

A Knight's Guide to the Most Recent Research and Investigation Into The Knights Templar in the New World

By

M. Em. Kt. William F. (Bill) Mann, GCT

Supreme Grand Master, Sovereign Great Priory – Knights Templar of Canada

I read with a great deal of interest the short article by Sir Knight (Dr.) Donald J. G. Chiarella entitled, "A Hypothesis on the Templar Treasure of the Temple Mount,"¹ which recently appeared in the June 2020 issue of *Knight Templar* magazine.

Sir Knight Chiarella's article raised a number of pertinent questions with respect to the existence and current location of the so-called "Templar treasure." This all-encompassing treasure is what most Sir Knights recognize as the treasure purportedly discovered within a sacred vault or secret crypt below the Temple Mount by the original Knights Templar. It is also the origin of the mythical treasures portrayed in the blockbuster movies: *The Da Vinci Code* and *National Treasure*.

York Rite Freemasons relate the secret crypt to Royal Arch Masonry, including its ceremonial ritual of the crypt's discovery along with the Ineffable Word.² Interestingly, many modern-day Masonic researchers now suggest that both Royal Arch and Scottish Rite masonry evolved directly from the discovery of the sacred vault by the original Knights Templar. There is also a good case for assuming that much of the symbolism of Royal Arch Masonry was included in the Royal Arch ritual by the original Rosicrucian mystics, as some of the best-known symbols of Royal Arch Masonry bear a knight templar

close resemblance to those of alchemy.



The sacred vault, 18th century York Rite Royal Arch teaching board, origin unknown (image within public realm)

Dr. Chiarella certainly must be commended for the highly reasonable and logical development of his hypothesis. Questions surrounding the medieval Knights Templar and the true reason for

their existence are what makes modern-day Christian Masonry so unique within the fraternity of Freemasonry. The curiosity and dedication of all Sir Knights as to our true historical origins is, in part, what bonds our order. Like many others, though, Sir Knight Chiarella too quickly surmises that the Templar treasure currently lies in the possession of one (very important and very rich?) Knight Templar or Swiss institution.

Unfortunately, most of those who comment on the subject fail to heed the medieval Knight Templar mantra to “always look beyond.” Indeed, most commenters rely entirely on a “science-based” reasoning and logic, where they believe that proof through science alone can explain the fate of the Templar treasure, but one must understand that it was a deeply spiritual and mystical belief, supported by the very existence of a sacred treasure, which allowed the Knights Templar to so readily sacrifice their lives for the cause.

True, the medieval Templars were extremely successful in battle, because they believed in both religious and military discipline and order. This, in turn, prompted them to develop a remarkable series of castles and commandries across all of Europe in order to provide an unbroken communication and military network, but their beliefs absolutely went beyond the obvious. The moral here is that a Knight needs to always look beyond the next hill, beyond the next pinnacle, beyond the horizon. In other words, a Knight must always look for a higher degree of understanding.

The medieval Templars reasoned that God lay in their souls and not in their hearts. Thus, the soul emitted from the brain, in that the brain allowed one to

reason for oneself the very existence of God, the Supreme Being. Here was the real reason why the Muslims would look to cut off a medieval Knight’s head. It was to separate his soul from his body in order to prevent the Knight from going to Heaven.

At the time, this type of unorthodox thought would have been considered by the Church to be extremely heretical. It was the Church, and only the Church, which dictated that it was the only true conduit to God, and as a result, an individual could not talk directly to God. This task lay completely in the hands of the pope and the priests.

Strategically, the inner circle of the Knights Templar also understood the concept of time and space, where current events would surely have repercussions in the far future. This concept is much like the strategy behind the game of chess, the origin of which some have attributed to the Knights Templar. One player’s move may lead to several different strategic moves and counter-moves by both opponents some three or four additional moves throughout the game. There is even a special name applied to the knight’s move around the chess board, never falling on the same square twice. It is known as the *Knight’s Tour* and is said to take generations to complete successfully.

Native North Americans have always planned for seven generations, and what has become evident, to me at least, is that the medieval Knights Templar applied the same spirituality and inevitability to their secret endeavours. When the medieval Knights Templar arrived on the shores of North America, they were greeted as blood brothers (as opposed to the earlier Vikings), because

the indigenous elders recognized the ancient signs, seals, and tokens that were offered in peace. These signs were the same as those given by earlier, just as secretive, pre-Christian trans-Atlantic traders such as the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Egyptians, Greeks, and Jews.

The Knights Templar had certainly learned the senselessness of trying to defeat and impose their will over their formidable Muslim opponents. They also knew that if they had any chance of traveling across a vast Native North America, they would require the guidance and guardianship of the First Nations peoples.

One result of this life-long lesson of self-realization is that I believe this is now the right time and place to highlight the most recent research and investigation into the idea that modern-day Masonic Templarism can be directly traced back to our medieval ancestors and that the medieval Knights Templar in fact “re-assembled” the scattered Temple Mount treasure in a mysterious and magical “sacred vault” somewhere in North America, where it remains to this day. Here, both Templar and Rosicrucian beliefs intimate that the ultimate treasure awaits the proper time and space (As above, so below) to reveal itself. Only those who possess the sacred knowledge and understanding to gain the hidden wisdom will finally be able to access the vault.

The overall premise to this mystery is that the Knights Templar looked to the “New World,” Native North America, hoping to establish a New Jerusalem, a sacred sanctuary where Solomon’s Temple could be re-constructed in all of its splendor. This symbolizes the Templar’s ultimate desire to establish a new spiritual center on earth, replac-

ing *that-which-was-lost*. This would allow the Templars to finally erase their humiliation at the hands of the Muslim Saracens and Mamelukes. Of course, the most sacred of historical relics and other religious objects would be required to sanctify the newly-constructed Temple and its inner sanctum.

All Freemasons will surely recognize the undeniable relationship between Masonic ritual surrounding the rebuilding of Solomon’s Temple and the deep spiritual objectives of the original Knights Templar. Many Freemasons, especially those who are also Masonic Rosicrucians, will also recognize the significance of the reference to a New Jerusalem, as highlighted by Sir Francis Bacon in his *New Atlantis*,³ which was originally published in Latin in 1627. Of course, Francis Bacon was one of the first of many remarkable Rosicrucians of the early 17th century and is reputed to have been the genius behind the writings of Shakespeare. It was Bacon who coined the phrase “*Scientia potential est,*” knowledge is power. For Rosicrucians, this sacred knowledge lies with the image of the wise old man who sleeps in a cave concealed within a mountain.

For Bacon, it was the additional hidden knowledge of the medieval Templars establishing a New Jerusalem in the New World which became his spiritual muse. Other well-known European mystics such as John Dee, Robert Fludd, John Locke, Johanne Kepler, and Isaac Newton who formed the basis for the Royal Society, had at least an inkling of the wisdom that awaited those who could unravel the clues as to where in the New World the Templar treasure lay. Some of the clues lay within the earliest forms of Craft Freemasonry, which many now believe evolved out of the earliest

history of Knights Templar and their secret rituals. Some of the clues also lie within the actual journals of Prince Henry Sinclair, which have recently been discovered and are slowly coming to light.

As we are all well aware, the Order of the Temple with its warrior-monks has a



The old man in the mountain, early 17th century Rosicrucian block print, dated 1604, origin unknown (image within public realm)

tangible spiritual relationship with nine hundred years of history. The problem is that a proven historical connection between the medieval Knights Templar and modern-day Christian Masonry is still tentative at best, although, as I've already indicated, a great deal of compelling historical documentation and other evidence has recently come to light. This

evidence coincides with other research being conducted by a group of dedicated individuals, who look to finally answer those questions raised by seekers of the Templar treasure.

This group, appropriately named *Templar Gold*, consists of (beside myself) my good friends and colleagues, Scott and Janet Wolter and Steve St. Clair. The name *Templar Gold* speaks to that golden knowledge and understanding that is derived from a clear understanding of the Knights Templar and not to physical treasure. The stated purpose of the group is to finally make known the true and unbroken "hidden history" of the Knights Templar, from their origin to the present day. In this manner, historical fact may help once again to balance the world's perception of the most famous chivalric order, the Knights Templar, and their true place in history.

If proven definitively once and for all, Freemasonry and Templarism could lay claim to a continuous nine hundred-year history of chivalry and craft brotherhood, as well as a priceless "treasure," consisting of the highest level of knowledge and understanding. On this level, the great wisdom that would derive from this discovery could very well change the world in so many different ways. It could even possibly, depending on its contents, finally bring the three great monotheist religious traditions, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam together in mutual understanding and acceptance.

Scott Wolter, a professional geologist, is best known as the host of the History Travel Channel's hit show, *America Unearthed*, and is author of several books, including *The Kensington Rune Stone: Compelling New Evidence*,⁴ *The Hooked X: Key to the Secret*

History of North America,⁵ *Akhenaton to the Founding Fathers: The Mysteries of the Hooked X*,⁶ and most-recently, *Cryptic Code of the Templars in America: Origins of the Hooked X Symbol*⁷ (www.hookedX.com). Scott is a consecrated Sir Knight of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar U.S.A.

Janet Wolter herself is a force to be reckoned with. She is co-author of *America, Nation of the Goddess: The Venus Families and the Founding of the United States*⁸ (www.hookedX.com) with Templar historian, Alan Butler, and is a major proponent of the sacred feminine, as demonstrated throughout America in the form of the goddess, Columbia. Many Masons and non-Masons alike do not realize that the District of Columbia and its many elements are dedicated to the Goddess. This aspect has been far too long ignored along the different pathways leading to the sacred vault, in that the medieval Knights Templar definitely embraced the concept of dualism and the sacred feminine. Hence, the three-sided triangle signifying, on one level, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost (the Mother?).

Although not a Mason, Steve St. Clair, has completed and continues extensive DNA research and genealogical documentation in relation to the Clan Sinclair. Steve St. Clair launched and has managed the Sinclair or St. Clair DNA study since 2004. The project is one of the more inventive and aggressive of all surname studies. Steve is using medieval land transfer records combined with living DNA connections to prove which of the living members today connect with those of the surname Sinclair or St. Clair who invaded England with William the Conqueror in 1066. Steve refers to the knight templar

DNA study's major discoveries so far as "a criterion of multiple independent connections." In 2019, Steve began a major initiative in England to research every scrap of document on medieval people carrying the surname. He has made great progress in the Counties Somerset and Essex records archives. All this research will be published in 2020 at www.StClairResearch.com.

As the author myself of several best-selling books on the matter, including *The Knights Templar in the New World: How Prince Henry Sinclair brought the Grail to Acadia*,⁹ *The Templar Meridians: The secret mapping of the New World*,¹⁰ *Templar Sanctuaries in North America: Sacred Treasure, Sacred Bloodline*,¹¹ and most-recently, the novel *The Last Refuge of the Knights Templar: The Ultimate Secret of the Pike Letters*¹² (www.innertraditions.com) and as a direct descendant of many of the central Knights Templar characters in this saga, I feel blessed to be so intimately involved in this quest. I also feel most fortunate to be able to disseminate the most-recent historical research and information on the subject to esteemed groups such as the Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar of the U.S.A.

I am also in the unique position; with my mother being full-blooded Algonquin Indian and myself being initiated into the Mide'win, the Grand Medicine Society of the Ojibwa-Anishinaabe; of being able to speak comprehensively to the native oral legends and traditions of the Algonquins. These are the legends and myths that tell of the intermarriages between the Knights Templar and the Native North Americans. Strategic intermarriage, as practiced by Old World royalty for thou-

sands of years, is a major central element that has become prevalent in the unravelling of how the medieval Knights Templar could have established sanctuaries or a refuge in North America. Indeed, my family is living proof of the concept of strategic intermarriage.

Of course, a short magazine article is the last place where all of the available research and information on this wide-ranging topic can be made available, so I encourage any Sir Knight who has an interest in the question of the Knights Templar in the New World to peruse the many internet websites which have been noted in this article and to read the books also noted. I must warn you though that the question of whether the Knights Templar did, in fact, intermarry with the Native North Americans and establish settlements and sanctuaries in North America in pre-Columbian times, bringing with them the Templar treasure, can be all-consuming.

That being said, Scott and Janet Wolter are currently conducting an in-depth investigation into a 12th century document that Scott has named the *C-Document*, or *Cremona Document*, because it first came to light in the mid-1900's in Cremona, Italy. This authenticated document, (actually two documents recorded by the learned monks of the Castrum Sepulcher in Serborga, Italy) provides the required historical connection between the nine original Poor Fellow-Soldiers (Knights) of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon (hence the name, Knights Templar); their early 12th century discovery (1108–1118) below the ancient site of the Temple of Solomon; the later 12th century mission (1177 – 1180) to America by an English Knight Templar, Sir Knight Ralph De Sudeley (one of my 25th

generation great-grandfathers); and the late 14th century mission (1398 – 1402) to America by the then-hereditary grand master of the Scottish Knights Templar, Prince Henry Sinclair (b. 1358), (one of my 20th generation great-grandfathers).

It was Prince Henry and his refugee Scottish Knights Templar who went on to establish a series of Templar sanctuaries across North America. With the guidance and fraternity of his Native North American “blood brothers” of the larger Algonquin Nation, it was the direct descendants of a holy bloodline established between the Templars and Native North Americans who were responsible for establishing the last refuge of the Knights Templar, along with establishing a final repository for the Templar treasure.

For an in-depth understanding of the *Cremona Documents* and their importance in relation to the overall question behind the Knights Templar in the New World, one needs to read *Cryptic Code of the Templars in America: Origins of the Hooked X Symbol*. For an in-depth understanding of the role that Prince Henry Sinclair and those Scottish Templars who followed him across Native North America play in this story, one needs to follow the path that I've discovered and written about in my three books, which I have identified and coined as a Templar trilogy.¹³

One cannot forget the underlying *raison d'être* of the early Knights Templar and the many royal families interspersed across Europe, the Middle East (mainly Turkey, Edessa, and Armenia), and Scandinavia, from which their ranks were continuously filled. Outwardly, the earliest Frankish-Norman-English Templar families were practicing Roman Catholics.

Inwardly many of these families secretly maintained older Judeo-Christian beliefs, having directly descended from the many Jewish (*Ivri*) High Priests of the 1st century and beyond.

This means, among many things, that they possessed direct knowledge of exactly where the sacred treasure of the Temple had been hidden during the sacking of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. In turn, this means that the stated purpose of the earliest Poor Fellow-Soldiers (Knights) of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon of protecting the pilgrims of Jerusalem was nothing more than a clever ruse. Conversely, their one and true purpose was to recover and subsequently protect at all costs the Temple treasure. Possession of the treasure, in whatever form, allowed the Knights of the Temple to successfully petition Pope Innocent II in 1129 to be formally recognized as a distinct religious and military order, only answerable to the pope himself.

Godfrey de (Boulogne) Bouillon (1061–1100), the defender of Jerusalem, and his brother, Baldwin I (1058–1118), who took the title that Godfrey denied, “king of Jerusalem,” were both from one of the exalted Crusader families (de Boulogne/Bouillon) who took Jerusalem for the first time. As was the custom, Baldwin de Boulogne dropped all other titles, including count of Edessa when he was crowned king of Jerusalem. The title, count of Edessa, was conveyed to his good friend, Baldwin of Reithel, a fellow Crusader.

Neither Godfrey nor Baldwin I had any children, so the de Bourgogne bloodline descends from their brother, Eustace III (1059–1125), comte (count) de Boulogne (one of my 27th generation knight templar

tion great-grandfathers). It was Hugues de Pay(e)ns (one of my 26th generation great-grandfathers), another of the original nine knights, who became the first grand master of the Knights Templar following their formal recognition during the Council of Troyes in 1129.

The House of Boulogne ruled Jerusalem between 1099 and 1118, with Godfrey assuming the title of “protector of the Holy Sepulchre” for only one year between 1099 and 1100, due to his death on July 18, 1100, at the age of forty. Then his brother, Baldwin I, assumed the title of king of Jerusalem until his death in 1118, with Warmund de Picquigny (1069–1128) assuming the position of regent of Jerusalem (1116–1118) after Baldwin I fell seriously ill in 1116.

The title of “king of Jerusalem” was the highest honor of the Holy Kingdom, and many of the kings and Latin patriarchs of Jerusalem (Crusaders themselves) paved the way for the Knights Templar and their clandestine activities. The title of king was in part hereditary in nature and in part determined by election or at least recognition by the *Haute Cour* (High or Supreme Court). As such, the story of the nine original members of the Knights Templar would not be complete without reference to Warmund de Picquigny. Known also as Guermond (one of my 25th generation great-grandfathers), Warmund was a fellow Crusader, who also became the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem (1118-1128).

The story of the formation of the Knights Templar suggests that Warmund de Picquigny was the one who was first approached by the group of Christian Knights requesting permission to elect a master to lead them to defend the kingdom. Upon receiving his consent, Hugues

de Payens was chosen as the first grand master of the Knights Templar. Warmund was the one who granted the stables of King Solomon to the original nine knights for their exclusive use. It was also Warmund who apparently charged the Knights Templar with the duty of keeping the roads safe from thieves and others who were routinely robbing and killing pilgrims in route to Jerusalem.

Warmund was also a half-brother to Geoffrey V Plantagenet D'Anjou (another 25th generation great-grandfather). In turn, Geoffrey V Plantagenet D'Anjou (1113–1151) was father to King Henry Plantagenet II (another 24th generation great-grandfather) of England (1133–1189), the first-ever Plantagenet king. The aforementioned De Sudeley family shared the same ancestral roots with both the House of Boulogne and the House of Anjou, thus providing the distinct familial connection between the first Knights Templar and those who sailed to America in 1178. The surname Plantagenet certainly suggests the growing branches of a familial vine, which is one way to describe the concept of strategic intermarriage.

Warmund de Picquigny's descendants also include Henri I, king of Navarre (1244–1274), and his daughter Jeanne, princess of Navarre (1271–1305), who married Philip IV "the Fair" of France (1268–1314). Given the theme of strategic intermarriage throughout this story and considering the "all in the family" scenario, it was surprisingly Philip IV (one of my 20th generation great-grandfathers) who conspired unsuccessfully with Pope Clement V to destroy the Templar order in 1307 in order to seize the Templar treasury. Although it begs the question as to whether the

king and pope also secretly desired the even more-valuable, more-secretive sacred treasure.

Following Baldwin I's death in 1118, the House of Rethel assumed the throne of Jerusalem, with Baldwin II of Rethel (one of my 28th generation great-grandfathers) the-then count of Edessa, becoming king of Jerusalem between 1118 and 1131. Baldwin I had actually bequeathed Jerusalem to his younger brother, the aforementioned Eustace III of Boulogne, stipulating that the throne was to be offered to Baldwin of Rethel if Eustace III failed to come to the Holy Land. Baldwin of Rethel had initially accompanied Godfrey de Bouillon and Baldwin I to the Holy Land prior to the First Crusade. He had also fought alongside Baldwin I against the Seljuk Turks during the battle of Harran (1104) and was also present in Jerusalem when Baldwin I died.

Somewhat suspiciously, the highest-ranking prelate at that time, Arnulf of Chocques (d. 1118), the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem (1112–1118), and Joscelin I of Courtenay (d. 1141) who held the largest fiefdom in the kingdom, convinced their peers that Baldwin of Rethel should be elected without delay to avoid an interregnum (an interruption in royal title). Joscelin I would be rewarded by Baldwin II for his support with the County of Edessa, receiving the coveted title, count of Edessa.

When Eustace III learned of his brother's death, he left Boulogne for Jerusalem, travelling as far as Apulia, Italy, when he was informed of Baldwin II's ascension to the throne. The delegates accompanying him tried to convince him to continue his journey, saying that Baldwin II's election was illegal, but it is said that Eustace preferred to return home.

This is not however the end of the story by any means. It appears that the titles of king and queen of Jerusalem tempted over the next 200 years even the most solemn and pious members of the multi-generational Christians native to the Holy Land.

Following Baldwin II's death in 1131, it was his oldest daughter Melisende (1105–1161), who would be crowned Queen of Jerusalem, since there was no male heir to the throne. Just before Baldwin II died, he was determined to strengthen Melisende's position by marrying her to a powerful Lord, Fulk V count of Anjou (another one of my 25th generation great-grandfathers). Fulk (or Fouques) V (1092–1143) was a wealthy Crusader and experienced military commander and a widower. Part of the marriage contract was the stipulation that Fulk would receive the title of king of Jerusalem, after renouncing all of his previous titles.

Baldwin II acquiesced to the condition and thus the House of Anjou would go on to rule Jerusalem following Melisende's death in 1153 until 1205. In 1153, Baldwin III of Anjou (1130–1163), son of Melisende and Fulk, would take over the reign until his death in 1163, to be followed by Amalric I (1136–1174), another son of Fulk and Melisende, and then by Baldwin IV, the Leprous (1161–1185), son of King Amalric (another of my 24th generation great-grandfathers) and Agnes of Courtenay, and then along with his nephew, Baldwin V (1166–1185) son of Sibylla (1157–1190) and her first husband, William of Montferrat, both jointly ruled until their deaths (rather coincidentally?) in 1185.

Neither Baldwin IV nor Baldwin V had produced heirs, so Sibylla, daughter

of King Amalric and Agnes of Courtenay, assumed the position of queen of Jerusalem in 1186, along with her second husband, Guy of Lusignan (1150–1194), son of Hugh VIII (another of my 24th generation great-grandfathers) of Lusignan (1106–1165) and Bourgogne de Rancon (1120–1169). Sibylla died in 1190, but Guy continued to rule until his death in 1194.

Many of those reading this article will recognize the backstory to the epic 2005 historical drama, *Kingdom of Heaven*, starring Orlando Bloom and Eva Green. The movie is roughly based on the turmoil during the period leading up to the Third Crusade (1189–1192) in the Holy Land and the folly of the Knight Templar, King Guy Lusignan. It was through Guy's arrogance and stupidity that Jerusalem fell in 1187 to the great Saladin. Orlando Bloom plays Balian, a blacksmith who becomes knighted due to his bravery, becoming the defender of Jerusalem and eventually leading those Christians who survived the Muslim siege out of the conquered city. During the movie, while not fighting, Sir Balian of Ibelin strategizes not only with the leper king, Baldwin IV, and the Templar grand master, Gerard de Ridefort, but becomes the lover to Queen Sibylla, King Baldwin IV's sister, mother of Baldwin V and wife of Guy Lusignan.

Hopefully, you get the overall picture. 12th century Jerusalem and the Holy Land was certainly a time of highly-charged political and court intrigue and strategic intermarriage, with the title of king and queen of Jerusalem constantly being contested. However, the lead-up and political manipulations to the disastrous Third Crusade provided the perfect diversion for a voyage to America

between 1177 and 1180 by the English Templar, Sir Ralph De Sudeley, and five other trusted Knights with the purpose of consolidating a portion of the scattered Temple treasure.

As previously noted, approximately 200 years later, Henry Sinclair, prince of Norway and the Orkneys, along with his group of refugee Scottish Knights Templar, would make their clandestine voyage to Native North America with the additional purpose of establishing secret sanctuaries across the vast expanse of the “New World” continent. It would be at the last North American refuge that the descendents of this Templar mission deposited the Templar treasure, leaving its guardianship to the native Blackfoot *Mide’win*, who by this time were their brothers through several generations of intermarriage.

When coupled with the DNA work by Steve St. Clair, along with the extensive genealogical work compiled by Steve and myself and the in-depth research of Scott and Janet Wolter that this rather sublime story is starting to be completed. Yet we all realize that we all need to heed the mantra to “always look beyond.” We constantly need to always look beyond what we have discovered or surmised to date. We also need to always look beyond where we believe the final resting place of the vault lies. Finally, we also need to always look beyond the pure speculative and apply both the speculative and operative sides of the equation.

As indicated previously, the inner circle of the Knights Templar consisted of highly spiritual, almost mystical, warrior-monks whose main purpose was to protect at all costs the Templar treasure. They realized however the practical aspect of that task, that in order to

physically build a Temple of Solomon in a New Jerusalem worthy of housing the Templar treasure, three major elements were required – stone (limestone), timber (great cedars), and (huge amounts of) gold. The *Bible*, in fact, tells us that over sixty tons of gold were used in gilding the original Solomon’s Temple.

The question is then, “Where in North America are there vast quantities of limestone, giant cedars, and gold, which could readily be mined and refined?” Where then are the lost gold mines of King Solomon? A cursory internet search will quickly provide the answer – the great state of Montana – the Treasure State. Montana has provided to date over eighty percent of America’s gold, but identifying the precise location of the sacred vault is like finding a needle in a haystack.

It can generally be said that the two main principles upon which Freemasonry is based are sacred geometry and moral allegory, as it applies to the rebuilding of Solomon’s Temple, but from where and when did these two principles derive? In terms of Christian Masonry, from where and when did the concept of the Ineffable Name and the Holy Trinity derive? Many Masons understand that they derived from the philosophical teachings of the Antients, those who preceded Christ. They derived from the teachings of Greek mathematicians and philosophers such as Pythagoras and Euclid, from Plato and Aristotle. They also derived from the concept of the sacred feminine, encompassing an earlier veneration of the goddess, Mother Earth.

This is part of the ancient knowledge that lies in the secret crypt which most probably includes priceless relics from the Jewish Temple, ancient scrolls from

the Library of Alexandria, and possibly even records from a time before the Great Flood, as recorded on the pillars of the First Temple. There may even be genealogical records, sacred relics, and artifacts relating to the purported Holy Family of author Dan Brown and *The Da Vinci Code* fame. Did the Jewish rabbi Jesus take the high priestess, Mary Magdalene, as his wife and produce a holy family? The key is to remember that this may not be the ultimate secret. The key is always to look beyond what you think is the ultimate treasure and search your soul for the truth.

Looking beyond, looking further back in time, Hermes was a Greek god gifted with the forbidden knowledge of the Universe. A quote from the *Emerald Tablet of Hermes Trismegistus* translates into the phrase, "As above, so below," which in turn suggests that one should look beyond the established Christian tenets to at least the beginning of Judeo-Christian thought. One must surely look beyond the Christian tenets accepted by those who, at the urging of Holy Roman Emperor Constantine, during the First Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, established the basis for the Christianity practiced today.

The rather enigmatic 19th century American Knight Templar and Scottish Rite Sovereign Grand Commander Albert Pike and his Canadian counterpart, W. J. B. MacLeod Moore, apparently shared at least an inkling as to where the last refuge of the Knights Templar lay. Based on authenticated correspondence that I uncovered some six years ago within the Sovereign Great Priory's Grand Chancellery while the Sovereign Great Priory's grand historian and archivist, I have been able to discern through

knight templar

the letters that Pike, at the very least, spoke directly of both the goddess and the hidden vault to MacLeod Moore, the first Supreme grand master of the Sovereign Great Priory.

Rather surprisingly, given his extensive background as a Confederate brigadier general and probable membership in the Knights of the Golden Circle, Pike had earned the undying allegiance of the Algonquin people (Cherokee and Choctaw), who initiated him into their secret society. However, it appears that Pike both accepted yet despised the knowledge that he came to possess, much like the old man of the mountain. His was most certainly a heavy burden, which lay deeply in his soul until his death in 1891.



Albert Pike dressed in Knight Templar Uniform, black and white photo, c. mid-19th century, origin unknown (image within public domain)

(Take note of both the Royal Arch and Scottish Rite collar and jewels on Pike's chest.)

In conclusion, once the time and space continuum is set, then what is left, assuming the proper application of sacred geometry and moral allegory, is for the all-encompassing “sacred vault” to finally be located, along with the “key” to unlocking the vault, but before one may even have the opportunity to make the choice as to whether to open the vault, again one must look beyond. Is the discovery of the sacred vault or secret crypt the end of the journey, or is it the start of another, higher journey? Should we awaken the old man of the mountain? Only the proper time and place will give us the answer.

William F. (Bill) Mann, GCT, is currently the supreme grand master of the Sovereign Great Priory – Knights Templar of Canada and is a prolific author on the topic of the Knights Templar and Rosicrucians. He lives in Milton, Ontario, Canada. His website is www.templarsnewworld.com, and he can be contacted at william.mann@sympatico.ca. Templar Gold’s website can be found at www.TemplarGold.com. Bill’s books are available through Amazon, Kindle, your local bookstore or directly from his publisher at www.innertraditions.com.

Sources

1. Chiarella, Dr. Donald J. G. “A Hypothesis On The Templar Treasure Of The Temple Mount,” *Knight Templar* magazine, June 2020 edition, pgs. 15 - 17.
2. Jones, Bernard E. *Freemasons’ Book of the Royal Arch*, George G. Harrap & Company Ltd., Kent, England, 1957.
3. Bacon, Francis. *The New Atlantis*, originally published in Latin in 1627. Internet: Global Grey ebooks, PDF Edition, 2108.
4. Wolter, Scott F. *The Kensington Rune Stone: Compelling New Evidence*, Lake Superior Agate Inc., Chanhassen, Minnesota, 2006.
5. Wolter, Scott F. *The Hooked X: Key to the Secret History of North America*, North Star Press of St. Cloud Inc., St. Cloud, Minnesota, 2009.
6. Wolter, Scott F. *Akhenaton to the Founding Fathers: The Mysteries of the Hooked X*, North Star Press of St. Cloud Inc., St. Cloud, Minnesota, 2013.
7. Wolter, Scott F. *Cryptic Code of the Templars in America: Origins of the Hooked X Symbol*, North Star Press of St. Cloud Inc., St. Cloud, Minnesota. 2019.
8. Wolter, Janet. and Alan Butler, America, *Nation of the Goddess: The Venus Families and the Founding of the United States*, Destiny Books, Rochester Vermont, 2015.
9. Mann, William F. *The Knights Templar in the New World: How Prince Henry Sinclair brought the Grail to Acadia*, Destiny Books, Rochester, Vermont, 2004.
10. Mann, William F. *The Templar Meridians: The secret mapping of the New World*, Destiny Books, Rochester, Vermont, 2006.
11. Mann, William F. *Templar Sanctuaries in North America: Sacred Treasure, Sacred Bloodline*, Destiny Books, Rochester, Vermont, 2016.
12. Mann, William F. *The Last Refuge of the Knights Templar: The Ultimate Secret of the Pike Letters*, Destiny Books, Rochester, Vermont, 2020.
13. Mann, William F., *A Templar Trilogy*, www.templarsnewworld.com