



# Knight Templar

VOLUME LXII

APRIL 2016

NUMBER 4

AN EXCLUSIVE WATCH AT A REMARKABLE PRICE - JUST \$99\* (Save \$80!)

# THE YORK RITE PRECISION CHRONOGRAPH WATCH

Featuring Three Calibrated Sub-Dials and York Rite Emblem



Actual Size of Watch Dial is 1.75" in Diameter

YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO OWN THIS YORK RITE CHRONOGRAPH WATCH

Our unique watch dial, crowned by the symbols of our York Rite Bodies, is minted like a fine coin in contrasting silver & black enamel. State of the Art Timekeeping features include:

- Precision Chronograph sub-dials measure 1/10 seconds, full seconds & up to 60 minutes. Pushbuttons provide easy start/stop operations.
- Quartz technology for accuracy & dependability.
- Impressive 45.0 mm diameter case, rotating bezel, scratch-resistant optically clear crystal - water-resistant to 3ATM (100 ft.). Light-activated luminous hands.
- Rugged yet flexible all-weather Polyurethane band.
- Assembled and customized exclusively for Masonic Partners by an American Company renowned for custom timepieces since 1944.
- Case back engraved with your initials & year you became a York Rite Mason. Presented in a York Rite tin gift box.

TJS  
2005

- Remarkably priced at just \$99!\*
- A savings of \$80 off the issue price!

- Your satisfaction guaranteed 100% or return within 30 days for replacement or refund.

FREE FLAG PIN  
WITH EACH ORDER!



FOR FASTEST SERVICE  
CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER: **1-800-437-0804**

Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm EST. Have Credit Card ready when ordering.

OR, MAIL TO: York Rite Masonic Watch Order Center  
Two Radnor Corporate Center, Suite 120, Radnor, PA 19087-4599

- ☐ **YES.** I wish to order a York Rite Chronograph Watch personalized with my initials, and year I became a York Rite Mason.

ENGRAVING: INITIALS (3): \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR I BECAME A YORK RITE MASON: \_\_\_\_\_

I WISH TO PAY AS FOLLOWS:

- ☐ Enclosed is my check or money order for \$99.00\* per watch payable to "York Rite Chronograph Watch".
- OR
- ☐ Charge my credit card \$99.00\* per watch, as indicated at right.

CREDIT CARD:

☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

CC#: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp.: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CSC# (Card Security Code): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

SHIPPING ADDRESS We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Plus \$14.95 per watch for processing, shipping & handling.

PA res. add 6% (\$6.84) sales tax.

©2016 AMA

CHRONO-KTM-0416

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.MASONICPARTNERS.COM](http://WWW.MASONICPARTNERS.COM)

# Knight Templar

## Contents

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

**Grand Encampment**  
**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration announcement**  
**and registration information ..... 6**

**"A Certain New Monster"**  
**Differing Medieval Views of the**  
**Early Knights Templar**  
**George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC ..... 9**

**Gabriel Gherasim**  
**Department Commander Europe & Africa .... 14**

**The State of Freemasonry in North America**  
**Sir Knight Thomas Jackson ..... 21**

**Masons, Muslims, and Knights Templar**  
**Sir Knight Myron A. Tisdell, PGC ..... 25**

**The Skull and Crossed Bones**  
**"Memento Mori"**  
**Sir Knight Ricky Haskell..... 27**

## Features

**Prelate's Chapel ..... 5**

**A Chat With The Managing Editor..... 8**

**The Knights Templar Eye Foundation ..... 15**

**Grand Commandery Supplement..... 18**

**In Memoriam ..... 20**

**Recipients of the Membership Jewel ..... 20**

**Knights at the Bookshelf..... 34**

**Beauceant News..... 35**

VOLUME LXII APRIL 2016 NUMBER 4  
 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 reported to the recorder of the local Commandery. Please do not report them to the editor.**

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

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

**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

**Cover photo of the Templar town of La Cavalerie in France by the editor.**

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



# Grand Master's Message

**G**ur fraternity is a strange animal. In the profane world, it is routine to force people to hold "correct" views. It may be the government or a mob, but for the good of all, everyone must conform to righteous opinion, be it religious, political, or social. Our fraternity has an opposite idea; that each person is encouraged only to be the best person he can be. If a brother is in error, we might whisper good counsel, but we refrain from beating sense into him.

I was recently at a Masonic meeting, and protesters were harassing any Mason who approached the building, because as Masons, we might not share the protestors' views. They didn't find it necessary to inquire if one had a different view. The possibility of an alternative opinion was enough to justify abuse.

It's a hard thing for us to be tolerant of an idea different from our own. We are all so sure we have it right and that the evil, dangerous, immoral, or simply wrong views must be stamped out, but who among us is qualified to proclaim the sole truth?

Each Mason is encouraged to be a better person. We aren't specific about what that means, and we aren't tasked to condemn the person who falls short. We think the world can be improved by each person being better according to his own standards.

I don't know if the Masonic approach is the one best way to run the world, but wouldn't it be a lot nicer to live in if everyone were more tolerant, even of those in error?

Courteously,



Duane Lee Vaught



# Prelate's Chapel

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

“He Lives! He Lives! Christ Jesus lives today.” This was announced by Jesus’ disciples to all who would listen. Thomas had not been in the upper room when Jesus met with the other disciples following his resurrection. So when they saw Thomas on the street the next day, they told him that Jesus was alive.

“Doubting Thomas” did not believe them, and told the other disciples that they were imagining it. They said that they had been with Jesus, and that He would be with them again that evening. They begged Thomas to be there, and he said he would, telling them that unless he saw the wounds of the nail prints in his hands and the spear wound in his side, he knew it would not be Jesus. Then that night, when they were all gathered together in the upper room with Thomas, Jesus appeared again with them, and he looked at Thomas and said, “Come here, Thomas, see the print of the nails in my hands, see the wound in my side.” Then Thomas knelt down and said, “My Lord and my God, and Jesus said to Thomas, “You are blessed because you have seen and believe, but more blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” (John 20:24-29)

That’s us! Twenty centuries later and Christian discipleship has grown world-wide. How many millions in those centuries have been blessed from knowing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. How energizing it is to know that the Great Captain of our Salvation is alive and intercedes for us with our Father in heaven. Good Friday was not the end of the story. Jesus was not just another earthly prophet to share God’s word with those who would listen. His resurrection from the dead and ascension into Heaven proved to us and to all, once and for all, that He is the Son of God who has gone “to prepare a place for us” in “our Father’s house,” and to all “doubting Thomases,” no, I haven’t seen the nail prints in his hands, and no, I haven’t seen the wound in his side. So, “you ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart.”

knight templar



# THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR



200<sup>th</sup>  
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 35<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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**



## A Chat With The Managing Editor

“**F**reemasonry is a system of morality.” I have heard that said literally hundreds of times during the Entered Apprentice degree. Although the wording may differ slightly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, I have not yet found a jurisdiction where these words are not used to define what our fraternity actually is to the candidate. To me, a system is an organized set of agreed upon rules which defines in this case correct behavior. In my jurisdiction, I was taught that these rules are to be found in the *Holy Bible*, that “inestimable gift of God to man” which we are taught to accept as the “rule and guide of our faith and practice.” The practice part seems to me to apply to the system of morality part. If there were no agreed upon set of rules and everyone could use whatever set of rules he liked, then the system would instead be a system of “amorality” or no morality or perhaps no system at all.

There seems to be a trend among our brethren, some of them even at the highest levels, that toleration trumps morality and that we should tolerate whatever behavior the members want to practice based on whatever set of rules they like. Some folks seem to be transforming our Fraternity instead into a “system of toleration” where any sort of belief or behavior is tolerated. If you look at our lectures, they are all about teaching men to behave in certain ways. Just because some of our Brethren repeat again and again that we are not a system of morality and that the *Holy Bible* is outdated and useless, doesn’t make it so. Some insist that the Great Light is not the *Holy Bible* but rather “The Book of the Law,” whatever that is. If by the “Book of the Law” they mean the *Tora* or perhaps the *Koran*, I’ve got news for you — they pretty much agree with the *Holy Bible* when it comes to morals. If, on the other hand, it means any old book you want to put up there, then we’re back to amorality.

I really think these brethren are afraid. They are afraid of what morally inferior men might think of them. I think they are also afraid that someone will take their money. What was that quote? “My integrity you may take, but my money never?” I am personally a great deal more concerned about what Almighty God thinks of me.

I believe that as Christian Knights, our duty is to behave better than the average citizen, to exhibit superior morals, and to be proud that the basis of our behavior as well as our faith is the trestle board laid down in the *Holy Bible* as the greatest gift to all mankind. Perhaps these are the times when we will find out who is truly a knight and who is not. What do you think?



John L. Palmer  
Managing Editor



# “A Certain New Monster”

## Differing Medieval Views of the Early Knights Templar

by

George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC

**T**he Knights Templar had their origin shortly after the First Crusade. Around 1119 AD, a French nobleman from the Champagne region, Hugues de Payens, collected eight of his knighted relatives and began the order, their stated mission being to protect pilgrims on their journey to visit the holy places. Little was heard of the order for their first nine years, but in 1128 AD, after they were officially sanctioned by the church at the Council of Troyes, they became quite well known across Europe. When Hughes returned to Outremer after the Council, he did so as the head of an order whose status was now greatly enhanced and clearly delineated, and therein lay a difficulty.

Although the Templars had obtained approval within Christendom, more or less, by the middle of the twelfth century, before this time they were not enthusiastically welcomed by several of those within and without the organized Church. To better understand this attitude of aversion, during the tenth and eleventh centuries the Church, starting under Pope Gregory VII, had undergone a series of reforms which had led to the establishment of monastic houses such as Cluny and Clairvaux. These reformers stressed spiritual purity unspoiled by political influences and especially bloodshed. They sought to maintain a distinct distance between earthly and



Hugues de Payens

spiritual matters. About 1145 AD, Henry, Archdeacon of Huntingdon, described the warrior-bishop, Henry of Blois, as “a certain new monster composed from purity and corruption, namely a monk and a knight.” Although he was not referring to the Templars, to a generation brought up to believe in the clear-cut division of social orders, the implication is clear; such a duality of purpose was against nature. Peter the Venerable, abbot of Cluny, expressed some doubts about this new breed of knights, and questioned the compatibility of knight-



Henry of Blois

hood and religious life.

Isaac, abbot of Etoile, said that these fighters had failed to remember that we should do unto others as we would have them do unto us and that their ferocity was a bad example to others.

The existence of such hostility or suspicion apparently had a dispiriting effect upon the Knights themselves. A letter to the brethren remaining in the Holy Land to raise their spirits, written by a certain Hugo Peccator ("Hugh the Sinner") at this time, suggests that some of them were losing confidence in their mission. The date of the letter is uncertain, with dates of sometime between 1130–1136 AD being proposed. The Templars had been criticized for hating their enemies and taking booty in battle. Hugo's letter reminded them that if they did not fight, then the Holy Land would be overrun by the enemies of Christ; that when fighting they were hating evil, not men, and that they plundered only to raise funds for their defense of the Holy Places. To quote a portion of the letter:

"...we have heard that certain of you have been troubled by persons of little

wisdom, as if your profession, to which you have dedicated your life, to carry arms for defense of the Christians against the enemies of the faith and of peace, as if, I say, that profession is either illicit or pernicious, that it is either a sin or an impediment to a greater achievement."

He further admonished the Templars to go about their ordained task in a tranquil frame of mind, like true servants of God; he promised that God had not abandoned them, and if their worth was



Hugh of St. Victor

not recognized by their fellow Christians, then it would be recognized by God.

As with the date, the identity of the author has not been established. Hughes de Payens himself has been suggested, but both the construction and content have been noted by historians as making this improbable. The theologian, Hugh of St. Victor, has also been proposed as its author, but there is no particular reason to associate Hugh with the Tem-

april 2016

plars. Finally, Hugh of Champagne, who renounced his title to become a Templar, has also been put forth as a possible



**St. Bernard**

candidate, but he died in 1126 AD, prior to the Council of Troyes.

Previous to the Council of Troyes, Bernard of Clairvaux had been busy converting the rule of St. Benedict, already adapted for the Cistercians themselves, into a form that would suit the Templar order. The Council, urged on by Bernard and with the Pope's approval, adopted Bernard's work, which became known as the *Latin Rule* and which was modified, reformed, and expanded with the passing of years.

Whether Hughes de Payens wrote the Hugo Peccator letter or not, he seems to have known of it, since he entreated St. Bernard at least three times to write a defense of the Templar order in order to counter criticism of its existence as an unholy combination of soldiers and monks and hopefully resolve the matter once and for all. As a result, Bernard authored a document entitled *Liber ad milites templari*

*de laude novae militiae* (Latin for "Book to the Knights of the Temple, in praise of the new knighthood") in which he planted his support resolutely behind the Templars by comparing them with the regular knights of the age. In this document, he argued against some of the reforms instituted by Pope Gregory VII. He criticized the ordinary knights for their vanity, wanton violence, and purposelessness. By contrast, he praised the Templars as noble, following a higher calling, fearless, and holy. He argued that such a knighthood was entirely compatible with monasticism, that it was the duty of these Christian knights to kill for Christ; by doing so, they were ridding the world of evil. Not only was dying for Christ a way to win heaven, says Bernard, but one could attain salvation as well by killing for Him. Then followed a description of the holy places in the Outremer. By linking the Templars to these hallowed sites, Bernard was presenting these knights as custodians of vital sites of Christian veneration.

The date of this work, *de laude*, is uncertain, although the fact it was addressed to Hugues de Payens means it was most likely written between 1128 (after the Council of Troyes) and 1136, when Hugues died.

By this time, Bernard's influence was such that this letter was widely circulated and seems to have been used by many other contemporary Church writers. Orderic Vitalis, an English monk living in Normandy, called the brothers "admirable knights" who "face martyrdom daily." Otto, bishop of Freising, writing in the mid-1140s, imitated Bernard in calling the order "a new kind of knighthood," as did Richard of Poitou, a monk of Cluny, writing in 1153. Anselm,

an Augustinian canon and bishop of Havelburg, wrote in similar terms but called the brothers “holy laymen.” He added that the pope had confirmed that the new order was of equal merit to monks and regular canons.

Copies of Hugo Peccator’s letter seem to have been kept with those of the *Latin Rule* and *De laude* in some Templar establishments, indicating its importance to the brethren. The publication of *De laude* by the influential Bernard did mitigate to some extent the suspicion and dislike of certain of the ecclesiastics toward the Templars but by no means completely eliminated it. On the other hand, others voiced their opinions expressing approval of the order and argued for the example of the knights as a separate and vital part of the church hierarchy. Formal Church approval of the Templars at the highest level appeared in 1139 with the issuance of the bull *Omne Datum Optimum* by Pope Innocent II that endorsed the Order of the Poor Knights of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, in which the *Templar Rule* was officially approved and papal protection given. Additionally, the bull promised all spoils from Muslim conquest to the order, and made the order exempt from tithes and taxes. Further, it freed the Templars from all ecclesiastical authority except that of the Pope. This important bull clearly gave the Templars a significantly greater scope of action, a



Pope Innocent II

wider sphere of influence, and a status much different from their initial humble beginnings just twenty years earlier.

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](mailto:geomarsh@yahoo.com).

## SOURCES

1. Napier, Gordon, *The Pocket A to Z of the Knights Templar: A Guide to Their History and Legacy*, Spellmount Publication, 2014
2. Mastnak, Tomaz, *Crusading Peace: Christendom, the Muslim World, and Western Political Order*, University of California Press, Berkeley, CA, 2002



# York & Scottish Rite Superstore

Visit Our Website & Online Store: [fratline.net](http://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**

3. Martin, Sean, *The Knights Templar: The History and Myths of the Legendary Military Order*, Thunder's Mouth Press, New York, NY, 2004
4. Barber, Malcolm, *The New Knighthood: A History of the Order of the Temple*, Cambridge University Press; Reprint edition, Cambridge, United Kingdom, 2012
5. "Military Orders" (Helen Nicholson), in Murray, Allen V. (Editor), *The Crusades*, Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2006, pp. 825–829
6. <http://blog.templarhistory.com/2010/03/the-council-of-troyes/>
7. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omne\\_Datum\\_Optimum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omne_Datum_Optimum)
8. Burman, Edward, *The Templars: Knights of God*, Destiny Books, Rochester, VT, 1986
9. Boysel, Nicholas, "BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX AND THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR: THE NEW KNIGHTHOOD AS A SOLUTION TO VIOLENCE IN CHRISTIANITY" (Master's Thesis), University of Akron, 2009. Online at: [https://etd.ohiolink.edu/!etd.send\\_file?accession=akron1249053482&disposition=inline](https://etd.ohiolink.edu/!etd.send_file?accession=akron1249053482&disposition=inline)
10. Nicholson, Helen, "Knights of Christ? The Templars, Hospitallers and other military orders in the eyes of their contemporaries, 1128-1291", <http://www.the-orb.net/encyclop/religion/monastic/knights.html>
11. Nicholson, Helen, *The Knights Templar: A Brief History of the Warrior Order*, Constable & Robinson Ltd., London, England, 2010

# Gabriel Gherasim

## Department Commander Europe & Africa

Gabriel was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1960 in Bucharest, Romania, and he has been married to Corina for twenty-five years. They have a daughter, Diana, who is in her second year at Hotel Management University. Gabriel is an engineer and Ph.D. in National Security and Defense, and Corina is an economist. They are owners of a security systems company and live in the area of Bucharest, Romania.

Gabriel was raised in 2001 in Romanian Dignity Lodge 103, Bucharest, Romania, and he served as worshipful master between 2005-2007. In the year of 2006 he was elected as illustrious sovereign of St. John the Baptist Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine. Between 2007-2010 he served as most illustrious grand master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Romania. Between 2010-2012 he served as grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Romania.

Between 2012-2015 he served as grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Romania. In the year of 2014 he was elected as sovereign grand master of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of Romania. In the same year he was elected as deputy preceptor of the King Solomon Tabernacle 82 of the Holly Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and deputy prior of Jaques de Molay Priory 85 of the Knights of the York Cross of Honor.

In the year of 2015 he was elected as eminent prior of the Constantin Brancoveanu Court 108 of the Masonic Order of Athelstan. Gabriel is honorary grand high priest of the Grand Chapter, honorary illustrious grand master of the Grand Council, and honorary grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Italy and honorary grand high priest of the Grand Chapter, honorary illustrious grand master of the Grand Council, and honorary grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Portugal. The Convent General of the United States of America gave him the Order of the Knight of the York Grand Cross of Honor with three quadrants.

Sir Knight Gherasim was appointed department commander of the Europe and Africa Department by Sir Knight Duane L. Vaught, most eminent grand master, at the 66<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment on August 12, 2015, in Buffalo, New York.



# Update on the Apl.de.ap Foundation Grant *Campaign for Filipino Children*

In 2014 the Knights Templar Eye Foundation board approved and awarded a \$95,000 grant to assist in purchasing a digital imaging system that would be used in a pilot program for the Apl.de.ap Foundation formed by Allan Pineda Lindo, better known as Apl.de.ap, a member of the Grammy Award-winning group, The Black Eyed Peas.

The *Campaign for Filipino Children* is an initiative that addresses a critical medical concern in the Philippines, the pediatric eye affliction known as retinopathy of prematurity. At least ten percent of all births in the Philippines involve premature babies. These premature births are the result of the relatively deficient nature of prenatal care available to the poor. At least thirty percent of these premature babies develop retinopathy of prematurity, a disease that causes abnormal blood vessel growth in the retina from excessive oxygenation. If the affliction is not treated within forty-eight hours of diagnosis, these premature babies become permanently blind.

For four pilot hospitals alone, the initiative will train from six to ten medical practitioners from each hospital, a total of twenty-four to forty, and potentially prevent blindness for 4,380 premature babies each year. In the future, doctors from these pilot hospitals will train their counterparts in other hospitals. The goal is to create the internal capacity in the Philippines to diagnose retinopathy of prematurity and perform needed surgeries within the first forty-eight hours of diagnosis.



*On October 30, 2015, the Southern Philippine Medical Center (SPMC) located in Davao City was selected by the Apl.de.ap Foundation to be the first pilot hospital to receive the equipment, and thirty-four Sir Knights from Rajah Commandery 20, Grand Commandery of the Philippines, under the direction of Sir Knight Danilo C. Datu Sr., grand commander of the Philippines, attended the formal dedication as VIP guests of the Apl.de.ap Foundation.*

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

### **Emulating the Knights of Old...**

#### **Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Continuing in our survey of our legacy as Knights of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar and the profound history of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., I thought it would be fun to recall the romantic history of the ancient knights of old, whom we follow.

After the Dark Ages, many of our ancestors left their homes and began "their voyages for God." They left behind family, friends, their homes, and possessions to set forth in the face of dangers to free the Sepulcher of Christ. Many died on their voyage, but other faithful cross-bearers followed. The result was that all peoples of Christendom, although speaking different languages, united in a common cause. Christendom had taken up the sword against the enemies of Christ. Out of that period of devotion, sacrifice, and love of Christ, was born our great Christian order of Knighthood.

These knights of old distinguished themselves, not only in battle but in many other ways. They ministered to the sick, the poor, the widow, and orphans; they had the hospitals, alms houses, and dispensaries. The Knights brought the oppression of the people before the law to the best of the powers; they cleared the roads to Jerusalem of bandits and outlaws. On their breasts they wore the cross of the gentle Christ, and they never forgot that they were dedicated to Him. It is truly a blessing for us to have the great privilege and responsibility to be the successors of an order so ancient, noble, and glorious.

However, dear Fraters, Templary cannot grow and diffuse its influence on our history alone. The glory of this Christian order must continue in the present and into the future. We, the modern Sir Knights, are emulating those faithful knights of ancient days by serving mankind through our Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

We are in the final months of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign. Tremendous efforts have been accomplished thus far, but I pray that even more can be accomplished before the May 15, 2016, completion date. I call upon all grand commanders, state coordinators, and state Knights Templar Eye Foundation chairmen to contact each commandery within their jurisdictions and put forth every effort, during the remaining weeks, to promote the goals of the campaign in some proactive way. I call upon all Sir Knights, each in his respective station, to assist in every way possible to make the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign an outstanding success.

By doing so, my beloved knights, we will be adding strength to the Foundation's effectiveness, fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the Sir Knights who established the Foundation, and we will show our earnestness and appreciation to the many organizations which have partnered with us in this great humanitarian and Christian project.

Proverbs 22:9 states, "He that has a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he gives of his bread to the poor."

David J. Kussman, GCT

Chairman, 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.      april 2016

**Our legacy continues...**



# NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

## Grand Master's Club

Johann R. Kohler..... FL	Gordon A. Davids ..... MD
Lee S. Fruman..... MI	Don S. Holland ..... MT
Mark E. Megee ..... NJ	Richard W. Westergaard..... NJ
James D. Phelps..... NV	David A. Eichelberger ..... PA
Wilmer W. Gilpin ..... PA	Nicholas Vaccarello ..... PA
Charles C. Sherrill ..... SC	Ray S. Myatt, Jr. .... TN
Paul C. Fleming..... TX	John D. McMillian ..... TX
Katie Ryland..... TX	Malcolm R. Holley, Jr. .... VA
Alan K. Webster ..... VA	

## Grand Commander's Club

Gary L. Carnicle..... AZ	John G. Brinkman ..... IL
Larry P. Jones ..... IL	Frederick C. Ackiss..... KY
Charles Boddy ..... MA/RI	Douglas G. Kuchera ..... MN
Donald Haynes ..... NC	Charles E. Sohm ..... NE
Raymond E. Kappel..... NJ	John P. Murray..... NY
Benedetto B. Vitullo ..... NY	Donald Kline..... PA
Sanford E. Powell..... PA	Richard L. Pruitt..... PA
Carl C. Rueter ..... PA	Matthew A. Burke ..... TX
Michael A. Riley..... VA	George H. Detweiler..... WI

## *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.

Photos of Templar Cathedral in Conques, France, taken by the editor.





## **Grand Encampment Membership Awards**

**1049-1051 Carlos H. Gonzales**  
Los Angeles Commandery 9  
Van Nuys, CA  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Bronze Clusters

**1052-1053 Simon McIlroy**  
Los Angeles Commandery 9  
Van Nuys, CA  
4<sup>th</sup> Bronze and 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Clusters

**1055 Miles H. Sheerin**  
Dallas Commandery 6  
Dallas, TX

**1054 Ryan Charles Nealey**  
Atlanta Commandery 9  
Atlanta, GA

**Bicentennial Celebration Malta  
Jewel Now Available From the  
Grand Encampment**

These Malta Jewels may be 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 plus postage.

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.

## **IN MEMORIAM**



Gordon L. Kimball, Sr.  
Maine  
Grand Commander 1994  
Born: Aug 10, 1929  
Died: January 27, 2016

Milton F. Gregory  
Wisconsin  
Grand Commander 1989  
Born: January 17, 1928  
Died: February 12, 2016



### **SOUTHEASTERN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE**

Alabama, Florida, Georgia,  
Mississippi, South Carolina,  
and Tennessee

**June 10-11, 2016, Jackson Mississippi**

Registration information can be  
found at

[http://www.knightstemplar.org/  
dc.html](http://www.knightstemplar.org/dc.html)



# *The State of Freemasonry in North America*

Excerpted from a speech made to the 2015 Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

by

Sir Knight Thomas W. Jackson

I have had great apprehension for many years in the direction that North American Freemasonry is traveling, and much of my writing and speaking has been reflective of that apprehension. I am a great supporter of the Masonic Restoration Foundation and have been involved from the beginning with its creation and support for its operation. At the present time I see no programs on the horizon to offer any greater hope for survival of a viable Masonic institution in North America, than the creation of an "observant" style of Freemasonry.

We must be aware and recognize however, that this is not a panacea for all of our ills. One of the greatest obstacles that I have observed to our success today, is that we may present ourselves as superior to other Masonic operations, and in some cases there is justification to this thinking.

There are those who imply that we look at ourselves as an elitist organization. My brothers, there is nothing wrong with being elite. Freemasonry itself is an elite organization, but we must not allow ourselves to become arrogant or complacent with any success that we have achieved, for we have a long, long way to go. Many of us will never live to see the end result of what we are attempting to do but hopefully we can rest assured in the comfort of knowing

we are doing something for our future.

I have been a member of Freemasonry for fifty-three years and have been a student of the Craft for the largest portion of those years. I have presided over eighteen Masonic bodies and have written book reviews on Freemasonry for twenty-five of those years. I served twenty years as grand secretary of the Grand Lodge, two years as a grand secretary for foreign relations, sixteen years as executive secretary of the World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges and am now honorary president ad vitam for that organization.

My brothers, what I have learned in that period of fifty-three years is just how little I know about this Craft. The experience however, has given me a unique opportunity to see Freemasonry with all its greatness as well as its foibles, its successes as well as its failures, its potentials for a great future as well as its potential for a less than great future. I have had the privilege of meeting some truly great men, but I have also watched men assume leadership positions who could have been great leaders, but who permitted their egos to destroy their legacy and diminish the very body they were leading.

What we are today is not what we were, and we were better in many ways than we are today. Our image was better, our influence was better, our vision

was better, and based upon our average quality of composition, our quality was better. This observation is not meant to belittle the membership of today's Freemasonry, but we certainly are not attracting the great thinking minds or the visionary leadership that we once did.

It has not been many years ago that membership in Freemasonry was indicative of a success story. To be a member was a sign of acceptance by a segment of society of successful and respected men. Today far too few professional men belong, resulting in an unfortunate dearth of visionary leadership.

There are leaders today promoting almost any change they deem necessary to increase numbers of members and who imply that American Freemasonry is stagnating due to a lack of willingness to change to fit into the modern-day world. My brothers, what we are now is a result of change. American Freemasonry has probably changed more in the last thirty years than it has in the previous 250. Those changes have resulted in a catastrophic impact on the quality of the Craft as well as on the quantity of the Craft. The loss of quantity has created an impact, simply because we have less funding to support our operations. The loss of quality, however, has impacted our own recognition of our purpose to exist.

It is long past due for us to recognize that all of the efforts that we have been placing on increasing numbers and raising monies for public charities has not benefited the craft. The time has come that we must become more introverted and concentrate our efforts to restoring the dignity, the image, and the respect that was bequeathed to us.

How long will we fail to admit that we have been following the same pathways

of so many other fraternal organizations that led to their extinction? How long will we sit and watch our buildings crumble, our image decay, and our influence wane before we acknowledge that we must change our approach for survival?

Over the last thirty to thirty-five years we have divested the Craft of almost any intellectual pursuit. The commandment that we should be a lover of the arts and sciences has been swept away in lodge meetings dedicated to mundane exercises totally irrelevant to the philosophical intent of Freemasonry.

We have failed to accept the fact that there is a cost to be a Freemason. In our ill-fated attempt to increase our numbers, we have kept our dues and fees absurdly low and now we wonder why we cannot even maintain our buildings. Over the last thirty years, loss of members through suspension and demit can be measured in the tens of thousands, and yet, to be suspended from Freemasonry in the past for nonpayment of dues was almost regarded as a "black mark on a man's soul." Masonic membership to them is no longer a priority. We have taken away the pride in saying, "I am a Freemason."

Our buy-in to the political correctness attitude that permeates our country, of the right of every man to have what every other man has, even to be a Freemason, regardless of his quality, we have changed in North America from being a predominantly "white-collar" fraternity to a predominantly "blue-collar" fraternity. This observation does not mean that the craft in the past was composed of only the professional class; that would be denying our origins. One of the most renowned qualities of Freemasonry was its commitment to

take men from all social classes and set them in a lodge room as equals.

We cannot deny that our prestige as a fraternity was structured by great thinking men from the professional class. Society will always judge us by our composition.

Freemasonry has faced challenges to its existence almost since the time of its inception. Many of those challenges were serious, resulting in the Craft being outlawed in some countries, and over those several centuries, Freemasons have been put to death by the thousands simply for being Freemasons.

These challenges to our integrity as an institution generally originated with rulers, governments, and religious leaders. In each case we were looked upon as being a challenge to their right of domination. American Freemasonry was almost unique in that the only serious challenge that we ever faced was during the Morgan affair. We did not have to deal with dictators, pontiffs, or kings, and we thrived. Even following the Morgan affair, we thrived.

Now, however, we are not thriving. With the exception of the somewhat insignificant challenge by radical fundamentalists in recent years, we have not faced any serious threat to our existence, and yet we have lost three quarters of our membership. Why have we become an almost invisible entity within American society?

If we are to restore credibility to this fraternity, if we are to regenerate respect of society, then we will have to again attract the class of individual who will serve as an attractive force for others of vision, and if we are seeking a criteria to measure the lessening of the average quality of our composition, all we knight templar

need do is look at the marked increase in trials for un-Masonic conduct taking place in our Lodges and Grand Lodges. My brothers, when we restore the quality, we will restore the quantity.

Sir Knight Jackson is a past commander of Continental Commandery 56 in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Tom served for twenty years as the right worshipful grand secretary of Pennsylvania and was the executive secretary of the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges beginning with its inception in 1998. He is a past division commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania and a Knight Commander of the Temple of the Grand Encampment. He resides at 210 Middlespring Rd., Shippensburg, PA 17257, and his e-mail address is twjcowboy@aol.com.

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

## 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

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](http://www.newlondonregalia.com)

## MAYO'S

\* **Knights Templar Uniform - \$130**



**Red and Purple Blazers**  
**Starting at \$80**

**Tuxedos - \$130**

**Drill Shoes - \$50**

**Ties - \$15**



**1121 Broad St - Wesmark Plaza**  
**Sumter, SC 29150**

**By Phone: (803) 773-2262**

**Online: [Mayosdiscountsuits.com](http://Mayosdiscountsuits.com)**

Subscriptions to the *Knight Templar* magazine are available from the Grand Encampment office at a rate of \$15.00 per year. Individual issues in quantities of less than ten can be obtained for \$1.50 each from the office of the managing editor if available. Inquire via e-mail to the managing editor for quantities in excess of ten. Some past issues

are archived on our web site. <http://www.knightstemplar.org>.



# Masons, Muslims, and Knights Templar

By

Sir Knight Myron A. Tisdell, PGC of California

With all that is happening in the world today and how Knights Templar and Muslims have interacted for centuries, this is a subject that needs to be addressed. It may be a topic which makes us uncomfortable to discuss, but if we cannot do so with brotherly love and affection, then the obligations we take at the altar have been taken for naught.

Masonry makes no discrimination regarding a man's religion. A Mason must believe in a Supreme Being, and our *Masonic Code* welcomes men of all faiths without bias or discrimination as long as the man believes in only one God. We have Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and men of all faiths who sit as worthy brothers with us. We may not always agree with the *Code*, but it (the *Masonic Code*) is the law of our beloved Craft. In the Mark Master Degree which is the fourth degree of York Rite, we are instructed to not only hear the law but abide by it. Let us use our Masonic teachings to unite us all, no matter what our individual beliefs may be, to better our universal community.

Fifty years ago Sir Knight Wilbur Brucher, a past grand master of Knights Templar wrote an article called "Charting the Course." It still rings true today, and I paraphrase some of it now.

*"Templary is founded upon the Christian religion and the practice of Christian virtues. It is a fraternal light that has illumined the world since the Crusades*

*when the poor Knights of Solomon defended Jerusalem and the holy lands from Muslim invaders and protected poor unarmed pilgrims from Europe who came to worship at the Holy Shrine. Nine centuries have since passed, and modern Knights Templar are the symbolic offspring of those fearless Crusaders. The principles of the orders of Knighthood are grounded in ritual and symbolism and are founded upon the teachings of the Christian religion. Templary is based upon the Holy Bible and extols the doctrine of human brotherhood and benevolence toward all mankind. It commends the reign of peace and glorifies the search for Divine Truth.*

*It vows to draw its sword in defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans, and the Christian religion. It despises bigotry, intolerance, and fanaticism and magnifies freedom under law and constitutional government. It stands unswervingly for good morals and right living by each Knight Templar as an example of good citizenship in every community. Each Knight Templar has voluntarily professed the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, and love of country.*

*Every Templar must be inspired to the highest ideals of*

*the Christian faith at a time when precious old landmarks are being demolished by the on-rush of worldly change and when moral and spiritual values are at low ebb."*

Templary is Masonry's answer to the call for Christian virtues in a world that needs a moral and religious renaissance. Templary is the resurrection of the spirit of the Crusaders. Templary is America's hope of stimulating the community conscience to stand up for God at a time when righteousness is desperately needed. Let no Sir Knight either underestimate the task that lies ahead or shrink from his obligation. Let each of us recognize that it will be an uphill battle with worldly strife along the way.

As Knights Templar we must stand united as principled men. We must consecrate our cause to Christ and the Christian religion with all the sincerity we possess! There is no problem that cannot be solved by practicing our Christian profession more vigorously every day. When we do so, we shall put God back where He belongs in our country, and we shall put Masonry back to improving our world.

Templary is more than a fraternal brotherhood. We are endowed with a sense of mission which transcends all ordinary fraternal objectives. It is not enough to say that we "favor" ethics and good morals. The orders of Knighthood require that we live up to the high calling of Christ in our lives, that we take our stand as Christian warriors in the fierce struggle against evil in everyday life, and that we support the Christian Church with all the zeal we possess.

It is important at the outset that we

put first things first! Templary is Christian to the core, and we must never allow this fact to escape us for one instant. Our very reason for existence as an organization depends upon our observance of this central fact. Nothing is important in our order that does not relate itself to Christ, the Christian religion, and the Christian Church. Once we get that fact solidly planted in our minds and hearts, we can plan our future.

Until we become so immersed in our Christian cause that it becomes a part of our daily character as well as our very way of life, we are not ready to start the journey. Until leaders at all levels take our allegiance to Christ seriously, they will find a trail of indifference, unconcern, and apathy.

Our pledge of warfare against the deceits of the world is not allegorical but is very real and for our lifetime! Let it be proclaimed that this warfare is not defensive but aggressive. The righteous and benevolent influence of Templars and of our Commanderies is needed everywhere. Our influence is limited only by the devotion and resources of our members. In this spirit, every Sir Knight must put on the whole armor of God and march forth as Christian Masons and Knights Templar.



Sir Knight Myron A. Tisdell is a past grand commander of California and a member of Redding Commandery 50. He resides at 30520 100 Road, Shingletown, CA 96088-9651, and can be contacted at [mtisdell@frontiernet.net](mailto:mtisdell@frontiernet.net).

# The Skull and Crossed Bones

## “Memento Mori”

By

Sir Knight Ricky Haskell

The image of the skull and crossed bones evokes deep emotional responses in many due to the “modern” uses of this most deeply spiritual symbol that has been used by many societies, religions, and Freemasonry from time immemorial. The usual contempt of this symbol has developed as a result of its use by some of the most brutal military units ever to take the field of battle, including most notably the Nazi Schutzstaffel or “SS,” whose insignia was the skull and crossed bones or “death’s head” or through its association with pirates and biker gangs or as a symbol of warning on toxic and poisonous substances or places. Ultimately the distress or contempt has arisen as a result of the basic meaning of this symbol, specifically death, and the associated life leading to death. Death, a matter which many seek to avoid contemplating or discussing is the very simplest purpose for its symbolic use in Freemasonry and in Christianity, specifically, “Memento Mori” – *remember that you will die!* Although this symbol has been used in cultures and religions the world over and is the central part of many festivals and religious days, I will strictly limit this thesis to Freemasonry and its origins and meanings therein.

We as Masons are taught that, “we are traveling upon the level of time to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns,” specifically death. We are also taught that, “... and when our trembling soul shall stand, naked

and alone, before the great white throne, there to receive judgment for the deeds done while here in the body, may it be our portion to hear from him who sitteth as the Judge Supreme, the welcome words: ‘Well done good and faithful servant! Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!’” We are taught this to remind us that death is the great equalizer from which none will escape. Further, that upon our death, we will be judged for our deeds or lack thereof done here in this world and that judgment will determine the glory or suffering of our afterlife, the spiritual resurrection we as Masons earnestly seek. The symbol of the skull and crossed bones in this context is not only a warning but a symbol that ought to lead every Mason to live a life zealously circumscribing his desires, keeping his passions within due bounds, and acting upon the square with all men, more especially his brethren in Masonry. Therefore, when we combine the skull and crossed bones with the square and compasses, this message becomes crystal clear to every Mason. I am at this point reminded of Illustrious Brother Albert Pike’s quote from *Morals and Dogma*, “The Blue Degrees are but the outer court or portico of the temple. Part of the symbols are displayed there to the Initiate, but he is intentionally misled by false interpretations. It is not intended that he shall understand them; but it is intended that he shall imagine he understands them. Their true explanation is reserved for the Adepts, the Princes of Masonry.” (*Morals and Dogma*, p.819) Is there more to this symbol than appears

on the surface?

In Christianity, dating back to roughly 100 AD, the representations of the crucifixion of Christ contained the skull and crossed bones at the base of the cross upon which Christ hung. Why? According to the *Catholic Bulletin*, "Pious legend held that Adam was buried at Mount Calvary, and so the skull and crossbones symbolize Adam. The skull and crossbones also symbolize death, and so putting one at the base of a crucifix symbolizes Christ's triumph over death through death." (1 Cor. 15:53-57) Other Christian and Judaic legends hold that Adam was created on Mount Calvary and that his skull was buried by Noah's son on Mount Calvary which after the interment of Adam's skull, become known by the ancient Jews as Golgotha or Golgatha (The Place of the Skull) long before the time of Christ and first recorded by Alexandrian theologian Origen. (c AD 185-245) The symbolism of the skull and crossed bones in this context is Christ overcoming the sin of Adam, redeeming us all. The blood of Christ, the blood of salvation, the blood that gives life ran down the cross onto the buried skull of Adam. According to Corinthians 15:45, "The first man, Adam, became a living being, the last Adam a life-giving spirit." Eventually, the symbolism of the skull and crossbones under the feet of the crucified Christ became known as "victory over death," or "salvation over sin." This legend sheds some light on the use of the skull and crossed bones particularly in Christianity, but its use was largely confined to crucifixes and artistic interpretations of Christ, particularly Christ's crucifixion until the Knights Templar who used the skull and crossed bones extensively in their flags, on the sails of their ships, as insignia on their

battle gear, and in the architecture and engravings of their churches and castles.

Why did the Templars begin using this symbol in such a public and widespread manner? Many argue that it is the strictly monastic interpretation of the Templars to the Christian meaning and symbolism which through its use allowed the Templars to be such fierce warriors as they had well contemplated and accepted death as a salvation resulting from their pious lives. Some would argue that it originated as a means of striking fear into the hearts of their enemies, particularly the Muslims, during the Templars extensive crusades in and around Jerusalem. Both of these on the surface are undeniable and well documented, but as is the case in Freemasonry, the masses of the Templar Knights were not true initiates or learned in the secrets of the Templars, most of which remain secret today.

In *The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail*, Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln tell the tale relayed by Antonio Sicci of Vercelli, an imperial and apostolic notary to the Papal Commission in 1310 and 1311. Sicci had allegedly served the Templars forty years before in Syria and had also been employed by the Papacy in the case of the Templar Inquisition in Paris:

*"A great lady of Maraclea was loved by a Templar, A lord of Sidon; but she died in her youth, and on the night of her burial, this wicked lover crept to the grave, dug up her body, and violated it. Then a voice from the void bade him return in nine months time for he would find a son. He obeyed the injunction, and at the*



*appointed time he opened the grave again and found a head on the leg bones of the skeleton (skull and crossbones). The same voice bade him guard it well, for it would be the giver of all good things, and so he carried it away with him. It became his protecting genius, and he was able to defeat his enemies by merely showing them the magic head. In due course, it passed to the possession of the order."*

Sidon was a wealthy and booming metropolis in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, with its own mintage of coin bearing the head of Athena. Sidon has been estimated to have existed as far back as Neolithic times. In 1111 AD, the soon to become King Baldwin of Jerusalem sacked the city and it later became one of the four Baronies of Jerusalem. Sidon was very powerful, with a fleet that rivaled that of the Templars own. Sidon was also known as a lawless nest of pirates, which is interesting in and of itself, given the anecdotal connection between the Templars and piracy. There have been repeated mentions of a Templar Knight named Tibald Gaudin in my research. It has been repeatedly alleged that Gaudin, the then treasurer of the Templar order, arrived in the port of Sidon in 1290 and was elected grand master of the Templars or lord of Sidon in 1291. Gaudin has also been credited with secreting the Templar treasures away from France well in advance of the siege of the Templars by King Philip the Fair under the Papacy of Pope Clement V in 1307. As the Preceptory in Sidon allegedly had a vast store of wealth, the anecdotal evidence supports the fact that perhaps Gaudin had the famed Holy Grail in his posses-

knight templar

sion when he was elected grand master, something not of a material nature as pointed out by Phillip Gardiner in *The Serpent Grail*.

The tale conveyed in *The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail* tells of the "Lady of Maraclea." Maraclea was a small and fairly strategically insignificant coastal town between Tortosa and Baniyas that was destroyed in 1271 by the Mamluks. So given this seemingly trivial town, what is the true meaning of this? According to Gardiner, "when one looks into this name, which was historically and strategically insignificant and looks upon this in an etymological way and breaks the word into two separate words resulting in Mara Clea we begin to see several things developing."

First, Mara means different things in different languages. In Hebrew it means bitter and was an alternative for Mary, perhaps Mary Magdalene who has frequently been associated by veneration with the Templars. In Buddhism Mara equates to death or evil, as it was Mara who tempted Buddha on the eve before his enlightenment just as Eve tempted Adam. Further, in Buddhism, Mara is closely related to Rama, equating to "Great Mother." The Templar order was interestingly organized under the patronage of "Our Lady," the "Sweet Mother of God."

Clea means simply to clean or to be clear, to be pure or to be bright. According to theologians, this Lady of Maraclea was believed to have come from Armenia. At that time, there was a sect known as Paulician Christianity which had spawned the Cathars or "Perfect Ones" or "Shining Ones." The original nine Templar Knights led by Hughes de Payens were from the Languedoc

region of France that was rich with Cathars, both publicly and covertly. In fact the Abbot, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, the cousin of de Payens who elevated the Templars said the new Templar recruits would be in the company of "Perfect Men," which is a veiled reference to the Cathar illumination or the "Shining Ones." The legends and particularly the charges levied against the Templars included worship of a skull, head, or demon called Baphomet. Perhaps this skull of Sidon has far deeper meaning, specifically that of the union of man with the Cathar illumination, resulting in genius. Perhaps the skull and crossed bones is in itself a symbol for something much deeper and is merely a manner to veil that deeper meaning. So what similar symbolism existed prior to the Templars and even Christianity?

Some Egyptian Pharaohs, as evidenced in the tomb and Sarcophagus of King Tutankhamen, were interred with their arms crossed just below the head with a Scepter in one hand and the Flail in the other. The Scepter or crook, the universal symbol of power in ancient Egypt, was also a shepherd's tool to pull stray animals back into the herd without injury. The flail was an implement used to beat animals or human subjects. When one contemplates the two opposing representations of these two implements, one discovers the duality spoken of in the Gnostic circles and specifically that of the male push (positive) and the female pull

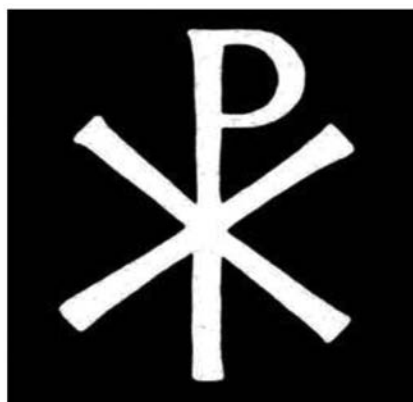
(negative). Under the Gnostic philosophies, any person who was able to master these symbols would achieve mastery over self and thereby be enlightened or become one of the "Shining Ones." Many Pharaohs, however, were interred with their arms and the scepter and flail outward and away from each other just as all depictions of Osiris. This perhaps identified the Pharaohs who had become true adepts in the mastery of themselves. According to Egyptian beliefs, when dead, Pharaoh becomes Osiris, "... he who sitteth as judge supreme upon the great white throne." Additionally, Osiris is the brother and husband of Isis and the posthumously begotten father of Horus. The mythology of Osiris' death, the subsequent resurrection by Isis' will, and the mysticism that resulted in Horus, which I will not delve into, is at its core the same story of death and resurrection of Christ

and many other cultural deities dating to 2500 years before Christ. Although there are many other overlaps and similarities between the resurrection of Osiris and Christ as well as the other deities, I will stay on the course of Osiris and specifically the resurrected Osiris in the living form of his son Horus. Interestingly, Osiris is depicted with the scepter and flail, as well as his arms away from each other as well as away from his body; whereas, the symbol of Horus to signify the "utchat" or the eye of Horus is the Chi Rho.

Note the change in the representation of the arms, scepter, and flail from Osiris



Osiris



**Symbol of Horus**

to his resurrected self in the form of Horus. This symbol not only represented Horus but has been discovered inscribed on rocks dating from 2500 BC in Samaria and has been interpreted as the combination of two sun symbols, the symbols of the "Ancient Shining Ones." It is also the symbol of the Chaldean sun god, having the definition of "everlasting father son." (As identified in the *Illustrated Encyclopedia of Traditional Symbols*) The change is subtle, but it is significant and indicates that the death and resurrection of Osiris was not a physical but rather a spiritual resurrection or illumination. Note now the unique physical manifestation of the Chi Rho in the skull and crossed bones.

The symbol was used in the ancient Egyptian and Sumerian period as a symbol of spiritual enlightenment, that of the "Shining Ones," as well as physical resurrection. Given this, is not spiritual enlightenment a form of spiritual resurrection or spiritual life from spiritual darkness or death? This is in accordance with the Horus-Osiris-Isis mythology that in many ways mirrors the Christian trinity as well as many other world religions, particularly of the pre-Christian era. Further, do knight templar



we not as Master Masons pass through a symbolic resurrection in being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason? Does this ritual address a physical death and resurrection or is it not specifically centered on the "Lost Word" which is symbolic of the "Lost Knowledge" that died with our master Hiram Abif in a symbolic and allegorical way? Later degrees center upon the lost knowledge in the form of the name of God, the manifestation in the form of the ark of the covenant, and many other instances too numerous to list. The central theme recurring throughout the degrees of Freemasonry is that of inner searching, "Visita Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem," (Visit the interior of the earth (spiritually yourself) and rectifying (purifying), you will find the hidden or secret stone (knowledge)) of seeking enlightenment and knowledge. As specifically stated in the 25<sup>th</sup> Degree of the Scottish Rite, Knight of the Brazen Serpent, "Finally hear and heed this admonition, 'Be not content with what you have already learned, and thinking that you may not improve your store of wisdom.' Do not fall into a state of indifference and inactivity, saying, 'I have no further need

to study or to fatigue myself with acquiring more,' for this would only prepare the way for losing what you already possess." The brightest and sharpest sword, left to remain long in the scabbard, rusts and loses its edge, and the intellect left to lie fallow becomes arid and barren. Christ, of which the skull and crossed bones has been a Christian symbol for centuries, addressed enlightenment, the God within each of us, and inner spiritual resurrection and introspection in the following Coptic verses of the *Gospel of Thomas* as translated from the Nag Hammadi Texts and provided by the Gnostic Society Library from the Gospel of Thomas Collection:

*(77b) ...Split a piece of wood, and I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me there."*

*"The Pharisees and the scribes have taken the keys of knowledge (gnosis) and hidden them. They themselves have not entered, nor have they allowed to enter those who wish to. You, however, be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves."*

*"If the flesh came into being because of spirit, it is a wonder, but if spirit came into being because of the body, it is a wonder of wonders. Indeed, I am amazed at how this great wealth has made its home in this poverty."*

*His disciples said to him, "Show us the place where you are, since it is necessary for us to seek it."*

*He said to them, "Whoever has ears, let him hear. There is light within a man of light, and*

*he lights up the whole world. If he does not shine, he is darkness.*

*Rather, the kingdom is inside of you, and it is outside of you. When you come to know yourselves, then you will become known, and you will realize that it is you who are the sons of the living father, but if you will not know yourselves, you dwell in poverty, and it is you who are that poverty."*

*These are the secret sayings which the living Jesus spoke and which Didymos Judas Thomas wrote down, and he said, "Whoever finds the interpretation of these sayings will not experience death."*

Therefore, it is my opinion that the skull and crossed bones, although an accurate and proper symbol of our own mortality and that each Mason should earnestly contemplate and make peace with his own mortality by leading an upright and virtuous life, has a deeper meaning of true introspection and spiritual enlightenment, leading one to become one of the "Shining Ones." The true enlightenment obtained by the mystics, Templars, alchemists, pharaohs, Gnostics or any other groups of the past, real or perceived, may never be discovered by any of us. The reality is that each of us through the constant search for that enlightenment undergoes a spiritual resurrection through each milestone of personal mastery, be it physical, mental, intellectual, or spiritual. As we progressively advance in our own spiritual enlightenment and self-mastery, we become brighter to the world around us through our actions, words, and attitudes, thus ever increasingly be-



coming a "Shining One." It is further my belief that the ancient symbol, the Chi Rho, symbol of the "Shining Ones" from nearly the year of illumination is the true and deepest spiritual meaning of the symbolism of the skull and crossed bones throughout the various Rites and

degrees of Freemasonry and that personal spiritual enlightenment and mastery is the key of Freemasonry.

Sir Knight Haskell is standard bearer of Pike's Peak Commandery 6 in Colorado Springs. He can be contacted at [pathwayshsl@comcast.net](mailto:pathwayshsl@comcast.net).

## Sources

*Morals and Dogma*; Albert Pike, p819

*The Holy Blood, Holy Grail*; Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln

*Supremely Abominable Crimes*, Edward Burman

*The Serpent Grail: The Truth Behind the Holy Grail, the Philosopher's Stone and the Elixir of Life*; Phillip Gardiner & Gary Osborn

*Nag Hammadi Texts*

*De Nugis Curialium: Courtiers' Trifles* (Oxford Medieval Texts) Revised Edition, 1983; Walter Map (Author), Christopher N. L. Brooke (Editor), Roger A. B. Mynors (Editor), M. R. James (Translator)

## Knight Templar Budget-Priced Uniforms



**NEW!**

**\$329.95**

Jacket Only....\$259<sup>95</sup>

Trousers Only....\$79<sup>95</sup>

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



[www.lighthouseuniform.com](http://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 \$159<sup>95</sup>**

Flaps on pockets are \$19<sup>95</sup> extra if needed. Sword Slits are 14<sup>95</sup> extra if needed. Limited sizes available.

Add \$25 for sizes 48+

## Men's High Gloss

**\$59<sup>95</sup>**



(slightly Blemished)

We Now Have  
Purple, Red, & Blue  
Blazers Only **\$99<sup>95</sup>**  
Add \$25 for sizes 48+





# Knights



## at the Bookshelf

By  
Glenda Palmer

*The Canary* by Jacqueline T. Moore, Publisher: Summer Solstice, 2014, ISBN-13: 978-1625261175, available from Amazon.com.

This book of historical fiction takes place in Galveston, Texas, in the late 1800s. It is a tale about Myra, a young widowed mother of five children. She struggles to support her children by selling baked good on the docks. The story continues with a secret alliance formed between Myra, Julia, C.B. also called Sure Foot, and Jack in order to sell items taken for payment to smuggle Klondike gold field dreamers onto boats leaving the Galveston harbor. Myra and Julia become the selling agents for the sailors, Sure Foot, and Jack, because the smuggling sailors cannot spend or sell the jewelry, silver, or gold they have taken as payment for the stowaways.

Sure Foot gives Myra a large yellow diamond called the Canary as a declaration of his intention to court her. The book concludes with the 1900 hurricane that hits Galveston. There is mass destruction and everyone experiences the horrors of the storm, except the sailors who are safe somewhere south of Havana, Cuba. Of course there is a happy ending for Myra and her children.

The only references to Masons in the book are connected to Myra's Uncle Harry, who is past master of the Masonic Lodge housed above his mercantile, and many of the brothers who seek to protect the widow and her children.

This is an enjoyable, easy read to take to the beach or to relax with by the fire on a cold day in the winter, but it has nothing in it for the serious Masonic scholar seeking knowledge.





# Beauceant News



Worthy President Mrs. Richard Moon of Minneapolis Assembly 46, Minnesota welcomed Supreme Worthy President Mrs. Thomas R. Derby on the occasion of their official visit. Other supreme family members present were Past Supreme Worthy President Mrs. Jay U. Ipsen, Supreme Inner Guard Mrs. Hans Engebretson, and Supreme Courtesy Committee Member Mrs. Hugh Swift.



Supreme Worthy President Mrs. Thomas R. Derby was welcomed by Worthy President Ms. Marie Desens of Oshkosh Assembly 267 in Wisconsin. Past Supreme Worthy President Mrs. Jay U. Ipsen and Supreme Jewelry Committee Member Mrs. Leroy Kifer were also in attendance.

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

*“And the Lord God planted  
a garden eastward in Eden,  
and there he put the man  
whom he had formed.”  
Genesis 2:8*



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

