

# Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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Gary Mason, REGC 2024-2025

## From the Grand Commander

Sir Knight Robert Beardsley, Eminent Grand Warder

*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 Warder, Robert Beardsley.*



The Catholic Church has acknowledged that the persecution of the Knights Templar was unjustified. The church claims that Pope Clement was pressured by secular rulers to destroy the order.

While most historians agree that the Knights Templar fully disbanded 700 years ago, there are some people who believe the order went underground and remains in existence in some form to this day.

In the 18th century, some groups, most notably the Freemasons, revived several of the medieval knights' symbols, rituals and traditions.

Currently, there are several international organizations styled after the Knights Templar that the public can join. These groups have representatives around the world and aim to uphold the values and traditions of the original medieval order. Throughout the years, various tales have surfaced about the knights' mysterious work. More recently, stories about the legendary Templars have found their way into popular books and movies. Some historians have claimed that the Knights Templar may have secretly guarded the Shroud of Turin (a linen cloth believed to be placed on the body of Jesus Christ before burial) for hundreds of years after the Crusades ended. Another widespread belief is that the knights discovered and kept religious artifacts and relics, such as the Holy Grail, the Ark of the Covenant and parts of the cross from Christ's crucifixion. Various other ideas and myths exist about the Knights Templar's secret operations. The popular novel and film *The Da Vinci Code* presents a theory that the Templars were involved in a conspiracy to preserve the bloodline of Jesus Christ. Although much of these speculations are considered fictional, there's no question that the Knights Templar have provoked intrigue and fascination and will likely continue to do so for years to come.

I have watched several of our Order grow their dedication this year since the Grand York Rite session in May. I attended stated meetings in Newton, degree work in Hays and Iola, and Independence Kansas for their first School of Instruction. I had the honor to perform the Inspection for Wichita York Rite, attend the Kansas York Rite By-Law review in Baldwin City, and attend the Wichita York Rite Christmas celebration in Newton with several companions whom I spent time with throughout the year. The best of all is being able to travel with my friends and Sir Knights Gary Mason and Justin Crippen, all around the state of Kansas together as members of Kansas York Rite and see all my friends and how they have grown in Masonry and the York Rite here in Kansas.

Your in the Faith,

*Robert D. Beardsley*

Grand Warder, Grand Commandery of Kansas

## New Website Resources

The Grand Commandery has been busy answering questions from our membership and working to provide solutions to issues they have identified. One of these issues was to request better information from the Grand Commandery using the Grand York Rite website. To answer these concerns, the Grand York Rite website ([www.kansasyorkrite.org](http://www.kansasyorkrite.org)) has been updated with more information about the York Rite bodies here in Kansas.

Under the Downloads/Forms section of the website, there are several documents available for download. These documents include:

- **Petition for Membership in the York Rite:** This is the correct form to download, print, and have the prospective new member complete and sign. Some of the York Rite bodies have been using an older version of this form. Please us this form moving forward.
- **Scholarship Application:** Each year the Knights Templar Educational Foundation offers awards for scholastic achievement. This is a highly competitive grant and all completed applications will be considered. This grant is for Kansas high school students who will be attending an accredited post-secondary institution in the United States and graduated with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of no less than 3.0, which is a “B” in the grading system. All applications are sent to the Grand Encampment.
- **Grand Commandery Bylaws:** This is the location for the current and up to date Grand Commandery By-Laws. These by-laws govern not only our Grand Commandery, but the subordinate commanderies in Kansas. It is important to keep a current copy of these by-laws as they are updated at the Grand Convocation in May of each year.
- **New Membership Packet:** The Grand Encampment identified the need for a tool to assist the newly knighted Knight Templar in gaining a better understanding of what being a member of this Order means. This handbook is intended to be a tool for all Knights Templar to use to better understand and develop their membership within the Knights Templar. In 2025, each new Knight Templar who is knighted will receive a business card with the QR code for this website location on the card. It will allow our new Sir Knights to visit the website with a quick scan from their cell phone.

The Grand Commandery continues to be here to serve you, the members of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Grand Recorder or any officer of the Grand Commandery of Kansas with questions or requests for aid or assistance.