

Knight Templar

VOLUME LXII

MARCH 2016

NUMBER 3



PRESENTING THE OFFICIAL
CHAPTER, COUNCIL, COMMANDERY

FREE BONUS:
Masonic Leather Key Fob!

York Rite Masonic Watch

FEATURING YOUR PERSONAL BIRTHSTONES AND MONOGRAM



- Created by Selco of Oklahoma - fine custom time pieces since 1935.
- Dial design with York Rite Bodies and Masonic Square & Compasses minted in high relief. PLUS, Master Mason and Shrine dials also available. (See below).
- Watch case and band decorated with genuine gold and customized with your Monogram and four Personal Birthstones.
- Fine quartz movement for accuracy within seconds per month.
- Your full name and unique serial number will be engraved on the case back.

NEW! MASTER MASON & SHRINE DIALS AVAILABLE!



**YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO
WEAR THESE SPECIAL MASONIC WATCHES**

Birthstones are simulated for clarity and consistency. Names refer to color.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
GARNET	AMETHYST	AQUAMARINE	ZIRCON	EMERALD	ALEXANDRITE	RUBY	PERIDOT	SAPPHIRE	ROSE ZIRCON	GOLDEN SAPPHIRE	BLUE ZIRCON

CALL TOLL-FREE TO ORDER: 1-800-437-0804

MON - FRI 9AM - 5PM EST. PLEASE HAVE CREDIT CARD READY WHEN ORDERING.

ORDER BEFORE MARCH 30 - RECEIVE A FREE MASONIC LEATHER KEY FOB! >

Mail To: York Rite Masonic Order Center, Two Radnor Corporate Center, Suite 120, Radnor, PA 19087

YES, I wish to order an exclusive Masonic Watch by Selco, personalized with my Birthstones, Monogram and my Full Name.

INCLUDE MY FREE MASONIC LEATHER KEY FOB!

Dial Choice: ☐ York Rite ☐ Master Mason ☐ Shrine

Monogram Letter: _____ **Birthstone Month:** _____

Full Name to Engrave: _____

I wish to pay as follows:

- ☐ Enclosed is my check/money order for \$139* as payment in full, OR
☐ Charge my Credit Card \$139* as payment in full as indicated at right.

* Plus \$19.95 for engraving, shipping and handling.

PA residents add 6% (\$9.54) sales tax.

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

Card # _____ Exp. ____ / ____

Card Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

Shipping Address: We cannot ship to P.O. boxes. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

(In case we have a question about your order)

©2016 AMA

YORWAT-KTM-0316



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.MASONICPARTNERS.COM

Knight Templar

Contents

Grand Master's Message	
Grand Master Duane L. Vaught	4

Mid-America Easter Observance	
Revised Registration Form	5

Grand Encampment Bicentennial	
Celebration Announcement.....	10

William Anderson Garrard, Jr.	
department commander	
Southwest Department	12

Western States Easter Observance.....	16
--	-----------

History of the Knights Templar	
Sir Knight Richard M. Kovak.....	21

Features

Prelate's Chapel	6
-------------------------------	----------

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation	8, 17, 20
---	------------------

A Chat With The Managing Editor	9
--	----------

Knights at the Bookshelf.....	13
--------------------------------------	-----------

Beauceant News.....	15
----------------------------	-----------

Grand Commandery Supplement.....	18
---	-----------

In Memoriam.....	35
-------------------------	-----------

VOLUME LXII MARCH 2016 NUMBER 3
Published monthly as an official publication of the
Grand Encampment of Knights Templar
of the United States of America.

Duane L. Vaught
Grand Master

Jeffrey N. Nelson
Deputy Grand Master and Publisher
3112 Tyler Parkway
Bismarck, ND 58503-0192

**Address changes or corrections
and all membership activity
including deaths should be re-
ported to the Recorder of the lo-
cal Commandery. Please do not
report them to the editor.**

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

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

Magazine materials and correspon-
dence to the editor should be sent
in electronic form to the managing
editor whose contact information
is shown above. Materials and cor-
respondence concerning the Grand
Commandery state supplements
should be sent to the respective sup-
plement editor.

**Cover photo of the Command-
ery at Bure-Les-Templiers in
France by the editor.**

Grand Encampment Web Site: <http://www.knightstemplar.org>
knight templar

Grand Master's Message

Two hundred years ago, Knights Templar from two Grand Commanderies decided that our order would benefit from a national governing organization and the consistency and capability such a group could provide. All this year we are celebrating that step.

Some of our celebration plans are now in operation, others in development, and others to be invented.

We are now issuing limited time only, Bicentennial Malta jewels. Sir Knights receiving the Order of the Temple before January 1, 2017, will receive one of these jewels in their new member packet. Recorders, be sure to get your knightings into the computer database. A second version of this jewel is available for purchase as a souvenir, and sales are brisk.

We are planning for a July celebration in New York City. This is where those Sir Knights met in 1816 to set this in motion. Watch for details. This might be the good excuse you always wanted to see the Big Apple.

We are planning a bicentennial issue of this magazine which will be devoted almost entirely to the anniversary, and there will be some Grand Encampment events with bicentennial themes.

Special bicentennial knighting classes will be held, and states and departments are encouraged to develop more such events, because locally planned events provide that local flavor that not only meets your needs but satisfies your tastes.

There is a lot that can be done, and we can have some fun doing it, so let's get into the spirit.

Duane Lee Vaught



Grand Master



Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



MID AMERICA EASTER OBSERVANCE MARCH 26-27, 2016 RESERVATION FORM

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

RESERVATION DEADLINE March 20, 2016

No Refunds after March 19, 2016

Registration \$ 25.00/person Number Attending ____ Total \$ _____.00
(Registration for gentlemen only, includes memento for member and for lady if attending)

Saturday, March 26, 2016

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

Sunday, March 27, 2016

Easter Buffet Breakfast \$30.00/person Number attending ____ Total \$ _____.00

Total enclosed \$ _____.00

Money to accompany reservation

Indicate any special Dietary needs:

Class A uniform for Banquet and Easter Service (Cap and Mantel optional)

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

Mail check and reservation form to:

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

knight templar

Prelate's Chapel

by

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



In this month of March, we see the great Captain of our Salvation set his face to go to Jerusalem. He had told his disciples that he was going to be betrayed into the hands of sinful men. He told them of his death. Peter attempted to stop him from doing this, but Jesus, who said "Satan, get behind me," knew what his Father wanted him to do to redeem the world which God so loved.

I have always been humbled by Jesus' determination to obey his Father. I think of all the times I have disobeyed — my parents, my family, my friends, the law, my God. I determine my own life. I choose to do what I do day by day. "I have my own life to live" — I can't live others, too. I can't save the world. BUT GOD CAN!

This month we see Jesus being received into Jerusalem by the crowds who hailed him as their King on a Sunday, and cried "Crucify Him!" on the following Friday. We see him betrayed by his disciple Judas, abandoned by his other disciples, denied three times by Peter, wept over by his mother as she watched him die on a cross. He could have chosen to NOT go to Jerusalem, to NOT go into the Garden of Gethsemane, to NOT be crucified, dead, and buried, but as he prayed in the Garden; Father, "not my will but thine be done," Jesus knew, as none of us can comprehend, that following the will of God accomplishes what God will have for us and for our world. For "whoever believes in His Son Jesus, shall not perish but have everlasting life."

How do we know this to be true? On the third day, Jesus was brought forth from the dead, from the tomb in which he had been buried, to show us how great our God is — greater than sin (which condemns us) and death (the penalty of sin). For God has given us the victory over life and death through belief in His only-begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Great Captain of our Salvation. As Knights Templar, we "serve a Risen Savior, He's in the world today. I know that He is living, whatever men may say. I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, He's always near. He lives! ... Christ Jesus lives today. He walks with me (and you) and talks with me (and you) along life's narrow way. He lives ... Salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives — He lives within my heart!" (adapted: Alfred H. Ackley). Does He live within your heart? I pray He does.

York & Scottish Rite Superstore

Visit Our Website & Online Store: fratline.net

While at our website, sign-up for our FREE Leadership e-letter.



Sir Knight Chapeau
Velvet Body w/Ostrich Plume
Only \$289 + S&H



Malta Jewel
Only \$89.95/dz.



Red Cross
Only \$99.95/dz.



P.E.C. Jewel
Only \$59.95/ea.

Fratline™

EMBLEMATICS

by M. Warren & Co.

1-877-459-1440, ext. 0

P.O. Box 9258

Louisville, KY 40209



Scottish Rite
14th Degree Ring
Stainless Steel
Only \$49.95



Scottish Rite
33rd Degree Ring
Stainless Steel
Only \$89.95

Knight Templar Budget-Priced Uniforms



NEW!

\$329.95

Jacket Only....\$259⁹⁵

Trousers Only....\$79⁹⁵

New, lightweight tropical wool and dacron blend uniform with Templar buttons and sword slit. Add'l Charges for oversizes.



www.lighthouseuniform.com

1-800-426-5225



LIGHTHOUSE UNIFORM CO.

1532 15th Avenue West, Seattle, Washington 98119

Please call us
toll free or
visit us online

Reconditioned Jackets With Templar buttons and buttons on sleeves if needed.

ONLY \$159⁹⁵

Flaps on pockets are \$19⁹⁵ extra if needed. Sword Slits are 14⁹⁵ extra if needed. Limited sizes available.

Add \$25 for sizes 48+

Men's High Gloss

\$59⁹⁵



(slightly Blemished)



We Now Have
Purple, Red, & Blue
Blazers Only **\$99⁹⁵**
Add \$25 for sizes 48+

Another Endowed Professorship Awarded

In 2011, the board explored the feasibility and desirability of establishing an endowed professorship program at a leading research university or teaching hospital, focusing on ophthalmic education. Preliminary groundwork proved positive, and in 2012 the president formed a committee of board members to further explore this idea.

Advantages to the Foundation of endowing a professorship which were identified by the committee included the fact that an endowed professorship would be consistent with the Foundation's mission, it would provide a perpetual benefit to the Foundation from a one-time investment, it would promote the visibility of the Foundation, and it would create a new partnership legacy for the Foundation. Advantages to the institution identified by the committee included the fact that an endowed professorship would provide the institution with a financial resource, it would be consistent with the institution's mission statement, and it would provide publicity for the institution.

In August of 2013, the committee recommended and the board subsequently approved committing \$2 million, matched dollar for dollar, to establish the first endowed professorship to be named:

“Knights Templar Eye Foundation Inc., Professor of Ophthalmology Research”

at

The Mayo Clinic

Campuses in Rochester, MN; Phoenix, AZ; and Jacksonville, FL

In August 2015, the committee again recommended, and the board subsequently approved, committing another \$2 million, matched dollar for dollar, to establish the second endowed professorship to be named:

“Knights Templar Eye Foundation Inc., Professor in Ophthalmology”

at

The Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, MD

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.

A Chat With The Managing Editor

People are always talking about relevance these days. They ask the question, "Is your organization relevant?" I guess relevance is relative. The question is, "To whom is your organization relevant?" Looking back over the last forty-five years or so, my impression is that when I first became a Templar, the organization seemed relevant to only maybe three groups of people. The first group was, of course, the members; not all the members mind you, but only to the members who enjoyed the ritual and to those who found satisfaction in administering cases for the Eye Foundation.

The second group consisted of those who were receiving services at the expense of the Templars, primarily those who received eye operations funded by the Eye Foundation. I suppose that some of the students who received loans from the educational foundation could be included in this group, but not all, as many of them never bothered to repay the loans — not much appreciation there. There were a few Holy Land Pilgrimage ministers in this group, too, but only a few were sent in those days. I think we were very relevant to them, or so they tell me.

The third group to whom the Commandery was relevant was the small group of citizens in our communities who respected and appreciated the elaborate Easter Sunrise Services we sponsored or co-sponsored as a service to the community, and of course, the DeMolays thought we were cool with our swords and uniforms.

Today, I believe we are relevant to some different people and fewer than before. The ten percent of our members who are active still think we are relevant or they wouldn't be active. No one is working eye cases anymore, but more are working on the cause of the Holy Land Pilgrimage. Largely these are the same folks who hold office and do the ritual. I suppose we are relevant to the researchers we fund or so they tell me. I don't think we are perceived as relevant out in the community any more except perhaps to the churches of our Holy Land Pilgrimage ministers.

When you ask yourself why some people feel that our organization is relevant, I guess it boils down to just two things. First, are those who are receiving something from us, whether it be the researchers, the patients, the students or the Holy Land Pilgrims. It's not a bad thing to be relevant to them, and one would expect it. Another group who gets something from the organization is composed of those who like to be in charge and wear all the medals, shake hands, and make speeches. It gives them a sense of worth and self esteem to be the "Official," by whatever title. Finally we are relevant to our members because of the opportunity we, as an organization, give them to leave a legacy. It has been my experience that just giving money doesn't do much for me in the area of leaving a legacy. It probably salves my conscience when I think about those less fortunate than myself, but it is not in the least inspiring to me. Although a well performed ceremony like any other team effort is immensely satisfying to those involved and impressive to some others, it doesn't guarantee relevance either.

What do you think the relevance of Templary is in the 21st century? What do you think it should be?

John L. Palmer

Managing Editor

knight templar



THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR



200th
Anniversary

1816 - 2016

COMMITTEE:

SK Jim MacConnell
SK Eugene Capobianco
SK John Bridegroom

SK Duane Vaught- MEGM
SK Jeff Nelson -REDGM

SK Paul Page
SK Chris Hodapp
SK Don Berry

SIR KNIGHTS:

The Bicentennial Committee is organizing a celebration of our origin in New York City on July 22, 23, & 24, 2016.

FRIDAY, JULY 22

Night Cocktail reception, (6:00pm – 7:30pm) Cruise on the East River, or other location (details forth coming)

SATURDAY, JULY 23

Morning: Tiled Order of the Temple at Grand Lodge of NY in period costume
(Number of Candidates limited to 100).

Afternoon: Re-enactment of Organizational meeting. Location TBD

GUEST SPEAKERS: Mr. Mike Neville, London, Eng and Mr. Pierrie de Ravel de Esclapon, Vice President of the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Library in NYC.
Brevities from SK Duane Vaught, MEGM and MWGM Jeffrey Williamson

Ladies and Guests invited

SUNDAY, JULY 24

11:00am Church Service –Church of the Incarnation 35th Street and Madison Ave
(The church of Ted Harrison, PMEGHP) **Class A uniform**

Headquarters Hotel: Martha Washington Hotel (soon to be called the Redbury)
9 E 29th Street at a price of \$221/night includes 14.75% sales tax & \$3.50 occupancy tax, parking
available \$24.00/car & \$36.00/SUV. We have reserved 60 rooms for Friday and 60 rooms for
Saturday night so it is important to reserve your room early to avoid price increases!

All reservation need to go thru Judi Stern. Please mail the form below to:

Judi Stern

JPS At Your Leisure Travel

1510 Ocean Parkway, Suite D6, Brooklyn, NY 11230

or email: GEKT200rez@gmail.com or phone: 917-692-3806.

Judi Stern is a well-respected travel professional with some 25 years experience in the industry. She's worked with the Grand Lodge of New York for 20 years, managing Masonic cruises and coordinated other travel arrangements for Grand Lodge. Judi is the owner of JPS at your Leisure Travel, Inc. located in Brooklyn, NY.

**GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR BICENTENNIAL
JULY 22, 23, & 24, 2016 REGISTRATION FORM**

MARTHA WASHINGTON HOTEL: \$221.00 PER NIGHT

Fri ☐ Sat. ☐ Total _____

One Queen [] Two Twins []



REGISTRATION FEE \$50.00:

Includes favor, Journal, & hospitality suite _____ x \$50.00 _____

Name _____

Ladies _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____

Ph. _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp _____ Sec. code _____ Card

Name _____

**Judi is also supporting getting tickets and excursions to local attractions
please check your interest:**

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Macy's | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Lodge Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Statue of Liberty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cruise around Manhattan | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio City Music Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Lord & Taylor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tour of DeWitt Clinton Grave | <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Zero | <input type="checkbox"/> China town |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discovery Times Square | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Broadway shows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chelsea High Line | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Italy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum of Natural History | <input type="checkbox"/> Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum | |

Order of the Temple Candidates **MUST** register with SK Don Berry. PGC-NY KCT
Contact Don Berry's email: DJBERRY58@gmail.com

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 1, 2016

William Anderson Garrard, Jr.

department commander

Southwest Department

Sir Knight William A. Garrard, Jr. was born and raised in west Texas where he was a charter member of the Monahans DeMolay chapter. He graduated from Texas Tech University with two B.S. degrees in Economics and International Trade, moved to Arizona to attend Thunderbird Graduate School for International Management, served four years in the United States Army as a military intelligence officer with a combat tour in Vietnam and one tour in Germany, and returned to Phoenix to resume his graduate studies where he earned a masters of business administration from the University of Phoenix. He worked for a number of banks including MeraBank and Horizon Federal Credit Union, retiring as chief operating officer. He was director of economic planning for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community before finally retiring in 2005. Married to April Ross Garrard for forty-four



years, he has one son, Justin, whom he had the privilege to initiate, pass, and raise as a Master Mason when he was Worshipful Master of Arizona Lodge 2.

He holds memberships in Lodges 2, 3, and 72 and Arizona Research Lodge 1. He was initiated, passed, and raised a Master Mason in Arizona Lodge 2 in 1996 and has served as the worshipful master of Arizona Research Lodge 1 in 2008, Arizona Lodge 2 in 2002, and White Mountain Lodge 3 in 2008. He is a 32° KCCH Scottish Rite member and a member of El Zaribah Shrine.

Bill was exalted a Royal Arch Mason, greeted a Cryptic Mason, and knighted a Knight Templar in 1997. He has served as high priest, illustrious master, and eminent commander for each of the Phoenix york rite bodies; served as sovereign master of Sahuaro Council A.M.D. in 2008, governor of Regius College in 2012, and puissant sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine in 2014; and is a member of the H.R.A.K.T.P. He was grand high priest in 2010, grand commander in 2011, and currently serves as deputy grand master for the Grand Council in Arizona. Sir Knight Garrard was elected and served as the most worshipful grand master F.&A.M. in Arizona in 2013-14 and was awarded the Order of the Purple Cross in 2009, K.Y.G.C.H. 3rd quadrant in June of 2013, and K.C.T. in 2015. He was installed as the right eminent southwest department commander for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar U.S.A. at the 66th Triennial in Buffalo, New York, in August of 2015.



Knights



at the Bookshelf

By

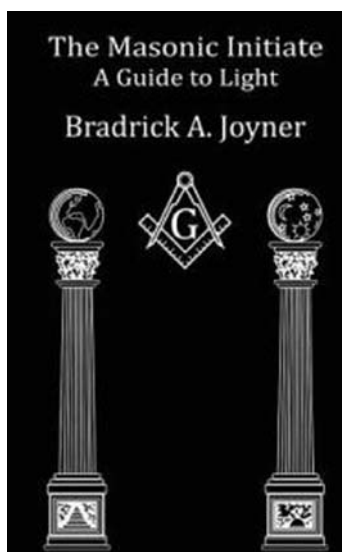
Sir Knight George Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT

Bradrick A. Joyner, *The Masonic Initiate: A Guide to Light*, CreateSpace Independent Publishing, ISBN-13:9781499280838, 2015.

This book is an instructional guide, not just useful for newly initiated Masons but for Masons of long standing as well. The author maintains that in modern Freemasonry, the deeper mystical meanings of the forms, symbols, and ceremonies are neglected to large extent. Internal self-study and contemplation of the true spiritual essence of ourselves and our relationship to the symbolic and esoteric aspects of the Craft is needful in order for us to receive the true benefits of the initiation process. The book presents in five chapters a discussion of the power of initiation, procedures and ceremonies, symbolism, practical Masonry, and Masonic meditation. Much of the meditation discussion is akin to the practice of yoga applied to the Masonic experience. Also, a theme suggesting the spirituality aspect of transcendental meditation runs like a motif throughout the book.

The book is not the easiest to read and understand, at least not with just one reading. A careful re-reading is almost obligatory in order to derive the maximum benefit. It must be stressed that the author is concerned not so much with mundane explanations of symbolism and ritual practices, but rather with individual contemplation and meditation of the ritual and our symbols as applied to their esoteric and spiritual implications upon our lives and conduct. For those Brothers who desire the tools for a deeper spiritual development available in Freemasonry, this book provides a practical and suitable vehicle for obtaining them.

In summary, the book is a short (118 pages) but decent read that overall does a nice job of encouraging further questions and deeper thought regarding the deeper aspects of the Masonic art.
knight templar



NEW LONDON

REGALIA & SWORD COMPANY

One Harmony Place • New London, OH 44851
1-800-634-8253 • FAX 419-929-0122

Call to request your free catalog.

We also do refurbishing - Contact us for more information

BELTS



CHAPEAU

SWORDS



For all your KT and Regalia needs
www.newlondonregalia.com

MAYO'S

1121 Broad St - Wesmark Plaza
Sumter, SC 29150

* Knights Templar Uniform - \$130

*Red Chapter Blazer - 3BTN \$80 /
2BTN \$150

*Purple Council Coat - \$80

*Tuxedos - \$130

Shoes - \$50



S&H \$15

By Phone: (803) 773-2262

Online: Mayosdiscountsuits.com

MILFORD COMMANDERY

No. II

Full Sir Knight
**SUMMER
UNIFORM**
\$185

Caps, brass &
accessories available
separately



All proceeds go to the
Knight Templar Eye Foundation

visit

www.milfordcommandery.com
store@milfordcommandery.com

508-482-0006

155 Main St., Milford, MA 01757



Beauceant News



Cleveland Assembly 15, Ohio welcomed Supreme Worthy President Mrs. Thomas R. Derby on the occasion of the official visit. Supreme Worthy Preceptress Ms. Kimberly Burnett also attended while Worthy President Mrs. Robert Robertson presided over this special meeting.



Supreme Worthy President Mrs. Thomas R. Derby was welcomed by Worthy President Mrs. Richard Goddard and other members of Warren Assembly 77, Ohio. Supreme Worthy Preceptress Ms. Kimberly Burnett was present for this official visit.

Western States Bicentennial Easter Observance March 25-27, 2016 Tempe, Arizona



Sunrise Service

Easter Morning Observance
Brunch to Follow
Benediction & Farewell After

Many Activities

Historic Downtown Tempe
Multicultural Restaurants
Botanical Gardens
Convenient Shopping
ASU University Area
!! GREAT WEATHER !!

Excellent Accommodations

Resort Hotel
Free Airport Shuttle
Free WiFi
Walking Distance to Downtown

Registration Deadlines

March 4th - Hotel Reservations
March 18th - Banquet and Brunch

<http://www.WSEO.us>



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

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. What a wonderful time of year for true believers, especially for each of us as Knights Templar, "Defenders of the Faith." I recollect that only a few short months ago we celebrated the majestic birth of our Lord and Savior, and now we prepare to embrace the season and reason for His coming, the sacrifice at Golgotha that changed our lives forever. In a few weeks, our Knights and their families and friends will gather on Sunday morning and proclaim to the world again, "HE IS RISEN; HE IS RISEN INDEED." This is only possible because God was truly faithful in giving us His only begotten Son...(John 3:16).

As I have travelled across our nation, I have been greatly impressed by the generosity of our members to our great philanthropy. By your faithful giving and support, you have truly put your faith into action and have continued the legacy of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. Our mission is not yet completed my beloved Sir Knights. There is still much more work to be done in the vineyards and the bountiful fruits of our labors to be harvested so that ALL MAY SEE.

The 48th Annual Voluntary Campaign is nearing its completion. I pray that your heart and spirit may be full of joy and happiness as we celebrate our achievements.

I will be sharing with you next month some exciting news regarding our second endowed professorship. This will be yet another historic moment in the advancement of pediatric ophthalmology.

On behalf of all of us here at the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, we wish all of you and your families a very Happy Easter.

HE IS RISEN; HE IS RISEN INDEED!!

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

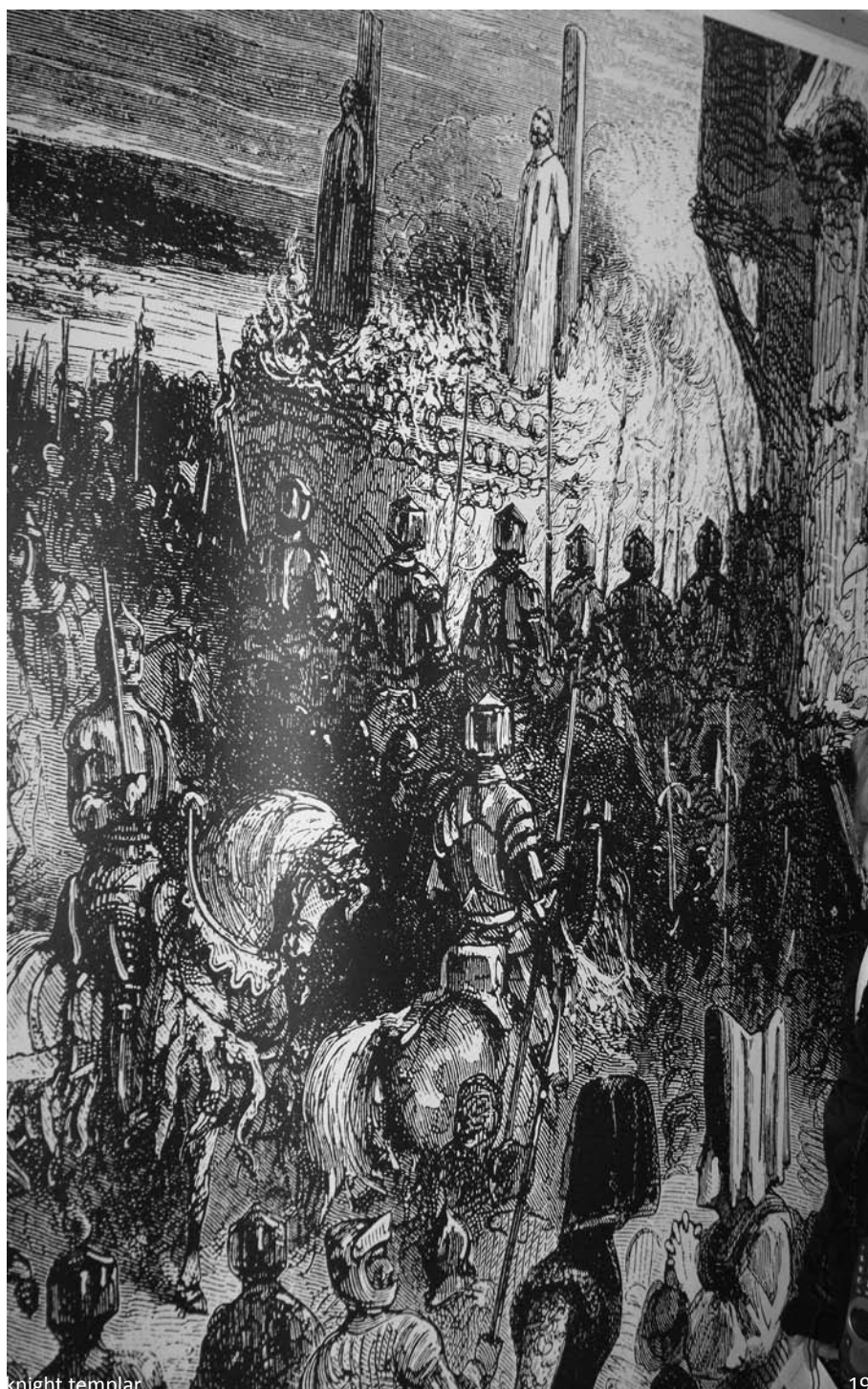


General Supplement

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 from
Commanderie
D'Arville in
France taken
by the editor.



NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

Lester R. Irvin.....	CA	David R. Patterson.....	CA
David W. Studley.....	CA	Hubert Sellers	GA
Michael J. Morris.....	MA/RI	Richard S. Butterfield	NM
A. Ray Hill.....	NM	Newell K. Barker.....	OK
John C. Brake	PA	Robert H. Wright	PA
John M. Laughlin	SD	Charles R. Ragsdale.....	TN
Michael H. Bigbee	TX	Carl E. Weaver.....	VA
Charles A. Hughes	WV	Steven D. Spencer	WV
M. David MacCallum	CA	James W. Green	GA
Glenn R. Weber	GA	Donald E. Harris	IA
Delbert W. Jackson, II	IA	Roger A. Jackson	IA
Stephen G. Libby	IA	Joseph J. Fourness.....	IL
James F. McGillivray.....	IL	Irvan Boeglin	IN
Joe F. Gust.....	IN	David F. D'Amato	MA/RI
Mark J. Sacco	MA/RI	James N. Karnegis	NE
John S. Geas.....	NH	David D. Goodwin	NY
Jonathan B. Trimble	OH	Donald P. Garrido	Panama
Rodney R. Rufe	PA	Darrell J. Dunn	TX
Robert W. Gregory.....	CO	Gilbert C. Ferrer	NY
Michael A. Himes	OH	Robert E. Keyser.....	PA
Ray K. Sheaffer.....	PA	Tom J. Collins.....	SC
Thomas H. McCandless.....	TN	H. Lee Arritt, Jr.....	VA

Grand Commander's Club

Billy R. Morris	AR	Rick Baccus.....	MA/RI
Sidney F. Putnam	ME	David C. Nenstiel.....	OH
C. Fred Harris.....	PA	William L. Newman, Jr.....	TX
Lawrence R. Whitehurst	VA	Lester C. Paulson.....	WI
Victor R. DeSantis	CA	George L. Masson.....	CA
M. David MacCallum	CA	Shane Purcell.....	CA
Clayton E. Linkous.....	FL	Eloy E. Diaz	GA
Mark A. Clark.....	IA	Richard A. Zummak	IA
Jay A. Leonard.....	ID	Robert J. Cepielik.....	IL
Marvin D. Kleinau	IL	Don R. Kimery	IN
Stephen O. Adekoya	MD	William F. Betz.....	MI
Thomas Pickett	MO	James P. Wolfe.....	MT
William B. Kimme	NE	Homer L. Puderbaugh	NE
Gerald E. Kocher	OH	Scott P. Porter	OH
R. Wesley Webber, Jr.	OH	James T. Hays, Jr.	PA
Stanley E. Snyder	PA	Edward W. Stenger	PA
Robert H. Wright	PA	Jerry A. Willard, Jr.....	SC
Jimmy C. Burr.....	TN	Howard E. Brandon	TX
James T. Bonner, Jr.....	CA	Joseph P. Giles	KY
Clyde H. Cox III.....	NC	Ray K. Sheaffer	PA
David S. Sterner.....	PA	Robert W. Bigley.....	TX
Charles B. Springer	TX		

History of the Knights Templar in the United States

By

Sir Knight Richard M. Kovak

No history of the Knights Templar as an organized Masonic body can be written without first setting aside the notion that there is a direct unbroken link between the Poor Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, officially disbanded by Pope Clement V in March of 1312, and modern Templar bodies. Likewise, the fantasy that Templars fleeing their general arrest in 1307 in France somehow managed to sail to America and form outposts of Templarism on the shores of Maine or Rhode Island before returning to England and Scotland with items, such as ears of corn and aloe leaves, both of which were unknown to Europe at the time, must also be shelved until proof more probative than the simple ornamentations found in Rosslyn chapel can be found.

The Rise Of Modern Knight Templarism

Modern Templarism originated in England, Scotland, and France in connection with the rise of organized Masonic lodges into their respective grand lodges. This phenomenon, the so-called Masonic renaissance, occurred as part of the Age of Enlightenment which swept Europe in the eighteenth century. During that period, it became fashionable, especially in France, to invent "higher" degrees beyond the three degrees of Craft Masonry. With the proliferation of degrees which this movement engendered came a resort to history, fanciful or real, to justify these degrees, their rituals, and symbols; a practice which is an anciently profound part of Masonic knight templar

tradition and heritage.

The most probable connection between the rise of modern Knights Templarism and Freemasonry came about through the Jacobites, those supporters of the Stuart would-be heir to the thrones of England and Scotland, James Francis Edward, facetiously called the Pretender, who fled to France after his defeat in Scotland in 1715. Many Jacobite exiles no doubt had previously belonged to Freemason lodges in England and Scotland. After the great reorganization of Freemasonry, starting with the putative Grand Lodge of London and Westminster (later to be renamed the Grand Lodge of England) in 1717, Freemasonry became a tour d'force in France led by the ecossais (Scotch) lodges founded by exiled Scots. One of these lodges was formed in Paris by Charles Radcliffe, Earl of Derwentwater, a Jacobite exile, in 1725. Another lodge was formed by John Coustos, an English lapidary, also in exile, in 1726. A third lodge, Louis l'Argent, was constituted in 1732 and probably was the one specifically warranted by the Grand Lodge of England as 90 at King's Head, Paris. The first Grand Lodge of France, Grand Loge Anglaise de France, was formed in 1733 with the Duc d'Anton as grand master. He presided until 1743 when the Comte de Clermont, prince of the royal blood, became grand master.

One of James Francis Edward's supporters was Scotsman Chevalier Andrew Michael Ramsay, a tutor of James' son, Charles Edward Stuart (the Young Pre-

tender). Ramsay, while in France, became a Mason in Louis l'Argent Lodge. Enamored with Freemasonry and its possibilities as a political force, Ramsay wrote and later delivered in 1737 his famous oration. In it, Chevalier Ramsay attempted to link crusader "Masons," specifically the Knights Hospitaller of St. John, with the rise of modern Freemasonry in England. Although most authorities debunk his lame attempt, it had great appeal for French aristocrats who shared a romantic and chivalrous attitude during the Enlightenment period. With interest rising in the chivalric aspect of Freemasonry, Ramsay or his adherents, possibly one Pierre Lambert, in the late 1730's and early 1740's, developed a series of "higher" Masonic degrees to augment the three craft degrees conferred in French lodges at the time. Ramsay constructed a rite of seven degrees. One of Ramsay's degrees, the sixth, was called Knight Templar or Knight of the Temple. During a visit to Scotland, he is said to have conferred his "high" degrees and created Knights Templar there. His order had a military aspect to it that is said to have been approved by Charles as a role model for a possible core of militants who would aid his return to Scotland. Nevertheless, his "high" degrees were the models if not the sources for Templar orders from then on.

In 1754, the Chevalier de Bonneville established a chapter of the advanced "high" degrees at Paris in premises owned by the College of Jesuits at Clermont, a known asylum for Jacobite supporters. His system became known as the Rite of Perfection or Rite of Heredom and consisted of twenty-five degrees. Following Ramsay's lead, the distinguishing princi-

ple of these degrees was that they were derived from ancient Templarism. The Chapter of Clermont gave rise four years later to the Council of Emperors of the East and West which in turn became the forerunner of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

In 1754 Baron Karl Gotthelf von Hund und Altengrotkau, who had been initiated into Ramsay's orders, became a Knight Templar in 1743, later was initiated into the Clermont degrees in Paris probably in 1754, and started a rite in Germany called the Rite of Strict Observance. His rite consisted of seven degrees which ritual he claimed to have received from the reconstituted Templar order in 1743 in Paris. Von Hund claimed to have met two "unknown superiors" of this Rite (later identified as Charles Edward Stuart and the Earl of Kilmarnock, a Jacobite supporter) and received the degrees from them. The rite contained a sixth degree known as Knight Templar, possibly the one crafted by Ramsay. After much dissension in the ranks of German Freemasons over competing rites and orders, the rite dissolved in 1782 soon after von Hund's death in 1776.

Although many Masonic authorities hold differing opinions about this, it is still confirmed by records that a form of a Templar order was occasionally conferred in England, Scotland, and Ireland during the mid 1700's and that encampments were formed at London, York, Bristol, and Salisbury. Most of these encampments were connected to existing Masonic lodges. Whether Ramsay's degree system was carried to England and Scotland by Jacobites or whether the English, Irish, and Scots developed other forms of the Knight Templar orders is still being explored by historians.

Another source, Lt. Col. W. J. B. MacLeod Moore, supreme grand master ad vitam of the Sovereign Grand Priory of Canada, stated in one of his annual allocutions on Freemasonry that "Templarism was first introduced into the British Empire in the Masonic lodges known as the Ancients under the duke of Athol, grand master of Scotland, sometime in the eighteenth century, and that in about 1780 the Templar order was merged into the Masonic system following the Royal Arch in the sequence of additional degrees."

In Scotland, Mother Kilwinning Lodge of Scotland issued a charter in 1769 to Kilwinning Masonic Lodge of Dublin which authorized the conferring of the Knight Templar order. Therefore, the order must have been in existence and conferred in Scotland before that date. There is anecdotal evidence that military organizations in Scotland and Ireland at that time possessed a similar order.

In Ireland, the High Knights Templar of Ireland Lodge obtained a craft charter in 1779 from Mother Lodge Kilwinning in Scotland and thereafter began to confer the Knight Templar order and to grant dispensations to other Templar lodges. Around 1790, the early Grand Encampment of Ireland was formed, eventually evolving into the Supreme Grand Encampment of Ireland in 1836.

The early Grand Encampment of Ireland also chartered several Scottish encampments, including Edinburgh Encampment 31, chartered in 1805, which became the General Assembly of Knights Templar in Edinburgh.

The Grand Assembly of Knights Templar later obtained a second charter from the Duke of Kent, then grand master of the order in England. By 1780, the knight templar

Templar order had become a part of the degree system in London and also in York. Of the eight known encampments in England at the time, the most senior were the Encampment Redemption at York and the Baldwin Encampment at Bristol. On June 2, 1791, the first Grand Conclave in England took place in London with Thomas Dunckerly as grand master. Under Dunckerly's leadership, the number of encampments grew until his death in 1795. In 1805 when the Duke of Kent became grand master, the growth of Knight Templar Masonry in the United Kingdom was assured.

Knight Templarism Comes to North America

Some authors have felt confident that Knight Templarism most probably came to America through the various British military lodges stationed in the colonies and possibly the Canadian territories. Yet the record of the presence of these British military lodges in the Colonies dates only from September 30, 1768, when they arrived in Boston, Massachusetts. There is little doubt that these traveling military lodges were populated mainly by Irish and Scottish soldiers who probably had great familiarity with Royal Arch masonry and Knight Templarism from their native lodges. However, it appears that Royal Arch masonry and thereby Knight Templarism existed in a few lodges prior to the British military presence. Although some authors believe that William Davis was the first Knight Templar created in America, it may only be that he was the first identified Knight Templar created here of which we have a record. The earliest record found to date is the minute book record entry of St. Andrews Royal Arch Lodge of Boston dated August 28,

1769. However, St. Andrew's Lodge also has records which demonstrate that it had previously applied for and shortly thereafter received a sanction or warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland (an Antients or Atholl grand lodge which championed the Royal Arch degrees) in October of 1762 to act as a lodge of Antients. Records confirm that St. Andrews Lodge received its warrant 82 from the Grand Lodge of Scotland on St. Andrews Day, November 30, 1765, and denominated itself as St. Andrew's Royal Arch Lodge. Most likely this was a craft warrant, but St. Andrew's probably felt that it could confer both the craft degrees as well as a form of the Royal Arch degrees as did many of the warranted lodges in Scotland and Ireland. As a comparison, it should be noted that Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia, though not chartered as a Royal Arch lodge or chapter, had been conferring Royal Arch degrees on its members since 1753 on the basis of its craft charter from the Provincial Grand Priory of the Colonies. Records show that on December 22, 1753, Fredericksburg Lodge conferred the Royal Arch degree on three candidates; Daniel Campbell, Robert Hatherston, and Alex C. Wodrons. Unfortunately, the record is silent as to what the degree consisted of and whether it might have included an aspect of the Order of the Temple. The conferral of Royal Arch degrees in those times in Virginia and elsewhere in the Colonies, as will be demonstrated below, could well have consisted of communicating the four higher degrees known at that time in the Colonies; Excellent Master, Super Excellent Master, Royal Arch, and Knight Templar.

So it can be read from the minutes of St. Andrew's Lodge for the date of Au-

gust 28, 1769, the minute entry that "the petition of Brother William Davis coming before the lodge to have and receive the parts belonging to a Royal Arch Mason, which being read, was received, and he was unanimously voted in and was accordingly made by receiving the four steps, that of Excellent, Super-Excellent, Royal Arch, and Knight Templar." The minutes of St. Andrews go on to confirm that two more Masons, Samuel Sumner and John DaCosta, four days later on September 1, 1769, received the four Degrees of a Royal Arch Mason.

Further records of this lodge show that on December 11, 1769, Brother Paul Revere was voted in and subsequently became an "Arch Mason," receiving the Knight Templar order along with the other Royal Arch degrees previously mentioned, and that between 1769 and 1794, more than fifty candidates received the Order of the Temple as Arch Masons at St. Andrew's Royal Arch Lodge. Interestingly, from 1794 on, there is no further mention of a Knight Templar order in any of the records of St. Andrew's. Could that order have been taken over and conferred by an early ersatz commandery or encampment?

Michael Kaulback and others have researched the British military lodges and found at least three to have been working degrees in America during this time frame. These are Glittering Star Lodge 322 with a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Antients in Ireland, British Army Lodge 58 with a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and British Army Lodge 106 with a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. All were located in and around the Boston area and came with British regiments which arrived in the Boston area on September 30, 1768.

Records indicate that the brethren who conferred the degrees on Davis in 1769 were most probably members of Glittering Star 322. For example, James Brown, the royal arch master of St. Andrews, was the master of Glittering Star 322, and Charles Chambers, the senior warden of St. Andrews, was also the senior warden of Glittering Star 322. It is a matter of record that several members of British Army Lodge 58 were also in attendance, including one William McMullen. It may be conceded that these British military Royal Arch Masons probably had a much better grasp of the ritual for the conferral of these degrees, and that is why they were allowed to confer the degrees on Davis and others in America. Kaulback suggests that the conferrers of the Knight Templar order probably learned their craft in Canada at a Royal Arch Lodge in Halifax where Glittering Lodge 322 had been stationed before being ordered to go to Boston.

Further records of St. Andrews Lodge show that Dr. Joseph Warren received the Knight Templar order on May 14, 1770. He later became grand master of Masons in Massachusetts and died fighting the British at the Battle of Breeds Hill, sometimes mistakenly called the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Formation of Encampments

Once the Order of the Temple became established in Royal Arch lodges or chapters, encampments, following the precedent set in England, began to be formed in America for the sole purpose of conferring the order apart from the Royal Arch degrees. There is a firm record of an encampment of Knights Templar existing in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1782 and conferring the knighthood knight templar

orders. Similar encampments were established in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, and South Carolina. There is some dispute among historians as to the timing of the formation of these encampments. Although both Pennsylvania and New York claim precedence in time, South Carolina has a strong claim to being one of the first encampments.

Albert G. Mackey was convinced that an encampment as a regularly organized body existed in Charleston, South Carolina, as early as 1783. He points to the Beaumont diploma issued by the "Most Holy and Invincible Order of Knights Templar of St. Andrews Lodge No. 1" (of Florida, and later of South Carolina) to Sir Henry Beaumont dated August 1, 1783.

Whether in fact this is proof positive that an encampment existed at this time or was simply a commandery or preceptory of Knights Templar operating under the warrant of a craft lodge and conferring an Order of the Temple remains a topic of discussion, but there is no doubt that encampments did exist in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York during the last two decades of the 18th century. Among them were Philadelphia Encampment 1 (1794), Philadelphia 2 (1795), Carlisle Encampment in Pennsylvania (1796), Washington Encampment 1 in Connecticut (1796), and Montgomery and Temple Encampments in New York (1796, 1799). Several more encampments were formed in the first decade of the nineteenth century, most prominently at Boston in 1806 and St. John's Encampment at Providence, Rhode Island, in 1802.

According to Templar history author Stanley C. Warner, the next important

step was the formation of grand encampments in these states. Again, according to Warner and Scully, the first grand encampment was organized at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in May of 1797, consisting of four constituent encampments; two in Philadelphia, one at Carlisle, and one at Harrisburg. It was short lived, revived from 1814-1824, and revived again in 1852 but was always subject to the authority of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. It was not until 1857 that it became part of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

In 1805, a grand encampment was organized at Providence, Rhode Island, and was denominated the Grand Encampment of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. It is important because the same persons who helped organize it, Thomas Smith Webb and Henry Fowle, were those who later organized the Grand Encampment of the United States in 1816 in New York City. Webb had prior Masonic organizational experience from his key participation in the formation of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in January of 1798.

In January of 1814, a grand encampment was organized in New York City, New York. Its first conclave was held on June 18, 1814, at which the organizational action of January in 1814 was ratified, and DeWitt Clinton, governor of the state of New York, was elected grand master. He served in that post for fourteen years and later become the sovereign grand master of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

Several encampments were operating in the state of New York at the time of the founding of the New York Grand Encampment, including The Old Encampment of New York City, Jerusalem

Encampment in the city of New York, Montgomery Encampment in Stillwater, Temple Encampment in Albany, New York City St. Peters Encampment, and New York City Rising Sun Encampment.

General Grand Encampment

By 1816, there were three state grand encampments; New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts/Rhode Island and isolated encampments working in South Carolina, Maryland, and Connecticut. Two prominent members of the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Grand Encampment, Thomas Smith Webb and Henry Fowle, saw the need for the creation of a national or general grand encampment and called a meeting of grand encampment representatives to a convention held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 11, 1816. Delegates from all three grand encampments met and discussed the need to organize a grand encampment of the United States. From Massachusetts came Webb and Fowle. New York sent Thomas Lowndes. John Snow came from Providence, Rhode Island. Pennsylvania sent four delegates; William McCordle, A. Hamilton, Benjamin Edes, and Alphonso Ireland, but according to the proceedings of this convention, opposition developed from the Pennsylvania delegates who refused to concur in a proposed constitution and who sought to retain their own ritual, in particular the succession of degrees which preceded the Order of the Temple, customs, and powers of government. Undoubtedly, these delegates were influenced by pressure from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania under whose authority they operated their encampments.

Since agreement among the grand

encampments' delegates could not be achieved, the convention dispersed and was adjourned to New York City. Webb, Fowle, and Snow stopped there and together with the representative of the New York Grand Encampment, Thomas Lowndes, organized the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States on June 21, 1816. No representatives of the Pennsylvania Grand Encampment came to New York for this convention. Nonetheless, the grand encampment representatives of New York and Massachusetts/Rhode Island forged ahead and created the General Grand Encampment which survives to this day as the Grand Encampment of the United States. New York Governor Dewitt Clinton was elected the first grand master of Grand Encampment and served as such throughout the first three conclaves. Shortly afterward, the Grand Encampment bodies of New York and Massachusetts/Rhode Island ratified this action and made such changes in their respective constitutions as were necessary to promote a uniform handling of ritual and customs. Once the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania was released from its bondage to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1857, it too ratified the action of the General Grand Encampment and came under its jurisdiction .

A thorough review of the history of General Grand Encampment and Knight Templarism in the United States since 1816 is well beyond the scope of this modest paper. However, the major periods of that history can be broken down into the categories furnished us in the official History of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

knight templar

Period of Organization 1816-1826

These first few years of the General Grand Encampment of the United States (later to become Grand Encampment of the United States) were spent in organizing and constituting grand encampments in the various states. Pennsylvania would not acquiesce until 1856, but by 1826, six other grand encampments; New Hampshire, Vermont, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia; joined Massachusetts/Rhode Island and New York to make a total of eight grand encampments owing allegiance to the General Grand Encampment. Dewitt Clinton remained grand master through the first three general conclaves but did not live to chair the fourth. That honor went to Sir Knight Jonathan Nye. At the second conclave in 1819, a resolution was proposed, reducing the number of years between conclaves from seven years to three. Seven years later at the 1826 third general conclave the resolution passed and resulted in the triennial format which exists to this day. Also, at the third general conclave, eleven new subordinate encampments had been formed and charters of recognition had been given to six more. Knight Templarism had begun to spread in an organized fashion.

Period of Anti-Masonic Activity 1826-1835

Unfortunately, the Morgan Affair stymied the growth of Knight Templarism as well as the growth of Masonry in general in the United States. In 1826, William Morgan, after being rejected for membership in a local lodge in Batavia, New York, threatened to publish his exposé of Masonry through a local newspaper publisher, David Cade Miller. Before

publication, he was arrested for debt and jailed. Someone paid his bail, and he was released from jail. Shortly afterward, he disappeared. Masons in Batavia, New York, were accused of kidnapping him and sending him to his demise in the Niagara River. Three Masons of that lodge, Loton Lawon, Nicholas Chesboro, and Edward Sawyer were arrested, charged, and convicted of his kidnapping, but received relatively light sentences since a charge of murder could not be proved. The incident gave rise to the formation of the Anti-Masonic political party in the United States, organized by a New York politician, Thurlow Weed. The party became strong enough to field a candidate for the Presidency of the United States in 1828 to run against Andrew Jackson, a well known Mason. This wave of anti-Masonic feeling which swept the country at that time caused many Masons to either disavow or renounce their affiliation with any Masonic order. As can be imagined, few encampments were able to soldier on as usual. Recruitment had precipitously fallen off, and those hearty souls brave enough to attend a Masonic meeting of any kind did so in secrecy. Only fourteen Knights attended the fifth general conclave in 1829, and there were only nineteen knights present at the sixth conclave in 1832.

Although Jackson easily won election, the anti-masonic hysteria continued to plague Masonry until 1832 when Jackson, a Mason and a war hero, won re-election, and the Anti-Masonic Party faded from the national stage as did the public brouhaha over the Morgan Affair. Masonry and Knight Templarism would soon rise from the shadows of false accusations and political fodder to become a national fraternal force in the United States.

Period of Expansion 1835-1856

During these years, Knight Templarism continued to grow. Encampments were formed and recognized by the General Grand Encampment in several states including California in 1850, extending Knight Templarism from the Atlantic to the Pacific for the first time. The shadow cast by the Morgan Affair was now so dissipated that at the eleventh conclave held in Boston in 1850, a public procession of Knights Templar was held, marching from the Masonic hall to the public lecture room where the general grand master was installed. In 1851 a controversy over the legitimacy of the Grand Encampment of Virginia was amicably resolved. In 1853, the Grand Encampment of California was formed. With Templarism on the rise throughout the country, concern was now given to regulate the ritual and make the work uniform throughout the country. Exemplifications of the proper work had been given at conclaves to allow representatives from the various subordinate encampments to see how it was supposed to be done and to obtain correct copies of the approved work. Sir Knight Isaac Davis was delegated by Grand Encampment to carry the correct work to California and wound up becoming the first grand master of the Grand Encampment of California.

Period of Revision 1856-1862

The major development in Knight Templarism during this period was the revision of and amendments to the original 1816 constitution. The subjects addressed by the amendments pertained to three major areas of concern; uniform or dress, ritual or work, and

discipline. Grand encampments were now to be referred to as grand commanderies and their subordinate organizations as commanderies. The General Grand Encampment was now the only grand encampment. Uniform dress was a major concern, and the following Article (although long since changed at the present time) was proposed and adopted in 1859:

"Article 1. The costume of a Knight Templar shall consist of a full suit of black, dress coat and pantaloons, white cravat, black gloves, boots and gilt spurs, and over all a white surcoat, on the left breast of which shall be embroidered a red cross; an undress military cap, and on front a templar cross; a cross hilted sword, the scabbard of black leather suspended from a black velvet or leather baldric, a short dagger on the left side, a black velvet apron of a triangular form having on the center a patriarchal cross and on the flap a skull and cross bones, all in silver. The edging of the apron and collars shall be of gold for grand bodies and of silver for subordinate commanderies."

A *Digest of Decisions* was prepared which became the basis for the *Code of Decisions* of 1871 and *Code of Statutes* of 1874. A history of the order was commissioned and resulted in a history book produced by T. S. Gourdin and Albert Mackey. In 1858, the first exchange of representatives of this General Grand Encampment and a foreign independent Knight Templar organization, in this instance the Supreme Grand Conclave of knight templar

Knights Templar of England and Wales, took place. At the fourteenth conclave in 1859, a uniform code of bylaws for subordinate commanderies was adopted, as well as ceremonies for the installation of officers and a burial service of the order. A committee was formed to prepare a uniform system of tactics which would later be adopted at a succeeding conclave.

Period of Civil Strife and Reconstruction 1862-1874

The outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 made it impossible to hold the fifteenth conclave which should have occurred in 1862 in Memphis, Tennessee. Instead, a special conclave was held in New York City, moving the meeting place to New York for the triennial of 1862. At that conclave, only representatives of northern states' grand commanderies were present due to the exigencies of the war. However, it should be noted that only a few southern states grand commanderies had actually renounced their allegiance to the Grand Encampment. In 1865 at the sixteenth conclave, all renouncing grand commanderies were extended an olive branch of peace, welcoming them back into the fold. New grand commanderies had sprung up in Iowa and in Louisiana despite the war. By now, the conclaves were being attended by thousands of Sir Knights, and the spectacle of processions in public was growing. At the eighteenth conclave in Baltimore, Maryland, a great procession of several hundred Sir Knights, divided into twelve divisions, was organized under the command of Civil War veteran James M. Anderson. Baltimore Commandery 2 offered a beautiful liba-

tion service as a prize for the best drilled company in the procession, which was won by Detroit Commandery 1. This event appears to have been the beginning of the drill competitions which became a hallmark of subsequent conclaves. The question of tactics and drill was resolved with Welch's manual being adopted as the *Manual of Tactics for the inside Tactics of Subordinate Commanderies*. New grand commanderies appeared in Nebraska, Arkansas, and the new state of West Virginia. At the conclave of 1874, a dispute over uniforms was resolved with a compromise. Commanderies which had purchased and been using the old black uniforms could keep them, but new commanderies and those replacing their uniforms had to wear the new white uniform. A code of statutes was adopted, but inclusion of the cryptic degrees as a prerequisite to knighthood was again rejected.

Period of Growth 1874-1916

The aftermath of the Civil War left many men with a desire to associate with other men in peaceful ways as well as retaining a modicum of the fellowship and camaraderie which developed for many of them when serving in the military during the war. Masonry and Knight Templarism became popular conduits for this desire. The order of knighthood expanded throughout the country. Whereas in 1874 there were thirty grand commanderies, by the time of the 100th anniversary of the Grand Encampment in 1916, there were forty-seven. The number of Knights enrolled in United States commanderies rose from 48,104 in 1874 to 230,261 in 1916. Alaska, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the Philippine Islands, and Mexico were added to the growing

list of grand and subordinate commanderies. The 100th anniversary of Grand Encampment was celebrated during the thirty-third Conclave held at the Scottish Rite temple in Los Angeles, California. Since the Great War had started in Europe, a sum of \$5,000 was voted by the members attending for the Masonic war relief effort.

Period of Maturity 1916-1949

The entry of the United States into the Great War temporarily slowed the spread of Templarism in America. Despite the war though, a grand commandery was formed in Nevada in 1918. Membership peaked nationwide in 1927 with a total of 453,836 Sir Knights in 1,695 commanderies. The financial crash of 1929 and the economic downturn which followed halted further growth and eroded the ranks of many commanderies whose members felt they could no longer afford the dues and uniform upkeep and quite reasonably were more concerned with economic survival than with social fraternity. A low in membership of 219,368 Sir Knights in 1,576 commanderies was reached in 1943. However, following the successful conclusion of World War II, another surge in the membership rolls of Masonry and Knight Templarism occurred, similar to the period which followed the Civil War era. Starting in 1944, the ranks of Knight Templarism began to rise again with the prospect of a fraternal society with a military appearance and bearing appealing to all those returning GIs, but the outstanding event of this period occurred at the thirty-fifth conclave held at New Orleans in 1922. Grand Master Joseph K. Orr was finally able to convince the representatives to organize and es-

establish the Knights Templar Educational Loan Fund (later the Foundation). The plan was adopted by Grand Encampment at this conclave and the Foundation has since been used to support the educational aspirations of many tens of thousands of students.

Period of Consolidations 1949-1961

The ranks of Knights Templar in the United States continued to swell throughout the post World War II era. The onset of the Cold War and the economic prosperity of the 1950s combined in separate ways to cause this increase in membership. On the one hand, involvement in a military style fraternity gave older veterans and newer recruits a sense of security and solidity that other social organizations could not. On the other hand, most men now had a certain amount of economic freedom to pursue social avenues of friendship in a post war society which lauded its military heritage and recent accomplishments on the world stage. Knight Templarism in the United States reached a post war high in 1960 with 398,564 Sir Knights in 1,627 commanderies. It was at the forty-sixth conclave in 1955 that the Knights Templar Eye Foundation was started. Initially requested as a resolution to establish Knight Templar eye hospitals to do medical work on people's eyes as the Shriners' hospitals were doing for children's orthopedic problems, it was changed to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to make it more economically feasible to support. The foundation would provide coverage for appropriate medical care for diseases and injuries to the eyes of children and for research into problems and diseases of the eye.

Period of Declining Membership 1961-1970

As with Masonry in general, the ranks of Knights Templar started to decline from 1961 onward. Although hardly noticeable at first and thought of by many Masonic leaders as a temporary phenomenon, the attraction of Masonry and the organizations based upon membership in the craft lodges of Freemasonry never regained their preeminence as the foremost fraternal societies in the United States. Even the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine suffered this membership decline, although their ranks continued to rise until 1979 when that organization suffered a similar fate of declining membership. Likewise, membership in the Scottish Rite, both the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions, fell precipitously from the 1960s onward to the present time. Nevertheless, activity within subordinate commanderies, state grand commanderies and Grand Encampment remained strong during this period. Ritual had been very much stabilized, and the one remaining problem was how to control the reproduction of the ritual books. Disputes over proper uniforms and dress continued to plague Grand Encampment, but it was finally decided by majority vote at the forty-fifth conclave in 1952 that the head gear for conferral of the Order of the Temple was the plumed chapeau, although fatigue caps could be worn for most other occasions.

Period of Economic Inflation 1970-1982

The rise of economic inflation in the United States during this period caused several problems in Grand Encampment and its constituent grand and subordinate commanderies. Inflation, which by

the end of 1969 was at a rate of six percent, rose throughout this decade to a high of almost twenty percent by 1979. To cover the increased costs of doing business and supporting the Educational Loan Foundation and the Eye Foundation generated by the rising rate of inflation, Grand Encampment increased the per capita charged to all commanderies at each succeeding conclave during this period. Since these per capita increases occurred during a time of declining membership, some have speculated that a round robin effect happened with members dropping out due to the increased per capita cost and the per capita having to be periodically increased to cover the loss of participating members. Whether this was true or not, this period was marked by a decline in overall membership of over 40,000 members from 379,000 in 1969 to 338,493 in 1982.

Period of Further Decline in Membership 1982-Present

Unfortunately, the decades of the 80s, 90s, and 00s were not kind to Knight Templarism. Membership continued to decline, highlighted by an eye-popping drop of 11,596 members in 1992. The reason for this drop in membership is still not fully explained, and there may have been a reporting error by the number crunchers of Grand Encampment. Nonetheless, total membership through 2012, the last date for which accurate membership numbers are available, is down to a little over 106,000 Sir Knights, approximately the same number of members as Grand Encampment had in 1895 when Knight Templarism was on its meteoric rise to almost a half million members. Despite the waning membership numbers, Delaware finally achieved

its grand commandery in 1992. Today there are 1,153 constituent commanderies and fifty-one grand commanderies in the United States. There are dozens more constituent commanderies and several grand commanderies in other lands under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States most recently in Panama, Romania, and Togo.

The Present Status of Knight Templarism

Knight Templarism continues to flourish among the present membership. Its principles, aims, and achievements are lauded not only by its members but by society at large. No one can dispute the profound effect that the charitable and philanthropic activities of its Eye Foundation and Educational Loan Foundation have had, nor of its Holy Land Pilgrimage support for ministers and its Christmas and Easter observances, the latter for quite some time having been broadcast nationally by NBC. Yet why has not the Knight Templarism of Grand Encampment succeeded more forcefully than it has? Other organizations based upon the history and legends of the original Knights Templar seem to have growing membership lists.

The reasons for its apparent stagnation in Freemasonry are manifold and once again beyond the scope of this paper, but the onset of social change, starting with the many rights movements in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, the introduction of social media distractions, the use of personal electronic devices to amuse oneself and to communicate with others without the necessity of face to face interaction, and the rise of other social organizations which have in large part displaced the need for the Masonic form of charity and philanthropy which

attracted so many men in the past are all culprits in the present world's apathy toward Freemasonry and Knight Templarism. Many of course, admire these organizations and their endeavors, but few wish to join and actively participate when all these other avenues of male companionship, charitable contribution, and social interaction exist.

The sixty-sixth conclave of Grand Encampment was held in Buffalo, New York in August of 2015, and a special event in 2016 will mark the 200th Anniversary of Grand Encampment. These events and their attendant publicity should spark a renewed interest in Knight Templarism in the United States and hopefully provide a basis for increased membership recruiting and development.

Summary

From the evolution of the Order of the Temple in Europe in the 1730s and 1740s through the introduction of Knight Templarism in the Colonies via self proclaimed Royal Arch chapters and British military lodges and the formation of Grand Encampment in 1816, Knight Templarism in the United States has become an integral way of life for many American Masons in society. Disputes over ritual, uniform, and discipline having been amicably overcome, Knights Templar in the United States have gone on to form prodigious charitable and philanthropic feats through their Knights Templar Educational Foundation and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Although growth of new constituent and grand commanderies in the Grand Encampment of the United States was slow throughout the nineteenth century, primarily because of the Morgan Affair, the Anti-Masonic Party era, and the Civil

War, Knight Templarism jumped into national prominence during the post Civil War era. The Great War and World War II both temporarily slowed the development of Knight Templarism in America, but the proliferation of constituent commanderies and grand commanderies continued until there are now fifty-one grand commanderies and over 1,500 local constituent commanderies in the United States. Numerous grand commanderies, subordinate commanderies, and affiliated constituent commanderies now exist in several other countries under the jurisdiction of Grand Encampment. Membership may have declined over the last several decades, but enthusiasm and support among present members is as fervent as it has ever been.

Thus, although the spread of Templarism in the United Kingdom, in the United States, and elsewhere cannot be directly linked to those brave soldier monks of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries, yet their charismatic examples, ideals, and heroic efforts have proven to be both inspiration and encouragement for the Knights Templar of today's world.

©Richard M. Kovak 2014. All rights reserved.

This article was originally published in Vol 20, *Transactions*, a publication of the Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research 281.

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.

End Notes

- Papal Bull, *Vox In Excelso*, March 22, 1312, The Vatican Archives; see the actual language used by Pope Clement V at www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vox_in_excelso.
- Cooper, R.L.D., *The Rosslyn Hoax?*, Lewis Masonic (2006).
- De Hoyos, *Light on Masonry*, Introduction at pp. 20-21 Scottish Rite Research Society Washington, D.C. (2008).
- See for example the fantastic histories of the origin of freemasonry and its degrees offered by Dr. James Anderson in *Anderson's Constitutions* of 1723 and 1738 reprinted by Kessinger Publishing ISBN 0-7661-0073-1 and 0-7661-3361-3.
- Stevenson, D., *The First Freemasons-Scotland's Early Lodges and their Members*, The Grand Lodge of Scotland (2001).
- McGregor, Martin I., A Biographical Sketch of Chevalier Andrew Michael Ramsay, Pietre-Stones Review of Freemasonry, www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/ramsay (Paper first delivered at the research Lodge of Southland No. 415, August 14, 2007).
- Mackey, Albert G., Hund, Baron Von, in *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Masonry*, McClure, Phil., PA (1916).
- Attributed to Lt. Col. W.J.B. MacLeod Moore in one of his annual allocutions before the Grand Priory of Canada. See Warner, Stanley C., A Short History of the Early Days of Templarism, www.TemplarHistory.com, April 1, 2010. Kaulback, Michael, The First Knight Templars in the United States, *The Transactions* vol. 107 (1994); www.knightstemplar.org/articles/guitex28.html; Warner.
- Denslow, R. and Turnbull, E., *History of Royal Arch Masonry*, Vol. I, Anchor Communications, Highland Springs VA (1956) at pp. 194-195.
- Kaulback, Denslow/Turnbull, p. 194. See also. Gould, R.F., *Military Lodges* (1920)
- See Warner and Kaulback; Denslow/Turnbull, p. 213.
- Mackey, Albert G., *History of Freemasonry in South Carolina* (1866).
- Scully. Francis, *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America*, Wm Mitchell Printing Co., Greenfield, IN (1952) at pp. 49-59.
- Robertson, J. Ross, *History of the Knights Templars of Canada*, Hunter, Ross & Co., Toronto (1890).
- History of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar State of New York, www.grand-commanderyktny.org/history.html.
- Scully; Baird, Jacob, C., and the Committee on Knights Templar History, *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United states*, Book II, Mitchell Fleming Printing Co. Greenfield, IN (1999).
- The Morgan Affair has been written up by numerous authors, both Masonic and non-Masonic. For a quick but thorough review see the article in the online encyclopedia, Wikipedia under the title, Morgan Affair, www.wikipedia.com/MorganAffair
- Personal conversation with Grand Recorder of Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United Sates, Sir Knight Lawrence E. Tucker, right eminent grand recorder January, 2014.

The proliferation of both Masonic and non-Masonic organizations based upon the Knights Templar history and/or legends appears to be growing. For example. See the Order of the Solar Temple, Militi Templi Scotia, Ordo Templi Orientis, the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple, the Order of DeMolay, Knights Templar of the USA. Even a Mexican drug cartel has taken the name Knights Templar.

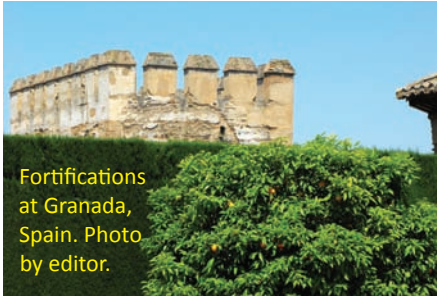
REFERENCES:

- 1.Denslow, Raymond V. and Turnbull, Everett R., *A History of Royal Arch Masonry*, Vols. 1-3, Anchor Communications, Highland Springs, VA, orig. publication 1956, reprinted 1993.
- 2.Williams, J.M., Peacher, W.G., and Wood Jr., R.E., *A History of Royal Arch Masonry*, Vol. 4, Anchor Communications, Highland Springs, VA, 1996.
- 3.Denslow, R.V., and Hunt, C.C., *A History of the Cryptic Rite*, Vols. 1-2, E.E. Hunt, R.V. Denslow, C.C. Hunt, Gen. Grand Council, R&SM, USA, Tacoma, WA, orig. publication 1931, reprinted 2012, Literary Licensing, LLC.

Sir Knight Richard M. Kovak is past commander of Seattle Commandery 2 in Washington state. He resides at 2930 S. Camano Dr., Camano Island, WA 98282, and can be contacted at silverjet87@yahoo.com.

Bicentennial Celebration Malta Jewel Now Available From the Grand Encampment

These Malta Jewels maybe ordered in bulk by your Commandery Recorder from the Grand Encampment office. They will be available through December of this year, and the cost is \$25 each.



IN MEMORIAM



Joseph Cortez
Arizona

Grand Commander 2008
Born: November 19, 1944
Died: December 21, 2015

knight templar



Knight Templar
5909 West Loop South, Suite 495
Bellaire, TX 77401-2402

...He is my
refuge and my
fortress: my
God; in Him
I will trust.
Psalms 91:2

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Knightsstown, IN
Permit No. 8



D'Arville
Commandery
in France
taken by the
editor.