



Knight Templar

VOLUME LXI

NOVEMBER 2015

NUMBER 11



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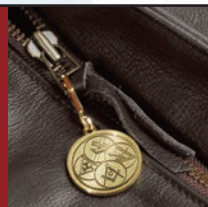
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Duane L. Vaught
Grand Master

Jeffrey N. Nelson
Deputy Grand Master and
Publisher

3112 Tyler Parkway
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Lawrence E. Tucker
Grand Recorder

Grand Encampment Office
5909 West Loop South, Suite 495
Bellaire, TX 77401-2402
Phone: (713) 349-8700
Fax: (713) 349-8710
E-mail: larry@gektusa.org

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John L. Palmer
Managing Editor
Post Office Box 566
Nolensville, TN 37135-0566
Phone: (615) 283-8477
Fax: (615) 283-8476
E-mail: ktmagazine@comcast.net

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Grand Master's Message

A Modest Proposal

Much of the United States is on the verge of an election. In my precinct it will be dull. There are no high offices to select or major referendums. However we have a flood of news for next year's contests. In Freemasonry we know we strive to avoid politics as a divisive topic. It has a habit of intruding however. One of the slightly uncomfortable things I have seen over the last twenty years or so is a tendency to offer a toast to the President or to the office of the President depending on the crowd that night or the current occupant in Washington. We are still non-partisan in that this can go either way for either party, and yet we know we may be expressing a view on current politics.

This tradition originates, I suppose, in a toast to the monarch, and this tradition is still much in evidence in some countries. In those nations, the monarch is the central element of government, although the country may be a democracy for all practical purposes.

Someone suggested to me a few years ago that maybe we have it wrong. The executive branch of the United States government is only one of three balanced sources of authority. The suggestion was that maybe we should toast the *Constitution of the United States*. It was argued that the *Constitution*, the rule of law, might properly be the center of our government.

Perhaps we can avoid the political commentary if we focus on an agreed value, that we are ruled by laws set by the majority, even when we are not in that majority and that no man is above the law.

Historically, Freemasonry has often been accused of supporting equality and democracy at the expense of absolute rule. Perhaps we can plead guilty to that charge and raise a glass to a system of government rather than the policies of the day.

This may be a little out of the box, and if too far out of yours, feel free to ignore this little experiment, but it does make one think.

Courteously,

✠ *Duane Lee Vaught*
Duane Lee Vaught



Prelate's Chapel

by

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

How happy Brother Benjamin Franklin would be this month. He wanted the turkey to be our official national bird rather than the eagle. Well, on Thanksgiving Day, how true that appears to be. Millions of people gather on our national day of thanksgiving to enjoy a delicious turkey dinner.

As we gather at the table on this Thanksgiving Day, let us remember for what we are truly grateful – for family and friends and all who love and support us; for our order of Knight Templary and those who lead us; for this good land we live in; for those who have served, fought, and some dying for us to enjoy dinner at the table in this “land of the free and home of the brave;” and for all the other blessings we enjoy from day to day.

Most of all, let us give thanks for the God who loves us and has given us the gift of eternal life with Him; thanks to our God, who gave His Son to die for us so that we can live with our Father and our Lord forever. Let us all “give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 106:1).



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Harry G. Pollard, 33rd Grand Master of the Grand Encampment

(Eleventh in a series on our Grand Masters)

by

George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT, ADC

Chairman, Grand Encampment Knights Templar History Committee

Harry Gilmore Pollard was born on February 19, 1875, in Lowell, Massachusetts, the son of Arthur Gayton Pollard (1843–1930) and Martha Melissa (Fuller) Pollard (born 1847—died between 1920 and 1930). His father is quite interesting in his own right, being the owner of a department store (Pollard's) in downtown Lowell as well as operating a business that dealt with remnants of fabrics and carpeting from all the mills in New England. His father was also quite active in Freemasonry and served as general grand high priest of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons from 1903-1906.

Most Eminent Sir Knight Pollard graduated from Lowell High School and held membership in the First United Baptist Church of Lowell. He carved himself a career of distinction and leadership in the world of commerce, becoming president of the A. G. Pollard Company, Inc. in 1931 following his father's death, which at the time was Lowell's leading retail department store. He was also vice-president of the Central Savings Bank, president of Stony Brook Railway, and director of the Lowell Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He served as president of appropriations of the South Congregational Meeting House and was the first president of Lowell Ro-

night templar

tary Club. He was president of Vesper Country Club and a long time active member of the Old Middlesex Chapter of the Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution. He also served as food administrator for Lowell and vicinity during World War I.

On April 29, 1903, he married Miss Leah Parchert (born in 1881) of Lewiston, New York. They had two sons: Arthur G. Pollard, II (1904-1980) and Harry G. Pollard, Jr. (1907-1992).

His extensive Masonic record is shown below:

Symbolic Lodge

He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Ancient York Lodge in Lowell on June 11, 1896; elected and installed worshipful master on October 10, 1907, and served in 1908-1909; served Grand Lodge of Massachusetts as senior grand steward in 1911, junior grand deacon in 1912, district deputy grand master in 1913-1914, and deputy grand master in 1920; and received the Henry Price Medal in 1921. He was grand representative of Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario in 1929.

He was an honorary member of Pen-tucket and Kilwinning lodges in Lowell, a charter member of William Sewall Gardner Lodge in Lowell on March 31,

1929 and received the Veteran's Medal in 1947.

Capitular Masonry

He was exalted in Mount Horeb Chapter, Royal Arch Masons on February 15, 1897, and served as high priest in 1919; anointed a member of Massachusetts Convention of High Priests on March 11, 1919; served as deputy grand high priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts in 1924 and as grand high priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts during 1925-1927; received the Paul Revere Medal on December 10, 1929; served as treasurer of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts from 1931-1947; and received the fifty year emblem on April 15, 1947.

Cryptic Masonry

He was greeted in Ahasuerus Council, Royal and Select Masters on June 21, 1897, served as illustrious master from 1914-1916, and served as grand principal conductor of the work of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts 1917.

Chivalric Masonry

He was knighted in Pilgrim Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar on February 19, 1898; served as commander from 1906-1908; grand commander of Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Massachusetts and Rhode Island in 1920-1921; and as grand master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America from 1940-1943.

Scottish Rite

He received the degrees from the 4th to the 32nd in the following bodies; Lowell Lodge of Perfection on March 29, 1897, where he served as thrice potent master from 1905-1907; Lowell Council of Princes of Jerusalem on April 5, 1897; Mount Calvary Chapter of Rose Croix in Lowell on April 13, 1897, where he served as most wise master from 1917-1919; and Massachusetts Consistory, Boston on April 23, 1897. He was created an honorary 33° at Boston on October 4, 1912; served as grand sword bearer under Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin Maynard Johnson; and was the first lieutenant commander of Massachusetts Council of Deliberation.

Sir Knight Pollard was a member of Aleppo Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine in Boston and served as potentate in 1937. He was also a member of the Royal Order of Jesters. He was made a member of the Massachusetts College, Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis on November 9, 1917, and served as celebrant. He served as treasurer of the College from 1932-1940. He was a charter member of Bay State Conclave No. 29, Red Cross of Constantine on December 17, 1952. He was a member of Massachusetts Priory No. 52, Knights of the York Cross of Honour.

The Forty-Second Triennial Conclave at which Most Eminent Sir Knight Pollard presided was held on May 24, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois. A short meeting was held due to the war restrictions.

After a long illness, Sir Knight Pollard passed away at Juniper Hall in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, on June

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29, 1968. (Author's note: Juniper Hall was at that time owned by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and was known as the Masonic Hospital.) Funeral services were held at the Morse Funeral Home in Lowell on July 3, 1968. I have been unable to locate where he is interred in Lowell.

Right Eminent Sir Knight Marshall, KYGCH(3), KCT, 33°, is a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Alabama. He is a member of the Editorial Review Board of the *Knight Templar* magazine and has published several articles in that magazine as well as in the *Royal Arch Mason* magazine. He can be reached at geomarsh@yahoo.com.

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IN MEMORIAM



Herbert Arthur Fisher
Virginia
Grand Commander 1978
Born: November 19, 1924
Died: August 21, 2015

We publish letters and articles from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Encampment, the *Knight Templar* magazine, or the Editorial Review Board.

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When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work, because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that is the beginning of the end of any nation!

Sir Knight Henry A. Adams

Right Eminent Department Commander

Southeast Department

The son of a career army officer, Sir Knight Henry Adams entered the army in 1963 and retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1993. He served with several special forces groups in Panama, Germany Special Forces Group Airborne, and army intelligence as a soviet analyst until retirement. He is a member of the National Military Intelligence Association, Association of Former Intelligence Officers, Special Forces Association (decade member), and the Sovereign Military Order of St. Joan of Arc of the Temple of Jerusalem. He attended Clemson College in 1959 and graduated from the University of Miami, Florida, in 1963, followed by a Masters in Education at Florida Atlantic University.



Sir Knight Adams is married to Katherine Adams and has two daughters, one son, and seven grandchildren. He is a member of the National Eagle Scout Association and a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow.

He was raised in West Broward Lodge in 1999, completed all the degrees of the York Rite in the Miami York Rite bodies, and completed the Scottish Rite before moving to Melbourne, Florida. He joined Beach Lodge and was worshipful master in 2006. After serving the Melbourne York Rite bodies in the East, he was appointed to the bottom of the Grand Commandery line in 2006 and served as grand commander in 2013-2014. He is an active member of Miami, Cocoa, Melbourne, and Anchorage York Rite bodies and is the grand representative to Alaska (Commandery), Rhode Island (Council), District of Columbia (Chapter), and Hawaii (Chapter).

Sir Knight Adams' membership in appendant bodies includes but is not limited to Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star; Royal Order of Scotland; Allied Masonic Degrees; John Phelps York Rite College No. 31, Anchorage Alaska; Florida Priory No. 60, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, Priory No. 10 (Miami); Red Cross of Constantine; Knight Masons; Azan Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.; the Scottish Rite Valley of Orlando; the Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis; The Operatives; St. Thomas of Acon; the Masonic Order of Athelstan; National Sojourners; Spirit of Truth Tabernacle No. 71, Holy Royal Order Knight Templar Priests; and a Senior DeMolay Legion of Honor recipient in 2014.

Sir Knight Adams was appointed southeast department commander by Sir Knight Duane L. Vaught, most eminent grand master, at the 67th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment on August 12, 2015, in Buffalo, New York.

LEADERSHIP

Part two 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 the 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 can apply it in your Commandery.

The eleven leadership principles are brief statements that work with the traits, often expounding on them.

The first principle is to *know yourself and seek self-improvement*. You can't truly lead unless you know who you are and what your weaknesses are. The foundation of this principle is developed by the use of leadership traits. By evaluating yourself you can determine your strengths and weaknesses. To develop the techniques of this principle, you must make an honest evaluation of yourself to determine your strong and weak personal qualities, seek the honest opinions of your friends and superiors, learn by studying the causes for the success and failures of others, develop a genuine interest in people, master the art of effective writing and speech making, and have a definite plan to achieve your goal.

A Knight can never have too much knowledge or too many skills. We must live a life of perpetual self-improvement. The second principle is to *be technically and tactically proficient*. Before you can lead, you must be able to do the job. A

person who knows his job thoroughly and possesses a wide field of knowledge of the other things relating to or associated with his job has the makings of a true leader. Tactical and technical competence can be learned from books, but proficiency can only come from doing. Simply put, you must know the work and how to do it. To develop this leadership principle, you should know what is expected of you and spend time and energy on becoming proficient at those things; form an attitude of seeking to learn more than is necessary; observe and study the actions of capable leaders; spend time with those people who are recognized as technically and tactically proficient at their work; prepare yourself for the job of the leader at the next higher level; and seek feedback from superiors, peers, and team members.

There are those who, in this age of political correctness, feel that another "T" should be added, that of being tactfully proficient. As a Knight you are expected to be a gentleman, so it is my opinion that such behavior would make that a redundancy, not to mention that

bluntness can sometimes be a good leadership tool.

The next principle is to *develop a sense of responsibility among your team members*. A leader develops leaders. As eminent commander, you cannot always be everywhere, and by delegating responsibilities, you show your interest in them by giving them the opportunity for professional development. Assigning tasks and delegating authority promotes mutual confidence and respect between the leader and team members. By doing this, you encourage team members to exercise initiative and to give wholehearted cooperation in the accomplishment of tasks. To develop this principle you should operate through the chain of command; provide clear, well thought out directions; give your team members frequent opportunities to perform duties normally performed by senior personnel; be quick to recognize your team members' accomplishments when they demonstrate initiative and resourcefulness; correct errors in judgment and initiative in a way that will encourage the individual to try harder; give advice and assistance freely when your team members request it; resist the urge to micro manage; be prompt and fair in backing team members; and accept responsibility willingly and insist that your team members live by the same standard. When you properly delegate authority, you demonstrate faith in your team, increase authority, and increase their desire for greater responsibilities.

The principle of *making sound and timely decisions* is next. Leadership is not a popularity contest. The leader must be able to rapidly estimate a situation and make a sound decision based on that estimation. Here you see decisiveness, judg-

ment, and knowledge coming into play. Hesitation or a reluctance to make a decision leads team members to lose confidence in your abilities as a leader. Loss of confidence in turn creates confusion and hesitation within the Commandery. Techniques to develop this principle include developing a logical and orderly thought process by practicing objective estimates of the situation; when time and situation permit, planning for every possible event that can reasonably be foreseen, considering the advice and suggestions of your team members before making decisions, and considering the effects of your decisions on all members of your team. Remember that an act of indecision is still a decision.

The next principle is to *seek and take responsibility for your actions*. You can only lead by taking responsibility. For professional development, you must actively seek out challenging assignments. You must use initiative and sound judgment when trying to accomplish tasks. Seeking responsibilities also means that you take responsibility for your actions. Regardless of the actions of your team members, the responsibility for decisions and their application falls on you. Techniques in developing this principle are to learn the duties of your seniors and be prepared to take on those responsibilities; seek a variety of leadership positions in different fields that will give you added experience; take every opportunity that offers increased responsibility; perform every task to the best of your ability; stand up for what you think is right with courage in your convictions; carefully evaluate a team member's failure before taking action against that person; and in the absence of direction, take the initiative to per-

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form the actions you believe your senior would direct you to perform if present.

Know your Knights and look out for their welfare is the next principle. A leader must know those whom he leads. A leader must make a conscientious effort to observe his Knights and how they react to different situations. A Knight who is nervous or lacks self-confidence should never be put in a situation where important decisions must be made. Such knowledge is important to the accomplishment of the mission. To put this principle into practice successfully, you should put your Knights' welfare before you own, be approachable, encourage individual development, know your team's mental attitude and keep in touch with their thoughts, and ensure fair and equal distribution of rewards.

The seventh principle is to *keep your Knights informed*. Knowledge is one of a leader's greatest tools. To promote efficiency and morale, a leader should inform his Knights of all happenings and give reasons why things are to be done. Keeping your Knights informed makes them feel that they are an important part of the team and not just a name on a roster. The key to giving out information is to be sure that your Knights have enough information to do their job intelligently and to inspire their initiative, enthusiasm, loyalty, and convictions. Techniques to apply this principle are to explain why tasks must be done and the plan to accomplish a task, be alert to detect and stop the spread of rumors and replace them with the truth, and build morale by publicizing information concerning the successes of your team. A well informed Knight is a harmonious Knight, and harmony is the strength and support of our institution.

knight templar

Principle number eight is to *ensure assigned tasks are understood, supervised, and accomplished*. Before you can expect your Knights to perform, they must know what is expected of them. As a leader you must give clear, concise instructions that cannot be misunderstood and then by close supervision, ensure that these instructions are properly executed. In order to develop this principle, you should issue every instruction as if it were your own, use the established chain of command, encourage team members to ask questions concerning any point in your directives which they do not understand, question team members to determine if there is any doubt or misunderstanding in regard to the task to be accomplished, supervise the execution of your instructions, and exercise care and thought in supervision. Over-supervision will hurt initiative and create resentment, while under-supervision will not get the job done. Remember that the most important part of this is the accomplishment of the mission.

Train your Knights as a team is the ninth principle. Teamwork is the key to successful operations. Teamwork is essential, and as a leader, you must insist on teamwork from your Knights. Train, play, and operate as a team. Be sure that each Knight knows his position and responsibilities within the team framework. What good are great leaders if there is no organization? To develop the techniques of this principle you should stay sharp by continuously studying and practicing while encouraging participation, do not publicly blame a Knight for the team's failure or praise just an individual for the team's success, ensure that training is meaningful and that the purpose is clear to all members, train

your team based on realistic conditions, insist that every person understands the functions of the other members of the team and the function of the team as part of the organization, and insure that you are training your Knights to step up to the next office.

The next principle is to *employ your command in accordance with its capabilities*. A leader knows the limits and capabilities of his men. As a leader you must have a thorough knowledge of the tactical and technical capabilities of your Commandery. Successful completion of a task depends upon how well you know your team's capabilities. If the task assigned is one that your team has not been trained to do, failure is very likely to occur. Failures lower your team's morale and self-esteem. Seek out challenging tasks for your team, but be sure that your team is prepared for and has the ability to successfully complete the mission. Techniques for development of this principle are to avoid volunteering your team for tasks that are beyond their capabilities, be sure that tasks assigned to team members are reasonable, assign tasks equally among your team members, and use the full capabilities of your team before requesting assistance.

The last principle is to *set the example*. Leadership is taught by example. Your appearance, attitude, fitness, and personal example are all on display for others to see and emulate. Basically this is where all that was previously covered comes together. Techniques for setting the example are to show your Knights that you will not ask them to do what you yourself are not willing to do, maintain an optimistic outlook, conduct yourself so that your personal habits are not open to criticism, avoid showing favorit-

ism, delegate authority, and avoid over supervision in order to develop leadership among team members. Always remember that you are someone's image of Masonry!

There is not one principle more important than another; however, stimulating debate on the merits of each will lead to growth among the participants. There is a lot here, take it in measured steps and employ it as you see fit.

If ever unsure or confused as to if it is a trait or principle, the answer is simple. "Trait" has a single syllable, and the traits are expressed as a single word. "Principle" has three syllables, and the principles have a number of words.

A lot has been covered in the two installments, and one may ask, "How does all of this come together without overloading my brain?" Good question. So, as there is a lot here to absorb, let's use ritual as an example of how it gets employed. Let's say that you've decided that you are going to learn all the work for full form opening and closing, hermits, and guard, a pretty tall order.

This is a daunting task, requiring not only moral courage but mental endurance, and by deciding to do this, you have exercised initiative, and the sound and timely decision you have made to help the order is a sign of unselfishness. Your decisiveness in this matter will increase your dependability in asylum work with your increase of knowledge. All of this is the first step in knowing yourself and seeking self-improvement, and thus by your enthusiasm, you become technically and tactically proficient. You have sought responsibility and will take responsibility for your (actions) performance of the work and the bearing you display in its execution. Along

the way, you keep your fellow Knights Informed of any changes and with good tact assist in training them as a team, thus making sure to employ them within their capabilities. In doing this, you have shown loyalty to the order and you set the example for every other Knight in your Commandery to follow.

So you have employed the use of at least ten of the fourteen leadership traits and eight of the eleven leadership principles, all from just saying, "I'm going to learn Ritual."

An organized way of doing this is with what is known as the six troop leading steps. The acronym for this is BAMCIS. There is, within the Marine Corps community, some difference of opinion on the pronunciation of this word. Those trained on the East Coast pronounce it "Bam-sis," while those on the West Coast tend to say "Bam-kiss," but whichever way you choose to pronounce it, the steps are broken down as follows:

- B - Begin planning
- A - Arrange for reconnaissance
- M - Make reconnaissance
- C - Complete the plan
- I - Issue the order
- S - Supervise

As a leader, supervision is the most important step, for this ensures that not only is the mission understood but also that the mission gets accomplished. When have you used BAMCIS? How about when getting married.

Begin planning—you decided it was time to settle down.

Arrange for reconnaissance—went out on dates.

Made reconnaissance—settled on "The One." knight templar

Completed the plan—proposed.
Issued the order—got married.
S—And so forth.

In everyday life and in every day of our lives we have the opportunity to lead in some fashion. Not sure? Watch a child imitate the actions of his father. Too old? Watch the same child imitate the actions of his grandfather. We leave our mark on the lives of those around us and on the world around us by what we do. By the same token, the absence of our mark is the result of our refusal to step up to the plate.

Initiative drives us, and integrity keeps us in check. Every Knight should endeavor by all means in his power to make himself the possessor of these qualities and thereby to fit himself to be a real leader.

During the darkest hours in the history of the British Empire, Brother Winston Churchill stepped up to his plate, are you stepping up to yours?

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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.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation Inc.

A special thank you to all Sir Knights!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my utmost gratitude to all of you for making my fellowship training happen! This past year has been both fulfilling and enriching.

I am Dr. Roland Joseph D. Tan, the 2014 Training Mentors in Developing Countries (TMDC) fellowship grant recipient from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and now a newly-trained pediatric ophthalmologist, ready to serve our province in the Northern Philippines. In less than a week, I will be on my way back home.

Growing up and practicing as an eye doctor in Isabela exposed me to the sad realities of our local health care situation. This included the fact that since there are no sub-specialists practicing in the area, only basic eye services can be provided. It broke my heart to send kids with more complex eye problems to Manila to be appropriately treated. For a nation of one hundred million people, there are only thirty-five trained pediatric ophthalmologists serving them. Unfortunately, due to financial reasons, many of these kids end up not being seen because of financial concerns such as not being able to afford the cost of transportation or the consultation in bigger cities. This made me seek further training in pediatric ophthalmology. Fortunately, I was accepted to one of the best pediatric ophthalmology fellowship programs, but it was still a challenge since my financial situation would not have allowed me to push through with the training. I am very thankful that Dr Joseph L. Demer, my mentor, introduced me to the TMDC fellowship grant of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

You, Sir Knights, made this training happen. Because of all your help, I was able to learn from Drs. Joseph Demer, Sherwin Isenberg, Federico Velez, and Stacy Pineles. Not only did I see and take part in the management of numerous cases in the Philippines, both common and rare, but I acquired a wide range of surgical skills, some of which were not taught back home. My training in Stein Eye Institute also gave me the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Demer on a recently described condition called "Sagging Eye Syndrome" which often leads to double vision among elderly individuals. We were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to share our results in the 2015 Association of American Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Also, after regularly joining the Retina Fellows, I became confident in screening for Retinopathy of Prematurity, a condition in the retina of infants born prematurely and quite common back home. I was able to observe as well Dr. Jonathan Kim in Children's Hospital Los Angeles in his diagnosis and management of Retinoblastoma, a life threatening cancer affecting kids' eyes. I have great interest in this disease because I saw a lot of patients with it during my residency training in Manila. Sadly, we get them, mostly from the province, on their late stage of the disease because diagnosis and management had been delayed.

I have learned a lot from this training. I feel that I am prepared now, equipped

with all that I have learned, to help the kids back home. Although an addition of one pediatric ophthalmologist cannot resolve the situation that we currently face, it is my plan to serve as a faculty member of a residency training program in a neighboring province as well. It is my hope that in the future, we will also be able to start a program to train sub-specialists.

Again, thank you very much and wishing you all the best.

Sincerely,

Roland Joseph D. Tan, MD, DPBO
MD Eye and Ear Specialists Clinic
Roxas, Isabela, Philippines 3320

NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master’s Club

David B. Emmitt.....	KY	Alfonse A. Leppek	MI
Allen I. Koenig.....	MN	John F. Martin.....	NM
Craig A. Phillips.....	NV	Walter C. Bowman	TN

Grand Commander’s Club

Joe W. Summers	CO	James C. Herndon	ID
David B. Emmitt.....	KY	Howard H. Crumit, Jr.	MI

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.

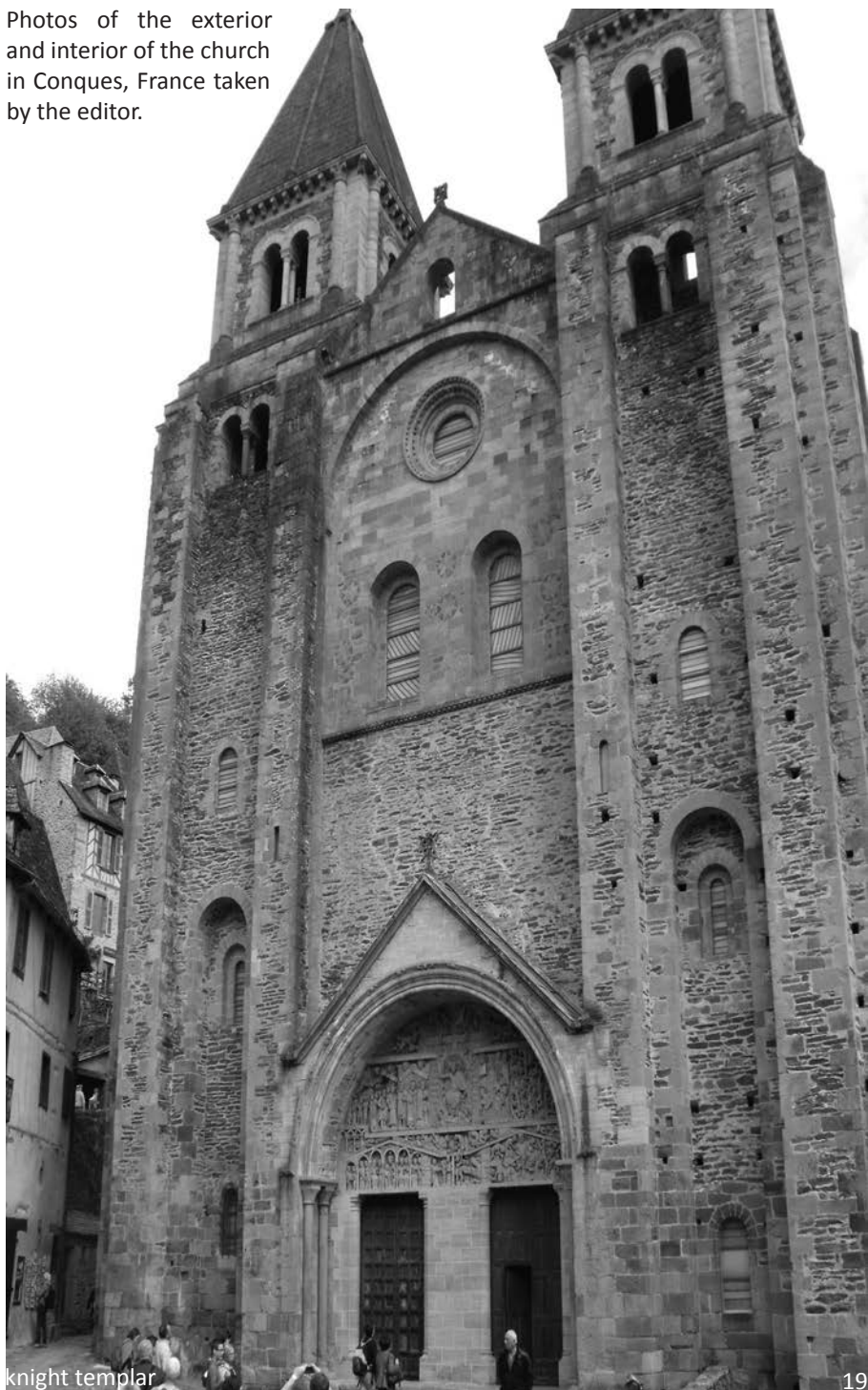
General Supplement

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.



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Photos of the exterior and interior of the church in Conques, France taken by the editor.



knight templar



Knights at the Bookshelf



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

Aladro, Jorge L., PGM, *Are We Making Good Men Better? (A Quest for Knowledge and Spiritual Growth)*, First printing, Blue Note Publications, Inc., Melbourne, FL, 2015, ISBN: 978-0-9963066-3-8.

The title of this book is obviously a rhetorical question asked by the author to get us thinking. Aladro then devotes the pages within to answering this question. His topics span the entire gamut of speculative Freemasonry in chapters with evocative titles, such as: "Are They Worthy and Well Qualified?," "Petitioners and Recommenders;" "Investigators and Recommenders;" "Deceivers, Cheats, and Frauds;" "Ritual!;" "Masonic Education;" "Charity;" and "Leadership." The author points out where and why we as Masons are falling short in our efforts to attract and retain good and true men and presents strategies we can and should employ to correct our failings at both the local and Grand Lodge levels. He draws on his experience as a Mason of nearly forty years standing and as a past grand master of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

In his preface, Aladro makes it abundantly clear that he intends to tell it as he sees it, without fear or favor, and he certainly does so in this book. Whether you agree with his opinions or not, the book certainly furnishes ample food for thought and should be read with an open mind, and the lessons he provides should be taken to heart and applied by us in our Fraternity. He provides a literary "mirror," in which, if we are honest, many of us will see ourselves reflected. Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that many of those who take the trouble to peruse this book will see themselves described or will trouble themselves to alter the status quo of the Craft in their several jurisdictions. In summary, his answer to the question raised by the book title is: "In many Jurisdictions we have not guarded our West Gate well....We have not taken care of business; we are not Making Good Men Better."

One of the tasks of a book reviewer is to be truthful in his assessment of the book he is reviewing. The content of this book is good and compelling, but its presentation suffers. There are numerous grammatical, spelling, and structural errors in it that need correction. Such defects may cause one to miss the message and concentrate on the errors. Another improvement would be the inclusion of a list of references or sources used. One hopes that if a second printing of the book is done, these errors will be eradicated by a careful proofreading. It would do much to improve and communicate a vital message that desperately needs to be disseminated among caring Masons far and wide.

Arthur St. Clair

The Native Scot Who Became an American President

By

Dick Phillips

Scotland has always been a land of endless discussion about many issues. For example, the Highlanders versus the Lowlanders, and the Knights Templar and the Scottish Freemasons who, along with other educated groups in medieval times, were considered the “enlightened ones” and granted special status by the church and state because of their knowledge and expertise. Then there are the St. Clairs and the Sinclairs, some of whom were Knights Templar and some of whom were Masons.

There is much evidence to support the fact that Prince Henry St. Clair sailed his twelve ships from Scotland to the America’s in 1398 with a crew among whom were Cistercian Monks, Knights Templar, and Scottish Freemasons. Some say that their ship’s sails even branched the Templar red cross! Despite the physical evidence left behind in Canada and North America, there are those who continue to deny that the journey ever took place, even though much has been authenticated to have been constructed in the late 14th century. Yet, some refuse to believe any Templar could have survived the purge of 1307 and escaped from France to England and then to Scotland.

During the mid-15th century, the St. Clairs built their ancestral home, Castle Girnigoe, on the North Scotland coast and Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian County. Those who deny any continued collaboration between the extended families of the St. Clairs, the Templars, and the Ma-

sons even question the Templar and Masonic imagery within the chapel, which was built after Prince Henry’s voyage. Corn was not known in Europe in the 15th century. Perhaps the chapel’s symbols of maize resulted from Henry’s year-long stay with the Mi’kmaq Indians. Other evidence of Prince Henry’s stay is that of the more than one hundred Indian nation flags in North America; the Mi’kmaq is the only tribe which has a red Templar cross in its design.

King Philip of France was seriously in debt to the Templars and conspired with the pope to kill them, but did they really believe that none escaped to England and Scotland, and what about the Masons who date back to the building of Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem about 800 B.C. and who were also driven out of France and England to Scotland for protection?

Dissenters cite the difference between 1307 and 1736 when the Scottish Freemasons were “officially” formed and go on to conclude that the four-century spread between the two dates refutes any possibility of culture sharing between the generations of Templar and Masonic “families.” Obviously, people didn’t live four hundred years, but that doesn’t preclude significant information from being passed on through generations. For example, evidence suggests that long before Columbus sailed in 1492, he learned of Prince Henry’s 1398 voyage from his wife, Philipa, whose relatives passed on the story through generations of Henry’s descendants. Also,

Columbus was a member of The Knights of Christ in Portugal who were known to be the Templars.

Before they sailed with Prince Henry St. Clair, didn't the Templars and the Masons help King Robert the Bruce defeat the English at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314? Didn't the English confiscate all Templar lands in England in retaliation, and didn't King Robert create The Royal Sovereign Order of Scotland to provide the Templars and Masons with a measure of their deserved status while disguising their presence within his kingdom?

"There are tremendously strong connections between the St. Clair Herdmanston lineage and medieval 'Super-Families' such as the Mandevilles, Arundels, and others who first funded the Templars. They did so to ensure that the monks would pray for the souls of their ancestors," said researcher Steve Sinclair, who has headed the St. Clair/Sinclair DNA project since 2004. "St. Bernard of Clairvaux founded the Cistercian order in 1116. He and Hugh de Payen are also credited with founding the Order of the Temple and achieving its recognition by the Church at the Council of Troyes in 1129, but it was Hugh, Count of Champagne, and those powerful medieval families who provided the lands and funding that made the Templar a reality," said Steve Sinclair, adding that the count was one of few noblemen to fight as a Templar in the holy war.

Arthur St. Clair was a man descended from this Scottish royalty, and in 1787, he became America's only foreign-born



All that remains of Girnigoe Castle on the North Coast of Scotland, circa. 1475. William St. Clair brought stonemasons from Rosslyn in Midlothian County. Photo: Public Domain

president during the year when the *United States Constitution* and the *Northwest Ordinance* were debated and drafted by Congress. One of America's great patriots and founding fathers was Arthur St. Clair. Descendants claim he was recruited into the Masonic order by George Washington, and some even say he was sworn in by Ben Franklin. While this is hearsay, and I have no recorded source for this, it was a reality that more than half of Washington's generals were Freemasons and St. Clair was one of only thirty major generals. As for the Franklin claim, he was the grand master of Pennsylvania, and St. Clair was well known by both men.

St. Clair was born in Thurso, Scotland, in the County of Caithness on March 23, 1734. Although descended from the Scottish royalty described above, his family never lived in a castle or shared in any wealth, which was long gone before his birth. His father, William, was a merchant who died young, leaving Arthur, an only child, to be raised by his mother, Margaret. Recognizing his link with royal ancestry, his mother did everything to educate him for a future befitting his lineage. She taught him the ways of an aristocrat and sent him to the University of Edinburgh to study

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medicine, after which he interned with a doctor in London.

After his mother passed, his Templar warrior genes must have kicked in when he gave up a promising career in medicine to become an ensign in the British Army which the Duke of Cumberland was recruiting to help drive the French out of the British Canadian colony. The French-Indian War ensued, during which St. Clair served five years in Canada, retiring as a captain in the British army.

However, it was his contributions to America which were most awesome, forty years of exceptional military and public service at very high levels. There are many in Pennsylvania and eleven other states who know of Arthur St. Clair, because his performance directly affected their area or their family in some way. Communities such as Upper St. Clair in Pennsylvania, the City of St. Clairsville in Ohio, and others have been named for this great patriot as have many other communities, buildings, institutions, roads, parks, lakes, and rivers between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, the area he governed.

His reputation has been passed down through generations. He was dedicated to America's fight for freedom and the concepts of honor, duty, and country. He always tried to do the right thing, regardless of the consequences, which were often heavy. However, as the true aristocrat that he was, St. Clair always stood tall.

His americanization began in Pennsylvania after King Charles granted him acreage in the Ligonier knight templar

Valley for his service against the French in Canada. He married Phoebe Bayard, niece of the governor of Massachusetts, in Boston in 1760 and moved his family from Boston to Bedford, Pennsylvania, keeping the acreage in the Ligonier Valley for future family development. He fought off Indian attacks with his Scottish and Scots-Irish neighbors, recruiting a group of volunteer rangers to help him. This brought St. Clair to the attention of Governor John Penn, who admired his initiative and supported his efforts with funds obtained from the Pennsylvania legislature. After St. Clair retired from British service, the governor hired him as Cumberland's head of surveying and soon appointed him to more than a few judiciary positions in Bedford and Westmoreland County during the next decade.



Major General Arthur St. Clair at fifty painted by presidential artist, Charles Willson Peale in 1783, the year the Revolutionary War ended.

St. Clair's greatest adversary before the revolution was British Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia. When St. Clair learned that the previous Indian attacks on the settlers were actually provoked by the British, he began to question his previous loyalty to Great Britain. Also, he was growing tired of the excessive taxation by the British and their brutal treatment of the Colonists and their families. When, as a young magistrate of Westmoreland County, he was forced to prevent Governor Dunmore's agents from annexing Fort Pitt and the three-rivers area (now Metropolitan Pittsburgh) for Virginia, St. Clair had them arrested and jailed after each of their two attempts in 1774. This action by the British was the tipping point for St. Clair who became a strong supporter of the American fight for independence.

So he met with President Hancock, renounced his British allegiance and accepted a commission as colonel in the Continental Army. President Hancock's decision was not easy. The reason was that St. Clair was a distant cousin of British General Thomas Cage, the commander of British forces in America. Along with Samuel Adams, John Hancock was at the forefront of the American revolution, and although Cage repeatedly offered to pardon the colonists if they would lay down their arms, the offers never included Hancock and Adams, who still had prices on their heads. However, after being retired for nearly a decade and seeing the British through the colonist's eyes, St. Clair's loyalties definitely changed.

St. Clair became the first Pennsylvanian to achieve the rank of major general during the revolution and after the war, he was elected to Congress in 1785,

becoming its president two years later.

Historical textbooks seldom, if ever, mention St. Clair, which may partly explain why the general public knows so little about him. History gives him little credit. Part of this stems from the fact that despite many accomplishments, his "do the right thing, regardless of the consequences" attitude often made him unpopular among those in power to the extent that many Americans never recognized the value of his contribution, because Congress reported them negatively to the media and thus to the public.

Because of his experience with the British against the French in Canada, Colonel St. Clair's first assignment from President Hancock was to recruit an army of Pennsylvanians and to march to Montreal and provide relief to an American army whose congress had grossly underestimated the British force in Quebec when it ordered an attack in 1775. He found General Sullivan's army trapped and created a strategy which extricated them, earning him promotion to brigadier general.

He was next ordered to recruit an army to assist General Washington, who had been retreating from the British in battle after battle throughout New York and New Jersey in order to preserve the existence of his army, thus keeping America's fight for independence alive. This brings us to the most unrecognized performance of St. Clair's career.

During 1776, Washington had not won a battle, and by December he had lost ninety percent of his army. To preserve what remained, he took them from Trenton across the ice-laden Delaware River into Newton Pennsylvania for protection. Washington was carrying the weight of the *Declaration of Independence*



The Newport Tower in Rhode Island is said to have been built during Prince Henry St. Clair's expedition in 1398. Archeologists have authenticated it to have been built in the late 14th century. Built in the style of the Scottish castles, every measurement of the tower is based on the Scottish Ell. Photo by Don Lee Sinclair, Indiana commissioner of Clan Sinclair, USA.

dence on his shoulders.

In late December, St. Clair arrived with two thousand fresh troops he had recruited and trained. Washington assigned St. Clair to lead a brigade, and considering his experience, to help him plan strategy for an attack on the nearest British outpost which was being held by the Hessians in Trenton. Although a great leader of men, Washington was not known for his military strategy at first; however, St. Clair was. In just nine days after Christmas of 1776, Washington led his troops to victory in the next three battles, driving the British out of New Jersey. Washington immediately became known as the great military strategist who had turned the momentum of the war against the British.

It is the opinion of some historians and many of St. Clair's fellow officers knight templar

on Washington's staff that St. Clair's contributions brought a new energy to Washington and his men. Washington had lost credibility with the British. America's congress was ready to replace him with Charles Lee, one of his senior generals who had failed to support him while lobbying for his job. St. Clair knew the British habits, and Washington felt he could trust him. Congressional plans for removing Washington were dashed by the trilogy of victories in New Jersey. Outside of Washington's army, few knew of St. Clair's role, and although Washington soon promoted St. Clair to major general, Washington's early

biographers have avoided mentioning St Clair or even that Washington was ever in such dire straits.

The discovery that so few history textbooks mention St. Clair may help explain why the general public knows so little about him. This question launched six-years of research and writing which culminated with the book, *Arthur St. Clair, The Invisible Patriot*, now available on Amazon.com, selected Barnes & Noble stores, and other independent book stores. Since 1882, this is only the third book written about St. Clair. Washington has had more than one thousand written about him.

Despite its lack of military knowledge and experience, Congress micro-managed the war from the start. Why they did not anticipate that the British

might mass their forces for a counter attack in New York after being driven out of New Jersey is not known. Also, why did Congress put their trust in the decrepit, more than twenty year-old, Fort Ticonderoga? It was once described as "impregnable," when manned by the ten thousand soldiers for which the French had designed it; however, St. Clair had only two thousand troops plus another one thousand who were unfit for battle. There are other stories about St. Clair and Congress, Washington and others which have either been un-reported or mis-reported by history because they were inconvenient truths for Congress and others. Of the many incidents discussed in the book, the two which follow were most detrimental to St. Clair.

The above example, which happened in New York, several months after New Jersey, tells of St. Clair's brilliant strategy at Fort Ticonderoga which saved his men who were outnumbered five to one. They also faced certain annihilation by British cannon from above. Although risking everything, St. Clair decided to leave the fort at night to allow his men to have a better chance against the British. His decision not only saved many of his men but better positioned them to reduce the British force and slow their march to Albany. The survivors also fought at Saratoga months later where British General Burgoyne's army finally surrendered.

Without benefit of the facts, Congress not only court-martialed St. Clair but never heard his case for two years, after which the next Congress exonerated him and commended him for his courageous decision, but the damage had been done to his reputation by the action of a congress led by John Ad-

ams, a lawyer who had previously been known for his "innocent until proven guilty" beliefs. Fortunately, Washington saw through this unjustified action and had St. Clair returned to handle many of his senior-level challenges for the remainder of the war.

The second and perhaps most severe of several examples happened fourteen years later. St. Clair had been a retired major general for eight years, and in his fourth year as federal governor, he was called upon to lead an army against a confederated army of northwest Indian tribes which were still being incited by the British to refuse to sign treaties for American settlements and to make war. Naturally, the British, who were supplying the Indians with weapons and ammunition, denied any involvement, since it would have been a violation of their surrender treaty of 1783. St. Clair's army was defeated at the battle of the Wabash in 1791 at the Ohio and Indiana border and St. Clair's descendants have unfairly carried the stigma of this massacre ever since. Although the details are too numerous to deal with here, research has shown that the story behind the story is quite different than that which has been told by Congress to the media and consequently to the public for two hundred forty-four years. Anyone who recognizes the St. Clair name at all may first associate it with his being known as the scapegoat for this tragedy. In my opinion, this tragedy could and should have been avoided, but it was also a travesty of bad management and impatience by Congress and the secretary of war's extortion of a large share of the campaign budget to pay his debts. It was also not one of President Washington's best choices of generals, all of

which, when combined, made it impossible for St. Clair to succeed. A subsequent investigation proved this as well as who was the most culpable, Secretary Henry Knox. Unfortunately, because of political maneuvering, neither the secretary nor Congress was ever held accountable. The secretary didn't even lose his job!

Arthur St. Clair was one of America's greatest patriots and founding fathers before, during, and after the revolution. He walked with the giants of history; however, despite his unbelievable lifetime contribution to America, this story does not have a happy ending for Arthur and Phoebe St. Clair, with the exception of their six children of whom they and their descendants can be proud.

During St. Clair's service to America, he and Phoebe provided a great deal of financial support to Washington's army during the eight years of the Revolution, which was never repaid. Then again, during his fourteen years as federal governor, Congress promised support usually came late if at all, forcing St. Clair to write IOU's to creditors on behalf of his government. When President Jefferson removed St. Clair from office for political reasons in 1802, the creditors came after St. Clair and took everything

that he and his family had, leaving them with sixteen years of a very difficult retirement. Arthur and Phoebe died two weeks apart in 1818 and are buried next to each other in Greenburgh, Pennsylvania. Unfortunately they never saw any relief from the government, and it was decades before a Congress finally voted to pay reparation to the St. Clair family for unresolved claims made so long ago.

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Dick Phillips is neither a Templar nor a Freemason. He is of Clan Sinclair USA and began learning about the Templars and the Freemasons when he began researching the St. Clair's and the Sinclair's six years ago. Reach the author under the book title on Facebook or e-mail phillphx@aol.com and reach Steve Sinclair at his St. Clair-Sinclair DNA Web site.



Sir Knight Lowell Garcia sends in these photos of a gold watch fob belonging to his great-grandfather, Sir Knight A. B. Williams, who resided in Clyde, New York, circa 1875. He also has a chalk painting of him in Commandery attire.



A Chat With The Managing Editor

I just began participating in another round of regional Department meetings, and with this comes teaching the leadership conferences. I guess the thing I like best about teaching these conferences is that I get to meet brethren who are among the best and brightest among us, and many if not most of them are still young enough to make a huge difference in our success as a fraternity at all levels.

Let me share what I am learning about these guys. First, there is an increasing interest in civility or chivalry. They value moral maturity and believe that our brotherhood has a mission to improve the civility of the society in which we exist. Unfortunately, they are sometimes disappointed that the older brethren they expect to learn from fall short of the mark when it comes to moral maturity and fail to subdue their passions. The good news is that these young guys “have their heads screwed on straight” and have high expectations. The bad news is that all too often, we fail to exceed those expectations and sometimes set the wrong example. This leads these young men to wonder how it can be that the leaders of an institution with such high ideals can seemingly ignore the fundamental teachings of that institution. Some of these young men will become disillusioned and leave us, either by demit or simple inactivity. It will be almost impossible to re-attract them when this happens, no matter what we do. The ones who remain however, have the courage to stay the course and work hard to become the sort of example they were looking for when they petitioned for membership. It is with these that we have hope for the future. I’m betting on them to succeed in revitalizing the fraternity and getting us back on course to accomplish our mission to make the world a better place to live in, one man at a time.

To turn this corner, we are going to have to get rid of some excess baggage that we have grown accustomed to. We are going to have to discard the attitude of selfishness and self-aggrandizement that causes us to engage in petty arguments about who is in charge and to fill our meetings with endless and useless formal “introductions” which only serve to stroke our egos. We are going to have to stop thinking about “me” and start thinking about the welfare and happiness of our brethren and of others we come in contact with. Sometimes I think we have come to believe that giving money to our various charities somehow excuses us from being civil to each other and those around us.

Anyhow, that’s what I am hearing from our bright new brethren. What are you hearing?


John L. Palmer
Managing Editor



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AMERICA'S KNIGHT TEMPLAR VETERANS

by
Sir Knight Richard F. Muth

The ancient Templars were often in the vanguard of the battle. Throughout America's battles, Masons and Masonic Templars have been there as well. The list of military Masons is long and distinguished, as is the list of Templar veterans. The order of Knights Templar has an ancient and storied history as valiant warriors in the Christian cause. Over the years, Freemasons have also gone to war for what they held dear, and Templars have often been among the ranks.

The first recorded Templar degrees in America were conferred by St. Andrews Royal Arch Lodge which met at the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston. The Green Dragon, by the way, is where the Boston Tea Party was believed to have been planned, and Sir Knight Henry Purkitt was known to have taken part in that event. The records of St. Andrews state that on August 28, 1769, they conferred the "four steps" of the Royal Arch. At that meeting, William Davis was the first Mason to be knighted on these shores. St. Andrews made Paul Revere the second Sir Knight in December of that year, and Dr. Joseph Warren followed as the third in 1770.

On April 18, 1775, Warren dispatched Sir Knight Revere on the "Midnight Ride" that was later immortalized by Longfellow's poem. Its two famous lanterns, indicating that the Regulars were advancing by sea, were likely hung by Sir Knight Robert Newton, also from St. Andrews. (The poem does not mention Brother William Dawes, who was sent by a different route and met Revere in Lexington.)

Two months later, Sir Knight Warren volunteered to fight at Bunker Hill as a private soldier, even though he held a general's commission with another command. Sir Knight Davis was there as well and is credited with the defensive plan of rolling stone filled barrels down the slope at the advancing British troops. Also at that battle, along with numerous Freemasons on both sides of that fight, was Sir Knight Henry Champion, a Templar from Colchester, Connecticut, who would become a good friend of Brother Thomas Smith Webb. Sadly, Sir Knight Warren died on Bunker Hill, shot in the face at close range as the British overwhelmed the Patriots' position. At the time of his death, Dr. Warren was grand master of Masons in Massachusetts. His younger brother, Dr. John Warren, and Paul Revere would each hold that title some years later.

Eighty-six years after Revere's ride, on another April night, Sir Knights Robert Anderson and P. G. T. Beauregard faced each other across Charleston Harbor in South Carolina. They had been friends ever since West Point where Beauregard was Anderson's student in artillery. Sadly for both, the Civil War's opening shots were fired by the pupil's troops at the fort commanded by his old friend and instructor. During the war that ensued, another Sir Knight named Anderson, Robert H., served the Confederacy as a cavalry and artillery officer. Several other Confederate officers were also Templars, including Major General John C. Breckinridge, 14th vice president of the United States; Major General John C. Brown, twice governor

of Tennessee; and Brigadier General Bernard Bee, Jr., who is often credited with giving "Stonewall" Jackson (who may also have been a brother) his nickname. Likewise, many Sir Knights wore blue in that conflict, including Sir Knights and Major Generals James B. Steedman, provisional governor of Georgia, and Benjamin Butler, 33rd governor of Massachusetts, who issued his *General Order No. 38* to provide for the care of the local Masonic property in New Bern, North Carolina. Brigadier General Lucius Fairchild, a Sir Knight, lost an arm at Gettysburg but went on to serve six terms as governor of Wisconsin. Also at Gettysburg, the troops of George E. Pickett, a Sir Knight, made the final assault on the Union center, which was defended by the II Corps of Winfield Scott Hancock, a Sir Knight. At the end of that conflict, it was Brigadier General Ely S. Parker, a Sir Knight and chief of the Seneca Nation, who hand wrote the surrender document signed at Appomattox.

Confederate Lieutenant General, and Sir Knight, "Fightin' Joe" Wheeler was a Southerner to the core, but after the "War between the States," he again served with the United States Army as a general in the Spanish American War and the Philippines. During the heat of battle in Cuba, he is said to have cried out "Let's go, boys! We've got the damn Yankees on the run again!" Serving under Wheeler in Cuba, Sir Knight Leonard Wood's command included the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, and after he was promoted to brigadier general, it was Brother T. R. Roosevelt who succeeded him as colonel of "the Rough Riders."

Major General Wood is also one of several Templars among the more than one hundred fifty Masons who have been awarded the nation's highest

award, the Congressional Medal of Honor. He earned it during the Apache campaign in the summer of 1886. Brigadier General Edward S. Godfrey, a Sir Knight, won the Medal of Honor on September 30, 1877, and Major General Newton M. Curtis, a Sir Knight, received it for action at Fort Fisher, North Carolina, on January 15, 1865. Captain Willis Bradley, a Sir Knight, earned it aboard the *U.S.S. Pittsburgh* on July 23, 1917, and on September 25, 1918, Major "Eddie" Rickenbacker, a Sir Knight, did so in the skies over France – he also won the Distinguished Service Cross nine times! Although he was not awarded the Medal of Honor, General of the Armies John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, a Sir Knight, did earn the next three of the United States Army's highest awards; the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Silver Star, along with the Purple Heart, a medal few generals can claim.

Several Templar veterans have received the honor of advancing to grand rank within Freemasonry, including Rear Admiral Richard A. Kern, grand master of Pennsylvania for 1945 and 1946; Brevet Brigadier General Charles Roome, 14th grand master of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and Civil War soldier Cassius McDonald Barnes, the first grand commander and the fourth governor of the Oklahoma Territory. Major Wendell K. Walker, a Sir Knight, among other positions, served as grand secretary of New York for over twenty-five years, and that jurisdiction's "Wendell K. Walker Builder of Men Award" is named in his honor. A few Templars have been elected to the highest office in the service to their country, such as Brigadier General James A. Garfield, 20th president of the United States, and Major Harry S. Tru-

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man, 33rd president of the United States, also served as grand master of Missouri. Major William McKinley, a Sir Knight and 25th President of the United States, took his initial three degrees in a “confederate” lodge, Hiram Lodge No. 21, of Winchester, Virginia, while stationed there in 1865.

These names are but a few of the notable Sir Knights who have been a part of the American military. There are many more Templars among the hundreds of thousands of Masons who have served in their country’s armed forces. Like our ancient forbearers, Masonic Templars fight for what they believe is right, in sup-

port of the individual rights of their fellow men. As we should be very thankful to all our veterans for their service, we should be sure to honor our Masonic and particularly our own Templar veterans. Every Commandery should give recognition to its members who have served their country in this manner so as to add their names to the long role of honor of America’s Knight Templar veterans.

Sir Knight Richard F. Muth is Grand Sr. Warden of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania and can be contacted at Richard.Muth@comcast.net.

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Ancient Templar Commandery at Sarlat, France.
Photo by the editor.

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Beauceant News



Beauceant sisters of Denver No. 1 have had a Nordman Committee for many years. They collect baby items throughout the year then donate them to a local hospital. Mrs. Mel Thompson is the chairman this year.

Left to right: (Mrs. Dallas) Colleen Lloyd; (Mrs. Joe) Debbie Kier, Worthy President; (Mrs. William) Mary Trevatha; and (Mrs. Mel) Jeanne Thompson.



Salina No. 229 Beauceant Sisters hosted a bake sale and assisted Sir Knights from Salina Askelon No. 6 at their annual pancake feed.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation

1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5

Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230

Phone (214) 888-0220

Fax (214) 888-0230.

To the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment of
Knights Templar:

Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is my first article as Chairman of the 48th Annual Knights Templar Eye Foundation Voluntary Campaign. I am truly excited to be offered this opportunity to serve you.

I recently had the chance to visit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. office in Flower Mound, Texas. I was able to view, first hand, the tremendous efforts of labor and love for our foundation, led by Sir Knight Robert W. Bigley, KGC, assistant secretary and office administrator. Sir Knight Robert is assisted by Ms. Marci Martinez who is an amazing asset to the overall success of our office. Completing this awesome team are Mary Villalobos and Renia Roman. For two days, I was schooled in the day-to-day operations of the foundation and introduced to some of the true blessings of the history of our Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Thank you all for your courtesies.

I believe it is important for all of us to review our beginnings to get a glimpse of our future. Return with me now to those golden days of yesteryear.

A legacy, as defined by *Webster's Dictionary*, is something (such as money or property) that is received from someone who has died or something that happened in the past or that comes from someone in the past. According to the book *A History of the Founding of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation* by Edmund F. Ball, KGC, honorary most eminent past grand master, our legacy begins in the life of Sir Knight Walter Allen DeLamater, most eminent grand master in 1958 and the first president and founder of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Sir Knight DeLamater gave the following address on the floor of the Grand Encampment at the 1955 Triennial, where he made his first dramatic appeal for the establishment of a hospital or hospitals for the treatment of diseases or injuries of the eye. According to the author, who was present, it was one of the most dramatic orations he has ever heard. Sir Knight DeLamater delivered his oration without the use of notes.

"First, I would like to outline some of the background of the intensive interest for Templary and what has motivated my desire to see Templary progress to greater heights than ever before. Many of you will recall in 1941 that I was stricken and paralyzed for a period of two months from a clot on the brain. During those two months, the doctors attending said it was impossible for me to live and that there wasn't one chance in a million of my doing so. Later on, when they found I would live, they stated that I would be a wheel chair patient for the rest of my life. I was in the hospital for five months and in the South convalescing a couple more months. That gave me a greater appreciation of both my Maker and my fellowman. It also made



me realize that if outstanding physicians gave me up, then who saved me? If so, for what purpose?

So, it can be truly said that I was proof of one of God's miracles for having lived and been left with no infirmity. I therefore resolved that I must find out for what purpose God saved me, and I came to the conclusion that the order of Templary offered a great medium for me to endeavor to do God's will and what He desired me to do and why He saved me. Because in reality, this great Christian order of Templary is Christ's work. I also realized that all the teachings and vows that we have taken in Templary practically demanded that we do some charitable work, and yet all these years we have never had a 100% charitable project on a national level."

This, my fellow Sir Knights, was both the vision and the beginning of our legacy. You have lovingly and faithfully supported forty-seven Annual Voluntary Campaigns in the past. The 48th Annual Voluntary Campaign is now underway. I ask you all to remember our legacy and the vision of a fellow Sir Knight, not so very long ago. Let's work together to continue to make a difference in lives so that "others may see."

Proverbs 22:9 states, "He that has a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he gives of his bread to the poor." I pray that you all have a happy and bountiful Thanksgiving. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless you and your families.

Our legacy continues,

David J. Kussman, GCT

Chairman, 48th Annual Voluntary Campaign

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“I will lift up
mine eyes unto the
hills, from whence
cometh my help.”
Psalms 121:1

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