



# **Knight Templar**

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# Knight Templar

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# A Guest Message from the Most Venerable David Dixon Goodwin

Sovereign Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the  
United States of America

I am pleased and honored to bring you the warm fraternal greetings of the officers and brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Sir Knight Duane Lee Vaught, GCT, most eminent grand master, for this wonderful opportunity to address the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment.

The Allied Masonic Degrees is an invitation-al body requiring membership in a Symbolic Lodge and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Each local Council is limited to twenty-seven members, and there are approximately 450 Councils spread across the United States. Our Councils are always looking for Royal Arch Masons who are interested in historical degrees and Masonic research to participate in their Councils.

The purpose of the AMD is to control and superintend Masonic degrees that are no longer under the jurisdiction of other recognized Masonic bodies. We can preserve these degrees for the future by not letting them disappear completely. Please visit our website, [www.amdusa.org](http://www.amdusa.org), for a listing of the degrees under our control as well as a brief description of each degree.

We are also an educational research organization whose members present original research papers related to Freemasonry at our local Councils. The very best of these are printed by the Grand Council each year in our *Miscellanea* publication and distributed to our members.

If you would like any further information, you will find contact information for our office and grand officers on our website.

On behalf of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees, I wish each of you much enjoyment and success in your Masonic endeavors.

With best fraternal regards!



M.V. David Dixon Goodwin, sovereign grand master



# IN MEMORIAM



William Ellis Matyastik  
Texas  
Grand Commander 2008  
Born: April 27, 1932  
Died: January 23, 2018

Robert Lewis Smith  
Iowa  
Grand Commander 2014  
Born: December 28, 1940  
Died: January 27, 2018

David E. Cumming  
Vermont  
Grand Commander 1996  
Born: October 6, 1934  
Died: January 20, 2018

William E. Clepper  
Pennsylvania  
Grand Commander 1999  
Born: December 8, 1923  
Died: February 7, 2018

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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.

# Prelate's Chapel

by

Rev. William D. Hartman, right eminent grand prelate of the Grand Encampment



**T**wo men were climbing the Pyrenees Mountains. Darkness overtook them at a high altitude, so they pitched a tent and slept. Toward morning, the wind began to whistle, lightning split the jagged peaks, thunder rolled, hailstones hurtled down from the sky. The younger man awoke in terror. "We are finished," he cried, but his older and experienced companion assured him, "No, this is merely the way dawn comes in the Pyrenees." In a short time, the sun was rising in all its glory.

Often what seems like the end is only the beginning. So it was with Christ's death and resurrection. It was a new beginning when the last enemy was destroyed. There are so many enemies threatening our lives today. The darkness deepens, and we don't know if we will overcome it.

The last mention in Mark's Gospel before the Easter account is about evening on "Good Friday," when the shadows had deepened and all seemed lost, but it was not the end. Day broke on Easter morning, sunrise flooded the earth, Christ was raised from the grave, and hearts were bursting with joy. Since the creation of the world, every sunset has been followed by a sunrise. Death for the Christian is not the end but the night before the sunrise. As Jesus said, "Because I live, you too shall live." "I am the Resurrection and the Life." "They who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Since our last enemy, death, has been destroyed, we can live a hallelujah life. A famous English minister, R. W. Dale, had his congregation sing an Easter hymn almost every Sunday. Even in November, they would be singing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." Dr. Dale explained when asked, "I want my people to get hold of the glorious fact that Christ is alive, and to rejoice over it."

Our risen Lord has opened to us a free, abundant, triumphant life. To Him be all the glory. To Him be all the thanks. To Him be hallelujah forever!

# John P. S. Gobin

## 15<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of the Grand Encampment

23<sup>rd</sup> in a series on our past grand masters

By

Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC

### Author's Note

Some Sir Knights have been kind enough to inform me that biographies of the Grand Masters are available at the Grand Encampment Website. I am quite aware of this but hasten to add that those were largely extracted from Scully's *Grand Encampment History*, published in 1952. Much more material is available now on many of these Grand Masters than was available in Dr. Scully's day, particularly on the Internet. I have done considerable additional research on these Sir Knights, and believe my articles should give us more complete biographies of these remarkable men. – GLM

**J**ohn Peter Shindel Gobin was born in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, on January 26, 1837, the son of Samuel Shoemaker Gobin (1812-1893) and Susanna M. (Shindel) Gobin (1814-1878), and he was the oldest of the four Gobin children. His father was a wheelwright by occupation and during part of his lifetime was engaged on the Union and Schuylkill canals, building locks and doing other heavy carpentry work. His grandfather was Edward Gobin, a veteran of the War of 1812, and his great-grandfather was Pennsylvania native Captain Charles Gobin, a patriot and leader of the 6<sup>th</sup> Company of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Berks County Militia. Serving during the American Revolution, Charles Gobin fought in the Jersey Campaign before continuing to serve his nation by performing frontier duty in 1780.

John was educated in the public schools and learned the printer's trade while employed by the *Sunbury American*. He served as the unsuccessful publisher of the *Philadelphia Star of Youth*,



a journal sponsored by the Junior Sons of America. After a less than rewarding attempt at a career in journalism, he returned to Sunbury as a schoolteacher. He later studied law under General John K. Clement and M. L. Shindel, joining the Bar of Northumberland County in 1859. He continued his practice until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861.

He entered the United States Army in 1861 with the rank of lieutenant in the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers. He subsequently recruited Company C, 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, in which regiment he was rapidly promoted for conspicuous service and gallantry. Promoted to captain of Company C, 47<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, he participated in the capture of Jackson-



knight templar

ville, Florida, and the capture of the Confederate War Steamer "Governor Milton" (the only steamer captured by infantry during the war). He fought with his unit at the Battle of Pocatigo, South Carolina, in the Red River Campaign, and at the Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. Promoted to major and commander of his regiment, he led the 47<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania in the Shenandoah Campaign that culminated in the Union victory at the Battle of Cedar Creek. Promoted to lieutenant colonel on November 24, 1864, and to colonel on January 3, 1865, he was brevetted brigadier general, U.S. Volunteers on March 13, 1865, for "faithful and meritorious services during the war." He commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 19<sup>th</sup> Army Corps in operations around Lynchburg, Virginia.

He married Miss Anna Maria Howe (1841-1913) in 1865. She was a native of Key West, Florida, and it was there that she first met Colonel Gobin, and their romance which culminated in their marriage was begun. As Miss Howe, she took a deep interest in the treatment of the sick among the Union soldiers stationed there, and it was in the hospital that she visited the recovering Colonel Gobin. The result was that when he was ordered to South Carolina as judge advocate general, he and Miss Howe first journeyed to Brooklyn, New York, where they were wedded at the home of her brother. There were no children born to this union.

From the close of the war until January of 1866, he remained with his regiment in Charleston where he acted as provost judge. He was commissioned

colonel of the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1874, was commander of the third brigade of the Pennsylvania National Guard from 1885 to 1907, and finally attained the command of the troops of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His post-war career included leading the Pennsylvania National Guard in actions against railroad and coal miner strikes and civil unrest caused by the "Molly Maguires."

During the Spanish-American War, he served as brigadier general of volunteers. In 1898 he was appointed to command his brigade when it was federalized for that war. He led his brigade during mobilization and training near Augusta, Georgia, but resigned in order to run for lieutenant governor, and returned to National Guard service in Pennsylvania.

He was commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in 1897 and was a high-ranking officer in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion (MOLLUS).

He was distinguished in the legislative and executive offices of the state. Early in his career he was county solicitor of Lebanon. He was elected state senator in 1884 and served honorably for fifteen years. He became president pro tempore of the Senate in 1892 and 1893. In 1898, he was elected lieutenant governor, serving from 1899 to 1903.

General Gobin was officially connected with many business corporations, being a member of the board of directors of the First





National Bank of Lebanon, the local gas lighting company, the City Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and the Cornwall & Lebanon Railway Company, solicitor for both of the latter corporations, and was associated with various philanthropic and fraternal organizations. He was prominent in the Odd Fellows and had been head of that order as grand patriarch in Pennsylvania. Gobin served as a trustee of the Erie Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, commissioner of the Soldiers' Orphans Schools, and head of the Gettysburg Monument Association. Relevant to the latter, he delivered the dedication of the impressive Pennsylvania Monument.

Sir Knight Gobin was made a Mason in Sunbury Lodge 22 in 1859. He received the capitular degrees in Northumberland Chapter 174 at Sunbury in 1865. He was a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and received the 33° in 1906. He was made a Knight Templar in Crusade Commandery 12 at Bloomsbury, Pennsylvania, in 1866. He was elected grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania in 1879. The next year he attended the Conclave of the Grand Encampment in Chicago in 1880 and was elected grand captain general. He was advanced at



each Triennial, and in 1889, he became grand master. During his term in office the following events occurred: the Grand Commandery of North Dakota was created, the controversial matter of rituals was finally and definitely settled and adopted, the custom of exchanging Christmas greetings with the grand master was officially recognized, the recom-

mended observance of Ascension Day was adopted, and the right of a Grand Commandery to recognize other branches of Masonry was sustained.

He died at his home in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, on May 1, 1910. "Death came at 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon," read the news account the following day in the *Reading Eagle*. He had lingered after having been struck down by paralysis (stroke) on February 25. "His entire left side was affected, and from the first, his condition was regarded as hopeless by the attending physicians." He had rallied periodically during his convalescence only to relapse. A final "sinking spell" caused him to lapse into unconsciousness the night before his passing. Holding vigil at his bedside were his wife, Anna; sisters, Anna Maria (Gobin) Shaw and Susan Abigail (Gobin) Case; his nephew, William Gobin of Colorado; and his wife's niece, Mrs. Margaret Allen of Connecticut.

The funeral was held in Lebanon on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The services were conducted by Reverend Dr. William E. Stahler of the Zion Lutheran Church of which Sir Knight Gobin was a member. The funeral was attended by representatives of the Bar, State and Military officials, Civil War Veterans, and prominent Knights Templar. Interment was in the Gobin family

plot in Mount Lebanon Cemetery. On his grave was placed a large white floral pillow with the Salem Cross of the Grand Encampment in purple flowers. His grave is shown at left.

Thus, as a soldier, public official, lawyer, and citizen, Sir Knight Gobin had a brilliant and quite successful career. As a young man he abandoned his chosen

profession at its threshold to go to the front and serve his country with an ardor that patriotism alone inspired, there to win laurels and fame; as a public official he displayed wisdom, conservatism, and executive ability, winning merited recognition and promotion at the hands of his fellow-citizens and his state at large; as a lawyer he won a place at the head of the Bar of both his county and state; and as a citizen, he did his duty and more.

It is said of him that he had a pleasing personality; kind and courteous to all, of commanding figure and magnetic temperament, and he impressed favorably all who met him. His character was strong and rugged – a staunch friend, a good fighter, but a generous foe, warm-

hearted and charitable. Sir Knight Gobin had a most attractive personality. He was skilled in oratory and was an interesting conversationalist. He was a great reader of history and was fond of travel. He was devoted to his family and friends and had a ready sympathy for the affairs and interests of others.

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

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- Photo of Sir Knight Gobin in Templar Uniform courtesy of Sir Knight Douglas Rowe, Grand Recorder, Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania

# *The Knights Templar and Agriculture, an Indispensable Part of Sustaining Crusading Knights and Pilgrims*

By

Sir Knight James A. Marples

There is an old saying, variously attributed to either King Frederick the Great of Prussia or Napoleon of France, both reputedly Freemasons that: "An army marches on its stomach." This is true. While the ancient Knights Templar are commonly envisioned as warring monks who crusaded in an attempt to preserve, protect, and defend Christianity, they were also skilled at farming because of sheer necessity.

The Knights Templar were efficient land owners all across Europe but especially in England. They cultivated lands wisely, conserved irrigation water, and wasted nothing. When their lands in Britain were confiscated in 1308, new owners took over, and the land suffered by inexperience, mismanagement, and lack of expertise. Some lands even went into a state of erosion and decay. A few years ago, Philip Slavin in the School of History at the University of Kent did a study on this very phenomenon. He found that the Knights Templar were as skilled at farming as they were at creating banking systems and that some of their techniques are still in use today. Templars, as faithful stewards of treasuries of pilgrims and as money lenders who achieved a reputation for ethics and integrity, created a variant of the modern bank check and also made innovations in the cultivation and tilling of soil so as to preserve precious rainwater as well as to use the remnants of previously harvested crops

both for nutritional value to the soil and to stabilize the soil from erosion. Those agricultural techniques are comparable to today's "no till" technology.

The Masonic scholar, Dr. and Sir Knight Albert G. Mackey, M.D., K.T., and 33°, in his *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* states that: "One of the privileges possessed by the English Templars was that their lands should be free from tithes, and these privileges still adhere to these lands, so that a farm being what is termed Templar land, is still exempt from the imposition of tithes if it is occupied by the owner, an exemption which ceases when the farm is worked under a lease."

However the Templars did, in fact, pay some tithes (a tenth of income paid to the Church). The scholar Helen Nicholson states, "In Herefordshire at Newton and Harewood, dependencies of Garway and at Garway, the Templars received the great tithe." She also says, "At the Church in Cardington in Shropshire, the vicar (priest) received the small tithes." Ms. Nicholson states, "The accounts of 1308-1313 show that they paid tithes as well as received them. The Templars paid a tithe on fleeces, geese, and hens, and at Garway in Herefordshire, they paid a tithe on lands they held from the Earl of Strigull. At Keele, in Staffordshire, the Templars paid a tithe on lambs and wool, and at Thornton in Northumberland, the Templars paid a

tithe on lambs.

Although England's King Henry VIII formally sanctioned the Church of England which separated it from the Roman Catholic Church, he nevertheless had some sympathies for the Roman Church, its liturgy, and many of its creeds. This is proven by his seizing of formerly Catholic Churches and by his royal decree making them houses of worship of the Church of England. Similarly, he appropriated the religious vestments of the clergy, commandeered the ritualistic processions and feast days, and made relatively few changes. Congregants still sat in the same pews, saying the same prayers, singing many of the same hymns, hearing basically the same homilies (now termed sermons), and receiving communion. Henry VIII only changed the format, not the underpinning foundation of Christianity. He was a mortal man with human temptations and a bullying temper to get what he wanted; yet, he made surprisingly few additional demands. After the Reformation, Henry VIII was probably as religious as he ever was. He was even granted the rarely bestowed title "Defender of the Faith" by Pope Leo X on 11 October 1521, which has been used by British Monarchs ever since.

The Papal states once encompassed a territory far larger than the modern day Vatican city state and far beyond the modern nation of Italy. In fact, some parts of France such as San Marino and Avignon were part of the Papal states from the 8<sup>th</sup> Century to the year 1870 when most lands were lost and the current Vatican City was established, which covers only around 100 acres of land (0.17

square miles or 0.44 square kilometers). Attendance at Church services, back then, was regarded as almost compulsory. Furthermore, clerics wanted parishioners to put their tithes and monetary offerings in a uniform form of coinage. Bishop head coins were used in some dioceses, and in some Papal states. This made for easier accounting in Church treasuries and facilitated easier storage and even hoarding of such coinage which was known to be almost exclusively made from silver. That eliminated any speculation of counterfeit money or the proverbial wooden nickel, and although Protestant England had severed ties to the Roman Catholic Church, it certainly did not discourage nor turn away silver coinage from the collection plate on Sundays.

One highly valued Papal states coin seen in England and across Europe from the year 1690 was the Testone. It was similar to an American silver dollar but was lighter in weight. It bore the image of Alexander VIII on the obverse, and on the reverse was a beautiful image of oxen pulling a plow with a sheaf







of wheat, signifying a bountiful harvest. The Latin inscription refers to restitution in the context of repayment of debts. In our modern terminology, this has the same meaning as the words “legal tender.” This coin was minted to honor those people engaged in agriculture.

In southern Moravia, in the heart of Europe (now part of the modern Czech Republic), the Templars settled in Cejkovice around the year 1230. They began construction of a vast array of wine cellars, reportedly so wide and large that they could accommodate a large wagon drawn by horses, along with a marching armed guard. They cultivated vineyards, growing a wide variety of grapes and produced wine on a grand scale. The Czech Tourism Board today states that: “In Cejkovice, the traditions of both grape cultivation and chivalry are alive and well as evidenced by the distinction of the Templars’ cellars winemaking cooperative as the biggest viticulture family in the Czech Republic. The cellars continue to be a liquid repository stored in oak barrels accompanied by extensive archives.” The Czech Tourism Board also makes

the intriguing statement that “only about 650 meters of underground corridors have been made accessible to the public” and that further excavation is needed. They even go so far as to say that there is a legend of a twenty-four kilometer corridor leading all the way to Slovakia.”

In the *Holy Bible* is the famous verse from the book of Isaiah 2:4 “And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (KJV)

Whether at war as in the time of the Crusades or in peace, everybody must eat for sustenance and survival. Prudent agricultural practices spanned the centuries among the Knights. By their due diligence and faithful cultivation, thousands of pilgrims and Knights survived by simple crops and improvised gardens. Some produced many harvests, and others may have only had one, due to opposing forces encroachment. Thus, the Knights Templar of old and our modern Masonic chivalric order must do our part in preserving our faith and simultaneously be good stewards of our world which Almighty God has entrusted to our temporal care. That includes having an appreciation for agriculture’s role in Templar History.

Sir Knight James Marples is a life member of Mt. Olivet Commandery 12 in Wichita, Kansas, and currently resides in Texas. He can be contacted at [rosehillks@yahoo.com](mailto:rosehillks@yahoo.com) or P. O. Box 1542, Longview, TX 75606.

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1717

# The Decline of the Greatest Institution of the Last Three Centuries

By

Sir Knight Robert W. Bruneau

I think, as with all good fairytales, we will begin this one in the accepted manner.

Once upon a time, there were some learned gentlemen who met together on a regular basis to discuss philosophy and to experiment with natural science. These men had wonderful ideas and the ability to experiment and to discuss the various activities and the results of experimentation, extending their knowledge and understanding of the known world and perhaps our purpose in it.

This group of men met at Gresham College in Oxford, England, in the year 1660 and called their endeavor "A College for the promoting of Physio-Mathematical Experimental Learning." They did this through observation and experimentation. Initially they met on a weekly basis to witness the various experiments conducted by the members and to discuss scientific topics in order to enhance their cumulative knowledge. Most readers will know these men, because their names live on in their discoveries.

Christopher Wren was an architect, astronomer, and geometrician and became famous as the builder of St. Paul's Cathedral in London and fifty-two other great churches and stone edifices.

Robert Boyle, who discovered Boyles Law, was a chemist, philosopher, scientist, theologian, and physicist who also studied medicine, hydrostatics, natural

history, and earth science.

John Wilkins was an English clergyman, philosopher, author, and the leader of colleges at Oxford and Cambridge.

Sir Robert Moray was descended from highland nobility and was educated at St. Andrew's in Scotland and in France. He was a chemist, a philosopher, a mathematician, and a natural historian. He was also the first Mason initiated on English soil. William Viscount Brouncker was an Irish mathematician.

I think that we can safely assume that these men did not meet to engage in frivolous pursuits or petty, self-aggrandizing debates. The atmosphere we assume would have been one of mutual exchanges of pertinent knowledge for the enlightenment of the group.

They had a curator who formulated the experiments and demonstrations for the observation and edification of the members. This was Robert Hooke, who was himself a scholar, astronomer, physicist, and biologist. He was known for Hooke's Law of Elasticity.

In 1663, Sir Robert Moray, a confidant of King Charles II through their acquaintance in France, requested that the king recognize these men and formalize their meetings by royal charter. This became the Royal Society of London for the advancement of natural philosophy which was designed for the benefit of human life and the advance-

ment of real knowledge.

So commenced the Royal Society, and with Isaac Newton as president, it moved from Gresham to London, where it remains.

Shortly afterward, during the presidency of Sir Joseph Banks, the Society changed to include a mix of scientists and wealthy amateurs who might become their patrons. During this time period, 1717, the meeting of four Masonic Lodges in London; those that met at the Goose and Gridiron in St. Paul's Churchyard, The Apple Tree in Covent Gardens, The Crown, and Rummer and Grapes; resulted in the formation of a Grand Lodge. It immediately pursued a policy of self-publicity and expansion that did not sit well with other Masons of the area.

Keep in mind that according to manuscripts such as the *Regis Poem*, Masonic Lodges were meeting in Scotland from 1390-1425, three hundred years prior to the Grand Lodge of England.

The first grand master of London and Westminster was Anthony Sayer, Master of the Lodge at Apple Tree Tavern. Soon the *Book of Constitutions* of 1723 was written. It is the defining document for the conduct of Masonic Lodges under the Grand Lodge system. Minor changes and adjustments were obviously made by the various Grand Lodges around the world which were necessitated by the different cultures, languages, and peculiarities of their locations.

England's assumption of control of the numerous grand bodies and subtle superior positioning among the other grand bodies allowed them to dictate the requirements for recognition and agreements to recognize the Masonic bodies of other jurisdictions.

We now come to the conduct of the

bodies. We credit the initial meetings of these bodies with everything from lessons of a philosophical nature to union representation of a common front for the purpose of employment and special benefits not offered to regular workers. We can see that this might explain the various ups and downs of the Fraternity as we know it today. It wasn't too long ago that great modern men petitioned to join the fraternity. Politicians felt that membership would enhance their chance of winning elections. Some felt that membership would increase their access to patrons, fortunes, or beneficial acquaintances. Today, it is not necessary to obtain membership for any of these things. Therefore the prime purpose appears to be for self-aggrandizement and receiving various titles of dubious purpose other than the fantasy of believing that one actually deserves or earns such titles.

Today there is no philosophical discussion and there are no lessons brought forth on the alleged values promoted by the fraternity. Today the fraternity is consumed with its ritualistic protocol and mutual back patting among those who are in agreement with the leaders.

"You will get more out of it than you put in." That's a common statement heard at virtually every initiation I have ever attended, and it is generally untrue, since most of time you will get nothing out of it. Consequently, if you put anything at all into it, it is more than you will ever get out of it.

You will rarely have a mentor, and the lessons mentioned during your initiation are rarely expounded upon or expanded, so that if you do not read, your initiation will be your sole introduction to the values and virtues incul-



cated by the fraternity.

If those initial members of the College of Natural Knowledge and later the Grand Lodge of England could see the result of their primary experiment, the "promotion of Physio-Mathematical Experimental Learning," I truly believe they would refuse to be recognized as the progenitors of such an organization.

I feel that the fraternity has been in decline for a number of years and is now a literal "Good Old Boys Club" where

any type of recognition is dictated by how much you donate or who you have coffee with, and any resemblance to acknowledgement of service or achievement is strictly a fairy tale.

So ends this one.

Sir Knight Robert W. Bruneau is a past commander of Commandery 38 in Gulfport, Mississippi. He can be contacted at [rwbruneau@yahoo.com](mailto:rwbruneau@yahoo.com).

## ***Grand Encampment Membership Awards***

1136 James C. McGee  
Mobile Commandery 2  
Mobile, AL

1137, 1138, 1144 Christie Kirk Leverett  
St. John's Commandery 9  
Union, NJ  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bronze

1139-1142 Paul W. Friend  
St. Lucie Commandery 17  
Ft. Pierce, FL  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bronze

1143 Raymon Walter Bacchus  
Piedmont Commandery 26  
Ashburn, VA  
1<sup>st</sup> Bronze

1145 Brandon Zears  
Trinity Commandery 80  
Naperville, IL



# **However beautiful the strategy, you should occa- sionally look at the results.**

**- Winston Churchill**

# 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.





These photos are of the Templar city of Sarlat in France  
and were taken by the editor.

# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*

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## **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.

## **Qualified Charitable Distributions Can Yield Big Tax Savings**

Congress has now made the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) option permanent for those who wish to make direct contributions from their IRA to charity. The tax law allows individuals age 70 ½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 a year from their IRA to a qualified charity. This distribution counts toward their required minimum distribution but isn't added to their adjusted gross income the way a normal IRA distribution is. This can provide a tax savings of up to 40% depending upon an individual's tax situation.

## **Planned Giving – Create a Charitable Legacy**

Your Foundation now has a full web site dedicated to Planned Giving which you can access from our web site, shown at the bottom of this page. So if you're thinking of ways to make a lasting legacy for yourself please check out the tab on the home page that says "Planned Giving". Leaving your mark on the future is so simple with a gift in your will. To leave a gift in your Will or Trust it is as easy as asking your attorney to include a sentence that says:

**I bequeath (lump sum) or ( % ) of my estate to:**

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. (address shown below)**

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Flower Mound, TX 75022**

**Telephone: 214-888-0220  
Fax: 214-888-0230  
Email: [manager@ktef.us](mailto:manager@ktef.us)**



**[www.knightstemplar.org/ktef/](http://www.knightstemplar.org/ktef/)**



# What Surety Does He Offer?

By

Sir Knight Kenny Kubach

“What surety does he offer that he is not an impostor?” queried my junior warden after inspection. Seemingly marching by me, he carried on, “I gave him my commendation, but I don’t know him!” I’ve been fascinated with this remarkable question since I heard it. Perhaps it’s the greatest question in all of Freemasonry’s ritual books. For it’s the questions in life, that uncover the answers to life. Further, deep within the questions is a pathway where meaningful truths are never-ending.

Driving home that evening under a half moon, I considered that candidates for the orders of knighthood must be Royal Arch Masons. I have to believe in their being fortified with the Word. With my memory jar uncovered, I paid attention to my initiation into Freemasonry. I had made a declaration before God and the world that I trust Him. It was many moons later as Commander that I connected the dots between the two candidate prayers, one while he is kneeling in the center of the lodge and the other at the base of the triangle. “Vouchsafe thine aid!” Brothers should promise to be true to self and offer to be faithful to others. Christian brothers launch themselves into true friendship with other brothers. They create a lasting strong bond that shares common values, interests, and activi-

ties. Humans do not need a handshake for procreation, but friendship is higher love because it’s freely chosen.

On the other hand, there have been many fraudsters in the history of the world. It’s difficult for me, as a human being, to clearly see others pretending on the outside to be what they are not on the inside. Seeing the planet like no human, it was abundantly clear to our Savior that Judas Iscariot was to betray him for thirty pieces of silver even before Jesus chose him as His disciple. It teaches me to be ever watchful that I am following God’s will for me and not my own selfishness. It reminds me to choose to be a good and true brother, never to violate my vows, and to deposit my trust in Him, while placing a down payment on others in the hope of some guarantee or bond of friendship.

Sometimes at night, when I am alone, gazing at those burning stars, I try, even as incomprehensible as it surely



knight templar

is, to imagine God's view of the world. His world viewfinder is a color screen that works in panorama while He rules my world by monitoring my minutest thoughts and actions. His display might look like early space travel. I am still in awe of the almighty force of gravity. Still, God gave man the belief in and mental capacity to overcome gravity. Every time someone went into orbit, he saw things no human had seen before. At that time, It seemed as though the whole world stopped and stared, looking up. I wonder what it was like for Brother and Astronaut John Glenn to orbit the earth in Friendship 7. Perhaps, I could download a thousand pictures of Earth for you to picture our planet's beauty, but John did sum it up best, "I can see the brilliant blue horizon coming up behind me; approaching sunrise, over."

What concerns me greatly today is that, for many people, their picture of the world has been reduced to a 3"x 6" mobile screen. They have become prisoners in their own device. I know you have seen them fixated, looking down. I am not disparaging technology, for it did get us to the moon. The mobile phone has made our lives better, but the price we are paying for it costs more than a man on the moon. Mobile phone users' point of view equals their screen size. With a focus on their mobile screen, the world around them goes away. The beauty of His world is gone. Even the consciousness between brothers and friends – the thing we share with each other—goes away.

The mobile phone overachiever's spirit now fits in the palm of his hand. His view of the world is what is on that 3"x 6" screen, what he wants to see, what he wants to hear, and only those

people who share his particular point of view. The people that matter to him are in his mobile device, and they spin in his circle, on and on, like the earth on its axis. It's all about me and my people who indoctrinated me.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 22:33-40, there is an account of Jesus speaking to many people, even some who doubted him and, perhaps like today, even some who just deleted Him as a contact. Jesus gave us His greatest surety of what living on planet Earth should be like and what Heaven is like. Jesus offered people, then and now, the very essence of what their core being should be, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Are you willing to leave your safe-space and travel into the truly unexplored and unimaginable neighborhoods and towns to listen to others' points of view? Can you find value in people who don't share your viewpoint? Can you shake or hold someone's hand instead of your own mobile device? Would you expand the meaning of Knighthood within you? Would you give someone your commendation, a gift of friendship, expecting nothing in return "save for your sword?" Wouldn't it be wonderful to live in a place filled with so many things we have not seen, so many wonderful people, rather than a still image in your own device?

I want to live in a world like that, a place that fascinates me endlessly, a place where the essence of people, their very spirit, matters. It would be a place where there is no limit on sharing points of view, where everyone has merit. It would be a wonderful place where I would stop and stare—no need to look up. That is where I am going, because

once I make that connection to the universe in my own mobile device, there's no hanging up. So, whenever you get time to look up from your device and see my shooting star in the night sky, take a breath for me and then please take a Polaroid with my commendation on your mobile phone. For only then will your screen saver display, "I can see the bril-

liant blue horizon coming up behind me; approaching Son rise. Over!"

Sir Knight **Kenny Kubach** is commander of Oriental Commandery 12 and resides in Cleveland, Ohio. He can be contacted at [kenny.kubach@att.net](mailto:kenny.kubach@att.net).



## ***Knight Templar Magazine Issue Archives***

Our project to get all the past issues of the *Knight Templar* magazine on-line is nearing completion. We are only missing one issue, the first one, November-December of 1955. This publication replaced one called *The Grand Encampment Review*. I have never seen one of those.

I want to express our great appreciation to all the Sir Knights who helped us collect all these old magazines. The last batch was from Alan Troland, Arthur Cronin, and the library of the Grand Lodge of Nevada. Thank you!

If anyone has that first issue, we would be most grateful to have a PDF copy of it for the web site.

The magazine archives can be accessed on the web at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/>. Then click on the button "Knight Templar" at the bottom of the page and select "Archives." The archives include an index courtesy of Gary Moore and George Marshall. Some of the early issues have fantastic articles that are still relevant today and provide a glimpse of what Templary was like in the 1950s. I hope you will take advantage of the archives and enjoy the old issues!

The Editor

# NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

## Grand Master's Club

Gary L. Schlussler.....	CA	Arthur A. Loveless, Jr.....	DE
Weldon J. Campbell, Jr.....	DC	Stephen C. Nelson .....	FL
David Pavey .....	FL	Roy S. Thompson .....	FL
Charles R. Rogers .....	GA	Wayne R. Clark.....	IL
Edward L. Freeman.....	KS	David B. Emmitt .....	KY
Robert F. O'Brien .....	ME	Gordon A. Davids .....	MD
Philip G. Post, Sr.....	MA/RI	Donald W. DeMars.....	MN
Jeffrey A. Bolstad .....	MT	Homer L. Puderbaugh.....	NE
Robert S. Middleton .....	NJ	David D. Goodwin .....	NY
George J. Knorr .....	NY	Robert E. Gresham, Jr.....	NC
Glenn E. Divan .....	OH	Richard F. Muth.....	PA
Robert J. Smith, Jr. ....	SC	Robert B. Cook.....	TX
Michael W. Rush .....	TX	Sebastian DiPietro .....	VA
Michael A. Riley.....	VA	James M. Searce, Jr. ....	VA
Raymond D. Steele .....	VA	Ralph T. Woodrow.....	VA
Joseph E. Reese .....	WA		

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Charles E. Streitz .....	CA	Glenn E. Chandler .....	FL
James M. Hafling.....	FL	Daniel J. Edmiston.....	Germany
Garrett A. Smith .....	IN	Robert R. Storms.....	IN
Robert W. Hamilton, Jr. ....	IA	Wade E. Sheeler.....	IA
David B. Emmitt .....	KY	Thomas W. Harper .....	KY
James S. Oliver, Sr.....	KY	Robert Y. Chan .....	MA/RI
Gary W. Leach .....	MI	William J. Mathis.....	MO
David R. Whittaker .....	MO	Vernon Tweedie.....	NE
Ivan A. Vrtiska .....	NE	Charles W. Marx.....	NM
George D. Emmons .....	NY	Ralph M. Savage.....	NY
Charles A. Stocking .....	NY	Ronald L. Ingram .....	NC
David C. Nenstiel.....	NC		



# The Story of the Creation of the Royal Arch in Russia

by

АРЧИЛ ЕБРАЛИДЗЕ (Archil Ebralidze)

Most Illustrious Zerubbabel

MWGM of Caucasian district of Grand Lodge of Russia

MWGM of Grand Lodge of Georgia

**T**he story of the history of the Royal Arch in Russia should be preceded by a brief excursion into the history of modern Russian Masonry.

From 1822-1992 in Russia, for whatever reasons, the historical activities of the order of Freemasons are missing.

In 1992 GNLF (Grand Loge Nationale de France) established the first regular Lodge, (Harmony), in contemporary Russia, followed in 1995 by the creation of the Grand Lodge of Russia (GLR).

Historically, it so happened that from the very inception, the Russian symbolic Lodges practiced the first three degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. In this regard, it is logical that the first system of additional or advanced degrees which appeared in Russia were also those of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

The Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Russia was installed in 1996, and at the beginning of 2000, it knight templar

had received the recognition of most of the Supreme Councils of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the world, including France, the southern and northern jurisdictions of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the United States of America, England, and others.

The limited resources of revived Russian Freemasonry and the pre-



dominance of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite did not contribute to the emergence of other systems of additional degrees.

The situation changed in the early 2000s when the newly elected Grand Master of GLR, Most Worshipful D. Denisov, embarked on the development of the introduction of the Emulation Rite and the additional systems historically associated with it.

In 2003, the Grand Master of GLR, D. Denisov, and the grand officers of the GLR; V. Jhangiryan, V. Nikitin, and some others; were exalted in England into the mysteries of the Royal Arch. In 2004, a similar step was taken by V. Belyavsky, J. Kirsanov and others. By 2005, in England, about ten Russian brethren were exalted. Such rapid development was due to the authority of the English Mason, Frank Fall, who managed to find opportunities to establish close contacts between the Russian brothers and the provincial Grand Chapter of Middlesex.

At that time, all Russian brothers belonged to Clapham Park Chapter 5446 at Twickenham, Middlesex. Later in 2005, several other brothers (S. Bielawski, C. Polikarpov, and others) received exaltation in the Royal Arch Chapter of the English jurisdiction in Cyprus.

Other brethren were exalted and became members in Inverness Chapter 4. By 2006, there were already quite a number of Russian Royal Arch Masons who might be able to work independently in Russia provided the leadership of the British Grand Chapter deemed it possible to install a Chapter in Moscow or another Russian city, but it so happened that for several reasons Grand Master of the GLR D. Denisov had to resign, and for several years events within Russian Free-

masonry severely limited the development of Masonic structures.<sup>1</sup>

Following the 2007 election of new GLR officers led by Grand Master Andrei Bogdanov, Russian Freemasonry again began to flourish. By 2011, with strengthening international relations and the intensification of contacts with England, the creation of a subordinate Chapter in Russia was again put on the agenda.

By this time, Most Worshipful Brother Bogdanov, a number of grand officers, and the most authoritative Masons were present at a London Royal Arch Mason exaltation, and Grand Master Bogdanov, Deputy VM Belyavsky, and Assistant VM Smirnov attended the ceremony of being raised to the ranks of first, second, and third principals.

In 2011, by approval of the Royal Grand Chapter of England, Chapter of St. Cecilia 6190, under the Metropolitan Grand Chapter of London was authorized to work in Russia.

From 2011 until the present, there is within the territory of Moscow a regular Chapter of the Royal Arch working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of England. The Russian Chapter pays all dues and strictly complies with all requirements of the English Masonic authorities.

Since 2011, more than seventy Brothers from Moscow, Yekaterinburg, St. Petersburg, and several other Russian cities have participated in the ceremony of exaltation into the mysteries of the Royal Arch, according to the Aldergate ritual.

Resulting from the development of the Royal Arch in Moscow, two additional Chapters, Ararat and Alpha & Omega, have been established and work under the English Emulation Ritual.

Currently the Grand Lodge of Russia has officially requested permission from the Grand Chapter of England to open another two or three Chapters in Russia. We are hoping that the Masonic authorities in England will render a positive decision on this issue.

In general, Russia has met all the conditions for the installation of new Chapters with the purpose of satisfying the requirements for the establishment of a Russian Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch.

(This article is compiled with the kind assistance of Most Worshipful Deputy GM of GLR Victor Belavsky and con-

firmed by Most Worshipful Grand Master of GLR Andrey Bogdanov.)

Companion Archil Ebralidze is a retired psychiatrist, originally from the Soviet Republic (now independent state) of Georgia, and currently lives in Moscow near БЕЛОРУССКАЯ БОКЗАЛ, (Belorussia Train Station). He spent eight years living in the United Kingdom. Companion Ebralidze was installed as Most Illustrious Zerubbabel, (Grand High Priest), in May of 2016.



### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Currently the Grand Lodge of Russia recognizes thirty-eight Blue Lodges with seventeen meeting in Moscow and twenty-one in other Russian cities, with a total membership estimated at 1200.







**These are Grotesques decorating the cornices of buildings inside the ancient Templar city of Carcassonne, France. Photos by the Editor.**



## *A Message From the Chairman of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Annual Campaign*

The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign is coming to a close on April 30, 2018. Sir Knights, I want to thank you for a successful Campaign. I want to tell each one of you how proud I am. You continue to do amazing things each and every year for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. We have had a great year.

Imagine waking up each morning and not being able to see across the room. Imagine walking outside and not being able to see the great colors and sights as you look across the landscape. Imagine not being able to use your phone! Imagine you are a child or are elderly and are slowly losing your eyesight. Our mission is to help, aid, and assist those in these types of difficulties.

I use the imagery of not being able to see because that is very personal to me. One of my aunts was blind at birth. My father has had eye issues his entire life. He is eighty-nine and can no longer read. I am color blind and can only imagine the rich colors others describe to me.

It is now our privilege to continue to be a part of this great work of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. Our mission is "to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care." Help us to aid our research partners as they search for cures for those whose lives can be so drastically changed by restored eyesight. Help me to help those who need to find access to care and to provide education for our future researchers.

Sir Knights, you can make a difference. We are men who believe in improving the lives of those around us. We are men of action. Give to the 50<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign.

I am also asking each one of you to remember the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in your estate planning.



Thank you and God bless!

Faternally,

Rodney A. Mann, KGC  
chairman 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign

# Fifty-Nine Years Ago...

## Editor's Note

While working on the project of archiving the old *Knight Templar* magazines, I could not help but read some of the articles. Some of the articles are fascinating, and all of them give us a glance at what Templary was like in years gone by. I want to share some of those with you, so I have chosen an excerpt from one of them for this issue. It was written in 1959 by Sir Knight Wilber M. Brucker, R. E. Grand Generalissimo, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

Dear Sir Knights:

As Knights Templar we find constant inspiration in the spiritual heritage bequeathed to us by those stalwart Christian warriors who nobly wore the cross in the great crusades of long ago. The finest flower of that inspiration is our forthright acceptance of the challenge to a new crusade in the defense of Christian principles and human freedom which is implicit in the present critical world situation.

Freedom and the moral values upon which freedom is founded are always under attack. Today the attack is being pushed forward more vigorously and on a broader front than at any previous time in history. The menace of aggression by the powerful and ruthless communist enemy, whose ideology dishonors God and debases man, looms as a major peril to our nation and everything for which it stands. It threatens every one of our cherished institutions; the home, the church, the school. It threatens the life and liberty of each individual American and the future of our children for generations to come.

## Moral and Spiritual Defenses

The spiritual strength of America has never been put to a greater test than it is undergoing in this critical period. The great edifice of our civilization which has been so many centuries in the building could be utterly destroyed in a comparatively few moments if we should become heedless of our responsibility to maintain its moral and spiritual defenses with unremitting zeal. The fundamental devotion to God and the nation and the patriotic acceptance of the obligations of Christian citizenship which are characteristic of our order have been the strength and glory of the American people ever since this republic was consecrated under the protection of divine providence. The moral force of men and women who lived and worked for what they believed to be right; who were willing to sacrifice, to suffer, and if need be to die for the truth as they saw it; made America great. In this momentous hour, these same qualities are more than ever the chief guaranties of everything we hold dear. In this fast moving age, Templar Masonry needs to put first things first. Founded upon the Christian

religion and the practice of the Christian virtues, every activity of Templary must be judged by its relationship to our great central concept. The closer we adhere to this fundamental objective, the

greater will be our success. Whatever others may do in these changing times, Templary will prosper if we remain steadfast and place the emphasis upon our allegiance to the Christian cause.

The narrow streets  
of the Templar Com-  
manderie of Sainte  
Eulalie in France.  
Photo by the Editor.





# Beauceant News



La Crosse Assembly 215 in Wisconsin was pleased to have Supreme Worthy President (Mrs. Dean) Edie Rein visit their Assembly in October. Also in attendance were Past Supreme Worthy President (Mrs. Jay) Nancy Ipsen; Ms. Lois Purrington, supreme outer guard; (Mrs. Tom) Norma Shafer, supreme assistant marshal; and Sisters from Minneapolis 46 and Oshkosh 268.



Mrs. Dawn Mainz (left) from La Crosse Assembly 215 in Wisconsin and Mrs. Kayihan Seran from Minneapolis Assembly 46 in Minnesota were initiated at the Supreme Assembly held in Bloomington, Minnesota.





# Knights



## at the Bookshelf

By  
Sir Knight John R. Dinkel

*Operative Freemasonry: A Manual for Restoring Light and Vitality to the Fraternity*, Kirk C. White, Five Gates Publishing, 2012, 118 pages, ISBN: 978-0615617152, soft cover.

The premise behind this interesting book is the need for a restoration of vitality in today's Freemasonry by returning to the true basis of our fraternity, that of improving the character of the individual Mason, and through him, the character of his community and the world. The author's suggested method of accomplishing this begins by avoiding the mechanical recitation of our ritual so common in many Masonic Lodges, while providing "true light" to our candidates, those he believes are in search of moral and spiritual development, fraternal bonding, and esoteric education not available by any other means except Freemasonry. He also suggests that to achieve success, we as a fraternity must afford our candidates the genuine feeling of belonging to something bigger than themselves, and he uses the useful Masonic metaphor of "light" to carry this message throughout.

This 118 page book is divided into nine easily assimilated chapters, making it an easy read. This fact, however, is deceptive, because each chapter develops one individual idea that is separate but well linked to the other chapters without resorting to difficult wording or arcane concepts. This is one of the strengths of the book, and I found myself thinking that the ideas expressed were at once profoundly useful as well as very accessible to the reader.

The book should prove valuable to people from both ends of the Masonic spectrum: first, to prospective candidates in the nineteen to forty years of age bracket and second, to our active Lodge members charged with providing the initiatory experience for these candidates. The important idea is to understand those younger men we wish to attract by first understanding what they hope to find in Freemasonry and then to give our member-mentors the right tools to meet those expectations. This can be a win-win for everyone, but it's critically important to do things correctly up front so that we are initiating the right candidates for the right reasons and in the right way.

The method of how and why this all happens is clearly explained by Brother White, and in my opinion, he knows what he is talking about. He has written an accessible and effective road map to restoring the light of knowledge to the all important initia-



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tory experience and beyond. I agree with much that he has to say and enjoyed the way that he presented his ideas. If his intent is to make us think, he succeeds very well indeed.

*Operative Freemasonry: A Manual for Restoring Light and Vitality to the Fraternity* is well written and is a recommended read for anyone truly interested in a viable method of helping our individual Lodges and our fraternity in general to better meet the challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is packed with valuable insight and will find a place in my personal Masonic library.



Ancient Templar site, Bure-Les-Templiers in France. Photo by the editor.

knight templar

Knight Templar

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Bellaire, TX 77401-2402

*“Then took they the  
body of Jesus and  
wound it in linen  
clothes with the  
spices, as the  
manner of the  
Jews is to bury.”  
John 19:40*



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