

# Knight Templar



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June 2021

NUMBER 6

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**The cover photo is of the  
famous Pontius Pilate stone  
discovered Caesarea Mari-  
tima in Israel and was taken  
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[www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/archive](http://www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/archive)

# Grand Master's Message

**G**reetings Sir Knights. We wanted to brief you on several important developments concerning the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF). Earlier this spring, the KTEF's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) met virtually to review the competitive renewal and career starter grant requests submitted for the 2021-22 grant cycle. The SAC recommended funding nine of the eleven renewal grant proposals submitted as well as funding nineteen career starter grants. The KTEF awarded a total of \$1,957,897 in grants for this cycle.

Also, this spring, the KTEF finalized its fourth endowed professorship. The KTEF has established the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Directorship in Pediatric Vision Research in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. The KTEF contributed \$2m, matched dollar for dollar by Vanderbilt, to establish this professorship. Expanding the endowment program, the KTEF also approved a \$2m investment, matched equally, to create a \$4m research endowment at the Vision Center of Children's Hospital Los Angeles. This endowment will strengthen the Center's core mission to cure childhood blindness, assist it in recruiting highly sought-after faculty, provide research funding in perpetuity, and enhance its ability to make medical discoveries that benefit all children. It is interesting to note that, unintentionally, as each endowment was funded based on merit, the KTEF has now established endowments in five of the eight United States departments.

As a reminder, if you were unable to attend the Grand Encampment's 91<sup>st</sup> annual Easter observance, we have posted a link to it on our website. There are also links to the Grand Commandery of California's and Grand Commandery of Kentucky's Easter observances. Based upon your positive comments, it's possible that the virtual component will be used to increase accessibility of the Easter observance in the future.

Finally, if you have not already done so, now is the time to finalize your plans to attend the 68<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave. The conclave will be held August 14-18, 2021, at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We hope to see you there!

Courteously,  
Jeffrey N. Nelson, GCT  
Grand Master





## ***Knight Templar Magazine Available on Your Smart Phone***

The *Knight Templar* magazine is now available on your smart phone including your state supplement. Just download the application from either the Apple App Store at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/knight-templar-magazine/id1422046085?ls=1&mt=8> if you have an I-Phone or the Google Play Store at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.axiosdigital.KnightTemplar> if you have an Android based phone. Then each month, you will be automatically notified when the new issue of the magazine is available. One tap and you are reading the magazine!

If at some point in the future, you want to discontinue the delivery of your paper copy and save the Grand Encampment some printing and postage expense, the recorder of your local Commandery can have it stopped by updating the membership database.

Of course, the current issue of the magazine and all previous issues are still available on-line at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/>.

### IN MEMORIAM



Leonard Orville Pierce  
Texas

Grand Commander 1999

Born: February 25, 1937

Died: March 19, 2021

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.

# Prelate's Apartment

by

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

*<sup>50</sup> And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple blessing God. (Luke 24:50-53 English Standard Version)*

This is a familiar text to Christians and has a special meaning to Knights Templar in particular, the ascension of our Lord, that day forty days after Easter (always a Thursday) when we remember Christ making his journey outside the gates of Jerusalem with His disciples one last time.

After blessing them, Christ began His ascension into the clouds to join His Father and the heavenly host until the time He would return to judge the living and the dead. Clearly, this had to be a shock to the disciples, because Christ was gone from them. Rather than how they marked His departure from them on Good Friday, they returned to Jerusalem singing and praying and proclaiming the goodness of God and blessing God. They were truly excited to see Christ go, because they knew and understood the promise that He would come again.

As we look around us and reflect on the past year, it's easy to wonder why Christ hasn't come back yet, and in some ways we yearn for that triumphant return sooner rather than later, but as we know from Scripture, that return will come at the time of God's choosing and not ours, no matter how much we pray and beg God for it to happen.

My dear friends, our task then is to be joyful and give praise and thanksgiving throughout the land for all that God has done for us, most especially the gift of His only begotten Son, so that we sinners of God's own creation might not suffer but be saved and live that promised life of abundance.



# Knights Templar Standing Shoulder to Shoulder

by

Sir Knight James A. Marples

**L**ike many people, I think back to a time when our Knight Templar bodies across the nation had more members. This isn't just a hankering for the past. It isn't simple nostalgia. It is a serious contemplation of the awesome ability of men from all areas, urban and rural, to come together and stand shoulder to shoulder with their fellow Templars in identical uniforms, with nearly identical philosophies, having made identical pledges to preserve and defend the Christian religion.

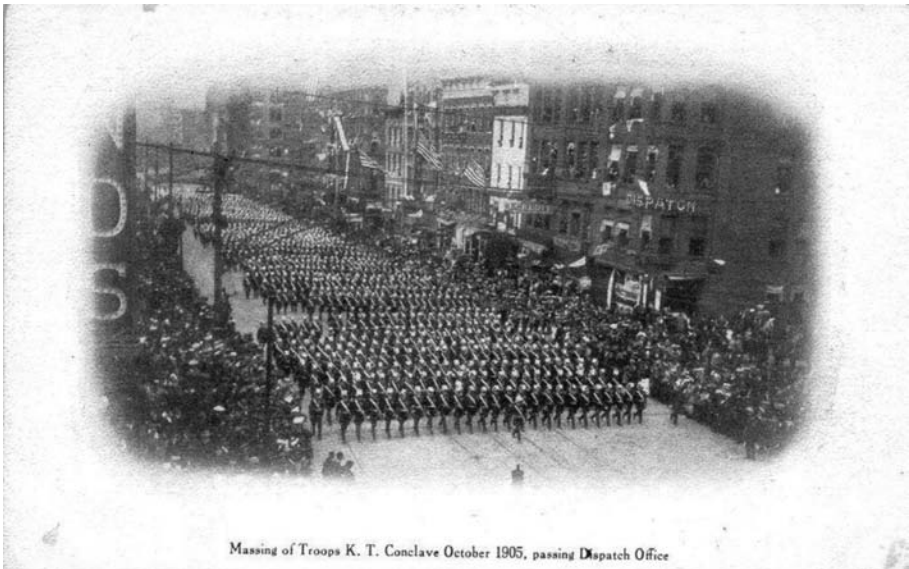
I am awed by a photo of a gigantic number of Knights Templar photographed in 1905 outside The *Columbus*

*Dispatch* newspaper office.

The *Columbus Dispatch* printed its first issue on July 1, 1871. Back then, newspapers were used for a variety of purposes ranging from a primary source of news to kindling for starting fires in fireplaces. Sometimes big-city newspapers had morning and evening editions.

Newsboys would walk the streets like carnival barkers hollering "Extra! Extra! The Knights Templar are in town" or whatever occasion would elicit a prospective purchaser.

There are people today who get the majority of their news on their smartphones. I am only in my middle 50s, and



Massing of Troops K. T. Conclave October 1905, passing *Dispatch* Office

although I have a laptop, I have no activated cellphone anymore. Part of the reason is my fixed-income, and part of it is my own preference.

When it comes to Masonic news, I relish holding an issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine, *The Scottish Rite Journal*, *The Northern Light*, or my own issue of *The Kansas Mason*, the official publication of my home Grand Lodge, in my hands. There is just a special kind of feeling.

Although nearly all of these publications are accessible online, I ask my Masonic friends with cell phones if they ever look at the online versions? Most oddly do not. The Brothers and Sir Knights I visit with flip through the tangible print edition. It may be open on a kitchen table, and the wives of the Brothers or their children have perused the publication. I know I looked through my late Dad's Masonic magazines and journals when I was a kid. It helped inspire me to become a Mason. In today's world, I suspect that fewer kids are even allowed to touch their parent's cell phones aside from general ways such as making a phone call, looking at Facebook, or just skimming online news. We are in a changed world. Masonry may get exposure but mostly only exposure to those already initiated, and even then, the vast majority of modern attention spans are shorter. The bulk of the members I speak to say that they are more apt to read Masonic periodicals in print format, just before they go to sleep. By then, they are in no hurry, and they have time to digest facts they would otherwise ignore.

The *Columbus Dispatch* was, and still is, a highly regarded newspaper. In November of 1899, The *Columbus Dispatch* reported with banner headlines of the

Masonic temple dedication.

Normally, I wouldn't quote, large sections of a newspaper, but I feel that it has merit:

"On Nov. 14, 1899, Columbus Masons formed a line outside the old Masonic Temple on East Town Street and marched behind a band to the city's new Masonic Temple, now the Columbus Athenaeum, at 34 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

At the new Temple, Masons and only Masons, entered the \$100,000 structure for a dedication ceremony that included the singing of a hymn and marching three times around the Temple's altar.

Dr. David N. Kinsman delivered the first of several speeches that day, his on the 'History of Masonry in Columbus.'

The first Masons, he said, arrived in Ohio and established Lodges at Marietta, Cincinnati, Warren, Zanesville, and Worthington.

'It is not easy to learn much about early Masonry in Columbus,' he said, 'Ohio Lodge, which was organized in 1816 in Franklin, lived just sixteen years. Its light went out in the storm of anti-Masonic excitement in 1832.'

'In the 1820s and '30s, the Anti-Masonic Party spread across much of the United States, fueled by suspicion that members of the secret society were bound by oath to favor one another over nonmembers in business, in the courts, and in government. Masonic membership was decimated as members fled the increasingly



vilified society. Ohio had 101 Lodges in 1830 and just seventeen in 1837, Kinsman reported.

However, beginning in 1841, with the reorganization of the Ohio Lodge, the society started gaining traction in the city again.

The spacious 4<sup>th</sup> Street Lodge hall included Lodge rooms, vaults for storage of Masonic records, a banquet hall, parlors, billiard rooms, and bowling alleys."

Another publication in the area, the



Construction of the Masonic Temple began on 8/31/1898 when the cornerstone was laid. Its original south section was dedicated on 11/14/1899. Ten years later, the facility was enlarged onto two lots north of the existing building. This section, dedicated in 1912, resulted in the building being one of the largest edifices in the world devoted to exclusive Masonic purposes. It is now known as the Columbus Athenaeum."

*Ohio State Journal*, reported that

“The Masonic Temple will therefore be useful in more than one or two ways and will be a haven for Columbus Masons, not only on Lodge nights but on every night of the week and every day of the year.”

It is interesting how different angles of the same building can give an observer added insight. The following shows yet a different angle of the old Columbus Masonic Temple.

The noted Masonic scholar, Brother and Dr. Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33<sup>rd</sup> and a Knight Templar, published his *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kin-*

*dred Sciences* in print form. Fortunately, Phoenixmasonry.org now has an online version of it. However, there are a few items which cannot be posted online such as the emblematic leather-bound covers, or the texture of the volumes themselves. This is one case where holding the actual book takes-on a special significance. It literally prompts a Mason to feel the embodiment of Freemasonry.

Mackey pointed out that in Ohio, it was Sir Thomas Webb, deputy grand master of The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America who granted a dispensation to Mount Vernon Commandery 1 at Worthington (only twelve miles from the city of Columbus). It was said to



Masonic Temple in course of the construction of the 1913 addition to the original 1899 structure in Columbus, Ohio. A drawing of the enlarged Masonic Temple on North 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Columbus, Ohio. The original south end of the building was dedicated in 1899. Ten years later, the facility was enlarged onto two lots north of the existing building. This section was dedicated in 1912. It is faced with mixed shades of standard Ironclay brick, made by the Ironclay Brick Company, Columbus, Ohio. J. W. Heckart, of Columbus, Ohio, was the General contractor of the expansion. Architect: Stribling & Lum, Columbus, Ohio.



MASONIC TEMPLE.

have been the first Templar Commandery in the United States west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Masons, and especially Templars, are known to stand side-by-side and shoulder-to-shoulder in that great fraternal phalanx of men bound to faith and fraternity. Best of all, these virtuous and laudable activities have been recorded by news entities such as The *Columbus Dispatch* in both print and now in electronic media formats. If we don't remember and hold onto our past, then we won't be able to hold onto anything resembling it in the future.

As Masons, we must read the news and also have enough public-relations enthusiasm so that our Masonic groups can be in the news. We must inspire other good men to emulate us. Now, that's news worth reading.

Sir Knight James Marples is a life member of Mt. Olivet Commandery 12 in Wichita, Kansas, and currently resides in Texas. He can be contacted at [rosehillks@yahoo.com](mailto:rosehillks@yahoo.com) or 1300 Greenbriar Drive, Longview, TX 75604.

## Sources and Recommended Readings

- *Columbus Dispatch*: "Columbus Mileposts" Nov. 14, 2012 issue. (with reprinted quotes from a November 1899 issue of the same newspaper). Quoted with permission.
- *Ohio State Journal*. November 1899.
- Mackey's *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and Its Kindred Sciences*. Keyword: Ohio.
- *Freemason Lifestyle*. Commentary on "The Indented Tessel as part of the Ritual of the Grand Lodge of California."
- Architectural notes: *Ohio Architect, Engineer and Builder*, OH 720.9771 O372, volume 21, number 3 [March 1913], page 24.
- Electronic e-mail communication between Alan D. Miller, Editor of *The Columbus Dispatch* and James A. Marples dated July 31, 2019. Permission to use old archival items of *The Columbus Dispatch*.
- Columbus Metropolitan Library. Permission granted from Digital Reference Librarian, Julie (surname withheld for privacy) to James A. Marples, dated Aug 1, 2019, to re-print digital photographs of the Masonic hall. Contact address: CML\_eRef@columbuslibrary.org
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# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*

## *Awards Endowment*

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. is proud to announce that they have established an endowment at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) called the "Knights Templar Eye Foundation Directorship in Pediatric Vision Research." The Foundation has made a \$2 million contribution which is being matched dollar for dollar by VUMC, honoring Dr. John S. Penn who will be the inaugural holder of a Directorship supported by this endowment.

Dr. Penn started his personal development in research by applying for a grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in 1986, which was awarded for two years to investigate Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), an eye disorder that occurs mostly in babies who weigh less than three pounds or are born before thirty-one weeks of pregnancy. It is one of the most common causes of vision loss in children. Dr. Penn developed an animal model of the ROP condition so its pathogenesis could be investigated. His discoveries led to continued funding of his ROP and related research program for over thirty consecutive years from the National Institute of Health (NIH). His work in ROP over the years has altered the way premature infants are cared for and the way ROP is treated.

Dr. Penn is currently associate dean for faculty affairs and vice chair and professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences. He is an internationally recognized investigator and research leader in vision science. Vanderbilt is a widely recognized home to experts in retinopathy of prematurity, retinoblastoma, pediatric glaucoma, orthoptics training, and the growing field of studying eye development in utero and other areas of pediatric vision research. Dr. Penn has influenced and shaped the careers of young investigators in vision research and is a scientific leader and mentor at the Vanderbilt Eye Institute.

This foundation has been honored to have Dr. Penn on our Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) as a member starting in 2000 and becoming the chair in 2012. The Committee of ten physicians, scientists, and investigators from around the country are experts in their individual fields and are chartered annually with the responsibility of reviewing all grant applications submitted to the Foundation and making recommendations on which applications the Foundation's officers should approve.

We are very proud of Dr. Penn's accomplishments and are honored to know that he received his career start from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Grant Program and has been a major player in the Foundations Grant Program for the past twenty years.



# The GRAND MASTER's TOUR *SCOTLAND & ENGLAND*

**RESCHEDULED AGAIN**

**October 12 - 21, 2021**

Join Grand Master Jeff Nelson and his Lady Lisa with other Sir Knights and their ladies and guests for The Grand Master's Tour.

**\$3,150.00 Land Tour Only\***

With an appropriate amount of caution and concern for the health and well-being of all involved, this tour has been rescheduled - again - for the autumn of 2021! Although the reasons that have caused this delay in travel are well known and understood, this remains a fantastic opportunity for those wishing to experience the history of Templary in Britain. Everyone who is registered is still registered and the payments made to date will transfer to the new dates. Also, there are a few spots available for anyone wanting to join!



***“Prepare to walk in the footsteps of Knights Templar, Kings, Queens, ancient Druids, National Heroes, and famous Freemasons.”***

Our tour itinerary has remained virtually the same, and we will be visiting all of the same places as originally scheduled. We will still hit all the highlighted destinations in England and Scotland. We will still begin our travel adventure in London, England, and will finish in Glasgow, Scotland.

As this tour is a Land Only Tour, you will need to schedule your air travel to reflect the new dates and revised starting and finishing locations.





For anyone interested in this tour but who has not registered with the previous dates it's not too late! We still have room to accept a few more travelers! Just follow the registration process detailed in the web pages referenced below!



We hope you will join us from anywhere in the USA as this is a Land Only offering. This will allow you to travel from the airport of your choice, as well as plan for a potential extended stay (at your planning and expense) before or after the set tour dates. Specific Tour Conditions, how to apply for the tour, and additional offering information can be found at the links below.



**DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLACES WE  
WILL VISIT, AND THE DAYS WE WILL BE IN THOSE  
PLACES, CAN BE FOUND AT:**

<https://craftsmansapron.com/pages/travels> and select "Templar Tour 2021"  
or  
[eatours.com](https://eatours.com) and enter Tour Code: 222126

This tour is produced by TCA TRAVELS & EA TOURS



# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*



## **WE HAVE MOVED**

Effective May 15, 2021 – New Address

**3201 Cross Timbers Road  
Bldg. 4, Suite 300  
Flower Mound, TX 75028**

**Telephone: 214-888-0220 Fax: 214-888-0230**

**Email: [Manager@ktef.us](mailto:Manager@ktef.us) KTEF website – [www.ktef.org](http://www.ktef.org)**



# NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

## Grand Master's Club

Brian L. Smith .....	AL	Charles W. Ward, IV .....	AK
Carl H. Reusser, III .....	CA	Darren Klinefelter .....	CO
Mark S. Agnew .....	CT	James H. Bussey.....	FL
Robert R. Gagnon .....	FL	Paul J. Mast.....	FL
Wiley A. Gammon .....	GA	Kyle F. Hardin .....	KY
David F. McManus .....	MD	William P. Herlihy.....	MI
Brian K. Dimatteo .....	MN	Carl F. Lidstrom .....	MN
Daniel R. Sherry.....	MN	Danny D. Smothers .....	MO
Jeffrey A. Bolstad .....	MT	Robert Thornborough.....	NJ
Richard W. Westergaard .....	NJ	David C. Nenstiel.....	NC
Donald L. Losasso .....	OH	Carol E. Monday Jr. ....	OH
Gerald K. Hornung .....	OK	Rodney Lippert .....	OR
Clarence M. Hottenstein.....	PA	John K. March .....	PA
John F. McCombs.....	PA	Gary L. Schuyler .....	PA
Howard L. Smith .....	PA	David S. Sterner .....	PA
Charles E. Campbell.....	TX	Charles B. Springer.....	TX
David E. Potts.....	VA	Ronald P. Graham.....	WA

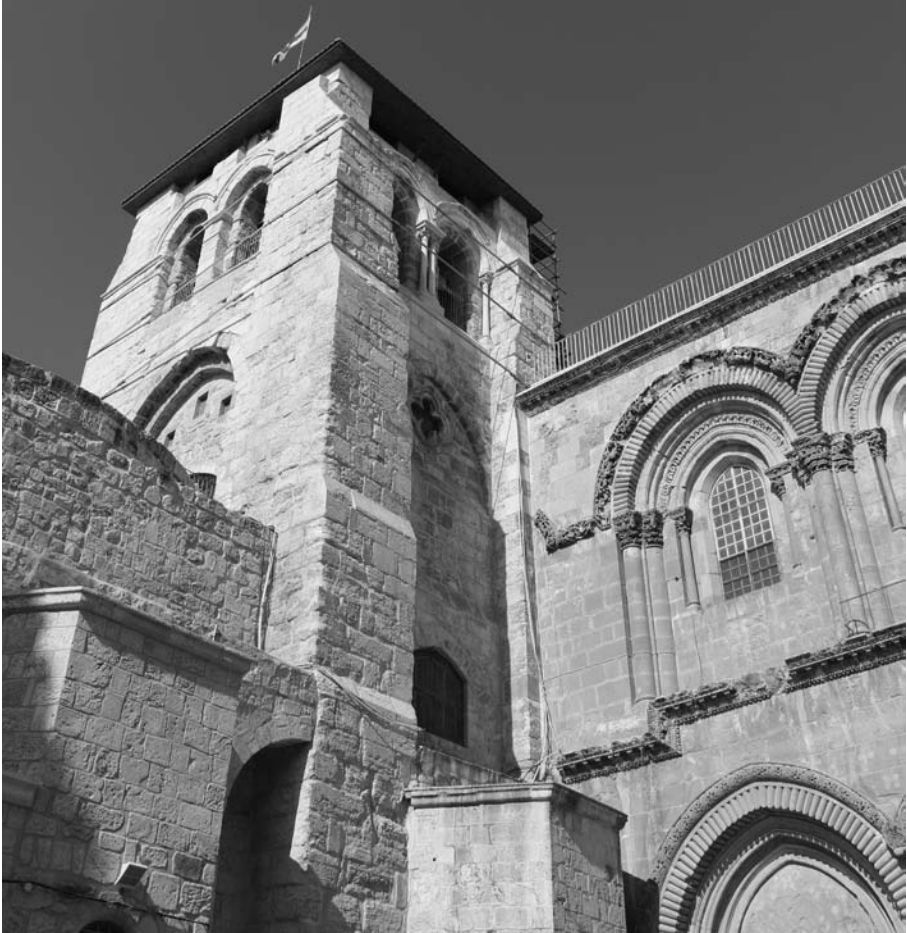
## Grand Commander's Club

Daniel H. Waters .....	AL	William A. McBroome, Jr.....	CA
Andrew B. Pippin .....	CA	Robert W. Hendrix.....	IN
Melvin L. Easterday .....	MI	James D. Rutherford .....	MI
Brian K. Dimatteo.....	MN	Carl F. Lidstrom .....	MN
Joel R. Porter.....	MN	James E. Ashby.....	MO
Barry C. Reusing.....	MO	Danny D. Smothers .....	MO
Richard W. Westergaard.....	NJ	Dennis S. Davis.....	NY
David A. Hardy .....	NY	Gary H. Littleton.....	NC
Steven A. Wilson .....	NC	Donald S. Judisch .....	OH
Ronald Murphy .....	OH	Clarence M. Hottenstein .....	PA
Quentin T. Bolden .....	TN	Roy T. Sutton III .....	TN
Charles E. Campbell .....	TX	Andrew A. Slemph, Jr. ....	VA

# 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 photo are of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem and were taken by the editor.







knight templar

# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*

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## **How to join the Grand Commander's or the Grand Master's Clubs**

Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commander's Club pledge to make annual contributions of \$100 or more. Once contributions total \$1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master's Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and Commandery Credit is given for participation.

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

Congress has now made the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) option permanent for those who wish to make direct contributions from their IRA to charity. The tax law allows individuals required to make minimum distributions due to age 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. Please discuss with your tax professional whether this option could benefit you in your charitable and retirement planning.

## **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  
3201 Cross Timbers Road  
Bldg. 4, Suite 300  
Flower Mound, TX 75028**

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



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

# The History of the Knights Templar and the Sublime Teachings of the Order

Second in a series of four articles

By

Sir Knight George S. Blackie, M.D. and Sir Knight Kenneth C. Jack

**The History of the Knights Templar and the Sublime Teachings of the Order  
An Address Delivered to the Nashville Commandery of Knights Templar, on  
Ascension Day, May 6, 1869.**

Continued from the May issue.

Philip IV, surnamed the Fair (Le Bel), King of France, one of the most energetic sovereigns that ever occupied that or any other throne, had become King on the death of his father, Philip III in 1285, when only seventeen years of age. From the moment in which he was invested with regal authority, he determined that, in his hands, it should suffer no diminution. Engaging in wars, he naturally exhausted his exchequer and became involved in financial embarrassments to such an extent that the usual means to secure money; by fines, largesse, and other imposts; failed him. He sought a new source of revenue, and he was not a man to stick at trifles, if the game was worth the catching. He first debased his coinage till the people would stand it no longer, and then he cast his eyes on the Knights of the Temple, reflected on their enormous wealth, and resolved to destroy the Fraternity and fill his own pockets with their spoils.

Many authorities agree that the two original accusers were men condemned by the grand master to perpetual imprisonment for general profligacy, both of whom perished disgracefully. One of them was hanged, but meanwhile they received their liberty as the reward of their imaginative powers and atrocious

lying. The charges were alike suited to the credulity of that age and shocking to the reason of ours. The initiation, it was asserted, was a medley of profanity and debauchery, and the education of the novice was a systematic course of wildest excess, a statement which bears absurdity on its face, for though charges of no small weight might have lain against individuals, yet it is beyond probability that such conduct could have been tolerated at general meetings or allowed at the reception of strangers. It is now known that the Knights in France and elsewhere were well aware of the conspiracy hatching for them. A letter of the pope, dated August 22, 1307, ten months before the arrest, testifies that the grand master and other chiefs of the order had demanded of him a trial and investigation of the charges brought against them. This readiness is presumptive proof of innocence, and even had they been guilty, the knowledge that their guilt was becoming known would have caused them to abandon, for a time at least, dangerous practices, had any existed. Yet some of the suborned witnesses asserted that they had seen those things when they themselves were admitted, only a few weeks before the arrest. These witnesses were per-

sons who, by this species of evidence, obtained life, liberty, and estates, while those who asserted the falsity of these charges knew that by so doing they consigned themselves to torture, imprisonment, and the stake.

The former testimony, suspicious from the inducements held out to offer it, should be disregarded from its utter absurdity. What, for instance, did they say? The novices were compelled, as soon as admitted, to trample upon the cross and to deny their Saviour. At the same time, they with the others were required to pay adoration to a great wooden head with a white beard. The Knights were charged with the grossest, most daring, most purposeless impiety, an impiety utterly irreconcilable with their feelings and the habits of their profession or even of their follies and vices, and their tenets were made to consist of every variety of outrage on the common faith, which could have made them revolting if detected and which were most easy to detect. To crown the horrid tale, it was asserted that the Devil appeared at their meetings in the form of a cat which conversed with the Knights as they knelt and worshipped it! The whole account finds a parallel only in the unaccountable charges of witchcraft and the trials therefor which stain the history of Old and New England. As soon as arrested, the Knights were put to the most horrible tortures to force them to confess their crimes. Those seized in Paris were made over to the King's confessor, the inquisitor Imbert, an expert in his diabolical profession. To such an extreme did he push his tortures, that thirty-six of our Frates died on the rack. Others, unable to bear longer torture, by reason of physical weakness, like the poor old

women in England who confessed to improper intimacies with the devil, acknowledged anything required of them. Among those was the grand master himself, Jacques de Molay, a noble of Burgundy, admitted a Knight in 1265, a distinguished warrior, elected to the office while fighting across the seas in 1298. He owned to having denied Christ and trampled upon the cross.

Many who thus yielded in a moment of weakness soon repented of their treason to the order and to truth and indignantly recanted the confessions pain had extorted from them. No one lamented his pusillanimity more than Grand Master de Molay himself. For two years, these unfortunate Brethren remained in prison; starved, tortured, and dying; while the King freely spent their revenues. At last, a commission met to try them at Paris on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August, 1309, and Grand Master de Molay was brought before it on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, when he declared his intention of standing on his defence. Now, Knights, listen to a record of the history of our order, well calculated to make our blood boil with indignation. Let us thank our God that we live in an age of enlightenment and have not been called upon to undergo a trial so dreadful and pray for like fortitude to endure any trial which life may have in store for us.

"On the following day, Tonsard de Gisi was brought forward, another of the Knights who had confessed the truth of the allegations brought against the Fraternity. 'Do you mean to defend the order?' asked the Commissioners. 'I do,' answered De Gisi. 'The imputations which have been cast upon us, of

denying Jesus Christ, of trampling upon his cross, and of committing infamous immoralities at our meetings, and all the other accusations to which we have been subjected are false. If I myself or other Knights have made confessions before the bishop of Paris or elsewhere, we have betrayed the truth; we have yielded to fear, to danger, or to violence. We were tortured by Hexian de Beziers, the prior of Montfaucon, and by the monk William Robert, our enemies. Many of the prisoners agreed among themselves to make these confessions to avoid death and because thirty-six Knights had died under torture at Paris, besides a great number at other places. As for me, I am ready to defend the order in my own name and in the name of all those who shall make common cause with me, if from the property of the order there shall be allowed me the wherewithal to defray the necessary expenses.' He then demanded the assistance of counsel, whom he named, and laid on the table a list of the persons who he regarded as the enemies of himself and his brethren and consequently unfit to judge them or be heard against them. It comprised only four or five individuals, at the head of whom stood the two monks who had presided over his sufferings at the rack and of whose energetic practice on that occasion their patient naturally had retained a vivid recollection. 'Were you put to the torture?' asked the Commissioners. 'Yes,' he replied, 'three months before the confession I made to the Bishop. They had tied my hands be-

hind my back with such tightness that the blood was almost oozing through the nails; I was left for an hour in this state in the dungeon.' At a subsequent meeting of the Commission, another Knight, Bernard de Vado, said: 'I was tortured so terribly, and held so long before a burning fire that the flesh on the soles of my feet was consumed, and these two bones, which I now lay before you, were detached.'

The number of Knights who presented themselves to defend the order at last rose up to nine hundred, and seventy-five of these were selected to undertake the task. The trial formally commenced on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, 1310. It was continued by the "law's delays" and artful adjournments, like the "halts" in a German student's dual which occupy more time than the fight, till the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, and then only fourteen witnesses had been examined. By this time, the King saw that he must finish the act by a less tedious process, so the Chancellor Marigny, now archbishop of Sens, on the pretext that they were "relapsed heretics," gave orders that the fifty-four of the defending Knights who had formerly confessed their errors and recanted should be punished as guilty and condemned to the flames. The next day, this was done. The sacred spot of their execution is a field behind the valley of St. Antoine. When they arrived at this spot, life and liberty were offered them if they would repeat their former confession, but despite the entreaties of their friends and the dashing of the blazing faggots in their faces, not one would seek the prolongation of his days at the price of self-degradation and sacrifice of truth. No, the lesson of



Zerubbabel had been well learned, and they found a glorious death. Invoking the aid of God and the saints while the unsparing flames licked up their latest breath, they died protesting their innocence. Even the prejudiced spectators could not witness their noble endurance without murmurs of indignation against their torturers.

To a great degree, this terrible act effected its end. Forty-four Knights immediately retracted their plea of not guilty. They, and such others as had acknowledged crime were at once set free, classed as "reconciled," and in some instances rewarded, but the steadfast, true, noble Knights, whose fortitude no terror could shake, were confined and sentenced to perpetual imprisonment. Meanwhile, the terrible course inaugurated at Paris with those termed "relapsed heretics" was initiated all through France, and vast numbers perished in the flames. Such acts amazed and confounded the commissioners, who adjourned on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. On their re-assembling, no one appeared to defend the order, but depositions of witnesses were received to the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, 1311. Some few Knights held out, mostly in dungeons where their cries and tortures were alike unheard and unheeded, and the evidence collected was of such character as to suit the managers of the prosecution. The number of witnesses was two-hundred and thirty-one, of whom one hundred and fifty were Knights who confessed, either in whole or part. The record of criminal procedure presents nothing more deplorable than this evidence. Given by witnesses who show marked signs of internal struggles between remorse and fear, reluctance, and

dread of blundering and self-contradiction, to say nothing of its absurdity, it is a matter of wonder that it was ever seriously entertained for a moment.

In spite of all this, the fate of the order was not yet finally sealed. To do so formally, it was found necessary to call a general council of the Church, which accordingly met on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, 1311, at Vienne, in Dauphiné, and here occurred a scene which defies contradiction and throws an indelible stain on the Romish Church. A promise of safety was made on the public faith to all those Knights who would appear to defend the order, and they were solemnly required to present themselves. Hearing this proclamation, which was widely spread all throughout Christendom, and believing in the honour of the pope when he announced a special protection, nine noble and undaunted chevaliers came forward to defend their order. They stated themselves to be the representatives of from fifteen hundred to two thousand persons who were wandering as common fugitives in the neighbourhood of Lyons. Scarcely however, had they thrown themselves into the lion's den and announced their errand, when by order of this double-dealing rascal, Pope Clement, they were seized, thrown into prison, and put in irons. This precious representative of St. Peter boasts of his atrocious perfidy in a letter to his fit colleague, King Phillip. However, the question arose in council whether they should be allowed to appear in the defence, a remarkable question truly to raise after all that had gone before. On the vote being taken, all the prelates of Italy save one, all of Spain, England, Germany, Denmark, Scotland, and Ireland voted in the affirmative. Satisfied

that this council would not lay into his hands, Clement immediately very coolly declared the session terminated, and it adjourned to April 3, 1312.

Meanwhile in February, the king suddenly appeared with his royal retinues in Vienne, and the pope re-assembled the cardinals and a few of the prelates in secret consistory and declared the abolition of the order. When the appointed day of meeting came, the king, the pope, and an imposing array of military appeared before the council. Clement there re-read this decree, to which the prelates listened in silence, not daring to express dissent nor venturing a word of approbation, and the farce of justice and ridiculous display of "divine right," was ended, but one sad record remains untold. On March 18, 1314, Grand Master de Molay and three chiefs were brought from their loathsome dungeons, where they had lingered now six years, and were placed on a high stage in front of the church of Notre Dame before the Archbishop of Sens and their judges. A form of trial was gone through, and they were then told that their former confession was humanely regarded in the light of penitence, and therefore their life was spared, and they were doomed only to perpetual imprisonment. On hearing this, our grand master rose, and in words of burning eloquence, demanded attention. "It is right," said he, "that in these, the last moments of my life, I should proclaim the truth. I declare, therefore, in the sight of heaven and earth, that to my eternal shame, I have indeed committed the greatest of crimes, but it was only when I acknowledged those which so black a malevolence has attributed to our order. I attest, as the truth obliges me to do, that it is innocent. I declared

the contrary only to suspend the excessive agonies of the rack and to obtain the forbearance of my torturers. I know the penalty that awaits me for what I now utter, but the frightful prospect presented to me by the fate of many of my brethren shall not tempt me again to confirm my former lie by another; the life offered me on so infamous a condition I renounce without regret."

A burst of applause forced itself from the unwilling lips of his audience, and immediately one of his companions, Guy, grand commander of Normandy, brother of the earl of Auvergne, expressed his assent to the words of his chief. These heroes had not long to wait. A hurried privy council instantly met, condemned them, and that same evening they were burned on a slow fire on a small island on the Seine. They bore their sufferings with heroic fortitude and expired, proclaiming the innocence of their order with their latest breath. The fickle mob viewed their sufferings with pity and admiration and, during the night, visited the scene of their martyrdom, whence they bore off their ashes to preserve as relics and bequeath, "as sacred legacies, unto their issue." Thus, it was believed, our order perished from history, but truth can never die, and our order is truth. It was not annihilated! De Molay, aware of his impending fate, invested his friend, John Marcus Larmenius of Jerusalem, with his power and dignity, and a succession of grand masters was thus secured. Although all the other countries of Europe followed King Phillip's example and King Edward II took a similar course in England, yet in Scotland one branch is known to have survived. Zealous and bigoted Scotia never defaced her statute books by laws against these

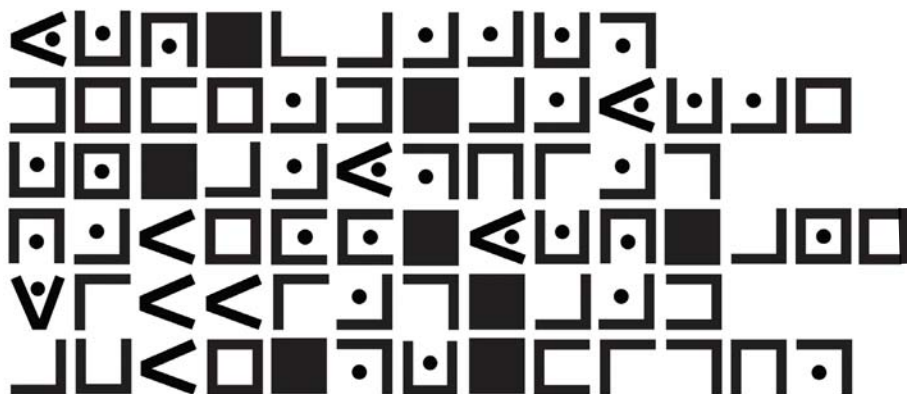
valiant Knights, and the order was saved there and probably owed its existence to the courageous stand her people were then making against Edward and which terminated in the battle of Bannockburn and the freedom of their native country.

Another branch exists in Portugal, but its name has been changed to the of Knights of Christ, the crosses and offices of which are solely conferred by the sovereign. A third branch, of which you will find mention in Macey's [sic] *Masonic Guide*, was until very recently believed to exist. It was claimed as the only branch, and some traced the Knights of America to its parentage. It retained the name of Knights of the Temple, and as recently as 1840, claimed to be in possession of a Greek manuscript volume, containing its records and roll of grand masters. These boasted having received a charter from Larmenius, given to Francis Theobold of Alexandria, from whom it descended through many illustrious

French nobles and warriors to Sir Sydney Smith, elected in 1838. They also claimed to have the sword and ashes of de Molay, but the Scots Priorities found this claim to be false and that it was founded on a charter, the fictitious nature of which is obvious, because the name of Bertrand Duguesclin is signed to it, while history affirms that he could not write. On this discovery, Sir Sydney Smith and the Duke of Sussex, grand master mason of England, dropped their connection with the order. Since 1843, it has not been heard of, and no standard work on Freemasonry of modern date more than alludes to it.

#### **To be continued in the July issue**

Sir Knight Kenneth C. Jack is a member of Strathearn Preceptory & Priory, 34, Crieff; the District Grand Priory of Tay Valley; The Great Priory of Scotland. He can be reached at [kenneth.jack4@icloud.com](mailto:kenneth.jack4@icloud.com).



## Editor's Note

See Below two images from the minute book of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning 2, Edinburgh, Scotland. The first shows the minutes of the meeting when Sir Knight George Stodart Blackie was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason along with Brothers James Charles Cox and John Vaughan Carden Reed. The second is the signatures of the three candidates on the minute book. Note that in the minutes, the name of George Stodart Blackie was erroneously and subsequently "corrected" to read George Stuart Blackie. This is probably due to the fact that some later "researcher or historian" has confused him with his older and more famous half-brother, John Stuart Blackie.

These images are provided courtesy of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning 2, Edinburgh, Scotland, Lodge secretary, Charles Stewart, to whom we are most grateful.

Special Meeting Saint John's Chapel  
25<sup>th</sup> March 1857.  
Present—See Tyler's Book—  
The Lodge was opened in the first Degree by the R. W. Master.  
Petitions from Mr. James Charles Cox — George Stuart Blackie  
Mr. L. — Lieutenant John Vaughan Carden Reed. R. M. were presented,  
praying to be initiated Free Masons — on the ballot being taken, and  
found favorable, these Gentlemen were introduced and entered Apprentices.  
The Lodge was thereafter passed to the second Degree, where  
Bro. Charles W. Hunter — John Vaughan Carden Reed. were passed  
Yellowcraft Masons.

James Charles Cox  
George S. Blackie  
John V. Reed

# Leadership Notes

## *Servant Leadership and the Deacons in the Blue Lodge*

**T**he deacons are the first true “positional leadership” roles in the Lodge. Positional leadership is defined by John Maxwell as “...the lowest level of leadership - the entry level. The only influence a positional leader has is that which comes with the job title.” The goal here is to build leadership potential and move on to the other levels of leadership by improving your influence in the Lodge.

The deacons have great responsibility. The junior deacon is responsible for guarding the inner door of the Lodge, and the senior deacon has the responsibility to guide and conduct candidates. The Lodge relies on them to keep the meetings secure, while candidates entrust their entry into the Lodge on the senior deacon. These are not trivial duties, and perhaps the element of trust is the key to building leadership ability as a deacon.

In these positions you start to develop your leadership role in the Lodge. You start to develop your ritual skills, and as these skills develop, your role in the lodge leadership will also increase. You must do all your duties in the Lodge to the best of your ability. This will build trust in you and improve your influence with the members of the Lodge, the past masters, and the sitting master. As you gain this influence, others in the Lodge will look to you for guidance and leadership.

The years you serve as the junior and senior deacon is also a time to learn by observing those in leadership roles above your station. Learning how the Lodge operates and learning the traditions of the lodge is essential to good stewardship as a leader. You should also see what the core values of the Lodge and its members are. By understanding these values and what the members are looking for in Lodge, you can start to plan for the stations which follow and eventually your year as master. The more you plan to meet the values of the Lodge and members, the more participation you will get from the brothers, and your Lodge will grow.

As you learn what your Lodge and the membership value, you can help to develop the vision for the ensuing years. Developing a vision will give the Lodge direction on how to move forward. It will give you goals that all can agree on. This will not happen overnight, and you will have to sell and get buy-in to that vision. If everyone buys in and shares the vision that has been set, the Lodge will work together as a whole to make that vision a reality. At this point you, as a leader, can serve and assist those doing the work. This is where your true service and leadership will express itself. We read in Luke 22:26, “But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest and the one who rules like the one who serves.”

An especially important thing to remember is that while you observe the workings of the Lodge, it is important to take notice of not just those things that work but also those things that did not work. We can learn more from our mistakes and failures than we do from our successes. However, if something did not go as planned,



remember to sit down with the other leaders and debrief on why it did not succeed. This will help improve everyone that was involved and help the Lodge going forward.

When you are a deacon, make note of your Lodge's traditions and work to build the trust and influence you will need to be the worshipful master.

If you want to learn more about leadership principles, join the York Rite Leadership Training Program. Visit the website at [YorkRiteLeadership.org](http://YorkRiteLeadership.org) for more information and to register for the program.

SK Charles D. O'Neill, KCT, PGC  
York Rite Leadership Faculty



We publish 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.



The Star of Bethlehem

# ***“In the Footsteps of Jesus”***

**a Pilgrim’s Journey  
for Sir Knights, Ladies,  
Friends, and Guests**

**November 8 – 18, 2021**

- **This pilgrim’s journey is sponsored by the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee of the Grand Encampment.**
- **The itinerary will be similar to the annual pilgrimage for ministers. There will be 5 - 7 miles of walking some days.**



Church of the Holy Sepulcher

## **Estimated Cost\*:**

**\$4000 per person estimated**

*Based on double occupancy*

*30 minimum participants*

*50 maximum participants*

**\$500 deposit to reserve your place**

*Based on receipt of deposit*

**\$1600 - payment due**

**Spring 2021**

**Balance payment due\***

**by August 1, 2021**

*\*Final cost will be determined by  
number of participants, airline and  
airport charges.*

**Make checks payable to:**

**Holy Land Pilgrimage, Inc.**

**Mail to:**

**Sir Knight Emmett Mills, Jr.**

**1713 Betrillo Ct**

**The Villiages FL 32162**

## **Cost includes:**

**Round trip air - NYC-TLV-NYC**

**Airline fuel surcharges**

**Airport taxes**

**9 Hotel nights**

**8 Breakfasts, 7 lunches, 9 dinners**

**Arrival & Departure transfers**

**Air-conditioned motor coach**

**All pilgrimage entrance fees**

**Ezra Eini, Tour guide (*the best!*)**

**Knights Templar travel hosts**

**Tips to guide, driver, hotel staff**

**Travel Insurance**

**For more information, contact:**

**Rev. & Sir Knight Duane Kemerley**

**DKemerley@gmail.com**

**567.376.9741 Mobile & Text**

**Or see our information attached to the**

**Pilgrimage site, see Activities -**

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



Prayers at the Wailing Wall



Dome of the Rock



Sea of Galilee



Scale Model of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple



Garden of Gethsemane



Masada



Baptismal Renewal, Jordan River



Jaffa Gate at Dusk, Jerusalem

knight templar



# Beauceant News

As part of celebrating the outstanding history of our order, the following article will hopefully bring to mind the stories of our success and pay tribute to our seventh supreme worthy president. It is once more written by Laura Lee Novack.



Mrs. Fred L. Ludwick  
seventh supreme worthy president  
1926-1927

"Lift thine eyes to the mountains  
From hence cometh thy help,  
Thy help cometh from the Lord  
Who made the Heavens and Earth.  
He will not suffer thy foot be moved  
He that keepeth thee will not slumber."

In accepting the high honor of being selected as supreme worthy president and installed in her own home city, Cleveland, Ohio, this lovely lady, Orelia Ludwick, responded:

"The best of the book is not in the thought it contains,  
but in the thought it suggests,  
just as the charm of music dwells not in the tone,  
but in the echo in our hearts.  
So the best of our beloved order is not what may be found  
between the covers of our ritual,  
but in thoughts there suggested to us  
whereby we help each other."

So, with her eyes "to the hills from whence cometh help and strength," she trod the earth of Beauceant from the Pacific to the Atlantic, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, stressing loving, loyal friendship to each other and to their order and the order of Knights Templar. Assistance to the Commanderies was very marked, and the influence of the Beauceant was widespread.

In her own words, Mrs. Fred L. Ludwick said: "I consider the greatest good accomplished during my official year was the widespread of our circle by adding six new assemblies, two of which are located in states not before represented." These new assemblies: Toledo, Ohio; Steubenville, Ohio; El Reno, Oklahoma; Fort Worth, Texas; Shreveport, Louisiana; and Santa Ana, California,

helped swell the membership 631, and the assets \$1,196.36. So, the circle of friendship was widened materially.

“The two most outstanding events in my official year were:

First – my installation, which took place in the commandery room in the Masonic temple, Cleveland, Ohio, my home city. Cleveland assembly’s choir sang for me *Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains* which was an inspiration the whole year through.

Second – by far the most outstanding event was the 1927 supreme assembly session held in Denver, Colorado, the home of the mother assembly. It was a ne’er-to-be-forgotten homecoming. We were gathered there as one large, loving family, from the populous cities of the east, from the cooler lands of the north, from the fertile plains of the sunny south, from the flowery lands of the Pacific, and from the valleys of the mountains whose lofty peaks wear caps of perpetual snow. The beautiful drives, receptions by loving friends – songs and entertainments – protection and escort by Denver police – were all marvelous. The love of Denver assembly was expressed to us in many ways, and may the spirit of abiding faith, loyalty, and love rest always as a benediction upon them.”

The eighth and ninth of September in 1927, at Denver, Colorado,

“Where there’s more of singing  
and less sighing.  
Where there’s more of giving  
and less of buying.  
And a man makes friends  
without half trying.  
That’s where the West begins,”

That great assemblage met on the crest of our country, not far from the Holy Cross of eternal snow to form the circle of friendship around the templar cross; to this great company of wives and widows of Knights Templar, in her annual report, the supreme worthy president said, “with the cross and crown ever before us, let us dedicate ourselves to the service that will cement us together in a more perfect union in the bonds of fraternal love.”

“God keep watch between thee and me,  
So never fear.  
He holds thy hand,  
He claspeth mine and keeps us near.”

Her strength had come from the hills – to the hills she had returned, and in the shadow of the “Holy Cross on the distant mountainside” Orleila Ludwick and her associates had re-dedicated themselves to a great service.

“He shall preserve thee from evil,  
He shall preserve thy soul.”



# *Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting*

## PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY GRANT REVIEW 2021

Annually, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation holds a meeting mid-March in Dallas with the officers and trustees of the Foundation and ten doctors specializing in pediatric ophthalmology from many leading hospitals and research institutions throughout the country to review the applications and recommend which applications based on the merits of the proposal should be funded with a grant.

Annually this meeting takes place in person, but because of the evolving COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, this is the second year that this meeting has been held through ZOOM.

The meeting started at 9:30am CST and concluded at 4:00pm CST. Our conference allowed everybody to view and share our PC screen so they could track the scoring of grants as they were recorded after each grant was discussed in detail.

**Our meeting ended with twenty-eight total Competitive Renewal & Career Starter grants for a total of \$1,957,897 that were recommended by the SAC doctors and later that night approved by the KTEF SAC committee.**

### **Check Presentations / Website Update**

Because of the pandemic we are sorry to say that we will not be making personal presentations of the checks again this year but instead will be mailing the checks directly to the grant recipients. Our website <https://www.ktef.org/grants> has a complete list of the grants that were approved along with the specific research.

# MAYO'S

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the Knights Templar  
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