

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

Send submissions to Editor SK Patrick C. Carr, PEC — carrs@cox.net



February 2025

Gary Mason, REGC 2024-2025

From the Grand Commander

Sir Knight Dale Morrow, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked the current Grand Commandery Officers to write articles for this supplement. This month we hear from our Eminent Grand Standard Bearer, Dale Morrow.



Our journey through life sometimes takes us to places that we may never have imagined. Becoming a Knight Templar was not on my radar until well after my Masonic journey began. My Masonic journey came about in part by finding a “Square and Compasses” on a relative’s grave stone. This led me to start asking questions of a couple of Masons that I knew. Before I knew it, I had a petition in hand.

I am the family genealogy “historian” of my family. My mother’s maiden name was Sinclair. My Great Grandfather carried the name of William Sinclair. You cannot research the name of William Sinclair on the internet without coming up with a number of returns referencing Rosslyn Chapel, built by a long, long, deceased William Sinclair (unknown relationship), and of his brother-in-law, Hugues de Payens, and the *Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon...The Knights Templar*. For me, this triggered a barrage of time in libraries and a side trip through the book *Born in Blood* – (Robinson).

Many years passed and in early 2018 I had petitioned the York Rite of Masonry for admission. As then Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Kansas I attended the Conference of Grand Master’s of North America in Indianapolis Indiana. The conference has many vendors on the floor, and from a distance I saw a booth with a familiar face. Sir Knight Chris Hodapp sat at a table stacked full of his new book *The Templar Code for Dummies*. I purchased his book, which he signed for me on the 18th of February, 2018. I had met Brother Hodapp a couple of years earlier at one of our Kansas events where he was our keynote speaker. He wrote this book primarily in response to the popular book and resulting movie “The Davinci Code”.

While Robinson makes a bit of a conjectural trail for the Templars in Masonry in *Born in Blood*, Sir Knight Hodapp sticks more to historical knowns. The *Templar Code* does a good job of presenting the historical politics of the events which led up to the formation of the Knights Templar and all the way up through the crusades and the rise of Saladin and the eventual election of Jacques de Molay and the ultimate betrayal of the Knights and ultimate arrest in 1307. I made it about half way through this book before taking my work and beginning my journey through the York Rite of Masonry and ultimately the Commandery. Many visions of what the Templars endured ran through my head as the date of my work loomed on the horizon.

Later that year, both myself and MW Bob Talbott took our Chapter and Council work in Newton. It was quite the day as the sitting Grand Master and myself having been elected and installed Deputy Grand Master, took our work that day and were exemplars for much of the day. A month or so later, Robert McClarty (who would later become Grand Master and Grand Commander) and MW SK Cole Presley drove me to Kansas City where I took my Commandry work and was ultimately Knighted by Past Grand Commander Butch Blackman.

I found the Order of the Temple a very moving and personal experience. While I thought I had prepared myself to an extent by reading Sir Knight Hodapp's book. In reality, I had no idea. From the first reflections, to the final Knighting, brought to the forefront my faith and the symbolism throughout. I did not set out on this journey in search of the "Holy Grail" or the Merovingian blood line. What I found in reality was much deeper and much more cherished in my personal journey and like the Templars of old, a defender of the Christian Faith.

Your in the Faith,

Dale Morrow

Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Commandery of Kansas

Templar Education Program



The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA has a wonderful education portal. The portal offers courses from the website (<https://templared.org>) which are intended to give the student a better understanding of Templary in general and some of the finer points of the

various Orders within Templary. The user of the site must first create an account. After the account is created, and verified, the user can access a wealth of various evaluations, study guides, and courses. These courses include:

- **Templar Ritualist Course:** This course is divided into three sections: Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, Order of Malta, and Order of the Temple. There is no fee for this course, and the only resource needed is your Knight Templar Ritual. Once these courses are completed, the student will receive a beautiful (and large) patent from the Grand Encampment showing their completion and a pin to match the patent.
- **History of the Medieval Knights Templar:** Understanding the history of the Knights Templar can be quite daunting, but the program offered by the Grand Encampment makes it much simpler. There is a book required (approximately \$20), *The New Knighthood*, and it will lead the student through the history and customs of the ancient Order. To successfully complete the course, the student must take a series of nine quizzes and write a final essay. Upon completion, the student will receive a patent and pin.
- **Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program:** The program is intended to assist the Sir Knight to develop their chaplaincy abilities and to be a help to their various lodges and orders. There is no fee for the course, but there is a book which must be purchased for the student to take and complete the course. The program does challenge the student to step outside of their comfort zone and to work with others. This is a fantastic program, and thus far there are five Commissioned Templar Chaplains under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Kansas. Upon successful completion of the course, the new Commissioned Templar Chaplain will receive their patent and jewel. This jewel is intended to be worn on the right side of the uniform because it is a Grand Encampment Award. The Chaplain will receive a commissioning ceremony, performed by the Commissioned Templar Chaplains of the jurisdiction.
- **Trial of the Templars:** This is a new course and the particulars of the course content are not yet available. If it is anything like the other courses, it will be extremely educational and popular.