



Beauceant News

The following is from a booklet in Denver Assembly 1's archives. It is written by Laura Lee Novak. On the first page she writes, "To the honor of the past supreme worthy presidents of the Social Order of the Beauceant of the world – Knights Templar's wives and widows – those wonderful women who have dedicated their lives to the upbuilding of the principles of faith, loyalty, and love; and who inspire us to unselfish service ..."

Mrs. William D. Peirce
First Supreme Worthy President
1920-1921

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, and facing this cross stood a woman with a vision; a woman tall and strong, straight and true to the ideals of those who had followed the old rugged cross: the Templars. "Mother Peirce," this strong, true woman is called by all within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Assembly of the Social Order of the Beauceant.

"To the old rugged cross I will ever be true." Those words rang through her mind as she watched the "cross on the distant mountain side," and she thought of the great company of modern Templars riding to conclave at Denver, the city one mile high, and wondered what she could do to aid them. She thought, as the women of old aided and encouraged their Sir Knights by inspiring them on the way "to and from the Holy Places sanctified by our Savior," so could the women of Denver aid their Sir Knights and the visiting Sir Knights and their ladies to conclave in Denver.

"The old rugged cross" showed her a way to prove worthy of that "dearest and best who for a world of lost sinners was slain." A way through unselfish service. It was nothing new

for Mary Peirce to think of service to others, as that had been the keynote of her life. So she called her friends together – wives and widows of Knights Templar – and they united to aid at the great Triennial Conclave by providing food and shelter and entertainment.

The Sir Knights of Denver, in 1889, had suggested the uniting of wives and widows of Sir Knights for assistance, and so now in 1890 came the inspiration of the cross again in action, in the form of the S.O.O.B.

The vision of service stayed before Mary Peirce, from the birth of S.O.O.B. through the foundation years, preparing constitution, by-laws, emblems, through the pioneer years of building assemblies in other cities and other states, until "faith, loyalty, and love" became her watchwords again, in the creating and building of a national or Supreme Assembly. "The old rugged cross" has brought the wives and widows of Knights Templar together again to widen their influence for good. They had gathered from assemblies in Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

The convention called at Denver in 1920 for the purpose of organizing the Supreme Assembly marked the second anniversary of Armistice Day, and so

took on the atmosphere of "peace and goodwill to all men," and the ideal has always been held before the members of the Beauceant. The first meaning of the letters, S.O.O.B. was "Some of our Business." To make life sweeter and better for others, and the new name adopt-

ed, "Social Order of the Beauceant," of the World, has continued in that same spirit; and by the words "the World," bespeaks universal love and sympathy. "Beauceant," the name of the Templars' banner, keeps the message of the cross ever before us.

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MRS. WILLIAM D. PEIRCE
First Supreme Worthy President
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