


Knight Templar



VOLUME LXI

OCTOBER 2015

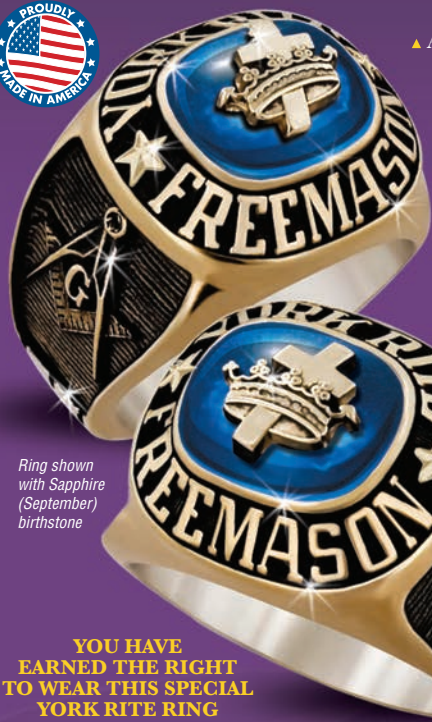
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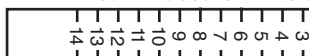
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Knight Templar

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knight templar

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

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Magazine materials and correspondence to the editor should be sent in electronic form to the managing editor whose contact information is shown above.

Materials and correspondence concerning the Grand Commandery state supplements should be sent to the respective supplement editor.

Cover photo of castle tower at the Templar Commandery at La Couvertorade, France taken by the editor.

Grand Master's Message

I have been fortunate to have served in interesting positions in the Fraternity. I was asked to join the Grand Commandery and Grand Lodge lines and was appointed to a vacancy in the Grand Encampment line while serving as Grand Master of Masons. I have now reached the office of Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, but I was also once a new member and was asked to take small positions in my Lodge and York Rite.

It occurs to me that I didn't campaign for these positions. I was recruited by someone who thought I would do a good job. I just tried to do my best at whatever job I accepted and to enjoy the journey. Others may judge whether I was the best candidate for any of these positions, but I have certainly enjoyed the journey.

As we move into the fall, many Masonic organizations are choosing their future leaders. Before we get to a reporting deadline, maybe it's time to think more about who we would like to have as an officer and less about who we can get.

Every office in our Fraternity is a possible prelude to a more extensive position. No positions, even the junior officers of your Commandery, are unimportant. With some time left in the year, let's think of who we would like to have as an officer. He may not be a current officer. He may not be very active. We don't need to scare a person off with a big job to start, but we have an amazing variety of small jobs.

Our future leadership will be composed of the people we start in the beginning positions. Let's look for the best to augment the long term team we always rely upon.

Courteously,

⌘ Duane Lee Vaught



ENCAMPME



**The 66th Triennial of the Grand
Encampment of Knights Templar of
the USA**



Prelate's Chapel

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

It was Friday, October 13, 1307, when, by order of King Philip IV (the fair) of France, all Knights Templar were arrested and imprisoned. The mother house of the Templars in Paris was invaded by Philip's soldiers, and all the Templars there, including Grand Master Jacques deMolay, were arrested and imprisoned. For the next six and one half years, deMolay was beaten, tortured, and subjected to extensive hours of interrogation, all leading up to the dissolution of the Knights Templar and deMolay's execution by being burned at the stake on an island in the Seine River in March of 1314. King Philip and his court were convinced that the Knights Templar were expunged from the face of the earth.

Time has proved that wrong. The ideals, the principles, and the traditions of Templary reappeared in history through the Masonic fraternity, and the present order of Knights Templar continues to carry onward these principles and ideals within the fraternity as well as in the world around us.

This is not unlike a similar incident some thirteen centuries earlier than Jacques deMolay when a young carpenter from Nazareth named Jesus was brought to trial for an alleged attempt to force a revolution against the Roman Empire and reform the whole system of Jewish religious practices. He was crucified on a Friday on a wooden cross with the words "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" (INRI) placed above Him. On his death, He was laid in a borrowed tomb which was sealed with a large round stone, and that was the end of that, or so Pontus Pilate and High Priest Caiaphas thought.

On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead to show that "God so loved the world that He gave His own begotten Son (to die in our place and pay the price of our sin), so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) For these twenty centuries since, followers of Jesus the "Good Shepherd" have not only carried God's love and forgiveness onward in the world around them but assured all those who follow Jesus that we shall also be led upward toward that prize that awaits all who love and serve the Lord, the prize of eternal life with "Our Father who art in Heaven."





**The 66th Triennial of the Grand
Encampment of Knights Templar of
the USA**



knight templar

IN MEMORIAM



Paul R. Jellison
Ohio
Grand Commander 1995
Born: March 22, 1930
Died: June 16, 2015

William Lee Fergus
Arkansas
Grand Commander 1989
Born: September 23, 1948
Died: July 21, 2015

George W. Davidson
Ohio
Grand Commander 1970
Born: January 13, 1923
Died: December 14, 2014

Arthur S. Holmes
Ohio
Grand Commander 1989
Born: December 17, 1922
Died: August 7, 2015

John David Deetz
Illinois
Grand Commander 1993
Born: October 29, 1935
Died: August 14, 2014



HOLY LANDS AND THE MIDDLE EAST

By
Chuck Clampitt

The founding of Islam by the Prophet Mohammed in 622 AD resulted in a major change in the power structure of the Middle East. The Byzantine Empire, the seat of the Eastern Orthodox Church, lost North Africa, Egypt, the holy lands, and Syria to Moslem armies by the end of the 7th century. Other parts of the Byzantine Empire were also under pressure during the 7th and 8th centuries from Slavs in the Balkan Peninsula and Persians to the east.

The Byzantine Empire had become over-extended from territorial conquests. The maintenance of a large standing military had overtaxed both its manpower and financial resources. With the reduced size of the empire, commerce, wealth, religion, learning, and the arts all flourished as did its beautiful capital, Constantinople, which is now Istanbul in modern day Turkey.

By the 11th century, a new military threat came out of the east from the steppes of central Asia in the form of the Seljuk Turks. The Turks were a loosely organized nomadic people of herders and warriors who at some time had converted to Islam. Famed for their horsemanship, mastery of the bow, and fearless bravery, the Turks forced the Byzantine

Emperor Alexius I to turn to the West for assistance. In 1095 AD Pope Urban II of Rome, at the Council of Clermont, declared a "holy war" against the Muslims to retake Jerusalem and the surrounding holy lands from the Turks. To encourage western Christians in this effort, participants were promised absolution and remission of sins for all who died. This, combined with the lure of seizing landed estates, fired thousands of Christians to participate in the first crusade. By 1099 AD Jerusalem and the surrounding area were in the possession of the crusaders.

In total there would be seven more crusades over the course of the next two hundred years. Territorial conquests shifted boundaries between Christians and Muslims, with brutality and barbarism being the norm. Perhaps one of the most unusual occurrences took place during



Hagia Sophia Church, Mosque, and now Museum in Istanbul.

the 4th Crusade, when western crusaders sacked Christian Constantinople, set up a Latin Empire, and partitioned other Byzantine territories between themselves. This action forever split the eastern and western churches, preventing any possibility of reunification.

During the times when Christians were in possession of Jerusalem and the holy lands, they opened the city to a stream of pilgrims from across Christendom. Spurred by religious piety and a desire to see the birthplace of their faith, these pilgrims were preyed upon by robbers, thieves, and brigands of all varieties. To alleviate these dangers, the monastic order of the Knights Templar was created in 1120 AD.

Crusades, both to the holy lands and against pagans and infidels in western and northern Europe, continued until 1285 AD. Meanwhile the Byzantine Empire was involved in wars, including civil wars, on an ongoing basis during its final decline. By 1373 AD, it had become a vassal of the increasingly powerful Ottoman Turks. By 1453 AD, Constantinople had fallen to the Ottomans, thus ending twelve hundred years of Byzantine rule.

The Ottoman Turks, located in northwestern Anatolia (Turkey), had risen in strength as the Byzantine Empire had declined. By the 14th century, the Ottoman's had crossed the Bosphorus, the waters separating Asia from Europe, and conquered territories in the Balkan Peninsula in what is now Greece, Bulgaria, and what was previously known as Yugoslavia. Over the next two hundred years, the Ottoman Empire continued to spread in all directions from Turkey. At its zenith, the empire stretched across northern Africa, down the Nile River to the Horn of Africa, through the Arabian

Peninsula to present day Iran, northward into southern Russia, and encompassed the Balkan Peninsula to Vienna.

The Ottomans were fierce fighters and outstanding horsemen. They created strong commercial and military fleets, they included conquered peoples as vassal states, and they fought with religious fervor, spreading Islam throughout their empire. Under Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent's forty-six year reign, from 1520 to 1566 AD, the Ottoman's reached their apex. He personally led victorious armies in battle and under his leadership, fostered an era of art, literature, commerce, and building.

"Suleiman personally instituted major legislative changes relating to society, education, taxation, and criminal law. His canonical law (or the Kanuns) fixed the form of the empire for centuries after his death." [Wikipedia/Suleiman the Magnificent.]

Strong leadership had been a hallmark of the early Sultans up to the time of Suleiman, but following his death, the empire suffered under nearly one hundred forty years of poor leadership. Government corruption, failure to modernize, and an overall hubris were all contributing factors in the Ottoman decline. During this period, the land under the Ottomans didn't noticeably change, but control was waning. As the years went by, more and more resources were required to defend against Russian encroachment around the Black Sea and the area east of Turkey. Nationalism of the Balkan Peninsula was also a major cause of conflict for generations.

By the mid-1850's the Ottoman Empire was referred to as "the sick man of Europe." Preyed upon from outside powers, lacking a modern military or

manufacturing capabilities, and financially indebted to countries of the West, the empire was rapidly approaching its death throes. By the 20th century, the empire lost a series of wars in the Balkans, and as World War I approached, the Ottomans sought alliances with any of the Western European powers that might help continue its independence. Following the outbreak of the war, the Ottoman Empire became an ally of Germany. The Ottomans did experience some success during the war, repulsing England and her allies at Gallipoli in 1915-16 and in persistent fighting in present day Iraq. (Perhaps the best known feature of the war in the Middle East is from the movie *Lawrence of Arabia*.) A large part of the English strategy during the war was to incite Arabs within the Ottoman Empire to revolt. T. E. Lawrence played a key role in that effort.

In the end, the Allies prevailed, and the Ottoman Empire and the rest of the Central Powers sued for peace. What followed was the division of Europe and the Ottoman Empire, primarily by England and France. These two countries had already made plans for the division of the Ottoman Empire during the war, and under the auspices of the League of Nations, the division was completed. Turkey would be created as a newly independent country, France received a mandate with control over Syria and Lebanon, most of the Arabian Peninsula became an independent kingdom, and England controlled Iraq; Palestine; Jordan; and the protectorates of Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar. While these boundaries appear to follow current national divisions, a number of other factors were also in play. National identity as we know it today wasn't strong in the Mid-

dle East. People identified not by nationality but instead by religious sect, tribe, clan, and family. As a result, infighting often persisted.

Oil was another contributing force to destabilization in the region. By the outbreak of World War I, demand for oil was rapidly increasing as a source of energy. Military and commercial fleets were being converted from coal to oil for efficiency and safety concerns. Oil was also seen as a cleaner and more efficient energy source for a large variety of commercial applications. Oil had already been discovered in Iraq prior to World War I, and its procurement was a key English military strategy. Possession and control of oil producing areas also provided a distinct advantage to western countries whose economies were based on manufacturing.

Another factor was the Jewish Zionist movement that had originated in the 1800's. The basis for Zionism was the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. This issue was addressed in what is known as the *English Balfour Declaration* of November 1917. It stated: "His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this objective, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

While this recognized the Jewish desire for a "national home," it did not declare the English government's endorsement of a separate Jewish state (i.e. nation). At the time of the *Balfour Declaration* in

1917, approximately fifty thousand Jews lived in Palestine, comprising ten percent of the population. By 1947 the Jewish population had increased to six hundred thousand as the result of displaced Jews relocating to Palestine following World War II and the Holocaust.

The British Mandate over Palestine was ended by the United Nations on May 14, 1948. David Ben-Gurion, the new Israeli leader, declared the establishment of a new Jewish state to be known as Israel. That same day Presi-

dent Harry Truman extended United States recognition to the new country. On the following day, May 15, 1948, Israel was attacked by Arab countries in an effort to end its existence.

Chuck Clampitt is a member of Mt. Etna Lodge No. 333, Mt. Etna, Indiana, and he can be reached at cclampitt@frontier.com.

Sources

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Goodwin, *Lords of the Horizons: A History of the Ottoman Empire*, Henry Holt, New York, 1998

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Wikipedia/Fourth Crusade



A Chat With The Managing Editor

I just returned from attending the Triennial Convocation in Buffalo, New York, and am excited about our next three years in Templary! As you have seen last month from our Grand Master's first message, he has a plan and has already begun to communicate it to us. The future is bright!

Sir Knights Aaron Shoemaker, Brice Hildreth, and Leroy Delionbach have served on the Editorial Review Board for the magazine for the past three years, and we are all deeply indebted to them for all the work they have put in. They are rotating off the board for the new triennium. If you see one of them, thank them for their service. Our two new board members are Phil Buchholz and Ben Williams. George Marshal and Doug Rowe will remain for this triennium.

Jeff Nelson remains as our publisher, and our new Grand Captain General is Sir Knight David Kussman. I look forward to continuing to work with them. I also want to mention Sir Knight Cappy (Eugene Anthony) Capobianco from Massachusetts. He is on the Grand Encampment Bicentennial Committee for next year, so you will be hearing from him. I have watched him come in second place two times now in important elections and there are two lessons to be learned. First, we have some very fine Sir Knights among us for so fine a gentleman not to be elected twice. This speaks well of the quality of our leadership and of our membership. Our delegates were struggling with the difficulty of deciding between two truly excellent choices both times in contrast to many of our governmental elections where we are faced with the prospect of voting for the lesser of two evils. What a refreshing experience! The second and more important lesson is in the character of Sir Knight Capobianco as exhibited in his behavior on both occasions. Anybody can be a gentleman when things

are going well, but it takes true character and moral maturity to be chivalrous when things aren't going your way. Cappy is an excellent positive example to us all.

Another interesting observation I had was when the hotel fire alarm went off right in the middle of the session. It demonstrated the discipline and maturity of the Sir Knights when under stress. I have seen a number of evacuations, but never one so courteous, orderly, and effective. It makes you proud to be a part of such an organization!



John L. Palmer
Managing Editor



knight templar

Sir Knight David J. Kussman

Right Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

Sir Knight David J. Kussman was born in Houston, Texas, on April 5, 1953, to the late Frederick J. Kussman Jr. and Hazel E. Kussman. He is a graduate of Loara High School in Anaheim, California. He attended Fullerton College and August Vollmer University, pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice. He received his teaching credential from the University of California in Los Angeles. He also attended Cottonwood Leadership College, School of Ministry in California. He is a member of Plaza Bible Church in Orange, California, where he has served on the church council, as an Elder, and is currently an associate Pastor.

Sir Knight Kussman is a retired Police Sergeant from the Anaheim Police Department, completing thirty-four years of service.

Sir Knight Kussman was married to Lady Kimberly Ann Kussman (Schmidt) from 1988 until her passing in 2015. They have two daughters and a son. His first grandchild was born in 2015, and he is expecting a second in 2016.

Sir Knight Kussman is a member and Past Master of Anaheim Lodge No. 207. He is also a member of several Masonic Lodges of Research. He is a member and past presiding officer of the Orange County York Rite Bodies and holds both active and honorary memberships in numerous York Rite bodies in the United States. He is a Past Prior of Sierra Pacific Priory No. 71 and is a Past Venerable Master of Orange County Valley Scottish Rite Bodies.

Sir Knight Kussman was knighted in Fullerton Commandery No. 55 in 1983 and served twice as Commander and Treasurer. He joined the Golden West Commandery No. 43 drill team and became a life member. He was Captain of the drill team of Orange County Commandery No. 36 for seventeen years and was honored with the distinction of Drill Captain Emeritus. He was a member of the Los Angeles Commandery No. 9 Championship 65th Triennial Drill Team.

Sir Knight Kussman was appointed Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery of California in 2002 and served as Grand Commander for 2010-2011. Additionally, he served as President of the Grand York Rite of California, Inc.

Sir Knight Kussman is a member and Past Preceptor of Saint John the Baptist Tabernacle, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; Past Governor of Southern California York Rite College No. 110, serving as Grand Governor; Past Sovereign of Saint Croix Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, serving as Intendant General; a 4th Grade of California College, Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis; a Past Excellent Chief of Brian Boru Council No. 38, Knight Masons; a Past Sovereign Master of



Orange Coast Council, Allied Masonic Degrees; a member of Lone Star Chapel No. 45, Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon; a member of the Royal Order of Scotland and the Robert the Bruce Association of California; and a member of the National Sojourners in California.

Sir Knight Kussman was installed as the Southwest Department Commander for the Grand Encampment Knights Templar on August 16, 2012, and elected and installed Right Eminent Grand Captain General at the 66th Triennial Conclave in Buffalo, New York, August 12, 2015.

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



Jo the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar; greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is my most distinct honor and privilege to have been selected to serve you and our Grand Encampment as Chairman for the 48th Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. Over the succeeding months, I will attempt to keep you informed of the many advancements that are taking place due to your faithful and continuing support.

First and foremost, I wish you to join me in applauding the tremendous efforts of Sir Knight Terry L. Plemons, KGC, Chairman for our 47th Annual Voluntary Campaign. Under Sir Knight Terry's wise and committed stewardship, the Foundation was blessed to receive funds amounting to \$1,864,975.55 for the Campaign which ended on May 15, 2015. Sir Knight Terry, we salute you for your success and accomplishment and wish you well as you continue to serve as one of our valued trustees of the Foundation.

Sir Knights, aside from his salvation, there is no greater gift for man on this earth than the gift of sight. Through your generous contributions, lives are being changed. Research is being funded, which is allowing mankind to lead more fruitful and blessed lives.

Won't you join with me and other committed Sir Knights in contributing to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation? You can explore the many ways you can give at our website: www.knightstemplar.org/ktef/.

God is THE giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). As His image-bearers, we are called to copy His giving, to be mini-pictures of His infinitely large heart. The larger our hearts (and the wider our hands), the larger the picture we paint of God's character.

In His Service;

David J. Kussman, GCT
Chairman, 48th Annual Voluntary Campaign
Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.



Knighly News

Reported by
Sir Knight Ben Williams

The 66th Triennial of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA ended Wednesday, August 12 in Buffalo, New York. Over four hundred fifty Knights of the Temple had convened at the Adam's Mark Hotel to deliberate on proposed legislation, discuss Templary in the 21st Century, represent their constituent Commanderies, and fraternize with Sir Knights from across the world.

Significant among the proceedings of the business sessions were affirmative votes of the Conclave to issue Charters to the Grand Commandery of Brasil [sic], where Templary is growing fast, and to the Grand Commandery of Austria, now separate from the German jurisdiction. "We are now in amity with every Templar organization in the world," Most Eminent Grand Master David Dixon Goodwin said.

Numbers worldwide are on the up – especially in Central and South America and Eastern Europe. Fifteen percent increases since the 65th Triennial in 2012 are becoming commonplace everywhere but the United States it seems. The same is apparently true for our youth organizations. The Grand Master of DeMolay International gave some impressive figures. Global membership in DeMolay is up 13-15% this year alone and continues unabated worldwide, mainly due to renewed interest in South America. The largest jurisdiction is now Brazil, then the Philippines. The United States is now third with Bolivia a close fourth.

Many issues face DeMolay International in dealing with this global growth, for instance how to find a degree team able to perform the degree work in Russian.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation had much to report, including an endowment for a second Knight Templar Professor of Ophthalmology Research, now at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. The first such chair, at the Mayo Clinic, was endowed in 2013. Through prudent fiscal management by the trustees, the Foundation has met all its expenditure requirements this triennium and grown the fund by nearly 20%.

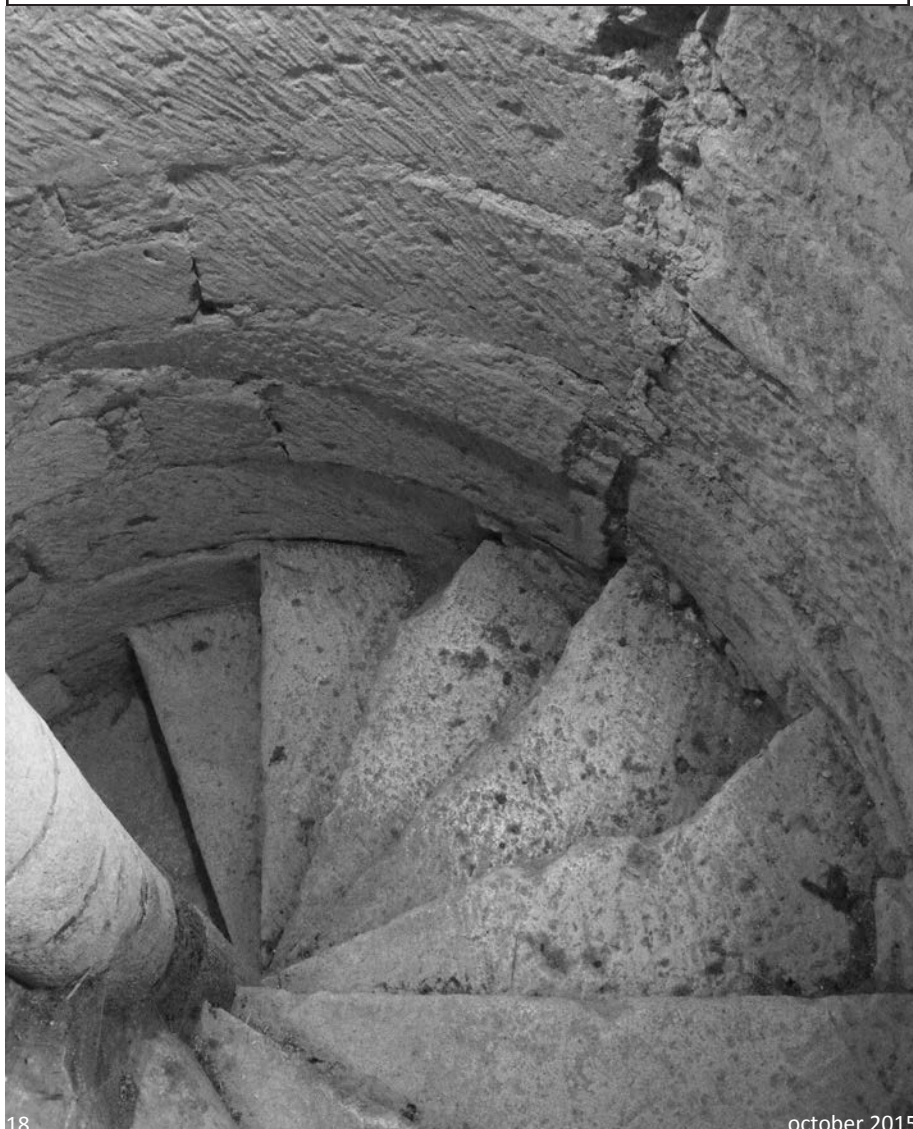
The Knights Templar Eye Foundation is already recognized as the premier funding source for cutting edge ophthalmological science. We have funded some of the best programs in the world and jump-started the careers of leading lights in this science. To date, since its founding in 1946, Knights Templar have given over \$146 million to research disorders of the eye and over \$23 million additionally in grants.

The election of officers to serve the Grand Encampment ensued on Tuesday afternoon. Sir Knight Duane Vaught was elected Most Eminent Grand Master, with all the other officers moving up the line as expected. Sir Knight David Kussman, of Anaheim, California, was unanimously elected as Right Eminent Grand Captain General. Congratulations, Sir Knights!

All that remains is to congratulate Sir Knight David Dixon Goodwin on leading the Temple well into the 21st Century. Godspeed, Sir Knight David, and welcome Sir Knight Duane Vaught! To three more good years, the Beauceant marches on.
knight templar

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 the Commandery of Avalleur in Bar-sur-Seine, France taken by the editor.



NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

Thomas R. Pledger.....	FL	Dorian P. Heroman.....	LA
Ernest H. Smith.....	IN	Michael T. Aycock	NC
James B. Steele.....	NC	Peter Skerchock	NJ
John S. Geas	NH	Roy A. Dray	OH
James E. Zemancik.....	OH	John K. March	PA
Richard A. McBride.....	SD	Max F. Shafer	TN

Grand Commander's Club

Douglas C. McFarland SD

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.

As of 2/1/2015 once 25 Grand Master's Clubs are reached, a Sword of Merit will be awarded.

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>.

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.

LEADERSHIP

Part one of a series

By

Sir Knight R. William Perkins

Note from the Editor

As you read this series of articles, it will not be difficult to determine that Sir Knight Perkins is well steeped in a military background or in which branch of the military he served. Our York Rite national leadership has made it clear that one of our critical weaknesses in the York Rite is skilled leadership. Although some of you will always disagree, my experience is that the United States Armed Forces have one of the best, if not the best, leadership doctrine and training of any organization in the world. I hope you enjoy the series and apply it in your Commandery.

Who is or was a great leader? What makes a great leader? What have great leaders of the past had in common? Like most things, you ask five people any of these questions or for a definition of leadership, and you are bound to get five different leaders and five different answers. The one thing that these varying responses will probably have in common is that they will say “getting the job done” or accomplishing the mission. The following series of articles on leadership is based on the way we did things in the Marine Corps, and I have adjusted them for use in the Commandery.

Before going into the meat of the subject, remember that an individual’s responsibility for leadership is not dependent upon authority. We should always strive to exert proper influence by setting examples of attention to duty, courage, neatness, obedience, sobriety, and zeal. Leadership can be defined in four areas: Objectives, Qualities, Traits, and Principles.

The objectives of leadership are two, to *accomplish the mission* and to *secure* knight templar

the welfare of your Knights. To accomplish the mission is the number one goal. It is not debatable; the mission always comes first, getting done what you set out to do. Without a mission, there is no need for an organization. This requires establishing long-term and short-term goals.

While the goal of ensuring the welfare of your knights is much less pronounced in a non-military environment, it still requires a certain amount of empathy on the part of the leader to make sure the needs of the Knights are looked after.

There are three qualities of leadership; inspiration, technical proficiency, and moral responsibility. Inspiration requires the leader to exhibit personal examples of high moral standards, reflecting virtue, honor, patriotism, personal behavior, and performance. For Knights Templar, technical proficiency requires a knowledge of the asylum tactics and skill in their application, which should include ritual work at all levels. Moral responsibility is a personal adherence to high standards of conduct and the guidance of team members toward wholeness of mind and body.

The following paragraphs first appeared in the *Marine Corps Manual* edition of 1921 and were written by Major General John A. Lejeune, the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps:

“Comradeship and brotherhood. The World War wrought a great change in the relations between officers and enlisted men in the military services. A spirit of comradeship and brotherhood in arms came into being in the training camps and on the battlefields. This spirit is too fine a thing to be allowed to die. It must be fostered and kept alive and made the moving force in all Marine Corps organizations.”

Simply put, the battles that we and our loved ones face daily are such that we must always work together to overcome the temptations of evil. We must never take for granted anything we have and strive to keep and protect it.

“Teacher and scholar. The relation between officers and enlisted men should in no sense be that of superior and inferior nor that of master and servant, but rather that of teacher and scholar. In fact, it should partake of the nature of the relation between father and son, to the extent that officers, especially commanding officers, are responsible for the physical, mental, and moral welfare, as well as the discipline and military training of the young men under their command who are serving the nation in the Marine Corps.”

Simply put: When in charge, lead but be mindful of your members. Share your knowledge and experiences while also considering their opinions and ideas and recognizing their accomplishments. Reward and encourage.

This is the foundation of leadership. It is interesting to note that the word

“leadership” is composed of three syllables, and the subject itself is composed of three areas; the leader, those led, and the mission.

Very quickly we have covered the first two areas of leadership, which are the objectives of leadership, consisting of mission accomplishment and the welfare of your knights, and the qualities of leadership, consisting of inspiration, technical proficiency, and moral responsibility. Next we will cover the fourteen leadership traits.

The first is *bearing*, which defined as “at all times attempting to create a favorable impression in appearance, carriage, and personal conduct.” It is also the ability to look, talk, and act like a leader, whether or not these manifestations indicate your true feelings. Always remember that you are someone’s view of Masonry. Examples include the proper wearing of your uniform, maintaining a fit appearance, and avoiding profane and vulgar language.

The next trait is *courage*. There are two types of courage, physical and moral. Courage is a mental quality that recognizes fear of danger or criticism, but enables a Knight to proceed in the face of danger with calmness and firmness. It is knowing and standing for what is right even in the face of popular disfavor. The business of fighting and winning wars is a dangerous one; the importance of courage on the battlefield is obvious. Off the battlefield it is just as important. An example of courage is accepting criticism for making unpopular decisions and standing your ground on matters of a moral or spiritual nature.

The trait of *decisiveness* is the ability to make sound and timely decisions in a clear, concise, and (when necessary) assertive manner. It is the quality of charac-

ter which guides a person to accumulate all available facts in a circumstance, weigh the facts, and choose and announce an alternative which seems best for the Commandery and his fellow Knights. It is often better that a decision be made promptly than a potentially better one be made at the expense of more time. A leader who sees a potentially dangerous situation developing immediately takes action to prevent injury from occurring. Thus one must truly know himself in order to set such an example while remaining proficient in his office.

Dependability is the certainty that you will always be there and properly perform your duties. It is the quality that permits a senior to assign a task to a junior with the understanding that it will be accomplished with minimum supervision. Also, by delegating, you train your Knights to step up to more responsibility, thus building upon the idea of teamwork and camaraderie. When you assign a task, you ensure that in addition to seeing that it is understood, you see that it is properly supervised and accomplished.

The fifth trait is *endurance*. There are two types of endurance, mental and physical. Mental and physical stamina are measured by your ability to withstand pain, fatigue, stress, and hardship incurred in the performance of your job and the accomplishment of your mission. Leaders are responsible for leading their teams in physical endeavors and for motivating them as well. Not putting off for another day what you can get done now is an example of endurance. It is the moral courage to skip the easy to accomplish the hard.

Next is *enthusiasm*, the display of sincere interest and exuberance in the performance of your duty. Displaying inter-

est in a task and optimism that it can be successfully completed greatly enhances the likelihood that the task will be successfully completed. This reinforces the confidence your Knights have in you as a leader and reflects well upon your Commandery. This can also be seen as seeking more responsibility and always taking responsibility for your decisions and actions. An example of enthusiasm is making an extra effort or taking more time in preparing for a function, making visits to other Commanderies, or offering to assist them with their work.

Initiative is taking action in the absence of external direction, "stepping up to the plate," as the old saying goes. No one individual is a Commandery, and the quick thinking independent actions of someone may well be what gives growth. Be a self-starter. In the unexplained absence of the Eminent Commander, the Generalissimo takes charge. In the event that all three are "running behind schedule," it is the one taking charge in their absence that shows true leadership capabilities. By the same token, you grab the broom when you see clean-up is needed, not leaving the unpleasant for someone else to do. Remember that it is always easier to ask forgiveness than to ask permission.

As we continue forward with this series, you will begin to see that none of the areas of leadership are isolated but are interlocking and supportive of the others. We have already seen how the three qualities of leadership come into play with the traits and how these traits help to ensure that the mission is accomplished and the Knights' needs are met. This will repeat itself with the second half of the traits as well as with the principles.

The eighth trait is *integrity*, upright-

ness of character, and soundness of moral principles, the quality of truthfulness and honesty. A Knight's word is his bond. Nothing less than complete honesty in all of your dealings with team members, peers, and superiors is acceptable. Always keep in mind the old adage that "Integrity is like virginity; once it's gone, you can't get it back." A Knight owns up to his mistakes, takes responsibility for his actions, and does not point the finger at another in an attempt to pass blame. He sets an example for others to follow.

Judgment is the ability to weigh facts and possible courses of action in order to make sound and timely decisions. Sound judgment allows a leader to make appropriate decisions in the guidance and training of his Knights and the employment of his Commandery. A Knight who exercises good judgment weighs pros and cons accordingly when making appropriate decisions and is a Knight worthy of the title "leader." It also involves a Knight's employment of the twenty-four inch gauge in order to maximize his time in the discharge of his duties, his home, and his work.

Justice is giving reward and correction according to the merits of the case in question, the ability to administer a system of rewards and correction impartially and consistently. The quality of displaying fairness and impartiality is critical in order to gain the trust and respect of team members and maintain discipline and group cohesion, particularly in the exercise of responsibility. An example is the fair apportionment of tasks by the Eminent Commander to the members of the Commandery without favoritism or regard to friendship.

The trait of *knowledge* is the under-

standing of a science or an art, the range of one's information, including professional knowledge and understanding of your order and your Knights. The understanding of current developments and proficiency in ritual is important to the growth and development of a Commandery and its members. It is knowing yourself, improving on that, and being technically proficient at all that you do. The Knight that not only knows the work of the order but also that of the preceding orders is an outstanding example of the use of knowledge. Remember, what good is having a sword if you don't know the sword manual?

Loyalty is the quality of faithfulness to God, country, family, and your organization, a faithfulness that extends to superiors and team members alike. It results in unswerving loyalty up and down the chain of command, being mindful to obey the laws under whose protection you live, and following the precepts of the New Testament. A Knight displays enthusiasm in carrying out the orders of a senior, or of the majority voted decision although he may privately disagree with it.

The trait called *tact* is the ability to deal with others in a manner that will maintain good relations and avoid offense. More simply stated, tact is the ability to say and do the right thing at the right time in a calm, polite, yet firm manner. The quality of consistently treating peers, seniors, and team members with respect and courtesy is a sign of maturity. Tact allows commands, guidance, and opinions to be expressed in a constructive and beneficial manner. This deference must be extended under all conditions regardless of true feelings. A Knight discreetly whispers good counsel to a fellow Knight

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beyond earshot of others.

The last trait, *unselfishness*, is the avoidance of providing for one's own comfort and personal advancement at the expense of others. The quality of looking out for the needs of your team members before your own is the essence of leadership. This quality is not to be confused with putting these matters ahead of the accomplishment of the mission. When a meal is provided, you ensure that your Knights and other guests have gotten their plates filled before you fill yours. Know your Knights and look out for their welfare.

This concludes the coverage of the leadership traits, and while there is no one trait more important than another, everyone has their own opinions, so it is suggested for instructional purposes knight templar

that a game be made of it. At your next Commandery meeting, initiate a discussion on the traits and have the other Knights state the most important to them and why. If it proves productive, a further discussion at another meeting could include the members listing theirs in order of importance.

The next installment will address the leadership principles.

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Sir Knight William Perkins is Past Commander of Belvedere Commandery No. 2 in Alton, Illinois and can be contacted at gunnyperk@gmail.com.

James R. MacConnell

Department Commander

Northeast Department

Sir Knight MacConnell retired as an electrical engineer at Eastman Kodak in 2005, and his lady, Marsha, retired as a teacher in 2006. Jim has been married to Marsha for forty-six years. They believe that their family is their most important asset. They have two sons: Terry (Helen and son, Georgios) and Chris (Gisselle and two children, Sophia and Max).

Jim and Marsha are members of North Bergen Presbyterian Church. Community service is high on the list of Jim's priorities. He was a trustee of the Village of Bergen from 1986 – 1988 and Mayor from 1988 – 2003. He currently serves the New York State School for the Blind and the Board of Visitors in Batavia, New York.



Worshipful Brother MacConnell was raised in 1973 in Hesperus Lodge No. 837. He has served as Worshipful Master, Genesee Wyoming District Brotherhood Chairman, past president of Genesee Wyoming District Council of Masonic Activities, and currently as Deputy Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of State of New York.

He is a member of the LeRoy Chapter No. 183, Royal Arch Masons, where he served as High Priest, Assistant Grand Lecturer of the 29th Capitular district, and Grand Representative to Missouri. He is an honorary member of Holy Ark Chapter No. 319. Jim is a member of Nundawaga Council No. 92 and Doric Council No. 19.


Right Eminent Sir Knight MacConnell became a Sir Knight in 1981. His home Commandery is Batavia Commandery No. 34, and he has served as Commander and Deputy Zone Commander. He is currently Recorder of Batavia Commandery No. 34 and the Grand Representative to Missouri. He is also an honorary Member of Hugh de Payens Commandery No. 30 and Tancred Commandery No. 80. Jim served as Grand Commander of Knights Templar of the state of New York in 2010 and 2011.

Jim is also an active member of Genesee York Rite College No. 25; Good Shepherd Tabernacle, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; St. Marks Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; Valley of Rochester, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite; Sons of Light and Iroquois Council, Allied Masonic Degrees; Novum Eboracum Chapel No. 51, St. Thomas of Acon; and Ismailia and Damascus Shrine. He received the Order of Purple Cross from the York Rite College in 2013 in Tampa, Florida.

Brother Adolphus Sterne

by

Sir Knight James A. Marples

 On April 5, 1801, Nicholas Adolphus Sterne was born in Cologne, Germany, the eldest son of Emmanuel Sterne and his second wife, Helen Sterne. Adolphus Sterne's father was Orthodox Jewish, and his mother was a Lutheran.

The boy was working in a passport office when he noticed a list of men about to be drafted into the German army. To avoid conscription, he forged a passport, fled Germany, and sailed to New Orleans, Louisiana, in the mid-1800's. There he engaged in various business enterprises. He joined the Masonic Lodge and became a Knight Templar in the York Rite and a 32nd Mason in the Scottish Rite.

Brother Sterne moved later to Nacogdoches, Texas, and is considered to be the first Scottish Rite Mason in the entire state of Texas. He selected Nacogdoches as a place to build a new life, operate a mercantile, operate a large farm, and also to smuggle weapons as a colonist who eventually wanted to be liberated from Mexico. It could be said that Adolphus Sterne was born a Jew and converted to Catholicism to meet the mandatory obligation that all early-day colonists in Texas had to become Roman Catholics. Brother Sam Houston was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church in the parlor of the Sterne home which still stands and today is known as the Sterne-Hoya Memorial Library and Museum in Nacogdoches. At one time, Adolphus Stern owned several slaves,

knight templar

and he was meticulous in his daily diary or journal in making notations as to how the soil and crops looked on any given day. His home was complete with its own wine-cellar. Brother David Crockett spent two weeks at this home on his way to The Alamo. American Indian Chief Bowles of the Cherokees signed a peace treaty at the house. The "library" which was once extensive, is now more or less a token library in order to retain its heritage status as a library and museum. Even so, it is impressive.

When I visited the Sterne home in November of 2014, I could almost feel Sam Houston's presence in the parlor where he received his Catholic baptism. Oddly, Adolphus Sterne was slated to be Houston's "godfather," but declined since the baptismal date coincided with Yom Kippur, indicating that Sterne was mostly Jewish despite his varied leanings.

It is impressive to know that Adolphus Sterne worked as an interpreter and translator, covering the English, French, Spanish, German, Yiddish, Portuguese, and Latin languages.

When Texas was still a Mexican colony, Sterne grew restless. While Texas was still under Mexican control, Sterne's efforts at smuggling weapons and gunpowder were discovered. He was severely disciplined, imprisoned and faced a death sentence. Ironically, some of his Mexican captors were themselves Freemasons who felt either pity or fraternal sympathies, and they eventually allowed him to walk

free. Once a provisional Texas government of The Republic of Texas was created, Stern personally financed the recruiting of an army nicknamed the New Orleans Grays.

In 1840, Sterne became Postmaster of the city of Nacogdoches, Texas. He served as a Notary Public, certifying documents. He later served as a deputy clerk and associate justice of the county court. The following year, Sterne became a Justice of the Peace.

After Texas was annexed to the United States in 1845, Stern was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. He died on March 27, 1852, in New Orleans, just less than a month before his 51st birthday. His grave at the cemetery is only a few city blocks from his home. On the day I visited his grave and looked down at his tombstone marked with the Masonic Square and Compasses with the letter "G" and his dates of birth and death, I felt a spooky feeling since he was fifty years and eleven months old....that was my exact age fifty years and eleven months. It was nice to pay my respects, yet the eerie coincidence reminded me of how fleeting life is.

I am unclear as to what business Adolphus Stern was conducting in New Orleans at the time of his death. He was briefly interred in a cemetery in New Orleans, but later his remains were transferred to the cemetery at Nacogdoches, Texas, near his family farm which was then occupied by his wife, several children, and servants. His death dealt a severe blow not just to the town of Nacogdoches but to the region, due to his adept skill in the mercantile business as well as his prominent elective positions. The post

office, notary, and judgeship were all simultaneously vacant upon his death. Similarly, the Grand Lodge of Texas lost one of its most energetic members when Brother Adolpus Sterne died.

Later his son, Charles Adolphus Sterne, joined Masonry. He was born on October 10, 1830, in Nacogdoches, Texas, and followed in his father's public service footsteps by becoming City Secretary and County Clerk. In 1879, he was communicated the 4th to 32nd of the Scottish Rite by none other than Albert Pike, 33rd and a Knight Templar. Charles Sterne later went to live in Palestine, Texas and became a hotel keeper. The town's name is pronounced like Palaceteen. He was invested with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honour (KCCH) in October of 1925 under the direction of Illustrious Brother and Sir Knight Sam P. Cochran, 33rd and a Knight Templar, but Charles Sterne died soon afterward on June 6, 1926. Although, Charles Sterne was active in several areas of our fraternity, including being a Past Master of his Blue Lodge and Recorder of the York Rite Commandery at Palestine, Texas, and was once believed to be the oldest living Shriner in the United States in the year 1926, it can safely be said that Charles Sterne was not quite the all-around powerhouse his father, Nicholas "Adolphus" Sterne, was. However, he came close. Charles Sterne was a member of the Palestine Texas School Board and a devoted member of the Methodist Church. Charles Sterne was probably more fraternally diversified by holding memberships in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge (I.O.O.F. Lodge) and the Knights of Pythias Lodge.

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Adolphus Sterne and leave such a good, positive, and profound mark upon the Fraternity in such a relatively short period of time. His devotion to the causes of freedom, public administration, accuracy in all types of record-keeping, cementing good fraternal relations, conducting his own business, supporting his wife and children, and maintaining a farm is almost the equivalent of one man doing the work of ten men. Adolphus Stern truly had faith, zeal, and an uncanny ability to successfully multi-task major operations. He did so before his untimely death at just prior to his 51st birthday. I am at that age right now, and I am astounded by his energy, ability, and enthusiasm. His memory lives on by his numerous Successes. Adolphus Stern's duties as a Notary should not be underestimated.

tary should not be underestimated.

A Notary receives a commission from the Governor of the state. The Notary is charged to administer oaths and affirmations and to witness and authenticate a wide range of legal documents ranging from real-estate deeds to marriage licenses to sworn testimonies to powers-of-attorney. Adolphus Sterne's wide ranging duties as a Notary undoubtedly helped him later as a Judge and as a member of the state legislature.

The honorable Masonic vows, promises, oaths, and obligations he assumed as a young man are certain to have molded his high ethical conduct, which benefited literally thousands of people during his lifetime. It could also be conjectured that Brother Adolphus Sterne's

actions indirectly shaped how the bulk of Texans live today. By living a good life, measured by good principles, the man obviously placed his trust in God.

Sir Knight James A. Marples is a member of Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 12 and can be contacted at P. O. Box 1542, Loneview, TX 75606. This article was presented originally to Nebraska College S.R.I.C.F. and is reprinted here with their permission.

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Sir Knight Glenn Bray found this pin at an antique shop outside Kansas City, Missouri, early this July and wanted to share it with you. It appears to be one worn by a Sir Knight of the delegation from Portland, Maine, to the 1901 Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment held in Louisville, Kentucky. The hot topic at that meeting was the growing number of Templars who had demitted from their Lodges and Chapters but retained their Templar membership. At this meeting, it was decided that this was an unacceptable practice, and all such Templars were directed to reaffiliate with a Lodge and Chapter or to forfeit their Templar membership.



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(Mrs. Thomas R.) Lynda Derby

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Supreme Worthy President

(Mrs. Thomas R.) Lynda M. Derby was born in Garden Grove, California, the youngest of four children, all girls. At five years of age, Lynda's family moved from Southern California to Arvada, Colorado, to escape the encroaching gang activity in their neighborhood and the memory of her sister, Diane Marilyn, who passed away at the young age of four.

Immediately after graduating from High School in May of 1980, Lynda moved to Greeley, Colorado, to attend the University of Northern Colorado. However, her plans quickly changed after meeting Thomas Roy Derby. They married on December 27, 1980. Together they have three children, one son-in-law, and one daughter-in-law. Currently they have three grandchildren.

Lynda's service to the Social Order of the Beauceant began in 1995 and includes serving as President four times, as Recorder for many years in Santa Ana Assembly, and serving in various other stations. She was honored to be elected as Supreme Preceptress at the 2012 annual Supreme Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas, and she will be much honored to serve as Supreme Worthy President for the 2015-2016 year.

Other fraternal service includes being a member of the International Order of the Job's Daughters, where she served as Director of Music, and as a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Order of the Amaranth. Lynda has served as a Local Lay Leader for the United Methodist Church in Santa Ana, California.

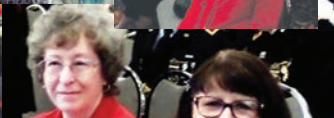
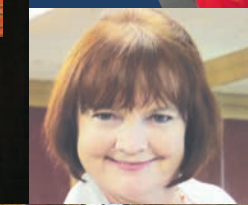
Lynda is currently very busy with her own business (LMD Designs). She also cares for special needs children from various families on a part-time basis.

When she's not working, she loves to visit with her children and grandchildren, helps to care for her parents, and don't forget that very special husband, a retired United States Marine who happily supports her Beauceant duties and responsibilities and will be doing a lot of traveling with her during her Supreme Year as his work responsibilities will allow. She is looking forward to meeting all her lovely Beauceant Sisters while visiting the sixty-four Assemblies across the United States.





Beauceant News





Knights



at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT

Phillips, R. W. Dick, *Arthur St. Clair: The Invisible Patriot*, iUniverse Books, Bloomington, IN, 1914, ISBN: 978-1-4917-3782-8.

This is a book that would be more interesting to read if some aspects of its structure didn't get in the way. I'll get to that later in this review. First, though, I'll briefly discuss the subject of the book, namely, Major General Arthur St. Clair. He was born in Scotland about 1734 and was descended from the Sinclairs of Rosslyn Chapel, Scottish Freemasonry, and Knight Templar fame. As a British army officer, he came to America in 1758 and fought in the Seven Years' War against the French and Indians. The book presents an adequate biography of this somewhat ignored Revolutionary War soldier and his contributions previous to, during, and after that conflict to the growth and government of our country in its colonial era and to the newly constituted United States. This patriot served as one of Washington's most trusted generals, served as a congressman from Pennsylvania 1785-1786, was president of the United States in Congress Assembled in 1787 when the *United States Constitution* and *Northwest Ordinance* were drafted, and was named first governor of the Northwest Territory beginning in 1788.

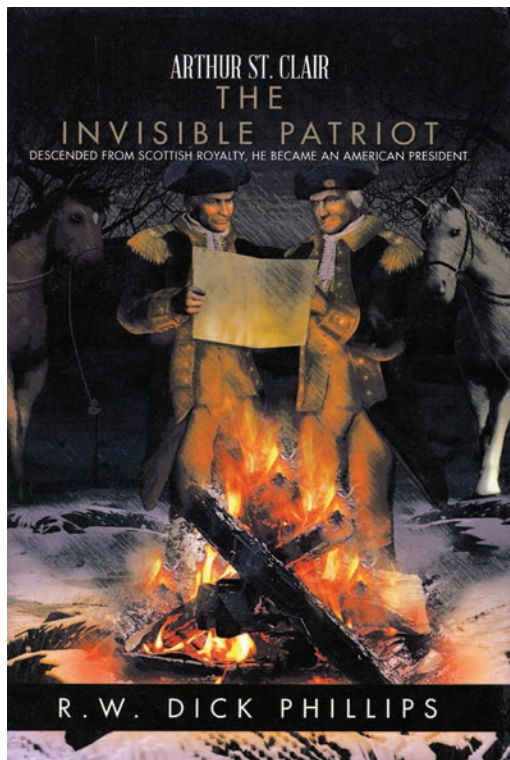
In 1774 he renounced his British allegiance to become a colonel in Washington's Continental Army. The book discusses his noteworthy and substantial contributions to the American cause. Of particular interest is the explanation of why he chose to evacuate Fort Ticonderoga, for which he was subsequently criticized. As governor of the Northwest Territory he also made many substantial contributions which have been largely passed over, but he is unfortunately remembered for the brief but catastrophic Indian war he was forced to fight and lost on the banks of the Wabash in 1791. As a staunch Federalist, he was removed from the governor's office by Jefferson in 1802. St. Clair died in poverty in his home state of Pennsylvania in 1818.

The author makes it clear throughout the book that the contributions and service to the United States of St. Clair have been overlooked and underappreciated by biographers and historians during the past two hundred years. This may well be the case. I, for one, have to admit that I knew very little about General St. Clair before reading this book, and I must admit that it has given me greater knowledge of and appreciation for this unsung patriot. Nevertheless, as I mentioned in the opening sentence of this review, the book does have its faults with regard to structure. First and most ob-

vious, is the use of excessive spacing between paragraphs. There are numerous instances where paragraphs could be combined into larger paragraphs to cover a given topic. If judicious combinations of these paragraphs were employed, the book would likely shrink to three-quarters or two-thirds its present size. Also, grammatical errors and typos exist. Next, the author uses repetition of material already covered earlier in the book in later chapters as well as material which should be (and is) presented in later chapters appearing in early chapters. This tends to be confusing as well as to make the text not chronologically progressive. Another drawback (in the opinion of this reviewer) is that footnotes are given at the end of each chapter where they occur, and then the same footnotes are presented collectively on eight pages at the end of the book, which is unnecessary repetition.

The author says little about St. Clair as a Freemason or about his activity in the Order of the Cincinnati, of which St. Clair was an original member. For the record, St. Clair's original Lodge is unknown but may have been a British military Lodge. In 1791 he signed a request for a charter for Lodge Nova Caesarea Harmony No. 2 in Cincinnati and is on record as having visited this Lodge several times while Governor of the Northwest Territory.

All in all, the book is reasonably informative and provides a suitable narrative of the achievements as well as the tribulations of this illustrious American soldier and patriot.



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The heavens declare the
glory of God, and the
firmament sheweth His
handiwork.
Psalms 19:1

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