

FROM THE MISTS OF TIME



*THE HISTORY
OF TEMPLAR MASONRY IN VIRGINIA*

*FROM THE MISTS OF TIME
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OF TEMPLAR MASONRY IN VIRGINIA*

*Grand Commandery
of Knights Templar of Virginia*

1823 - 2023



Sir Knight Benjamin F. Hill, KTCH/REPGC

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DEDICATED

*To the Knights Templar who made the history
of Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia,
the members from 1823 to 2023*



Seal of the Grand Encampment
Knights Templar of Virginia
Used in 1842

PREFACE

In search for a better understanding of the history of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia, *From the Mists of Time: The History of Templar Masonry in Virginia* was selected for few of the old records of Templar Masonry in Virginia have survived the ravages of time.

There are many divergent theories regarding the origin of the present Order of Knights Templar, but the Order of Knights Templar was conferred under the control of Symbolic Lodges in Scotland, England, and Ireland in the early part of the eighteenth century. Although many writers have advanced theories that the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Jesus Christ, or the Knights of the Temple (more commonly called the Knights Templar), there is no concrete evidence that those Knights Templar are today's Masonic Knights Templar. What we know is that Templary emerged in the early 1700's and it was part of Freemasonry.

There is evidence that there was a Templar Encampment in Winchester, Virginia, in 1812 or before, probably under Pennsylvania authority. On November 27, 1823, delegates hailing from three Virginia Encampments met at Mason's Hall in Winchester and organized the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of Virginia. After some irregularity was healed, the organization of the Grand Encampment of Virginia was completed and was recognized by the General Grand Encampment. The years between 1823 and 1850 were a period of Templar reorganization, growth, and maturing in Virginia. In January 1851, the Grand Encampment of Virginia was admitted into the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States. At admittance to the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States the name Grand Encampment of Virginia was changed to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia. Today, there is about fifteen hundred knights, among twenty-six Constituent Commanderies Knights Templar, organized in nine Chivalric Districts to coordinate and carry out activities in Virginia.

From the Mists of Time: The History of Templar Masonry in Virginia is a big picture introduction of the history of Templar Masonry in Virginia compiled for the Grand Commandery of Virginia Bicentennial Ceremonies. Its manuscript has been provided to the Grand Commandery Archives and History Committee in hopes that the Mists of Time will be parted, and a more complete history written that would stand as a memorial to those Knights Templar whose lives and dreams will result in an interesting story. The manuscript has also been provided to the Bicentennial Time Capsule Committee that it be available at the opening of the Time Capsule at the Tricentennial.

From the Mists of Time: The History of Templar Masonry in Virginia is the story of Knights Templar, the early leaders that set the foundations for Templar Masonry and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia. Their vision came from the *Age of Enlightenment* and the Scripture was their guidebook for a relationship with the Lord – Psalm 119:105-112 was probably one of the Scriptures that enlightened the early leaders of Templar Masonry in Virginia, “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed that I will follow your righteous laws. I have suffered much; preserve my life, LORD, according to your word. Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law. The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts. Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.”

They were flawed men in an imperfect world; they were Knights Templar who were also Freemasons. And one of the most impressive symbols in Masonry is that of the Broken Column as explained in the ritual of the Master Mason Degree that represents both the death of Hiram Abif as well as the unfinished work of the Temple of Solomon. The death of Hiram Abif represents the severing of the path between God and man, and we are reminded far too many men stop growing once raised a Master Mason, and the same is for many Knights Templar after they receive Christian Knighthood – their Temple, that house not made with hands, is unfinished. As the tools of the craftsman have both operative and symbolic purposes, also both have a material and a spiritual (or quality) state as it relates to the duality of man. A Knight Templar in quest of Divine Light must look beyond the physical lodge and study their metaphysical world as well.

Thus, the Templar's duty is to restore and maintain the Pillar of Beauty within himself and repair the spiritual bond between himself and the Grand Architect of the Universe.

God said, "*Your task is to build a better world.*"
I answered, "*How? There's nothing I can do.*"
God replied, "*Just build a better you.*" (Anonymous)

Today's Sir Knights cannot afford to lay down their working tools for their work is never done--men of action are always needed. You must believe in your Masonic and Chivalric vows and be a living example of Christian values and principles. Each of us must strive to exemplify the sublime teachings of this Magnanimous Order in our daily life and conduct.

We start by understanding our history and heritage, add the feelings, facts, opinion, and time-based events of the present, and the human needs and human aspirations for the future. The goal of every Knight Templar is to spread the good news of Templar Masonry and to encourage his Brothers in the Symbolic Lodges and Companions in the Capitular Chapters and Cryptic Councils to enlist under our Banner. It is also incumbent upon us to reach out to the Sir Knights who no longer attend our conclaves, or who have allowed their membership to lapse.

Let me leave you with this – the highest and most sacred facet of Masonic Obligations are their spiritual aspect - treading the path of Light, the path of DIVINE TRUTH. In the First Degree, we seek acquisition of *Moral Truth*; in the Second Degree, we seek acquisition of *Intellectual Truth*; in the Third Degree, we *Reflect* on the most interesting of all human studies - the knowledge of yourself; and as a Master Mason we come face-to-face with *Introspection Truth* and acquisition of *Divine Knowledge* in the Holy Royal Arch Degree. And the words of the Grand Prelate of Alberta, the Rev. J. H. Miller, to the Knight Templar is given the *Interpretation of the Word*.

That is the mission of *From the Mists of Time: The History of Templar Masonry in Virginia*.

Courteously,
Sir Knight Benjamin F. Hill, Knight Templar Cross of Honor
Grand Commander of Grand Commandery of Virginia in 2019-2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There have been three major influences that characterize my life: in my early years in Texas I learned many personal and professional skills and a strong work ethic that served me well throughout my life – I love education, reading, history, and chess; from my service in the Marine Corps amplified my love of God, Country and Family – I developed a “can do” attitude and never let my situation or afflictions get the best of me; and from Freemasonry, I received lessons in humanity – Faith in God, my fellowman and myself, Hope in victory over evil, and Charity in relieving the needs of others.

“To everything is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3). I am grateful for the inspiration I got from *Worthy the Name of "Sir Knight"*, an inspirational poem written by Ella Wheeler Wilcox in 1884 to honor her husband and the distinguished guests at St. Elmo Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar. Compiling the *From the Mists of Time: The History of Templar Masonry in Virginia* for the Grand Commandery of Virginia Bicentennial was my way of achieving meaning in life while devoting myself to Templar Masonry and creating something that gives me purpose and meaning.

Material has been freely borrowed from two books authored by Sir Knight William Moseley Brown, Right Eminent Grand Commandery of Virginia in 1935: *Freemasonry in Virginia* and *Templary in the Old Dominion*. I am also grateful to Grand Encampment of Knights Templar U.S.A. *Proceedings*, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia *Proceeding*, and an article by Sir Knight Ned E. Dull, Most Eminent Grand Master (1982-1985) of the Grand Encampment entitled *Our Templar Heritage in the United States*. Credit has not been directly made in each case for the desire to limit the text as much as possible and to maintain continuity of thought for the benefit of those who will use this history.

For the development and production of the book itself I feel a deep sense of gratitude:

- To my wonderful wife, Carol, thank you for your love, support and wise counsel; for your patience, balance, and encouragement; may everyone be fortunate as I have been.

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- To the Sir Knights who provided the short histories of Constituent Commanderies that reminds others that Grand Commandery is an enterprise of twenty-six individual Constituent Commanderies.

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- To the Ladies of Fredericksburg Assembly No. 266, Social Order of the Beauceant, for the generous support and friendship each of you have provided over the years to me, Grand Commandery of Virginia, and Templar Masonry.

Finally, I wish to thank the many Grand Recorders, Archives & History Committeemen, and Historians of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia and the Constituent Commandery Recorders whose reports over the 200 years for their great and generous spirit that lightened my burdens as well lighted my pilgrimage through the mists of time to the Grand Commandery of Virginia Bicentennial.

Sir Knight Benjamin F. Hill, Knight Templar Cross of Honor
Grand Commander of Grand Commandery of Virginia in 2019-2020

INTRODUCTION

I have always been fascinated with titles...the kind used in songs and for works of literature. Often, they hold a key to the theme of a work. Such is the case with "From the Mists of Time."

The word that caught my attention was "mists." Mists are tiny droplets of water, less dense than with fog, nevertheless, still able to obstruct a truly clear view ahead...or behind. The author of this book, Sir Knight Benjamin Franklin Hill (PGC GCVA, KTCH), chose that word with care.

The greatest challenge in any work of literature dealing with history is context and often, distance from events to be free of prejudice or agenda. Shrouded by "mist" and inconsistent record keeping, that can be difficult to do.

"From the Mists of Time" is a legacy effort. Prior to this work, the history of The Grand Commandery of Virginia, together with its Constituent Commanderies and the men involved, existed mostly in bits here and pieces there.

Through a heroic effort of assembling the elements of our story, with scholarly knowledge of the subject matter, Sir Knight Hill may very well have saved our history. And by organizing a narrative of our 200-year-old knightly journey through and including the Bicentennial, he has left as clear a view of the past for the Sir Knights of the future as can be expected.

Our recorded Templar proceedings seem most challenged in the period leading up to the Civil War and again in the second decade of the 20th century. Understandably, when an organization is just getting started, the thought of documenting for posterity may be a bit relaxed. And in the case of the Civil War...the disturbances to society and its organizations were in play well before the actual armed conflict got underway.

However, Sir Knight Hill... did use the word "Mists" ...not "fog" nor "dark." In fact, this book is full of compelling stories. One example is the Chapter devoted to the ten Grand Commanders who also served as Grand Master and Grand High Priest. Sir Knight Hill choose ten Sir Knights to track down these stories and weave their tales.

Most of these ten Grand Commanders lived in the first one hundred years of our fraternity. These were dynamic times, not just for Masonry, but for our still young country.

It is fair to say that the Grand Commandery and America grew and shared many of the events and developments together. Grand Commandery was profoundly shaped by the American growth story; and, it is entirely possible, as you read this book, you will conclude that America took some of its form because of the contributions of the Knights Templar of Virginia.

Make no mistake, this is not the tale of perfect men, however conjoined with the Christian faith they/we may be. Our legacy to the future...to the Sir Knights of the third century, is that we shed as much light as possible on the strengths and weaknesses of ourselves and the organization we leave to posterity.

It is for you the reader today and the readers of the future, to take a view of “the possible” from the shoulders of the men whose history this is. Pay close attention to the two chapters entitled...”Understanding History, the Past and the Present” and “Building Bridges: A Foundation for the Future and a Path to the Tricentennial”. Do not be surprised if you find yourself going back to them, repeatedly, refreshing our Masonic spirit and putting an ever-sharper focus on your context for the time in which you live.

A hundred years hence, when you open the Time Capsule, we have left you, peer in, pause and reflect upon this short poem before you assess your judgement. The poet is Dinah Maria Mulock Craik...and the poem is called, simply...

FRIENDSHIP

Oh, the comfort – the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person,
Having neither to weigh thoughts,
Nor measure words – but pouring them
All right out – just as they are – Chaff and grain together
Certain that a faithful hand will
Take and sift them –
Keep what is worth keeping –
And with the breath of kindness
Blow the rest away.

That should not be too difficult...after all...you have the aid and comfort of The Lord Jesus Christ to help you. Together with He Who’s Faith we defend, His Father and the Holy Spirit, may you find the strength and power...and yes...the kindness...to do His work all your earthly days.

In His Service and yours,

Sir Knight Jeffrey Cole Hedges, KCT
Chairman Bicentennial Committee & Grand Musician

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Historical



Formation of the Grand Encampment of the State of Virginia and the Period of Organization

Period of Revision, Civil Strife, Reconstruction, and Maturity

The Centennial – Templar Masonry on Parade

Honoring 200 Years of Templary in Virginia

Understanding History, the Past and the Present

Building Bridges: A Foundation for the Future and a Path to the Tricentennial

Epilogue: Fruits of Their Efforts

FORMATION OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA AND THE PERIOD OF ORGANIZATION

Early Encampments. During the early years of Templary in North America, no sovereign body was formed, and no homologous unit was achieved among the *knights* throughout the colonies. But after the Treaty of Paris of 1783 was signed and the United States looked to the future and more friendly relations with Great Britain, Templar voices were raised, and the question of consolidation proposed. The oldest “Encampments” were organized in the 1770s, 1780s, 1790s, and 1800s along the Atlantic coast.

Few of the old records of Templar Masonry in Virginia have survived the ravages of time. There is evidence that there was an Encampment working at Winchester, Virginia, as early as 1812. On March 24, 1816, St. John’s Rising Star Encampment was organized in Richmond, Virginia, and received a *Charter of Recognition* and received a regular Charter from the General Grand Encampment on April 10, 1823, though it is recorded in the *1823 Proceedings* of the Grand Encampment of Virginia as May 5, 1823. In the same year, Winchester Encampment issued Charters for the formation of Mt. Carmel Encampment at Mount Carmel (location is not known) and Warren Encampment at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

So, what is available is the General Grand Encampment *1816-1859 Proceedings*, some early Virginia’s Grand Encampment *Proceedings*, and the writings of William Moseley Brown, PGC. Many of the early Virginia’s Grand Encampment *Proceedings* were never issued in written form until Sir Knight Theodore Sutton Parvin, Grand Recorder of Grand Encampment of Knights Templar U.S.A., issued what is called the “Parvis reprint”, which covers the years 1823 to 1855., inclusive.

The Grand Encampment of the State of Virginia. On Thursday, November 27, 1823, A.D., in the era of Knights Templar 705 A.O., an assembly of delegates from several Virginia Encampments of Knights Templar met in the Masons’ Hall in Winchester, Virginia. The following Sir Knights in were attendance:

Daniel W. Thomas, Warner Throckmorton, Conrad Kremer, and Samuel H. Davis from Winchester Encampment.

Jacob R. Thomas, John R. Hayden, Robert Blanchard, and Timothy Herrington from Warren Encampment.

Henry SeEVERS, William B. Whitney, Sutton I. Harris, and William Blanchard from Mt. Carmel Encampment.

At the meeting Sir Knight Daniel W. Thomas was elected chairman and Sir Knight Sutton I. Harris secretary of the assembly. The chairman briefed the object of the meeting, with a preamble, and a resolution to establish a Grand Encampment of Sir Knights and the Appendant Orders (Red Cross and Malta) in Winchester, Virginia, for the State of Virginia, and for the government, therefore. It was further resolved that the constitution of the Grand Encampment of the State of Virginia was to be framed by Winchester Encampment.

On Friday, November 28, 1823, the resolutions were ratified by the delegates and the Grand Encampment of the State of Virginia was organized with the following officers and to serve for the next twelve months:

M.E. Sir Daniel Thomas Walker	Grand Master
E. Sir Warner Throckmorton	Deputy Grand Master
E. Sir Jacob R. Thomas	Grand Generalissimo
E. Sir Henry Seevers	Grand Captain General
E. Sir George Reed	Grand Prelate
E. Sir Conrad Kremer	Grand Senior Warden
E. Sir Samuel H. Davis	Grand Junior Warden
E. Sir Sutton I. Harris	Grand Recorder
E. Sir Peter Lauck	Grand Treasurer
E. Sir Samuel H. Lauck	Grand Standard Bearer
E. Sir Fountain Beckham	Grand Sword Bearer
E. Sir Nahum W. Patch	Grand Warder
E. Sir James Foster	Grand Sentinel

It was resolved that Winchester Encampment No. 1 would continue to work on the governance of the Grand Encampment of the State of Virginia. The resolution also granted the Subordinate Encampments and numbers until the next meeting of the Grand Encampment of the State of Virginia:

Winchester Encampment No. 1 Warren Encampment No. 2
Mount Carmel Encampment No. 3

The Period of Organization. Following the formation of the Grand Encampment of Virginia, application for a regularly constituted state Grand Encampment was made to H.E. Sir DeWitt Clinton of the General Grand Encampment. Before that can be done each of the Encampments should first obtain a Charter from the General Grand Encampment. Warren and Winchester did so and received Charters of Recognition on July 4, 1824; Mt. Carmel refused to do so and became extinct.

At a Special Assembly of the Grand Encampment on August 11, 1824, in Winchester, Richmond Encampment was advised of the existence of the State Grand Encampment of Virginia and was invited to join, which it did, and the complication was resolved. Thus, the formation of the Grand Encampment of Virginia was healed, and the delegates acknowledged the jurisdiction of the General Grand Encampment of the United States of America and agreed to obey, abide by, keep, and perform all the constitutional laws, rules, and regulations of the General Grand Encampment.

But doubts continued to rise as to the formation of Virginia's Grand Encampment and the legality of its establishment. So, Most Eminent Sir Danial W. Thomas asked Most Eminent Sir DeWitt Clinton if it was necessary to take the original charters from Virginia's Subordinate Encampments. Most Eminent Sir Clinton's response was read at the Annual Assembly of the Grand Encampment on November 24, 1824: When the Grand Encampment of Virginia was formed it required all Subordinate Commanderies to return their charters or dispensations to the source from which they emanated, and to take out new ones from the Grand Encampment of Virginia; and that was accordingly done in 1824, and for the self-evident reason, that being constituent members of the Grand Encampment of Virginia they could not hold any chartered rights from or be subject to the laws of any other Jurisdiction; and that they published to the world. The Grand Encampment of Virginia, thus formed, is not a *chartered* body by the General Grand Encampment and has no other relation to it than those which grew out of the *purely courteous* recognition of its existence and friendly interchange of correspondence."

The proposed constitution of the Grand Encampment was read, amended, and unanimously adopted. Officers were chosen for the ensuing year with Eminent Sir John Dove, of Richmond, as Deputy Grand Master. Subordinate Encampments under the Grand Encampment of the State of Virginia are:

Winchester Encampment No. 1

Richmond Encampment No. 2

Warren Encampment No. 3

Before 1823, Virginia was a large rural and mountainous area stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the borders of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina. The region was transforming from a farm-based economy to a more diversified economy with multiple business interests. Virginia transportation networks were major north-south corridors through the Tidewater, Piedmont, Blue Ridge Valley, and Western Mountainous regions with large distances between communities. The rivers, canals, roads, and railroads served local needs to move people, agricultural, mining, timber, and manufactured goods between farms, towns, and cities; the few east-west roads were used for western migration.

With that setting and, in those conditions, the years of 1823 through 1849 were years of formations and disposals, growth and re-organizations, and periods of stagnation for lack of quorums (1832, 1835-1838, 1840-1844). Before 1816, a Sir Knight Daniel W. Thomas and others were dispensing in regular form the Degree of Knights Templar and its Appendant Orders and in the absence of any other governing power. The Annual Assembly of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders of the State of Virginia moved from Winchester (1823-1830) to Petersburg (1831-1844) to the Masonic Hall of Richmond (1845-1871).

On August 21, 1838, the Grand Encampment granted a Dispensation, and subsequently a Charter was granted on September 12, 1844, to the Encampment at Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia). That action coupled with the Grand Encampment of Virginia failing to hold six out of eight regular sessions, and the monies due the General Grand Encampment had not been paid over the period brought further doubt as to the Grand Encampment of Virginia's status in the General Grand Encampment. The doubt was resolved at the 1844 Triennial Session of the General Grand Encampment in New Haven, Connecticut: Article III of the Constitution of the General Grand Encampment says, "Every Council and Encampment shall have a Charter from the Grand Encampment of the State...."

The Grand Encampment of Virginia declared that it had not been dissolved as claimed by the General Grand Encampment and on December 11, 1845, delegates from several Encampments in Virginia met in Richmond and proceeded to form a new State Grand Commandery, which was declared illegal by the General Grand Encampment. This new State Commandery finally joined with the General Grand Encampment in January 1851. After considerable controversy, Wheeling Encampment was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Virginia, in 1853.



PERIOD OF REVISION, CIVIL STRIFE, RECONSTRUCTION, AND MATURITY

“Thus, he shewed me: and behold, the LORD stood upon a wall made by a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, “A plumb line. Then said the LORD, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them anymore.” The quotation comes from the Book of Amos 7: 7-8 and reminds us that the Second Degree of Freemasonry is about building.

The Period of Revision, Civil Strife, and Reconstruction was about building; it was the turbulent era between 1855 and 1920. From the early history of the United States of America, Templar Masonry had been evolving into a national organization based on the faith-driven precepts of Christianity; and Virginia Sir Knights had been involved in creating a similar Templar state organization since the early 1800's. From United States' Manifest Destiny and its territorial expansion (1812-1860), civil strife from the American Civil War (1861-1865), the Spanish-American War (1898), and World War I (1914-1918), the reconstruction and nation building of the Reconstruction Era (1863-1877) and the Second Industrial Revolution (1870-1914), to peace and stability efforts the second half of the 1800's to the early 1900's was characterized by unrest and violence.

An Assembly of the Knights Templar of the State of Virginia, in Richmond, on December 11, 1857, heard a report on events of the General Grand Encampment Triennial XIII Session in 1856. Sir Knight William B. Hubbard (1847-1859) was elected Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment and oversaw changes in the names of the Grand Bodies and their officers. The General Grand Encampment Triennial XIII Session on September 9-15, 1856, in Harford, Connecticut, was well attended and its business was addressed in a harmonious manner. Among the revisions to The General Constitution were:

- The General Grand Encampment was changed to the Grand Encampment of the United States.
- The title of Grand Master of the Grand Encampment was changed to Most Eminent Grand Master of Knights Templar, the Deputy Grand Master to Right Eminent, and the other Grand Encampment Officers to Very Eminent.
- The name of the State Jurisdiction Grand Encampments was changed to Grand Commandery, the title of Grand Master was changed to Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander to Very Eminent, and the other Grand Commandery officers to Eminent.
- The name of Subordinate Encampments was changed to Commandery and title of the Commander Eminent.
- In the part of the Constitution governing State Grand Commanderies and its Subordinates, the Law says, *“No appeal shall lie to the Grand Commandery from the decisions of the Grand Commander.”*
- Another part of the Constitution says, *“The Officers of every Commandery, Grand or Subordinate, before entering upon the exercise of their respective offices, shall take the following obligation, vis: ‘I (A B) do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of Knights of the United States of America.’”*

The Grand Commandery of Virginia was reorganized according to the Grand Encampment Constitution; afterward, the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Edward H. Gill, at a Called Assembly in Richmond on the morning of February 22, 1858, drilled and inspected the Grand Commandery in due

form. The Sir Knights were informed that the Assembly was called for the purpose of acting as a mounted escort to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia on the occasion of the inauguration of the Equestrian Statue of George Washington. The Grand Commandery proceeded to the residence Right Eminent Sir Gill and Very Eminent Sir Isaacs where Lady Gill presented the Grand Commandery a beautiful banner, which had upon a:

Star – an emblem of “Peace on earth and good will toward to men”; that *Star* which led the Wise men to the West, to the stable in Bethlehem, were they found the infant Savior of mankind smiling in His innocence and surrounded with the halo of its glory.

Serpent – an emblem of eternity—whose subtlety poisoned the minds of the people of God in whom He was directly commissioned, and through whose instrumentality He was caused to suffer death, that the Gentile world might live.

Cross – that ingenious exhibition of man’s ability to construct instruments of torture to the flesh, but which has become the Christian’s hope and comfort, to accompany him “through the dark valley of the shadow of death,” into the ocean to eternity.

Lady Gill asked the Sir Knights to behold the *Star*, the *Serpent*, and the *Cross*, and as their eyes rest on these sacred mementoes of the *birth*, the *life*, and the *death* of our Savior may they stimulate them to the performance of duties worthy of their high and noble calling. Afterward, the officers and visitors of Grand Commandery of Virginia, along with the Sir Knights of Commanderies of Richmond No. 2, DeMolay No. 4, Appomattox No. 6, and Dove No. 7, consisting of 110 Sir Knights in all, mounted and in full regalia, then proceeded to the Masonic Hall, and escorted the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia to the Capital Square, where the Equestrian Statue of George Washington was inaugurated. The Richmond Commandery No. 2, hosted a dinner for the guests from Grand Lodge and the visiting Sir Knights in Corinthian Hall. After a bountiful repast, Right Eminent Sir Gill introduced the following regular toasts:

1. *George Washington* – Virginia gave him birth; the world proclaims his fame.
2. The memory of our first Grand Master, Sir Hugh de Payens, and his associates in arms:

*“They won the wreath of fame,
And wrote a memory’s scroll a deathless name.”*

3. *Chivalry* – It dawned in the Eastern world but shall never set in the Western.
4. The memory of Sir DeWitt Clinton, our first Grand Master in the United States. His fame in sounded on a thousand burgles from the Hudson to the Lakes.
5. *Our Guests* – We bid them a cordial welcome to the festive board.

Eminent Sir Benjamin B. French, Commander of Washington (DC) responded to the fifth toast in eloquent terms, and read the following poem he prepared for the occasion:

*Man, hath his mission. Heaven has sent him here
For some wise purpose. He his way steer
O’er life’s broad ocean, and his course shall be
As points the needle of his destiny.
He thinks—proud mortal—his own will the power*

*That moves his action to his latest hour!
The voyage of life, how aimless and how dark,
Were not Heaven's compass e'er on board the bark;
And the great Power that leads man on his way
Instill his fire by night and cloud by day,
In every act, e'er from his very birth,
Man is the instrument of Heaven on earth –
To each some spere of action is assigned:
Some rule o'er matter, others rule o'er mind.*

*On Pales' shores, when three frail ships unfurled
Their sails, to seek a new and unknown world,
To the wise leader was the mission given
That world to find, by the high Power of Heaven.
Read now the record—mark the Almighty will
Whispering once more to ocean, "peace, be still:"
Columbus owned, and bowed before that Power
Which pointed "Westward." Is his darkest hour,
When all was gloomy to more mortal view—
When e'er the faithful needle seemed untrue—
He never faltered, never turned aside,
But, with surpassing faith, on God relied;
And "Westward" still he kept his steady way,
Till, on his night of trouble, burst the day:
Till the firm land, to all his dreams so bright,
Lay, now no dream, within his raptured sight.*

*So e'er the deep came those bold men of yore,
To found a Nation on this Western shore—
The fathers of our own race, we felt the rod
Of stern oppression, came tO worship God.
On this fair soil a dwelling-place they found—
And Jamestown should be consecrated ground!
There Young Virginia breathed her earliest breath:
"Mid toil and sickness, desolation, death,
Her infancy was nurtured—but space,
She grew and prospered, and a mighty race
Spang from that germ—and Young Virginia then
Become the Mother of both States and Men—
Men, such as ne'er again we'll look upon,
And first among them all our WASHINGTON!
Strengthened by years, under her feet she trod
The Tyrant's power—Oppression's lifted rod.
Her fair escutcheon, blazing in the light,
Still bears the motto, ever clear and bright,
Her fathers gave—an heir-loom to the free!
And foe to tyrants ever may she be,
As the revolving centuries move along,*

Be hers the power to right Oppression's wrong.

*Brave old Virginia—proud you well may be,
When you retrace that glorious dynasty
Of intellectual giants, who were known
As much that 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 is its wildest hour,
No matter whence—to glory or the grave—
They chose conspicuous, bravest of the brave!
One 'er the bravest and the best born away:
Bright is his memory in our battle today!
His bosom burned with patriot fire—
Virginia's son become his country's sire:
And in these lofty claims we proudly vie,
He was our Brother of the Mystic Tie!*

*Ere mature manhood marked is youthful brow,
He sought our altar, and he made his vow;
Upon the tessellated floor he trod,
Bended his knee and placed his trust In God!
Through all his great and glorious life, he stood
A true, warm brother, foremost e'er in good.
His ready word a testimony bore,
Ennobling e'er the apron that he wore;
And when he died, amid a nation's gloom,
His mourning brethren bore him to the tomb!
Well may we honor his dear memory:
Ne'er lived a truer, greater man than he.
Well may we glory is the tie that binds
His name forever to Masonic minds.
Well may we deem he stands among us still;
His heaven-born virtues death can never kill.
The speaking statue we have blessed today,
To pristine dust may crumble and decay;
The name of WASHINGTON can never die
Till the last trump dissolve our mystic tie!*

*How reads the record—did not Heaven's decree
Send that pure man to make a nation free?
God sent him ere his brilliant race to run;
Recalled his spirit when his work was done.
And now shall we, in wild and lawless raids,
Sep the foundation he so freely laid;
O'erturn fair Freedom's citadel, and say
To all to the people's rights, "away.," "away!"*

*Press back to more than savage anarchy
 A nation now so powerful, brave, and free?
 Forbid it Heaven—forbid it every power
 That blessed the efforts of our natal hour.
 And sainted shade, if thou our prayer cause hear,
 Avert a fate so dismal, dark, and dreary;
 It shall not come; 'tis not the destiny
 Of this great nation, planted to be free,
 Sustained and cherished by his might will,
 Who, in his glorious deeds, is with us still.
 Vast cycles shall roll on, united, one—
 (The fairest, broadest land beneath the sun—
 Hundreds of millions on its teeming soil
 Made rich and beautiful by the hand of toil,)—
 This Union shall be found, and Time, grows grey,
 Shall hail it fresh, as on its natal day;
 And still, as it descends from sire to son,
 They'll keep thy memory green—our WASHINGTON.*

Sir Knight Joseph Hall, Standard Bearer of Richmond Commandery No. 2, was called upon and presented an equally eloquent oration about Brother George Washington:

I feel reluctant to occupy the attention of this assemblage when I see around me so many whose eloquence and ability can readily charm the listening ear; but I am glad of an opportunity of expressing a few thoughts suggested by the occasion. I may be said that the germ of great events lies on the birth of illustrious men. In those revolutionary changes, which restore to man his political rights, and present him with the most precious gift of civilization—Liberty—there is always to be found at the head of the movement of an individual mind of suppressing power, by whose decision the great task is chiefly accomplished: --

“A man serene amidst alarms
 Inflexible in faith, invincible in arms.”

And such was WASHINGTON. Emerging from the quietude of the country—steadily gaining to ascendancy, in position and honor, till invested with the chief command—he was called to defend his country from a powerful foe. With feeble resources, but unshrinking courage, he accepted the high commission; became the victor in many a hard-fought field; and returned with the priceless trophies of Liberty and Independence. If we, therefore, celebrate the natal day of our national Independence, we must regard the birthday of our Washington, and the germ of that great event. Virginia is proud to be the mother of such a man; and she is this day proud of her children, who have vindicated their noble regard for his illustrious character, in creating a monument, alike worthy of the man and the state which gave him birth; and, as a work of art, reflects great honor on the sculptor. It will stand for many generations, and people in the far future will look up to the heroic form, and read beneath that name, which is its own eulogium.

It has been said a State needs no monument to perpetuate the fame of Washington; he occupies the loftiest niche in the gallery of the great; his character stands out on the page of history without an equal; his deeds have an interest that will ever live in the memories of men; his name is indeed imperishable and shall live as long as the sun and moon revolves, or the clustering stars smile upon his tomb. But there is another motive which prompts the patriotic purpose. It is a necessity of our nature, that when under any strong impulse we should give some outward expression of the strength of our affections, as shown by the object some costly gift; Friendship testifies its sincerity in kind deeds, filial regard, or dutiful obedience—so in respect to the hostage due to transcendent greatness. It is not enough to say that we cherish it in our hearts—there must be some visible expression of it.

It is to the reproach of England, that, until later times, she had erected a monument to the myriad-minded Bard of Avon; and posterity would say of Virginia, did no colossal statue prove her devotion to the Father of his Country, she know not the man. While we may admit that it needs “no storied urn nor monumental brass” to perpetuate his fame, it is due to ourselves and to the world, that we show our exalted regard for the memory of him who was one of the most virtuous citizens, one of the most devoted patriots, one of the most able generals, and one of the wisest statesmen; and that we respect his character and believed in the truth of his principles.

Although, in one sense, the words of a great statesman are true, “that the age of Chivalry has passed,” yet it is equally true, its spirit still lives; and I have only to look around me on this goodly assemblage of Sir Knights to find proof of its existence. And it is still potent in the world that it numbers an array of adherents whose hearts are ever beating with the pulsations of its true nobility, and whose swords are over ever ready to leap from their scabbards in defense of truth, justice, and honor—whose knighthood has vowed to be the friend of the distressed, the advocates of the weak, and the gallant protectors of the lovelier sex. The Crusades have been termed a popular delusion, a splendid fanaticism, a useless expenditure of life and treasure, for an unworthy end. But to those who truly view the subject, they are considered the greatest exhibitions of human bravery and self-devotion in a sacred cause, the world as ever seen. When before or since did such vast numbers of men ever seek, under the feelings of a pious indignation, a voluntary martyrdom? When undergo such preventions to expel the infidel from the sacred shrine, and drive out the Moslem hordes, whose impious unbelief defied the Holy City? Though the Turk still retains possession of the sacred place, it may not be long ere the nations of Christendom shall demand of sacrilegious Saracens that the light of truth and liberty shall lagan irradiate the land, and the true worship again be established within the walls of Jerusalem.

The influence of Chivalry, its magnanimous sacrifices, its heroic daring, its martial courage, its fearless spirit, its lofty sentiments of honor, its sincere devotion to the sweet dignity of woman, have been felt in all subsequent time. It has shaped the politeness of modern manners, instituted in the place of feudal force the courtesies of life, and shares with Christianity itself the work of elevating the being who was made a little lower than the angels. What might have been the consequence had there been no Crusades, it is hardly possible to say. On this point, authorities are divided. Some, without hesitation, affirm that but for these expeditions the Mohammod power would have overrun Europe, the Reformation would have been crushed in the bud, and

the blessings of civilization, to which that event gave rise, would not been permitted to bless the nations. That these sublime efforts of the Crusades seen to have enabled Western Europe to rise, Phoenix-like, from her ashes, whilst they harassed, for six generations, the Saracens hosts on their native soil, and though in the end driven to, the Templars only retired from the contest when the powers of Europe became too formidable for the advances of their barbarous foes; the people had become too enlightened to yield to the vagaries of superstition. That such was the case, there is little doubt. Perhaps the inquiring mind may trace in the spirit that amidated the Templars, that love of liberty which has made us what we are. That among them may be found the germ of freedom, which has since arisen to be the spirit of the age. Though we, Sir Knights, are but Templars in name, we may represent them in their sentiments, if it is denied to us in the heroism of their actions.

The lance is rusting on the wall,
No laurel crowns are wove;
And every Knightley strain is hushed,
In castle, camp, and grove.

No manly breast now fructs the spear,
No strong arm waves the brand
To vindicate the rightful cause,
Or stay oppressor's hand.

The minstrel's pilgrimage has ceased—
Chivalric days o'er,
And Fiery Steeds bear noble men
To Palestine no more.

Rejoice in beauty more than gala,
Guard well the dreams of youth,
And with devoted firmness live
Crusaders for the Truth.

The eloquent poem and oration about Brother George Washington bring thoughts of William Shakespeare's *Sonnet 30* focusing on remembering things of past:

When to the sessions of sweet silent thought
I summon up remembrance of things past,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,
And with old woes new wail my dear time's waste.

In remembrance, the Grand Encampment of Virginia rose from humble beginnings with just three Encampments (Winchester Encampment No. 1 (Winchester), Richmond Encampment No. 2 (Richmond), and Warren Encampment No. 3 (Harper's Ferry) in 1823. One additional Encampment (DeMolay Encampment No. 4 (Lynchburg) was chartered by 1826 and four addition Encampments – Portsmouth Encampment No. 5 (Portsmouth), Appomattox Encampment No. 6 (Petersburg), Adelman Encampment

No. 7 (Brunswick Court House), and Banister Encampment No. 8 (Halifax Court House) – were chartered by 1828. During the *Reorganization of 1845*, Right Eminent Sir Charles A. Grice was recognized for his service as Grand Master of the Encampment of Virginia, 1830-1839, and was re-elected to the office for four years again, 1845-1849. The list of Encampments in the *1855 Proceedings* were:

Wheeling Encampment No. 1, Wheeling	Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg
Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond	Dove Encampment No. 7, Danville
DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg	Suffolk Encampment No. 8, Suffolk
Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth	Palestine Encampment No. 9, Martinsburg
Meherrin Encampment No. 10, Hicksford	
<i>(there was no Number 3)</i>	

The years between 1855 and 1920 were turbulent but about revision and building. The Assembly of 1856 was important as marking the beginning of the custom of annual addresses from the Grand Master and the 1857 Assembly marked the movement from Grand Encampment to Grand Commandery for State Jurisdictions. The attendees at the 1860 Assembly heard the report of the Fourteenth Triennial Session proceedings held in 1859 in Chicago in which the *Ceremonies and Charges Upon Constituting and Dedicating a Commandery and Installing Its Officers* and *Burial Service of the Orders of Masonic Knighthood* were adopted.

At 4:30 AM on April 12, 1861, Fort Sumer was fired upon. Grand Commander Edward H. Gill received a letter from Most Eminent Benjamin B. French, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of U.S.A., dated April 18, 1861, imploring every Knights Templar on the American Continent to seek strength and aid from on high, to exert all the means at his command to avert the calamity which seems inevitable; on April 27, 1861, Most Eminent Gill notified the Grand Encampment that the Grand Commandery of Virginia was no longer under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment; Virginia's secession from the Union was ratified on May 23, 1861.

From 1862 to 1874 was what the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of U.S.A. called the "*Period of Civil Strife and Reconstruction.*" For obvious reasons, no business of importance was transacted during the War Between the States, but in November 1865, Grand Commander Edward H. Gill send a letter to Most Eminent Henry L. Palmer, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, informing Most Eminent Palmer that as of April 1861 the Grand Commandery of Virginia did not acknowledge allegiance to the Grand Encampment of the United States. Understanding that the Grand Encampment dd not respond to the April 1861 letter but the Grand Commandery of Virginia was willing to let the past be buried and the Virginia Knights ask that they return to their allegiance. Most Eminent Palmer responded that he is disposed to recognize the Grand Commandery of Virginia as one of the constituent bodies of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America with the rights, powers, and prerogatives enjoyed by other Grand Commanderies, upon the sole condition that the Grand Commandery of Virginia conform to the requirements of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment. The delegates to the Fifteenth Triennial Meeting held in New York in 1862 added an amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Encampment that would require some modification to the Grand Commandery of Virginia Constitution and if the Grand Commandery of Virginia had taken any action contemplating a withdrawal from the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment it be rescinded at the earliest opportunity.

During the Civil War (April 1861 – May 1865), two armies had occupied Virginia from beginning to end and battles raged devastating farms and towns along the corridor between Washington and Petersburg, in the heavily contested-area of Northern Virginia, and in the Shenandoah Valley. After the war, Black Virginians began reconstructing their own lives at the first opportunity -- founding their own churches and benevolent organizations, reconstituting their families, and starting businesses. In many ways, these quiet, non-political actions were the most enduring acts during reconstruction. Among white Virginians reconstruction was marred with poverty, disenfranchisement, violent resistance, political opposition, and delays causing Virginia not to reconstruct itself in time to participate in the presidential election of 1868. Therefore, the *Committee of Nine* (Alexander H. H. Stuart (Chairman), John Brown Baldwin of Staunton, William R. Sutherlin of Danville, James F. Johnson of Bedford County, John L. Marve of Fredericksburg, James Neeson of Richmond, William L. Owen of Halifax County, Wyndham Robertson of Washington County, and J. F. Slaughter of Lynchburg) , took it upon themselves to work things out; Virginia was never really reconstructed, but it was rebuilt from the ground up.

Under that background Most Eminent Edward H. Gill called for harmonizing of “past differences” and made it the focus in his address to Sir Knights in December 1865 Assembly:

We are once more permitted to assemble at our sacred altar, to deliberate upon the past, to legislate for the future. Let us with contrite and devout hearts return thanks to the Author of all good, before whom we humbly bow, and to whose will we most cheerfully submit, that He in his infinite mercy and loving kindness has preserved us through the trials and vicissitudes of the past year, and in his own due time said unto the demon of sanguinary strife, “peace, be still,” and put a stop to the scenes of devastation, carnage and the death that have surrounded us.

The war has taken from our ranks many virtuous, brave, magnanimous and loved companions. They drew their swords in the defense of their invaded homes, firesides, and altars, and of what they conscientiously considered a just and a holy cause—in the vindication of which they nobly sacrificed their fortunes and their lives; they staked all, and lost all, save that bright jewel of a Knight Templar—HONOR. Whilst we drop the sympathetic tear to their memory, and deplore their loss, let us rejoice that their HONOR remains brilliant and untarnished.

The war as terminated—the work of ruin, devastation and of death is finished; the bow is in the clouds, and a brilliant sunset augur well for the coming morrow; but there are scenes of woe and of desolation in the valley; and it is our duty, Sir Knights, in fulfillment of our vows, to seek out, and , as far as may be practicable, to comfort the needy, cloth the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Let us not prove braggard in its performance.

In alluding to the horrors of the war, the R. E. Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey eloquently remarks, in his last Annual Address: “This war, more than all others, has left in its trail an untold amount of suffering. Not a family in the South has escaped the withering sirocco; scarcely one that does not mourn its dead, to say nothing of poverty and misery replacing former wealth and happiness; no heart that has not been scared by the loss of our own family and kindred—joint heirs with us of that priceless legacy sealed with the blood of the fathers and

resealed in the fearful contest just ended. That they should feel more keenly than we do the sufferings inflicted upon them, is but natural; that we should endeavor to teach them that they have been chastened in mercy, is but right; and that we should by precept and example; endeavor to win them back to the homestead, is but to make manifest the teachings of our Order. Let our words be, then, the words of peace and conciliation; let our deeds be acts of charity and pure beneficence; and that our example be cited to win back the erring, and to make glad the household for the return of those we mourned as dead, but we are alive—who were lost, but are found.

After Grand Commander Gill's address to the Sir Knights a committee of William B. Isaacs (Grand Generalissimo), and John F. Regnault (Grand Warder), reported that they agreed with the Grand Commander's sentiments and recommended that the resolution of 1861 be rescinded suspending the connection between the Grand Commandery of Virginia and the Grand Encampment. The issue was referred to a special committee of three Sir Knights (William B. Isaacs, William H. Gill, and John Dove) to address revision of the Constitution, Laws, and Edicts of the Grand Commander of Virginia and report back to the next Annual Grand Assembly in 1866. The committee presented, and the delegates approved, the revised Constitution, Laws, and Edicts to the December 1866 Grand Assembly of Knights Templar of Virginia, and the Sir Knights were among the credentialed delegates to the Seventeen Triennial Session of the Grand Encampment held in St. Louis, Missouri, in September 1869.

During the Civil War, the Grand Commandery presented charters to Lemienus Commandery No. 13 at Lakeland, Florida, in 1863, and Johnson Commandery No. 14 at Bristol, Virginia, and Winston Commandery No. 15 at Winston, North Carolina, in 1864. In the early 1870's Most Eminent Sir William S. Gardner, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, inquired into the status of the charters of Winston Commandery No. 15 in North Carolina and Lemienus Commandery No. 13 in Florida which were illegally chartered by the Grand Commandery of Virginia during the Civil War. Upon investigation of the subject, Grand Commander John R. McDaniel of Lynchburg found that it was evident that the Commanderies in question continued to have allegiance to Grand Commandery of Virginia and were in violation of the Grand Commandery allegiance to the Grand Encampment of the United States. To resolve the problem, Sir Knight McDaniel requested Winston Commandery and Lemienus Commandery return the charters. Winston Commandery returned their charter promptly, but Lemienus Commandery apparently had gone extinct during the war and the Grand Recorder removed Lemienus Commandery No. 13 from the rolls, and the Grand Commandery returned to its original jurisdictional boundaries that existed before the war.

After the Civil War there was some disconcertment among the Sir Knights to withdraw from the Grand Encampment and to continue to manifest from time to time. In 1867 a resolution to that end was adopted and again 1869, but there was little to attain the desired end. When two strong leaders of Templar Masonry, who also were proponents of strong bonds with of the Grand Encampment, died, Most Eminent Edward H. Gill in 1869 and Most Eminent Charles A. Grice in 1870, the agitation rose again at the 1870 Stated Assembly when the members of a Committee on Separation from the Grand Encampment made a lengthy oration on why the Grand Commandery of Virginia should be free and independent; the motion was adopted, but again the efforts were for naught. An address by Grand Commander McDaniel in 1871 provides some thinking among Grand Commandery leaders when it came to separation from Grand Encampment: The Grand Commander was not partial to General Grand Masonic organizations, but

Templarism was different. It is a military and Christian institution, requiring a different organization, a central government, one general head, but representative in its charity, by which the sovereignty of each Grand Commandery is secured.

From the time of its organization in 1823, the Grand Encampment of Virginia had exercised jurisdiction over a large rural and mountainous area stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the borders of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Today's area known as West Virginia seceded from Virginia and was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863. Following the formation of the state of West Virginia, the General Grand Encampment did not claim jurisdiction but left it under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Virginia; in 1871, this was clearly stated as the position of the Grand Encampment. On December 12, 1872, at the session of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, a petition was presented from Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Palestine Commandery No. 9, and Star of the West Commandery No. 12, all locating in West Virginia, asking the dissolution of their allegiance to that grand body so that they might form a Grand Commandery in West Virginia. This was granted, and on November 21, 1873, the convention was held in Wheeling Commandery, West Virginia, and the delegates sent a petition to the Grand Encampment to form the Grand Commandery of West Virginia. Although pressing business deprived the Grand Commander of Virginia attending the Constitution Ceremony, Sir Knight William B. Isaacs sent his fraternal blessings and know that the Grand Commandery of Virginia stands before the world as sponsor at your baptismal font and will follow you through all your future career with paternal pride and interest.

From 1862 to 1874, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar U.S.A. called it the "Period of Civil Strife and Reconstruction" and while the Civil War pitted brother against brother, the Craft was in less danger of dissolution than the republic. From 1874 to 1916, the Grand Encampment called it the "Period of Maturity," a new period of growth. For the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia it was also a new period of growth.

At the start of the Civil War (1861) there were eleven chartered Commanderies and 367 Knights Templar in the Virginia Jurisdiction. At the end of the war (1865) there were fourteen chartered Commandries (nine in Virginia, three in West Virginia, one in Florida, and one in North Carolina) and 639 Knights Templar under Virginia Jurisdiction. As veterans returned to home many found other men with common interests and beliefs in Masonic organizations, especially Templar Masonry with its religious and military organization and its moral and ethical virtues. Notwithstanding recalling the charters from the Florida and North Carolina Commanderies, losses by deaths, demits, and suspensions, Virginia's Templar Masonry increased in numerical organizational and personnel strength from 1865 to 1874 when the Grand Commandery of Virginia transferred the Wheeling, Palestine, and Star of the West Commanderies to the new Grand Commander of West Virginia Jurisdiction. It was not a rapid, mushrooming growth, but slow and sure, giving confiding assurance of stability and permanency.

1875 to 1914 ushered in a new period of peace, prosperity, and harmony throughout the Virginian Jurisdiction. The Commanderies were duly drilled, inspected, and encamped in solemn form. They were visible in full uniform escorting Grand Lodge and Symbolic Lodge Cornerstone Ceremonies and Masonic funerals, marched in formation at several celebratory parades, and at divine services in the many community churches in Virginia. It welcomed a new nationalism and patriotic pride, but it was filled with

sorrow when Sir Knight James A. Garfield, President of the United States, was struck by an assassin's hand in 1881. Yet the calamity demonstrated that the United States citizens remained united and law-abiding.

"Remember the Maine" became the rallying point during the Spanish-America War when the United States battleship *Maine* explode and sank in Havana Harbor, Cuba, February 15, 1898. Followed the saber-rattling, war drums, and storm clouds heralding World War I (1914-1918) and the Grim Reaper scratched though many names of valiant and magnanimous Knights Templar from the rolls of Virginia's Commanderies. As the *Versailles Treaty* officially ended World War I (June 28, 1919), the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia boasted twenty-six Commanderies and 4,541 Knights.

Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg
Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond
Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville
DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg
Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth
Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg
Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville
Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton
Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion
Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg
Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria
Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester
St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond

Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol
Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke
Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk
Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News
Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe
Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray
Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell
Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton
Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham
Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge
Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock
Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper
Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains



THE CENTENNIAL – TEMPLAR MASONRY ON PARADE

“Non nobis Domine, sed nomine tuo da gloriam!”

Not unto us, o Lord, not unto us, but unto your name grant glory!

“*Onward, Christian Soldiers*” is a 19th-century English hymn. The words were written by Sabine Baring-Gould in 1865 and the music was composed by Arthur Sullivan in 1871. The hymn's theme is taken from references in the New Testament to the Christian being a soldier for Christ. It was written to encourage Christians in their ongoing battles with temptations within themselves and the evil forces throughout the world.

1/ Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus going on before
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe
Forward into battle see His banners go

Refrain

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus going on before

2/ At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee
On then, Christian soldiers, on to victory
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise
Brothers lift your voices, loud your anthems raise
(Refrain)

3/ Like a mighty army moves the church of God
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod
We are not divided, all one body we
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity
(Refrain)

4/ What the saints established that I hold for true
What the saints believed, that I believe too
Long as earth endureth, men the faith will hold
Kingdoms, nations, empires, in destruction rolled
(Refrain)

5/ Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and
wane
But the church of Jesus constant will remain
Gates of hell can never against that church prevail
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail
(Refrain)

6

Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song
Glory, laud and honor unto Christ the King
This through countless ages men and angels sing
(Refrain)

World War I, the war to end all wars, ended June 28, 1919, and the American forces returned to home to the “Roaring Twenties”, dramatic social and political change, migration from rural to a city setting, rapid economic growth and prosperity, and strong nationalist feelings. In 1919, pursuant to a resolution, Richmond Commandery No. 2 and St Andrew Commandery No. 13 were appointed joint hosts along with the Grand Commandery of Virginia for the One Hundredth Stated Grand Conclave and Centennial Ceremony. In hopes of supporting the Centennial Committee's efforts to inculcate interest on the part of Virginia's Knights, Sir Knight Chester A. Gwinn, Right Eminent Grand Commander, issued a personal letter, in 1922, informing the Sir Knights of the programs, entertainment, and the grand parade for the occasion. He encouraged the Sir Knights to provide the fraternal spirit so the Centennial will linger long and pleasantly in the memories of Knights Templar and the Ladies.

On the occasion of the 1922 Stated Grand Conclave, the Grand Commandery of Virginia boasted twenty-nine Commanderies and 6,422 Knights:

Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke

Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk
Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News
DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe
Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray
Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell
Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton
Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham
Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge
Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock
Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper
Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains
St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington
Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Cape Charles
Woodstock Commandery No. 29 U.D., Woodstock	

Sir Knight Robert F. Taylor, Past Grand Commander, wrote, "Never in the history of the Order, perhaps, has there been such an influx into the ranks, as during the past three years. Quite a few thinking Fraters express doubts as to the lasting benefit to be accrued by the phenomenal growth, and will welcome back, in a measure, the former carefulness exercised at the entrance of our Asylums."

This is the story of the CENTENNIAL Conclave and Ceremony:

General Committee of the Grand Commandery

<i>Past Grand Commanders:</i>	Alexander M. Baker	1912-1913	Winchester
	Henry B. Boykin	1905-1906	Richmond
	Elmore D. Hotchkiss	1911-1912	Richmond
	Joseph T. Houck	1915-1916	Harrisonburg
<i>Deputy Grand Commander</i>	Edward R. Fuller	1921-1922	Richmond

Local Committees

<i>Publicity:</i>	William S. Pettit, St Andrew Commandery Oscar R. Hord and Frank L. Butler, Richmond Commandery
<i>Hotel:</i>	B. C. Lewis, Jr., George V. Oliver, and Joseph S. Wilson, Richmond Commandery George J. Freedley, C. N. William, and Louis Rueger, St Andrew Commandery
<i>Transportation:</i>	Charles A. Overton, Jr., H. H. Clapp, and Hugh C. Foster, Richmond Commandery Eugene P. Laird, William J. Jones, and Ralph P. Harrison, St Andrew Commandery
<i>Registration:</i>	J. G. Seelinger, J. B. Lipscomb, and J. W. W. Valentine, Richmond Commandery H. L. McConnell, Jason C. Goode, and A. S. B. James, St Andrew Commandery
<i>Reception:</i>	C. W. Throckmorton, B. C. Lewis, Sr., and John E. Rose, Jr., Richmond Commandery Charles A. Nesbitt, George H. Keesee, and Thomas B. McAdams, St Andrew Commandery

Entertainment: W. M. William, John T. Gill, and John G. Kolbe, Richmond Commandery
 Dan P. Sigourney, R. McC. Bullington, and G. Jeter Jones, St Andrew Commandery

Banquet: J. J. Mattern, E. M. Butler, and A. H. Flournoy, Richmond Commandery
 Edward L. Frost, Ollie C. Hope, and L. T. Pemberton, St Andrew Commandery

Automobiles: William P. Briel, W. E. Trimmer, and J. W. Wiseman, Richmond Commandery
 Henry G. Emrick, Jason A. Richardson, and Dallas A. Shafer, St Andrew
 Commandery

Parade: R. Buford Rose, Lesley C. West, and W. T. R. Morris, Richmond Commandery
 William McR. Evans, J. Fulmer Bright, and Raleigh W. Hicks, St Andrew
 Commandery

Drill: John E. Rose, Jr., A. L. Mattern, and Joseph G. Dickerson, Richmond Commandery
 Jo Lane Stern, L. T. Cristian, and Sol Cutchins, St Andrew Commandery

Music: M. Lee Ferguson, A. T. Skelding, and Carl J. Rostrup, Richmond Commandery
 William T. Shephard, G. Burton Mountcastle, and Scott Cunningham, St Andrew
 Commandery

Secretary/Treasurer: Frank L. Butler of Richmond Commandery served both the General and Local
 Committees

General Registration

<u>Commandery</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Knights</u>	<u>Ladies</u>
Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1	Fredericksburg	6	1
Richmond Commandery No. 2	Richmond	225	125
Charlottesville Commandery No. 3	Charlottesville	30	8
DeMolay Commandery No. 4	Lynchburg	22	10
Portsmouth Commandery No. 5	Portsmouth	52	35
Appomattox Commandery No. 6	Petersburg	40	15
Dove Commandery No. 7	Danville	24	4
Stevenson Commandery No. 8	Staunton	6	5
Lynn Commandery No. 9	Marion	5	4
Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10	Harrisonburg	25	15
Old Dominion Commandery No. 11	Alexandria	15	13
Winchester Commandery No. 12	Winchester	20	15
St. Andrew Commandery No. 13	Richmond	200	125
Johnson Commandery No. 14	Bristol	40	15
Bayard Commandery No. 15	Roanoke	40	15
Grice Commandery No. 16	Norfolk	125	60
Hampton Commandery No. 17	Newport News	40	36
Olivet Commandery No. 18	Crewe	12	11
Luray Commandery No. 19	Luray	-----	-----
<u>Commandery</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Knights</u>	<u>Ladies</u>
Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20	Tazewell	-----	-----
Cyrene Commandery No 21	Norton	6	6

Graham Commandery No. 22	Graham	2	2
Alleghany Commandery No. 23	Clifton Forge	5	5
Malta Commandery No. 24	Onancock	1	1
Fairfax Commandery No. 25	Culpeper	10	5
Piedmont Commandery No. 26	The Plains	1	1
Moomaw Commandery No.27	Lexington	10	2
Chesapeake Commandery No. 28	Cape Charles	4	-----
Woodstock Commandery No. 29	Woodstock	-----	-----
DeMolay Commandery No. 4	Maryland	3	-----
Washington	District of Columbia	60	22
	Total	992	542

Exhibition Drill

The Centennial Program called for a Competitive Drill event but few of the Subordinate Commanderies were prepared for the competition. An "Exhibition Drill" was given instead by the Drill Corps of Columbia Commandery No. 2 of Washington, D.C. The members of the Columbia Drill Corps were officially received in the lines, cordially greeted, and welcomed by Sir Knight Chester A. Gwinn, Right Eminent Grand Commander.

Thursday, October 26th Schedule of Events

10:00 AM	Grand Commandery convened for business session at the Richmond Masonic Temple.
10:30 AM	Ladies were given an automobile tour of point of interest around the City of Richmond.
1:30 PM	Luncheon served to the Ladies at the Scottish Rite Temple.
130 PM	A "Festival Board of Thanksgiving" Luncheon served to the Sir Knights at the Masonic Temple. Sir Knight Leonidas Perry Newby, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, made some extensive remarks to the Fraters relative to their allegiance to their county, their duties to their God, their neighbors, and to themselves; also, to their responsibilities and obligations to the Orders of Christian Knighthood.
3:00 PM	"Exhibition Drill" was given by the Drill Corps of Columbia Commandery No. 2 of Washington, D.C.
3:30 PM	Grand Parade for Uniformed Knights.

Line of March

The Commanderies and bands reported to the Parade's Chief Marshal and his Aide at 3:00 PM sharp and took their positions in the formation on the south side of Franklin Street

Mounted Police Escort
 Richmond Commandery No. 2
 Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1 and Old Dominion Commandery No. 11 combined
 DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Olivet Commandery No. 18, and Fairfax Commandery
 No. 25 combined
 Appomattox Commandery No. 6

Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Stevenson Commandery No. 8, and Alleghany
 Commandery No. 23 combined
 Dove Commander No. 7 and Bayard Commandery No. 15 combined
 Grice Commandery No. 16, Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 and Hampton Commandery
 No. 17 combined
 Harrison Commandery No. 10, Winchester Commandery No. 12, and Piedmont
 Commandery No. 26 combined
 Cyrene Commander No. 21 and Graham Commander No. 22 combined
 St Andrew Commandery No. 13
 Washington Commandery No. 2
 Bands: Acca Temple Band, High School Band, Donohue Band, and Grotto Band

The parade participants riding in automobiles reported to Sir Knight L. T. Christian at 3:15 PM and took their places in the formations on Ryland Street.

The Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery Officers reviewed the Grand Parade from a Reviewing Stand on Monument Avenue.

8:30 PM Entertainment was provided for the Sir Knights, Ladies, and Guests at the Richmond City Auditorium.

Friday, October 27th Schedule of Events

10:00 AM Grand Commandery re-convenes for business at the Richmond Scottish Rite Temple at Park Avenue and Harrison Streets and for the election and public installation of Grand Officers.

11:00 AM Entertainment was provided at various movie theaters for the Ladies and Visitors. The new Grand Officers were publicly installed by Sir Knight Leonidas Perry Newby, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, after a prayer by the Grand Prelate, Sir Knight A. M. Baker, who served also and the Installing Marshal; afterward The Grand Commandery resumed its work.

1:00 PM Luncheon served to the Sir Knights at the Scottish Rite Temple.

8:30 PM The Grand Reception, refreshments, and dance was held at the Richmond Coliseum.

Templar Masonry on Parade; what a wonderful scene it must have been to see? Twelve Companies of uniformed Knights Templar in column and fifty feet apart, with twelve Sir Knights across. Music from Masonic and High School marching bands for a festival air. A motorcade to finish the ceremonial review. A Grand Reception and Dance to celebrate One hundred years of Templar Masonry in Virginia. And finally, the Sir Knights were left with their memories of the past and their dreams of the future.

Speaking of the past, from the mists of time, Knights Templar from three Commanderies, with a vision of Templar Masonry in Virginia, assembled at Masonic Hall in the City of Winchester on November 27, 1823, and the delegates approved a resolution to establish a Grand Encampment of Sir Knights and the Appendant Orders (Red Cross and Malta) in Winchester, Virginia, for the State of Virginia. In those early years, there were doubts as to the legality of Virginia's Grand Encampment establishment, years of lack

of quorum and lack of progress, and there were years of substantive growth. Then the years of social division, political polarization, and civil strife; those were the years of Brother Against Brother, when the Grim Reaper visited the battlefields. The reconstruction years embraced a templar ethos, and maturity into a State Templar Masonry Jurisdiction. “Reminder the Maine” and the Spanish-American War, the doughboys of World War I, and remember Virginia’s Templar Masonry from of humble beginnings with just three Encampments in 1823 to twenty-nine Commanderies and 6,422 Sir Knights in 1922.

The dreams of the future. Templary is not solely a fraternal brotherhood, it is vastly more than that. Knights Templar are endowed with a sense of mission which transcends all ordinary fraternal objectives to live up to the high calling of Christ in their lives. The Orders of Knighthood are not intended to be finish lessons. So, in 1922 the Knights put on the full armor of God and took stand against the devil’s schemes. They kept their swords by their side and continued to build Virginia’s the Templar Craft.

Let us finish with a poem that represents the Centennial - Templar Masonry on Parade in Richmond, Virginia; it harks back to the summer of 1880 coming of the Commanderies to Chicago, Illinois:

The Grand Advent of the Templars

By Rob Morris

Copyrighted by Robert Morris in 1884, Copyrighted by the Werner Company in 1895

Hark to the din of drums!
List to the bugles' blare!
And lo, the cross-hilt column comes, —
Was ever sight so fair?
See on the arched sky,
Hear in the murmuring wave,
How nature joins us joyously
To meet the Templar brave!
The North sends forth her legion long,
The East her tide compact and strong,
The West her best of warrior throng,
The South her Templars rare;
Was ever sight so fair?

Christ rules the earth to-day, —
Light of the Cross illumines.
His Beauseant on high display,
And stir the rolling drums!
Host of the martyred Lord,
Knights of the Orient Star,
O spread His name, His praise abroad, —
Was ever sight so fair?
The North sends forth her legion long,
The East her tide compact and strong,
The West her best of warrior throng,
The South her Templars rare;
Was ever sight so fair?



HONORING 200 YEARS OF TEMPLARY IN VIRGINIA

“In Hoc Signo Vinces”
By this sign thou shalt conquer

In the third chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes we are reminded that there is a time and season for every purpose under Heaven. So, the Grand Commandery of Virginia Bicentennial is a time that Sir Knights Templar can assemble in Remembrance and Renewal, to reflect on and pay their respects to the past and to strengthen, and prepare ourselves for the future. It is fitting and proper that we too should lift the torch of remembrance to symbolically recognize our fraternal heritage and our debts to those who served so diligently to enrich our history – may they rest in peace and joy. Let us pause to also remember who we are, from whence we came, and the purpose for which we were about. It is time to rededicate ourselves to the Christian Religion and commit to Templary. It is time to consider the vows so reverently taken and those so conveniently set aside. It is time to consider the principles upon which the Orders of Knighthood are founded and the moral and Christian practices that transcends the fraternal brotherhood. It is time to consider the purpose and mission of Templary.

In remembrance, the Grand Encampment of Virginia rose from humble beginnings with just three Encampments in 1823, one additional Encampment by 1826, and four additional Encampments were chartered by 1827. The years between 1855 and 1920 was the *Period of Revision, Civil Strife, and Reconstruction*; they were turbulent years, but they were also about revision and building. Virginia’s Templar Masonry increased in organizational members and personnel strength, not a rapid, mushrooming growth, but slow and sure, giving confiding assurance of stability and permanency.

It was a period of peace, prosperity, and harmony throughout the Virginia Jurisdiction. The Commanderies were duly drilled, inspected, and encamped in solemn form. They were visible in full uniform escorting Grand Lodge, at Symbolic Lodge Cornerstone Ceremonies and Masonic Funerals, marched in formation at several celebratory parades, and attended divine services in the many community churches in Virginia. The turn of the Twentieth Century brought a new sense of nationalism and patriotic pride with it, the *Versailles Treaty* officially ended World War I, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia boasted twenty-six Commanderies and 4,541 Knights.

At the 1922 Centennial Conclave and Ceremony of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, over 1,500 Sir Knights, their ladies, and other Masonic dignitaries gathered in Richmond to commemorate a century of Templar Masonry in Virginia. Among those attending were veterans of the Civil War, Spanish American, and World War I, eager for the comradery and fraternal feelings. They could find very few places better than in the Templar Craft. Their parade down Monument Avenue was led by mounted riders followed with uniformed Knights Templar marching twelve knights abreast, Masonic bands, high school bands, and a motorcade, and was watched by thousands of people including the media of the day. After the business of convocation was concluded, a grand dinner and dancing were enjoyed at the Richmond Coliseum.

Now to *Honoring 200 Years of Templar Masonry in Virginia* and the road to Williamsburg.

The 1920s were the *Roaring Twenties*, the *Jazz Age*, the *Age of Intolerance*, the *Age of Wonderful Nonsense*, and *laissez-faire* attitudes and government policy. Whatever you call it, the Roaring Twenties were a time of change for everyone, it was the beginning of modern America. Americans were upbeat

following World War I (1914-1918) and survived a deadly influenza epidemic (1918). There was a resurgence of nativism and isolationism, and a rejection of progressive governmental activism; high tariffs on imported goods, an end of free immigration, federal tax cuts, and prosperity reigned. America became the richest nation on Earth and a culture of consumerism was born. Converting from a wartime to a peacetime economy, the automobile, and better roads put Americans on the move. There was prohibition, the Amendments 18 and 19, gangsters, and violent lawlessness also accompanied these years. Ornate Art Deco architecture, art, clothing, hairstyles, dance marathons, the Charleston, and barnstorming became the mode of the day. Radio became a national pastime with Americans gathering in their living rooms to tune in sports, concerts, and sermons. "Talking" movies and technicolor made movies more entertaining. The Roaring Twenties ushered in a rich period of American writing and the sounds of Ragtime, Jazz, and Blues music contributed to bridging the folk of the South to the urban settings on a national stage.

The 1920s were also a period of peace, prosperity, and harmony throughout Virginia's Templar realm. The Sir Knights were active in Templary tactics and ritual and escorting Grand Lodge and Symbolic Lodge Cornerstone Ceremonies for community churches and public buildings. They were visually presenting flag programs and wreath laying ceremonies, escorting Masonic funerals, marching in formation in parades, attending divine services in various community churches, pilgrimages to George Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon, and all were busy with intra- and out-of- state visiting. Commandery membership rolls grew. There were several Templary highlights during the decade: three Grand Encampment Conclaves (35th Triennial held April 25-27, 1922, in New Orleans, Louisiana; 36th Triennial held July 28-31, 1925, in Seattle, Washington; 37th Triennial held July 16-19, 1928, in Detroit, Michigan); the Grand Commandery of Virginia 1922 CENTENNIAL Conclave and Ceremony; and the two Grand Commandery of Virginia Encampment/Field Weeks were held in 1925 and 1926 near Cape Henry on the Chesapeake Bay.

While the 1920s had its roses, those roses also had thorns. The "Cultural Civil War" was a source of social tensions; after forty-four years of Knight Templar membership increases, 1928 reported a net loss of twenty members. In 1929 a net loss of eighty-six occurred; inspection reports beginning in the mid-1920s showed a decrease in attendance in conclaves and Templar events causing concerns over lack of interest and enthusiasm. This led to approval of a resolution to award the annual Right Eminent W. Crews Wooding Trophy to the Constituent Commandery scoring the highest in accordance with a set of conditions governing eligibility. But the 1929 Stock Market Crash dwarfed the decade and marked the beginning of the Great Depression.

Generally, the 1930s were the era of the Great Depression, defined by a global economic, financial, and political crisis that culminated in the Second World War. It saw the international financial system collapse and an economic downfall that had a traumatic effect worldwide, especially United States of America and Europe. It caused widespread unemployment and poverty, especially in the United States where the Dust Bowl (which gave the 1930s the nickname "Dirty Thirties") further emphasized the scarcity of wealth. Businesses failed, workers lost their jobs, and families fell into poverty. Jazz and swing jazz, blues, gospel, and folk music became tremendously popular in the 1930s and the radio was the main source of entertainment, information, news, and political propaganda.

The 1930s affected the American people differently based on their socioeconomic status: the affluent faced severe belt-tightening; upper-middle class professionals saw their incomes drop by as much as forty percent or more; a quarter of the workforce was unemployed and those lucky to have steady employment often saw their wages cut or their hours reduced to part-time; families who had previously enjoyed economic security suddenly faced financial instability and in some cases ruin. Married women entered

the workforce as American families embraced a new level of frugality in their daily lives. Freemasons were not any different from any other socioeconomic section of American life. Many Virginian Masonic Lodges experienced large membership losses from demits and suspensions which affected the Knight Templar Commanderies. Between the start of 1928 and the end of 1939 Virginia Commanderies created 624 new Sir Knights, had 154 affiliations, and 163 restatements for a total of 959 Sir Knights added to their membership rolls; but from demits, suspensions, and deaths, they lost 3,210 more Sir Knights than gained.

Every Commandery experienced financial problems, several had quorum problems and were unable to open for months, and four Commanderies found it necessary to consolidate into two. From inspection reports and District Group Meetings, the Commanderies reported decreases in attendance, a deficiency of proficiency in ritual and tactics, and a shortage of good speakers and educational programs. But many Commanderies continued to have regular conclaves in Full or Short Form, escort Grand Lodge or Symbolic Lodge cornerstone ceremonies and Masonic funerals, hold Templar events and Ladies Dinners, and attending divine services in various community churches. Monthly letters, notices, and bulletins were used to maintain communications with the Sir Knights, Commandry Sweethearts, and other Commanderies.

The annual Joint Easter Sunrise Services held in the National Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater in the 1930s were the highlights in an otherwise somber and retrained decade. The joint sponsors of the Memorial service were the Grand Commanderies of Virginia and the District of Columbia and attended by the Most Eminent Grand Master, Grand Encampment Officers, and Sir Knights from other jurisdictions. The Sir Knights assembled at the West Gate of the cemetery and marched to the Amphitheater, led by the United States Marine Corps Band, and followed by the Grand Master and the Sir Knights. Often the Joint Easter Sunrise Services were attended by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, members of Congress and the Armed Forces, along with many foreign Ambassadors.

A review of various Grand Commander State reports during the late 1930s show that conditions for years were not favorable for Templar progress, but the times were changing. The socioeconomic structure, and the future foretold much good was in for Templar Masonry. But a slogan was coined, "Organize from Within" that represented wise and conservative leadership, spirit, moral values, and a positive belief in the future.

The 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s was a period of transformation for the United States. In the 1940s, it was coming out of deep isolation and the Great Depression onto a war footing: World War II (1941-1945); the Cold War (1947-1989) and its associated conflicts, fear of communism, and the Cuban Missile Crisis; and two regional conflicts: the Korean Conflict (1950-1953) and the Vietnam Conflict (1955-1973). In between the years, the federal government underwent reorganization and growth. The nation experienced marked economic growth in manufacturing, home construction, transportation, movement to the suburbs, and materialism. It was a period of revolution: the Labor Movement; the Sexual Revolution of the 1940s and 1950s moved to the Social Revolution, American Folk Music, Rock "n" Rolling Music, and Protest Songs of the 1950s and 1960s; the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s; the Technical Revolution, Medical Advances, Medicare/Medicaid, Communication Improvements, and Space Exploration of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s; the Stonewall Rebellion and the beginning of the gay rights movement in 1969.

In the early years American Freemasonry appealed to people who liked mystic ritual, esoteric symbolism, formal attire, military uniforms, and to those who liked to have somewhere to discuss ideas and meet like-minded friends. The 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s was also a Period of Transformation for Freemasonry and Chivalric organizations as they migrated from fraternal to social interests where in the members

joined to further their chances of promotion, enlarge business networks, or enhance employment opportunities. Virginia's Templar Masonry membership continued to decrease until 1943, increased until 1960, and stayed steady until 1974.

Inspector and District Commander reports submitted in the early 1940s Templar Masonry needed early attention and a new approach to relieve the unfavorable situations found in many of the Constituent Commanderies. The all-out support of the war effort and the rise in patriotism was the profound conviction that Templar Masonry was needed, and the future held good times for Knights Templar. Conditions were changing, almost overnight, the structure of human society was undergoing a veritable modernization and the Freemasonic structure was expanding to accommodate the social changes.

Sir Knights Thomas W. Hooper, Right Eminent Grand Commander in 1944, and William M. Brown, Right Eminent Grand Commander in 1935, both avid Masonic historic authors, summarized "words of wisdom" gleaned from Grand Commanderies and Grand Officers of Sister Jurisdictions during the late 1940s and 1950s. That summarization attested to Templar's growth, not only in Virginia but growth throughout the Grand Encampment U.S.A. During the 1940s – 1960s period, most Commanderies rejoiced in net gains in membership and, more importantly, the rise in emphasis on spirituality in Templar Masonry. Commanders were forced to shorten their conclaves and place opportunities which the expectations of returning veterans placed on fraternal and brotherly friendships. Templars like most Masons do not read available literature on Masonry or Templary but do enjoy positive and informative programs about occasions of importance and do respond to constructive work, planning, and rehearsal.

The Virginia Protective Force was a substitute organization performing the duties of the National Guard which had been merged into the regular Army during the early part of 1941. The Force was equipped by various methods. Their uniforms were generally supplied by the men themselves or the cities, towns, and counties in which the companies were located. The Federal Government supplied arms but there was no provision made to finish the units with United States or State flags. So, as a patriot program, Grice Commandery No. 16, stationed in Norfolk, presented the United States and Virginia Colors to the Virginia Protective Force on November 10, 1941. The program began with a banquet in honor of the Governor of Virginia, Honorable James H. Price, the Commander of the Virginia Protective Force, General Edwin E. Goodwyn, the Commander of the First Battalion, Colonel Beaman, and the Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Virginia, Sir Knight Harry M. Wilson, which was held in the Freemason Street Masonic Temple in Norfolk at 6:00 o'clock in the evening. Presentation the United States and Virginia Colors to the Virginia Protective Force was made in a public ceremony at Foreman Field at 8:00 o'clock in the evening by Honorable Price and Sir Knight Wilson on behalf of Grice Commandery No. 16. The Colors were accepted by Colonel Beaman. The approximately 150 Sir Knights Templar, in full uniform, and 350 members of the First Battalion, Virginia Protective Force, passed in review in an impressive showing. Although there was extremely cold weather, an estimated 3,500 people witnessed the ceremony.

On January 6, 1942, Dove Commandery No. 7 stationed at Danville in a similar ceremony in presented the United States and Virginia Colors to the Sixth Battalion, Virginia Protective Force. Prior to the ceremony the Governor of Virginia, Honorable James H. Price and distinguished guests were entertained at dinner at the Danville Hotel at 6: o'clock in the evening. The Colors were presented by Honorable Price on behalf of Dove Commandery No. 7 and accepted by Colonel R. W. Felton, Commander of the Sixth Battalion. The public ceremony was held in the City Auditorium with approximately 700 spectators.

Growth in population and Masonic structures in Northern Virginia led Sir Knights to request a dispensation to form a new Commandery which was issued in March 1946 and subsequently Arlington Commandery

No. 29 was chartered in May 1947. On the other side of the equation, after many years of deliberations by Richmond Knights Templar became a reality when Richmond Commandery No. 2, chartered June 23, 1823, and St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, chartered November 13, 1878, consolidated on November 10, 1952, under the name Richmond Commandery No. 2.

As an incentive to improve Temper Masonry and to give recognition to Sir Knights who have been Templars twenty-five years and to those who have been Templars fifty years or more, the Grand Commandery of Virginia began issuing emblems in September 1953. The 25- and 50-year program was to provide Constituent Commanderies the opportunity to recognize the Sir Knights with a special occasion and at the same time increase attendance and create inspiration in a Commander's program.

The Committee on the Grand Commander's Jewel was appointed in 1952 with the design and specifications being adopted in 1953. Sir Knight Fred A. Morgenroth, Past Commander and Grand Representative near the Grand Commandery of New York was commissioned to manufacture the Grand Commander's Jewel. Sir Knight Morgenroth made the jewel by hand with all the love and care demonstrated by his craftsman expertise put into the Masonic jewel. It was most fitting that he was invited to attend the special ceremonies of investiture which took place at the Norfolk Masonic Temple on the evening of September 25, 1954. Sir Knight Charles T. Morton was invested with the jewel and was the first Grand Commander to wear new gold and diamond Grand Commander Jewel. Sir Knight Morgenroth was then asked to create an appropriate gold and diamond jewel for each of the positions of the Grand Officers, which he did, and they were delivered in 1955, 1956, and 1957.

Yes, the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s was a Period of Transformation for Templar Masonry in Virginia and while membership in Grand Commandery of Virginia showed a net gain during the period, not all Constituent Commanderies reported growth in membership. In his 1955 observations, Sir Knight William Moseley Brown, Right Eminent Grand Commander in 1935, sounded a warning that Templary needed to be revitalized in Virginia. In his address at the 1961 Grand Conclave, Sir Knight Robert Harrington, Right Eminent Grand Commander, stated that there was ample potentiality within the Constituent Commanderies, but many have not been achieving positive membership growth and they needed to lead the Order back to its flourishing vigor. Then two years later, Sir Knight Joe R. Harris, Right Eminent Grand Commander, stressed six salient points during his visits to the thirty Constituent Commanderies, who unanimously agreed with them and that resulted in definite improvement in each category:

1. Revival of Templar Interest,
2. Restoration of sight, Knight Templar Eye Foundation,
3. Joint objectives and efforts in the York Rite Bodies,
4. Adherence to Constitution and Statutes,
5. Improvement in Ritualistic work, and
6. Publicity.

The Grand Commandery Committee on *Templary Conditions* found the status of Templar Masonry in 1963 in need of special attention. While improvements had been made in a few areas during the past two years, the areas of morality, courage, and operations were long overdue for a revitalization in the Grand and Constituent Commanderies alike.

1. Administration. Capable leadership was needed in all Commanderies, especially for Sir Knights who possess initiative, potential, and sincerity of purpose.

2. Ritualistic Work. It is time to stop wasting train men to do ritualistic work, and then there is no candidates or an occasion on which to deliver the dialogue.
3. Uniform Situation. The situation relative to the uniform is partly the result of the “operational requirement to or not to purchase uniform.” The economic conditions and the unpopularity of the uniform of those who have been in the military service has caused the number of uniforms in all Commanderies to decrease, thus placing Sir Knights in a position of not being in full conformance with Grand Encampment law.

The Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of New York’s 150th Conclave (1823-1824) outlined a most interesting “Templar Plan”, in which nine different topics were designated in importance sequence order:

Membership	Rededication
Attendance	Uniforms
Ladies’ Auxiliaries, or Ladies’ Activities	Eye Foundation
Education Foundation	Youth Groups
Outside Activities	

Sir Knight William Moseley Brown, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, commended the topics but cautioned against diverting the attention of the Sir Knights from their main objectives in Templary. He also said every Commandery must give great attention to the matter of *quality*. Quality resides in all men and *vice versa* men always possess some degree of quality. He ended his remarks with truth as found in an old proverb: “Success is one-tenth inspiration and nine-tenths perspiration”. This is the same as saying “Every Templar should possess, in addition to his Templar uniform, what the athletes call a ‘sweatshirt’”.

After years of poor attendance, Piedmont Commandery No. 26 moved from the Leesburg area to Haymarket in 1964, an opportunity to receive candidates from Royal Arch Chapters in Warrenton and Manassas. In 1966, Scott Commandery No. 13 was chartered in Gate City in the Tri-Cities area (Kingsport, Johnson, and Bristol Region).

The 1970s-1980s-1990s was a thirty-year roller-coaster ride to the 21st Century.

The 1970’s were a tumultuous time; in some ways, the decade was a continuation of the 1960s. But many historians have portrayed the 1970s as a "pivot of change" in world history, focusing especially on the economic upheavals that followed the end of the postwar economic boom. The economic recession brought the first instance of stagflation and the “Middle Class”, and the “Silent Majority” shaped a new political movement known as the “New Right.” Daniel Patrick Moynihan, U.S. Ambassador to India, summed the decade as: “Nothing will happen. But then nothing much is going to happen in the 1970s anyway.”

In some ways, the 1980s were the opposite of the 1960s and the years of protest and reform and represented a turning point in American history—a crucial era, marked by political conservatism and an individualistic ethos. The 1970s was a period of change but remained tied to the social experiments and struggles of the 1960s and Americans were tired of social struggle, the economic recession, high interest rates, and high inflation. In the 1980s, Americans wanted to spend more time on their own personal interests and that change appeared in various parts of American society. Specifically, culture, education, and politics. Reaganism was central in the 1980s successes (foreign affairs and the Cold War) and failures (domestic affairs, raising poverty, worsening racial tensions).

The 1990s was the “Good Decade.” It saw a rise in multiculturalism awareness and advances in technology that included cable television, the World Wide Web, and the Internet. It was a decade of extremes and contradictions. Americans built bigger and more elaborate homes, drove more expensive automobiles and worked longer hours to pay for them. Although the numbers of Americans willing to identify themselves as New Age, spiritualists declined, "corporate spiritualism" transformed the workplace in many companies, large and small.

The 1970s-1980s-1990s-2000 was a thirty-one-year roller-coaster ride for Templar Masonry as well. Sir Knight Moffett D. Sensibaugh’s, Right Eminent Grand Commander, address to the Stated Grand Conclave of Virginia in 1970 was a profound conviction that the future held good times for Knights Templar. Conditions were changing and almost overnight the structure of human society had undergone a veritable revolution. The tide turned to the benefit of Templary. While most of the 1970s Grand Commandery of Virginia *Proceedings* are missing, the Grand Recorder reported the membership rolls decreased by three-hundred-seventy Sir Knights. The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, located atop Shooter's Hill in Alexandria, Virginia, remembering that the memorial construction began in 1922 (<https://gwmemorial.org/>) was dedicated in 1932, and the interior finally completed in 1970. (In July 2015 the building was designated a National Historic Landmark for its architecture and is one of the largest-scale private memorials to honor George Washington.) As Honorable Moynihan said, nothing much happened in the 1970s.

For years of decreases in membership and lack of ritual skills in Virginia’s Commanderies, the *District Orders Program* was established in 1983 and directed the District Deputy Grand Commander in each Chivalric District to see that all three Orders of the Knights Templar are conferred in his District at least twice a year. Every Commander was encouraged to obtain the necessary paraphernalia needed for the Orders and the Sir Knights were encouraged to learn and be proficient in all three of the Orders of Knighthood. Sir Knight George B. Yeates, Right Eminent Grand Commander, obtained permission from the Grand Commandery of New Jersey to utilize “The Order of Knight Preceptor” in Virginia and a resolution passed in 1984 to consecrate Present and Past Commanders in a new Order, “*Knight Preceptor*.” The first class of Order of Knight Preceptor was conferred on forty candidates on August 13, 1984, at the Southwest Knights Templar School. The second class conferred seventy-two candidates on the Order of Knight Preceptor at the Order’s first Annual Meeting, May 1985, at the Fair Oaks Holliday Inn in Fairfax. A resolution also passed in 1984 establishing two *Charles Augusta Grice Meritorious Awards* per year to give proper recognition to those Sir Knights of the Knight Templar in Virginia who have made worthwhile and laudable contributions to the cause of Templar Masonry during each Grand Commandery Chivalric year. The Grand Recorder’s Office moved into the York Rite Building at the Masonic Home in 1984. Thomas S. Ely Commandery No. 30 was chartered in Jonesville in September 1985, and Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33 was chartered June 1988. As the 1980s closed, Education and Leadership Workshops helped focus problems and solutions within the Commanderies and the Knights Templar Schools. The District Deputy Grand Commander Program had helped improve ritual in Conclave openings/closings and conferring the Orders.

The 1990s and 2000 were not a bed of roses glowing in the sunshine. Most Commanderies continued to suffer from decreases in membership and attendance, and some found it hard to open due to the lack of a quorum. The absence of trestle boards affected communications between the Commanderies and the Sir Knights. But after a decade of work, inordinate hours on the computer, getting numerous drafts out, the *Grand Commandery Manual of Tactics* was printed in 1990 and the *1977 Grand Commandery Constitution and Statues* was updated and printed the same year. Both the *Manual of Tactics* and

Constitution and Statues were incorporated into a single “*Digest*” for providing relevant information dealing with the principal aspects of the Order. In 1991, Grand Commandery Publicity Committee on copies the Grand Encampment *Guidelines of Publicity and Public Relations* to every Commandery in Virginia and the Committee reported a successful turnaround as the Sir Knights improved the public relations and public efforts on behalf of their Commanderies. A typical Citizenship and Public Affairs Report in the 1990-2000 period covered 110 speeches and patriotic programs to 54 Civic and Church Organizations, 37 Masonic Bodies, 12 Masonic Androgynous Bodies, 6 Retirement Homes, and a Military Reunion.

During the same period the Shenandoah, Southwest, Tidewater, and Northern Virginia Knight Templar Ritual and Tactics Schools were well attended, and the Sir Knights’ ritual proficiency were greatly improved. The practice of moving the schools around in locations and holding them on Fridays and Saturdays, to make them more available to more Sir Knights, appeared to be successful. And the five area Leadership and Education Conferences, held yearly, were well attended, and covered leadership, organizations, peoples, education, and Chivalric Masonry discussion groups. The Right Eminent Grand Commanders’ themes in 1999, *Enthusiasm Breeds Success*, and 2000, *Attitude, Commitment and Enthusiasm*, brought the Twentieth Century to a close and heralded positive enthusiasm for Templar Masonry in the Twenty-First Century.

As Virginia’s Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Constituent Commanderies moved thorough the 2001-2022 period, the challenges of Templar Masonry in the Twenty-First Century loomed as an ominous cloud upon all. The decline in membership and attendance continued in a downward spiral to its lowest levels in decades. The sources of new candidates for the Orders suffered as Symbolic Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter rolls declined. The organization of Chivalric Districts and Constituent Commanderies was too large to support the membership with the financial base available.

But Freemasonry and Templar Masonry is still relevant in the Twenty-First Century. Virginia Knights can still be found living by the *Knight’s Code of Conduct* and Christian principles and engaging themselves in activities that unite them rather separating them. That includes a moral code that teaches personal decency and personal responsibility means something honorably, devotion to the welfare of all mankind—it is more blessed to give than receive and encourages expansion of the knowledge cultivates men’s minds and physical senses. That is the spirit, beliefs, and aspirations as practiced in Virginia’s Templar Craft; it is knightly Templar Ethos. Those who qualify for membership in a Virginia Commandery of Knights Templar, are offered an unequalled opportunity to serve with Master Masons who believe in Chivalric vows and strive to exemplify the sublime teachings of this magnanimous Order in their daily life and conduct

We are at the end of our historical journey so far as *Honoring 200 Years of Templary in Virginia* is concerned. It is appropriate to end with a poem by Sir Knight Bask L. Johnson, Right Eminent Grand Prelate, as recited during the Grand Encampment Fifty-Third Triennial Conclave in 1976. The poem is,

It Couldn’t Be Done
by Brother Edgar Albert Guest

Somebody said that it couldn’t be done,
But he with a chuckle replied

That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So, he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried, he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that.
At least no one has done it".
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure.
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle it in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it.
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "couldn't be done," and you'll do it.

The Grand Prelate ended with "Of course it is not wisdom to be only wise. Our knowledge is a torch of smoky pine that lights the pathway but one step ahead across a void of mystery and dread. Bid, then, the tender light of faith to shine by which alone the human heart is led to the thinking of the thought divine." And a prayer, "We move into the future at this moment, Our Father, a future we never can control. We do our best, but we do so believing by faith that Thou art always near, Be now near us as Knights Templar so that we go not our business session we may be guided by a spirit which will show us the right way in each particular issue, and which will give us the strength to walk therein once having seen the right path. Amen."



UNDERSTANDING HISTORY THE PAST AND THE PRESENT – TO ANTICIPATE THE FUTURE

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”
John F. Kennedy

Understanding History. *From the Mists of Time: The History of Templar Masonry in Virginia* is the knowledge of, and the study of, Virginia Templar Masonry’s past; it is the story of who we are, where we come from, and can potentially reveal where we are headed. This story is important because Templar Masonry and the Grand Commandery are parts of Virginia communities and the world around us. It help provide us, Templars, a sense of identity – in our Commanderies, the Grand Commandery of Virginia, and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar U. S. A.

The Grand Commandery *Proceedings*, 1923 to the present, are a treasure trove of information about Virginia’s Templar heritage. They bring the leaders that guided Grand Commandery through the years. The *Proceedings* help us understand the issues the Grand Commanders faced and their decisions, the changes in National and State Law and changes in Templar Law, and the political climate through the years and changes in various aspects of Freemasonry, and society at large.

Understanding the Past. William Faulkner said, “The past is ever dead, It’s not even past.” The past is always with us; it resonates and remains present all around us. It makes us who we are and continues to shape us until our end arrives.

In November 1823 an assembly of delegates from three Virginia Encampments of Knights Templar and the Grand Encampment of the State of Virginia was established. The membership rolls of the old records between 1823 and 1855 have not survived the ravages of time but Grand Commandery grew from three to ten Constituent Encampments. While slow Templar Masonry grew in the early years.

The membership records between 1856 and 1865 show that Grand Commandery grew from three hundred ten knights to three hundred sixty-seven knights spread among eleven Constituent Commanderies. Many of the Commanderies did not send their annual reports to the Grand Recorder during the Civil War (1861-1865) as they were in occupied areas, but from the reports that were received the Grand Commandery grew to six hundred thirty-nine knights, spread among five of the fifteen Constituent Commanderies in existence.

From a numbers game that was good news but here is the rest of the story. Yes, Virginia’s Symbolic Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, and Knights Templar Commanderies grew during and after the Civil War, but there was a rise in deficiency of human morality, purity and principles, and leadership. The Grand Commander reported in the Grand Commandery 1879 *Proceedings* that a Sir Knight demitted his Lodge and Chapter but asked to remain a Knight Templar. The Grand Commander’s decision was that Templar Law was clear – the Knight cannot a Templar. Apparent that was not the first occurrence and the moral fabric and

leadership had been slipping since the Civil War, so the Grand Prelate was asked to address “the nature, character, principles and practice of Templar duties” (that address is one of the appendixes of this book).

Patriotism and nationalism are natural for men to be proud of their regional area and country, its culture and history, but that duty and loyalty to one's background is more important than rational and moral thinking. After the Civil War were turbulent years of civil strife and reconstruction characterized by unrest and violence, Manifest Destiny and its territorial expansion, the Second Industrial Revolution, and polarization of national and state political parties.

Sir Knights participated in corner-stone ceremonies for churches, schools, public buildings, and statues, but their patriotism and nationalism was deep-rooted anger that distorted their spiritual and moral reality. There were discussions and resolutions to suspend the connection between the Grand Commandery of Virginia and the Grand Encampment U.S.A. which were denied. A petition of three Commanderies asking permission to dissolve their allegiance to Grand Commandery of Virginia and form the Grand Commandery of West Virginia which was granted.

As veterans returned to home many found other men with common interests and beliefs in patriotism and nationalism and Masonic organizations, especially in Templar Masonry with its religious and military organization, but their moral and ethical virtues were stressed by their personal interests marred with poverty, disenfranchisement, violent resistance, and political opposition.

Understanding the Present. Historical claims are open to challenge as new evidence emerges, as individual others understand the past differently, so we continually reinterpret things for our own time. The present is used to express feelings, facts, opinions, and time-based events. We are products of our environments and events affect our lives. Generally, America has been at war since 1939 and has experienced technological and medical transformation, government and economic growth, the movement to the suburbs and materialism, and revolution in labor, social and civil rights.

At the Centennial Grand Commandery boasted six thousand, four hundred, twenty-four knights spread among twenty-nine Constituent Commanderies. Inspection reports beginning in the mid-1920s showed a decrease in attendance at conclaves and Templar events causing concerns over lack of interest and enthusiasm. After forty-four years of Knight Templar membership increases, the Grand Commandery 1928 *Proceedings* reported a net loss in membership. In 1946 the Virginia's Templar Masonry membership showed a growth in membership until 1960 and stayed steady until 1974.

Freemasonry is about uniting men of good character and moral virtue, regardless of their ethnic or social backgrounds, but Freemasonry and Chivalric organizations migrated from fraternal to social interests where in their members joined to further their chances of promotion, enlarge business networks, or enhance employment opportunities. As in the past, Templars' moral and ethical virtues have been stressed by their personal interests marred with competition from business, social, and entertain opportunities, economic and financial impacts, political and party polarization, changes in religious organizations and theology, and in changes Symbolic Lodge, Royal Arch Chapter, and Templar infrastructures. Many of our brethren fail to properly differentiate between the objectives of Freemasonry and those of the popular modern service clubs.

Anticipating the Future. *From the Mists of Time: The History of Templar Masonry in Virginia* is a big picture introduction of the history of Templar Masonry in Virginia, compiled for the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia Bicentennial. This history, like the Sublime Degree of Freemasonry, is not intended to be a finished lesson; but rather a directional sign on the highway of life wherein man learns to find a series of interpretations, to have his faculties awakened to the vistas of sight, sound and ideas to which he can constantly return for new meanings and fresh understanding. May future Committees add *From the Mists of Time: The History of Templar Masonry in Virginia* and find the fervor and enjoyment updating the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia and Templar Masonry.

A Freemason author, Louis Lafayette Williams, once said, "Our Masonic forefathers understood human needs and human aspirations. They may never have dreamed of the mindless computer which governs our lives, or the fission of matter which threatens our lives, but they understood human nature and what motivates the spirit of man. Thus, from a simple process of using stone and mortar for building they progressed to the most important of life's functions, the building of character."

The honor and prestige of Templar Masonry emanates from its high standards of morality, its moral teachings, the fact that those teachings are exemplified in the lives of men, who not only believed in them, but demonstrated in their lives, morally and socially. If we are to believe that "every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar," we need to take the business of Templar Masonry seriously and maintain the high standards: our heritage must be a directional sign on the highway of life, a guidepost to the future, not a hitching post for the past.

Therefore, it should be the goal of every Knight Templar to spread the good news of Templar Masonry and to encourage his Brothers in the Symbolic Lodges and Companions in the Capitular Chapters to enlist under our Banner. It is also incumbent upon us to reach out to the Sir Knights who no longer attend our conclaves, or who have allowed their membership to lapse. And lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we need to keep them attending by offering positive educational programs.

Let no Knight Templar underestimate the task that lies ahead – it will be an uphill battle with worldly strife along the way. The dilemma is a choice of paths. Robert Frost offered *The Road Not Taken* that champions the idea of "following your own path":

1/ Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

2/ Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

3/ And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back

4/ I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

There are two distinctly different paths described in Proverbs 4:14-19; one is the path is easy ruled by evil and the other is path hard but rules by Devine True:

Do not set foot on the path of the wicked
or walk in the way of evildoers.
Avoid it, do not travel on it;
turn from it and go on your way.
For they cannot rest until they do evil;
they are robbed of sleep till they make someone stumble.
They eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
The path of the righteous is like the morning sun,
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.
But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know what makes them stumble

Since Knights Templars are also Freemasons, I find *What is Freemasonry* appropriate as an ending for future efforts – David Wilford (Worshipful Master of Pangbourne Lodge No. 4381 in Province of Berkshire, England) said the following was in the Masonic News Letter in the Autumn 1988:

What Is Freemasonry

I am the past, present and future -- belong to all ages.
I am steeped I tradition and I read the pages of history.
I circle the globe and I stand at the crossroads of the world.
I have rites and words that have beauty, sympathy and rhythm.
I place upon my pedestal holy writ, and I turn to God in prayer.
I have knowledge, wisdom and secrets locked in my bosom, which I give to men who come desiring me
in their hearts.
I speculate with all the tools of operative masonry, and I translate their use into moral and spiritual
building.
I await free men of mature age, sound judgment and strict morals, and of good report – but I solicit
none.
I admit them of their own free will and accord and teach them brotherhood and charity.
I travel the roads of peace and harmony and I walk in the ways of charity.
I answer the cry of the orphan and sustain the widow and the aged.
I render aid to the poor, the sick and the distressed.
I am a way of life which teaches immortality.
I lead men from darkness to light.
I Am Freemasonry.



BUILDING BRIDGES: A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE AND A PATH TO THE TRICENTENNIAL

Hiram King of Tyre Prayer intoned during the Third Degree of Freemasonry is a collection of several thoughts scattered throughout the Books of Psalms, Job, and Isaiah.

Thou O God! Knowest our downsitteing and our uprising and understandest our thoughts afar off. Shield and defend us from the evil intentions of our enemies and support us under the trials and afflictions we are destined to endure while traveling through this veil of tears. Man, that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth as a flower and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not. Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months is with Thee; Thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass; turn from him that he may rest till he shall accomplish his day. For there is hope of a tree if it be cut down that it will sprout again and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. But man, dieth and wasteth away; yea, man giveth up the ghost and, where is he? As the waters fail from the sea and as the flood decayeth and drieth up, so man lieth down and riseth not up until the heavens shall be no more. Yet, O Lord, have compassion on the children of Thy creation, administer them comfort in time of trouble, and save them with an everlasting salvation. So, Mote It Be. Amen.

While the Hiram of Tyre Prayer comes from the Age of Enlightenment and is an amalgamation of scriptures, it flows and conveys the same message found throughout Abrahamic scriptures of the Old Testament – simply stated, life is hard and people die, but though faith in God, we will live again.

But be aware that we must constantly strive for improvement in all personal ethical and moral precept areas. We must serve Truth, Faith, Honor, the People, our fraternal teachings, and our own destiny. The great secret of the universe is equilibrium, in Truth all things work in balance. When that balance is upset, it is our task to help set it right. Our duty is to understand and maintain balance and equilibrium in our life and Templar Masonry.

Sir Knight Archer B. Guy, Right Eminent Grand Commander in 1963, exhorted the Sir Knights on the sidelines at the Stated Grand Conclave of Virginia in 1970. “We are in serious straits in all of Masonry in America. Most Grand Commanderies have suffered serious losses in membership over the last several decades. The picture is changing all over our country, change is in the minds of men. Are fraternities an anachronism today? Is Freemasonry a product of the eighteenth century that has lost its usefulness and is going out by the backdoor? These are significant questions and deserve the consideration of the best brains in our Grand Bodies in all walks of Masonry.”

He went on and supplied the answer to the question as to what will happen in Templary in the years ahead by telling an old, old story of a wise old man who lived on the side of a mountain. He was so wise that no one had ever posed a question to him that he could not answer. Three smart youngsters who lived at the foot of the mountain often saw the old man and were riled because he always had answers for them. On

this day, they journeyed up the trail to see the old man again. On their way one of the boys caught a small bird that as just taken wings from the nest.

“Here,” he said, “is the means of asking the Old Man a question which he cannot answer. I shall ask him what I hold in my hands, and he will say ‘a bird.’”

“Is it a live or a dead one,” I shall ask him. “If he says ‘dead’ I will open my hands and let it fly away. If he says ‘alive’ I shall close my hands and crush it.”

They came at last to the Old Man’s house and he greeted them.

“Old Man,” said the boy, “What have I in my hands?”

“From the tiny beak and the feathers showing between your fingers, it must be a bird,” said the Old Man.

“Is it alive bird or dead one,” asked the boy.

The Old Man perceiving his intentions answered, “That is as you will it, my son.”

Sir Knight Guy ended with, “So, it is with Templary—its future is as you, the Sir Knights, its leaders—(as you) will it? We need to put more Templary into those who come into our Commanderies, and we need to put more Templars to work doing those things which they know best how to do—things that will improve your image and that we need to have done for the good of the Order.”

Our world is ever changing, and Templar Masonry in Virginia must change as well. Today’s Templary is different from our Father’s Templary; it is not even the same Templary as when you took your knighthood vows. Masons are busy people and need to be convinced that time and talent to a Knights Templar Commandery has value. We must be resilient with eyes wide open to change and reality. In the words from Socrates: *“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”*

A Short Talk Bulletin titled *“Men Who Build Bridges – Not Walls”* was adopted from remarks delivered by Right Worshipful Reverend Richard D. Campbell, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New York, at the Sigma Lodge of Perfection in Schenectady, New York, in 1986. A speech presented September 9, 2009, by the Very Worship Grand Secretary Nigel Brown called *“Building Bridges – Freemason’s Hall in the 21st Century”*. The essence of both presentations was that there is both an operative side and a speculative side of building bridges in Freemasonry.

On the operative side, bridges connect people and places; they are constructed to ease movements of people and vehicles. They strengthen communication by bringing people closer together. They encourage state, district, and local diversified organization networks enabling us to conduct the business and activities of Templar Masonry in an economically strong and self-sufficient manner.

On the speculative side is building bridges with our membership. Membership is a complex problem; we have faced this problem for years with little success. What was done in the past does not necessarily work or apply today nor tomorrow. Keep in mind that “the only constant is change”, we must conditionally refocus our approach to be successful and to keep our Commanderies growing.

The Commanderies must build bridges to the Sir Knights; the Sir Knights and Commanderies must build bridges to the Symbolic Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, the Chivalric Districts, and other Constituent Commanderies. Build bridges to the Masonic Family: York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shine, Ladies and Youth Organizations. Build bridges thorough the local communities and churches. Build bridges as a coach or mentor or into service to humanity.

In the words of an Eminent Past Commander, Sir Knight Stewart Wilson Miner, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1974 and Grand High Priest of Virginia in 1984, “*Let Your Work Become Your Mark*”.

So let me end with two thoughts:

The final lines of the *Halliwell Manuscript* are:

*Christ then of his high grace,
Save you both wit and space,
Well this book to know and read,
Heaven to have for your mede. (reward)
Amen! Amen! so mote it be!
So say we all for charity.*

A short part of a poem written by Robert Morris for an assembly of Commanderies n Philadelphia in the late 1800s:

*Leap forth, good swords! Stand warriors on our feet!
In serried ranks bear one another up!
By this sign Conquer! It is full, complete,
Ye need no other sign, no other hope!
And when from nerveless hands the sword shall fall,
The Master will reward and comfort all!*

We must constantly strive for improvement in all areas of Templar Masonry. We must serve Truth, Faith, Honor, the People, our fraternal teachings, and our own destiny. Finally, remember the words from Brother Albert Pike, “*Faith begins where reason sinks exhausted. What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.*” Enjoy building your bridges and may your pilgrimage to the Tricentennial be fruitful.



Epilogue: Fruits of Their Efforts

Masonic Knighthood. While celebrating the Grand Commandery Bicentennial do take time to review the fruits of the Knights Templar, past and present – they had the Spirit of Masonry. The words of Dr. Joseph Fort Newton in *The Builders: A Story and Study of Freemasonry* represents the Freemasonry tenants in the Knights Templar and the wish that future generations dedicate themselves to development of the Christian character of Masonic Knighthood:

Outside of the home and the house of God there is nothing in the world more beautiful than the Spirit of Masonry. Gentle, gracious, and wise, its mission is to form mankind into a great redemptive brotherhood, a league of noble and free men enlisted in the radiant enterprise of working out in time the love and will of the Eternal.

With pictures, parables, and stately drama, Masonry appeals to lovers of beauty, bringing poetry and symbols to the aid of philosophy, and art to the service of character. Broad and tolerant in its teaching, it appeals to men of intellect, equally by the depth of its faith and its plea for liberty of thought....

Masonry is Friendship—friendship, first, with the great Companion...whose inspiration and help is the greatest fact of human experience.... friendship sums it all up. To be friends with all men, however, they many differ from us in creed, color, or condition; to fill every human relation with the spirit of friendship; is there anything more or better than this that the wisest and best of men can hope to do?

The principles upon which the Orders of Knighthood are founded are expressed in Ritual and Symbolism and are founded upon the teachings of the Christian Religion. Templary is based upon the Holy Bible and extols the doctrine of human brotherhood and benevolence toward all mankind. It commends the reign of peace for Divine Truth. It vows to draw its sword in defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans, and the Christian Religion.

Templar Duties. A look at the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia Chronological Table in the Appendants section, you realize Grand Commandery of Virginia's organizational structure and membership rolls have been on a rollercoaster ride since 1823 and the membership rolls have been steadily reducing since 1976. As a follow-up to the address by Sir Knight George W. Dame in the 1879 *Proceedings* entitled *The Nature, Character Principles, and Practice of Templar Duties* and spend a few minutes on the concept of a few good men.

It is a pertinent subject for consideration when there are so few Fraters who are willing to shoulder the burdens of service and sacrifice in the search for a meaningful brotherhood among Sir Knights. With a few good men has been accomplished much in the past, and with a few good men, Grand Commandery can continue to move forward today and to the triennial; with a few more good men, Templar Masonry can achieve all its cherished goals. The basic issue is how does one recognize a good man when he sees one?

When really studying this Great Light of Freemasonry and reflect on what is read, Fraters will soon realize that life is not simple. The world the Bible describes is Fraters' world, with real people, and like all real people, they are a curious mixture of good and bad. So why not recognize that all men, as they come to

masonry, are imperfect? Why not recognize that the Commandery has an obligation to shape and reform previous habits, attitudes, and opinions? Fraters can shape the candidates for knighthood, and if they do, everybody, especially the Commanderies, will benefit.

So, where are we to find good men? They are in the Symbolic Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters; we need to take the Brethren and Companions with their imperfections, shape, and reform their previous habits, attitudes, and opinions. Yes – a good man is hard to find, and he is hard to keep. He is elusive; he is always just a step out of range, just around the corner, or across the street. But he can be caught, and the best way to catch him is to be the best kind of man you can be. Live a good life yourself, abide by the lessons learned in the York Rite, and keep the Mosaic Law. If you will do these things, remembering always that all men are equal in the sight of God, you will find the good men, or at least those who are potentially good. Moreover, you will find them in abundance -- at the door of a Commandery Asylum seeking Light in Chivalric Freemasonry.

Michell David Albom, American author and musician, is best known for his inspirational works and the followings words are appropriate to Templar Masonry: “The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.”

There are many rocks in the quarries of Freemasonry, be it in the Symbolic, Capitular and Cryptic, or Templar quarries of the York and Scottish Rites. The key is to focus on **Quality!** Build a high-quality Templar organization with lofty standards. Masonry “takes good men and makes them better” —look for the inner-qualities of the man and educate him in a moral and ethical way of life.

Templar Leadership. In the past, many have focused their efforts on Masonic education, which is a lot like Masonic management. Leaders talk constantly about the decline in the various Masonic organizations: Symbolic Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Knight Templar Commanderies, and every other group that bases its membership on being a Mason. They have tried many different approaches to the collective problem, but the decline in their membership rolls continues. To strengthen Chivalric organizations leaders must focus more on *Templar Leadership*. In *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* Stephen R. Covey says management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things. Management is efficient in climbing the ladder of success; leadership determines whether the ladder is leaning against the right wall.

Templar Leadership is not a position—it is a choice, and it is a job. Some are up to the job, and some are not, but they can be trained to be up to it. Leaders are not born; they are made. Leadership is not a natural trait; something inherited but it can be studied, learned, and perfected by practice. *Templar Leadership* is a knightly system of religious, moral, and social code. The Leader is expected to be an ideal knight with the qualities of courage, honor, courtesy, justice, and a readiness to help others. *Templar Leadership* is focused on the Christian consciousness and the essential principles of Christian virtues. The Leader must be a highly motivated man of strong moral and ethical qualities; apply Masonic and Chivalric lessons and principles learned in the York Rite; extol the doctrine of human brotherhood and benevolence; and draw his sword in defense of the weak, destitute, and the Christian Religion.

A Templar Leader may find counsel in Exodus 18:2: “Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.”

Building Bridges. Symbolic Masonry, Capitular and Cryptic Masonry, Templar Masonry, the York and Scottish Rites are all part of a large fraternity of which its members are called Masons. They all entered the West Door of some Symbolic Lodge on the Original Perfect Points of Entrance through every candidate must pass, otherwise his initiation would not be legal: *opening, preparation, report, entrance, prayer, circumambulation, advancing, obligation, entrusting, investiture, placing in the northeast corner and closing.*

Freemasonry is a progressive science; a system of ethics wherein moral precepts are taught by lessons based on the allegorical use of the operative craftsman's tools. Symbolic Freemasonry prepares the candidate in the use of symbolic stone for that Spiritual Temple. Capitular and Cryptic Freemasonry instructs the candidate in the allegorical use of additional operative tools of the craftsman. Finally, Chivalric Freemasonry instructs the candidate in the allegorical use of the weapons and the discharge in the duties of knighthood whereby the Moral Temple, built and restored in Symbolic, Capitular and Cryptic Freemasonry, can be defended and beatified by the precepts of Christianity.

Like the life of every Freemason, the life of every Knight Templar has three dimensions – Spiritual, Secular, and Social:

The Spiritual Dimension

Consider how the Master Mason's degree emphasizes the importance of the spiritual dimension of life. As the candidate makes his approach in the Lodge, he is exhorted to exemplary behavior by that familiar passage taken from the 12th Chapter of Ecclesiastes, wherein he is called upon to remember his Creator in the days of his youth, "while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh. The message is clear, worship of the Creator is a lifelong obligation.

The spiritual dimension of life for the candidate is strengthened further in the Second Section of the Master Mason's Degree as he assumes the role of Hiram Abif. At this point he is caused to kneel at the altar, amid his brethren, and personally offer up his devotions, a prayer of dedication and promise. Since it is, no one may offer it for another, for it is the individual's personal compact with his Creator, known only to him and his God. The spiritual dimension of life is brought to a climax in the Hiram of Tyre Prayer.

The Secular Dimension

The significance of the secular dimension of life is at least inferred in the Hiram Legend and is explicitly proclaimed in Scriptural passages dealing with the planning and construction of Solomon's Temple. Our ritual informs us there was a significant effort in the material building of Temple: "in addition to the first three Most Excellent Grand Masters, there were 3,300 Overseers, 80,000 Fellow Crafts, and 70,000 Entered Apprentices, and they were all so classed and arranged, or in other words, so organized, that neither envy, discord, nor confusion was permitted to interrupt that universal peace and harmony which pervaded the world at that important period.

The availability of so massive a workforce and its utilization for this purpose suggests the presence of a well-structured, powerful, and widely supported government, in the absence of which the venture could not have been launched or completed. Solomon, being keenly aware of the foundations upon which vibrant nationhood stands, remolded the realm of his father, David, from

top to bottom, placing stress on the institutionalization of the government and the economy. In consequence his reign became a paragon of strength and efficiency, and Israel quickly rose to a position of dominance in that part of the world. The fruits of strong and popularly supported institutions were abundant indeed, and during Solomon's lifetime they were wisely employed to the benefit of the nation and its populace. With the death of Solomon, the cohesiveness of the structure was materially weakened, and in a remarkably brief time, the nation was overrun by its adversaries.

The contemporary Freemasonry, especially Templar Masonry, looking pragmatically at these developments, can ill-afford to ignore the lessons taught by the Solomonic regime or by the Hiramic Legend of our fraternity. Unfortunately, the fraternity now finds itself in a position wherein its secular foundation appears to be shaking, perhaps even crumbling. Organizational and operational harmony, such as that which prevailed at the construction of Solomon's Temple, at least until the demise of Hiram Abif, is all too often illusory. Despite obligatory promises to the contrary, serious challenges are being levied against the law's rules and regulations of local Masonic Bodies, against the laws, resolutions, and edicts of Grand Bodies, and against the interpretation of all these regulatory measures by duly constituted leaders, supreme and subordinate. We would be well advised to appreciate the fundamental truth that "no house, divided against itself, can long stand."

The Social Dimension

The last of life's dimensions is social in character and vital in nature. Just as man is called upon to regulate his relationships to God and duly constituted authority, he is also called upon to live in peace and harmony with others, regardless of station or place in society. Sir Knights, in fact, are required by oath to help, aid, and assist the needy; to treat others as they would themselves elect to be treated; to abide the Golden Rule; revere womanhood and family; and, in general, to establish relationships, in and out of the Craft, which are above reproach

Templar's standards are high indeed, and in the context of the troubled present, it is sometimes with great difficulty that Fraters maintain them. They are imperfect men in an imperfect society, within which the advance to perfection is by no means orderly. It seems inevitable that within every social group there are those who seek unfair advantage; those who strive for that to which they are not entitled; those who sacrifice the common good for the sake of personal gain. We simply must live in peace and harmony with our fellow Masons, with mankind, and we must be ever alert to the ruffians of life who would subjugate rights by force. Knights Templar must be especially attentive to the social dimension of life.

In the Master Mason's Degree, Fraters are reminded that although the Great Creator of Heaven and Earth might well have made man independent of his fellow man, but he did not. Instead, He made men interdependent for assorted reasons in order that all could enjoy better opportunities to fulfill the duties of reciprocal love and friendship. Thus, man was created for a social and active life, the noblest part of the work of God. This concept was beautifully expressed by the late George Bernard Shaw, who once wrote: "I am convinced that my life belongs to the whole community; as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before turning it over to future generations."

In conclusion, be aware that Knights Templar must constantly strive for improvement in all personal ethical and moral precept areas. They must serve Truth, Faith, Honor, the People, Masonic and Templar fraternal teachings, and their own destiny. The great secret of the universe is equilibrium, in Truth all things work in balance. When that balance is upset, it is our task to help set it right. Our duty is to understand and maintain balance and equilibrium in our life and Templar Masonry. The cause for which Fraters live as Knights Templar and Master Masons is the cause for which Hiram Abif died. This cause is nothing more and certainly nothing less than the perfection of human character through the mastery of life's most fundamental dimensions -- spiritual, secular, and social. This is the lesson of the Master Mason's Degree. It is a lesson that cannot be learned by simply memorizing ritual; rather it is one whose mastery requires much more, and certainly no less than a completely disciplined approach to life in all its facets.

Fraters have bound themselves to befriend and relieve each other, to respond to legitimate appeal, and to do good unto all, more especially "to the household of the faithful." This then is Templar's real challenge, and Knights Templar will accept it, cope with it, and endeavor to master it; then Masonry will be truly deserving of the promise that the God of peace and love will dwell with and bless us.

Fraters need to build bridges and a sound foundation for the future and a path to the Tricentennial. The Commanderies must build bridges to the Sir Knights; the Sir Knights and Commanderies must build bridges to the Symbolic Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, the Chivalric Districts, and other Constituent Commanderies. Build bridges to the Masonic Family: York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shine, Ladies and Youth Organizations. Build bridges thorough the local communities and churches. Build bridges as a coach or mentor or into service to humanity.



Thus, he shewed me; behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline in his hand.

And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them anymore.

Amos 7:7-8

Appendixes



Templar Masonry in Virginia Timeline

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia Chronological Table

Roster of the Grand Commanders, Grand Treasures, and Grand Recorders

The Nature, Character Principles, and Practice of Templar Duties

Purpose of Templary

Templar Leadership

Leadership in the Constituent Commanderies

Templar Masonry in Virginia Timeline

Formation of the Grand Encampment of the State of Virginia & The Period of Organization

- 1812 (or before) Establishment of Winchester Encampment, Knights Templar, at Winchester, probably under Pennsylvania influence.
- 1816 (or before) Establishment of St. John's Rising Star Encampment, Knights Templar, at Richmond.
- 1816 Organization of the General Grand Encampment, U. S. A., in New York City on June 20 and 21. Virginia did not participate in this meeting.
- 1819 Effort of St. John's Rising Star Encampment, Richmond, to establish relations with other Encampments situated "north of Richmond".
- 1822-1823 Period of James Cushman's activities in Templar Masonry in Virginia.
- 1823 St. John's Rising Star Encampment, Richmond, received charter from the General Grand Encampment, bearing date of April 10.
- 1823 Winchester Encampment, 'Winchester, issued charters for Warren Encampment, at Harper's Ferry, and Mt, Carmel Encampment (location unknown).
- 1823 Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, of Virginia formed at Winchester on November 27 and 28, with Daniel Walker Thomas as Grand Master and Sutton I. Harris as Grand Recorder.
- 1824 Winchester Encampment and Warren Encampment received charters from the General Grand Encampment through James Cushman.
- 1824 Grand Encampment of Virginia became a member of the General Grand Encampment, U. S. A., with Mt. Carmel Encampment dissenting. The latter's place was taken, upon invitation, by Richmond Encampment. Grand Encampment of Virginia met twice this year-August 11 and November 22.
- 1825 Grand Encampment of Virginia reorganized at Winchester on March 23, incorporating into its constitution provisions of allegiance to the General Grand Encampment. Daniel Walker Thomas remained in office as Grand Master and Samuel W. Davis was chosen Grand Recorder.
- 1826 Priority of local Encampments decided, and numbers assigned accordingly. DeMolay Encampment chartered at Lynchburg.
- 1827 Dispensations issued during the year to Portsmouth Encampment (January 16), Petersburg Encampment (March 1), Brunswick Encampment (March 1), and Halifax Encampment (March 7). All of these received charters at the annual Assembly on November 13, being chartered as Portsmouth Encampment No, 5, Appomattox No.6, Adelman No. 7, and Banister No.8, respectively.
- 1828 Death of General Grand Master DeWitt Clinton, and all Encampments ordered draped in mourning.
- 1829 The effort to move the Grand Encampment of Virginia annual Assembly from Winchester to Petersburg failed.
- 1830 Place of annual Assembly changed from Winchester to Petersburg. Charles A. Grice, of Portsmouth, elected Grand Master, and William B. Hill, of Petersburg, Grand Recorder.
- 1831 Grand Encampment met at Petersburg. James Davidson, SL, of Petersburg, elected Grand Recorder.
- 1832-1833 No Assemblies held.

- 1834 Grand Encampment met in Petersburg. Grand Master Charles A. Grice was absent, and Deputy Grand Master John Pollard presided.
- 1835-1838 No Assemblies held.
- 1838 Dispensation granted by the General Grand Master for the establishment of Wheeling Encampment, at Wheeling (now West Virginia). This was followed by a charter in 1839.
- 1839 Special Assembly held at Petersburg on January 19. John Pollard elected Grand Master as successor to Charles A. Grice.
- 1840-1844 No Assemblies held.
- 1845 Grand Encampment met in Richmond on December 11 and re-organized with Charles A. Grice as Grand Master and John Dove as Grand Recorder. Dove retained this post for thirty-one years. Levi L. Stevenson was appointed first Grand Lecturer.
- 1846 Grand Encampment "drilled, inspected, and encamped in Solemn Form." All officers re-elected.
- 1847-1848 No quorum.
- 1849 Special Assembly held on February 23, and annual Assembly on December 13. Edward H. Gill, of Richmond, was elected Grand Master.
- 1850 Annual Assembly held in Richmond, December 13. Palestine Commandery No. 9 organized at Martinsburg (now West Virginia) on the preceding day. Grand Encampment voted to recede from its former position, adopted in 1845, making it independent of General Grand Encampment. The proclamation of General Grand Master, William B. Hubbard, on July 25, 1851, ended the matter.
- 1851 Palestine Commandery No. 9 Meherrin Commandery No. 10 received their charters in Martinsburg and Hicksford, respectively. The Annual Assembly was held in Richmond on December 11. Time of meeting changed to January in consequence of similar action on the part of the Virginia Legislature.
- 1851 Winchester Encampment No. 1, Warren Encampment No. 3, Adelman Encampment No. 7, and Banister Encampment No. 8 were extinct.
- 1852 Annual Assembly postponed from preceding December was held on January 12. Meherrin Encampment No. 10, at Hicksford (now Emporia), Greensville County, and Dove Encampment No. 11, at Danville, organized. Measures were also taken to have Wheeling Encampment affiliate with the Grand Encampment of Virginia. The second annual Assembly held on December 16, changing date back to December.
- 1853 Annual Assembly visited on December 16 by General Grand Master William B. Hubbard and General Grand Recorder Benjamin B. French. Proposal adopted to ask General Grand Encampment to require the degrees of Royal and Select Master as prerequisites to the Orders of Knighthood. Dove Encampment's number changed from 11 to 7 in consequence of the inactivity of Adelman Encampment at Brunswick Court House. Wheeling Commandery No. 1 was established.
- 1854 Dove Commandery No. 7 was chartered at Danville. Memorial services for Edmund Pendleton Hunter at the annual Assembly on December 15. Hunter had been Grand Senior Warden for some years previously.

Period of Revision, Civil Strife, Reconstruction, and Maturity

- 1855 Suffolk Encampment No.8 chartered in place of the extinct Banister Commandery, at Halifax.

- 1856 Year of the revival of Templarism in the United States. General Grand Encampment adopted a new constitution (its fourth), dropping the word "General" wherever used heretofore, and designating state bodies as "Grand Commanderies", etc. Grand Encampment of Virginia met December 11, and Grand Master Edward H. Gill gave, for the first time, a report of his activities for the preceding year.
- 1858 Grand Commandery held a "called Assembly" in Richmond for the purpose of acting as escort to the Grand Lodge of Virginia in the ceremony's incident to the laying the cornerstone of the Washington monument in the Capitol Square. The annual Assembly was held on December 16, and a charter for Gill Commandery No.3, at Morgantown (now West Virginia) was issued.
- 1859 Fourteenth Triennial Session held in Chicago in which the *Ceremonies and Charges Upon Constituting and Dedicating a Commandery and Installing Its Officers and Burial Service of the Orders of Masonic Knighthood* were adopted.
- 1861-1865 War years; many of the Commandery areas were occupied by Union Forces. Charters issued for the establishment of Lemienus Commandery No. 13, at Lakeland, Florida, in 1863, and Johnson Commandery No. 14, at Bristol, Virginia, and Winston Commandery No. 15, at Winston, North Carolina, in 1864.
- 1863 West Virginia seceded from Virginia and was admitted to the Union in 1863 but Grand Commandery exercise jurisdiction over Commanderies located in West Virginia.
- 1866 Grand Commandery met on December 13 at Richmond. Revised constitution adopted, and Grice Commandery No. 16 chartered at Norfolk.
- 1866 Gill Commandery No. 3, Suffolk Commandery No. 8, Palestine Commandery No. 9, and Winchester Commandery were declared extinct for failure to make returns.
- 1867 Agitation for separation from the Grand Encampment, U. S. A., continued.
- 1869 Death of Grand Commander Edward H. Gill. He was succeeded by John Robin McDaniel, of Lynchburg, previously Deputy Grand Commander.
- 1869 A.P. Abell Commandery No. 3 was chartered at Charlottesville and Stevenson Commandery No. 11 was chartered at Staunton
- 1870 Past Grand Commander Charles A. Grice died. Grand Commandery created the office of Historiographer and elected Dr. George W. Dame, of Danville, to this office.
- 1870 Winchester Commandery was readmitted onto the role of Grand Commandery of Virginia.
- 1870 Lemienus Commandery No. 13 (Florida) (extinct); Winston Commandery No. 15 (North Carolina) returned the charter to the Grand Commandery of Virginia.
- 1871 Winchester Commandery was assigned the No. 12.
- 1872 At the Grand Session of Grand Commandery of Virginia, the three West Virginia Commanderies petitioned to dissolution their allegiance to the Grand Commandery of Virginia and form a Grand Commandery of West Virginia; the petition was approved.
- 1873 The Grand Commandery of West Virginia was formed and Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Palestine Commandery No. 8, and Star of the West Commandery No. 12, were transferred to the Grand Commandery of West Virginia.
1873. Old Dominion Commandery No. 11 at Alexandria and Winchester Commandery was given number 12 at Winchester.
- 1873 Special Assembly held in Norfolk, when new tactics were adopted, and a drill competition was held. Portsmouth Commandery No.5 declared the winner.

- 1874 Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Palestine Commandery No. 9, and Star of the West Commandery No. 12 was the newly established Grand Commandery of West Virginia.
- 1875 1875 to 1914 ushered a new period of peace, prosperity, and harmony throughout the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia. Fredericksburg Commandery No 1 was chartered at Fredericksburg.
- 1876 Death of Grand Recorder John Dove, while Grand Commandery was in session in Alexandria. Past Grand Commander William B. Isaacs elected to succeed him. General Robert E. Withers became Grand Commander.
- 1876 A. P. Abell Commandery No. 3 changed its name to Charlottesville Commandery No. 3.
- 1876 Meherrin Commandery No. 10 was declared extinct.
- 1877 Christiansburg Commandery No. 9 was chartered in the City of Christiansburg and Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 was chartered in the City of Harrisonburg.
- 1878 Death of Past Grand Commander John R. McDaniel; he had the honor of presiding over all three of Virginia's Grand Bodies.
- 1879 St. Andrew Commandery No. 13 was chartered at Richmond.
- 1881 Sir Knight James A. Garfield, President of the United States, was struck by an assassin's hand in 1881.
- 1882 Fauquier Commandery No. 15 was chartered at Markham.
- 1883 Past Grand Commander Robert E. Withers elected Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, U. S. A.
- 1885 Christiansburg Commandery No. 9 charter was arrested, and its property seized.
- 1887 Death of Past Grand Commander Peyton S. Coles. Like Robert E. Withers, he had the honor of presiding over all three of Virginia's Grand Bodies. W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9 was chartered at Marion.
- 1888 Hampton Commandery No. 17 was chartered at Hampton.
- 1888 Fauquier Commandery No. 15 voted to return its charter to Grand Commandery of Virginia.
- 1889 Bayard Commandery No. 15 was chartered at Roanoke and Olivet Commandery No. 18 was chartered at Crewe.
- 1890 Luray Commandery No. 19 was chartered at Luray.
- 1891 Past Grand Commander James B. Blanks appointed Grand Lecturer.
- 1892 First session of Grand Commandery in the new Masonic Temple, Richmond, jewels being presented to all living Past Grand Commanders. Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 was chartered at Tazwell.
- 1895 Death of William B. Isaacs, Grand Recorder of both the Grand Encampment, U. S. A., and the Grand Commandery of Virginia.
- 1896 W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9 voted to drop its initials and be known as Lynn Commandery No. 9 in the future.
- 1900 Cyrene Commandery No. 21 was chartered at Norton.
- 1903 Graham Commandery No. 22 was chartered at Graham.
- 1905 Alleghany Commandery No. 23 was chartered at Clifton Forge.
- 1906 Malta Commandery No. 24 was chartered at Onancock.
- 1911 Fairfax Commandery No. 25 was chartered at Culpeper.
- 1912 Hampton Commandery No. 17 moved to Newport News.
- 1916 Piedmont Commandery No. 26 was chartered at The Plains.
- 1919 The *Versailles Treaty* officially ended World War I (June 28, 1919), and the Grand Commandery of Virginia boasted twenty-six Commanderies and 4,541 Knights.

1920 Moomaw Commandery No. 27 was chartered at Lexington.

The Centennial – Templar Masonry o Parade

1922 At the Stated Grand Conclave, the Grand Commandery of Virginia boasted twenty-nine Commanderies and 6,422 Knights. And Sir Knight Robert F. Taylor, Past Grand Commander, wrote, “Never in the history of the Order, perhaps, has there been such an influx into the ranks, as during the past three years. Quite a few thinking Fraters express doubts as to the lasting benefit to be accrued by the phenomenal growth, and will welcome back, in a measure, the former carefulness exercised at the entrance of the Asylums.” Thus the 1922 Grand Conclave was the story of the Centennial Conclave and Ceremony.

Honoring 200 Years of Templary in Virginia

1922 Chesapeake Commandery No. 27 was chartered at Northampton County.

1923 Work of the Educational Foundation begun. More than 450 loans granted during the ensuing twelve years.

1924 Warsaw Commandery No. 30 was chartered at Warsaw.

1925 Death of Past Grand Commander Solomon Cutchins; he had the honor of presiding over all three of Virginia's Grand Bodies. The Grand Encampment 36th Triennial was held in Seattle, Washington. The first Grand Commandery of Virginia Encampment and Field Week was held near Cape Henry on the Chesapeake Bay.

1926 The second Grand Commandery of Virginia Encampment and Field Week was held near Cape Henry on the Chesapeake Bay.

1926 Death of Past Grand Commander James Braxton Blanks.

1927 Death of Past Grand Commander James Little Avis.

1928 Blacksburg Commandery No. 28 was chartered at Blacksburg.

1929 Wooding Trophy was established to stimulate and encourage Commanderies to a greater zeal and improve proficiency.

1929 The Stock Market Crash marked the beginning of the Great Depression.

1930 Death of Past Grand Commander William B. McChesney; he had the honor of presiding over all three of Virginia's Grand Bodies.

1930 Warsaw Commandery No. 30 changed its name to Tidewater Commandery No. 30 and moved to the City of Heathsville.

1930-1939 The annual Joint Easter Sunrise Services held in the National Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater in the 1930s were joint sponsored by the Grand Commanderies of Virginia and the District of Columbia. The Sir Knights assembled at the West Gate of the cemetery and marched to the Amphitheater, led by the United States Marine Corps Band, and followed by the Grand Master and the Sir Knights. Often the Joint Easter Sunrise Services were attended by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, members of Congress and the Armed Forces, along with many foreign Ambassadors

1932 Grand Commandery participated in the dedication of the George 'Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria, and became the first grand body to hold a session in the Memorial after its dedication, both occasions occurring on May 12.

1933 The Grand Commandery extended Knightly greeting to the Honorable President Franklin Roosevelt and pledged the active interest and enthusiastic support of the

- 6,100 Knights Templar in Virginia in the heroic and commendable efforts to meet the crisis confronting the American people. The Honorable President responded with deep gratification and warmly thanked the Knights Templars for their support.
- 1935 System of District Commanders substituted for that of District Inspectors.
- 1936 Tidewater Commandery No. 30 merged with St. Andrew Commandery No. 13. and Woodstock Commandery No. 29 merged with Richmond Commandery No. 2.
- 1936 Death of Past Grand Commanders Robert Francis Taylor and Walter Crews Wooding.
- 1939 Between the start of 1928 and the end of 1939 Virginia Commanderies created 624 new Sir Knights, had 154 affiliations, and 163 restations for a total of 959 Sir Knights added to their membership rolls; but from demits, suspensions, and deaths, they lost 3,210 more Sir Knights than gained.
- 1940-1969 A Period of Transformation for Freemasonry and Chivalric organizations as they migrated from fraternal to social interests to further their chances of promotion and enlarge business networks or enhance employment opportunities.
- 1941 Death of Past Grand Commander William L. Davis; he had the honor of presiding over all three of Virginia's Grand Bodies.
- 1941 Grice Commandery No. 16 presented the United States and Virginia Colors to the First Battalion, Virginia Protective Force stationed in Norfolk.
- 1942 Dove Commandery No. 7 stationed at Danville in a similar ceremony in presented the United States and Virginia Colors to the Sixth Battalion, Virginia Protective Force stationed in Danville.
- 1943 Death of Past Grand Commander James H. Price; he had the honor of presiding over all three of Virginia's Grand Bodies.
- 1944 Death of Past Grand Commander Joseph Thomas Houck
- 1947 Arlington Commandery No. 29 was chartered in Arlington, Virginia.
- 1947 Pamplin Trophy was established to annually reward the Commandery showing the greatest increase in membership.
- 1952 Richmond Commandery No. 2 and St. Andrew Commandery No. 13 consolidated on November 10, 1952, under the name Richmond Commandery No. 2.
- 1953 The Grand Commandery Twenty-five- and Fifty-Year Veteran Emblem Program and Ceremony.
- 1954 Death of Past Grand Commander Thomas W. Hooper; he had the honor of presiding over all three of Virginia's Grand Bodies.
- 1954 Sir Knight Charles T. Morton was invested with the new gold and diamond Grand Commander Jewel. Sir Knight Morgenroth of the New York Grand Commandery was asked to create an appropriate gold and diamond jewel for each of the positions of the Grand Officers, which he did, and they were delivered in 1955, 1956, and 1957.
- 1956 Death of Past Grand Commander Byrd Leavell.
- 1956 Death of Grand Treasurer Cecil Guy Lawrence.
- 1957 Death of Past Grand Commander Charles Tomas Morton.
- 1959 Grand Commandery of Virginia presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Charles Vernon Eddy, Past Grand Commander, on his retirement as Grand Recorder 1929-1959.
- 1960 Death of Past Grand Commander Frank Graver Payne.
- 1962 Joe R. Harris Trophy was established to reward the Commandery making the largest increase in points over the preceding year.
- 1963 Death of Past Grand Commander Charles V. Eddy; he had the honor of presiding over all three of Virginia's Grand Bodies. Piedmont Commandery No. 26 moved to

- Leesburg.
- 1964 Piedmont Commandery No. 26 moved to Haymarket.
- 1965 Scott Commandery No. 13 was chartered in Gate City.
- 1966 Death of Past Grand Commander William M. Brown; he had the honor of presiding over all three of Virginia's Grand Bodies.
- 1967 Death of Past Grand Commander Frank Allerton.
- 1968 Death of Past Grand Commanders Robert Hale Harrington, Harry Gilmore Pollard, and Wilber Marion Brucker.
- 1970 Construction began in 1922, dedicated in 1932, and the interior was finally in 1970 of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, located atop Shooter's Hill in Alexandria. (In July 2015 the building was designated a National Historic Landmark for its architecture and is one of the largest-scale private memorials to honor George Washington.)
- 1983 The *District Orders Program* was established and directed the District Deputy Grand Commander in each Chivalric District to see that all three Orders of the Knights Templar are conferred in his District at least twice a year.
- 1983 Death of Past Grand Commanders Jack Thomas Parson and Jesse James Fout.
- 1984 Ivan Clayton "Pat" Myers Award was established with four categories: Basic, Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude.
- 1984 A resolution established two *Charles Augusta Grice Meritorious Awards* per year.
- 1984 The Grand Recorder's Office moved into the York Rite Building at the Masonic Home.
- 1984 The *Order Knight Preceptor* was consecrated in Virginia when the first class was conferred on forty candidates at the Southwest Knights Templar School.
- 1984 Thomas E. Commandery No. 30 was chartered at Jonesville.
- 1985 The second class conferred seventy-two candidates on the *Order of Knight Preceptor* at The first Virginia Knight Preceptor Chapter Annual Meeting at the Fair Oaks Holliday Inn in Fairfax.
- 1985 Thomas S. Ely Commandery No. 30 was chartered in Jonesville.
- 1985 Membership Award Cordons was established for any Knight Templar as the first line signer secures and presents petitions of candidates to receive the Orders of Knighthood.
- 1987 Death of Deputy Grand Commander Frederick Charles Hill; he also served as the Grand Inspector General at the time of death.
- 1989 Death of Past Grand Commander Ralph Richardson Repass.
- 1988 Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33 was chartered in Urbana.
- 1990 The *Grand Commandery Manual of Tactics* was printed, and the *1977 Grand Commandery Constitution and Statues* was updated and printed the same year.
- 1991 Both the *Manual of Tactics* and *Constitution and Statues* were incorporated into a single "*Digest*."
- 1991 The Grand Proceedings were computer-prepared in a format for future use thereby Reducing delay in planting and cost.
- 1991 Death of Past Grand Commanders James Linwood Holloway, Sr., Ernest Maynard Moore, Jr., Joe Roberson Harris.
- 1991 Death of Charles Frank Goodrich, Jr., who served as District Deputy Grand Commander District Two at the time of his death.
- 1991 Death of Edwin Monroe Travers, Jr., Grand Sentinel.
- 1992 Death of Phillip Vass Whitley, Grand Standard Bearer.
- 1994 Death of Past Grand Commanders Emmett Bryan Goddin and Thomas Kyle Roberson.

- 1995 Death of Past Grand Commanders Lawrence Jefferson Ranch, Gayle Eugene Boyee, and Robert Cross Smallwood.
- 1995 Death of Leslie Myatt Beach, MD, Grand Standard Bearer.
- 1996 Death of Past Grand Commander Walter Merrett McCracken.
- 1997 Island Commandery No. 34 was chartered at Chincoteague.
- 1989 Piedmont Commandery No. 26 moves to Manassas.
- 1998 Death of Past Grand Commander Russell Beale Frost, Jr.
- 1999 Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 merged with Luray Commandery No. 19.
- 1999 Death of Past Grand Commanders Moffette David "Pete" Sensabaugh and Fitz Alen Brown.
- 2002 The Grand Commandery of South Carolina presented a new Grand Standard, Parade Banner, and Beauseant to the Grand Commandery of Virginia; the old Grand Standard was retired to the Grand Commandery of Virginia museum.
- 2002 Scott Commandery No. 13 merged with Johnson Commandery No. 14; the members of Dove Commandery No. 7 voted to merge with George W. Wright Commandery No. 13, and several other Commanderies are on the borderline of merging.
- 2002 Death of Past Grand Commander David Graham Mathews, Jr.
- 2002 Death of William Wesley Longworth, Deputy Grand Commander.
- 2022 Death of E. Robertson Lee, Grand Senior Warden.
- 2004 Dove Commandery No. 7 merged with George W. Wright Commandery No. 13 and Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30 merged with Cyrene Commandery No 21.
- 2006 Blacksburg Commandery No 32 moved from Blacksburg to Christiansburg.
- 2007 Death of Past Grand Commanders George D. "Kingfish" Stevens and Paul L. Purdy.
- 2008 Grand Commandery Award for Ritualistic Proficiency Ribbon was established to recognize those Sir Knights who have demonstrated their proficiency in the conferral of the several Orders.
- 2008 Death of Past Grand Commanders Jon Wane Mayberry and B. Franklin Sherwood.
- 2009 Crusading Knight of Siloam was established to recognize those Sir Knights who have contributed \$500.00 to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.
- 2009 Death of Past Grand Commanders Richard B. Baldwin.
- 2010 Malta Commandery No. 24 and Island Commandery No. 34 merged under the name of Malta Commandery No. 24 at Chincoteague.
- 2010 Jon Wayne Mayberry Ritualistic Award was established to recognize the District or Commandery performing the best ritual during the official of the Grand Commander as scored by the Grand Inspector General.
- 2011 Death of Past Grand Commanders Robert Melvin Ohman and C.D. Elliott, Jr.
- 2012 Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 was reconstituted and chartered at Harrisonburg.
- 2013 Death of Past Grand Commander Mansell H. Hopkins, Jr.
- 2014 Chesapeake Commandery No.28 merged with Malta Commandery No. 24.
- 2015 Blacksburg Commandery No 32 changed its name to New Valley Commandery No. 32 and moved to the City of Christiansburg.
- 2016 Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35 received its charter at Warrenton.
- 2016 Death of Past Grand Commander Francis Michael McGrath.
- 2017 Malta Commandery No. 24 merged with Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 and Cyrene Commandery No. 21 merged with Johnson Commandery No. 14.
- 2017 Death of Past Grand Commander Malcom R. Holley, Jr.
- 2018 Death of Past Grand Commanders Samuel B. Wells and Robert M. Ohman.

- 2018 Malcom R. Holly DeMolay Trophy was established to honor the outstanding performance during the year by a Master Counselor or DeMolay member recommended by the DeMolay Grand Chapter of Virginia.
- 2018 A resolution established a quorum consisting of nine (9) Sir Knights, five (5) of whom shall be members of the Commandery entitled to vote on business, including an Officer qualified to preside, and four or more visitors.
- 2018 Fairfax Commandery No. 25 charter was arrested, and its property seized.
- 2018 Death of Past Grand Commander Bradford F. Burnett.
- 2019 Death of Past Grand Commander/Jeffrey Glen Burcham.
- 2019 Grand Commander provided an approved to for and organization a new Commandery of Knights Templar named Virginia Beach Commandery No. 36 U.D.
- 2019 The Grand Commandery financial picture (*Report on Grand Commandery Financial Stability and Business Enhancement*) codified/documentated the Grand Commandery Constitution and Statutes along with various financial and business practices in order to provide an objective, unbiased analysis of the financial picture before making equitable decisions.
- 2019 Virginia Beach Commandery No. 36 received its charter at Virginia Beach.
- 2020 The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, grew into a national crisis in March 2020 posing a danger to vulnerable populations, many of whom are Virginia Fraters. Initial plans for the Stated Grand Conclave had to be side aside because of national travel restrictions and order of the Virginia Governor, Grand Master of Virginia, and the Grand Master Grand Encampment. The One Hundred and Ninety-Eighth Stated Grand Conclave and the First Teleconference Stated Grand Conclave of Virginia was convened in teleconference form on June 27, 2020.
- 2020 A resolution established one Grand Commandery *Meritorious Service Medal* per Commandery annually.
- 2020 Death of Past Grand Commander Gordon J. Morrow.
- 2020-2021 The Grand Commander Official District and Commandery Visits were done by teleconference during the 2020-2021 Chivalric Year. The One Hundred and Ninety-Ninth Stated Grand Conclave was the First Hybrid-Teleconference Stated Grand Conclave of Virginia was convened on May 1, 2020.
- 2021 Portsmouth Commandery N. 5 moved to Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178, Chesapeake, Virginia.
- 2021 Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33 moved to West Point Lodge No. 238, West Point.
- 2022 Harrison Commandry No. 10 merged with Stevenson Commandry No. 8 in Waynesboro, Virginia.
- 2022 A resolution established a quorum for business consisting of five (5) Sir Knights, including an Officer qualified to preside; to confer any of the Orders the quorum remains nine Sir Knights.
- 2022 Grand Commander provided an approved organization of a new Commandery of Knights Templar named Sinclair Commandery No. 37 U.D.

Building Bridges: A Foundation for the Future and a Path to the Tricentennial

- 2023 Grand Commandery Bicentennial Ceremony is held at the Stated Grand Conclave in the DoubleTree Hotel Williamsburg.

2023

Our world is ever changing, and Templar Masonry in Virginia must change as well. Today's Templary is different from our Father's Templary; it is not even the same Templary as when you took your knighthood vows. Masons are busy people and need to be convinced that time and talent to a Knights Templar Commandery has value. We must be resilient with eyes wide open to change and reality. In the words from Socrates: ***"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."***

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia

Chorological Table

Year	Commandery	Knights	Remarks
1823	<p style="text-align: center;">Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Warren Encampment No. 2, Hamper's Ferry Mount Carmel Encampment No. 3 (Unknown)</p> <p>The Grand Encampment of Virginia was formed in November 1823; Winchester, Warren, and Mount Carmel Encampments applied for charters from the General Grand Encampment.</p>	- - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1824	<p style="text-align: center;">Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry</p> <p>Mount Carmel Encampment refused the charter and became extinct; at a Special Assembly Richmond Encampment replaced Mount Carmel Encampment and the Grand Encampment of Virginia formation was healed. Mount Carmel Encampment No. 3 (extinct)</p>	- - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1825	<p style="text-align: center;">Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry</p>	- - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1826	<p style="text-align: center;">Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg</p>	- - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1827	<p style="text-align: center;">Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown)</p>	- - - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1828	<p style="text-align: center;">Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown)</p>	- - - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1829	<p style="text-align: center;">Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth</p>	- - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls

	Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown)	- - -	
1830	Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown)	- - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1831	Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown)	- - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1832			No Grand Assembly
1833			No Grand Assembly
1834	Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown)	- - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1835			No Grand Assembly
1836			No Grand Assembly
1837			No Grand Assembly
1838			No Grand Assembly
1839	Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown)	- - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1840			No Grand Assembly
1841			No Grand Assembly
1842			No Grand Assembly
1843			No Grand Assembly
1844			No Grand Assembly
1845	Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg	- - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls

	Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown)	- -	
	Adoption of a new Constitution of the Grand Encampment of Virginia		
1846	Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown)	- - - - - - -	No Quorum Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1847			No Grand Assembly
1848			No Grand Assembly
1849	Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown)	- - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1850	Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond Warren Encampment No. 3, Hamper's Ferry DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Adelman Encampment No. 7 (Unknown) Banister Encampment No. 8 (Unknown) Palestine Encampment No. 9, Martinsburg	- - - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls
1851	Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Palestine Encampment No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Encampment No. 10, Hicksford Dove Encampment No. 11 U.D., Danville Winchester Encampment No. 1 (extinct) Warren Encampment No. 3 (extinct) Adelman Encampment No. 7 (extinct) Banister Encampment No. 8 (extinct)	- - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership roll. There is no Number 1, 3, 7, 8
1852	Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Palestine Encampment No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Encampment No. 10, Hicksford Dove Encampment No. 11 U.D.	- - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls. There is no Number 1, 3, 7, 8
1853	Wheeling Encampment No. 1, Wheeling	-	

	Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Palestine Encampment No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Encampment No. 10, Hicksford Dove Encampment No. 11 U.D., Danville	- - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls. There is no Number 3, 7, 8
1854	Wheeling Encampment No. 1, Wheeling Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Dove Encampment No. 7, Danville Palestine Encampment No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Encampment No. 10, Hicksford	- - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls. There is no Number 3, 8
1855	Wheeling Encampment No. 1, Wheeling Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Dove Encampment No. 7, Danville Suffolk Encampment No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Encampment No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Encampment No. 10, Hicksford	- - - - - - - -	Proceedings do not address Encampment membership rolls. There is no Number 3
1856	Wheeling Encampment No. 1, Wheeling Richmond Encampment No. 2, Richmond DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Dove Encampment No. 7, Danville Suffolk Encampment No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Encampment No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Encampment No. 10, Hicksford	55 98 58 23 33 10 14 32 19	There is no Number 3 Total Knights: 342
1857	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Suffolk Commandery No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford The Grand Encampment Assembly of 1857 marked the movement from Grand Encampment to Grand Commandery for State Jurisdictions	55 122 58 31 35 12 15 No Return 19	There is no Number 3 Total Knights: 347
1858	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Gill Commandery No. 3, Morgantown DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	58 148 31 64 33 35	

	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Suffolk Commandery No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford	22 17 No Return No Return	Total Knights: 408
1859	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Gill Commandery No. 3, Morgantown DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Suffolk Commandery No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford	65 170 34 61 23 36 28 18 No Return No Return	Total Knights: 435
1860	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Gill Commandery No. 3, Morgantown DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Suffolk Commandery No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford Winchester Commandery No. 11, Winchester Winchester Commandery paid charter revival fees.	No Return 160 30 66 23 38 30 20 No Return No Return -	Total Knights: 367
1861	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Gill Commandery No. 3, Morgantown DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Suffolk Commandery No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford Winchester Commandery No. 11, Winchester	No Return 146 No Return 66 31 No Return 31 No Return No Return No Return No Return	Reporting No Return indicates Commandery areas were occupied by Union Forces. Total Knights: 274
1862	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Gill Commandery No. 3, Morgantown DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Suffolk Commandery No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford Winchester Commandery No. 11, Winchester	No Return 146 No Return 66 31 No Return 31 No Return No Return No Return No Return	Reporting No Return indicates Commandery areas were occupied by Union Forces. Total Knights: 274
1863	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	No Return 185	

	<p>Gill Commandery No. 3, Morgantown DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Suffolk Commandery No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford Winchester Commandery No. 11, Winchester Lemienus Commandery No. 13 (Florida)</p> <p>United States Congress admitted West Virginia to statehood on June 20, 1863.</p>	<p>No Return 100 No Return 74 27 No Return No Return No Return No Return 39</p>	<p>Reporting No Return indicates Commandery areas were occupied by Union Forces.</p> <p>There is no Number 12</p> <p>Total Knights: 425</p>
1864	<p>Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (WV) Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Gill Commandery No. 3, Morgantown (WV) DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Suffolk Commander No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg (WV) Meherrin Command No. 10, Hicksford Winchester Commandery No. 11, Winchester Lemienus Commandery No. 13 (Florida) Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Winston Commandery No. 15 (North Carolina)</p>	<p>No Return 283 No Return No Return No Return No Return 34 No Return No Return No Return No Return 34 73 -</p>	<p>Reporting No Return indicates Commandery areas were occupied by Union Forces.</p> <p>There is no Number 12</p> <p>Total Knights: 424</p>
1865	<p>Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (WV) Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Gill Commandery No. 3, Morgantown (WV) DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Suffolk Commander No. 8, Suffolk Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg (WV) Meherrin Command No. 10, Hicksford Winchester Commandery No. 11, Winchester Lemienus Commandery No. 13 (Florida) Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Winston Commandery No. 15 (North Carolina)</p>	<p>No Return 293 No Return 153 57 100 36 No Return No Return No Return No Return No Return No Return No Return</p>	<p>There is no Number 12</p> <p>Total Knights: 639</p>
1866	<p>Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (WV) Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Meherrin Command No. 10, Hicksford Lemienus Commandery No. 13 (Florida) Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Winston Commandery No. 15 (North Carolina) Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk</p>	<p>64 289 143 46 74 30 29 No Return 41 No Return 13</p>	<p>There is no Number 3, 8, 9, 11, 12</p> <p>Total Knights: 729</p>

	Gill Commandery No. 3 (extinct) Suffolk Commander No. 8 (extinct) Palestine Commandery No. 9 (extinct) Winchester Commandery No. 11 (extinct)		
1867	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (WV) Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford Lemienus Commandery No. 13 (Florida) Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Winston Commandery No. 15 (North Carolina) Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	74 199 162 36 74 27 No Return No Return 35 No Return 30	There is no Number 3, 8, 9, 11, 12 Total Knights: 637
1868	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (WV) Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford Lemienus Commandery No. 13 (Florida) Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Winston Commandery No. 15 (North Carolina) Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	78 199 105 36 80 30 23 No Return 33 No Return 45	There is no Number 3, 8, 11, 12 Total Knights: 629
1869	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (WV) Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond A.P. Abell Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg (WV) Meherrin Command No. 10, Hicksford Stevenson Commandery No. 11, Staunton Star of the West Commandery No. 12, Morgantown (WV) Lemienus Commandery No. 13 (Florida) Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Winston Commandery No. 15 (North Carolina) Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	79 186 - 91 50 No Return 27 35 No Return 25 11 No Return 23 21 46	There is no Number 8 Total Knights: 594
1870	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (WV) Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond A.P. Abell Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg (WV) Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford Winchester Commandery No. 11, Winchester	78 179 28 110 52 40 26 21 39 No Return 11	There is no Number 13, 15

	Star of the West Commandery No. 12, Morgantown (WV) Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	No Return 24 73	Total Knights: 678
	Lemienus Commandery No. 13 (Florida) (extinct) Winston Commandery No. 15 (North Carolina) returned the charter to the Grand Commandery of Virginia.		
1871	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (WV) Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond A.P. Abell Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery t No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg (WV) Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester Star of the West Commandery No. 12, Morgantown (WV) Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	75 187 29 111 62 38 No Return 34 34 Suspended 14 No Return 27 75	There is no Number 11, 13, 15 Total Knights: 686
1872	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (WV) Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond A.P. Abell Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg (WV) Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 11, Winchester Star of the West Commandery No. 12, Morgantown (WV) Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	71 191 26 115 56 44 27 35 34 No Return 23 15 No Return 25 80	There is no Number 13, 15 Total Knights: 742
1873	Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (WV) Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond A.P. Abell Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery t No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg (WV) Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford Winchester Commandery No. 11, Winchester Star of the West Commandery No. 12, Morgantown (WV) Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	No Return 186 37 113 55 35 26 34 30 No Return 37 18 23 79	There is no Number 13, 15 Total Knights: 673
1874	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond A.P. Abell Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	191 42	There is no Number 13, 15

	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery o. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Christiansburg Commandery No. 9, Christiansburg Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	95 58 81 27 53 29 20 58 31 27 81	Total Knights: 808
1878	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery o. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Christiansburg Commandery No. 9, Christiansburg Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk St. Andrew Commandery U.D., Richmond	29 147 39 105 60 79 36 42 30 26 66 29 23 105 36	There is no Number 13, 15 Total Knights: 852
1879	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery o. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Christiansburg Commandery No. 9, Christiansburg Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	26 133 33 105 64 82 46 27 No Return 27 64 26 46 24 106	There is no Number 15 Total Knights: 809
1880	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery o. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Christiansburg Commandery No. 9, Christiansburg Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	27 140 31 107 68 73 45 31 No Return 30 67	There is no Number 15

1884	<p>Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Encampment No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Encampment No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Christiansburg Commandery No. 9, Christiansburg Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Fauquier Commandery No. 15, Markham Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk</p>	<p>27 162 28 106 76 69 46 28 No Return 34 61 No Return 66 20 No Return 112</p>	<p>Total Knights: 835</p>
1885	<p>Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Fauquier Commandery No. 15, Markham Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk</p> <p>Dispensation to establish Hampton Commandery will remain in force to a future assembly.</p>	<p>No Return 182 27 100 75 71 47 28 34 59 20 65 24 23 107</p>	<p>There is no Number 9</p> <p>Total Knights: 862</p>
1886	<p>Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Fauquier Commandery No. 15, Markham Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk</p> <p>Dispensation to establish Hampton Commandery will remain in force to a future assembly.</p>	<p>23 191 27 95 73 71 53 31 28 53 20 87 19 No Return 103</p>	<p>There is no Number 9</p> <p>Total Knights: 883</p>

1887	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Fauquier Commandery No. 15, Markham Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	21 181 23 96 71 72 57 35 16 39 53 22 86 20 No Return 91	Total Knights: 883
1888	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton Fauquier Commandery No. 15 returned its charter to the Grand Commandery of Virginia	22 190 22 104 62 73 57 37 21 38 46 22 92 19 No Return 79 22	Total Knights: 968
1889	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	28 191 19 112 58 77 60 41 28 45 55 20 99 26 42 78	

	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	29	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe.	19	Total Knights: 1,027
1890	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	23	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	185	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	19	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	105	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	57	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	69	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	59	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	43	
	W.H.H. Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	39	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	43	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	55	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	16	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	100	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	28	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	75	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	83	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	29	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	27	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	20	Total Knights: 990
1891	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	27	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	183	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	No Return	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	118	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	50	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	72	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	58	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	59	
	W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	67	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	29	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	56	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	17	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	95	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	24	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	72	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	89	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	28	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	34	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	33	Total Knights: 1,111
1892	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	42	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	176	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	No Return	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	123	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	51	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	72	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	62	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	59	
	W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	89	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	27	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	62	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	No Return	

	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	112 38 66 92 34 36 36 31	Total Knights: 1,208
1893	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell.	42 175 No Return 135 48 66 60 65 82 27 71 No Return 122 49 75 93 36 48 39 22	Total Knights: 1,255
1894	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	43 183 No Return 147 54 61 62 64 90 27 84 16 139 48 98 94 40 50 39 26	Total Knights: 1,361
1895	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	40 192 15 162	

	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	56 81 67 72 90 24 89 16 145 57 94 99 44 46 37 32	Total Knights: 1,458
	At the Stated Assembly of W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9 voted to drop the W. H. H. initials and now will be known Lynn Commandery No. 9 in the future.		
1896	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	50 185 16 174 55 12 67 81 98 24 89 16 140 59 78 58 47 49 40 33	Total Knights: 1,371
1897	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	51 161 15 172 61 80 66 80 106 29 97 16	

	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	134 60 77 94 44 51 38 40	Total Knights: 1,472
1898	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	69 149 27 168 53 77 64 88 102 32 100 20 129 51 73 103 48 54 38 42	Total Knights: 1,457
1899	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell Cyrene Commandery U.D., Norton	69 145 28 168 49 76 63 82 99 32 104 33 124 53 72 95 50 56 36 54 15	Total Knights: 1,503
1900	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	72 144 26	

	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	160	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	56	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	71	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	73	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	80	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	113	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	34	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	120	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	42	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	123	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	56	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	107	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	108	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	57	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	54	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	40	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	60	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	32	Total Knights: 1,628
1901	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	64	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	142	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	26	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	161	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	59	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	71	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	77	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	88	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	125	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	34	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	126	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	49	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	145	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	53	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	99	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	127	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	64	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	54	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	41	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	63	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	47	Total Knights: 1,715
1902	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	68	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	132	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	22	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	161	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	58	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	73	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	80	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	95	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	120	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	33	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	129	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	53	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	169	

	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	60	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	97	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	115	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	65	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	52	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	41	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	74	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	57	Total Knights: 1,754
1903	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	71	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	146	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	29	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	170	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	65	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	73	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	84	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	107	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	132	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	33	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	136	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	60	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	196	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	58	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	107	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	127	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	77	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	47	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	75	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	60	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	74	
	Graham Commandery No. 22 U.D., Graham	35	Total Knights: 1,963
1904	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	79	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	145	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	33	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	175	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	87	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	74	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	88	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	130	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	138	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	35	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	143	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	66	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	196	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	72	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	119	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	133	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	79	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	46	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	51	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	57	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	95	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	40	Total Knights: 2,081

1905	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	78	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	148	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	39	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	186	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	92	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	73	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	92	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	106	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	136	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	35	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	142	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	78	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	199	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	73	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	135	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	146	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	80	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	45	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	44	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	57	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	116	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	40	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23 U.D., Clifton Forge	62	Total Knights: 2,202
1906	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	79	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	150	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	43	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	208	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	103	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	73	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	102	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	106	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	139	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	23	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	154	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	82	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	207	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	79	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	139	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	159	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	83	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	49	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	53	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	62	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	125	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	48	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	83	
	Malta Commandery No. 24 U.D., Onancock	40	Total Knights: 2,389
1907	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	80	1907 and 1908
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	154	Proceedings are the same
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	42	document.
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	228	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	113	

	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	78	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	108	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	116	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	156	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	33	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	156	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	35	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	161	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	97	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	212	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	167	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	90	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	48	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	52	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	60	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	130	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	60	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	96	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	45	Total Knights: 2,518
1908	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	80	1907 and 1908 Proceedings are the same document.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	154	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	42	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	228	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	113	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	78	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	108	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	116	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	156	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	33	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	156	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	35	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	161	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	97	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	212	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	167	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	90	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	48	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	52	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	60	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	130	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	60	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	96	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	45	
1909	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	82	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	159	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	44	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	237	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	120	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	87	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	119	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	116	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	182	

	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	55	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	155	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	90	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	206	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	95	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	150	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	200	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	90	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	52	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	56	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	67	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	142	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	71	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	105	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	46	Total Knights: 2,571
1910	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	80	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	169	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	48	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	240	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	128	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	98	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	125	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	116	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	193	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	58	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	173	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	99	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	235	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	118	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	154	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	250	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	92	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	64	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	60	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	64	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	151	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	79	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	108	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	47	Total Knights: 2,949
1911	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	77	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	171	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	48	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	145	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	130	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	100	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	130	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	119	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	198	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	65	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	177	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	100	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	136	

	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	124	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	155	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	271	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Hampton	98	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	71	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	65	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	74	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	162	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	82	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	104	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	45	Total Knights: 3,041
1912	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	80	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	175	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	52	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	243	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	128	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	102	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	132	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	119	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	212	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	68	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	188	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	102	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	244	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	124	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	173	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	300	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	97	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	69	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	61	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	77	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	164	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	82	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	111	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	45	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	25	Total Knights: 3,173
1913	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	79	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	188	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	54	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	245	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	133	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	105	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	131	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	117	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	219	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	70	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	196	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	102	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	242	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	123	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	173	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	354	

	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	100 67 56 77 168 81 113 44 51	Total Knights: 3,288
1914	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	81 197 60 241 134 103 151 124 214 70 192 107 241 126 181 370 95 62 56 78 179 79 109 47 59	Total Knights: 3,336
1915	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	80 200 65 247 141 108 139 131 208 67 197 103 238 145 208 390 92 63	

	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	65	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	79	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	182	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	77	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	115	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	48	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	73	Total Knights: 3,450
1916	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	80	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	205	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	68	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	245	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	145	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	125	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	156	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	131	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	209	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	66	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	205	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	108	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	244	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	141	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	208	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	402	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	87	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	62	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	55	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	79	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	194	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	77	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	117	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	57	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	67	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26 U.D., The Plains	47	Total Knights: 3,579
1917	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	76	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	222	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	73	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	242	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	160	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	150	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	155	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	135	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	213	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	69	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	205	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	119	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	247	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	146	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	239	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	455	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	89	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	57	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	53	

	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	80	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	189	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	80	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	116	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	58	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	81	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	55	Total Knights: 3,764
1918	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	74	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	239	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	80	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	255	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	185	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	182	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	165	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	136	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	204	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	70	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	208	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	128	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	266	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	143	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	261	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	478	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	94	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	54	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	67	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	86	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	205	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	82	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	119	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	55	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	87	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	60	Total Knights: 3,983
1919	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	72	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	232	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	95	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	270	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	241	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	210	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	189	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	145	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	213	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	76	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	212	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	135	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	299	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	145	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	286	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	604	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	150	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	53	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	74	

	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	88	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	211	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	99	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	137	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	54	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	91	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	69	Total Knights: 4,541
1920	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	76	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	406	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	106	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	308	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	281	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	242	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	221	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	143	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	231	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	79	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	207	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	143	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	324	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	179	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	319	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	711	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	62	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	77	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	89	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	271	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	111	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	141	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	53	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	98	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	113	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	52	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	52	Total Knights: 5,215
1921	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	89	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	430	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	128	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	342	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	304	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	256	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	296	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	166	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	239	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	86	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	212	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	174	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	328	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	212	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	369	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	781	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	193	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	81	

	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	99	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	97	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	312	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	123	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	179	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	70	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	111	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	168	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	67	Total Knights: 5,911
1922	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	92	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	456	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	135	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	361	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	313	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	267	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	312	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	163	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	273	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	88	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	211	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	193	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	335	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	224	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	407	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	772	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	201	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	130	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	105	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	115	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	367	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	133	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	228	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	67	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	126	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	208	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	83	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	48	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29 U.D., Woodstock	9	Total Knights: 6,422
1923	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	71	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	473	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	146	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	374	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	329	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	269	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	346	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	172	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	299	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	93	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	216	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	189	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	351	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	236	

	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	442	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	815	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	212	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	137	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	105	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	124	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	422	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	141	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	238	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	79	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	129	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	218	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	87	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	61	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	32	Total Knights: 6,806
1924	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	84	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	506	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	163	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	384	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	324	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	297	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	352	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	176	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	297	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	95	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	225	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	194	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	360	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	265	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	476	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	857	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	228	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	161	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	96	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	140	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	431	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	152	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	264	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	86	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	139	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	225	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	100	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	67	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	38	
	Warsaw Commandery No. 30, Warsaw	37	Total Knights: 7,219
1925	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	71	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	514	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	166	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	377	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	333	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	29	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	358	

	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	173	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	289	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	97	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	226	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	191	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	358	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	274	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	517	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	860	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	223	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	170	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	92	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	141	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	444	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	153	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	280	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	89	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	139	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	230	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	100	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	67	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	41	
	Warsaw Commandery No. 30, Warsaw	52	Total Knights: 7,324
1926	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	68	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	512	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	163	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	379	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	324	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	307	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	340	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	171	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	281	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	95	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	225	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	192	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	360	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	270	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	541	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	855	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	236	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	176	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	95	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	144	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	467	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	159	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	290	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	91	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	147	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	225	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	101	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	68	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	40	

	Warsaw Commandery No. 30, Warsaw	55	Total Knights: 7,422
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31 U.D., Martinsville	46	
1927	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	66	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	517	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	166	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	382	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	335	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	316	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	330	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	171	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	281	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	92	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	220	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	192	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	351	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	253	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	566	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	857	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	233	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	179	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	94	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	140	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	482	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	165	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	299	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	96	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	144	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	210	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	99	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	69	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	40	
	Warsaw Commandery No. 30, Warsaw	55	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31 U.D., Martinsville	54	Total Knights: 7,454
1928	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	60	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	516	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	166	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	368	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	330	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	310	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	325	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	166	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	285	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	95	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	230	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	196	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	339	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	238	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	550	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	859	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	230	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	188	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	98	

	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	131	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	484	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	156	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	284	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	109	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	151	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	208	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	97	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	67	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	38	
	Warsaw Commandery No. 30, Warsaw	52	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	63	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32 U.D., Blacksburg	45	Total Knights: 7,434
1929	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	62	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	507	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	167	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	368	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	333	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	297	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	326	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	167	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	275	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	95	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	230	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	200	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	337	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	235	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	544	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	854	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	238	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	188	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	98	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	128	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	458	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	147	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	285	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	112	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	146	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	184	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	98	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	67	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	39	
	Warsaw Commandery No. 30, Warsaw	51	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	63	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	50	Total Knights: 7,348
1930	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	58	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	499	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	162	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	360	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	314	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	290	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	290	

	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	169	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	274	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	94	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	224	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	194	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	327	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	237	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	544	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	845	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	243	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	182	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	99	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	129	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	460	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	138	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	279	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	113	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	136	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	173	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	95	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	65	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	43	
	Warsaw Commandery No. 30, Warsaw	52	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	65	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	60	Total Knights: 7,213
	A resolution was approved by the delegates at the Grand Conclave to change of the name of Warsaw Commandery No. 30 to Tidewater Commandery No. 30 and change it place of meeting from Warsaw to Heathsville, Virginia.		
1931	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	60	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	490	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	160	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	340	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	306	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	277	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	277	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	167	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	262	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	9	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	221	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	187	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	315	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	217	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	544	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	837	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	240	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	179	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	98	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	116	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	405	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	128	

	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	259	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	113	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	131	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	152	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	99	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	63	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	39	
	Tidewater Commandery No. 30, Heathsville	52	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	63	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	61	Total Knights: 6,948
1932	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	55	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	477	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	147	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	323	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	298	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	260	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	261	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	148	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	248	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	87	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	217	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	174	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	299	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	214	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	510	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	772	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	236	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	137	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	94	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	115	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	354	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	116	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	245	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	107	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	129	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	141	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	98	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	62	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	39	
	Tidewater Commandery No. 30, Heathsville	49	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	54	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	61	Total Knights: 6,527
1933	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	45	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	456	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	140	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	295	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	289	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	253	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	216	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	142	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	242	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	80	

	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	212	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	170	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	259	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	173	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	480	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	741	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	228	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	128	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	90	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	101	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	341	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	111	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	221	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	102	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	130	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	134	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	96	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	50	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	31	
	Tidewater Commandery No. 30, Heathsville	48	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	49	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	55	Total Knights: 6,108
1934	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	44	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	40	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	131	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	274	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	270	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	215	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	208	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	125	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	231	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	78	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	205	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	161	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	247	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	154	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	421	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	646	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	214	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	121	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	78	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	92	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	287	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	98	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	204	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	92	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	121	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	79	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	92	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	46	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	31	
	Tidewater Commandery No. 30, Heathsville	5	

	George W. Wright Commandery No. 31, Martinsville	48	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	50	Total Knights: 5,517
1935	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	42	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	391	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	127	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	256	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	256	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	171	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	175	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	124	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	222	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	75	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	182	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	154	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	230	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	145	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	402	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	617	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	202	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	115	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	74	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	89	
	Cyrene Commandery No. 21, Norton	255	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	94	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	198	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	84	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	114	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	76	
	Moomaw Commandery No. 27, Lexington	86	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	40	
	Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock	20	
	Tidewater Commandery No. 20, Heathsville	43	
	George W. Wright Commandery No. 31, Martinsville	48	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	48	Total Knights: 5,155
1936	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	41	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	376	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	119	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	233	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	250	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	165	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	143	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	121	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	214	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	75	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	173	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	143	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	239	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	130	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	380	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	599	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	185	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	112	

	<p>Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg</p> <p>Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock, consolidated with Winchester Commandery No. 12. Tidewater Commandery No. 30, Heathsville, consolidated with St. Andrew Commandery No. 13.</p>	<p>68 83 248 89 192 76 113 58 84 36 44 44</p>	<p>Total Knights: 4,833</p>
1937	<p>Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg</p>	<p>36 336 113 220 237 143 133 113 182 71 174 140 228 108 346 599 174 106 69 75 200 87 169 72 104 53 78 36 45 41</p>	<p>There is no Number 29 nor No. 30</p> <p>Total Knights: 4,488</p>
1938	<p>Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg</p>	<p>34 320 116 217</p>	<p>There is no Number 29 nor No. 30</p>

	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	234	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	127	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	121	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	110	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	179	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	70	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	172	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	133	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	207	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	107	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	320	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	590	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	172	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	93	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	69	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	80	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	200	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	85	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	164	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	72	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	99	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	49	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	77	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	33	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	44	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	40	Total Knights: 4,333
1939	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	32	There is no Number 29 nor No. 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	304	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	116	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	209	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	242	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	128	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	116	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	109	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	179	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	71	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	167	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	128	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	203	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	96	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	300	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	592	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	170	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	99	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	71	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	85	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	202	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	77	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	160	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	74	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	97	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	38	

	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	67	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	32	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	42	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	38	Total Knights: 4,244
1940	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	31	There is no Number 29 nor No. 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	299	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	111	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	203	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	236	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	123	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	111	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	104	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	176	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	71	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	178	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	124	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	184	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	87	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	279	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	581	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	168	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	96	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	72	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	83	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	200	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	73	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	131	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	71	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	90	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	35	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	67	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	31	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	43	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	41	Total Knights: 4,101
1941	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	30	There is no Number 29 nor No. 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	277	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	105	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	196	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	232	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	116	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	110	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	102	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	167	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	65	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	177	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	108	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	181	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	85	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	266	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	572	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	164	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	86	

	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	66	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	83	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	191	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	75	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	120	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	65	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	85	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	29	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	72	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	29	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	43	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	43	Total Knights: 3,940
1942	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	28	There is no Number 29 nor No. 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	273	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	104	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	163	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	142	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	119	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	114	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	102	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	163	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	64	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	182	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	108	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	172	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	73	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	258	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	585	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	172	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	87	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	63	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	78	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	184	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	68	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	108	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	55	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	80	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	34	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	71	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	30	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	42	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	46	Total Knights: 3,867
1943	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	28	Proceedings Missing
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	277	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	98	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	160	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	260	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	118	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	111	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	99	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	160	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	64	There is no Number 29 nor No. 30

	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	188	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	101	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	171	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	74	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	255	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	650	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	197	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	82	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	58	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	76	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	141	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	69	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	107	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	57	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	77	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	32	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	73	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	33	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	40	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	48	Total Knights: 3,904
1944	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	23	There is no No. 29 nor No. 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	274	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	90	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	154	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	305	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	132	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	124	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	92	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	157	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	67	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	201	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	97	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	172	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	80	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	255	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	706	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	223	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	78	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	59	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	71	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	173	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	75	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	105	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	57	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	80	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	38	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	68	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	41	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	44	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	63	Total Knights: 4,113
1945	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	26	There is no Number 29 nor No. 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	310	

	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	117	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	165	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	352	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	141	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	126	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	93	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	152	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	65	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	221	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	94	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	167	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	82	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	252	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	866	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	256	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	83	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	60	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	70	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	101	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	81	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	122	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	73	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	82	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	38	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	72	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	44	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	48	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	60	
			Total Knights: 4,530
1946	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	34	There is no Number 29 nor No. 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	369	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	118	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	175	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	374	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	157	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	130	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	98	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	153	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	69	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	147	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	109	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	165	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	88	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	252	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	977	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	310	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	84	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	68	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	94	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	215	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	84	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	149	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	76	

	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	87	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	38	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	73	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	58	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	49	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	81	
	Arlington Commandery U.D., Arlington	19	Total Knights: 5,000
1947	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	44	There is no Number 29 nor No. 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	460	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	120	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	197	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	398	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	192	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	150	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	101	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	148	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	68	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	258	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	112	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	160	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	105	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	254	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,030	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	334	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	87	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	74	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	92	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	230	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	91	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	170	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	82	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	84	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	50	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	78	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	68	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	50	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	93	
	Arlington Commandery U.D., Arlington	61	Total Knights: 5,441
1948	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	48	There is no Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	503	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	125	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	227	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	415	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	200	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	147	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	100	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	148	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	69	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	264	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	110	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	168	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	120	

	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	439	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	211	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	150	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	94	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	147	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	74	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	281	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	120	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	164	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	130	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	324	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,166	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	389	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	87	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	88	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	117	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	260	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	113	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	195	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	96	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	92	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	57	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	97	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	78	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	124	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	60	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	101	Total Knights: 6,164
1951	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	59	There is no Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	478	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	148	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	233	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	443	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	214	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	152	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	97	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	147	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	76	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	247	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	122	
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	151	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	144	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	322	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,175	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	402	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	86	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	90	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	121	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	249	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	111	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	195	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	98	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	94	

	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	59		
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	98		
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	77		
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	134		
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	59		
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	107	Total Knights: 6,238	
1952	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	56	There is no Number 30	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	468		
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	148		
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	245		
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	460		
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	216		
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	151		
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	94		
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	144		
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	80		
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	316		
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	121		
	St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond	139		
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	150		
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	316		
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,180		
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	404		
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	87		
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	93		
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	122		
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	153		
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	108		
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	198		
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	98		
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	92		
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	58		
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	103		
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	76		
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	156		
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	76		
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	119		Total Knights: 6,327
1953	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	60		There is no Number 13 nor Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	592		
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	153		
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	147		
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	463		
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	217		
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	158		
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	101		
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	155		
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	83		
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	324		
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	125		
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	146		
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	321		
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,182		

	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	482	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	228	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	150	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	102	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	164	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	85	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	331	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	118	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	143	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	321	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,294	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	406	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	99	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	106	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	124	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	234	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	101	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	186	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	104	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	94	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	60	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	118	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	80	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	232	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	85	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	138	
			Total Knights: 6,599
1956	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	66	There is no Number 13 nor Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	517	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	160	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	253	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	482	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	230	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	146	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	99	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	163	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	85	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	351	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	120	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	137	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	315	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,280	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	412	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	96	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	109	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	133	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	238	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	101	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	187	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	105	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	98	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	69	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	118	

	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	81	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	244	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	86	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	138	Total Knights: 6,619
1957	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	63	There is no Number 13 nor Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	495	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	160	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	251	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	485	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	236	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	147	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	99	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	162	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	81	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	329	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	118	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	137	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	314	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,294	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	414	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	94	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	107	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	134	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	230	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	99	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	186	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	105	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	100	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	69	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	120	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	80	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	253	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	85	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	156	Total Knights: 6,594
1958	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	63	There is no Number 13 nor Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	471	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	163	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	251	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	487	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	245	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	140	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	100	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	161	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	76	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	333	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	116	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	135	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	317	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,309	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	416	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	99	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	111	

	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	131	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	230	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	99	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	181	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	103	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	101	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	68	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	116	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	79	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	267	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	81	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	161	Total Knights: 6,610
1959	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	63	There is no Number 13 nor Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	445	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	161	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	146	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	485	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	216	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	140	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	100	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	163	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	74	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	335	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	114	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	155	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	317	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,295	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	410	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	104	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	109	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	129	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	242	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	97	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	158	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	105	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	99	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	65	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	110	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	76	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	280	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	79	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	171	Total Knights: 6,549
1960	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	67	There is no Number 13 nor Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	416	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	167	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	146	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	484	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	219	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	137	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	94	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	162	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	77	

	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	347	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	111	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	168	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	317	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,296	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	423	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	114	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	111	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	123	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	234	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	95	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	153	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	106	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	98	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	63	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	113	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	77	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	283	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	79	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	187	Total Knights: 6,557
1961	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	71	There is no Number 13 nor Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	397	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	164	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	247	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	490	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	213	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	137	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	91	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	164	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	73	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	349	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	114	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	170	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	298	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,285	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	433	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	110	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	110	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	118	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	234	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	92	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	151	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	96	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	94	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	63	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	110	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	72	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	284	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	77	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	188	Total Knights: 6,495
1962	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	77	There is no Number 13 nor Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	375	

	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	169	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	238	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	487	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	199	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	136	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	89	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	158	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	73	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	350	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	113	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	180	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	297	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,297	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	434	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	113	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	114	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	107	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	267	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	88	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	155	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	99	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	88	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	62	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	110	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	74	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	290	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	79	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	216	Total Knights: 6,534
1963	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	77	There is no Number 13 nor Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	357	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	158	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	226	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	483	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	195	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	132	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	87	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	160	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	76	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	339	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	110	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	223	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	292	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,301	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	437	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	114	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	121	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	106	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	245	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	89	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	150	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	104	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	88	

	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	115		
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	131		
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	112		
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	238		
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	80		
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	155		
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	110		
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	94		
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	67		
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	109		
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	85		
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	366		
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	77		
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	238		
	Scott Commandery U.D., Gate City	40	Total Knights: 6,609	
1966	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	81	There is no Number 30	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	316		
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	159		
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	212		
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	442		
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	180		
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	119		
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	86		
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	153		
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	79		
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	329		
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	108		
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	88		
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	232		
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	300		
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,252		
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	461		
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	116		
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	135		
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	110		
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	238		
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	76		
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	167		
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	120		
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	97		
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Leesburg	69		
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Haymarket	103		
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	85		
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	377		
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	73		
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	249		Total Knights: 6,612
1967	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	93		There is no Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	310		
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	158		
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	236		
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	449		
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	179		

	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	125	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	87	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	156	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	80	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	320	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	117	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	98	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	220	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	312	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,242	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	459	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	111	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	139	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	108	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	241	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	76	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	166	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	125	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	105	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	70	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	111	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	84	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	377	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	74	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	244	
			Total Knights: 6,672
1968	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	101	There is no Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	293	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	156	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	230	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	439	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	174	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	125	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	82	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	154	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	82	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	316	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	125	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	109	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	219	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	313	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,238	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	430	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	110	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	136	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	108	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	231	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	75	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	163	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	133	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	101	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	67	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	108	

	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Cape Charles	80	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	379	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	71	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	232	Total Knights: 6,580
1969	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	103	There is no Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	285	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	159	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	234	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	423	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	167	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	122	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	78	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	159	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	84	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	309	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	122	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	107	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	214	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	312	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,229	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	432	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	107	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	148	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	104	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	221	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	83	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	155	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	142	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	104	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	69	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	107	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	87	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	382	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	70	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	226	Total Knights: 6,544
1970	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	106	There is no Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	266	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	186	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	235	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	411	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	166	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	121	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	85	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	168	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	98	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	311	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	125	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	111	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	207	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	310	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,207	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	453	

	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	104		
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	147		
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	99		
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	245		
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	83		
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	153		
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	148		
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	106		
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	67		
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	103		
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	91		
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	380		
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	74		
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	223	Total Knights: 6,589	
1971	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	101	There is no Number 30	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	267		
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	186		
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	223		
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	413		
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	155		
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	120		
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	90		
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	164		
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	99		
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	331		
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	140		
	Scott Commandery NO. 13, Gate City	109		
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	200		
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	325		
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,192		
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	446		
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	99		
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	142		
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	100		
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	246		
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	79		
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	159		
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	146		
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	109		
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	69		
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	108		
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	91		
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	382		
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	70		
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	219		Total Knights: 6,573
1972	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	101		There is no Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	274		
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	183		
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	225		
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	407		
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	166		
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	117		

	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	93	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	166	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	95	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	348	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	145	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	109	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	215	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	330	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,145	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	440	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	99	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	145	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	98	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	288	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	86	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	154	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	151	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	105	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	71	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	102	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	94	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	382	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	68	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	212	Total Knights: 6,614
1973	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	102	Proceedings Missing
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	265	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	178	There is no Number 30
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	220	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	403	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	162	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	122	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	88	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	No Report	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	83	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	320	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	123	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	No Report	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	170	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	247	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,066	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	350	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	No Report	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	70	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	No Report	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	252	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	85	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	154	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	158	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	105	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	71	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	100	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	93	

	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	389	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	68	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	204	Total Knights: 6,209
1974	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	106	Proceedings Missing
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	251	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	172	There is no Number 30
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	209	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	424	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	162	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	115	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	87	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	160	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	93	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	347	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	134	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	103	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	203	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	340	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,109	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	456	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	93	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	146	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	No Report	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	324	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	No Report	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	158	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	169	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	105	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	70	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	99	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	99	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	399	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	64	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	204	Total Knights: 6,298
1975	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	108	Proceedings Missing
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	No Report	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	No Report	There is no Number 30
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	210	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	423	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	Mo Report	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	121	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	No Report	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	150	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	90	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	345	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	129	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	103	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	227	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	338	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,089	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	457	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	No Report	

	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	164	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	89	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	326	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	146	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	74	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	236	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	337	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	99 ?	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	430	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	149	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	146	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	92	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	336	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	78	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	1,063 ?	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	167	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	103	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	100	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	93	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	99	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	363	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	69	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	190	Total Knights: 6,416
1978	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	132	Proceedings Missing
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	247	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	149	There is no Number 30
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	184	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	407	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	155	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	96	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	75	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	151	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	83	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	315	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	152	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	98	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	245	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	329	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	1,021	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	414	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	73	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	153	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	88	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	332	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	73	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	150	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	183	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	100	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	109	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	86	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	103	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	359	

	George W. Wright Commandery No. 31, Martinsville	67	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	180	Total Knights: 6,309
1979	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	129	Proceedings Missing
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	243	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	150	There is no Number 30
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	180	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	401	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	165	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	94	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	71	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	156	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	83	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	281	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	152	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	95	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	252	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	337	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	998	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	417	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	72	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	153	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	95	
	Cyrene Commandery No. 21, Norton	340	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	74	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	144	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	180	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	94	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	105	
	Moomaw Commandery No. 27, Lexington	85	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	100	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	365	
	George W. Wright Commandery No. 31, Martinsville	58	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	183	Total Knights: 6,252
1980	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	134	Proceedings Missing
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	235	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	148	There is no Number 30
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	173	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	379	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	165	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	91	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	67	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	159	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	81	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	278	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	154	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	100	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	247	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	336	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	965	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	412	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	69	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	151	

	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	96		
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	315		
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	70		
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	146		
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	185		
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	91		
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	103		
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	80		
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	99		
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	361		
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	59		
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	180	Total Knights: 6,129	
1981	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	130	There is no Number 30	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	239		
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	161		
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	161		
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	363		
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	165		
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	91		
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	64		
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	158		
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	79		
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	273		
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	161		
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	106		
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	244		
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	330		
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	937		
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	412		
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	67		
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	145		
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	96		
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	305		
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	81		
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	---		
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	176		
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	90		
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	103		
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	75		
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	100		
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	355		
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	60		
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	186		Total Knights: 6,065
1982	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	132		Proceedings Missing
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	239		
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	128	There is no Number 30	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	170		
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	364		
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	158		
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	98		
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	65		
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	154		

	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	78	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	272	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	152	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	99	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	245	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	336	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	923	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	407	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	60	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	144	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	93	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	305	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	81	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	152	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	175	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	87	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	103	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	75	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	98	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	353	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	59	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	185	Total Knights: 5,911
1983	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	132	Proceedings Missing
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	252	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	123	There is no Number 30
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	165	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	347	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	172	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	94	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	86	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	143	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	71	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	256	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	141	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	97	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	230	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	327	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	883	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	405	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	63	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	134	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	90	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	287	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	79	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	148	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	173	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	80	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	107	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	5	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	81	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	342	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	69	

	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	175	Total Knights: 5,827
1984	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	120	There is no Number 30
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	255	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	116	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	130	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	330	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	172	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	96	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	86	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	140	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	71	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	245	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	131	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	105	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	221	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	312	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	853	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	385	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	61	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	133	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	96	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	281	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	77	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	149	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	173	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	76	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	107	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	62	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	89	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	331	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	64	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	177	Total Knights: 5,574
1985	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	113	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	267	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	109	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	146	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	312	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	171	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	89	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	59	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	136	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	68	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	234	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	132	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	103	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	219	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	301	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	820	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	327	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	57	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	130	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	94	

	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	249	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	77	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	152	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	166	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	72	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	103	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	59	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	79	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	327	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	33	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	63	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	177	Total Knights: 5,438
1986	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	106	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	263	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	107	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	148	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	306	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	168	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	86	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	55	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	135	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	63	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	226	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	131	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	97	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	208	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	290	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	771	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	358	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	55	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	134	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	91	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	238	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	75	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	150	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	163	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	64	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	110	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	55	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	75	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	318	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	40	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	62	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	171	Total Knights: 5,319
1987	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	108	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	256	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	101	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	146	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	288	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	109	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	84	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	62	

	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	131	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	61	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	210	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	130	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	96	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	203	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	281	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	731	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	343	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	51	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	129	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	95	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	233	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	70	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	146	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	161	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	61	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	111	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	49	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	77	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	309	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	43	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	61	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	167	Total Knights: 5,103
1988	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	111	Proceedings Missing
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	249	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	97	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	139	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	228	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	165	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	81	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	58	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	126	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	55	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	203	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	129	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	87	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	193	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	168	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	184	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	327	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	48	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	128	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	93	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	221	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	70	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	142	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	155	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	60	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Haymarket	107	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	49	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	68	

	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	305	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	45	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	61	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	164	Total Knights: 4,316
1989	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	110	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	235	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	103	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	136	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	270	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	147	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	75	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	52	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	121	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	53	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	199	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	113	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	89	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	192	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	263	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	678	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	308	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	43	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	123	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	93	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	211	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	70	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	140	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	155	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	59	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	105	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	44	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	62	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	286	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	47	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	65	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	158	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	40	Total Knights: 4,845
1990	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	106	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	216	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	97	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	127	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	256	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	146	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	68	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	50	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	113	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	52	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	194	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	124	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	88	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	190	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	242	

	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	671	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	299	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	43	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	125	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	84	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	193	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	67	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	141	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	154	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	51	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	104	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	43	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	57	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	280	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	49	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	65	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	157	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	41	Total Knights: 4,693
1991	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	102	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	204	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	94	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	119	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	241	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	137	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	67	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	46	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	114	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	50	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	191	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	133	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	82	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	175	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	233	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	651	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	275	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	40	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	125	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	82	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	177	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	60	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	135	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	149	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	46	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	110	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	42	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	54	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	268	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	55	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	65	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	147	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	41	Total Knights: 4,510
1992	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	93	

	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	193	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	94	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	113	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	224	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	131	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	65	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	48	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	115	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	51	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	187	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	121	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	78	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	176	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	230	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	598	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	264	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	37	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	123	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	79	
	Cyrene Commandery No. 21, Norton	167	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	58	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	123	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	140	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	46	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	109	
	Moomaw Commandery No. 27, Lexington	39	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	52	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	247	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	46	
	George W. Wright Commandery No. 31, Martinsville	59	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	135	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	44	
			Total Knights: 4,116
1993	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	99	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	162	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	94	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	113	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	209	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	118	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	60	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	49	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	107	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	44	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	182	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	120	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	75	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	169	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	235	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	542	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	237	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	34	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	126	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	55	

	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	160	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	57	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	117	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	136	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	48	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	112	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	35	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	48	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	233	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	48	
	George W. Wight Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	56	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	125	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	42	Total Knights: 4,047
1994	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	95	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	183	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	88	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	108	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	200	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	105	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	58	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	45	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	106	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	44	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	179	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	111	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	76	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	162	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	228	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	541	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	229	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	33	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	120	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	56	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	160	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	60	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	116	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	130	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	44	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	110	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	36	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	46	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	223	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	44	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	55	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	123	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	47	Total Knights: 3,961
1995	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	95	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	178	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	83	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	97	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	194	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	103	

	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	53	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	46	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	105	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	40	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	170	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	109	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	74	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	158	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	225	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	502	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	205	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	32	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	119	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	56	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	157	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	64	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	112	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	125	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	44	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	120	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	36	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	42	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	236	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	46	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	52	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	119	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	47	
			Total Knights: 3,844
1996	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	93	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	166	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	81	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	86	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	191	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	102	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	50	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	45	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	104	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	39	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	163	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	101	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	73	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	150	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	225	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	482	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	200	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	31	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	113	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	62	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	157	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	63	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	114	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	121	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	38	

	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	122	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	32	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	37	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	233	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	51	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	45	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	127	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	48	Total Knights: 3,745
1997	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	94	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	160	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	81	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	78	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	183	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	105	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	42	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	46	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	90	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	38	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	172	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	99	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	65	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	143	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	232	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	455	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	194	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	30	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	113	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	67	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	163	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	60	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	109	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	167	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	38	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	126	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	31	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	37	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	235	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	51	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	44	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	120	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	46	
	Island Commandery No. 34, Chincoteague	11	Total Knights: 3,705
1998	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	95	
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	157	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	97	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	77	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	162	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	97	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	40	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	46	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	87	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	38	

	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	179	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	103	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	61	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	142	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	225	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	429	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	187	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	33	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	109	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	63	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	162	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	60	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	106	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	106	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	38	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	122	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	29	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	39	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	209	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	50	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	44	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	129	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	52	
	Island Commandery No. 34, Chincoteague	101	Total Knights: 3,674
1999	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	90	Number 10 has been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	161	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	83	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	71	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	147	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	100	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	40	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	45	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	85	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	172	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	98	
	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	55	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	138	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	218	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	405	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	177	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	36	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	146	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	56	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	137	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	61	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	105	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	127	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	39	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	122	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	27	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	40	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	205	

	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna Island Commandery No. 34, Chincoteague Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 merged with Luray Comomnadery No. 19 on December 31, 1999	50 45 128 53 107	Total Knights: 3,569
2000	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna Island Commandery No. 34, Chincoteague	87 157 84 69 149 114 36 41 98 176 95 53 141 212 379 171 38 147 60 139 70 100 118 39 121 31 42 199 48 43 134 54 126	Number 10 has been retired.
2001	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	87 147 82 65 146 100 30 44 89 167 90	Number 10 has been retired.
			Total Knights: 3,641

	Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City	55	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	183	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	203	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	348	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	162	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	34	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	112	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	95	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	115	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	66	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	95	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	112	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	39	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	118	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	30	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	40	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	187	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	45	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	39	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	118	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	57	
	Island Commandery No. 34, Chincoteague	121	
			Total Knights: 3,421
2002	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	87	Numbers 10 and 13 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	142	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	85	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	63	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	138	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	98	
	Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville	30	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	44	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	80	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	159	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	86	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	164	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	190	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	312	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	157	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	35	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	105	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	89	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	130	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	64	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	109	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	63	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	90	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	121	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	29	
	Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Northampton County	39	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	173	
	Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville	38	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	40	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg	113	

	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	124	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	103	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	50	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	70	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	137	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	76	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	128	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	152	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	235	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	136	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	31	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	109	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	63	
	Cyrene Commandery No.21, Norton	106	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	52	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	67	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	81	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpepper	38	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	108	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	30	
	Chesapeake Commandery No.28, Northampton County	30	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	135	
	George W. Wright Commandery No, 31, Martinsville	51	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	94	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	55	
	Island Commandery No. 34, Chincoteague	101	Total Knights: 2,728
2007	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	93	Numbers 7, 10, 13, 30, and 31 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	137	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	82	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	52	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	117	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	104	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	48	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	70	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	140	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	79	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	117	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	137	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	211	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	127	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	29	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	104	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	68	
	Cyrene Commandery No.21, Norton	105	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	51	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	64	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	76	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpepper	34	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	100	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	28	
	Chesapeake Commandery No.28, Northampton County	27	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	133	

	George W. Wright Commandery No. 31, Martinsville	50	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	93	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	51	
	Island Commandery No. 34, Chincoteague	96	Total Knights: 2,596
2008	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	97	Numbers 7, 10, 13, 30, and 31 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	137	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	97	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	46	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	112	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	93	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	50	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	64	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	135	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	78	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	103	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	174	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	199	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	124	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	29	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	100	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	64	
	Cyrene Commandery No.21, Norton	89	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	48	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	59	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	72	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpepper	35	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	91	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	29	
	Chesapeake Commandery No.28, Northampton County	23	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	122	
	George W. Wright Commandery No. 31, Martinsville	50	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	87	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	49	
	Island Commandery No. 34, Chincoteague	91	Total Knights: 2,547
2009	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	93	Numbers 7, 10, 13, 30, and 31 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	137	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	93	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	43	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	114	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	95	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	54	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	62	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	138	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	81	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	95	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	162	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	186	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	123	
	Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe	29	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	94	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	67	
	Cyrene Commandery No.21, Norton	80	

	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	48	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	59	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock	70	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpepper	41	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, Manassas	96	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	30	
	Chesapeake Commandery No.28, Northampton County	26	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	121	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	87	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	50	
	Island Commandery No. 34, Chincoteague	84	Total Knights: 2,458
2010	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	87	Numbers 7, 13, 18, 21, 25, 30, 31, and 34 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	124	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	62	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	42	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	107	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	85	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	59	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	77	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	125	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	78	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	99	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	137	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	131	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	110	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	90	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	66	
	Cyrene Commandery No 21, Norton	78	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	49	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	48	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Chincoteague	115	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	34	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	93	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	27	
	Chesapeake Commandery No.28, Northampton County	24	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	117	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32 Christiansburg	81	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	51	
	Malta Commandery No. 24 and Island Commandery No. 34 merged under the name of Malta Commandery No. 24 at Chincoteague.		Total Knights: 2,196
2011	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	88	Nos. 7, 13, 18, 21, 25, 30, 31, and 34 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	119	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	58	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	35	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	107	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	84	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	58	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	74	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	124	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	75	

	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	95	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	126	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	133	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	109	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	88	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	65	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	45	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	51	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Chincoteague	105	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	35	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	97	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	31	
	Chesapeake Commandery No.28, Northampton County	24	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	104	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	75	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	45	Total Knights: 2,050
2012	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	87	Numbers 7, 13, 18, 21, 25, 30, 31, and 34 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	117	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	60	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	33	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	107	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	95	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	37	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	74	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	22	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	122	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	80	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	88	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	120	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	125	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	104	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	79	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	65	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	40	
	Malta Commandery No. 24, Chincoteague	104	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	54	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	---	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	108	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	32	
	Chesapeake Commandery No.28, Northampton County	21	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	104	
	Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	69	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	41	Total Knights: 1,988
2013	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	76	Numbers 7, 13, 18, 21, 25, 30, 31, and 34 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	100	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	59	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	40	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	107	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	86	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	37	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	72	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	24	

	<p>Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg 81</p> <p>Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton 34</p> <p>Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion 65</p> <p>Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg 28</p> <p>Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria 110</p> <p>Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester 67</p> <p>Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol 74</p> <p>Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke 109</p> <p>Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk 97</p> <p>Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News 105</p> <p>Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray 70</p> <p>Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell 66</p> <p>Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham 42</p> <p>Malta Commandery No. 24, Chincoteague 101</p> <p>Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge 46</p> <p>Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper ---</p> <p>Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains 108</p> <p>Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington 30</p> <p>Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington 90</p> <p>New Valley Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna 59 41</p> <p>Blacksburg Commandery No. 32 changed its name to Christiansburg Commandery No.32 and moved to the City of Christiansburg, Virginia</p>		<p>Total Knights: 1,820</p>
2016	<p>Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg 77</p> <p>Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond 85</p> <p>Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville 59</p> <p>DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg 64</p> <p>Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth 108</p> <p>Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg 83</p> <p>Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton 31</p> <p>Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion 60</p> <p>Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg 26</p> <p>Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria 99</p> <p>Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester 67</p> <p>Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol 64</p> <p>Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke 105</p> <p>Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk 85</p> <p>Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News 98</p> <p>Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray 62</p> <p>Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell 62</p> <p>Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham 41</p> <p>Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge 47</p> <p>Malta Commandery No. 24, Chincoteague 97</p> <p>Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper ---</p> <p>Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains 104</p> <p>Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington 30</p> <p>Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington 88</p> <p>New Valley Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg 58</p> <p>Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna 42</p> <p>Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35, Warrenton 32</p>		<p>Numbers 7, 13, 18, 21, 25, 28, 30, 31, and 34 have been retired.</p> <p>Total Knights: 1,774</p>

2017	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	77	Numbers 7, 13, 18, 21, 25, 28, 30, 31, and 34 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	77	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	60	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	44	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	178	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	76	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	34	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	54	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	25	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	95	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	75	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	67	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	95	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	86	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	91	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	65	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	60	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	38	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	48	
	Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper	---	
Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	111		
Moomaw Commandery No. 27, Lexington	27		
Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	82		
New Valley Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	58		
Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	39		
Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35, Warrenton	38		
Malta Commandery No. 34 merged with Portsmouth Commandery No. 5		Total Knights: 1,700	
2018	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	79	Numbers 7, 13, 18, 21, 25, 28, 30, 31, and 34 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	71	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	58	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	44	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	176	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	70	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	32	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	57	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	28	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	95	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	74	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	65	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	96	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	80	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	90	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	60	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	69	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	33	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	50	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	114	
Moomaw Commandery No. 27, Lexington	24		
Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	66		
New Valley Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	55		

	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	61	
	New River Valley Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	52	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	38	
	Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35, Warrenton	41	
	Virginia Beach Commandery No. 36, Virginia Beach	41	Total Knights: 1,511
2021	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	76	Numbers 7, 13, 18, 21, 25, 28, 30, 31, and 34 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	62	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	49	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	34	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	141	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	58	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	35	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	54	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg	21	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	78	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	65	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	57	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	86	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	86	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	68	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	47	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	61	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	25	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	45	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	104	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	29	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	57	
	New River Valley Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	53	
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	35	
	Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35, Warrenton	39	
	Virginia Beach Commandery No. 36, Virginia Beach	43	Total Knights: 1,508
2022	Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Fredericksburg	77	Numbers 7, 10, 13, 18, 21, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, and 34 have been retired.
	Richmond Commandery No. 2, Richmond	59	
	Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville	50	
	DeMolay Commandery No. 4, Lynchburg	37	
	Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth	130	
	Appomattox Commandery No. 6, Petersburg	61	
	Stevenson Commandery No. 8, Staunton	57	
	Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion	50	
	Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Alexandria	84	
	Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester	62	
	Johnson Commandery No. 14, Bristol	59	
	Bayard Commandery No. 15, Roanoke	76	
	Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk	89	
	Hampton Commandery No. 17, Newport News	63	
	Luray Commandery No. 19, Luray	52	
	Chinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Tazewell	64	
	Graham Commandery No. 22, Graham	24	
	Alleghany Commandery No. 23, Clifton Forge	44	
	Piedmont Commandery No. 26, The Plains	105	
	Moomaw Commandery No.27, Lexington	28	
	Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington	59	

	New River Valley Commandery No. 32, Christiansburg	56	Total Sir Knights" 1,539
	Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33, Urbanna	35	
	Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35, Warrenton	42	
	Virginia Beach Commandery No. 36, Virginia Beach	48	
	Sinclair Commandery No. 37 U.D., Manassas	28	
	Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 merged with Stevenson Commandery No. 8		

**ROSTER OF THE GRAND COMMANDERS OF THE
GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF VIRGINIA**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>City</u>
Daniel W. Thomas*	1823-1830	Winchester
Charles A. Grice*	1830-1839	Portsmouth
John Pollard*	1839-1845	Petersburg
Charles A. Grice*	1845-1849	Portsmouth
Edward H. Gill*	1849-1868	Richmond
John R. McDaniel*	1868-1872	Lynchburg
William B. Isaacs*	1872-1875	Richmond
Robert E. Withers*	1875-1878	Lynchburg
Hanes G. Bain*	1878-1880	Portsmouth
John F. Regnault*	1980-1881	Richmond
Peyton S. Coles*	1881-1883	Charlottesville
John L. Roper*	1883-1884	Norfolk
Frank A. Reed*	1884-1886	Alexandria
William H. Lynn*	1886-1887	Staunton
James B. Blanks*	1887-1888	Petersburg
James L. Beck*	1888-1889	Richmond
Isaac S. Tower*	1889-1890	Richmond
Daniel J. Turner*	1890-1891	Norfolk
James L. Avis*	1891-1892	Harrisonburg
C. Frederick Greenwood*	1892-1893	Norfolk
Emanuel E. Downham*	1893-1894	Alexandria
James P. Corbin*	1894-1895	Fredericksburg
John T. Parham*	1895-1896	Petersburg
Edward H. Miller*	1896-1897	Danville
James H. Capers*	1897-1898	Richmond
Philip T. Woodfin*	1898-1899	Hampton
B. Franklin Buchanan*	1899-1900	Marion
James E. Alexander*	1900-1901	Alexandria
John E. Townes*	1901-1902	Petersburg
James T. LeSueur*	1902-1903	Riner
James W. Bryant*	1903-1904	Crewe
Frank W. Cunningham*	1904-1905	Richmond
Henry B. Boykin*	1905-1906	Richmond
Thomas J. Nottingham*	1906-1907	Norfolk
Frank T. McFaden*	1907-1908	Winchester
William C. Stephenson*	1908-1909	Roanoke
Alonzo W. Traylor*	1909-1910	Danville
William B. McChesney*	1910-1911	Staunton
Elmore D. Hotchkiss*	1911-1912	Richmond

Alexander M. Baker*	1912-1913	Winchester
John D. Oglesby*	1913-1914	Lynchburg
Robert F. Taylor*	1914-1915	Roanoke
Joseph T. Houck*	1915-1916	Harrisonburg
William L. Davis*	1916-1917	Portsmouth
James J. Green*	1917-1918	Alexandria
Robert P. Carr, MD*	1918-1919	Norton
George C. Cabell*	1919-1920	Portsmouth
William M. Oakley*	1920-1921	Roanoke
Chester A. Gwinn*	1921-1922	Washington DC
Edwin A. Joachim*	1922-1923	Charlottesville
Edward R. Fuller*	1923-1924	Richmond
Solomon Cutchins*	1924-2025	Richmond
Charles V. Eddy*	1925-1926	Winchester
Richard H. Bell, Jr.*	1926-1927	Staunton
Alfred L. Evans*	1927-1928	Newport News
Walter C. Wooding	1928-1929	Danville
James C. Greenlay*	1929-1930	Lynchburg
George C. Scarborough*	1930-1931	Norton
James H. Price*	1931-1932	Richmond
Claude W. Fletcher*	1932-1933	Alexandria
Byrd Leavell*	1933-1934	Culpepper
Frank G. Payne*	1934-1935	Roanoke
William M. Brown*	1935-1936	Arlington
Fitzhugh L. Grimstead*	1936-1937	Norfolk
Carlton R. Moore*	1937-1938	Richmond
Farrar C. Verser*	1938-1939	Crewe
William A. Wolfe*	1939-1040	Marion
Richard S. Lockett*	1940-1941	Alexandria
Harry M. Wilson*	1941-1942	Charlottesville
Thomas C. Jones	1942-1943	Lynchburg
Thomas W. Hooper*	1943-1944	Culpepper
Arunah O. Lynch*	1944-1945	Norfolk
William T. Buckner*	1945-1946	Richmond
Harry W. Smith*	1946-1947	Danville
Alexander M. Conner*	1947-1948	Hampton
George B. Setzler*	1948-1949	Pennington Gap
Davis E. Bayliss, Jr.*	1949-1950	Alexandria
Carroll Myers*	1950-1951	Portsmouth
Daniel P. Sigourney*	1951-1952	Richmond
Ralph R. Repass*	1952-1953	Marion
Charles T. Morton*	1953-1954	Norfolk
Fitz Allen Brown*	1954-1955	Roanoke
Carl Frank Wood*	1955-1956	Petersburg

Frank Allerton*	1956-1957	Warlock
Zachariah B. Jonson*	1957-1958	Brookneal
John Lewis Gibbs*	1958-1959	Staunton
John W. Nicar*	1959-1960	Bristol
Robert H. Harrington*	1960-1961	Marion
Galelma J. Butcher*	1961-1962	Norfolk
Joe R. Harris*	1962-1963	Arlington
Archer B. Gay*	1963-1964	Richmond
Walter H. Stanford*	1964-1965	Falls Church
Ernest M. Moore, Jr.*	1965-1966	Petersburg
Thomas S. Ely*	1966-1967	Jonesville
Lawrence J. Ranck*	1967-1968	Lynchburg
Silverius C. Chur*	1968-1969	Cape Charles
Charles L. Harrison*	1969-1970	Norfolk
Moffett D. Sensabaugh*	1970-1971	Lexington
Joseph B. Cole*	1971-1972	Chilhowie
Ivan C. Myers*	1972-1973	Portsmouth
Russell B. Frost, Jr.*	1973-1974	Newport News
Walter M. McCracken*	1974-1975	Staunton
Emmett B. Coddin*	1975-1976	Charlottesville
Clifton D. Marsh*	1976-1977	Onancock
Robert D. McMarlin*	1977-1978	Alexandria
Herbert A. Fisher*	1978-1979	Norfolk
J. Linwood Holloway*	1979-1980	Hampton
Jack T. Parsons*	1980-1981	Marion
Gayle E. Bovee*	1981-1982	Danville
Neville M. Hindman*	1982-1983	Richmond
George B. Yeates*	1983-1984	Portsmouth
Edward R. Saunders, Jr.*	1984-1985	The Plains
T. Kyle Roberson*	1985-1986	Pound
William B. Oshman*	1986-1987	Windsor
Mansell H. Hopkins, Jr.*	1987-1988	Blacksburg
B. Franklin Shearwood*	1988-1989	Wytheville
Richard B. Baldwin*	1989-1990	Burke
Robert G. Smallwood*	1990-1991	Winchester
Gordo J. Morrow*	1991-1992	Sandston
George D. Stevens*	1992-1993	Stafford
C.D. Elliott, Jr.*	1993-1994	Chesapeake
Paul L. Purdy*	1994-1995	Salem
Samuel B. Wells*	1995-1996	Bluefield
Loran W. Brown*	1996-1997	Martinsville
Robert M. Ohman*	1997-1998	Norfolk
David G. Mathews, Jr.*	1998-1999	White Stone
John R. Wigglesworth, Jr.	1999-2000	Falls Church

Baldwin G. Locher, Jr.	2001-2001	Lexington
Edwin R. Carpenter, Jr.	2001-2002	Fairfax
Robert L. Price	2002-2003	Salem
Jon W. Mayberry*	2003-2004	King George
Jay L. Cotner	2004-2005	Charlottesville
Paul J. Reardon *	2005-2006	Mathews
James A. Fields, Jr.	2006-2007	Fishersville
Francis M. McGrath*	2007-2008	Chesapeake
Jeffrey G. Burcham*	2008-2009	Martinsburg WV
Mark W. Underwood	2009-2010	Centreville
Phillip E. Maybery	2010-2011	Virginia Beach
Bradford F. Burnett*	2011-2012	Richmond
William T. Hargrove	2012-2013	Pocomoke MD
Lawrence B. Smith	2013-2014	Chester
William F. Reinhold	2014-2015	Charlottesville
Malcom R. Holley, Jr.*	2015-2016	Henrico
Joseph P. Westfall, Jr.	2016-2017	Colonial Heights
Roy B. Henderson, Jr.	2017-2018	Saltville
Joel D. Ratliff, Sr.	2018-2019	Bentonville
Benjamin F. Hill	2019-2020	Portsmouth
J. Jeffrey McClelland	2020-2021	Jamaica
Peter R. Spring	2021-2022	Yorktown
Romulo M. "Romi" Capuno	2022-2023	Springfield
John R. Howerton	2023-2024	Williamsburg

*Deceased

ROSTER OF DULY ELECTED GRAND TREASURERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF VIRGINIA

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>City</u>
Peter Lauck*	1823-1824	Winchester
Solomon Heister*	1824-1825	Winchester
Peter Lauck*	1825-1830	Winchester
Pleasant C. Osborne*	1830-1839	Petersburg
Pleasant C. Osborne*	1839-1845	Richmond
James Evans*	1845-1881	Richmond
Oscar M. Marshall*	1881-1883	Richmond
John F. Regnault*, PGC	1883-1885	Richmond
William T. Allen*	1885-1892	Richmond
Joseph V. Bidgood*	1892-1895	Richmond
George Wilson Poe*	1895-1922	Richmond

James H. Price*, PGC.	1922-1925	Richmond
E. D. Hotchkiss*, PGC	1925-1934	Richmond
T. J. Nottingham*, PGC	1934-1953	Norfolk
C. Guy Lawrence*	1953-1956	Norfolk
Leslie N. Sawyer*	1956-1976	Norfolk
Luther Elliot Forbes*	1976-1982	Norfolk
Frederick Melvin Sohn*	1982-1990	Norfolk
Richard B. Baldwin*	1990-2005	Burke
Malcolm R. Holley, Jr.	2005-2009	Richmond
Cameron C. Caffee	2009-2017	Richmond
Jason W. Lotz	2017-2022	Alexandria
J. Jeffrey McClelland	2022-2022	Jamaica
Thomas Lee Varner	2022-2023	Dinwiddie

* Deceased

ROSTER OF DULY ELECTED GRAND RECORDERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF VIRGINIA

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>City</u>
Sutton I. Harris*	1823-1825	Winchester
Samuel H. Davis*	1825-1830	Winchester
Samuel B. Hill*	1830-1831	Petersburg
James Davidson*	1831-1845	Petersburg
John Dove*	1845-1876	Richmond
William. B. Isaacs*, PGC	1876-1895	Winchester
James B. Blanks*, PGC	1895-1919	Petersburg
J. Gus Hankins*	1919-1929	Richmond
C. Vernon Eddy*, PGC	1929-1959	Winchester
Carl Frank Wood, PGC	1959-1966	Petersburg
William T. Buckner*, PGC	1966-1974	Richmond
Ernest M. Moore*, PGC	1974-1992	Petersburg
Gordon J. Morrow, PGC	1992-1993	Richmond
John E. Foster*, PDGC	1993-1997	Richmond
Burnley M. Williams, Jr.	1997-1998	Petersburg
John E. Foster*, PDGC	1998-2003	Richmond
Nelson C. Trinkle Sr	2003-2009	Ashland
Daniel L. Rose	2009-2014	Midlothian
Lawrence Smith, PGC	2014-2016	Chester
Jay L. Cotner, PGC	2016-2019	Charlottesville
Major G. Stephenson, III	2019-2023	Chesapeake

* Deceased

A Templar Sermon

The following sermon is one of the finest messages for Knights Templar which we have seen in any of the Proceedings which have come to our desk for review during the past year. For this reason, we have included it in this year's Reviews for the Grand Commandery of Virginia:

The Search For Light

(sermon delivered by Grand Prelate Sir Knight and Rev. Sinclair Tebo at the Main Street Methodist Church, High Point, N. C. on May 8, 1960.)

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw the light that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."

Man is aware of the contrast between darkness and light. Darkness means fear, terror, depression. It is the symbol of the sorrowful and mysterious. In the darkness familiar objects may loom as hideous monstrosities, assuming grotesque shapes. In the darkness we have the wrong perspective of size and shape and distance and direction. But light is a positive something. "All the darkness in the world cannot put out the light of one small candle." Light means security, guidance. It awakens the world, and flowers begin to open their petals, birds begin to sing, and all nature glows with color. The moon and stars may have given some light, but darkness left when God lifted the sun above the Eastern horizon.

Thru the centuries man has searched for something that will rival the sun and dispel the darkness of night. On some unrecorded night a prehistoric savage snatched a burning brand from his fire and stood upright holding the first torch. Many years stretch between the first ancient lamp, probably animal oil contained in an animal's skull, and the brilliant lights of today. It would be interesting to trace down thru the history of the oil lamps, the whale oil lamps, the candles the tallows, kerosene, gas, incandescent, and now the electric light bulb and the neon lights that make our nights almost bright as day. Light in which we can play, we can work, and we can study. Light in which we can see what to do in the world round about us and the task that may be ours. Light that we can use in our medical world, as in the X-ray. With it we can pierce thru the hidden parts of the body and find what may be wrong. Then by the use of the X-rays, and the ultra-violet and ultra-red rays we may cure the ills that the human flesh is heir to. Light that in our construction work we can use in tearing down or erecting buildings. We have seen some buildings being torn down and the steel hammers knocking apart the cement and the mortar and the wood and timbers. But when it comes to the steel girders there is very little that the normal things can do. An ax is no good against it; a saw would take a long time; but with the acetylene torch light can be used to cut thru that steel as a hot knife cuts thru butter and the building can be torn down. And then again, in the reverse, as we construct that building, we may take all the hammers in the world and try to forge it together, but those steel girders will not become one until they are welded together by that acetylene torch into a strong, firm mass. We see the use of light in the world about us and we realize that light is good as compared to darkness. Is it any wonder that man has spent a great deal of time in his search for light?

But you and I realize that this is not the deeper meaning of these words which we have read. The light that drove away the darkness on that first day of creation was not the light of the sun, nor the moon, nor the stars; the light must have come from the countenance of the Grand Artificer of the Universe Himself. And even as that light drove away the darkness on that first day, it has come down thru the years in blazing rays of glory. It illuminated the Garden of Eden and shone over Ur of the Chaldees. It gave light to a shepherd boy on a hill and to wise men of old as they saw a star in the East and followed it. It played thru a burning bush and scintillated from Mt. Sinai. It shined with its brightest rays over a stable in Bethlehem and it knocked down a man on the road to Damascus. That light which we are seeking is a spiritual light, not a physical light of this world. And in this great book which we call the Great Light we find the words that help us in our search for that light.

Down thru the centuries these men of old have come out of their deepest and richest experiences have written these words for our help. Bunyan tells us in his "Pilgrim's Progress" how Christian is going along a road, dark and dangerous. On one side of him is a deep abyss; on the other a quagmire; and he hardly knows what to do as he stumbles along in the darkness, until suddenly-a long way ahead- he sees a light, and stumbling toward that light, he is saved from both the abyss on the right and the quagmire on the left, and finally reaches a place of safety. And so, it was with the law givers and the prophets of old as they tried to steer the chosen people thru the dangers and superstitions of the age in which they lived. Ignorance and superstition flourished on all sides as this group painfully made its way toward the great light. And finally, in the fullness of time, that Light came. And Jesus as He gathered them around Him said, "I am the Light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have light everlasting." "The Light shineth in the darkness and the darkness cannot put it out." "For in Him was light and the light was the life of men." And as He gathered them around Him, with the searching light of truth He exposed all the sin and evil thru which they were passing. He tore aside the sham and pretenses of the religion that seemed so great to them. Again and again, He said, "You have heard it of old-but I say unto you." And He pointed out new truths that had been hidden and obscured for so long. And as He spoke to them-almost as we would turn over a rotten board in our yard and see beneath it the insects that have hidden there scurrying away for another place of darkness because the light hurt them-so these people around Him scurried for shelter as the light of His truth hurt them. And finally, almost like wild beasts, cornered as they were, snarling and growling in the darkness, they reached out, and as the city slept, they seized Him. In the garden of Gethsemane, the traitor came, and in the fitful glare of the torches, planted a kiss on His cheek so that in the midnight darkness they might make no mistake as to which one it was.

He said to those humble men who had gathered around Him, "You are the light of the world. So let your light shine that men will see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." And these men went out with the flaming torch held high and a light on their faces greater than any earthly glow and in the midst of tortures and persecution carried on that light. The glow was on the face of Stephen-and the man who held his clothes marveled that his face shone like the face of an angel. And that man, a few weeks later, on the road to Damascus breathing out curses and threats, is struck down by the light and becomes one of the greatest ba'riers of that light the world has ever known. With a cry, "Maintain the spiritual glow!" they swept all thru the known world-north, south, east and west. They carried it up thru Europe; over the Apennines and the Alps; over to the savage coast of England. There it grew and in the seven teeth century came to the shores of the new world. And a century and a half later it went down to lighten the blue lagoons and coral reefs of the southern seas and to warm the cold, remote places of the Labrador.

That light that has been carried down thru the ages you and I, by the grace of God, are now a part of. For we have followed in their train, and wherever that light has gone churches have sprung up and charitable organizations have grown and flourished. They saw to it that the superstitions and the ignorance of the world 'round about them became lightened; that the poor and oppressed we're taken care of; and all that was high and noble in the world was raised in front of the people so that they might see what the true way of life was. I remember a song we used to sing as children in Sunday School.

*Jesus bids us shine with a clear pure light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness, we must shine,
You in your small corner and I in mine.*

Yes, it is a challenge. There are two vivid pictures that come to my mind. One was a young lad in a meeting led by Billy Sunday, in a great tabernacle where thousands had gathered. I don't remember what Billy Sunday said. I know he "preached about sin and was again it." But what stands out in my memory more than anything else was Homer Rodeheaver, that great song leader, as he stood there with his trumpet and led that vast congregation in singing.

*Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do;
Do not wait to shed your light afar;
To the many duties ever near you now be true;
Brighten the corner where you are.*

And then pointing to one section and then another of the auditorium,

*Brighten the corner where you are!
Brighten the corner where you are!
Someone far from harbor you may guide across the bar,*

And then the whole group sings, "Brighten the corner where you are!" It was a most thrilling experience. But I don't know if it was any more thrilling than the one, I experienced at a young people's conference some years ago. These several hundred delegates had been meeting for a week and were having their closing service. They had gathered and had a communion service together; had a word of inspiration from the speaker; and then suddenly all the lights in that large auditorium went out, save a tall white candle burning in front of a cross. And as the organ slowly played, the leaders of the group came up to the light and, with the small candles they held in their hands, took a light from it. Then going down thru the aisles they passed the light thru each row, and that row which had been in darkness became a thing of light. Then as the organ continued to play, they burst into song.

*To the Knights in the days of old,
Keeping watch on the mountain height,
Came a vision of Holy Grail.
And a voice thru the waiting night:
'Follow, follow, follow the gleam.'*

Then two-by-row they start out from that great auditorium to make their way back to their dormitories singing.

*And we who would serve the King,
And loyally Him obey,
In the consecrate silence know
That the challenge still holds today.
Follow, follow, follow the gleam;
Standards of worth o'er all the earth;
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Of the Light that shall bring the dawn.*

And finally, as those lights flickered across the campus and went into their dormitories from the tower of the chapel came the plaintive notes of the bugle as it played "Taps." And everyone in his or her room followed along with words they knew so well,

*Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hill, from the sky;
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.*

But there was something tragic that happened as some of them were going across the campus. For those lights that had been held up so brightly and nobly in the auditorium when they got outside into the wind began to flicker, and some of them, with a gust of wind were blown out. And the one who held one of these candles felt lost in the dark as it enveloped them again. And I wonder so many times about you and about me, we gather in stirring church services, as we gather around our altars in our Masonic groups, or our Eastern Star, or White Shrine, or whatever it might be, and as we have seen the inspiration coming from this Great Light, if when we get out into the world that light flickers and goes out. And the darkness that is all around us envelopes us deeper in its power.

"You are the light of the world." We have come a long way in our understanding of the mysteries round us, but when will that search for the light end? Not until our weary feet have come to the end of their toilsome road, and from our nerveless grasp shall drop forever the working tools of life; and we pass thru that entrance into the place of wages, refreshment and rest. That place where there is no need of sun nor any candles for the Lord God Himself is the Light. And there we shall see on the trestle board the plans complete. There the adoration of the twelfth hour will be everlasting joy. There the noontide bliss will eternally shine. There the scales of doubt and darkness shall fall from our eyes, and we shall behold the plans of the Grand Artificer in all their splendor. And as our trembling souls stand naked and alone before the Great White Throne may we indeed hear from His lips Who is the Judge Supreme. "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Then-and only then-will our search for light be complete, for we will have found-and have become a part of-that grand and glorious everlasting light.

(Taken from a recording made by Sir Knight Frederick W. Woitineck of Piedmont Commandery No.6, Winston-Salem, N. C.)

The Nature, Character Principles, and Practice of Templar Duties

Address by Sir Knight George W. Dame, Eminent Grand Prelate
1879 Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia

Sir Knights,

By the order of the R. E. Grand Commander, in accordance with a resolution adopted by your last Annual Assembly, I ask your attention to a consideration of some of the clearly defined principles of Templar Masonry. I do this, not only because by some they have been apparently ignored, but to show the noble character of the Masons, whose life is their full development. As these are high and pure, so will they make and mark among men, him who is faithful, great and true in the performance of the Templar work. The report, on which the resolution was based, points to the importance of having these principles better known and the duties arising from them so clearly defined, that none may err through lack of knowledge.

In any society, whose power for good depends upon carrying out its own principles, and whose ability to enforce obedience is only the moral power of those principles, it is well, at stated times, to call especial attention to those first truths upon which its superstructure rest. The building may be on a firm foundation; but a close examination, from time to time, will certify the fact, or may show a defect, which, not at once removed, may impair its stability or prove the beginning of its downfall. Going back to the first principles is especially important, when the building is the moral edifice, whose foundation is a truth, the real power of which depends upon its occupying its right position as a pillar thereof.

One would naturally infer that a man of integrity, whose love for Masonry has caused him to travel the Masonic journey from the distant W. to the great E., and whose knowledge, industry and skill therein, have been honored by the *Arching*, would learn, before taking the step from which there is no retracing, not only the nature of the vows which he would have to assume in entering an order like this of the temple, but, also, the nature and extent of the duties thereby devolving on him. But an act of inclination is often done without consideration. Act and then reflect, is the way with most men. This certainly seems to have been the case with some who have entered our Asylums. Their character for honesty declares that they would not voluntarily seek a position whose duties they did not intend strictly to perform. But being now enrolled in our order, they ought to know the nature, character and responsibility of the Masonic Templar's profession, that they by live lives in accord with our principles, and in conformity with those solemn vows which they have assumed.

But if, from, the same want of consideration, they entered the Lodge and passed through its several departments of study without learning the lessons therein taught, they have no foundation upon which to build their temple – that house of the higher and purer morality of him whose trust is in God, and who has that in Jesus Christ and His work which gives comfort amidst the storms of life and o those surging billows that so often intimate the soul as it stands on the banks of the dividing Jordon. To become Templars in deed they will have now, in Masonic age, to go, do the proper work of Masonic young – dig and lay a foundation upon which to build for an Eternity. On the work of the Lodge being well done depends the power of the Templar to do his proper work; for if the foundation is not well laid, he will ever be one whose unsteady steps will be a drawback on his own comfort and a dark reflection upon the honor of his noble profession.

This matter will be more clearly seen when we consider the nature of Lodge membership and recognize it, as it truly is, the foundation on which the outer wall of Templar Masonry mainly rests. The Lodge is not a society to be entered merely to gain the name, as if thereby one gained the character of Mason, any more than the Church is to be joined for the name and thus secure gifts and graces of the Christian. This is a school of instruction in Christ, as that is in the strict morality of the law given by God on Sinai. The candidate is a man professedly in search of truth. He voluntarily apprentices himself to the Lodge that he may be taught to be better, love wiser, and do more good; and also, to have brethren to aid him in learning and in doing is whole duty to God and to man. If the Lodge is properly officered and properly manned, he finds a body every member of which will help him on and sustain him in the onward journey. He is at once taught to recognize God as his Father and the only guide of his youth, the strength of his manhood, and the stay of his age. He is pointed to His word as the only true rule of his faith and the guide to its practice, and is directed to seek from Him, by prayer, the ability to do His will. Then he is pointed to man his brother as the true recipient of the visible tithes due from man to his Maker and bid payment good will and good works as the opportunity and ability for payment may allow. And then he is told to be a man in his highest grade, subjecting the appetites passions, prejudices and desires of fallen man to reason and morality, and to God. Thus, was his bid, by authority, to hold himself free from all intemperance, and profanity, and vice, and habits which might impair his facilities and his influence for good or degrade the dignity of his position and his profession as a just and upright Mason. And then, and then only, when he has learned those duties and put them in practice, is he legally qualified to be *crafted*.

And when as a craftsman he has shown that he can do good work and true, can work be the line, the rule, and the plummet, and has acted upon the square with all men, kept a tongue of good report, maintained secrecy to the Lodge and to a brother's interest, and has practiced that charity which is truly fraternal, then, and only then, is he legally *raised*. Now he becomes, by precept and example, one of the teachers and trainers of those who are aiming to run the Masonic race, and on aid in their doing uprightly, and being worthy masters and noble examples of man's highest degree of moral perfection. Not until he has thus learned, can he, by Masonic law, be thus *raised*. Not until he has thus shown that the work done by self on self and others, is good and true, is he fit for that temple of pure morality, which every Mason is, by the assistance of the Lodge work, ways and aid and godly true and help, aiming to build for the future, and well as the present. And only when, on the floor and in the chair, he has shown himself worthy of honor, and been, by his Lodge, pronounced a W. E. M., can he be legally and honored *exalted* and *arched*.

This *arching* of a Mason was originally an honorary mark, conferred as a degree, upon those masters who, in training, teaching and other Masonic works, had shown themselves worthy of especial praise. The Chapter symbolism was framed around that degree, in order to have a body to heal any defects of the true Lodge work, and to train the Mason in a higher and purer morality. Hence, he is herein taught that as a M. M. M. [Mark Master Mason], no work, of any kind, can pass from his hands, which is not morally and masonically square work and true – such work only, is fitted for a place in that moral house which he is building – the highest moral being man can be, until his heart shall be the personal abode of the Spirit of God. And, further, that he cannot, as an honest Mason, withhold from any man the money, honor, praise or service, which is justly his due, not govern those over whom he may be placed, in any other than that kind and gentle manner, in which a high-toned gentleman would to be governed. And when in view of his past acts and present condition, he is solemnly pronounced by his associates M. E. [Most Excellent] in all things, then, his solemn *arching* begins.

A new light opens on his way. He is caused to see that God, this father, have ever worked for man, in making himself known in those principles of true morality, given on the two tables of stone; and how from

the hour that the apprentice first puts his trust in Him. He has brought the blind by a way that he knew not and could not comprehend, had led him in paths which he had not known, in safety and in peace – has made darkness light, and crooked ways straight in the journey through the wilderness, across the rivers and seas, amidst the deadly foe and all other dangers through which duty called him, and has never left nor forsaken him, until he found home – rest for his spirit from the rude blasts of a world in disharmony with its Maker. This leading has gone on and will, through all time, go on, until he is prepared to receive the full truth of God, when revealed in the Asylum, where he is enabled to see and confess Jesus, the Son of God, as the Prince of peace and his Emmanuel.

Thus is the Mason trained when the Lodge and Chapter are officered by honest, well-qualified Masons – officers who feel their responsibility and have nerve to do their duty – in all that knowledge of God which the Israelites had, and of that law whose obedience is the schoolmaster to lead to Christ, the Way, the True, and the Life of man. It is as one thus trained, well tried in principle and practice, endorsed as such by Lodge and Chapter, he knocks at the door of our Asylum, accepts Christ for his Savior, through whose atonement for sin he seeks salvation. Thus, he takes upon himself the holy name and solemn vow of a poor soldier of Jesus Christ.

Thus is Masonic law and principle. Would that I could say that it is strict Masonic usage; for too many come to us who are found not to know, practically, what be the first principles of a Mason's profession. They are rough ashlar from the quarry, upon whom the instructions of the Worshipful Masters and High Priest and the publishing tools of the Craft have produced no impression. Thus, the unworthy are mixed with the worthy. The drunkard, the profane, the sensual and the vicious hold membership among the soldiers of the Immaculate Son of Mary. Where lies the guilt of this? Is it not with the Worshipful Masters who have been truant to the trust reposed in them, and with the High Priest, who have done no better? For these have exalted many who, from their character, could not have worked their way, and not honestly come by the signet of Z. [Zerubbabel], and who must have passed the veil of trust when the R. A .C. [Royal Arch Captain] was asleep and the Council had retired to the city. And the Eminent Commanders who allowed such rough materials to be brought into the holy Temple, in building to the honor of Emmanuel, are not without deep guilt. It is a crime to admit into the Order of the Temple those non-fitted for its duties or allowed them to remain therein if they will not accept and practice its principles. The Grand Commandery should speak on this matter. The Eminent Commanders should be called upon to make, by thorough moral disciplines, their commands to be such bodies as the theory of Templar Masonry demands.

The importance of this subject will be more evident from a cursory view of the rise of the Order of the Temple Knighthood, the days of its glory and prosperity, and of its mournful decline. Craft Masonry arose from the natural weakness of man and his need of fraternity to encourage him to go on in the right way, to sustain him therein, and to make him a blessing while being blessed. But the holy desire of good Christian men to protect the weak, relieve the oppressed and enable them to serve God in Christ according to their own views of right, way the origin of Templar Knighthood. It arose in Palestine 761 years ago, being organized by nine Knights of Chivalry who had been distinguished at the siege of Jerusalem. Its first special object was the protection of weary pilgrims traveling from afar to offer up their devotions at the Holy Sepulcher of the Saviour, from the infidel and hated Saracen, who infested the highways and insulted and despoiled the unprotected Christians. The Order soon after added thereto the protection of the Christian Church, and after the downfall of the Hospitallers it inherited their scout, principles and duties, and assumed their dress.

To carry out their intention, none were admitted into the Order who were not believers in Christ, of spotless purity, just and brave, and who would not unite with them in putting down vice, encouraging

virtue, protecting the feeble and relieving the burdened. Thus, originating in sympathy for the feeble and the opposed, the Order became a guardian of the innocence and purity of woman, the protector of the maiden, the widow and the orphan, the defender of the Christian faith, and, after the Maltese connection, the nurse of the sick and wounded and the distressed. Being trained gentlemen, the members were courteous, honorable and brave. And the true and noble principles of the Order can be maintained in their integrity only by having the pure blood of the honest and courteous Christian gentlemen to course through the veins of every member.

The cause of the Templars, being that of humanity and religion, was so highly esteemed and the order was so honored by the Pope, and so celebrated for its charity and beneficence, that kings and princes not only sought admittance, but, alas, enriched it by valuable gifts. Thus, when the members left Palestine, it was with wealth and honor. Many who were totally unfit for the place sought and gained admittance in the earlier, as well as the later days, through that same false sympathy, which during the late war [Civil War] caused the unworthy to be taken into our Lodges. It was thought that they would be trained to be worthy, but they had gained all that they sought and no heart for being build up in the Templars' faith and work. These, untrained in the simple habits and honest principles of the poor soldiers of Jesus Christ, fell bad habits, and this, eventually, gave occasion to a covetous Pope and a King to put to death the prominent members, seize their treasures and break up the order. Three Pories alone remained; and from these we are degraded. Unworthy members degraded their character and thus brought ruin on all. And as this might order fell from its highest glory into ruin, by admitting and retaining those who were unfit for the Christian Temple which they were building, so will we fall into similar ruin, unless we learn from the history of the past to avoid those things which undermined the stability of the old order and caused its mighty fall. There is reason to fear that we now have on hand too much raw material for our safety. Numbers are not prosperity. Let this Grand Commandery learn a lesson from the records of her forefathers.

A glance at the rapid rise of Templar Masonry in this Jurisdiction, will also show our danger the same cause. After the close of the war, the best of the Masonic fraternity sought Knighthood, not only on account of its Christian principles and high character, for noble deeds and good works in the past, but also that union with those of similar principles, they might either rid the Lodges of the many unworthy who had gained admittance during the war or reform them. The unworthy also drawn by the name, history and uniform, favored by the desire for numbers and the neglect of the officers, found an entrance into the Temple, and assumed vows which they could not honestly take, professed principles which they could not comprehend, and entered on a professed life whose duties they had not heart to practice. The order thus became numerically prosperous; but the seeds of death were in the breath that gave so large a life. No society can long exist in honor and power unless it has a membership which is worthy, and fully carries into life the principles of its profession. And Templar Masonry cannot do its legitimate work unless she confines her initiate to those well-trained in the principles and practices of Craft Masonry, and are in all respects, worthy to be enrolled among the soldiers of the Holy Jesus, who is, by profession, the Templars leader and guide – even the Captain of his salvation. Hence, the importance of the Templars continued membership in the Lodge and Chapter. He see the need of thorough Lodge work and training in those who would go on to Masonic perfection and ever keep the name of Mason one of honor, to be earnestly sought. He will, therefore, throw his influence against the election of those to office who are morally unfit to do the Master's work; but which, feeling their need of honor, and having no merit by which to gain it, seek by courting, that which comes from position. In the Masonic Bodies, an honest, sturdy, qualified man never seeks, but is sought by office. The Templars knowledge shows he the fact, and his good will to the order makes him use it.

The necessity of allowing none but the good and true – who have fully accepted the principles of Craft Masonry and are thoroughly drilled in their practice – to bear the worthy and responsible name of Templar, will be seen by a view of the Order in its probable connection with the future peace and prosperity of our country. Those only are truly drilled in morality can sustain a system of Christianity. Those only whose minds are unclouded by intemperance, lust and other vices, who have clean hands and pure hearts, can without wavering judge justly, act wisely, and maintain truly the Christian profession of the Knight Templar. And the time may come – and the wisest know not how soon – when there will be need in our country for the influence, in favor of good government and subordination, of just such a body of intelligent, courteous and morally brave Christian men, controlled by Church dogmas, as by profession the true Templars are bound to be. This Order may be the coming man in the future of a national history and yet be ever free from the control of party politics. If our Commanders will see that their members are thoroughly trained and drilled in the physical, moral and Christian tactics of our Order, and made to conform strictly to their position and profession, their high and noble principles may enable them to be the earthly power to pour oil on the troubled elements of society and cause peace to follow where otherwise strife would be. The real framers and rulers of society are very few. The masses are led. Let, then, the Templars be, one and all, intelligent, highly moral, and fully possessed of the true principles of honesty and peace as taught by Jesus, and they can at any time bring their moral power to bear upon the disturbed masses and lead them to subordination to reason to right.

The possible power of the Templars in this respect was suspected at the opening of the late war [Civil War], but attention was called to it too late for a fair trial. The Grand Master's circular was wanting in time, taste and direction to do the good that otherwise might have been done. But it is clear that there is a heavy responsibility resting upon us to be fully prepared to do our duty in so important a matter as we have started, should such an opportunity occur again. But we will be totally unfitted to meet to unless, as a Grand Commandery, we shall require all or subordinates to allow none in their ranks but the well-versed, true and trust. If this is done the day may be when the country will have cause to rejoice at the existence of the body of Christian Templars and at the holy influence exerted by them in the cause of right, of justice, and of religion.

From the view which we have taken of the moral history of the *Profane* to the Templar, and of having none in our ranks but the worthy and the trained, we see that our American system of Free Masonry – of Lodge Chapter and Commandery, as parts of one system, and the permanent connection of membership with all below us – can alone answer the great end of the Masonic Institution. It is complete only when so viewed and so held. Any separation of them would do harm to all; for while Templarism, in its origin, needed not Lodge or Chapter for the training of those to be admitted – as they were selected from the Knights of Chivalry, who had in the field and in the camp proved themselves worthy – yet when the days of chivalry were passed and the civil life of the Fraternity was to be lived, there was a necessity for that special previous training which it is the province of Craft Masonry to give. The join of Templarism with Masonry was the fully and visibly effected.

This view of the history of Craft Masonry is its moral aspect, and of its connection with this Order, readily furnishes those points of information which will give the marks by which the true Knight Templar can ever be known. We will mention a few of them, drawn from what we have stated. There can be easily supplied:

1. The true Templar is a Mason who is thoroughly trained in the principles, and proficient in the practice of Godly and fraternal morality and has subjected his appetites, passions and desires to the claims of Masonic law and duty. This is the first mark of his profession and is the foundation of every other.

That the majority may have failed to come fully up to this mark we well know. They often confess the fact before the Lodge, and especially testify sorrow that such is the case; for what are those signs at stated times but signets of confessions and of penitence for past failures? The expressions of the manual have, by the judgment of the mental, a direct pointing to the moral of our profession and are so held by every wise and intelligent Mason. If we were duly impressed with this fact our morals and manners as Masons would be greatly improved.

2. He believes Jess Christ to be the God-man, the only begotten Son of God, through whom death for sin eternal salvation can alone be had. Masonic Knighthood is directly a Christian institution. The revelation which God made of Himself in the Old Testament is the Craftsman's rule of faith, and the precepts therein contained is guide to practice. What Jesus says of His Father and of Himself, and of His atoning work for man, in the New Testament, is the Templar's rule of faith, and the precepts therein contained is guide to his practice. No man can be a Mason until he has voluntarily given his solemn pledge that he will keep the commandments of God, and he is true to his profession only when fully obeys them. And no one can be a Templar **until** he has voluntarily entered not a solemn contract, properly signed and sealed, that he accepts and will hold Jess Christ as his Lord and Savior for life and will follow and obey Him in all things. Withdrawal or expulsion releases one jot or tittle of his faith and its duty, obligation and responsibility. Disobedience to plighted vows declares a man dishonored, dishonest, and perjured.
3. He is the high-toned Christian gentleman, whose life is a holy influence for good, and whose work is the practice of the lovely Christian virtues. The manners, the spirit and the life of such a man is not only lovely, causing him to be loved, but is a light in his circle which gives life and comfort to others. The beatitudes of Jesus describe his clothing, St. Paul gives his energy and zeal in doing good, and St. John the Evangelist, his manners and address in all his work. His life reflects the life of the man Jesus. The victory which he has obtained as a Craftsman, and now exhibits as a Templar, in being free from all bad habits, in restraining inordinate desires, violent passions, and selfish lusts, and subjecting them to his will, and his will to God's will, in Christ, and the high position gained by denial and sacrifice in doing good and in deeds of charity and pure beneficence, show to all that each can do and be the same. His very presence is a power for good, and his purity of life, his cheerful obedience in all its relations, and his devotions to God and through His to man's good, are a blessing beyond computation.
4. He is a pledged defender of the Cristian faith and of the cause of Jesus, the author of that faith against the infidel and infidelity. The Saracen – the enemy of the Christian pilgrim – was the infidel of the early age of the Order, and the rejection of Jesus, as the true Prophet and Teacher of God, the infidelity of that and of every age. Though the visible personification of infidelity is not here, yet the principles is in the land. But your enlistment was not against the Saracen of that day, but of this; your warfare now, is not of necessity, bodily, not your sward the Damascus blade. If you have not so read *Templarism* you have read to the purpose, otherwise the Order would have died when the Crusades had finally ceased. The symbolism of the Order is too clear to allow any right-minded person to be mistaken as to the infidel and the sword. The Templar's warfare is as his pledge, ever continuous. His sword is ever drawn against whatever and whoever opposes the reign of Christ and His principles, His divinity and His atoning work, or undermines the morals of society, the purity of woman, the protection of the orphan, or the happiness and salvation of man. Against these and them like he must ever wage war as our fathers dd against the Saracen in the field. Weary pilgrims are ever on the road to the holy city of Jerusalem. The way is beset by the Saracen of tis day – infidelity in some of its forms. Here must the Templar fight and clear the way for a safe journey, - fight not, indeed, with the sword

of steel, but with that of the Spirit – the Word of God, - and fight against all profanity, intemperance and fleshly lusts. These are more dangerous to the soul of the Templar than even the Saracen was to the bodies of the Christian pilgrims. And against every other form of vice and of infidelity - everything that exalts itself against Christ, does the Christian Templar fight until victory is won.

5. He is the aid of those persons and causes which the Christian religion aims to bless. Hence the widow, the maiden, the orphan, the needy, the sick and the oppressed, the weary Christian and the Christian church, are all objects of the true Templar's care. And these are not those only of his own household. The Craftsman's limits binds not the free Templar's arms. The field of his work is the world; and the man who can be blessed by him, he must bless. Nor does he wait for the call but goes to seek the opportunity to do good. He waits not to be hunted up, nor to hear the deep groan of the widow, nor the distressed sign of the maiden, nor the wail of the sorrowing, nor to see the orphan's tears, nor the pain and agony of any. This would not be Knightly or courteous. But he is on the watch and on the search to find where the hungry need food, and the naked need covering, and the wounds of the afflicted need binding up; where the needy want a friend, the feeble and oppressed a deliverer; where want is perishing and needs relief, and where suffering call for comfort. And he goes forth to do all that can be done to relieve, protect and support them. The true Templar's goings are known by the blessing scattered abroad among the needy, troubled, and all on trial in adversity's school. By profession, the friend of man, by engagement, the help and succor of those in any want, he is ever seen and known as the defense of virtue and piety, and the firm opponent of vice, infidelity, intemperance and all irreligion. What a noble life is that of the true Templar! There is not one higher in honor, worth or usefulness, save the true Christian, in whose heart the Spirit of the Eternal God abides and whose life and shadow He controls. And he is no higher in the life lived, in responsibility for the relief of the suffering and needy, and the reformation of the wanderer. He is higher only in the fact that his change, in the conversion, makes these works not those of duty, as with the Templar, but those of love.

We conceive to be the Templar's duties, arising directly from those high and holy principles which he professes. Drones are not allowed in the Templar's hive. It is not easy to live this life without the Spirit which, in conversion, makes the principles of man's profession, those of his nature and its duties, the joy of his heart. If you are wise, you will seek that, Spirit. Belief assigns your work, but it requires faith to give ability to do all things well. Therefore, get that faith and be the true Christian, that you may be full partaker of the benefits of the great atonement and have your good works to follow you.

If this be the work and character of the Templar Mason, we are forced to see, from the defective fruit, that some wear the dress of the Templar whose character would spoil the apprentice's apron – not trained Masons, much less brave and courteous Knights. When you allow the profane, the intemperate unchaste, the dishonest, or any immoral person to wear the Templar's sword and especially hold office in our Bodies, you make false your saying that the morality of the Bible is the morality of the Mason, and the principles of the gospel those of the Templar.

Sir Knights, on each one rests the double duty of being worthy and of allowing not unworthy man to bear the name of Templar. The purer your body the higher your honor. If the unworthy are in, reform them or cut them off. Especially reform them if possible. It is not so much want of will to be good that keeps the man bad as it is want of light and encouragement to amend. The brethren can give this aid and Masonry has provided an officer to help you and your officers in the work of reform and instruction. What is the Prelate and his duty? Catechistically, not much; but theoretically a minister of the gospel, who is your speaker, preacher and pastor. When the Commander appoints no other, he performs these duties,

and when he seeks out the unworthy or the erring and the sick the Commander can bid him go. His character gives him his position and assigns him his duty. A return to neglected principles may do us good; and I would respectfully suggest that the Prelate, or some other Sir Knight, be appointed by each Subordinate Commandery annually to preach to their members, at some church convenient, a sermon on one or more of the days observed by us in commemoration of the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, our Emmanuel.

And ow, Sir Knights, let me earnestly entreat you to consider the matters thus brought to your attention; and when you return to your respective home Asylums endeavor to do what is but to effect the object at which every true Templar aims – the full development of the Christian character of Masonic Knighthood. And if any of you have unadvisedly entered the Asylum and are living below the high standard of your noble yet solemn profession as a Templar, I trust that you will at once arise and be doing set before you. See, too, so far as you can, that everyone who bears the vow shall honorably and fully do the work of his Masonic calling. Thus, will you aid to make the name of Knight Templar what it should be – a sure index to the character of the man from Christian habits, sterling integrity, strict honesty, true purity, and devoted piety – a man to whom the widow and the maiden may go as to a natural defender, the lonely and the needy as to a true brother, the suffering ad oppressed as to the keeper of relief, the orphan as to a father, and the troubled as to a faithful friend. Then will the Templar occupy his right position, be, and be held to be, the noblest and best of all those whom man shall delight to honor as the worthy, the good, and the true.

THE PURPOSE OF TEMPLARY

Charting the Course By Sir Knight Wilber M. Brucher, the Most Eminent Grand Master Knights Templar,
U.S.A., February 15, 1965

Templary is founded upon the Christian Religion and the practice of the Christian virtues. It is a fraternal light that has illumined the world since the Crusades of 1099 to 1187 A.D. when stouthearted Knights of the Temple rescued and held Jerusalem and the Holy Places from the Infidel and protected poor unarmed Pilgrims who came all the way from Europe to worship at the Holy Shrine. The world has never witnessed any more unselfish service for God and humanity than that which was exemplified by those intrepid Crusaders. Nine centuries have rolled along and modern Knights Templars are the symbolic off-spring of those fearless Crusaders. Today's Templars are likewise committed to tasks of exalted usefulness just as were their illustrious forebears many centuries ago.

The principles upon which the Orders of Knighthood are founded are expressed in Ritual and Symbolism and are founded upon the teachings of the Christian Religion. Templary is based upon the Holy Bible and extols the doctrine of human brotherhood and benevolence toward all mankind. It commends the reign of peace and glorifies the search for Divine Truth. It vows to draw its sword in defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans and the Christian Religion. It despises Communism and magnifies Freedom under law and constitutional government. It stands unswervingly for good morals and right living by each Knight Templar as an example of good citizenship in every community. Each Knight Templar has voluntarily professed the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man and love of Country. The Grand Standard of Templary contains a blood-red Passion Cross as the emblem which inspires every Templar to the highest ideals of the Christian Faith.

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar is just embarking upon another 3-year tour-of-duty at a time when precious old landmarks are being demolished by the on-rush of worldly change, and when moral and spiritual values are at low ebb. Templary is Masonry's answer to the call for Christian virtues in a world that needs a moral and religious renaissance. Templary is the recrudescence of the spirit of the Crusaders. Templary is America's hope of stimulating the community conscience to stand up for God at a time when righteousness is desperately needed.

Let no Knight Templar underestimate the task that lies ahead, nor shrink from playing his part manfully. Let each of us recognize that it will be an uphill battle with worldly strife along the way. This should only add zest to acceptance of the challenge by red-blooded warriors.

However, in order to win, we must get back to the first principles! We must reconsecrate our Cause to Christ and the Christian religion with all the sincerity we possess! There is no problem of our Order that cannot be solved by practicing our Christian profession more vigorously every day-all over the Templar world. Horizons must be raised, and perspectives must be lifted. When we do so, we shall put God back where He belongs in Templary, and we shall put Templary back where it belongs in the life of our day. In this spirit,

we summon every Officer and Sir Knight to put on the whole armor of God as we march forth into this new Triennium.

Templary is Christian to the core-and we must never allow this fact to escape us for one instant. Our very reason for existence as an organization depends upon our observance of this central fact. Nothing is important in our Order that does not relate itself to Christ, the Christian Religion and the Christian Church. Once we get that fact solidly planted in our minds and hearts, we can plan our future. Until we become so immersed in our Christian cause that it becomes a part of our daily character as well as our very way of life, we are not ready to start the journey. Unless Commandery leaders-at all levels-really take our allegiance to Christ seriously, they will find a trail of indifference, unconcern and poor attendance-followed by a multitude of demits and even suspensions.

Our pledge of warfare against the deceits of the world is not allegorical but is very real, and for our lifetime! Let it be proclaimed that this warfare is not defensive, but aggressive. The righteous and benevolent influence of Templars and of our Commanderies is needed everywhere. Our influence in the form of our programs and projects is limited only by the devotion and resources of our members.

TEMPLAR LEADERSHIP

Charting the Course By Sir Knight Wilber M. Brucher, the Most Eminent Grand Master Knights Templar,
U.S.A., February 15, 1965

Let us take a look at the all-important matter of Templar Leadership. Do we fully realize the great and lasting honor we have received by being entrusted with the leadership of our magnanimous Order of Knighthood? Do we appreciate the true significance of our job-to lead Knights Templar in our modern crusade for righteousness, morality and the Christian religion?

While certain qualities have always been associated with *ordinary* leadership-*Templar* leadership requires qualifications which are vastly more demanding. Here are only a few!

(1) *A Sense of Christian Dedication.* No Templar leader should start without re-dedicating himself to the cause of Christ. Every one of us must be wholly and completely "on Christ's team," in thought, word and deed. Only when we indulge in soul-searching self-analysis can we be ready to begin the job of leading others in our great Christian cause. Templary's cause is Christ's cause-and any Templar who would lead our sacred cause must believe *heart and soul* in Christ's cause on earth.

(2) *A Proper Attitude.* Attitude often spells the difference between failure and success. If an officer exhibits an attitude of defeat, he is "licked before he starts." If he thinks in small terms or is willing to settle for merely "holding the line" -you can look for failure. On the other hand, if he is willing to throw himself into the fight to recruit Christian Masons and to hold the interest of fellow Templars by giving them work to do, he will find that others will instinctively follow his leadership and give him their support.

(3) *The Ingredient of Work.* No matter how much we respect the other elements of "dedication" and "attitude," there is one more necessity, for which there is no substitute-and that is W O R K! Teddy Roosevelt once said: "Success is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration." A leader can't succeed by being "on-and-off" the job. His efforts must be constant. He must be whole-hearted in his devotion to his Commandery job. His Commandery must think of him as one who cares enough to sacrifice his time, effort and pleasure to the cause he represents. When the rank-and-file get this image, he becomes their leader in reality, and not merely by having been installed.

(4) *Intelligent Imagination.* A leader must use his God-given intelligence and imagination to put work on the Trestle Board for his Sir Knights to perform. Templary is full of projects which will benefit any community where a Commandery is located. Each Commandery should select at least one Templar project and adopt it for its own in 1965 and each succeeding year. Any leader with the will to succeed can go over a check-list of dozens of Templar projects and get things "off-center," if he will only give the word.

(a) *The Selection of Our Leaders.* The selection of our leaders is the personal responsibility of every member entitled to vote. He ought to understand that the selection of leadership in

Templary is as sacred an act as anything he will ever perform. Templary will advance only through the selection of our best leaders. Selection should never be made on the basis of friendship, availability, or "someone who has time on his hands." Let us inquire in each instance when we consider a candidate for Templar office:

1. Does he have a sense of Christian dedication? Does he have an attitude which is aggressive and forward-looking, which will attract the support of others?-Is he willing to work?-Will he use intelligence and imagination in setting up an active and interesting program? Will he give "all he has" to his Templar job if elected?

2. Is he well-informed as to the purposes of Templary and committed to its advancement?-Will he adopt goals to be achieved and formulate plans for their accomplishment?

(b) *How Long Should be the Lines.* Election of Commanders, in practice, occurs several years before the final year of command. By custom, the officer expects to continue through the entire line to the top. The interval varies widely, from a few years up to as many as ten years. Thus, the question is asked today in many places- "How long should be the lines?" Grand Encampment requires that the first four officers of Grand Commanderies and the first three officers of Commanderies be chosen by election, and permits the remaining officers, except the Treasurers and Recorders, to be either elected or appointed as may be prescribed by the Grand Commanderies. The present trend is clearly toward shorter lines.

(c) *The Scope of Leadership.* Obviously, in no situation is leadership a one-man job. In addition to the prescribed officers, a variety of committees is needed. The usual ones such as those in the areas of finance, ritualistic instruction and performance, social occasions, etc.-and, previously suggested by Grand Encampment:-committees on Membership, Public Relations, Religious Activities, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Knights Templar Educational Loan Foundation and Patriotic and Civic Activities and several others. In the average Commandery each of these areas might best be served by a committee of three members - in the very small Commandery, some might be combined-in the very large Commandery, more and larger committees might be named.

It is the purpose of this brochure to provide sufficient information concerning all of the natural activity areas of Templary so that a Commander may be so basically informed that he may proceed - *having intimate knowledge of the Commandery roster, and of the abilities and interests of all members*-to plan the program to be accomplished during his administration and the organization which will serve these plans best.

The best way to make such plans is in conjunction with the other dais officers, who are equally interested and involved, and with the Recorder. Together, these four usually form what may be called the Executive Committee. They not only plan together but are closely associated in the execution of the plan and in periodic review. The best time to form such plans is several months before the beginning of the new Commandery Administration.

LEADERSHIP IN THE CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

Charting the Course By Sir Knight Wilber M. Brucher, the Most Eminent Grand Master Knights Templar,
U.S.A., February 15, 1965

Just as the Commander of an Army depends upon the troops in the front line to bring victory, just so does the Grand Encampment depend upon the rank-and-file of Knights Templar in the local community to win the battle for Templary. Unless Knights Templar at the "grass roots" level are keenly interested and pursue Grand Encampment policies with vigor and dispatch, victory will not perch on our Beauceant.

The Grand Encampment fully understands this situation and wants to emphasize the importance of the local Commandery. It is vital that leadership of Constituent Commanderies should be in good hands, under active, qualified leaders. Also, it is supremely necessary that the local Commandery should be a positive force for good in the community- and so recognized by its citizens as well as fellow Templars. The answer lies in local leadership.

The battle to build Templary will be won or lost at the local level.

The best plans are fruitless unless carried out into execution by good leaders at the "grass roots" level. Until they are carried out by local leaders, the finest plans of top officers will fall flat. Therefore, we must improve the quality of local leadership and inspire Commanders to carry out plans which will strengthen the whole fabric of Templary.

Leadership is doubly important in Masonry because members of the Craft are trained to look up to the Worshipful Master and wait for him to put his instructions on the Trestle Board-inasmuch as Masonic discipline requires complete and unquestioning respect for the Master. If the Master falters, there is "confusion among the workmen." To an even greater degree this is true in the Commandery, a semi-military organization, where orders are expected to be given by the Commander and carried out with alacrity.

Here are just a few of the qualities of leadership we so badly need:

1. *Sense of Devotion.* A leader must be completely "sold" on his cause; he must be so thoroughly convinced himself that he can convince others, and he must not have even a wavering doubt as to the merits of his cause.

2. *Factual Equipment.* A leader must be an arsenal of information about his cause; he must get all the facts and know all there is to learn about it, and he must be able to justify his cause everywhere and before all men.

3. *Aggressiveness.* A leader must have that extra quality of aggressiveness; he must remember that enthusiasm begets enthusiasm; and he must demonstrate an attitude of quiet assurance that instills confidence.

4. *Hard Work.* A leader must be willing to set the pace for all who follow his lead; he must be willing to work harder and longer than anyone else; and he must convince his followers that they can succeed by following him.

As we choose our Templar leaders for the fateful years ahead, let us try to select those who will be the *best for Templary-regardless of personalities*. Only then will we have a clear conscience. When Line Officers, after a reasonable time, fail to measure up, they should be privately encouraged to step aside or should be passed over. No man can afford to make a failure of the office of Commander. Of course, this is a delicate matter, but it is too important to "sweep under the rug." Let's face the bare truth-we need to improve Templary by selecting the best leaders we can find. Only then will we go forward "full steam."

Distinguished Knights Templar of Virginia



Sir Knight John Robin McDaniel

Sir Knight Robert Enoch Withers

Sir Knight Peyton Skipwith Coles

Sir Knight William Baylor McChesney

Sir Knight William Lee Davis

Sir Knight Solomon Cutchins

Sir Knight Charles Vernon Eddy

Sir Knight James Hubert Price

Sir Knight William Moseley Brown

Sir Knight Thomas William Hooper

Sir Knight Marvin Edwin Fowler

Sir Knight Richard Burdett Baldwin

John Robin McDaniel (1807-1878)

Sir Knight Joseph Efrain Gadea, District Deputy Grand Commander for District 2



John Robin McDaniel was born in Amherst, Virginia on July 9, 1807. McDaniel married Elizabeth Foster Chaplin (1821-1910) on August 16, 1837, and had a daughter, Oriana Robin McDaniel (1848-1912). He was described by author Philip L. Scruggs as "one of the leading citizens in the entire history of the city of Lynchburg." John R. McDaniel had a major role in the development of Lynchburg through his efforts to complete the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad and bringing the first train through the city in 1852 (Vandiver, M. 2021).

John Robin McDaniel served as commissioner and director of the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad, president of the Citizens Savings Bank, and president of the Lynchburg Gas Light Company. McDaniel founded the first fire insurance company in the community as well as the first volunteer fire department. In 1863, McDaniel disposed of all his holdings and personal fortune to help the Confederacy, an action which left him in financial ruin. He served the community as a member of City Council for 15 years, acting as president of the Council from 1871 until 1872 (Vandiver, M. 2021). In addition, McDaniel served from 1877 through 1879 as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates representing the locality of Campbell in Lynchburg.

Brother McDaniel received the Symbolic Degree in 1843 in Marshall Lodge No. 39 in Lynchburg, Virginia. He was the Grand Master of Mason in Virginia from 1860-1861 (McDaniel, J. R. 1860 and McDaniel, J. R. 1861). In addition, Brother McDaniel received the Capitular Degrees in 1843 in Eureka Chapter No. 10, R.A.M., and was their High Priest from 1844 to 1868. He served as the Grand High Priest for the Royal Arch Masons in Virginia from 1853-1854 (Dove, J. 2020). Additionally, he was Grand Commander of Knight Templar of Virginia from 1868-1872.

Brother McDaniel received the Scottish Rite Degree in Virginia Consistory on May 19, 1845 (Messimer, D. M. (2016) and received his 33rd degree in 1847 (Fetcher, J, 2021). Brother John Robin McDaniel was an active Member of the Supreme Council from 1847 to 1878 where he also became its Lieutenant Grand Commander (1870-1878) (Vandiver, M. 2021). Brother McDaniel succeeded Lynchburg's James Penn as Lieutenant Grand Commander in 1870 until his death.

McDaniel died of a heart attack on May 14, 1878, at the age of 72, in Washington, D.C. while attending a Masonic convocation. He was survived by his wife and daughter and was buried at Lynchburg's Presbyterian cemetery at 9-3-1 East (Genealogy & burial search. Presbyterian Cemetery, 2020).



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Robert Enoch Withers (1821-1907)

Sir Knight Joel Thomas Bundy, Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Grice Commandery No. 16 & Virginia Beach Commandery No. 36

Physician. Freemason. Confederate military officer. Newspaperman. Politician. Statesman. Poet. Farmer. Husband. Father.

- Colonel 18th Virginia Regiment of Infantry
- Editor, *Lynchburg Daily News*
- Senator of the United States of America
- Member of Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institute
- Consul of the United States to Hong King
- Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
- Grand Master, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar
- Grand Master, Virginia Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M.
- Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter of Virginia
- Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Virginia

Not long after sunrise Colonel Robert E Withers came across swampy ground littered with the dead of Confederate soldiers. The battle at the junction between Beavers Creek and Chickahominy River was one where men were “slaughtered by the score (Withers 184).” On the orders of Generals Longstreet and Pickett the Colonel led his men, the 18th Virginia Regiment of Infantry, into what would be known as the Battle of Gaines’s Mill. It was the afternoon of June 27, 1862. Bark was flying off surrounding trees from enemy fire. First, he was shot through the right arm. In an instant his throat and mouth were filled with blood with a shot through his right lung, the force throwing him from his horse. Moments later he was shot in the pelvis near to his spine causing paralysis of his legs. After being carried off to the field hospital, the surgeons triaged him with whisky and morphine, supposing he would die shortly. Several months later he had recovered sufficiently to ride a horse again. Thus continues the story of a most remarkable man, our 13th Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.



As a young man he became a captain of a local militia known as the Brookneal Troop. With these honed military skills, he subsequently chose to enter the Confederate Army as a line officer rather than in the medical core. His battles included First Manassas, Williamsburg, Seven Pines as well as Gaines’s Mills. Due to his injuries there he was assigned as commandant of the prison post at Danville, surrendering to the Federal Army and being paroled April 21, 1865. His empathy and humane conduct towards those housed there at that post was a major reason he was not arrested and imprisoned after General Lee’s surrender, as was typical for others in his position. His life’s actions exemplified the tenets of the craft and set the stage for his leadership positions in the symbolic lodge, the chapter and commandery.

Biographical

Robert Enoch Withers was born in Rock Castle, Virginia, September 18, 1821, to Dr. Robert Walter Withers and Susan Dabney Alexander. The first Withers came to America in the mid 1600's and Robert is a direct descendent of Nicolas Mariau, founder of Yorktown, and a distant relative of Worshipful Brother George Washington. His young life was filled with hunting and fishing. When recollecting over "possum hunting" he wrote, "I can hardly recall a time when I could not shoot a shotgun and learned to use the rifle before I was ten years of age (Withers 25)."

He was nurtured by his father who was a physician, and his mother who he described as a "godly woman" and as such developed temperate habits. He loved to read and memorize passages from the Bible. "I memorized the Sermon on the Mount, many Psalms, and the greater portion of St. John's Gospel, before I was twelve years of age (Withers 53)." Being influenced by his father's temperance, as an adult he joined the Sons of Temperance, "substituting hot coffee for liquor (Marshall)." With excellent study habits he prepared to enter the field of medicine, also following in his father's footsteps, and graduated from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in 1841 at the age of 20. After serving as a resident physician at the Baltimore Almshouse Hospital, he practiced as a physician in the Lynchburg and subsequently Danville areas.

Freemasonry

During this time, he also began his journey as a mason. He was initiated, passed, and raised in Marshall Lodge No. 39 at Lynchburg Virginia in 1850 and 1851. From 1854-1857 he served as Worshipful Master of Mackey Lodge No. 69 at Campbell County, Virginia in a building owned by the Rustburg division of the Sons of Temperance. After moving his medical practice to Danville, Virginia, he served there as High Priest of Euclid Royal Arch Chapter No 15 and Eminent Commander of Dove Commandery No 7.

Political Life

Following the war, he recognized that he could no longer practice as a physician given his injuries and the inability to travel any distance to see patients. Through serendipity he was offered a position as editor of the newly launched *Lynchburg Daily and Semi-Weekly News*, a conservative newspaper. The outspoken newspaper grew to significant prominence, and with it so did its editor. By 1868 the Conservative Party in Virginia placed his name in the nomination for Governor. Although he was not elected Governor at that time, he *was* elected as the 11th Lieutenant Governor of Virginia in 1873 and was in office from January 1874 to March 1875. He then served as United States Senator in the Democratic Party for Virginia from 1875 to 1881.

The Grand East

He continued to focus on the craft. He was elected as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1871 and then re-elected in 1872. Coincident with this he was elected as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Virginia. His time in the line in the Grand Commandery of Virginia had been interrupted due to the American Civil War. He first entered this line as Grand Warder in 1856 and was subsequently elected Grand Commander nearly two decades later in 1875, serving in this office for three years. Only a few years after the Civil War was concluded, his character was reflected in his first Grand Commander's address in 1876 where he stated, "Chivalric courtesy has prompted mutual forbearance, and Knightly magnanimity has engendered mutual forgiveness (1876 *Proceedings* 5)." His humility was evidenced by words in his final Grand Commander's address in "The consciousness of my shortcomings is as keenly appreciated by

me... (1878 *Proceedings* 13).” With these leadership skills and experience he was elected Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in 1877 and Grand Master in 1883.

Statesman

His skills were constantly sought out by others and President Grover Cleveland appointed him as United States consul to Hong Kong in 1885 where he served until 1889. This duty kept him out of the country for much of the triennium. While away in China he was toasted as a greeting on Christmas Day, giving rise to the current custom of pledging to the Grand Master during Christmas time. The XXIII Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment was held in St. Louis Missouri, September 21-24, 1886. To travel to the Conclave, he departed from Hong Kong on a steamer August 10th to Yokohama and then to San Francisco. From there he travelled by train to St. Louis. The trip was marred by a typhoon and dealing with a slanderous newspaper article. Despite the devoted time and dedication to attend, in the end it was dysentery that kept him from participating in any activities other than inducting his successor elect. Given his devotion to the craft, he has been recognized as a prominent freemason in the United States in 1892 (*Portrait Gallery* 18).



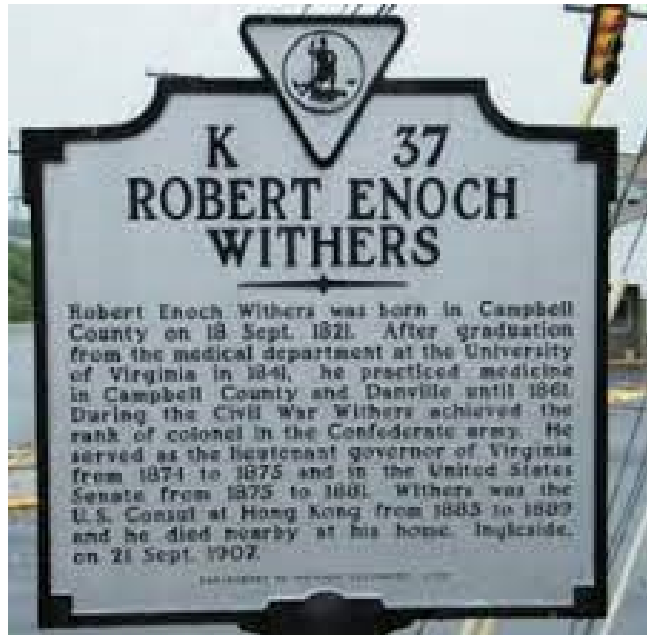
Mary Virginia Royall

Throughout this time, he was happily married to the former Mary Virginia Royall. They met in late December 1845 and immediately “was much struck...in short it was a bad case of love at first site (Withers 105).” They married several weeks later and were together for 55 years and had 12 children together, ten living into adulthood. She was with him throughout their journey together, from those early days in medical school, when he was first initiated as Entered Apprentice and then going through the chairs and to the several Grand Easts, when he was recovering from his injuries, and time spent with their children, grand-children, and great grandchildren. From his autobiography, “For more than half a century she had held the first place in my thoughts, my esteem, and my affection...She was to me a help met in all my trials, a safe counsellor in all difficulties, a loving solace in all sorrows (Withers 541).” She died from a respiratory infection in 1901.

The Undiscovered Country

Following her death, he began work on what would become 546 pages of narrative of his observations on society, war, politics, family, and freemasonry. His writings, humbly entitled *Autobiography of an Octogenarian*, was published in 1907, the year of his death. Robert Enoch Withers, MD passed to the celestial lodge above on September 21, 1907, and was buried next to Mary in Wytheville, Virginia. His was a life well lived, as exemplified by the final words of his autobiography.

“My race in this life is nearly run, my mission ended. Cheered and comforted by loving and affectionate children and grandchildren, enjoying the respect and esteem of valued friends, I patiently and cheerfully await that final summons, which cannot in the course of nature be much longer delayed. Hoping that “he who doeth all things well,” will, when it seemeth good, call me away to rejoin in that better land the loved ones who have gone before, I await.”



Supplemental: Masonic Resume

Name: **Robert Enoch Withers**

Born: 9/18/1821; Deceased: 9/21/1907

Symbolic Lodge:

Marshall Lodge No. 39, Lynchburg: Raised Master Mason 2/1/1851

Mackey Lodge No. 69, Rustburg: Worshipful Master 1854-1857

Royal Arch:

Eureka (Lynchburg) Royal Arch Chapter No. 10: Exalted November 1852

Commandery:

DeMolay Commandery No. 4 (Lynchburg): Knighted 1/25/1856

Grand East in Virginia

Grand Master 1871 & 1872

Grand High Priest 1871 & 1872

Grand Commander 1875-1878

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA

Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar 1883-1886

Other Appendant Bodies

Scottish Rite, 32°: Represented Grand Consistory of Virginia at Charleston, SC 1868

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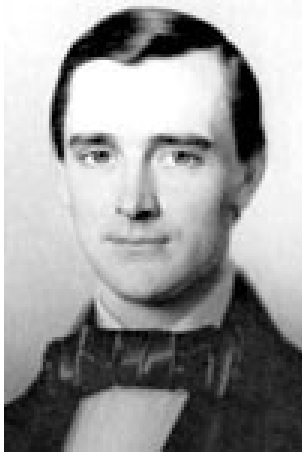
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Peyton Skipwith Coles, Sr.

By Sir Knight Jason “Jake” Trenary, Eminent Past Commander



Peyton Skipwith Coles, Sr. was born on April 1, 1826, on the same mother earth that 5 generations of his forefathers trod in Albemarle County, Virginia. The Virginia Coles, as they were known, could trace their heritage back to two brothers, John and William Coles, who came to the new world in 1730 from England and settled in Richmond, Virginia. John Coles, the lineal patriarch of Peyton Coles' family, purchased several large tracts of land in Halifax and Goochland Counties that were cutoff to eventually form Albemarle County. This tract of land was at its largest 4,960 acres in all according to a survey completed in 1772 by Daniel Smith. The land provided rich soil for farming and firmly established a successful descendent line of aristocratic agriculturalists who were intertwined in all matters of commerce, leadership, and politics in the community where they resided.

Peyton was fortunate to be born, live, and die on this same property. It is still known today as Estouteville. The palatial Green Mountain estate with stately mansion 14 miles South of the City of Charlottesville was owned by his father, Colonel John Coles, and mother, Selina Skipwith. The Skipwith family was of English royal descent and had emigrated to Virginia after the battle of Worcester and English civil war in that country in 1651. He was the third child of four children. He was raised as an old breed gentleman of many generous and noble sentiments. The Coles family upheld a code of the strictest integrity and honor of character deeply rooted in the Christian faith. They were prosperous in business and industry and conducted life in a judicious and prudent manner that had been passed down through successive generations.

He was educated at the Episcopal High School and then at the College of William and Mary. At the age of 26, he married his 21-year-old first cousin, Julia Isaetta Coles, on March 17, 1852, and the couple settled into a charmed and comfortable family life. They “dispensed hospitality with a lavish hand and open heart at his ancestral home. Estouteville became known far and wide as a center of culture and grace.” [1]

The wealth of his family provided Peyton with an opportunity to enjoy travel as well as social and leisure pursuits, one of which was a rise to prominence in the fraternity of Freemasonry. It was without a doubt his life's passion. He would become widely known throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond in his time. He was made a Master Mason on April 5, 1867, in Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 in Charlottesville. He made his first appearance at the Grand Lodge of Virginia's Annual Communication in December of 1868 representing his mother lodge as Junior Warden. From that day forward until his death, he was never absent from one of its sessions. He would serve Widow's Sons' No. 60 as Master in 1871, 1872, and 1874. He was dedicated in the York Rite appendant bodies and became the High Priest of Keystone Chapter No. 58 from 1873 until 1875 and Commander of Charlottesville Commandery No. 3 from 1872 until 1878. He would serve as District Deputy Grand Master from 1874 until 1876 for three consecutive terms. It was said that “while he was retained in office, although living 14 miles from the lodge room, and frequently exposed to every inclemency of the weather on horseback, he did not miss a single meeting, stated or special.” [2] He was thoroughly informed in the letter of the ritual in every

degree, and to him it was a labor of love to impart Masonic information to any brother who desired to be instructed.

He became the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Florida. He was appointed Grand Senior Deacon in 1873 and was promoted through the chairs until he was elected Grand Master of Masons in Virginia at the 102nd Grand Annual Communication in 1879. He was re-elected and presided over the 103rd Grand Annual Communication in 1880. He therefore served two terms consecutively as Grand Master from December 1879 until December 1881.

As Grand Master in 1880, he presided over the public Masonic laying of three cornerstones. The first was at the Windsor Baptist Church in Isle of Wight County. The second was at the Presbyterian Memorial Chapel in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Finally, on June 23, 1880, he participated in the cornerstone laying of the King's Mountain monument in Blacksburg, South Carolina along with the Grand Masters of South Carolina and Georgia. He also chartered 3 lodges: Liberty Hall Lodge No. 104 in Washington County, Piedmont Lodge No. 152 in Henry County, and Low Moor (Clifton Forge) Lodge No. 166 in Alleghany County. As good fortune would have it, all three of these lodges are still in working operation today.

In jurisprudence, he acted as Grand Master to prevent lodges from the act of incorporation and therefore from becoming subjected to state laws. He based his decision on a previous conclusion made by the Grand Master of New Jersey in 1867. This decision essentially prevented lodges from being sued in a corporate capacity and from being tried in a court of law.

In Masonic etiquette and decorum, Most Worshipful Coles implored the brethren to maintain uniformity, consistency, and ultimately perfection in the ritual and to limit the practice of wearing conspicuous Masonic emblems. He wanted Masonic practice to remain true to the primitive purity and simplicity that had customarily graced the fraternity. He sought adherence to traditions and resisted innovations. He ordered the brethren "to let our membership in this Grand Fraternity be attested, not by the wearing of Masonic emblems, but by the practice of those cardinal virtues and the maintenance of those principles that mark us a separate and peculiar people." [3]

As the year 1880 ended, Peyton Skipwith Coles, Sr. would also find himself elected the Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia as well as the Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Virginia in 1881. To date, he remains the only man in the storied history of the Masonic fraternity in the Commonwealth of Virginia to serve in the Grand East in all three York Rite bodies of Freemasonry in the same year. He accomplished this monumental achievement in 1881.

As Grand Master on October 18, 1881, he presided over one of the most auspicious special communications in the history of Virginia Freemasonry. In obedience to the request of the Joint Committee of the United States Congress, and in the presence of the President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, Most Worshipful Coles laid the cornerstone of the Centennial Monument commemorating the battle of Yorktown victory and surrender of Lord Cornwallis which was the historic military action that brought forth the practical close of the Revolutionary War.

Most Worshipful Coles was literally outfitted with some of the finest representations of Virginia Masonic heritage at this ceremony. He wore the apron and sash worked by Adrienne de Lafayette, the wife of General Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette. These were presented by Lafayette to President George Washington at a visit to Mount Vernon in 1784 and were provided for use by the

brethren of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. They had been worn by Washington when he laid the cornerstone of U.S. Capitol Building on September 18, 1793, in Washington, DC. He presided in the chair,



that according to local history, was once a gift from Norborne Berkeley, 4th Baron Botetourt, to the group of Freemasons that resided in Williamsburg when he was the Colonial Governor of Virginia between 1768 and 1770. It was also prescribed that Most Worshipful John Blair presided in this chair at the first meeting of the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1778. It was provided by the brethren of Williamsburg Lodge No. 6. From his mother lodge, Widow's Sons Lodge No. 60, he received a silver workman's trowel. A token of their continued esteem and affection for their Most Worshipful brother. Most Worshipful Coles also received a silver trowel from Right Worshipful Charles S. Arthur, the Virginia Representative of the Grand Lodge of New York. Lastly, a gavel was loaned by the Grand Lodge of New York and Grand Master Horace S. Taylor, that was made from one of the deck timbers of the frigate Lawrence. The Lawrence was Naval Commodore Matthew C. Perry's flagship at the Battle of Lake Erie. The gavel had already

laid the cornerstones of the monument at Monmouth and the foundation of the Egyptian obelisk known as Cleopatra's Needle in New York City's Central Park.

The cornerstone laying of the Centennial Monument at the Battle of Yorktown was the first time in the history of our country that the virtues and influence of the Masonic fraternity in the American Revolution were recognized by the Federal Government. 13 Grand Masters of the then 47 States attended along with numerous Freemasons from across the country and a Knights Templar escort led by the Grand Commander of Virginia, Right Eminent John Farran Regnault.

Most Worshipful Coles presided over the 104th Grand Annual Communication held in St. Alban's Hall in Richmond on December 12th – 14th, 1881. In his last Grand Lodge of Virginia address as Grand Master, he championed the facts that the fraternity had received National attention by participating in the Yorktown Ceremony and that it had increased in size and had advanced its organizational development during his tenure. He implored the Brethren to remain "guided and sustained by the Great Architect and Ruler of the Universe. To His infinite love and fatherly care, we owe the blessings of peace and prosperity which we now enjoy, and to Him alone can we look for a continuance of the same through an unknown future." [4] He reflected on the sad duty of presiding over the Masonic funeral of Right Worshipful Mayo B. Carrington during the year, who was serving as the Grand Senior Warden at the time when he passed away to the celestial lodge above. In jurisprudence, Most Worshipful Coles upheld a decision, finalized into law by the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1878, that all subordinate lodge by-law changes must be submitted through a District Deputy Grand Master to the Grand Master for approval prior to being changed. The topic was discussed due to a lodge providing life membership to its members without an approved change to its by-laws through the Grand Lodge. Most Worshipful Coles also reflected with gratitude on the diligent work of his Grand Secretary, Worshipful William B. Issacs, who had successfully established communication and correspondence with all known Masonic Grand Jurisdictions in the known

world during his tenure as Grand Master and that all of them, both in the United States and abroad, apart from France, were most cordial and Masonic in nature. He then shared that in his travels as Grand Master he had attended a meeting in every lodge room in the Commonwealth during his 2-year term in the Grand East. He passed the gavel, and he accepted his place in history with a small request. "May the charity we all inculcate, veil my errors: and may your kind and cordial approval reward my labors." [5]

He presided as Grand Commander over the 60th Annual Assembly of Knights Templar of Virginia held at Lynchburg on Tuesday, August 10, 1882. He championed the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery with the following statement "From the careful use of the ballot in the past, which is observable from the high moral, social and intellectual attainment which characterize our membership, I am sure it is not necessary for me to utter a word of caution as to its future use in the admission of candidates. Our order is founded on the Christian religion. It recognizes no church, no sect, or denomination. It requires simply, a belief in our Savior, Jesus Christ, in his merits as our redeemer and sanctifier; that he made an atonement for us, and that through him and his intercession we will finally be saved." [6]

He notified the Sir Knights of a contested arbitration ongoing in the Grand Encampment of the United States to decide which tactics manual would be adopted as standard work. The two principle works in consideration were Colonel H.B. Grant's tactics used by Kentucky and a few other Southern States or Myer's tactics, who was a publisher in Chicago, Illinois, that seemed to lack proper military order. Grant's tactics would ultimately prevail. Right Eminent Coles granted a charter to designate Fauquier Commandery No. 15 as a permanent establishment in the town of Markham, Virginia and he accepted an invitation for the Sir Knights of Virginia to participate in the Pennsylvania bicentennial celebration to be held on October 26, 1882. He also encouraged the Sir Knights to attend the upcoming Grand Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA, being held in San Francisco, California in 1883 to support Past Virginia Grand Commander, Right Eminent Robert E. Withers, who was then Deputy Grand Master.

Peace and prosperity prevailed through the entirety of his year of leadership throughout the Commandery and he was reelected to the office of Grand Commander for a second consecutive term in 1883. He presided over the 61st Annual Assembly of Knights Templar of Virginia at Mason's Hall in Danville on Tuesday, October 10, 1883. It was indeed a significant occasion in Virginia Templar Masonry because the newly elected Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Right Eminent Robert E. Withers, was in attendance. Withers was received with honors due to his distinguished position and was recognized by the Commandery for the accolades of his influence as a former resident of the city of Danville and as a Past Commander of Dove Commandery No. 7.

In his address to the Sir Knights, Rt. Eminent Coles confided, "My official duties, as Grand Commander, for the past year have been light and pleasant. I have the pleasure of reporting to you the assurances contained in my address of 1882. There have been no conflicts or disturbances among the craft, no question of law or usage has been submitted to me for decision." [7] He shared that one of the high lights of his year was attending a conferral of the Order of the Temple on 12 candidates at Grice Commandery No. 16 at Norfolk, with the Grand Recorder, Right Eminent William B. Issacs. He attended the 1883 Grand Triennial in San Francisco, California to support of Most Eminent Robert Enoch Withers. In his years as a Sir Knight, Peyton S. Coles, Sr. attended the Grand Triennials of 1871 in Baltimore, 1874 in New Orleans, 1877 in Cleveland, 1880 in Chicago, and 1883 in San Francisco.

Most Worshipful Coles affiliated with Scottsville Lodge No. 45 on June 15, 1883, and served as Worshipful Master for that lodge in 1883 and again in 1884. The worthy brother would be recalled to Grand Lodge service at the 106th Grand Annual Communication held in Richmond in December of 1883 to serve as the Grand Lecturer by Most Worshipful Henry William Murray. His depth of knowledge in the ritual was appreciated by Brethren across the Commonwealth and he would serve in this capacity until his death in 1887.

At the time of his death on June 6, 1887, he was serving the Virginia Grand Commandery as the Grand Representative for the Grand Commandery of Arkansas and the Grand Representative of the Grand Master of Knights Templar in the United States for the 4th District (Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Washington DC). He had suffered a brief illness during travel as the Grand Lecturer and died at his home, Estouteville, surrounded by his wife and children. His burial service was simple in nature and the procession travelled only a short distance across a few fields to his resting place in Enniscorthy, the hallowed burial ground of 6 generations Coles family members before him. A Masonic service was held, Nearer My God to Thee was sang, and he was passed into eternal rest. W. H. H. Lynn, Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Virginia in 1887, said of Coles in his eulogy, "He was one of the most zealous Masons I ever knew – his whole soul seemingly wrapped up in the order – and untiring in the discharge of the duties imposed upon him by the positions to which he was appointed." [8]

He was one of the most widely known and influential Freemasons in the United States and no man was more beloved to his Brethren, but perhaps the greatest and most enduring legacy that Peyton Skipwith Coles, Sr. leaves behind was beyond his success as a Freemason. His 35-year marriage to Julia Isetta Coles produced a large and extremely successful family of 12 children, 10 of which survived into mature adulthood, and all of them led worthy and productive lives. His oldest son, Peyton Skipwith Coles, Jr. followed in his father's footsteps and remained on the family lands of Albemarle County as a gentleman agriculturalist. His second son, Issac Albemarle Coles, moved west and built a family in Omaha, Nebraska. His only surviving daughter, Julia Stricker Coles, married Edmund Lyons MacKenize of Scotland who was the son of an admiral in the British Royal Navy, John Francis Campbell Mackenzie. Edmund Lyons Mackenzie was engaged in several profitable trading and steamship businesses in and around New York City. His third son, Dr. John Estouteville Coles, received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Virginia and practiced medicine in New York and Virginia for the remainder of his life. His fourth son, Reverend Roberts Coles, was educated at Seabury Divinity School in Farabault, Minnesota and spent one year in post-graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. He became an ordained priest of the Protestant Episcopal Church and became the Rector of several churches, one in Pennsylvania and three in Virginia in his lifetime. Edward Coles, his fifth son, was profitably engaged in the insurance industry and lived in Albemarle County all his life, finally residing at the home of his brother Dr. John E. Coles. His sixth son, William Bedford Coles, studied law at the University of Virginia and was admitted into the Virginia Bar in May 1888 and later to the New York Bar in 1893. He practiced law in New York City. William Bedford Coles was also the author of the Coles Family history and genealogy in 1915. Dr. Stricker Coles, Peyton Skipwith Coles, Sr.'s seventh son, received general education at Roanoke College then studied medicine at the University of Virginia and at Jefferson Medical College. He obtained a Doctor of Medicine in 1892 and practiced in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania making his specialty gynecology and obstetrics as a resident of Jefferson Hospital, Polyclinic Hospital, and Howard Hospital. He would later become an assistant professor of obstetrics at Jefferson Medical College. He was a fellow of the College of Physicians and member of the American Medical Association. His ninth son, Henry Aylett Coles, was educated at the

University of Virginia and became an electrical engineer with the General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York. Henry Aylett Coles would later work with Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing, Co. in Pennsylvania, and Georgia. He would ascend to become a district manager for the Atlanta Office of Westinghouse. He is credited with the installation and design work of the Niagara Falls hydro-electric plant in 1896. It was the first such water-powered plant to be installed East of the Mississippi River and the largest employed for commercial use at its time in history. Finally, the tenth and last son of Peyton Skipwith Coles Sr. and Julia Isetta Coles was Arthur Newbold Coles. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and was gainfully employed with the Pennsylvania Company for Insurance and Brown Brothers & Company bankers, as an insurance and annuities broker in Philadelphia. He would later retire to Bar Harbor, Maine.

So much more can be said for the history of a man who has lived a well-spent life under the watchful eye of the Great Architect of the Universe, but in closing, the fraternity of Freemasonry and the Coles family more than prospered under the fatherly leadership of Peyton Skipwith Coles, Sr. He was blessed to be born an affluent man, but he used his wealth in the patient assistance and charity of others. He was industrious and exuded boundless energy coupled with the ability to lead with organizational strength. He won over his contemporaries with practical decision making without prejudice and made his name through devout labor within the quarries of the Craft. He was a kind and tender-hearted man, always willing to teach and share knowledge with others. He was warm and sincere as a Mason, as a father, and as a husband. He lived his life in the service of God and his fellow man and is symbol of all that is good within the Craft. All the good that those who are Freemasons should seek to emulate.



Quotations

[1] Page 217 Coles, William B. *The Coles Family of Virginia: Its Numerous Connections, from the Emigration to America to the Year 1915*. (Publisher Unidentified) New York, New York. © 1931

[2] Page 34 *Proceedings of the 110th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia*. J.W. Ferguson & Son, Printers, Richmond, Virginia. © 1888

- [3] Page 16 *Proceedings of the 103rd Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia*. James E. Goode, Richmond, Virginia. © 1880
- [4] Page 87 *Proceedings of the 104th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia*. James E. Goode, Richmond, Virginia. © 1881
- [5] Page 94 *Proceedings of the 105th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia*. James E. Goode, Richmond, Virginia. © 1882
- [6] Page 7 *Proceedings of the 60th Annual Assembly of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Virginia*. Wm. Ellis Jones, Book and Job Printer, Richmond, Virginia. © 1882
- [7] Page 7 *Proceedings of the 61st Annual Assembly of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Virginia*. Wm. Ellis Jones, Book and Job Printer, Richmond, Virginia. © 1883
- [8] Page 15 *Proceedings of the 67th Annual Assembly of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Virginia*. Wm. Ellis Jones, Book and Job Printer, Richmond, Virginia. © 1887

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William Baylor McChesney

Grand High Priest 1908, Grand Commander 1910-1911, Grand Master 1910-1911

By Sir Knight Scott Lyons Fielding, KCT, Eminent Grand Senior Warden

William Baylor McChesney was one of the no less than a dozen men in Virginia, who presided over all three of Virginia's grand bodies. His name is still remembered by a great number of Brethren in our own Blue Lodges, Chapters, and Commandery's. His love for the Fraternity, and mankind in general, made him well known among Men and Mason's, throughout Virginia.

William McChesney was born in Staunton, Virginia on July 7, 1849. At the age of 14, after the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined the 14th Virginia Calvary in Churchville Virginia, with several of his relatives. He served until the end of the War and returned to Staunton to finish school. He attended Washington College in Lexington Virginia, where General Robert E. Lee was president of that institution where he made his proudest boast in the fact, that he had served as a member of the honor guard at General Lee's burial. Being a Confederate Army Veteran, he was naturally a man of great patriotic convictions.

He was raised in Rockingham Union No. 27 On July 29, 1879, and moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota. Shortly thereafter, he returned to Staunton some years later in 1885, where he affiliated with all the Staunton Masonic Bodies. He was the Master of the Lodge in 1887-1889, and the Secretary from 1898-1918. In 1885 Brother McChesney was appointed to the committee to lay a corner stone at the building of the monument to the Confederate Dead in Thornrose Cemetery, in Staunton. On June 9, 1885, at which all the other masonic bodies were largely represented at the laying of the corner stone. In 1889 while serving as Master of Staunton No. 13, Brother McChesney and the other members voted to purchase the property which would become the Masonic Hall for years to come, located at 13 Beverly Street in Staunton. Under the direction of William H. H. Lynn, Master of the Lodge, Brother McChesney was appointed to the building committee, where the members bought Bonds to pay for the construction of the Masonic Hall. On its completion of the building on June 6, 1895, all the bonds were retired, and the building paid for in full. The cornerstone of the temple was laid by Staunton Lodge on June 6, 1895, and the stretcher was dedicated, and occupied the following year. The first three floors were to be rented. The fourth floor was the Chapter and Commandery rooms. The fifth floor was the spacious Lodge room for Staunton Lodge No. 13, and the adjacent banquet hall. The Eastern Star also meet on the fifth floor.

Companion William B. McChesney was exalted in Rockingham Chapter No.6 in Harrisonburg in 1880, then resided in Aberdeen South Dakota, until relocating in Staunton in January of 1885 where he remained until the end of his days. On February 1885 he affiliated with Union Chapter No.2 RAM, where he took an active part in degree work. In 1887 the Grand Chapter adopted a resolution to the effect, that the work in the Capitular degrees as exemplified by Grand Lecturer William H. H. Lynn was confirmed as the work of the Grand Chapter of Virginia and "that he be requested to teach the subordinate Chapters". William Lynn was Past Grand High Priest of Virginia (1882-1883), Past High Priest of Union No.2, was gratifying to the Companions of Union No. 2. In 1888 William H. H. Lynn, J. Howard Wayt, Jacob Bumgardner, E. Louis Ide, and William B. McChesney all held offices in the Union Chapter. On October 16, 1891, William B.

McChesney serving as High Priest for the year. During his reign as High Priest the Chapter room was under construction on the fourth floor of the Staunton Masonic Temple, where he laid out the designs for the Chapter room. He also formed a committee to see about furnishing the Chapter for the future time when the building was to be completed.

In January 1869 Levi L. Stevenson along with eight others (the minimum number permitted), petitioned the Grand Commandery of Virginia for a dispensation to form a new Commandery in Staunton. The Grand Commander John Robin McDaniel, of Lynchburg, issued the dispensation authorizing the opening of Stevenson Commandery. On May 11, 1869, the Charter of Stevenson Commandery No. 8 Knights Templar was issued. The Commandery started its career with a membership of nineteen knights.

The Commandery immediately became a sort of "institution" in Staunton just as were the Lodge and Chapter before it. The fact the War Between the States were still very much alive made the semi-military character of the Knights Templar appeal greatly to the people of the community generally. Written invitations for the Knights Templar to appear in full uniform on public occasion. One such occasion was Memorial Day in both Staunton and Charlottesville, on June 9, 1871. After the morning celebration in Staunton, they hoped for a train for Charlottesville for the afternoon service.

On June 9, 1885, was Memorial Day again and the Commandery was invited as usual to attend the exercises in full uniform. On this particular occasion the cornerstone to the Confederate dead in Staunton, was laid by Sir Knight William B. McChesney. William B. McChesney, who was Knighted in Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, was elected a member of Stevenson Commandery. When the Grand Encampment of the United States met in Washington in 1890, Stevenson Commandery was represented by a considerable number of members, to include William B. McChesney Generalissimo. In 1891 to 1893 he was the Commander of Stevenson Commandery. Sir Knight McChesney at that time would go on to be the second Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Virginia (1910-1911) from Stevenson Commandery.

Grand High Priest (1908-1909)

In 1908 Most Excellent William Baylor McChesney was elected and installed the Grand High Priest in the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Virginia. In his address of the One Hundred and Second Grand Annual Convocation, much was spoken on the Schools of Instruction. He spoke highly on the Valley Royal Arch School, and the high state of work that was being done for Capitular Masonry in Virginia. Most Excellent McChesney believed in the ritual schools, and the returns to the Companions, was well worth the effort. In an address to the Companions the Grand High Priest said, "Men in all ages have sought to erect monuments"—let us determine that we will make of this institution a monument that will be a source of pride, not only to the present generation, but to those that are to follow; to nourish, to support and to patronize until it shall be said of us that we are known for our "good works".

In 1909 there were 64 Chapters on record. The number of Royal Arch Masons reported in 1908 was 5564. In 1909 there were 498 Exalted, 81 Affiliated, 16 Reinstated, making a gain of 595. A total of 6159 Royal Arch Masons. In the 1908-1909 Grand Chapter there were three Charters issued to new Chapters. Farmville Chapter No. 62, in Farmville Virginia. Blackstone Chapter No. 63, in Blackstone Virginia. and Arvonnia Chapter No. 64, in Buckingham Virginia.

Grand Master of Masons in Virginia (1910-1911)

On February 9, 1910, the Most Worshipful William B. McChesney was installed Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. In his address to the Masons of Virginia, he mentioned that one of the most important things he worked on was the Washington Memorial. He stated, "On February 22, 1910, by invitation, I attended the Preliminary meeting held in Alexandria, Virginia. For the purpose of forming a National Association to erect a memorial to Washington the Mason. I reflect Credit upon Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 which originated and called this meeting. There was present eighteen accredited representatives of Grand Lodges in the United States. A plan was formulated and adopted, for the purpose of Honoring Brother George Washington. On February 22, 1911, there will be presented to you the full objectives of the Association, and I trust you will vote and join your sister Grand Jurisdictions and give your hearty approval". The vote was positive, and Virginia, the Mother State of this illustrious brother joined the other Grand Jurisdictions.

Most Worshipful McChesney approved for several conner stones to be laid. Atlantic Lodge No.2 laid the conner stone for the new YMCA. Chester Lodge No. 94 laid a conner stone at the new High School. Roman Eagle Lodge No. 122 laid a conner stone for the Roanoke Female Collage. A special communication of Grand Lodge was called for the purpose of laying the conner stone for the New Court House in Covington. Hill City Lodge No. 183 in Lynchburg laid the conner stone Baptist Church on Rivermont Avenue. Urbanna Lodge No. 83 laid the conner stone at the Monument to the Confederate Dead in Saluda. Most Worshipful McChesney had the honor along with Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful W.L. Andrews, of laying the conner stone for Highland Lodge No. 110, at their new lodge building.

In 1910-1911 there were 308 Virginia lodges on record. The number of Master Masons in Virginia reported was 21,587. In the year 1910-1911 there were 1,304 raised, 491 affiliated, 52 reinstatements, making a gain of 1847 members. In 1910-1911 year, there were 9 new Lodges issued Charters. Flat Rock Lodge No. 314 Scott County, Dillwyn Lodge No. 315 Dillwyn, Campbell Lodge No. 316 Altavista, Lewis Ginter Lodge No. 317 Henrico County, Richlands Lodge No. 318 Richlands, Raphine Lodge No. 319 Rockbridge County, Rodden Lodge No. 320 Halifax County, Reedville Lodge No, 321 Reedville, and Capron Lodge No 322 Southampton County.

Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Virginia (1910-1911)

On October 15, 1910, at the Eighty-Ninth Annual Conclave, Sir Knight William B. McChesney was installed as a Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Virginia. In 1911 as he addressed the Conclave and stated, "Another year has passed, its record is made, and again we are assembled under the protection and guidance of our Blessed Redeemer, the Prince of Peace. You need no words of welcome to your own hearthstone, but with you I rejoice that peace and harmony had prevailed through this Grand Jurisdiction". When he came to the rollcall of the departed Sir Knights, he had the Sir Knights uncover while the Grand Recorded read a roll of Forty-Four who have passed. Sir Knight McChesney went on to say, "as Masons, let us realize that what the New Testament is to the Old, so is Knight Templary to Ancient Craft Masonry. As Knights Templars, traveling from West to East in search of Further Light, we behold the Bright and Morning Star, whose rising hath brought health and salivation to fallen men, and light to those who sat in darkness, and in the Valley of the Shadow of Death ".

There were two dispensations that year. One to Alleghany Commandery No. 23, to appear in full uniform and act as escort to Blue Lodge at the Corner-stone laying of the Court House, at Clifton Forge Va. The second was to Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, to appear in full uniform to act as escort for the Blue Lodge at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Methodist Church in Harrisonburg Va. The only Resolution that was presented and adopted was the Bill of Dress. This was submitted by Sir Knight H. M. Boykin, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander . This Resolution established what is Full Dress Uniform, Fatigue Dress Uniform, and the Regalia to be Worn with both uniforms.

In 1910-1911 there were 25 Commandry's on record. The number of Sir Knights in Virginia reported was 3,173. The number of Sir Knights created was 196, affiliated 37, and reinstated 6. On August 9, 1911, a petition was signed by the 22 Knights Templar requesting to form a Commandery of Knights Templar in the town of Culpeper Virginia. The petition was in due form and a Charter for Fairfax Commandery No. 25. was issued by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia.

Obituary of William Baylor McChesney 7 July 1849- 3 March 1930

I could not do Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight McChesney, justice if I did not publish his obituary. In his entire life he stood out as a true Pillar of the Community. He held offices in all three bodies as Secretary, and Recorder. The following is his obituary as published in the Staunton Virginia News.

Born 7 July 1849 Augusta County Virginia Death 3 March 1930 (Age 81)
Burial Thornrose Cemetery Staunton Virginia Plot Section 10

Staunton learned with deep sorrow of the passing at 8 o'clock Tuesday morning at his home on Kalorami Street, of William Baylor McChesney. A native of this county and a resident of Staunton through the greater portion of his life, he was held in affection and esteem by the people of his home community because of the many fine qualities that were merged in a colorful personality. While over the state he was known as the "Grand Old Man of Masonry". He had been ill about 10 days. He had recently attended the session of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Virginia, at Richmond, and the exercise held February 22 at Alexandria in honor of the birthday anniversary of George Washington. Since his return home he had been confined to his bed most of the time. Tuesday he was taken into another room by his attendant and expired in a few minutes. He was 81 years of age. Honored by Masonry, Mr. McChesney had received all honors that it was possible for the Masonic Craft to bestow upon one of their members, having been Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia (1908-19): Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Virginia (1910-11): and Grand Master of Masons of Virginia (1910-11), and served on many important committees. For many years he was the president of Valley Royal Arch School of instruction. A school that is held annually for the purpose of teaching the ritual of the Royal Arch Chapter, and at the time of his death was president emeritus. In his day he was known as a great ritualist and authority on Masonic Law. His advice on matters was sought by Masons everywhere, and for years he exerted a great influence over the various Grand Bodies of Masonry in this state. He was probably better known than and other Mason in this state. Mr. McChesney held his Masonic membership in the three Staunton bodies and had been Worshipful Master of Staunton No. 13, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, High Priest or Union Royal Arch Chapter No. 2, and Eminent Commander of Stevenson Commandery No. 8. He was also a member of ACCA Temple Ancient Arabis Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, and of its century club. He was also

in the Staunton Shrine Club. He was also known to many Highlanders, more especially in Masonic circles. He was Grand Master of Masons of Virginia when the Temple was dedicated in 1910 and officiated at the laying of the cornerstone.

William Lee Davis, Sr.
1865 – 1941

By Sir Knight Dennis M. Haas, KCT, KYCH, OPC, Eminent Grand Captain General

William Lee “Bill” Davis, Sr. son, and the youngest of three children, born to Joshua Allen Davis and Laurette Edwina *Tillage* Davis on October 6, 1865, at Williamsburg, Virginia. At the age of 11, Bill and his family relocated from Williamsburg to Portsmouth, Virginia. Bill met and married Nancy A. *Eppes* Davis and fathered four daughters and one son. He was employed by the Portsmouth Water Department and was baptized becoming a communicant of the Forth Street Baptist Church. While Mr. Davis was not a native of Portsmouth, having been born at Williamsburg, yet for the major portion of his life was so closely associated with that city and its affairs that he had become recognized as one of Portsmouth’s “very own.”



His affiliation with Portsmouth began with his employment by the Old Portsmouth Berkley and Suffolk Water Company, which connection continued fourteen years from July 1, 1904, to April 30, 1918. With one year intervening he was a shop superintendent in the Norfolk Navy Yard. He was there appointed on January 1, 1919 as Superintendent of the present Portsmouth Water Company, a position he held continuously for twenty-two years. The record of his administration of this office stands as a monument to his precise efficiency.

As a communicant of the Forth Street Baptist Church, he and his family attended church regularly and continued their affiliation through the years. As a churchman his sound counsel and active participation not only in the affairs of the church of his affiliation but in all matters pertaining to the religious activities of the city, was of incalculable value.



The one thing in his life that stood out, and which he probably held nearer and dearer than all others, was his Masonic affiliations. At the age of Twenty-five, Mr. Davis petitioned and was initiated into the Masonic Order through St. John’s Lodge No. 36 then located in Richmond, Virginia on August 12, 1890. Brother Davis was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on September 9, 1890 and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on October 14, 1890. Brother Davis affiliated with Seaboard Lodge No. 56 on May 3, 1893, and withdrew his membership from St. John’s Lodge on July, 11, 1893. In the course of but two years in 1895 he became Worshipful Master of that lodge. Brother Davis served as Secretary of Seaboard Lodge No. 56 for a period of some thirty-four years, from 1897-1899, 2 years, and then again from 1909 – 1941, 32 years. His rise in the ranks of the Masonic Order carried him from the first chair through all of them to the exalted chair of Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ancient,

Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia in 1928. In the interim he also served consecutively as District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 34.

Brother Davis was exalted to the sublime degree of a Royal Arch Mason and in 1908 served as High Priest of Mt. Horeb Royal Arch Chapter No. 11. Excellent Companion Davis in 1916, served as District Deputy Grand High Priest of District No. 2. and was elected to serve as Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Masons in Virginia in 1930.

Sir Knight Davis served as Eminent Commander of Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 in 1909 and was elected to serve as Right Eminent Grand Commander Knights Templar of Virginia in 1916-1917.

Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America Most Eminent Grand Master Sir Knight Lee Stewart Smith, Pittsburg PA. World War I, Liberty Bonds and contributions to the Red Cross Fund most significant was General Order No. 7 – “It is earnestly desired by the Grand Master, Most Eminent Sir Lee S. Smith, that the Templars of the United States contribute an amount equal to one dollar per capita for an emergency fund for war relief work. This is distinctly a Templar effort and the order of the Grand Master, also a circular letter from your Grand Commander, has been sent to Commanderies in Virginia”



On October 14, 1940, Brother Davis celebrated his 50th anniversary as a Master Mason. Locally, “Bill” Davis as he was popularly and affectionately known, was the “Grand Old Man of Masonry.” He was also a member of Khedive Temple, Mystic Shrine of Norfolk.

At the age of 75, William Lee “Bill” Davis, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1928, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Masons in Virginia in 1930, and Right Eminent Grand Commander Knights Templar of Virginia in 1916-1917, residing at 948 Naval Avenue, on Wednesday, April 2, 1941, at 10:30 in the evening was pronounced dead at a Norfolk hospital after an illness of two weeks. Mr. Davis was survived by his wife, Nancy Eppes-Davis, four daughters, Laura Woodward, Mary Peters, Ruth Lee Davis, and Mrs. William E. Seaton, one son, William Lee Davis, Jr. and three grandchildren. His interment is at the Oak Grove (aka: Portlock) Cemetery located at 291 Peninsula Avenue, Lot #514, Avenue “E”, space #9, Portsmouth, Virginia. Portsmouth City Manager, Charles F. Harper said of his death, “I sincerely regret losing Mr. Davis. He was a very competent city official and a very honorable man.”



The passing of William Lee Davis, Sr. has taken from Portsmouth and this community a man held most high in the esteem of his neighbors and friends. His private life was as notable for its probity as was his public career. He never knew the meaning of compromise with any problem where there was involved the questions of right and justice. In his fraternal affiliations he was a pillar of strength and a never ceasing source of inspiration to those who admired and respected him for his high ideals and human fellowship. There has passed to his reward a Most Worthy Master now to serve the All Highest Master, the Great Creator and Architect of the universe and all mankind

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1929 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia, A.O. 1929 / A.L. 5929

1917 Proceedings of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia, A.D.1917 / A.O.799

1930 Proceedings of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

Portsmouth Public Library, Portsmouth Star and Norfolk Virginian Pilot Obituaries April 2, 1941

Seaboard Lodge No. 56, Portsmouth, VA

St. John's Lodge No. 36, Richmond, VA

Mt. Horeb Royal Arch Chapter No. 11, Norfolk, VA

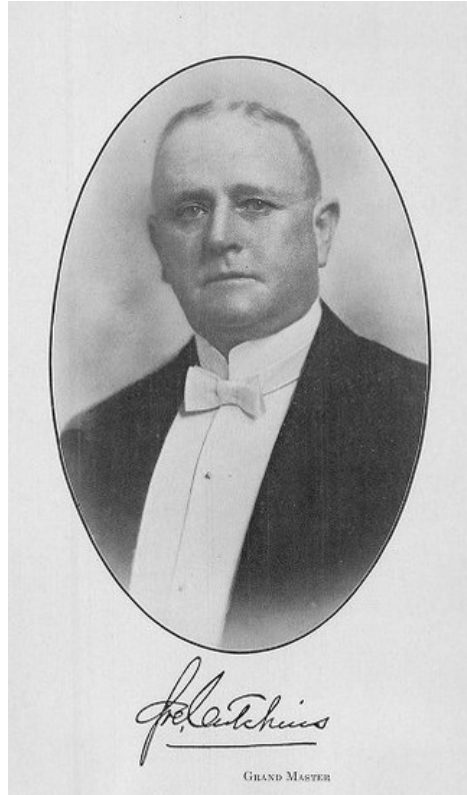
Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Portsmouth, VA

Grand Lodge of Virginia, Grand Masters 1778 – 2020, Grand Lodge Library, Museum and Historical Foundation

Solomon "Sol" Cutchins

August 14th, 1854 – May 14th, 1925

By Sir Knight J. Brandon Hale, KCT, Eminent Past Commander



Solomon "Sol" Cutchins was born in Nansemond Country, Virginia on August 14th, 1854. Brother Cutchins was wed to Caroline Robertta (Berta) Oppenheimer (1862-1930), daughter of Abraham Oppenheimer and Sarah Eliza Jones, in 1883. Sol and Berta were blessed with five sons, Colonel John A. Cutchins, Coleman Cutchins, Louis E. Cutchins, William S. Cutchins, and Frank Cutchins.

Major Cutchins served as commander of the Richmond Light Infantry Blues. He was the Commander of the original company, which had become Company A and was elected to major and the first battalion commander until 1901. He also served on the staff of Governor Andrew Jackson Montague from 1902 to 1906. Sol graduated with honors from Richmond College, where he received the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts and immediately began practicing law in Richmond. His son John A. Cutchins followed in his footsteps, and they worked in the firm Cutchins & Cutchins. Sol served as a member of the Richmond bar for many years. He had a long and successful career of over half a century serving the community of Richmond, Virginia.

Sol was initiated as an Entered Apprentice at Joppa Lodge, No. 40 in Richmond, Virginia on November 17th, 1879, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on August 17th, 1886, and became a Master Mason on December 6th, 1886. He progressed through the chairs and became Worshipful Master of Joppa Lodge from 1896 to 1898. For his dedicated service to the Grand Lodge of Virginia he was made an honorary member of Joppa Lodge No. 40 on January 6th, 1921. Sol was elected to the office of Grand Junior Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Virginia on February 12th, 1914. In faithfully serving the offices during progression he was elected as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Virginia 1919-1920 on February 13th, 1919. He served on the committee of Finance, Education, and was the Grand Representative to Nebraska for the Grand Lodge of Virginia.



Brother Cutchins began his York Rite journey by receiving the Mark Master and Past Master's Degree in Washington Royal Arch Chapter No. 9 in Richmond, Virginia on September 30th, 1891. The Council and Most Excellent Master's degrees were conferred upon him on October 30th, 1891, and the Royal Arch Degree on July 18th, 1892. Companion Cutchins was elected and installed as High Priest of Washington Royal Arch Chapter No. 9 from 1898 to 1901 and was made an honorary member on October 29th, 1916. Sol was elected to the office of Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia for 1912-1913.

For the Capstone of the York Rite, Sol started his Knight Templar journey on September 22nd, 1893, at St. Andrew Commandery No. 13 by receiving the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and on February 23rd, 1984, he received the Order of Malta and the Order of the Temple. Sol was elected to the office of Commander of St. Andrew Commandery from 1906-1908. During the Grand Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery on October 30th, 1919, Sol was elected to the office of Grand Junior Warden for the Grand Commandery of Virginia. At that time, the elected line began at the Grand Junior Warden's office. The Standard Guard were appointed positions at the will and pleasure of the Grand Commander. As the years continued, he progressed in line and on October 30th, 1924, he became the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia. Sr Knights Cutchins was able to make three visitations after being installed as Grand Commander: the Official Visits of St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Appomattox Commandery No. 6 and Dove Commandery No. 7. Shortly after that, he fell ill and had to decline invitations that had been extended. He had been battling the health condition of a weakened heart and his health had been impaired for a short time. On May 14th, 1925, at the age of 71, that morning coming home after a meeting of the Board of Governors at the Masonic Home of Virginia, Brother Cutchins carried on to that undiscovered country, from whom, no traveler returns. To my knowledge, Sir Knight Cutchins is the only Grand Commander of Virginia to carry on while serving as the Grand Commander. His funeral services were held on Saturday, May 16th, 1925, at 11 am in the Second Baptist Church, with Reverend Dr. Frank T. McFaden, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, officiating the services. He was laid to rest in the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA with Joppa Lodge No. 40 performing his Masonic Rites.

In Memoriam



SOL CUTCHINS

ELECTED GRAND COMMANDER, OCTOBER 30, 1924

GRAND HIGH PRIEST
1912-1913

GRAND MASTER
1919-1920

BORN IN NANSEMOND COUNTY, VA.
AUGUST 14, 1854

DIED AT RICHMOND, VA.
MAY 14, 1925

"SERVANT OF GOD, WELL DONE"

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Proceedings of the 141st Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia. Everett Wadley Co, Richmond, Virginia. 1919

Proceedings of the 97th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Virginia. Brown Print Shop, Richmond, Virginia. © 1919

of the 98th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Virginia. Brown Print Shop, Richmond, Virginia. © 1920

Proceedings of the 99th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Virginia. Brown Print Shop, Richmond, Virginia. © 1921

Proceedings of the 100th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Virginia. Brown Print Shop, Richmond, Virginia. © 1922

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Proceedings of the 102nd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Virginia. Brown Print Shop, Richmond, Virginia. © 1924

Proceedings of the 103rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Virginia. Brown Print Shop, Richmond, Virginia. © 1925

Charles Vernon Eddy (1877 – 1963)

Sir Knight David Myring Strohsahl, Grice Commandery No. 16 & Virginia Beach Commandery No. 36

A decade after the Civil War, a time when Winchester, Virginia was still rebuilding from six major battles in the War Between the States, Charles Vernon Eddy was born to Florence Alberta “Bertie” Snapp Eddy and James Clarkson Eddy, a millwright. (virginia.gov) His father passed when he was only 11 years old. At 15 years of age, he and his brother established a printing business while studying at the Shenandoah Valley Academy, prep boarding school. (Ridgeway, 2021) The business eventually grew to be the largest printer in the state of Virginia with an office in New York City. They sold the business in 1904 due to financial troubles, but Eddy stayed on until 1907. During that time, he married Katharine Graham Kurtz and eventually moved to Philadelphia to be the assistant manager at a large printing house.

In 1913, he moved his family back to Winchester to take charge of the Handley Library, a position he held for 46 years. The library and a high school both, bearing the Handley name, were built at the bequest of John Handley, a Pennsylvania judge.



C. VERNON EDDY
GRAND COMMANDER
1925-1926
*C. Vernon Eddy
Grand Commander 1925-1926*

Librarian of the Hadley Library

Eddy’s forty-six-year tenure as the head librarian of the Handley library was highly successful. Not only was the head of the library, but he also served as the secretary to the Handley Fund’s board of trustees from 1920 to 1960, and as treasurer from 1931 to 1960. He scouted out and encouraged the donation of family manuscripts and collections, established an archive, and expanded the library with historical reference collections. Through two World Wars, he collected and donated books to soldiers off fighting in the wars.



Handley Library in Winchester, VA

Notable among his successes was the collection of maps of Jedediah Hotchkiss, who during the Civil War, served as cartographer and topographer for Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson and Robert E. Lee. For over a decade, Eddy worked to ensure that these invaluable maps were available to researchers. In 1948, the Library of

Congress purchased the entire collection. The Hotchkiss’ granddaughter was so thankful to Eddy for his efforts, that she gave three Hotchkiss maps to the Handley Library.

Eddy's work as a librarian wasn't exclusive to the Handley Library. He served as president of the Virginia Library Association, and the Virginia representative to the American Library Association's governing council. For thirty years, he also served as the secretary of the local Red Cross chapter. He was the founding director of the Winchester Rotary Club and was also the founding secretary of the local historical society. Early in his professional life, at twenty-one years old, he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21.

Freemasonry

C. Vernon Eddy served as Grand Commander in 1925-1926, Grand Master of Masons in 1937, and Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in 1941. His complete Masonic resume is quite extensive and is include as a supplementary addendum. SK Eddy was initiated, passed, and raised in Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21, served as Master from December 1906 to November 1907 and was secretary from 1918 to 1953 (35 years). He was a member in both the York Rite and Scottish Rite, attaining Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of USA and Coroneted Inspector General Honorary, 33°.

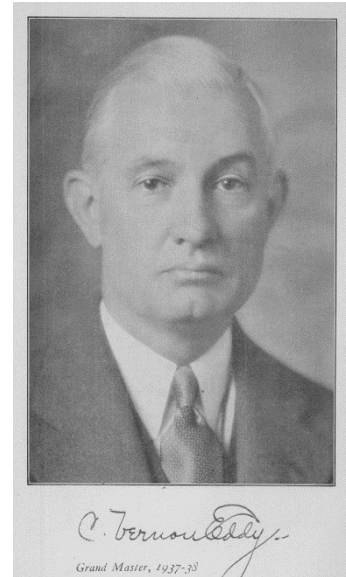
Grand Lodge of Virginia

In 1936, the year before being elected Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, SK Eddy attended the 200th Anniversary of the AF&AM Grand Lodge of Scotland. During the evening, as the haggis was served, he jokingly commented on the screeching of the bagpipes accompanying the presentation of the haggis. The humorous comment ensured good-natured banter between the Scottish and Virginia Grand Lodges would continue in his year as Grand Master.

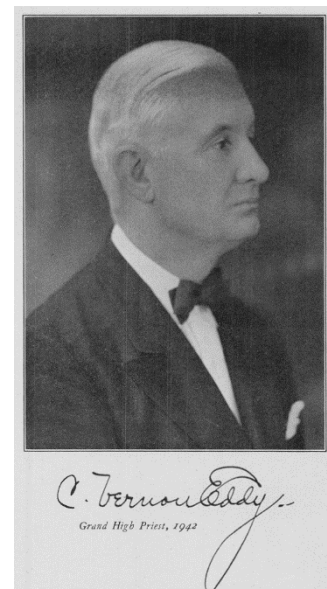
Grand Chapter of Virginia

Most Excellent Eddy served a 21-month tenure as Grand High Priest, due to the untimely death of the elected Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Albert S. Burnham, three months into his term. During the 1941 Grand Royal Arch Chapter Annual, his fellow Companion from his home John Dove Chapter No. 21 in Winchester, was quoted in the 1941 Proceedings of the Grand Chapter saying,

"...for the benefit of those who do not know C. Vernon Eddy, I would like to say to you that he is one of the outstanding citizens of Winchester, and that he is in reality the soul of his city, a gentleman of the very highest type, a companion of the highest order; and this evening it is indeed a great pleasure and privilege for me to be thus honored, to try to express to you, in behalf of John Dove Chapter, our appreciation of the fine service you have rendered to the fraternity in its various branches."



C. Vernon Eddy
Grand Master 1937-38



C. Vernon Eddy
Grand High Priest, 1942

Grand Commandery of Virginia

Alike his tenure as Grand High Priest, he served as Grand Commander for almost 2 years due to the untimely death of the elected Grand Commander, Rt. Em. Sir Sol Cutchins. It is better, sometimes, to explain a man by quoting his own words. SK Eddy writes prophetic words in his report in the 1925 Proceedings of the Grand Commandery. He writes what we might today take heed,

“Twelve Commanderies report to the Inspector that they have made no special effort in the way of social functions to increase attendance and interest in their members. It is significant that practically all Commanderies so reporting also report unusually low averages in attendance at conclaves and a poor showing at Inspection. It is my opinion that a Commandery that has good attendance and interest in its work is a better Commandery than one that has money in a bank. I venture to suggest to those Commanderies that really want a revival of interest that they have an occasional ladies’ night, notifying each Sir Knight that he will be expected to pay for his own supper, but that the Commandery will pay for the supper of his wife or lady accompanying him. This pulls two ways. Stag suppers are all right, but my experience leads me to believe that a little food and good talk on Templarism for our wives and sweethearts will always have a good effect on interest in Commandery affairs and consequent reflection in attendance. In no better way can some of the Commandery’s money be spent.”

As a Master Mason, C. Vernon Eddy had hardly a peer in his devotion to our craft as evidenced from the eloquent words from A. Douglas Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Memorials:

“It has been said by many, that Charles Vernon Eddy looked like and acted like a Grand Master at all times. It is said that he could make one of the most moving Masonic talks while apologizing for his inability to speak.

“He was one of the finest examples of the traditional Southern Gentleman, and although not inclined to be belligerent, never failed to “stand up and be counted.’

“His friendship was never lightly taken. Whatever the personal sacrifice might be to him, his loyalty to a friend was paramount. Although he was one of four men in our time who had presided over the three York Rite Grand Bodies in Virginia, and one of three who was also an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council A.A.S.R of the Southern Jurisdiction, he was humble as any man could have been, sweet and understanding of the youngest and wisest. He was known and beloved throughout the entire Masonic world, and rightly so.”

“Uniquely, he was one of two men in the history of the DeMolay movement to have had a Chapter named for him during his lifetime, and which was done with the blessing of the late Founder and Secretary-General, Frank S. Land.”

Brother C. Vernon Eddy laid down his working tools on October 17, 1963. He is buried next to his wife, who died on March 5, 1953, in Winchester’s Mount Hebron Cemetery.

Supplemental: Masonic Resume

Name: **Charles Vernon Eddy (C. Vernon Eddy)**

Born: 9/13/1877; Deceased: 10/17/1963

Symbolic Lodge: Winchester Hiram Lodge, No. 21

Entered Apprentice: 3/24/1899

Fellowcraft 4/4/1899

Master Mason 4/11/1899.

Master: December 1906 to November 1907

Secretary: 1918 to 1953 (except 1937)

DDGM: 1916 - 1917

RA Chapter: John Dove Royal Arch Chapter, No. 21

Exalted: 1900

High Priest: 6/12/1903 – 11/8/1907

Secretary for over 30 years

Commandery: Winchester Commandery, No. 12

Knighthood: 1900

Grand East in Virginia

Grand Commander: 1925-1926

Grand High Priest: 1941

Grand Master: 1937

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA

Grand Captain of the Guard of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of USA: 1947

Forced to retire as Grand Captain General in 1961 due to failing health.

Scottish Rite: 6/2/1938

Knight Commander of the Court of Honor: 10/21/1947

Coroneted: Inspector General Honorary, 33°, 10/23/1953

Other Appendant Bodies

Grand Sovereign of the Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine,

Celebrant of Virginia College, Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis,

Deputy of Virginia of the Royal Order of Scotland,

Member of the Directors of the National League of Masonic Clubs.

Sovereign Grand Master of the Grand Council, Allied Masonic Degrees, USA: 1948

Grand Master General: Knights of the York Cross of Honor:

Prefect of the Great Priory of America, Chevaliers Bienfaisants de la Cite Sainte.

Past Grand Preceptor of the Grand College of America, Holy Royal Arch, Knights Templar Priests.

Brother James Hubert Price (1878 – 1943)

By Sir Knight Charles Burke Barbee, District Deputy Grand Commander for District 9



James Hubert Price was born on September 7, 1878, near Organ Cave in Greenbrier County, West Virginia to Charles William Price and the former Nancy C. Boone, both of Lewisburg, West Virginia. His parents moved to Staunton, Virginia where he was raised and where his closest relatives lived. He attended and received a business degree from Dunsmore Business College in 1898 after which he taught accounting at the college and established his own accounting practice. He was also an active member of the Virginia National Guard where he reached the rank of Captain. In 1907 he began legal studies at the Washington and Lee Law School and graduated in 1909. Upon admission to the Virginia bar, Price

began legal practice in Staunton, but soon moved to Richmond, Virginia in 1910, where he practiced corporate law. In 1916, he won the first of what became seven terms in the Virginia House of Delegates as one of five delegates representing Richmond. On October 2, 1918, about a month after the 37-year-old registered for the draft, he married Lillian Martin in Washington, D.C. They had two children: James Price and Lillian Price Eberle.

At the beginning of the Great Depression in 1929, James H. Price was elected the 23rd Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. In the 1937 general election, he won 83% of the vote and became Virginia's 53rd Governor. When his governorship ended in January of 1942, Price actively sold war bonds as the United States of America had entered World War II following the December 7, 1941, Japanese attack in Hawaii. He was an active Mason his entire adult life, which continued until he suffered a stroke and later died in Richmond on November 22, 1943. He (and four months later his wife Lillian) was buried at Staunton's Thornrose Cemetery.

James Hubert Price was one of ten Masons in the State of Virginia who presided over the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, and Grand Commandery. In chronological order, he was first the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia, then the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, and then the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia.

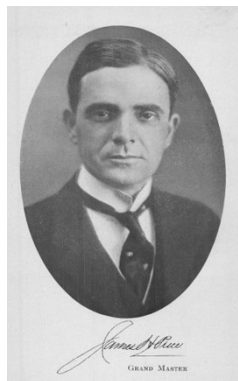
1918: Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

Most Excellent James Hubert Price was a member and Past High Priest of Union Royal Arch Chapter No. 2 which was in the 15th District. He was elected and installed as the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia on November 27, 1918. Approximately 18 months earlier on April 6, 1917, Congress declared war on Germany. World War I officially ended on November 11, 1918. During Most Excellent Price's year as the Grand High Priest, the Grand Chapter of Virginia had the largest increase in membership in the history of Royal Arch Masonry in Virginia at the time. They gained 1101 new members and lost 135 for a net gain of 966 which put overall membership at just under 10,000. Additionally, he made several recommendations during his year. He recommended that the Grand



Chapter's Digest reflect the Grand Lodge Methodical Digest (at the time) to allow that Subordinate Chapters exempt their secretaries (and Treasurers) from dues payment. He also recommended that there be some way to evaluate the proficiency of Royal Arch Masons as they progress through the Degrees as Conferred in the Chapter. This became a concern as the result of discussions to allow Master Masons to petition Commanderies without regard to the Chapter Degrees. He believed this to be due in large part to "the lack of knowledge of the beautiful lessons and the impressive symbolism of the several Capitular Degrees."

1922-1923: Grand Master of Masons in Virginia



Most Worshipful James H. Price was a member and Past Master of Staunton Masonic Lodge No. 13 which was in the 19th District. He was elected and installed as the Grand Mast of Masons in Virginia on February 16, 1922. Most Worshipful Price experienced some situations that he felt were not able to discuss. Here are but a few. He felt strongly against publishing information regarding the status of balloting on membership, the advancement of candidates, and similar information. He also strongly believed that the officers of a Lodge should not only be proficient in ritual, but also a working knowledge of Masonic Law, particularly of the provisions of the *Methodical Digest*. Finally, he had concerns about the fairness of Masonic Trials, especially as the issues surrounding them are always the source of discord and strife. His issues were specific to Masonic Law (at the time) requiring

that no matter how bad the situation and negative emotion that resulted, an offender, except a Past Master was required to be tried in their own Lodge. He compared it to the vilest criminal having the guarantee of an impartial trial with regard to venue.

He made several notable recommendations to modify the Methodical Digest. One of those was to appoint an Auditing Committee in November which would report its findings in December prior to election and installation of new officers. Another was to include the time of the monthly Stated Communication in addition to the day and location. Another recommendation of the note was to allow Lodges to confer Degrees at Called Communications (but only in emergency situations).

Also of note, on February 13, 1923, during the first day of the proceeding of the 145th *Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted of the Commonwealth of Virginia*, both Brother E. Lee Trinkle, Governor of Virginia, and Brother William Howard Taft, Chief Justice of the United States of America (later to be the 27th President of the United States of America) were in attendance, introduced, escorted to the East, and saluted.

1931-1932: Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia

Sir Knight James Hubert Price, Right Eminent Grand Commander, was a member and Past Commander of Stevenson Commandery No. 8, which was in the 5th District. He was elected and installed as the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia on May 22, 1931. Based upon his experiences, he stated that the greatest need for the Grand Commandery of Virginia is intelligent work and resourceful leadership. He believed that we must sell Knight Templary to ourselves before we can influence and help others. He proposed that Sir Knights who no longer attend because they moved (in this case, within the Commonwealth) to



another location, should be found and encouraged to join the local Commandery even at the expense of a demit to the previous Commandery that they no longer attend. Based upon the new highway system, he believed that several of the smaller, less active Commanderies that are within proximity should be consolidated to form larger, stronger Commanderies and they should be spaced apart. Lastly, he proposed some solutions to the continued need for per capita funds (which at the time was \$9 per person).

In addition to the York Rite Bodies, it should also be noted that James Hubert Price was also highly active with the Shriners. He served as the Imperial Recorder for the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America (also known as the Shriners of North America and, later, Shriners International) from 1927 until his death.

In summary, the single best word that describes Brother James Hubert Price is "service." In the conclusion to his address to close out his year as the Grand Master of Masons, he said:

The highest conception of Masonry is service. "Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices; do good unto all but recommend it more especially to the household of the faithful."

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2. *"James H. Price (1878-1943)". Law2.wlu.edu.*
3. *"James Hubert Price". Nga.org.*
4. *1918 and 1919 Proceedings of the Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia*
5. *1922 and 1923 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Virginia*
6. *1931 and 1932 Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia*

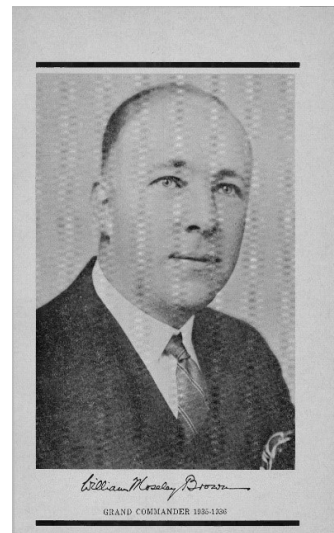
William Moseley Brown

By Sir Knight Baldwin G. Locher, Jr., Right Eminent Past Grand Commander

Grand Master of Masons in Virginia 1934

Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Virginia 1935-1936

Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia 1936



This article was taken from a research paper by Baldwin G. Locher, Jr, entitled *William Moseley Brown – The Man and His Masonry*, presented to Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777 on December 14, 2202.

William Moseley Brown was born in Lynchburg, Virginia on February 27, 1894. He received his education in public and private schools in Danville and graduated from Danville High School in 1911. He entered Washington and Lee University that fall and received his A. B. Degree in 1914 and his M. A. Degree in 1915. He served as an instructor in German and Biology for two years before entering Centre College of Kentucky for a short time before entering military service during World War I. He returned home to Danville during December 1918 as an assistant principal and later as principal of the Danville High School. He was married to Gloria Graham, and they had two sons; David Graham Brown who has joined our ranks, and William Graham Brown. In 1920 he returned to Washington and Lee University as an Associate Professor of Education and Psychology, organizing this department and became a full Professor in 1923. During this time, he attended Teachers College, New York City, from which he received an M. A. Degree in 1922. The next year he received an M. A. and Ph. D. Degrees from Columbia University Graduate School. In 1929 he resigned from Washington and Lee and ran unsuccessfully for Governor. Sometime after that he founded and organized Atlantic University in Virginia Beach but this endeavor only lasted three years and the closing was attributed to the depression. He then left education and pursued a business career and became Personnel Director of the Vick Company in 1937.

He achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel after being recalled to active duty in the Army in 1942. He received decorations from the United States, France, Luxembourg, and Belgium. He served for ten years as Professor of Social Sciences at Elon College and held membership in many scholastic and professional

societies both here and abroad. Of major interest to ourselves, his Masonic record is one that is seldom accomplished, especially in this day and time. He petitioned Mountain City Lodge No. 67, A.F. & A.M., Lexington, Virginia, on October 3, 1921, and received his Entered Apprentice Degree on November 21st. He was examined on December 5th and passed to the Fellow Craft Degree on December 19th. He was examined on the Fellow Craft Degree and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on January 2, 1922. He was elected Junior Warden of this Lodge December 17, 1923, Senior Warden in December 14, 1924, and Worshipful Master on December 21, 1925. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 20th Masonic District for two terms, 1926 and 1927. That was followed by an appointment to the Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Lodge of Virginia on which Committee he served until he was elected Grand Junior Deacon in 1929, becoming Grand Master by regular succession in 1934.

He traveled approximately 57,000 miles during his year as Grand Master, traveling throughout the United States and Europe as well attending the Grand Lodge of England on September 7th. It was during this year that he was elected an honorary member of Mountain City Lodge No. 67. He wrote some fifteen books on Masonry and allied subjects including: Freemasonry in Virginia; Templary in the Old Dominion; The Making of a Mason; George Washington, Freemason (Bicentennial volume of the Grand Lodge of Virginia); and others. He served for a time as Editor of The Masonic Herald.

Brother Brown was the second Worshipful Master of Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777 and a member of Lodge of Antiquity No. 2, London (one of four Lodges forming the Grand Lodge of England in 1717). He held honorary membership in eight Virginia Lodges, two Lodges in other states and two out of the country, in addition to his involvement in various Research Lodges. He received medals and awards from the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Nova Scotia, and Germany.

Thus far I have not attempted to keep his Masonic titles in order, nor will I attempt to throughout the rest of this paper. It has long been my understanding that once we have become a member of the Craft and become a Brother that we cannot receive a higher Degree as we travel in Masonry; however, there are many titles to which some become entitled. Companion Brown was an active member of Rockbridge Royal Arch Chapter No. 44, Lexington, serving as High Priest and later as Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia during the years 1936 and 1937. He was an honorary member of two other Virginia Chapters as well as a member of three other Grand Royal Arch Chapters. He was a member of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests, Virginia, and the Grand Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters, Virginia, as well as an honorary member of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests, District of Columbia, Texas, and North Dakota. He was an Honorary Grand High Priest of Ireland.

His memberships in Councils included Royal and Select Master, Solomon of the Silver Trowel Council No. 24, Monroe, North Carolina, and an honorary member of Field Council No. 12 in Red Bank, New Jersey. He held the Super Excellent Master's Degree in Tennessee and Missouri. Sir Knight Brown was an active member of Moomaw Commandery No. 27, Knights Templar, Lexington, as well as an honorary member of three other Virginia Commanderies. He served as Commander of Moomaw Commandery and as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1935 and 1936.

Brother Brown joined the Scottish Rite in Richmond in 1922, receiving the Investiture of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 1935 and then the 33° in 1939 from the Southern Supreme Council. Additionally, he was made a Membre d'Honneur of the Supreme Council of Belgium as well as an Honorary Member of the Scottish Rite Council of Virginia.

He was a past President of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the U. S. A.; a member of the Knights of the York Cross of Honor, serving as Grand Master General in 1939; Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, serving as the second Grand Preceptor in 1934; Grand College of Rites of the U. S. A., serving as Grand Chancellor in 1936; National Sojourners; National League of Masonic Clubs; and the Philalethes Society. He was a member of the Society of Blue Friars and Nine Muses Council.

He was a Charter Member and First Great Prior, C.B.C.S. (Knightly Bienfaisant De La Cite Sainte), he received the degrees in Switzerland and was given a charter for the United States in 1934. He was the first Puissant Sovereign of St. Polycarp Conclave No. 69, Red Cross of Constantine, June 2, 1934; Knight Grand Cross, May 21, 1949; and was Grand Sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine in 1949. He was also a member of The Royal Order of Scotland; Abaca Grotto, MOWER; ACCA Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.; Knight Masons of Ireland; Sigma Nu Sigma (Masonic College Fraternity); as well as the Virginia College and the High Council, S.R.I.C.F. (Rosicrucian Society). On May 7, 1934, the Supreme Magus authorized Right Worthy Fraters Tatsch, Voorhis and Shute to conduct the consecration of Virginia College with Dr. William Moseley Brown as Chief Adept.

Brother William Moseley Brown passed to the Grand Lodge on High January 8, 1966, and is buried next to his parents in Louisville, Georgia.

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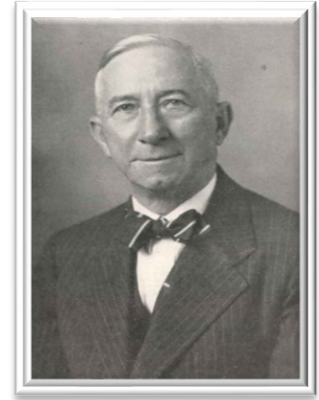
Centennial History of Mountain City Lodge No. 67, A.F. & A.M., 1857-1957, by William Moseley Brown, P.G.M., pages 98-100

Thomas Williamson Hooper

Born: November 2, 1880 (Selma, Alabama)

Died: October 15, 1954 (Richmond, Virginia)

By: SK D. Cole David, New River Valley Commandery



Background

Brother Thomas "Tom" Williamson Hooper was born in Selma, Alabama to the Rev. Thomas Williamson Hooper, D.D. and his wife Miss Letitia Johnson. While not born in Virginia, both of Tom's parents were originally from the State with his father being from Hanover County and his mother being from Bedford. The family would relocate to Christiansburg, Virginia when he was 8.

He attended a private school in Christiansburg until 1897 when he began studies at Hampden-Sidney College where he received his B.A. Degree in 1900 and the Degree of Bachelor of Science in 1901. Following this he was a Fellow in the college for the session of 1900-1901. Upon completion of this part of his formal education Brother Hooper taught in Hoge Military Academy at Blackstone, Virginia from 1901-1902. Remaining involved in the profession of teaching, he was on the staff at Fredericksburg college from 1902-1904. However, during the Fall term of 1904 he entered Union Theological Seminary, in Richmond, and received his Bachelor of Divinity Degree by 1907. He was licensed and ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church by Montgomery Presbytery in 1907 and continued that calling until the time of his death in 1954.

Start of his Masonic Career

Brother Hooper was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on 12/27/1904, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft 12/29/1904, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason's in McDaniel Lodge, No. 86, at Christiansburg, VA, on December 30, 1904. Thereafter he withdrew from McDaniel Lodge around 1907, but affiliated with Fairfax Lodge, No. 43, on 2/14/1908 and also Stevens Lodge, No. 169, Brandy Station, Virginia, 10/8/1908 and was elected as Worshipful Master of that Lodge in the same year. He was elected from the floor under a dispensation issued by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Jos. W. Eggleston. He was also affiliated with Haymarket Lodge No. 313 on, or around, 1912, and withdrew in 1917. He was made an honorary member of both Haymarket Lodge, 1911, and McDaniel Lodge, 1934.

Brother Hooper was made a Royal Arch Mason in Fairfax Chapter, No. 13, at Culpeper on May 15, 1911, and was elected High Priest of that Chapter the same year.

He was created a Sir Knight in the commandery at Fredericksburg on March 23, 1911, and served as Commander of Fairfax Commandery, of Culpeper in 1914.

Military Career

In 1917 Brother Hooper entered the United States Army and achieved a notable military record as a Captain of Infantry in command of Co. K, 319th Infantry. He took part in the St. Mihiel Offensive and one phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive as company commander and in the second and third phases of that offensive as commanding officer of the Third Battalion of the 319th Infantry. His period of military service began in August 1917 and terminated in July 1919.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Brother Hooper was elected to the office of Grand Master of Masons in Virginia on February 14, 1935, and installed into that high office by Most Worshipful Ed. N. Eubank, being presented by members of Fairfax Lodge, No. 43, of Culpeper, McDaniel Lodge, No. 86, of Christiansburg, and Stevens Lodge, No. 69, of Brandy Station. Wor. E.J. Nottingham, on behalf of Stevens, presented him with his official hat, Rt. Wor. R. Milo Taylor, McDaniel, a traveling case, and Rt. Wor. Robert E. Mill, Fairfax, a case of silver.

A few highlights of his year as Most Worshipful Grand Master:

June 10, 1935, assisted by Grand Lodge, he laid the corner-stone of the Administration Building of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI aka Virginia Tech), in the presence of a very large gathering.

May 31, with the assistance of Reedville Lodge, he laid the cornerstone of Afton Methodist Protestant Church.

June 22, the Second Annual Masonic Home Day was held. While the attendance was not very large, everybody seemed to have enjoyed the occasion. our Grand Master, MW TWH was present and helped in many ways to make the day a success.

December 7, called to lay the foundation stone of the infirmary building which was being erected at the masonic home of VA. MW, assisted by the Grand Officers, laid the stone after the ancient manner of freemasons using the same trowel that was used by President George Washington when he laid the foundation stone of the national capitol building in Washington, 9/18/1793. A picture of MW TW Hooper breaking ground 11/25/1935 was placed in the cornerstone along with other items.

One other notable accomplishment by Brother Hooper came during his year as Deputy Grand Master when he designed what we now commonly refer to as the Veteran Button for 50-year members. At the time it was only for Masons who were created in the State of Virginia, but quickly encompassed any Mason in the State regardless of where they were made a Mason.

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Brother Hooper was appointed to the position of Grand Warder in 1936 by SK Fitzhugh Lee Grimstead. At the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, held in Lynchburg in 1943, Brother Hooper was elected and installed as Grand Commander of that body, serving it with distinction.

A few notable highlights of his year as Grand Commander:

- Visited every Commandery; extended wise and constructive counsel.
- Decision 2, balloting on more than one petition at a time to receive the Orders.
- Sent special letters to 286 newly created knights
- Conferred the orders at Malta No. 24 with assistance of Grice Commandery 16.

On his way out of Office as Grand Commander the Jurisprudence Committee had the following remarks:

*“Grand Commander Thomas Williamson Hooper can long enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that his Grand Conclave, **held during a year of world conflict** and great trials and sacrifice, has added something of real and lasting spiritual value to the Order of the Christian Knighthood in Virginia and the Nation.”*

-Chalmers Lowell Pancoast, PGC NY

After serving his term as Grand Commander, among other duties, Sir Knight Thomas W. Hooper, Right Eminent Grand Commander in 1944, and Sir Knight William M. Brown, Right Eminent Grand Commander in 1935, both avid Masonic historic authors, summarized “words of wisdom” gleaned from Grand Commanderies and Grand Officers of Sister Jurisdictions during the late 1940s and 1950s. That summarization attested to Templar’s growth not only in Virginia but growth throughout the Grand Encampment U.S.A. During the 1940s – 1960s period, most Commanderies rejoiced in net gains in membership and, more importantly, the rise in emphasis on spirituality in Templar Masonry. Commanders were forced to shorten their conclaves and place opportunities which the expectations of returning veterans placed on fraternal and brotherly friendships. Templars like most Masons do not read available literature on Masonry or Templary but do enjoy positive and informative programs about occasions of importance and do respond to constructive work, planning, and rehearsal.

Most Excellent Grand High Priest

In 1945 he was elected Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia and duly installed into that office by Mt. Ex. Charles E. Webber. With this office, Brother Hooper became only one of 3 Virginia Masons living at that time to enjoy the distinction of serving in all three of the York Rite Bodies. The other two were Most Worshipful William Moseley Brown and Most Worshipful Charles Vernon Eddy.

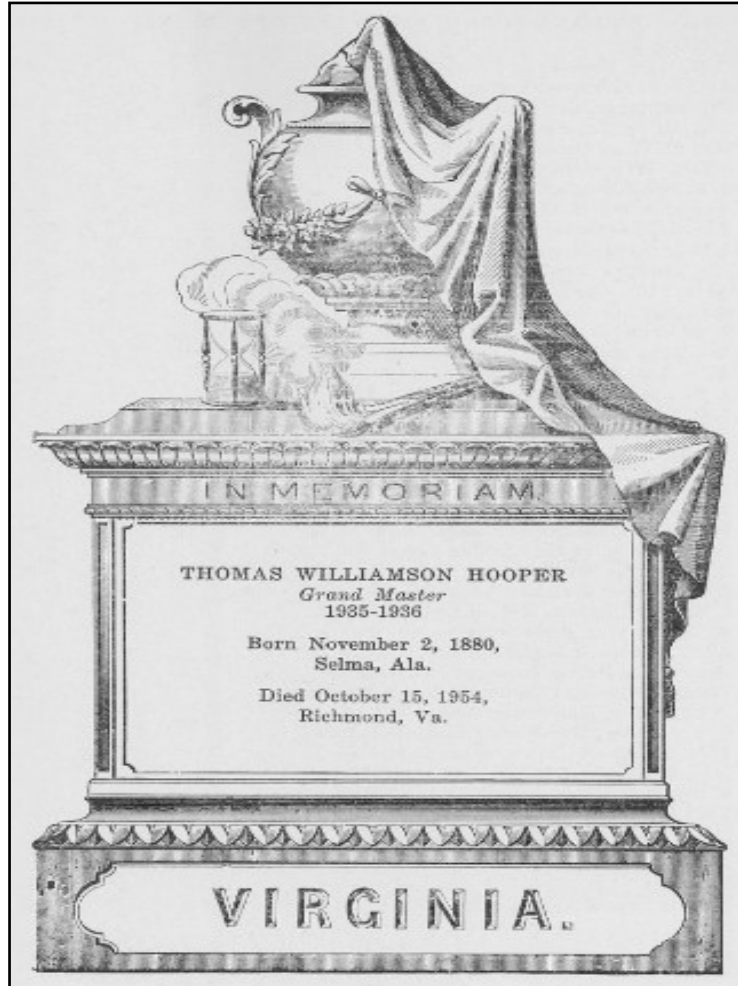
Scottish Rite

Brother Hooper was also a member of the Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies and was coroneted an Inspector General Honorary of the Thirty-third Degree on October 23, 1953, in Washington.

Passing

Brother Hooper was well known all of the state of Virginia and was said to have more friends than any other man of the day. He was admired for his keen wit, his ready word, and his great and sincere love for his fellowmen. One of Nature’s noblemen, he was great in his humility.

On Friday, October 15, 1954, Brother Hooper laid down his working tools in Richmond, Virginia. Today Brother Hooper rests in his beloved Culpeper, Virginia where he served as minister of the Culpeper Presbyterian Church for 47 years as a spiritual advisor and beloved citizen to his fellow townsmen.



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Proceedings of the Virginia Grand Lodge, 1955

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Most Eminent Marvin Edward Fowler

1904-2001

49th Grand Master of the Grand Encampment

1988-1991

By Sir Knight David Easton Potts, Eminent Past Commander

Sir Knight Fowler was born on October 12, 1904, in Salisbury, Missouri. He earned an A.B. degree from Central College, Fayette, Missouri, in 1926 and an M.A. from George Washington University in 1931.

Employed as a plant pathologist for the U.S. Forest Service for thirty-four and a half years, he was the author of over 75 scientific publications, including *A Guide to Forest Disease Research in the Northeast*, published by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Marvin Fowler entered government service with the Division of Forest Pathology in 1929. He conducted research on a wide range of forest tree diseases, including chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease, and organized and conducted the first airplane survey for forest tree disease in the United States. He became Chief of the Division of Forest Disease Research at the Northeastern Station in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania in 1956.

He lived in the Washington area from the 1920s until 1956. He returned to the area from Pennsylvania in 1963 and settled into retirement in Alexandria with his wife, Roberta. He was active in community affairs and was a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. From 1965 to 1985, he was Secretary-Treasurer of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association in Alexandria.

Sir Knight Fowler was Raised in Hebron Lodge No. 354, Mexico, Missouri, and in 1927 served as Worshipful Master. He later became a member and Past Master of Lafayette-Dupont Lodge No. 19, District of Columbia, where he also served as Lodge trustee. In 1950 he served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. He then served on the Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee and was president of the Masonic Foundation of the District of Columbia.

He was Exalted to the Holy Royal Arch degree in Mexico Chapter No. 27 in Missouri. He subsequently held memberships in the District of Columbia's Columbia Chapter No. 1, Royal Arch Masons and Adoniram Council No. 2, Royal & Select Masters. He served as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia and was its Grand Secretary from 1963-1983. In the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International, he served as General Grand Principal Sojourner and Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs from 1978 to 1981.

Sir Knight Fowler was knighted to the Order of the Temple in Crusade Commandery No. 23, Mexico, Missouri. He became a member of Columbia Commandery No. 2, in the District of Columbia. He served the Grand Encampment as Chairman of the Easter Sunrise memorial Service Committee from 1967-1979. Sir Knight Fowler was appointed Right Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, on March 6, 1980, following the death of William P. Wilson, R.E. Grand Generalissimo; was elected R.E. Grand Generalissimo, August 18, 1982, at Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas; was elected R.E. Deputy Grand Master, August 13, 1985, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and was elected Most Eminent Grand Master, August 9, 1988, at Lexington, Kentucky.

In addition, he was Past Sovereign of St. Simon Stylites Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine; Past Prior of Francis Scott Key Priory No. 14, KYCH; Past Grand Master General of the Convent General, KYCH; Past Grand Master, Allied Masonic Degrees; Past Grand Chancellor, Grand College of Rites; Past Grand Preceptor, HRAKTP; and Past Great Chief, Knight Masons. He was also a Past Illustrious Grand Master, and a Past Grand Commander of the Grand York Rite Masonic Bodies in the District of Columbia. In 1953 he was installed as Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland in the U.S. and served for more than 40 years.

Sir Knight Fowler was a Senior DeMolay and an active member of the International Supreme Council of DeMolay. He was also a past presiding officer of the four Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of Washington in the Orient of the District of Columbia. and was coroneted as an Inspector General Honorary, 33°, in October 1943.

Other honors he received include the Distinguished Service Medal of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia; the Henry Price Medal of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; the Henry Johnson Medal of the Grand Lodge New York; the Joshua Hayden Drummond Award of the Grand Lodge of Maine; the Albert Gallatin Mackey Medal of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina; the Daniel Cox Medal of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey; and the Thomas J. Shryock Medal of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Sir Knight Fowler passed away from cancer on December 11, 2001, at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington. He was 97 years, 1 month, and 29 days. He was survived by his wife of 47 years Roberta, and two daughters India Bell Davin of Annapolis, Maryland, and Terri Almay of Frederick, Maryland. Another daughter, Marcia Statler, predeceased him. He had seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The following Eulogy was presented by Most Worshipful Brother Stewart W. Miner, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, F.A&.A.M. of the District of Columbia, at the Masonic Services for Past Grand Master Marvin E. Fowler.

William Shakespeare once wrote that some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. At the time he penned those words, Shakespeare must have had in mind someone like Marvin Fowler, a man who by word and deed achieved unusual Masonic greatness; in this achievement, he also made the Fraternity great.

To be born great is an act of providence, and it is clearly providential that Marvin Fowler was endowed by his Creator with unusual intellect, physical stamina, an inquisitive mind, a pleasant personality, and an extraordinary appreciation of his personal obligation to use all of these gifts of God properly. Indisputably, Marvin Fowler was born to be great.

Also, it is indisputable that Marvin achieved greatness, not because of his endowment but because of his apt application of his God-given talents, always facing the challenges of life with confidence and optimism. For almost 75 years he busied himself by serving every major Masonic body, subordinate or Grand, and always with distinction. In the process he took no shortcuts; his was a working sojourn through the quarries of Masonry.

It is equally clear that because of his skill and the superior quality of his performance, greatness was thrust upon him from all quarters. Following his service as Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia, he was called upon to lead significant sectors of the Craft, nationally and internationally, and under his leadership those sectors of the Craft for which he was responsible thrived.

Marvin was in a class by himself, and his death indeed marks the end of a Masonic era throughout the Masonic world. Marvin was not known as "Mr. Mason" for nothing. It was a title he never sought, but one that was bestowed upon him by his fellow Masons as a token of their love and respect. His passing leaves a void that will remain as long as the countless Masons who know him and worked with him have memories.

Throughout the years Marvin's greatness was self-achieved, the result, in part, of his inability or rather unwillingness to say no to his contemporaries. One task inevitably led to another, and in consequence, Marvin was never without Masonic employment. And through it all, Marvin continuously enunciated what he believed were the essentials of life-concerns about the interrelationships of men; concerns about how man uses or misuses his intellectual resources; concerns about how men in the fraternity act; and concerns, particularly, about how people, in general, adapt to change.

The enormity of his concerns was established in a 1950 report [at the beginning of the Korean War] when he stated that: "We are not alarmed about the condition of our craft...but we are fearful for the future of the human race. Only a few short years ago we congratulated ourselves that peace had been restored to the world after its most bloody conflict. Men of great vision and lofty ideals sought to discover the means with which to end warfare for all time, and many believed they were successful in their endeavors. Yet warfare never ceased. Today, as we meet, our nation is in a state of emergency, and we are engaged in what may prove to be our most crucial struggle for freedom. As Masons and loyal citizens of a free land, we are obliged to aid in this struggle against tyranny and oppression . . . Let us work and pray for the day when truth and justice will prevail throughout the world."

What Marvin said in 1950 is as apropos today as it was then. He was a man ahead of his time; a giant in the Craft; an organizational genius, and, unfortunately, his equal is at the moment not in sight. But we take solace in the fact that by his labors in hundreds of Masonic bodies, he established a foundation on which his survivors may build in preparation for a new day, a better day, and a day in which greater insight and appreciation of the true meaning of brotherly love and affection may be realized.

Goodbye, dear friend, goodbye. You have made your mark. It will be remembered. You have satisfied the Chief Overseer and are entitled to your wage. Pass on, Brother, pass on.



Richard Burditt Baldwin (1935-2009)
55th Grand Master of the Grand Encampment (2006–2007)

By Sir Knight William Thomas Peterson



Sir Knight Richard Burditt Baldwin was born in Concord, Massachusetts on October 28, 1935, the son of David Samuel Baldwin and Hope Elizabeth Whiney Baldwin. He grew up in Sudbury, Massachusetts, graduating from the public schools of that town in 1953, and was the second President of the School Council of the school system.

He attended the University of Massachusetts where he majored in Business Administration and graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Artillery in the United States Army, after successfully completing the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He entered Active Duty on Flag Day, June 14, 1957.

He was to spend the next thirty years in service to his country. He commanded Air Defense Artillery Units from Platoon through Battalion, saw combat in the Republic of South Vietnam, and had foreign service in the Federal Republic of Germany, and in Saudi Arabia. Additionally, he held staff assignments from Brigade level through the Department of the Army as well as in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). He graduated from all the career service schools and colleges from the Basic Course through the Army War College and received a Master of Science Degree in Public Administration from the George Washington University in 1974.

Early in the 1970's, he had responsibility for the production funds for the Army's Anti-Ballistic Missile Program, and his final assignment was as Comptroller for the Army's portion of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), derisively nicknamed the "Star Wars program" after the 1977 movie, announced on March 23rd, 1983, by President Ronald Reagan. SDI represented Reagan's rejection of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD). MAD had fostered an uneasy peace during the Cold War as neither the U.S. nor the USSR attacked the other knowing that it would in turn be the target of a massive nuclear retaliation annihilating it (and much of the planet).

He held combat and meritorious service decorations from the Army Commendation Medal through the Legion of Honor, together with the appropriate service ribbons for his overseas duty. Following retirement in 1987, he served on the Defense Secretary's Commission on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

His Fraternal work began at the Age of fourteen (14) when he became a member of Sudbury Grange No. 121, Patrons of Husbandry, and was taught the Master's part in the Second Degree of that Order by his father a year later. He was a member and Past Ruler of Minuteman Junior Lodge No.2 Independent Order of the Odd Fellows (IOOF).

Sir Knight Baldwin was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Bezaleel Lodge No 100 (now Dark) in Hannover, New Hampshire while serving on the faculty of Dartmouth College, on June 5, 1967, receiving his Scottish Rite degrees the same year at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He later became a Shriner following his return from Vietnam in 1969. He affiliated with Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54, Annandale, Virginia in 1969, became a Royal Arch Mason in 1971 and was created a Knight Templar in Arlington Commandery No. 29 on April 14, 1973.

He served as Commander of Arlington Commandery in 1983, being appointed Eminent Grand Warder the year preceding by Sir Knight Neville M. Hindman, Grand Commander, at Danville, Virginia.

In 1989, he was appointed General Chairman of the Easter Sunrise Memorial Service Committee for the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, of the United States of America (USA) and served in that position until 1999.

He served Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia in 1989-1990 and was appointed an Honorary Past Department Commander in 1991, by the Most Eminent Grand Master, William Henry Thornley, Jr., GCT.

In August 1997, he was elected Right Eminent Grand Captain General of our Grand Encampment from a field of five extremely qualified candidates. On August 16, 2006, he was installed as Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America in Houston, Texas. He was a staunch supporter of Commandery drill teams. As Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment, published an article in the May 1999 Edition of the Knight Templar Magazine promoting the drill team as a program and activity that will create and promote interest of the members. Additionally, the purpose of his article was to renew the interest of Grand Commanderies in drill teams as well as promote esprit de corps within Commanderies.

Unfortunately, due to deteriorating health, he resigned as Grand Master on August 27, 2007. During his one year as Grand Master, his achievements were many. Templary is in his debt as many of the programs and plans he proposed came successfully to fruition.

He passed to the Supreme Architect of the Universe on February 5, 2009, and on February 8, 2009, over one hundred uniformed Knights Templar paid their last respects at his Knight Templar service held in Burke, Virginia. He is interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Baldwin-Brown Fellowship, "Building Today for a Better Tomorrow" is named for two outstanding Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the Commonwealth of Virginia, SK Richard Burditt Baldwin and SK Fitz Allen Brown. Realizing all Masonic organizations in Virginia were experiencing an increase in operating costs, which were causing the necessity of increasing amounts of assessments, added to decreasing levels of membership dues, Sir Knight David Graham Mathews, Jr., Right Eminent Past Grand Commander in 1999, created this award to help provide financial stability by assisting expenses and to off-set harsh financial deficits.

The existing Grand Commandery Knights Templar Permanent Fund is an interest earning Endowment Fund from which only the interest amounts are used for the day-to-day operating expenses of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sir Knight Baldwin had three children: Julia B. Harris, Jodie B. Galliland, and Richard Burditt Baldwin, Jr. He held honorary memberships in many Grand Commanderies and York Rite Bodies in Florida, Alabama, South Dakota, and New Hampshire as well as Knight of the York Cross of Honour of Texas and Illinois. He had also affiliated with Allied Masonic Degrees, Grand College of Rites, L'Ordre de Chevalier Bienfaisant de la Cité Sainte (CBCS), Red Branch of Erie, Masonic order of Bath, and Royal Ark Mariners.

His Masonic Affiliations and Offices (*Date Unknown) were:

Annandale Royal Arch Chapter No. 77. High Priest, 1974-75 and 1979-80.

Seth Warner Camp, Heroes of 76, Commander, 1981-1982.

National Defense Masonic Club, President, 1982-1983.

Arlington Hall Chapter, No 440, National Sojourners, President 1982-1983.

Arlington Commandery No. 29, Commander, 1983-1984.

Washington and Lee York Rite College No. 93, Charter Governor, 1983-1984.

Norfolk, Virginia Forest No. 163, Tall Cedars of Lebanon. Grand Tall Cedar, 1984.

District Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Virginia, 1986.

Potomac Court No. 4, Order of Amaranth, Royal Patron 1982, 1985, and 1989 and Grand Royal Patron, 1989-1990.

Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54, Worshipful Master, 1987.

A. Douglas Smith Lodge of Research No. 1949, Worshipful Master, 1987.

Lord Fairfax Council No. 90, Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD), Sovereign Master, 1987.

Virginia Appreciation Club, KTEF, President, 1989.

Royal Order of Scotland, Grand Treasurer, 1986-1991.

Florida State Grotto Association, President, 1989-1990.

Virginia State Association of AMD Councils, President, 1990.
 Columbia Chapter No. 15, Order of the Eastern Star (OES), District of Columbia, 1990-1991.
 Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine, Sovereign, 1992-1994.
 Great Chief's Council, Knight Masons, Chief, 1993.
 Nova-Vita Tabernacle, HRAKTP, Preceptor, 1994.
 Rose of Sharon Priory No. 2, KYCH, Prior, 1994.
 Virginia College, Societas Rosicruciana in Civitas Foederatis; Past Celebrant and Chief Adept,
 1994-1995.
 Dogwood Shrine No. 3, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, Watchman of Shepherds,
 1994-1997.
 Supreme Watchman of the Shepherds, 1995-1997.
 Valley of Washington, Orient of District of Columbia, A&ASR, Southern Jurisdiction, Coroneted
 33rd Degree 2001.
 Abaca Grotto. *
 Adoniram Council No. 10, Florida. *
 Anointed High Priest of Virginia. *
 Bayard No. 15 (Honorary). *
 Capitol Hill Shrine Club. *
 Commonwealth York Rite College No. 50 *
 Correspondence Circle, Quatuor Coronati Lode No. 2076. *
 Supreme Council, Grottoes of North America; Director of Publications and Grand Ambassador. *
 Grand Council, R & S.M., Grand Chaplain, District of Columbia. *
 Grand College of Rites. *
 Grice No. 16 (Honorary). *
 INRI Commandery No. 4, District of Columbia. *
 Kena Temple, AAONMS, Legion of Honor. *
 Knight of York Cross of Honor. *
 LaVon Parker Linn Memorial Square Club. *
 Masonic Order of the Bath of the United States of America. *
 Missouri Lodge of Research. *
 New Jersey, A&ASR, Northern Jurisdiction. *
 Orlando Scottish Rite, Editor of their newsletter for 12 years. *
 Orlando High Twelve Club. *
 Order of the Golden Key. *
 Ormazd Grotto, M.O.V.P.E.R, Past Monarch and Life Member. *
 Oxford Lodge No. 1, Ark Mariners, Ye Antient Order of Corks. *
 Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33. *
 Pitman Masonic Club (34th Degree). *
 Seminole Chapter No. 373, National Sojourners *
 Sovereign Order of Knight Preceptor. *
 St George No. 76, Ohio. *
 Square and Compass Club, Long Bign, Vietnam. *
 The Philalethes Society. *
 Thomas S. Ely Commandery No. 30. *

Triangle Council No. 3, District of Columbia. *
Triangle Council No. 12, Knight Masons. *
Trinity Chapel, Order of St. Thomas of Acon. *
Thrice Illustrious Masters of Virginia. *
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia, A&ASR, Southern Jurisdiction. *
Virginia Lodge of Research No. 1777. *
Virginia Research Chapter No. 1753. *
Winchester No. 12 (Honorary). *

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Precise of Constituent Commandery Histories

A Brief History of the Early Commanderies

Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1

Charlottesville Commandery No. 3

Portsmouth Commandery No. 5

Stevenson Commandery No. 8

Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10

Winchester Commandery No. 12

Richmond Commandery No. 2

DeMolay Commandery No. 4

Appomattox Commandery No. 6

Lynn Commandery No. 9

Old Dominion Commandery No. 11

Johnson Commandery No. 14



Bayard Commandery No. 15

Hampton Commandery No.17

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20

Alleghany Commandery No. 23

Moomaw Commandery No.27

New River Valley Commandery No. 32

Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35

Grice Commandery No. 16

Luray Commandery No. 19

Graham Commandery No. 22

Piedmont Commandery No. 26

Arlington Commandry No. 29

Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33

Virginia Beach Commandery No. 36

Sinclair Commandery No. 37 U.D.

A Brief History of the Early Commanderies
By Sir Knight Benjamin Franklin Hill, KTCH/REPGC

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia will be always indebted to the Constituent Commanderies of Virginia whose names have passed from our membership rolled but those names will live in the Grand Commandery Proceedings and the *History of Templar Masonry in Virginia*.

Material for this article has been freely borrowed from Sir Knight Ophir E. Vellenoweth's *Templar History in West Virginia, Volume I, 1838 – 1934*, two books authored by Sir Knight William Moseley Brown, Right Eminent Grand Commandery of Virginia in 1935: *Freemasonry in Virginia* and *Templary in the Old Dominion*, and various Grand Commandery of Virginia *Proceedings*. Credit has not been directly made in each case for the desire to limit the text as much as possible and to maintain continuity of thought for the benefit of those who will use this history.

In the early days of Virginia, the Commonwealth was a large rural and mountainous area stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the borders of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina. During the 19th century the region was transformed to a more diversified economy; north-south transportation corridors through the Tidewater, Piedmont, Blue Ridge Valley, and Western Mountainous regions were expanded; and the rivers, canals, roads, and railroads were made to served multiple business interests.

Knights Templar played a conspicuous role in the history of many Virginian cities and the Grand Commandery of Virginia provided the framework to minister its members in the increasingly complex society. Changes in Virginia's economic, political, social, and cultural fiber also affected the organizational fiber of the Grand Commandery of Virginia. There were many names of Commanderies of Knights Templar are no longer among today's Grand Commandery organization, but we have a rare opportunity, bring pride, and pleasure their service in Virginia's Templar Masonry.

In the early years of the Grand Encampment of Virginia there was three Encampments whose names are known but whose location within Virginia is not identified:

Mount Carmel Encampment No. 3
Adelman Encampment No. 7
Banister Encampment No. 8

Brunswick Encampment No. 8, Brunswick County, is in the 1856 Grand Commandery of Virginia *Proceedings Listing of Encampments, 1823-1855*, but there is not any other information in the 1823 through 1855 Proceedings nor in neither of Sir Knight William Moseley Brown's books about Templary in Virginia. What is known is that Brunswick Encampment had 22 members and its date of extinction was 1852.

In 1823, Winchester Encampment No. 1, Warren Encampment No.2 and Mount Carmel Encampment No. 3 were the Encampments that formed the Grand Encampment of Virginia. Winchester Encampment was a holder of a lawful charter, but Warren and Mount Carmel Encampments were required to apply charters from the General Grand Encampment. In early 1924, Mount Carmel Encampment refused a charter from the General Grand Encampment so at a Special Assembly, Richmond Encampment replaced Mount Carmel Encampment and the Grand Encampment of Virginia formation was healed. Mount Carmel Encampment No. 3 became extinct.

Winchester Encampment No. 1, Winchester, was chartered in July 1824, and served the Grand Encampment of Virginia until 1851 when it failed to pay its dues to the Grand Encampment of Virginia and was declared extinct. After paying charter fees, Winchester Commandery was assigned Number 11. It was, again, declared extinct after failing to pay its dues to the Grand Commandery of Virginia. Subsequent to a Grand Commandery organization and after paying its dues in arrears in 1870, Winchester Commandery No. 11 was readmitted into the rolls of Grand Commandery. In 1871, the Commandery was reassigned Winchester Commandery No.12 and serves honorably today.

Adelman Encampment No. 7 and Banister Encampment No. 8 was granted charters in 1827 and continued in service until 1851. Both Encampments failed to pay their dues and were declared extinct.

The Grand Encampment Assembly of 1857 marked the movement from Grand Encampment to Grand Commandery for State Jurisdictions. The Fourteenth Triennial Session was held in 1859 in Chicago in which the *Ceremonies and Charges Upon Constituting and Dedicating a Commandery and Installing Its Officers* and *Burial Service of the Orders of Masonic Knighthood* were adopted.

Before the Civil War, Virginia was a vast territory, but today's area known as West Virginia seceded from Virginia and was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863. Following the formation of the state of West Virginia, the General Grand Encampment did not claim authority but left it under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Virginia.

Warren Encampment No 2, Hamper's Ferry (1823-1850), failed to pay its Encampment dues to the Grand Encampment of Virginia and were declared extinct.

Gill Commandery No. 3, Morgantown (1858-1865), failed to pay its Commandery dues to the Grand Commandery of Virginia for the years 1861 through 1865 and was declared extinct.

Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Wheeling (1851-1874), served Masonry and the Grand Commandery of Virginia until its transfer to the Grand Commandery of West Virginia.

Palestine Commandery No. 9, Martinsburg (1859-1874); Palestine Commandery failed to pay its Commandery dues to the Grand Commandery of Virginia for the years 1864 through 1866 and was declared extinct but received its charter back in 1867 after the Commandery paid its dues in arrears.

Star of the West Commandery No. 12, Morgantown (1869-1874), served Masonry and the Grand Commandery of Virginia until its transfer to the Grand Commandery of West Virginia.

On December 12, 1872, at the session of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, a petition was presented from Wheeling Commandery No. 1, Palestine Commandery No. 9, and Star of the West Commandery No. 12 in West Virginia asking the dissolution of their allegiance to that grand body so that they might form a Grand Commandery in West Virginia. This was granted, and on November 21, 1873, the convention was held in Wheeling Commandery, West Virginia, and the delegates sent a petition to the Grand Encampment to form the Grand Commandery of West Virginia.

During the Civil War, the Grand Commandery of Virginia did not recognize the authority of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of U. S.A. and presented charters to

Lemienus Commandery No. 13 at Lakeland, Florida, in 1863

Winston Commandery No. 15 at Winston, North Carolina, in 1864

In the early 1870's Most Eminent Sir William S. Gardner, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, inquired into the status of the charters of Winston Commandery No. 15 in North Carolina and Lemienus Commandery No. 13 in Florida which were illegally chartered by the Grand Commandery of Virginia during the Civil War. Upon investigation of the subject, Grand Commander John R. McDaniel of Lynchburg found that it was evident that the Commanderies in question continued to have allegiance to Grand Commandery of Virginia and were in violation of the Grand Commandery allegiance to the Grand Encampment of the United States of America. To resolve the problem, Sir Knight McDaniel requested Winston Commandery and Lemienus Commandery return the charters. Winston Commandery returned their charter promptly, but Lemienus Commandery went extinct during the war. The Grand Recorder of Virginia removed Lemienus Commandery No. 13 from the rolls, and the Grand Commandery returned to its original jurisdictional boundaries that existed before the war.

A.P. Abell Commandery No. 3, Charlottesville, was chartered December 16, 1869, and changed its name to Charlottesville Commandery No. 3 in 1876.

Blacksburg Commandery No. 32, Blacksburg, was chartered on October 26, 1928, and served Masonry and the Grand Commandery of Virginia for many years. But the City of Blacksburg is also home of a major University and the changes in human and community interests left the Commandery with a decreasing membership and attendance. So, in 2015, Blacksburg Commandery was allowed to move to the City of Christiansburg and changed its name to New Valley Commandery No. 32, and serves Masonry and the Grand Commandery of Virginia honorably today.

Christiansburg Commandery No. 9, Christiansburg, was chartered in 1877, but after not paying six years of dues to the Grand Commandery of Virginia its charter was arrested and its property seized in 1885.

The City of Crewe Virginia (named after the large railroad town Crewe England) was founded in 1888 and Olivet Commandery No. 18, Crewe, was chartered on November 13, 1889. It was perfect central location for crew rests and to house steam locomotive repair shops for the Norfolk & Western Railroad carrying Appalachian coal to Hampton Roads for export abroad. The railroad repair facility's importance diminished sharply in the 1950s, as the switch to diesel-electric locomotives required less labor and equipment. As the younger citizens left in search of employment and other economic changes the Masonic fabric was negatively affected. Deaths, suspensions, and demits took its tolls on Olivet Commandery, so it merged with Appomattox Commandery No. 6 on December 31, 2011.

Cyrene Commandery No. 21, Norton, was chartered on November 15, 1900, and served Masonry and the Grand Commandery of Virginia for many years. With the turn of the 20th century, the Commandery began major drops in membership and attendance. From 2011 through 2016, the Commandery did not send its Annual Return to Grand Commandery of Virginia and in 2017 its charter was seized and the Commandery merged with Johnson Commandery No. 14.

Dove Commandery No. 7, Danville, was chartered on December 15, 1854, and merged with George W. Wight Commandery No. 31, Martinsville, in 2002.

Fairfax Commandery No. 25, Culpeper, was chartered on October 26, 1911, with a stable membership for many years. It began to experience steady drops in membership in the 1980's. Lack of attendance and harmony among its members led to the arrest of the Commandery's charter in August 2013. The charter was returned in October 2013, but the Commandery's problems were too much to overcome, and its charter was arrested, and its property seized by the Grand Commander in 2018.

Fauquier Commandery No. 15, Markham, was chartered in 1882, and after several years of poor attendance, the Commandery voted to return its charter to the Grand Commandery of Virginia in 1888.

George W. Wight Commander No. 31, Martinsville, was chartered on October 28, 1926, and merged with Bayard Commandery No. 15 in 2009.

Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, Harrisonburg, was chartered on October 10, 1877, and served Masonry and the Grand Commandery of Virginia for many years. But the City of Harrisonburg is also home to many public and private universities and changes in human and community interests left the Commandery with a decreasing membership and attendance. So, on December 31, 1999, Harrisonburg Commandery merged with Luray Commandery No. 19 in the City of Luray, Virginia. After thirteen years of darkness, Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 was reconstituted and chartered on January 28, 2012. But, after ten hard years of trying to make the templar dream successful in the City of Harrisonburg, the Commandery merged with Stevenson Commandery No. 8 in the City of Waynesburg in 2022.

Meherrin Commandery No. 10, Hicksford, was chartered in 1851, and served Masonry until 1876 when it was declared extinct for failing to pay its dues to the Grand Commandery of Virginia.

Scott Commandery No. 13, Gate City, was chartered on May 15, 1965, and merged with Johnson Commandery No. 14 in 2002.

St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, Richmond, was chartered November 13, 1878, and served Masonry until it merged with Richmond Commander No. 2 in the City of Richmond in 1953.

Suffolk Commandery No. 8, Suffolk, was chartered in 1855, and declared extinct in 1866 after failing to pay its des to the Grand Commandery of Virginia.

Thomas E. Ely Commandery No. 30, Jonesville, was chartered September 24, 1984, and merged with Cyrene Commandery No. 21 in 2004.

W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No. 9, Marion, was chartered November 24, 1887, but dropped the initials in 1895, and serves Masonry and the Grand Commandery of Virginia honorably today.

Warsaw Commandery No. 30, Warsaw, was chartered December 10, 1924, and changed its name to Tidewater Commandery No. 30 and moved to the City of Heathsville on May 14, 1930, and later consolidated with St. Andrew Commandery No. 13 in the City of Richmond in 1936.

Woodstock Commandery No. 29, Woodstock, was chartered March 17, 1924, and was consolidated with Richmond Commandery No.2 in 1936.

Virginia's Eastern Shore was a bastion of York Rite Masonry from 1970 to 2017. The long peninsula reaching from the Maryland Outer Banks on the north and in south the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to Virginia Beach, the Eastern Shore is home to eleven Symbolic Lodges, four Royal Arch Chapters, and three Knights Templar Commanderies.

Malta Commandery No. 24, Onancock, was chartered on October 26, 1906
Chesapeake Commandery No. 28, Cape Charles, was chartered on October 27, 1922
Island Commandery No. 34, Chincoteague, was chartered on May 9, 1997

The Eastern Shore farming and fishing foundations were on a roller-coaster ride as human migration and economic changes affected the community fabrics. All the Masonic Bodies established on the Eastern Shore experienced steadily aging population, drops in memberships and attendance, competitive interests; and deaths, demits, and suspensions.

Malta Commandery No. 24 and Island Commandery No. 34 merged under the name of Malta Commandery No. 24 in 2010;

Chesapeake Commandery No.28 merged with Malta Commandery No. 24 in 2014; and finally

Malta Commandery No. 24 merged with Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 in 2017.

Epilogue. The Masonic Stone of Foundation is a symbol of Divine Truth, upon which all Speculative Masonry is built, and the legends and traditions which refer to it are intended to describe, in an allegorical way, the progress of truth in the soul, the search for which is a Mason's labor, and the discovery of which is his reward. That is the same for Fraters, remember there are many different rocks in the templar quarries. The names of the Knights Templar Commanderies, all but forgotten, was once dreams of the future and those names were etched into the foundation of Grand Commandery and Templar Masonry of Virginia. Those names represent "**Quality**"! The building blocks for a high quality Templar organization with lofty standards. Those Commanderies took good men and made them better – they looked for the inner-qualities of the Fraters and educate them in a moral and ethical way of life. Their names will never be forgotten, so ...

ADIEU, A HEART-WARM, FOND ADIEU

By Robert Burns

1/ Adieu, a heart warm, fond adieu,
Dear brothers of the mystic tie!
Ye favored, ye enlightened few,
Companions of my social joy!
Tho' I to foreign lands must hie,
Pursuing fortune's slidd'ry ba',
With melting heart and brimful eye,
I'll mind you still, though far awa'.

2/ Oft have I met your social band,
An' spent the cheerful, festive night
Oft, honored with supreme command,

3/ May freedom, harmony and love
Unite you in the grand design,
Beneath th' omniscient Eye above,
The glorious Architect divine
That you may keep the unerring line,
Still rising by the plummet's law,
Till order bright completely shine,
Shall be my prayer when far awa'.

4/ And you farewell, whose merits claim
Justly that highest badge to wear,
Heaven bless your honored, noble name,

Presided o'er the sons of light
And by that Hieroglyphic bright,
Which none but Craftsmen ever saw,
Strong memory on my heart shall write
Those happy scenes, when far awa'.

To Masonry and Scotia dear!
A last request, permit me here
When yearly ye assemble a',
One round, I ask it with a tear
To him, the Bard, that's far awa'.



A Brief Historic Sketch and Origins of Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1

By Sir Knight Shelby Chandler, PC, Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1

Chartered October 18, 1875

From May 1872 to January 1875, at least twelve Masons from Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 first became Royal Arch Masons and then received their Chivalric Orders from the newly established Old Dominion Commandery No. 11 in Alexandria, Virginia.

On January 13, 1875, a petition was introduced by these Fredericksburg Knight Templars and was read at Old Dominion Commandery, requesting the establishment of a new Commandery in Fredericksburg. Once placed in the minutes, it was forwarded to the Grand Recorder, Grand Commandery of Virginia.

This petition was approved by the Grand Commandery of Virginia and on January 20, 1875, Fredericksburg Commandery (under dispensation) received its orders and Sir Knight Robert S. Chew was selected to be the first Eminent Commander (designate), with Sir Knight J. Willard Adams as Generalissimo (designate) and Sir Knight James Corbin as Captain General (designate).

Founding members of Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1 are as follows (*with the Masonic titles that each eventually achieved*):

Brother W. J. Moon (<i>Merchant</i>)	Brother J.C. Barry (<i>Manufacturer</i>)
Most Worshipful Silvanus J. Quinn (<i>Printer</i>)	Brother E.M. McDowell (<i>Clerk</i>)
Right Worshipful James P. Corbin (<i>Farmer</i>)	Brother Charles Fitchett (<i>Clerk</i>)
Right Worshipful Robert S Chew (<i>Clerk of the Court</i>)	Worshipful J. Willard Adams (<i>Bookseller</i>)
Worshipful Albert B. Botts (<i>Insurance Agent</i>)	Brother W.L. Staughton (<i>Merchant Miller</i>)
Worshipful William H. Russell (<i>Manufacturer</i>)	Brother E.A. Jones (<i>Physician</i>)

At that time, Brother Silvanus Jackson Quinn was Master of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, and he would go on to become Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1907. Another person of interest is James Corbin, who would go on to become Grand Commander from 1894-1895 and eventually the Recorder for the Grand Encampment of Knight Templars of the United States.

During the Civil War, West Virginia separated from Virginia. Following the war, Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knight Templars in Virginia shows that Wheeling Commandery No. 1 remained in the books but showed no returns for as late as 1873.

With the constituting of the Grand Commandery of Knight Templars in West Virginia in 1874, Virginia's proceedings showed that Wheeling Commandery No. 1 was now beholden to West Virginia, and it was therefore decided to remove that Commandery from Virginia's roster.

By 1875, the *Proceedings* of the Grand Commandery of Knight Templars in Virginia showed that the numerical designation of No. 1 was immediately reassigned to the new Fredericksburg Commandery.

Although chartered at Grand Conclave on October 18, 1875, Sir Knight Robert E. Withers, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templars in Virginia, under the escort of the fraters from Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, constituted Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1 in ceremony on February 22, 1876.

It should be noted that because Old Dominion Commandery No. 11 was the parent organization from which Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1 was established, the Sir Knights of Fredericksburg ensured that these fraters received a proper invitation to this first Chivalric celebration and festival in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

The Grand Commander reports that the ceremonies and events of that day demonstrated that the proficiency in drill and ritual by the new Commandery, "**augurs well for their future success**" and their asylum was recording their compliment at twenty-six members, with eleven new Knight Templars created during their first year.

Sir Knight James E. Alexander, who was Recorder for Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, reported the February 22, 1876, events as follows:

The lines were formed and the Commandery marched to the residence of R. E. Sir R .E. Withers, Grand Commander of Virginia and escorted him to the depot of the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad where the command took the 9-10 for Fredericksburg, Va.

Arriving at that place was met at the depot by Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1 and by them escorted to the hotel where quarters had been secured and where refreshments were served by the Fredericksburg Sir Knights. The Command was then dismissed and at one o'clock dinner was served.

The Commandery then received orders to assemble in full dress uniform at 3 P.M. when this commandery escorted by Fredericksburg No. 1 paraded through the principal streets of the city.

At about 4 P.M. this command (Old Dominion) and Fredericksburg were drilled in the presence of the Grand Commander and by him inspected and reviewed.

At 7 P.M. the Commandery marches to the asylum of Fredericksburg No. 1 and participated in the ceremonies of constituting that Commandery, after which under escort of Fredericksburg, Old Dominion marches to the hotel and partook of a generous banquet which had been spread in honor of Old Dominion.

At 1 A.M. 23d inst. The commandery took the returning train for Alexandria arriving at 4 A.M. when the command was dismissed and returned to their homes, delighted with their entertainment and the pleasures of the day.

During a Templar festival at Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1 in October 1967, at which an Old Dominion team conferred the Order of the Red Cross on forty candidates, a framed resolution was noted on the wall of the dressing area of the asylum. It reads, "*Old Dominion proudly acknowledges its paternal relationship to Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1*" and was signed by F. A. Reed, Eminent Commander, Old Dominion Commandery No. 11 in 1875.

On March 19, 2014, a descendant of one of Fredericksburg Commandery's charter members requested research assistance from the Commandery. Sir Knight Shelby Chandler, who was Eminent Commander at the time, assisted her in compiling genealogical and Masonic data on Sir Knight Charles A. Jones and in

gratitude, that descendant provided Fredericksburg Commandery a digital copy of an 1876 resolution given to and maintained by her family.

The following is the text information of the December 1876 Resolution that was returned to Fredericksburg Commandery from the Jones family archives:

At a stated assembly of Fredericksburg Commandery Knight Templars, No. 1 Virginia, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

Whereas it has pleased the Supreme Architect of the Universe to remove by death on the 12th day of December 1876, our much beloved Sir Knight, Dr. Charles A Jones, from this life of pilgrimage to an incorruptible and eternal inheritance above; and whereas we deem it right and proper to express our appreciation of his great worth and many virtues, and our deep sorrow and irreparable loss in his death, therefore,

Resolved, that while we bow submissively to the (end?) dispensation of God's providence which so unexpectedly removed from us Brother, Companion and Frater in the prime of life and in the midst of his usefulness, and while we would not "Sorrow as those who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13) yet we do most deeply feel and deplore the loss of a member and officer of this Commandery, who, from its organization, has counselled and cooperated with us in everything which tended to promote its interest, growth and prosperity.

Resolved, that in Sir Knight Jones we recognize those noble qualities of head and heart which are essential in the true Templar Mason. He was noble and generous of heart, kind and benevolent in disposition, courteous in manner, upright in deportment, just in his dealings, a useful and honorable citizen, a Christian gentleman.

Resolved, that in the sudden death of Sir Knight Jones who was full of life and hope, and who had the promise of many years before him, we have another lesson of the uncertainty of human life and of the importance of ever being prepared for death while in this probationary state, for, we know that the seasons of birds and bloom may come again, the clouds may return after the rain, the tide may return from the swelling sea, the gold in the west today may purple in the east tomorrow, but the soul that quits its tenements of clay will never come back again - it has passed the portals of death to appear at the judgment seat of Christ.

Resolved, that this Commandery tenders to the bereaved family of our esteemed and lamented Sir Knight, its earnest sympathy and heart felt condolence and would commend them for consolation in their hour of grief to that compassionate Heavenly Father who is "too wise to err and too good to be unkind" (Psalm 112:7) in his dealing with his children.

Resolved, that these resolutions be spread upon our minute book and an official copy of the same be forwarded by the Recorder to the family of our deceased Frater.

*Respectfully Submitted
Officers Signature listed*

Dr. Charles Alexander Jones succumbed to pneumonia on December 12, 1876, at the age of 42 and is buried in the Confederate Cemetery in Fredericksburg near his wife and two children. On April 17, 2014, the 1876 resolution was read to the fraters of the Fredericksburg asylum and was again returned to the minutes of the Commandery's archives.

While there are future opportunities for Fredericksburg Fraters (because of the many upcoming leaders in today's Fredericksburg asylum), Fredericksburg Commandery can only claim Sir Knight James P. Corbin, who became a Grand Commanders of Virginia in 1894-1895.

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A Brief History of Richmond Commandery No. 2

By Sir Knight Benjamin F. Hill, KTCH/REPGC

Chartered April 10, 1823

Following the 1823 formation of the Grand Encampment of Virginia, Winchester Encampment, Warren Encampment, and Mont Carmel Encampment were notified to apply for charters from the General Grand Encampment. Winchester Encampment No. 1 and Warren Encampment No. 2 did so and received such charters; but Mont Carmel Encampment No. 3 refused to do so and became extinct in 1824.

At a Special Assembly of the Grand Encampment on August 11, 1824, Richmond Encampment was advised of the existence of the State Grand Encampment of Virginia and was invited to join, which it did, and the complication was resolved. Thus, Richmond Encampment No. 2 became a sponsor, and the formation of the Grand Encampment of Virginia was healed.

At the General Grand Encampment Triennial XIII Session in 1856 Sir Knight William B. Hubbard (1847-1859) was elected Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment and oversaw changes in the names of the Grand Bodies and their officers. 1857 marked the movement from the name Grand Encampment to Grand Commandery for State Jurisdictions; thus, Richmond Encampment was changed to Richmond Commandery No. 2.

Sir Knight Edward H. Gill, Right Eminent Grand Commander, and member of Richmond Commandery, called a Special Assembly in Richmond on the morning of February 22, 1858. After drilling and inspecting the Grand Commandery in due form, the Sir Knights were informed that the Assembly was called for the purpose of acting as a mounted escort to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia on the occasion of the inauguration of the Equestrian Statue of George Washington. The Grand Commandery proceeded to the residence R. E. Sir Gill and Lady Gill presented the Grand Commandery with a beautiful banner.

Afterward, the officers and visitors of Grand Commandery of Virginia, along with the Sir Knights of Commanderies of Richmond No. 2, DeMolay No. 4, Appomattox No. 6, and Dove No. 7, consisting of 110 Sir Knights in all, mounted in full regalia, then proceeded to the Masonic Hall, and escorted the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia to the Capital Square, where the Equestrian Statue of George Washington was inaugurated. The Richmond Commandery No. 2, hosted a dinner for the guests from Grand Lodge and the visiting Sir Knights in Corinthian Hall.

The Civil War and Reconstruction was hard on Virginia, but Richmond Commandery maintained a strong membership between hundred fifty and two hundred knights. On November 13, 1878, the Grand Commandery of Virginia chartered another Commandery, St. Andrew Commandery No. 13, in the City of Richmond.

The period 1875 to 1914 ushered in a new period of peace, prosperity, and harmony throughout the Jurisdiction of Virginia. The Richmond Commandery duly drilled, inspected, and encamped in solemn form. Its knights were visible in full uniform escorting Grand Lodge and Symbolic Lodge Cornerstone Ceremonies and Masonic Funerals, marched in formation at several celebratory parades, and at divine services in the many community churches in Richmond.

In 1919, pursuant to a resolution, Richmond Commandery No. 2 and St Andrew Commandery No. 13 were appointed joint hosts along with the Grand Commandery of Virginia for the One Hundredth Stated Grand Conclave and Centennial Ceremony. Richmond Commandery No.2 and St. Andrew Commandery No. 13 provided 225 and 200 knights respectfully. A Grand Reception, refreshments, and dance was held at the Richmond Coliseum for the Sr Knights, Ladies, and Guests.

Richmond Commandery No. 2 survived the “*Roaring Twenties*”, the “*Cultural Civil War*” and its social tensions, the 1929 Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression, World War II (1941-1945), the Cold War (1947-1989), the Korean Conflict (1950-1953), the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam Conflict (1955-1973).

Harmony was the hallmark between of the City of Richmond’s Commanderies: Richmond Commandery No. 2 and St. Andrew Commandery No. 13. The Sir Knights were active in Templary tactics and ritual and escorting Grand Lodge and Symbolic Lodge Cornerstone Ceremonies for community churches and public buildings. They were visually presenting flag programs and wreath laying ceremonies, escorting Masonic funerals, marching in formation in parades, and attending divine services in various community churches.

Membership in Commanderies of Knights Templar had been dropping for years and many of the knights were members of both Richmond and St. Andrew Commanderies, in 1953 the knights voted to merge into one Commandery – Richmond Commandery No. 2 with a combined membership of five hundred ninety-two knights. In 2021, Richmond Commandery reported a membership of sixty-two knights.

Richmond Commandery No. 2 is one of only two Commanderies left from the original foundation of the Grand Commandery of Virginia. It has a rich history, if only a Sir Knight from Richmond Commandery would take the time to research and write its history for the reader of today and the readers of tomorrow. As Robert Burns said in *Sorrowing, Yet Not Without Hope*, still a future:

No! though the grave hath claimed our best,
No! though the green sprigs mark his rest,
Weeping we cry with chastened faith,
Trust in the Lord, and conquer death.

No! though a seat is vacant here,
No! though his voice no more may cheer,
Upward we cast the eye of love,
Lost to the earth, but sale above.

How through long years of wasting pain
Bright burned his soul and fired his brain;
In this dear place he loved to be —
Here keep his name eternally.

Brethren, be strong, for life's demand
Boldly endure and bravely stand;
From his bright life example take —
From his blest grave let hopes awake.

Brief Historic Sketch and Origins of Charlottesville Commandery No. 3

By Sir Knight Shelby Chandler, PC, Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1

Chartered December 6, 1869

In 1869, the Grand Commandery of Virginia authorized a dispensation for three new Commanderies: A.P. Abell Commandery in Charlottesville, Staunton Commandery in Staunton, and Monongalia Commandery, in what is now West Virginia.

The Monongalia Commandery has a significant role in Charlottesville origins story as our West Virginia fraters were attempting to revive the old Morgantown "Gill Commandery No. 3" in their area that went dark during the war. The Grand Commander of Virginia, Right Eminent John R. McDaniel, agreed to reissue the designation of "No. 3" to these Monongalia Sir Knights, if they would return the old Gill Commandery charter.

Unfortunately, at the Grand Conclave of Virginia which followed, when it came time to constitute these three new Commanderies, the old Gill Commandery fraters elected to withhold the return of the charter, as was required. Because of this, the Grand Commander continued their "Under Dispensation" status for another year and withheld Monongalia Commandery's new charter. Therefore the "No. 3" designation was reissued to the Commandery in Charlottesville.

The first officers listed to A.P. Abell Commandery (under dispensation) received its orders and Sir Knight Alexander P. Abell was selected to be the first Eminent Commander (designate), with Sir Knight Peyton S. Coles as Generalissimo (designate) and Sir Knight J. Van Doren as Captain General (designate).

It seems strange enough that a Commandery would be given a dispensation and named after a living member, who in turn is selected to be the first Commander of a Commandery named in his honor. Even more confusing is the trust that is later placed upon this Sir Knight by the Grand Commander and yet, so little is known of his Masonic pedigree.

The following is the only real comprehensive report on this Sir Knight:

Alexander Pope Abell was born on the 23d of July 1817, four miles west of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Virginia, the eldest of three brothers, sons of Rev. John S. and Lydia B. Abell. Alexander Pope Abell has made an impress on the Southern Baptist work, almost unique in character and results. He has spent a busy life in works of love. His first impressions were made by the teachings of his father, an honored minister of the Baptist denomination. Although he was not baptized until 1833, yet, when but fifteen years of age he undertook the management of a Sunday-school in the mountains near his home. He was baptized by Rev. R. L. Coleman and joined the Baptist Church in Charlottesville...

As a business man he has had an extended experience. Earnest, honest, faithful in all things, his promotion was rapid, and success secured. Clerk, partner, head of firm, cashier of bank, secretary and manager of a large insurance company, vice-president of a national

bank, president, manager of a firm doing a large home and foreign business in Savannah, his business hours have been fully occupied. Millions of wealth have passed through his hands and every dollar has been accounted for...

Wherever he has lived, he has been called up to the head of a Sunday-school; in Charlottesville, Staunton, Virginia, Savannah, Georgia, Greenville, South Carolina, where he is in charge of a flourishing mission school...

Married at twenty years of age to Miss Ann McLeod, a Scotch lady, whose ancestors figured largely in the history of their fatherland, his wife has proved a helpmeet indeed. The raven-locked young man and the fair-haired lass have travelled, side by side, forty-three years, sharing sorrows and joys, helping and encouraging each other- and now that the hair is bleaching and the body is bending in the long years, the same loving, tender smile, the same pleasant, encouraging words greet friends and neighbors from the man and wife and people feel that it is good for them to meet the Christian couple. Mr. Abell has his only child, Mrs. R. S. Morgan, living with him. His home-life is very beautiful. Romping with his four grand-children, he, the merriest and noisiest, the little ones who know the friend, the sympathizer- the father.

Abell Commandery No. 3 is chartered at Grand Conclave on July 9, 1869, with Eminent Commander Alexander P. Abell later acting as proxy at the constitution ceremony on December 16, 1869, in Charlottesville on behalf of Sir Knight John R. McDaniel, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Virginia to. Their asylum reports a complement of twenty-eight members in their first year.

The 1875 Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Virginia shows the last time the Charlottesville Commandery is reported as A.P. Abell Commandery No. 3. In the following year, the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Virginia reports this Commandery in their new name of "Charlottesville Commandery No. 3" and it records the following:

PROCEEDINGS OF A. P. ABELL COMMANDERY NO. 3

The following proceedings of A. P. Abell Commandery No. 3, were presented:

At a stated assembly of A. P. Abell Commandery No. 3 K. T., on Tuesday, October 10, A.D. 1876, A.O. 759,

It was ordered that the application be made to M.E. Grand Commandery at its Annual Convocation in Alexandria, to change the name of this Commandery to Charlottesville Commandery No. 3 Knights Templar'

A true copy from the record.

Given under my hand as Recorder and certified under the seal of the Commandery this 10th day of October, A.D. 1876, A.O. 759.

[Seal]

M. McKennie, Recorder

From this report and as the final order of business for the 1876 Annual Convocation, The Grand Commandery of Virginia records the following:

Whereupon

Resolved, That the said Commandery be hereafter designated and known as Charlottesville Commandery No. 3.

GRAND COMMANDERY CLOSED

The following members of Charlottesville Commandery No. 3 became Grand Commanders of Virginia:

Sir Knight Peyton S. Coles (1881-1883)

Sir Knight Emmett B. Coddin (1975-1976)

Sir Knight Edwin A. Joachim (1922-1923)

Sir Knight Jay L. Cotner (2004-2005)

Sir Knight Harry M. Wilson (1941-1942)

Sir Knight William F. Reinhold (2014-2015)

References:

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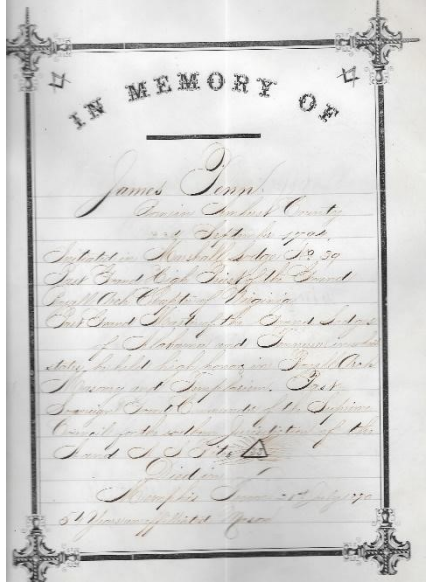
A Brief History of DeMolay Commandery No. 4

By Sir Knight Mark Ronald Day

Chartered November 30, 1826

In 1820 James Cushman¹, member of a lodge in Connecticut and apparently a typical Connecticut Yankee, appeared upon the Virginia Masonic Scene, where he would exert great influence upon the entire Masonic Structure of the Old Dominion, His ritualistic knowledge led the Grand Council to designate him Grand Lecturer, the first Brother to hold such office in Virginia Lodge History. Cushman was a disciple of the famed Jeremy Cross who was familiar to if not renowned to the Masons of Virginia. James Penn², who had been one of the first candidates raised in Marshall Lodge No. 39 in 1793 became aware of Cushman's work and was present at the Grand Lodge Communication of 1820. Soon after the Grand Lodge Communication Penn would become an advocate for Cushman's ideas at Marshall Lodge No. 39.

Up to the time of Cushman's arrival in Virginia, the only two Grand Bodies in the Commonwealth were the Grand Lodge Ancient York Masons, and the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Excellent and Super Excellent Masons. Lynchburg seems to have become fertile ground for Cushman to pursue the expansion of Cryptic and Templar Masonry. Working with James Penn at Marshall Lodge Cushman inspired an interest in the establishment of all forms of appendant body Masonry in Lynchburg. The Organization of DeMolay Commandery No. 4 Knights Templar can be directly attributed to him. At Cushman's request, Daniel Walker Thomas, Grand Commander of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of Virginia issued a dispensation of January 25th, 1826, authorizing Cushman and two other members of the order to confer the templar orders on certain Lynchburg Royal Arch Masons. The rites took place on April 17, 1826, and the candidates who were created Knights Templar that day were Robert Henning Gray, Howson Stainbeck White, Joshua Rathbone Holmes, Thomas McKinney, Howell Davies, Henry Green Holmes, Thomas



Gordon Coleman, Thomas Jefferson Duvall, Henry Francis Beaumont, Rev. Franklin G. Smith, and William Simms Bagby. Immediately following the rites these new templars signed a petition asking for the establishment of an Encampment (Commandery) in Lynchburg. On the 29th of April, a dispensation was granted for the Organization of a Lynchburg Encampment, With Linnaeus Dupuy as the first Commander, Robert H. Gray as Generalissimo, and Howson S. White as Captain General. On November 13, 1826, a charter was voted on and presented to the Lynchburg Encampment, which In 1827 changed its name to DeMolay Encampment. In 1856 the term Encampment was dropped in favor of the term Commandery. Over the many intervening years DeMolay Commandry No. 4 has served as an important aspect of Free Masonry in the Lynchburg Area through its participation in innumerable Masonic, Charities, Ceremonies and Programs. The written history of Marshall Lodge No. 39 contains more than 40

¹ The first Virginia Mason to have the title of Grand Lecturer was James Cushman, who was appointed by Grand Master Dr. John H. Purdie. He was apparently an associate of Jeremy Ladd Cross, of Connecticut, who came to Virginia in 1819 and exemplified the ritual to the Grand Lodge, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and thereafter organized the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters.

² An early initiate of HIRAM lodge (Marshall Lodge #39) WHO WAS RAISED TO mm ON 13 July 1793, he served on the committee locate and build a proper Masonic Hall for Marshall Lodge #39, Served As Grand High Priest in 1820

specific references to the DeMolay Commandry and some of Lynchburg's finest Citizens, such as Dr. John J. Terrell and W. D. Diuguid have been Sir Knights of DeMolay Commandry No. 4. In a letter dated November 5, 1898, the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandry of Knights Templar of Virginia wrote to the Recorder of DeMolay Commandry No. 4 saying "Your Commandry did good word last year (1897) may she continue"; thus, establishing evidence of the high esteem in which DeMolay Commandry No. 4 has been held for over two centuries. More evidence of the fraternal and brotherly nature of the Sir Knights in DeMolay Commandry No. 4 can be seen in the minute books, and other records, which have survived.

REGISTER DeMOLAY COMMANDRY.

No.	NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	OCCUPATION	DEGREE RECEIVED	PERIOD FOR WHICH RECEIVED	CHIEF OF ORDER	DATE OF INSTALLATION
1	James T. Taylor		Lynchburg	Merchant	Chivalier	27 April 1855		1855
2	Franklin P. Smith	27		Physician	St.			57
3	Robt. G. Long	27		Teacher	St.			57
4	Thomas W. White	27		Merchant	St.			57
5	Thomas W. White	27		Merchant	St.			57
6	Thos. F. Bennett	27		Blacksmith	St.			57
7	John S. Sargent	27		Blacksmith	St.			57
8	Thomas W. White	27		Druggist	St.			57
9	Thos. W. White	27		Merchant	St.			57
10	Thos. W. White	27		St.	St.			57
11	Thos. W. White	27		Druggist	St.			57
12	Thos. W. White	27		St.	St.			57
13	Thos. W. White	27		Blacksmith	St.			57
14	Thos. W. White	27		St.	St.			57
15	Thos. W. White	27		St.	St.			57

For example, DeMolay Commandry No. 4 has always worked closely and cooperatively with the other Commanderies of this district. In the minutes of the September 14, 1880, Stated Conclave the following entry are found, "A Resolution by the Dove Commandry, Whereas this Commandry recognizing with felicity and highly appreciating the kind an liberal hospitality exhibited towards it by DeMolay Commandry No. 4 Knights Templar of Lynchburg, VA on the occasion of the visit of this Commandry to that city on the 6th day of May 1880 and desires to testify to the Sir Knights of said DeMolay Commandry No. 4 some suitable manner their recognition and appreciation of the same. Later the minutes of the November 10, 1908, Stated Conclave contain the following "The recorder had received a letter from

Dove Commandry No. 7 Knights Templar, expressing in a most courteous and complimentary manner their thanks for the hospitality extended them during the last triangular Conclave. Further the Minute Books consistently provide details of regularly conducted Triangular Conclaves with Bayard Commandry and Dove Commandry as well as other social activities; all of which point to a true sense of camaraderie between the Knights Templar of this district throughout the years.

It would be remiss to not point out that the Sir Knights of DeMolay Commandry No. 4 had a sense of Brotherhood and camaraderie which included a bit of humor. Two photographs from the past give us a hint of this brotherly familiarity by having nicknames written under the Sir Knights image. These two Sir Knights, whose nicknames are Big Bill and Fatty obviously were well respected by their brothers but offered an opportunity for humor and friendly banter among the Sir Knights. A tradition which still exists in the Commandry today.



A tradition which still exists in the Commandry today.

In recent years, following a fire, which destroyed Marshall Lodge No. 39's

Handwritten note on lined paper:
 I enclose receipt for
 dues of No 4 to Grand Commandry for 1898
 Your Comdery did good work last
 year may she continue.
 I have claps on a line and let me
 know what day you have your Conclave
 You failed to state it on your return card
 You failed to tell me on the postal card you
 wrote. I hope to send a good delegation
 from No 4 at 40 Lady next week
 Yours truly
 W. D. Diuguid
 Recorder of your Comdery
 Co. No. 4

downtown Masonic Hall in 1997, DeMolay Commandry No. 4 first met at the Masonic Temple on Lemon

Drive until 2013 and then relocated to Campbell Lodge 316 in Altavista. The move to Altavista was occasioned by the closure of the Danville Dove Commandery No. 7, which resulted in their members being assigned to DeMolay Commandery No. 4. This move was a way of making the DeMolay Commandery No. 4 accessible to the Sir Knights from Danville and Martinsville, while still serving the Sir Knights of Lynchburg and Campbell County.

Currently the Commandery membership of thirty-seven Sir Knights is stable and has the potential for growth in the coming year. The DeMolay Commandery actively contributes to the Orders primary charities and are 100% life members in the Eye Foundation; with several of the Sir Knights being members of the Grand Masters Club.

In summation DeMolay Commandery No. 4 continues the proud traditions and charitable endeavors begun 194 years ago and looks forward to celebrating 200 years of service to the community and the world on November 13, 2026.

A Brief History of Portsmouth Commandery No. 5

By Sir Knight Benjamin Franklin Hill, KTCH/REPGC

Chartered January 27, 1827

On January 16th, 1827, three Sir Knights (James Cushman, Charles Cassell and Mark L. Cheevers), hailing from three different Commanderies, and acting under a lawful warrant (dispensation) from the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of Virginia did on that date conferred the Orders of Knighthood upon the following Royal Arch Masons from Mount Horeb Chapter No. 11:

Charles A. Grice	Robert B. Butt	Mordicai K. Cook	James Jarvis
George Reed	Henry Singleton	John Williston	William Bishop
J. W. Murdaugh	John Linn	John Reed	James B. Foster

All of whom, after useful, honorable, and well-spent lives, entered the asylum, where the Captain of Salvation forever reigns. Those twelve Sir Knights received a Grand Encampment of Virginia dispensation, dated January 16th, 1827, and proceeded to organize "Portsmouth Encampment, No. 5," after which they elected Sir Knight Charles A. Grice its first Eminent Commander. The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of Virginia chartered Portsmouth Encampment, No. 5 on January 27, 1827, at Portsmouth, Virginia.

Sir Knight Grice was re-elected annually thereafter until the year 1866, when by reason of this declining years, he declined a further re-election, and made the mantle of office fall upon the shoulders of Eminent Sir Charles R. McAlpine.

We cannot let the occasion pass without mentioning that Sir Knight Charles A. Grice occupied many exalted positions during his years in the Masonic Fraternity:

Raised in Portsmouth Naval Lodge No 100 in 1818, he served Worshipful Master, Portsmouth Naval Lodge 1820-1821, 1835, 1839, 1859-1860, and District Deputy Grand Master, District No. 1 (Portsmouth) 1864-1867.

Exalted in Portsmouth's Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 11 and served as its High Priest for many years Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia in 1841-1843

Instrumental in forming Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Knights Templar January 6, 1827, and served as first Commander of Portsmouth Commandery from 1827 and served as Commander for thirty-eight years.

Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templars of Virginia from 1830-1839 when he declined re-election and was succeeded by E. Sir John Pollard, of Petersburg, Virginia.

On the reorganization of the Grand Encampment of Virginia, December 11th, 1845, Sir Knight Sir Charles A. Grice, was elected Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia, and filled the office until December 13, 1849, when he was succeeded by Sir Knight Edward H. Gill of Richmond, Virginia.

On June 7, 1855, the Steamer *Benjamin Franklin* sailed into the Chesapeake Bay bound for repairs. Hampton Roads experienced Yellow Fever plague in 1795, 1802, 1821 and 1826, but the pestilence of 1855 claimed a third of the populations of Norfolk and Portsmouth. It took a heavy toll on the members of Portsmouth's Masonic Family – the Fraternity's many of most zealous Masons, skillful in the art of the Craft and active to a fault and left an additional eighteen widows and sixty-one orphans to care for: that in addition to fifteen widows and thirty-eight orphans from previous epidemics.

At 4:30 AM on April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon, and Virginia became a prominent part of the Confederacy when it joined during the American Civil War on April 17, 1861. Portsmouth Commandery had thirty-three knights on its rolls at the start of the Civil War. Around noon March 8, 1862, the *CSS Virginia* sailed down the Elizabeth River from Gasport Shipyard; two months later on May 10, the Gasport Shipyard was burned, and Portsmouth evacuated Confederate forces to Suffolk. That was the beginning of eight years of Federal occupation of Portsmouth. There were no records for the years 1863 and 1864, but in 1865 there were fifty-seven knights on Portsmouth Commandery's rolls.

Portsmouth Commandery's second Commander, Sir Knight Charles R. McAlpiner was elected Eminent Commander in 1866 and served until March 18th, 1872, when he resigned and demitted from the Commandery. During his administration, the Commandery enjoyed an era of prosperity and success, and several notable events took place and in which this Commandery participated:

Membership in Portsmouth Commandery rose to fifty-seven in 1865 as Confederate Veterans returned to Hampton Roads. Then membership dropped to forty-six in 1866 with the charter of Grice Commandery No. 16 in Norfolk. And membership rose to fifty-six in 1872.

June 13, 1869, the Commandery, by invitation from St. John's Commandery No. 4 of Pennsylvania, proceeded to Philadelphia and participated in the celebration of their Semi-Centennial Anniversary.

In March 1870, Portsmouth Commandery had a serious controversy with Grice Commandery No. 16 with Commanderies claiming jurisdiction over Old Point and Hampton. The matter was being laid before Right Eminent Grand Commander Sir John Robin McDaniel, who decided that the disputed territory was within the jurisdiction of No. 16. Not satisfied with this decision, Eminent Commander Sir Knight McAlpine appealed from the decision of the Grand Commander to the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States. Sir Knight McDaniel promptly suspended Portsmouth Commandery's charter for insubordination, but Sir Knight McAlpiner, having made the proper apology, the charter was promptly restored on June 20, 1870.

June 22, 1870, the honored and well-beloved Frater, Sir Knight Charles Augusta Grice, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, at the age of seventy-eight, set aside his sword and his Craftsman's tools. He was buried on June 22 with Masonic honors and ceremonies and interred in Portsmouth's Cedar Grove Ceremony. The Knights of Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 and Grice Commandery No. 16 escorted the funeral and Masonic ceremonies.

Portsmouth Commandery celebrated its 44th Anniversary on January 16, 1871, with Grice Commandery No. 16 as its guest. The ceremony included a street parade, drill and inspection, an oration by Portsmouth Commandery's Prelate Rev. Sir Knight J.S. Lindsay, and a splendid evening banquet was enjoyed by all.

On April 18, 1871, Portsmouth Commandery assisted Grice Commandery No. 16 in escorting the Symbolic Blue Lodges of Norfolk, Portsmouth, and other Hampton Roads at the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the Masonic Temple of Norfolk.

Then on September 18, 1871, Portsmouth Commandery made a pilgrimage to Baltimore to attend the XVIII Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

On March 18, 1872, Portsmouth Commandery's third Commander, Sir Knight James Gaskins Baine was elected Eminent Commander and was annually re-elected until June 24, 1875. The following noted events were participated in during his term of office:

June 12, 1873, at the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, held in the City of Norfolk, a competitive drill was held in which Richmond Commandery No. 2, Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, and Grice Commandery No. 16 were represented. Portsmouth Commandery, No. 5, having been judged to be the best drilled and equipped Commandery, was awarded the prize consisting of a beautiful Beauseant Banner. The award was publicly made at the new Opera House in Norfolk, in the presence of a large number of visiting Sir Knights and the public.

On May 29, 1875, Portsmouth Commandery made a pilgrimage to New York to participate in the dedication of the Masonic Temple as the guest of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 36.

During Grand Commandery of Virginia's *Period of Reconstruction and Maturity* there was strong disconcertment among the Sir Knights to withdraw from the Grand Encampment, but there was little to attain the desired end. When two strong leaders of Templar Masonry, who also were proponents of strong bonds with of the Grand Encampment, died, Most Eminent Edward H. Gill in 1869 and Most Eminent Charles A. Grice in 1870, the agitation rose again, and again the efforts were for naught. The influence of Sir Knights Grice and Gill that Templarism is different, it is a military and Christian institution, requiring a different organization, a central government, one general head, but representative in its charity, by which the sovereignty of each Grand Commandery is secured.

1875 to 1914 ushered in a period of peace, prosperity, and harmony throughout Hampton Roads and Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 was duly drilled, inspected, and encamped in solemn form. They were visible in full uniform escorting Portsmouth Naval and Seaboard Lodges at Cornerstone Ceremonies and mounted and unmounted escorts at Masonic Funerals. They marched in full uniform in various parades and at divine services in the many community churches in Portsmouth.

The rolls of Templary Masonry rose to 163 Sir Knights and the Hampton Commandery received a dispensation in 1887. Both Hampton Roads Commanderies, Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 and Grice Commandery No. 16, were at the chartering of Hampton Commandery No. 17 on July 17, 1888.

"Remember the Maine" became the rallying point during the Spanish-America War in 1898, followed the saber-rattling, war drums, and storm clouds heralding World War I (1914-1918) and Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 membership rolls rose to 185 Sir Knights. During the period Portsmouth Commandery was host to many Virginia and out-of-state Fraters but the Grim Reaper also scratched though the names of many Portsmouth Commandery's valiant and magnanimous Knights. As the *Versailles Treaty* officially ended World War I on June 28, 1919, and by year's end Portsmouth Commandery rolls boasted 241 Knights.

At the Grand Commandery Centennial Conclave and Ceremony on October 26 and 27, 1922, Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 had fifty-two Knights and thirty-five Ladies in attendance. During the Uniform Parade up Richmond's Monument Avenue, Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Grice Commandery No. 16, and Hampton Commandery No. 17 combined a Company of Sir Knights from Hampton Roads.

Returning to the Sir Knights of Portsmouth Commandery refocused to their Templary tactics and ritual and escorting Portsmouth Lodge Cornerstone Ceremonies for community churches and public buildings. They were visually presenting flag programs and wreath laying ceremonies, escorting Masonic funerals, marching in formation in parades, attending divine services, and pilgrimages to George Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon. Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, along with Grice Commandery No. 16, Hampton Commandery No. 17, Malta Commandery No. 24, and Sir Knights from North and South Carolina participated in Virginia Encampment/Field Weeks in 1925 and 1926 near the Cape Henry Lighthouse. Portsmouth Commandery membership rolls grew to 333 Sir Knights and the Commandery made three pilgrimages to Grand Encampment Conclaves: XXXV Triennial held April 25-27, 1922, in New Orleans, Louisiana; XXXVI Triennial held July 28-31, 1925, in Seattle, Washington; and XXXVII Triennial held July 16-19, 1928, in Detroit, Michigan.

The 1929 Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression culminated in many Virginian Masonic Lodges experienced large membership losses from demits and suspensions which affected Templar Masonry. Portsmouth Commandery was no exception as the Commandery lost ninety-one knights from demits, suspensions, and deaths from 1929 to the end of 1939.

On October 27, 1939, Sir Knight Richard S. Lockett, Right Eminent Grand Commander, attended the Annual Inspection Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 with Sir Knight A. M. Conner, Eminent District Deputy Grand Commander for District 2, as the Inspector and there sixty-five uniformed Sir Knights in the Inspection Line. The Ladies were invited to witness the Inspection Ceremonies which were public and afforded a delightful occasion. After the Inspection Ceremonies, a delicious dinner was served 226 Sir Knights, Ladies, and Guests. Portsmouth Commandery Inspection Ceremonies were public in the 1940s according to the Ladies a place of prominence in the Commandery's Templar Activities.

The 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s were a period of transformation for Portsmouth Commandery No. 5. World War II was one the darkest periods in the history of the world and the all-out support for the war effort and the rise in patriotism was the profound conviction that Templar Masonry was needed. The war efforts were the spark Portsmouth Commandery needed. From 1940 to the end of 1969, the Commandery's membership rolls grew from 1940 (242 knights) to the end of 1969 (423 knights) by 181 knights.

The 1970 through 2021 period was a fifty-one-year roller-coaster ride for Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 with changes overnight. There were annual membership losses. Then in 2010 Malta Commandery No. 24 and Island Commandery No. 34 merged under the name of Malta Commandery No. 24 at Chincoteague and Chesapeake Commandery No.28 merged with Malta Commandery No. 24 in 2014 and finally Malta Commandery No. 24 merged with Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 in 2017. Portsmouth Commandery grew from 108 knights in 2016 to 178 knights in 2017 and it has been dropping from deaths, demits, and suspensions.

Three Knight Templar Commanderies were chartered in the Virginia Eastern Shore: Malta Commandery No. 24 at Onancock in 1906, Chesapeake Commandery No. 27 at Northampton County in 1922, and Island Commandery No. 34 at Chincoteague in 1997. Then Malta Commandery No. 24 and Island Commandery No. 34 merged under the name of Malta Commandery No. 24 at Chincoteague in

2010. Finally, Chesapeake Commandery No.28 merged with Malta Commandery No. 24 in 2014 and Malta Commandery No. 24 merged with Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 at Portsmouth, Virginia in 2017.

Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 has a long and illustrious history. One of the services to the Portsmouth and Hampton Roads communities, the Masonic and Templar communities, and Grand Commandery of Virginia. Its membership rolls stretch from Portsmouth to Petersburg, Yorktown, Lexington, Troutville, Suffolk, Norfolk Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, the Eastern Shore, Carrsville, Franklin, Zuni, Windsor, Courtland and into the states of California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina . Its knights are known for their ritual skills in Symbolic Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, and Commanderies of Knight Templar. Their strengths are leadership, fellowship, Masonic knowledge, and willingness to travel, visit and support their fellow Brethren, Companions, and Knights Templar.

The Wooding Trophy was presented to the Grand Commandery by Sir Knight W. Crews Wooding, Right Eminent Grand Commander in 1929, to stimulate and encourage Commanderies to a greater zeal and to improve proficiency. This award continues to be made annually to the Commandery scoring the highest number of points based on the information contained in the District Deputy Grand Commander’s Annual Report for each Commandery. This is a rotating trophy awarded annually at the Grand Conclave to the Commandery scoring the highest number of points during the year just concluded. The Sir Knights of Portsmouth Commandery have always been highly active in local, regional, and state events and Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 has been awarded the Wooding Trophy 25 times since 1930 (three times more than any other Virginia Constituent Commandery):

1937	1946	1952	1984	2012
1940	1947	1976	1984	2013
1941	1949	1979	1991	2015
1942	1950	1980	2006	2017
1943	1951	1981	2011	2020

Distinguished Right Eminent Grand Commanders (13)

Sir Knight Charles Augusta Grice	1830-1839/1845-1849
Sir Knight Hanes Gaskins Bain	1878-1880
Sir Knight William Lee Davis	1916-1917
Sir Knight George Craighead Cabell	1919-1920
Sir Knight Carroll Myers	1950-1951
Sir Knight Silverius C. Chur	1968-1969
Sir Knight Ivan Clayton Myers	1972-1973
Sir Knight Clifton D, March	1976-1977
Sir Knight George Bengé Yeates	1982-1983
Sir Knight Commodore Dewey Elliott, Jr.	1993-1994
Sir Knight Joseph Patrick Westfall, Jr.	2016-2017
Sir Knight Benjamin Franklin Hill	2019-2020
Sir Knight Peter Reginald Spring	2021-2022

Recipients of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor (6)

Sir Knight Bryan J. Shockley	Sir Knight Carlton A. Drummond
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Sir Knight Joseph P. Westfall, Jr.
Sir Knight Benjamin F. Hill

Sir Knight Bruce L. Van Buren
Sir Knight Frederick E. Lewis

Recipients of the Knight Commander of the Temple (13)

Sir Knight Commodore B. Elliott, Jr.
Sir Knight Joseph P. Westfall, Jr.
Sir Knight Burleigh M. Tatum
Sir Knight Fred L. Younger
Sir Knight Carlton E. Kight
Sir Knight William T. Hargrove
Sir Knight Major G. Stephenson III

Sir Knight E. Robinson Lee
Sir Knight Clayton M. Robertson
Sir Knight George B. Yeates
Sir Knight Joseph W. Jeffries
Sir Knight Ira C. Hudson
Sir Knight Peter R. Spring

Recipients of the Companion of the Temple (6)

Thomas F. May
Christi D. Reed
Mary O. Murray

Carolann P. Hill
Cassandra H. McBride
Pamela G. Stephenson

Charles A. Grice Meritorious Award (8)

Sir Knight George B. Yeates
Sir Knight Ira C. Hudson
Sir Knight Bruce L. Van Buren
Sir Knight Joseph R. Murray, Sr.

Sir Knight E. Robinson Lee
Sir Knight Joseph P. Westfall, Jr.
Sir Knight Randall R. Reed
Sir Knight Wayne H. Anderson

Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Medal (2)

Sir Knight John R. Goodwin

Sir Knight Joel T. Bundy, MD

Sir Knight Robert G. McBride

The Brief History of Appomattox Commandery No. 6
By Sir Knight Robin Craig Sowers, Recorder, Appomattox Commandery No. 6

Chartered May 6, 1828



*Design was adopted
on May 4, 1880*

On November 13th, 1827, at the Annual Meeting of the Grand Encampment of Virginia, it was found that the Appomattox Encampment paperwork and return were complete, but the full fee had not been paid (only \$25 paid). The decision was made that the Dispensation would be continued until the next annual gathering to allow the rest of the fee to be paid. In that decision, it was understood that Sir Knight Daniel W Thomas, Most Eminent Grand Commander, *would* issue the charter once the fee was received. He would not need to wait until the next annual meeting.

On May 6th, 1828, Appomattox Encampment No. 6 was Chartered beginning with fifteen members and growing to thirty-three by the end of the year.

Appomattox Encampment (the name Encampment was changed to Commandery in 1957) met on the 1st Tuesday of the month- except July and August (dark) at their Asylum on West Tabb Street in Petersburg, Virginia

for many years. During the time of the Civil War, it should be remembered that the meetings were scarce as many of its members were away serving their country. But it should also be noted Appomattox Commandery continued, as best as they were able to do, Knighting individuals to grow the ranks, and that on April 20th, 1864, they Knighted General George Pickett.

In 1889, a new Commandery was formed in Crew, Virginia, and due to the close ties between the individuals involved, they asked that Appomattox be allowed to name them. After much consideration, the members of Appomattox Commandery decided the name of the new Commandery should be Olivet Commandery No. 18 when it received its chartered on November 16 1889.

The Grand Commandery of Virginia has always met annually but at various different places throughout the Commonwealth, and Petersburg hosted the 62nd, 65th, and 69th Grand Conclaves within the humble city limits.

Appomattox Commandery continued to grow from its humble beginnings, and it should be noted that for the year 1927, Official Proceedings show Appomattox Commandery's membership to be 316 Sir Knights.

In 1969, Appomattox Commandery moved from its Asylum from West Tabb Street to a new Masonic building at 115 South Sycamore Street in Petersburg where they still meet today. In 1995, with a bylaw's change, Appomattox Commandery moved its Conclaves to the third Thursday each month, but still dark in July and August. In 2004, with another bylaw's change, Appomattox Commandery began meeting every month per year.

On May 15, 2011, and after much debate, the members of Olivet Commandery No. 18 voted on a resolution to merge with Appomattox Commandery No. 6 and on September 15, 2011, Appomattox Commandery voted unanimously to accept Olivet Commandery membership. Sir Knight Bradford F. Burnett, Knight Commander of the Templar and Right Eminent Grand Commander of Virginia, approved the merger by Decision 2011-003 with a date of effective December 31, 2011. Without further delay, Appomattox Commandery received Olivet Commandery's membership into their ranks at the December 2011 Conclave. And, so, the history continues....

Throughout the history of Appomattox Commandery No.6, the Sir Knights have distinguished themselves through ritual, leadership, and dedication to the practice of Templary in Virginia.

These notable skills have been displayed within the Constituent Commanderies as well as within the Grand Commandery of Virginia where, since 1839, many of Appomattox Commandery's members served in various positions, including eight Appomattox Commandery Knighted Sir Knights serving as Grand Commander of Virginia, all with distinction. Others showed their resolve, and their proficiency can be recognized through the numerous awards and trophies Appomattox Commandery and its Knights were awarded for excellence in the practice of Templary. Although the Commandery membership has grown,,,,,,,,, and fallen over the years, the Knights' resolve remains strong.

WE ARE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR!!!

Distinguished Right Eminent Grand Commanders (8)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years Served</u>	<u>Other Office Held</u>	<u>Years Served</u>
Sir Knight John Pollard	1839-1845	(Morgan Affair)	
Sir Knight James B. Blanks	1887-1889	Grand Recorder	1895-1919
Sir Knight John T. Parham	1895-1896		
Sir Knight John E. Townes	1901-1902		
Sir Knight Carl Frank Wood	1955-1956	Grand Recorder	1960-1965
Sir Knight Ernest M. Moore	1965-1966	Grand Recorder	1974-1991
Sir Knight Lawrence Barton Smith	2013-2014	Grand Recorder	2014-2016
Sir Knight Joseph Patrick Westfall, Jr.	2016-2017		

Distinguished Right Eminent Grand Commanders (2)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years Served</u>	<u>Other Office Held</u>	<u>Years Served</u>
Sir Knight William T. Buckner	1945-1946	Grand Recorder	1966-1974
Sir Knight Alexander M. Conner	1947-1948		

Other Grand Line Officers Elected or Appointed, Serving with Distinction (1)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years Served</u>	<u>Other Office Held</u>
Sor Knight Thomas L. Varner	2022-2023	Grand Treasurer

District Deputy Grand Commanders District 1 (10)

Sir Knight Carl L. Sitter	1996	Sir Knight Lawrence B. Smith	1999
Sir Knight Joseph P. Westfall, Jr.	2003	Sir Knight Henry M. Austin	2006
Sir Knight Christopher E. Crouse, Jr.	2008	Sr Knight Bobby Dean Hines. Sr.	2010
Sir Knight James L. Woolard	2013	Sir Knight Harless T. Dobbins, Jr.	2016
Sir Knight Robin Craig Sowers	2019	Sor Knight Thomas Lee Varner, Jr.	2022

Recipients of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor (2)

Sir Knight Liebert Archer	1966	Sir Knight Joseph P. Westfall, Jr.	2004
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Recipients of the Knight Commander of the Temple (4)

Sir Knight Carl Sitter	1998	Sir Knight Joseph P. Westfall, Jr.	2005
Sir Knight Lawrence B. Smith	2007	Sir Knight Harless T. Dobbins, Jr.	2017

Charles A. Grice Meritorious Award (3)

Sir Knight Ernest M. Moore, Jr.	1984
Sir Knight Joseph P. Westfall, Jr.	2000
Sir Knight Lawrence B. Smith	2003

Highlights of the History of Stevenson Commandery No. 8

By Sir Knight Stephen Lynn Young, Knight Templar Cross of Honor

Chartered December 16, 1869

Undoubtedly one of the greatest events in the Masonic career of Levi L. Stevenson was for his associates to petition the Grand Commandery of Virginia for a dispensation to establish a Commandery in Staunton. The Charter for Stevenson Commandery No. 8 was dated December 16, 1869. The original petitioners were the following outstanding Masons of Staunton: L. L. Stevenson, William A. Burke, Samuel Kennerly, Jr. J. M. Bell, W. L. Lushbaugh, P. H. Trout, Samuel B. Brown, William H. H. Lynn, and G. G. Gooch. Levi Lamb Stevenson had been instrumental in the re-organization of the Grand Encampment of Virginia in 1845, and he was named Grand Junior Warden and Grand Lecturer at that time. Of all the distinguished members of the Craft in the history of Virginia Masonry, Levi L. Stevenson easily ranks among the first dozen men, who rendered the most outstanding service to the fraternity in the Old Dominion.

Stevenson Commandery did considerable work in these early years, thus increasing its membership materially. The Commandery immediately became a sort of "institution" in Staunton just as were the Lodge and Chapter before it. The fact that the memories of the War Between the States were still very much alive made the semi-military character of the Knights Templar appeal to the people of the community. Thus, the Commandery received frequent invitations to appear in full uniform on public occasions, even those which were not strictly Masonic. The Commandery received invitations from Richmond, Baltimore, Charlottesville, and Winchester, but because of the distance, only a small group could attend.

Membership came from Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington, and Harrisonburg. When the question of establishing a Commandery in Harrisonburg was brought up in 1877, Stevenson Commandery agreed to confer the orders on a number of Harrisonburg candidates and to donate a sum of \$10 from the fee of each Knight thus dubbed to the treasury of the new Commandery. On June 4, 1886, William B. McChesney was elected a member of the Stevenson Commandery. He was one of the few men in Virginia Masonic history to serve as head of all the Virginia grand bodies. Other Grand Commanders from Stevenson Commandery are, William H. H. Lynn (1886-87), William B. McChesney (1910-11), Richard H. Bell Jr (1926-27), James H. Price (1931-32), Walter M. McCracken (1970-71), and James A Fields Jr, (2004-05)

Today Stevenson Commandery No. 8 is still highly active in the community. York Right Masonry is alive and well in Augusta County and our 5th Chivalric District. The Sir Knights are willing to travel through the District, and State to promote the Knights Templar, and assist in putting on the Orders to create new Knights. Throughout our Masonic Districts we are promoting the Chapter and Commandery.

Recent Distinguished Members

SK Robert Rhandle Kennedy, Jr. was Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1978
SK Baldwin Gerard Locher Jr. (dual membership) was Grand Commander in 2000
SK James Arthur Fields, Jr. was Grand Commander in 2006 and Grand High Priest in 2013
SK William Talbott Ellison, Jr. was Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 2012
SK Scott Lyons Fielding, Knight Commander of the Temple and Grand Officer of the Progressive Line
SK Stephen Lynn Young was recipient of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor in 2020

A Brief History of Lynn Commandery No. 9

By all the Sir Knights of Lynn Commandery We are all as one and one for all.

Chartered May 10, 1947

Nestled in Southwestern Virginia is a staple of York Rite Masonry in Virginia. Lynn Commandery is truly one of a kind and unlike any other in our Commonwealth. W. H.H. Lynn Commandery No. 9 was formally organized on July 19, 1887, under the authority of dispensation of William Henry Harrison Lynn, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia. It was attested by William B. Isaacs, Grand Recorder. Shortly after, in November 24th 1887, the Charter was approved and issued. The Sir Knights met on Broad Street, and shortly after on Cherry Street in Marion, VA. The First Commander of W. H. H. Lynn Commandery No.9 was R. M. Goodell, who served in 1887-1888. At the same time, Lynn Commandery had its first Grand Commander of Virginia, Right Eminent Benjamin Franklin Buchanan, who served the Grand Commandery from 1887-1888.

The first recorded record of the name change from W. H. H. Lynn Commandery to Lynn Commandery was recorded in the minutes of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia in 1894. The name still stands to this day.

Marion Lodge No. 31 was first chartered on December 11, 1849, and was reissued a Charter in 1859 due to long periods of non-communication or activity. In 1908, the Lodge began building at its current location and was constructed at a cost of \$13,606.43. (In today's funds in 2022, that would be the cost of \$444,564.43) Of that amount, \$8,624.47 was paid initially. The Commandery assumed the debt to finish construction of \$6,000.00. The Lodge agreed to give ownership of the Building to the Commandery for the completion, as it still stands to this day. Lynn Commandery is the only Asylum in Virginia to be owned by the Commandery. The third floor of Lynn Commandery is dedicated to Benjamin Franklin Hill, REPGC, with an extensive Library that he donated to Lynn Commandery.

Over the years, Lynn has had the privilege of having Past Grand Masters, Grand High Priests, and Grand Commanders as members. Most Worshipful James Clark Padgett, Past Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, was a member of Lynn Commandery having received his Orders on April 8, 1911. Lynn Commandery also had the privilege of hosting the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia in May of 1939.

Past Grand Commanders of Lynn Commandery

R.E. Willie Addison Wolf	1939	R.E. Jack Thomas Parsons	1980
R.E. Ralph Richard Repass	1953	R.E. Benjamin Franklin Shearwood	1988
R.E. Robert Hale Harrington	1960	R.E. Roy Braxton Henderson, Jr.	2017
R.E. Joseph Bayard Cole	1971	R.E. Benjamin Franklin Hill	2019

Honorary Past Grand Commanders

R.E. Jay L Cotner 2004

Appointed Grand Line Officer

Sir Knight J. Brandon Hale, Knight Commander of the Temple
Assistant Grand Recorder and Deputy Grand Inspector General 2020

Past Grand High Priests

M.E. John Grigsby Eggleston 1982
M.E. Daniel Hufford Surface, Jr 2016

Current Grand Line Officers of The Grand Royal Arch

William Randall Owens, Grand Scribe

Past Grand Master of Masons in Virginia

MW James Clark Padgett 1911

Lynn has also had members who have received high honors in Masonry, as well as the York Rite. Daniel Hufford Surface, Jr. was bestowed the John Dove award from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia in 2020. William Dean Robinson was also bestowed the John Dove Award from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia in 2021. For the Commandery, we have been blessed to receive honors as well.

Knight Templar Cross of Honor

William Copenhaver 1978
J. Richard Rowe, Jr. 1986
Ronald E. McCord 2006
Benjamin F. Hill 2012
Daniel H. Surface, Jr. 2021

Charles A. Grice Merit Award

B. Franklin Shearwood 1986
John G. Eggleston 1989
R.B. Henderson 2010
J. Brandon Hale 2018

Knight Commander of the Temple

Jay L Cotner, REPGC
J. Brandon Hale, PC
R.B. Henderson, REPGC
B. Franklin Shearwood, REPGC

Meritorious Service Medal

James W. Quisenberry
Daniel H. Surface, Jr.
Robert A. Bruce
J. Brandon Hale

Honors are not what we strive for, however, we have been blessed at Lynn Commandery. We have conferred Orders in house and had the privilege of seeing many Sir Knights join our ranks over the years.

Lynn Commandery is the Crown Jewel of Southwestern Virginia Masonry. We are proud of our home, and we will continue to labor to ensure it stays strong for many years to come!

BRIEF HISTORY OF HARRISONBURG COMMANDERY NO. 10

By Sir Knight Jimmy D. Davis, KTCH

Originally Chartered October 10, 1877
Dark 1998-2011; Re-Chartered January 28, 2012

No minutes exist for Commandery 10 for the period 1877-1912. This is due to a lodge fire which destroyed a good many of the records of the time. However, many of the Petitions survived and during this early time, petitions were handwritten at least up until 1900.

A letter from the Grand Lecturer, SK F. W. Cunningham to the Eminent Commander of Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 dated October 8, 1886, survives. In it, the Grand Lecturer responds to a situation update by SK E.S. Conrad and indicated the Grand Lecturer will not inspect the Commandery that year. However, if the Commandery has any candidates for the Orders and if the Commander can get them to Richmond, SK Cunningham personally guaranteed they would receive the Orders, petition fees would be returned to the Commandery, and the Candidates would be members of Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10.

Sir Knight J. Silor Garrison, a member of Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10, became Pastor of St. Stephens United Church of Christ in 1894. He and his Deacons laid the first cornerstone of the Church in 1897. Sir Knight Garrison performed a public Cornerstone laying ceremony on December 6, 1931. Sir Knight Garrison was the Pastor of St. Stephens during the periods 1894-1897, 1909-1943.

There is a letter dated April 16, 1909, from the State Normal and Industrial School for Women's Trustees. This letter thanked the Eminent Commander for participating in the exercise incident to the laying of their cornerstone and excellent appearance in the parade. They also acknowledged the escort the Commandery provided to the representative of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. The State Normal and Industrial School for Women would later become James Madison University (July 1, 1977).

In 1910, the Eminent Commander of Harrisonburg, SK James T. Houck wrote a personal letter to the Grand Commander, RE Alonzo Wilbur Traylor requesting guidance on releasing a Candidate who had paid his Orders fees. Though not clearly stated it appears the issue was whether the Candidate would forfeit his fees to the Commandery. At the time the Grand Commander pointed out that there was no statutory law addressing the issue, but if the By Laws of the Commandery stated such the Commandery might have a legal right to claim the forfeit. However, SK Traylor questioned the Knightly propriety of doing so.

One dues card exists dated June 1, 1912, certifying that SK John S. Stephens was a member in good standing for the year 1912-1913. Also in that year, the Eminent Commander forwarded one Article of the By Laws, dated June 10, 1912, to the Grand Commander for "approbation". This article changed the petition fees to include funds requiring a Sir Knight to purchase a uniform. The article was approved by the Grand Commander in October of that year.

On the night of December 16, 1915, Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 officially received and entertained one of its own, the Grand Commander, RE Joseph T. Houck. A reception was held after the meeting at

which the ladies were present, adding to the pleasure of the occasion-according to the Grand Commander. One of the past Grand Commanders present was RE William B. McChesney of Stevenson Commandery No. 8 out of Staunton at the time. Sir Knight McChesney was formerly a member of Commandery No. 10, having been knighted there.

In 1938, the State Normal and Industrial School for Women was renamed Madison College in Harrisonburg in honor of President James Madison. The Shenandoah Knights Templar School of Instruction was held there on June 30, July 1-3.

An article in the Virginia Chronicle dated August 19, 1949, detailed the flood which took place in Harrisonburg. The flood took out the offices of the local paper, the Daily News Record, and the archives of the Commandery, Chapter, and symbolic Lodge. In the 1950's Harrisonburg Commandery had an issue with a Sir Knight's demit request to join another Commander and the handling of the uniform deposit. The Grand Commander, RE Carroll Myers, sent a letter dated January 26, 1951, directly to the Recorder, SK S.S. Sencindiver, addressing the issue. In it, the Grand Commander advised the Recorder to forward the uniform fee to the gaining Commandery who would then furnish the Sir Knight's uniform.

Commandery 10 was one of the 33 Commanderies that participated in the 150-year celebration of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia in 1966. The celebration was held in Lynchburg and over five hundred Sir Knights were in attendance.

No minutes exist documenting the exact year of Commandery No. 10 going Dark. On November 3rd, 1998, Luray Commandery No. 19 passed a motion to receive the funds from Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 after review of Harrisonburg's audit report. With its closing, the property of Harrisonburg Commandery remained in Rockingham Union Lodge. In Luray's records of February of that same year, there was mention of a letter from the Grand Encampment concerning the merger of Harrisonburg with Luray Commandery. On April 6, 1999, Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 transferred its funds of \$1589.52 to Luray thus rendering the Commandery dark. If emptying the account is one of the requirements to render a Commandery Dark, and if the 15-year claim stands, that would put the first year back in good standing as 2014.

However, the minutes of May 23, 2011, were the first minutes published after a period of darkness which the Recorder listed as 15 years. This would have caused the closure in 1996. Past Grand Commander, RE James A. Fields and SK Joel D. Ratliff, Sr. attended that first meeting.

On January 23, 2012, the Sir Knights of Commandery 10 approved By-Laws for its newly chartered organization. Rockingham Royal Arch Chapter No. 6 donated \$500.00 in February to the Commandery to be used as start-up funds. With its new charter and By-Laws, no one thought to recertify the Commandery's tax exempt status with the IRS. The newly elected Recorder, who had only been a Sir Knight for four months, completed the 25-page IRS form to regain 501.10.(c) exemption status. In August 2013, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA informed the Recorder that its suspended IEN had been reissued to a Polish Templar Organization. The Recorder then applied for a new IEN which was received in August. A few weeks later, the IRS sent documentation of another EIN issued to Commandery 10 forcing the Recorder to reapply for exemption status. A copy of the original cancelled check was sent to the IRS to prove previous payment. Then on September 9, 2013, the Grand Recorder issued a certificate

of Good Standing to Harrisonburg. It was not until February of 2014 that the IRS acknowledged receipt of the exemption request and tax-exempt status was again reinstated.

Sir Knight Stephen R. Giddens of Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 approached SK J.D. Davis, Eminent Commander, in August 2019 about performing a symbolic Cornerstone ceremony for St. Stephen's United Church of Christ for their 125 Anniversary. Sir Knight Giddens, the Commandery's Prelate, was also the Pastor of St. Stephen's United Church of Christ. After obtaining a dispensation from the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, MW Douglas R. Jones, SK J.D. Davis conducted the ceremony on December 7, 2019, on behalf of Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27. The ceremony was attended by over 60 Masons from throughout the area, the Honorable Deanna Reed, Mayor of Harrisonburg, and MW Douglas R. Jones along with his aides.

SK J.D. Davis, Recorder of the Commandery was elected as a Trustee of the Grand Commandery of Virginia at Grand Conclave in May of 2020. He became the Senior Trustee in 2021 and focused the Trustees on revising the business practices of the Board to improve the earnings of the Grand Commandery of Virginia.

Past Grand Commanders

SK James Little Avis 1891-1892

SK Thomas Joseph Houck 1915-1916

A Brief History of Dominion Commandery No. 11

By Sir Knight Michael Thomas Huff, Knight Commander of the Temple

Chartered December 12, 1872

The eighteenth triennial session of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States assembled at the Masonic Temple in the city of Baltimore, Maryland in September of 1871. Out of the 5,000 Knights in attendance and 76 Commanderies represented, Columbia Commandery No. 2 of the District of Columbia had the largest pilgrimage at this momentous event, totaling 200 Knights and 40 of their ladies. Among their ranks was Sir Knight Francis Avery Reed who, inspired by the proceeding at Baltimore, met with nine Knights of Alexandria, Virginia in the Lodge room of Andrew Jackson No. 120 to “consider the propriety of petitioning the Grand Commander of Virginia for a dispensation to open a Commandery of Knights Templar in this City.” Of the 10 Knights that met on this 30th day of March in 1872, eight held memberships in Columbia Commandery No. 2, one from Washington No. 1 of D.C. and one from Richmond No. 2. Their names are as follows:

J. E. Alexander, A. S. Dunn, S. N. Garwood, W. A. Moore, F. A. Reed, G. R. Shinn, Henry Wingate, Matt Kersey, and Wm. H. Lambert.

The brief minutes of that tell us that W. H. Lambert was called upon to chair the meeting and F. A. Reed was appointed Secretary. That same evening the Knights decided to invite the following friends, residing at Alexandria, to join with them in petitioning the Grand Commander:

Meeting once again on the third of April, the name Old Dominion Commandery was chosen, and on the 23rd of the same month They elected F. A. Reed, Commander; W. H. Lambert, Generalissimo; G. R. Shinn, Captain General; W. A. Moore, Treasurer; and J. E. Alexander, Recorder.

On the 3rd of May 1872, Sir Knight W. L. Pettit, Special Deputy of the Grand Commander of Virginia opened the Commandery and read a dispensation from John Dove, Grand Recorder, authorizing the new Commandery to assemble and work as a regular commander; to confer order; and appointing the selected Knights as officers of the commandery.

With Sir Knight Reed leading the Charge, Old Dominion conferred its first Order of the Red Cross on the 13th of November on 11 Sir Knights, who later participated in the Order of Malta on the 4th of December. The Fees for the Order in 1872 was \$40 which with inflation would equal \$920 in 2022. The Commandery received its charter on the 20th of December 1872 by Sir Knight W. B. J. Isaacs, Grand Commander, and one year later Old Dominion Commandery had knighted over thirty new Fraters.

Reed would serve Old Dominion as Eminent Commander for a collective nine years and become the 12th Grand Commander of Virginia in 1884, serving two terms in that capacity. Since then, ten other Sir Knights from Old Dominion have been honored as Grand Commander of Virginia:

Emanuel E. Downham (20th 1893-94) James E. Alexander (22nd 1900-01) James J. Green (44th 1917-1918)

Claude W. Fletcher (59th 1932-33) Richard S. Lockett (67th 1940-41) David E. Bayliss Jr. (76th 1949-40)

Walter H. Stanford (91st 1964-65) Robert D. McMarlin (104th 1977-78) Mark W. Underwood (136th 2009-10)

Old Dominion would continue to assist in the expansion of Chivalric Masonry in Virginia. Most notably in 1875 when the 12 founders of Fredericksburg Commandery no. 1 were knighted by the Commandery, and in 1949 when thirteen of Old Dominion's members founded Arlington Commandery No. 29.

In 2022, during the Bicentennial of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, Old Dominion No. 11 celebrated its Quincentennial

The Early History of Winchester Commandery No. 12

By Sir Knight Jason Curtis Trenary

Chartered July 5, 1824

The Masonic fraternity of Virginia, and particularly the Grand Commandery of Virginia, will learn with more than ordinary interest that an encampment of Knights Templar was regularly instituted in this Commonwealth at least ten years before the institution of the Grand Commandery at Richmond on Nov. 27, 1823. This fact, strange as it may appear, is an interesting piece of Masonic history worthy of more than passing notice. It is indeed a great portion of early Virginia Commandery history too.

To understand the story of Templary in Winchester, all should bear in mind that all the minutes and records of Winchester Commandery prior to the year 1900 have disappeared with time. The city was ravaged by the Civil War and the reconstruction period that followed in the second half of the 19th Century. Still, hard evidence remains that proves that there was an Encampment of Knights Templar at Winchester as early as 1813, which worked under the authority of the old Winchester Lodge No. 12 chartered to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Antient York Masons on October 1, 1768. It is also reasonably assumed that the various members of the early Commandery at Winchester had received their Templar Orders from Pennsylvania beginning around the year 1810. By the year 1812, a decision was reached to form the Winchester Encampment of Knights Templar independent of the symbolic lodge and it became a self-constituted and self-congregated group. The first men created Knights Templar at Winchester Encampment were Robert L. Bealy and Robert Maloney who were knighted on May 4, 1813. This establishment was four years before the organization of the General Grand Encampment of the United States and St. John's Rising Star Encampment in Richmond which were both founded in the year 1816. It was also 11 years prior to the formation of the Grand Commandery of Virginia. Within a decade of its formation, Winchester Encampment granted warrants to Warren Encampment in Harper's Ferry and Mt. Carmel Encampment in Warrenton.

Right Eminent Daniel Walker Thomas wrote Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, DeWitt Clinton, on June 17, 1824, and was sanctioned favorably, but he elected to maintain his own Grand Encampment status on November 27, 1824, after being solicited to request a new warrant or charter of constitution for a \$90.00 fee. The two bodies would eventually come to a mutual agreement and Daniel Walker Thomas was elected the first Grand Commander with numbering allotted to Winchester Encampment's first three Commanderies Winchester No. 1, Warren No. 2, and Mt. Carmel No. 3.

Grand Master DeWitt Clinton again wrote Daniel Walker Thomas in 1824 stating the following: ***"As you 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. If you have three Encampments, I think it will be advisable for you to form a State Grand Encampment, 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, until the General Grand Encampment shall at their next meeting take order on the subject. This measure will save expense and trouble and be in all respects proper."***

At a Special Assembly held in Winchester on March 23, 1825, a reorganization of the Grand Encampment of Virginia was formed. Daniel Walker Thomas continued as Grand Master and Dr. John Dove was made Deputy Grand Master. Thomas continued in that role until November of 1829 when he was succeeded by Charles Augusta Grice of Portsmouth Encampment No. 5. Rt. Eminent Grice was the first figure to be labeled the "Grand Commander" and the Annual Assembly was then removed to Petersburg, VA in 1830.

In the roughly 40 years following this period until the close of the Civil War, Winchester Encampment remained for the most part dormant. It was then revived in 1870 by local judge, John Bell Tilden Reed, who served as Commander. From that point in history on, a successful chain of custody and leadership extends to the present day.

On March 2, 1900, while workers were tearing down the old brick building known as the Market House on the public square in downtown Winchester to make way for the new Rouss City Hall, they discovered an old lead box in the northeast corner. As the Masons since Lord Fairfax's time had occupied an apartment on that site, it was turned over to them and opened. The old box was found to contain numerous Masonic emblems and documents, chief among which was the following, this being an exact copy as regards both punctuation and spelling:

A list of the Officers and Members of Winchester Grand Encampment of Sir Knight Templars. No. 1, Held in the Fields of Winchester, State of Virginia. Founded Anno Domini 1813, Anno Lucis 5813, and in the Era of Sir Knight Templars 831.

OFFICERS.

Most Excellent Sir Knight Daniel Walker Thomas, Esq., Grand Generalissimo.

Reverend Sir Knight George Reed, Excellent Grand Captain General.

Excellent Sir Knight Lemuel Bent, Esq., Grand Captain of the Host.

Excellent Sir Knight Peter Lauck, Grand Standard Bearer.

Excellent Sir Knight Conrad Kremer, Grand Marshal.

Excellent Sir Knight Samuel H. Lauck, Grand Registrar.

Excellent Sir Knight James Hill, Grand Treasurer.

Excellent Sir Knight James Foster, Grand Sword Bearer.

MEMBERS.

Sir Robert Maloney,

Sir Henry Severs,

Sir William P. Helm,

Sir Dolphin Drew, Esq.,

Sir William Herrin,

Sir Jacob R. Thomas,

Sir Presley Marmaduke,

Sir Isaac Hershell,

Sir Edward Jackson,

Sir John Wilson,

Sir Cyrus B. Baldwin,

Sir William Kelley,

Sir John A. Haupe,

Sir Warner Throckmorton, Esq.,

Reverend Sir Norman Nash,

Sir Abraham Lang,

Sir Joseph P. Thomas,

Sir William W. Blanchard,

Sir John Denton,

Sir Philip Klipstine,

Sir John R. Heyden,

Sir John Kern,

Sir James Keller.

Deposited, (together with a Triangle, Cross and Star-Jewels of our Order on the thirtieth day of the Seventh Month called July,) Anno Domini 1821; Done by Order of our Said Encampment at Winchester.

D. W. Thomas, M. E. G. G. L.

Attest: George Reed, E. G. C. G.

Samuel H. Lauck, E. G. R.; Lemuel Bent, E. G. C. H.

The object of this deposite is to shew to some future Age, that the science of Free Masonry is in a flourishing state, not being Trameled with Governmental fetters as in Ages past— It is also designed to shew that the Religion of Jesus Christ is flourishing and fast gaining ground on Heathenism which has for so many Cen turies Inveloped the world in gross darkness and Idolitrey. It is hoped when these lines shall again be Exhibited to the Human Eye; it will be high Meridian of Gospel day., when the Glorious Sun of Righteousness shines forth its refulgent beams to Earth's remotest bounds, and all the Inhabitants bow to the mild Ceptre of the all Glorious Emmanuel— That the Great God of the Universe may hasten the time is the prayer of Daniel Walker Thomas, Esq., Most Excellent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment of Virginia, held in the Fields of Winchester. Thirtieth day of the seventh Month (called July) Anno Domini 1821, Anno Lucis 5821, and in the Era of Sir Knight Templars 839. Amen.

The original copies of the old documents, now housed in the Winchester Masonic Museum within the Winchester Masonic Temple on Loudoun Street, give the Templars of the historic valley city of Winchester a more conspicuous place among the Sir Knights of Virginia. The record proves the existence of an organized body of Templars in Virginia ten years before the formation of the Grand Commandery and gives Winchester Commandery the honors of age in the grand jurisdiction.

It has been discovered that the Winchester Templars played an especially important part in the early history of the order of Christian Knighthood in Virginia. The Grand Commandery, as already stated, was organized on November 27, 1823, in Richmond, yet its first Grand Commander was the same Right Eminent Sir Daniel Walker Thomas, whose occupation was that of a furniture craftsman in Winchester. He was the first illustrious patron of our valiant and magnanimous order in Virginia. He continued in office from 1823 to 1830. Sir Knights Peter Lauck, Solomon Heister, and Peter Lauck, again, served as Grand Treasurer from 1823 to 1830, and Sir Knights Sutton I. Harris and Samuel H. Davis were Grand Recorders until 1830. After that date, until the early 20th Century, no Winchester citizens appear as officers of the Grand Commandery.

The copper seal of the "Encampment," which was thought at one time to have been lost to history, was found among the personal property of an old Templar, and had it not come under the observation of a member of the Order, this precious relic, together with one of the first Royal Arch Chapter, might have found its way to a waste heap in an indiscriminate junk yard.



In 2014, a collector at an estate sale in Middleway, West Virginia discovered an old scroll in an old-fashioned boxed lot auction along with machinery parts, tools, old jars, old dishware, clothing, and knives. Its dimensions were 24-1/2" Wide and 36-1/2" Long. The materials were a wood turned scroll with canvas painted cardinal red and illustrated with various furniture paints including gold leaf. The careful artistic work of a furniture maker. It is signed: ***D, W, Thomas, Winchester Dec. 4th, 1813***

The scroll can best be described as the earliest known Knights Templar tracing board in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It features a grey scull and crossed bones, bee hive, hour glass, scythe, Jacob's ladder, anchor, coffin, rooster, shamrock, cross, sword, star, chalice, pictorial, crown, delta with candles, candelabra, crossed sabers, and New Testament Bible opened to Matthew 1:23 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." The mottos inscribed are **Memento Mori** Latin for "Remember that you will have to die" and **Novum Testamentum Nostri Domini Et Salvatoris Jesu Christi** Latin for "New Testament of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

The scroll was purchased in May 2014 by Eminent Daniel James Carter, who was then the Junior Warden of Winchester Commandery No. 12, for \$750.00 from the collector who found it on May 29, 2014. Winchester Commandery No. 12 later reimbursed him for the cost and thanked him for working to save this important piece of history. The scroll is currently under secured supervision pending restoration by the Winchester Masonic Museum.



The recorded timeline and evolution of Winchester Commandery No. 12:

- 1812:** Formation of Winchester Encampment No. 1
- 1813-1830:** Active as Winchester Encampment No. 1
- 1830-1835:** No Records Survive
- 1835-1838:** There were no Annual Assemblies
- 1839:** Present at Annual Assembly as Winchester Encampment No. 1
- 1840-1844:** There were no Annual Assemblies
- 1845-1860:** Dormant
- 1861-1870:** Present at Annual Assembly as Winchester Commandery No. 11
- 1871- Present:** Present at Annual Assembly as Winchester Commandery No. 12

Sir Knights of Winchester Commandery No. 12 who have served with distinction:

Grand Commander of Virginia:

Daniel Walker Thomas (1823 – 1830)
Frank Talbot McFaden (1907-1908)
Alexander Mantz Baker (1912-1913)
Charles Vernon Eddy (1925-1925)
Robert Glass Smallwood (1990-1991)
Jeffrey Glen Burcham (2008-2009)
Joel David Ratliff, Sr. (2018-2019)

Grand Commander of Washington, District of Columbia:

James Winfield Golladay, Jr. (2011-2012)

Grand Treasurer:

Peter Lauck (1823-1824, 1825-1830)
Solomon Heister (1824-1825)

Grand Recorder:

Sutton I. Harris (1823-1825)
Samuel H. Davis (1825-1830)
Charles Vernon Eddy (1929-1959)

Department Commander, Mid-Atlantic Department, Grand Encampment of KT USA:

Jeffrey Glen Burcham (2012-2015)
James Winfield Golladay, Jr. (2015-2018)

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A Brief History of Johnson Commandery No. 14

By all the Sir Knights Robert Artur Bruce, Recorder

Chartered December 15, 1864

Lafayette Johnson (1813-1904)

Born in Lynchburg, Virginia and came to Bristol with the railroad. He was 40 years old when he came to Bristol. He was in the packaging business with the railroad. Soon after arriving in Bristol, he quit the railroad. Bristol's population at that time was 800 people. He built a house in Bristol, Tennessee, then started a real estate business and mercantile business. He had no children. Lafayette Johnson established Shelby Lodge No. 162. H. M. Ledbetter was the first Worshipful Master for 13 years, then Johnson was Worshipful Master for 10 years, 1858-1865, 1869 and 1885.

Winter of 1865, near the end of the Civil War. Northern soldiers came to Bristol and burned Johnson's home. The Yankees arrested him and others in Bristol and marched them to Jonesboro, Tennessee for a trial, where they were found guilty of treason and marched to Knoxville, Tennessee. The prisoners were marched barefoot and without a hat.

April 9, 1865, the Civil War ended. Johnson was released from prison, and he walked back to Bristol. When he arrived home, his first question was, "Where was his wife?" He started rebuilding his life, home, and business.

He went to Tennessee and started King Lodge #461. He then established Shelby Lodge No. 162 in 1857, E. H. Gill Royal Arch Chapter #50 in 1860, and Johnson Commandery No. 14 in 1874. Lafayette Johnson also established Saint Omar Commandery # 19 and a Consistory in Bristol, Tennessee, however the Consistory did not last long. Lafayette Johnson was a 33 degree Scottish Rite Mason.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia asked him to be a Grand Lecturer, which he accepted. He traveled by horseback into West Virginia, Cumberland Gap, Blacksburg, Bluefield, Grundy, Nicholasville, St. Paul, Norton, Appalachia, Jonesville, Clinchport, Mendota, and Bristol. He did this for ten years. He conferred over 3,000 masonic degrees. He helped build churches and preached some as well. One of his famous quotes was, "It has been my purpose to give out the True Light of Masonry wherever I go." His tombstone reads, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." He was 91 when he died.

A Short of Bayard Commandery No. 15
By Sir Knight Don F. Richardson, PDDGC, Recorder

Chartered November 13, 1889

Information for this was obtained from the minute books of Bayard Commandery and the 1990 Hundred Year Anniversary book that was prepared by Commander W.W. Longworth

Bayard Commandery was first conceived on February 2, 1889, in the office of Winch and McCahan, on Saturday evening, that office being located in the old Masonic Lodge building at number 6 Campbell Ave, S.W. Winch and McCahan were realtors and land developers in Roanoke at the time.

Sir Knight William H. Pleasants, who later became Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, was the Master of Ceremonies. The purpose of the meeting was to settle on a name for the Commandery and to name the first officers.

The name "**BAYARD**" was suggested because Seigneur Pierre Terrail DeBayard was a French military hero and also a Knight Templar. DeBayard was born in 1473 and died in 1524. All present liked the name, and it was so ordered.

The following officers were named:

W.F. Winch	-	Commander
Wm. H. Pleasants	-	Generalissimo
H.N. Claxton	-	Captain General
H. Groves	-	Senior Warden
J.R. Hanthorne	-	Junior Warden
John Chaimers	-	Prelate
R.S. Roberts	-	Recorder
A. McD. Smith	-	Standard Bearer
John G. Osborne	-	Sword Bearer
F.L. Wood	-	Warder
W.H. Walthall	-	Tiler

It was not until October 16, 1891, that William F. Winch is recorded as the first Treasurer. The above officers were agreed upon and later appointed by the Grand Commander.

Sir Knight Winch made a motion that each of the Charter members pay a fee of \$5.00, the same to apply on dues. After the organization of said Commandery, the motion was carried out and thus ended the first recorded meeting of Bayard Commandery.

February 16, 1889. It was ordered that all the members procure uniforms so the Commandery could properly confer the orders. The cost of \$80.00 would cover a complete uniform. Much has changed since then.

March 22, 1889. Recorded the first death in Bayard Commandery, that of Sir Knight D.F. Houston. A page was reserved in the Minute Book as a memorial to him. The motion of Sir Knight Claxton that the

Commandery meet on the second Saturday of each month was carried. Receipts of this meeting were \$85.00. Eleven candidates were also elected to receive the orders.

September 20, 1889. We learned that the minutes of the last Stated and Called Meetings were not read because they had not been properly written. (All minutes were hand written and easily read). We also learned that the rent to Lakeland Lodge would be \$42.00 for each quarter. The notification to the members would be by a penny postcard (Today's postcard stamp is \$0.35).

December 20, 1889 (*Commandery Constituted*). The minutes show the first recorded meeting of Bayard Commandery No.15. The meeting was opened by Sir Knight Winch and Right Excellent J.S. Beck. Right Excellent R.T. Craighill constituted the Commandery as "**Bayard No. 15**, installed the following officers, and wished them well for the coming year:

W.F. Winch	-	Commander
Wm. F. Pleasants	-	Generalissimo
H.N. Claxton	-	Captain General
H. Groves	-	Senior Warden
J.R. Hanthorne	-	Junior Warden
John Chalmers	-	Prelate
A.L. Treamin	-	Treasurer
R.S. Roberts	-	Recorder
A. McD. Smith	-	Standard Bearer
John G. Osborne	-	Sword Bearer
F.L. Wood	-	Warder
W.H. Walthall	-	Tiler

The bill for the refreshments for 48 members present at this meeting was \$11.90 – a lot of money at that time.

The First Knight Templar Funeral Service Recorded. On October 10, 1889, at 8:00 A.M., the Commandery met in the Asylum in full dress uniform by order of the Commander to pay the last tribute of respect to their late Frater Sir Knight and first Standard Bearer A. McD. Smith.

In a body they went to the home of the deceased and marched in procession carrying they body to the Episcopal Church where services were held; then, to the cemetery where the body was interred in accordance with the Knight Templar services, after which they marched back to the Asylum and were dismissed.

Things are going up. On March 20, 1891, the By-Laws were changed from \$20.00 for the Orders of Knighthood to \$50.00.

April 15, 1897. The first typed and signed copy of an audit report. By this time Bayard Commandery was in charge of the Temple Corporation of Lakeland Lodge No. 190, where you read in Lakeland minutes paying rent to Bayard No. 15:

To the Offices and Members of
 Bayard Commandery No 15 K. T.
 Roanoke, VA

Below please find statement of Receipts and Disbursements
 of our Commandery for the year commencing June 1, 1896
 and ending June 1, 1897

Balance of Cash on hand June 1, 1896		\$	77.00
Collection of Fees	\$	10.00	
Collection of Dues		322.39	
Collection of Rents		<u>481.00</u>	
Total collections for the year			<u>813.39</u>
Total collections and cash on hand for the year			\$ 890.39

Disbursements

Salary of Recorder		\$	75.00
Postage, Expressage and Telegrams			15.41
Salary of Sentinel			60.00
Electric Light			126.00
Gas			17.73
Repairing Curtains			1.00
Rent of Hall			300.00
Kitchen ware			1.23
Stationery			16.75
Grand Lodge Tax			79.00
Grand Lodge Repetitive expenses			6.00
Treasurer's salary			<u>6.00</u>
Total disbursements for the year			<u>704.12</u>
Balance of Cash in Treasurer's hands June 1st 1897		\$	186.27

From February 2, 1889, to April 6, 1890 (Meetings Cancelled). Six meetings were cancelled during these years because of lack of a quorum.

Past Grand Commanders of Bayard # 15:

WM. C. Stevenson	1908-1909
Robert Frances Taylor	1914-1945
William M. Oakey	1920-21
Frank G. Payne	1934-35
Fritz Allen Brown	1954-55
Robert Lee Price, Jr.	2002-2003

Why Can't Commanderies Do This Today? In the early years, Bayard Commandery would visit with DeMolay Commandery No. 4 in Lynchburg, Virginia, and Dove Commandery No. 7 in Danville, Virginia, on weekends. They would travel by train, leaving Roanoke on Friday, and returning to Roanoke on Sunday evening. While at either place the Sir Knights would witness the Order of the Temple conferred while their ladies were entertained by the wives of the officers of the other Commandery, after which they would be entertained by a gala dinner in full dress uniform, ladies in long gowns. On Saturday, and after church on Sunday, they would be taken on a tour of some interesting places in the city and return home on Sunday night.

Knights Templar Gather (Annual Inspection of Lynchburg, Danville and Roanoke Commanderies). Roanokers yesterday were treated to a somewhat unusual scene when three splendidly uniformed commanderies of Knights Templar marched through their principal streets. The big conclave of Knights Templar of yesterday, a joint inspection of three commanderies, Roanoke, Lynchburg and Danville, is held annually, and the report on the same forwarded to the Grand Commandery at Richmond, whose session is held in November. The visiting commanderies were DeMolay Commandery, of Lynchburg, and Dove Commandery, of Danville. At 2:30 O'clock in the afternoon a committee consisting of Mr. E.B. Jacobs, Dr. F. Wood and Jno. M. Snyder of Bayard Commandery, of Roanoke, met the visiting Commanderies at the train which had arrived from Lynchburg. Before the visitors had left the platform Bayard Commandery, in force, headed by Eminent Commander Taylor, appeared and departing from the station, a march was made through the principal streets of the city. Admiring crowds thronged the thoroughfares and many pleasing comments were uttered as the attractively uniformed Knights Templar swung by. After a parade of the leading streets, the route led back to the Hotel Roanoke grounds where a general inspection of the several commanderies took place. The inspectors who reviewed the evolutions of the men were E.D. Hotchkiss, P.C., of Richmond No.13 for DeMolay Commandery No. 4 of Lynchburg; I.H. Adams, Jr., P.C. of DeMolay Commandery No. 4 for Dove Commandery No. 7 of Danville; J.B. Blank, P.G.C. of the State Commandery, inspected Bayard Commandery No. 15 of Roanoke.

The combined commanderies made a splendid showing and went through the various evolutions and drills with much grace and smoothness. All were complimented on the conclusion of the drill, which lasted over half an hour by the inspectors.

The various officers' presents were as follows: James G. Blank, P.G.C.; E.H. Miller, P.G.C.; Dr. J. W. Bryant, G.J.W.; W.C. Stephenson, Grand Warder.

The past commanders present were as follows: Rev. J. Cleveland Hall, P.C. of Dove Commandery, Danville; E.G. Moseley, H.M. Martin and S.W. Martin, of Dove Commandery; W.O. Johnson, I.H. Adams, Jr., W.M. Oakey, J.R. Kyle, P.C.'s of DeMolay No. 4 of Lynchburg; W.F. Winch, Joh M. Snyder, A.B. Hammond, Dr. F.L. Wood and E.B. Jacobs, P.C.'s of Bayard Commandery No. 15, of Roanoke.

The Commanderies were in charge during the day of the following commanders, J.B. Oglesby, Eminent Commander of DeMolay No. 4, of Lynchburg; A.W. Taylor, Eminent Commander of Dove No. 7, of Danville, and Frank Taylor, Eminent Commander, of Bayard No. 15, of Roanoke.

Following the inspection, the visiting commanderies, together with the local knights who had gone in the meantime to the lodge rooms, took trolley cars for a ride around the city. During the course of the trip the Elks' beautiful home on Jefferson Street was inspected, and courteous hosts provided refreshment for the Templars. Supper at the Ponce De Leon Hotel followed, the guests all showing excellent appetites for the evening meal.

At 8:30 o'clock all gathered at the lodge rooms, corner of Campbell and Jefferson, where a most enjoyable "smoker" was participated in by all. Here, too, the social side of the conclave came uppermost, and songs and speeches of a jovial order prevailed. The Roanoke Machine Works Band, which had rendered such pleasing music on the march through the city's streets, were present at the smoker and gave many fine selections. A happy time was spent by all until about 11 o'clock, when adjournment was taken to the Hotel Roanoke, where a banquet was served by Bayard Commandery to the visiting Brethren.

At the Hotel Roanoke the banquet proved a most appetizing and delightful one. Speeches were made by H.M. Bogen, Grand Commander; Sir Knight King, of Lynchburg; Sir Knight Brabe, of Danville; Sir Knight Jennings and Sir Knight Moseley, of Danville.

Captain R.F. Taylor acted as toastmaster during the festivities. The speeches were all short, owing to the lateness of the hour, and the fact that many of the visiting Brethren wished to catch departing trains.

All told there were about 175 men in line during the parade from the various commanderies. These affairs by the three Commandries continued until the very early forties when, perhaps, the war years had something to do with these great events being concluded. What a shame!

October 19,1897. First Recorded Request for Demit by Sir Knight John G. Osborne.

Corner Stone Laid. On July 4, 1901, Bayard Commandery No. 15 assisted in the laying of the cornerstone of the Administrative Building of the Baptist Orphanage in Salem, Virginia.

Room Available at the Old Roanoke Hospital. In the early years, and up until the forties, Bayard Commandery No. 15, Murray Royal Arch Chapter No. 22 and Lakeland Lodge No. 190 kept a room at the hospital on a daily basis for those members and their families who could not afford the fare.

In conclusion

Bayard Commandery, at one time, reached a membership of about 800 strong. In 1990 the membership had declined to about 300 and today the membership is approximately 90.

In 1990 Commander W.W. Longworth stated "It is the belief of this Commander that if York Rite Masonry was promoted in the public eye, and to every Master Mason, the Christian Order of Freemasonry would

rise and out rank any other order. This could be done by re-enacting the joint inspections of yesteryear and the special excursions to other Commanderies, accompanied by our ladies, with parades through towns and gala dinners and tours of special places in full uniform. Something like this would surely catch the eye of the public and make someone interested in what we are doing.

Our contributions to the Holy Land Tour and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation should be reported in the newspaper, instead to only our members. We cannot expect to grow if no one knows we exist.”

Things have not changed much since 1889 except our name is not well known in the community and membership has declined except the minutes are now typed rather than handwritten. However what Commander Longworth stated in 1990 I believe is still true today.

Brief History of Grice Commandery No. 16

Compiled by Sir Knight Ariel Ilano Alcantara, Commander 2021

Chartered April 20, 1866



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*note from Norfolk Virginians-H. W. Burton 1877.

Grice Commandery No.16 was chartered December 13, 1866, upon petition of John G, Smith, E.C.; John R. Todd, Generalissimo; and K. Cook, Captain General. E.H. Gill was the Grand Commander of the State then, and William B. Isaacs, Grand Generalissimo.

Present Officers- John L. Roper, Eminent Commander; H.C. Whitehead -Generalissimo; A.C. Gale-Captain General; Fred Greenwood-Prelate; Henry Jordan -Treasurer; W.R. Russell - Recorder; John Walters- Senior Warden; E. E. Guy - Junior Warden; R.A. Dobie, Sword Bearer; M.T. Cooke, Standard Bearer; D. Husted, Warden; James E. Wright , Captain of the Guard; Number of members= 75.
.....

Early Beginnings.... printed for the 100th Anniversary, Saturday, October 15, 1966. About one year after General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia, concluding the Civil War, twelve Sir Knights met in the office of Sir Knight E. C. Robinson on April 25, 1866, for the purpose of forming Grice Commandery No. 16. Among the business transacted at this gathering was establishing of the dues of twenty-five cents a month and fee of forty dollars of which five dollars was to accompany each petition presented for membership.

The first assembly of Grice Commandery No. 16 was held in the Masonic Hall, May 2, 1966, at 5 o'clock P.M. for action on petitions and conferring the Orders. There were present eleven Officers, one member along with seventeen visitors from Portsmouth Commandery No. 5. The Charter was presented on December 27, 1866, and the Officers were installed by Past Eminent Grand Commander Charles A. Grice, after whom the Commandery was named. From the records or minutes of Grice Commandery No. 16 we find that during the early years of its organization, this group of Templars was active in many of the Masonic endeavors as well as other community projects. They assisted in the cornerstone laying on the Masonic Temple on Freemason Street on April 18, 1871, and its dedication on November 17, 1875. This Temple was an imposing building, the largest in our city at that time, and was the center of social and cultural activities. On June 10, 1873, the Grand Commandery of Virginia met in Norfolk for the first time and also during 1873 Grice Commandery accepted an invitation to visit Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to assist in the cornerstone laying ceremonies of the Masonic Temple in that city.

Eminent Commander John L. Roper announced that Grice Commandery would participate in the cornerstone laying exercises on March 22, 1874, of the Masonic Temple in New York City.

A journey on October 18, 1881, was made to Yorktown, Virginia, to act as an escort to the Grand Lodge of Virginia AF&AM in the cornerstone laying ceremonies for a Monument to be erected by the United States of America, commemorating the surrender of Lord Cornwallis to Allied Armies of France and the United States. Another interesting event was the attendance of Grice Commandery No. 16 on August 24, 1895, upon the 26th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment in Boston, Massachusetts. There were thirty-three Sir Knights and twenty guests in the party.

Grice Commandery was on the march during the early years of its being and leaves much for the Sir Knights of today to accomplish to keep the Torch of Templar Masonry on the go, Educational Loan Fund and the Eye Foundation, preventing blindness and seeking to help our youth in securing a better education.

Grice Commandery Officers: 100th Anniversary--1966

Willis N. Payne-----Commander
Rudolf A. Diaz-----Generalissimo
Robert C. Sehl-----Captain General
C. Lydon Harrell Jr.-----Senior Warden
Oren D. Gardner-----Junior Warden
James T. Harris-----Prelate
Herbert A. Fisher-----Asso. Prelate
Charles L. Harrison-----Treasurer
Leslie N. Sawyer-----Recorder
Frederick M. Sohn-----Standard Bearer
Vernon N. Price-----Sword Bearer
Roy T. Gregory-----Warder
Frederick J. Schmoele-----3rd Guard
Stewart A. Deem-----2nd Guard
George P. Hamblin-----1st Guard
H. Clay Roper-----Sentinel

GRICE COMMANDERY NO.16 OFFICERS 2021

Ariel Ilano Alcantara-----Commander
David Myring Strohsahl-----Generalissimo
David Ray Conner-----Captain General
Richard Scott Collins-----Senior Warden
Larry Dale Bateman-----Junior Warden
Felix Elsworth Stephens Jr.-----Treasurer
Frederick Russell Dixon Sr. -----Recorder
Manuel Faliminiano Elefane-----Prelate
Sargent Berdos Preston-----Standard Bearer
Stephen Miranda Suratos-----Sword Bearer
Pablito Atanacio Pakingan-----Warder
Michael Joseph Matrosky-----3rd Guard
Emmanuel Jocson Gamboa-----2nd Guard
Anthony Vitug-----1st Guard

A Brief History of Hampton Commandery No. 17

By Sir Knight Steve Andrew Urban, Commander Hampton Commandery No. 17
And Sir Knight Shelby Chandler, PC, Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1

Chartered July 12, 1888

Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, originally known as Portsmouth Encampment No. 5, has a rich history dating back to January 16, 1827, when it was first instituted. Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 also provides the history for both Grice Commandery No. 16 and Hampton Commandery No. 17. Portsmouth Commandery is known as the “God-Mother” for Grice and Hampton Commanderies.

On February 4, 1885, the Grand Commander of Virginia, Right Eminent Francis A. Reed, authorized a dispensation to Hampton Commandery, in the county of Elizabeth City. He also issued Dispensation to Richmond Commandery No. 2 and Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, to confer the orders of Knighthood without awaiting the usual time of probation.

During the 1886 Annual Convocation, it was resolved that the Dispensation would be continued in full force as the processing of documents was not completed. The 1888 Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Virginia reports the following information on Hampton Commandery:

Hampton Commandery No. 17, Old Point, Va.

At the last Assembly of this Grand Commandery, the following was adopted:

***Whereas* A Dispensation was issued for the establishment of a Commandery at Hampton in February 1885; -**

***And, whereas,* The Dispensation, with the necessary documents, has not been returned; therefore-**

***Resolved,* That on the return of the said Dispensation and the necessary papers, that the Right Eminent Grand Commander be authorized to continue the said Dispensation, or to issue a Charter, as he may deem proper or expedient.**

On July 10, 1888, just before the Grand Convocation, the Grand Commander received the missing documents and dispensation from Sir Knight Joseph G. Fulton, thus removing any further delays in the charting and constituting this new Commandery. Hampton Commandery No. 17 is chartered two days later, on July 12, 1888.

On July 19, 1888, Right Eminent James B. Blanks, Grand Commander of Virginia, arrives at the Hampton asylum, performs the constitution ceremony for Hampton Commandery No. 17, then proceeds to confer the Orders of Knighthood on 12 new candidates. Sir Knights Fulton, Crowell and Crouch remain in their officer positions.

Hampton Commandery No. 17 was thus founded in 1888 and originally met at a bank building on Queen Street in downtown Hampton. The first officers of Hampton Commandery (under dispensation) to receive

with Sir Knight William B. Crowell as Generalissimo (designate) and Sir Knight William B. Crouch as Captain General (designate), with a complement of 22 members in their first year.

On July 28, 1889, there appears to have been a Knight Templar Drill Team competition in Wheeling, West Virginia, where Hampton Commandery, No. 17 has arrived with a count of 25 Sir Knights for this event to compete against other Commanderies. The Sir Knights of Hampton stayed together in one house to which they room & board.

In their Commandery Newsletter from October 20, 1927, the fraters of Hampton report that the Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Virginia will take place in the city of Norfolk and that it was necessary to turn out numbers and support to show well for Sir Knight A. L. Evans, as the most likely new Grand Commander and member of Hampton Commandery.

Over the years, Hampton Commandery has met in downtown Hampton, downtown Newport News, at Transportation Lodge, Bremond Lodge, the Newport News Scottish Rite Masonic Center and now at Poquoson Lodge. I think it would be fair to say that the Sir Knights of Hampton Commandery have been on the move for many years. 134 years after the start of Hampton Commandery No. 17 in downtown Hampton, we are still here today and are keeping the legacy and history of Hampton Commandery alive.

The following members of Hampton Commandery No. 17 have served as Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Virginia:

Sir Knight Philip T. Woodfin (1898-1899)

Sir Knight Alfred Lancaster Evans (1927-1928)

Sir Knight Alexander MacPhee Conner (1947-1948)

Sir Knight Frank Allerton (1956-1957)

Sir Knight Russell Beale Frost (1973-1974)

Sir Knight J. Linwood Holloway (1979-1980)

Sir Knight Peter Reginald Spring (2021-2022)

Works Cited

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Brief Historical Record of Luray Commandery No. 19

By Sir Knight Jimmy D. Davis, KTCH

Chartered October 30, 1890

On 19 March 1890, Sir Knight H. V. Hudson was granted a dispensation to open a regular Commandery at Luray in Page County by Grand Commander, Sir Knight Isaac S. Tower. On April 12, 1890, the first officers were elected and worked under dispensation until the Commandery was regularly constituted by the Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Knight J. L. Avis under the orders of Right Eminent Grand Commander Isaac Stoddard Tower. The following year Luray Commandery paraded in Luray in full dress uniform prior to a masonic picnic and address.

Very few records exist for Luray Commandery from its inception to 1912. In the only existing membership record, which was retired in 2012, Sir Knight H. V. Hudson is shown as being elected the very first Eminent Commander of Luray Commandery in 1890. He served in that position for two years. In 1892, Sir Knight E. J. Armstrong, Jr., was elected Commander. Sir Knight Armstrong served in the Confederate Army as a 1st lieutenant in the 31st Virginia Volunteers, Company A. He was wounded on 30 May 1864. After the war, he attended the University of Virginia in sessions 42-44 (1865-1868), later practicing as a lawyer in Luray, Page County, Virginia.

The first minutes available are from November 8, 1912, with Sir Knight D. P. Lillard presiding as the Eminent Commander. There were fifty-six members on the rolls and L. Zirkle, previous Commander for 1896, 1902-1904, was the Recorder. During that Conclave they acted on two petitions for the Orders and one bill. The bill was for a 10-gallon tub and two ounces of tea. The Christmas observance that year was conducted in the Asylum.

On March 14, 1913, Sir Knight D.P. Lillard, Eminent Commander, called for a resolution to require those absent from the stated Conclaves to submit their excuses to the Recorder to be recorded in the minutes. At the following Conclave the resolution was rejected. There were great floods in the Ohio and Mississippi Valley that year, so the Commandery soon turned its attention to providing aid. The Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Sir Knight William B. Melish, GM KTEH requested all financial aid be sent to him in Cincinnati, Ohio. Complimentary letters were received from the Grand Master and Grand Commander for conducting Christmas services this year.

In 1915, under the command of Sir Knight H.J. Studebaker it was claimed that Winchester Commandery had conferred orders on 6 or more Royal Arch masons who lived within the jurisdiction of Luray Commandery. The Recorder was ordered on August 13, to write Winchester Commandery as ask why they were conferred without first communicating with Luray. A response was received and read on November 12, 1915, asking Luray to "leave the matter open a little while longer when they can write something more definitely." At the Conclave held January 14, 1916, the Recorder was again asked to write Winchester for a reply on the matter. In February of that year, after receiving an insufficient response, Luray appointed a committee of one, the Eminent Commander, to visit Winchester and resolve the matter. After that visit, Luray received a letter from the Winchester Recorder which mentioned that the Companions in question were from Woodstock, and that Winchester had jurisdiction over the matter. They submitted as evidence the number of Winchester members that lived in Woodstock from as far back as 1904. Winchester, after measuring the distance, discovered their error and responded in a letter to Luray on 15 April 1916. Luray crafted a letter, which is included in the minutes of May 12, 1916, acknowledging the error and volunteering to receive any portion of the petition fees Winchester saw fit

to provide-there is no indication of funds ever being provided! Several more requests were made that year by Winchester Commandery for Luray Commandery to waive jurisdiction on petitioners which were granted.

From 1917-1922 the minutes of the Commandery were routine. It is interesting to note that during this time, the Commandery contracted with Luther masonic supplies to outfit the Commandery with uniforms for under \$70.00 dollars. Sir Knights that could not afford their uniforms, paid the Commandery monthly until their bill was paid.

There are no minutes in the archives for the period 1923-1948. The minutes for the February 11, 1949, Conclave show the first short form opening of a Conclave. On Sunday, May 21, 1950, Luray Commandery joined with Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 for Ascension Services. Fifty Sir Knights met at the Elkton High School and marched to the Elkton Presbyterian Church for a service presented by Rev. Robert S. Miles at 8:00am. The service cost of \$40.00 was split between the two Commanderies.

At the July 14, 1950, Conclave, a committee was formed to assemble the uniforms of deceased members, and to purchase the same from the families. The uniforms were then made available to new members. The first Knight Templar School of Instruction was held on July 10th of that year with great success. In October of the same year, the General Order from the Grand Commandery establishing a "Regulation Uniform" was read and ordered to be made a part of the minutes. That order is not attached to the minutes of the evening but are found in the June 8, 1951, minutes. Audits of the Treasurer and Recorder in 1951 still show members of the Commandery making uniform payments to the Commandery.

The first recorded By Laws of Luray Commandery are found in the minutes of November 9, 1951. The Right Eminent Grand Commander approving the By Laws was Sir Knight Dan P. Sigoourney. Dues were \$2.00 per year. Fees for the Orders were \$75.00, and \$25.00 had to accompany the petition. The balance had to be paid prior to receiving the Order of the Red Cross. Possession of a uniform was optional. Once a member accepted election to any office, he agreed to provide himself with a Full-Dress uniform.

In a letter to the membership dated December 9, 1955, the Recorder explained the formation of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Knights Templar Room in the George Washington National Memorial Building. Dues were raised from \$3.00 to \$5.00 that year to pay for the assessment.

By 1957, Luray Commandery had increased its membership to 105 Sir Knights. Luray Commandery held its first Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 17, 1960, at the Luray Carillion Bell Tower. The Bell tower is officially known as the Belle Brown Northcott memorial and was erected in 1937 in honor of Col. T.C. Northcott's wife. In the minutes of May 13, 1960, the Easter Sunrise Service Committee reported that 350-400 people attended the Easter Sunrise Service. Attendance included one hundred Masons, sixty of which were Knights Templar with twenty-six in uniform. The event was attended by PGC Dr. J. Lewis Gibbs, who gave the address. The Luray High School band also performed, and the benediction was presented by Rev. J.W. Henderson.

On December 19, 1962, a special Conclave was held by Luray No. 19 for the purpose of conferring the orders. The location was moved to the Luray Elementary School due to the expected large attendance. Twelve Commanderies were represented, and the orders were conferred on thirty-two candidates with over 125 Sir Knights present.

On April 9, 1971, we find a documented discussion of revising the Commandery's By-Laws in the minutes. The discussion the following month indicated that the By-Laws had not been revised since 1928. At the Conclave on August 13, 1971, a resolution was passed changing two articles: one, the dues amount and two, the petition fees. The By Law changes were unanimously approved by the membership on September 10th of that year. In 1982, Sir Knight Carlos Good read excerpts from the 1928 By Laws in open Conclave. A discussion then took place on whether a By-Law revision existed. Additionally, that year the officers of Luray were discussing the merits of physically and financially attending the three-day Knights Templar School being held in Farmville.

On August 12, 1983, a committee of five Sir Knights was appointed to review the By Laws. That committee reported back at the stated Conclave in December. The By Laws were read, discussed, and ordered to lay over for one month. The January Conclave was cancelled due to weather and the By Laws were again taken up in February of 1984 with unanimous approval. The Right Eminent Grand Commander that year, Sir Knight George B. Yeates, approved the By Laws on March 15, 1984. Later that year Luray Commandery elected its first documented Trustees for the organization: Sir Knight Clyde E. Dofflemyer (3-year Trustee), Sir Knight Carlos Good (2-year Trustee) and Sir Knight Leighton C. Harlin (1 year Trustee). No record could be found indicating a change of responsibility or dissolution of the Trustees.

In January 1984, the Recorder documented the first Pledge of Allegiance recited by the Commandery. In March 1990, Luray Commandery began the process of again revising its By Laws. This time the focus was to change the meeting date from the second Friday to the First Tuesday as it is now. No reasoning was provided for the change. The resolution was approved and sent to the District Deputy for his recommendation. In May, the audit committee recommended that the Commandery amend the By Laws to increase the dues which was taken up in June. This motion was ordered to lay over until July. This month the Recorder was told to send out notice of the By Law changes and on August 7, 1990, the monthly Conclave meeting date was changed to the first Tuesday.

On Sunday, February 7, 1994, the Grand Commander, RE Commodore Dewey Elliot, Jr. along with two past Grand Commanders, the Grand Standard Bearer, and their wives, joined thirty members of Luray Commandery at Mt. Zion Church in Woodstock, Virginia. The purpose of the church attendance was to present the Rev. and Brother John B. Cooper, D. D., Pastor of Mt. Zion Church his credentials for the Holy Land Pilgrimage beginning on February 21st, 1994.

On November 3rd, 1998, Luray passed a motion to receive the funds from Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 after review of Harrisonburg's audit report. With its closing, the property of Harrisonburg Commandery was to remain in Rockingham Union Lodge. The records of the audit were to be made in a matter of the minutes, but no record was found. In Luray's records of February there was mention of a letter from the Grand Encampment concerning the merger of Harrisonburg with Luray Commandery. On April 6, 1999, Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 transferred its funds of \$1589.52 to Luray thus rendering the Commandery dark. In June the same year, Luray set aside \$832.50 from the Harrisonburg funds collected should Commandery No. 10 reorganize within the year. The funds were to be placed into a separate account. Due to potential bank penalties, the transfer never occurred.

No minutes could be found for the period 2000-2008. Perhaps this was due to Luray's inability to get membership to attend the meetings. The first minutes in 2009 show that only 8 Sir Knights were in attendance. A few Sir Knights began affiliating from Winchester Commandery No. 12 to keep Luray open. The Commandery was dark for several months during the 2010 Chivalric year.

In 2011, Luray's Standard Bearer, Sir Knight Joel D. Ratliff, Sr. was elected as the Grand Standard Bearer. It was noted in the June 7th meeting that Harrisonburg Commandery was meeting under dispensation. In 2013 Luray was struggling with its finances and Lafayette 137 granted it relief from its rent responsibilities. In 2014, the Commandery began recovering and reordered its officer jewels. Due to the monumental efforts of Sir Knight Raymond Mickey Moats as the Recorder and others, the efforts of the Sir Knights from Winchester began to pay off. Though many of the officer positions continued to be filled pro-temp, consistent minutes were again recorded. The By-Laws were updated to cover the Knighting costs that had been recently increased by the Grand Commandery. Meals provided before the Conclave by Ms. Brenda Mays provided significant funds to the Holy Land Pilgrimage fund that year.

In 2015 Sir Knight Raymond D. Steele was elected to honorary membership in Luray Commandery. Lady Sandy Ratliff was presented the Companion of the Temple award and the Eminent Commander, Sir Knight Dennis M. Haas earned his Silver Cordon for being the first line signer on six petitions. In 2017 Luray Commandery replaced its aging banner, rebuilt the triangular table for the Order of the Temple, and replaced the libation candelabras and goblets. In 2018, the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Joel D. Ratliff, Sr. presented Sir Knight Michael Goodwin his 50-year Veterans pin and certificate. Sir Knight Dennis M. Haas was elected to the Grand Line in 2018.

With attendance declining in 2019, Luray Commandery revised its By-Laws to move its Asylum from Luray to Front Royal. The necessary coordination was conducted with Winchester Commandery which gave its approval for the move. Luray added five new Sir Knights soon after and then the COVID pandemic struck. Early in 2020 Luray Commandery began meeting via Zoom. With the quorum reduced the previous year to five by the Grand Encampment, business meetings were conducted to pay the bills. The Commandery then entertained changing its name, but it was determined to be too soon and was dropped. Online meetings continued but changed platforms to WEBEX[®]. The Grand Commander's official visit and the Grand Conclave that year were conducted via Zoom.

Past Grand Commanders

Joel David Ratliff, Jr. 2018-2019

Knights Templar Cross of Honor

Leo H. Hoak	1973
Jimmy D. Davis	2019

A Brief History of Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20
By Sir Knight Robert D. Maxwell, PC/PDDGC/Eminent Recorder

Chartered October 13, 1892

This is a brief historical overview of Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 from the Commandery's Proceedings Book; October 13, 1892 – September 21, 2022, Tazewell, Virginia

In 1891, Dr. James O'Keeffe and ten other Sir Knights asked for and received a dispensation for the establishment of a Commandery. It was granted by the then Grand Commander James Avis. This was followed by the issue of a charter which was signed by Grand Commander Right Eminent Fred Greenwood; It was his first official act as Grand Commander. Clinch Valley Commandery was made official on October 13, 1892. Sir Knight W. P. Francis, Eminent Commander of Lynn Commandery No. 9 from Mario, Virginia, served as proxy for the Grand Commander to constitute, elect, and install the officers.

Sir Knight James O'Keeffe was installed as Commander and Sir Knight Hugh W. O'Keeffe was installed as Recorder.

Sir Knights Ralph Leard and John W. Spotts are the first two Sir Knights suspended for nonpayment of dues in 1893.

The first dispensation was requested and granted on October 21, 1895, allowing the Sir Knights to parade in public and act as escort for Tazewell Lodge No.62 at the unveiling of a monument to a Brother Mason.

Sir Knight James O'Keeffe, Past Commander, was the first Companion from Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 appointed to the Grand Line as Grand Warden in 1899; he was also appointed Grand Inspector. Sir Knight Dr. James O'Keeffe suddenly died in the performance of duty while in Pulaski, Virginia, in 1903; he was serving as Grand Senior Warden.

In 1901, Sir Knight President William McKinley was assassinated, enclosed is a copy of the letter received marking that occasion.

Right Eminent Grand Commander B. F. Buchanan from Lynn Commandery No. 9 was the first Honorary Member of Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20.

On July 22, 1903, Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 received notice that the beloved Sir Knight James O'Keeffe, Eminent Grand Senior Warden, laid his tools aside in Pulaski, Virginia, on July 24. With the assistance of Right Eminent James R. Banks, Grand Recorder, the following memorial was issued:

GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF VIRGINIA
IN MEMORIAL
DR. JAMES O'KEEFFE
EMINENT GRAND SENIOR WARDEN OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF VIRGINIA,
DIED AT PULASKI, VA, JULY 24, 1903.
OFFICE OF GRAND COMMANDER
RINER, VA, AUGUST 31, A.D.1903, A.O. 785.

TO THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF VIRGINIA AND SISTER GRAND JURISDICTIONS:

WITH SINCERE SORROW I ANNOUNCE TO YOU THAT THE GRIM MESSENGER HAS AGAIN TAKEN FROM OUR OFFICIAL RANKS ONE OF OUR MOST EARNEST, FAITHFUL AND ZEALOUS SIR KNIGHTS.

E. SIR JAMES O'KEEFFE

GRAND SENIOR WARDEN OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF VIRGINIA. SUDDENLY AT PULASKI, VIRGINIA. ON JULY 24, 1903, WHILE ENGAGED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF MASONIC DUTIES, OUR BELOVED FRATER OBEYED THE SUMMONS CEASED HIS LABORS ON EARTH. HIS BODY WAS CONVEYED BY LOVING FRATERS TO HIS HOME AT TAZEWell, VA WHERE ON SUNDAY MORNING JULY 26TH, ALL THAT WAS MORTAL OF OUR FORMER FRIEND WAS LAID TO REST IN THE SILENT GRAVE. HE WAS CREATED A KNIGHT OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS ORDER OF RED CROSS AND DUBBED A KNIGHT OF THE VALIANT AND MAGANIMIOUS ORDER OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND KNIGHT OF MALTA. AT THE FORMATION OF CLINCH VALLEY COMMANDERY, NO. 20, AT TAZEWell, FEBRUARY 29, 1892, HE WAS APPOINTED ITS FIRST EMINENT COMMANDER, WHICH POSITION HE HELD BY CONTINUOUS RE-ELECTION UNTIL THE DAY OF HIS DEATH. HE ENTERED THE COMMANDERY OF VIRGINIA AT ITS SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE IN 1898. HE WAS APPOINTED ITS GRAND SWORD BEARER IN 1899, GRAND STANDARD BEARER IN 1900, GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN IN 1901, GRAND SENIOR WARDEN IN 1902, WHICH POSITION HE HELD AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH.

SIR KNIGHT O'KEEFFE WAS BORN IN BOSTON, MASS AUGUST 26, 1843, AS A CHILD HIS PARENTS MOVED TO ALEXANDRIA, VA, WHERE HE GREW TO YOUNG MANHOOD AND THOUGH NOT "TO THE MANOR BORN," YET AS TRUE A VIRGINIAN IN SPIRIT "AS EVER CHALLENGED A FOE ON TENTED FIELD." AT THE CLOSE OF THE WAR, HE MOVED TO PEARISBURG AND PRACTICE HIS HONORABLE PROFESSION AS PHYSICIAN. FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS HIS HOME WAS IN TAZEWell, VA, WHERE A HOST OF FRIENDS UNITE WITH HIS FAMILY AND FRATER IN LAMENTING HIS UNTIMELY DEATH.

AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT TO THE MEMORY OF OUR DECREASED FRATER IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

THAT THIS MEMORIAL BE READ AT THE HEAD OF THE LINES OF EACH COMMANDERY IN THIS JURISDICTION AT THE FIRST STATED CONCLAVE AFTER ITS RECEIPT AND ENTERED UPON ITS RECORDS; AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED SIR KNIGHT, DRAPE YOUR BANNERS IN MOURNING FOR THE SPACE OF THIRTY DAYS.

JAMES T. LESUEUR
GRAND COMMANDER

1914 - Result of a reorganize of Grand Commandery of Virginia, all Commanderies in the Southwest Virginia Region were placed into District No.3: Lynn Commandery No. 9, Bayard Commandery No. 15,

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Cyrene Commandery No.21, and Graham Commandery No. 22. The first Inspector was Sir Knight James E. King of Dominion Commandery No. 11.

The Grand Commander appointed the Inspectors, who were paid \$5.00 with expenses over that amount were aid by the Commanderies based on membership. Inspectors arranged all inspections and reported directed to the Grand Commander.

1917 – Grand Bodies contributed to the War Relief Fund; Grand Commandery donated \$155.00.

1917 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 celebrated its 25TH Year.

1918 – The Grand Commandery of Virginia divided the State into six Districts and Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 was assigned to 7.

1924 - The Grand Commandery of Virginia passed a resolution that the Treasurer and Recorder cannot be hold by some person.

1929 – The Wooding Trophy was established to stimulate and encourage Commanderies to a greater zeal and to improve proficiency. This is a rotating trophy awarded annually at the Grand Conclave to the Commandery scoring the highest number of points during the year just concluded.

1930 – The Chivalric District No. 7 was formed hosting Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20, Graham Commandery No. 22, and Blacksburg Commandery No. 32.

1932 – Sir Knight B.F. Buchanan, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander (1899-1900) and first Honorary Member of Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20, died February 21, 1932.

1935 – The first time Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 did not have a quorum to open and elect officers; received a dispensation to hold a Special Conclave to elect officers.

1936 – Sir Knight George C. Scarborough, Right Eminent Grad Commander, visited Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 on May 6, 1936, to confer the Order of the Templar on three candidates; has escorted with Sir Knight C.W. Reese, Eminent District Deputy Grand Commander.

1937 – First year that the District Deputy Grand Commander were appointed from their Chivalric Districts; Sir Kight M.S. Kipps from Blacksburg Commandery No. 32 was appointed from Chivalric District No. 7.

1938 – The Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia was held in District No. 7 at Cyrene Commandery No.21, May 13th and 14th, 1938.

1939 – Although Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 had 81 members on the rolls, it did not have a quantum at the Right Eminent Grand Commander's Official Visit.

1940 – the Right Eminent Grand Commander made a second to Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 on April 15, 1940. There were 17 members of the Commandery present, the Grand Commander installed the new officers and noted they represented a net life for the Commandery.

Inspector reports show Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 is in deployable condition and recommends that the new Grand Commander take whatever action he thinks necessary to amend the situation.

1941 – The Service Medal was established in February for anyone with 40 years of continuous long and loyal service.

1942 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 celebrated its 50TH Year.

Because of lack was metal in World War II, no Service Medals were awarded.

1943 – The Proceeding was not written due to the war. Service Medals continued to be awarded.

1945 – Sir Knight Hubert Peery was the 2nd member from Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 to be appointed Inspector for District 7 since 190; the first was Sir Knight Dr. James O’Keefe.

After nearly fording, Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 created 20 new Sir Knights out of the 25 petitions received. The creations were possible with the help of Sir Knight John Repass, Grand Warden, and the knights from Lynn Commandery No. 9 and Graham Commandery No. 22. No Service Medals will be awarded until after World War II.

1946 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 was placed on One Year Probation. If not improvement by the next Grand Conclave, the Commandery’s Carter will be collected.

1947 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 probation ended by the recommendation of the District No. 7 Commander Sir Knight Wade H. Frazer pf Graham Commandery No. 22.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 was approved to elect and install officers at the Stated Conclave.

The Commanders Trophy was given to the Wooding Trophy in 1946.

The Special Committee endorses a Service Medal for 40 years of service; a black and white ribbon and bronze or silver metal added every five years of service.

The James A. Pamplin Membership Trophy was established and would be given to the Commandery with the largest percentage increase in membership each year.

1948 – Then first time Certificates were created and presented to District Commanders. Sir Knight Wade H. Frazier of Graham Commandery No. 22 was the first to receive a Certificate in District No. 7.

The first Pamplin Trophy and first Smith Trophy were given to Arlington Commandery No. 29

1949 – Shoulder Straps are created for the District Commanders to be worn the year they serve and then turned in to the Grand Recorder.

1950 – A School of Instruction was established in Fort Defiance, Virginia.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Pamplin Trophy with a score of 10.96% WON THE PAMPLIN TROPHY WITH A SCORE OF 10.96%; that was the first award ever won by Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20.

1951 – The Southwest Virginia School of Instruction was established was established in Blacksburg.

A Grand Commandery Constitution and Statue: All Officers are required at have a Knight Templar Uniform. F the By-Laws require the Commandery to buy and furnish uniforms, they must do so as soon as possible.

1952 – Grand Commandery General Order No. 2: no conclave may on the Orders on Sunday.

Grand Commandery General Order No. 6: All Commanderies must form a Patriotic Committee for the purpose of organization patriotic activities. Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 did its first Activity for “Good Citizen Week”.

1954 – Twenty-Five and Fifty Year Veteran Awards were established. Twenty-Five Year Awards are to be sold to Commanderies; Fifty Year Awards are given to Commanderies to help with membership growth and attendance.

The new Grand Commander Jewell was made by Sir Knight Fred A. Morgenroth of New York presented to Sir Knight Charles T. Morton, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Virginia.

The first time the Grand Commander mailed out communications to individual Sir Knights and all Constituent Commanderies.

The Achievement Award to the Commander that shows growth.

Chivalric District No. 9 was formed.

1955 – The Grand Commander visited Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 on October 24, 1954.

1956 – A By-Laws change to establish Eye Foundation Assessments of \$100 for each Sir Knight. Constituent Commanderies can change their By-Laws to increase dues to cover the assessment increase.

The Grand Commandery Committee on Archives and History was make a Standing Committee.

Each Commandery must file a copy of their By-Laws with the Grand Recorder and they are to be required to keep the By-Laws updated.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Gold Award with an increase of 7% in membership.

1957 – New Regulations adopted to governed how the District Commanders do their job and how they are appointed.

Adopted Grand Commandery Ceremony for the Installation of District Commanders.

1958 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 received Sir Knight Zachariah B. Johnson, Right Eminent Grand Commander, on November 25, 1957. The Grand Commander was accompanied by Sir Knights Robert H. Harrington, Eminent Grand Generalissimo, John W. Nicar, Eminent Grand Captain General, and H. B. Crawford, District Commander.

New By-Laws were adopted on January 29, 1958.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation reports are printed in Proceedings starting in 1958.

The Annual Fee for the Orders were set at \$75.00.

Annual Dues were set at \$4.00.

1959 – Sir Knight John W. Nicar, Right Eminent Grand Commander, was made a Master Mason in Richlands Masonic Lodge No. 318, thus starting his Masonic journey.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation Committee made a Standing Committee.

1961 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 received Sir Knight Robert H. Harrington, Right Eminent Grand Commander, on September 19, 1960. He was accompanied by Sir Knight Don C. Shore, District Commander, who made his inspection and remarked "it was a very interesting and instructive conclave.

District Instructors of Work to be appointed and certified by the Instructor General.

October established as Knight Templar Eye Foundation month. Encourage Sir Knights to public and groups.

Resolution No. 1: All Commanders, Generalissimos, and Captain Generals so not have to wear "Balderies".

Resolution No. 2: Change from Embo Day Collar Insignias to metal (Silver or Gold), must have a lapel collar to wear them.

Resolution No. 3: Constituent Commanderies have to provide insignias.

1962 – Sir Knight Harold L. McGothin from Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 was named to the Publicity Committee.

Resolution 3: All Commanderies are to finish the Cross of Mato to anyone who hot to wear the Baldric.

1963 – Any Commander should be able to open and close in full form. Ben certified by the District Instructor of Work.

Resolution No. 6: Capitation Tax is raised to \$1.15 starting in February 1964.

Every Commandery is required to open the Bible during conclaves.

1964 – The Grand Commander endorsed the Summer Uniform.

Resolution No. 1: The Bible was officially adopted and must be on the Altar.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation reports Life Sponsors.

1965 – Ceremony was adopted for presenting the Fifty Year Veteran Awards.

All Generalissimos and Captain Generals must, or have their Proxies, attend all Grand Conclaves.

1966 – Knights Templar Cross of Honor established. Nominating guidelines set; Commander nominate Sir Knight, send it to the Grand Commandery of Virginia who picks one and forwards it to the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment.

1967 - Clinch Valley Commander, Sir Knight Earl Wallace, appointed to the Knights Templar Magazine Committee.

The wooden crosses used by Prelates were made by Sir Knight Robert H. Harrington, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, from cherry tree from Crayton Country, Virginia. Sir Knight Harrington made 54 crosses: the first he gave to Lynn Commandery No. 91 the second he to the Grand Commandery; and rest he gave to Constituent Commanderies as they acquired a Bible and Altar.

The first drill team was organized in Old Dominion Commandery No. 11; quoted “that every Commandery was to have a drill team as stated in the Grand Encampment Constitution and Statutes.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 celebrated its Seven-fifth Year.

1968 – Sir Knight Earl Wallace, appointed to the Knights Templar Magazine Committee for a 2nd year.

Resolution No. 2 raised the Capitation Taxes from \$1:15 TO \$2.00, it was adopted.

Resolution No. 3 a Mason can be a member of any Commander regardless of where he lives. Sir Knights cannot be an officer in more than one Commandery. A Sir Knight can be a dual member if he shows he is in good standing at the other or others he a member.

Resolution No. 4 Veteran Awards were adopted.

Resolution No. 6 changed the Constitution and Statues for dual membership.

Grand Commandery adopted:

Drill teams are mandatory at al Constituent Commanderies.

Raise Capitation Taxes to Grand Encampment from \$0.10 to \$0.34 for ear July 1, 1968; raise to \$1.00 by July 1, 1969.

Commanderies are to complete a current list of the names and addresses for its members and update early through the Grand Recorder’s office.

1969 - Sir Knight Earl Wallace, appointed to the Knights Templar Magazine Committee for a 3rd year.

Knight Templar Memorial Service was adopted; the ceremony is to be performed before elections.

Resolution No.1 Cryptic Degrees were dropped as a required to become a Knights Templar.

RESOLUTION #11--- CRYPTIC DEGREES DROPPED AS A REQUIREMENT TO BECOME A KNIGHTS
TEMPLAR.

1971 – Regulations governing the appointment and duties of District Commanders were adopted May 22, 1971, and also adopted regulations governing the appointment and duties of District Instructors.

Stopped the appointment of Grand Warder.

1972 – The physical Knight Templar year was set as April 1st to March 31st.

Resolution No. 3 Read and voted on Petitions Without Dispensations, Adopted.

Resolution No. 4 Everyone will be charged \$20.00 who receive Orders.

--- EVERYONE WILL BE CHARGE \$20.00 WHO RECEIVE ORDERS.

Resolution No. 5 By-Laws and Amendment changed: 1st reading for petition and laid over for 30 day for 2nd reading and voting.

1981 – General Order No. 1: all Generalissimo, Grand Captain Generals, Commanders to be certified before installed.

1984 – No Knight Templar Festivals will not be held this year; each Commandery is to learn and confer at least one Order; therefore, all Districts would be able to confer all Orders.

Ivan Clayton “Pat” Myers Award established.

District Commanders disbanded or dropped; duties picked up by Grand Line.

Knights Preceptor Order established for Commanders and Past Commanders.

General Order No. 1: Summer Uniform approved.

Trophy Cup for Top Line Signer to be stopped.

The Office of “Magisters” appointed by local Commandery and serve as between the Area Scholls and the Instructor General.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Pamplin for 2nd time with a score of 100; won as 1st place in 1950.

First time ever to win the Red Ribbon Award for creating 10% or more of membership.

Efforts to form a Commandery in the Grundy Virginia area fell through.

The Charles Grice Merit Award was established and awarded the same year.

1985 – Life Membership in Perpetuity was established.

The Commander and Generalissimo is required to open and close conclave in full form and be able to confer of the Orders from the East.

Exemplary Knight Program starts:

- A. Must have 30 years or more of service.
- B. 5 years of which must be with the Commandery making the award.
- C. Exemplary Knight dues will be paid by the Commandery.
- D. Exemplary Knight can hold office and vote.
- E. The ballot must be unanimous to make an Exemplary Knight.
- F. There can be no more than 5 Exemplary Knights on the roster at any time.

Lynn Commandery No. 9 was moved from District 8 to District No.7.

Cordon for top signers established.

a.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 finished 4TH for the Pamplin Trophy.

1986 – Raised the cost of the Orders from \$20.00 to \$25.00 per Order and Capitation was raised to \$4.00.

New District Deputy Grand Commander forms introduced and put into use.

New Wooding Trophy forms introduced and used by District Deputies this year.

1987 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Harris Trophy with a score of 46 points.

Sir Knight Samuel B. Wells from Graham Commandery No.22 was elected and installed Grand Warder.

Grand Master's Club was established; membership requires a \$1000.00 donation to Eye Foundation.

1988 – District Deputy Grand Commanders given voice in By-Law changes.

1990 – New Ritual Manual released for use.

New Constitution and Statues Manual released.

Knights of Siloam Medal established; requires a \$500.00 donation to the Eye Foundation.

1991 – First Workshop on Leadership and Education that held at Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20.

1992 – All petitions can be balloted at the same tie; separate only if dissent.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 celebrates 100 years.

1993 – By-Laws approved to comply with the new forms used.

Perpetual Life Membership was established and set at 15 times the yearly dues.

1994 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 finished 2ND for Harris Trophy with a score of 54 points.

Sir Knight John E. McClanahan from Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 was appointed as District Instructor of Work.

1995 - Sir Knight John E. McClanahan was retained as District Instructor of Work for a second year.

Sir Knight Samuel Brady Wells, Right Eminent Grand Commander, was made a Honorary Member of Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20.

1996 – Exemplary Knight were defined:

- A. Must have 30 years or more of service.
- B. 5 years of which must be with the Commandery making the award.
- C. Exemplary Knight dues will be paid by the Commandery.
- D. Exemplary Knight can hold office and vote.
- E. The ballot must be unanimous to make an Exemplary Knight.
- F. There can be no more than 5 Exemplary Knights on the roster at any time.

Resolution No.1 raised capitation tax from \$4.50 to \$5.50.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 changed By-Laws to raise dues to \$20.00 per year.

Special Conclave called: assess \$1.00 for the Knight Templar Museum – maintenance and renovations.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won Pamplin Award for the 3RD time with a score of 52 points.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Gold Award for the 2ND time with the highest score for creations, reinstatements, and affiliations.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Red Award for the 2ND time for increasing membership by 100% or more.

Sir Knight John McClanahan of Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 received the Gold Cordon for top signer on 13 petitions.

Sir Knight Danny Bowman, Eminent Commander, received the Knight Preceptor Order at Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20.

1997 – Schedule a Leadership Conference for Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won Silver Award for creations, reinstatements, and affiliations.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Red Award for 10% or more growth for 3RD time.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Pat Myers Award, Magna Cum Laude.

Grand Commandery established a web site on the Internet.

1999, - Baldwin-Brown Fellowship Program established.

Grand Master's 5/50 Program started in Virginia.

Sir Knights Grat M. Smith of Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 took part in Knight Preceptor Order.

2000 – Sir Knight Danny L. Bowman, Commander of Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20, received the Grice Award.

Sir Knight Danny L. Bowman, Commander of Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 and District Deputy Grand Commander for District No. 7, received the Red/White Cordon for 21 Top Signer of petitions.

2001 – Resolution No. 5 requires the Virginia Shoulder Patch to be worn 1" below the seam on left sleeve.

2002 – Sir Knights Danny L. Bowman and Coy O. Price attended the Leadership Conference.

Proposition No. 2 adopted the Summer Uniform for the 3RD time in history.

2003 – Archives and History Committee started searching for graves of Past Grand Commanders.

2004 – Grand Commandery moves the Grand Conclave to the first Friday I May to prevent conflict with Mother's Day and UVA Graduation.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Harris Trophy with a score of 10% for the 2ND time.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Pamplin Trophy with a score of 4.52%, for the 4TH time.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Gold Award with a score of 11.29%, for the 3RD time.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Red Award with a score of 11.29% for the 4TH time.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Clayton "Pat" Myers Award Cum Laude for the first time.

2005 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 and Graham Commandery No. 22 met together on December 23 to observe Christmas; a first for Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20.

General Order No. 5 moved Lynn Commandery No. 9 from District 7 to District 8.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Pamplin Trophy with a score of 10% for the 5TH time.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Gold Award with a score of 10% for the 4TH time.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Red Award with a score of 10% for the 5TH time.

2006 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 achieved \$10.00 per member for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (\$11.08 per capita).

2007 - LMIP changed to 18 times the des and good standing, if living; one half amount if deceased.

Capitation tax goes from \$5.50 per member to \$10.00 starting in March 2008, then to \$15.00 in March 2009.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 achieved over \$10.00 per capita for the Knights Templary Eye Foundation (\$30.16 per capita).

The new Robert B. McMarlin Award will give to Commanderies giving donations.

2008 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 achieved over \$10.00 per capita for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for the 3RD time.

2009 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 increased the fees for the Orders to \$50.00, plus any fees charged by the Grand Commandery. GENERAL ORDERS ON MEMBERSHIP:

General Order No. 2: Forgiveness granted to Sir Knights out of 5 years. Good standing in Blue Lodge and Chapter they can pay the current year dues and be reinstated.

General Order No. 3: No suspension granted until the Commander makes personal contact or Grand Commander writes the Knight and try to get him to pay his dues.

General Order No. 4: Same for G.O. No. 3 for Demits.

General Order No. 5: NEW GUIDELINES ON RECEIVING GUESTS AT GRAND COMMANDERS VISIT.

General Order No. 6 Created a new Leadership Course.

General Order No. 7: Require all Commanderies to take part in Masonic Family Day at the Masonic Home of Virginia.

General Order No. 8: Require all Commanderies to observe religious holidays.

General Order No. 9: Ritual Awards stated(like the Gold Cords in Blue Lodges). Scarlet Card.

DECISION No. 1: Grand Commander's York Rite Award established.

Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 dropped to 2ND level in donation for the Knight Templar Eye Foundation to \$ 7.21 per capita.

2011 – General Order No. 6 established the "Jon Mayberry Award"; Commanderies to be graded during Grand Commander's Official Visit.

General Order No. 8 Set guidelines on how jewels are to be worn in the uniform.

Decision No. 6 Froze all LMIP purchases until the Grand Encampment recognizes the LMIP.

2012 – Sir Knight Dany L. Bowman from Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 was selected as Deputy Instructor General.

2013 – Costs for Orders were raised from \$50.00 to \$100.00.

2014 - DIAS Officers must be certified.

Sir Knight Dany L. Bowman from Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 was selected as Instructor General.

2015 - Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 won the Silver Award for the 2ND time with a score of 10.1%.

York Rite Information System (YRIS) in place and recommended for Records use.

2016 – Sir Knight Steven K. Cook from Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 was selected as Deputy Instructor General.

Resolution 16:07 Set time frame for Official Visits of District Deputy Grand Commanders.

Resolution 16:08 Set the purchase of LMIPs at twenty-five times the current dues.

HVAC problems caused the moving of Grand Commander Malcom Holley's Official Visit to Graham Commandery No. 22.

2017 – Sir Knight William R. Owens named District Instructor of Work.

2018 – The Jon Wayne Mayberry Award was presented to District No. 2 for the best ritual during the Grand Commander's Official Visit.

The John Wigglesworth trophy was presented to Hampton Commandery No. 17 for the most donations to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation.

Virginia Tactics Manual was updated and approved.

2019 – Increased Capitation Tax to \$21.00 for 2020, \$27.00 for 2021, and \$33.00 for 2022.

2020 – Sir Knight Robert D. Maxwell from Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 was named District Deputy Grand Commander.

Sir Knight Robert D. Maxwell was named Grand Representative for the State of Missouri.

Cordons were presented to Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 S Knights:

DANNY BOWMAN---RED/WHITE---23 TOP LINE SIGNER
STEVEN K. COOK-----GOLD-----14 TOP LINE SIGNER
ROBERT D. MAXWELL---GOLD-----10 TOP LINE SIGNER
COY O. PRICE-----GOLD-----9 TOP LINE SIGNER
ARTHUR W. MULLINS---SILVER-----6 TOP LINE SIGNER

The Malcom R. Holley DeMolay Trophy was established and presented to DeMolay Baily Moro of Westampton Chapter.

The Meritorious Service Medal was established and presented to the Commanderies to nominate for one each of their own Knight. Due to COVID-19, General Orders were issued to fight the spread of the virus:

General Order No. 2 Limited Human Contact.

General Order No. 3 Stopped all Commandery activities at Lodges.

General Order No. 4 All in-person conclaves were stopped.

2021 - Sir Knight Robert D. Maxwell from Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 received the Meritorious Service Medal Award.

Because Grand Commandery established guidelines for meeting virtual and then the Grand Conclave met virtually , not in-person.

Grand Commandery established guidelines to receive the District Deputy Grand Commander virtually.

Grand Commandery membership stands at 1516 Knights.

NOTE

This overview or the history of Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 is make up of things that happened throughout its history; Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20 is celebrating its 130th Year.

GRAND LINE

SK DR. JAMES O'KEEFFE

1899

NOTE: SK O'KEEFFE WAS A SITTING GRAND SENIOR WARDEN WHEN HE PASSED AWAY THAT THE AGE OF 59.

R.O. CROCKETT

1919

NOTE: SK R.O. CROCKETT, SERVED ONLY ONE YEAR. NO REASON GIVEN WHY HE STOPPED.

DISTRICT INSPECTORS, COMMANDER, DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER

1900	DR. JAMES O'KEEFFE
1945	HUBERT PEERY
1957-58	H.B. CRAWFORD
1958-59	H.B. CRAEFORD
1965-66	R.G.FLANNERY, JR.
1995-96	JOHN McCLANHAN DENNIS NOEL
1999-2000	DANNY L. BOWMAN
2001-02	COY O. PRICE
2004-05	ARTHUR W. MULLINS
2006-07	STEVEN K. COOK
2009-10	RICHARD KRETZ
2011-12	RICHIE D. JOYCE W. BRENT ALLISON RALIEGH D. SHORTT DAVID L. LAWSON
2013-14	BRUCE A. RICHARDSON
2014-15	CHRISTOPHER H. WHITE
2015-16	WILLIAM R. OWENS
2016-17	EDWIN E. PRUETT
2019-20	ROBERT D. MAXWELL
2021-22	WALTER E. LESTER

GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

2016-2017	STEVEN K. COOK
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DEPUTY GRAND INSPRCTOR GENERAL

2011-2012	DANNY L. BOWMAN
2015-2016	STEVEN K. COOK

DISTRICT INSTRUCTOR OF WORK

1994-1995	JOHN McCLANHAN
2003-14	DANNY L. BOWMAN
2017-19	WILLIAM R. OWENS

DEPUTY DISTRIC INSTRUCTORS OF WORK

1997-2003	DANNY L. BOWMAN
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KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR

2009	SK DANNY L. BOWMAN
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KNIGHTS COMMANDER OF TEMPLE

2014 SK BRUCE A. RICHARDSON.

GRICE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

2000 SK DANNY L. BOWMAN

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED

2021

ROLE IN THE KNIGHTS PRECEPTOR DEGREE

1999 GRAT M. SMITH
2003 STEVEN K. COOK
2005 ARTHUR W. MULLINS
2005 DAVID L. LAWSON

PAST COMMANDERS AND RECORDERS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>RECORDERS</u>
1892	DR. JAMES O'KEEFFE	HUGH W. O'KEEFFE
1893-1902	DR. JAMES O'KEEFFE	WILLIAM G. YOUNG
1903	DR. JAMES O'KEEFFE	WILLIAM G. YOUNG JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1904	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE	WILLIAM G. YOUNG
1905-06	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE	C.P. BEAVERS
1907-08	C.A. THOMPSON	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1909-10	CHARLES R. BROWN	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1911	D.G. ROBINSON	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1912	W.T. WITTEN	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1913	W.G.O'BRIEN	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1914	G.W. DOAK	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1915	J.B. BOYER	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1916	C.R. BROWN, SR.	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1917	R.O. CROCKETT	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1918	H.P. BRITTAINE	JOHN S, BOTTIMORE
1919	C.M. HUNTER	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1920	WILLIAM G. O'BRIEN	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1921	GEORGE W. DOAK	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1922	J. POWELL ROYAL	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1923	J. ED PEERY	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1924-25	H.P. BRITTAINE	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1926-27	A.G. KISER	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1928	C.R. BROWN, JR.	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1929	THEODORE A. POBST	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>RECORDERS</u>
1930-35	S.M.B. COULING	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1936	C.A. McGUIRE	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1937	H.P. BRITAIN	JOHN S. BOTTIMORE
1938	HARRY J, TARTER	HUBERT PEERY
1939	C.M. ADKINS	HUBERT PEERY
1940	R.A. CRAIG	HUBERT PEERY
1941-42	R.R. SMITH	HUBERT PEERY
1943	WWII	WWII
1944-45	HUBERY PEERY	F.W. LESLIE
1946-47	W.W. THOMPSON	F.W. LESLIE
1948	NELSON A. HYMES	HUBERT PEERY
1949	F.W. LESLIE	HUBERT PEERY
1950	M.H, CHRISTIAN	HUBERT PEERY
1951	H.L. McGOTHLIN	HUBERT PEERY
1952	RHEA F. MOORE, SR.	HUBERT PEERY
1953	T.E. BOWLING, JR.	RHEA F. MOORE, SR.
1954	S.B. SYKES	RHEA F. MOORE, SR.
1955-56	DR, JAMES M. PEERY	R. BOWEN ROYALL
1957	RHEA F. MOORE, JR.	H.L. McGOTHLIN
1958	N.M. WALKER, JR.	H.L. McGOTHLIN
1959	D.O. WILLIAMS	H.L. McGOTHLIN
1960	LESLIE L. SMITH	H.L. McGOTHLIN
1961	A.K. BLANKENSHIP	H.L. McGOTHLIN
1962	R.G. FLANNERY, JR.	H.L. McGOTHLIN
1963	THOMAS I. RIDOUT	H.L. McGOTHLIN
1964-66	LONZY OWENS	H.L. McGOTHLIN
1967-68	EARL S. WALLACE	H.L. McGOTHLIN
1969-71	HAMPTON B. CRAWFORD	H. L. McGOTHLIN
1972	WILLARD B. MONK	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1973-74	BUEL G. CLINE	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1975-77	ROBERT E. VINCENT	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1978	N.A. HYMES	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1979	JOHN C. WHITT	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1980	W. BRENT ALLISON	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1981	LONZY OWENS	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1982	RALEIGH D. SHORTT	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1983	THOMAS T. BARNETT	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1984	HUBERT D. WHITE	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1985	RALEIGH D. SHORTT	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1986	JOHN C. McCLANHAN	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1987	LARRY OWENS, JR.	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1988	DAVID L. LAWSON	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1989-90	DENNIS R. NOEL	HAROLD L. McGOTHLIN
1991	DENNIS R. NOEL	ROBERT E. VINCENT
1992-93	DENNIS R. NOEL	PAUL V. BREWSTER
1994	JOHN E. McCLANHAN	PAUL V. BREWSTER

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>RECORDERS</u>
1995-96	DANNY L. BOWMAN	PAUL V. BREWSTER
1997	COY O. PRICE	PAUL V. BREWSTER
1998	GRAT M. SMITH	PAUL V. BREWSTER
1999	RODNEY A. PRICE	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2000	ARHTUR W. MULLINS	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2001	JAMISON L. BOWMAN	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2002	TIMOTHY C. LOWE	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2003-04	STEVEN K. COOK	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2005-06	CARRELL E. WHITT	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2007	FRANK L. DORTON	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2008	RICHARD KRETZ	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2009	RICKIE D. JOYCE	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2010	BRUCE A. RICHARDSON	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2011	WILLIAM C. COLE	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2012	CHRISTOPHER H. WHITE	PAUL V. BREWSTER
2013	WILLIAM R. OWENS	JEFFREY BOARDWINE
2014-15	EDWIN E. PRUETT	CHRISTOPHER H. WHITE
2016	ROBERT D. MAXWELL	BRUCE A. RICHARDSON
2017	ROGER R. VANDYKE	ROBERT D. MAXWELL
2018	MICHAEL C. VANDYKE	ROBERT D. MAXWELL
2019	WALTER E. LESTER	ROBERT D. MAXWELL
2020-21	ROBERT C. RAMEY	ROBERT D. MAXWELL
2022	CHRISTOPHER D. McCARTNEY	ROBERT D. MAXWELL

NOTE: IN THE 130 YEAR HISTORY OF Clinch Valley Commandery No. 20, WE HAVE HAD 81 DIFFERENT COMMANDERS AND 15 DIFFERENT RECORDERS.

A Brief History of Graham Commandery No. 22

By Sir Knight Ernie Lester

Chartered November 12, 1903

Graham Commandery was chartered on November 12, 1903. The list of officers were:

C.W. Anderson – Commander	J.R. Yost - Generalissimo
J.E. Morton - Captain General	J.H. Slone - Senior Warder
	J. B. Frazier - Prelate
J.E. Baylor – Treasure	Orin Role - Recorder
K.H. Horne - Stander Bearer	J.B. Sanders - Sword Bearer
S.N. Hufford – Warder	R.W. McClintock - 3rd Guard
R.L. Gillispie - 2nd Guard	N.L. Coiner - 1st Guard
	W.A. Lindsay - Sentinel

Past Commander

John Walters

Members

Adam's, Joel T	Anderson, George I	Baker, W.H.
Caudill, T.A.	Barber, L.J.	Copenhaver, V.B.
Fagg, R.L.	Frazier, W.M.	Fraxier, W.H.
Fitzpatrick, W.C	Gilladin, J.H.	Harry, J.H.
Newton, J.M.	Peraido, Peter	Ross, Albert
Rose, L.P.	Smoot, T.R.	Stump, L.J.
Turkey, G.T.	Walige, P.W.	Wray, W.S.
Williamson, R.H.	Young, B.	

Forty Sir Knights meets on the second Thursday of every month at Masonic Hall in the town of Graham.

Grand Recorder, James B. Blanks, visited Graham Commandery on December 15, 1903 at 8 o'clock in there we'll equipped asylum, solemnly constituted and consecrated Graham Commandery, No22 Of this jurisdiction. On this interesting occasion R.E. J.F.K. Steele of the Grand Commandery of West Virginia kindly assisted him as Grand Marshall and E. Sir G.C. Metcger of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 10, of West Virginia acted as Grand Prelate and pronounced the solemn words of consecration. After superintending the election of officers for the new Commandery and transaction of such business as required attention, the doors were opened and quite a number of ladies- the wives, daughters and sisters of Sir Knights with friends, were introduced and seated. When the ceremony of installation of the newly elected officers was performed in accordance with the requirements of the code. After the company retired the Commandery was closed in due form. The Sir Knights repaired to the banquet hall, while the ladies had proceeded them, and a most pleasant hour was spent around the festive board. The Commandery was well equipped and officers faithful and energetic. James E. Blake predicted a bright future the young Commandery stationed in the beautiful town of Graham.

On July 12, 1924, the town of Graham's name was changed to Bluefield.

ALLEGHANY COMMANDERY
OF
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR No 23

Chartered October 26, 1905



1905 to 2022

By Sir Knight Michael G. Fulcher Bayard Commandery No. 15
With Introduction by Sir Knight John Hayes Eminent Past Commander,
Alleghany Commandery No. 23

Alleghany Commandery No. 23

Alleghany Commandery No. 23 on November 1904, with 23 chartered members of Sir Knights in the city of Clifton Forge, Virginia, has pertained to Stevenson Commandery No. 8 of Staunton, Virginia (being the nearest Commandery at 50 miles away), and the Grand Commandery of Virginia to form their own conclave here in Clifton Forge.

On February 27, 1905, the Grand Commandery issued a dispensation to Alleghany Commandery so they could hold meetings on the fourth Monday of the month, but before they could have regular meetings, they would have their Asylum and paraphernalia thoroughly inspected.

On October 7, 1905, Alleghany Commandery No. 23 was inspected, they had 62 Sir Knights on the rolls, and all were in full uniform. The records show that the Commandery was well and faithfully kept.

On October 26, 1905, the Grand Commandery of Virginia issued Alleghany Commandery No. 23 their charter.

The summary of this early history of Alleghany Commandery No. 23 was Sir Knight Michael Fulcher of Bayard Commandery No 15.

Alleghany Commandery No. 23 held their meetings in the Masonic Hall occupied by the Clifton Forge Masonic Lodge No.166, they were:

Clifton Forge City Hall: till 1906

Masonic Theater Building: 1906 – 1921

First National Bank of Clifton Forge: 1921 – 1961

Masonic Lodge on Commercial Avenue in Clifton Forge: 1961 to present

In April 1936, The Alleghany Commandery had gone into partnership with Clifton Forge Masonic Lodge No.166 and Alleghany Royal Arch Chapter No. 24 to purchase the Harvey Building (also referred to as The Office Building) located on Commercial Avenue in Clifton Forge with the intent to rent out the lower floor and make the second floor a Masonic Hall for a meeting place for the three Masonic Bodies at the price of \$12,000. The Harvey Building was full of renters at the time of purchase and was rented out for extra income in the pursuing years.

In July 1940, Alleghany Commandery and Alleghany Royal Arch Chapter went into an agreement with Clifton Forge Masonic Lodge and transferred their share of the Harvey Building in exchange for a perpetual right to use the Masonic Lodge Room for meetings, rent free. The two Masonic Bodies continued to this day to meet in the Masonic Hall rent free. At some time over the years, the Alleghany Commandery had changed their meeting day to the fourth Thursday of the month.

Sir Knight John T. Hayes

Past Commander

Alleghany Commandery No. 23

A Brief History Of



Alleghany Commandery

No. 23

A Brief History of Allegany Commandery No. 23

By Sir Knight Michael G. Fulcher

Chartered October 26, 1905

The Early Years

The first minutes of the Alleghany Commandery have disappeared, but we have some information from the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Virginia. In the 1904 Proceedings, Right Eminent James Wilson Bryant, Grand Commander reports the following:

Petition for Dispensation

On September 4th, 1904, I received a letter from Sir Knight W. S. Taylor of Clifton Forge, Virginia, asking for instructions as to how to proceed so as to obtain a dispensation to form a Commandery of Knights Templar. He stated that their Blue Lodge had a membership of 230, the Chapter a membership of 120, and that there were 23 Sir Knights in their city of 7,000 people. The nearest Commandery is at Staunton, Severson Commandery No. 6, fifty miles away.

The petition was presented to Stevenson Commandery at its Conclave in October, but was not acted on, and as their next stated Conclave is on November 4th, to late I fear for any action to be taken by me, I would especially bring his request to the attention of my successor in office, as from Sir Knight Taylor's letters, they should be able to equip and maintain a strong Commandery.

In the 1905 Proceedings Right Encampment Grand Commander Frank Ward Cunningham had the following information in his report:

Organization of Allegany Commandery U. D.

Our Grand Recorder makes, official report that assisted by Sir Knight H. M. Boykin, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander; Sir Knight W. B. McChesney, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer; Sir Knight E. D. Hotchkiss, Eminent Grand Sword Bearer; Sir Knight F. J. Craigie, Eminent Past Commander Richmond Commandery No. 2; and Sir Knight L. E. Thomas, Eminent Commander DeMolay Commandery No. 4, he formally organized Alleghany Commandery U. D., at Clifton Forge, on February 27, 1905, with charter members, and conferred the orders upon 17 candidates. This young Commandery has made wonderful growth; it now, numbering 62 Knights, all fully equipped, and should they apply for a charter at this Conclave, I cheerfully recommend the granting of same.

Sir Knight James Braxton Banks, Right Eminent Grand Commander, had the following included in is 1905 report:

Alleghany Commandery Organized

Probably the most interesting and pleasant duty connected with my official position on this Grand Commandery was performed on February 27, 1905, when assisted by Sir Knight H. M. Boykin, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander; Sir Knight W. B. McChesney, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer; Sir Knight E. D. Hotchkiss, Eminent Grand Sword Bearer; Sir Knight F. J. Craigie, Eminent Past Commander

Richmond Commandery No. 2; and Sir Knight L. E. Thomas, Eminent Commander DeMolay Commandery No. 4, organized Alleghany Commandery U. D., in the town Clifton Forge, Virginia.

Before regularly opening the Commandery and setting the Sir Knights to work, a thorough inspection of the Asylum and paraphernalia was made by myself and associates. It is gratifying to report that the Commandery was provided with everything necessary to confer the Orders of Knighthood. All of the paraphernalia and equipment were of the very best material and workmanship that could be produced by the Cincinnati Regalia Company. The wisdom of the committee in thus purchasing the best is truly commendable, and places this young Commandery in the front rank with its sister Commanderies, so far as Asylum outfit is concerned.

The Commandery was opened with twenty-two charter members, and during the afternoon and night we conferred the Illustrious Order of Red Cross and the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta on seventeen Companions. Our Grand Sword Bearer, Sir Knight E. D. Hotchkiss, in his admirably impressive manner, and acted as Eminent Commander, the remaining officers being filled by the visiting Sir Knights.

On October 7, 1905, I had the pleasure, as the representative of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, of officially inspecting this young Commandery. In the short space of seven months the Commandery had increased its roster from the original twenty-two charter members to sixty-two Sir Knights, all of whom are fully equipped in accordance with the Bill of Dress as prescribed by this Grand Commandery. What a commendable example, in this respect is set by Alleghany Commandery to its sister Commanderies in this Jurisdiction. The inspection was most satisfactory, and compared very favorably with any that I have the honor to participate in.

The records of the Commandery are neatly and correctly kept by its faithful Recorder, Sir Knight G. W. Lipscomb. I must be pardoned for saying that, in my judgement, there are not within our borders two more zealous and faithful officers than Sir Knight John H. Carlisle, Eminent Commander, and Sir Knight William S. Taylor, Generalissimo, and to them this Grand Commandery is indebted for the wonderful success and prosperity of Alleghany Commandery U. D. I respectfully recommend that a charter be granted this Commandery. From a personal inspection, I certify that its records are correctly kept, and that its Asylum is suitably equipped for conferring the Orders of Christian Knighthood.

Sir Knight James Braxton Banks, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, also inspected the Commandery on October 7, 1905; his report follows:

Alleghany Commandery No. 23
Stationed at Clifton Forge Virginia
Report of James B. Blanks, REPGC, Grand Recorder
Petersburg, Virginia, October 9, 1905

To: Sir Knight F. W. Cunningham, Right Eminent Grand Commander Knights Templar in Virginia

Right Eminent Sir and Dear Fraternal obedience to our orders of March 7, 1905, I respectfully report that I duly inspected the above Commandery on the 7th of October 1905, and report the following facts for your information.

Number of Sir Knights on Roll - 62; net gain for the year – 62

Number of Conclaves held since February 1905: Stated – 8; Special – 8; average attendance – 22

Number of Sir Knights uniformed – 62; every member of the Commandery

The Commandery did not celebrate Christmas Observance; it was not organized until after Christmas.

The Commandery has attended Divine Services this year - Easter and Ascension Services.

The Commandery has been regularly opened in full form this year; the Commandery made its annual returns for 1905.

The Records of the Commandery are well and faithfully kept by Sir Knight G. W. Lipscomb. In submitting the foregoing facts, I have the honor to reports that in the performance of the very pleasant duty, as your Representative, I was accompanied by Sir Knight H. M. Boykin, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander; Sir Knight E. D. Hotchkiss, Eminent Grand Sword Bearer; Sir Knight F. J. Craigie, Eminent Past Commander Richmond Commandery No. 2.

As our train approached the station, we were most agreeably surprised to find the Commandery, with a band of music, drawn up in line to receive us. Quickly donning our regalia, we repaired to the “designated spot,” and in the presence of a large gathering of ladies and citizens proceeded to discharge the duty of inspection. We found the uniforms all bright and new and made in accordance with the “Bill of Dress” of this Grand Commandery.

The inspection was satisfactory in every respect and detail; the marching of the Sir Knights excellent; the sword drill very good and the appearance of the command second to none in the State. Repairing to the Asylum the Commandery was opened in full form, each officer promptly responding to the duty of his station. The records were duly examined and found “without spot or blemish.” The financial condition of the Commandery is excellent.

The Commander stated that he was ably sustained by his Officers and Sir Knights. This young Commandery – only seven months old – has during that short period dubbed and created twenty-nine Knights Templar, and has upon its roster the names of sixty-two Sir Knights, all fully equipped. The wisdom of organizing this Commandery cannot for one moment be questioned. We believe it is destined under the leadership of it courteous Eminent Commander, Sir Knight J. H. Carlisle, to become one of the leading Commanderies in this Jurisdiction. Thanking you, Right Eminent Sir, for the honor and the Sir Knights of No. 23 for their hospitality.

I am, yours courteously,
James B. Blanks, Inspector No. 23 U.D.

The 1905 Proceedings had the following list of Officers and Members:

Alleghany Commandery No. 23
Organized February 27, 1905
Meets on the fourth Monday of every month at Masonic Hall in the City of Clifton Forge
Post Office – Clifton Forge

List of Officers

Sir Knight J. H. Carlisle	Commander
Sir Knight W. S. Taylor	Generalissimo
Sir Knight E. E. Gourd	Captain General
Sir Knight G. W. Kincaid	Senior Warden
Sir Knight A. G. Hill, Jr.	Junior Warden
Sir Knight J. M. Lipscomb, Jr.	Prelate
Sir Knight W. F. Finsley	Treasurer
Sir Knight G. W. Lipscomb	Recorder
Sir Knight L. Woodrum	Standard Bearer
Sir Knight G. M. Farrar	Sword Bearer
Sir Knight Wilton Cook	Warder
Sir Knight E. D. Wickes	3 rd Guard
Sir Knight P. W. Stevens	2 nd Guard
Sir Knight W. A. Dudley	1 st Guard
Sir Knight A. Ashburner	Sentinel

Honorary Members

James B. Blanks	F. J. Craigie	E. D. Hotchkiss
H. M. Boykin		W. B. McChesney

Members

Allen, G. H.	Graham, W. T.	Monteith, R. J.
Alley, W. L.	Greig, A. N.	Ogg, D. C.
Ashburner, C. E.	Goodwin, B. C.	Parker, H. T.
Atkinson, F. H.	Halligan, J. E.	Pettus, J. L.
Blan, H. L.	Hepler, M. H.	Ripley, N. N.
Brickhouse, L. C.	Hileman, W. E.	Seaton, W. M.
Bryant, J. W. C., Jr.	Humphries, W. E.	Smith, W. M.
Calhoun, W. R.	Lewis, W. H.	Sweickert, C. E.
Cargill, L. W.	Lipop, J. W.	Taylor, W. W.
Cargill, S. G.	Lipscomb, J. M., Sr.	VanHorn, R. V.
Carpenter, G. M.	Mahoney, J. A.	Wigal, A. L.
Carpenter, J. H.	Martin, J. A.	Wood, W. L.
Carpenter, J. C.	Mathews, W. G.	Wysor, J. C., Dr.
Gleason, J. A.	Meeks, H. W.	Yoder, H. W.

Sixty-two Sir Knights

A Brief History of Piedmont Commandery No. 26

By Sir Knight James B. Bartley, EPC

Chartered October 26, 1916

The Commandery was formed at Cochran Lodge, The Plains, under a different name and number (Charter is on the wall at Cochran). It remained at Cochran for many years, into at least the 70's when it relocated to Hay Market Lodge. It stayed there through at least the late 80s, but then moved to Manasseh Lodge. It was there when I joined in January of 1992. We stayed there until the move to Ashburn in 2012-2013. We have been there since.

We have had many distinguished members including:

SK S. Flory Diehl, PGM, PGHP, PGC, PGIM, KCT (Deceased)
SK Edward R. Saunders, Jr, PGHP, PGIM, PGC, PDC, KCT (Deceased)
SK Richard B. Baldwin, PGC, PGDC, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, KGCT, Honorary Member (Deceased)
SK John R. Wigglesworth, Jr, PGC, KCT, Honorary Member
SK Edwin R. Carpenter, Jr. PGC, PDC, KCT
SK Paul S. Newhall, PGC, PDC, PGHP, PGIM, KTCH, KCT (Deceased)
SK Charles W. Wagner, PGC, PGHP, PGIM, KCT
SK Michael J. Kastle, PGC, KTCH, KCT
SK Herbert C. Hollander, PGC (Deceased)
SK Douglas L. Jordan, KTCH, KCT, PGHP, PGIM (Deceased)
SK Donald L. McAndrews, KCT, PGHP, PGIM
SK Raymon W. Bacchus, KTCH

We have 27 Past Commanders, 13 of whom have served as District Deputy Grand Commanders. Our members, both honorary and regular, have included 1 Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, 5 Past Grand Commanders of Virginia, 3 Past Grand Commanders of DC, 1 Past Grand Commander of Maryland, 4 Past Department Commanders, 1 Past Grand Master of Masons of Maryland, 6 Past Grand High Priests of Virginia, 6 Past Grand Illustrious Masters of DC and Virginia, 1 holder of the Knight Grand Commander of the Temple, 3 Holders of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor and 9 holders of the Knight Commander of the Temple. From the Commandery, several others have served as elected or appointed Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons and the Grand Commandery of Virginia.

Several of those listed above are previous presiding officers of: The Grand Council, Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA; the Grand Council, Knight Masons of the USA; the York Rite Sovereign College of North America; the Great Priory, Knight York Cross of Honour and the Grand College, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests.

Piedmont Commandery has 2 Honorary members, 105 regular members which includes 3 Exemplar Members, 2 50-year members and 23 25-year members. It also has 2 honorary members.

A Brief Sketch of Moomaw Commandery No. 27

By Sir Knight Jesse S. Lyons, Commander & District Deputy Grand Commander District 5
August 17, 2021

Chartered October 28, 1920

OUR NAMESAKE

The petition of Daniel Clovis Moomaw was received by Mountain City Lodge No. 67 on August 5, 1912. He was elected to receive the Enter Apprentice Degree on September 2 and was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 4 of that year. Later he became Master of that Lodge but was killed in action in France during World War I. He was at that time a Professor at Washington & Lee University. In 1920, when the Commandery of Knights Templar was organized, it was in Clovis Moomaw's name for whom it was dedicated. Moomaw Commandery is still active as a living memorial to Worshipful Moomaw.

FOUNDING

LEADER

The principal advocate of the organization of Moomaw No. 27 was William A. Adair, one of the local Lodge's stalwarts. He passed on September 27, 1945, with all appropriate resolutions to his memory adopted on November 5 of that year. He was the Commander both Under Dispensation and on the Charter.

CONNECTION TO LODGE BUILDING

Moomaw Commandery No. 27 and Rockbridge Chapter No. 44 co-existed in Lexington and the surrounding areas with Mountain City Lodge No. 67. On March 6, 1922, Mountain City Lodge appointed to a committee, similar to what Rockbridge No. 44 and Moomaw No. 27 had established in order, "to look into the matter of procuring a Masonic Hall." At this point, several attempts had been made by the local blue lodge to find a permanent home and it appears that the new York Rite brethren and bodies became necessary to the success of such an endeavor. These efforts resulted in the purchase of the "Robinson Building and the Harper and Agnor Lot adjoining the same." This proposal was adopted unanimously by the Lodge on October 15, 1923, and ostensibly was consented or assented by Moomaw No. 27 and Rockbridge No. 44. This remains the home of Moomaw No. 27, to this day. Total cost of the Robinson building--\$16,000. The Harper and Agnor Lot was acquired in 1925.

GRAND COMMANDERS

William Mosely Brown, of noted Masonic Fame, began his Grand Line journey as Grand Junior Deacon in February 1929. The Masonic bodies, including Moomaw Commandery No. 27, welcomed him with a homecoming thereafter, at which a large gathering of Brethren and their ladies were in attendance. He became Grand Master of Masons in February 1923. Additionally, he became Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia in 1936. His other accolades and affiliations will be found in the Lodge history book.

In addition, and for our history purposes, Sir Knight William was the first of three Grand Commanders to come from Moomaw No. 27. He was an active member there, honorary member of Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, and Grice Commandery No. 16, all in Virginia. Also, he was an honorary member of the Grand Commanderies of Tennessee and North Dakota. He served as Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Virginia from 1935 to 1936.

Additional Grand Commanders from Moomaw Commandery were:

Moffett David Sensabaugh Sr. (1970-71)

Baldwin Gerard Locher Jr. (2000) *Theme "Templar Unity Into Tomorrow"*

Sir Knight Baldwin G. (Gerry) Locher, Jr. was born August 14, 1939, in Roanoke, Virginia, the son of the late Baldwin G. and Lawton Fox Locher, both of them setting a positive example of what a person should do throughout their life. He grew up near Glasgow, and now lives near Lexington. He is married to Elizabeth Aiken Locher, a native of North Carolina, and they have three children. After attending country schools and prep school, Gerry enlisted in the Marine Corps. Since 1959, he has worked in family-related businesses involving farming, real estate and mining.

Gerry is a member of Grace Episcopal Church, formerly R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church, and served as Lay Reader, Chalice, Lay Eucharistic Minister and Chairman of the Acolytes. He has been very involved with the Boy Scouts and served as Troop Committee Chairman Troop 29. Gerry is retired and has served as a member of the Committee for the Farm Service Agency, U. S. Department of Agriculture, as well as a member of the Executive Committee for 4-H. Among his other activities, he is a Past President of the Rockbridge Volunteer Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, and is also a Past Senior President of the Rockbridge Volunteer Chapter, Children of the American Revolution. An avid foxhunter and a Past President of the Rockbridge Hunt.

Brother Locher was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Glasgow Lodge No. 233 in June 1961, and his son, Baldwin G. Locher III (Wynn), is a Master Mason and a member of both Glasgow Lodge No. 233 and Mountain City Lodge No. 67.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

Today, the Commandery membership has been rebuilding, beginning with bolstering our efforts at the Rockbridge Chapter No. 44 of Royal Arch Masons so as to have fertile ground for growth. Many of our Sir Knights are aging or are no longer with us. We miss all of them, such as Sir Knight Warren Schmid who ably chaired the Holy Land Pilgrimage for many years, who is unfortunately subdued with memory issues. However, young and old Sir Knights are committed to our future. In 2017 the Commandery voted to utilize the Cap and Mantle Uniform. In 2021, additional uniforms and swords are being priced to provide a full armory for all attending Sir Knights. Recently, one transfer petition and two new members were approved, and are slated to attend the September 15 Knightly Orders in Marion, with an additional Royal Arch member who has been in waiting.

We are proud to be associated in 5th Chivalric District with our Sir Knights from Stevenson No. 8 and Alleghany No. 23. Like many in the Commonwealth, "we couldn't do it without them." The friendships and education from their Sir Knights, Commanders, Recorders, and District Deputy Grand Commanders have been essential to our continued success and in this year's (2021) Grand Commander's Official Visit, we are each an equal participant and partner. Our several practices and organizational meetings this summer and fall were the basis for promoting the tenet of "FRATERNITY" established in that quarter by SK Peter Spring, Right Eminent Grand Commander. The District Deputy Grand Commander related FRATERNITY to the planning and execution of this Official Visit at each meeting and practice. Moomaw No. 27 now commits to opening in full form during each meeting, and when that is "commonplace" and well-known to our own Sir Knights, we'll take the next steps in ritual education. While each member is already a Life Member of the Eye Foundation, and last year's fundraising was up year over year, 2022 looks to be a year for further fundraising for all efforts.

We, like all bodies, continue to make sure we are offering a meaningful, differential, experience for Masons, based on Fraternity, Fidelity, Christianity, and Charity. As we continue our second hundred years, those remain the focus of the Sir Knights and we look forward to celebrating the Bicentennial with all.

A Brief History of Arlington Commandery No. 29

Anonymous

Chartered May 10, 1947

On next Monday, May 10, 1999, Arlington Commandery No. 29 will have completed the 52nd year of its chartered life. During that time fifty-two men have completed their terms as Commander of this Commandery, and during that period of time there has never been a repeat Commander.

Among those who have served are three who went on to become Grand Commanders of Virginia: B Joe R. Harris, George D. Stevens, and Richard E. Baldwin. In addition, David Mathews, who did not serve as Commander but is a member of this Commandery, is now completing his term as Grand Commander of Virginia.

We are also fortunate in numbering among our members those who have served other jurisdictions as Grand Commander. In this group are John C. Werner, William T. Cox, and William B. Craig, all of whom are now Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia.

At this time members of Arlington Commandery are serving with distinction in positions of trust in the Grand Commandery of Virginia. They include John R. Wigglesworth, Jr., Deputy Grand Commander; Edwin R. Carpenter, Grand Junior Warden; Richard B. Baldwin, Grand Treasurer; and Donald G. Moore, Deputy Grand Treasurer.

In the past we have had at least two members who served in the progressive line of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, but were unable, because of unforeseen circumstances, to continue through to the office of Grand Commander. Among those in this group were John R. Wigglesworth, Sr. and Frank R. Roberson.

And finally, we should note with pride that one of our Past Commanders, Richard B. Baldwin, has brought great honor to Arlington Commandery by being elected to the office of Captain General in the Grand Encampment. All in all, our achievements, to date, are noteworthy, and in the current period of fraternal retrenchment, they provide a yardstick by which we can assess the possible, if not the probable.

In 1946 there were in Arlington County only two Blue Lodges, Columbia No. 285 and Cherrydale No. 42. Between them they supported one Royal Arch Chapter, Arlington No. 35, which met, then as now, in Cherrydale. The population of the County at that time was only 50,000, but it was growing rapidly, particularly to the north of Arlington Boulevard. And because of this perceived possibility of growth, the Masons of the area were already thinking of additional Blue Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters.

At that time the Knight Templars residents held their membership primarily in Old Dominion Commandery No. 11. This Commandery, in existence since 1872, was well established, and in 1946 had a membership of 247. The Sir Knights who were resident in Arlington, believing that there was potential in Arlington County for a Commandery, approached Raymond L. Morris in the hope that he would assist them in an effort to that end. Brother Morris was new to the area, but he had progressed to the office of Generalissimo in Lynn Commandery No. 9 in Marion, Virginia, before moving to Arlington.

On his arrival here Sir Knight Morris was contacted by two Sir Knights, George C. Flemming and John M. Stewart, who was destined to become Grand Master of Virginia. Together they developed a plan to get Arlington Commandery started. Progress was slow because of the reluctance of some members of Old Dominion Commandery to see such a development take place.

Shortly thereafter these three began to make periodic trips to Richmond to meet with the Grand Commander, Sir Knight William T. Buckner. Some of these meetings were encouraging, some were not, and the proponents of Arlington Commandery had the feeling that the officers of the Grand Commandery were reticent about the proposal.

Moreover, the officers of Old Dominion Commandery were of the opinion that one Commandery in northern Virginia was enough. But they reached this conclusion on the basis of an inadequate assessment of population trends in Arlington County.

In the course of these negotiations Sir Knight Morris made several trips to Marion to enlist the help of a very dear friend, Sir Knight William A. Worle, Past Grand Commander. On relating the status of negotiations which seemed to be stymied by negative thinkers at all levels, Sir Knight Wolfe voiced the hope that in time they would eventually approve of the proposed Commandery. His optimism proved out, and eventually the Grand Commandery officers agreed that if a sufficient number of proficient Knight Templars could be found, Knight Templars who could open the Commandery and confer the Orders, a dispensation could be issued.

Sir Knights Morris, Flemming, and Stewart, encouraged by developments, worked even more feverishly thereafter, seeking and finding Sir Knights who could learn the work, if they didn't already know it, to fill the stations of a Commandery. They began to rehearse in earnest. These rehearsals took place as many as four times a week, and those who took part also visited other Commanderies to see how the work was to be done.

Approximately seven months elapsed before the officers of the Grand Commandery were convinced that they were dealing with a group of Knights Templar who were determined not to give up. It was later discovered that the delay was devised in order to determine if the resolve, the sincerity, and the enthusiasm of the petitioners were real. Convinced that it was, Sir Knight Buckner included the following in his address to the Grand Commandery on May 9, 1946:

A petition dated September 10, 1945, signed by 22 Sir Knights of Arlington, Virginia, requested a dispensation to form and open a new Commandery of Knights Templar in Arlington, Virginia. The petition was accompanied by certificates of good standing of the said Sir Knights and Old Dominion Commandery No. 11 having granted permission.

Before granting the request, I made some inquiries and investigations. It was found that they have a sufficient number of Royal Arch Masons in the vicinity and a large population in Arlington to support such a Commandery.

Appearing to be for the benefit of Knighthood in general and petitioning Fraters in particular, on March 22, 1946, a Letter of Dispensation was granted permitting them to assemble and work as a Commandery of Knights Templar in the city of Arlington, in the County of Arlington, by the name of Arlington Commandery Knights Templar, U.D.

All Officers of Arlington Commandery, U.D. were appointed as follows:

Eminent Sir Knight Raymond L. Morris, as Commander Sir Knight John M. Stewart, as Generalissimo Sir Knight George C. Flemming, as Captain General Sir Knight Richard C. Vingoe, as Senior Warden Sir Knight Erle R. Kirby, as Junior Warden Sir Knight Fletcher Kem, as Prelate Sir Knight Forest B. Hutcheson, as Treasurer Sir Knight Harold Upfold, as Recorder Sir Knight P.K. Owens, as Standard Bearer Sir Knight W. Harold Phillips, as Sword Bearer Sir Knight Alva D. Adams, as Warder Sir Knight Howard W. Dickson as Warder.

The letter of Dispensation was delivered by the Grand Commander on the 27 th day of March 1946. The Sir Knights opened a Commandery, and the Officers were duly installed.

This dispensation was presented to the Sir Knights of Arlington approximately six weeks before the Annul conclave of the Grand Commandery, at which time the Sir Knights of Arlington applied for a Charter. That request was referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters and after due deliberation that committee reported as follows:

The Committee on Dispensations and Charters report that they have received from Arlington Commandery, under Dispensation, an application for a Charter.

Arlington Commandery, under Dispensation, was issued a Dispensation and authorized to work as a regular Commandery on the 27 th day of March, A.D., 1946, A.O. 828.

Under Grand Encampment statutes, as well as the Grand Commandery of Virginia, no Commandery under dispensation can be issued a regular Charter until such time it is provided with a suitable Asylum properly furnished and its officers qualified to confer the orders of Knighthood as prescribed by the Constitution and Statute of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia.

The Committee after due consideration of the plea for a Charter by Arlington Commandery, under Dispensation, and after a careful perusal of the laws of the Grand Encampment as well as the Grand Commandery of Virginia, relative to Commanderies under Dispensation, having been instituted approximately six weeks, has not had sufficient time to procure the necessary equipment to properly furnish an asylum and no evidence has been submitted to the Committee that its officers are qualified to confer the Orders as prescribed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Commandery of Virginia.

Therefore the Committee recommends that a Charter for Arlington Commandery, under Dispensation, not be issued at this time, but recommends that the Dispensation granted to Arlington Commandery, under Dispensation, be continued in effect the next Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, prior to which at such time Arlington Commandery, under Dispensation, can conform to the Laws and Statutes of the Grand Commandery of Virginia relative to Commanderies under Dispensation they may make proper application for a regular Charter.

Committee: L.G. Archer B. Gay

During the course of the next twelve months the fortunes of Arlington Commandery, under Dispensation, thrived, and in due time a petition was submitted for a Charter at the 1947 Conclave of the Grand

Commandery. At this Conclave the reception of the petition was more hospitable, as the report of the Dispensation and Charters Committee indicate:

Read report and comment on achievements of the year. List of Charter Officers.

This leads us to today. The fortunes of Arlington Commandery parallel those of the Blue Lodges and the Royal Arch Chapters of the area. Comment on the effort to merge the three Royal Arch Chapters into one. What will the impact be on Arlington Commandery? What should we be doing as a Commandery today? Are we facing a day when we may not require the Royal Arch Degrees as a prerequisite to the orders? Are these degrees essential as a prelude to the Orders?

Wouldn't it be nice if we could somehow recapture the enthusiasm that existed in the period 1946-47? If we could, we would have no problems.

A Brief History of New River Valley Commandery No. 32

By Sir Knight Joe G. Broce, Sr., Past Grand High Priest of Virginia

With special thanks to Sir Knights Cole David and Tom Varner for their research and contributions

Chartered May 10, 1947

The origin of this commandery is rather complex as Proceedings from Virginia's Grand Encampment list three different charter dates. The 1928 Proceedings list "Blacksburg Commandery U.D. (under dispensation) with a charter date of December 14th, 1927. Note the U.D. status, not a number. In the 1929 Proceedings the report for "Blacksburg Commandery No. 32" shows a charter date of October 26th, 1928. Moving to the 1961 report of "Blacksburg Commandery No. 32" in the Proceedings, the charter date is listed as September 12th, 1929. All following records of Proceedings show a charter date of October 26th, 1928, in the report for "Blacksburg Commandery No. 32". The actual framed copy of the original charter held in the current "New River Valley Commandery No. 32 Conclave" has the date as October 26th, 1928. This seems to be the correct date of the final charter. Of special interest is the fact this Commandery was originally named DeMolay Commandery then they were informed there was already a DeMolay Commandery located in Lynchburg. Thus, they had to rename the Conclave "Blacksburg Commandery". This may explain some of the different charter dates.

So how did this commandery originate. Very interesting story. Sir Knight Tom Varner tells the story of its origin as found in documents on the Virginia Tech website under "Special Collections, Archives, DeMolay. Yes "DeMolay". DeMolay was started in Virginia around 1927. A group of about twenty, 18 year old gentlemen began college at Virginia Tech. They had just become members of DeMolay in their home towns, and they wanted to continue their fraternity meetings while at VPI. At that time the main buildings for Blacksburg Institute (former name for VPI) sat on top of the hill where Main Street comes down to College Street. At the bottom of the hill just off Main Street was the Masonic Lodge. So, this was a reasonable place to begin their search for a DeMolay Chapter. These gentlemen approached the Blue Lodge leaders (Hunter's Lodge) about them sponsoring the DeMolay to meet in their lodge if they formed a chapter. Remember DeMolay was new in Virginia, and they really wanted their own chapter. The Hunters Lodge said "no" they could not sponsor them. Then the gentlemen asked the High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter "Can you sponsor our new DeMolay chapter" again the answer was "no". Reportedly the reason for the Blue Lodge and Royal Arch saying no was because they did not feel they could sponsor and exclusively "Christian" organization as they were themselves not exclusively "Christian". Thinking they should now go to the head of the Commandery in Virginia before asking the local Commandery, they approached the Grand Commander of Virginia. To their delight the Grand Commander said, "of course we can sponsor you", "but there is no Commandery in Blacksburg." These determined 18 year old men went to the Blue Lodge and asked if they would "PLEASE" form a Commandery so they would have a sponsor for their new Chapter of DeMolay. Thus Blacksburg Commandery No.32 was formed. In the archives of the VPI library is a framed copy of the original charter for ZURUBABEL chapter of DeMolay dated April 25th, 1929. There were 39 charter members signed on that charter. So obviously the gentlemen found out there were other DeMolay brothers on campus. So, we may conclude that the charter date of October 26th, 1928, is the correct date for the origin of Blacksburg Commandery No. 32 as it would correspond with being chartered just before the DeMolay chapter was chartered.

By the year 2005 the members of Hunter's Lodge meeting in the Masonic Hall downtown Blacksburg realized that their beloved building no longer met their needs. There was expensive maintenance and repairs to be done and the stairs inside and outside were too difficult for the brothers to climb. So, the

Masonic Lodge downtown Blacksburg was sold for \$610,000.00. The money was placed in an account and later invested. During this time Hunters Lodge and Blacksburg Commandery and other bodies meeting in that building moved their possessions to McDaniel Lodge at 710 College Street Christiansburg. The Blue Lodge, Royal Arch, Commandery and Order of the Eastern Star continued to meet in Christiansburg. In about 2012 Hunters Lodge constructed a beautiful new lodge building on Prices Fork Road. February 2013 the Blue Lodge moved their meetings to that location, but the Commandery and Royal Arch continued to meet in McDaniel Lodge in Christiansburg. On May 2nd, 2015 "Blacksburg Commandery No.32" officially changed the name to New River Valley Commandery No. 32.

Over the years many prominent citizens of Virginia have been members of the Blacksburg Commandery. These gentlemen were lawyers, doctors, senators, representatives etc. There is a very large 800 page textbook of "Virginia's History" that contains photographs and biography of Virginia's leading men from about 1920 -1960. Listed in many of these biographies is their attendance and graduation from VPI. And.....they list their membership in Masonic, Council, Chapter and Commandery while attending VPI. In 1987 the Grand Commander of Virginia was from Blacksburg No. 32; Mansell H Hopkins Jr. Mansell was a student of VPI and later became a professor of Electrical Engineering there.

There have been other members who were in the Grand Commandery of Virginia : Roger Duncan , Grand Warder, 2009; Fred Koziel, Grand Standard Bearer 2011. In 2020 Joe G Broce Sr was elected Grand Sword Bearer. Fred and Roger dropped out of line , today Joe is Grand Standard Bearer.

There is a persistent representation from New River Valley No. 32 on the Virginia Drill Team that competes at the Triennial Encampments. Virginia for many years had a large drill team that competed in the Triennial Encampment competition. Around 1932 they sent their last drill team for a competition. However! In 1996 a new 16 man drill team was organized and Mansell Hopkins, Joe Broce, and Steve McMurray along with others competed in St Louis in 1997. Joe Broce and Mansell Hopkins also competed in Nashville in 2000. Joe Broce competed in St. Louis 2003. Roger Duncan, Fred Koziel, and Joe Broce competed in Roanoke 2009.

New River Valley No. 32 now has a 5 man drill team that has competed on the state level for the last 2 years and took home the 1st place trophy. Captain Joe Broce, Cole David, Joe Givens, Phil Reed, Kevin Law, and Clay Bain remain on the drill team.

The Charter membership in 1928 for Blacksburg Commandery No. 32 was 45 members. By 1929 there were 63 members. Average attendance was recorded as 95% while meeting twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. In 1953 the inspection reports states average attendance as 18. Things improved though because the 1961 report shows 188 members. In 1972 there were 186 members. Currently there are 53 members with an average attendance of about 11. For Virginias Grand Commandery we usually have at least 6 or 8 members attending. New River Valley Commandery continues to meet in McDaniel Lodge on College Street in Christiansburg, the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

The History of Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33

By Sir Knight John Jeffrey McClelland, KCT, PGC

Chartered June 18, 1988

On April 6, 1988, Sir Knight Mansell H Hopkins, Jr., Grand Commander the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia, granted a disposition for the formation of a new Commandery of Knights Templar in Urbanna Virginia

The following Saturday April 9, 1988, Penn-Neck Commandery Under Disposition was opened in short form. The officers were Richard B. Baldwin (*Grand Generalissimo*) – *Commander*, David G. Mathews – *Generalissimo*, Jon W. Mayberry – *Captain General*, Leonard W. Fitzgerald – *Senior Warden*, – John R. Ritchey *Junior Warden*, Samuel L. Cochran – *Standard Bearer*, Charles D. Simms – *Sword Bearer*, Edward W. Smith – *Warder*, George D. Stevens – *Sentinel*.

Applications for Membership were received and approved for: Gaylord G. Ambrose, Richard B. Ballwin, Howard F. Coleman, Clifton T. Davis, Clinton R. Edwards, William S. Holloway, David G. Mathews, Jr., George D. Nicolson, Stanley E. Shelton, A. Lenwood Stevens, George D. Stevens

Petitions were approved for: William W. Ambrose, Earl W. Borkey, Thomas O. Bowers, Charles R. Bryant, Jr., Charles T Davis, Roland L. Emerson, Charles W. Faulkner, Paul L. Feitig, Donald G. Grabar, Clyde S. Hartlove, Lewis D. Hensley, David M. Hudgins, Boyd-D Manning Jenkins, John M. Kanak, Charles D. Loving, James F. Palmer, Arthur James Phillips, Dr. Darryl J. Pirok, Ernest M. Priddy, Owen G. Roberson, Jessie R. Stevens, William J. Thrift, Donald K. Vance, Dr. Arthur L. VanName, Jr., Charles Lester (Pete) White, Kenneth W. Williams.

At the One Hundred Sixty Sixth Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia on May 14, 1988, the Committee on Dispensations and Charters approved the dispensation granted to Penn-Neck Commandery to form a Commandery in Urbanna, Virginia. In addition, the committee recommended that the request for a charter be granted to Penn-Neck Commandery, and the number 33 be assigned to it. The committee consisted of Sir Knights Gayle E. Bovee, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, Chairman, J. Linwood Holloway, Sr., and Robert G. Smallwood

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia was convened on June 18, 1988, to constitute Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33. The Commandery was constituted and then approved that its Stated Conclave would be held on the Third Monday of each month in the Masonic Temple, at Urbanna, VA. Officers listed below were elected and installed.

JENKINS, BOYD D. MANNING, Commander
KANAK, JOHN MILTON, Generalissimo
HENSLEY, LOUIS D., JR., Captain General
EMERSON, ROLAND L, Senior Warden
REARDON, PAUL J. Junior Warden
DURKOVICK, JOHN, Prelate
BORKEY, EARL W, Treasurer

PHILLIPS, A. JAMES, Recorder
WHITE, CHARLES L, Standard Bearer
MATHEWS, DAVID G., JR., Sword Bearer
DAVIS, CLIFTON T, Warder
FEITIG, PAUL L, Sentinel
TRUSTEES: Daryl J. Pirok, C. W. Faulkner, Dr. Arthur L. VanName, Jr.

Charter Members Sir Knights Arthur James Phillips, PC, Daryl Pirok, PC, and Charles Robert Bryant, PC, are the only remaining Charter Members still serving in our earthly Order.

During its brief history Penn-Neck Commandery No. 33 has been a force in furthering the Templar Order and Masonry within the Masonic family and the community. Their involvement with civic organizations includes the Boy Scouts, the International Order of DeMolay, Job's Daughters and serving as a color guard for many organizations. The Commandery participates in the Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, the Masonic Home Family Day and Parade, and Religious Freedom Day Parade. The Sir Knights of Penn-Neck Commandery have and do serve in many volunteer positions in their community such as election officials, officers in service clubs, positions at all levels in their churches, food banks, delivering meals to shut ins, civic boards, and even elected or appointed government positions.

The Commandery has sent three ministers to the Grand Encampments Holy Land Pilgrimage and the returns to the Commandery, and the community are many and immeasurable.

Penn-Neck Commandery may be small, but it is very active. In its ranks there are and have been numerous distinguished Sir Knights rendering service to our Order. By Category:

Recipients of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor (3)

Sir Knight Joseph Patrick Westfall, Sr,
Sir Knight Roland Eugene Gauthier
Sir Knight Joseph Clifford Lineberry, Jr.

Recipients of the Knight Commander of the Temple (5)

Sir Knight David G. Mathews, Jr.
Sir Knight Joseph Patrick Westfall, Sr.
Sir Knight Earl Borkey
Sir Knight John Jeffrey McClelland
Sir Knight John Randall Howerton

Recipients of the Companion of the Temple (5)

Lady Pamela McClelland,
Lady Beth Howerton
Lady Alexa Westfall
Lady Patricia Reardon,
Lady Ester Gauthier

Grand Commandery Officers (7)

Sir Knight Richard Burdett Baldwin, KTCH, Grand Commander 1989-90, Most Eminent
Grand Master of the Grand Encampment 2006–2007

Sir Knight David G. Mathews, Jr., KCT, Grand Commander 1999-2000

Sir Knight Paul John Reardon, Grand Commander 2005-2006

Sir Knight Joseph Patrick Westfall, Jr., KTCH, KCT, 2016 – 2017

Sir Knight John Jeffrey McClelland, KCT, 2020 - 2021

Currently serving are

Sir Knight John Randall Howerton, KCT, Grand Generalissimo

Sir Knight Joseph Clifford Lineberry, Jr., KTCH, Grand Sentinel (third term), Instructor of
Work District 1

Sir Knights of Penn-Neck Commandery have in the past and are now currently serving on numerous Grand Commandery Committees that include the Eye Foundation, Finance, Knight Templar Magazine and Masonic Herald, Baldwin – Brown Fellowship, Education, Masonic Home Board of Directors, Jurisprudence, Constitution and Statutes, and Membership.

Penn-Neck Commandery was constituted with forty Sir Knights and as of December 31, 2021, has forty Sir Knights on its roster. Having a very small population of Masonic bodies to draw members from, the commandery has done well to maintain its membership level over its first thirty-three years. The Commandery is poised to continue and prosper in the future.

Brief History of Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35

Prepared by Sir Knight James B. Bartley, Past Commander, Exemplar Knight, and Recorder of Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35 for 2015-2018 and 2019-2022

Chartered May 6, 2017

Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35 was started as an idea, presented to Sir Knight Barry E. Constant, Eminent Commander of Piedmont Commandery No. 26 for 2016-2017, by two other members of the Commandery whose home lodge and Royal Arch Chapter reside in Warrenton, Virginia.

Due to the distance (40 miles) and time required (approximately 1 ½ hours) from Warrenton to Ashburn, Virginia, the home of Piedmont Commandery, the two Sir Knights, Kenneth Lee McInnis and Paul William Lockhart asked Sir Knight Constant to look into the requirements to form a new Commandery to be based in Warrenton at Mt. Carmel Lodge No. 133.

Sir Knight Constant enlisted the aid of a few other members of Piedmont Commandery which by the time the petition was submitted to Grand Commandery totaled twelve Sir Knights.

The Sir Knights had decided to minimize uniform costs that the Sir Knights would wear Cap and Mantle, as approved by Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment.

The petition was submitted to the Grand Recorder's office in 2015 but no action was taken by the Grand Commandery. At the Stated Conclave of Grand Commandery in 2016, the petition was brought up again, but due to misinformation or misinterpretation of Grand Commandery law, the petition was handed over to the Committee on Charters for action. Right after the stated conclave of Grand Commandery in May 2016, the incoming Grand Commander, Sir Knight Joseph Patrick Westfall, Jr, was persuaded by several Past Grand Commanders and others to issue a dispensation to the twelve Sir Knights from Piedmont Commandery No. 26 to form Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35 in Warrenton.

The Grand Commander, Grand Recorder, the Department Commander, a Past Department Commander, other past Grand Commanders, Grand Officers, members of the Commanderies in District 3, 4 and 9 and a number of Royal Arch Companions (all totaled Thirty-five) were present on June 6, 2016, when Sir Knight Westfall presented the dispensation to the Commander under dispensation, Sir Knight Donald Leo McAndrews, Knight Commander of the Temple.

On June 8, 2016, the Commandery held its first stated conclave for the express purpose of balloting on petitions for membership from a number of Royal Arch Masons from Warren Royal Arch Chapter No. 5. There were seventeen Sir Knights present. The ballot was spread, and the thirteen petitioners were elected to receive the Orders of Knighthood.

At the July 13, 2016, stated conclave of the Commandery, the fifteen Sir Knights present approved the petitions for four more members and after balloting, the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and Order of Malta were conferred on fourteen candidates previously approved for membership.

A special conclave was held on August 6, 2016, for the purpose of conferring the Order of the Temple on fourteen Knights of Malta who had received the Order in July. Seventeen Sir Knights, including four visitors

conferred the Order on the fourteen Knights of Malta who received that Order in July. With the exception of the Prelate, all major parts were performed by members of Turner Ashby Commandery.

At the September 2016, stated conclave, the Commandery officially received the District Deputy Grand Commander for District 3, Sir Knight Jason Weber Lotz. Sir Knight Lotz was officially received through the lines after which, the Commandery formed for inspection, per the ritual. With four petitioners not having received any of the Orders, the members decided to confer the Orders of Red Cross and Malta at the October 22, 2016, stated conclave and the Order of the Temple on October 22, 2016.

On October 12, 2016, at its October stated conclave, Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35, Under Dispensation again conferred the Orders of Red Cross and Malta on seven candidates, three from Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35 and four from Arlington Commandery No. 29 who had requested courtesy conferrals for their candidates. Once again, the Orders were conferred entirely by members of Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35 without assistance. By the end of this meeting, Turner Ashby Commandery No.35, , Under Dispensation had grown from an original twelve members to thirty members with four candidates in waiting.

On October 22, 2016, the Commandery opened at 7:30 a.m. so that we could accommodate the schedules of some key players in the Conferral of the Order of the Temple. There were six Knights of Malta present, two from Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35 and four from Arlington Commandery No. 29. Sir Knight Mark T. Pennypacker, Past District Deputy Grand Commander, Winchester Commandery No. 12, was present to again perform the part of the Prelate, which he did in a very eloquent manner. The new Sir Knights were knighted by their respective Commanders, Sir Knight Constant, ProTeam for Turner Ashby No. 35 and Sir Knight Martin C. Juul, Eminent Commander of Arlington Commandery No. 29.

In May 2017, Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35 received a Charter from the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia and held its first meeting under that Charter on May 10, 2017. The Charter Commander was Sir Knight Barry Eugene Constant, PDDGC and the Charter Recorder was Sir Knight James Barry Bartley, Past District Deputy Grand Commander.

Since then, the Commandery has been holding regular conclaves and has not failed to open since its formation. The past presiding Commanders include Sir Knights McAndrews (Commander Under Dispensation) Barry E. Constant (Charter Commander), Kenneth Lee McInnis, Jason Wayne Armistead, Charles Reese Trude, and Christopher Louis Wilson. Sir Knight Trude presided over twelve Zoom Teleconference Conclaves due to the Covid pandemic. The Recorders to date have included Sir Knights James Barry Bartley, Past Commander, Barry E. Constant, Past Commander and E. Allen Wade, Past Commander. Sir Knight Bartley is the current Recorder and will be replaced by Sir Knight Trude in March 2022. The Commandery also has five affiliated Past Commanders, four of whom are Charter members.

Turner Ashby Commandery presently has thirty-nine members on its rolls and has several candidates waiting in the wings. Their receiving the Orders of Knighthood has been delayed due to the pandemic. The Orders should be conferred along with the other Commanderies in District 3 sometime in the fall/winter of 2021-2022.

The Commandery has on its rolls one awardee of the Knight Commander of the Temple, Sir Knight Donald L. McAndrews, Past District Deputy Grand Commander, and one appointed grand officer, Sir Knight Jeffrey C. Hedges, Grand Musician. It has three honorary members, Sir Knights Joseph P. Westfall, Jr., Knight Commander of the Temple/Knight Templar Cross of Honor and Right Eminent Grand Commander, Charles

W. Wagner, Knight Commander of the Temple and Right Eminent Grand Commander, and Ralph T. Woodrow, Knight Templar Cross of Honor and Past District Deputy Grand Commander. The Commandery has two fifty-year members, Sir Knights James W. Van Luven and Jeffrey S. Mitchell. Turner Ashby Commandery also has eight Life Members in Perpetuity, and all members hold Life Sponsorships in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation.

The Commandery is in the process of acquiring all of the paraphernalia for the conferral of the orders of Knighthood. It is also looking to recruit former members of Fairfax Commandery No. 25, three of whom have already joined the Commandery.

A Brief History of Virginia Beach Commandery No. 36

By Sir Knight Jeffrey Aquino Paras, Past Commander

Chartered September 26, 2020



In The Beginning...

It started with the question, “Can a new commandery be created in Virginia Beach?”

That question was asked one February evening in 2019 to Sir Knight Benjamin Hill, then the Very Eminent Grand Commander, and Sir Knight Major Stephenson. It was agreed that it was possible, but it would take a lot of work. So, Sir Knight Jeffrey Paras went about doing the research and gathering the requirements.

On April 17, 2019, Sir Knight Paras of Grice Commandery No.16 led a meeting at Golden Corral to discuss the feasibility of forming a new commandery within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia, to be located within the Virginia Beach city limits. Sir Knights David Conner, Wayne Flora, and David Strohsahl of Grice Commandery No.16 and Sir Knight Danilo Diego of Portsmouth Commandery No.5 were present.

Among the businesses transacted at that gathering, was who might sign the Request for Dispensation and possible meeting locations. The proposed officers were identified as Sir Knight Paras for Eminent Commander, Sir Knight Diego for Generalissimo, and Sir Knight Graham Winston of Grice Commandery No.16 for Captain General.

Two weeks later on April 29th, Sir Knights Richard Collins, David Conner, Eloy Feliciano, Manuel Gatbonton, Jeffrey Paras, Ernesto Perez, William Peterson, David Strohsahl, Roger Taylor, and Graham Winston of Grice Commandery No.16 and Sir Knights Joel Bundy and Danilo Diego of Portsmouth Commandery No.5 met at Pop’s Diner to sign the request. Sir Knights Nizam Jamal, Clifford Atkinson, Jackie Harrison, and Anacio Voces of Grice Commandery No.16 would sign later that week.

Sir Knight Benjamin Hill, Right Eminent Grand Commander, issued Dispensation 201920-003 on 21 May 2019 authorizing and empowering the Sir Knights to “form a commandery of Knights Templar to be known henceforth as Virginia Beach Commandery No.13 U.D. until such time as they shall be chartered.” Upon further review of the Constitution and Statutes, Grand Commandery of Virginia determined that the use of No.13 was unauthorized; and Virginia Beach Commandery was re-assigned No. 36.

The first Conclave of Virginia Beach Commandery No.36 Under Dispensation, held on 8 May 2019, was at Lynnhaven Lodge No.220 on June 12th, to receive the Dispensation from Sir Knight Hill and to

elect the officers. An open installation followed. The officers installed under dispensation would remain in their stations and places through 2019 and 2020 during the first charter year.

In Virginia Beach Commandery's first year the Sir Knights were active within Grand Commandery. While under dispensation, they participated in the Grand Commander's Douglas MacArthur Wreath Laying Ceremony, submitted and had their By-Laws approved. They also participated in the Grand Commandery Drill Corps School and Competition in Fredericksburg; and joined Portsmouth Commandery No.5 for their Christmas Observance at St John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth Virginia. As a commandery, they also observed the Easter Sunrise service at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria Virginia.

Charter Day was on Saturday 26 September 2020 at Lynnhaven Lodge. Grand Commandery held a Special Conclave to issue Virginia Beach Commandery their charter. Due to the pandemic, attendance was limited to the Grand Commandery officers and the members of Virginia Beach Commandery. Despite the limitation, Sir Knights throughout the state and a representative from Grand Encampment were able to attend virtually. Sir Knight Jeffrey McClelland, Right Eminent Grand Commander and charter member of Virginia Beach Commandery led the proceedings.

During the Thanksgiving season of 2020, Virginia Beach Commandery began the now annual tradition of buying meals for needy families for Thanksgiving Day. Twenty-two meals were purchased for families identified by the local elementary schools in our first year. Coordination of our efforts can be credited to Sir Knights Taylor and Stohsahl.

Among our rolls are three Past Grand Commanders, Sir Knights Phillip Edward Maybery (2010), Benjamin Franklin Hill (2019), and John Jeffrey McClelland (2020) along with Sir Knight Peter Reginald Spring (2021), our current Grand Commander. Unfortunately, our members, Sir Knight Sebastian DiPietro passed before receiving our charter; and Sir Knight Salvador Dizon passed shortly after receiving it.

With the blessings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may Virginia Beach Commandery No.36 continue to strive for excellence, always keeping in sight the obligations we swore to uphold.

The Formation and History of Sinclair Commandery No. 37 ***Under Dispensation***

By Sir Knight Joseph Martinez, Eminent Commander

The Sinclair family has held a long-cherished spot in the minds and hearts of romantics and historians alike. A Scottish family of noble origins, the Sinclair family created one of the most legendary and mysterious objects of study, the famous Rosslyn Chapel. This Chapel, constructed in the 15th Century, has claimed the attention of Templar and Masonic enthusiasts for a very long time, most notably in the early 2000's with the rise of Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code*. Legends aside, The Sinclair family's Chapel is a source of wonder and mystery for symbologists, seekers, and esotericists, possessing features such as the famed *Apprentice's Pillar*, carvings of apparent-Templar signage, and other symbolic carvings. Over the lintel of the famous pillar is a quote from which reads "*Fortis est vinu; Fortior est Rex; Fortiores sunt mulieres; sup om vincit veritas.*" 1 Esdras details us the story of this contest, which we find in our Templar ritual. The Sinclair family motto, *Commit Thy Work to God*, is near in the heart of all those who kneel at the sacred altar and take upon the mantle of Chivalric Masonry.

More locally, the name Sinclair has a special place in Masonry in Manassas. Charles A. Sinclair Jr, lifelong member of Manasseh Lodge No. 182, and a myriad of other appendant bodies, was known as "Mr. Mason" throughout Virginia. His most notable role was serving as Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Virginia for many years, and many members of the Manasseh family have fond memories of his tenure as Brother and servant to the Craft. Both these local and historical names gave them the impetus for their use as this Commandery's namesake.

In 2022, various Sir Knights from across the Commonwealth, as well as neighboring jurisdictions such as Maryland and the District of Columbia toyed with the idea of a new type of Commandery in the area. This Commandery would take the best parts of Chivalric Masonry: the solemnity of ritual, the focus on the Chivalric foundations of Knighthood, and the spiritual lessons in the teachings of Jesus, and create an accessible way for those interested to meet and have fellowship as Knights Templar.

What resulted, in a most expedient manner, was a Commandery that wished to focus on the education and emphasis of the core Christian principles, such as universal love for all, and the communion with Deity when surrounded by those of like mind and spirit. The Sir Knights of Sinclair Commandery espouse the Chivalric values of honor, loyalty, courage, justice, and generosity. From a petition requirement of at least nine Sir Knights came 18 who believed in these ideals and created this Commandery, including two more from neighboring jurisdictions, and four additional affiliates as well. Even before they reached their one-year anniversary, Sinclair Commandery welcomed four candidates into the ranks of Templary in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and will continue to do as Templar Masonry flourishes.

Beauseant



Be Glorious

Biography of the Bicentennial Author



**Sir Knight Benjamin Franklin Hill, KTCH
Grand Commander of Virginia 2019-2020**

Sir Knight Benjamin Franklin Hill
Knight Templar Cross of Honor
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia in 2019-2020



Benjamin F. Hill was born March 2, 1944, in Houston, Texas. He was the son of Benjamin F. Hill of Jennings, Louisiana, and Jane W. Cade of Houston, Texas (both deceased); he had five younger brothers and sisters—one brother is deceased, and his two sisters and two brothers live in Houston, Texas. He was educated in the public schools graduating May 1963 and enlisted into the United States Marine Corps in June 1965. He went through the ranks to Gunnery Sergeant (E7), commissioned a Warrant Officer in January 1977, and appointed a Limited Duty Officer on May 1980 with Intelligence and Operational specialties. His combat duties were with the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines (3/4) and the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MAC-SOG). After a distinguishable career as a Tactical/Strategic Intelligence and Counterintelligence Officer, he retired in July 1988.

After retiring from the United States Marine Corps, he was employed as a senior Defense Intelligence Agency civilian at the United States Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, where he was the Deputy Chief of Intelligence Plans, Policy, Programs & Resources Directorate and the Chief of Intelligence Policy & Strategic Planning Division. A forward thinker, innovative manager with a practical approach to analysis, he reduced complex issues to understandable terms. Often recognized for his professional knowledge, leadership and strong team-building skills, he retired in December 2009 and was presented the Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for his distinguishable service to the Department of Defense.

Sir Knight Hill is results-oriented, takes initiative, makes decisions, and accepts responsibility. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Fellowship Lodge No. 148, Portsmouth, Virginia, on April 09, 1991. His leadership positions include:

- Worshipful Master of Ivor No. 291 [1995 and 1996]
- Worshipful Master of America Fellowship No. 148 [1997]
- District Deputy Grand Master District No. 31 [1999]
- High Priest of Mt Horeb Royal Arch Chapter No. 11 [1995-1996]
- District Deputy Grand High Priest, Capitular District No. 21 [1997-1998]
- Sovereign Master, Charles M. Flintoff Council No. 198, Allied Masonic Degrees [1999]
- Sovereign Master, J. Leon Codd Council No. 99, Allied Masonic Degrees [2000]
- Master of each of the Portsmouth Scottish Rite Bodies [1998, 2001, 2005, 2006]
- President of Portsmouth Chapter No. 352 National Sojourners [2002-2003]

- Commander of Gosport Camp Heroes of '76' [2004]
- Curator, Library and Museum, Portsmouth Scottish Rite Bodies [2010 – Present]
- Commander, Portsmouth Knights Templar Commandery No. 5 [2010-2011]
- Secretary, Hampton Roads York Rite College No. 95, YRSCNA [2012-2016]
- Prior, Virginia Research Priory No. 1823 [2015]
- Puissant Sovereign, St. Thomas Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine [2016]
- Eminent Governor, Commonwealth College No. 50, YRSCNA [2017]
- Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia [2019]
- Preceptor, Garden of Gethsemane No. 2, Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests [2022]
- Prior, Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon [2022]
- Virginia College, Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foedertis, VII Degree [3rd Ancient]

His Masonic membership also includes:

- Purdy Lodge No. 170
- Lynn Commandery Knights Templar No. 9
- Craddock Royal Arch Chapter No. 72 (Honorary)
- Rose of Sharon Prior No. 2, Knights of the York Cross of Honour
- Royal Order of Scotland
- The Grand College of Rites of the United States of America
- Portsmouth-Chesapeake Council No. 155, Allied Masonic Degrees
- Installed Sovereign Master, Grand Council Allied Masonic Degrees
- Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri
- Royal Order of Masonic Knights of the Scarlet Cord
- King Darius Council No. 17, Knight Masons of U.S.A
- Emerald Isle Council No. 30, Knight Masons of U.S.A.
- The Masonic Society
- Thrice Illustrious Masters in Virginia
- Ye Antient Order of the Corks
- Masonic Order of the Bath
- Membership in Perpetuity in several Masonic Research Organizations: Virginia Research Royal Arch Chapter No. 1753; Philalethes Society; Scottish Rite Research Society; Missouri Lodge of Research

Sir Knight Hill is an avid reader of History, Freemasonry and Esoteric subjects. He enjoys researching and writing Masonic papers for presentation at various Symbolic Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Allied Masonic Degree Chapters, Knights Templar Commanderies, Virginia College SRICF, and Scottish Rite Bodies. Many of his Masonic papers have been published in various Masonic publications and he has authored several planning documents for the Scottish Rite Valley of Portsmouth, Virginia:

- *Long-Range Strategic Plan: A Vision for the Future*
- *Strategic Roadmap*

- *Governance Structure*

He also authored:

- *Portsmouth Lodge No. 100's Bicentennial History: Evolution of a Virginia Lodge: The History of Portsmouth Lodge No. 100, A.F. & A.M., From December 14, 1814, to December 14, 2014*
- *Grand Commandery of Virginia's Long-Range Plan: The Swords of Process: A Vision of the Future 2018-2023*

He wrote the Grand Commandery of Virginia *Long Range Planning – The Swords of Progress: A Vision for the Future 2018-2023*, *Grand Commander's Guidebook for District Duty Grand Commanders and Constituent Officers 2019-2020*, *Report on Grand Commandery Financial Stability and Business Enhancement 2020*, and *Building and Sustaining Templar Membership: Essential Element to Future Prosperity 2020*, and *From the Mists of Time: The History of Templar Masonry in Virginia* for the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia Bicentennial Celebration.

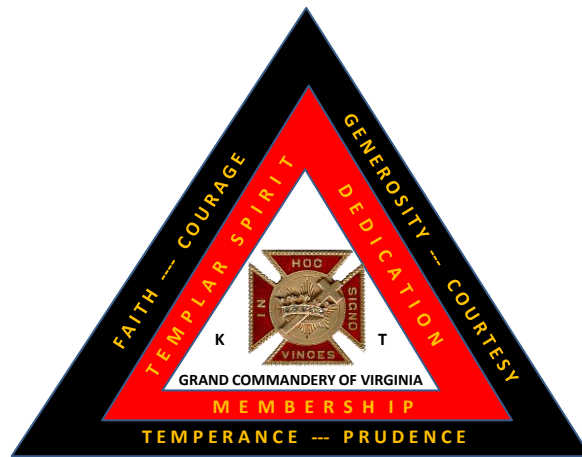
Sir Knight Hill's Honors and Awards include:

- Scottish Rite Fellow, Supreme Council Leadership Conference, Southern Jurisdiction [1998]
- Ennobled Knight (1994) and Knight Commander (2012) of Red Branch of Eri, AMD
- Silver Trowel, Grand Council Anointed High Priests of Virginia [1995]
- Investiture of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour, Supreme Council Scottish Rite [1999]
- Coroneted 33° Inspector General Honorary, Supreme Council Scottish [2007]
- Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor [2010]
- Investiture Knight of the York Cross of Honour [2011]
- Investiture of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor, Grand Encampment Knights Templar [2012]
- Investiture Order of the Purple Cross, York Rite Sovereign College of North America [2014]
- Investiture DeMolay Legion of Honor Honorary, International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay [2018]
- Investiture Knight York Rite Grand Cross of Honour with One Quadrant (2019)
- DeMolay Medal of Achievement (2019)
- Installed Worshipful Commander Noah, Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, Grand Council Allied Masonic Degrees (2020)
- Commissioned & Anointed Worthy Supreme Ruler, Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, Grand Council Allied Masonic Degrees (2020)

As Worshipful Master of America Fellowship No. 148 in 1997, Sir Knight Hill received the *James Noah Hillman Memorial Award* from the Grand Lodge of Virginia for exceptional service in the areas of Masonic Ritual, Education, Achievement, Lodge Administration, and the Lodge's Charity, Family and Community Programs. As Commander of Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, the Portsmouth Commandery received the *Right Eminent W. Crews Wooding Trophy* from the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia as the "Best Commandery" in Virginia in the 2010-2011 Chivalric year for Templar zeal and exceptional Chivalric

program achievements and received the *Ivan Clayton "Pat" Myers "Magna Cum Laude" Award* for the Commandery's high marks in Templar proficiency.

Sir Knight Hill is married to the former Carolann Persson, holder of the Knight Templar Companion of the Temple Award, of Sayville, New York. The Hills live in Suffolk, Virginia, where they enjoy reading and traveling. They have two sons; Michael lives in Oregon and Jeffrey lives in Virginia. The Hills are active members of Saint John's Episcopal Church in Old Town Portsmouth, Virginia.



This history, like the Sublime Degree of Freemasonry, is not intended to be a finished lesson; but rather a directional sign on the highway of life wherein man learns to find a series of interpretations, to have his faculties awakened to the vistas of sight, sound and ideas to which he can constantly return for new meanings and fresh understanding.

May future Committees add to this *History of Templar Masonry in Virginia* and find the fervor and enjoyment that I found in compiling this history for the Grand Conclave and Bicentennial Ceremonies.

Sir Knight Benjamin F. Hill, KTCH
Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Virginia
A.D. 2019-2020, A.O. 901-902