

# Knight Templar

VOLUME LXV

January 2019

NUMBER 1

# York & Scottish Rite Superstore

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

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



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



Malta Jewel  
**Only \$89.95/dz.**



Red Cross  
**Only \$99.95/dz.**



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

**fratline™**

EMBLEMATICS

by M. Warren & Co.

**1-877-459-1440, ext. 0**

P.O. Box 9258

Louisville, KY 40209



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



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



## Reconditioned Jackets with Templar buttons

**Only \$169.95**

- Flaps on Pockets are **\$19.95** extra if needed.
- Sword Slits are **\$14.95** extra if needed.
- Limited sizes available.
- Add **\$25.00** for sizes 48+

## Men's High Gloss Dress Shoes (slightly blemished)

**Only \$64.95**



We now have  
Purple, Red & Blue  
Blazers **Only \$99.95**  
Add **\$25.00** for sizes 48+



[www.lighthouseuniform.com](http://www.lighthouseuniform.com)

**1-206-282-5600**



## Contents

### Grand Master's Message

Grand Master Jeffrey N. Nelson ..... 4

### Mind the Gap

Brother Matt Nelson..... 7

Order of Knight Beneficent of the Holy City  
(CBCS) ..... 11

### Meet Our Department Commanders

Sir Knight James C. McGee

Right Eminent Department Commander

Southeastern Department ..... 13

### The Masonic Knights Templar Regalia History Continued

Sir Knight Brian J. Wagner..... 21

Easter 2019..... 33-35

## Features

Prelate's Apartment ..... 6

In Memoriam ..... 12

Recipients of the Membership Jewel ..... 14

Beauceant News..... 15

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation .....16,20

Grand Commandery Supplement..... 18

VOLUME LXV JANUARY 2019 NUMBER 1  
Published monthly as an official publication of the  
Grand Encampment of Knights Templar  
of the United States of America.

**Jeffrey N. Nelson**  
Grand Master

**Michael Burke Johnson**  
Deputy Grand Master and Publisher  
Box 575  
121 Bobs Creek Rd.  
Crowheart, WY 82512

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

**Lawrence E. Tucker**  
Grand Recorder

**Grand Encampment Office**  
5909 West Loop South, Suite 495  
Bellaire, TX 77401-2402  
Phone: (713) 349-8700  
Fax: (713) 349-8710  
E-mail: larry@gektusa.org

Magazine materials and correspon-  
dence to the editor should be sent in elec-  
tronic form to the managing editor whose  
contact information is shown below.

Materials and correspondence concern-  
ing the Grand Commandery state supple-  
ments should be sent to the respective  
supplement editor.

**John L. Palmer**  
Managing Editor  
Post Office Box 566  
Nolensville, TN 37135-0566  
Phone: (615) 283-8477  
Fax: (615) 283-8476  
E-mail: ktmagazine@comcast.net

**Cover photo of the Templar  
Commanderie of Sainte Eulalie  
in France by the editor.**

Grand Encampment web site: [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org)  
[www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/archive](http://www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/archive)



# Grand Master's Message

Sir Knights, it has become customary over the past several trienniums for the Grand Master to announce the Grand Encampment's objectives for the upcoming year at the beginning of the year. In furtherance of this practice, here are our goals for 2019.



1. Electronic publication and delivery of the *Knight Templar*. We are planning to make the *Knight Templar* available on a mobile app in 2019. We hope that as members migrate voluntarily to the mobile app we will realize significant cost savings.
2. Templar Education and Development course. This will be a Templar-specific correspondence course with educational materials relating to the historical Knights Templar, Masonic Knights Templar, Grand Encampment, and Templar philosophy and ritual.
3. Order of the Temple DVD. We will develop this educational tool as a companion to the current Order of Red Cross and Order of Malta DVDs.
4. Grand Encampment rituals. The rituals will be reprinted in "clear text" to enhance learning the ritual. This will also provide an opportunity to clarify several of the instructions.
5. Templar travel and tour programs. From 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tours to "In the Footsteps of Jesus" Holy Land Pilgrimage tours, we plan to bring interesting and educational travel opportunities to our members.
6. 40 Miles Project. This project, under the direction of our grand and associate grand prelates, will improve the care and support of our members and their families wherever dispersed.
7. York Rite Leadership Program. We plan to expand and enhance the single most important function of the Grand Encampment through the new "communication skills" component of the leadership program.
8. Templar recognition and honors. We are designing a membership patent to recognize our new members and redesigning the Knight Templar Cross of Honor, Knight Commander of the Temple, and Companion of the Temple jewels.
9. Holy Land Pilgrimage Program. We are moving to make this program available to our European Sir Knights.
10. Knights Templar Eye Foundation. We will continue current programs while looking for new opportunities to fulfill the Foundation's mission.

We will report back at the end of the year on how we did.

Courteously,

Jeffrey N. Nelson, GCT  
Grand Master

# MAYO'S

\* **Knights Templar Uniform - \$150**



**Red and Purple Blazers**

**Starting at \$80**

**Tuxedos - \$130**

**Drill Shoes - \$50**

**Ties - \$15**



**1121 Broad St - Wesmark Plaza**

**Sumter, SC 29150**

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

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

**A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.**

**Winston Churchill**

Archived issues of the *Knight Templar* magazine can be accessed on the web at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/>. Then click on the button "Knight Templar" at the top of the page and select "Archives." The archives include an index.

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.

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

# Prelate's Apartment

by

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

*<sup>15</sup> As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ... <sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. (Saint Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, English Standard Version)*

**A**s we enter the new year, we hear the story of the baptism of Jesus. Appearing in all four Gospels, this is clearly an important event in the life of the early Church. Baptism is not a uniquely Christian act, and we find it as a rite of initiation, repentance, or entrance in many faiths and communities. For Christians, baptism represents the washing away—indeed, the death—of the “Old Adam” or “Old Eve” in us and our receiving the righteousness of Christ, and with that righteousness, our place as children of God and coheirs with Christ for all that the Father has promised. No longer must we fear sin, death, and the devil, for we have been washed clean and made anew in Christ. One baptism for the remission of sins, as we confess in the creeds, comes to us not by the act of humans, but as the act of God. We who baptize are simply the earthly hands through which God acts to claim us as His own.

Heretofore, John baptized with water, but when he baptized Jesus, God—through the Holy Spirit—entered the picture as the Holy Spirit would at the first Pentecost. God declares not only that He is pleased with Jesus, but more importantly, that Jesus is indeed the Son of God. Baptism became and remains the central act through which we are all initiated and received into the Christian community. Once initiated we do not need to be “reinitiated” or rebaptized throughout our lives. We make ablutions—ritual cleansings—of our hands as a sign of remembrance of our baptism and a symbol of cleansing, but these rituals are not rebaptism. Rather, our act of renewal comes in receiving the true body and true blood of Christ through the Eucharist on a regular basis.

May the blessings of God be upon you, and may you continue to be filled by the power of the Holy Spirit as you journey as siblings of Jesus Christ and defenders of the Faith.

# Mind the Gap

By  
Brother Matt Nelson

Approaching anything of great significance and importance in this life and hoping to create a dramatic shift in its current system takes an amazing amount of time and energy. Sometimes, it also takes a lofty dream. I say “lofty,” because sometimes it takes a vision of the impossible and someone crazy enough to believe it to make it happen. For Freemasonry, understanding our membership, emerging technologies, the gaps between generations, and current social changes and demands, and having an adaptive plan to meet these demands are all keys to membership advancement.

The matter at hand may seem impossible, but a thing often seems impossible until it is done. If a task is presented to you, and you feel it is an impossible mission, remember that just because it seems difficult does not mean that it cannot be done.

The individuals that make up the Lodge are complex, intelligent men seeking to make a mark in the world. Help them make that mark within the fraternity. Trust the young men that are looking to help – they often know more than they think they do. There are, unfortunately, some within the Fraternity that should never have been allowed past the west gate. Be careful not to impose such errors on the future membership. Guard the gate and allow only quality men to join our ranks.

To accomplish good public education, knight templar

Lodge members need to be empowered to own and lead the learning process. Leaders must take the time to discover the dreams and visions of the membership and then help the whole reach these dreams. One of the key roles of the worshipful master and grand master is equipping their brothers with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed in a rapidly changing world. As times change, so do demands, interests, and ideas. Our social order has the responsibility to supply our members with the tools for success, not only within our doors but without.

Motivation, engagement, and shared leadership are fundamental pillars of an adaptive education model. It is with that spirit that we actively participate in social websites like Meetup and Facebook. This type of outreach requires more of Masons than the traditional approach to education. A healthy dose of caution is needed when using the internet, too. Like any tool, it can be used for great evil or great good. Masons should pay particular attention to online civility. The younger generations are watching to see how members criticize each other.

If all we have within the fraternity is titles, titles will be all the fraternity is about. Membership needs to start looking for good, quality, intelligent, and powerful leaders to support our local Lodges and grand jurisdictions. Low-level just-get-by achievement is no longer sufficient for advancement. Not only

do we need to guard the west gate, we need to protect the eastern chair.

Masonry is a great program that has attracted some of the most influential men of our society. During our lifetime, we have seen the membership decline. We meet, read, and contemplate on the issue of how to get more good men, and how to make those men good Masons. We have seen the question of quantity take a back seat to questions of quality, but little action seems to follow.

Members studying quality educational programs surrounded by good men in quality meetings should be at the forefront of the discussion. We attract what we are, not what we want. If we are an organization of motivated, influential, good men, we will attract the same. If we are simply another social club that promotes pseudo-elitists to fulfill egotistical goals, that is exactly the kind of man that will knock on our doors.

Millennials are looking for something specific. Not all, perhaps, but for the most part, it holds true. These young men are seeking knowledge, wisdom, and insight. Or, in our language, they seek light. They are looking for somewhere they feel accepted without judgment, somewhere they are challenged to learn and grow. They are looking for another avenue in their life where they can succeed in the deepest personal way. The Lodge experience is critical for the initiatic experience and for the creation of a successful Lodge. Heightening that experience is essential to our future.

A successful Lodge is one where a brother feels that the Lodge's promise has been fulfilled. That feeling may be hard to quantify, and maybe so is the promise. However, if we ask, these young men can tell us exactly what they are expecting,

what they hope to gain, and what they can give in return. These men have an idea of what Masonry is already, and they have expectations. If we do not help set these expectations but simply demand that the candidates appreciate the ceremonies, they will leave disappointed.

Young men are grasping for something that will help ground them in this rapidly moving life; Freemasonry offers that. Freemasonry not only offers education but promises it. Ancient knowledge and wisdom are at our fingertips, and yet these men come knocking on our door looking for more. The new members are confused and frustrated when the Lodge offers mediocre meals and sub-par educational presentations that are often no more than an interesting thought. If we intended to foster good Masons, to bring them in and keep them in, our educational programs must be challenging, insightful, scientific, ethical, and powerful. Young men are willing to question nearly anything and expect proof to be presented when demanded.

The fraternity also promises the chance for group identification and belonging. More than ever, this is needed in our society. The decay of social fiber and the social credit our nation once had is noticeable alongside the decline of membership numbers. Masons seek not only to improve the men within the fraternity but to improve the society around them as well. We do this by connecting the threads of friendships within a community. Masons need to be friends as much as they need to be brothers. We must look out for one another, help improve the brother next to us, not simply seek our own success and advancement. This fraternity offers a great opportunity for a safe space in which men are ac-



cepted and loved, a place where face to face relationships are valued over digital ones. If the candidate cannot be a friend in the Lodge, that Lodge and perhaps Masonry in general is not for him. If we cannot befriend the candidate, we need to help him find a Lodge that can or an organization that will.

Several popular conceptions concerning the Craft should perhaps not be so easily dismissed by us. The idea that Masons seek global domination is not totally farfetched. After all, Masonry is the activity of closely united men who are part of a global organization seeking to improve the world around us. We strive to ennoble ourselves and each other and bring about a universal league of mankind.<sup>1</sup> That kind of “new world order” or global domination is one that I believe we can all support.

Another concept that should not be easily tossed aside is the idea that we are a “secret society.” Nearly every brother would say, “Well, a society with secrets.” Consider: we are a group of men who have had a very personal and very private experience. This experience is unique and powerful and can only be understood by those who have passed through it. The initiatic rites are all but gone in today’s culture. This important element of manhood is not only part of the great promise we offer, but it constitutes a portion of our secrets. That makes this society one filled with secrets. The pop-culture idea of a “secret society” is a negative vision. Perhaps, when discussing this concept, the term “private” could be used. Follow that with, “and if someone is interested, and is found to be a good candidate for the fraternity, they can go through the same rites.”

As we find our way into the future, we

must also come to grips with emerging technologies. If you don’t understand them, find someone who does. The internet is a vast tool that can be infinitely helpful to the membership. This ancient order needs to step into the present and look to the future. Technology is not going anywhere soon; in fact, it seems to be building its own momentum. We have a chance to embrace this and use it in our work; the younger generations can help us in this.

The older generations see Facebook as a way to keep in touch with family. The younger generations see it as a marketing and advertisement tool. The older generations see email as a way to spread funny comics or write a note to the grandkids while they’re on vacation. The younger generations see it as a fast-paced letter and use it to communicate quick, accurate information. Websites are fun to look at and maybe buy a book from, but the younger generations use them as the source of anything and everything, from a needed bit of information to contacting friends to serving as their TV or radio. The pace of the millennial generation is full-speed with no rest. If the fraternity is not tapping into that market, potential members are being lost.

There is one thing that previous generations have never been able to prepare a younger generation for: their own age. Whatever age that is, trailblazers before you can never prepare you for the challenges of “your age.” This was as true for the silent generation as it is for the millennials. Our parents, our forefathers in Masonry, have all attempted to prepare us to carry the mantle and get to work. They have gone to extremes to make us ready for the hardships ahead. Many still feel like they sit in the crow’s

nest and can see what's coming, desperate to prepare the generations below.

There are things for which the older generations cannot prepare the younger ones, but we can be there for them when they need us. The fast-paced world we live in has its own momentum. At times, when the current seems too fast, members or Lodges end up turning inward and stop sharing the light and power of the fraternity. The younger generations know how to keep up the breakneck pace. With the wisdom of the older generations to draw on, they can help keep the ship on the right course. With proper guidance, they have fantastic ideas that will bring their peers and friends along with them. They are seeking something the fraternity has to offer, but sometimes hesitates to give.

With the fast-paced world around us, we need a literal reinvention of what Freemasonry looks like to the public. Society hardly knows that we are here. Books from authors like Dan Brown and movies like *National Treasure* have given light to the shadow over the fraternity, but these are not real Masonry, are they? The Freemasons don't really exist anymore, do they?

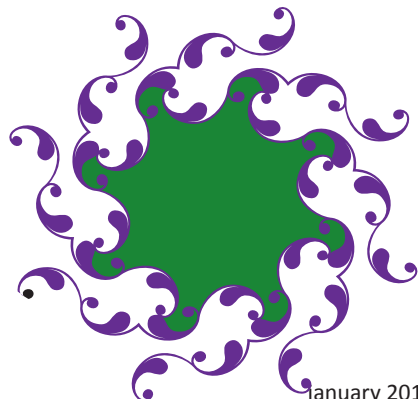
It will take a great understanding, a magnificent awareness, to bridge this gap, a gap created by both generational differences and social concepts. It takes an astute leader to understand the various types of management, when and how to implement them, and how to foster growth at all levels of leadership. The older leader has an obligation to the younger leaders. He must see how vital it is that he give up the reins and guide future leaders as a mentor. The younger leader, in turn, needs to understand the various motivational elements

that make up the senior members. A wise leader must help each generation see how the other may be positioned in their thinking and how to get all of them to play on the same team. Get the right people in, get them in the right spot, then keep them in and keep them working. It is not enough to gain numbers; we need to gain Masons.

When our decline in membership stares us in the face, we often react out of fear and despair. This is not worthy of us. Now is the time we must band together and become braver than ever as we face the future. This is no time to fear what lies ahead; it is an exciting time of growth and possibilities. However, to really grasp the chances that lie before us, we must let go of our ego, boost our brothers up without hoping for some kind of reward or recognition, and restore Masonry to what we know it can be.

Brethren, mind the gap!

Matt Nelson is a member of Damascus Lodge 10 in Provo, Utah. He is currently finishing a book entitled *Mind the Gap: Navigating the Space from Here to There*. He can be contacted at [mattyannelson@yahoo.com](mailto:mattyannelson@yahoo.com)



# NOTICE ORDER OF KNIGHT BENEFICENT OF THE HOLY CITY (CBCS)

2012 Resolution No. 1, adopted at the 65<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave, provides:

1. The Order of Knight Beneficent of the Holy City (Chevalier Bienfaisant de la Cite Sante) is a Masonic Templar order and as such, can only be conferred within the United States under the sanction of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America;
2. Membership in a Masonic Templar order in the United States unsanctioned or unrecognized by the Grand Encampment of the United States of America is inconsistent with membership in the Grand Encampment of the United States of America or any of its subordinate Commanderies, Grand Commanderies, or constituent Commanderies;
3. Any Sir Knight who is a member of a subordinate Commandery, Grand Commandery or subordinate Commandery under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, and who, from the date of adoption of this resolution, accepts membership in any unrecognized or unsanctioned Masonic Templar order is in violation of his Knightly vows and is presumed to have renounced his membership in this order; and
4. The grand recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar will notify the Sir Knight, by certified mail at his last know place of residence, of the intent to issue the member a permanent demit from his Commandery(ies). Unless, within thirty (30) days of the mailing of the notice (or such longer time as may be reasonable under the circumstances), the Sir Knight shall have responded in writing, formally renouncing membership in the unrecognized or unsanctioned order, the permanent demit shall be issued, his Commandery(ies) shall be notified of the demit, and his record adjusted to reflect such action in the York Rite Information System.

Vaught Decision No. 5, issued March 15, 2016, rescinded that portion of 2012 Resolution No. 1 beginning with “and is presumed” in paragraph 3 through paragraph 4. The remainder of 2012 Resolution No. 1 remains in full force and effect. Thus, any Sir Knight who accepted or accepts membership in an unrecognized or unsanctioned Masonic Templar order after August 15, 2012, is in violation of his knightly vows and is subject to Templar discipline under section 209 of the *Statutes of the Grand Encampment* and the disciplinary rules adopted pursuant to this section.

# IN MEMORIAM



Joseph William Horton  
Wisconsin  
Grand Commander 1977  
Born: November 9, 1929  
Died: July 30, 2018

William Jules Mollere  
Louisiana  
Grand Commander 2012  
Born: March 18, 1946  
Died: November 9, 2018

## MILFORD COMMANDERY Nº. 11

### **Complete Summer Uniform \$205**

***Includes:*** Battalion Cap,  
Shirt, Collar Brass, Brass  
Nameplate, Cap Badge,  
Orders Bar, Tie and Tie Clasp  
*Caps, Brass & Accessories  
also Available Separately!*



**[www.milfordcommanderystore.com](http://www.milfordcommanderystore.com)**  
**[store@milfordcommandery.com](mailto:store@milfordcommandery.com)**

**155 Main Street, Milford, MA 01757 • 508.482.0006**



All Proceeds go to  
the Knights Templar  
Eye Foundation!



# Meet Our Department Commanders

## **Sir Knight James C. McGee** **Right Eminent Department Commander** **Southeastern Department**

**J**ames C. McGee was born July 18, 1961, in Vernon, Alabama. He graduated from the University of North Alabama. Sir Knight McGee served in the United State Marine Corps. Sir Knight McGee is married to Donna McGee.

Sir Knight McGee joined the Florence Chapter, Order of DeMolay as a charter member in 1977. He served as the executive officer in Alabama. In 1999 he was elected as grand master of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay. He served as the grand treasurer from 2002 to 2012.

Sir Knight McGee was raised a Master Mason in Florence Lodge 14 in 1982. He has served as worshipful master of Florence Lodge 14 and Greeno Lodge 598.

Sir Knight McGee received the capitular degrees in Cyrus Chapter 6 in 1996. In 2010, he was elected the most excellent grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alabama.

Sir Knight McGee received the cryptic degrees in Florence Council 74 in 1996. In 2015, he was elected the most illustrious grand master of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Alabama.

Sir Knight McGee received the chivalric orders in Florence Commandery 39 in Florence, Alabama, in 1996. He was presented the Knight Commander of the Temple and the Knight Templar Cross of Honor. In 2018 he was elected right eminent grand commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Alabama.

Sir Knight McGee was coroneted an honorary inspector general, 33<sup>rd</sup> degree in 2001.

Sir Knight McGee is a member of Emrys W. Johns York Rite College 179, served as grand governor, and currently serves as the grand herald. He was honored with the Knight of the York Cross of Honour in 2008, and is a member of the St. Dunstan Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, a past patron of the Order of the Eastern Star, a member of Vulcan Council 119 Knight Masons, and was consecrated into the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests.





## **Grand Encampment**

### **Membership Awards**

1162 Mark Kendall McFadden  
Muskogee Commandery 2  
Muskogee, OK  
1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Cluster

1163 Justin M. Huggins  
Lookout Commandery 14  
Chattanooga, TN  
1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Cluster



1164-1165 Frederick Raymond Gerdorn  
Lakeland/Winter Haven 21  
Lakeland, FL  
1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Cluster

1166 Danilo "Danny" Baldoz  
Grice 16  
Norfolk, VA

NEW LONDON

**REGALIA & SWORD COMPANY**

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

Call to request your free catalog.

We also do refurbishing - Contact us for more information

**BELTS**



**CHAPEAU**



**SWORDS**



For all your KT and Regalia needs  
[www.newlondonregalia.com](http://www.newlondonregalia.com)



# Beauceant News



Denver Assembly 50-year member,  
(Mrs. Gordon) Nancy Merrick, (2nd from left).



Denver Assembly 25-year member, (Mrs. J. Lowell) Joyce Johnson.

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

**T**he grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

For many people, the start of a new year brings the start of new resolutions to change some things in their lives. The classic example of how long those resolutions last is the local gym or fitness center. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> the place is so packed with fitness wannabes that you have to park five blocks away and hike in. (Not necessarily a bad thing) A week later, you only have to park two blocks away, and by the time you get to February, you have your pick of places in the parking lot.

One resolution you can make this year that will really help to find a cure for childhood blindness is a monthly gift to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Let's say you decide to contribute \$100 dollars by joining the Grand Commanders Club (which is done by requesting on your first contribution), and you can make a payment on it monthly (minimum of \$100). That's a little over three bucks a day. You spend more than that on your morning coffee. In ten months you have set a new personal record for keeping a New Year's resolution, you feel great about giving generously to make pediatric blindness a thing of the past, *and* before you know it, you are now a member of the Grand Masters Club (\$1,000). That means that, as a thank you, you'll receive an engraved plaque, a lapel pin, and a Crusaders Cross to wear proudly on your uniform.

Of course you can do a general donation of any amount, but the end result is a win-win. You get to feel good about your New Year's resolution success, and the children win too.

You're welcome. God bless.

Yours in His service,

Jeff



# NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

## Grand Master's Club

Richard M. Agler.....	CA	W. Bruce Pruitt.....	CA
David W. Studley.....	CA	Robert W. Gregory .....	CO
Edwin D. Groover.....	GA	Larry W. Latham, Sr. ....	GA
J. B. Gates .....	IL	Robert W. Pierce .....	IL
David W. Miller .....	IN	Robert W. Hamilton, Jr. ....	IA
Clarence W. Browder .....	KY	Anthony Radosti .....	LA
Dwight E. Rhude .....	MI	Jack E. Schubel .....	MI
Kenneth J. Simons .....	MI	Douglas E. Pamp .....	MN
Cassie Watts .....	MS	Jean P. Haberichter .....	MO
Lewis H. Busell.....	NH	Michael Cefaratti, III.....	NJ
Charles W. Marx .....	NM	Gordon J. Whiting.....	NY
Michael T. Aycock .....	NC	James B. Steele .....	NC
Travis L. Brown.....	OH	Kent C. Lyon .....	OH
Ronald Murphy.....	OH	Russell F. Oldham.....	PA
Lance J. Stange, Jr. ....	PA	Justin M. Huggins.....	TN
Samuel K. Price.....	WV		

## Grand Commander's Club

W. Bruce Pruitt.....	CA	Robert W. Bigley .....	CO
Todd M. Conner .....	FL	Thomas A. Olsen .....	FL
Joseph A. Schoonover .....	FL	James G. Mashburn .....	GA
Robert S. Cook .....	KY	Hugh L. McLaurin, III .....	NC
Joseph A. Raubar .....	NY	Travis L. Brown.....	OH
Kevin D. Chaffin.....	TN	Justin M. Huggins.....	TN
Joel D. Ratliff, Sr. ....	VA	John S. Ranck .....	WA

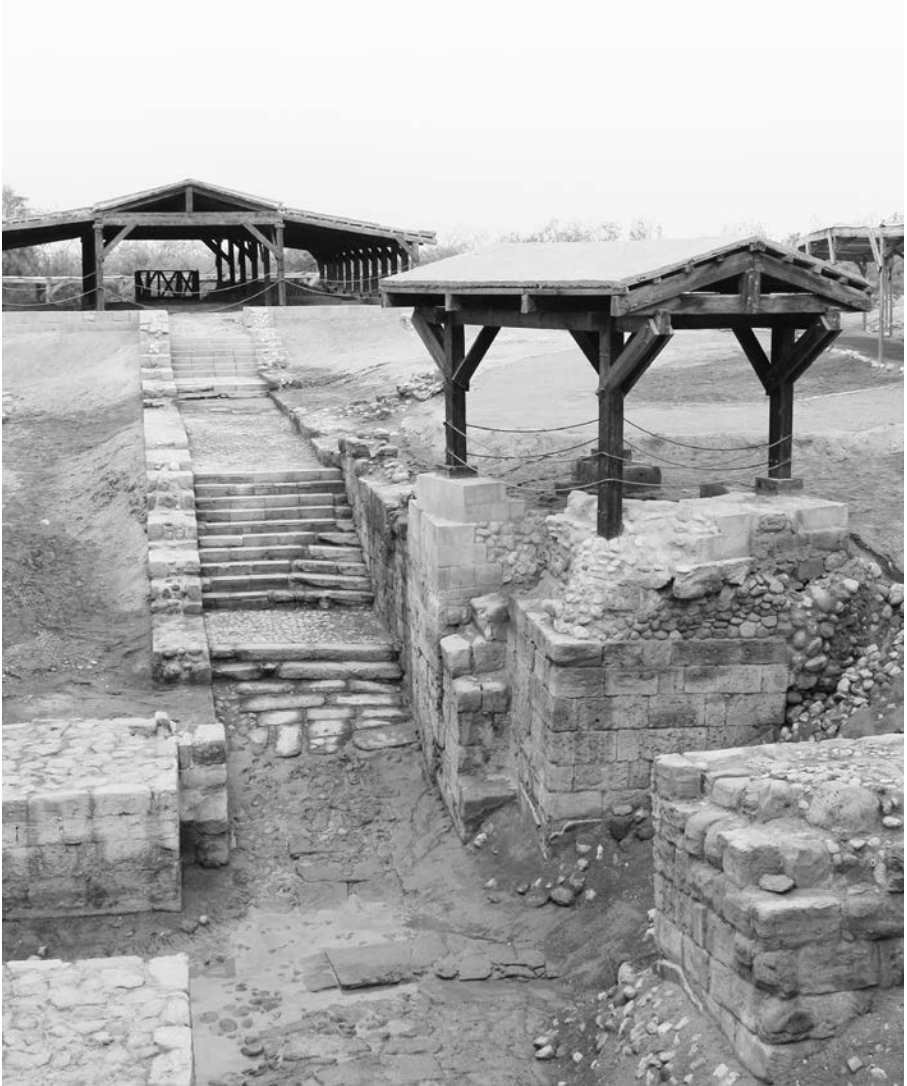
**In the course of my life, I have often had  
to eat my words, and I must confess that I  
have always found it a wholesome diet.**

**Winston Churchill**

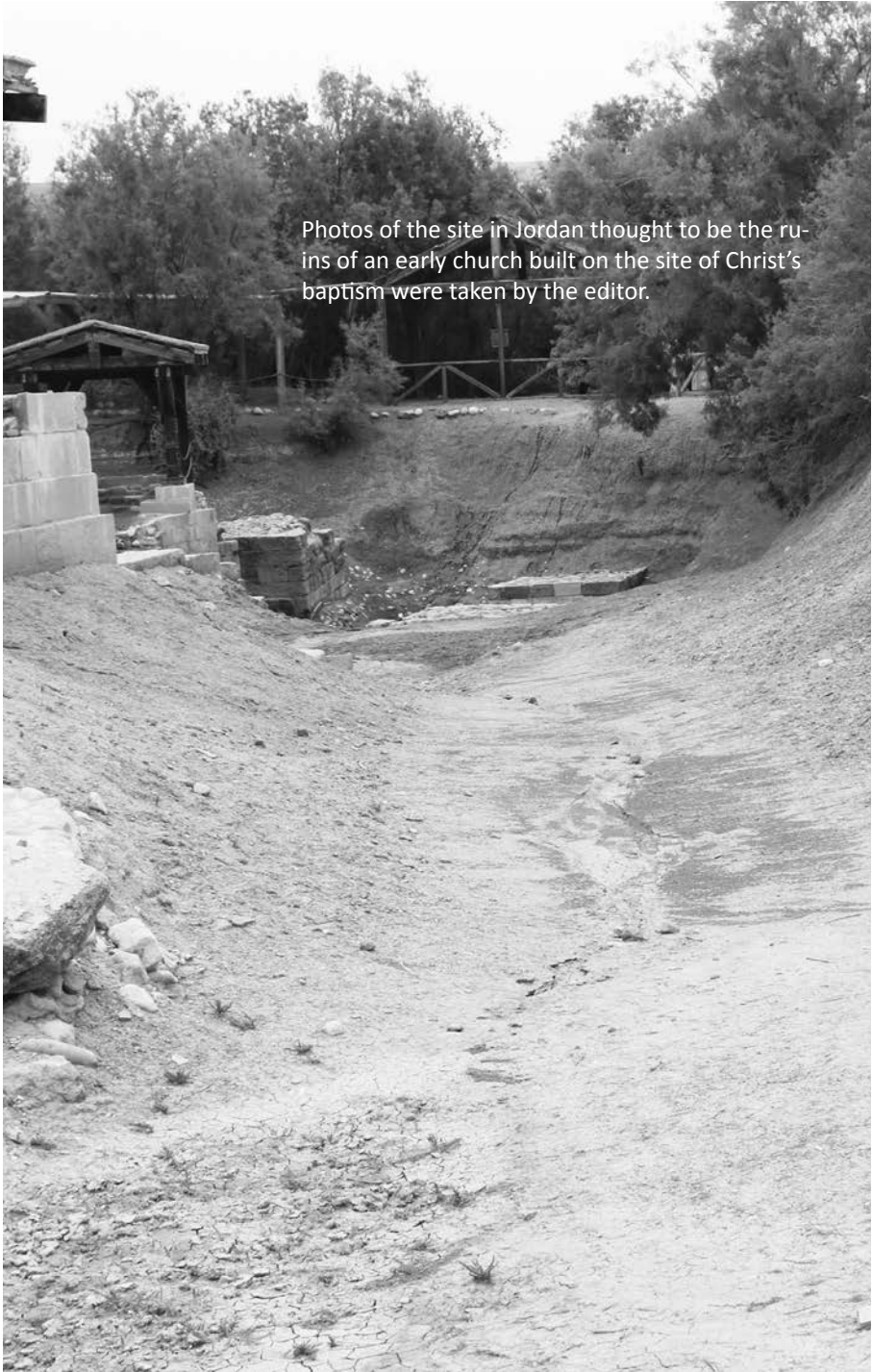


# General Supplement

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.







Photos of the site in Jordan thought to be the ruins of an early church built on the site of Christ's baptism 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:

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

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

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.  
1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5  
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/)**

# *The Masonic Knights Templar Regalia History*

## Part Two in a Series of Two

By

Sir Knight Brian J. Wagner

### Editor's Note

This article was originally published in the *Journal of the Masonic Society*. It is reprinted here with permission of both the society and the author. The first part was published in the November 2018 issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine.

### The Templar Sword

No other piece of the Templar uniform embodies the Templar spirit more than the sword (Figure 13). This is by far the first piece of the overall uniform that almost all

new Sir Knights strive to own. You can truly see the excitement when a new Sir Knight receives and draws his sword from the scabbard for the very first time. He may have gotten a small taste of sword work in the other Masonic bodies if he was a certain officer, but nothing



Figure 13: Ornate Templar sword

like experienced in Templary. It can be claimed that without the sword there is no Templary. The sword is a direct link to the ancient order of Templars. Just as in ancient times, the sword gives the Sir Knight a sense of chivalry. Almost every aspect of our order involves the sword in some capacity. Proficient sword work is just as important as dialogue. When you have a group of Sir Knights who really know the sword work well, it is indeed very “cavalier” to behold. To me, proficient sword work is a very important aspect of Templary.

The history and story of the Templar sword is mostly found in the manufacturers who made the swords. When it comes to the old antique swords, without any hesitation, I would say that the most popular and most sought after sword manufacturer by collectors, is the M.C. Lilley Co. According to The Autry's Collection Online,<sup>1</sup> the M.C. Lilley Co. was founded by Mitchell C. Lilley (1819-1882), a bookbinder and publisher from Columbus, Ohio. In 1865 they began producing swords and military regalia. Upon Lilley's death in 1882, the company became known as “The M.C. Lilley & Co.” and expanded to a complete line of military equipment, swords, uniforms, and fraternal regalia. The company purchased the Henderson-Ames Company (a merger of the Henderson firm of Kalamazoo, Michigan. and the Ames Sword Company) and changed its name to “The Lilley Co.” in 1925. In 1931 it became known as “The Lilley-Ames Co.” The history timeline of this company is a key factor in determining what time period swords and other regalia are from. The M.C. Lilley company pretty much bought out all the other competing manufacturers. The Henderson and the

Ames companies were at one time major competitors to M.C. Lilley as stand-alone companies.

Let's see now how one can get an idea of how old, or which time period, a sword is from if it is made by M.C. Lilley or any of its sister companies. The place you need to look for the maker's mark is at the bottom of the sword blade by the hilt guard as seen in Figure 14. This is my personal sword that I use for everything in Templary.

As you can see, the maker's mark, which is an etching on the sword denoting the manufacturer, reads “The M.C. Lilley & Co.” Looking at the timeline, the company was named this starting in 1882 after the death of Mitchell C. Lil-



Figure 14: Templar sword makers mark

january 2019

ley and named such until 1925 when it became "The Lilley Co." So I now know that my sword was made somewhere between 1882 and 1925 and is 92 - 135 years old. I have found that you can use this same methodology for almost all of the many sword manufacturers.

If you look closely at the bottom of the blade by the leather bumper, you can barely see that the blade was made in Germany. I have found that many of the sword manufacturers used the same vendors to purchase different parts for their swords. Sometimes the only way to tell which company made the sword is by the maker's mark because some parts of the sword were used by many different companies.

To hold one of these antique swords, like the sword in Figure 13 and to really get an up close look at the intricate detailing, is something to behold. Most of them are truly works of art. Most of the swords have some sort of Templar scenery acid etched onto both sides of the sword blade along with the owner's name.

During the years immediately following the Civil War, sword sales for the manufacturers sharply declined. The sword was not regarded as a necessity to the military anymore. With this decision, the lucrative sword contracts went away along with the sales. At the same time, membership numbers for the fraternal organizations, such as the Templars and Masons, dramatically increased. The fraternal organizational craze was in full swing, with many new societies forming all over the world. Sword manufacturers saw this as an opportunity to increase sales by now offering fraternal swords. In a move of marketing genius, the sword manufacturers were able and willing to customize swords for each of these or-

ganizations. They could have a sword design tailored specifically for them to call their own. The Knights Templar took this customizing to the next level when the *Edicts of 1859/62* were implemented. Not only did we have our own sword designs, but we created a ranking system with different parts of the sword.

As I have stated before, the Templars have a ranking system on all regalia. The sword is no different. On very old swords, some have a black grip on the hilt. The *Edicts of 1859/62* specified that all Sir Knights below the rank of commander were to have a black grip made of a hardwood or of thermoplastic. Here in Pennsylvania, we are not permitted to use black grips. Furthermore, all Sir Knights who are commanders and the ranks above are to have their swords plated in gold tone. What this did for the manufacturers was enable them to offer a vast array of different stylings for the swords. They broke it down even further by offering specified swords for different degrees and orders within Freemasonry. An excellent book that I have used to get a good image and learn about the different swords is *The American Fraternal Sword* by John D. Hamilton, Joseph Marino, and James Kaplan.<sup>2</sup> It has many illustrations of the swords of the different organizations.

As stated, once you achieved the rank of commander and above, your grip was to be white. The grips were made of a painted hardwood, as with the black grip, or of ivory.

Some are lucky enough to find a suitable old sword that has an ivory handle on it. The swords were made well before the current regulations outlawing the use of ivory due to the endangered species that it comes from such as el-



elephants and walrus. I have often heard people ask if it is legal to own a sword if its grip is ivory. To get some answers to that question, I did a search for an answer and came upon the website for the Public Broadcasting System. This site has a nice write up from the appraisers of the hit program *Antiques Roadshow*.<sup>3</sup> After reading what they have to say about owning ivory, they admit that the subject is very vague to most people. One thing I did take away from it is that it is legal to own or sell ivory if it is over 100 years old. I would



Figure 15: Templar holding the very rare cavalry sabre

say a majority of the old ivory handle swords you see for sale fall into this category. However, I have heard it said that some companies that do sword refurbishments will confiscate your ivory grip and replace it with a plastic one. I am having my sword refurbished and have already inquired with the company I am having do it. They assured me that if my grip is ivory, they will send it back to me. Now, if you notice I said "if" my grip is ivory. If you believe your grip to be ivory you can look online for methods to determine if



Figure 16: Ornate sword belt

it is indeed ivory. I am still not sure, even after having numerous people look at it. The only way to tell for sure is when it is taken apart.

The one sword that would be the crown jewel of any Templar sword collection would be the Templar cavalry sabre. Figure 15 shows the Templar holding the curved saber. These sabers were made specifically for the mounted, also known as the Chasseurs, Commanderies. These Commanderies were mostly made up of Sir Knights mounted on horses. You can find old photos of Sir Knights on horseback in the early part of the 1900's marching in parades. I have found mention of only a handful of these Commanderies. These sabers were modeled after the United States Model 1872 cavalry officers saber.

The styling of the swords from the later parts of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century has endured to this day. You will find that some of the regalia companies today produce replicas of these swords to sell. If you are fortunate enough, you will find a usable antique sword to save and use as I did.

### **The Sword Belt**

As with all dress uniforms, there are certain pieces of regalia that enhance the overall look of the uniform. The Templar uniform is no different. It all depends on the regalia regulations where you are located. Some use the sword belt and some do not. The sword belt, as seen in Figure 16, was an essential piece of the uniform in the early days of Templary. Regulations required it to be a part of the uniform for the purpose of carrying your sword. I have found that there are different types and styles of sword

belts. Again, it all depends on where your Commandery is located as to what your uniform regulations are. I would say that the sword belt is one of the few pieces of regalia that you could really customize to your liking. Looking at Figure 16, this ornate sword belt has "barrel chains" to suspend the sword from. The less expensive belts have leather straps instead of chains, like the one in Figure 17. The most common one found is the black and silver or gold striped belt as seen in Figure 17. Other less common belts are solid black in color or have the orange tint to them like the belt seen in Figure 16.

I think I can safely say that the most diverse piece of Templar regalia is the belt buckle used for the sword belts. This is one of the few items that could be customized for a specific Commandery or state. If you are searching the internet, especially on eBay, it seems like every other Commandery had their own buckles custom made. Looking at Figure 18, this belt and buckle was specifically made for Templars in the state of Texas. Notice the Texas star on the chain sliders and the buckle. These belts that are very ornate, like the belt in Figure 16 and ones that are specific to a state can command a hefty price because of the rarity of the item.

### **Uniform Accessories**

Some different accessory pieces of uniform regalia were utilized by some states and Commanderies. It all depended on how fancy you wanted your uniform to be. Some seem to have worn every piece of regalia that they could find. Some states take the subtle route and limit the amount of regalia on their uniforms.

One accessory worn to this day is the



Figure 17; common silver sword belt

cap and mantle. This is an alternative to the chapeau. As seen in Figure 19, all the Templars are wearing the cap and mantle, which is the term used for the pillbox style hat and the white capes. Figure 20 is an up-close look at the cap. Many of the Commanderies that switch to this regalia in lieu of the chapeau do it as a cost saving measure. Some switched just because not everyone likes the look of the chapeau. There were variations of this cap that were known as "traveler" caps. These were worn during the summer months and when traveling to public events or other Commanderies. Some wear the cap for

certain events as an alternative. I have seen Templars wearing the cap with their uniform. I have also seen just the Mantle worn with the chapeau. So there was a mixing of the styles. I must say if it is done right, it does look sharp.

The mantle or cape comes in many different varieties. There are very plain ones in white like in Figure 19 and also in black. I have also seen very ornate ones with intricate embroidery covering them. All of them will have some sort of Templar insignia sewn onto them. Some will cover the full length of the uniform while others are shortened to half the length

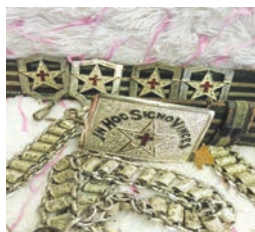


Figure 18: Texas sword belt



Figure 19: Sir Knights in the cap & mantle



Figure: 20 Templar cap



of the Templar wearing it.

### Buying Regalia

Another accessory that is found every so often is leather gauntlet cuffs as seen in Figure 21 and being worn in Figure 22. I was curious about them, so I bought this nice pair on eBay. They are made of stiff leather adorned with buttons that have elastic bands for a snug fit when worn. The three main colors are buff, black or white. As always, they have a cross of some sort embroidered on them signifying the rank of the Templar wearing them. I have seen them worn with each style of uniform, so they are not uniform specific. These were to be worn when the short gloves were worn. The Templar in Figure 15 is wearing the full leather gauntlets. Unfortunately, the majority of these gauntlet cuffs and gloves are not in very good shape when found. They are almost always very old leather that has been used and not properly stored or cared for. It is rare to find a good museum quality pair.

Ever since I became a Templar, I have been fascinated with the regalia worn by the Templars over the years. I started to delve deeper into the history by buying books and doing research online. At first I did not find too much about the subject outside of a

couple of key books. I did, however, find some good information from fellow Sir Knights and brothers in online forums. Once I armed myself with some knowledge about what to look for, I headed for the online auction sites like eBay.

### Condition

All of the photographs used in this project, except Figures 15 and 19, were photos that were for sale on eBay. Most of the items I have shown in this project are from my personal collection that I have purchased over the last couple of years. My personal preference is to collect what I refer to as “museum quality” items, items which look like they were bought new then stored away. With a bit of patience and a willingness to pay more than usual, you can find good quality items. Most of my Templar uniform consists of items that are at least one hundred years old.

The one thing that deters some Masons from joining the Templars and entering the officer ranks is the cost of the officer’s uniform. If you put together an



Figure 21: leather gauntlet cuffs





Figure 22: Templar wearing leather cuffs

officer uniform and pay full retail, it becomes extremely expensive. A new high end chapeau from a retailer can alone cost over \$400. I have found that there are much cheaper places to buy regalia at a fraction of the cost. Most notable is the online antique market. When you are buying antique regalia, doing a bit of homework and research goes a long way. It all depends on your condition preference. As I have stated before, I mostly go after “museum quality” items. I have purchased some very nice pieces of old regalia, but doing so limits me as to the amount of regalia I am willing to buy. There are some good buys to be had if condition is not an issue. Another aspect to look at is the rarity of the item. Some regalia are extremely rare, and it is even rarer for it to be found for sale. Most of the time, the term “estate find” is associated with it, meaning that someone passed away and that the items were bought at an auction advertised in the paper. Most of the time, in knight templar

this scenario, the items are exceedingly overpriced compared to the trending prices. This is because the seller is not fully aware of what the item is or its value. I see this all the time online, with Templar swords in particular.

### Identifying Templar Regalia

During the “Golden Age of Fraternalism” in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s, many new organizations were formed that can be categorized as fraternities like Freemasonry. Many tried to pattern themselves after Freemasonry. They saw the success and longevity of Freemasonry and tried to model themselves after it. I have found that some were very similar to the Templars but have no affiliation with Freemasonry or the Templars. Most of these fraternities did not last long and folded up after a brief time. Some of the old regalia have very similar insignia to the Templars. Sometimes it can be difficult to distinguish if an item is a piece of Templar regalia or not. Unfortunately, I once found this out the hard way. I purchased an apron thinking it was a Templar item and later found out that it was not. One way that I have educated myself on Templar regalia is by buying the old regalia catalogs from manufacturers like the ones in Figures 23 and 24. If you look closely, you can see the Templar aprons and sashes sale items pages. It is very intriguing to see what was offered for sale.

They have also helped me in identifying items that I was not sure about. I purchased one of these catalogs so that I could use it as a reference guide for the different costumes used in our orders. Every major manufacturer of Templar regalia of this era had a cata-

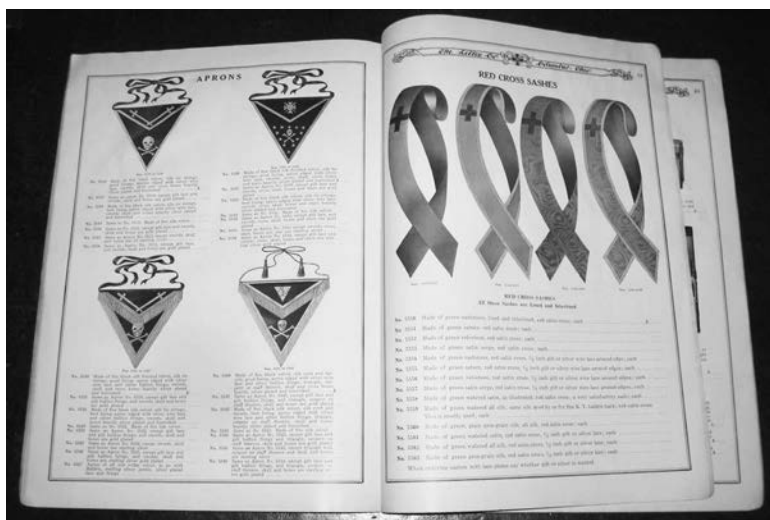


Figure 23: Pages of a Templar regalia catalog for the early 1900's

log of this type. Every once in a while, such a catalog will come up for sale on eBay for a good price. The catalogs pictured in Figures 23 and 24 were for sale on eBay. Some of these catalogs can be expensive. The asking price for the one in Figure 24 was \$150. Again, it is a matter of if you are willing to pay that much for an item. If you look closely at the catalog in Figure 24, you can see that it is a catalog for The Lilley Co., the former M.C. Lilley Co. If we use the same aging method as used with the M.C. Lilley swords mentioned earlier, this catalog was from the years 1925 to 1931.

These catalogs are a valuable resource to be preserved for future generations. I have often thought about scanning the pages of the catalogs I purchase to be preserved in a digital format. I am told by other Sir Knights that this has already been done with some catalogs for this reason.

## Cost

Be sure of what you are buying, especially when it comes to the swords. The Templar sword, I would say, is by far the most popular Templar item auctioned on eBay. This is where you can really lose a lot of money if you are not careful. Some of the antique swords can command hundreds of dollars due to their rarity and condition. Many Sir Knights buy these old swords as an alternative to buying a newly made sword. A new custom sword from a manufacturer today can cost well over \$500. As with a lot of antique items, there are replicas or cheap knock offs. Unfortunately, I have seen cheap replica swords that people try to pass off as the real thing. Make sure the sword meets your state's regulations. Remember, some of these old swords are well over one hundred years old. Some of the regulations pertaining to swords and other regalia have



Figure 24: Old Lilley catalog cover

changed since then. You do not want to buy a sword that you cannot use because it is not within regulations.

Also, make sure that the sword you purchase fits you properly. The blade length on these swords varies. The way I found my optimum blade length was to borrow another Sir Knight's sword and try some sword maneuvers to see if the tip hits the floor. Once you have found a sword that fits you, measure the blade, and the overall length of the sword so you know what to look for. One thing to be careful with is that some sellers use the overall length of the sword and some use just the blade length. If you are not sure about anything, just ask. The sellers are more than happy to answer any

knight templar

questions you may have.

One aspect of buying Templar regalia that causes some discontent among the ranks is where you buy the regalia. As stated, the Templar officer regalia can be quite expensive. Brothers like me are always on the lookout for a cheaper price to reduce cost. One place where you can purchase regalia at a fraction of the cost is on the overseas, or foreign, market. A fair amount of the Templar regalia sellers on eBay are from places like India and Pakistan. I have often wondered if the quality of the items is the same. I have purchased a few items on eBay from overseas suppliers to see the difference for myself. So far there is no differ-

ence in the quality. What I also found is that some of the retailers in the United States buy their regalia from these overseas suppliers. They buy the regalia and mark it up by two or three times, or more, what they paid for it. During my search for cheaper alternatives, I have come across a few Templar regalia bulk suppliers. You can buy a certain number of regalia at a reduced bulk rate. I am not a retailer in need of more than one of an item, so I have not been able to take advantage of that discount yet. This might interest a Commandery looking to replace items such as worn-out officer shoulder boards. Doing a bit of research can go a long way in saving the Commandery money.

## Collecting: A Personal Perspective

One of the main reasons I enjoy purchasing and collecting the antique Templar regalia is the knowledge that I have just saved a piece of Templar history. I am proud knowing that there is one more piece of our history that will be preserved for future generations to enjoy. Over the past couple of years, I have heard way too many horror stories about old Templar regalia being thrown in the trash. We are told stories about Commanderies closing, and with no place to go with the regalia, it is thrown away or left in a dark closet. There it will sit for many years, uncared for and forgotten.

If these items are not stored properly in a controlled environment, it is only a matter of time before they become beyond repair and useless.

A troubling trend I have recently come across is the purchase of Masonic medals that are made of precious metals, such as gold, to be melted down. I have started to see in the descriptions of some of the Masonic medals for sale the statement "not for scrap," meaning it is not being sold so you can melt it down for the gold or

silver. It has been discussed lately that some of these medals should not be for sale in the first place. It has been debated as to whether the medal is the property of the Lodge, or Commandery, that it is from. The main reason that these medals end up for sale is that the brother who had them has passed away. The family, not knowing what to do with them, puts the items up for sale. On a positive note, there has been an initiative to have brothers make it known to their families what to do with their regalia after they pass. Most want it donated back to the Lodge or Commandery.

I envision that if I live a long and healthy life, I may someday have a small museum for the regalia that I have collected over the years. Having the many different pieces of Templar regalia in one place will better tell the story and history of Masonic Knights Templar regalia.

Sir Knight Brian J. Wagner is eminent commander of ancaster Commandery 13 in Pennsylvania and can be contacted at [bjwagscommandery13@yahoo.com](mailto:bjwagscommandery13@yahoo.com).

## Notes

1. The Autry's Collection Online / M.C. Lilley & Company history <http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=PE215964;type=701> June 2017
2. The American Fraternal Sword by John D. Hamilton, Joseph Marino and James Kaplan 2008. Andrew Mowbray Inc. 54 East School Street Woonsocket, R.I. 02895
3. PBS.com Ivory laws <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/stories/articles/2015/6/22/ivory-law/> May 2017





Mark your calendars!

The Knights Templar of Colorado has proudly partnered with the  
Western States Grand Encampment to present the  
94<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Easter Sunrise Service  
at the Mile-High City of Denver, Colorado  
April 18<sup>th</sup> thru April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

## HOTEL

The 2019 venue will be at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Hotel, located in downtown Denver, just minutes away from the Scottish Rite Consistory. Guests are enjoying its recent \$22 million dollar room renovation, but special room rates have been acquired at only \$119<sup>00</sup> per night. Why not plan a vacation to Denver? The Hotel is guaranteeing the room rates three days before Easter and three days after!!

## SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET

Attendees will enjoy a choice of:

- Grilled **FILET MIGNON** with fontina potato stack, asparagus and mushroom ragout - served with lobster bisque and dessert trio
- Pan seared **SALMON** with mango salsa, herb couscous, citrus ginger butter sauce - served with lobster bisque and dessert trio
- Roasted **VEGETABLE POLENTA CAKE** in a puff pastry with seasonal vegetables and a balsamic glaze - served with tomato bisque and dessert trio

## EASTER SERVICE

Easter service will be held at the beautiful Denver Scottish Rite Consistory. Doors open at 5:30 am, with the service starting at 6:30 am on April 21, 2019. Breakfast will be available at the Consistory following the conclusion of the ceremony.

## REGISTRATION

Registration forms can be found at [www.wseo-denver.com](http://www.wseo-denver.com) after September 1, 2018.





## 89<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EAST COAST EASTER OBSERVANCE – 2019

The 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, will again be held on the steps of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, on Sunday, April 21, 2019.

### HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

The Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan National Airport, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, is our headquarters hotel. The special Knights Templar rate will be \$105.00 per room, based on double occupancy. Parking rate is \$17.00 per night. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel by calling 703-418-6800 (mention Knights Templar). A hotel reservation link is available on our website at: [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org).

### MEALS

A meal package is available for \$75.00 per person and includes Saturday evening dinner and Sunday morning breakfast buffet. Order your meal tickets from the Grand Encampment office. Registration forms are available online at [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org) for credit card processing, or mail your check, payable to the Grand Encampment, to 5909 West Loop South, Suite 495, Bellaire, TX 77401-2497. Additional tickets may be ordered separately; Saturday dinner, \$60.00; Sunday breakfast buffet, \$20.00. Reserved seating at the Saturday night dinner will be assigned on a first come first served basis. If you would like to be seated together please send in your payment as a group.

**Note: The hotel and meal ticket cutoff date is March 22, 2019.** No tickets will be sold at the door.

Grand Commanders and their ladies are invited to attend the Saturday evening dinner, courtesy of the Grand Encampment. Prior reservations are required with the Grand Encampment office.

### EASTER MORNING SCHEDULE

Breakfast buffet – 6:00 a.m.

Buses begin to leave hotel – 6:30 a.m.

Parade will step off at 7:40 a.m.

Easter Memorial Service – 8:00 a.m.

Buses return to the hotel after the service at approximately 9:30 a.m.

### OTHER DETAILS

Grand Commanders are requested to appoint a delegation chairman and notify Sir Knight Lawrence E. Tucker, R:E: Grand Recorder, 5909 West Loop South, Suite 495, Bellaire, TX 77401-2497, Phone: 713-349-8700, Fax: 713-349-8710, E-mail: [john@gektusa.org](mailto:john@gektusa.org).

# 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MID-AMERICA EASTER OBSERVANCE

The Grand Encampment will sponsor the  
**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-America Easter Service**

*Hosted by the Grand Commanderies of  
Iowa, Kansas, & Missouri*

**Banquet, Saturday April 20, 2019  
Westin Crown Center at 7:00 P.M.**

**Sunday, April 21, 2019 at 8:00 A.M.  
Liberty Memorial**

100 W 26th Street, Kansas City, Missouri

**Easter Buffet Brunch  
Westin Crown Center at 9:30 A.M.**

Host Hotel – Westin Crown Center  
1 East Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri  
1-800-291-9434 ask for 2018 Easter Service rate

Knight Templar Easter Service Special rate of \$119.00 (Single or double) plus taxes  
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/GrandEncampmentEasterSunriseService>

Look for details at [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org).



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

“And he said, The  
Lord is my rock  
and my fortress  
and my deliverer.”  
II Samuel 22:2

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

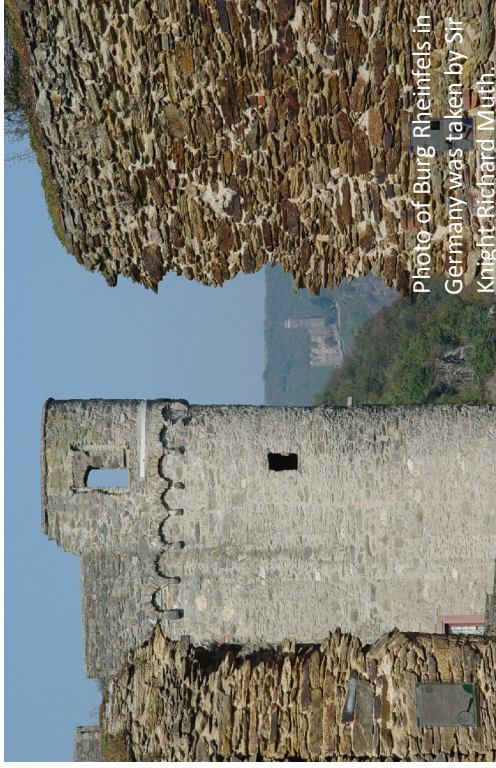


Photo of Burg Rheinfels in  
Germany was taken by Sir  
Knight Richard Muth.