

# The Hoosier Templar

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## Grand Officers' Monthly Column

# The Shroud of Turin, Ark of the Covenant, and the Holy Grail

By SK Randal Ellington  
Deputy Grand Commander

Is it true that these Holy Relics were or are in Templar Possession?

As we all know, we are The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, also known as the Knights Templar as our official name, which we were a military monastic order formed during the Crusades. It is said that the first nine Templars spent nine years digging beneath their headquarters, located in the former stables of King Solomon. We do not know what they found, but they left behind Crusader-era artifacts, including a spur, a lance, a sword fragment and a Templar cross. There seems that many Old Testament treasures could have been hidden in the heart of the Temple Mount, the greatest of which was the Ark of the Covenant. Indeed, Solomon's Temple was built specifically to house the Ark. Legend has it that the Ark was given to Menelik, the son of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Ethiopian tradition places the Ark inside one of the churches of Lalibela.

Were the Templars the last keepers of the Ark? It is not accepted by most historians that the idea that the Templars had any sort of sizable treasure, let alone the Ark or the Grail. They see the Order of the Knights Templar as aged, defunct and broken in 1307. It is true that little of value was found by King Philip's men when they ransacked the Paris Temple and all the commanderies. But it is also true that King Philip witnessed the Templars' riches when they sheltered him from a rioting Parisian mob in 1306. He also saw the bullion brought by Jacques de Molay upon his return to France in 1307. Yet, within a year, all the visible or portable wealth was gone, as well as weapons and ships. Logically, we must ask ourselves if the Templars were forewarned and took precautions prior to the hour of doom on October 13, 1307.

There is no solid evidence that the Templars possessed any of these great religious relics from the Bible, be it the Ark of the Covenant or the Holy Grail. But however, they did own the Shroud of Turin, which is believed to be the shroud of Jesus Christ. It surfaced in the 1350s, when it was put on public display by the de Charnay family. The de Charnays had strong ties to the Templar order: Geoffroi de Charnay, Preceptor of Nor-



mandy, was burned at the stake with his Grand Master Jacques de Molay in 1314. Curiously, no relic such as the Shroud of Turin was recovered from the Paris Temple, commanderies or Templar churches during the raids of 1307, when Philip IV, King of France had all of the Templars in France arrested. If the Knights Templar had the Shroud and were able to keep it a secret from most of their members and King Philip, it opens up the possibility that they did the same with other treasures as well.

We've all seen 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade' right?! Well, the story at the end with a member of the Knights Templar protecting the Holy Grail is purported to be true. The Holy Grail has always been thought of as the cup Christ drank from at the last supper (although the Da Vinci Code would argue this!) and the only people who could be entrusted to guard it were the Templar's. Obviously, no-one knows if this is true or not but I guess we'll find out when someone discovers the Holy Grail!

But we all know that the Ark of the Covenant, the Holy Grail and other Holy Relics that the Knights Templar were to have been in their possession, still are.....either they hid them on Oak Island, if they ever find it, but definitely they will forever live on as Holy Relics in Our Hearts forever!

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## *Grand Prelate's Monthly Message*

# Days to Remember

**SK Archie R Smallwood KCT, PGC**

Grand Prelate

Sir Knights as we go into the month of June let us reflect for a moment on May 30 (Memorial Day). On this special day we as Knights Templar reference those who have gone on before us and left with us the memories of those wonderful years they gave while still here with us. Many of us will be in parades or events which did celebrate those who have their names listed as heroes of the service they gave to our Country along side those who service gave us the right to live in a free nation we have. Thanks to all those who served our country and allowed us the ability to live in this nation.

When we move forward into June, we find we have other ways we can show our devotion to our country, our state, and the Knights Templar of Indiana. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, we have D-Day and then on June 14<sup>th</sup>, Flag Day, and on June 19<sup>th</sup>, Father's Day when we can stand for Declaration Day and to pay homage to our Flag, and finally for Father Day where we as Knights Templar can show our duty as fathers and that of deep respect as Christians Knights.



Since our Grand Commandery's Grand Conclave, we have had outstanding events for our Grand Officers to participate in, such as Grand Lodge where we as Knights Templar were recognized by the Grand Master at the opening where several of the Knights did form the lines for the entrance of the Right Eminent Grand Commander who escorted the Most Worshipful Grand Master. Many times, we can thank the Sir Knights who participated in this and many other events within and without the state.

When we remember, we reflect on just what it is that we as Christians need, and that need is our devotion to the Church. Refer to this passage: Ephesians 2;22: "In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling

place of God in the Spirit.

### **The Christian and The Church**

Man finds his greatest sense of security and satisfaction in the company of others who share his interests and attitudes. Of all the many groups into which humans have collected themselves throughout history, none has been so powerful, so far-reaching, or more universal as the church.

Clubs, college fraternities, lodges, literary societies, political parties, military organizations-all of these, from private clubs to the high school "gang," represent man's need to find comfort and reassurance in the company of others who approve of his way of life because their own way of life is similar

Nowhere, however, has man found this comfort, this reassurance, this peace to the extent that he has found it in the church, for all other groups are obviously man inspired. They draw artificial boundaries and set up only the illusion of protection, while the church-the body of Christ on earth-is a living, vibrant organism that draws its power from God Himself instead of relying upon outside sources to give it meaning and vitality.