



NEWS for August 2023
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Greetings Sir Knights!

My question for you this month is just how much Masonic regalia have you collected over the years? It seems the more things we join the more we have. But have you thought as to what needs to be done should something happen to you? Have you ever looked on eBay, gone to a thrift store or a garage sale and seen what all Masonic history is up for sale? It might surprise you. The sword that SK Steven Dazey, REPGC used during his year and the one I'm using this year has an interesting history.

Many years ago, when Palestine Commandery No. 8 met in Snohomish, correspondence was received from a couple living in Alaska regarding a Knights Templar sword they'd found at a garage sale. They did some research and found it had belonged to SK David Lewis Paramore, a member of Palestine Commandery. SK Paramore was very active in Freemasonry and served as Worshipful Master of Centennial Lodge No. 25 in 1901 and 1918. He was also Grand High Priest in Washington in 1900. The couple that found the sword weren't trying to make any money on the sword, but wanted it to be returned from whence it came and to ensure that it would never leave again. Palestine Commandery paid a total of \$100.00 for the sword and shipping. Since then, it has been used by each Commander of Palestine Commandery as a tribute to SK Paramore. Recently, SK Dazey gave me a box of old Masonic papers. I didn't think much about them, but finally decided I should go through them. As I was sorting, I came across four type-written pages which caught my attention. It was the Masonic history, typed and signed by SK David Lewis Paramore.

After a little more digging, I found his grave marker at the G.A.R. Cemetery in Snohomish.



What treasures are held within your armories? I've heard stories of members going in, thinking they were doing a good deed by "cleaning out" old items "they" thought were trash, but in reality, they were getting rid of valuable history. I would encourage each Commandery within the state to put together a committee to look at the items they have stored away. While there may be some items that can be removed due to their condition, etc., others could be brought out and put on display or even a talk given on things that have surfaced. This should not be given to just one person as they may have their own ideas as to what should be kept and what should be tossed. If people aren't sure, it should be brought to the commandery for a decision to be made.

I know we've all seen old Commandery swords with individuals' names on them, but have you done any research on WHO the person was that used the sword? You might be surprised at what the person did for your commandery. Do you have old photographs? They can be restored for posterity. These are a way to look into the past to see what our commanderies and Grand Commandery was like, and give us all something to strive towards being today and for the future.

Sincerely and fraternally,

**SK Bryan D. Bechler, REGC
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington**