

NEW HAMPSHIRE KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS



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August 2023

Remember to be gentle ith yourself and others. We are all children of chance, and none can say why some fields will blossom while others lay brown beneath the August sun.

Kent Nerburn

Sir Knights,

I hope that you were not adversely impacted by the heavy rains we have experienced these past few weeks. To say that our weather has been interesting is an understatement. Let us keep in our thoughts our Fratres in Vermont and other locales where the floods caused serious damage.

Our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Kaleb R. Brown, and the Sir Knights of Palestine Commandery No. 11 braved torrential downpours Sunday, July 2, last, to march in the 400th Anniversary Parade in Dover. They were joined by Sir Knight and Brother Daniel R. Hotchkiss, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, and many of his officers and representatives of other Masonic bodies. After the parade, the Sir Knights and Brethren assembled at the grave of Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight Moses Paul, the twenty-ninth Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, who passed away in 1860. He was the first Eminent Commander of Saint Paul Commandery and, at the time of his passing, was Commander and the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Hampshire. It had long been the tradition to conduct a memorial service at his graveside every tenth anniversary of his death. Brother and Sir Knight Paul was the agent of the Coheco Manufacturing Company and Dover's most prominent citizen. He was introduced to Abraham Lincoln who remarked, "Well, sir! As you bear the names of both Moses and Paul you must be a pretty good man."

Sir Knight Paul was the first Captain of the Stratford Guards, the local military company which was formed exactly one hundred years ago. Principally a ceremonial unit, they formed the escort for such notables as the *Marquis de Lafayette*, during his visit to Dover in 1824, and President Theodore Roosevelt who visited in 1902. The Stratford Guards were, from time to time, mustered into the New Hampshire Militia, United States Army, and National Guard, and its members saw action in the Civil War and Spanish American War. Another of its Captains was Sir Knight, the Honorable Charles H. Sawyer, the forty-first governor of New Hampshire, himself an Eminent Commander of Saint Paul Commandery.



Sir Knights leading the Masonic contingent.



The Most Worshipful Grand Master and his suite.



The Masonic float.



The memorial at Moses Paul's gravesite.

The Right Eminent Grand Commander calls on all Sir Knights to join him for two other parades this month. Saturday, August 12, the Shrine Parade will take place in Concord, as part of Shrine Northeast Field Days. Assembly is on Hazen Drive and the parade will step off at 2:00 p.m. The following Saturday, August 19, we will March in the Town of Jaffrey which is celebrating its 250th Anniversary. The parade will form at Conant High School and will step off at 10:00 a.m. These are excellent opportunities to bring attention to our wonderful Masonic and Chivalric Orders.

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has ordered the following schedule for Commandery Inspections:

Saturday, February 3, 2024, Portsmouth, Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, De Witt Clinton Commandery No. 2 and Palestine Commandery No. 11;

Saturday, March 9, 2024, Lancaster, Order of Malta, Mount Horeb Commandery No. 3 and North Star-Saint Gerard Commandery No. 4; and

Saturday, March 16, 2024, Manchester, Order of the Temple, Trinity
Commandery No. 1 and Saint George Commandery No. 8.

Each Inspection will begin at 1:00 p.m. and be preceded by lunch at Noon. Additional details concerning the above and other events may be found in GENERAL ORDER NO. 2 and on the New Hampshire York Rite website.

Courteously,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas X. Tsirimokos". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas X. Tsirimokos, K.G.C., P.G.C., P.D.C.

Assistant Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery of New Hampshire

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