

NEW HAMPSHIRE KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS



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Independence Day: freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed.

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

Sir Knights,

This month we celebrate the Semiquincentennial Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. While Thomas Jefferson, the document's principal drafter, was not a Mason, he associated with such men as John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and James Madison, who were and who espoused the ideals of the Enlightenment, which he and our Fraternity embrace, equality, liberty, brotherhood. "The American Revolution changed the world," declared historian Stephen Conway. It established the principle that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed, not from the divine right of kings or the whims of dictators. Jefferson's assertion that "all men are created equal" inspired the French Revolution and its *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* and revolutions in the Americas.

The American Revolution is generally thought to have begun in April 1775 in Lexington and Concord where was fired "the shot heard 'round the world." We in the Granite State know better. In April 1772, three years before, the citizens of Weare, New Hampshire had driven the sheriff and his deputy out of the village for attempting to enforce the prohibition against cutting down white pine trees which were reserved for the warships of the Royal Navy. The Pine Tree Flag remains a symbol of resistance to tyranny to this day. In December 1775, New Hampshire patriots attacked Fort William and Mary in New Castle, overcame the garrison, and seized powder and cannons which would be employed against the British in the Battle of Bunker Hill. In January 1776, New Hampshire established its own government and constitution and five months later instructed its delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence, the first Royal Colony so to do.

New Hampshire militia fought in the Battles of Bunker Hill, Bennington, and Saratoga. New Hampshire infantry Regiments formed part of the Continental Army. They endured the hardships of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in the Winter of 1777 and 1778. They participated in the campaign which resulted in the defeat of Lord Cornwallis in Yorktown, Virginia in 1781, effectively ending the Revolutionary War. In the siege of Yorktown, soldiers of the Second New Hampshire Regiment served as flankers and shock troops under the ultimate command of the Marquis of Lafayette.

New Hampshire's contributions were not confined to the land. The frigates *Raleigh* and *Ranger* were constructed in Portsmouth for the Continental Navy. The former is depicted on our State Seal and Flag. General John Stark, the hero of Bennington, composed the words from which sprang our State Motto, "Live free or die. Death is not the worst of evils." We can take great pride in the outsized role New Hampshire played in the birth of our nation.

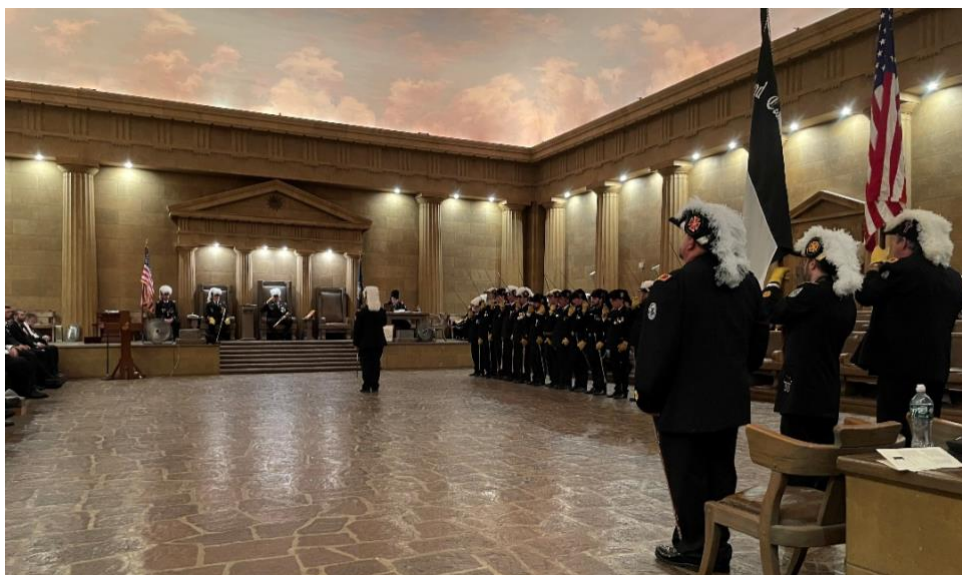


June was an exciting month for New Hampshire Templary. June 8 and 9 our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Peter J. Noddin, K.T.C.H., sojourned in the Green Mountain State where he attended the Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Vermont. He was accompanied by Sir Knights Earl W. Cole, Jr., K.T.C.H., Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, Kenneth A. Colpaert, Sr., Eminent Grand Generalissimo, and Dennis A. Tuttle, Sr., K.T.C.H., Eminent Grand Inspector General.



S.K.s Noddin, Cole, Colpaert, and Tuttle in Killington, for the Grand Conclave of Vermont Grand Commandery.

Saturday, June 13th, we observed the Bicentennial Anniversary of the chartering of New Hampshire Grand Encampment, the forerunner of our Grand Commandery. The highlight of the celebration was the conferral of the Order of the Temple upon, and Knighting, of twenty-six new Fratres. The Grand Commandery opened in full-form and passed in review, all in the impressive setting of Hosser Hall of the New Hampshire Masonic Center in Manchester. Sir Knights Jeffrey A. Bolstad, K.G.C., Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Kenneth A. Caldwell, K.C.T., Right Eminent Department Commander, and Scott R. Borthwick, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, joined the Grand Commandery in celebrating this auspicious occasion.



The Grand Captain General receives the order to prepare to pass the Commandery in review.

Sir Knights from throughout the Grand Commandery prepared over several months, under the direction of the Bicentennial Committee, ably chaired by Sir Knight Paul C. Smith, K.C.T., Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, and Sir Knights John E. Glover, K.T.C.H., Eminent Grand Captain General and Assistant Inspector General, and Dennis A. Tuttle, Sr., K.C.T., K.T.C.H., Eminent Inspector General. The following Sir Knights took part in the Opening and Reception of the Grand Commander:

S.K. Scott M. Ayen	Grand Commander
S.K. Kenneth A. Colpaert, Sr.	Grand Generalissimo
S.K. John E. Glover	Grand Captain General,
S.K. Andrew M. Lord	Grand Senior Warden
S.K. John A. Loven	Grand Junior Warden
S.K. David R. Walters	Grand Treasurer
S.K. W. David Akridge	Grand Recorder
S.K. Paul C. Smith	Grand Prelate
S.K. R. Daniel Perry	Grand Warder
S.K. Michael J. Daley, Jr.	Grand Sword Bearer
S.K. Andrew R. Lane	Grand Standard Bearer
S.K. Orman W. Hall	Color Bearer
S.K. Glen E. Eldridge	Grand Sentinel

Swordsmen

S.K. William P. Carter	S.K. David L. Bruce	S.K. Andrew J. Bennert
S.K. David S. Soroka	S.K. Robert Caney	S.K. David R. Nason
S.K. John E. Kelley	S.K. Gregg W. Annis	S.K. Jarod LaQuarre
S.K. Andrew Towne	S.K. Calvin W. Cline	S.K. Steven M. Linehan
	S.K. Raphael Dracul	

The cast for the conferral of the Order of the Temple were:

S.K. R. Bradley Alderfer	Commander
S.K. Andrew Lord	Generalissimo
S.K. John E. Glover	Captain General
S.K. Jackson Marston	Senior Warden
S.K. Calvin Cline	Junior Warden
S.K. Thomas A. Ladd	Prelate
S.K. Steven Linehan	Sword Bearer
S.K. Riley Greenwood	Standard Bearer
S.K. R. Daniel Perry	Warder
S.K. Glen Eldridge	Sentinel
S.K. David L. Bruce	Hermit and Guard
S.K. Andrew Lane	Hermit and Guard
S.K. David Nason	Hermit and Guard
S.K. Paul C. Smith	Master of Ceremonies
S.K. David R. Walters	Master of Properties
S.K. Brian Smith	Electrician

Triangle Guards

S.K. William P. Carter	S.K. David L. Bruce	S.K. Andrew Bennert
S.K. David Soroka	S.K. Robert Caney	S.K. David Nason

The newly created Sir Knights were Robert J. Paradis, Jr., Mark Robinson, Gardner Chamberlain, John A. Wise, Kevin Ciampa, Teddy M. Metz, Bryan K. Foose, Pankaj Kulkarni, Larry A. Sprague, Craig M. Shippee, Wilmer J. Nemchick, Craig C. Willis, Peter F. Daigle, Paul Bruk, III, Jason A. Dubrow, Jared J. Gooze, Dalton Flannery, Thomas L. Marks, Carl E. Cleary, Scott C. Ives, Timothy P. Redden, Mark E. D'Amico, Jeffrey S. Clark, Dominic P. Gannett, Robert Dubien, and Michael S. Frey.



The newest Sir Knights of New Hampshire Grand Commandery assembled with the cast and crew of the Order of the Temple. S.K. Jeffrey A. Bolstad is in the back row, center, with S.K. Peter J. Noddin. Front and Center is Service Dog Roxie who was dubbed and created an honorary Dame of the Order by S.K. Bolstad.

When the Order concluded, the Sir Knights adjourned to the Banquet Hall for a sumptuous feast and program. Sir Knight Smith presented a concise history of the Grand Commandery, which for the benefit of those who could not be present, is reproduced below.

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in New Hampshire was organized on June 13, 1826, making it one of the early state bodies of Templar Masonry in the United States. Authority for its formation was granted by the General Grand Encampment through Deputy General Grand Master Henry Fowle. Delegates from Trinity Encampment, DeWitt Clinton Encampment, and Mount Horeb Encampment, assembled in Concord to establish the new state organization.

Among the earliest leaders was Most Eminent Grand Master Sir John Harris of Hopkinton, together with several distinguished Sir Knights from Portsmouth, Lebanon, Hanover, and other New Hampshire communities. The early Encampments were small in number but strong in devotion, preserving the principles of Christian knighthood and Masonic fellowship.

The Grand Encampment continued regular meetings until 1837, when the anti- Masonic movement sweeping the nation caused many Masonic organizations to suspend activity. For nearly twenty-three years no state Encampment met in New Hampshire, though faithful Sir Knights preserved the Order through difficult times.

In 1860, with renewed strength and membership, New Hampshire Templary was revived. Trinity and Mount Horeb Encampments were reorganized, additional Commanderies were established, and the name was officially changed from "Grand Encampment" to "Grand Commandery." Though renewed under a new charter, the organization has

continuously honored its original founding date of 1826, preserving two centuries of Christian Masonry and Templar tradition in the Granite State.

Sir Knight David S. Collins, K.C.T., Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, spoke of two New Hampshire Sir Knights who were instrumental in the formation and preservation of the Grand Encampment.

The first was Sir Knight and Reverend Jonathan Nye of Claremont, Most Eminent General Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment, who presided over Triennial Conclaves IV and V, serving from 1829 to 1835. He had assumed the duties of General Grand Master upon the passing of Sir Knight DeWitt Clinton and was then twice elected General Grand Master in his own right. He was the first General Grand Master to personally preside over the opening of a Grand Conclave.¹ He guided the General Grand Encampment safely through the tumult of the Anti-Masonic fervor which at peak intensity

The Second was Benjamin Brown French of Chester, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, who presided over Triennial Conclaves XIV and XV and served from 1859 to 1865. He steered the Grand Encampment through the stormy seas of the Civil War which he had hoped to forestall. In an official circular upon all Sir Knights to

cast aside every political feeling, every political aspiration, and every Templar do the same as one man, uniting in one grand effort to prevent the shedding of fraternal blood and inaugurate here that blessed result which our Lord and Master initiated: "Peace on earth and good will to men."

But if war must come—which dread calamity may God, in his infinite mercy avert, then I call upon every Knight Templar to perform that sacred duty, which so well becomes our Order, of binding up the wounds of the afflicted and comforting those who mourn.²

While his appeal could not avert the separation of the States and the terrible conflict it occasioned, his kindly and conciliatory attitude greatly facilitated the restoration of allegiance of Grand Commanderies from the South to the Grand Encampment. Grand Commanderies were established in Iowa in 1863 and in Louisiana in 1864 and by 1868 all Grand Commanderies from the former Confederacy were in allegiance with the Grand Encampment. At the first Grand Conclave following the cessation of hostilities, Sir Knight Brown addressed the delegates as follows:

Now, all who have ever received a hearty welcome into the bosom of a brotherhood whose grand characteristics are "unsullied honor, unbounded zeal in a brother's cause, and universal benevolence," can come without let or hindrance, and sincerely unite with us here, finding nothing on our record of the past of reproach or unkindness, and each can receive from the other a cordial and fraternal greeting. Thanks be to God that through all the dreadful struggle the altar fires of Freemasonry have never been extinguished, but have thrown out their pure light on the pathway of all, without reference to their affinities to the one side or the other. The universality and the unselfishness of the Mystic Brotherhood have never been more thoroughly illustrated than through the unhappy conflicts of the past four years.³

¹ Scully, Francis J. *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America*, Copyright 1952, page 92.

² *Ibid.*, page 116.

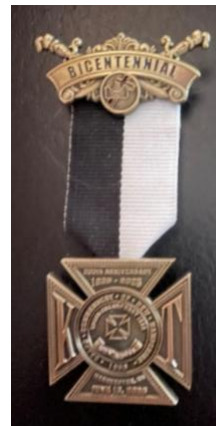
³ *Ibid.*, page 120.

Following the historical presentations, the Right Eminent Department Commander was recognized and, with the assistance of your Editor, Dean of the College of Honors for New Hampshire, he performed the pleasant task of creating Sir Knight Paul C. Smith a Knight Commander of the Temple, in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to Chivalric Masonry, capped by his stewardship of the excellent Bicentennial Observance. An Eagle Scout and dedicated Scouter, Sir Knight Smith also serves his community and the Granite State as Clerk of the House of Representatives.



Left: S.K. Smith receives the jewel and patent of a Knight Commander of the Temple from S.K. Kenneth A. Caldwell. Right: They are joined by S.K.s Jeffrey A. Bolstad, Peter J. Noddin, and your Editor.

Sir Knight Bolstad, the keynote speaker for the evening, gave a stirring address on the subject and importance of Templar leadership. Sir Knight Scott R. Borthwick, Most Worshipful Grand Master, expressed great pleasure in the considerable progress that he has observed in the York Rite in New Hampshire. The festivities concluded, all repaired to their respective places of abode.



Left: Various banners and other historical artifacts from the constituent Commanderies on display in the Banquet Hall. Right: The Medal commissioned to commemorate the occasion.

On June 20, Sir Knights were pleased to form the honor guard for the reception of dignitaries at the meeting of New Hampshire Consistory, A.A.S.R., N.M.J., in Nashua.



S.K. and Most Worshipful Brother Scott R. Borthwick is saluted by the Grand Captain General as he is received in New Hampshire Consistory.

Saint Johns Sunday, June 28, Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery participated in services conducted at Saint John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth and the Cathedral of the Pines in Ringe. The service in Portsmouth continues a tradition dating from the Eighteenth Century. The procession from the William Pitt Tavern at Strawberry Banke to Saint John's Church was led by an honor guard of Sir Knights. One could not have asked for a more beautiful day at both services.



Sir Knights and Brethren assembled at the Cathedral of the Pines.



Sir Knights and Brethren assembled at the William Pitt Tavern, preparing to march to Saint John's Church.



The Right Eminent Grand Commander and the Grand Commandery contingent.



Leading the procession to church.



Saluting the Grand Mater and other worshippers entering Saint John's Church.



The beautiful setting of the Cathedral of the Pines.

The Grand Commandery has been requested to lead the Independence Day Parade in the Capital City, Concord, Saturday morning, July 4. This is a singular honor and a fantastic opportunity to publicize our Chivalric Order and demonstrate our commitments to our community and country. All Sir Knights who are able are requested to assemble, in full uniform with swords, at 7:45 a.m., along Pleasant Street Extension between Main and Storrs Streets in Concord. Step off will be promptly at 9:00. Please indicate your availability to march with the Templar contingent by email to the Grand Captain General, Sir Knight John E. Glover, jeglover@chrononauts.net.

The Grand Commender's first monthly Officers Call will be Sunday evening, July 5, at 8:00 p.m., by video teleconference. A video link is found on the York Rite Calendar.

May you and your friends and families enjoy an inspired Independence Day.

Courteously,



Thomas X. Tsirimokos, K.G.C., P.G.C., P.D.C.
Assistant Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery of New Hampshire

York Rite Calendar -- <https://nhyorkrite.org/calendars>