

# Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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Robert D. McClarty, REGC 2022-2023

## Stay Informed

*Very Eminent Sir Knight Dennis Taylor, Deputy Grand Commander*

*The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked his subordinate officers to write articles for the insert, and this month's article was written by our V.E Deputy Grand Commander.*

Sir Knights of Kansas, be sure to stay informed. The best way to do this is by accessing the Grand York Rite website ([kansasyorkrite.org](http://kansasyorkrite.org)), Facebook, and Sir Knight Wayne Rollf's calendar. If you have any questions, please send an email to the Grand Recorder/Secretary, Allan Jackson, or myself ([dhtgmc@gmail.com](mailto:dhtgmc@gmail.com)).

I have visited two Commanderies this year, each having seven Sir Knights in attendance. There were some very good questions concerning the use of the cap and mantle. Their use is perfectly all right for an inspection. The Class A uniform can be expensive, especially for those who are just married. The Inspecting Sir Knights assigned to your commandery will be able to answer all the questions that you have concerning uniforms.

Kansas is doing great things and it begins with all our Sir Knights. No questions are too small and together we will make Kansas Templary great. Remember to pray and seek the wisdom of our Creator.

It has been a few years since I was in the eighth grade, but I remember it like it was yesterday. Geography and history were not my favorite subjects, but this particular year, my teacher talked about the European Knight Templars, Knights and Squires, traveling to the Holy Land protecting royalty and the wealthy. This was the beginning of bank notes. The money exchanged for a note was only good for the person who received the note. This stopped a lot of robberies. The Knight, usually one with Squires, would travel with the carriage to designated waypoints. There were a lot of these waypoints. They were places where the horses were fed, the travelers would eat, sleep or do whatever else they needed. Once at the sea, the travelers would board a ship to the Holy Land.

There has been a lot of discussion about where the food and hay came from. The Knights possessed a large fleet of ships and had stations throughout Europe. The number is greater than we imagine. The entire system of routes numbered in the hundreds if not thousands. During this period, everyone who could afford it desired a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

## *A little symbolism on the skull*

*Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, Grand Standard Bearer*

In the Order of the Temple the skull is an emblem of mortality. It reminds us of we will each pass from this world and be gathered into a new world which exists outside of our plane of existence. We must remember death is ever stalking us. Man is born to die, and that death is the natural order of things. We will pass away, much like all things upon the earth, and we will continue our lives in another place. For the Christian, we know and are safe in the knowledge of the salvation offered by Christ.

Another symbolism occurs when the exemplar realizes he is a warrior. There are only two outcomes when war is waged. One is victory over one's enemies. This leads to life for the victor in the battle. The other outcome is death. That death is either caused by the warrior or realized by the warrior themselves. The goal of the Knight Templar warrior of old was to protect the pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem and other parts of the Holy Land. This was not only a solemn duty, but one which dealt with combat as well. This combat was designed to end in either the death of the attacker, the infidel attacking the pilgrims, or of the Knight Templar. The Knight Templar realized early in their service they are responsible for the lives of those they protect. If they lose the battle, and their life, so will those they are safeguarding into the Holy Land. This causes the Templar to understand how serious their loss could be.

Another piece of symbolism is realized when viewing the skull before the pilgrim leaves with the order from the Eminent Commander. The exemplar is carrying a candle and a skull, which is to remind the exemplar how important their work is for humanity. As they travel the land, they realize they could die from hunger or lack of sustenance. The exemplar is taught how important the sword is to their continued existence. The exemplar is reminded death continues to stalk them at every step, yet if they are aware of their surroundings, the pilgrim may hope to return to the rewards of eternal life.

The skull represents the memory and sacrifice of those who came before us. The exemplar is taught to remember Simon of Cyrene, who bore the cross of Christ. They are further taught to remember Hiram Abiff, who is the masonic example of fidelity and constancy.

The skull portrays betrayal as well. It represents the betrayal of Judas Iscariot, who betrayed his mentor, his friend, and his Lord. He did this for thirty pieces of silver. While this betrayal was part of God's great plan, it was still a betrayal, nonetheless. Therefore the skull reminds us of Judas' betrayal of his Lord and our Savior.

The last great lesson of the skull within the Order of the Temple is to remind us of the sacrifice Christ made so that when we die, we will have eternal life. While the skull does not represent Christ Jesus because he did not leave mortal remains upon the Earth because he ascended into heaven, it does remind us of his sacrifice. Christ chose to die on the cross. Jesus was born to die, to take on the sins of the world, to redeem all who would simply believe in him. The everlasting life we are afforded by Christ's sacrifice is a gift which no one can ever repay. The skull reminds us we will die, yet we will continue to live if we have a belief in Christ as Lord and Savior and we accept him into our lives as our personal Savior. This is the greatest lesson the skull teaches us within the Order of the Temple.