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VOLUME LIX

NOVEMBER 2013

NUMBER 11

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Knight Templar

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 knight templar

Grand Master's Message

GOn the fourth Thursday of this month of November we will celebrate our national holiday of Thanksgiving. It is a time for each of us to stop and reflect upon the blessings we have received this year.



The history of giving thanks for good harvests and for other special events is deeply rooted in many of the world's religions as well as in secular history. The first Thanksgiving in North America is a subject of some debate. There are references to the Spanish celebrating a thanksgiving ceremony in what is now Florida in 1565 and in what is now Texas in 1598. The most commonly accepted "first Thanksgiving" is attributed to the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621. This is the model that we follow most closely today. The Pilgrims brought these thanksgiving celebrations from England to New England as they sailed here in search of new lives for themselves and their descendents.

These ceremonies were continued unofficially throughout the colonies and states until 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation that the holiday of Thanksgiving would be celebrated in all states on the last Thursday in November. This continued until 1941 when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed a joint resolution of Congress declaring the fourth Thursday in November to be the Thanksgiving holiday.

The history and exact details of the first Thanksgiving are not important, but rather what is important is that good people, people of faith, have stopped and given thanks to their God for the blessings that He has bestowed upon them. We as Knights Templar and our families, followers of the Christian faith, must continue to do no less.

We must give thanks for our families, friends, fraternity, country, health, prosperity, and all of the blessings that we have received. We must give thanks for and ask God's blessing upon those men and women who fight to protect our very way of life each day. They provide us the freedom to celebrate such holidays as we choose.

As we gather with family and friends on this Thanksgiving Day, please remember to give thanks to God from whom all blessings flow!

The officers and ladies of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar join with my Lady Marci and me in wishing you a blessed, happy, and thankful Thanksgiving!

Courteously,



David Dixon Goodwin, GCT
Grand Master

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Prelate's Chapel

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

In the early days of New England, it became a custom to place five grains of corn beside each plate on Thanksgiving Day. Those five grains of corn were to recall the lean days of the Plymouth settlement when those colonists were in such drastic and difficult circumstances. In the midst of starvation, food supplies had been so low that only five grains of corn were rationed to an individual from the common storehouse, but with only five grains of corn, they had survived. This symbol, used on Thanksgiving Day, is a startling reminder of memorable experiences under God's guidance. It can also serve as a reminder to us of a great spiritual heritage.

When you sit down to Thanksgiving dinner this month, imagine five grains of corn alongside your plate. Bow your head in prayer. Say with the writer of Psalm 111, "With all my heart I thank the Eternal." When we thank God with our whole heart for all His blessings, those five grains of corn should remind us of some of the deeper meanings of our national Day of Thanksgiving.

That first grain should remind us of our complete dependence on God. The second grain should remind us that every blessing carries an equal responsibility "to do good unto all." The third grain should remind us that we are not blessed merely for ourselves and our own comforts but for greater service to all people, in building foundations that will endure. The fourth grain reminds us that great blessings can come out of moments of deepest despair. The fifth grain should remind us that the greatest of all gifts, for which we must always give thanks, is Jesus Christ.

Let us always be grateful for those things obvious to citizens of a free land blessed with abundance, but more importantly, let us in humility give thanks for our spiritual blessings that cannot be numbered.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul! and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."



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IN MEMORIAM



Fred Thomas Goddard
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Grand Commander 1984
Born: April 23, 1915
Died: August 23, 2013

Richard John Reilly
Wisconsin
Grand Commander 2001
Born: August 31, 1932
Died: August 31, 2013

Howard T. Hardie, Jr.
Pennsylvania
Grand Commander 1980
Born: April 13, 1925
Died: August 25, 2013

A Chat With The Managing Editor

You will notice that we included this month a short article by Sir Knight Thomas Cordas about a trip he made to see Templar sites in Portugal. I would be interested if our readers would like to see more of this type of article or not. Also if there would be any interest in a future magazine sponsored trip to Portugal to see the Templar sites. If you have an opinion on either, just e-mail me at ktmagazine@comcast.net.

Speaking of magazine sponsored trips, time is moving on, and although we already have several signed up for our pilgrimage to French Templar sites, there is room for a few more, and we would love to have you join us in May.

From the feedback I am getting, the "Letters to the Editor" feature continues to be our most popular section of the magazine. Due to the large number of letters I am receiving, I may add an additional page of them from time to time in order to catch up. Remember that we do not publish anonymous letters or letters that traduce anyone's character.

Finally on a sad note, I am informed that the Reverend Sir Knight Donald Kerr of Beauseant Commandery No. 8 in Baltimore, Maryland passed away on June 5th. He was Pastor-emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore and resided in Sarasota, Florida. Sir Knight Kerr has been sending articles to us at the *Knight Templar* magazine for many years now, usually during the holiday season, and although I never met him face to face, we have frequently corresponded, and he will be missed. I still have a few articles he has sent me and will publish them posthumously. One of the humorous memories I have of Sir Knight Kerr is that he always sent his articles, typed and double spaced, through the United States Postal Service, and the typewriter he used was in dire need of a cleaning. I wonder if you can even get a typewriter cleaned anymore? I wouldn't know where to go. I much prefer articles to be submitted electronically.

We don't, as a policy, publish death notices of anyone other than Past Grand Commanders, but I made an exception in this case because of his long-standing relationship with and contributions to our magazine.



John L. Palmer
Managing Editor

Photo of stained glass
copyrighted by Bill Perry.

november 2013

A Trip to Templar Portugal

By
Sir Knight Thomas Cordas

This article is about a visit to several brilliant Knight Templar sites in Tomar, Portugal. In this one small city, we visited four stunning points of interest to any Mason. They are the 12th century Templar fortification close to the river Nabao, the Church located in the fortress, an ancient aqueduct near the fortress, and the restored Church of Sao Joao Baptista (St. John the Baptist) right in the middle of Tomar. For those unfamiliar with Portugal, it is almost identical in size and shape to the state of Indiana. Tomar is located in central Portugal about a one and one half hour drive northeast of Lisbon. The main and secondary highways are as good as any in the United States. If you travel by rental car, there is no special drivers permit required; a United States drivers license is all you'll need. Brush up on European road signage if you're driving.

It was late March of 2010 when my wife and I visited. This worked out particularly well because the weather at that time of year is mild with lots of sunshine, daytime temperatures in the mid 60s, and average humidity. Also, this is before the travel season gets underway in Europe which is typically very crowded, hot, humid, and generally uncomfortable for touring. I am in my early fifties and have been fortunate



Tomar Town Hall



Aqueduct

to have traveled throughout much of Europe. If possible, I recommend traveling just prior to or just after the peak summer season.

Our mode of travel was by rental car. The reason for our trip was to visit central and coastal southern Spain, because we had never been there before. My wife had done extensive research for this trip and found the cost of flying to Lisbon was far cheaper than to Madrid when including the cost of the rental car. This led to more research about what we could do in Portugal. That's when she found the Templar fortification in Tomar, and the trip was on!

After the long flight, we did not want to travel too far. Our first day was spent touring Lisbon and staying nearby for the night. From there we made our way into Tomar by early evening. Locals recommended that we stay at the Hotel dos Templários. This is a beautiful modern four star hotel with tasteful Templar themes. Dining in any of the local eateries throughout Portugal is first rate. Portugal being an Atlantic coast country has great seafood; and the beef, chicken, pork, and lamb are equally wonderful,



Sintra Castle

the best in all of Europe. Most of the restaurants cook food over wood. I don't know the species of wood they're using, but it makes the food taste like nothing else I've had.

The next morning we set out to tour the Templar fortress and after about ten minutes of driving, promptly got lost in the countryside. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise, because when we rounded the next bend, we came upon a huge ancient intact aqueduct. It was the water supply to the fortress. This marvel wasn't on our list of things to see nor was it in any tour books we had come across. It is not commercialized in any way. It is completely unattended and without any access barriers. We parked nearby and walked right onto the top of it. At each end we visited, there is a small stone hut-like building-structure. In the center of this structure there is a place where the water pools from the duct to allow one to pail out water for drinking or other uses, and at the opposite side of the pool the duct continues on.

We eventually found the Templar fortification. Admission was about eight dollars. As we know, the ancient craft was composed of operative Masons, and after about two hours of exploring this site, it became very clear why the craftsmen carried the title "Master Mason." As an example, there is a two story spiral staircase made of stone. It has a curved stone handrail along its entire length. My wife made the observation that the handrail was made with much detail. The height of the rail from the staircase was ideal; the rail was engraved to the shape of the hand where recesses were



Fortress courtyard with spiral staircase.



Church square with black and white mosaic tiles.

made for the thumb, palm, inner knuckles, fingers and finger tips so that the slightest sensation of stumbling could be countered instantly by applying a slight gripping pressure to the rail with the hand. The feel of the hand-rail simply inspired confidence when walking on the spiral stair treads. Also, inside the fortress is a circular shaped church with amazing restored frescoes and carved statues.

In the center of Tomar within walking distance of the hotel, is the Praça da República square. At the square is the Church of São João Baptista. Notable in the church and the square are black and white mosaic tiles which we first learned about as entered apprentices. Opposite the church



Church in the fortress. Note the frescoes in foreground.



Templar Hotel. Note the cross on the rooftop.

is the 17th century town hall. At night, the square and the cobblestone streets are lit, making this a great place to take a stroll after dinner.

Portugal in general is not a tourist hotspot for Americans or Canadians, and that in itself makes the country all the more interesting. This article only covers one city and four sites. Although Portugal is a small country, there are many fascinating historic sites to see, such as the castle at Sintra, Portugal. Another must see is the castle at Segovia, Spain. As we have found, internet and other searches surely will yield more to explore.



Templar Church Detail

Sir Knight Thomas Cordas is a member of Sidney Commandery No. 46, resides at 1121 Poppy Drive, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895, and can be contacted at tom.cordas@gmail.com. He also provided the photos for the article.

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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In Honor of Service

At the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Washington, the Grand Commandery had a special honor for Sir Knight James T. Stephens with membership into the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Grand Master's Club. Within Washington, Sir Knight Stephens is a Past Grand Commander, Past Grand High Priest, and current Grand Governor of the York Rite Colleges. This award was given for his many years of service to Templar Masonry, and at the young age of ninety-two, he still confers all the orders and travels extensively throughout the state to help all York Rite bodies.



From left to right; Steven L. Guffy, R.E. Department Commander Northwest Department; Peter L. Dawson, outgoing R.E. Grand Commander; James T. Stephens, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander; and David Dixon Goodwin, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

Grant Presentation at Grand Lodge of Indiana

Jingyun Wang, Ph.D. and Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Indiana University School of Medicine, was honored this year at the Grand Lodge session in Indiana when the Past Grand Commander and outgoing Grand Master of Indiana, George Ingles, presented her with a \$60,000 research grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The session included over one thousand Ma-



sons, including the Indiana Grand Commandery officers along with Sir Knight Larry W. Brown, Right Eminent Department Commander for the East Central Department, and Sir Knight Duane L. Vaught, Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master of the Grand

Encampment of Knights Templar.

Ms. Wang's research is focused around premature babies born with very low birth weight (<1000 grams) who suffer from severe nearsightedness or myopia. This type of myopia of prematurity occurs very early in life and affects these children's vision negatively in the long term. It not only affects a child's social, emotional, and physical well-being but also has an impact on the livelihood of the family. Although this type of myopia differs from common myopia in teenagers (caused by an abnormally longer eye), we treat them the same because the cause underlying myopia of prematurity is poorly understood. Based on previous evidence and pilot data, she predicts that myopia of prematurity may be caused by two mechanisms, abnormal development of the anterior part of the eye and abnormal whole eye elongation. This grant will allow the research to clarify the mechanisms of myopia of prematurity and will lead to vision-saving treatments for these premature children.



Jingyun Wang is presented check from Grand Master George Ingles.



Eye Foundation Sword of Merit Presentation

At the 2013 Arizona mid-year York Rite Conference held in Casa Grand, Past Department Commander and Trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Sir Knight Gerald A. Ford, along with the Grand Commander of Arizona, Sir Knight Robert Richards and Sir Knight Paul J. Dore, Sr., Grand Treasurer of Arizona, presented the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Sword of Merit to Sir Knight Thomas Rogers, III, a member of Phoenix Commandery No. 3 whose donation for the sword was in honor of Sir Knight Rogers' father, Thomas Calton Rogers, II.



Left to right; Sir Knight Gerald A. Ford; Sir Knight Thomas Rogers, III; Sir Knight Robert Richards; and Sir Knight Paul J. Dore, Sr.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5
Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230
Phone (214) 888-0220
Fax (214) 888-0230.



Greetings Sir Knights,

Fall is always a special time of year for me; I am reminded of being knighted in Lookout Commandery No. 14. I remember those amazing glittering swords and the excitement that filled my heart at being made a Knight Templar. I wish we could recapture the excitement we felt on that occasion and use it to revitalize ourselves and our Commanderies and to push the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to new and unimagined heights. It was Robert Frost who wrote of taking the road less traveled. I like to think that we as Templars, men of faith, have chosen this same road to travel. Sure, it may at times be a more difficult road, filled with challenges, but as Frost wrote, "It has made all the difference in the world."

Here we are, one month into the 46th Voluntary Campaign. I hope you have your plans laid out and are ready to dream big and enjoy the results of your hard work. I am excited to hear what you accomplish; I know it will be outstanding! Have you developed a plan to bring your Commandery to 100% in Life Sponsors in the Foundation? If not, would you please work with the officers of your Commandery and set this as a goal? Increasing Life Sponsors is a goal of the 46th Campaign, and I need your help to make it happen.

As of June 30, 2013, there are fifty-three Commanderies who are 100% in Life Sponsors. Virginia leads with ten Commanderies, Tennessee and Ohio are tied for second with seven Commanderies each, and Iowa is third. 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. Let's go to work and see where the score settles out at the end of the campaign.

Happy Thanksgiving, and I leave you this from my study from 1 Cor. 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." Sir Knights you make me proud!

In His Service,

Terry L. Plemons KGC
Chairman 46th Voluntary Campaign





Letters to the Editor



M.W. John Palmer:

I just finished reading the March 2013 issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine.

I really enjoyed the "Chat with the Managing Editor" on page 22. You are not alone in your sentiments. Your "chat" was right in line with the fine remarks by Right Worshipful Tom Jackson. I am not sure about all the various categories that Sir Knight Tom assigned to various geographic areas of Freemasonry, but he was certainly correct that there has been a weakening of the core beliefs in the last number of years.

Thank you for another fine issue. You have added much to the magazine and Templar Masonry.

Fraternally,
David P. Miller
EPC, Bethel No 36, Illinois



Dear Brother Palmer;

I am reading your chat with the managing editor. In the March issue of *Knight Templar*. I must say I agree with your statements and am pretty sure your thoughts were well tempered so as not to directly insult those people who agree but fear the wrong meanings to their words. I believe in many other reasons for our society being in a downward spiral. Thank you for being so open and honest. It is a real shame that the real majority of this great and God given country can't do the same.

Yours truly
Sir Knight Butch Mault



I love the magazine as a whole. The younger generations need to be more involved in the work and motivated by the Encampment to take part for our future. We should be encouraging the younger Knights to take part.

God bless the Grand Encampment for all the good work you do, and may God bless the United States of America. We need His help more than ever as a nation and as Christians.

Nathan Cole Tucker



Mr. Palmer,

Your article in the March issue of the *Knight Templar* was right on the money. I am 84 years old and have seen the United States gradually go "downhill." I read once that "Great countries are not defeated from without, they decay from within." This is exactly what is happening with a corrupt White House, judges, congress, and a left wing media, and I don't see any improvement any time soon. The last election showed it will be a long time until the United States of America gets back on "track" if ever!

Bob Staight
Mansfield Commandery No. 21

Continued on page 20.

General Supplement

The space on these two pages is provided by the *Knight Templar* magazine to be used by the Grand Commanderies to communicate with the individual Sir Knights in their jurisdictions on a monthly basis. From time to time and for various reasons, we fail to receive any material from the editor of the state supplement for a given month. When this happens, we take the opportunity to offer you the information below. – The Ed.



Photos of temple ruins in
Athens taken by the editor.

knight templar

19



Letters to the Editor



Continued from page 17

Dear John,

Sincerely,
Russell Jackson, P.M.

I was very disappointed to read your article lashing out at who you feel to be contributing to the decline in society.

To give you some background, I have worked for the Church for the last thirty-three years of my life, I teach in a liberal arts college, I am a member of Chapter and Commandery as well as having served as Worshipful Master of my Lodge, and I'm gay.

I have seen how society has divested itself of responsibility, and I know it's because the parents are not invested; they don't care. It's very easy to blame it on schools or TV, but that's just sidestepping the issue. We can go on sanctimoniously about God not being allowed in schools or government, but that's rubbish - nothing has changed there. You can label gay people wanting equal rights, you can talk about women's right to abortion, you can site gun control reform - all convenient ways to say "this is why the country's going to hell."

Rather than being angry and blaming others for what's wrong and why, here's what we do: we start being responsible, we stop being negative, we stop blaming others, and we start by making our own individual change for the good. We start being honest, we start being positive, and we do something good because you'll find something good in most people if you look hard enough, even the people who vandalized your Nativity Scene. Or just give up.

Russell,

It is easy to see that you and I are on opposite ends of the spectrum when it comes to belief about what is right and what is wrong and about what the teachings of Christ really are. Sometimes it is impossible to be positive and honest at the same time. We do, however, agree about two things.

First is responsibility or accountability. I agree that folks in our society today have been avoiding taking responsibility for their actions including raising their children. I guess it just seems easier to turn the kids over to the government to raise or to someone else. It's easy to have a double standard of what's right and wrong. A wise man once said that we tend to judge others by their actions and ourselves by our intentions. The second is that it is probably time that instead of just complaining about things, we take action to make this world a better place to live in. As Knights Templar, I believe that is what our mission is - to work to build a better world in which to live.

The one area where we differ is that I believe that certain things are evil and that the cause of good is hurt each time we embrace the evil. Thank you for your letter. It helps to clarify the two very different points of view held by our readers and others in our country.

The Ed.

PS. "lashing out?"



Letters to the Editor



[The following letters were written to Sir



Sir Knight Tom:

I recently read an article in the March 2013 issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine that was adapted from a speech you made before the Masonic Society last year. I read the article with great interest and was especially taken with the state of Freemasonry in North America, with its Masonic focus being on charity more than true Masonry.

I am a product of the Grand Lodge of Washington, a twice Past Grand Chaplain, and a past Special Deputy to M.W. G. Santy Lascano. I have witnessed your stance on North American Freemasonry as a shift toward a focus on charity and community service away from the philosophical and moral foundation of the Craft. Although I now live in Ft. Myers, Florida, I still maintain my strong relationship with my Blue Lodge, Garfield No. 41 in La Conner, Washington – www.garfield41.org and my Scottish and York Rite bodies.

Fraternally,



Congratulations on your article which appeared in the March 2013 issue of the *knight templar*

Knight Templar magazine. Every Mason worldwide should have the opportunity to read and reflect on your assessments. I particularly liked the “Freemasonry for the past 30 years” discussion on page 29. Hope all is well your way.

I go to England Tuesday for several Masonic meetings and the Installation meeting of Internet Lodge No. 9659. I’ll also be visiting the University of Hertfordshire and meet with UNCW’s group in residence at this time.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Charles Lewis



Just a short note thanking you for the wonderful article you wrote for this month’s magazine. You mention the three areas of concern, and I could not agree with you more. I have no idea of what is going to happen to our fraternity, but with all of us retiring, looking for things to do, one would think attendance would be getting bigger, but I do not think it is. I am working with my grandson Tim in our local DeMolay chapter, and I believe it also is dying a slow death, but we will keep trying. Thanks again for writing, and where could I go to read more?

Your brother,

Bob Appel



2013 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage



Pilgrim Ministers participating in the 2013 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage exploring the ancient aqueduct at Sepphoris in Galilee.

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

Oronhyatekha and the Independent Order of Foresters

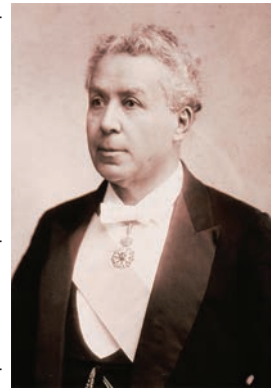
By

Dr. David Harrison and Fred Lomax

As with the other fraternal Friendly Societies of the nineteenth century such as the Druids and the Oddfellows, the Foresters had two main separate orders; the Ancient Order of Foresters, on the whole being situated in England and the Independent Order of Foresters mainly being situated in America and Canada. Both of these societies attracted working men, they had the same fraternal and beneficial benefits as the Oddfellows and Druids, and they both expanded rapidly in the changing industrial climate of the late nineteenth century.

The IOF has a three level governing structure; as Freemasonry have Lodges, the Foresters have local Courts. Like the Freemasons of Lodges, the IOF members vote to elect their own Court officers who meet on a regular basis to handle the business and the running of the Court. At the second level there are the High Courts, which provide the leadership and direction to assist local Courts in their activities. High Court officers are elected representatives of the Courts within their jurisdiction. At the top of the IOF is the Supreme Court. This body governs the IOF and convenes every four years to elect the Supreme Chief Ranger and other Supreme Court officers. As a Friendly Society, the IOF is operated solely for the benefit of its members and their families, providing cover for sickness and burial.¹

During the closing decades of the nineteenth century, the undisputed leader and the person credited with the incredible success of the IOF was a Mohawk from Brantford, Canada called Oronhyatekha. Born in 1841, Oronhyatekha, which means "Burning Sky," came to prominence among his people after giving a spirited speech to the visiting Prince of Wales; he was supposedly invited to study in England at the famous Oxford University by the Prince, an invitation that he accepted. It was his time at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford which led to the establishment of the Oronhyatekha Society at the College; a society which now consists



Oronhyatekha

of a group of select undergraduates going out and getting drunk while dressed in typical Native American clothing.

On returning to Canada, he married the great-granddaughter of famed Mohawk Freemason, Joseph Brant,² and studied at the University of Toronto, gaining a medical degree and subsequently opening a practice. His importance growing, he was elected as President



A procession of the Foresters.

of the Grand Council of Canadian Chiefs in 1874. He ultimately became involved in the Independent Order of Foresters, joining in 1878 and working against the racial prejudices of the period and became the Supreme Chief Ranger of the IOF in 1881, transforming the order into one of the most wealthy and successful of the fraternal financial institutions. His philanthropic work included founding a

museum and an orphanage, and he also became a Freemason, becoming Worshipful Master of Richardson Lodge No. 136 GRC in Stouffville, Ontario in 1894.³

During the period of Oronhyatekha's leadership, he passionately promoted the order, and it was claimed that the IOF distributed more than \$20 million in social-welfare benefits and insurance monies to over 100,000 recipients, making the IOF a leading fraternal and financial society which specialized in assisting the poorer sections of society.⁴ Oronhyatekha's philanthropic work, his revitalization of the IOF, and his work as a Freemason reveals a man who endeavored to overcome racial prejudices and someone who wanted to change the world around him for the better. He died in 1907.



Banner of the Foresters

Notes

¹ See Ancient Order of Foresters official website: <http://www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk/about-us/history> [accessed 2nd of April, 2013] and the Independent Order of Foresters official website: <http://www.foresters.com/UK-EN/About/Pages/our-history.aspx> [accessed 2nd of April, 2013]

² See David Harrison, *Transformation of Freemasonry*, (Bury St. Edmunds: Arima Publishing, 2010), pp.186-8.

³ See the history and past Officers of Richardson Lodge No. 136 GRC on the official website: <http://www.richardsonlodge.ca/officers.htm> [accessed 2nd of April, 2013]

⁴ See the Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online: http://www.biographi.ca/009004-119.01-e.php?id_nbr=6976 [accessed 22nd of October, 2012]

The article is taken from the forthcoming book by Dr. David Harrison and Fred Lomax. Harrison's previous works include *The Genesis of Freemasonry* (temporarily out of print), *The Transformation of Freemasonry*, and *The Liverpool Masonic Rebellion*. Fred Lomax has previously published "Fred's Five Minute Talks" and both are regular contributors to *The SQUARE MAGAZINE*. All are available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other book outlets. They can be contacted at dharrison1968@yahoo.co.uk and fredlomax@blueyonder.co.uk respectively.

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.

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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.

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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

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Meals: Breakfast

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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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. We will publish some more photos of his collection in future issues as space permits.







Knights

at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight David E. Stafford

First Templar Nation: How the Knights Templar Created Europe's First Nation-State by Freddy Silva, published by Invisible Temple 2012 ISBN 13: 978-0-9852824-3-1.

First Templar Nation: How the Knights Templar Created Europe's First Nation-State is a beautifully crafted detailed historical account of Templar involvement in the establishment of Portugal, but do not be deceived in thinking that this is a dry, complexly difficult book and one to read in efforts to overcome insomnia. Freddy Silva does an amazing job of catching the reader's attention and pulling him in with the anticipation and excitement one would relate to reading a thrilling "who done it" novel. The book masterfully weaves together historical analysis, esoteric ideas, theology, and plots of adventure, assassination, betrayal, deceit, and at least one love story, and if that is not enough to grab your attention and hold it, there are over 140 illustrations!

One of the greatest facets of the book is its extensive referencing. Silva copiously cites and references both primary and secondary sources in a twenty page reference section. I must admit, as an academic, this excited me. If you are thinking this book sounds like another attempt to make a dollar as a Dan Brown spin off, don't be too hasty. Yes, there is a connection made between Jesus and Mary Magdalene, but there is more to this work than just an attempt to make a fast buck. It is evidently clear that Freddy Silva put hundreds of hours into research for this book.

As a Freemason, the idea of dualism presented in this book rang most true. The book presents the Knights Templar as having an exoteric teaching of accepted Pauline Christianity and an esoteric teaching of a more ancient and pure Johannine Christianity. The latter being one of the major conflicts between the Knights Templar and the Catholic Church. This dualism plays a major role throughout the entire work. Dualism meaning having one system, thought, or goal for public exhibition and a contradicting system, thought, or goal as a motivating, hidden, and secret force. Major premises within the book are an establishment of the Order of Poor Fellow-Soldiers prior to the commonly cited date of 1118 and an association between the Templars and the monkish Order of Sion. The one disappointment for me was the lack of exhaustive description and explanation of the ritual of "raising the dead." The promotional comments concerning the book, including its back cover, seemingly promise extensive coverage of the subject, but after reading the book, one will find

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only occasional references to Osiris and Isis with little to no revelations.

I cannot confess that I am completely sold into accepting all of the premises of Freddy Silva; however, I can recommend this book to anyone with the slightest interest in Templar history. It is a history that is not too heavy to be a comfortable read. In truth it is a fun and energy filled book that reads like a plot filled story. Freddy Silva's *First Templar Nation* is definitely worth your time and money.



Grand Encampment

Membership Awards

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Beauceant News

(Mrs. T. Michael) Debhra “Debbie” Fegan, Supreme Worthy President, was presented with a Bible at the Kansas York Rite Banquet in April. This is the Bible that she is using for her Official Visits this year. Her Sir Knight, T. Michael, is pictured to her right.



At a Kansas Grand York Rite three-way reception in June, Mrs. Fegan was presented with a beautiful carrying case for the Bible. The case was made by Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, Don E. Robinet. The gavel and sounding block were presented as gifts by members of Topeka Assembly No. 24 and Lawrence Assembly No. 25.

The photos above were taken and provided courtesy of Maverick Bolen, photographer for the Grand Commandery of Kansas.



On Monday, June 10, 2013, five members of Minneapolis Assembly No. 46 traveled to Dolliver, Iowa to present Mrs. Robert Griffith a citation recognizing her sixty years of membership in the Social Order of the Beauceant. Pictured left to right are Mrs. Hans Engebretson, Past President; Mrs. Jay U. Ipsen, Past Supreme Worthy President; Mrs. Robert Griffith, Past President and sixty year member; Mrs. Howard Smith, Past President; and Ms. Lois Purrington, Worthy President. Mrs. Hugh Swift, Past President, is not shown as she took the picture.

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evil is that good men
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