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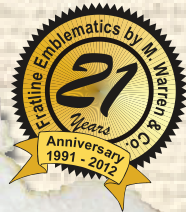
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# Grand Master's Message

**Sir Knight David J. Kussman, GCT**

Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

To the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

**Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!**



**M**y dear Sir Knights. We have officially entered the third year of the 69<sup>th</sup> Triennium of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA. This journey continues to be both a blessing and a challenge as we work together to manage the business of our beloved Order.

I composed this article in the latter days of August for the fall issue of our newly reformatted Knight Templar magazine. Our beautiful and informative periodical has gone through a significant change in its appearance and publication schedule. The format has been upscaled in size and character. It will be published in a more traditional full-size format like the *Scottish Rite Journal* magazine or the *Rocky Mountain Mason* magazine. It will have more educational and inspirational content. Professional Masonic writers will have the opportunity to submit their works for inclusion. More to come on the entire concept in a message from our Managing Editor.

Our magazine will now be published quarterly. This is being tried as a cost savings opportunity. Since I have been involved with our Grand Encampment management team, the number one cost burden has been the printing and mailing of the *Knight Templar*. Months of discussion and planning have gone into the decision to change our current plan. We pray that our efforts will meet with your satisfaction.

Finally, I would like to commend our Executive

Publisher, Sir Knight Ben Williams, KGC, and his team for their steadfast efforts in bringing about this evolution in our wonderful magazine. Additionally, my sincere appreciation goes out to our long serving printers Mitchell-Flemming of Indiana.

Our journey continues, In His Service,

**David J. Kussman, GCT**

Grand Master



Veritas • Perspicuitas • Templarii



## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

### GRAND RECORDERS AND STATE HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE CHAIRMEN:

Registrations for the **2024 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage for Christian Ministers** are due from Grand Recorders no later than September 30 (every year) for travel in February. Certification of Ministers, Nomination form, and fee for travel (from Newark Airport and back is \$4000. This does not include domestic airfare) are required for registration. All necessary forms and details are available at [www.kthlp.com](http://www.kthlp.com).

The **"In the Footsteps of Jesus" Holy Land Pilgrimage** for Sir Knights, Ladies, Friends, and Guests has been rescheduled to November 4 – 14, 2024. See details at [www.kthlp.com](http://www.kthlp.com).





**David J. Kussman**

Grand Master

**David Studley**

Grand Captain General  
& Publisher

## ADDRESS CHANGE OR CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP

Please report all changes in  
membership to the Grand  
Recorder:

**Lawrence E. Tucker**

Grand Recorder

Grand Encampment Office  
3 Sugar Creek Center Blvd  
Ste 410

Sugar Land, TX 77478

Phone: (713) 349-8700

Fax: (713) 349-8710

E-mail: larry@gektusa.org

Magazine and correspondence to the editor should be sent in electronic form to the managing editor whose contact information is shown below. All photos or images should be property of the author, or used with permission or under license by the author, unless expressly noted otherwise.

**Ben Williams**

Managing Editor

Laughing Lion

1100 W Littleton Blvd

Ste 440

Littleton, CO 80120

Phone: (720) 328-5343

Fax: (720) 328-5297

E-mail: ben@knightstemplar.org

visit our website at:

**knightstemplar.org**



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# FROM THE EDITOR

**W**elcome to the revamped *Knights Templar*. We hope you like the look and feel of the full-sized magazine.

We've worked hard to bring you diverse content. There are still great features and historical accounts, as you've come to expect. But, in this issue, we develop the magazine thematically: including (in this issue) news, religion, ritual, even tech, to diversify our content.

The plan here is to make this magazine Templar focused, of course, but also to be a magazine *for* Templars of all ages. That means including relevant information applicable to Templars generally.

So, history, yes, but also philosophy, theology, symbolism, and other items. For example, the article "Fall From Grace," on page 31, details the results of a Pew Research study that show a troubling trend – the decline of religion (and Christianity particularly) in the United States. If this study is accurate, then the United States may be host to a non-religious majority by 2070. This ties in with the decline we see in Masonry: it's definitely something we should be aware of.

And we bring relevant news items (with a news style: *who, what, where, when*). See the "News" section, starting on page 8.

We still have a Social Order of the Beaucéant section (page 42) and a Knight Templar Eye Foundation section (page 44). And we still have great historical articles. For example, Dr. Chris Ruli writes about the Templar White House review, when the Grand Commandery of D.C. would pass and review at the White House each year, to be saluted by the president. See page 12. I write about the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, and necessarily present the early history of Templary in Virginia. See page 22. We also delve into some of the symbolism of the Order of the Temple. See the "Ritual" section, page 33. This is content more typical of these pages. But we branch out: we learn how to digitize your Commandery's archive (page 35) and contemplate the ramifications of artificial intelligence including some responses by Chat GPT to Masonic prompts by way of illustration (page 40).

It's not our intent that the *Knights Templar* should replace your other sources of information – far from it. But seeing the *Knights Templar* evolve into a magazine of general interest to our members, with content written from a Templar perspective that is relevant to Templars, surely is a positive. Our hope is you excitedly pick up each issue as it arrives and read it all the way through! We will continue to develop the content thematically, and hopefully this will meet your approval.

Lastly, there are few ads in this issue. Our original plan (for economic reasons) was to have 15 to 16 pages of ads (broken up between full page, ½ page, ¼ page, and even 1/8-page ads). This is the first issue at full size; the first issue to represent the magazine to advertisers. Thus, we have included a rate sheet on the back cover – if you know of anyone who might benefit from advertising in our pages (in a manner that would benefit our members, of course), please share this issue with them.

Thank you for the honor to serve as your editor.

Courteously,

Ben Williams

# CONTRIBUTORS

**Jeff Hedges** retired from CBS as Senior Vice President of Sales in 2007 and started his own company, Hedges Media, negotiating broadcast deals across the U.S. He finally retired properly in 2022 in grateful appreciation of a life “caught lightning in a bottle.” He spends his time with his horses and playing the piano. He serves as Grand Musician for the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery in Virginia.



**B. Chris Ruli** is a historian and author of early American Freemasonry with a focus on the history of Freemasonry in Washington, D.C. He is a member of Columbia Commandery No. 2 and Potomac Commandery No. 3 in the District of Columbia. This article is based on research from Ruli’s book, *The White House & The Freemasons*, available from Macoy Publishing.

**Richard Van Doran** belongs to five lodges in three countries and two continents. He spent five years as a United States Air Force electronics intelligence officer. He was decorated for his service. Rich holds a Doctorate degree in counseling psychology, and was listed in *Who’s Who* in Medicine and Science, Business and Industry, and received their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.



**John Wilder** was knighted in Hamilton Commandery No. 5 (CT) on Good Friday 2015 and affiliated with Boston Commandery No. 2 (MA) upon moving home in 2018. He is active in the divisions and serves as Historian of Boston Commandery, the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts-Rhode Island, and Aleppo Shriners, among other organizations.

## Editor

**Ben Williams** is a Registered Patent Attorney based out of Denver, Colorado. He’s a Past Department Commander for the Northwest Department and chairs the Grand Encampment’s Education Committee. He’s married to his patient and caring wife, Tiffany, a history teacher. They have a daughter, Adelyn, and a beagle, Warwick.



# NEWS

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Photo by David Ferrazzoli

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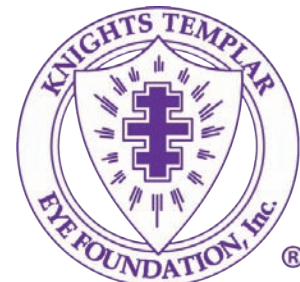
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## Two More Grand Commanderies Join 100% Life Sponsors for KTEF

by Ben Williams

**FLOWER MOUND, TX.**– The Grand Commanderies of North Dakota and Idaho attained one-hundred percent life sponsors of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in July. They join Grand Commanderies of Utah and Maryland (2022); Illinois, Iowa, and Connecticut (2021); Ohio and Texas (2020); Virginia and Georgia (2017); District of Columbia and Wyoming (2015); Tennessee and Montana (2014); South Carolina and Oregon (1996); Alabama (1995); and New Hampshire (1994) in attaining this honor. Seventy-two percent of active members across the Grand Encampment have a Life Sponsor and 110 Commanderies only need a few members to bring more Grand Commanderies to this distinction.



## Grand Commandery of MA/RI Lays Wreath at Tomb of Unknown Soldier

by Richard Van Doren



Photo by David Ferrazzoli

**ARLINGTON, VA** – In the early afternoon of Saturday, April 8, Sir Knight Eugene Blake Nichols, Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Massachusetts-Rhode Island, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Sir Knight Richard W. Van Doren, Past Grand Commander, assisted Sir Knight Eugene Nichols. Also in the wreath laying party were Sir Knights James I. Olgilvie, Deputy Grand Commander, and Peter A. Randall, Grand Captain General.

The Sargeant of the Guard, Tomb of the Unknown

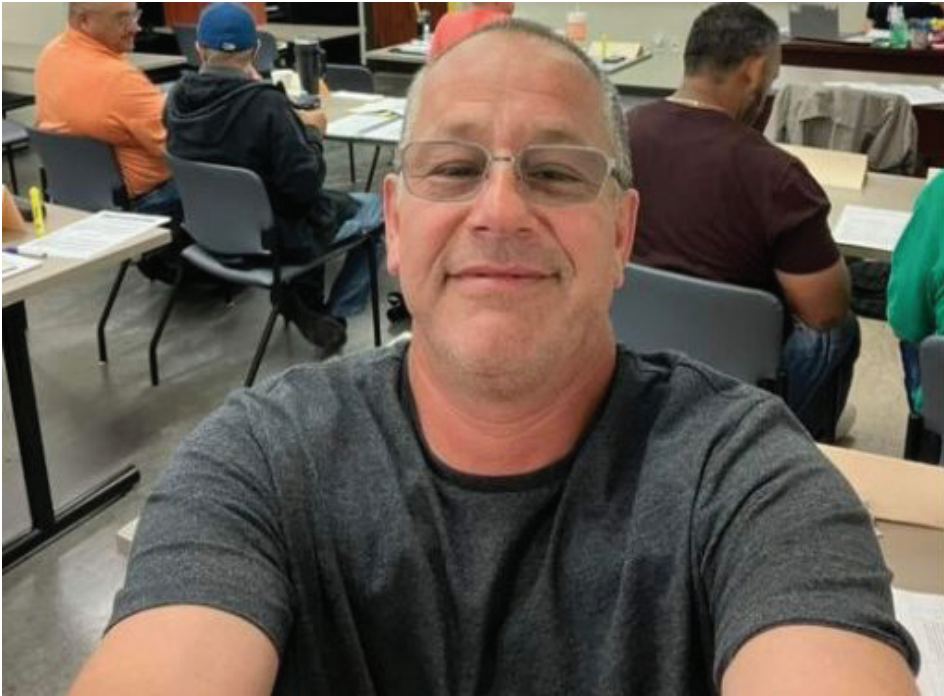
Soldier, conducted the Grand Commander and party to the foot of the tomb where the wreath was placed. The capacity crowd stood and watched in silence as the knights performed their solemn duty. The playing of “Taps” followed placement of the wreath and the four knights held their salutes. They were then escorted out by the Sargeant of the Guard.

The Sir Knights considered the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Tomb a most singular honor which they will long remember. **KT**



# Junior Deacon Shot and Killed by Anti-Mason After Installation

by Ben Williams



**LEFT:** Bro. Robert Wise, of Mission, TX, who was gunned down leaving Lodge in McAllen, TX, on July 10. **RIGHT:** The front page of the April 25, 1897, edition of *Le Frondeur*, which detailed Taxil's hoax after he shocked his audience by revealing his principal witness, Diana Vaughn, was not a sex-slave in the employ of a Satanic Masonic Lodge, but in fact his employee.

**MCALLEN, TX** – Bro. Robert A. Wise was shot while leaving McAllen Lodge 1110 on Monday July 10. He had just been installed Junior Deacon.

The shooter, identified as Julio Díaz, 35 years-old, laid in wait. When the installation ceremony ended and the Lodge doors opened, according to the police report, Díaz rolled up in a black Chevy Blazer and shot Wise in the face as he was getting into his pickup. It was about 9:46 p.m.

Wise was pronounced dead on the scene.

According to the police report, Wise was found “lying deceased next to his pickup truck at the 100 block of N 11th St with multiple gunshot wounds; to include one to his face.”

Apparently, the shooter filmed the murder. “Mr. Diaz is holding a handgun in one hand and appears to be recording the criminal incident with an electronic device in the other hand,” the report says. “Mr. Diaz then posted a video on his social media (Instagram) account of the murder.” It was quickly taken down.

The McAllen Police Department received a tip from a man to whom Díaz sent a message documenting the murder. Díaz was arrested the morning of July 11, after issuance of a warrant. He is charged with first-degree murder and is being held on a \$1 million bond.

Díaz's motives are unclear but are believed

to have been spurred by anti-masonic sentiment stirred up by theories of illuminism and satanism, laid first at the Masons' door by self-confessed, serial hoaxer, Marie Joseph Gabriel Antoine Jogand-Pagès, better known by his sobriquet, Léo Taxil.

Taxil began a concerted campaign against the Masons in the latter nineteenth century, mainly as a means to expose the contumacy of the Church (Taxil was a staunch atheist and pretended to convert to Catholicism) and to ridicule the Fraternity (by his exploits against Freemasonry, Taxil succeeded in gaining an audience with Pope Leo XIII in 1897).

Wise, who was 55 years-old, was an active member in his community. He ran WISE CDL, a commercial driving school, where he worked as a CDL Class A Instructor. “I love helping people,” he wrote on his website. “There is no greater joy than helping others achieve their personal goals of overcoming life's hurdles.”

He was active in his Lodge and was the troop mentor for the local Boy Scouts.

“I don't think our hearts will ever be the same,” his daughter said on a Gofundme page set up to assist with funeral expenses. “There are no words that can bring our dad back, but it brings me comfort knowing how many lives he touched.”

Taxil's claims of a Luciferian conspiracy –

that continue to dog the Fraternity today, and potentially cost Wise his life – were bolstered by the testimony of Diana Vaughn, whom Taxil claimed was connected with a libidinous cult of devil worship at a Paris Lodge. In fact, Vaughn was Taxil's typist.

Taxil revealed this fact ironically to a large number of clerics and the public who had gathered at the Explorer's Club in Paris, in April 1897, specially to hear her testimony firsthand. The prank made the front page of the Paris newspaper, *Le Frondeur*.

Taxil is known for many hoaxes, including claiming there was an underwater city in Lake Geneva and authoring *La Bible Amusante*, an offensive satire of the Bible colored with lewd pictures. The fact that he publicly confessed the accusations he made against the Masons were all nonsense, promulgated to deceive a credulous public and to make a fast buck, is too-often ignored.

“[T]here is no limit to human stupidity,” Taxil said in an interview with *National Magazine* in 1906.

With the basis of a century of recirculation, Taxil's whim has substantiated a virulent hate-speech with lethal consequences. The Tyler's role may be less ceremonial than we think. **KT**



# Order



**RYE, CO** – For more than twenty years, the Orders of the Temple have been conducted in the summer months outdoors in the Rockies. Surrounded by sweeping vistas, it's easy to feel closer to heaven here.

First hosted by Salida Commandery 17 at the Blanchard Ranch located outside Salida in 2000, the Orders were moved to South Fork several years ago, after the death of Sir Knight Larry Blanchard and the sale of his ranch.

When the Knight in charge of the event in South Fork, at the Masonic Park on the banks of the Rio Grande, took a new job out of state, the Orders once again relocated. Hosted now by Pueblo Commandery 3, the Orders were conferred for the first time in the San Isabel National Forest at the Graham Masonic Memorial Park.

The festival was first organized by Sir Knights David Salberg and Ron Garrett, of Salida Commandery. The Blanchard Ranch was chosen as the location, not only because Sir Knight Larry Blanchard welcomed conferral of the Orders on his lands, but because of the view from his property of the “Angel of Shavano,” a patch of snow on Mount Shavano that sometimes appears in the shape of an angel.

The annual festival culminates a series of festivals throughout the year that progress candidates through the York Rite. The Chapter degrees are conferred in an old quarry near Akron, in the rolling farmlands in the northeastern part of the state. Exemplars are lowered into a small, abandoned quarry in search of the lost word. The

Council degrees, once conferred in a frontier-era fort in Delta, on Colorado's western slope, are now performed in Grand Junction. A candidate thus travels from northeast Colorado to the western slope, to southeastern Colorado, over the course of the degrees. From rolling farmlands the candidate ascends: the crown of Templary is attained amid mountain vistas.

These festivals have been vital to sustaining the York Rite in the Centennial State. But they are a double-edged sword. On the one hand, they ensure at least twenty Knights Templar join the ranks each year – barely sufficient to keep up with the death rate here. On the other hand, they undermine individual Knight's and Subordinate Commanderies' ability to confer the Orders. By some estimates, maybe two or three Sir Knights are capable of taking the Commander's part in the Order of the Temple in Colorado today. The Prelate's part is similarly concentrated. The impact of the ritual on candidates in an audience of many, rather than as a participant of one, must also be objectively contemplated.

Nonetheless, while the festival format is not an optimal way for a candidate to experience the ritual, it nonetheless remains a boon for members who enjoy getting together from across the state to share in Templary. Knights convene at an area hotel (in Pueblo) on the eve of the Orders. This occasions fellowship and much discussion. The morning seems to arrive too soon. Then, starting around 8 a.m., the Orders begin in unique scenery.

The preparation begins much earlier. Knights from



# Orders of Knighthood

in San Isabel National Forest

by Ben Williams



Photos by Ben Williams

Pueblo Commandery were there days prior with Knights from Delta Commandery to set up the tents and prepare the space. All the accoutrements required for conferring the Orders – including fine silver goblets and wine jugs from Denver-Colorado Commandery 1, must be trucked in by trailer.

The Orders were conferred for the first time in the Wet Range of the Rocky Mountains on July 8. Colorado State Highway 165 winds up from Pueblo, past Greenhorn Mountain, Saint Charles Peak, Deer Peak, and Wixson Mountain, to join with Highway 96 at the knees of the Sangre de Cristo range.

Graham Masonic Memorial Park is more than 8,300 feet above sea level. Even in July, mist clung to the truncated spurs, obscuring the surrounding peaks. The Orders were conferred in due form, the Order of the Temple in cap and mantle. When the Order of the Temple was about to begin early afternoon, the mist lifted – the views came into focus. You could see through the trees into the piercing skies, beyond the peaks, into the depth of eternity where the vows taken resound in silence. **KT**

**TOP LEFT:** Sir Knight Ron Garret (left) and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery of Colorado, Jerry Fennimore. **TOP MIDDLE:** Candidates awaiting the Orders. **TOP RIGHT:** Past Commander Jaymie Vaughn (center) with Grand Junior Warden, Al Ulibari (right), and Grand Guard, Greg Harris (left) prepare for the Order of Malta. **RIGHT:** Sir Knights Greg Allen and Jeff Cyriaks in Darius's court ready to make argument





# KNIGHTS OF THE ELLIPSE



Library of Congress

Knights Templar cross Pennsylvania Avenue enroute to the White House Ellipse. 1924.

**O**n October 15, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant and his staff gathered at the White House's northern entrance to witness a special public ceremony. Knights Templar from the District of Columbia and Connecticut gathered at the National Hotel earlier that morning, located about a half mile southeast of the White House, and arranged themselves into a large procession. They departed the hotel around 9:45 a.m. and proceeded up Pennsylvania Avenue enroute to the White House.

Festive music filled the air as hundreds of knights, adorned in their signature black frocks and chapeaus and carrying their commandery's banners, marched up one of the District's busiest avenues. As they neared their destination, sentries opened the White House's west gate

to allow the knights to march onto the grounds. Each commandery then proceeded past the north entrance and acknowledged Grant and his staff with a marching salute, which Grant reciprocated with a bow. The procession exited the grounds and returned back to the hotel to conclude the day's festivities. The public reception, eventually referred to as the White House Inspection, became a unique fixture of Washington Freemasonry that lasted well into the early twentieth century.<sup>1</sup>

Chivalric Masonry arrived in the District of Columbia in January 1825, close to a decade after the formation of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States. On January 14, Henry Fowle, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, issued a char-

1 "The Pilgrimage," *The National Republican*, October 17, 1872.



# The History of **CHIVALRIC MASONRY** in Washington D.C. and the **WHITE HOUSE INSPECTION CEREMONY** by B. Chris Ruli



Library of Congress

Washington Commandery 1 Knights perform drill on the White House Ellipse. 1924.

ter to several prominent Washingtonians to establish Washington Encampment 1. Early candidates paid \$25, approximately \$760 today, to receive the orders of knighthood. The encampment met quarterly and candidates received the Order of the Temple prior to the Order of Malta. Early regalia featured a dark sash and apron. Washington encampment remained active up until April 1835 when it suspended activities due to low participation. It remained dormant for more than a decade until April 1847 when several knights discussed resuming activities. The Grand Encampment approved their request to reactivate the body, now stylized as Washington Commandery 1, on April 22, 1847.<sup>2</sup>

2 J. Claude Keiper, *History of Washington Commandery*,

Washington met two days later and elected Grand Master Benjamin B. French as their commander, which he served for a record twelve consecutive years.<sup>3</sup> A New Hampshire native, French moved to DC in 1833 to work as a House of Representatives clerk. He rose through the political ranks and eventually served three terms as Commissioner of Public Buildings, a predecessor of today's Architect of the Capitol, under Presidents Franklin Pierce, Abraham Lincoln, and Andrew Johnson. On November 3, 1846, French was elected the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of DC. He occupied this office for seven consecutive years while serving as the commander

*Knights Templars 1825 -1925*. (Washington: Washington Commandery 1, 1925), 27-75.

3 He served consecutively except for one year – 1854.

“As they neared their destination, sentries opened the White House’s west gate to allow the knights to march onto the grounds.”





**Benjamin B. French in his uniform as Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. Date unknown.**

“Participation in high profile public ceremonies and order conferrals prompted many curious Masons to join the Knights Templar.”

of Washington Commandery.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, Washington Commandery grew into an impressive institution under French’s stewardship. Knights participated in the public procession and cornerstone laying ceremonies for the Smithsonian Institution in May 1847, Washington Monument in July 1848, and escorted President Zachary Taylor down to Richmond, Virginia for the Washington Equestrian Statue cornerstone in February 1850. In January 1853, French presided over the commandery to confer the orders upon Albert Pike, future Grand Commander of the Supreme Council A.A.S.R. Southern Jurisdiction; and in February, Senator Sam Houston, the former president of the Republic of Texas. Washington commandery participated in President Lincoln’s public funeral procession and memorial services in 1865, which French organized through his office as Commissioner of Public Buildings.<sup>5</sup>

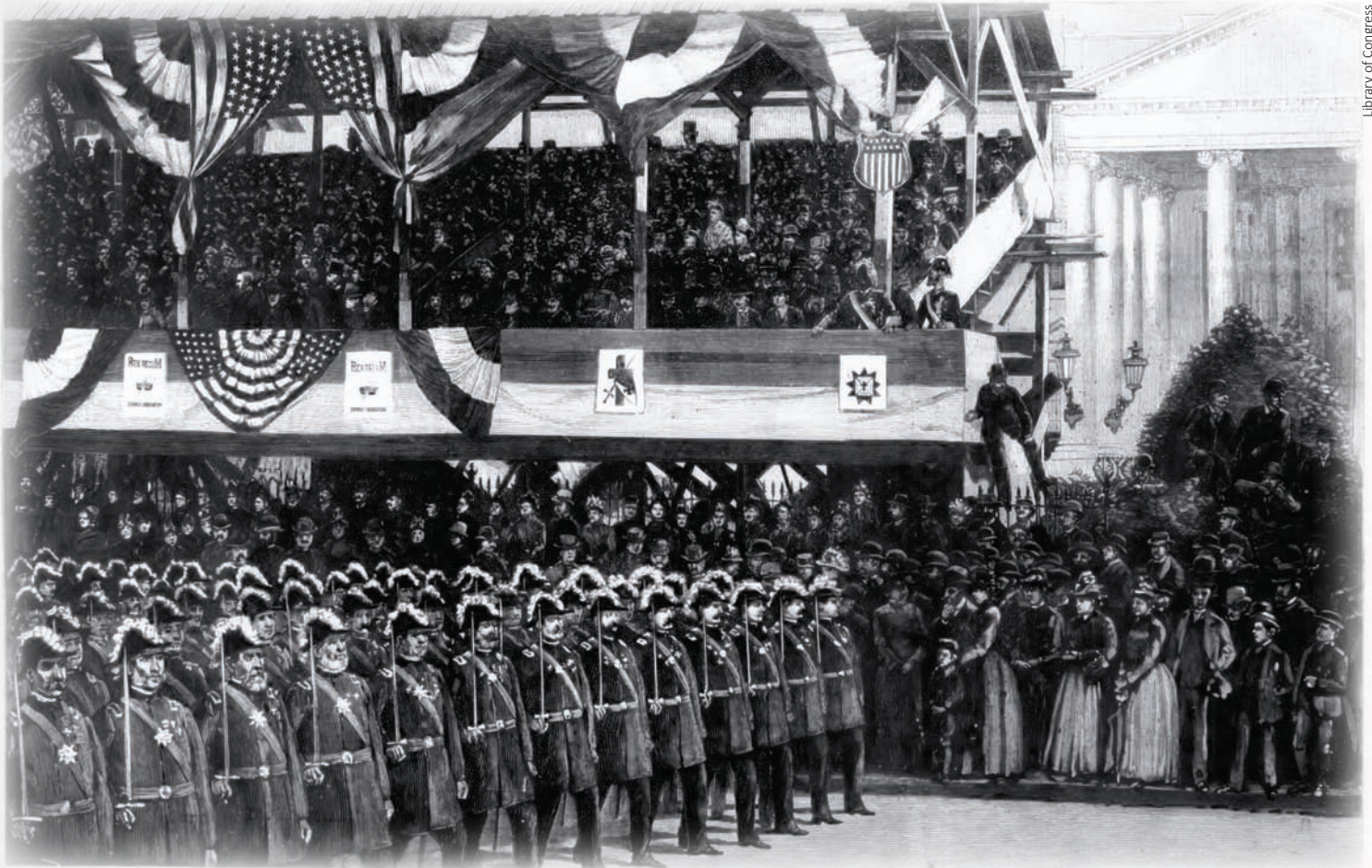
French’s reputation also grew tremendously within local and national Masonic circles. In 1850, the Grand Encampment elected him as their Grand Recorder. He occupied the office until 1859 when the body voted him to be their sixth Grand Master, which he served for two consecutive terms from 1859 to 1865 – the full duration of the American Civil War. On March 20, 1860, Albert Pike visited Washington Commandery to personally present French a commemorative sword gifted to him on behalf of the Grand Encampment for his service as Grand Recorder.<sup>6</sup>

Participation in high profile public ceremonies and order conferrals prompted many curious Masons to join the Knights Templar. Consequently, the number of local commanderies grew from one to four by the time leadership arranged their first White House Inspection ceremony in October 1872. This included the country’s first mounted commandery – DeMolay 4. The body was so unique that by the time the Grand Encampment convened for their triennial conclave in 1874, delegates had yet to work out guidelines for mounted templars in public parades.<sup>7</sup> This was particularly important for DC commanderies who planned to return to the White House for future inspections.

The inspections became one of several public and social activities organized by DC commanderies. A significant influx of wealthy knights and patrons resulted in

4. “Sir Benjamin B. French [Grand Master 1859-65],” *Proceedings of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Masons of the United States of America, 18th Triennial Session, September 19 to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1871.* (Iowa; Griggs, Watson, & Day, 1871), 293-304.  
5. Ralph H. Gauker, *History of the Scottish Rite in the District of Columbia*, 38-49. (Washington; The Robert’s Publishing Company, 1970).  
6. *Proceedings of the Grand Encampment...1871. Addresses on the Presentation of a Sword of Honor to M. E. Sir. Benj. B. French, Grand Master, on behalf of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.* (Washington; Henry Polkinhorn, 1860)  
7. “Station for Mounted Commanderies in Line,” *Proceedings of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, 1874* (Iowa; Day, Egbert, and Fidler, 1873), 62.





**1889 Conclave: Engraving of a Templar procession passing President Harrison during the 1889 Triennial Conclave held in Washington, D.C. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, October 26, 1889.**

playful competition between the commanderies for bragging rights and new membership. Competition became particularly fierce between Washington and Columbia Commandery 2 as both groups spared no expense to host lavish banquets and entertain Washington's social and political elite. "Seldom has the grand hall of the Masonic temple presented a more dazzling scene," recounted one reporter attending a Templar ball in 1869. "The beauty, the elite of Washington society, the unexceptionable toilettes of the ladies, the knightly dress of the members of the Commandery, and the full evening dress of their guests, combined with the dazzling light and superb music, made up a scene which it would be impossible to describe."<sup>8</sup> The period coincided with the Gilded Age, an era of extreme wealth disparity and corruption throughout the United States that greatly impacted Washington.

Meanwhile, French often leveraged his position in the White House to serve as unofficial liaison between the Presidents and the local fraternity. During Andrew Johnson's administration, for example, French arranged for several Masonic delegations to visit the White House. He arranged for DC and Maryland Knights to escort Johnson up to Boston to participate in the cornerstone

ceremony for the city's new Masonic temple.<sup>9</sup> A day before their departure, on June 20, 1867, French and a colleague visited the White House to confer the Scottish Rite degrees, 4° to 32°, on Johnson in his private residence.<sup>10</sup> French's colleagues, Noble D. Larner and Myron M. Parker, took over arrangement duties following French's death in August 1870. Like their predecessor, Larner and Parker both served in local government.

White House Inspections served as opportunities for commanderies to publicly showcase their march and drill proficiency. Inspections were typically held in the late Spring or early Fall. They often began at the DC Masonic Temple, first at 9<sup>th</sup> and F Street and after 1907 relocated to their much larger temple on 13<sup>th</sup> Street, mere blocks away from the White House. Each commandery participated in the inspection and invitations were extended to counterparts in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, or Massachusetts. In later inspections, knights first marched to the White Lot, the park just below the mansion later known as the Ellipse, for public drill performances. The event drew non-Knights, families, and a curious public. Comman-

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"White House Inspections served as opportunities for commanderies to publicly showcase their march and drill proficiency."

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<sup>8</sup> "The Knights Templar," *The National Republican*, March 2, 1870.

<sup>9</sup> Donald B. Cole and John J. McDonough, *Witness to a Young Republic* (Hanover; University Press of New England, 1989), 539-540.

<sup>10</sup> Gauker, 53.



deries arranged for bands to join them on the parade. John Philip Sousa, the famous band leader and member of Columbia Commandery 2, often lent his services along with the Marine Band. Sousa even commissioned a song for Columbia Commandery, *The Thunderer*, which became Columbia's theme song.<sup>11</sup>

James A. Garfield succeeded Grant as president in 1881. His election was warmly welcomed by DC Masons – especially those in Columbia Commandery, where Garfield joined while serving as a member of Congress. News of his election spurred the commandery to action and on November 19, 1880, Columbia passed a resolution to assist Garfield's office during the inauguration:

WHEREAS, Gen. James A. Garfield, President-elect of the United States, is a member of Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., stationed at Washington, D. C., therefore

Resolved, That the hearty congratulations of this Commandery be and are hereby tendered to our eminent frater, Sir James A. Garfield who by the will of the American people has been chosen to the highest office of the nation,

Resolved, That this Commandery, in view of the fact that the President-elect is one of our members, tenders its services as escort in connection with the organizations at the inaugural ceremonies on March 4, 1881 and,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the Eminent commander with full power to take such measures as will ensure to this determination a grand and successful conclusion.<sup>12</sup>

On May 20, Garfield welcomed DC, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Knights for what turned out to be his first and only White House inspection. Knights marched silently past the White House on this occasion out of respect for First Lady Lucretia Garfield, who was suffering from illness at the time.

A Large crowd had assembled within the enclosure, but, to their credit be it said, not the least noise was made. The President, with Attorney-General MacVaugh by his side, took position between the center columns that face the portico. "Have you given orders to stop the music?" Garfield asked of the mounted officer at the head of the column. "I have," was the reply, and a shadow of anxiety disappeared from Mr. Garfield's countenance. Then the line marched in review, the officers saluting and the President returning the compliment. The bow was especially profound to his fraters of his own commandery, Columbia No. 2.<sup>13</sup>

Garfield welcomed the Knights back to the White House the next day for a more personal reception.

11 Charles E. Baldwin and J. Harry Philips, *History of Columbia Commandery No. 2, Knights Templars 1863-1963*. (Washington; Columbia Commandery, 1938), 114. Paul E. Bicerley, *The Works of John Philip Sousa* (Westerville, Ohio: Integrity Press, 1984), 43.

12 Baldwin and Philips, 85.

13 "The Knights Templar: Brilliant Reception and Parade of Visitors," *The Washington Post*, May 21, 1881.



**First Lady Elanor Roosevelt with DC Knights Templar deposits a wreath during the annual Templar Easter sunrise service on April 1, 1905.**

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar arrived in Washington in October 1889 for the organization's triennial conclave. DC knights, led by chief marshal Myron M. Parker, arranged for a large public parade and presidential inspection. The route began at the Capitol and proceeded up Pennsylvania Avenue to a large reviewing stand outside the White House in the presence of President Benjamin Harrison and his staff. With thousands of visiting and local knights in attendance for the parade, Parker tapped the United States Signal Corps to help manage what turned out to be the city's largest Masonic parade at the time. The event garnered national coverage in newspapers and other print.<sup>14</sup>

Curiously, up until 1896, the five commanderies operating in the District reported directly to the Grand

14 "With Banners Flying," *The Evening Star*, October 8, 1889.





...ting a floral arrangement at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. ...l 17, 1938.

Tennessee Virtual Archive



**Andrew Johnson: Carte de visite of Andrew Johnson in Templar dress produced by C.C. Giers in Nashville, Tennessee. 1869.**

Encampment as there was no local Grand Commandery. In November 1895, representatives from each commandery petitioned Grand Master W. La Rue Thomas for dispensation to form a Grand Commandery, which was accepted on December 2. Delegates met on January 14, 1896 to form the Grand Commandery of DC and elected Noble D. Larner as their first Grand Commander.<sup>15</sup>

William McKinley welcomed knights for his first White House inspection on May 7, 1897.<sup>16</sup> Both McKinley and his Vice-President Garret Hobart joined Freemasonry and the commandery through their respective states. In December 1896, a month after their victory

in the general election, Washington Commandery 1 awarded both men honorary memberships.<sup>17</sup> A second inspection occurred on October 11, 1900 with visiting knights from New Haven Commandery of Connecticut. Reporters noted that around three to four hundred knights, including visitors, marched on the occasion. “As the column came up the [White House] driveway the President stepped to the portico, and lifting his hat, returned the salute” of the passing knights. “When the last Knight of De Molay Commandery passed, the assembled crowd burst into cheering, which was acknowledged by the President with a bow.”<sup>18</sup>

McKinley’s successor and second vice president,

15 Proceedings of the Convention for the Formation of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, January 14, 1896. (Washington; Gibson Bros, 1896).

16 “Sir Knights on Parade,” *The Washington Times*, May 7, 1897.

17 Keiper, 145.

18 “The Templars Parade, Annual Inspection of Washington Knights on the White Lot,” *Washington Times*, October 12, 1900.



**Truman Easter: Vice-President Truman with members of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar during the annual Easter Sunrise Service. April 1, 1945.**

Theodore Roosevelt performed his first and only inspection on May 26, 1902. Following the conclusion of drill and inspections on the White Lot, a welcoming committee of Grand Commandery officers arrived at the White House to greet Roosevelt.

Secretary Cortelyou and the welcome committee remained with the President on the portico while the Knights filed past the flying banners and martial music. As the officers and flags of the various commanderies passed in review, President Roosevelt tipped his hat and bowed. During the whole time while the knights marched by he stood at military attention. At the conclusion of the parade, the President shook hands with the gentlemen composing the committee and heartily expressed himself as highly gratified with the drills and marching of the knights.<sup>19</sup>

Despite offers to join the York Rite, Roosevelt never advanced past Master Mason.

Approximately six hundred DC knights participated in Taft's first inspection on May 25, 1911.<sup>20</sup> Like Roosevelt, Taft applied for the Degrees of Freemasonry after his victory in the US general election – wishing to prevent any public impropriety or perception of vying for the “Masonic vote” during the election. Unable to attend the second inspection on January 11, 1913, Taft invited Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock to observe the parade as his proxy.

19 “Plumbed Knights at Annual Inspection,” *The Washington Times*, May 27, 1902.

20 “Knights Templar Reviewed by Taft,” *The Washington Herald*, May 26, 1911.

President Woodrow Wilson welcomed DC Knights for a single inspection during his administration on June 1, 1916. The occasion coincided with the Grand Commandery's annual Ascension Day services. “The President stood upon the north portico and returned the salutes of the commanders and knights as they passed around the semicircular driveway and out the west gate. From this they proceeded . . . to Massachusetts avenue . . . to the Church of the Ascension.”<sup>21</sup>

In June 1921, preparations were underway for Columbia Commandery to welcome a delegation from President Warren G. Harding's own commandery – Marion 36 of Marion, Ohio – in Washington. Harding joined the Knights Templar three months earlier on March 1 and was elected an honorary member of Columbia three days later on March 4. To commemorate their visit to Washington, DC and Ohio knights planned to hold a special joint session and order conferral using ritual from both jurisdictions. Harding welcomed both groups at the White House on June 10 and attended the special ceremony with Charles F. Sawyer, his physician and fellow Sir Knight, later that evening at the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Masonic temple.

The President was accorded an ovation of cheering and hand clapping that lasted fully fifteen minutes when he arrived in the auditorium. He expressed his acknowledgement in a few words when he reached the platform. He and his party remained throughout the three hours

21 “Templars at Service: Hear Ascension Sermon After Review by the President,” *Washington Post*, June 2, 1916.

“Despite offers to join the York Rite, Roosevelt never advanced past Master Mason.”



IN HOC SIGNO VINCES



Library of Congress



Lithograph of James A. Garfield depicted as a Knight Templar by Boyd A. Wadhams, Chicago. 1882.



BOYD ALEXANDER WADHAMS, K. T. 32°, PUBLISHER, CHICAGO.

KURZ & ALLISON, ART. LITHO, CHICAGO.

GEN. JAMES ABRAHAM GARFIELD K.T. 14° A. & A. S. R.

LATE PRESIDENT U.S.A.

of the session and gave evidence of keen enjoyment and much interest in the proceedings.<sup>22</sup>

The final White House Inspection occurred on November 22, 1929 during President Herbert Hoover's administration. Shifts in White House policy and public perception prompted the DC Grand Commandery to move away from a public parade and inspection ceremony on the White Lot and White House grounds. Leadership considered other opportunities to provide meaningful engagement with the public and developed a program around Easter Sunrise services. President Hoover agreed to participate in the first program held at the Arlington National Memorial Amphitheater on the morning of April 5, 1931.<sup>23</sup>

Franklin D. Roosevelt succeeded Hoover in 1933 but his physical condition prevented him from actively participating in Templar Easter services. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt did find the program interesting enough to attend and, impressed by the ceremony, returned for almost all consecutive services between 1933 and 1945, with few exceptions. "It was a well attended service," Roosevelt wrote in her diary following the 1937 service, "and the placing of the Cross of lillies on the unknown soldier's tomb is always touching and beautiful."<sup>24</sup> As a sign of respect for Roosevelt, DC Grand Commandery escorted the First Lady to and from the tomb under

an arch of steel beginning in 1937 – an honor rarely extended to non-Masons.<sup>25</sup> Indeed, Easter services had grown so large that the DC Grand Commandery transferred the ceremony's official sponsorship over to the General Grand Encampment beginning in 1941. Harry S. Truman, while serving as Vice-President, became the last president to participate in the Easter services on April 1, 1945.<sup>26</sup> Services remained at Arlington National Cemetery until 1982 when the location moved permanently to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Thus, the Grand Encampment's annual Easter program serves as a fitting successor to the once common White House Inspection. Receptions spanned ten presidential administrations and served as a public reminder of Freemasonry's prominence in American social life. At times, the White House's occupants were themselves Masons and Knights Templar who espoused the Order's principles and values. White House inspections also served as a way for DC Knights, a relatively small jurisdiction compared to larger states, to punch above it's weight by contributing a unique and impressive ceremony. District knights paraded up one of the District's busiest streets and engaged with president's who acknowledged their reputation and good works. Shifts in White House customs and traditions prompted DC Knights to seek out other ways to engage with the public and developed the Easter program we now know today. **KT**

22 "Courtesy to President by K.T. Commandery," *The Evening Star*, June 11, 1921.

23 "Easter Throngs Defy Chill Winds," *The Evening Star*, April 6, 1931.

24 Eleanor Roosevelt, "My Day, March 29, 1937," *The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers* Digital Edition (George Washington University, 2017).

25 "Capitol Chill Ignored for Easter Rites," *The Washington Post*, March 29, 1937.

26 "400,000 Commemorate Easter at Varied Rites in D.C. Area," *The Washington Post*, April 2, 1945.



# Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.



## How to join the Grand Commander's or the Grand Master's Club

**Grand Commander's Club:** Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club. (Make 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.

**Grand Master's Club:** 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

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:

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### Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

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Thank  
You!





# 200 Years



## Washington

by Benjamin B. French

Brave old Virginia – proud you well may be,  
When you retrace that glorious dynasty  
Of intellectual giants, who were known  
As much the nation’s children as your own –  
Your brilliant jewels; aye, you gave them all,  
Like Sparta’s mother, at your country’s call!  
The Senate knew their eloquence and power,  
And the red battle in its wildest hour,  
No matter whence – to glory or the grave –  
They shone conspicuous, bravest of the brave!  
One o’er the bravest and the best bore sway:  
Bright is his memory in our hearts today!  
His bosom burned with patriotic fire –  
Virginia’s son became his country’s sire;  
And in these lofty claims we proudly vie,  
He was our brother of the mystic tie!

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“Winchester Encampment was established some years before the General Grand Encampment, and through its zeal for the promotion of the orders of Knighthood, created a large number of Knights Templars, in the state of Virginia . . . we considered ourselves justifiable in granting their request, knowing that it would be for the benefit of the orders of Knighthood . . . .”

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# OLD DOMINION

by Ben Williams



Photo by Ben Williams

**K**nights Templar were probably active in Virginia prior to 1812, meeting at least at Winchester Hiram Lodge 21 (formerly number 12, under warrant from Pennsylvania) but no records of their proceedings or activities have been found.

The historical record opens retroactively in a letter dated June 17, 1824. Daniel Walker Thomas wrote to DeWitt Clinton of New York, then General Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment,<sup>1</sup> in application of forming the Grand Commandery of Virginia. Thomas tells Clinton that Templary had been active for “some years” prior to the founding of the General Grand Encampment. Winchester Encampment, as it was then called, was formalized around 1812. The

Winchester knights had managed to form a Grand Commandery autogenously in 1823, uniting Winchester “Encampment,” Warren “Encampment,” and Mt. Carmel, “Encampment,” (which latter two the Winchester knights had chartered) under the auspices of Sir Knight Thomas as Grand Master (today, styled Grand Commander), but these moves were almost immediately impugned by Sir Knight James Cushman, who contended any Commandery lacking a warrant from the now-formed General Grand Encampment was illegal.

Cushman, who’d arrived in Virginia sometime around 1820, claimed to be an agent of the Deputy Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment, Sir Knight Henry Fowle, successor of Thomas Smith Webb, but this is not substantiated by the record. It’s not clear if Cushman’s motives were sanctioned by the General Grand Encampment. For example, in 1823, with similar accusations wielded, Cushman succeeded in selling a warrant to St. John’s Rising Star Encampment (later, Richmond



<sup>1</sup> The last time the Grand Encampment went by General Grand Encampment was during the thirteenth triennial conclave, in 1856. By 1859, at the fourteenth triennial, the proceedings list the Grand Encampment, Grand Commanderies, and Subordinate Commanderies in the manner familiar today.







Encampment) for \$90 (almost \$3,000 in today's currency).<sup>2</sup> He then seems to have put about Virginia in search of additional sales.

Thus, when Cushman came knocking at Winchester that same year, Thomas and the Winchester knights were prompted to write to Grand Master Clinton requesting clarification. In his letter, Thomas respectfully set out the history of Templary in Virginia as he understood it, which, antedating the formation of the General Grand Encampment, was operating a lawful memorial rite for which he argued a warrant should be unnecessary:

Winchester Encampment was established some years before the General Grand Encampment [*i.e.* before 1816], and through its zeal for the promotion of the orders of Knighthood, created a large number of Knights Templars [sic], in the state of Virginia (there being no other Encampments in the state); and a large number of its members living at too great a distance to attend the assemblies of the Encampment, applied to us for leave to form local Encampments, and (there being no legally constituted source within the state from whence charters could be derived) we considered ourselves justifiable in granting their request, knowing that it would be for the benefit of the orders of Knighthood....<sup>3</sup>

Grand Master Clinton agreed, "As your Encampment was established before the General Grand Encampment, I do not perceive the necessity of your taking out charters or dispensations; it would be, in my opinion, an unnecessary expense." Clinton essentially agrees to mutual recognition: "If you have three Encampments[,] I think it will be advisable for you to form a State Grand Encampment [Commandery], and for that body to send me an instrument acknowledging the jurisdiction of the General Grand Encampment, in which case I will acknowledge you as a regularly constituted State Encampment...."<sup>4</sup>

Clinton basically says, "if you recognize us, then I will recognize you." Of course, recognizing the General Grand Encampment meant ceding sovereignty into it. In this, though, the Winchester knights were willing, especially if such an act consolidated Templary under a singular body and dispelled any confusion, because, they wrote in November, 1823, "there should be some authentic source within the State from which to derive charters and privileges without the intervention of individuals licensed by the Grand Puissants of other states."

While the above statement likely referred to the agency of Cushman plying his craft for cash, the existence of a rival for initiating the Grand Commandery

is yet nonetheless compelling. Richmond Encampment had formed in 1816 claiming a Scottish warrant – they founded St. John's Rising Star Encampment (later, Richmond Encampment), probably with mind to initiate the Grand Commandery of Virginia themselves (Richmond is approximately 140 miles from Winchester, so it is not unlikely that the two Templar groups were unfamiliar with each other). Since this was just three months prior to the founding of the Grand Encampment, the move may have occurred in view of the formalization of the Order nationally – Templary was in the ascendant. However, Winchester Encampment had chartered two other bodies, operating already as a Grand Commandery of a sort, and commanded more manpower and influence by which it ultimately prevailed.

Thus, in the earliest formalization of the historical record, we see two nuclei from whence Templary would ultimately emerge in Virginia. In this, Cushman's actions, while potentially distasteful, prompted consolidation and allegiance to the General Grand Encampment – not only did Richmond Encampment cough up a fair sum for a new warrant issued from the General Grand Encampment (facilitated through Cushman who received the monies paid), Cushman's accusations prompted the Winchester knights to convene a special conclave for the purpose of requesting recognition from the General Grand Encampment.<sup>5</sup> The "Grand Encampment" of Virginia essentially ceded its sovereignty in exchange for mutual recognition of its preexistence, resolving in August 1824 to "acknowledge the jurisdiction of the General Grand Encampment of the United States of America; and that [the Grand Commandery of Virginia] will obey, abide by, keep and perform all the constitutional laws, rules and regulations of the said General Grand Encampment." Thus, by 1825, regularity had been obtained: Grand Master Clinton recognized their prior formation as lawful. As a result, the Winchester group raised primogeniture.

The year 1823, then, is chosen as the founding of the Grand Commandery of Virginia for good reason. The Grand Commandery formed then, from three Commanderies, and was ultimately recognized by the Grand Encampment in 1824. Although Mt. Carmel "Encampment" surrendered its charter (it was either unwilling to recognize the sovereignty of the Grand Encampment or lacked sufficient manpower to continue) Richmond Commandery, now succedent, took its place to uphold the requisite number. Thus, the Grand Commandery of Virginia emerged intact on March 22, 1825. (It is notable that no Richmond Sir Knights were elected officers of the new Grand Commandery, except for George Ives, who was appointed as Grand Standard Bearer, probably because Richmond was the odd one out.) Sir Knight Clinton recognized the legitimacy of the Winchester group retroactively, so 1823 became the proper year.

Of course, Templary preceded this date considerably in Old Dominion. Some estimates place some sort

**Top: Sir Knights assist veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, Sir Knight Ralph Woodrow, now 99 years old, down the steps outside Bruton Parish Church.**

**Bottom: Grand Master David Kussman, Sir Knight Woodrow, Grand Commander Romulo Capuno ride with George Washington.**

2 Existing just prior to the General Grand Encampment, the Richmond knights should have paid for a charter of *recognition*, for about \$5 (equivalent to about \$145 today), not a new warrant.

3 *1824 Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Masons of Virginia*, digitized by the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association 2020. Available at gwm.lunaimaging.com.

4 *1824 Proceedings*.

5 Interestingly, on November 23, 1824, the Winchester group resolved that "the thanks of this assembly be given to Sir Knight Cushman to his services rendered the several encampments under this jurisdiction." See *1824 Proceedings*.





1. S.K. Kevin Harvey and his lady. 2. Grand Master of Virginia, Donald Strehle, before the parade. 3. Grand Commander of Virginia, Romulo Capuno, and S.K. Woodrow watch the life and drums. 4. Deputy Grand Master Jeff Bolstad plays his original song in Bruton Parish Church. 5. Sir Knight Peter Spring and his lady. 6. Sir Knights in song in Bruton Parish Church. 7. George Washington addresses the assembly. 8. The parade. 9. Williamsburg Lodge No. 6. 10. Sir Knights attend to prayer.



3.



4.



7.



10.

Photos by Ben Williams



of Templary active in the state perhaps as early as the mid-1750s and likely by the 1770s. For example, when the motion to form the Grand Commandery was first formalized in 1823 by the Winchester group, the first “Whereas” clause stated, “WHEREAS, There are now established (agreeably to ancient usage and custom) in the state of Virginia, three Encampments of Sir Knights Templars [sic] and the appendant orders . . .” illustrating complete workings were already operative in the state. Which appendant orders, exactly, is not clear – an antecedent version of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests was probably operative in Newcastle, England, as early as 1809; and a precursor to the Red Cross of Constantine (formalized in its present form c. 1860) may have been operative as early as 1780 in England, perhaps as a prototypical working focused on the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher. Regardless, the Templary of pre-1816 Virginia seems to have been fully formed. That is, the efforts in forming a Grand Commandery were evidently directed at codifying independent groups of competing jurisdictions – not in standardizing ritual or even rites, but rather the system by which these rites were disseminated was in question. The question was, “who was in lawful custody?”; not “which rite should we adopt?”

It seems improbable that Virginia, as the oldest continuously settled colony, with its seventeenth century bicameral legislature (the General Assembly was founded in 1619, which was augmented by the House of the Burgesses in 1642), and its continuous connection with England, could not have attained the so-called “high degrees” early on – there was simply enough traffic and expertise to make their arrival likely.

Thus, when 2023 arose on the dial of time, two-hundred years of the Grand Commandery of Virginia were precipitant. Running May 4 through 6, the 2023 Grand Commandery of Virginia sessions were, therefore, colored with a celebratory theme in recognition of the bicentennial. Historic Williamsburg was taken as the location for the sessions, and special plans were made to ensure the conclave was one to remember (see *How We Did It*, next page).

I arrived late Wednesday evening, flying into Richmond to drive fifty miles parallel the York River along Highway 64 to Williamsburg. In the late hours along well-kept roads, cut through woodlands and old-growth forest, the history of Old Dominion seems to crystalize. Shadows of the past crowd into the mind’s eye; the wind whispers like the House of the Burgesses and the rustle of parchment pressed by the London Company all those years ago. Pulling into the colonial triangle of Jamestown,

Yorktown, and Williamsburg, latent memories of centuries past raise ghosts in the embankments, over the bridges, and along the old tobacco roads. Cobblestone streets and brick quoins run ladders through the centuries. The struggle of a country to raise a system of government suited for so diverse a base of labor – in freeholds granted, indentured servitude lapsed, and slavery plied. The struggle moves like shadows over the highway as I bomb down 64, Scorpius somehow visible above the tree line like dew drops along the edge where the horizon was torn away. Out there, somewhere beyond the full moon, Old Dominion stretches out under Antares, the blush of the city lights evanescent and forgotten. She heaves like the masts on the Mayflower.

The Double Tree Hotel was near silent as I bustled through the front doors. Just a girl at the front desk, and she had to come out when she heard me enter. The white walled lobby was darkened and still. It was a large hotel, yet somehow secluded behind trees. I gave her my credit card and wheeled my bags up to the room.

The next morning the sessions began in earnest under the care of Sir Knight Romulo Magnaye Capuno, Grand Commander. They’d last three days. Friday saw the Sir Knights and ladies take a trip to historic downtown Williamsburg and attend a private service at Bruton Parish Church, the old church frequented before the revolution by the likes of Washington, Jefferson, and Henry, where someone once crossed out the prayer for the king in the lectern-sized prayer book from 1751 and wrote in a prayer for the president of the United States instead.

Peace would prevail. In 1907, King Edward VII gave Bruton a new Bible and President Theodore Roosevelt donated a bronze lectern for it. We sang *Rock of Ages* and *The Church’s One Foundation*. Deputy Grand Master Jeffrey Bolstad played a guitar someone had lent him and sang a song he’d written about finding Christ, *Such a Gift*. The theme of the sermon was “living stones.” This seemed apt. The heartbeat of Old Dominion was in these bricks, its breath in the flue pipes, the principal, flute, string, and reed.

After the service, the knights and ladies filed out of the church and formed up behind a horse-drawn carriage, then down Duke of Gloucester Street, onlookers snapping photos in the late-spring sun. In the park adjacent, drums and fife struck out into the evening air as the players in period dress marched in formation. The past and the present had come together – like the place where the hemispheres touch and the sand grains dwindle.

In a place like this, there is only eternity. In the center of it all, the Knights Templar strode with humble pride. **KT**

Photo by Ben Williams



Glass Amronica player, Dear and played several well known t a series of glass bowls edgewise allow for different tones to be are caused to vibrate by the acti manner that wine glasses prod sound, unlike any other instrum



# How We Did It

by Jeff Hedges  
Chair, Bicentennial Committee



The Grand Commandery of Virginia celebrated its Bicentennial May 5 to 7, 2023, in Williamsburg, Virginia. The work to plan and fund the celebration, however, began years earlier. The special conclave conversations and fundraising started as early as 2012, eleven years before the Bicentennial occurred. Fund raising began with Ben Hill, Past Grand Commander of Virginia, making his way around Virginia with a large Coke bottle and getting contributions: a dollar here, five bucks there.

In 2018, I was asked to chair the Bicentennial Committee and begin strategic event planning and aggressive funding to support the plan. This article is the story of that journey.

The first suggestion I got for a conclave design was, “just get a 6’x4’ sheet cake and twenty-five gallons of ice cream and call it a day.” I felt a bit more ambitious. After all, it was Elvis who said, “ambition is a dream with a V-8 engine.” So, let’s “look under the hood” of Virginia’s Bicentennial celebrating 200 years from 1823 to 2023.

The architecture of Virginia’s Bicentennial had six pillars.

**First, codify our history.** The history of the Grand Commandery of Virginia existed in a report here, a proceeding there, but it had not been updated in decades. The combination of our society’s general disinterest in history (the last fifty years having suffered historical “dark ages”) and the fact that contemporaneous storytellers with actual details were more and more, every year, joining the Necrology report, made the need to produce a scholarly effort critical. Past Grand Commander Ben Hill, early on, “put up his hand” to do careful research and hard work, resulting in *From the Mists of Time*, a three-hundred-plus page book, which we published and distributed one per commandery. We have laid a foundation for succeeding Sir Knights in years ahead, to build upon this historical story of Templar history in Virginia.



Shostak, taught himself how to play Benjamin Franklin’s invention at the banquet Saturday evening. The device comprises positioned along a central axle. The differing diameters of the bowls produced when the axle is rotated by the foot board and the bowl of the finger, dampened, contacting the spinning rim, in the same produce resonant tones when similarly handled. The effect is an ethereal sound you’ve heard.



**Second, increase our membership and do so in a dramatic way.** Who would imagine that the very best ritualists from all over the state (never having all worked together before) could come together and perform the Order of the Temple with music? (Here is where I should tell you, I am also the Grand Musician for Grand Commandery). Dozens of Sir Knights held regional rehearsals and, under the leadership of Sir Knight Dewey Cole David, KTC, came together, resulting in the knighting of thirty-five new members. And they were knighted with the sword of our late Grand Commander, Jeff Burcham, donated by Lady Tammy Burcham. The sword was wielded in the hands of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, David Kussman. It should be noted here that the entire Grand Encampment line, Prelates in tow, attended and joined in our celebration from beginning to end.

**Third, and perhaps most important, with Divine Services all too often an afterthought, we wanted to declare in church and in public, that we are Christian Knights in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Friday afternoon, after the Order of the Temple, nearly two-hundred Sir Knights and ladies and guests boarded five buses and traveled from our hotel to the historic district of Colonial Williamsburg. We were joined by the colonial reenactor of George Washington, Ron Carnegie, himself a Templar Mason. We held a Divine Service at Bruton Parish where our forebearers met, worshipped, and inspired the creation of a new nation.

Our Grand Prelate, Sir Knight Richard Saunders, led the service delivering a sermon entitled "Living Stones." Our Grand Encampment officers were very involved with participation from our Most Eminent Grand Master, Kussman; Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Jack Harper; Right Eminent Grand Captain General, David Studley. Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master, Jeffrey Bolstad, performed an original Easter hymn he wrote entitled *Such a Gift*. To match the theme of the sermon, "Living Stones," the music included *Rock of Ages* and *The Church's One Foundation* (written by Master Mason Samuel Wesley, nephew of John Wesley) with Beckie Davys, Bruton Parish Music Director, playing the magnificent Bruton Parish pipe organ.

Following the service, we exited Bruton Parish and informally formed up to walk down the Duke of Gloucester Street, led by the Grand Encampment Officers and the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Donald Ellis Strehle, all following a horse-drawn carriage containing our Grand Commander, Romi Capuno and Lady Grace, George Washington reenactor and our parade Grand Marshall, Sir Knight Ralph Woodrow, and a 99-year-old veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. We paused to be recognized at the courthouse and were serenaded by the Fife & Drum Corp, then received greetings and remarks from George Washington. Afterward, we boarded our buses and returned to the hotel.

**Fourth was music.** The Dooby Brothers got it right in their song *The Doctor . . . Music is the doctor of my soul*. Thursday evening, at our first of three banquets, we started off with a classic rock band, The Phun Doctors.

The best way to tell you how much fun that was is to tell you that Illustrious Grand Sovereign Commander, James Dean Cole, 33°, led a Conga Line that had half the room involved.

Friday morning's music was far more solemn and reverent. In our Order of the Temple degree, liturgists performed a flawless degree and did it with music. As Grand Musician, I played the piano and organ at four points in the degree, but the real musical effect came when the Knights were told to kneel. Lights went down. The room lit only by the tapers at the Triangle. With the room silent and, using our extensive audio technology, we played Andre Bocelli and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir singing *The Lord's Prayer*.

At Friday evening's banquet, we were entertained by the handbell choir from Bruton Parish, again led by Becky Davys.

At Saturday's banquet, we were treated to Armonica music (see picture). If you saw the Ken Burns biopic on Benjamin Franklin, you know he invented the Armonica. The actor in the movie who played the instrument, Dean Shostak, brought his Armonica and played to a thrilled and attentive audience of Sir Knights, ladies, and guests.

**Fifth, and by now you may be wondering, "how did they pay for all this?"** By selling Bicentennial Medals, two editions of Bicentennial coins, a Bicentennial Program with ads, and three years of budget-assigned fundraising by every Commandery in the Commonwealth. We raised just over \$75,000! After all the bills were accounted for, we returned a profit of approximately \$35,000. The original Templars would have been proud.

**Sixth, and by no means least...we turn our attention to the legacy of our 200 years. We are doing this with a Time Capsule.**

On Saturday, October 7, at The Masonic Home of Virginia, in front of the York Rite Building on the campus, at 1 p.m., we will conduct a ceremony entering papers, memorabilia, and Past Grand Commander Jeffrey Glenn Burcham's sword into the vault. Atop the vault will be a replica of the Ark of the Covenant which will contain the Grand Commandery Bible used at the Bicentennial, together with a single candle made from the melted remnants of the thirteen tapers from our Order of the Temple. It will be there to light the tapers of the Order one-hundred years hence.

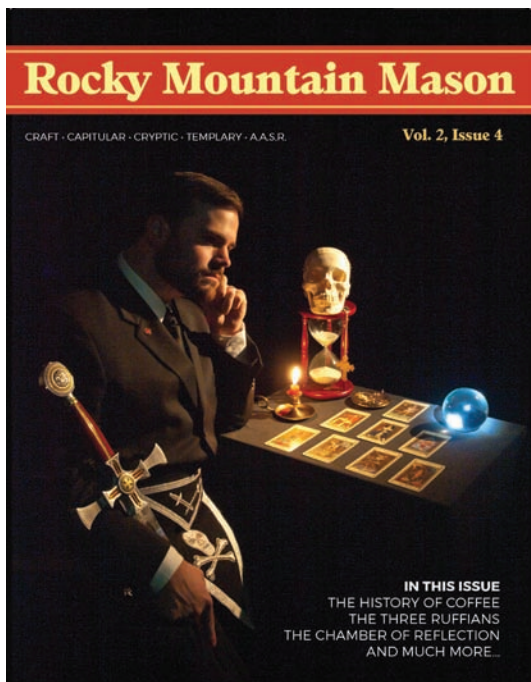
Perhaps a later edition of this publication may cover this event with pictures. Spoiler alert, Airborne soldiers from Fort Bragg, will "drop in" carrying a flag that will be hoisted on the new flagpole at the York Rite Building. Feel welcome to join us.

Until then, may Our Savior watch over us all as we strive to do the work, He has given us to do. **KT**



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# FALL FROM GRACE

## Christianity Is Declining as the United States' Majority Religion

by Ben Williams

According to a September 2022 study by the Pew Research Center, declines in Christianity in the United States may result in a nonreligious majority by the year 2070.

Pew Research estimates that, in 2020, about 64% of Americans (including children) identified as Christian. That's down from 90% in 1972. Americans who identify as "religiously unaffiliated" – that is atheist, agnostic, or of no religion in particular – also called "nones" – now comprise about 30%, up from 5% in 1972. All other religions comprise just 6% of the U.S. population.

Over the course of its projections, under four different scenarios, Pew Research suggests that Christianity either maintains a majority of the population, just; emerges as the major-

ity religious affiliation, but not as a majority of the population; or that the religiously unaffiliated come to represent a majority of the United States. These outcomes, which all show declining Christian affiliation, turn between extremes on the amount of "switching" projected between religious affiliations the study mapped. That is, the data turns on the amount of people changing religions rather than simply unaffiliating with religion generally. The disaffiliation is either constant or increasing, as current trends suggest.

Pew Research's four scenarios are titled: No switching (assumes no person switches their religion after 2020, an unlikely situation); steady switching (31% of people raised Christian unaffiliate by the time they reach 30 years old, while 21% of those raised without

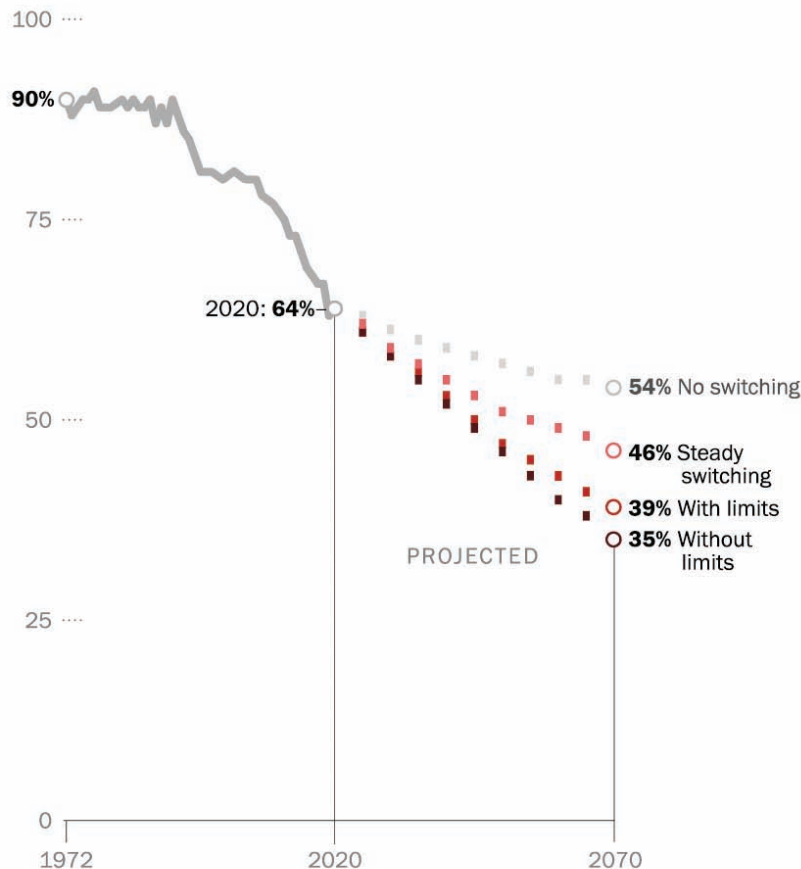
religion become Christian); switching with limits (less people switch to become Christian, more consistent with current trends, especially in light of immigrants of different religious affiliations); and switching without limits (rate of switching among under 30 year-olds increases, and less and less non-Christians switch to Christianity from unaffiliated or other groups).

Under the switching without limits scenario, Christians would no longer comprise the majority of the U.S. population by 2045. Ten years later, in 2055, the unaffiliated become the largest group (46% of Americans; Christians 43%). Under this scenario, by 2070, unaffiliated Americans (atheists, agnostics, no particular religion) comprise 52% of the population. Only 35% are Christian.

Even under the baseline "no switching"

### U.S. Christians projected to fall below 50% of population if recent trends continue

% of Americans who are Christian



#### Scenarios

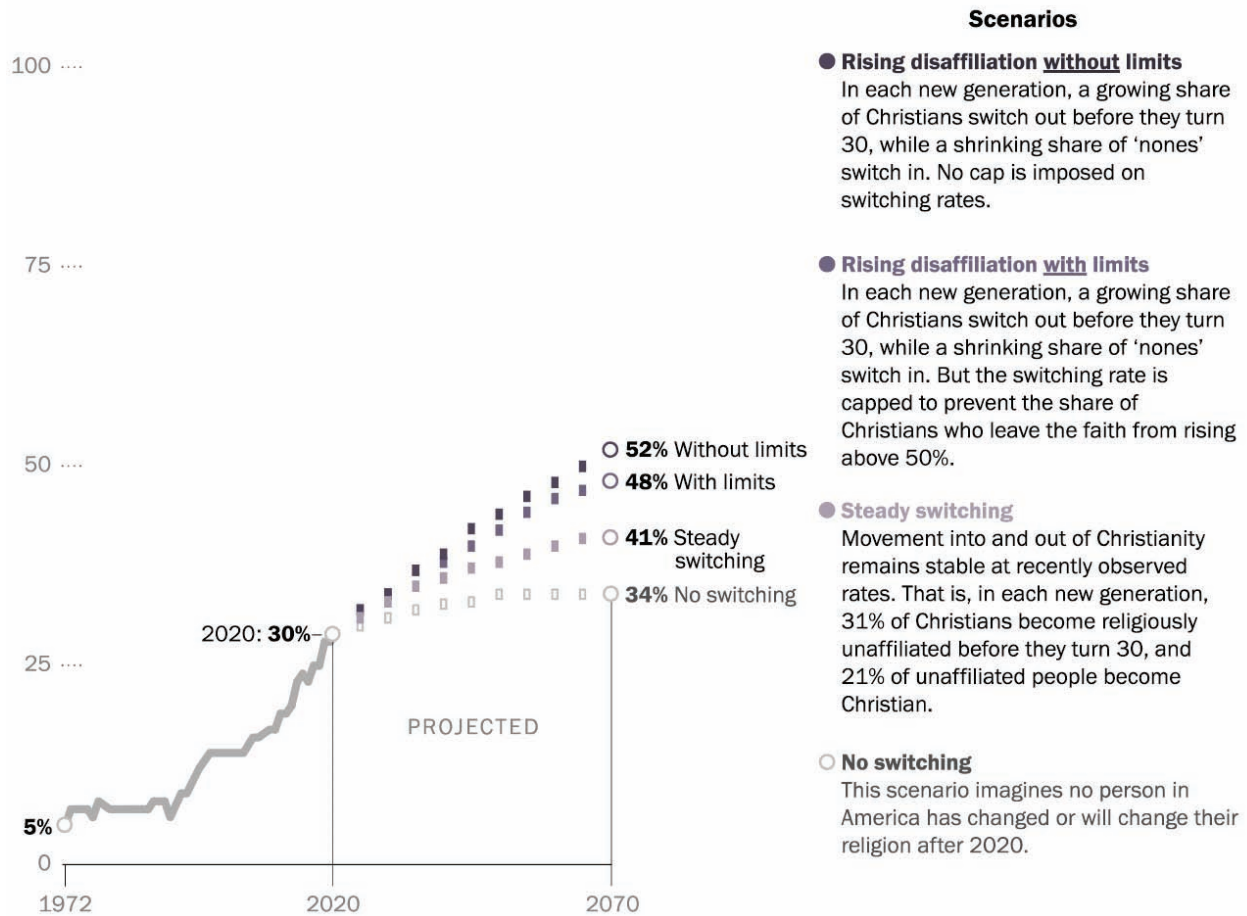
- **No switching**  
This scenario imagines no person in America has changed or will change their religion after 2020.
- **Steady switching**  
Movement into and out of Christianity remains stable at recently observed rates. That is, in each new generation, 31% of Christians become religiously unaffiliated before they turn 30, and 21% of unaffiliated people become Christian.
- **Rising disaffiliation with limits**  
In each new generation, a growing share of Christians switch out before they turn 30, while a shrinking share of 'nones' switch in. But the switching rate is capped to prevent the share of Christians who leave the faith from rising above 50%.
- **Rising disaffiliation without limits**  
In each new generation, a growing share of Christians switch out before they turn 30, while a shrinking share of 'nones' switch in. No cap is imposed on switching rates.

Note: Historical data describes trends among U.S. adults based on surveys of adults. The 2020 estimate and subsequent projections show Americans of all ages. In 2020, we estimate that the religious composition of people of all ages roughly matches the adult composition. Sources: General Social Survey (1972-2006); Pew Research Center surveys (2007-2021); Pew Research Center projections (2020-2070). "Modeling the Future of Religion in America"



# U.S. 'nones' will approach majority by 2070 if recent switching trends continue

% of Americans who are religiously unaffiliated



Note: Historical data describes trends among U.S. adults, based on surveys of adults. The 2020 estimate and subsequent projections show Americans of all ages. In 2020, we estimate that the religious composition of people of all ages roughly matches the adult composition. Sources: General Social Survey (1972-2006); Pew Research Center surveys (2007-2021); Pew Research Center projections (2020-2070). "Modeling the Future of Religion in America"

scenario, where no one switches between religions and the rate of disaffiliation is maintained proportionately, Christians maintain a slim majority by 2070, but still decline. Atheists, agnostics, persons of no particular religion still rise to 34%.

Currently, the study suggests, 31% of people raised Christians unaffiliate between ages 15 to 29 years old, or switch to another religion. An additional 7%, the study shows, will unaffiliate when over 30. In all four scenarios, non-Christian religions come to represent between 12 to 13% of the population (or double the current rate). This growth of other religions likely turns on migration rates (rather than switching *per se*) as U.S. demographics change.

What is clear, though, is that Christianity is no longer reaching the multitude. Whether this is due to a recharacterization of its central message or a result of other societal influences must remain speculation. However, similar to what we see in Masonry as a whole, perhaps, it is probably not accurate to suppose that millen-

nials are disinterested or uninterested in religious themes or philosophical contemplation. They are seeking; what they hear in church (of whatever denomination) is not satisfying or reaching them for some reason.

It's not clear that Christianity's decline reflects an increase in atheism generally, though. Rather, the institutions of religion may have become unattractive. The "no religion in particular," for example, cited by the nones may represent some sort of faith that is just no longer identifiable with the mainstream. It might not constitute atheism *per se*. It's certainly true that religious faith has become highly politicized across the aisle in American politics – perhaps more than anywhere else in the developed world. It is also true that, modernly, parents are less likely to pass on their faith to their children. Constitutionally enforced agnosticism in the public school system – which arguably spends more instructive time with children than parents – may have some influence here.

Regardless, these numbers raise sober reflection. They prompt important questions.

What can we do differently? After all, Masonry is beset with similar decline.

Yet, in these numbers is opportunity. People are searching for ecumenism, for common ground. Masonry is ecumenical by default. It's lessons and codes of conduct, while no substitute for religion, nonetheless provide fertile ground wherein religion may seed.

As Templars, and Christian Masons particularly, perhaps we should focus less on spreading Christian doctrine and focus more on exemplifying Christian virtues? Less words, more action. After all, as the Commander tells the pilgrim penitent in the Order of the Temple, "... with faith and humility, you should let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

If we all lived up to this instruction as a society, we would change the world. **KT**

See the Pew Research Center study at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/09/13/modeling-the-future-of-religion-in-america/>



# Thirteen Candles

## and the Light of Salvation

by Ben Williams



In the Order of the Temple, the Commander instructs the candidate that the burning tapers on the triangle before him correspond in number with Christ's Apostles.

These candles raise important symbols, not least when the candidate is caused to extinguish one as an admonition to maintain honorable conduct, and as a memorial to the apostacy of Judas Iscariot. The extinguishment leaves eleven lights on the triangle during which a significant portion of the ritual occurs.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, in Pythagorean theory, the number twelve "is strongly associated with the heavens – the 12 months, the 12 signs of the zodiac, and the 12 stations of the Moon and Sun."<sup>1</sup> It is "the product of the sacred and the secular (3 x 4); it is the sum of the numbers of life and good fortune (5 + 7)."<sup>2</sup> Other twelves of interest include the hours of the day and night in the "equal" or "planetary" hours (by which the times are unfurled and the powers and virtues made

manifest) and twelve inches to the foot, a measurement of physical dimension. (Much of this is pragmatic – twelve is twice the perfect number, six, which is the product and sum of its divisors ( $1 + 2 + 3 = 1 \times 2 \times 3$ ), meaning that there are more multiples and divisors of twelve than the perfect number ten. Twelve is thus more convenient for enumerating weights and measures.)

Conversely the number eleven was seen symbolically as negative, sinful, even evil.

The sixteenth century numerologist, Petrus Bungus, wrote that eleven "has no connection with divine things, no ladder reaching up to things above, nor any merit."<sup>3</sup> It's the number of "sinners and of penance," he says. In the Passover Haggadah, eleven may be associated with the zodiac because one sign of the twelve is always concealed by the sun. This is also alluded to in Joseph's dream where the sun, moon, and eleven stars bow down to him.<sup>4</sup> In Babylonian cosmology, chaos (Tiamat) rises with eleven monstrous beings; the god of light, Marduk, imprisons them in the firmament where he rules over them in his

1 Encyclopedia Britannica, "Pythagoreanism," <https://www.britannica.com/topic/number-symbolism/>. Accessed July 17, 2023.

2 *Ibid.*

3 Annemarie Schimmel, *The Mystery of Numbers*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993), 189.

4 Gen. 37: 9.



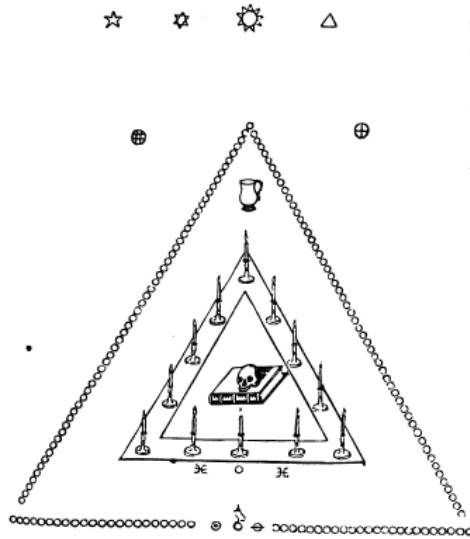


Image from Knights Templar Illustrated



Image by Nigel Jackson

Conversely, the French metaphysician, René Guénon (1886-1951), viewed eleven as auspicious of the *hieros gamos*, the “sacred marriage” between the macrocosm and microcosm

annual passage through the rings of time.<sup>5</sup> In Exodus, eleven curtains of hair are made to be a covering of the tabernacle.<sup>6</sup>

In Rosicrucian tradition the number eleven is generally seen as evil. The seventeenth century Rosicrucian, John Heydon (1629 -1667), says that in Jewish tradition eleven is associated with Lilith, the she-devil first-wife of Adam.<sup>7</sup> He says that Pherecydes, a “Master of Pythagoras, by eleven knew the *Fauni* and *Sylvani*, and *Onocentauri*,” that is, forms of spirits “that frequent the woods.”<sup>8</sup> Supreme Magus of the Societas Rosicruciana In Anglia (SRIA), William Wynn Wescott (1848-1925), writes that eleven “seems to have been the type of number with an evil reputation among all people.” Just as the decad (10) is perfect, so he says “eleven is the essence of all that is sinful, harmful and imperfect.”<sup>9</sup>

Conversely, the French metaphysician, René Guénon (1886-1951), viewed eleven as auspicious of the *hieros gamos*, the “sacred marriage” between the macrocosm and microcosm because, in his view, it unites five (2 + 3) and six (2 x 3).<sup>10</sup> In the earlier decks of the tarot (before A. E. Waite) eleven was the trump *La Force*, “fortitude,” often associated with overcoming passion. (Waite switched it with Justice (number eight) in 1909.)

Thus, when the candidate extinguishes the candle upon the triangle, he alludes to the imperfection of man – his sin and penance – suspended in a state between perfection (10) and the circle of heaven (12) – the concealment of the place of God – and also the joining of the above

and below (if we are to take Guénon’s interpretation into consideration) and fortitude. This is interesting because under these associations the vows of knighthood are assumed.

Yet, prior to him sealing his faith, the candidate performs a year of penance as a pilgrim penitent. In this state he is given another candle (a thirteenth candle), which is to remind him that with faith (and humility) “he should let his light so shine before men that they may see his good works and glorify his Father, which is in heaven.” This thirteenth candle is clearly emblematic of faith (the Commander says as much) but also symbolic of that in which our faith is well placed: Christ. This thirteenth candle (although the twelfth light at the time of its operation) thereby alludes to *Christopher*, the “Christ bearer.” With it, the candidate heralds the resurrection. Then he returns to assume the rough habit, coarse diet, and severe duty under the banner of the Order.

The vows are assumed under the number eleven. And in the eleventh hour the last laborer was called to the vineyard where he received equal pay because, Christ tells us, “The last will be first, and the first last: for many are called, but few chosen.”<sup>11</sup>

Immediately after the vow, and the admonition ever to keep it (for its consequence is eternal), the candidate is restored, even resurrected – he is elected to relight the candle he extinguished. As such he symbolically assumes a place among those closest to Christ. (If possible, this relighting may be performed with the same candle carried to the Holy Sepulcher as a pilgrim penitent.) In this symbolism, we see that faith conquers all. All things stand through faith in Him who died that we may live.

The vow is taken in recognition of the candidate’s state of sin, indeed. But it is also his road to salvation. **KT**

5 Schimmel, 189.

6 Ex. 25: 7 and 36: 14 (KJV)

7 John Heydon, *The Holy Guide: Leading the Way to the Wonder of the World: (A Complete Physician) Teaching the Knowledge of All Things, Past, Present, and to Come*, (London: Thomas Whittlesey, 1629), 103.

8 Heydon, 102.

9 William W. Wescott, *Numbers, Their Occult Power and Mystic Virtues*, (London: Theosophical Publishing Society 1911), 100.

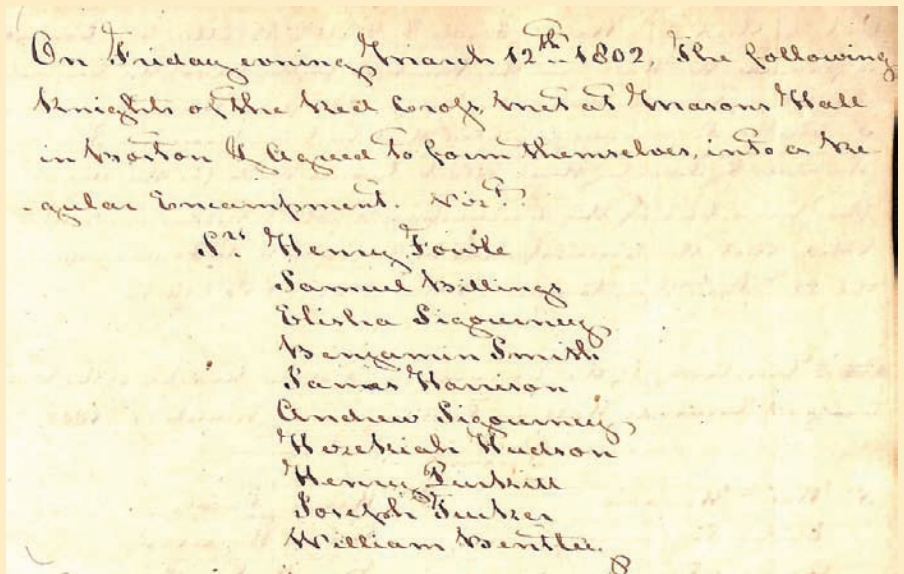
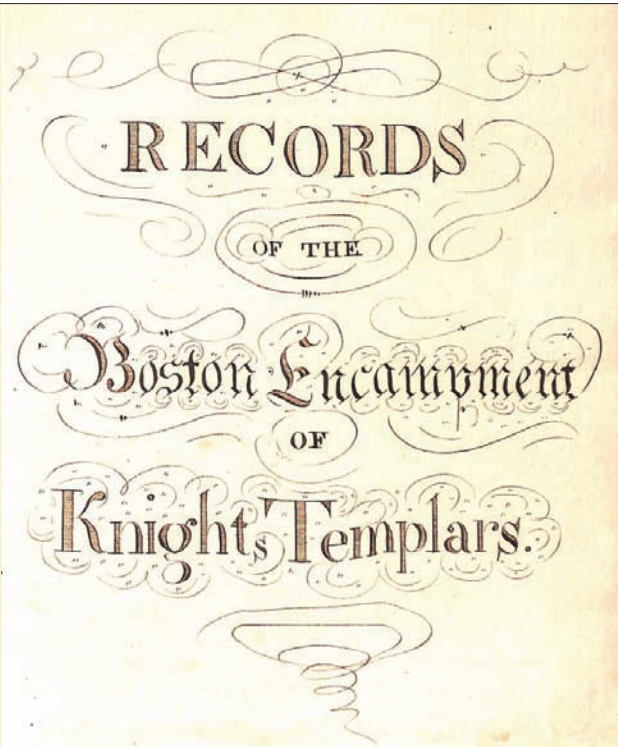
10 Schimmel, 191

11 Matt. 20: 16 (KJV).



# TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY HISTORY

Boston Commandery No. 2 Digitizes Its Archive By John Wilder



**M**ost Worshipful Bro. Perry of Massachusetts said in the late 1930s, “We, of the present generation, can claim no credit for the achievements of our predecessors....” I wrote this quote on a notecard and taped it to the top of my desktop scanner.

So often when you hear a Brother talk about Freemasonry, you hear about the famous men who have been Masons and the great force that we used to be. When I hear someone ask, “Did you know George Washington was a Freemason?” I always want to interject, “OK, but what have we done since?”

I completely agree with the statement of Bro. Perry – we must focus on the present and the future; though to move forward effectively, we must know where we came from.

We can claim no credit for the achievements of our predecessors. However, we can honor and build on their achievements, and, just as importantly, learn from their failures. Any way you look at it, we are standing on the shoulders of hundreds of thousands of men who came before us. I’m not talking about the ancient Templars, whose history is so often focused on in this magazine. I’m talking about our Brothers – those who carried the same swords, wore the same regalia, and knelt at the same altar taking the vows we still take. How many have taken the same libations from the same bitter cup?

It is with this in mind that I took upon myself the task of creating an archive of the history of Boston Commandery.

Founded in 1802 as the “Boston Encampment of Knights of the Red Cross,” we boast some of the earliest history of our Order. Our armory in the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts building has suffered three fires (in 1864, 1895, and 1946), one of which was a total loss. Boston Commandery is lucky, therefore, that so much of its history has survived.

It was during the recent renovations of our armory that it was decided to be an opportune time to form our archives. I was able to dig through all our various storage places and compile everything that could be found. After gathering all our records, it was time for general organization and then an initial culling. First to go were things such as duplicates of notices and a lot of correspondence that mostly included a single carbon copy of a letter confirming receipt of a dues check.

After the initial sorting, the in-depth review and digitization process began. We were fortunate to have our complete meeting minutes from 1802 intact, except a few misplaced files from the 2010s. A duplicate set of minutes was also found dating from 1802 to the 1960s. The original records are now stored in a fireproof vault and the duplicates will reside in our Recorder’s office.

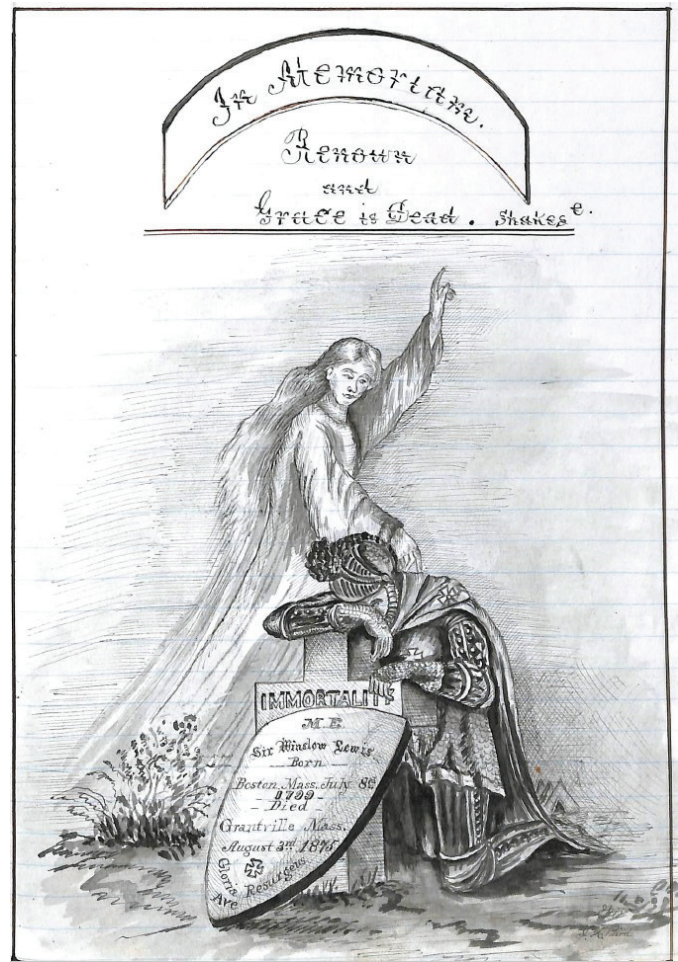
The original records proved a very interesting

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Founded in 1802 as the “Boston Encampment of Knights of the Red Cross,” we boast some of the earliest history of our Order.

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Photos provided by John Wilder

resource and I found it difficult to get through the digitization as I kept wanting to stop and read the stories contained in them or view the hand-drawn artwork and embellishments: small gems under a mountain of the mundane.

Membership ledgers and card files proved an organizational nightmare, but eventually sense was made of them. After digitization, only the most historically relevant records were kept. This was also the case with miscellaneous files and records such as financial and annual reports. Throughout the process, it was important to ask if each record was historically important and/or if the information was already contained elsewhere. We can't keep everything – but it is important to address those records that are worthwhile.

Due to previous renovations almost a century ago, our collection of Past Commander Portraits could no longer be displayed above our lockers. Each one was carefully removed from its frame, digitized, and then placed in an archival safe folder and box for storage. The photos will be displayed on a rotating basis on a digital screen.

Throughout the work on the records, both historical and physical needs were addressed. That is, we had to address how each record was maintained to be accessible yet storable to preserve our history for future generations.

Our collection of memorabilia was less than one might expect considering our Commandery's age, and it

became evident from various inventories which had been compiled over the years that many items had “walked away” or been lost to time. Efforts have been ongoing to reclaim much of our historical items, but if this process has shown us anything, it's that the stories we do have in the written record are just as valuable, if not more so than the objects they explain.

The work will continue, not only cataloguing our history, but also by ensuring our current history is recorded so that our contributions to our Commandery will be known in years to come. In the digital age, we tend to take for granted that there will be some record of what we do. But it is up to us to ensure that record is properly made.

I have been fortunate in my endeavors to have the support of many, but in this particular project I must give special thanks to Sir Knights Leo Kenan, Don Stevens, and Dan Daley who gave me the support to take on the project during their respective terms as Commander; Sir Knight Nathan Ulrich, who gifted me the overhead scanner by which I have digitized tens of thousands of records and photos for multiple organizations; and most especially to Sir Knight Mike Yarosh, who put up with my endless digging through countless dusty boxes and closets.

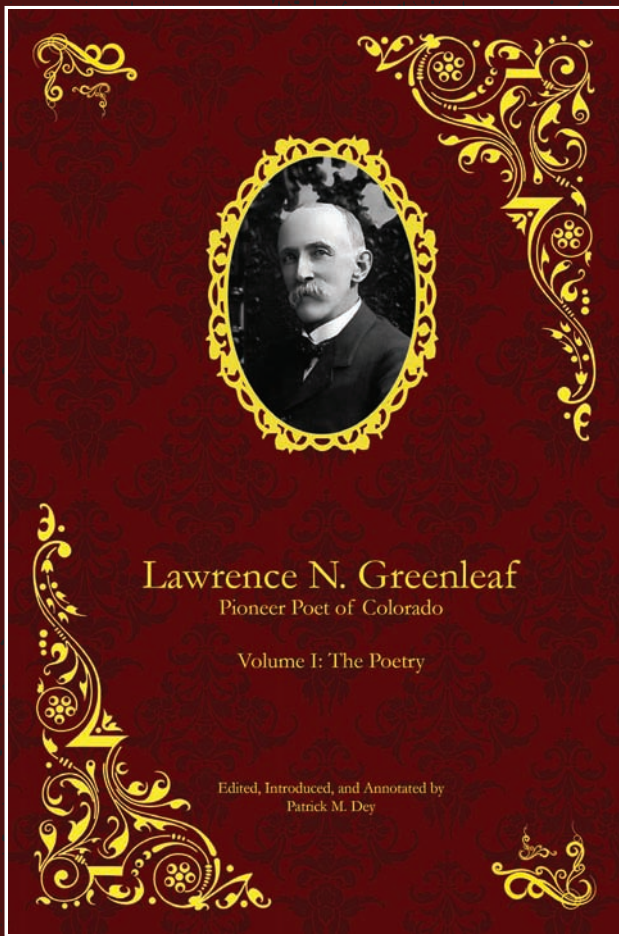
I am always happy to provide insight or advice to Commanderies who are looking to preserve or develop their archives. **KT**

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After digitization, only the most historically relevant records were kept.

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**Pioneer Poet of Colorado**  
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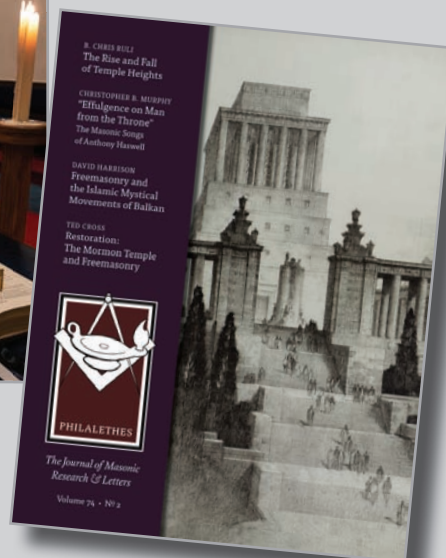
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# Why Do We Call Ourselves *Templars*?

By Francis R. Fritz



Photos by Ben Williams

Since I first received the Orders of the Temple, I have wondered why we call ourselves Templars and not Hospitallers, or both. As an amateur historian I found it interesting that we are given both the Templar Orders and Malta Orders, considering they were two competing orders of chivalry that often fought against each other as well as side-by-side. Until recently, the answer why Freemasonry equates the orders – or at least confers them inclusively – was somewhat challenging to understand. But, out of the blue, I found some potential answers in the form of a rare book.

This book is so rare that I have only been able to find a handful of copies in the United States. As a bibliophile (especially for Masonic books) this was perhaps the find of a lifetime.

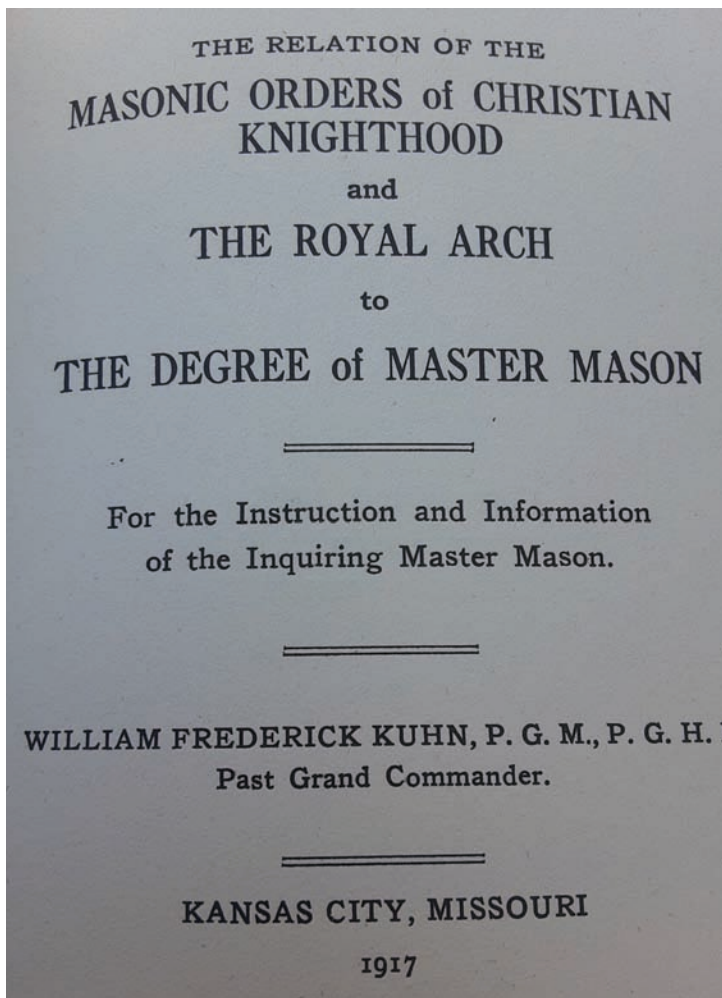
By now I'm sure you're wondering *what is this book?* and how does it apply to the York Rite in general and the Knights Templar in particular.... The book's title is *The*

*Relation of the Masonic Orders of Christian Knighthood and The Royal Arch to the Degree of Master Mason*, written by William Frederick Kuhn. In his time, Kuhn was a very notable Mason: a Grand Master, a Grand High Priest, and a Grand Commander in Missouri. The copy I have is the second edition published by the Kansas City Freemason Publishing Company in 1917. It is believed that only 250 copies were ever printed.

What makes this book unique over many others about the topic of Masonic Templary? Here's a quote from the book itself. You decide:

When the Grand Lodge of England defined Ancient Craft Masonry as above quoted, and in order to guard against any misconstruction or misunderstanding in reference to the rights and privileges of Chivalry, it added the following clause: This article is not intended to prevent any Lodge or Chapter from holding meetings in any of the Degrees of Chivalry according to the Constitution of said Order.





Here is plain recognition of the Orders of Chivalry.<sup>1</sup>

These two Orders (Temple, Malta) existed under some authority at the beginning of the evolutionary period of Ancient Craft Masonry [*i.e.*, the formation of the first Grand Lodge].<sup>2</sup>

The oldest record of the Royal Arch and the Order of the Temple being conferred under Masonic auspices, is the recent discovery at Belfast, Ireland, of the banners of two Lodges, No. 205 and No. 465, on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The banner of Lodge No. 205 bears the date of 1749 and on it are the symbols of the Lodge, Royal Arch, Templar, and Rose Croix.<sup>3</sup>

The noted historian, W.J. Chetwode Crawley, G.C.T., of the Great Priory of Ireland, in a monograph to the Lodge Quatuor Coronati, shows conclusively that these Orders were not invented by Chevalier Ramsey, and they did not originate from the Rite of Strict Observance nor from the French Rite, and that the Orders were given in Ireland

- 1 William F. Kuhn, *The Relation of the Masonic Orders of Christian Knighthood and the Royal Arch to the degree of Master Mason*, (Kansas City, 1917), 44.
- 2 *Masonic Orders*, 50.
- 3 *Masonic Orders*, 50-51.

before they were brought to Boston in 1769.<sup>4</sup>

In some places the Order of the Temple, only, followed the Royal Arch; in other places the series was Royal Arch, Knights Templar, Rose Croix; in Charleston, S.C. in 1783, the series was, Red Cross, Knights Templar, Knights of Malta.<sup>5</sup>

Each of these statements somewhat challenges the usual explanation or creation of not only the higher degrees of both the Scottish Rite and York Rite systems, but also the creation of the individual degrees themselves. The two common arguments posed are that (1) Ramsey's oration and (2) Baron von Hund's Rite of Strict Observance comprised the *Hautes Grades* upon which the Rites were founded. But if these degrees were being given prior to both the oration and the birth of the Rite of Strict Observance, why would we ignore the significance? Is there other written evidence for or against these claims? Perhaps the *Antient and Primitive Rite of Masonry; Manifesto of the Sovereign Sanctuary*<sup>6</sup> will provide some answers:

FIRST- Early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there existed in this and other countries, a system termed Antient Masonry, and which included such degrees as the Red Cross (of Babylon) under various names, the Rosy Cross (modern Rose Croix), the Kadosh and again the Royal Arch, the Templar, the Templar Priest or York System. Carried to France by British Jacobites, these became the nucleus of many Rites that were accumulated later. All Antient Rites, so called, include these degrees under various names, but the first Craft Grand Lodge, constituted in 1717 (sic), ignored them until 1813. All the first founders of our Sovereign body possessed these degrees, not from one source but various independent Rites.

THIRD - It was constitutionally established at Freemasons' Tavern, London, in 1872, when it united to its own organization certain Chapters of the Red and Rosy Cross, Kadosh, English Grand Inspector, &c., existing independently a time immemorial date.

If the arguments by the Antient's in their *Manifesto* (1900) and Kuhn's book (1917) are to be believed, then why would we prescribe that either Ramsey or von Hund would have created these degrees, much less inspired them, especially, since the argument(s) posed would have these degrees or systems existing before Ramsey's oration (1737) and von Hund's creation of the Rite of Strict Observance years later, possibly around 1748?

If one reads Ramsey's Oration, it is difficult to conjecture *how* his speech would in any way have inspired what is commonly called the *Hautes Grades* or Templary. It is true that Ramsey frequently mentioned orders - the Crusades, and Crusaders. Strictly speaking, if these are

4 *Masonic Orders*, 51.

5 *Masonic Orders*, 52.

6 J. Yarker *et al.*, "Antient and Primitive Rite of Masonry: Manifesto of the Sovereign Sanctuary Great Britain and Ireland, etc. 33=95", *Knepb.*, Vol. 10, No. 9 (Sept. 1900).



the only arguments posed, there is a problem with this conclusion.

First, some of the first words mentioned are “The noble ardour (sic) which you, gentlemen, evince to enter into the most noble and very illustrious Order of Freemasons...” – this speaks of Freemasonry, *not* an order of chivalry. Second, the only actual order of chivalry mentioned within the Oration are the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, the Hospitallers: No mention of Templars or any other Order. He does mention Crusaders often which in the stricter sense would be neither Hospitallers (Knights of Malta) nor Knights Templar. Both Orders were formed *after* the very first Crusade which took Jerusalem. Neither the Templars nor the Hospitallers were formed as crusading units, but rather to defend existing Christian territory, not conquer or recapture territories; these were Crusaders usually made up of armies from different countries, often led by kings and nobles. These Crusaders were there only for one purpose and usually stayed only long enough to either succeed or fail in that goal.

Third, the Hospitallers created hospitals (hence the name) to take care of Christian pilgrims, and the Templars protected these same pilgrims on their dangerous travels to the Holy Land. Both Orders maintained a large presence in Christian strongholds. Later, both Orders became larger military units in the defense of both the Holy Land as well as their original missions. It is true that both Orders did often participate in some of the Crusades, but from within these existing strongholds near the Holy Land.

Ramsey also notes in his oration acknowledging the primacy of these degrees by stating, “From the British Isles the Royal Art is now repassing into France...”<sup>7</sup> (which might validate the Antient’s argument in the first Manifesto’s statement). This hardly sounds like the creation of a new set of degrees by him but rather confirmation that in some form the “Royal Art” already existed. This would also refute the idea that von Hund would have also created the degrees of chivalry because his Rite of Strict Observance was created a few years after Ramsey’s famous speech.

It is also important to recognize W.J. Chetwode Crawley, G.C.T., of the Great Priory of Ireland, as well as the Quatuor Coronati (QC) itself. Brother Chetwode Crawley was a highly active and respected Masonic historian and writer of his time and frequently published in The QC periodical, *Ars Quatuor Coronati* (AQC). He was considered an expert historian on Irish Freemasonry. The QC Lodge is considered the “Premier Lodge of Masonic Research” founded in 1884. To quote their website:

Quatuor Coronati is the world’s premier Masonic research lodge. Established in 1884 and consecrated in 1886, our founders adopted an evidence-based approach to Masonic history that replaced the more imaginative writings of earlier authors; it became known as the ‘authentic school’

of Masonic research.<sup>8</sup>

This is what we in modern terms would term academic, peer-reviewed research (evidence-based). It is considered the oldest Masonic research Lodge in the world.

What is very apparent with the finding of this book by Kuhn, is that there has been a dispute as to the creation of the Order of the Temple degrees as well as the sequence in which these degrees had been given prior to 1916. As Kuhn also notes:

That the Order of the temple and the Order of Malta existed under some authority prior to 1717, cannot be questioned. Mackey’s History, Vol. V, states: That in Scotland, England and Ireland many of the Templars joined the Knights of St. John (Malta). When the Templars were suppressed, many of them found a home with the Order of Malta and a junction of the two orders was formed: from the era of reformation, these two orders, Malta and Templar combined, appeared in Scotland as a Masonic body.<sup>9</sup>

If we are to conjecture that these statements by Kuhn and Yarker *et al.* are accurate as well as others, we still have a challenge as to the title of this article: “Why Do We Call Ourselves Knights Templar?” Perhaps we may never know the actual answer until another long-lost book is rediscovered. Until then, perhaps the words within this old book must be our answer?

...but at the thirty-third Triennial session of the Grand Encampment, held at Los Angeles, June 30, 1916, the series of Orders were as established as follows: 1. The Order of the Red Cross; 2 The Order of Malta; 3. The Order of the Temple.<sup>10</sup>

Until that time, does it make sense that Masonic writers and historians keep writing their arguments as fact for Ramsey and his Oration as well as the Rite of Strict Observance as the creators of the *Hautes Grades*, Rose Croix, and Kadosh (including the Orders of the Temple)? If writers over a hundred years ago disputed this as being fact or evidence of creation of these degrees, should a modern-day Masonic author not question it as well? We know that such revered Masonic authors such as Pike, Mackey, and Dr. James Anderson (author of *Anderson’s Constitutions*) were often wrong in their writing. Perhaps those that have stated Ramsey and von Hund inspired these same degrees are also wrong? Either way, this author still calls himself a Knight Templar! **KT**

7 Ramsey’s Oration (1737) located at [http://www.vanostabe/Ramsay\\_Oration\\_1737.pdf](http://www.vanostabe/Ramsay_Oration_1737.pdf)

8 <https://www.quatuorcoronati.com>

9 *Masonic Orders*, 47.

10 *Masonic Orders*, 53.



# The Fourth Indust

Artificial intelligence (“AI”) will radically alter the way our society accesses and processes information. Just like the emergence of any technology, there are both encouraging and troubling considerations to AI.

**T**he impact of the telephone is best exemplified in contemplation of New York City. The ability for business to be transacted telephonically enabled the emergence of skyscrapers. Otherwise, the traffic required by messengers communicating throughout the city must have preempted such population density, untenable for the efficient dispatch of business. At any moment, tens of thousands of people would be squeezing through stairwells or waiting for elevators. There is no way to stack three thousand people in a building without the telephone.

The Internet made a kind of akashic record of human knowledge possible. A global library, accessible to everyone with a personal computer or peripheral device. Memory became less important than discernment. You could teach yourself anything, if you knew where to look, but could reinforce personal biases like never before. In a sea of knowledge, people emerge as islands of ignorance. They could build bridges to understanding. Or they could build walls and entomb themselves in echo chambers.

Now AI and the fourth industrial revolution promise a means to sort through all the endless data exponentially captured online. It will make rote tasks alien to humankind. Machines will fulfill almost any iteration. Not only in preparing canned responses and synthesizing information drawn from across the web, but in preparing contracts, writing insurance policies, preparing financial reports, emails, ads, disease diagnostics, gene editing, you name it. AI will flip burgers. Count money. Execute trades. Even drive you to the airport, and fly you around the world.

AI is powerful, but limited to data that has already been amassed by human experience, it is not and cannot be purely inventive. It can synthesize and project trends from what is already known. But, at least for the present moment, it probably can't originate new ideas.

In this regard, it's notable that AI has been listed as an inventor on some patent applications – an area of much legal interest because global patent law requires a flesh-and-blood entity to be an inventor (essentially because corporations cannot be inventors). But these inventions represent improved methodologies from mapping proteins and the like; they result from AI's ability to crunch enormous amounts

of data and project predicted physical interactions between proteins, say, based on known laws. AI sees mathematically: its discoveries are latent properties that numbers necessarily evince.

Of course, this is useful. Even surprising. But it is not necessarily the same thing as inventing the lightbulb. (AI can provide answers that would help perfect that invention, however.)

See, for example, OpenAI's Chat GPT's response to two questions about the Knights Templar and one about Hiram Abiff, below.

## Did the Knights Templar found the Freemasons?

No, the Knights Templar did not found the Freemasons. While there have been numerous myths and legends linking the two groups, there is no historical evidence to support this claim.

The Knights Templar was [sic] a Christian military order founded in the early 12th century during the Crusades. They were originally tasked with protecting Christian pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land. The Templars were eventually disbanded in the 14th century by Pope Clement V, and many of their members were arrested and executed.

On the other hand, Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that emerged in its modern form in the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe. Freemasonry's origins are difficult to pinpoint precisely, but it is generally believed to have evolved from various medieval stonemason guilds and other philosophical and social groups.

The idea that the Knights Templar founded the Freemasons is part of a popular conspiracy theory known as the “Templar-Freemason connection,” which has been debunked by historians. Freemasonry's historical development is more closely tied to the evolution of guilds and philosophical societies rather than the Knights Templar.

## Did the Knights Templar worship Baphomet?

The worship of Baphomet by the Knights

Templar is another myth and conspiracy theory that has been popularized in various fictional works and conspiracy circles. There is no historical evidence to support the claim that the Knights Templar worshipped Baphomet.

Baphomet is a figure that first gained notoriety during the medieval period as an imagined pagan deity or demonic entity. It was later adopted by various occult and esoteric traditions, becoming a symbol in some forms of modern occultism and Satanism.

The association between the Knights Templar and Baphomet can be traced back to the time of their dissolution in the early 14th century. King Philip IV of France, who was heavily indebted to the Templars, orchestrated a series of trials against the order, accusing its members of heresy and other crimes. During these trials, some Templars were said to have confessed to worshipping an idol, which some have associated with Baphomet. However, these confessions were likely extracted through torture, and their credibility is highly questionable.

In modern times, the connection between the Knights Templar and Baphomet has been popularized by authors and conspiracy theorists but should be regarded as fiction rather than historical fact. Serious historians have not found any substantial evidence linking the Knights Templar to the worship of Baphomet.

## Why did Hiram Abiff have to die?

Hiram Abiff is a central figure in the legend and rituals of Freemasonry. According to Masonic tradition, Hiram Abiff was the master craftsman and architect of King Solomon's Temple in ancient Israel. He was renowned for his skills and knowledge in construction.

In Masonic symbolism, the story of Hiram Abiff represents the allegory of the loss and recovery of knowledge. According to the Masonic legend, Hiram Abiff possessed a secret, which some have interpreted as the lost sacred name of God or hidden knowledge related to the construction of the Temple. This



# Industrial Revolution

by Ben Williams



secret was said to be essential for completing the construction of the Temple perfectly.

In the Masonic narrative, three ruffians, who demanded the secret from Hiram Abiff, attacked him when he refused to reveal it. Hiram Abiff chose to protect the secret at all costs, even if it meant giving his life. The three ruffians then killed him, symbolizing the triumph of ignorance over knowledge.

The death of Hiram Abiff represents the idea of self-sacrifice for the preservation of knowledge and the pursuit of truth. It serves as a moral lesson for Freemasons to value knowledge, truth, and integrity, even in the face of danger or adversity.

It's important to note that the story of Hiram Abiff is a symbolic allegory within Freemasonry and not a historical event. Freemasonry uses allegorical teachings and symbols to convey moral and philosophical lessons to its members. The death of Hiram Abiff in the Masonic context is not based on any historical record but rather on symbolic teachings passed down through Masonic rituals and traditions.

A nice synthesis of mainstream consensus. But also, fairly milquetoast responses. And AI is sometime s wrong (it sometimes “hallucinates,” so they say).

AI's power as a tool, then, comes in changing the way we access information rather than in answering specific questions derived from that information. For the masses, AI will make browsing the web much easier and relevant – it will sort through endless data to synthesize search results in a manner more meaningful and efficient for the researcher. Rather than scrolling through results on pages in list form, AI will be able to position content, synopsise results,

and render relevant suggestions for inquiry. It will change the very interface we use to interact with computers.

However, AI also presents real dangers. We now live in a world where you cannot trust a photograph or a video or a phone call. Any digital expression can essentially be fabricated. Already, there are influencers (usually disarming young women) with millions of followers on social media who are not in fact people. Who wields these avatars? What products are they pushing?

Newsreels can be created entirely from fiction but will resemble actual footage. Deep fakes will con people out of their savings and move populations to rebellion or uprising. Imagine receiving a phone call from a kidnapper, and hearing your daughter, say, pleading for you to help her. You wire the ransom, only to discover the next day that she is in Hawaii enjoying a vacation. Imagine the propaganda AI can create – entirely unreal footage used to stir a population to some desired action. In fact, at its darkest extreme, we now live in a world where it is possible (but thankfully unlikely) for the president of the United States to be completely *invented*. Think about it: when do you ever see the president but on a screen of some kind? The very interface with which society receives information about its leaders is no longer trustworthy.

The rules of evidence will have to change. Authenticating photographs may devolve to silver nitrate – we may revert back to film and analogue to differentiate the real from the non-authenticatable digital world. Imagine, in order for a photo to be deemed real it must have been developed by a human in a dark room. But how do you share that photo? As soon as it is reduced to zeroes and ones, and pushed through the pipe, it becomes subject to manipulation. Even blockchain – usable to authenticate an original file, say, cannot distinguish the

fabrication if it entered the block chain first as a fake.

And war. AI will be deployed in warfare: Microdrones sent out with facial recognition to lethal effect – a cybernetic angel of death sent out to kill particular people. AI will make decisions and implement protocols in rapid-fire.

Perhaps most significant – at least for our time today – AI will widen the already massive gulf between the technological elite and the rest of the population. Whoever owns the AI will own the world. They will be able to back-fill history, edit the past. They will invent the newest and greatest machines. They will make the fastest and most lucrative trades. They will edit out aging genes. And they will turn the rest of humanity into creators or consumers. They will control how information is accessed and shared. Some, undoubtedly, will seek to merge consciousness with machines. (Elon Musk famously popularized this concept with his Neuralink project: as he sees it, we *must* merge with machines because physically humans are incapable of interacting with AI at sufficient speed for AI to properly “listen” – we must, therefore, communicate electrically.) The so-called “singularity” – is not AI becoming self-aware, but mankind merging with machine to become transhuman: some kind of cyborg race.

As insane as all this sounds, these concepts are already being discussed and contemplated. As a population, we must contemplate them or else be shocked by the future. For example, a few years ago, the World Economic Forum held summits on the topic, *What Does It Mean to be Human?* Think about that.

To paraphrase Captain Barbosa, Captain of the Black Pearl in Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean*, “You'd best start believing in ghost stories Miss Turner. You're in one.” **KT**

# Lady Tara Shulas Incoming Supreme Worthy President



**M**s. Tara B. Shulas will be installed as Supreme Worthy President of the Social Order of the Beauceant on September 29, 2023, at the close of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Supreme Assembly to be held in Waco, Texas. She has the honor to visit each Chartered Assembly during her term and will preside at the 103<sup>rd</sup> Supreme Assembly September 23-27, 2024, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Ms. Shulas and her brothers, Mike and Kevin, were raised in West Point, Ohio, in an active Masonic family. She is a Past Honored Queen of Bethel No. 61, Job's Daughters, and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. In September 2003, Supreme Assembly voted to admit sisters, mothers, and daughters of Knights Templar in addition to wives and widows. This allowed Ms. Shulas the opportunity to join the Social Order of the Beauceant under her father, Sir Knight John T. Shulas.

This year she will celebrate being a twenty-year member of East Liverpool Assembly No. 71, Ohio. Ms. Shulas is a third-generation past president of Assembly No. 71, her grandmother, (Mrs. Jack L.) Brigetta Pozenel, served in 1990; her mother, (Mrs. John T.) Sandra Shulas,

served in 2000; and she served her first of four terms in 2010. Before being elected into the supreme line, she served the Supreme Assembly on the Mileage Committee in 2014, as Supreme Color Bearer in 2017, Chairman of the Courtesy Committee in 2018, and Supreme Chaplain in 2019.

Ms. Shulas received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Waynesburg College in Pennsylvania. Then began her career in Florida where she earned the distinguished title of Certified Public Accountant. To be closer to family, she moved back to Ohio where she earned a Master of Taxation degree from the University of Akron. Ms. Shulas is a Tax Director in a regional accounting firm in Akron.

Ms. Shulas' motto is "Walk the walk of a Beauceant Sister." She encourages each Sister to remember why they joined the Order, do their best, and enjoy the moment. During her travels this year, she is looking forward to laughing with old and new friends while emphasizing the main charity of the Beauceant, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. **KT**



# Homecoming for Lady Melissa Spann Past Supreme Worthy President

by Gale Carnes

**A**wonderful time was had by all at the Homecoming of our Supreme Worthy President (Mrs. Jon) Melissa Spann on July 7 through 9, 2023.

Mrs. Spann was very happy and honored to have so many attend in her hometown of Waco, Texas.

The event started on Friday evening at the Aloft Waco Baylor Hotel with a get-together with lots of ice cream and fellowship.

A special trio played music for us in the foyer. Several Past Supreme Worthy Presidents honored her with their presence: (Mrs. Richard) Jeanette Rife-Cotton, (Mrs. Thomas R.) Lynda Derby, Ms. Kimberly Burnett, and (Mrs. Carl W.) Yvonne Wunsche.

On Saturday, we were treated to bingo games and

many prizes, which were held as a fundraiser for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and Supreme Assembly 2023.

We celebrated the opening of the "(Mrs. W. E.) Maggie Matyastik Banquet Hall" at the York Rite Library and Museum with a buffet dinner, music, games, and a piñata.

A highlight of the evening was the piñata, which was beaten by several attendees until it broke to display lots of goodies.

The event ended on Sunday with an inspiring message delivered by SK Jon Spann at the Aloft Waco Baylor Hotel, followed by a no-host brunch. **KT**

**PHOTOS:** 1. Supreme Worthy President, (Mrs. Jon) Melissa Spann, showcases a prize for bingo players. 2. (Mrs. W. E.) Maggie Matyastik with (Mrs. David) Lecia Caudle from Austin Assembly No. 125. 3. A lady in a colorful dress. 4. Melissa Spann gives a prize to a bingo winner. 5. David J. Kussman, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment and Melissa Spann present a Companion of the Temple to Lady Wera Salley-Worthan. 6. Past Supreme Worthy Presidents: (L to R) Ms. Kimberly Burnett, (Mrs. Richard) Jeanette Rife-Cotton, and (Mrs. Carl W.) Yvonne Wunsche. 7. A table of young folks. 8. Melissa Spann finds a new seat. 9. The piñata.









# GRAND MASTER'S CLUBS

## April 2023

AL Richard M. Wright  
AR Billy R. Morris  
CA Steven M. Cheechov  
CA Elvan D. Moen  
CA Jack R. Sells  
CT Mark S. Agnew  
DE Samuel R. Smith III  
DC Louis N. Abreu III  
FL Jerry J. Miller  
FL Stephen G. Paulsen  
FL John J. Pugliese  
GA James D. Arnold  
IN Rodney A. Mann  
IA Douglas R. Clabaugh  
IA William R. Clark Jr.  
IA Monte L. Harris  
KY James S. Oliver Sr.  
KY Stephen D. Smith  
KY Barton E. Wilber  
LA Galen D. Berne  
MD Christian E. Jensen  
NV David J. Morgan  
NV James D. Phelps  
NH Steve Linehan  
NH Jason H. Sanderson  
NJ William M. Krzewick III  
NC Kevin L. Mckenzie Jr.  
NC Hugh L. McLaurin III  
OH Lee D. Kerber  
OH Terry W. Simonton  
PA David L. Burrier  
PA Larry D. Horath  
PA Joseph P. Tolen  
SC Eddie A. Smith

SC Robert J. Smith Jr.  
TN Sean H. Hamilton  
TN Dickie W. Johnson  
TX Hardy L. Nevill  
TX Nick R. Ramos  
UT Paul D. Erickson  
VA James T. Dean Jr.  
VA Frederick R. Dixon Sr.  
VA Joseph B. Hale  
VA Raymond D. Steele  
VA Matthew J. Vepraskas  
WI Travis J. Lehrer  
WY Vint K.H. Bonner

## May 2023

AR Reuben L. Linder Jr.  
CO Robert W. Applegate  
CO Daniel A. Rivers  
CO Michael J. Scott  
DC Roger E. Cundiff  
FL Joseph M. Crum  
FL Edward J. Mayfield Jr.  
GA James G. Mashburn  
KY Barton E. Wilber  
LA William G. Girard  
MD Vernon H. Huebschman  
MA/RI Christopher J. Lindsay  
MA/RI Robert D. Lyle  
MA/RI Robert R. Maddix  
MA/RI Robert A. Palazzo  
MA/RI Bryan E. Simmons  
MI Christopher M. Potts  
MO Donald J. Newman Jr.  
MO Chad E. Wagoner  
NY David A. Hardy

OH Russell Bonchu III  
OH Robert R. Childers  
OH Jobie W. Dotson  
OH Robert A. Esarey  
OH Michael Ferenz  
OH Thomas H. Galyen  
OH Daryle L. Hawthorne  
OH Terry A. Hoover  
OH James A. Langmead  
OH Edward L. Leonard  
OH Dale A. Olson  
OH Burrell K. Pettet II  
OH Timothy O. Ralston  
OH Bruce M. Templeman  
PA Albert H. Eschert  
PA Brenden R. Hunter  
SC Hoyt B. Palmer  
TN Kevin J. Boles  
TN David A. Varnes  
TX Michael T. Malone  
VA Joseph B. Hale  
VA Raymond D. Steele  
WA Charles R. Davis  
WI Richard J. Rausch  
WY Lewis E. Shepherd

## June 2023

AL Robert D. Legg  
AZ Donald C. Anderson  
AZ George E. Weil  
AR Levert E. Stringfellow  
AR Joseph P. Walker IV  
CA Joseph L. Andre  
CA Michael S. Cortez  
CA Leland G. Routt

CT Mark S. Agnew  
DC Roger E. Cundiff  
DC Robb C. Mitchell  
FL Todd M. Connor  
GA Victor A. McKelvey  
MA/RI Jussy A. Barbosa  
MA/RI Shawn P. Claffin  
MA/RI Donald C. Forrester  
MA/RI Erik B. Gonzalez  
MA/RI Arthur S. Knowles  
MA/RI Diego C. Pereira  
MA/RI Alfred L. Spittler  
MA/RI James J. Walker  
MO Jeffrey A. Parrotte  
NH Jason H. Sanderson  
NJ Richard W. Westergaard  
NC William P. Franklin  
NC Donald F. Haynes  
NC Brian M. Turner  
OH Frank C. Sundquist  
PA Ronald L. Caliguire  
PA Brenden R. Hunter  
PA David W. Robertson  
SC Richard L. Robinson  
TN Quentin T. Bolden  
TX Lewis R. Bell Jr.  
TX Charles E. Campbell  
VA Craig A. Cox  
VA George D. Owen III  
VA Raymond P. Raehn  
VA Raymond D. Steele  
VA Jeffery T. Wiczorek  
WY Lewis E. Shepherd

# GRAND COMMANDER'S CLUBS

## April 2023

AR Jerry W. Brooks  
CO George A. McCollum Jr.  
DC Roger E. Cundiff  
FL Paul F. Ritchie  
FL Stephen G. Paulsen  
ME Robert M. Wright  
NC Hugh L. McLaurin III  
OH Chad D. Hudson  
OH Lee D. Kerber  
OH Gary D. Shoemaker  
OH Martin R. Trent  
OK John L. Logan  
PA David L. Burrier  
PA Victor K. Crooks II  
SC Martin W. Farwell  
TN Joshua D. Haydon Sr.  
VA Joseph B. Hale  
VA Peter E. Terrill

WY Robert O. Finley  
WY Kim L. Kurasz

## May 2023

AZ Richard G. Young  
CA Raymond E. Davies  
CO Richard E. Surroz  
DC Roger E. Cundiff  
DC Nicholas J. Sampogna  
FL George Grosskopf Sr.  
KY Stephen D. Smith  
MI David A. Heise  
NC Douglas R. Collins  
NC Jonathan C. Strange  
NY David A. Hardy  
NY Lynn J. Howard  
NY James Ruggiero  
PA Daniel W. Lewis  
SC Hoyt B. Palmer

SC Richard A. Wesner  
TN Dickie W. Johnson  
TN Albert E. Piatt  
TN Everette H. Van Hooser  
TX Robert B. Cook  
TX Michael D. Phillipus  
UT Paul D. Erickson  
UT Daniel L. Hamilton  
VA Joseph B. Hale  
VA Kevin M. Homan  
VA Michael T. Huff  
VA Christopher T. Stevens  
WA James E. Nero  
WI Richard J. Rausch

## June 2023

AR Levert E. Stringfellow  
CA Leland G. Routt  
DC Roger E. Cundiff

FL Adam M. Bryan  
FL Todd M. Connor  
FL Edward J. Mayfield Jr.  
GA James G. Mashburn  
MI Adam W. Wygant  
NE Alfred G. Dietrich  
NJ Francis J. Conway  
ND Berkley B. Strothman  
OH Art Moore  
OK Robert L. Bradley  
TN Douglas E. Hawkins  
TN George C. Richardson  
TX Charles E. Campbell  
TX Clarence J. Laney Jr.  
TX Donald P. Mafrige  
VA Craig A. Cox  
VA Joseph J. Vacchio Jr.  
WA Charles R. Davis



# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*

## 55th Annual Voluntary Campaign Final Report

July 1, 2022 - May 15, 2023

| State                                      | Contributions Only - used for awards |               |                                 |                                  |                    | Contributions + Trusts + Wills |               |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
|  | Cumulative Total                     | Total \$ Rank | Active Members as of: 5/15/2022 | Active Member Per Capita Average | Per Capita \$ Rank | Cumulative Total               | Total \$ Rank |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$1,549,642.80</b>                |               | <b>64,616</b>                   | <b>\$23.98</b>                   |                    | <b>\$2,757,418.41</b>          |               |
| <i>Knights Templar</i>                     | \$80,484.50                          |               |                                 |                                  |                    | \$80,484.50                    |               |
| Alabama                                    | \$28,625.00                          | 19            | 995                             | \$28.77                          | 20                 | \$28,625.00                    | 21            |
| Alaska                                     | \$2,385.00                           | 49            | 345                             | \$6.91                           | 47                 | \$2,385.00                     | 49            |
| Arizona                                    | \$9,469.00                           | 40            | 541                             | \$17.50                          | 39                 | \$25,853.75                    | 23            |
| Arkansas                                   | \$35,917.52                          | 12            | 644                             | \$55.77                          | 3                  | \$35,917.52                    | 15            |
| Austria                                    | \$10.00                              | 58            | 17                              | \$0.59                           | 56                 | \$10.00                        | 58            |
| Brasil                                     | \$0.00                               |               | 717                             | \$0.00                           |                    | \$0.00                         |               |
| California                                 | \$70,509.06                          | 5             | 2,034                           | \$34.67                          | 13                 | \$108,966.06                   | 6             |
| Central America                            | \$0.00                               |               |                                 | \$0.00                           |                    | \$0.00                         |               |
| Colorado                                   | \$32,158.00                          | 17            | 636                             | \$50.56                          | 5                  | \$35,851.88                    | 16            |
| Connecticut                                | \$23,526.44                          | 24            | 546                             | \$43.09                          | 8                  | \$23,526.44                    | 27            |
| Croatia                                    | \$0.00                               |               | 54                              | \$0.00                           |                    | \$0.00                         |               |
| Delaware                                   | \$5,032.00                           | 47            | 179                             | \$28.11                          | 21                 | \$5,032.00                     | 47            |
| District of Columbia                       | \$32,890.00                          | 15            | 206                             | \$159.66                         | 1                  | \$32,890.00                    | 18            |
| Florida                                    | \$78,034.13                          | 4             | 2,553                           | \$30.57                          | 17                 | \$84,746.66                    | 8             |
| GE Subordinate - Asia Pacific              | \$130.00                             | 55            | 134                             | \$0.97                           | 55                 | \$130.00                       | 55            |
| GE Subordinate - European & Africa         | \$415.00                             | 54            | 202                             | \$2.05                           | 52                 | \$415.00                       | 54            |
| GE Subordinate - Latin America & Caribbean | \$430.00                             | 53            | 328                             | \$1.31                           | 54                 | \$430.00                       | 53            |
| Georgia                                    | \$64,131.39                          | 7             | 1,858                           | \$34.52                          | 14                 | \$64,131.39                    | 9             |
| Hawaii                                     | \$640.00                             | 52            | 210                             | \$3.05                           | 50                 | \$640.00                       | 52            |
| Idaho                                      | \$8,085.00                           | 41            | 189                             | \$42.78                          | 9                  | \$13,109.24                    | 36            |
| Illinois                                   | \$35,787.00                          | 13            | 2,676                           | \$13.37                          | 44                 | \$198,801.94                   | 3             |
| Indiana                                    | \$32,457.30                          | 16            | 2,427                           | \$13.37                          | 43                 | \$32,457.30                    | 19            |
| Iowa                                       | \$18,185.00                          | 27            | 996                             | \$18.26                          | 35                 | \$41,835.94                    | 13            |
| Italy                                      | \$0.00                               |               | 642                             | \$0.00                           |                    | \$0.00                         |               |
| Kansas                                     | \$18,568.84                          | 26            | 674                             | \$27.55                          | 22                 | \$18,950.08                    | 29            |
| Kentucky                                   | \$44,263.15                          | 9             | 2,015                           | \$21.97                          | 28                 | \$44,263.15                    | 12            |
| Louisiana                                  | \$16,265.58                          | 33            | 916                             | \$17.76                          | 37                 | \$16,265.58                    | 34            |
| Maine                                      | \$23,991.00                          | 23            | 950                             | \$25.25                          | 24                 | \$24,760.43                    | 25            |
| Maryland                                   | \$17,228.25                          | 30            | 911                             | \$18.91                          | 34                 | \$22,694.00                    | 28            |
| Mass/Rhode Island                          | \$41,597.00                          | 10            | 1,620                           | \$25.68                          | 23                 | \$41,597.00                    | 14            |
| Mexico                                     | \$23.25                              | 57            | 269                             | \$0.09                           | 58                 | \$23.25                        | 57            |
| Michigan                                   | \$24,280.00                          | 21            | 1,362                           | \$17.83                          | 36                 | \$47,280.00                    | 11            |
| Minnesota                                  | \$30,673.47                          | 18            | 882                             | \$34.78                          | 12                 | \$30,673.47                    | 20            |
| Mississippi                                | \$6,371.70                           | 43            | 973                             | \$6.55                           | 48                 | \$6,371.70                     | 43            |

Continued next page . . .

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|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
|                | Cumulative Total                     | Total \$ Rank | Active Members as of: 5/15/2022 | Active Member Per Capita Average | Per Capita \$ Rank | Cumulative Total               | Total \$ Rank |
| Missouri       | \$16,534.40                          | 32            | 1,398                           | \$11.83                          | 45                 | \$16,534.40                    | 33            |
| Montana        | \$10,763.25                          | 36            | 486                             | \$22.15                          | 27                 | \$11,263.25                    | 39            |
| Nebraska       | \$4,330.00                           | 48            | 517                             | \$8.38                           | 46                 | \$4,330.00                     | 48            |
| Nevada         | \$15,955.00                          | 34            | 330                             | \$48.35                          | 6                  | \$15,955.00                    | 35            |
| New Hampshire  | \$12,459.30                          | 35            | 313                             | \$39.81                          | 10                 | \$12,459.30                    | 37            |
| New Jersey     | \$17,578.50                          | 29            | 599                             | \$29.35                          | 18                 | \$17,578.50                    | 31            |
| New Mexico     | \$5,700.12                           | 45            | 274                             | \$20.80                          | 31                 | \$5,700.12                     | 45            |
| New York       | \$22,775.50                          | 25            | 1,360                           | \$16.75                          | 40                 | \$28,555.33                    | 22            |
| North Carolina | \$41,161.75                          | 11            | 2,016                           | \$20.42                          | 33                 | \$63,411.75                    | 10            |
| North Dakota   | \$10,390.00                          | 37            | 184                             | \$56.47                          | 2                  | \$10,390.00                    | 40            |
| Ohio           | \$139,081.91                         | 1             | 5,722                           | \$24.31                          | 26                 | \$401,994.91                   | 2             |
| Oklahoma       | \$24,103.33                          | 22            | 1,179                           | \$20.44                          | 32                 | \$24,103.33                    | 26            |
| Oregon         | \$8,054.00                           | 42            | 459                             | \$17.55                          | 38                 | \$8,204.08                     | 42            |
| Panama         | \$30.00                              | 56            | 81                              | \$0.37                           | 57                 | \$30.00                        | 56            |
| Pennsylvania   | \$117,858.79                         | 2             | 3,452                           | \$34.14                          | 15                 | \$125,822.41                   | 5             |
| Philippines    | \$1,300.00                           | 50            | 490                             | \$2.65                           | 51                 | \$1,300.00                     | 50            |
| Portugal       | \$0.00                               |               | 201                             | \$0.00                           |                    | \$0.00                         |               |
| Romania        | \$1,000.00                           | 51            | 547                             | \$1.83                           | 53                 | \$1,000.00                     | 51            |
| South Carolina | \$33,630.57                          | 14            | 2,179                           | \$15.43                          | 42                 | \$33,630.57                    | 17            |
| South Dakota   | \$6,070.00                           | 44            | 287                             | \$21.15                          | 30                 | \$6,070.00                     | 44            |
| Tennessee      | \$65,806.50                          | 6             | 2,682                           | \$24.54                          | 25                 | \$92,140.12                    | 7             |
| Texas          | \$81,997.28                          | 3             | 5,063                           | \$16.20                          | 41                 | \$194,828.04                   | 4             |
| Togo           | \$0.00                               |               | 78                              | \$0.00                           |                    | \$0.00                         |               |
| Utah           | \$9,731.00                           | 38            | 250                             | \$38.92                          | 11                 | \$9,731.00                     | 41            |
| Vermont        | \$5,340.67                           | 46            | 248                             | \$21.53                          | 29                 | \$5,340.67                     | 46            |
| Virginia       | \$45,042.01                          | 8             | 1,561                           | \$28.85                          | 19                 | \$525,042.01                   | 1             |
| Washington     | \$25,614.34                          | 20            | 481                             | \$53.25                          | 4                  | \$25,614.34                    | 24            |
| West Virginia  | \$9,722.00                           | 39            | 1,521                           | \$6.39                           | 49                 | \$12,222.00                    | 38            |
| Wisconsin      | \$17,185.00                          | 31            | 548                             | \$31.36                          | 16                 | \$17,185.00                    | 32            |
| Wyoming        | \$17,864.00                          | 28            | 409                             | \$43.68                          | 7                  | \$17,864.00                    | 30            |





# Kicking Off the 56<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.”

To my fellow Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment, I am deeply honored to be called upon once again this year to serve the Knights Templar Eye Foundation as your Chairman for the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign. I would like to thank Sir Knight David Kussman, our Grand Master and President of the Foundation, for giving me the opportunity to serve this Foundation and Templary.

We owe all the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment a sincere thank you for all the donations we received during our the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary campaign. The final tally was \$2,757,418.41, and we thank every Sir Knight, their family, friends, our ladies from the Social Order of the Beauceant, the Order of the Eastern Star, and all the other organizations who contributed to make it an overwhelming success.

Our foundation has come a long way from the days that Sir Knight Walter A. DeLamater was Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment (1955-1958) and First President and Founder of the KTEF. I want you to think of the words he wrote in May of 1956.

Sir Knights, when once our Foundation is in operation you are going to be amazed at the opportunity and the great humanitarian effort that will be ours, and the demands for treatment, hospitalization, and the great need for research of diseases and injuries of the eye. It is going to be a tremendous work, and your Grand Master is convinced that when once we have started in operation and the results of those who have been aided made known, everyone who had invested the less than two cent per week requested will be very proud of being a Knight Templar and having had a part in this this great work, surely in keeping with the teachings of Christ and our great Christians Order of Knighthood.

If only Sir Knight DeLamater, PGM, could see what his vision has become, what a legacy he has left! The research being accomplished today is amazing. Please go on the Knight Templar Eye Foundation website ([www.ktef.org](http://www.ktef.org)) and Facebook to find all the latest news.

Just a reminder we do have incentives for our Sir Knights. We have special programs for donations that include special giving levels, as well as accepting Memorial Donations, Honorary Gifts, Trusts, and Wills and

Bequests. Depending on the level of your gift, with a Grand Master's Club you are eligible for the Crusader's Cross.

The Foundation also offers other type of sponsorships including individual Life Sponsor, Associate Patron, and Patron. Or, if you reach 100% participation, you'll receive the 100% Life Sponsorship Participation award for your Commandery or Grand Commandery.

Sir Knights, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation continues to do great work. We can only do this great work with your continued support. Thank you to each of you for what you do for Templary, and May God Bless You for your support in this 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Knights Templar Eye Foundation Voluntary Campaign.

Please remember what Jesus did: “So Jesus had compassion *on them*, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him” (Matthew 20:34 KJV).

In Christ Service,

*Paul W. Friend*

**Paul W. Friend, PGC, KTCH**  
Chairman 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign

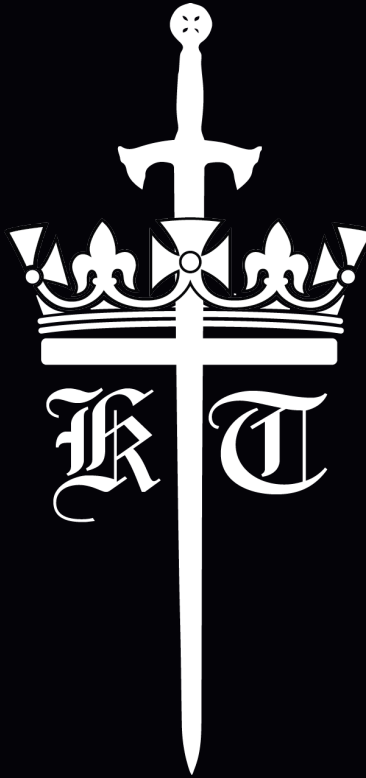


The *official* publication of the *Grand Encampment of Knights Templar*

# Knight Templar

magazine

8.5 x 11 full color glossy  
48 pages  
70# paper  
Published Quarterly



National distribution  
More than 65,000 readers








## Regular Placement

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Full Page    | \$4,000 |
| Half Page    | \$3,000 |
| Quarter Page | \$1,750 |
| Eighth Page  | \$750   |
| Spread       | \$7,500 |

## Premium Placement

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Back Cover    | \$4,500 |
| Inside Front  | \$4,500 |
| Inside Back   | \$4,500 |
| Page 3        | \$4,500 |
| Center Spread | \$8,000 |

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|  | Full Bleed<br>8.75"W x 11.25"H      |
|  | Full<br>8.25"W x 10.75"H            |
|  | Half Horizontal<br>8.25"W x 5.375"H |
|  | Half Vertical<br>4.375"W x 10.75"H  |
|  | Quarter Page<br>4.125"W x 5.375"H   |
|  | Eighth Page<br>4.125"W x 2.625"H    |



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1100 W Littleton Blvd | Ste 440 | Littleton, CO 80120  
o. (720) 328-5343 | f. (720) 328-5297 | ben@knightstemplar.org