

Knight Templar

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NUMBER 6



Bicentennial



Commemorative Issue



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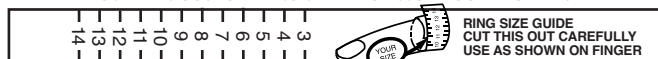
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Knight Templar

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knight templar

Grand Master's Message

In June of 1816, representatives of two Grand Commanderies formed the General Grand Encampment. Much has happened in 200 years. The name was changed to Grand Encampment, but more substantively, we have grown to cover the United States to the Pacific Ocean and beyond. We now have Grand Commanderies in Europe, Africa, South and Central America, and Asia. Uniforms became more uniform, and parades and drill became huge and then contracted with the fashions of the time. We created our first organization-wide charity in the 1920s, which still con-



tinues. Our Eye Foundation was created in the 1950s and has become one of the most important non-government supporters of vision protection in the world. The Holy Land Pilgrimage provides a lifetime spiritual benefit to those we accommodate. Our magazine is one of the best Masonic magazines in the country and one of the few that are monthly.

Along the way, we survived the anti-Masonic period, the Civil War, two world wars, depressions, and several cycles of popularity or decline of Fraternalism.

Some things haven't changed. The ritual is largely the same as it was as is the spirit of comradeship, reverence, charity, and commitment to the values of Freemasonry.

This issue is dedicated to our anniversary. 200 hundred years is a long time but is still only the first 200. So long as we remain committed to our principles and there are people in the world longing to find a home with those values, we will still be here.

Courteously,

⌘ *Duane Lee Vaught*

Duane Lee Vaught

A Brief History of the Formation of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

By

George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC

Chairman, Knights Templar History Committee

The origins of Masonic Templary are traceable to the middle of the eighteenth century, when men like the Chevalier Ramsay, Baron von Hund, and others began to talk of knightly and Templar orders and degrees in connection with the Masonic fraternity. Soon thereafter, the Knights Templar order made its appearance in America, England, and France. It is an interesting fact that the first account of the conferring of the order of Knight Templar within the Masonic fraternity, that has yet been discovered, was

have and receive the parts belonging to the Royal Arch Masons, which being read was received and he unanimously voted in, and was accordingly made by receiving the four steps, that of Excellent, Superexcellent, Royal Arch and Knight Templar." The manuscript of these minutes is shown below.

It is believed that the degree was learned from Irish troops who were at about that time quartered in Boston. The appearance of the order as a "higher degree" in the Masonic Fraternity then spread rapidly. In 1779 and for "several

*A Royal Arch Lodge Held at Masons Hall Boston New England
August 28 1769*

*Present, — The B'n'w Brother James Brown M.
" Charles Chambers L.M.
" Wm. Gray L.M.
" Mr. M. H. Mallon
" Henry G. Lyman
" W. T. M. H. H. H.
John W. W. W. W.
Joshua L. L. L. L.*

The Petition of Brother William Davis coming before the Lodge begging to have & receive the Parts belonging to a Royal Arch Mason, which being read was received & he Unanimously Voted for, & was accordingly made by receiving the four Steps that of Excellent, Super Excellent, Royal Arch & Knight Templar —

found in America. In Masonic Hall in Boston, at the first recorded meeting of St. Andrew's Royal Arch Lodge of that city on August 28, 1769, the minutes say, in part, that "...Brother Wm. Davis coming before the Lodge, begging to knight templar

years previous" there is clear evidence of its existence and working in Dublin, Ireland. Not long afterward, we find it being practiced with Thomas Smith Webb in Albany, New York; in Pennsylvania; in South Carolina; in Maryland; in Rhode

Island and Connecticut; and in other occasional cases, unorganized, all over the Provinces (now our eastern States); in France; and in England, Scotland, and Ireland. In this fashion, modern Knight Templary emerged and spread.

It is now fairly well established that before the year 1800 these degrees were conferred for the most part in connection with Master Masons' Lodges or in Royal Arch Chapters working under a Lodge warrant, but at some significant time before the close of the eighteenth century, Encampments (today we call them Commanderies) and even one State Grand Encampment made their appearance, some of these enduring and others existing only for a comparatively short time. The first clear evidence of an Encampment of Knights Templar existing anywhere comes from South Carolina. The seal of this Encampment, dated 1780, is preserved in the Knight Templar archives of that state, and there is in existence a patent, bearing the imprint of this seal dated 1783. The appearance of organized Templary in other states was not far behind. A Templar patent was issued in Baltimore, Maryland, on January 16, 1782. This would seem to show that there was an Encampment previously existing here.

Attention also deserves to be called to the not generally known fact that the public display of Templars marching in parades and processions first appeared in New York. Newspaper accounts and Lodge minutes of the year 1785 show that the Masons and Templars of that city arranged a public procession, the Templar Knights appearing in uniform and with swords, on the day of St. John the Evangelist, December 27th of that year. A similar procession, the Knights

Templar leading, took place on the day of St. John the Baptist, June 23, 1789, and in 1799, the Knights Templar played a prominent part in the funeral ceremonies held in honor of that greatest of American Masons, the father of American liberty and of our country, George Washington. It is evident that organized Templary must have existed in New York before the first of these dates, namely, 1785. Accordingly, we find Rising Sun Encampment (discontinued in 1817) flourishing in 1797 and St. Peter's Encampment in 1799, and there were most likely others as well. Just when the formation of the Templar Encampment at Albany, with which the name of Thomas Smith Webb is connected, and Stillwater Encampment, which also took part in the Grand Encampment formation in 1816 soon to be described, is not altogether clear. There are records of Encampments existing in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1795 and in Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island, in 1802. In Connecticut, there are clear records of three Templars forming an Encampment at Colchester in July of 1796. Among the early states and the colonies of pre-Revolutionary times, Pennsylvania, too, holds a prominent position in matters pertaining to Masonic and Templar history. It is well known that the earliest Masonic Lodge in the then British Colonies of North America, probably the earliest Masonic Lodge in all America, was organized at the old Tun Tavern in Philadelphia in the year 1730.

The earliest mention of a Knight Templar order being conferred in this state is found in 1794, but there must have been some earlier instances of which there are no records. In 1797,

the first attempt at state organization in the United States was made in Pennsylvania. Four local bodies, then known as Encampments (two from Philadelphia, one from Harrisburg, and one from Carlyle) met in Philadelphia on May 12, 1797, in a convention named the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania. This organization, however, did not prove permanent. Just how long it lasted is uncertain, but in 1812, it was no longer in existence. It may be noted in passing that it was in Philadelphia that Thomas Smith Webb received his Knight Templar order some time not long before 1802, at St. John's Lodge. He is the first known Mason to receive the Templar order in Pennsylvania.

It is interesting to mention briefly the position which a portion of Pennsylvania Templary occupied for a time in its relation to the Templary of the United States. After the dissolution of the first state organization described above, another effort to organize the Encampments of the state, as well as such others as might wish to join, together into a larger body was made in 1814. On February 15, 1814, a Grand Convention of Knights Templar at Philadelphia organized a second Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Encampments concerned (one from Philadelphia and one from Pittsburg) were joined in this movement by one each from New York, Delaware, and Maryland, but after the rise of the General Grand Encampment in 1816 and beyond, this movement, like its predecessor, was discontinued in 1824. Possibly one of the chief reasons for its lack of success and permanence was that these Pennsylvania brethren did not see their way clear to join the movement of 1816

for a general organization of Templary throughout the United States. They believed that they could not cooperate with the originators of this movement, because they were unable to see the right and ability of the Templar orders to maintain a separate and independent organization all their own. Under the influence of this view, they remained outside the General Grand Encampment until 1857. By that time, history had clearly proved the organizers of the General Grand Encampment to be in the right. Recognizing this, Pennsylvania Encampment 1, joined with the Commanderies that had meanwhile been established in Pennsylvania by the General Grand Encampment to form the third organized body in that state in 1852 under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, to which it acknowledged allegiance until 1857, when with the consent of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, it became part of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

The steps leading up to general organization may be designated as follows: The first step is found in the record of the proceedings of the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, where it says: "A Grand Convention of Knights Templar was held in Providence, Rhode Island, on the 6th day of May, 1805. It was declared to be the sense of the convention that a Grand Encampment of Knights Templar be formed and established." On the 13th of the same month, preliminary committee work brought into being the "Grand Encampment of Rhode Island and jurisdiction thereunto belonging." The first Encampments to join the movement, subordinating themselves to this jurisdiction by asking and receiving charters, were St. John's

Encampment of Providence, Rhode Island and Boston Encampment. The first grand master was Thomas Smith Webb of Providence; the first generalissimo, Henry Fowle. The second step toward wider organization was taken in 1806 when the name of this general body was changed to "The United States Grand Encampment and the Appendant Orders." Provision was made for the admission of further Encampments. There joined successively, King Darius Council of Portland, Maine, in 1807; Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1808; and Washington Encampment, Newport, Rhode Island, in 1814. In 1816 the words "United States" were removed from the name of this Grand Encampment, now including three New England states, and at the same time, three delegates were chosen to confer with representatives of any or all other Grand Encampments (now called Grand Commanderies) in the United States for the purpose of forming a national body and organization. The men elected to this delegation were Thomas Smith Webb, Henry Fowle, and John Snow, of Providence, Rhode Island, all of whose biographies appear later in this magazine. There were but two other Grand Encampments then existing in the United States. One was that, already mentioned above, of Pennsylvania, the second general body created in that state. The other was "The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders for the State of New York." The Grand Encampment of New York was organized in 1814 and was in a great measure an outgrowth from the "Sovereign Grand Consistory," an alleged Scottish Rite body organized by Joseph Cerneau. It is an interesting fact that the first Encampment of Knights Templar at

New Orleans was organized under the jurisdiction of this New York body. When the impulse toward national organization emanated from New England in 1816, the New York Grand Encampment participated by sending as its delegate Thomas Lowndes (whose biography is also included later in this magazine). The meeting, which was to deliberate on the creation of a national Knight Templar governing body, accordingly met at Philadelphia on June 11, 1816.

Besides the men from New York and New England, there were present, as representatives of the Pennsylvania body of 1814, delegates from Philadelphia; Baltimore, Maryland; and Wilmington, Delaware. As has been pointed out above, the Pennsylvania men found themselves in disagreement with the representatives of the other two bodies and could not see their way clearly at that time to drop the points at issue. These differences were clearly formulated by Webb. "First, that the Encampments in Pennsylvania avow themselves as being in subordination to and under the Grand Lodge of Master Masons. Second, their unwillingness to the arrangement or order of succession in conferring the degrees as practiced by us, and especially they object to the degrees of Mark Master and Most Excellent Master as unnecessary and not belonging to the system of Masonry." As a consequence of this disagreement, the delegates from New England and New York agreed to adjourn to the city of New York, and this, the first convention in the interest of national organization, was dissolved.

In accordance with the decision reached at Philadelphia, the New England delegates repaired to New York

City and there, with Lowndes, the delegate of New York State Grand Encampment, organized another convention to carry out the plans which had failed at Philadelphia. The convention met and completed its work on the 20th and 21st of June, 1816. The delegates from eight Councils and Encampments of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders met in New York City. They formed, adopted, and ratified a constitution to institute the "General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America." This title was retained until 1856 when it was changed to the Grand Encampment of the United States. It thus has a right, in the light of subsequent history, to claim for itself the title "The First General Conclave of Knight Templary in the United States." No representatives from South Carolina, Connecticut, or Pennsylvania were at this meeting. The fact remains that those attending did accomplish their work, the national organization of the Knights Templar of the United States. They created the "General Grand Encampment" as a central, governing body for all Masonic Templary in the United States. A portion of the minutes of this historic convention appear on pages 10 and 11.

De Witt Clinton, then the most prominent Masonic Knight Templar in public life, was chosen the first grand master (so the title read at that time). Thomas Smith Webb, the soul of the meeting and indeed of the whole movement, became deputy grand master, and his best friend and faithful assistant, Henry Fowle, was made general grand generalissimo. This body claimed the right to govern and regulate the Templar organizations then existing and to found and organize new bodies

throughout the United States. There were those in its day, who denied the right to this claim. This supreme governing body has stood the test of time and now exists, honored and respected.

An important part of the convention was the drafting of a constitution. The initial *constitution* has since been amended and revised. This was foreseen in the very first draft of this *constitution* itself which said: "The General Grand Encampment shall be competent, on concurrence of two-thirds of its members present at any time to revise, amend, and alter the *Constitution*." The framers of this *Constitution* could not and did not claim to be able to foresee all the circumstances and conditions the order might encounter. They left open for it the possibility of a more glorious future than they were able at the moment to see.

In conclusion, it may seem surprising that Thomas Smith Webb, who was undoubtedly the guiding spirit and motivating force behind the creation of the General Grand Encampment, was not elected its first grand master. In retrospect, this may have been a wise move to have a man and Mason of national prestige such as DeWitt Clinton to lend it prestige and make it possible for it to obtain needed recognition and support in its early years. Had Webb lived until the second General Conclave of the new body, he would, no doubt, have been elected as its grand master. While Webb did not have the title of grand master, he certainly carried out many of the duties of the position, because most of the business and work of the new organization was carried on by him instead of Clinton.

At a Convention, holden
 at Mason's Hall in the City of New York, on the
 twentieth and twenty first of June A.D. 1816; consisting
 of Delegates or Knights Companions from eight Councils
 and Encampments of Knights Templars and the Appendant
 Orders,
Viz.
 Boston Encampment, Boston.
 St. John's Encampment, Providence.
 Ancient Encampment, New-York.
 Temple Encampment, Albany.
 Montgomery Encampment, Stillwater.
 St. Paul's Encampment, Newburyport.
 Newport Encampment, Newport.
 Darius's Council, Portland.
 The following Constitution was formed, adopted,
 and ratified, *Viz.*

FIRST PAGE OF THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
 GENERAL GRAND ENCAMPMENT, 1816

SOURCES USED

- Scully, Francis J., *History of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America*, Wm. Mitchell Printing Co., Greenfield, IN, 1952
- Redmond, Andrew J., *Complete History of the Epoch Making XXXI Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States, With a Concise History of Templarism from its Inception*, 1910

the same, shall take the following obligation, viz: "I,
 L. B. do promise and swear that I will support and
 maintain the Constitution of the United States' General
 Grand Encampment of Knights Templars and the de-
 pendant Orders."

The General Grand Encampment then proceeded
 to the choice of Officers and the following Officers were
 elected, to continue in office until the third Thursday in
 September, A.D. 1819.

M. C. & Hon. Dewitt Clinton, of New York, G. G. Master.
 Thomas Smith Webb Esq. of Boston G. G. Master.
 Henry Fowler Esq. of Boston G. G. Generalissimo.
 Ezra Ames Esq. of Albany G. G. Captain General.
 Rev. Paul Dean, of Boston, G. G. Prelate.
 Martin Hoffman Esq. of N. York G. G. Senior Warden.
 John Bartlett Esq. of Providence R. I. G. G. Junior Warden.
 Peter Grinnell Esq. of Providence R. I. G. G. Treasurer.
 John J. Loring Esq. of Boston, G. G. Recorder.
 Thomas Lowndes Esq. of New York G. G. Warden.
 John Snow Esq. of Providence, R. I. G. G. Standard Bearer.
 Jonathan Scheffelin Esq. of N. York, G. G. Sword Bearer.

The General Grand Encampment then adjourned to meet
 at New York the Third Thursday in September A.D. 1819.

Attest, John J. Loring, G. G. Recorder.

FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
 GENERAL GRAND ENCAMPMENT, 1816

- Kaulback, Michael S. & Van Doren, Richard W., A History of the Knights Templar in America, ??-2009 A.D.
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Prelate's Chapel

by

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

This month we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA. I hope we all join in this celebration of our fine order.

As I read the article in the March issue by Sir Knight Richard Kovak, detailing our history and the founding of the Grand Encampment in 1816, I realized it was not any easy event, with much contention of the states and encampments involved.

It reminded me of the events 40 years earlier, when delegations from the colonies got together to found a new nation, breaking away from our mother England. Much compromise had to be made, and certain individual colonial rights had to be recognized and accepted before the union could be formed. No great event occurs without much discussion and agreement.

When we read the letters in the New Testament, we can see the same thing happening as Christian groups worked to tell the good news of Jesus Christ but often argued among themselves as to how that was to happen and who was "ordained" to do it. St. Paul wrote many letters to individuals and Christian groups urging them to agree in the work and not to waste time or cause doubt by the "infighting" that often happened. His view on this is expressed well in I Corinthians chapter 3, when he reminds them that he "planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." So we have seen over the last two hundred years, as Knights before us have planted and watered, that it is God who has given the growth of our order, and so it shall continue when we follow the lead and remain true to the Great Captain of our Salvation, our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate our 200th anniversary, let the words of St. Paul in his Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 12, inspire us as he challenges us: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." (vs. 1-2).



First Grand Master of the Grand Encampment...

Sir Knight DeWitt Clinton 1816-1828

by
Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC

"Pleasure is a shadow, wealth is vanity, and power a pageant; but knowledge is ecstatic in enjoyment, perennial in frame, unlimited in space, and indefinite in duration." - DeWitt Clinton

Our first Grand Master, DeWitt Clinton, was a Mason whose eminence extended beyond the boundaries of Freemasonry and Templary. (Depending on the source consulted, his first name is spelled either Dewitt or DeWitt. I will use the latter style.)

He was born on March 2, 1769, in New Windsor, Orange County, New York, the son of James Clinton (1736-1812), a veteran of the French and Indian War and a Continental Army general of the American Revolution, and Mary DeWitt (1737-1795), a descendant of early Dutch settlers in New York. Four sons resulted from this union, of whom DeWitt was the second.

Young Clinton's early education was begun by a Reverend Moffat, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in the community where he was born. In 1782 he was transferred to the Academy of Kingston, one of the few public schools that had not been disrupted during the Revolutionary War. Kingston itself had been sacked and burned, but its Academy had managed to continue its mission unimpaired. In 1784, after he had mastered all its curricula, his father removed him from the academy and carried him to New York to be enrolled at

Columbia College, where he was admitted to the junior class. Clinton proved to be a very capable student and graduated in 1786 with a bachelor of arts degree with highest honors.

After graduation he entered upon the study of law and was diligent in his studies. His admission to the bar took place after the usual course of three years' study and passing the examination prescribed by law. However, before he could establish a practice, the direction of his life was changed. His uncle, who happened to be the governor of New York, had need of a person both of great capacity and unquestioned fidelity as secretary. This post had been filled by DeWitt's elder brother, who unfortunately drowned in the Hudson. Thus, from 1790 to 1795, Clinton filled the post of private secretary to the Governor, abandoning the profession of the law and entering into the career of politics. The life of Clinton was subsequently to become one of political strife, into which he threw all the force of his ardent personality and brilliant talents, and in which he acquired but few close and really attached friends but made many bitter enemies.

During this period, he was raised in

Holland Lodge 16 (now 8) on September 3, 1790, and served as its master in 1793. He was knighted in "Holland Lodge" on May 17, 1792.

He then served in the New York state legislature from 1797 until 1802, where he pushed for the passage of sanitary laws, the relief of prisoners for debt, and the abolition of slavery in the state. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1802 but resigned a year later to become mayor of New York City, an office he held from 1803 to 1807, 1810, 1811, 1813, and 1814. While mayor he organized the Historical Society of New York in 1804 and was its president; he also organized the Academy of Fine Arts in 1808. He served as lieutenant governor of New York from 1811 until 1813. In 1812 Clinton ran for United States president under the Federalists and anti-war Republican nomination but was defeated by James Madison, Madison receiving 128 electoral votes to Clinton's 89.

Politically, perhaps Clinton's greatest claim to fame was his championing the construction of the Erie Canal. A canal connecting the Hudson River at Albany to Lake Erie at Buffalo was an early dream for New York settlers. Such a canal was needed to connect the eastern and western parts of the state because of overland traveling difficulties and impediments as well as to provide an avenue for commerce to Lake Erie and beyond. The distance proposed for the canal was 363 miles, longer than had ever been attempted in the United States. The project was considered impossible by many who cited lack of funds, untrained engineers, and difficult terrain. Clinton, then mayor of New York City, believed that such a canal was vital to the interests of his state. Wanting his



city to be perceived as being as progressive and cosmopolitan as Boston and Philadelphia, Clinton threw all his political weight behind the project, beginning a canal fund and enlisting the support of future president, Martin Van Buren, in the state senate. He enthusiastically backed a popularly supported petition to the legislature, demanding that a canal be built; eventually, it carried over one hundred thousand signatures. Impetus for the project increased during the early teens, surveys continued, engineers were trained in England and Holland, and the federal government was expected to provide partial financial aid. In 1816, the plans were delayed when the *Bonus Bill*, the vital legislation for national funding, was vetoed by President James Madison. Clinton, although he did not have adequate state funding at the time, decided to go ahead with his plans. As he was running for state governor at the time, he could not delay the canal any longer. However, the veto of the *Bonus Bill* fortified the state's sense of resolution and independence, and by April of

1817, a canal bill was passed, guaranteeing funds for the completion of the project. On July 4, 1817, ground was broken at Utica, New York, and construction began simultaneously to the east and west.

The building of the Erie Canal continued for eight years. As Clinton's political fortunes varied, so did the popularity of the canal project. Often known as "Clinton's Ditch" and "Clinton's Folly," the canal and its supporters were frequently criticized by the New York press. Clinton, who had won the governorship in 1817, was voted out of office in 1822 and removed from the Canal Board by his political enemies in 1824. Using his "martyrdom" and popular support, Clinton rode the excitement as the canal neared completion and was re-elected as governor in 1825, in time to preside over the Erie Canal's opening ceremonies in October of that year. The celebration lasted ten days as Governor Clinton traveled the length of the canal in a packet boat, receiving plaudits at every town.

The canal provided outstanding revenue for the state of New York. Making a profit in its first year, the canal steadily made money until the tolls were abolished in 1883; this was not usually the case with later canals. Also unique to the Erie Canal was the fact that it survived the rise of the railroads. The tonnage on the canal continued to increase well past the time of the Civil War, finally peaking in 1872.

The year 1825 was marked by an incident which produced a change in the New York political scene and for a time upset the calculations of the most experienced politicians. A certain William Morgan, residing at Batavia in Genesee County, had undertaken to publish the secrets of Freemasonry. This had been

resented by some over-zealous brethren of the Craft, and Morgan was abducted, never to be seen again, and was assumed by many to have been murdered by the Masons. Clinton, as we have seen, became a Freemason at an early age and had been elected to the highest offices of the Fraternity. In this capacity, it appears from his correspondence that he was repeatedly asked for advice as to the nature of the Masonic obligations. Replies to such requests occur in his letters long before the excitement caused by the disappearance of Morgan arose. They are of consistent wording and declare Masonic obligations to be lesser in nature to the duties of the man, the citizen, and the Christian, to which, if found in opposition, they, in his opinion, should in all respects yield. When Clinton became a candidate for re-election in 1825, the fact of his being a Mason was made use of by his political foes in an attempt to weaken his popularity.

The opponents of Clinton were unable to decrease his established popularity with the people, but that very popularity was the cause of overconfidence on the part of his friends. From this cause, the vote was smaller than that of the previous election. It was estimated that from twenty to thirty thousand voters did not put in their ballots and that all of these were persons, who had they voted, would have voted for Clinton.

In spite of this, he was re-elected by a majority of upward of four thousand. He did not, however, waver in the strict fulfillment of his duties. Every power of his mind and every prerogative he possessed as governor were called into action for the purpose of bringing the Batavia offenders to justice, and the anxiety he felt that the supremacy of

the law should be vindicated seems to have pressed upon his already declining health. On the other hand, he could not avoid expressing his surprise that the unauthorized and disavowed acts of a few ill-judging persons should be made the grounds of proscription against all the members of the Masonic fraternity.

In addition to his interest in politics and public improvements, he devoted much study to the natural sciences. Among his published works are a *Memoir on the Antiquities of Western New York* (1818) and *Letters on the Natural History and Internal Resources of New York* (1822). He also had the distinction of being pictured on the \$1,000 United States note (series of 1880).

Turning now to his Masonic career, he served as grand master of the Grand

Lodge of New York from 1806-1819. He also served as grand high priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of New York in 1798 and general grand high priest of the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of the United States from 1816 until 1826. He served as grand commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of New York from 1814-1828 and as grand master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States from 1816-1828. He died suddenly while still in office on February 11, 1828, in Albany, New York.

DeWitt Clinton then, as we have seen, was a lawyer, statesman, patriot, and Freemason, and with Thomas Smith Webb and Henry Fowle, formed a combination to which is largely due the present status of Templary in the United States.

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Knights



at the Bookshelf

By

Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC

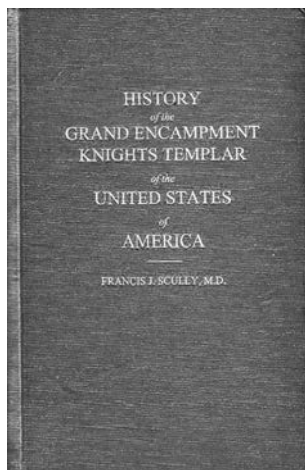
Francis J. Scully, M.D., *History of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America*, William Mitchell Printing Co., Greenfield, Indiana, 1952.

This book is absolutely indispensable to anyone interested in the history of Templary in general and of the Grand Encampment in particular. It was written to commemorate the 850th anniversary of ancient Templary and has as its subtitle, "*The Story of Knighthood from the Days of the Ancient Templars to the 44th Conclave of the Modern Templars in 1949.*" The book was written by Dr. Francis Scully, M.D., a past grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Arkansas and chairman of the Committee on Templar History of the Grand Encampment at the time of its writing.

The first four chapters deal with a relatively brief survey of the Crusades, ancient orders of knighthood, medieval knighthood, and early Freemasonry. The remaining chapters are of greater interest to us as modern Templars, dealing with Templary in the colonial era, the formation of the Grand Encampment, the history of accomplishments at the Triennial Conclaves from 1816-1949, the rituals and work of the Commandery orders, a history of the evolution of the uniform, biographies of the grand masters from 1816-1949, and biographies of noted Templars who were prominent in the formation and administration of the Grand Encampment from its inception and down through the years. Throughout the book are numerous illustrations and photos of documents, regalia, and renowned Sir Knights.

The book is an authoritative work which is comprehensive, interesting, and easy to read. The acquisition and collation of the material presented in it must have been a very considerable and almost daunting undertaking, but thankfully, Right Eminent Sir Knight Scully was up to the task. Unfortunately, it is now out of print but is possibly available from online used book dealers, estates, or other sources. As current chairman of the Knights Templar History Committee, it has proved invaluable to me in my research. If you can locate one, I urge you to purchase it if possible. You will be glad you did.

knight templar



General Supplement

The space on these two pages is provided by the *Knight Templar* magazine to be used by the Grand Commanderies to communicate with the individual Sir Knights in their jurisdictions on a monthly basis. From time to time and for various reasons, we fail to receive any material from the editor of the state supplement for a given month. When this happens, we take the opportunity to offer you the information below. – The Ed.





NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

Ulrich O. Brosch.....	CA	George A. Morrow	CA
Steven G. Bowers	IL	George W. Caldwell, III.....	MA/RI
Richard L. Campano.....	MA/RI	John L. Carlson	MA/RI
Vincent Catrambone.....	MA/RI	Stuart R. Holbrook	MA/RI
Michael R. Keller.....	PA	Evaristo A. Leviste	Philippines
Jeffery T. Morris	TN	Arlene Fischer	TX
Jason L. Jackson	TX	Joel T. Bundy	VA

Grand Commander's Club

Gene R. Freeman	AK	William C. Langlois	AL
Charles E. Hileman, Jr.	IL	Bernhard O. Eggel	KS
John E. Justice.....	MD	George M. Clarke, Jr.	MT
Mark E. Megee	NJ	Benjamin Langel.....	NY
Kenneth Brown.....	OH	Hoyt B. Palmer	SC
William M. Grindeland	TN	Walter L. Smith.....	TN
Moton H. Crockett, Jr.....	TX	Clifford H. Gregory	VA
Michael J. Ladd	VT		

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.

IN MEMORIAM



Von Lewis
Tennessee

Grand Commander 2007
Born: October 29, 1941
Died: December 21, 2015

David Ernest DeMent
West Virginia
Grand Commander 1985
Born: March 26, 1938
Died: March 26, 2016

Lewis Henry Russell, Jr.
Wyoming
Grand Commander 1988
Born: January 24, 1929
Died: January 17, 2016

Founders of the Grand Encampment...

Thomas Lowndes

Thomas Lowndes was born in New York on June 20, 1762. He started in business as a baker but later became a grocer. In 1807 he was superintendent of St. John Hall, which position he held for seven years. On September 2, 1817, he was appointed warder of the debtors prison. He married Miss Marie L. Milderberger on December 6, 1797, and died in New York on December 14, 1825. The *Proceedings* of 1826 carries the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the late Most Eminent Sir Thomas Lowndes, Esq., of the City of New York, general grand warder of the General Grand Encampment of the United States of America, by his unwearied zeal in the cause of Freemasonry generally, but more particularly in the formation of the General Grand Encampment, justly merits our most profound respect and veneration, and that his memory should be cherished with the warmest affection by this General Grand Encampment and all who wish well the Order of Knighthood."



THOMAS LOWNDES

a member of Jerusalem Chapter 8 and served as high priest from 1806 to 1808. He was deputy grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of New York in 1812, 1813, and 1814.

On September 2, 1810, Thomas Lowndes and fifteen other active Masons founded what they named "Columbian Grand Council 1, Royal Master Masons." At this meeting is recorded the

first known conferral of the Royal Master Degree. It is not known where or how Thomas Lowndes acquired the Royal Master Degree. On the one hand, he had received several of the degrees of the Rite of Perfection which could have included the Royal Master or a related degree in 1806 from Abraham Jacobs, a grand inspector of the Emperors of the East and West. (In 1807, Joseph Cerneau conferred the degree of Royal Master in New York and established a Grand Council under authority derived from the Grand Consistory in France and the same year, established a Grand Consistory there. The records of the Grand Council for the first three years are lost. All writers have assumed that the 1807 Council was the Lowndes Council, whose records prove it was organized in 1810. That the 1807 Council may have given way to the Lowndes Council seems to have been overlooked.)

A charter was granted to Columbian Council 1 in 1810 and in 1821 a Council of Select Masters. Some scholars are of the opinion that Thomas Lowndes cre-

Sir Lowndes was raised in Washington Lodge 21 in 1802 and was master of the Lodge in 1808 and in 1814. He became active in the Grand Lodge and in 1814 was appointed right worshipful grand visitor, which carried the duties of the district deputy grand master and grand lecturer combined. He was knight templar

ated the degree a few years before 1810. At the very least, he is recognized as the principal disseminator of the degree. At the first meeting on September 2, 1810, the members elected their first officers, including Thomas Lowndes as “thrice illustrious grand royal master,” an office he continued to hold until 1821. They also balloted on four candidates and then conferred the degree on them. The degree of Royal Master remained the working degree of this Council from its founding until it joined in the formation of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of New York in 1823. However, shortly after the founding of the Council, it added three additional degrees, one of which survives today. On December 7, 1810, Thomas Lowndes conferred the Knight of the Round Table Degree. On March 4, 1811, he conferred the Honorable Order of the Garter. These two degrees, which have since disappeared, were distinctly of English character with no relation to the Scottish Rite. They are believed to be the work of Thomas Lowndes. He was also the first grand master of the Grand Council.

On December 22, 1817, is recorded the first conferral of the degree of Super Excellent Master, presided over by Thomas Lowndes. The degree, which has no relation to English degrees with a similar name, was probably written by Thomas Lowndes, and hence, is a product of America.

The connection of this degree with York Rite Masonry grew gradually. By 1816, the Council was using York Rite dating. Also in 1816, candidates’ affiliations in the minutes changed from listing their Lodge to listing their Royal Arch Chapter. This was probably in part a result of the fact that Thomas Lowndes was an active York Rite Mason.

In 1808 when Abram Jacobs started conferring the higher degrees of the Scottish Rite, Lowndes was one of the first candidates and became a charter member of Aurora Grata Lodge of Perfection. Later he withdrew, became associated with Joseph Cerneau, and was a grand inspector general of the 33° of the Cerneau Sovereign Grand Consistory. In the Cerneau controversy, he allied with the Cerneau group.

He was one of the organizers of Columbian Encampment in 1810 and served as its eminent commander until 1820. He became deputy grand master of the Grand Encampment of New York under DeWitt Clinton. In 1816 he was appointed the delegate of the Grand Encampment of New York to attend the convention in Philadelphia with the view of establishing a General Grand Encampment. At the subsequent meeting in New York, he aided in the organization of the General Grand Encampment on June 21, 1816, and was elected general grand warder. At the Conclave of 1819, he was reelected to the same office.

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Founders of the Grand Encampment...

Thomas Smith Webb

Thomas Smith Webb, the “Founding Father of the York or American Rite” as he is appropriately described by Herbert T. Leyland, his biographer, was born October 30, 1771, in Boston. He holds the rare distinction of being actively connected with the formation of two large national masonic bodies, testimony to the respect in which he was held by his Masonic brethren.

He received his education in Boston public schools and also began the study of music there, which was to be an enjoyable diversion throughout his life. His business career was extensive and varied. After serving an apprenticeship with his father as a bookbinder, he started in for himself in Keene, New Hampshire, and then moved to Albany, New York, where he changed to the manufacture of wallpaper with considerable success.

Providence, Rhode Island, was the next stop, and for 16 years, he continued the wallpaper business and operated a bookstore. While there, he became agent for the Hope Cotton Company. Later he built a cotton mill in Walpole, Massachusetts, and a few years later moved the machinery to Ohio to merge with the Worthington Manufacturing Company. All these moves were based on changing economic conditions and were justified by future events. First he married Martha “Patty or Polly” Hopkins in October of 1797 in Boston and had five children. On August 9, 1808, he married Mehitabel “Hitty” Hopkins, sister of Martha Hopkins.

His Masonic career was fully as extensive and varied. While he received his initiation

in Rising Sun Lodge, Keene, New Hampshire, at age 19, it was in Albany and Providence that most of his activities and contributions occurred. Leyland describes him as “Freemason, Musician, and Entrepreneur,” and without question, he earned each of those titles.

In Albany at age 26, he authored his *Freemason’s Monitor or Illustrations of Masonry*, a literary work that ultimately went to seven editions. It brought international fame to the author and became the standard of ritual exemplification for many jurisdictions. It was a compendium of many of the writings of William Preston of England, a man who devoted a lifetime of service to the Craft in the study and perfection of



Masonic lectures. Webb joined Union Lodge in Albany and became its worshipful master. He helped form Temple Royal Arch Chapter and became its high priest.

His reputation was well known when he moved to Providence in 1799, and he was soon taken into the life of the community. During his stay in Rhode Island, he was elected to the school committee; became a director of the Providence Library Company; and served as a director, trustee, and finally treasurer of the Providence Mutual Fire Insurance Company. From a private in the state militia, he rose to be colonel of his regiment.

Soon after his arrival in Providence, he accepted an invitation to join St. John’s Lodge 1 and at once started a school of instruction. As a member of a Rhode Island Lodge, he was eligible to attend Grand

Lodge, and on his first visit, he was appointed a member of a committee to revise the *Constitutions*. It is interesting to note that within the next two years, two amendments to the *Constitution* were adopted which permitted the utilization of the services of Brother Webb. One amendment repealed a two-year limit on the term of the grand wardens which allowed Webb to serve for three years as grand senior warden; the other made it possible to elect a grand master who was not a past master of a Lodge in Rhode Island. Thus, it was legitimate to elect Webb as grand master in 1813 and 1814. A further election in 1815 he declined.

It was in 1814 that a British man-of-war appeared off Newport. Providence, like other coastal cities, was fearful of bombing and possible invasion. At a mass meeting before the State House in Providence, a Committee on Defense was appointed to insure the protection of the town. Volunteers were called for to erect breastworks. Webb, as grand master, called a special meeting of Grand Lodge and instructed the brethren to "bring shovel, spade, or axe and one day's provisions." After opening Grand Lodge, the brethren marched to Fox Hill and by sunset had erected breastworks 430 feet long, ten feet wide, and five feet high, naming it "Fort Hiram," an act confirmed by the Governor that evening. This was one of only two Masonic forts in the country.

Webb also accepted an invitation to join Providence Royal Arch Chapter and was elected its high priest two years later. He assisted in the formation of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island and served as grand high priest from 1804 until 1814. He revised and enlarged the existing rituals of the Mark Master, Past Master, and Royal Arch Degrees and largely created the ritual for the Most Excellent Master Degree. With others,

he eventually organized the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States and was guiding the operation as deputy grand high priest at his death. The General Grand Chapter is now the oldest national masonic body in America.

As Leyland says; "It was Webb's genius that saw the need in the Masonic field of strong national and state organizations to preserve, invigorate, and propagate the then detached, uncontrolled, and sometimes nebulous ceremonies that now are known as the Capitular Rite and the Templar orders."

On one of his travels to the Midwest, Webb found that in Kentucky and Ohio, the Grand Lodges had sole power to charter Royal Arch Chapters, but he was able to influence them to permit the formation of Grand Chapters which would be subservient only to the General Grand Chapter.

When and where Webb received the orders of Knighthood cannot now be determined with certainty. Creigh, in his *"History of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania,"* claims he was Knighted in Philadelphia. During this same period, Webb's untiring Masonic zeal accomplished the formation on August 11, 1802, of St. John's Encampment of Knights Templar, now St. John's Commandery 1 of Providence, the ranking body of all Templar organizations in America. Webb provided the ritual and ceremonial procedure of the Templar orders and was elected its first eminent commander. He was elected annually until 1814 when he declined re-election. In 1805, with others, he organized the current Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island and presided therein until he retired in 1817.

The achievement which has been declared the crowning glory of Webb's masonic career was the formation of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, which he accomplished

in 1816 in New York City. Governor De Witt Clinton was elected grand master and Webb became deputy grand master, a position he held at his death.

As he approached 40, Webb prepared to divest himself of many of his business connections, and by 1815, he had withdrawn from several of his Masonic responsibilities in Providence. He devoted more of his time to music and, with others, formed the Handel and Haydn Philharmonic Society in Boston. He was its first president and conducted the Society's first public concert in King's Chapel on Christmas Day of 1815, with more than 100 participants. He also served as one of the soloists and even attained some fame later as a composer. He was also the first president of the Psallonian Society, an organization for promoting religious music that popularized the use of hymns, choirs, and organs in American churches. The few odes and anthems composed by Webb for his rituals possess a high degree of poetic merit and demonstrate the possession of much genius in their author.

It was on one of his several western

trips that Thomas Smith Webb died of a cerebral hemorrhage on July 6, 1819. A Masonic burial service was held in Cleveland, Ohio, and memorial services were conducted in many cities. Later it was felt more appropriate that Webb be buried in



Providence. With the consent of his widow and with funds supplied by the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island and other local masonic bodies, his body was brought to Providence and placed in the West Burying Ground. When that cemetery was later converted to a park, the body was moved to the North Burial Ground to a plot of land on a knoll donated by the city, on which in 1862, through the efforts of Sir Knight Robert Morris, a marble monument or obelisk was erected by Grand Lodge. Each side of the shaft was used to record one or more of his many accomplishments.

One of Freemasonry's most dedicated workers passed with a record of accomplishment second to none, and his memory is perpetuated in Rhode Island by a Lodge, a Council, and a Commandery bearing his name.

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Beauceant News



Arlington Assembly 189, Texas, Worthy President Mrs. Mary Wyatt and other members welcomed Supreme Worthy President (Mrs. Thomas) Lynda Derby on the occasion of her official visit. (Mrs. Kenneth) Patricia Johnson was welcomed into our beautiful order during this special occasion!



Supreme Worthy President (Mrs. Thomas) Lynda Derby was welcomed by Worthy President (Mrs. Kenneth) Janet Sheats and members of Tyler Assembly 127, Texas. Supreme Chaplain (Mrs. Jon) Melissa Spann and Supreme Historian (Mrs. Phil) Frena Boley were present for the initiation of (Mrs. Earnest, Jr.) Angie Tyler.

Henry Fowle

Henry Fowle, one of the early leaders of Templary in Massachusetts, was born at Medford, Massachusetts, on September 19, 1766. His schooling was limited and ended with the beginning of the Revolutionary War. For a time, he worked with his father in the tailoring business, but the close confinement did not agree with his health. At age 14, he went to Boston, and in 1783, he there entered into an apprenticeship with Mr. Richard Skillen, a block and pump maker. He found this work quite agreeable and in 1788, was able to purchase tools and set up his own business. The embargo of 1807 and the subsequent war with Great Britain proved disastrous to his business and almost ruined it. After these reverses, the business prospered, and in 1815, he took his son, Henry, into partnership. He had a good knowledge of French and spoke it with the same fluency as he did his mother tongue.

On November 1, 1789, he married Miss Elizabeth Bentley. Fourteen children were born before she died in January of 1811. The next year he married Miss Mary Adams who passed away in June of 1814 during the birth of their first child. In December of 1814, he married Miss Ruth Skimmer, and six children were born to that union. She died in February of 1863.

When he was twenty-three years old, he received a commission from Governor John Hancock, appointing him lieutenant of a military company in Boston's Ward One. At the end of four years, "being tired of the military," he resigned. "However, some years after," he says in his autobiography, "I was induced to knight templar



join the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company [1806]. The third year, [it was in 1807] I was elected second sergeant, and the year following was requested to accept a lieutenant's commission, but fearful of the expense, I declined and the next year, at my own request, was discharged." He was a fireward (fire chief) in Boston for three years, clerk of Ward One for four years, clerk of Ward Two for three years, a member of the Humane Society, and a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association from 1795 until 1799.

In 1827 he became crippled with rheumatism, which was to incapacitate him during the rest of his life. He finally sold his business to three of his sons; Henry, William, and Joshua. They were to make monthly payments to him as long as he lived, but after two years when business became dull, they broke the agreement

and sold out the business. This left him without any income. He moved to Jamaica Plains but in 1830 returned to Boston where he remained until his death on March 10, 1837. His later years were very difficult because of his poverty and failing health. He is interred in the Copps Hill Burying Ground in Boston.

Fowle was made a Mason in St. Andrews Lodge in Boston in 1793. He received the Entered Apprentice Degree on April 11th, the Fellow Craft Degree on June 17th, and the Master Degree on August 2nd. Soon afterward, he became the junior warden and two years later became senior warden. In 1800 he was one of the petitioners for the establishment of Mount Lebanon Lodge and was its first worshipful master, also serving in this office 1801, 1802, 1803, and 1805. The work and lectures used in this new Lodge were revised by Fowle who felt that many improprieties and errors had crept into the work as it was generally conferred in that vicinity. This work had the approval of the Grand Lodge, and Grand Master Isaiah Thomas offered Fowle a salary of one hundred dollars a month if he would teach this work throughout the jurisdiction. A little later (1805), he re-affiliated with St. Andrews Lodge and became the worshipful master, which office he held from 1810 through 1817. In 1801 he was appointed junior grand deacon of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and became senior grand warden in 1809. When Francis J. Oliver was grand master in 1817, he served as deputy grand master for the third Masonic District.

On January 28, 1795, Fowle received the Mark, Past, Most Excellent, and Royal Arch degrees in St. Andrews Chapter. In 1804 he was elected high priest and was reelected annually until 1808. He

was deputy grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts for eight years and when elected grand high priest declined to accept the office. In 1798 he was a delegate with Benjamin Hurd and William Woart to the convention at Hartford which resulted in the organization of the General Grand Chapter. On June 6, 1816, he represented the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts at the fourth meeting of the General Grand Chapter held in New York. At the next Triennial meeting in 1819, he attended as deputy grand high priest of Massachusetts and was elected deputy general grand high priest of the General Grand Chapter. Due to ill health, he was not present at the meeting in 1826.

Fowle received the Knight Templar order on January 28, 1795, in St. Andrews Chapter at the same meeting that he was exalted a Royal Arch Mason. From that time on, his zeal for Templary is evidenced by his work in organizing the Masonic Knights of Boston. On March 12, 1802, he became the sovereign master of the newly organized Council of Knights of the Red Cross. When that body was re-organized as the Boston Encampment of Knights Templar in 1806, he was elected grand master (eminent commander) which office he held until 1824. When the Grand Encampment of Rhode Island was established in Providence on March 6, 1805, he was chosen grand generalissimo. In 1817 he became deputy grand master, and in 1820, grand master of the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

In 1816 he was one of the delegates from the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island to the convention in Philadelphia, and later in New York when the General Grand Encampment

was organized. He was elected general grand generalissimo. At the second meeting of the General Grand Encampment in 1819, he took Webb's place in the line of officers and became deputy general grand master. He was not present at the 1826 Conclave when it was reported that there was \$758.63 in his hands belonging to the Grand Encampment. Apparently nothing was done about this until the 1835 Conclave when the grand recorder called attention to this sum that was still charged to Sir Knight Fowle.

It was moved to expel him from Masonic privileges, but after explanations were made, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, it appears that Sir Henry Fowle is by unavoidable misfortune reduced in circumstances and entirely unable to pay the money due by him to this General Grand Encampment and that Sir Henry Fowle's health is such that in all probability his existence in this world must soon terminate; therefore, Resolved, that the general grand recorder

be directed to settle the accounts of Sir Henry Fowle with the Grand Encampment and to send him a receipt in full of all claims against him."

Today we remember Sir Knight Fowle for his abundant services to the order, not only in the development of the ritual but also for his leadership in the early days of Templary when the General Grand Encampment was striving for recognition.

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IN

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Founders of the Grand Encampment...

John Dallas Snow

To William Snow, captain in the Revolutionary Army, on February 15, 1780, in Providence, Rhode Island, a son, John Dallas, was born, who was destined to leave a lasting imprint on Templary and on Freemasonry in Rhode Island and Ohio.

At the age of fourteen, he was apprenticed to a Mr. Nehemiah Dodge, who was engaged in the manufacture of jewelry. Snow remained with him for seven years, after which he moved to Newport and started his own jewelry business in 1802. He married Miss Mary Thurston (1781-1865) on March 22, 1802, in Providence, and four sons were born to that union. (Two of whom are mentioned at the Find-A-Grave website: Rev. William T. Snow (1803-1875) and John W. Snow (1806-1832).) In 1806 he left the jewelry business and became

a tavern operator in Providence until 1810, at which time he opened a grocery store. In June of 1817, he moved to Ohio. John Snow and Thomas Smith Webb were associated in the ill-fated Worthington Manufacturing Company, and upon its failure, Snow opened a drug store in Worthington, Ohio, which he continued to operate until the time of his death. Snow died at his home in Worthington on May 16, 1852. His grave

at Worthington in the Walnut Grove Cemetery is marked by a monument erected by the Grand Lodge of Ohio. His obituary reads as follows:

"Died, at Worthington, on the 16th instant [16th of May], John Snow, aged 73 years. The deceased has been a resident of Worthington for 36 years and was generally known to the residents of this county."

Snow was made a Mason in Mount Vernon Lodge at Providence, Rhode Island, on February 14, 1809. He quickly acquired a thorough knowledge of the work and became master of his lodge in 1811, which office he held until he moved to Ohio. He took part in the activities of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island and was elected junior grand deacon in 1815 and senior grand deacon in 1816.

After moving to Ohio, he visited New England Lodge 4 at Worthington on September 29, 1817, and soon after affiliated with this Lodge. On October 7, 1818, he was elected master of New England Lodge and continued in that office until October 30, 1822. He was again elected in 1827 and continued serving as master until 1832. He was elected the sixth grand master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio



JOHN SNOW.

in 1819 and served until 1824. Later he served as grand lecturer and visited many of the Lodges in the state. He was re-elected grand master in 1829. Intimately acquainted with Thomas Smith Webb, he became one of Webb's most ardent admirers. He studied and mastered Webb's lectures and upon moving to Ohio, is said to have done more than any other single individual to establish the Webb system of work into Ohio Freemasonry.

He was also prominent in Royal Arch Masonry. He was exalted in Horeb Chapter 3 at Worthington, Ohio, and was elected high priest on November 17, 1818. He continued in that office until 1822 when he declined reelection. He was chosen grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of Ohio in 1819. That year he attended the triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter and was elected general grand king. In 1826 he became deputy general grand high priest. He was the senior officer present and presided at the triennial meeting in 1826, and in 1829 he again presided due to the death of the general grand high priest, DeWitt Clinton, in 1828.

Snow received the degrees of Royal and Select Master from Jeremy Cross and was authorized to form and establish Councils of Royal and Select Masters in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. There is no evidence that he ever exercised this authority.

He received the orders of Knighthood in St. John's Encampment at Providence, Rhode Island, on April 22, 1811. He was elected generalissimo in 1816. After moving to Ohio in 1817, he became interested in establishing an Encampment

there, and in March of 1818, received a dispensation from his friend, Sir Thomas Smith Webb, the deputy general grand master, to form an Encampment at Worthington, Ohio. Accordingly, on March 20, 1818, Thomas S. Webb, Frederick A. Curtis, and John Snow met in Worthington, and Mt. Vernon Encampment was organized. A charter was granted at the meeting of the Grand Encampment in 1819. This Encampment, now known as Mount Vernon Commandery 1, was moved to Columbus in 1844. Snow served as its eminent commander from 1820 to 1830.

While living in Providence in 1816, Sir

John Snow was appointed as one of the delegates from the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island to attend the convention at Philadelphia. When that meeting failed to accomplish its mission, the delegates returned to New York, and on June 21, 1816, organized the General Grand Encampment. Sir John Snow was elected general grand standard bearer. At the Conclave of 1819, he was elected general grand generalissimo and was al-

lowed the sum of ninety dollars from the fund of the general grand treasury for his expenses in attending the Conclave.

At the Triennial Conclave of 1826, he was the senior officer present but was not elected to continue in any office. In 1829 he attended the Triennial Conclave in New York as a representative of Mt. Vernon Encampment of Ohio and served on the Committee of Grievances. This was the last reference to Snow in the *Proceedings of the Grand Encampment*.

Most Worshipful Brother Snow was undoubtedly the prime mover respon-



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sible for the construction in 1820 of the Masonic temple used for many years by New England Lodge 4. He secured the lot for the Lodge on which the temple was built, and subsequently, John and Mary Snow conveyed it by deed to the Governor of Ohio in perpetuity for Masonic purposes. The annual communi-

cation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio was held in this building in 1829 and again in 1830. Today this temple is the property of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and houses the Grand Lodge Museum. It is the oldest Masonic Temple built and used continuously for Masonic purposes west of the Appalachian Mountains.

SOURCES

1. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=5908212>
2. Francis J. Scully, M.D., *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America*, Wm. Mitchell Printing Co., Greenfield, Indiana, 1952
3. <http://www.freemason.com/glo/past-grand-masters/102-1829-john-snow>

Subscriptions to the *Knight Templar* magazine are available from the Grand Encampment office at a rate of \$15.00 per year. Individual issues in quantities of less than 10 can be obtained for \$1.50 each from the office of the managing editor if available. Inquire via e-mail to the managing editor for quantities in excess of 10. Some past issues are archived on our web site. <http://www.knightstemplar.org>.

Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting

PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY GRANT REVIEW 2016

At an annual meeting held every March, officers and trustees of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation come together with ten doctors specializing in pediatric ophthalmology from many leading hospitals and research institutions throughout the country to review the applications and to recommend which applications, based on the merits of the proposal, should be funded with a grant.



We are pleased to report that this year we received fifty career-starter research grant applications and sixteen competitive renewal grant applications. Twenty career starter grants and ten competitive and renewal grants were recommended for funding by the committee, and all thirty were approved by the officers and trustees serving on the Scientific Advisory Committee. This

committee consists of Duane L. Vaught, president, member of the committee, and trustee of the Foundation; Jeffrey N. Nelson, chairman of the committee, vice president, and trustee of the Foundation; Michael B. Johnson, member of the Committee, vice president, and trustee of the Foundation; David J. Kussman, member of the Committee and trustee of the Foundation; and William Jackson Jones, member of the Committee, past president of the Foundation, and current trustee.



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Psalm 89:14

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