

MAY ~2022

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia Douglas N. Cohen - Grand Commander, Carter L. Diggs Jr. - Editor

The world throughout its history has been known to be thoroughly strewn with capital cities representing the highest endeavors of humankind that did not withstand the test of time. Pharaoh Akhenaten built the new Egyptian capital of Amarna in dedication to the worship of the singular, all-powerful Aten; King Solomon constructed the first Temple in Jerusalem to house the ark containing a covenant of laws between the Lord and His people; and Xerxes built the Gate of All Nations in Persepolis to celebrate an amassed empire of 10,000 nations under one rule.

With a strong, established sovereignty supporting their construction and defense, and a devout belief in divine blessing, why is it that these cities and so many others, not only fell short of their magnificent goals, but failed to survive at all? Yet, others such as Damascus, Athens, and Rome still persist to this day? And a greater enigma still, how does a small group of isolated, rag-tag, squabbling colonies manage to separate themselves from the greatest ruling force on earth at the time to build a superpower of commerce and government along the Potomac River? Questions that will no doubt continue to plague historians throughout the annals of history.

Even today, we cannot know for certain whether the Great American Experiment will indeed survive the tests of time, or if it will fail at to be continuing to be one of humanity's greatest accomplishments... But an examination of the evidence suggests that the United States, and the District of Columbia in particular, hold a substantial number of extraordinary circumstances as well as secrets, which are unique among the modern capitols of government in the world.

In his book, Commercial Providence: The Secret Destiny of the American Empire, Dr. and Brother Patrick Mendis offers intriguing correlations between the achievement of global commercial power and the design of the District of Columbia as a representation of this Divine Providence.

In other words, the founders and builders of the Nation's Capital deliberately conceived a plan to invoke the continued blessings of Heaven by means of the ancient Hermetic understanding "As above, so Below," expressed within the symbolism and architecture of the capital city.

Before we examine the physical evidence of this profound idea, let us first consider the inspirations. The victories realized in the revolution against the British crown were not merely military triumphs in declaration of independence. The union of colonies into a confederation of states to create a nation ushered in a new era; one in which a plethora of significant associations formed among men in America that were previously unimaginable in Europe. But none more effectively eliminated the traditional lineage, economic, and occupational barriers that guided the voluntary socialization of diverse groups of men than Freemasonry, and its influence in the formation of the District of Columbia. And it is this sort of deliberate association of like-thinking men that continues to keep America unique through Commercial Providence.

Yet, like the symbolism within Washington, D.C. just as much does the destined and rightful role of America in national and global enterprise remain hotly debated. In the early days, scorching argument raged between Alexander Hamilton, who was a staunch supporter of a strong Central Government, and Thomas Jefferson who advocated the

predominance of States' Rights. Each in their own understanding attempted to preserve and protect the commercial providence of America through the powers of the Constitution; a differing of interpretations which delayed and nearly prevented its ratification. The first issue is known as the Commerce Clause contained in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. The clause states that the United States Congress shall have power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes". Essentially the clause resulted from confusing and competing commerce laws which developed when the states formed a union under the Articles of Confederation. Is this the destined role Washington, Franklin, Hamilton and even Jefferson predicted and feared for America? Neither the old London Royal Exchange or the new Union Bank of Switzerland, nor any other banking system seems to have ever had a greater influence on international affairs than has the U.S. Federal Reserve, save perhaps the medieval system of the vanquished Knights Templar.

With a square in one hand and a compass in the other, a new surveying team set out to mark the newly defined federal district with specially engraved stones to forever designate, celebrate and mark the boundaries of the American Capital City. There would be forty stones in total, ten for each side of the square (set on its axis) spaced apart at one-mile intervals. Each stone facing toward the center of the District of Columbia engraved with the inscription "Jurisdiction of the United States" and the corresponding mile. The reverse side of each marker became etched with the place names "Virginia" or "Maryland" depending on the placement of the stone. On the sides of each stone, the year 1791 the surveyors laid markers for the fourteen engraved boundary stones positioned in Virginia, and 1792 dating the year the remaining twenty-six markers were situated in Maryland. When completed, the exterior of the Federal District resembled a diamond, and the interior symbolized a Pythagorean Y to encompass the elemental forces of nature. In so designing it, Washington, DC became a Masonic city. George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Pierre L'Enfant, Andrew Ellicott, Benjamin Banneker jointly believed the power of the combination of the celestial and terrestrial would affect the destiny of the nation, and thus collaborated in a determined plan to align the city with the stars stating, "A city that is laid out in such a way that it is in harmony with the heavens is a city in perpetual prayer. It is a city built on the recognition that every human activity needs the sanctification of the spiritual world, of which the symbol is the light of the living stars."

Whether these men, the Founding Fathers, and others to follow were deliberately attempting to align the boundaries and buildings of the District of Columbia to the stars is not in every respect certain. However, symbolism by nature is bound to conceal truths from those who are not mindful of them, revealing the depth of meaning only to those with the eyes to see and ears to hear. But it is known that the concepts of synchronizing astronomy, geometry and architecture are and have been in the past, part of the methodology of the adherents of Freemasonry, of which the Lion's Share of these visionary men were prominent, practicing members of the Craft. As a final thought, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote (*Democracy in America*, 1835); "Providence has given us a torch which our forefathers did not possess, and it has allowed us to discern fundamental causes in the history of the world which the obscurity of the past concealed from them." Excerpted from Marcus Trelaine's lecture on Dr. Patrick Mendis' book "Commercial Providence, The Secret Destiny of the American Empire," Carter Diggs, Editor 5/01/2022