



1920 as Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

## Harry G. Pollard, 33rd Grand Master of the Grand Encampment 1940-1943

(Eleventh in a series on our Grand Masters) by  
George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT, ADC

Chairman, Grand Encampment Knights Templar History Committee

Harry Gilmore Pollard was born on February 19, 1875, in Lowell, Massachusetts, the son of Arthur Gayton Pollard (1843-1930) and Martha Melissa (Fuller) Pollard (born 1847-died between 1920 and 1930). His father is quite interesting in his own right, being the owner of a department store (Pollard's) in downtown Lowell as well as operating a business that dealt with remnants of fabrics and carpeting from all the mills in New England. His father was also quite active in Freemasonry and served as general grand high priest of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons from 1903-1906. Most Eminent Sir Knight Pollard graduated from Lowell High School and held membership in the First United Baptist Church of Lowell. He carved himself a career of distinction and leadership in the world of commerce, becoming president of the A.G. Pollard Company, Inc. in 1931 following his father's death, which at the time was Lowell's leading retail department store. He was also vice-president of the Central Savings Bank, president of Stony Brook Railway, and director of the Lowell Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He served as president of appropriations of the South Congregational Meeting House and was the first president of Lowell Rotary Club. He was president of Vesper Country Club and a long time active member of the Old Middlesex Chapter of the Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution. He also served as food administrator for Lowell and vicinity during World War I. On April 29, 1903, he married Miss Leah Parchert (born in 1881) of Lewiston, New

York. They had two sons: Arthur G. Pollard, II (1904-1980) and Harry G. Pollard, Jr. (1907-1992).

His extensive Masonic record is shown below:

#### Symbolic Lodge

He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Ancient York Lodge in Lowell on June 11, 1896; elected and installed worshipful master on October 10, 1907, and served in 1908-1909; served Grand Lodge of Massachusetts as senior grand steward in 1911, junior grand deacon in 1912, district deputy grand master in 1913-1914, and deputy grand master in 1920; and received the Henry Price Medal in 1921. He was grand representative of Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario in 1929.

He was an honorary member of Pentucket and Kilwinning lodges in Lowell, a charter member of William Sewall Gardner Lodge in Lowell on March 31, 1929 and received the Veteran's Medal in 1947.

#### Capitular Masonry

He was exalted in Mount Horeb Chapter, Royal Arch Masons on February 15, 1897, and served as high priest in 1919; anointed a member of Massachusetts Convention of High Priests on March 11, 1919; served as deputy grand high priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts in 1924 and as grand high priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts during 1925-1927; received the Paul Revere Medal on December 10, 1929; served as treasurer of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts from 1931-1947; and received the fifty year emblem on April 15, 1947.

#### Cryptic Masonry

He was greeted in Ahasuerus Council, Royal and Select Masters on June 21, 1897, served as illustrious master from 1914-1916, and served as grand principal conductor of the work of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts 1917.

#### Chivalric Masonry

He was knighted in Pilgrim Command- ery No. 9, Knights Templar on February 19, 1898; served as commander from 1906-1908; grand commander of Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Massachusetts and Rhode Island in 1920- 1921; and as grand master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America from 1940-1943.

#### Scottish Rite

He received the degrees from the 4th to the 32nd in the following bodies; Lowell Lodge of Perfection on March 29, 1897, where he served as thrice potent master from 1905-1907; Lowell Council of Princes of Jerusalem on April 5, 1897; Mount Calvary Chapter of Rose Croix in Lowell on April 13, 1897, where he served as most wise master from 1917-1919; and Massachusetts Consistory, Boston on April 23, 1897. He was created an honorary 33<sup>rd</sup> at Boston on October 4, 1912; served as grand sword bearer under Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin Maynard Johnson; and was the first lieutenant commander of Massachusetts Council of Deliberation.

Sir Knight Pollard was a member of Aleppo Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine in Bos ton and served as potentate in 1937. He was also a member of the Royal Order of Jesters. He was made a member of the Massachusetts College, Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis on November 9, 1917, and served as celebrant. He served as treasurer of the College from 1932-1940. He was a charter member of Bay State Conclave No. 29, Red Cross of Constantine on December 17, 1952.

He was a member of Massachusetts Priory No. 52, Knights of the York Cross of Honour. The Forty-Second Triennial Conclave at which Most Eminent Sir Knight Pollard presided was held on May 24, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois. A short meeting was held due to the war restrictions.

After a long illness, Sir Knight Pollard passed away at Juniper Hall in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, on June 29, 1968. (Author's note: Juniper Hall was at that time owned by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and was known as the Masonic Hospital.) Funeral services were held at the Morse Funeral Home in Lowell on July 3, 1968. I have been unable to locate where he is interred in Lowell.

Right Eminent Sir Knight Marshall, KYGCH(3), KCT, 33<sup>o</sup>, is a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Alabama. He is a member of the Editorial Review Board of the Knight Templar magazine and has published several articles in that magazine as well as in the Royal Arch Mason magazine. He can be reached at [geomarsh@yahoo.com](mailto:geomarsh@yahoo.com).

#### Sources Used

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- 3) "Forgotten New England" at <http://forgottennewengland.com/tag/lowell/page/4/>
- 4) Bartlett, Sheppard, "Arthur G. Pollard" at [http://www.plaistowhistorical.org/phswp/?page\\_id=219](http://www.plaistowhistorical.org/phswp/?page_id=219)

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