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**VOLUME LIX**

**OCTOBER 2013**

**NUMBER 10**

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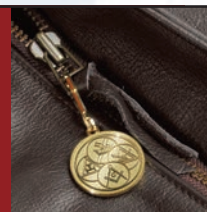
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# Knight Templar

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VOLUME LIX OCTOBER 2013 NUMBER 10  
 Published monthly as an official publication of the  
 Grand Encampment of Knights Templar  
 of the United States of America.

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 3112 Tyler Parkway  
 Bismarck, ND 58503-0192

**Address changes or corrections**  
**and all membership activity in-**  
**cluding deaths should be report-**  
**ed to the Recorder of the local**  
**Commandery. Please do not re-**  
**port them to the editor.**

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Magazine materials and correspondence  
 to the editor should be sent in electronic  
 form to the managing editor whose con-  
 tact information is shown above.  
 Materials and correspondence concern-  
 ing the Grand Commandery state suppl-  
 ements should be sent to the respective  
 supplement editor.

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# Grand Master's Message

I would like to share my thoughts about a possible combined package for success for our Commanderies: public relations, religious activities, and programming that leads to membership growth. This package revolves around activities for both members and non-members. The more active our Commanderies are, the more our members will want to participate and the more non-members will want to join. Activity and visibility are the key factors.

Each Commandery needs to have a public relations program that will keep its name in front of eligible Masons and the public. In Masonic circles, we may present programs on Templary, conduct honor guards and drill exhibitions, or have open informational Conclaves. For the community, we may assist in local charitable projects, participate in community parades, honor community leaders in our asylums, or conduct open religious observances. After all, we are the Christian branch of Freemasonry, and we need to conduct ourselves as such.

Programming can be the key to obtaining new Sir Knights as well as retaining our existing Brothers. There are many types of programs that we can offer to our members as well as many educational or community based programs to which we may invite the public. Offering programs of an entertaining, educational, and interesting nature will increase attendance at our Conclaves, both open and tiled.

One last group that we need to look at is our lost Templars, those Sir Knights who have lost interest in Templary for one reason or another. Once your Commandery has interesting programs and activities planned, please contact our former members, tell them what you are doing now, and invite them back into the fold. Let them know that they are needed and wanted.

Please remember that activity and visibility are the key factors! Keep active and visible, have fun, and watch your Commandery grow!

The officers of the Grand Encampment are looking forward to greeting you somewhere on the circuit in the near future.

Courteously,



David Dixon Goodwin, GCT  
Grand Master



The future is ours! We must seize the moment!

knight templar

Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar.

# Prelate's Chapel

by

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

**A**utumn is upon us here in the northern hemisphere, reminding us of the changing seasons many of us enjoy, but we are also aware of the ravaging weather changes that can accompany the seasons. Much destruction has been wrought this year, and there will be much to come. Fires, storms, floods, snow, and ice bring damage to thousands of properties and thousands of lives.

Each of us have our own seasonal changes. Birth, life, and death are the cycles we all go through. Our faith adds resurrection and new life thanks to the bountiful love of our God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Yet, many of us experience destruction throughout our seasonal changes, be it the loss of loved ones, the loss of health or reason, or the loss of fortunes. We can't seem to go through a day without hearing or seeing multiple changes in life around us that can be very threatening to our stability, as an individual and as a nation.

I can't but help think of Henry Lyte's hymn, where he says: "Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away. Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou, who changest not, abide with me." What an inspiring reminder that God does not change; God is constant in His love and forgiveness. Joseph Swain added his own testimony to God's love and faithfulness when he wrote: "O Thou in whose presence my soul takes delight, On whom in affliction I call, My comfort by day, and my song in the night, My hope, my salvation, my all."

St. Paul, who so well knew the vicissitudes of life, its threats and dangers, gives us all great assurance, as he did twenty centuries ago in his Letter to the Romans (8:31-39): "What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? ... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ... For I am sure [nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Thomas O. Chisolm knew this when he wrote: "Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest; Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness, To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love."



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## IN MEMORIAM



James William Ziebol  
Minnesota  
Grand Commander 1973  
Born: August 13, 1935  
Died: July 15, 2013

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# A Chat With The Managing Editor

I don't know about you, but sometimes I come to my senses and realize that something I had planned to do just isn't going to happen the way I had hoped. I had one of these epiphanies this week about a project that has been on my desk for five years. I am now convinced that I am not ever going to have the time to make it happen all by myself. As most of you know, my only staff is the cat "Precious" and my wonderful proofreading former school teacher, the beautiful and talented Miss Glenda who volunteers when she has the time and when I behave to her liking.

What I had hoped to do was to create an on-line index of articles in the *Knight Templar* magazine beginning with the very first issue. I have all the materials I need to do it, but I do not have the time. It is the sort of project that several people could work on at once. It involves scanning, OCR conversion to text, editing, typing, and proofing, all which can be done using Microsoft Word.

If any of you Sir Knights think this is a worthwhile project and would be willing to volunteer some time and effort to make it happen, I would be most grateful. All I can give you is credit for your efforts and my sincere appreciation.

If any of you would like to volunteer or discuss, you can call me or e-mail me using the contact information on page 4.

On another subject, as many of you know, I have the privilege of reading all the state supplements each month which go in the center of the magazine. There was a time when it was more of a chore than a privilege, but I am now seeing a very positive trend. Many of our Grand Commanders are taking advantage of their space in the magazine to emphasize what it really means to be a Knight Templar in terms of character and behavior. I would encourage you to take a look at some of these supplements on line at: <http://www.knightstemplar.org/KTnews/>.

You know, to me, being a Knight Templar is a really big deal. We are part of a nine hundred year old tradition of chivalry. An unbroken line, nine hundred years old, of good guys. When I was a boy, I watched the old westerns where the good guys wore the white hats. Unfortunately, our young people don't seem to have the opportunity for role models like Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and John Wayne. Maybe we can fill this void by being good role models for the youth of today. It may feel sometime like they think we are silly or behind the times, but I believe they are still watching to see if we live consistently with the way we talk.

To our Grand Commanders, I would offer my thanks and encouragement for truly exhibiting the leadership that goes with the office - Attaboy!



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John".

John L. Palmer  
Managing Editor

october 2013

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

The last in the series.

By

Sir Knight Douglas M. Rowe

## Time Line

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

- May 1291 Acre fell, al-Ashraf moved toward Beirut, and the two Templar fortresses at Tortosa and the Castle Pilgrim at Athlit were the last remaining cities under Christian control.
- Aug. 1291 The Templars left Tortosa and Athlit, leaving no Christian presence in the Holy Land, Templar Grand Master de Beaujeu died, and Tibald de Gaudin was named the 22<sup>nd</sup> Grand Master.
- 1293 Grand Master de Gaudin died, Jacques de Molay was named the 23<sup>rd</sup> and final Grand Master, and the Templars based in Cyprus were not welcomed by King Henry.
- Aug. 1294 Nicholas IV died, Pietro Morrone was named Celestine V, he died after four months in office, and Cardinal Beredetto Gaetani was named Pope Boniface VIII.
- 1303 Boniface VIII died, and Niccolo Boccasini was named Pope Benedict XI.
- Jul. 1304 Benedict XI was poisoned, and non-Cardinal Bernard de Goth was named Pope Clement V.
- 1306 Philip IV of France summoned Templar Grand Master, de Molay, to Europe and created a plan to confiscate Templar wealth and to clear his debts.
- Jul. 1306 Philip IV called for the arrest of every Jew in France, with all property being given to the Crown of France. He needed an excuse to suppress the Templars who were still directly responsible only to the Pope, so he began fabricating accusations of sodomy, blasphemy, and witchcraft.

The Holy Roman and Universal Inquisition had been established in 1229 and openly used torture to extract confessions; however, the Templars, as a Papal order, were exempt from torture. Grand Inquisitor Guillaume Imbert was a friend and personal confessor to Philip IV.

- 1307 Templar Grand Master de Molay sailed into Marseilles with six Templar galleys, defied the Papal order for secrecy, and marched into Paris with sixty Templars in full dress where he met with the Papal court to outline part of his plan for a new Crusade.
- Jul. 1307 King Edward I of England died; the Templars lost their most powerful friend and supporter; Philip revealed the plan to suppress the Templars to Clement V; Esquiu de Florian, an ex-Templar expelled from the order, agreed to provide evidence supporting Philip IV's charges against the order; and Philip IV, using the confession of de Florian, convinced Clement V that the Templars were guilty of treachery by conducting secret agreements with Muslims, resulting in the loss of the Holy Land.
- Sep. 1307 Philip sent word to every town to prepare for arrests on October 13, and Philip IV's vassal, de Nogaret, explained the move that "all members of the Templar order would be arrested without exception, imprisoned, and reserved for the judgment of the Church, and that all movable and unmovable property would be seized and placed in the hands of the Church."
- Friday, Oct. 13, 1307 The Templars were arrested and put in chains, Philip IV forced a search of many Templar buildings and seized huge amounts of treasure, and the first legend of Templar treasure being taken from Paris by wagon is born. Philip IV wrote to all Christian Monarchs in Europe, directing them to take similar action against Templars in their countries, Clement V disapproved of Philip IV's action, and Philip IV launched a campaign against Clement, declaring the Pope to be overly lenient in punishing heretics.
- Nov. 1307 Clement V submitted to Philip IV and issued a Papal Bull legitimizing Philip's actions against Templars; the Inquisitors launched full scale torture of captured Templars; thirty-six Templars died in the first week; and prolonged barbaric tortures resulted in many deaths and confessions among the imprisoned Templars.
- Dec. 1307 The Papal Bull reached King Edward II in England who delayed three weeks before enforcing it, giving the Templars a chance to escape with (allegedly) more treasure being hidden; two Templars were captured

in all of England; and Edward II refused to apply torture. Edward II and Clement V debated for three years about using torture until Pope sent three trained Inquisitors to the English Court. The Pope declared that anyone giving aid or shelter to fugitive Templars would be excommunicated and tortured in their stead, but Papal orders for torture were ignored except in the Kingdoms of Naples and Sicily.

1309 Grand Master de Molay confessed under torture.

Nov. 1310 De Molay denied his confession.

Mar. 1311 The Templars formed a defense of the order at Papal Court. The Templars were declared guilty of all charges created by Philip IV in 1306.

Oct. 1311 Clement V convened the Council of Vienne to determine final fate of the Templar order, and the Council heard the charges that the Templars renounced God, Jesus Christ, or His Holy Mother in their initiation; that they worshipped Satan in the form of a cat; that they did not believe in the sacraments; that they spit on the cross; that they confessed to their own officers rather than to priests; that they kissed the navel of the presiding officer; that they performed their Initiation in secrecy; that they were guilty of homosexuality; that they worshipped idols; that they wore girdles that contacted idols; that they swore to the secrecy of order; that they were not permitted to confess to priests; that they did not repent of obvious sins; and that many members confessed to the Inquisitors.

May 1313 All Templar property was given to the order of Hospitallers.

Mar. 1314 Grand Master de Molay was burned at stake after seven years in prison, shouted the innocence of the order while being burned, and had his ashes dumped in the river to erase all trace of the order.

Apr. 1314 Pope Clement V died.

Nov. 1314 Philip IV died.

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



# 2013 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage



Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage - 2013 Group 1 in Bethlehem at the Church of the Nativity.

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



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>.

From the  
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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.*

### **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

# **Knights Templar Research Story: Knights Templar Eye Foundation Awards to Young Scientists**

Article taken from *UCSF VISIONS* Newsletter Fall 2012.

**T**hree postdoctoral researchers in the Department of Ophthalmology have received a total of \$180,000 in prestigious Knights Templar Eye Foundation awards, yearlong grants given to some of the country's best young vision scientists. These awards have supported UCSF (University of California, San Francisco) vision research for more than twenty years.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation representative, Sir Knight Bruce Pruitt, Past Grand Commander, Past Department Commander, and Trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, along with Sir Knight Casey Norris, Grand Commander of California, presented the awards at UCSF this past summer in full regalia, honoring the scholars and their faculty mentors: David Copenhagen, Ph.D.; Douglas Gould, Ph.D.; and Hilary Beggs, Ph.D.

"Knights Templar Eye Foundation provides crucial seed funding to get promising research off the ground," says Dr. Copenhagen. UCSF vision scientists can leverage fruitful results of these innovative approaches to gain support for further investigation.

## **How a Mutation Leads to Childhood Blindness**

With Dr. Gould as her mentor, Mao Mao, Ph.D., researches the impact of genetic mutations on a range of ocular developmental disorders. Optic nerve hypoplasia, a leading cause of childhood blindness in the United States, occurs most frequently in young mothers' first infants. Abnormal optic nerve development results in a smaller optic nerve, reducing the capacity to resolve visual detail or even perceive light. There is no cure, and disease prevalence is increasing.

To more precisely comprehend when, where, and how the disease functions, Dr. Mao uses a disease model with a genetic mutation in one component of the basement membrane and examines how this component directs optic nerve development. Drs. Mao and Gould expect this investigation to yield discoveries that will lead to direct understanding of cellular mechanisms and molecular pathways that can be targeted for treatment.

A native of Qidong, China, a small town near Shanghai, Dr. Mao earned her doctorate in molecular physiology and biophysics at the University of Iowa, where she studied genes that cause early-onset glaucoma.

## **How Irregular Synapse Development Impairs Sight**

Sriparna Majumdar, Ph.D., works closely with Dr. Copenhagen to understand how retinal nerve cells make physico-chemical connections (synapses) with each other

and what types of molecules determine each nerve cell's identity and specific cell-to-cell connections. Recent studies established that certain protein molecules interact to drive development of some nerve cell synapses in the spinal cord and cerebellum. Preliminary results from the Copenhagen lab suggest that this same process is also at work in the retina.

When the activity of the protein molecule TrkB is blocked during postnatal development, it permanently retards the formation of some retinal synapses and compromises the maturation of nerve cells that relay signals to different parts of the brain. This upsets the normal relay of light information from retinal cells to the brain, presumably causing blurred sight and reduced edge detection.

Dr. Majumdar examines the significance of the changes in retinal function, including light perception, that occur when TrkB activity is blocked during retinal development. Her work will determine more precisely how poor functioning of this protein leads to visual loss.

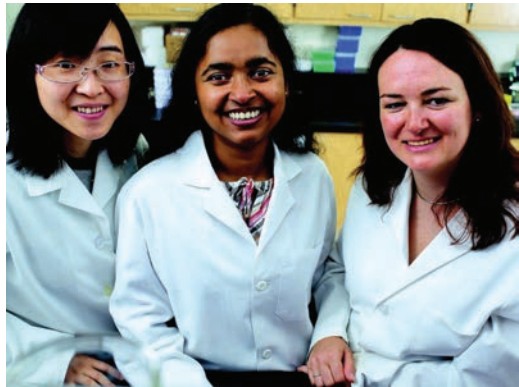
For her doctoral degree from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, India, Dr. Majumdar studied aspects of electrical signaling in nerve cells of the brain.

### **How a Mutation Shapes an Inherited Retinal Disease**

Working first with Dr. Beggs and now with Dr. Copenhagen and Louis Reichardt, Ph.D., Laura Cammas, Ph.D., focuses on the cone dystrophy called CORD5, which causes legal blindness by age thirty and is currently untreatable. Cone dystrophies are a group of inherited diseases that disturb the function of retinal cones, leading to loss of central vision, defective color vision, and light sensitivity.

Dr. Cammas' hypothesis is that in CORD5, the synapse of the cone cell rather than the cone cell itself is impaired. Only one genetic mutation has been identified as causing CORD5. Dr. Cammas analyzes how this gene, called Nir1, functions in healthy and pathological conditions. She uses a new CORD5 model to examine the role of the mutation in disease development. Her analysis of the role of Nir1 in healthy retinal cells will provide invaluable information for identifying other genes that may be involved and in potential therapies.

Originally from Paris, Dr. Cammas studied the implication of prostaglandins in early embryonic development in sheep for her Ph.D. in reproductive biology from the University of Paris XI. She then completed postdoctoral research in developmental biology and ophthalmology at the Institute for Genetics, Molecular, and Cellular Biology in Illkirch, France.



Pictured left to right - Drs. Mao Mao, Sriparna Majumdar, and Laura Cammas.

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Greetings Sir Knights,

**T**he 45<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign is in the books and is certainly one for the records. I want to personally thank each of you for your hard work, dedication, and the amazing results you produced. You truly exemplified the “power of we.” Together we raised \$1,379,456 for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation; now that is something to hang your hat on!

As I shared with you during the 45<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign, we have more to do. The future is before us, it is ours to do with as we please. I believe it is a future in which we will each reach within ourselves, find our very best, and accomplish great things. With that, I am excited to announce that the 46<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign will kick off on October 1, 2013, and continue through April 30, 2014.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing the results of your hard work and efforts. Sir Knights, never doubt for one minute that you have made and will continue to make a difference.

Vince Lombardi once said, “If it does not matter who wins or loses, then why do they keep score?” Coach Lombardi surrounded himself with the very best talent of his time, with men who shared a common vision and who wanted to impact their sport.

One of the goals for the 46<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign is to increase the number of Life Sponsors, and number of Commanderies who achieve 100%. A Life Sponsorship only costs \$30; if you do not have one, please consider purchasing one. If you have one or even

two, would you consider purchasing one for another Sir Knight in your local Commandery? If you do, please be sure to note his name, your Commandery number, and which Grand Commandery you belong to when you send in your check.

As of June 30, 2013, there are fifty-three Commanderies who are 100% in Life Sponsors. Virginia leads the way with ten Commanderies at 100%, Tennessee and Ohio are tied for second with seven Commanderies each, and Iowa is third. I know that I will be working with my state Eye Foundation Chairman to increase the number in Tennessee; I hope that you will work with yours. Let’s double our efforts and see where the numbers settle out at the end of the campaign.

Sir Knights, as the 46<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign begins, dream big, think outside the box. The difference between our dreams and our reality is dependent upon our efforts. We are Christian Knights. As our brethren of old, let us also be at the forefront of the battle, and finally Sir Knights, I am reminded from my study of this simple admonition; “And whatever you do, whether by speech or action, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Sir Knights, you make me proud. Let us always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In His Service,

Terry L. Plemons KGC  
Chairman, 46<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign



## Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir Knight John,

I thank Dr. David Harrison for his three-part article on "The Liverpool Masonic Rebellion and the Grand Lodge of Wigan" (Nov 2012 - Jan 2013). From my viewpoint, what is important here is not the what, but the why! In part one we read: "In 1751 the "Antients" Grand Lodge was formed which rebelled against the "Moderns" for what they saw as their tampering with Freemasonry." The "Moderns" here refers to the new Grand Lodge that England formed in 1717 which changed and created new ritual for not only the Lodges but also for the various Masonic bodies including the Knights Templar. What was in the old rituals that was now deleted from the newly imposed rituals? I believe that the answer to this question is contained in two presentations that were made by speakers at the May 2012 Masonic Symposium in California. One was Henry Wilson Coil Lecturer, A. Trevor Stewart, Ph.D., whose lecture was titled, "Gentleman Entrants in Scottish 17<sup>th</sup> Century Lodges: Motivations, Processes, and Consequences." The other was Sir Knight and Past Commander Timothy Hogan from Utah who summarized his book (c2007) *The Alchemical Keys To Masonic Ritual*.

Trevor Stewart showed that prior to 1700, there were many active "Lodges" throughout Scotland and that each of them had similar rules and rituals. However, they focused on researching and performing chemical alchemy! Timothy Hogan's book is the first book which establishes a direct link between the rituals

of Freemasonry and the practice of both chemical and spiritual alchemy. It points out that the entire Masonic ritual that we know today, including its lost word, could point to such past alchemical research and the search for "that what was lost."

I agree with Sir Knight Hogan that this goal was, and still is, the creation and use of the ancient "mfkzt" or "shem-an-na" (used by the ancient people in Egypt), the manna (of the Hebrews), the "Philosophers' Stone" (of medieval Europe), and what is now called the "white powder of gold." Various websites today state that: "White gold was created alchemically by some ancient civilizations for the purpose of expanding consciousness, heightening abilities of the leaders, and as a part of certain ceremonies. It was usually reserved for the higher echelons in society or religious orders, often given to initiates being promoted to a higher status within the group." Today in the United States, the research name given to this area is called "ORMES" Research, which stands for "Orbitally Rearranged Monoatomic Elements." The idea here is that if one can change the shape of the orbits of the electrons in an element or isotope, then a "different material" can be formed in a one-atom form that has completely different physical and chemical properties than those of the original material. Thus, 24kt gold can be converted to this "white powder of gold" and used accordingly. This has been proved during the last 20 years by David Hudson with a United States Patent (I was one of his science advisors in the 1990s). Could the teaching of this research have been what was deleted from

**Continueud on page 20.**

Photos of temple ruins on the Acropolis  
in Athens taken by the editor.



# 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.





## Letters to the Editor



Continued from page 17

the Lodges in Scotland and England in 1717 that caused the creation of the “Antients” Grand Lodge and such a large rebellion? I believe so. If so, what would the readers of the *Knight Templar* magazine like to do about it? I would offer that reading Timothy Hogan’s book would be the first step, and then they could create groups to further discuss, research, and promote this very interesting topic. This could be a worthy goal - “long lost, now found.”

Sir Knight Patrick G. Bailey  
Palo Alto Commandery No. 47, CA



Dear Mr. Palmer:

I have been reading the *Knight Templar* magazine for many years, with it initially coming for my deceased husband, then as a widow, and now with it coming to my new husband.

I read with great interest the comments about the Social Order of the Beauceant in the February issue, particularly those regarding to what name the ladies are referred. I am a member of Beauceant, and when I joined the organization, I was not aware of this requirement that one is referred to by her husband’s name, or frankly, I would not have joined. At that time, my husband was deceased and I was criticized that I “signed in” with my own name. My name was not “Elizabeth” in the role of members, it was “Mrs. Husband’s Name.” The ritual of the SOOB is lovely, and the members are outstanding. However, I am offended by this requirement or tradition

and eventually found that it became an easy decision to opt out of attendance at these meetings. Perhaps that is an over-reaction—perhaps not. In 1961, I turned twenty-one years of age and was then qualified to join the prestigious Woman’s Club in my hometown. Since my mother was a member, I had access to the club’s roster. The ladies’ names were listed as “Mrs. Husband’s Name.” I chose not to join a club where the women did have an identity of their own.

Interestingly enough, some Beauceant members are married to men who are not Knights Templar and in fact not even Masons, yet they must also be known as “Mrs. Husband’s Name!” Clearly those members joined under their father’s relationship — why are they not then “Ms. Father’s Name?” The same applies to those unmarried women who are permitted to use their own name.

I have heard that, in an effort to come closer to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the members are now allowed to be “Mrs. Husband’s Name, with their name in parentheses after.” All of us who belong to organizations in the Masonic family realize that falling membership is a major issue. We must look at the many reasons behind this, but I would dare say that maintaining archaic ideas and customs may be one of those issues we should consider.

Faternally,

Elizabeth J. Sidford  
P. O. Box 37  
Pioche, NV

[The following are letters to Tom Jackson]



## Letters to the Editor



I was blown away and most impressed with your article in the March issue of *Knight Templar* magazine, "The World's Freemasonry." It is "spot on" about our beloved Masonic order.

I am hoping that you have a digital copy of this article and would be willing to share it with me. I consider myself a student of Masonry, and after almost thirty-five years, I find that I am still wet behind the ears.

The good Lord willing and the creeks don't rise, I will be going in as Master of a Daylight Lodge in Fort Worth, Texas come June and would like to present educational material to the Brethren as often as I can. I would like to present your paper in segments to the Brethren of Sunrise Daylight Lodge No. 1433.

S&F

David H. Gardner  
In His Service



I just read the adapted article "The World's Freemasonry" in the *Knight Templar* monthly publication and found it to be one of the best I have read. I don't know about the condition of Freemasonry in the world, but I believe the description fits Freemasonry in Missouri exactly as you described.

Thanks for your insight.

Norman E. Ragan  
Rolla Commandery No. 59  
Rolla Missouri



I have just completed reading in the March issue of *Knight Templar* magazine

the article you authored on the "The World's Freemasonry" that was reprinted from *The Journal of The Masonic Society*. First, as a Brother from Pennsylvania, I would like to compliment you on both the style and thoughtfulness of that article. I always admired your column in our monthly magazine when you were Grand Master [sic] and clearly you are continuing with thoughtful research into our Fraternity.

While I retain my membership in Garfield Lodge No. 559 in DuBois, Pennsylvania, I hold dual membership in St. Joseph Lodge No. 45 in South Bend, Indiana. I'm currently the Senior Deacon of the Lodge and am starting to build a notebook of ideas for our Lodge during my upcoming year in the East. While some of the activities and programs necessary for that year are clear to me, I have been questioning what we must do to attract the best members of the generation of young men now coming of age and who are in their 20's and 30's to our Fraternity and how we can inspire them to be the future of our Fraternity.

I want to thank you for your thoughts on the philosophical style of European Freemasonry. Solid and interesting Masonic education appeals to me. I hope that I can leverage your thoughts in programs within St. Joseph Lodge now and during my year as Master.

Again, Brother Jackson, it is a grand article, and I enjoyed reading it and hope to use your thoughts to clarify my own.

Faternally & Sincerely,

Brother Bob Guthrie

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# Those Pesky Knights Templar

By  
John Belton

**I**n the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries we have grown accustomed to our Freemasonry being in a state of good order, so we can easily fall into the trap of thinking that it was the same yesterday as it is today. Actually, Freemasonry is always on the move, and often a warrant from some distant place may serve well enough to move matters forward and address some need – the recent formation of a new Grand Priory of the Reformed and Rectified Rite of the United States of America (CBCS) is a typical example. One could almost say that such things are part of Masonic tradition, however unpopular they are with the establishments who face competition.

If we go back to the period of 1750 - 1800, the situation was almost totally chaotic. There were two Grand Lodges in England (the Antients and the Moderns), and in Scotland and Ireland as well, but they only looked after the first three craft degrees. Rather, there were first of all two degrees, and a third made its public appearance in Samuel Prichard's exposure, *Masonry Dissected*, in 1730. After this, the initiative seems to have passed to France, and it is generally agreed that the oration of Chevalier Ramsey had a significant effect upon thinking, for in the final paragraph he wrote:

“After his [Hiram's] death, King Solomon wrote down our statutes, maxims, and mysteries in hieroglyphic figures, and this ancient book is the original code of our order. After the destruction of the first temple, the great Cyrus, who was initiated in all our mysteries, instituted Zorobabel [sic] Grand Master of the Lodge in Jerusalem and ordered him to lay the foundations of the second temple wherein the mysterious book of Solomon was deposited. This book was preserved for twelve centuries in the temple of the Israelites, but after the destruction of this second temple under emperor Titus and the dispersion of this people, this authentic record was lost until the time of the crusades when it was partly recovered after the taking of Jerusalem. This sacred code was deciphered, and although the sublime spirit of all the hieroglyphic figures it contained were not fully understood, our ancient order was revived...”

Thus he started a chain of events which led to Germany whereby the Knights Templar, pretty much as we know it today, was unleashed upon the Masonic world. It spread far and wide quickly and was very popular from the 1760s onward. Probably much of its popularity was in military lodges – because a military man and a brother would probably like nothing more than to be a Sir Knight!

While I write only about Ireland, the situation was much the same in Scotland,  
knight templar

although slightly less so in England. In Ireland Lodges worked whatever degrees they chose, and the Lodges claimed to be able to do so by the words used in Irish Craft Warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The Grand Lodge disputed this, but in reality did not have the power to enforce its contrary view. The first of the additional degrees, the Holy Royal Arch, (and it seems to have appeared in Ireland, Scotland, and England at much the same time – the mid 1740s) seemed to Lodges to be part of what they did. This was especially true of the Holy Royal Arch, and it had become the practice of every Lodge that, as the Irish researcher William Chetwode-Crawley noted in 1897, “For each Lodge was accustomed to get what it could out of each candidate for the Royal Arch, and to render account to no man. All such fees would be pocketed by the Lodge under the existing system.”

The route to become a Knight Templar, then as now, was to have completed the three Craft degrees and then (after passing the chair) to get the Royal Arch Degree. This alone qualified one to become a Knight Templar! It seems to have been assumed that the Royal Arch was merely some sort of extension of the Craft degrees, and in Scotland and Ireland it was simply worked by Lodges. In the English Antients Lodges, the Royal Arch was formally included and stated to be “The heart, root, and marrow of Freemasonry” by the Antients Grand Secretary, Laurence Dermott. The establishment of the Moderns Grand Lodge (the one created in 1717 in London) had mainly set itself against the Royal Arch, and it took some initiative by the then Grand Master, Lord Blayney, to create a Grand Chapter in 1766.

However, the Knights Templar arrived on the scene perhaps rather like a thunderbolt. Because it was new and not integrated into Freemasonry, some enterprising individuals set themselves up offering warrants for Knights Templar, and because nobody was offering warrants for the Royal Arch - of doing that as well. It must have been at this point, around the period 1790 to 1810, that the (Craft) Grand Lodges realized that their authority was becoming seriously undermined and that they had to establish their authority. Scotland took advantage of the Unlawful Societies Act of 1799 to require all Lodges to pay their dues each year and provide a list of members, and they also banned all and every degree apart from those of Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. The penalty of a failure to comply was to have ones warrant withdrawn! England was starting to think about a union of their two Grand Lodges and would not take any action until 1813.

As is often the case with things Irish, the circumstances were different and complicated – and the story is one worth telling. At some point, a group of Sir Knights applied to the Scottish Lodge “Mother Kilwinning” for a warrant for a Lodge, and this Lodge was to be called “The High Knights Templars of Ireland Kilwinning Lodge.” Mother Kilwinning in Ayrshire is quoted by numerous writers as being the traditional source of higher degrees, although the Lodge itself remains silent upon the matter. Either way, the warrant was granted in 1779, and it seems that they quickly established the giving of the degrees of Excellent, Super Excellent, Royal Arch, and Knights Templar. However, there was also an Early Grand Encampment in Dublin which in 1805 claimed to have been in existence for over a century, but it is not clear how active it was.

As an aside, it is remarkable that wherever early references to the Royal Arch or Knights Templar occur, they have appeared soon after the arrival of a marching  
24  
october 2013

regiment with an Irish warrant in its baggage. Recently, while talking to a member of Lodge Glittering Star No. 322, Irish Constitution (This Lodge still retains its original travelling warrant and still meets near Birmingham in England!), their secretary was proud to tell me that they, the regiment, were in Fredericksburg, Virginia just before the first mention of the Royal Arch there and in Boston, Massachusetts at the time of the first recorded Knight Templar meeting. In many ways, this sort of history has great romantic appeal to all of us as individual Brothers and Sir Knights, but maybe we should spare a few thoughts for the situation in which the Grand Lodge of Ireland found itself at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Grand Lodge of Ireland only “approved” of the first three degrees of Craft Freemasonry, but probably from around the mid 1740s, Lodges had been working the Royal Arch degree simply as part of what they did. Then around the 1760s, the Knight Templar orders arrived but had no traditional place, and while they were worked in and by Craft Lodges, they did so under a warrant from some Knight Templar body. In effect, the Grand Lodge of Ireland was having its authority nibbled away from underneath by other bodies, and it needed to do something about this (just as did the Grand Lodges in Scotland and England).

The degree to which Ireland felt it had to take action is perhaps well encapsulated by the letter of August 1805 from John Boardman, Grand Treasurer of Ireland, writing to Thomas Harper, Deputy Grand Master of the Antients in England, in which he writes:

“We have another degree, styled Knight Templar which is very prevalent among the lower kind of Masons and military Lodges throughout the Kingdom – who act wholly independent of the Grand Lodge, obtain warrants, and are registered and chartered by persons wholly unauthorized but who assume a pretended power of doing so; nay warrants for Knight Templar degree have come to my hands under the signature of persons who were suspended from Masonry by order of the Grand Lodge for gross misconduct. To put a stop to many evils which have arisen and are likely to arise from such proceedings, it has been submitted to take this degree under the cognizance of the Grand, not only as a measure of regulation but also of finance, for I think that the funds of the order will derive near £500 by it.”

So perhaps here we have it in a nutshell. Elements considered undesirable by those in the Grand Lodge in Dublin had been issuing warrants for Knights Templar, and because there was no body extant for the Royal Arch of issuing those warrants, essential because being a Royal Arch mason was a requirement to become a Knight Templar. More than that, these practices were becoming very prevalent among the “lower kind of Masons” and distant “military Lodges” which was enough to cause consternation among the “Masonic establishment” in Dublin.

Events moved on apace, for hard on the heels of Boardman’s letter of mid-August knight templar

to Harper followed resolutions in Grand Lodge in Dublin on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1805, which created both a Grand Royal Arch Chapter and a Grand Knights Templar Encampment. By the end of September, both the Chapter and Encampment were formed and some warrants issued.

All this process however had been entirely generated by those in Grand Lodge and in Dublin without any involvement of those involved in either the Royal Arch or Grand Encampment, and this was to lead to a great explosion of anger that would last for a decade. A toxic cocktail of Northern Irish under representation in Grand Lodge, a total ignoring of those involved in the Royal Arch and Knights Templar, personal antagonisms between Boardman (Grand Treasurer and Dubliner) and Seton (Grand Secretary and from Ulster), and of course worse, an attempt to restrict traditional Lodge freedoms and finally worse still to extract more money from Lodges! Crisis loomed.

However, tempers were rising and many people were greatly upset by the actions of Grand Lodge. At the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1806, meeting of Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary was defeated while seeking re-election. Seton was outside the door of the Lodge waiting, and when Boardman appeared, he then proceeded to publicly horsewhip him in front of the Brethren. Open Revolt was brewing!

At the meeting of Grand Lodge on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1806, at 7 p.m., a large number of “unknown” Brethren appeared at the meeting. These were delegates who had come down from Ulster to demonstrate their displeasure. They rescinded a resolution passed against their submissions at a previous meeting, and the resolutions regarding the Royal Arch and Knights Templar of the previous year were annulled. The Deputy Grand Master closed the meeting at 1 a.m. the next morning and left with the Grand Officers. The “Northerners” remained, re-opened Grand Lodge, and passed a whole host of resolutions, only closing later that morning. From then until March of 1808 there were two Masonic bodies in Dublin, both claiming to be Grand Lodge and both appealing to the same Grand Master for his support and then until 1814, a Grand East of Ulster before it faded away.

It is perhaps hard to comprehend how such events occurred, but they do so repeatedly in Freemasonry. In this case, it is the activities by the Knights Templar that brought the crisis to a head in the Craft Grand Lodges of Britain, and it also partly explains why the structure of English Freemasonry is so different from that in the United States.

John Belton ([john@thebeltons.eu](mailto:john@thebeltons.eu)) lives in Great Britain and was by education a microbiologist; by profession a marketer; and in retirement and by inclination, a Masonic searcher out of curiosities, historian, and writer. The theme of this article is drawn from events described in the author’s book *The English Masonic Union of 1813* which includes the influences of the Holy Royal Arch and Knights Templar upon events. This is not just an English tale but also an Irish and Scots one. As a taste, the Foreword and Chapter 1 can be read at [www.ahimanrezon.org.uk](http://www.ahimanrezon.org.uk), and the book can be easily bought online from your usual source for \$16.

# You are the Salt of the Road!

By  
Christopher D. Rodkey

*Genesis 19:15-26, Matthew 5:13-16*

We hear the second part of Jesus' famous sermon on the mount, where Jesus claims that those who are listening to him—the poor and the oppressed—are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We have probably heard this before, and we know that the metaphor most often is drawn to that of food, that food tastes a lot better when it's salty. When food needs a little salt and you have none, the food suffers. The poor will know that they have finally tasted justice in the Kingdom of Heaven by the saltiness of its flavor.

As someone who has been recently diagnosed with hypertension, I want to avoid food references to salt for now, but instead I want to consider this analogy which Jesus makes—that “you are the salt of the earth”—to *architecture*. As some of you might know, there are five kinds of columns in classical architecture: the Tuscan, the Doric, the Ionic, the Corinthian, and the Composite. The Tuscan order of architecture, from where we get the Tuscan column, is simple, strong, and does not have any ornamentation. It does its job.

The Doric order of architecture, as symbolized by the Doric column, is based on proportions—balanced, well-structured, and relying well on its design. The Ionic column is strong and beautiful at the same time, combining

the strength of the Doric-style column with the Corinthian. Some believe that these were the type of columns that were built around King Solomon's temple. The Ionic column is constructed by someone with a lot of skill and a lot of time to make it correctly.

The Corinthian order of architecture is slimmer than the Ionic column, but it is more beautiful than the Ionic. The most important aspect of the Corinthian column is its engravings, and it serves to inspire the imagination as much as it does to hold up a building. The Composite order of architecture is an offshoot of the Corinthian style, but it is fancier and emphasizes more curves in its ornamentation. For this reason, it is considered to be more feminine and was very popular for the construction of churches during the Renaissance.

When we think about these five pillars, we can see that they are all a little different and that they build off of each other. They are often more similar than different, but they come from different points in history and different geographical places.<sup>1</sup>

I'd like us to consider that the roles we often take in church reflect these orders of architecture. Some of us are Tuscan, we are the industrious pillars. Those of us who are Tuscan do a lot of the work and aren't credited with much; it's often a thankless enterprise. I think of anyone

who has worked in a church cemetery in this way, because few really know what is required to keep up a cemetery. Those of us who are Ionic columns have special skills that we use to help the church. Many of you are very gifted craftsmen or work in fabric arts, and your talents are literally all around us in the church. Sometimes we take for granted how much work and skill goes into your contributions, but we often notice them.

Those of us who are Corinthian pillars have good imaginations and good visions for the future, and the church as a whole at this time in history is in desperate need of men and women who are willing to do the hard work of visioning and *dreaming dreams*.<sup>2</sup> Along with visioning for the future, Corinthian pillars inspire others to move toward that vision.

Finally, the Composites are the show-offs, but show-offs in a good way. The Composites do acts of justice, acts of charity, and good things in our community as a result of the spiritual food they have received from their faith. Composites inspire others to go and do good things outside of the church. Often Composites are the women and grandmothers—the true pillars of the church—who work hard and pray hard to raise their children to be moral adults. Sometimes the work of Composites is noticed and celebrated, and very often the hard work of Composites goes unnoticed, but the visible results are often in plain view.

Many of us can perhaps see ourselves in one of the five styles of columns or orders of architecture. But *then* I think about the story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the pillar of salt that remained of Lot's wife for no other reason than looking back on the destruction behind her, even after God

told her not to look back.

For so many of us, we aspire to be like the columns of the great orders of architecture: the Tuscan, the Doric, the Ionic, the Corinthian, and the Composite, all strong and inspiring with different gifts. At different points in our lives, when we are at our best, we are pillars of our communities, our families, our circles of friends, the church, or even better yet, we are pillars of the mystical Body of Christ. So often, the baggage that hangs around our necks, or the weight of the past, weighs us down like an anvil on our backs and prevents us from moving on in our lives and being the strong pillars that we are called to be. Instead we are constantly looking back at our past and events from the past and feel that we cannot escape them. Not only can we not escape the past, but we are burdened by it, and what's worse, *we are sometimes punished by it*. Often we are not pillars of our community, but instead we are little more than pillars of salt.

The good news is that Jesus speaks to all of us who are *salty pillars*. Jesus knows that history is written on the backs of those who suffer and who sacrifice the most, and that those people are Jesus' people. When Jesus says to his audience of the down-and-out, the downtrodden, the unemployed, and the oppressed that "you are the salt of the earth," Jesus is not just saying that you are essential to the world or that you are what makes the world a better place. Here Jesus is speaking not so much about your value as a commodity but that *God understands what it means to be salty*, what it means to be a pillar of salt in our world, run-down and down-and-out. The world might shame you, history might even tell false stories about you when you're gone,

others may lie and back-stab you, but *God is with us in our saltiness* because God is shamed, and lied about, and eulogized falsely, and used for false witness for the wicked.

To walk the Christian walk is to live in this tension between *being a pillar* of the Body of Christ; strong and bold, with spiritual fruit and gifts and *being a pillar of salt*; honest, meek, and bogged down by the past. It is within this ambiguous gray area where we meet Jesus, for if we were strong pillars all of the time, we would learn to be too bold and too strong and thus misunderstand our boldness as a special kind of blessing over and against those who are down-and-out. If we were just pillars of salt all of the time, we would wallow in our shame and guilt, and never come out into the light where God calls us to be. We would just die of saltiness or hypertension.

We can only walk this path of tension between strength and saltiness with the help and witness of others, helping others when they need it and seeking help when we need it, building together the Body or Temple of Christ in the present. This is what I believe Jesus meant when he said that the Kingdom of God is near and at hand. I believe Jesus meant this when he said it, the *Kingdom of God is in our hands* when we join them together as a church and extend the hand of friendship, love, and charity.

#### Notes

1. Cf. Bernard Jones, *Freemason's Guide and Compendium*, new and rev. ed. (Exeter, England: Barnes & Noble, 1986) 19ff.

2. Acts 2:17.

knight templar

The Reverend Sir Knight Dr. Christopher D. Rodkey, D.Min., Ph.D. is Pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Dalls-town, Pennsylvania and Adjunct Professor at Pennsylvania State University, York Campus. He is a member of Hermit Commandery No. 24 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania and resides at 237 W. Main St., Dalls-town, PA 17313. He can be contacted at [cdrodkey@yahoo.com](mailto:cdrodkey@yahoo.com).

Taken from the forthcoming book, *Too Good to Be True* by Christopher Rodkey, published by Christian Alternative, online at <http://www.christian-alternative.com/>. Used with permission.

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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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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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# *Beauceant News*

## **(Mrs. T. Michael) Debhra “Debbie” Fegan**

### **Supreme Worthy President, Social Order of the Beauceant**

(Mrs. T. Michael) Debhra “Debbie” Fegan was installed as Supreme Worthy President of the Social Order of the Beauceant on Friday, September 27, 2013, at the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Supreme Assembly held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mrs. Fegan and her Sir Knight, T. Michael, will visit all of the chartered assemblies of the Social Order of the Beauceant during the ensuing year.

Mrs. Fegan was born and raised in Great Bend, Kansas where she found her love of ritualistic work after she joined Job’s Daughters at the age of twelve. She was installed as Honored Queen of Bethel No. 30 in June of 1976.

In 1988, Mrs. Fegan moved to Wichita, Kansas to pursue a degree in the Health Sciences with a specialty in Dental Hygiene. After graduating from Wichita State University, Mrs. Fegan practiced in an office of general dentistry and served in various positions on the board of the Kansas Dental Hygiene Association.

Life took a significant turn in September of 2000 when T. Michael Fegan and Debbie met at a Masonic event in Wichita. They found a shared love of many Masonic activities along with both being multigenerational Episcopalians. After moving to Junction City, Kansas and marrying T. Michael in January of 2004, Mrs. Fegan joined the Eastern Star. She then joined Salina Assembly No. 229, where immediately after being initiated, she was presented a petition for dual membership with Wichita Assembly No. 8 by Past Supreme Worthy President (Mrs. Joe) Mabel “Pinkie” Randall.

Aside from their many Masonic activities, the Fegans are both very active members at the Episcopal Church of the Covenant in Junction City, Kansas. Mrs. Fegan has served on the Vestry, served as Treasurer and Senior Warden, and is an active licensed chalice bearer, lay reader, alter guild member, and delegate to state convention.

Mrs. Fegan and her Sir Knight, T. Michael, who is currently serving as South Central Department Commander for the Grand Encampment, are looking forward to their travels across the United States, promoting support for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the designated philanthropy of the Social Order of the Beauceant.





# Knights



## at the Bookshelf

By  
Sir Knight Joseph Kindoll

*The Templar and the True Cross* by Stephen Gaspar is sold by Amazon Digital Services, Inc., ASIN B009BY3ZC6, 203 pages.

**I**t is the autumn of 1314. The Knights Templar are no more, and their Grand Master has been consigned to the flames. De Molay's dying curse has already claimed the life of the Pope whose machinations had sent him to the pyre. In these troubling days, one exiled Templar is summoned back to Paris by King Philip IV himself to solve a mystery - to discover what has happened to the true cross of Christ. The uncompromising Knight, Jean-Marc de Montpellier, obeys this summons in spite of the prior actions of his monarch. As he delves deeper into this mystery, he finds himself caught up in a web of intrigue that threatens to claim his life...or even worse, his honor.

*The Templar and the True Cross* is a historical thriller by Canadian author and teacher Stephen Gaspar. Fans of historical fiction will find much here to enjoy. Gaspar masterfully weaves action, mystery, politics, and religion into a compelling story. While his protagonist is a character of his own invention, many other personalities in this novel are historical figures. The book has the feel of being very thoroughly researched, but it still manages to be a page-turner.

As much as I liked this book, it pains me to have to give it such a tentative review here. There were quite a few formatting issues throughout the book that I found distracting – mostly issues with indentation and such, which may not bother some readers. However there is one major formatting issue which causes my Kindle to crash. Since this title is available only as an e-book, this is a serious problem. I would highly recommend *The Templar and the True Cross* to any fan of Templar fiction, but only if the technical issues can be resolved.



Sir Knight Joseph Kindoll is Past Commander of DePayens Commandery No. 11 in Franklin, Tennessee and can be contacted at [joe@kindoll.org](mailto:joe@kindoll.org).

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so rare.”  
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