



Greetings my Fellow Soldiers in Christ;

We have been discussing the 12 most famous Knights, I wish to continue at least for this month anyway. A lot is happening, by the time you read this Article our Rev. Timothy J. Squier, PHD who the Grand Commandery of CT and Knights from Washington Commandery #1 joined on January 12th at Old St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Tariffville CT to make a presentation for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee and the State Chairman S.K. William L. Miller II. By this time, he has returned from the Holy Land, and we look forward to his stories as he walked the paths of the Christ. I wait with anticipation for his safe return to us!

Our next most famous Knight is "Bertrand du Guesclin" - referred to as the "The Eagle of Brittany". Bertrand du Guesclin was born in 1320 he was a French Knight and was considered a national hero hence the moniker "The Eagle of Brittany". Bertrand after stopping an English raid at Brittany in 1354, was Knighted. He followed that victory with a defense of "Rennes" in 1357, and with a victory over Charles II of Navarre at the battle of Cocherel in 1364. He then was made Constable of France, a position he held until 1370. Bertrand commanded France's army during the 100-year war with England. Bertrand recaptured Brittany and a large area in the south west of France, he was known for his "guerrilla Tactics". Bertrand was an accomplished Sir Knight not just on the field of battle but also in Tournament Competitions, winning a reported 12 Jousts on the Trot! During Bertrand's years he was however captured by the English twice, the first time Sir John Chandos captured him at the battle of "Auray" in 1364, and he was again captured in 1367 and was ransomed the second time for a even larger fee! This was a common practice in those days, if you were captured you could pay a ransom and receive your freedom and live to fight another day! But as we find out Bertrand's death was less than heroic! As he died of "Dysentery" after the siege of Chateaufort de Randon in 1380. Bertrand was honored with a burial in a tomb at Saint Denis Basilica in Paris next to French Kings. He was so well thought of the French Poet Cuvelier wrote of his life in "Chronique de Bertrand du Guesclin".

Our next famous Knight is "Edward of Woodstock" - The Black Prince, I chuckled as I wrote this because we have a Sir Knight Edward who lives in the eastern part of the state near the town of Woodstock! Edward of Woodstock was born in 1330 and was the older son of the English king Edward III, he was the Prince of Wales and was considered as the scourge of the French nobles, thus the tag "The Black Prince" He was known for his Black Armor and Shield, and is said to have had his first armor at the tender age of seven! While a teenager he fought with distinction at the Battle of Crecy in 1346 when he helped his father gain the victory over a Superior French army. He had even more success during the 100-year war at the battle of Poitiers in 1356, when King John II was

captured. Edward gained even more respect for the Chivalrous treatment he extended to the Captive King. Edward earned a reputation for his largesse! or generous treatment of others! This was an important attribute for a Knight to possess, he gave gold and titles of importance to his commanders and also made sizable donations to various churches, such as the Canterbury Cathedral! His tactic of torching and pillaging in the North of France tarnished his reputation in that region! But it was a normal and often used tactic in warfare during that era! In 1348 CE Edward and his father were founding members of the "Order of the Garter", it was an exclusive Order for Knights! And still exists to this day! Although in my opinion their Plumed hats are not as nice as our Chapeaus!! In 1367 Edward had yet another victory and captured and held for a sizeable ransom one of his foes, who happens to be the Knight in beginning of this article "Bertrand du Guesclin" After the Battle of Najera in Spain It appears the two Knights in this article "Bertrand du Guesclin" and "Edward of Woodstock" share the distinction of both dying of dysentery! When Edward died in 1376 the nation mourned one of its greatest leaders, one who could have rose to be King! Edward's use of 3-ostrich feathers as his emblem, is still used by the Princes of Wales even till today.

"Live Templary, Be of Service"

Michael E. Seamon, KTCH
Grand Commander

PILGRIM READIED for the HOLY LAND

Led by REGC Michael Seamon, a delegation of Sir Knights in all their finery, attended services at Old Saint Andrews Church in Bloomfield on January 12 and presented their Rector, Rev. Timothy Squier with a gift of his pilgrimage to the Holy Land departing February 3rd for 2 weeks. The SKs were invited to participate in the service and reception by the parish. Modern Templary at work in CT !

