

New Hampshire

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To keep you better informed of the happenings in the jurisdiction, I will dedicate a portion of this column to upcoming events. Below are our events for November and beyond:

- Monthly Grand York Rite bodies educational series, at 7:00pm online (details provided in advanced)
- As a reminder, at the time of this publishing, the Gran Encampment is still only allowing online Conclaves -- no in person commandery meetings or orders are allowed -- there is an exception that you can declare it open for necessary business transactions (rent, bills, etc), but that is all.

Knights Hospitaller

Also known to us more commonly as Knights of Malta, had an interesting past. While our Order of Malta really does an outstanding job of explaining the history of the order, there are some other facts that I thought I would share with you all this month.

We know of their move from Jerusalem to Rhodes, and then to Malta, but did you know they were also located in Saint Petersburg in Russia for a brief time at the end of the 18th Century?

There origins trace back to the crusades as we know, and much like the Knight Templar, were focused on the pilgrims who in the Holy Land. While they did not serve in a protective role, they did, as their name implies care for the sick. They were still knights and did fight to protect their strongholds as our history tells us.

Did you know they actually were part of the colonization of the Americas? The knights possessed four islands in the Caribbean; these islands were St-Croix, St Christophe, Saint-Martin, and Saint Barthelemy. As one can surmise this was due to their relation

-ship with the French nobility, who granted (technically they purchased the islands) them these territories. They only held these territories for a little over a decade before they were returned to the French, as the order still owed a debt from the original purchase and wanted to divest of what was quickly becoming an unprofitable venture. Their influence can still be seen though in the islands with modern organizations still active today, but most tend to be for charitable purposes.

While they did not have direct territories in more northern areas of the Americas, they did have Knights in prominent roles throughout other French holdings, such as Quebec and Acadia (or what is parts of Maine today).

One last point that I found intriguing, was a division that took place within the order. The order splintered in two, with some continuing to show allegiance to Rome and the catholic church, while the other half aligned with the ideals of the protestant reformation. This was primarily a result of the nation states the particular knight were in, as many of the French knights remained catholic and those in places such as the Netherlands became protestant. You can see this today in the various orders that still exist and their varied missions.

I would point out, that these aren't speculative statements like much of the lore that surrounds the Templars, but are documented historical facts. As always, if you find an interest, I would suggest researching further and even consider sharing your findings with your fellow SKs.



York Rite Calendar -- <https://nhyorkrite.org/calendars/>

IHS,
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