

# Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida



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## GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights,

We are quickly coming to the end of this Grand York Rite Year, and what a great year it has been, but we still have much to do. Our Grand Conclave will be next month in Tampa, and if you have not made your reservations and registration, do it soon. We would like to see the biggest crowd ever in Tampa. Activities for the ladies, good food and a lot of things to do in Tampa. Come and enjoy yourself.

I have visited all Constituent Commanderies in our state, and what a pleasure and honor it has been to meet with you and observe your work. This is something that I will never forget. This is my 5th time since coming into the Grand Line that I have done this and I thank each of you for everything you have done. Your MEGHP and I will be on the road carrying our Florida message to the other Grand Conclaves, as you see on the next page. It is a great privilege and honor to visit these bodies on your behalf. We can learn positive things that we can use here in Florida.

Remember, as we journey through April and prepare for a new Grand Commander, my time is not over yet. If there is anything that you need, questions you need answered, etc. please do not hesitate to contact me. **I am here to serve you**, it's not the other way around.

### The Jewish Half Shekel

While the Temple was standing in Jerusalem, there was an annual Mitzvah to give a half shekel coin to support the Temple work over the coming year. While people were free to give larger amounts in other ways, everyone's donation in this annual event was identical. The emphasis was to join with all the other members of the Congregation of Israel rather than acknowledging God's unique gift of financial wealth to an individual. On the Eve of Purim, this custom still exists to give a charitable donation in memory of the half shekel.

### Theories of Templar Origins The Templars and the Knights of Malta

In addition to the above lines of suggested investigation, one other lead, which must not be overlooked, is the influence which the Templars could have exerted upon the Knights of St John of the Hospital and which would have been most important after the knights took up their residence at Malta. Some have contended that the Knights of St John did not admit the fugitive Knights Templar to the Order, supporting their contention by pointing out the enmity which had existed between the two Orders during their sojourn to the Holy Land.

This contention not only lacks historical proof but also the elements of logical investigation. The Knights of St John of the Hospital was as severely depleted in the ranks after the retreat from Acre in 1219, as were the Templars. After the retreat both orders took up temporary quarters at Cyprus which was owned by the Templars. The Knights of St John captured the Island of Rhodes on August 5, 1310, and established their headquarters there. It does not seem possible that they were anxious not only to hold Rhodes but to rebuild their Order. Some have contended that the papal decree of excommunication would have prevented the Knights of St John from admitting the Templars, but it must be remembered that many Templars were freed of this ban and, as individuals, could have joined the Knights of St. John.

One point of this theory is, that is definitely known that many of the Knights of St. John were Freemasons during the early decades of the eighteenth century. Theory says in this connection: the Inquisition persecuted the Freemasons of Malta; the Grand Master proscribed the assemblies of Freemasons under severe penalties; and six of the knights were sent into perpetual exile or having attended a lodge.

Highlights of Templar History (1944)

S.K. William Mosely Brown

Grand Encampment Committee on Templar History

### Grand Commander's March 2014 Calendar

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| March 1     | Masonic Appreciation Day, Gainesville                                 |
| March 5-9   | Grand Conclave, Alaska  |
| March 9-12  | Grand Conclave, South Carolina  |
| March 14-15 | Grand Conclave, Washington, DC  |
| March 16-18 | Grand Conclave, North Carolina  |
| March 23-25 | Grand Conclave, Tennessee   |
| March 27    | Grand Commander's Visit, Oriental Commandery                          |
| March 29    | Lakeland Commandery Festival<br>Grand Line to do Order of the Temple. |
| April 4-5   | District 6 Festival, Ft Pierce  |

Courteously and fraternally,

**S.K. Henry Adams**

*Right Eminent Grand Commander*

*"Every Christian Master Mason Should Be A Knight Templar"*