



# Beauceant News

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

“True-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful and loyal,  
King of our lives,  
by Thy grace we will be, under the standard, ex-  
alted and royal,  
strong in Thy strength, we will battle for Thee.”

“Then with God’s help, let us with loving hearts go forward and make the third chapter as fair and stainless as the two proceeding chapters ... the words of Longfellow will be my aim: ‘Look not mournfully into the past, it comes not back again; wisely improve the present, it is thine; go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart.’”

This is the spirit in which Cora M. C. Meek greeted her year as supreme worthy president, and so, with a prayer in her heart and praise on her lips, she opened the third Supreme Assembly at Topeka, Kansas, on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, in 1923.



Mrs. Leonard B. Meek  
Third Supreme Worthy  
President (1922-1923)

How fitting and proper that during the year of this sturdy little standard and light bearer “that the military salute shall be adopted by the Supreme Assembly as the salute to be used by all assemblies when saluting the flag of our country and pledging allegiance thereto.”

The new assemblies to join the ranks of honor were: Wheeling, West Virginia; St. Louis, Missouri; Manhattan, Kansas; Emporia, Kansas; Paton, New Mexico; Youngstown, Ohio; and Marysville, Kansas – making a gain in membership of 686 and a gain in assets of \$540.89.

Within the walls of Supreme Assembly were peace and contentment – outside were grief and heartaches, but through all these, came the lessons of service and the Beauceant’s answer to the call of the needy.

In speaking of the answer to the appeal for aid for the earthquake victims in Japan, Mrs. Leonard B. Meek said, "...this prompt and needful response gives living evidence of the brotherhood of man." The Beauceant was on hand to send its aid through the Red Cross.

Later in Mrs. Meek's report, "Not many weeks ago, the American people were plunged into deepest mourning by the death of President Harding who had become a Knight Templar three days before he was inaugurated as President of the United States, and his last message on earth was to the Knights Templar. Some months ago, a priory in Canada started a beauceant (banner) on a tour of the world. After being presented to a number of Commanderies in the East, it reached Hollywood, California. President Harding planned to present it to that Commandery; being too ill, he sent his secretary to deliver his speech and present the banner. The following are some beautiful paragraphs, typically Templar:

"I gladly and proudly join in sending this banner on its highly purposed journey, which is to continue probably beyond the span of the lives of those here assembled. Wherever it inspires more of real brotherhood, more of devotion to Christ's simplest teachings, it will not have been born in vain.

"I charge that it shall not be held as a banner of militant force, not as a memorial of deeds of arms, not as mere piece of ritualistic pageantry, but as the symbol of brotherhood, raised to the glory of our Grand Commander, whose law was love, whose reign was peace, and for whom the herald angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest; on earth peace and good will toward men' ... It bears emblazed upon it the supplication, 'Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us; but unto Thy name be the glory.'"

"We should glorify the holy name, not by words, not by praise, not by display of arms, but by deeds and service in behalf of human brotherhood. Christ, the great exemplar of our order, repeatedly urged this truth upon His hearers ..."

"The inherent love of fellowship is banding men together, and when envy and suspicion are vanquished, fraternity records a triumph, and brotherhood brings new blessings to men and to peoples in the larger sense."

"As the words of our late president apply to Knights Templar, so may they apply to our members, for we have given our order the name of that banner."

The closing thought of Mrs. Meek's report was the prayer: "May He give His angels charge over Thee."

At the "end of the trail" for her year, she gave account of her faith and fearlessness, proving herself "of manly heart!"

"Peal out the watchword! silence it never!  
Song of our spirits, rejoicing and free;  
Peal out the watchword! loyal forever,  
King of our lives, by Thy grace we will be."