

CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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Stimulating interest in the history of Templarism and Freemasonry *by Sir Knight Roger S. Ross*

Greetings Brother Sir Knights,

Most of our California commanderies have completed their installations for the new Chivalric year, I have one more in February and a four-way reception on the tenth of this month in Woodland, where I hope to meet Commanders and Knights from as many as six more commanderies. So far it's been a fantastic year (I've just passed the half-way mark of my "regime") and I am overjoyed at the comradery and fellowship I have observed all around the state.

At various times in my articles, and in speeches I've given at receptions and other gatherings, I've hoped to stimulate interest in the history of Templarism and Freemasonry. I'll continue that endeavor today. I just ran across a booklet published one hundred years ago (1924) by the Masonic Service Association called "A History of the York and Scottish Rites of Freemasonry". Once again I read about the Knights' efforts to continue after the tragic death of Grand Master DeMolay and the downfall of 1313. This publication reminded me of the theory that some Knights in Scotland fought with Robert Bruce at the *Battle of Bannockburn* in June of 1314. In gratitude, thereafter, Bruce founded the Order of Heredom de Kilwinning, referred to as a Masonic Order. As time passed, the chivalric origins of Freemasonry were forgotten and

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Freemasonry degenerated into a purely operative guild of builders. Our French brothers revived the Templarism ties in the eighteenth century.

This publication also references the Temple Church, which was built by the Knights in 1185. With the suppression of the Knights Templar in 1313, ownership passed among various religious institutions and became the property of the Crown under Henry VIII in 1511.

In 1609, James I granted it to the legal bodies (the Inner and Middle Temple, of which I'm quite fond, as most of you know). There is so much Templar history, and the majority of it indicates very close ties to the modern institution we know as Freemasonry.

I recognize that it is unlikely that I will persuade anyone who does not already agree with me as to the origin of Freemasonry being birthed by the Knights Templar and their successive organizations, but I will certainly not abandon my belief either. In any case, it always makes for interesting discussions whenever Templars and Masons gather and I will continue my research as long as I am physically able. Thank all of you for your time and support. ✚



Fiat Lux et Veritas,

Roger S. Boss
Grand Commander



AMAZON LINKS TO BOOKS HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ARTICLE:

Henry Ridgely Evans: *A History of the York and Scottish Rites of Freemasonry*
[\[https://a.co/d/ezZbPeJ\]](https://a.co/d/ezZbPeJ)

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