great Khan, the Mongol army under Kitbuqa remained in Syria with orders to continue the conquest of Cairo, and Christian Count Julian of Sidon and Beaufort attempted to capitalize on the Muslim – Mongol conflict by raiding and looting Muslim cities. Julian borrowed heavily from the Templars who held and taxed the port of Sidon as collateral. Kitbuqa considered Julian's raids as attacks on Mongol property and sent a small army to capture or kill Julian, but Julian's forces killed the Mongols including Kitbuqa's favorite nephew. The full Mongol army captured and looted Sidon,

preventing the Templars from collecting port taxes, and Julian's actions ended the possibility of a Christian – Muslim alliance against the Mongols. Qutuz moved an army under the command of Rukn al-Din Baibars to meet the Mongol threat to Cairo. The Mongol army was defeated at Ain Jalut, and Qutuz beheaded Kitbuqa. The Mongols ended the attacks on Egypt and returned to the North. The battle of Ain Jalut ultimately determined that North Africa and the Holy Land would remain Muslim rather than Mongol (just as the Battle of Tours in 732 A.D. determined that Europe remained Christian). Qutuz took Damascus and Aleppo, slaughtering Christians and then returned to Cairo. Rukn ad-Din Baibars killed Qutuz and became Sultan of Egypt.

- c.1261 Rukn ad-Din Baibars sent an army to quell a revolt in Damascus, Damascus was captured, and Prince Kerak was killed by Rukn ad-Din and Baibars forces. Baibars became the strongest ruler among splintered Muslims, Mongol Berke Khan converted to Islam, and Baibars married Berke Khan's daughter to form an alliance with the Mongols, forcing another standoff.
- c.1263 Count John of Jaffa reached agreement with Baibars, trading Muslim and Christian prisoners; the Templars refused to honor the prisoner exchange as many Muslim craftsmen held in lifelong slavery played a vital role in Templar commerce; and Baibars captured and looted the Christian held city of Nazareth and slaughtered the population. Baibars attacked the city of Acre, and the Templars and Hospitallers formed an alliance to jointly battle Baibars.
- c.1264 The Templars and Hospitallers defeated Baibars at city of Meggido. Baibars again invaded the Holy Land with two armies, one attacking Acre and the second the Templar Castle at Safed. The Templars surrendered to Safed with the promise that they could walk away, but Baibars broke the agreement, and the Templars were taken prisoner and given the option to convert to Islam or be killed. Two hundred Templars refused to convert and were tortured and killed; one traitor Templar accepted Islam.
- Feb. 1265 Hulagu, Khan of all Mongols in Palestine and Turkey, died, and Baibars attacked the Christian city of Caesarea and sold the entire population into slavery rather than committing mass slaughter. Baibars continued his attack on Christian cities, the Templar stronghold of Athlit and Castle Pilgrim held out against Baibars, and Baibars ended the attack and turned against the Hospitallers city of Arsuf. Arsuf surrendered, all Hospitallers were taken prisoner and sold as slaves, and Baibars ended the attack and returned to Egypt.

- May 1267 Baibars began a new assault on Acre and tried to lure the Templars out of the fortified town by looting surrounding Christian towns, and finally, Baibars retreated to Egypt.
- Mar. 1268 Baibars started a new attack against the southern Christian town of Jaffa and the Egyptian army leap-frogged the Templar stronghold of Castle Pilgrim at Athlit and besieged city of Tyre which surrendered, the population becoming slaves and rebuilding the city walls destroyed during the siege. Baibars moved north toward Antioch, and constable Bohemond attacked the Muslims to slow the advance on Antioch. The Egyptians took Antioch with only token resistance while Bohemond and his troops were out of city. Baibars destroyed most of Antioch, killing thousands of Christians in the streets and selling the best as slaves.
- 1268 Pope Clement IV died after getting a promise from Louis IX to launch another Crusade against Baibars as revenge for the Antioch mass killing, and Louis IX, brother King Charles of Anjou, planned an alternate assault on Constantinople to establish himself as the new ruler.
- Sep. 1269 The Templars and rival Hospitallers clashed over the succession to the throne of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Templars supporting Maria of Antioch. The Hospitallers supported Hugh of Cyprus and prevailed to crown King Hugh III on the throne of Kingdom of Jerusalem. Charles of Anjou convinced his brother, Louis IX, to join with the Emir of Tunis in North Africa, and Niccolò Polo returned to Venice from a twenty year trip to China with tales of vast lands, huge numbers of people, and the unbelievable riches of Kublai Khan's palace and court.
- Jul. 1270 Louis IX and a Crusader army departed France for North Africa, and the Emir of Tunis got the support of Baibars and defeated the Christians at Tunis.
- Aug. 1270 Louis IX died, and the French army sailed back to Europe, the eighth Crusade to have failed since c.1150. Baibars was now free to battle the Mongols and prepare for final victory over Christians in the entire Holy Land. The Papacy was vacant since death of Clement almost three years before.
- 1271 Baibars marched on the city of Safita; Templar Grand Master, Bernard, agreed to surrender if the Templar's freedom was guaranteed; and Tedaldo, Viscount of Liege, was named Pope Gregory X.

Baibars honored the agreement; the Templars left city; the Muslims renewed the siege of the city again, allowing population to leave unharmed; and Baibars returned to Egypt with the Christians holding only a narrow band of cities along Mediterranean coast. The Polos, including Marco, left Venice with a letter addressed to Kublai Khan from the new Pope. Edward I was crowned King of England; landed in Holy Land with a small army to aid the remaining Templars; planned an alliance with Mongol, Ilkan Abaga, against the mutual Muslim enemy; and sought to reclaim Kingdom of Jerusalem. Templar Grand Master Berard welcomed Edward I and his forces to Acre, the Mongol threat forced Edward I and Baibars into an alliance following the Mongol demand of tribute, Templar Grand Master Berard died, and Frenchman William de Beaujeu was named 21st Grand Master. Pope Gregory X convened the second Council of Lyons to deal with situation in Holy Land and asked for a new Crusade but got little support from the assembled nobles and clergy. Only one European monarch, obscure James I of Aragon, attended council. Gregory X called for all cardinals to contribute one sixth of all their revenue for six years; Priests, Bishops, and all clergy below cardinal were asked to contribute one tenth of their revenue; and the order of Templars was exempted from contributions. Gregory X demanded that all trade between Christians and Muslims stop immediately under the penalty of excommunication and called for all Christians with military skills to sign on to a new Crusade, promising salvation for all who served or contributed money or men. The Council of Lyons failed to achieve any of its objectives; the Templars expanded their banking activity to Cairo, Alexandria, and Damascus; Gregory X died; and Innocent V succeeded to the Papal throne. Innocent served four months and was then succeeded by Adrian V.

- 1277 Popes John XXI and Nicholas III succeeded to throne; Baibars of Cairo moved against the Mongols in Anatolia; and Ilkhan Abaqa attacked Baibars who retreated to Syria, was poisoned, and succeeded by his son with the sister of Mongol leader Ilkhan Abaqa. Baraqa was deposed by Baibar's general, Kala'un.
- 1279 King Hugh of Cyprus attempted and failed to take the city of Acre from the Templars.
- 1280 Mongol, Ilkhan Abaqa, invaded Syria.
- Oct. 1280 Ilkhan Abaqa captured the city of Aleppo and slaughtered the Muslim population, Egyptian Kala'un assembled an army to halt

the Mongol invasion, and Ilkhan Abaqa retreated to Mesopotamia. The Mongols split into factions, the Golden Horde-Kipchak Mongols who adopted Islam and refused to fight other Muslims and the Persian Mongols who remain under Ilkhan Abaqa. Pope Nicholas III died and was succeeded by Martin IV.

- 1281 Ilkhan Abaqa assembled a huge army for a final assault on Egypt and offered to return all the lands of the Kingdom of Jerusalem if the Templars would join his army. Kala'un made a similar offer to the Templars to join against Mongols.
- Oct. 1281 Egyptian Kala'un met Mongol Ilkhan Abaqa at the city of Homs with Armenian Christians on the side of Mongols and the Templars on the side of the Egyptians. Kala'un won the battle and Ilkhan Abaqa died and was succeeded by his brother Tekudar who adopted Islam and gave up the Mongol throne.
- 1282 King Guy of Jebail attacked Count Bohemond of Tripoli, and Guy and his family were tortured and killed.
- Mar. 1284 King Hugh of Cyprus and the Kingdom of Jerusalem died and was succeeded by his seventeen year old son, John, and Pope Martin IV died and was succeeded by Honorius IV.
- Apr. 1285 Kala'un attacked the Christian Hospitallers' stronghold of Marqab, and King John of Cyprus died and was succeeded by his brother, Henry.
- 1287 Ilkhan Agrum sent ambassador Rabban Sauma to Rome for a meeting with the Pope, and Honorius IV died and was succeeded by Nicholas IV.
- 1288 Rabban Sauma learned that there would be no new Crusade or Christian alliance with Mongol, Ilkhan Agrum.
- 1289 Kala'un of Cairo sent an army to Syria in preparation to take Tripoli.
- Mar. 1289 The Egyptian army set siege to Tripoli and slaughtered the population, and Kala'un died and was succeeded by his son, al-Ashraf Khalid.
- Mar. 1291 Al-Ashraf Khalid with his Egyptian army marched on Acre.



Letters to the Editor



Brother John,

Please forgive me for not having a computer or typewriter. I have really been enjoying your letters to the editor. Thank you.

In the August 2012 issue of "Letters...", Brother Jim Robbins writes about the Qur'an and states that "Allah is not the same as Jehovah." Our Bible was interpreted from the Greek and Hebrew. If "Allah" means God in the prophet's language, then a rose by any other name is still a rose and God is great. God created all the nations and everything else under the sun.

Second, "Far exalted is He (Allah) above having a son." I would hopefully think so! That's why He chose the virgin mother to give birth to his son here on earth. I guess he could have chosen a girl like one of our Texas girls, married her, and did it in the old fashioned way. No, the one he chose was Jewish and a virgin. A Great happening, Allah!

Third, "it tells Muslims not to take Jews and Christians for friends." Well, just like he told his people not to assimilate with us "smucks" or Christians to be of equal yoke or something like that.

Last, America is not the Christian nation, but a nation of laws. George Washington and all the other founders made it so after they drew up the Constitution of the United States of America.

I would like to think God has done everything to confound the wise. Remember that some people don't believe in the angels or saints or miracles.

Now why Masonry? So all men may be Christians? My understanding of Ma-

sonry was that a man was to be better than someone or anyone belonging to any particular religion which brings me to this. Freemasonry is not a religion (thanks to Allah) nor can any one person speak for Masonry (my understanding). To me, the whole purpose of Christ as presented in the higher philosophical degrees is for our humble consideration that we may meditate on the whole meaning of life regardless of what our personal beliefs are. Because Christians are like sheep, all belonging to Allah, and all going their separate ways. The goats are the wisest!

Anyway, I thought the Christians killed all the infidels during the crusades.

Remember when Mexico told us we had to be Roman Catholics to live in Texas? All the Texans said (and I can hear them now) "Why hail yes we are Roman Catholic!"

I hope Allah has a good sense of humor and will have mercy on each of us for He is Great - the great Jehovah!

Jack N. Barricklo, PC
Houston, Texas

Jack,

I don't think I presume to be qualified to comment on or to answer your letter.

The Ed.



Dear Sir Knight Palmer,

Many thanks for the last two paragraphs of "A Chat With The Managing Editor" in the September 2012 issue. I



Letters to the Editor



often wondered why the Knights Templar didn't place more emphasis on their relationship with DeMolay. What a great recruiting tool. During my years as an active DeMolay and subsequently as an advisor, I never saw a Knight Templar in uniform at a DeMolay event.

While it would be wonderful for a Commandery to sponsor a DeMolay Chapter, in the alternative, just having an Escort in full uniform at an installation would be fantastic.

Sir Knight Richard P. Schonland
Arcadia, California



Dear Sir,

I was interested to read the letter in your February magazine from Joe Brillhart on the subject of Knight Templar trips. In particular, I was fascinated by what he had to say about Portugal. I have organized tours of Knight Templar sites in Portugal for several years. I can tell you that the most extensive and complete Knight Templar sites in the world are here in Portugal. The most important and beautiful site of all is the Convent of Christ inside the 12th century Templar castle in Tomar, the town where I live. The castle was built in 1190 by Templar Grand Master Gualdim Pais after he had defeated the Islamic forces that ruled the area. It is now a World Heritage site, and the Charola inside, built as a replica of the Temple of Solomon, is truly amazing. There are many more historic Knight Templar sites in the area. Far too many to describe in one

knight templar

letter. If anyone is interested in knowing more about our beautiful region of Portugal, our incredible history, or our amazing Knight Templar sites and heritage, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at peter.moore@templarknights.eu.

Best wishes and warm greetings to you all.

Peter Moore,
Tomar, Portugal



Sir Knight Editor,

I read with great interest a letter to the editor in the February 2013 issue concerning Templar pilgrimages to Portugal. In 2010 my wife and I toured Portugal and Spain which specifically included a stop at the Templar fortification in Tomar, Portugal. It is a well preserved and restored site to see. Other nearby Templar points of interest are; the Church of Santa Maria do Oliva, the beautiful Knight Templar Hotel (we stayed there, it's a five star modern hotel with tasteful Templar themes throughout), and an ancient intact aqueduct that is also a must see (which is not listed in any tour book). The dining in Portugal for seafood and meats is the best in Europe. I can provide more details along with my digital photos which I would be glad to email to you. If you'd like further information or pictures, please let me know.

Fraternally,
Thomas Cordas
Wapakoneta, Ohio
Sidney Commandery No. 46

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.

Lisbon, Portugal. Photos by editor.







Letters to the Editor



Continued from page 17
Sir Knight John,

Looking at the photos of “watch fobs” in the April *Knight Templar* magazine, I couldn’t help but question whether the triangular “fob” was exactly that or a combination of fob and signet. It appears to me that the flat side or bottom of the “fob” may well have been used to mark personal papers or possibly even make an impression in a wax seal.

Just wondering if you might have more information.

Thanks,
John K. March, PGC of PA

Sir Knight John,

Both fobs belong to me (unless of course, you want to buy one of them), and I can tell you that the bases are relatively smooth. I don’t think that there is enough relief on either one of them to make a good impression in sealing wax, but I might give it a try just to see.

The Ed.



John Palmer,

John, I was pleasantly surprised to see the “teardrop” fobs in the article. It brought back some very special memories. In 1969, I went to Edinburgh, Scotland on military leave, and in going through the city, I ventured into an antique store. I found two watch fobs there, one of which was exactly like the “keystone design” pictured. There was also a signet form of the square and compass

on a second “teardrop.” I bought the square and compass fob and gave it to a dear friend, Brother Sveinn Kaaber, who was Master of Edda Lodge in Iceland. I didn’t have enough money to get the second fob, and besides, at the time I was not part of the York Rite. I have regretted not getting it ever since. Brother Kaaber appreciated and always used his gift on his correspondences. I never saw another of the fobs until your pictures in the *Knight Templar* magazine. Thank you so much for sharing the photos and bringing back fond memories.

Med brothurlegri hvethu (Icelandic for “with brotherly love,”)

Jay E. Montgomery
P.O. Box 16, Knox, PA 16232.

P.S. I do have a York/Scottish Rite fob, but it is similar to what you have shown.



Greetings Brother, [To Tom Jackson]

My name is Tyler and I read your article in this month’s *Knight Templar* publication. I wanted to compliment you on your effort in writing “World’s Freemasonry.” I have been a Mason for eight years, and this was the best thing I have read coming from any of our modern contributors on all things Masonic. Great job! I wish there was more of it and more awareness amongst the workmen of all the manifold implications contained within your analysis. It was a powerful read.

Respectfully,
Tyler Layne

NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master’s Club

James V. Davis.....	TN	Lloyd L. Nelson.....	NV
Larry T. Odom.....	MO	Charles W. Wilson.....	IA
Mrs. Jeanette Rife Cotton.....	TX	Mrs. Coy McCoy Baker.....	TX
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Sidney F. Putnam.....	ME	Joe W. Summers.....	CO
Bentley R. Hauze.....	UT	Dennis Hauze.....	UT
Jeanne Hauze.....	UT	Rima McLeod, M.D.	UT
Joshua A. Sanson.....	WV	Justin R. Thompson.....	WV
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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.

45th Annual Voluntary Campaign Final Report

July 1, 2012 - May 15, 2013

State	Cumulative Total	Total \$ Rank	Active Members as of Week End 5/18/2013	Active Member Per Capita Average	Per Capita \$ Rank
Total	\$1,379,456.13		104,236		
Knights Templar	\$30,880.55				
Alabama	\$15,058.00	20	1,647	\$9.14	21
Alaska	\$1,958.00	48	503	\$3.89	47
Arizona	\$5,106.00	41	720	\$7.09	28
Arkansas	\$7,979.35	32	1,130	\$7.06	29
California	\$156,275.51	3	3,569	\$43.79	3
Colorado	\$15,585.26	19	1,096	\$14.22	11
Connecticut	\$13,972.05	21	958	\$14.58	10
Croatia	\$0.00		48	\$0.00	
Delaware	\$2,805.00	46	269	\$10.43	17
District of Columbia	\$6,431.34	38	291	\$22.10	5
Florida	\$24,585.15	12	3,965	\$6.20	37
GE Subordinate	\$1,655.00	51	700	\$2.36	52
Georgia	\$25,482.45	11	3,775	\$6.75	33
Hawaii	\$932.00	52	255	\$3.65	48
Idaho	\$8,165.40	31	394	\$20.72	6
Illinois	\$29,706.00	9	4,302	\$6.91	30
Indiana	\$257,328.89	1	3,725	\$69.08	1
Iowa	\$15,940.50	18	1,889	\$8.44	22
Italy	\$0.00		349	\$0.00	
Kansas	\$8,407.00	30	1,827	\$4.60	45
Kentucky	\$18,977.75	15	3,097	\$6.13	38
Louisiana	\$10,636.50	26	1,631	\$6.52	35
Maine	\$11,539.00	24	1,831	\$6.30	36
Maryland	\$12,124.00	23	1,284	\$9.44	20
Mass/Rhode Island	\$45,335.99	7	2,907	\$15.60	8
{Mexico}	\$150.00	54	76	\$1.97	53
Michigan	\$13,213.00	22	2,204	\$6.00	41

State	Cumulative	Total	Active	Active	Per
Total	Total	\$	Members	Member	Capita
Total	Total	Rank	as of	Per	\$
Total	Total	Rank	Week	Capita	Rank
Total	Total	Rank	End	Average	Rank
Total	Total	Rank	5/18/2013	Average	Rank
	\$1,379,456.13		104,236		
Minnesota	\$7,237.00	34	1,571	\$4.61	44
Mississippi	\$8,795.20	29	2,874	\$3.06	50
Missouri	\$10,376.85	28	3,153	\$3.29	49
Montana	\$4,493.25	42	856	\$5.25	42
Nebraska	\$6,846.00	35	951	\$7.20	27
Nevada	\$11,075.72	25	483	\$22.93	4
New Hampshire	\$2,803.00	47	462	\$6.07	40
New Jersey	\$6,824.50	36	886	\$7.70	24
New Mexico	\$3,636.27	43	489	\$7.44	26
New York	\$17,511.00	17	1,803	\$9.71	19
North Carolina	\$23,301.41	13	3,453	\$6.75	34
North Dakota	\$2,944.00	45	295	\$9.98	18
Ohio	\$167,729.89	2	9,101	\$18.43	7
Oklahoma	\$10,504.30	27	1,372	\$7.66	25
Oregon	\$5,369.00	39	790	\$6.80	31
Panama	\$297.50	53	151	\$1.97	54
Pennsylvania	\$62,129.47	5	5,213	\$11.92	14
Philippines	\$1,795.00	49	393	\$4.57	46
Portugal	\$0.00		97	\$0.00	
Romania	\$30.00	56	169	\$0.18	55
South Carolina	\$20,480.63	14	4,032	\$5.08	43
South Dakota	\$1,725.00	50	641	\$2.69	51
Tennessee	\$48,746.60	6	4,341	\$11.23	15
Texas	\$105,991.44	4	8,320	\$12.74	13
Togo	\$0.00			\$0.00	
Utah	\$18,094.81	16	373	\$48.51	2
Vermont	\$3,259.00	44	481	\$6.78	32
Virginia	\$29,201.36	10	2,083	\$14.02	12
Washington	\$5,340.00	40	878	\$6.08	39
West Virginia	\$38,914.50	8	2,575	\$15.11	9
Wisconsin	\$7,246.08	33	913	\$7.94	23
Wyoming	\$6,527.66	37	595	\$10.97	1
knight templar					23

2013 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage



Christian ministers from across the United States join with the local faithful at the Western Wall as they participate in the 2013 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage.

The dates for the two pilgrimages next year are February 10 - 20, 2014 and February 24 - March 6, 2014.

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.



The Sword as a Symbol

By

Sir Knight David P. McCash

When a Sir Knight dons his uniform and straps on the sword of his knight-hood, he stands set apart from the rest of the peers of his generation. He not only represents the order to which he belongs, but he stands as a manifestation of that noble character that is held in high esteem before God and man.

In the modern military of the United States of America, officers of the Marine Corps are required to own and wear a sword during ceremonial events. Likewise, every Naval officer at or above the rank of Lieutenant Commander is required to own a sword. The sword is

said to be the emblem of military honor and should incite the bearer to a just and generous pursuit of honor and virtue.

Besides inciting the bearer to a generous pursuit of honor and virtue, the sword is symbolic of liberty and strength. What are symbols? Symbols are important to help remind us of important truths. Symbols are a timeless language that gives visual form to ideas and feelings that may otherwise defy the power of words.

Thus, the apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians used the symbols and imagery of armor for men of God to protect themselves and defend against the



"wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11). He admonished the man of Christ of his day to be "strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" and went on to describe military garb that is fit for the battle. In each description Paul gave from head to foot, whether the breastplate, buckler, shield, helmet, sword, etc., a corresponding meaning of that particular symbol.

Paul uses the sword as a symbol, telling the men of Ephesus to take "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" and speak boldly the "mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:17 & 19). As in Paul's day and probably more so in our very own, Paul's declaration that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" is never more needed by the modern Knight Templar.

Even though the modern Knight looks back to medieval days when chivalry and nobility were openly celebrated, and to wield a sword meant combat against a foe's "flesh and blood," the modern Knight should wield his sword symbolically in the defense of truth and against error.

Referring back to Paul's teaching, the sword is symbolic of the Holy Spirit which is the word of God, which word is truth. Thus, the modern Knight's words can dispel falsehood if we treasure up truth in our own minds and souls and use them in every situation where falsehood and error presents itself, "for the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a dis-

cerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

The day is fast approaching when the God and Lord of this earth, whom every Sir Knight is obligated to pattern his own life after, will wield His own sword, for "the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth" (Doctrine and Covenants of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints 1:13). For "out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations" (Rev. 19:15).

As we wear our swords ceremonially with our uniforms, may we also wield our swords in defense of truth against error in an age when falsehood and error parade themselves openly and acceptably before us.

Sir Knight David P. McCash is a member of Prather Commandery No. 62 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He can be contacted at dpmccash@yahoo.com and his website is:
<http://www.sirknightdavidpmccash.com/>

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Grand Encampment

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959 Curtis D. Farmer
Borger Commandery No. 96
Border, TX

960 Bruce L. Ewald
Los Angeles Commandery No. 9
Van Nuys, CA

961 Carlos H. Gonzales
Los Angeles Commandery No. 9
Van Nuys, CA
1st Bronze

962 Bruce Hudson
Los Angeles Commandery No. 9
Van Nuys, CA

964 Otto G. Uecker
Hugh de Payen Commandery No. 7
Riverton, WY

963 Simon McIlroy
Los Angeles Commandery No. 9
Van Nuys, CA
1st Bronze

965-966 Manuel Liam Garcia
Rajah Commandery No. 20
Davao City, Philippines
Original and 1st Bronze



967 Rodel Riezl S. Reyes
Rajah Commandery No. 20
Davao City, Philippines

968 Jonlanie E. Malones
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Davao City, Philippines

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Davao City, Philippines



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

12 DAY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

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1 night Hotel Mercure Brive-La-Gaillarde
2 nights Hotel Mercure Millau
2 nights Hotel Le Donjon Carcassonne
1 night Hotel Holiday Inn Dijon
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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 Bérenger 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 Avallaur, 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

AF 012 17MAY CDGJFK HK26 1035A-1235P

Meals: Breakfast

Cancellation: Once a partial or full payment has been made, cancellations will only be accepted in writing. Cancellation terms

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JFK-Paris - 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%
Fuel surcharges and taxes are subject to change until paid in full and ticketed

CONTACT INFORMATION:

John L. Palmer KTCH, KGC, 33°

Managing Editor,
Knight Templar magazine

ktmagazine@comcast.net

Office 615-283-8477

Payment Schedule/Terms and conditions

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will be applied based on the date that the written cancellation is received and based on the following dates prior to departure.

179 to 101 days prior to departure: \$200 per person

100 to 61 days prior to departure: \$300 per person

60 to 31 days or less prior to departure: 75% of land/cruise services & 100% of air cost

30 days or less prior to departure / no-show: 100% of all services

FUEL SURCHARGES: Airlines and cruise-lines retain the right to adjust prices based upon market price fuel surcharges. In those cases, Gate1 will adjust your invoice accordingly. In order to avoid these potential charges, your entire group must be paid in full and airline tickets issued.

CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS: All prices are based on current rates of exchange. Your final invoice will reflect any increases resulting from currency fluctuations.

More Old Fobs and Masonic Jewelry

Sir Knight Robert Keene of Commandery No. 9 in La Crosse, Wisconsin sends us these photos of part of his collection. The photos were taken by Essex Photography and are published with permission. I will publish some more photos of his collection in future issues as space permits.





Three faces of the same fob above.



knight templar

Knightly News

Masonic Service Association Official Appointed to National Veterans Advisory Committee

February 5, 2013

George O. Braatz, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA), has been appointed to represent MSANA on the National Advisory Committee for the United States Veterans Administration Voluntary Services (VAVS). It will be the first time in many years for a Masonic representative to serve in an advisory capacity for the VAVS. Brother Braatz said that during his two-year term he would work to strengthen the relationship between Freemasonry and our military veterans.

The Masonic Service Association for more than fifty years has administered a Hospital Visitation Program at virtually all Veterans Administration (VA) medical facilities in the country, as well as at a variety of state veterans homes or military hospitals. Masonic Service Association (MSA) is one of fifty-seven national groups – and the only Masonic one – certified by the VA

to work in and provide services to our military veterans in VA facilities. MSA coordinates about 184 certified Coordinators and Hospital Representatives in the United States, plus works with more than one thousand other Masonic volunteers who assist at VA hospital and medical centers.

Brother Braatz is a Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

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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Beauceant News

As my year draws to an end, I cannot help but think about the day my Sir Knight and I stepped out the door to start our incredible journey that would take us across the United States on our quest to visit each of our beautiful Beauceant Assemblies. As we were driving, I looked down at my itinerary and remarked, "how will I ever manage?" That was on October 1, 2012, on our way to my first official visit to catching a plane home from my last official visit on May 16, 2013. I thought to myself, "where did all the time go?" All my visits were over. As I look back over my year, I think of how every assembly tried to make sure everything was perfect for each of my visits. From our accommodations to the many pot lucks, dinners, and receptions, we experienced the love and fellowship of my Beauceant Sisters and their Sir Knights.



As I gaze at my book containing all my honorary memberships, I think of the little sayings we learned along the way like "Ya, you bet cha" and "Bless your little ole heart." I even remember one assembly being so relieved that their official visit was over that they broke into song; I thought I was in a scene from the *Sound of Music*. I would be remiss if I did not mention the many occasions I was honored by a Commandery with an arch of steel, presented with a flag of their state, given a charm, or served a dinner made with loving care by a Commandery to name only a few. Yes, it's been an amazing journey, one with many memories that I will never forget. I want to thank each and every one of my Sisters and Sir Knights for all their love and assistance and for making this a special and successful year. "You are my heroes and the wind beneath my wings." God Bless.

In Beauceant Love,
(Mrs Joe) Lei Lani S. Cortez



Knights

at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight Bruce Wayne Barker

The English Masonic Union of 1813: A Tale Antient & Modern, by John Belton. Published in 2012 by Arima Publishing ISBN 978-1-84549-559-6.

Being an avid reader of non-fiction, Masonic or otherwise, I often find that authors will create a tome to an event or subject that includes too much information from too broad a spectrum. Not John Belton. *The English Masonic Union of 1813* is a well written, focused story from a perspective that offers an exciting and accurate account of an event that all Masons should know about.

A brief understanding of the terms Antient and Modern and the premises in which these were utilized is enough to spark interest in knowing what happens next, but that spark will not prepare you for the drama that unfolds.

The setting and temperament of the times in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales is clearly established and well stated, the cast of characters are indeed impressive in that most are royalty, high profile public individuals, or at the very least, persons with large ego's and a force of personality and confidence.

This book not only explains several facts about the formation of the Grand Lodge as we know it today but touches on the interactions and assumptions of the brothers at that time. It is packed

with historical facts, dates, and personalities that are conveniently collected in one place for the curious reader to discover, but it is in no way a tedious read of details. The writing is very well crafted, and in following the story, one learns of some very important events that influence the way we practice Masonry today.

My personal take from reading this book, other than learning many facts about the split and reunion of the craft as well as bits on the place or placement of Royal Arch Masonry and Knights Templar degrees as we know them today, is that there is a cautionary tale of the dangers and consequences of allowing personal opinion and hubris to guide our actions and not adhering to and allowing the clear principle of "the good of the order" to prevail.

Every brother would benefit from knowing how we arrived at the current structure of today's Masonry, but some may be pleasantly surprised that although we often revel in the fact that Masonry is known to affect men, societies, and even governments, this story will reveal that sometimes men, societies, and governments can affect the fraternity.

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Thus did Abrah
according to all that
God commanded
him, so did he.
Genesis 6:22

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