

Knight Templar

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Address changes or corrections and all membership activity including deaths should be reported to the recorder of the local Commandery. Please do not report them to the editor.

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Grand Master's Message

Thanks to the generosity of Sir Knight, Nick Ives, and the Grand Lodge of Connecticut the Grand Encampment recently acquired a copy of Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Knight Templar*. We now have all issues of the *Knight Templar* archived on the website. The inaugural edition of the magazine was published as a pictorial souvenir of the 46th Triennial Conclave held in New York City from August 20-26, 1955. This was a seminal conclave as Walter A. DeLamater, who was instrumental in the creation of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, was installed as the 38th grand master, and the resolution to establish the Foundation was approved.

The *Knight Templar* is the primary means of communication between the Grand Encampment and its constituent and subordinate Commanderies and between grand commanders and their members. However, it is also by far the largest cost center within the Grand Encampment. It takes a tremendous amount of resources to print and mail a hard copy of the magazine to every Sir Knight. However, we believe that with increased use of available technology, we cannot only reduce the cost of the magazine but improve its delivery.

We are pleased to announce that the *Knight Templar* will soon be available on a mobile app. It will be available instantaneously to any spot on the planet with internet service. The availability of the magazine on a mobile app will also be of great benefit to our overseas members as it has become increasingly expensive to deliver the magazine to them in a timely manner. Just as the medieval Knights were divided or organized by "languages," phase II of the mobile app project will be to make the *Knight Templar* available in every major language spoken within the Grand Encampment.

We encourage you to try the mobile app as soon as it is available. An announcement will be printed in the magazine as soon as it is available. Better yet, if you like it and would prefer to discontinue receiving a printed copy of the magazine, let us know so we can apply resources saved to other projects. Don't worry, all past editions of the magazine are available on the website, so if you need to make room in your garage for your new sports car, feel free to do so.





Prelate's Apartment

by

Reverend Arthur F. Hebbeler, III,
right eminent grand prelate of the Grand Encampment

"Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'" (John 20:29, English Standard Version)

Faith is belief that does not rest on material evidence or logical proof. "Just take it on faith," we are told, "don't be a 'doubting Thomas'!" Often, when we hear that, our immediate response is something along the lines of "I'm from Missouri—show me!" Taking things on faith isn't an easy thing to do. I can only imagine how hard it had to be for Thomas. After all, he saw Jesus die on the cross and knew Jesus was sealed in a well-guarded tomb. Thomas was a simple man living in much simpler times. It had to seem like a huge leap for the resurrection to be a fact.

However, we have the advantage of 2,000 years of history. We know how the story plays out, because not only does Thomas believe when he sees the risen Christ the following week, he does so without having to touch him. The mere sight of Christ was enough to convince Thomas, and in that regard, Thomas was luckier than we are. We haven't seen Christ (yet!), but, we certainly have experienced Christ with our other senses.

Touch—We touch the Body of Christ every time we receive the eucharist. In times of challenge and doubt, grasp the bread as it is pressed into your hand. Feel the comfort of Christ's promise of grace as the bread is placed in your hand.

Taste—We taste the blood of Christ as we partake of the cup of salvation. The richness of the wine gives us a foretaste of that feast to come, when we shall be gathered in the presence of our Father.

Hear—We hear the word proclaimed in the reading of scripture and interpreted for us in the sermon. Rejoice and know that Christ is present in the word.

Smell—As our prayers rise before God as incense, the smell of incense reminds us of the sacrifices made in the temple that are no longer necessary because of the sacrifice of God's only begotten Son on the cross.

Be blessed, for you have believed even without seeing. Be a blessing by living as Christ taught us so that others may see Him through you.

Sir Knight Billy Florence (1831-1891)

By

Sir Knight James A. Marples

One of my all time Masonic heroes is the late Sir Knight William J. "Billy" Florence, K.T. He was born in Albany, New York, on July 26, 1831, and he died at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1891, at the young age of sixty. He was considered by many people to be the best stage actor of the mid to late 1800s. He could look at a script one day and memorize it for performance (on stage) by the next evening. When I was younger, I spoke with people who had seen him act, and they considered him equivalent to the quick wit of the late Jack Benny or Johnny Carson. Billy Florence simply had no rivals.

He was born William Jermyrn Conlin, but he felt that the acting name of Billy Florence would be easier for the theater-going public to remember. He was right. His career suddenly skyrocketed. So, how did he come to use the surname Florence? He and his actress wife toured the United States extensively as well as Europe, and they fell in love with the city of Florence, Italy. Thus, Billy said "Florence is it!" meaning that he had found his stage name. Years ago, I bought an old letter that Sir Knight Billy Florence wrote circa 1870, which I have bequeathed to a Museum. It has his own distinctive letterhead, bearing an image of a bluish green colored tree, and below it is a banner which reads "florens."

It was approximately that same year (1870) that Billy Florence frequented the old Knickbocker Cottage in New York City.

During those post Civil War days, there was a fad called "The Thirteen Craze." Everything with the number thirteen was deemed lucky as a throwback to the original thirteen Colonies. At precisely 12:13 P.M. in the afternoon, various Freemasons met to eat lunch. Among them, was Billy Florence's best friend, Masonic Brother and Dr. Walter Millard Fleming, M.D., who was soon to get his advanced degrees in both the Scottish Rite and the York Rite; the renowned Masonic ritualist Sir Knight Charles T. McClenachan, K.T. and a 33°; the restaurant operator Sir Knight William Patterson, K.T.; the grand secretary of Masons in New York; and Sir Knight Edward M. L. Ehlers, K.T. and a 33°. Significantly, Right Worshipful Ehlers was a past commander of Columbian Commandery in New York City, the oldest Commandery in the state, and he, along with Billy Florence, persuaded Dr. Fleming to assume the office of eminent commander of Columbian Commandery 1, soon after he was initiated. Fleming did so and recalled in a letter to the Grand Commandery that he was determined to "rescue the oldest Commandery in the state" and to "resuscitate Columbian." Fleming himself stated that he assumed all the monetary and financial requirements to equip Columbian Commandery with authentic chain mail, leggings, spears, and even a special silver service to make that interesting a part of the ritual more attractive so that Columbian would become the

acknowledged leader of Commanderies, as it once was.

William J. Florence joined Masonry while a young comedian and actor. He petitioned Mount Moriah Masonic Lodge in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and became a Master Mason on November 22, 1853. He received the York Rite degree of Most Excellent Master on June 10, 1854, and was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Zerubbabel Chapter 162 of Royal Arch Masons in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The records show that "William J. Florence, age twenty-five, actor, Lodge 155 Pennsylvania petitioned Pittsburgh Commandery 1 of Knights Templar on June 13, 1854. He received The Order of the Red Cross, the Temple, and Order of Malta on that same date and classified as a sojourner."

It was Illustrious Brother and Sir Knight Charles T. McClenachan, 33rd and a Knight Templar, who proposed that Billy Florence be admitted to Brooklyn, New York's Aurora Grata Consistory of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. The degrees were conferred by communication, by McClenachan and other assisting Brethren, on Billy Florence after the payment of \$55.00 for the degrees at the actor's residence at the Metropolitan Hotel in 1867, with the notation that the actor was about to travel abroad. McClenachan envisioned Billy Florence becoming an Ambassador of good will for the Scottish Rite. Beyond lending use of his popular name, no further actions are noted.

It was also that year that Sir Knight Billy Florence and soon to be Sir Knight Walter Fleming discussed plans for an offshoot fraternity which was designed to be "an ally of Freemasonry," but would also be "the Mason's Playground"

whereby Brother Masons could enjoy fun and carefree fellowship, without the strict formalities of regimented ritualistic renditions. Sir Knight Billy Florence told Fleming of his trip to Morocco as well as his trip to Marseilles, France, where he was welcomed by "*one of the gentlemanly bankers knowing me to be a Mason*" to a costume party in which the guests were initiated into a quasi secret society known as Bokkara Shrine. There is a lot of debate, even among Shrine scholars today, as to whether this really transpired. However, even the third imperial potentate after Sir Knights Walter Fleming and Sam Briggs, Sir Knight William Bromwell Melish, past grand master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States who was known as a straight shooter, having a no-nonsense personality, also endorsed the validity of the Mystic Shrine as originating from abroad. Sir Knight Melish stated that he never doubted the "antiquity of the mystic rites" of the Mystic Shrine.

Billy Florence was born to an Irish American immigrant family, so it is no surprise that he was of the Roman Catholic faith. Although Catholics who are Masons are not unheard of, Wolfgang Mozart and White House architect, James Hoban, being prime examples of Masons who were Roman Catholics, it was a bit of a rarity then.

One reason I admire the legacy of Sir Knight Billy Florence is because he interjected humanity along with his great sense of humor into his day to day life. Furthermore, he didn't let his celebrity status go to his head.

Almost on a yearly basis, Billy Florence would go on salmon fishing trips with a friend of his, the Reverend Father



McDowell of St. Agnes Church in New York City. As a token of his esteem, Billy Florence presented the Church with a lamp he had obtained from the Shrine of St. Agnes in Rome, Italy. Additionally, he and Mrs. Florence had been major benefactors to the Church and helped keep its existence going strong.

It was said of Billy Florence that "whenever he heard the gong of an ambulance, he always said a prayer for the unfortunate soul who had been killed or injured."

When Billy Florence developed a sudden illness while still on his performing circuit and suddenly died on November 19, 1891, his wife's sister requested a Roman Catholic funeral, which was agreed to by Billy Florence's wife, and it was held in that same St. Agnes Church. Among the floral pieces near the Altar were floral wreaths, one from the Order of the Mystic Shrine and the other, from the Actors' Order of Friendship. Both floral pieces contained the Masonic Square and Compasses. The priest of St. Agnes parish took a vacillating attitude by saying that Masons would not be allowed at the funeral mass if they wore aprons or uniforms but would be allowed if they simply appeared as individuals in mourning attire. Billy Florence was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. Over his grave plot, which he purchased himself, is a monument declaring that he was a co-founder of the Mystic Shrine for North America.

It was Billy Florence who traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, to perform a one man show when he obligated Sir Knight Sam Briggs into the Shrine in 1876. Sam Briggs became a Templar in Oriental Commandery and later became eminent commander of Holyrood Com-

mandery in Cleveland, Ohio. Briggs ultimately became the second imperial potentate of the Imperial Council of the Shrine. Although Briggs wielded enormous power over Shrine Centers that extended across the United States and Canada, he always showed an undying gratitude to Billy Florence for his accomplishments.

At a private eulogy, Sir Knight Briggs said: "Kings, statesmen, journalists, financiers all courted the genial Billy. Nobody was the worse for knowing him, and, ah, the good dinners he ate, the good wine he drank, the good stories he told, and the good deeds he performed! Billy Florence was an accessory to the existence of this order of the Mystic Shriners, which will stand as a lasting monument, exemplary of his very life!"

Both William J. Florence and Dr. Walter M. Fleming envisioned an order which would be an anchor to both of the two major Masonic rites, the York Rite and the Scottish Rite. Fleming devoted more energy, becoming a past commander of Columbian Commandery 1 of New York City, and in 1872, he was elevated to the 33rd by the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. Both men and their eleven cohorts sat around that table in Knickerbocker Cottage and devised an order whereby good and trusted men, bound together by the most solemn of Masonic vows, could enjoy friendship and relaxation.

Banquets had always been common at special Masonic events. However, Florence and Fleming wanted a slight departure from Victorian stuffiness by reintroducing the custom in purely Shrine Banquets, reviving the festive board concept of the bygone days of Colonial Masonry by having good food and



GEORGE W. MILLAR



WILLIAM S. PATERSON



CHARLES M. CLENAHAN



Dr. WALTER M. FLEMING



JOHN A. MOORE

The First 13 Nobles who received



WILLIAM J. FLORENCE



DANIEL SICKELS



OSWALD M. d'AUBIGNE

The Order of the Mystic Shrine

NOBLES FLORENCE & FLEMING AUG. 13-1870
THE OTHER 11 NOBLES JUNE 16-1871



JOHN W. SIMONS



JAMES S. CHAPPELL



SHERWOOD C. CAMPBELL



EDWARD EDDY



ALBERT P. MORIARTY

**Nobles Florence and Fleming received The Order of the Mystic Shrine
on August 13, 1870, the other 11 Nobles on June 16, 1871**

the prudent use of the finest of wines, whiskeys, and spirits, usually in a setting where men wore tuxedos with red fez, and their ladies wore long beautiful gowns. Such Shrine banquets became enormously popular, since they sometimes but not always included the wives.

It shouldn't be said that The Shrine was developed as a "drinking man's organization." It wasn't designed solely for indulging. It was designed for wholesome fun and fellowship, often nicknamed "The Sunshine of Masonry." I enjoy the friendships, camaraderie, and charity of the Shriner's Hospitals for Children, later established in 1922 as my main reasons for joining the Shrine. When I was a boy, I saw the big smile on my dad's face when he greeted another Shriner at a Shrine Circus in 1966. Our family always attended Shriners' parades and enjoyed the musical performances of the Shrine Concert Band. Sir Knight Melish had a motto which is correctly ascribed to him but was actually inspired by Billy Florence, which reads, "Pleasure without intemperance, hospitality without rudeness, and jollity without coarseness should here prevail among all." Billy Florence was an actor by trade, and performing degree work requires a certain amount of dramatic acting ability, either in conferring a Masonic Degree or Shrine Ceremonial with the "fullness of emotion" that it deserves. In many ways, Billy Florence's acting expertise made the rites grow stronger as well as the Shrine. Proper costuming and paraphernalia were utilized to give candidates an "authentic feel" that they were stepping back in time and participating in mystic rites that had unchanging "landmarks" dating back to antiquity. Long lasting bonds of friendship and pilgrimages to

distant locales made the Shrine skyrocket in membership in the late 1800s and early to the mid 1900s. It had become what Billy Florence intended, an ally of Craft Masonry as well as an ally of Commanderies and Consistories.

That is largely the legacy of Sir Knight Billy Florence, K.T. Ironically, at the time of his death, Billy was entertaining audiences with a fellow actor (and fellow Mason) Joseph Jefferson, who did a "toast" improvising an old Irish Blessing: "Here's to your health and families, and may they live long and prosper." That toast was slightly adapted by the writers of the "Star Trek" television show in which the late actor, Leonard Nimoy, who portrayed the fictional alien Mr. Spock would do his hand gesture and utter the words: "May You Live Long And Prosper."

Sir Knight Billy Florence influenced and inspired his friends, his Masonic Brothers, his fellow actors, and his colleagues in his vast array of interests, which included waves of new members inducted as Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Unfortunately, in the year 2000, the prerequisite of membership in the Rites for Shrine membership was dropped. I often wonder what Sir Knight Billy Florence would think. Chances are, he would feel it being akin to a four act play being reduced to a two act play. However, although the prerequisites may not be listed on paper anymore, I am confident that Billy Florence would remind and encourage all Masons that they can still join both Masonic Rites as a voluntary action without coercion, without it being a carrot and stick type of inducement. The one element Billy Florence would probably emphasize is publicity. We must make certain that good, wor-

thy, eligible men are aware that they are welcome to join us.

Indeed, Billy Florence's inspiration lives on today. We are blessed that he was a dedicated Knight Templar who greeted Templars and Shriners in that capacity during his shows. It is confirmed that he attended Masonic and Shrine functions at Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York City, Rochester, Cleveland, Detroit, and perhaps other places.

He was a Mason who wasn't afraid to show it.

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 or P. O. Box 1542, Longview, TX 75606.

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Knightly News

The Forty Miles Project

By

Reverend and Sir Knight Arthur F. Hebbeler III
grand prelate of the Grand Encampment


As we begin the 68th Triennial, a new program begins to help us live up to our vows as Knights Templar. Known as The Forty Miles Project, the goal is to improve the care and support for Knights Templar wherever dispersed through a project led by the grand prelate of the Grand Encampment with the assistance of the associate grand prelates. A long-term goal is the expansion of this program to the several Grand Commanderies and, through them, to the individual Commanderies with allegiance to the Grand Encampment.

Knights Templar have vowed to assist poor, distressed, worthy fellow Knights, their wives, widows, and orphans, promising to go the “distance of forty miles, bare-foot and over frozen ground” if necessary to provide that support. Knights also vow to care for the sick, the pilgrim, the destitute, the widow, the orphan, and the Christian religion. However, we have never had a structured way to do this, nor even a way to model it for the individual Knight. This is a serious shortcoming of our order, and it is a problem throughout the Masonic fraternity. There are some pockets of action—the charity funds of our several Grand Lodges, the Almoner’s Funds of the many valleys of the Scottish Rite, the Brother-to-Brother project of the Sovereign Grand Commander of the AASR NMJ, for example, but these are generally under-promoted and under-used.

In my thirty-plus years of traveling as a Freemason, I have heard, more often than I would ever hope, a brother lament, “When this happened to me, I never even had a phone call from one of my brothers.” I must admit that I have even uttered that phrase on more than one occasion. We are long past the time when this can go un-addressed. We must do more for those of our own family. The Forty Miles Project is a starting point for making a change. Your Grand Encampment is taking this as a first step, a model, but there must be participation from all of us. We can only do so much to support and encourage Knights and friends at the Grand Encampment level. It becomes incumbent on Grand Commanderies, and more especially local Commanderies, to be even more involved at the local level. As we receive requests, we will take steps at our level, and we will let the Grand Commandery know as well of the need. Grand Commanderies will need to assist us in communicating with the local Commanderies, as well as taking positive action.

The Grand Encampment website has all the information (see www.knightstemplar.org/40milesproject.html). We will respond quickly to requests. Please note that the project is initially focusing on messages of encouragement, congratulations, and getting well. As time progresses, we will consider expansion into other messages and possibly other responses. We encourage your participation as well as your feedback. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sir Knight Hebbeler is the grand prelate of the Grand Encampment. His email address is regp@technostars.com.

	<p><i>Defending the Christian Freemason:</i> Counter-arguments to the claims that Masonry is anti-Christian available at: Amazon.com And Apple Store</p>
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51st Voluntary Campaign

News Release

Greetings

My warmest greetings to the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment. Grace be with you, mercy and peace from our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

I am honored to serve you as chairman for the 51st Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. During the next several months, I will endeavor to keep you up to speed in regards to the great progress being made because of your generous contributions.

We all owe Sir Knight Rodney A. Mann, KGC a big round of applause and hearty congratulations for spearheading the 50th Annual Voluntary campaign. That final tally was \$4,288,254.80, Fantastic! Great job to all who contributed to making it an overwhelming success.

On a personal note, I am indebted to my beautiful wife Jill for explaining to me exactly what we do several years ago when I was grand commander. She is a pediatric medical doctor, so she “speaks the language” of the scientists that do presentations at our department conferences. She listened to one in Boise, and told me later that what we are doing with our grants is really great. I said, “Well tell me, because I don’t really get it.” So she proceeded to explain it to me so I could get a handle on it and explain it to others. I made a goal to get Montana Grand Commandery at 100% life membership and bought my first Grand Master Club. I’ve been on fire ever since.

The gift of sight is so very precious. I firmly believe that it won’t be too many more years until one of our endowed scientists finds a cure for pediatric blindness. What a difference that will make for those children. what a difference that will make for the families of those children, and it is all because of your generosity.

Please join me and give generously to the KTEF. Templars are men of God and warriors for Christ. We give generously. We give, not ‘til it hurts, but we give ‘til it feels *good*.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Jeffrey A. Bolstad, REGCG, GCT
chairman, 51st Annual Voluntary Campaign



NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

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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 buildings belonging to the Knights of Malta on the island of Malta and were taken by the editor.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

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:

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www.knightstemplar.org/ktef/

The Templars' Last Stand—Ruad

by

George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC

Most of us have heard of the fall of the city of Acre in 1291 A.D. and associate it with being the end of Frankish Crusading presence in the Levant as well as the cessation of the military monastic orders there, the Knights Templar being among them. However, this is not strictly true, as the Templars did manage to survive a bit longer on the island of Ruad (or Rouad) until it was besieged and stormed by the Muslim Mamelukes in 1302. The story is an interesting one, and I will relate it briefly in this article.

To begin with, it might be well to locate Ruad and give a short history of it up to the time of the end of the Crusades. As shown on the map above, Ruad is located about two miles off the coast of modern Syria and was across from the Templar



castle of Tortosa on the mainland. The island was settled in the early 2nd millennium B.C. by the Phoenicians. Under Phoenician control, it became an independent king-

dom called Arvad, which has been cited as one of the first known examples of a republic in the world, in which the people, rather than a monarch, are described as sovereign. In later years, it was conquered and occupied by Egyptian, Persian, Roman, and Byzantine forces. During the latter part of the 13th century, in the time of the Crusades, the island of Ruad was used as a bridgehead or staging area by the Crusaders. It was the last piece of land that the Crusaders maintained in the Holy Land as they were fighting a losing battle against the Muslims.¹

The fall of Acre in 1291 did not signal to many the loss of Outremer, and there



knight templar

was the expectation that the mainland could be regained. The new Templar Grand Master, Jacques DeMolay, who was fifty years old at the time of his election in 1292, envisioned the order spearheading a new crusade to recover the lost territory. Much hope for a new crusade was pinned on an alliance with the Mongols, who had shown an interest in forming alliances with Christians in the West and in the Byzantine Empire. In 1281 and 1299 the Mongols had advanced into Northern Syria, and learning in 1300 of the interest in a new crusade, the Mongols offered the Christians the Holy Land if they would assist them in defeating the Mamelukes.⁸

From his stronghold of Limassol in Cyprus, DeMolay continued to send appeals to the West to organize the sending of troops and supplies. In November of 1300, in an attempt to coordinate military operations with the Mongol leader, Ghazan, and the Armenian Christians, the Cypriots prepared a land-based force of approximately 600 men: 300 under Amalric of Lusignan, son of King Hugh III of Cyprus, and similar contingents from the Hospitallers and Templars, of which DeMolay was a member. The men and their horses were ferried from Cyprus to a staging area on Ruad, from which they launched raids on Tortosa while awaiting Mongol reinforcements. However, this Cypriot force failed to establish itself in the town, although they were able to leave a garrison of 120 men on the island of Ruad.⁹ The island had no fresh water, which along with other supplies had to be brought in by ship. Meanwhile, Pope Boniface VIII officially granted Ruad to the Knights Templar. With DeMolay's urging, they strengthened its fortifications,³ and he and the Cypriot King installed a force of 120 knights,

along with 500 archers and 400 servants and workers as a permanent garrison. This represented a considerable commitment: "close to half the size of the normal complement [of Templars] for the twelfth-century Kingdom of Jerusalem." They were under the command of the Templar marshal, Barthélemy de Quincy. They had some transport ships but no galleys. However, Ghazan's Mongols did not show up as planned, being delayed by the rigorous winter, and the planned junction did not happen.²

In February of 1301, the Mongols did arrive with a force of 60,000 but could do little else than engage in some raids around Syria. Soon they had to withdraw due to internal problems in their homeland. In April of 1302, the Mongol leader wrote to Pope Benedict, saying, "We are continuing preparations...You too should prepare your troops...If the heavens hear our prayers our entire effort will be directed to this great enterprise...You, too, should pray to the heavens and prepare your troops."¹² However, the garrison's expectation of any assistance from the Mongols was doomed to disappointment.

In early 1302, the Mamluks sent a fleet of sixteen ships from Egypt to Tripoli, from which they besieged the island of Ruad. They disembarked at two points and set up their own encampment. The Templars fought the invaders but were eventually starved out. The Syrian archers made a fine defense, but the Templars were forced at last to take refuge in a tower.⁷ The Cypriots had been assembling a fleet to rescue Ruad, which set out from Famagusta but did not arrive in time.⁶ On Ruad, the Templars negotiated a surrender to the Mamelukes on September 26th under the condition that they could safely escape to a Chris-

tian land of their choice. However, when the Templars began to emerge, the Muslims did not respect the agreement, and combat ensued. Barthélemy de Quincy was killed in the conflict, all the bowmen and Syrian Christians were executed, and dozens of the surviving Templar knights were taken as prisoners to Cairo.⁹

(Thus was lost the last foothold of the Christians in the Levant, but Ruad was the point at which they were to enter Syria again more than six centuries later, for on September 1, 1915, during World War I, the French occupied the island.⁷)

Depending on the source consulted, the surviving Templars' ultimate fate varies. Barber states "Nearly forty of these men were still in prison in Cairo years later where, according to a former fellow prisoner, the Genoese Matthew Zaccaria, they died of starvation, having refused an offer of 'many riches and goods' in return for apostatizing."⁹ Haag says that the Templars "were either slaughtered or sold into slavery."⁸ In Seward's book, he states that the Tem-



plars were "taken in chains to Cairo to be shot to death with arrows before an appreciative crowd."¹³

The Arab historian Abu'l Fida ended his summary of the situation with a prayer: "With these conquests, all the lands of the coast were fully returned to the Muslims, a result undreamed of. Thus were the Franj...expelled from all of Syria and the coastal zones. May God grant that they never set foot there again!"¹⁴

He got his wish. The Crusades were over, and the Templars were forever gone from Outremer and the Holy Land.



knight templar

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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**The best argument against democracy-
is a five-minute conversation with the
average voter.**

Winston Churchill

GRAND LODGE OF IRAN IN EXILE

By
Sir Knight Thomas Jackson

Editor's Note

This article was adapted from a speech given by the author to the members of the Grand Lodge of Iran in Exile.

It is a distinct privilege and pleasure for me to be invited to address this Grand Lodge.

You and your Grand Lodge represent a present-day example of the tenacity for which Freemasonry has been historically known, and although few may recognize it today, I am confident that historians will acknowledge it as such in the future.

When we peer into the annals of Freemasonry, we find an organization not only unique in its structure but also unique in its capacity for survivability. It has confronted onslaught by its enemies even before it existed in present-day form. We have survived when hundreds of organizations, many patterned after Freemasonry, long ago ceased to exist. There is probably no organization in the history of mankind outside of organized religion that has existed as long as have we, and this in spite of ongoing attacks by despots who would destroy the peace of the world and dissect the liberty and freedom which has been a fundamental characteristic of our Craft.

Freemasonry has encouraged toleration when toleration was almost an unknown. It has encouraged freedom of thought in environments where such freedom was an anathema to those in power. It has promoted an equality of man where such equality was not an

accepted norm. In essence, it has espoused its philosophical purpose for existence, to take good men and make them better in a brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God where all men are free and all men are equal. My Brothers, there are those of you sitting here today for that very reason.

You now represent to the world what many of your brothers represented in the past, survivors of a tyrannical power. You represent a willingness to sacrifice for what is just and right in our world. You are living examples of the effects of tyranny and evil in man, and living proof of the need of the philosophical purpose of our Craft, of toleration in an intolerant world. My Brothers, you are now part of an ongoing standard by which history may judge our organization as being, in the future. For a little over a decade now, historians have finally been taking note of the influence that Freemasonry may have had on the development of not only some of the world's greatest leaders, but some of the world's greatest achievements. This is a relatively new phenomenon, and although it took a long while, I think I now understand why. Historians dealt with men, not with organizations that contributed to the development of the men. Now, however, they are starting to realize that the two are inseparable. Even as evil can create

evil men to perpetuate that evil, good can create good men to perpetuate that good, and the philosophy of Freemasonry certainly is geared to receive and to create good men.

We find scattered throughout history the Khans, the Hitlers, the Mussolinis, the Stalins, the Francos, the Titos, and yes the Khomeinis, whose control over their countries and influence on the world has been one of creating despair, hopelessness, and suffering. Where men of this genre have been in power, Freemasonry has suffered, and Freemasons have paid a price.

Fortunately for the world, for almost 300 years, there have been those who were willing to pay the price. For many, that price was life itself. Our brothers have been killed by the tens of thousands, simply because they were Freemasons. For many, that price was freedom. Many thousands more were imprisoned for the same reason. For others, like some of you here today, that price was being forced to leave your homeland and settle elsewhere. The liberty, freedom, and equality of man are a fundamental cornerstone of Freemasonry, but even as we can list the tyrants of the world, we can also list the heroes, and many have been members of our noble Craft. Men like Franklin, Washington, Voltaire, Mozart, Kipling, Churchill, Truman, Bolivar, Garibaldi, and a multitude of others have been major players in the ongoing development of civil societies.

Freemasonry has functioned for centuries as a magnet, drawing into our brotherhood good men who were attracted to a philosophy that espoused not only the belief in a power higher than ourselves but also in diffusing the light of that power and knowledge

throughout the world for the welfare of all mankind.

As a result, Freemasonry became, in itself, an environment where good men of all professions, all beliefs, all social levels, and all walks of life could sit together as equals, promoting precepts which, if universally accepted, could serve as a template for world peace. Its membership roll reads like a listing of who's who of the world for almost 300 years in fields of endeavor as diverse as the men themselves. It seems almost incomprehensible that there could exist any force of attraction that could bring and hold together this number of diverse and good men, but my Brothers, it did exist, and from this environment there arose men, our brothers, whose names are etched upon the headstones of freedom throughout the world where freedom exists. Their names became part of the clarion call of mankind to make this world a better place, a fit abiding place for man to live. It is probable that if freedom exists anywhere on earth, it exists as a result of efforts of Freemasons or the influence of Masonic philosophy.

There is probably no organization in the history of mankind that has a greater reason to be proud of its accomplishments than has Freemasonry. We should be proud of what we have meant to the world, and there is also probably no organization whose membership expresses that pride more. It is our greatest strength, because that pride gives us a strong foundation upon which to build as well as a selling point to the outside world. It is also, however, our greatest weakness, because we use it today as a crutch to justify our present existence. We have far too much of a tendency to sell our past instead of our present, far

too much of a tendency to ignore the present upon which depends our future.

We now must recognize, especially in North America, that our influence in society is waning, and it is doing so as a result of lack of knowledge of the Craft on the part of our leadership on all levels.

I have found in my travels throughout the world that we here know less about our Craft than probably anywhere else in the world. Our ignorance of Freemasonry is appalling and detrimental to our very existence.

In the name of political correctness, we have changed elitism into an unacceptable form, but my Brothers, Freemasonry is elite. When we state that our goal is to take good men, and make them better, that is elitism, and it is not bad.

We now need the clarion call to waken us to our needs if we are ever again to participate in making this world a better world. We cannot afford to continue to dwell upon the greatness of our past members and parasitize their contributions as justification to our present existence. If we continue to fail to build positively upon the foundation they established, then we are not worthy of the respect of the world or of our past.

Many citizens of this world lost their right to be Freemasons because of tyrannical oppression and are just now reclaiming that right. These Freemasons truly appreciate the meaning of being members of our Craft.

Some of you sitting here today probably understand more than most the meaning of the loss of freedom and the desire of man to live without the oppression of those who took that freedom.

You, also probably understand more the meaning and philosophy of Free-knight templar

masonry, as well as the need to share it with those who do not.

While attending the 275th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge England, I listened to an old man who was the Grand Master of a recently reconstituted Grand Lodge of an Eastern European country. This brother had been the Grand Master of his Grand Lodge before Hitler closed it down in the '40s. With intense emotion, he spoke of the significance and importance of Freemasonry to him and to the other brothers in his country. There were very few sitting in the audience that day that listened with dry eyes. I only wish that every North American Freemason could have had that experience. Then, maybe, just maybe, they might understand.

The freedom we know has given me the privilege of accepting your very kind invitation to be with you today. Not everyone in the world has that privilege. That freedom, also gave you the opportunity of inviting me.

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

MODERN LESSONS

By
Robert Bruneau

“Our craft, as a viable organization, must learn and change to conform to the modern times.”

When I read this statement I think of the man who prayed: “Lord protect me from my friends, I can take care of my enemies.”

There is one thing in the statement that is true! Our craft is a living thing. Those members who have a deeper understanding of it would like to keep it that way! How long must the Craft continue to suffer from the attacks of well meaning but Masonically ignorant members.

It is not the primary function of Masonry to initiate candidates or to enlarge its membership. Were it so, there would be no basis for our laws against proselytizing. The ordinary function of a Masonic Lodge, indeed, the primary function of our Craft, is to train its members to an understanding of the truths which its ritual and its ceremonies are calculated to inculcate, to develop its members as benevolent men, to cultivate the social virtues among men, and to propagate the knowledge of the art.

Service organizations have found a place in society. They do a great deal of good, and they deserve a great deal of credit, but Freemasonry is not a service club. A study of the earliest documents of the evolution from operative to speculative, of the principles which were carried over, of the development of new principles, of the growth of the ritual and ceremonies... in all these there is

nothing to indicate that Freemasonry was ever intended to be a service club.

The chief concern of the Lodge is with its welfare, the happiness and the Masonic development of its members, not with the admission of those who seek entrance to its doors. Its success as a Masonic Lodge cannot be gauged by the length of its membership roll or by the size of its accumulated funds.

W. L. Wilmhurst said, “If they (Freemasons) do not spiritualize the order, they will increasingly materialize it.” Those members who wish to turn the craft into a service club would materialize it and eventually destroy it.

Some members regard Masonry as an allegory of physical birth, life, and death, but every Fellowcraft should know that it is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man which Masonry regards. The beauty of our ritual and the good fellowship among the members of our Lodges cannot be conserved when the chief aim is to make Masons and money. For a man’s life consists not in the abundance of things which he possesses, and a Lodge’s life does not consist in its acquisitions but in the contributions which it makes to civilization and society through the influence of those whom it has helped to train to what we call “Masonic character.” It is in the hidden esoteric symbolism that the primary purpose of the ceremonies of the craft is revealed.

Therefore, it should be the duty of every Masonic Lodge to put into action a plan for the education of its members

in Masonic history, symbolism, and philosophy, devoting more of its meetings to this much neglected function. This is why the birth, life, and death view applies to spiritual as well as physical life. Some members regard Masonry's aim to be the building of character. In this regard there is stressed the realization of a higher ratio, a greater proportion on the Divine in the character of man as contrasted with his original natural qualities and instincts... and again, the search for

that which is lost is the symbolic effort to find the abstract truth, that is, the Divinity in ourselves and others. The Masonic light shines for those who have eyes to see, and while some of its rays may fall upon things material, the light is not to be found in materialism.

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



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IN MEMORIAM



David Lee Hargett, Jr.
North Carolina
Grand Commander 1988
Born: June 23, 1939
Died: July 26, 2018
Southeastern Department Commander 1994-1997

Roger L. Kehm
South Dakota
Grand Commander 2007
Born: November 8, 1924
Died: July 16, 2018

Ginacarlo Boero
Italy
Grand Commander 2006
Born: October 7, 1927
Died: April 17, 2018

Charles Edward Cathey
North Carolina
Grand Commander 1995
Born: April 19, 1938
Died: March 7, 2018

James Alfred Hafner
Tennessee
Grand Commander 2006
Born: November 15, 1936
Died: July 31, 2018

Frederick A. Beitter
New York
Grand Commander 2015
Born: December 20, 1947
Died: November 4, 2017

Thomas Pat Dickson
Louisiana
Grand Commander 2010
Born: July 14, 1932
Died: August 15, 2018

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.

Meet Our Department Commanders

Sir Knight Jack M. Harper, II

Right Eminent Department Commander

South Central Department

Jack Magee Harper II was born 19 November 1971, in Austin, Texas. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master of Public Administration degrees, both from Texas Tech University and from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program from Harvard University. He is serving as city manager of Fulshear, Texas, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States.

Jack began his Masonic journey in 2003 and has served four times each as worshipful master (including Texas Lodge of Research), high priest, thrice illustrious master, and five times as commander. He served as grand commander of Knights Templar in Texas from 2017-2018. He is a Scottish Rite 33°, grand superintendent for both

Knight Masons and Allied Masonic Degrees, chief adept, IX° for Texas and Stella Sola Colleges SRICF, and Order of the Purple Cross. Further, he is a member of Red Cross of Constantine, HRAKTP, KYCH, National Sojourners, Heroes of '76, Masonic Order of Athelstan, Operatives, Scarlet Cord, Shrine, Grotto, and Eastern Star.

He has been in Boy Scouts since 1979, and served in many roles including Ranger at Philmont Scout Ranch, Cubmaster, and Scoutmaster. Jack is an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor member in Order of the Arrow, and recipient of the Silver Beaver and Founders Award.

Jack was recognized by the United States Navy as a Distinguished Visitor at Sea and completed an arrested landing and catapult assisted launch onboard the USS Ronald Reagan CVN 76. Jack is a single engine land and sea plane private pilot, Extra Class licensee (WM5P), and an avid backpacker. He is attempting to hike the highest point in every state and has summited forty highpoints.

Jack is married to his lovely wife, Julie, and they have one son, Jake, who will be a 5th grader.

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Beauceant News

New Social Order of the Beauceant President Installed

Ms. Kimberly Burnett was installed as supreme worthy president of the Supreme Assembly of the Social Order of the Beauceant on September 28, 2018, at the close of the 98th Supreme Assembly held in Las Vegas, Nevada. She will preside during the 99th Supreme Assembly to be held in Tyler, Texas on September 25, 26, 27, 2019.

Kim was born in Middletown, Ohio, and her family moved to Columbus in 1970. She and many members of her family attend the United Methodist Church in their area. She and her siblings were raised in an active Masonic household, going back multiple generations. She is a majority member of both Jobs Daughters International and the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. She is also currently a member of the Order of Eastern Star (past matron)



and a member of Daughters of the Nile. The family's Masonic tradition continued when her son, Tom, nephews, and niece joined the Masonic youth groups.

In 2006, at the urging of her mother (Mrs. Arthur) Patricia Glass, she and her sister were the inspection candidates for Columbus Assembly 79, at (Mrs. David) Sonja Alcon's first official visit. She has held a variety of offices in the Assembly and has been president three times. In 2016 she became a dual member with Cleveland Assembly 15.

Ms. Burnett worked for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for thirty-three years. During her tenure with ODOT, she worked for the information technology division in a variety of areas. Ms. Burnett also holds a commercial driver's license, and she performed snow and ice removal as an "extra" driver for ODOT in the central Ohio area. At the time of her retirement, she was the supervisor of the technical and customer support sections.

Ms. Burnett is looking forward to visiting each Assembly in the United States, enjoying fellowship, renewing friendships, and making new friends. She will be promoting the Knights Templar Eye Foundation as the official philanthropy of the Social Order of the Beauceant, which is dear to her family, as grants from KTEF led to finding a treatment for macular degeneration which affects many in her extended family.



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Or see our information attached to the

Pilgrimage site, see Activities -

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Psalm 32:9

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