

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida



S.K. Henry Adams, R.E.G.C.

605 N. Ramona Avenue
Indialantic, Florida 32903
(321) 795-8316
Hadams1@aol.com



Editor: S.K. David Aponte, 2012 R.E.P.G.C., 6620 W. Constitution Lane, Homosassa, FL 34448

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights,

We are near the home stretch and there is still much to do. We still need to work on membership issues throughout our Constituent Commanderies and fine tune our ritual work for our meetings and festivals. I hope that each Sir Knight will remember nothing is possible if we do not have the help and support of all Sir Knights.

With all the distractions of our modern world, we seem to have less free time. Professionals and businessmen will not take the time to sit through long opening and closing ceremonies unless what comes between these are interesting. Learn your ritual, be more efficient in conducting your meetings and bring in outside programs (flag presentations, speakers, etc). We must provide a program that will encourage our members to feel good about attending. If our Commanderies could increase membership by 10%, we could improve our overall degree presentations as well as our meetings. In ritual work, if our leaders won't learn their parts, how can we expect others to learn theirs. If the members constantly see the Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, or Captain General reading from a book or note cards, then the others will believe that its okay. Many get discouraged because the blue lodges demand memory work and we don't. Our members should demand the same level of commitment as Blue Lodge. We need to lead by example.

I have had the privilege of attending Grand Conclaves in all of the Southeastern states as well as Alaska, Louisiana and the District of Columbia. Some of these states are losing membership and some are gaining. Our membership is dropping due to the recorders becoming more efficient in accounting for our members. We must increase our membership. Bring in more worthy Masons to our festivals **and give them a job**. The members that have no responsibility feel they do not need to come to meetings. Give them a part in the degree work, let them be an understudy in the line. Give them a reason to come to meetings. Remember, membership is our life blood. If we do not bring them in, make them feel good about being there, make them feel they are needed and appreciated, they will cease to attend, and we have lost them. It is easier to keep a member than to bring one back that we have lost.

Theories of Templar Origins

Fugitive Templars under Pierre D'Aumont

One of the persistent theories of the continuation of the Order of Knights Templar is the theory suggested in the so called "Rite of Strict Observance". It has been claimed that many of the Templars fled from France after the suppression and joined other Templars in Sweden under the leadership of Pierre D'Aumont, a preceptor of the Order. D'Aumont reorganized the fugitives into an effective combat unit and aided the Teutonic Knights in the subjugation of the region around the Baltic Sea.

One account of D'Aumont's activities holds that he first fled to Scotland, where he and his companions joined the forces of Robert Burns and fought at the Battle of Bannockburn. After the constitution of a new order of knighthood by Robert Burns, the Templars, unwilling to surrender their identity, are said to have removed their operations to Sweden.

This theory of the continuance of the Order of Knights Templar were first introduced by the adherents of Baron Von Hund in the establishment of the "Rite of Strict Observance". Although not definitely established the best authorities agree that Von Hund, received his Templar Order in Clermont, France in 1740. If this is true, it would seem that the ritual used was based on one of the so called "degrees of vengeance," as one was being worked in Clermont at the time. This degree was based on the martyrdom of Jacques DeMolay and the subsequent fate of both Philip IV of France and Clement V, the Pope. If this was the case, it appears that it was natural for the adherents of Von Hund, to look for a connecting link between the medieval order of Knights Templar and the "Rite of Strict Observance."

This theory, although one of the first offered, has never been fully investigated. In its favor, are many accounts of Templars fighting in the forces of the Teutonic Knights and rulers of the small kingdoms around the Baltic in the fourteenth century. Also worthy of note is the contention was that D'Aumont was at Clermont when the Order was suppressed because the fugitive Templars rallied at the point to secure a hearing before the Pope in 1314.

Highlights of Templar History
S.K. William Mosely Brown
Grand Encampment Committee on Templar History

A reminder to all, our Grand Conclave is fast approaching. If you have not registered, you should do so as soon as possible. It will be at the Sheraton Airport in Tampa. It is a beautiful hotel in a great city. Dates are April 27th - 30th. You can register directly with the hotel but you will need to fill out the registration form for the Conclave. Come early and enjoy all the amenities of Tampa and its activities.

Courteously and fraternally,
S.K. Henry Adams
Right Eminent Grand Commander
2013-2014

"Every Christian Master Mason Should Be A Knight Templar"