



# Knight Templar

VOLUME LX

MARCH 2014

NUMBER 3

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# Knight Templar

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**Cover photo of monument in Lisbon,  
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Grand Encampment Web Site: <http://www.knightstemplar.org>  
knight templar

# Grand Master's Message

This month marks the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of Jacques de Molay, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and last Grand Master of the ancient Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, or the Knights Templar. It was on March 18, 1314, that de Molay was burned at the stake on the Ile au Juifs, or the Ile des Templiers, an island in the Seine River in Paris, France near Notre Dame Cathedral. Philip the Fair, King of France, had him burned for recanting his confession that condemned the Templars and stating that his only offence was not being true to the order of Knights Templar. This incredible loyalty to the order is one of the many factors that caused the modern day Masonic Knights Templar to adopt the name and principles of the ancient order. While pausing to acknowledge this day, we remember that we must also be true to our order, principles, and especially to our faith.



Next month we will celebrate Easter and have the opportunity to worship together as Templars. Again we will have three Easter Observances: one in Alexandria, Virginia; one in Kansas City, Missouri; and one in Los Angeles, California. Please make your plans now to participate in one of these impressive Easter Services. I guarantee that all those who attend will be impressed and inspired. Information is available on our website at [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org).

The Officers of the Grand Encampment are looking forward to spending time with you and your family at one of the Easter Observances and at the upcoming Annual Conclave of your Grand Commandery.

Until then I remain yours in the bonds of the order!

✚ 

David Dixon Goodwin, GCT  
Grand Master

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

march 2014



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# Prelate's Chapel

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

The month of March reminds me of the opening line of George Coster's hymn, "March on, O Soul, with strength." We begin the season of Lent, the time when we watch Jesus going up to Jerusalem to die for our sins and to redeem us from the bondage of death. The opening line of Reginald Heber's hymn reminds us that "The Son of God goes forth to war." Lent is our time to remember the last days of Jesus' ministry and look to His passion on the cross.



Jesus knew, as many passages of the *Old Testament* indicate, how He must suffer for the people of God. Jesus knew, as the Son of God, that He was to be the ransom for many, that God would show God's great love and mercy only through the gift of His Son. So Jesus took His disciples to Jerusalem that He might show them both the greatness of our sin and the power of God's love. He went with a sure and steadfast faith in God His Father, such a faith that with His last breath He could entrust His spirit to His Father, knowing that even death could not win the victory. For faith is the sight by which we see. It is faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that will save us from the power of sin and death.

Lent is the time of year when we remember those last days of Jesus' ministry on earth and look to His passion on the cross. It is no coincidence that the season is called Lent, which literally means the lengthening of days. For Lent should stand to remind us that there is no drawing to a close but a lengthening into eternal life for those who would put their trust in God and faithfully persevere to the victory of life as won for us by the great Captain of our Salvation.

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## IN MEMORIAM



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Massachusetts and Rhode Island  
Grand Commander 2004  
Born: August 27, 1930  
Died: December 24, 2013

Richard Eugene Rollo  
Illinois  
Grand Commander 1989  
Born: December 26, 1925  
Died: July 29, 2012

Gilbert A. Rice  
Michigan  
Grand Commander 1980  
Born: February 2, 1928  
Died: December 26, 2013

Jon Patrick Sweet  
Colorado  
Grand Commander 1982  
Born: July 21, 1931  
Died: December 30, 2013



## A Chat With The Managing Editor

Well, Sir Knights, I just returned from my first ever visit to an honest to goodness communist country and have had yet another educational experience. In addition to seeing all the interesting and sometimes amazing things there were to see there, I had a number of conversations with the citizens, because I always like to learn about the attitudes and culture of those with whom I am visiting. During these conversations, I noticed the frequent use of a couple of words we don't use as often here in the states, the words "forbidden" and "punished." It seems that a significant number of things are "forbidden" over there as in it is forbidden to do this or to talk about that etc. Over here, we tend to speak in terms of things being unlawful but not too often. The word "punished" was used in terms of being punished for doing or talking about some of those "forbidden" things. Here, we tend to think in terms of being punished by your peers after a lawful trial rather than being punished by the government.

At one point, I made the comment that over here, you could say pretty much anything you want without being "punished." The other person asked in astonishment, "Then how does the government control the people?" Four Americans spoke up at once to inform him that here in the states, the people are supposed to control the government, not the other way around.

All in all however, the people seemed happy. They are a very patient people who take the good with the bad and hope in the long term for better times. I need experiences like this from time to time to bring me back to the reality that everyone doesn't think the way I do or see the world the same way. It helps me also to remember to thank God that I have lived in the United States of America in the second half of the twentieth century and that although the things I say may not make some people happy, I need not live in fear that someone will "punish" me for saying them.

Enjoy your Springtime!



John L. Palmer  
Managing Editor





# **“Among Whom No Contention Should Ever Exist...”**

By

Sir Knight Tom Lewis, Jr.

**“T**hose who find themselves in a position of power reveal their true nature in the way they treat those who are under their power. People who abuse you and yours when you are powerless to defend yourself will do so again whenever it becomes possible. Expect this of them, for it is the revelation of their true nature which will no more change than a leopard’s spots.”

It’s important to recognize that the actions, decisions, and edicts of individual Grand Masters, both in the United States and elsewhere, do not necessarily reflect the feelings, attitudes, and opinions of the majority of individual brothers in the jurisdictions over which they preside. In much the same way, the actions of our elected local and national officials do not necessarily conform to the wishes and attitudes of a majority of the voters who elected them. This often results in repercussions and unforeseen consequences for the hapless constituents. Some would advance the argument that both bodies are out of touch with their constituents and feel empowered to act as they wish. Hopefully, no one would expect any man in any situation to act contrary to his personal conscience and beliefs, but neither do we expect our elected officials to range so far afield from the wishes and values of the majority whom they profess to serve as some have in the past and others continue to do. Unfortunately, when those we elect do go off on an extreme tangent to the field of what we consider proper, however much their constituents may wish they could be quickly removed from office for their misdeeds, we generally have to tolerate their self-importance while awaiting the next election cycle.

We seem to be experiencing a rash lately of Masonic heads letting the fact that they are the ultimate Masonic authority in their particular jurisdiction overpower their judgment to the extent that their personal opinions and prejudices become Masonic law in their own minds, whether or not actual Masonic law supports their positions. In a perfect world, Masonic Grand Masters would be near paragons of Masonic principles and virtues, steeped in knowledge of Masonic law and immune to the temptations of power. Many are, but in the increasingly imperfect world in which we live, we are sometimes forced to work with the materials at hand, which often prove themselves to be somewhat less than we would wish. Recently the actions of the (now former) Grand Master of the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise brought about the collapse of the GLNF and brought down Masonic punishment on thousands of innocent French brothers, the results of which will now take years to repair. We have seen power struggles between Masonic Grand Masters and Shrine Imperial Potentates cause grief for thousands of the brothers that trusted them to lead their respective bodies, resulting in rifts that may never heal. We have seen a

Grand Master expel the Past Grand Master who was his predecessor who then filed suit against the Grand Lodge in civil court. We have seen certain minority forms of religion which are generally accepted by Masonic jurisdictions across the globe banned from Masonic membership in one jurisdiction in the United States. The newly disenfranchised brothers affected are deeply hurt and have nowhere to turn from which to seek redress. There is an ongoing national debate over recognition of the regularity of Prince Hall Masonry and a movement by jurisdictions on both sides to coerce the others by threatening withdrawal of recognition, even though the regularity of the subject jurisdictions is not and never has been in doubt.

It's an easy thing, when you find yourself in a position where you have power over others and no one to oppose you to flex your muscles, but doing that is forgetting that with power comes responsibility and the more power, the more responsibility. We have all seen, both nationally and locally, leaders whose leadership style bears more resemblance to that of Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini than that of Washington, Jefferson, and Lafayette. We are all painfully aware from national politics as well as more local experiences how power can be abused. I would like to share a story I heard a few years ago about the proper use of power.

Charles had been in the military a long time, and when he got out, he decided to pursue two goals, to become a registered nurse and to become a Mason. He petitioned a Lodge, took his Entered Apprentice degree in California, and started his nursing training which brought him to Johnson City, Tennessee. He had already applied and gotten permission for the Lodge in Johnson City to confer his Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees as "courtesy work." Then life threw Charles a ninety mile per hour curve ball. It was discovered that Charles had prostate cancer that had already metastasized into his bone marrow. His chances of survival were nil. Charles was out of options and out of time. His greatest wish was to die a Master Mason and to have a Masonic funeral, but his condition precluded the normal process. He simply didn't have twenty-eight days to wait between the remaining degrees. Added to that, the pain medication just didn't leave Charles the clarity of mind necessary to retain the memory work. That's when the Tennessee Grand Lodge entered the story.

The Grand Master of Tennessee got with the Grand Master of California to get Charles a demit from the Lodge in California. The timing was right, and the Lodge in California voted that night at their business meeting to grant the demit and faxed the necessary paperwork to Tennessee. The Lodge in Johnson City voted two nights later to accept Charles by affiliation into their Lodge. Then Most Worshipful Grand Master Jerry Hanson traveled nearly five hundred miles, from Memphis in the southwest corner of Tennessee to Johnson City near the northeast corner, to make Charles a "Mason at Sight" – one of the ageless prerogatives reserved for Grand Masters. A conference room at the Veteran Administration Hospital in Johnson City was secured, and while Masons and other well-wishers in wheelchairs waited outside the room, the Grand Master conferred the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees on Charles. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. Brother Charles was presented with his white lambskin apron as well as a Masonic ring, both of which Charles requested to be buried wearing. Charles also requested that the Master of the Johnson City Lodge

perform his Masonic funeral. Charles told the Grand Master: “You’ve given me a vacation from my destiny.” Thirteen days later, Brother Charles’s feet too soon reached the end of life’s toilsome journey, and from his nerveless grasp dropped forever the working tools of life. Thanks to his brothers and a Grand Master going the extra mile (or five hundred miles) he had his dying wish fulfilled to stand before the throne of God as a Mason. This is what Masons do for each other. This is how a Masonic Grand Master should exert the power he is given.

Brethren, whether a Worshipful Master of a Lodge or Most Worshipful Grand Master of a Grand Lodge, a leader is only a leader if people follow him, and a good leader must always ask himself if he is being followed because he is respected or because he is feared, whether his followers believe in his vision or are just seeking his favors. We are taught from the time we enter the Lodge that the highest rank in Masonry is Master Mason. We are also taught that we are a sacred band of friends and brothers among whom no contention should ever exist. Every Mason, from the youngest Entered Apprentice who stands in the northeast corner to the Grand Master who presides in the Grand East, represents that point within a circle and must use the symbolic compasses to define the boundaries beyond which his own desires and passions cannot be allowed to drive him. When you come to a position of power and then allow your personal opinions to supplant the rule of law, you become in effect a dictator. Dictatorial abuse of power and authority is not and should not ever be the hallmark of a Masonic leader at any level. Masonic leaders should strive to be living examples of Masonic principles, and certainly Grand Masters should strive to be paragons of Masonry. It has become apparent that even our beloved fraternity is unfortunately not immune to the axiom that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. The issue is not with Masonry but with certain individual Masons. We must each expect our leaders to emulate Most Worshipful Brother Jerry Hanson and those like him and reject those who are not.

Despots do not foster brotherly love. Of necessity, they have always suppressed it.

Sir Knight Tom Lewis, Jr. is a member of Jackson Commandery No. 13 in Jackson, Tennessee. He resides at 2104 St. Peters Lane, Charleston, SC 29414 and can be contacted at [thl@gel.com](mailto:thl@gel.com).

**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.**



# John 3:16

By Sir Knight John L. Rogitz

**I**s John 3:16 about God giving Jesus as a redemptive sacrifice, and if we believe that Jesus was the Son of God, we would be saved? In other words, is the verse primarily about the redemptive sacrifice? This certainly has been the way I have been in the habit of interpreting it.

Yet the verse does not start off by saying "God gave his only Son" and then say "because he loved the world," the natural order of thought you would expect if the sacrifice was the primary theme. The verse says that God loved the "world" instead of God loved "mankind," which is odd since it is mankind who presumably is benefitted by the sacrifice. Most puzzling is the presumptive fact that if God wanted to save us, He could do so without a sacrifice.

Instead, the verse starts off "God so loved the world." Taken at face value as the first phrase of the verse, this states the primary theme, that God so loves the world. In this interpretation, the verse is not so much about the sacrifice as about God's intense love for His creation. The sacrifice from this perspective is intended as proof of the most profound sort imaginable of the principle theme. We know how much we love our own children and that God must love His Son far more. He is saying in effect, "I want you to know I love the world, and to prove it I am going to do something that is sure to be profound to you. It is

so important to me that you believe this, that I love this world, that I will give you everlasting life. And you can show your belief through a surrogate belief, that Jesus is my Son, because if you believe that, it means you believe the rest - that I love the world."

This explains why the verse is written the way it is and resolves the puzzle of why an omnipotent God was required to sacrifice His Son to save us. He was not required. He did it to give power to the message.

Now here is the interesting part. Why is it so important to God that we know He loves the world? It's not like He needs our validation. It may be because knowing God loves the world is more transformative than anything else a man can know. That single thought makes for a calmer, more reasoned, and kinder person. With that thought in mind, one is less distressed, disturbed, and depressed, because after all, if God loves the world, how bad can it be really? If God so loves the world, things must never be as bad as they seem. One can see immediately that wrong and evil must diminish in proportion to how many people understand this simple truth. That is why it is so important for us to know, and it explains the profound proof of the sacrifice and its aftermath - the Resurrection.

It is the simplest and best enlightenment there is. John begins, "In the be-



ginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." If the "word" embodied by Christ is "love," God's love for the world, this explains the start of the Gospel and why it says that the true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. The light that enlightens every man is the knowledge that God so loves the world.

Sir Knight John L. Rogitz is a member of San Diego Commandery No. 25, resides at 750 B Street, Suite 3120, San Diego, CA 92101, and can be contacted at john@rogitz.com.



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# **FUTURE FOCUSED LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

## **DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY**

By

Sir Knight Ken Kraft

I recently had the opportunity to attend the York Rite Emerging Leaders first year training held in Boise, Idaho, at the Northwest Regional York Rite Conference. Throughout the preceding year, I had heard little bits and pieces about the leadership training. My interest peaked when I heard that the course was multi-year, sought out potential future leaders, and offered exceptional Masonic leadership training within the York Rite bodies.

As a retired United States Army officer and having completed a Master's Degree that covered leadership, operations, and management, I looked forward to gaining a Masonic perspective on leadership. I didn't know what to expect from the training. My desire was to participate in the learning process with the hope of taking something back to share with the brothers at my local York Rite bodies. I quickly noticed the selection of reading materials and found some familiar authors and titles that brought back memories of management and leadership lessons I have studied over the years. I also found a few hidden gems mixed in between Covey and other big names in management training.

Past Grand Master John Palmer of Tennessee developed the Emerging Leaders Training Program in conjunction with Past Grand High Priest Carle Jackson, of Louisiana. It has grown into a successful multi-year program. It was an honor to spend the time listening, learning, and interacting with Past Grand Master Palmer in course 101, and I look forward to spending time next year with Past Grand High Priest Jackson in course 201. The information was timely and full of useful real world applications that were well researched and superbly presented. There is no question in my mind that Past Grand Master Palmer is a master among teachers. He brings a depth and breadth to leadership and life. The Masonic mindset, principles, and teachings blended seamlessly into the academic leadership lessons and enhanced their meaning and impact.

The Emerging Leaders Program far surpassed many graduate level courses, yet it has a simplicity that speaks to each participant. The program has an emphasis on building our future and developing man's natural education, real world knowledge, and talents to benefit the mutual, larger ideals of Masonry. Since completing the first year portion, I've had the opportunity to speak at Commandery and Council meetings on the Emerging Leaders Program and have found many worthy brothers whose interest was peaked in the search for more light.

Sir Knight Ken Kraft is Prelate of Commandery No. 15 in Oregon, resides in Oregon City, and can be contacted at [kraftken@mac.com](mailto:kraftken@mac.com).

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how to join these clubs.**

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**Fax (214) 888-0230.**

Greetings Sir Knights,

**"T**his is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it." Did you catch what the Psalmist said, "we will." It involves an active choice on our part, we choose our attitudes, and we choose how we will embrace each day. Acknowledging the providence of God, we determine to be up and doing, and that is exactly what you have done.



You have put your words into actions.

Through your efforts, the 46<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign is producing amazing results. I could not be any more proud than I am right now as I review the results of your hard work.

Life Memberships are seeing a significant increase; you have heard the call. Our last count reflected 1,305 new Life Memberships! Individual Commanderies are setting a goal of hitting the 100% mark for Life Membership. My home Commandery, Lookout Commandery No. 14, just reached that mark. Under the direction of our State Chairman, many more of our Commanderies in Tennessee will be 100%. Support your State Chairman in his efforts. If the officers of your Commandery are not working on achieving 100% Life Sponsors in your Commandery, encourage them to set this as a goal.

Our top five jurisdictions are: 1. Ohio (\$95, 870), 2. Texas (\$38,676), 3. Pennsylvania (\$38,095), 4. Indiana (\$37,146), and 5. Tennessee (\$36,847). I look forward to seeing where the final numbers land and who claims the top five spots. Sir Knights, you can do it!

Our results thus far in the campaign are great, but as I tell you often and with great sincerity, we have more to do. Sir Knights, please remember that what we do today will impact the lives of others for years to come. Imagine the day when one of our researchers finds that missing piece of the puzzle, and we begin to eliminate one of the many diseases of the eye.

I leave you with this Sir Knights. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Terry L. Plemons, K.G.C.  
Chairman 46<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign







## Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir Knight John,

I received the September 2013 *Knight Templar* yesterday. Thank you for your continued excellence in the production of the magazine.

You published a letter from Sir Knight Jack Barricklo who attempts to debunk, in a very rambling way, the idea that Allah is not the same as Jehovah. Your response was short, honest, and courteous. I hesitate to be disparaging, but it appears that our brother Sir Knight needs to investigate the topic more thoroughly.

Mohammed's *Koran* quotes Allah as revealing to him that he, Allah, is the "great deceiver" and/or the "greatest of deceivers." It should be noted that neither in the old or new testaments of the *Bible* is Jehovah, Yahweh, Elohim, God, or Lord referred to as a deceiver. The greatest of deceivers in these texts is identified as Satan, the evil one.

With fraternal best wishes,

Thomas Sather, K.Y.C.H.  
Beauseant Commandery No. 86  
Murphysboro, Illinois



Letter to the Editor

In this letter I hope to explain page 11 of *Morals and Dogma* for Reverend Donald Heacock. We must look at the time Brother Pike wrote this book, published by the House of the Temple. America was a Christian conservative nation, the war between the states had just ended,

knight templar

and Lodges across our nation were experiencing revival.

Page 11, from *Morals & Dogma* states, "The *Holy Bible*, Square, and Compasses are not only styled the Great Lights of Masonry, but they are also technically called the furniture of the Lodge; and as you have seen, it is held that there is no Lodge without them. This has sometimes been made a pretext for excluding Jews from our Lodges, because they cannot regard the *New Testament* as a holy book. The *Bible* is an indispensable part of the furniture of a Christian Lodge only because it is the sacred book of the Christian religion. The Hebrew *Pentateuch* in a Hebrew Lodge, and the *Quran* in a Mohammedan one, belong on the altar; and one of these, and the Square and Compasses, properly understood, are the Great Lights by which a Mason must walk and work."

When we take a close look at this page, we see our instructions for the three different lodges... Christian, Hebrew, and Muslim. True, he tells us that his book of faith is to be used by the brother taking the oath. However, he does not tell us to remove the *Holy Bible*, only the book of faith other than the *Bible*. We can't, without the Lodge being properly tiled.

As Christians we must try to understand Islam and the *Quran*. For instance, the god of the *Quran*, is not the God of the *Holy Bible*, or the *Pentateuch*. We know that the *Holy Bible* teaches God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It's here, after some study, we find that Allah of the *Quran* cannot be the God of the *Bible*. For a Muslim to say so is an unforgiveable sin (shirk). The greatest sin a Muslim can commit is to say "Allah is a trinity of per-

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 terracotta soldiers and Great Wall taken by the editor



## Letters to the Editor



Continued from page 17

sons. In fact at (Sura 37:152) in the *Quran*, it says that if anyone says so, he is a liar. In (Sura 4:171) the *Quran* says "say not 'Trinity' for Allah is one God glory to him."

Long before the conferral of a candidate, he must fill out a petition. There is a question on that petition which states... "Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you firmly believe in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures?" When a Muslim candidate says "yes" to this question, he commits a (shirk) if he is a Muslim. Why? Because the Christian Mason and his God is far different than a Muslim and his god.

In Texas our Laws state... "no quarrels are brought within the door of the lodge, far less any quarrels about religion or nations, we being only Masons, of the catholic religion above mentioned (VI 2)."

I think you can see now that there could be some confusion about any man who professes a belief in God who may or may not be qualified to become a Mason. concerning prospective new candidates we jump to soon to try and gain new blood and spread our Masonic love for our fellow man when we should stop and do a much more through examination.

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



Brother Palmer;

Thanks for running my letter twice. Although they were both on the same sub-

ject, each had a little different context. In this month's *Knight Templar* (September 2013), Jack Barricklo seemed to be offended by the August 2012 article.

I believe that no man (me), has the right in any way to interfere with the religious belief of another. I believe that each man is absolutely sovereign as to his own belief, and that belief is a matter absolutely foreign to all who do not entertain the same belief, and that if there were any right of persecution at all, it would in all cases be a mutual right because one party has the same right as the other to sit as judge in his own case; and that God is the only Judge that can rightfully decide between them. (*Morals and Dogma*)

As I read Mr. Barricklo letter it was obvious by his written dialogue and understanding of the *Quran* that he was probably Muslim. It is my hope and prayer that we both have noble intentions and that we can still work and agree. Concerning any a sense of humor that Allah might have, I would like to know when at any time in history has Islam been at peace with itself or the rest of the world long enough to have some humor.

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

*Two comments; First, I can't see why a Muslim couldn't answer the question on a Texas petition without committing a shirk since which god and which scripture is not specified, and second, I have never seen a Christian, Muslim, or Jewish Lodge in this country or even in Israel for that matter.*

The Ed.      march 2014



## Department Conferences 2014

East Central Department, March 7-8, 2014, Lansing, Michigan  
Larry W. Brown, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander

European Department, May 23, 2014, Bucharest  
Emilio Attinà, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander

Southeastern Department, June 13-14, 2014, Greenville, SC  
Howard "Ted" Burgess, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander

Northeastern Department, September 5-6, 2014 Manchester, NH  
Thomas X. Tsirimokos, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander

South Central Department, September 20-21, 2014, Topeka, KS  
T. Michael Fegan, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander

Mid-Atlantic Department, October 4, 2014, Alexandria, VA  
Jeffrey G. Burcham, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander

Northwestern Department, October 17-18, 2014, Boise, ID  
Steven L. Guffy, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander

North Central Department, October 24-25, 2014, Sioux Falls, SD  
Lauren R. Handeland, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander,

Far East Department, October 2014 tbd  
Evaristo A. Leviste, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander

Southwestern Department, Oct 31-Nov 01, 2014, tbd  
David J. Kussman, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander

## 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.



# Beauceant News



Stillwater Assembly No. 124's installation of new officers occurred in late 2013. The installing team consisted of: (Mrs. Richard D.) Carlene Brown, Wichita Assembly No. 8 and Stillwater Assembly No. 124; (Mrs. Jack C.) Eunice Gravatt, Topeka Assembly No. 24 and Wichita Assembly No. 8; (Mrs. Earl) Charmaine Olson, Topeka Assembly No. 24; (Mrs. Ray) Jaynet Hardin, Big Spring Assembly No. 211; Mrs. Lynda Coffman, Topeka Assembly No. 24; (Mrs. Edward) Tokie Freeman, Wichita Assembly No. 8; and Mrs. Georgia Orr, Fort Worth Assembly No. 59. Officers for 2014 are; Worthy President (Mrs. Rohn) Judy Hall, (Mrs. Ray) Sherry Stoll, (Mrs. Billy Ray) Nancy Heard, (Mrs. Mal) Laurie Bucholtz, (Mrs. Gerald) Jeanne Milton, (Mrs. Kieth) Lois Ballard, (Mrs. Shannon) Wanda Murchinson, (Mrs. Lyle) Lillian Frye, (Mrs. James) Nancy Parker, (Mrs. David) Lila Berry, (Mrs. Mark) Linda Luttrell, (Mrs. Dwayne) Judy Dixon, (Mrs. Gene) Doris Holbrook, Mrs. Linda Liles, (Mrs. David) Dale David, (Mrs. Walter) Barbara White, and (Mrs. Donald) Elizabeth Bulard. Stillwater Assembly No. 124 meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 10:30 am.



Supreme Worthy President, (Mrs. T. Michael) Debhra Fegan held her Official Visit at Omaha Assembly No. 91 on November 5, 2013. In addition to extending a warm welcome, Mrs. Ronald Stites, Worthy President, and the Assembly initiated four new members; (Mrs. Carl) Carolyn Plants, (Mrs. Les) Gretchen Martins, (Mrs. Mervyn) Sharon Moeller, and (Mrs. Lyle) Melva Nicholson. Mrs. Fegan completed her northern visits immediately prior to Thanksgiving.

# The Horns of Hattin

By Sir Knight Ben Williams

**F**ew events in history can be identified as true turning points, points in the unraveling of time where history is irrevocably altered. The Battle of Hattin is one such point, a waterfall in the river of time that inexorably moved the destiny of the Christian Empire toward a new horizon.

The Battle of Hattin ultimately resulted in the fall of Jerusalem, the levy of the Saladin tithe throughout Europe, the death of one Pope, and the onset of the Third Crusade. In time, the Christians withdrew from the Holy Land almost entirely. All of this could have been avoided if not for the actions of one man, Raynald of Chatillon.

It's important to understand this man, his character, and his actions in order to understand how, in time, he could unite the warring Muslim factions against him and in so doing, assist the rise to power of the Templars' greatest adversary, Salal-ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub — "Saladin," the "Defender of the Faith."

## Raynald of Chatillon

Raynald of Chatillon was a scurrilous man by all accounts, cruel, greedy, ambitious, resorting to any tactics, no matter how low, to increase his power and wealth. He makes a great case study in medieval villainy.

Contrary to popular opinion, fostered in part by fictionalization in movies such as *The Kingdom of Heaven* (2005), knight templar

Raynald of Chatillon was not a Templar. That he allied with the Templar Grand Master, Gerard de Ridefort, however, is true, but this "unholy alliance" was likely the result of personal misgivings the Grand Master had for other political rivals in the Christian states. (We'll get to that in a minute.)

Raynald's exact origin and arrival in the Holy Land are both uncertain. He probably arrived with the Second Crusade. We are not entirely sure where he came from, but we know he entered the service of the Princess Regnant of Antioch, Constance, sometime after 1147. Following Constance's husband's death in 1149, Raynald and Constance eloped. Neither King Baldwin of Jerusalem nor the Patriarch of Antioch approved the marriage. Raynald was considered of common birth and a match ill-suited to the nobility.

Raynald and Constance had one daughter, Agnes, in 1154. There can be no question that the marriage served Raynald well. He increased his wealth and power, and also perhaps, his arrogance. Maybe he was fed up with being looked down upon by the nobility, or maybe he was tired of fawning on social superiors. Whatever the reason, he determined that he would take what would not be freely given him.

In 1156, he sought funds to attack the island of Cyprus, claiming that the Byzantine Emperor Manuel I Comnenus, had reneged on a promise to pay him cash, but seeing no just cause, the Patriarch of

Antioch refused to finance the expedition. Raynald had the Patriarch stripped naked, lacquered in honey, and left atop the citadel in the noonday sun. Raynald got the money. His forces plundered Cyprus.

This iniquitous raid was a mistake. Despite the spoils earned from the looting, it would cause him an amount of humiliation instead of the respect he desperately craved, humiliation that no doubt only consolidated his misanthropy.

Following Raynald's foray into Cyprus, Emperor Manuel I raised a large army to teach Raynald a lesson and entered Syria. Vastly out-powered, Raynald was forced to grovel at the Emperor's throne and beg for his life. In 1159, Raynald was again forced to pay homage to the Emperor and agreed to accept a Greek Patriarch at Antioch. This effectively split the authority of Antioch, giving religious allegiance to the Emperor. Worse still, when Emperor Manuel visited Antioch in 1159 for a meeting with King Baldwin III of Jerusalem, it was Raynald who was ordered out to greet the Emperor and to lead his horse on foot through the city in front of everyone. You can imagine how this made him feel.

He turned his greed toward the Muslims. In 1160, he was captured during a plundering raid against the Syrian and Armenian peasants of Marash. He was imprisoned at Aleppo for seventeen years. This is probably where he honed his hatred for the Muslims. It undoubtedly contributed to the cruelty for which he would later gain notoriety, the torture and misery he'd inflict at the castle of Kerak. Perhaps because Raynald was the stepfather of Maria of Antioch, who the Emperor Manuel married in 1160, or for other reasons unknown to us, Emperor Manuel surprisingly ransomed

Raynald for twelve thousand gold dinars, or about a quarter ton of gold. That's \$31,176,924.90 in today's money (calculated in September, 2012). The cost of his freedom to the Christian empire was much higher.

Constance had died in 1163, so Raynald married another rich widow, Stephanie, the widow of Humphrey III of Toron and Miles of Plancy. She was the heiress to the lordship of Oultrejordain, a lordship that included the castles of Montreal and Kerak. These two fortresses south of the Dead Sea controlled the trade routes between Egypt and Damascus. Raynald must have been pleased.

On November 25, 1177, leading the Christian armies alongside the leprous King Baldwin IV, Raynald was victorious over Saladin at the battle of Montgisard. Saladin narrowly escaped. Four years later, perhaps sensing the growing tension between the Christians and the Muslims, fueled with his own sense of power and greed, Raynald began incursions against the Muslim trade caravans passing his fortresses, a violation of truces forged between the Muslims and the Christians.

He took prisoners. It is said he taunted the Muslim merchants and their families and had them thrown over the battlements to fall perilously to their deaths on the rocks below.

Outraged, Saladin demanded reparations, but King Baldwin IV of Jerusalem, young and afflicted with wasting leprosy, held out his hands. He could not, he said, control this "unruly vassal." War resulted in 1182, and Raynald's notoriety began to spread across the Muslim world.

Unsatisfied with villainy on land, Raynald took to piracy upon the Red Sea. His ships were a visible threat to the Muslim Holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Suddenly close, his boasts deprecating the Muslim faith rang out across the Muslim world. The Muslims consolidated behind Saladin. Raynald's pirates were captured, taken to Cairo, and beheaded, but Raynald escaped and disappeared in Moab. Saladin vowed to his followers that he would behead Raynald himself.

Toward the end of 1182, Saladin attacked the castle at Kerak during the wedding of Raynald's stepson, Humphrey IV of Toron, to Isabella of Jerusalem. The siege was raised by Raymond III of Tripoli, a noble who would later vie for the throne of Jerusalem.

Following the siege, Raynald was quiet for a few years, but then, in 1186, he attacked a large Muslim caravan travelling between Cairo and Damascus, taking all the merchants and their families hostage. Up to his usual antics, he desecrated their faith, humiliated and tortured them, and locked away the plunder. He refused audience with each of Saladin's envoys. This violated a four year truce the Christians had signed with Saladin the year before, and Saladin made preparations for revenge.

## **Gerard de Ridefort**

We need also to understand Gerard de Ridefort and why the Templar Grand Master would ultimately back Raynald's terrible argument to march out to meet Saladin on those dusty plains near the Horns of Hattin on July 3, 1187. The whims of destiny are curious; many kingdoms have fallen over pride and simple personal differences. It was a personal difference, perhaps between Gerard de Ridefort and Raymond of Tripoli that would lead to that terrible decision

knight templar

which prevailed at the war council on July 2, a decision that would force the Christians out, away from the defensible springs at Sephoria, and into the desert, with the entire Christian army in tow.

Gerard de Ridefort arrived in Jerusalem sometime in the late 1170's, probably from the lands of modern-day Belgium. He entered the service of King Baldwin IV of Jerusalem, and in 1179, he attained the rank of Marshal of the Kingdom.

At some point, he had made arrangements to marry an heiress in Tripoli, but Raymond III, the Count of Tripoli, instead gave her to a wealthy merchant who, legend says, offered Raymond as dowry her weight in gold. Jilted, Gerard took the vows of chastity and entered the order. His rise was rapid. By 1183 he had attained the rank of Seneschal. In 1185, following the death of Grand Master Arnold of Torroja, he was elected Grand Master. We will never know if he forgave Raymond of Tripoli for maneuvering his bride to the hand of another, but history records Gerard taking opposing sides to Raymond III of Tripoli at every turn thereafter.

## **Toward The Horns**

Following Raynald's iniquitous plundering and murdering of the laden caravans and the breach of yet another treaty, Saladin began assembling an army from across the Muslim world. By May of 1187, it exceeded thirty thousand men with twelve thousand cavalry. A perfect storm was building. The Muslim factions had united; Raynald's raiding, murderous lechery, and ungodly villainy were a perfect call to arms.

Previously in 1185, King Baldwin IV



finally succumbed to leprosy, giving his nephew, King Baldwin V, the crown but not the throne. He was but a boy, and Raymond of Tripoli was appointed regent. In 1186, Baldwin V also died, and the throne of Jerusalem was contested. On one side was Raymond of Tripoli; on the other Guy of Lusignan, husband of Baldwin IV's sister, Sibylla of Jerusalem.

Before his death, Baldwin IV had decreed that Sibylla could only become Queen if her marriage to Guy was annulled, but with the support of Raynald of Chatillon and Gerard de Rideford (against Raymond of Tripoli), Sibylla was crowned queen as the rightful heir, and Guy, as husband, became king.

Thus, when Raynald attacked the Muslim caravan on that fateful day, the Christians had a new King of Jerusalem — one appointed by marriage — whose claim was openly contested. The nobility was in disunity, factions divided the Christian kingdom, and loyalties were uncertain.

In June of 1187, Saladin crossed the Jordan with thirty thousand men. In disarray and disunity, the Christians reluctantly united and rallied at Acre.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> Saladin laid siege to Tiberias, a fortress owned by Raymond of Tripoli's wife, Eschiva of Bure, Princess of Galilee. Eschiva was at that time residing there. This was a move intended not on conquest but on deceit. Saladin wanted to goad the Christians away from their defensible position to weaken them in the desert. The plan worked.

At a war counsel on July 2, Raymond III of Tripoli (whose wife it was imperiled at Tiberias) argued against riding out to meet Saladin. He recognized the danger, and smelled a rat. He would even let his wife go. But Raynald and Gerard de Ridefort, calling him a coward, prevailed

on Guy of Lusignan, the new king, to meet Saladin in battle, to save Tiberias, and conquer the Muslim horde. After all, they had beaten Saladin before with less men. Practically the whole military of the Christian Levant was behind them. So it was, the Christians rode out into the desert on the morning of July 3<sup>rd</sup> — about twenty thousand of them, with twelve hundred knights from Jerusalem and fifty from Antioch. The Relic of the True Cross, a purported piece of the crucifix to which Christ Himself was nailed, led the way in the procession of the Bishop of Acre. It was fifteen miles to Tiberias.

## The Battle of Hattin

Raymond of Tripoli led the vanguard, Guy of Lusignan led the main army, and Raynald and Balian of Ibelin led the rear-guard. Almost immediately, the army was under assault by Muslim skirmishers, haranguing and disorienting the army. Not enough to cause retreat or to break ranks mind you, just enough to create confusion. They buzzed around like flies irritating a horse. The sun beat down.

After a fast march, the army reached the springs at Turan around noon. They had traveled six miles. "The hawks of the Frankish infantry and the eagle of their cavalry hovered around the water," a chronicler of the day records Saladin saying.

It would have been wise to lay camp near the water, but said Saladin, "Satan incited Guy to do what ran counter to his purpose." Despite having only mustered eight miles march in a single day, Guy forced the march onward, hoping to surprise Saladin that evening. The long line of men and horses in the noonday heat



pressed on toward Tiberias — nine miles to go.

Watching from afar, Saladin secretly sent two wings of his army around the Christians, severing the springs at Turan from their reach. He increased the guerrilla incursions to the rear and managed to split the rear guard by slowing them almost to a crawl.

Muslim Chronicler, Baha ad-Din ibn Shaddad, says:

“They were closely beset as in a noose, while still marching on as though being driven to the death that they could see before them, convinced of their doom and destruction and themselves aware that the following day they would be visiting their graves.”

The army was forced to camp with no water in the middle of a dry plain. During the night, the skirmishes continued. At dawn, or just before, on July 4, 1187, Saladin, whose armies now surrounded the Christians, set fire to the dried grasses upwind. The smoke blistered the Christians, adding to their thirst and weighing uncertainty upon them. Saladin loosed a thousand arrows. They were being attacked from all sides. The sudden understanding of their predicament was enough. They broke ranks, knight templar

and headed for the Horns of Hattin, but Saladin repulsed them back.

Count Raymond led two charges to break through the Muslim ranks, to gain access to the Sea of Galilee. Water, they all needed water, but Saladin took the second charge, allowing a small retreat before swooping in behind and isolating Raymond and his knights. Raymond was forced into retreat and separate from the main force. Seeing Raymond severed from the battle and fearing the worst, the infantry disbanded and ran to the Horns of Hattin again. Saladin let them go. The cavalry, now unprotected, fell prey to the torrent of arrows, and the horses fell. The cavalry was forced to fight on foot. Then they too made for the Horns of Hattin. Trapped on the hillside, the Crusaders were completely surrounded.

What happened next was recorded by Ibn al-Athir from Al-Afdal, Saladin’s son, who was at his father’s side during the battle:

“When the king of the Franks [Guy] was on the hill with that band, they made a formidable charge against the Muslims facing them, so that they drove them back to my father [Saladin]. I looked toward him and he was overcome by grief and his complexion pale. He took hold of his beard and advanced, crying out ‘Give the lie to the Devil!’”

The Muslims rallied, returned to the fight, and climbed the hill. “When I saw that the Franks withdrew, pursued by the Muslims, I shouted for joy, ‘We have beaten them!’ But the Franks rallied and charged again like the first time and drove the Muslims back to my father.

He acted as he had done on the first occasion and the Muslims turned upon

the Franks and drove them back to the hill. I again shouted, 'We have beaten them!' But my father rounded on me and said, 'Be quiet! We have not beaten them until that tent [Guy] falls.' As he was speaking to me, the tent fell. The sultan dismounted, prostrated himself in thanks to God Almighty and wept for joy."

The prisoners were assembled for ransom. Guy of Lusignan and Raynald of Chatillon were taken to Saladin's tent. The Chronicler Imad ad-Din al-Isfahani records what happened next:

"Saladin invited the king [Guy] to sit beside him, and when Arnat [Raynald] entered in his turn, he seated himself next to his king and [Saladin] reminded him of his misdeeds.

"How many times have you sworn an oath and violated it? How many times have you signed agreements you have never respected?"

Raynald answered through a translator: 'Kings have always acted thus. I did nothing more.'

During this time, King Guy was gasping with thirst, his head dangling as though drunk, his face betraying great fright. Saladin spoke reassuring words to him, had cold water brought, and offered it to him.

The king drank, then handed what remained to Raynald, who slaked his thirst in turn. The sultan then said to Guy:

'You did not ask permission before giving him water. I am therefore not obliged to grant him mercy.'

After pronouncing these words, the sultan smiled, mounted his horse, and rode off, leaving the captives in terror. He supervised the return of the troops, and then came back to his tent.

He ordered Raynald brought there,

then advanced before him, sword in hand, and struck him between the neck and the shoulder-blade. When Raynald fell, he cut off his head and dragged the body by its feet to the king, who began to tremble. Seeing him thus upset, Saladin said to him in a reassuring tone:

'It is not the wont of kings to kill kings; but that man had transgressed all bounds, and therefore did I treat him thus. This man was killed only because of his maleficence and perfidy.'

The severity of this loss is best synthesized by the following facts. Most of the Christian army from across the Levant fell that day. The Knights present were summarily executed. The True Cross was nailed upside down and taken to Damascus. Two days later, the fortress at Tiberias fell. By mid-September; Acre, Nablus, Jaffa, Toron, Sidon, Beirut, and Ascalon had all fallen. On October 2, Jerusalem fell, too.


When word of the sudden reversal reached Rome, the Chronicler Ernoul records that the news of the defeat caused Pope Urban III to die of shock. Pope Gregory VIII, ascending shortly thereafter, issued the papal bull *Audita tremendi*, authorizing the Third Crusade. In England and France, the Saladin tithe was enacted, and all peoples were taxed additionally to fund the endeavor. This led to much unpopularity of and uprisings against the nobility there.

Despite the efforts of other Knights Templar and King Richard I the Lionheart, the Christians were unable to recapture Jerusalem. The Third Crusade ended in 1192, and the spires of Jerusalem set under the pale blade of the crescent moon.

We should never forget that the actions of just one man can cause great

changes in the world — for good or ill. As modern Knights of the Temple, we must remember to temper ambition and greed beneath the sword of virtue, to remain a force of positive change in the world. We must be unafraid in all our interactions, look the world in the eye, and keep it with a wink. With all the luxury of the modern age, what are you going to do today to make someone else's life better?


Perhaps it's as simple as a smile.


 Kingdom of Jerusalem


 Knights Templar

 Knights Hospitaller


 Order of Saint Lazarus


 Principality of Antioch

 Guy of Lusignan

 Raymond III of Tripoli

 Balian of Ibelin

 Gerard de Rideford

 Raynald of Chatillon

15,000 infantry  
1,200 knights  
500 mercenaries } 16,700 men Vs.

Sir Knight Ben Williams is Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Colorado. He resides at 2360 E. Evans Ave., # 1044, Denver, CO 80210 and can be contacted at [orionsg8@mac.com](mailto:orionsg8@mac.com). This article was originally published in the March 2013 edition of the *Rocky Mountain Mason*, and it is published here with permission.



Vs.

 Ayyubids


Vs.

 Saladin

 Gokbori

 Al-Muzaffar Umar

 Al-Adil I

 Al-Afdal ibn  
Salah ad-Din

30,000 men  
(including 12,000 cavalry)

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>.

# Templar Memorabilia

Sir Knight Isaiah Akin of Naval Lodge No. 4 in Washington, DC sent us these photos of Templar items which were recently donated to the Lodge. They belonged to Past Master Jules Rodier who was Worshipful Master of Naval Lodge in 1908. The family said that Brother Rodier was an expert horseman and enjoyed participating in Commandery pilgrimages.







# **2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MID-AMERICA EASTER OBSERVANCE**

The Grand Encampment will sponsor the  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mid-America Easter Service**

*Hosted by the Grand Commanderies of  
Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, & Nebraska*

**Sunday, April 20, 2014 at 8:00 am**

**Liberty Memorial**

100 W 26th Street, Kansas City, Missouri

Host Hotel – Westin Crown Center

1 East Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri  
816-474-4400

Knight Templar Easter Service Special rate of \$89.00 plus taxes

Look for details later at [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org)



# Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



## MID AMERICA EASTER OBSERVANCE

APRIL 19 - 20, 2014

### RESERVATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commandery Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lady/Escort: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beauceant Assembly: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beauceant Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### RESERVATION DEADLINE April 7, 2014

No Refunds after April 15, 2014

Registration \$ 30.00/person Number Attending \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00  
(Registration for gentlemen only, includes memento for member and for lady if attending)

Saturday, April 19, 2014

Formal Banquet \$50.00/person Number attending \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00  
(Sir Knights in dress uniform, ladies, and guests in evening attire)

Sunday, April 20, 2014

Easter Buffett Breakfast \$30.00/person Number attending \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00

Saturday, April 19, 2014 Liberty Memorial WWI Museum Tour:

\_\_\_\_ @ \$7.00/child \_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00/adult \_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00/senior Tour Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00

**Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00**

Indicate any special dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **Mid America Easter Service**

Mail check and reservation form to:

Grand Commandery of Kansas  
Wayne H. Rollf, Grand Recorder  
30460 W 154<sup>th</sup> ST  
Gardner, Kansas 66030



# Knights



## at the Bookshelf

By  
Sir Knight Scott Wolfertz

*The Great Siege Malta 1565* by Ernle Bradford e-Rights/E-Reads, Ltd. Publishers  
Copyright 1961. ISBN-13: 978-0759299344.

This summer I had the pleasure of reading *The Great Siege Malta 1565*, authored by noted 20<sup>th</sup> century historian Ernle Bradford. I do not know if the author was a Mason, but I wouldn't be surprised. As the title suggests, this book is about the Great Siege of Malta in 1565 and the Knights of Malta as opposed to the other siege in the 1940s which the author also wrote about in another book. The book goes into great detail about the main characters, the events leading up to this epic battle, and the siege itself. Our Malta order makes no mention of the Siege, and I am glad that someone put pen to ink to preserve and illuminate this brief but heroic history. It was a time when the Holy Roman Empire was disintegrating, the Reformation had begun, the New World had been discovered, plate armor was at its zenith, and gunpowder was being effectively deployed.

Without ruining the book for anyone, it's about the Siege of Malta where approximately five hundred Knights of Malta with the aid of a collection of another five thousand mercenaries, foot soldiers, and locals took on the Ottoman Empire of approximately fifty thousand troops in an epic battle. Wait till you learn what the defenders used as cannonballs! The order was weakened by the Reformation, claiming all but two Knights of the English Langue. Remember the table in the West of the Order of Malta describing there are eight Knights seated at the table in the West? Remove 1/8<sup>th</sup> of your assets, the English Langue. Too often, I believe, we in the Commandery look at the Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta as mere stepping stones to the Order of the Temple, and we miss out on some of the magic contained in those two orders. To do the short form of an order does a disservice to the candidate in particular and the order as a whole. This is not a "Masonic" book, but this book will shed light on the Knights of Malta, a deeper understanding of Chivalry, and a profound appreciation of the sacrifice and honor of our ancient brethren and the Order of Malta. It will compliment and amplify your experience the next time you observe or participate in the Order of Malta; in other words, it is a MUST READ!







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Sizes: 54, 56, 58 Add \$100<sup>00</sup>

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Knight Templar

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*It came to pass that on the third day  
in the morning there was thunder and  
lightning and a thick cloud upon the  
mount, and the voice of the trumpet  
was exceedingly loud so that all the  
people that were in the camp trembled.  
Ex: 19:16*

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