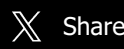




THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

*The official quarterly newsletter of the Grand Commandery
of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders of MA & RI*

Winter Edition - January, 2025 Edition



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Activities](#)

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Message from the Grand Commander

I am very pleased to announce this first edition of **The Knightly News**, a free, quarterly eNewsletter aimed at serving the interests of our Sir Knights, their families, and, indeed, all others in our Masonic fraternity as well as the general public. This eNewsletter is the result of many hours of collaboration and preparation by our eNewsletter Committee as well as a growing number of contributors. And I am forever thankful for their unrelenting dedication to making this publication a reality.

Our hope is that you will enjoy this first edition and will let us know of any topics, requests or contributions you feel would make it even more valuable for our readers. We will consider all feedback when making enhancements to future editions. In the meantime, I hope you will enjoy...and freely share this newsletter with anyone who might have interest. Readers may email feedback to our Newsletter team, via: letterreaderfeedback@northeastknights.org

In His Service,

Sir Kt. Stephen D. Whitmore
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders of MA & RI

Happy New Year

Calling Contributors

Submit an Article,
Photos, Other
Content



Prelate's New Years Message

"[Beginning a New Year](#)" penned by the Grand Prelate, SK Glen Cunningham, REPGC.
Click below for the full message

New Year's
Message

Prelate's Messages

Ascension Meditation

Rt. Rev. & S.K. Peter-Michael Preble
Associate Grand Prelate

In the English town of Walsingham, there is a Church. And inside that church is a chapel dedicated to the feast of the Ascension. Now, there is nothing unusual about that except hanging out of the ceiling in the center of that chapel is a statue of the feet of Jesus in a cloud. It may seem strange, but Scripture tells us that as the Apostles watched, Jesus rose into the clouds and out of their sight.

The Feast of the Ascension is an important feast on the church's calendar. This fest is one of only a handful celebrated by almost all Christian denominations and ranks with Easter and Pentecost in importance.

The feast commemorates the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven. As far as historians can tell, this feast has been celebrated since the 4th century. The three days leading up to the feast are called rogations days and often involve prayers for a good harvest. Following the feast, an octave is celebrated leading up to Pentecost.



Chapel of the Ascension, Walsingham



Pilgrimage

SK & Rev. Dr. Peter-Michael Preble
Associate Grand Prelate

In preparing for this talk, I was thinking back over my spiritual journey, my pilgrimage, if you will. I have been wandering for a very long time, but it all began with this little book called *The Way of the Pilgrim*. I was looking for a spiritual book, and this one was recommended to me, so I tried it.

Not much is known of the author or when it was written. It is considered by many to be autobiographical, and thus we follow the "Pilgrim" on his journey. The story takes place in Russia at a time that is unknown, but at least in the mid-19th century. A man, the pilgrim, decides his life is not moving in the direction it should take, so he sets off on a journey. He brings a bible and the book of Psalms and nothing else. He carries these books in his backpack and spends several hours a day reading and meditating on what he has read.

All along the way, he runs into physical and spiritual troubles. For each, he finds a way around and can continue his journey. Along the way, he discovers various things about himself, but his most significant lesson is how strong he is and that his strength comes from his faith in the one God.

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Articles

Articles published are written by various contributors within our fraternity.



The Magi

For Christians around the world, the story of the three Magi visiting the newborn king at the manger is a confirmation, a Biblical assurance of the very beginning of a long and beautiful story. Truth of the matter is that no evidence of the Three Kings may be obtained from the Bible or reading the Gospels, other than a short mention by Matthew;

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Knight Templar Education

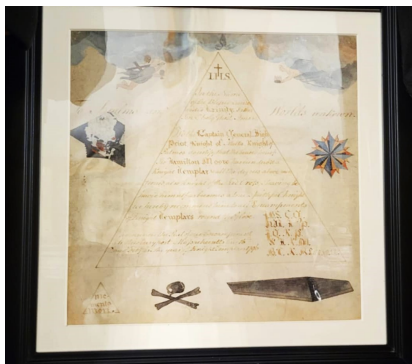
Coming to future editions.

This section will be curated by Sir Kt. Michael Northup ([Narragansett Commandery](#)) and will include thought-provoking educational short pieces that we hope you will find both interesting, practical, and worthy of freely sharing. We welcome your thoughts, requests and any contributions to help ensure the topics presented reflect those areas of interest you are likely to find most valuable. Feel free to send ideas, requests, or stories; **click here to send an email** (stories or articles need to be in PDF or MS-Word format)



Knight Templar History

NOTE: This section is curated by Sir Kt. John Wilders, ([Boston Commandery](#)) and will include well-researched fascinating Historical short pieces that will surely enrich your knowledge of Templar History and, in particular, Templar history associated with our two-state jurisdiction. Sir Kt. John is the Grand Historian for the Grand Lodge of MA as well as for the Grand Commandery of MA & RI. His knowledge and attention to documented research is among the very best. We hope you will enjoy the material Sir Kt. Wilders presents, and we encourage you to share your thoughts, requests and any contributions for consideration in future editions. Feel free to send ideas, requests, or stories; **click here to send an email** (stories or articles need to be in PDF or MS-Word format)



Picture of a Templar Diploma from Newburyport #3

Tackling an historical merger

By John Wilder, Grand Commandery Historian

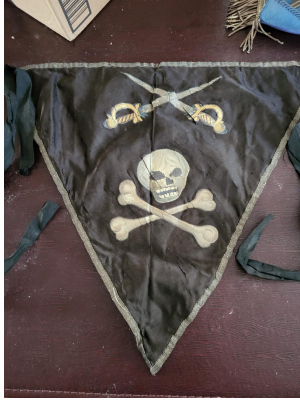
Over the past year and a half, I've been lending my time to the Sir Knights of Newburyport Commandery #3. As most of you will know, they merged with Haverhill Commandery and then again with Metro North Commandery which was itself a merger of Hugh de Payens Commandery and Reading Commandery #50. As part of the move, Newburyport Commandery moved to Haverhill in favor of Haverhill's newly restored armory.

With so many moving parts, and the proud history of four Commanderys coming together, I knew I had to get involved in order to ensure nothing was lost. My first step was to connect



myself with those "in the know". This was of course Em. Sir Kt's. Brian Richard and Keith Zibolis. As the merging commanders and now armorers of Newburyport #3, they had the access and decision-making authority I needed to be able to work efficiently and effectively.

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That Which Once Was

by SK James R. Weiss

Gazing over his domain in the crisp morning light from the rooftop of his manor house, Zeitlosen was at peace. He knew what he had to do and those labors would consume the balance of the day. So be it. Chronos must have his due and exempts no one from payment.

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Historical Sir Knights: DeWitt Clinton

The Beginning

History is important. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. The history of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA (GEKTUSA) begins in 1816 (eleven years after the beginning of the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, but that's another story).

The first head of the GEKTUSA was DeWitt Clinton. His title was Most Eminent General Grand Master. That name should ring a bell if for no other reason than there is a blue lodge named after him in Sandwich, Massachusetts. But that's only one of hundreds of places and things named after him

[Full Article by Bob Caron](#)



Mariners by SK John Christie

A long journey does not represent much of a challenge to modern travelers, with our easy access to computers, GPS, and electronic maps, we are thus allowed the anticipation of uneventful, timely and geographically accurate arrivals at the desired destinations. In ancient times however, long voyages, especially those to “unknown” destinations, were fraught with uncertainty and plagued by many challenges. Navigational experience limited to coastal areas, rudimentary vessels not originally designed for oceanic travel, insufficient means of storage for food and water, and the lack of access to accurate maps severely limited the scope of explorations.

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Portugal by SK John Christie

Many tales have been written about the La Rochelle ruse, and of the supposed activities of the group of Knights Templar who headed north to rural Scotland. But little has been said about the group that sailed south-west to Portugal.

Geographically, Portugal sits facing the Atlantic Ocean at the very end of western Europe; mountain ranges at her back effectively separate the ancient kingdom from both Spain and the rest of the Continent. The early 14th century found Portugal's significant fleet of medium sized fishing vessels exploring the northern Atlantic coast of Africa, actively trading with different



Carpe Diem and Memento Mori by SK John Christie

CARPE DIEM and MEMENTO MORI, two abbreviated classical Latin "phrases" that we hear and use every so often without giving its author or even its origins a second thought. These well-known and used words were penned by Quintus Horatius Flaccus, widely known as Horace, a prolific author, poet, writer and philosopher born in southern Italy

tribes and charting coastal waters in great detail as they slowly expanded their range southward. Their vessels, despite being designed for protected waters, probed further into uncharted ocean waters as their captains eagerly sought new trading routes.

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circa 65 B.C.

He is well remembered for "Carpe Diem", just two words from his book 1, Odes that have often been questionably translated into "Seize the day": keep in mind that the word Carpe is used by Horace to mean enjoy, seize, use like in make use of (carpe is singular and literally translated to mean pluck or pick). Latin or Latium is a classical language hailing from the larger community of Rome and its environs and part of the original Indo-European languages. By 100 B.C. the "old Latin" had nearly imperceptibly transitioned into what is today known as Classical or Vulgar Latin that we commonly hear and see in medicine, theology and law, a "language" that is only spoken regularly in the Vatican and that was widely used by scholars up to the 18th. century when it was replaced by the modern Romance tongues (Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Romanian and a plethora of Italian dialects and eventually French as well).

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To Thine Own Self Be True: A Tale Of Wisdom

"I appreciate zeal, Pere Bossuet, yet Sir Reynard Remplier is beyond my council. We confront the Saracens at dawn and I fear that he is not of the right mind. You may be able to reach him. You are my only hope."

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Contest Redux

"What does being a Knight Templar in the 21st century mean to you?"

[See Contest Rules](#)

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Thanks to our Contributors:

Sir Kt. Stephen Whitmore, Grand Commander, Sir Kt. Robert Caron, Sir Kt. James Weiss, Sir Kt. John Christie, Sir Kt. John Wilder, Sir Kt. Mike Northup

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