

THE FORMING OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 10, 1858



FOREWORD

“THE FORMING OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR of THE STATE of CALIFORNIA” was presented at the **“kick-off”** celebration of the Grand Commandery Centennial held in Sonora on January 4th , 1958. It was given in the Masonic Temple at Columbia before representatives of sixty-eight of the seventy-one California Commanderies who were in attendance at that Special Grand Conclave, The port-royal of this historic Templar event was so enthusiastically received that the Centennial Committee directed that the script be made available to those Commanderies which expressed a desire to present this same program in their own individual Asylums.

The playlet is based upon a popular television program of the time titled **“You Were There”** and the script, which was prepared from the actual Proceedings of the first Grand Conclave, may be memorized or read, as preferred, with a minimum amount of rehearsal time being required to make it presentable. Costuming is not a requisite, however it is recommended that uniforms be worn to make it comparable with Templary and that facial make-up, consistent with the historical era should be worn by members of the cast.

The Centennial Committee heartily endorses the use of this skit as a feature for the Birthday Celebration of California Templary during the week of August 10. With a bit of imagination, planning and preparation, it can be made to be a most interesting and entertaining thirty minute program.

CAST

TEMPLAR CENTENNIAL NARRATOR	Announcer
ALEXANDER G. ABELL	Commander, San Francisco Commandery No. 1
ISAAC DAVIS	Commander, Sacramento Commandery No. 2
EDWARD H. EVANS	Proxy for Captain-General, Sacramento Commandery No. 2
JOHN C. GRAHAM	Commander, Pacific Commandery No. 3
LEANDER RANSOM	Past Commander, San Francisco Commandery No. 1
GEORGE I. N. MONELL	Proxy for Generalissimo, Sacramento Commandery No. 2
STILLMAN H. FICKETT	Generalissimo, Pacific Commandery No. 3
ELI COOK	Captain General, San Francisco Commandery No. 1
J. C. RUSSELL	Proxy for Captain-General, Pacific Commandery No. 3
CHARLES E. BLAKE	Proxy for Generalissimo, San Francisco Commandery No. 1

The Master of Ceremony may introduce the playlet - **“The Forming of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of California”** with appropriate remarks ending with-----

M.C.: **“----- and at this time you will give your attention to the Templar Centennial Narrator.”**

NARRATOR: ***"Good morning, Sir Knights and friends. It is indeed a pleasure for your Narrator to bring you an "on-the-spot" coverage of the forming of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of California which occurred one hundred years ago."***

"We are assembled in the Asylum of San Francisco Commandery No. 1 at the City of San Francisco, on Tuesday, the 10th day of August of the year 1858 where, in accordance with previous agreement, the representatives of the three Commanderies at that time existent in the State and under Charter from the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, have assembled for the purpose of forming a Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders for the State of California."

"The time is twelve o'clock noon, and the member addressing the group is Sir Alexander G. Abell, Commander of San Francisco Commandery No 1. His is stating the objectives of the Convocation. Listen ! YOU ARE THERE !

ABELL: ***"- - and so, Sir Knights, before we continue further, I am of the opinion that matters could be reviewed a bit and then we can proceed with the business at hand - on an organized basis."***

"Pursuant to previous agreement, we are gathered here in Convocation today for the express and noble purpose for forming a Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders for the State of California."

"For the past several years it has been the strong desire of some of our more distinguished and progressive-minded Fraters to formulate such an organization from the several bodies which have received their individual charters.

DAVIS: ***"The Commander of San Francisco Commandery No.1, Sir Knight Alex Abell, is indeed complimentary in his remarks and I assure you that I appreciate the courtesy and consideration which you have extended to me, In all modesty, there are many others present here today who are more justly entitled to credit and acclaim for their desires to promulgate and expand this wonderful and glorious Order of Christian Brotherhood, of which it is our rare and distinct privilege to have become members."***

"By our actions and deliberations here today - all in the days to follow - if we can but light the torch that will blazon the trail for its future growth and expansion, we can honestly consider our endeavors to have been good and timely and we may rest assured that this Valiant, Magnanimous Order will forever flourish like the green Bay Tree."

"Now in order to proceed with our business at hand, we should first make proper provision for the accounting of our transactions. I will therefore entertain a motion for the appointment of a Recorder."

GRAHAM: ***"Eminent Sir - I am Sir Knight John S. Graham, Commander of Pacific Commandery No. 3 and I move that Sir Alexander Abell be appointed Recorder of this Convocation."***

EVANS: *"I second that motion !"*

DAVIS: *"It has been moved and properly seconded that Sir Alex Abell, Commander of San Francisco Commandery No. 1 be appointed as Recorder. All in favor will say "AYE". Those opposed, say "NAY". The motion is carried and it is so ordered. (Gavel !) Sir Alex (motions) will you kindly take your station."*

RANSOM: *"Mr. Chairman - I am Sir Leander Ransom, Past Commander of San Francisco Commandery No. 1 (clears throat) It would appear to me that the next order of Business would be an examination of the Credentials of those claiming seats in this Convocation. If I may be permitted to do so, I move you that a Committee of three be appointed to examine such Credentials."*

EVANS: *"I'll Second the motion."*

DAVIS: *"It has been regularly moved and properly Seconded that a Committee of three be appointed to examine the Credentials of those claiming seats in this Convocation. All in favor will say "AYE". Those opposed say "NAY". The motion is carried: (Gavel) I will appoint a committee for such a purpose, consisting of - (pauses) - and I hope that I may not be establishing a precedent here - but the proposer of this Committee, Sir Leander Ransom shall act as its Chairman, with Sir John S. Graham, Commander of Pacific Commandery No. 3 and Sir George I. N. Monell, Prelate of Sacramento Commandery No. 2 assisting him."*

NARRATOR: *"This is your Templar Narrator interrupting. A brief recess was called, after which the Committee just appointed presented the following report."*

RANSOM: *"To the Convocation now in session :- (reads)*

The Committee appointed to examine the Credentials of those claiming to be the representatives in this Convocation of the several Commanderies in the State of California, having duly inspected the Charters and Records of those bodies, and the certificates presented by their respective delegates, respectfully report thereon as follows:_

On the 10th day of November, 1852, a Dispensation was issued by Sir Charles W. Moore, General Grand Generalissimo of the General Grand Encampment of the United States, to Sir Gregory Yale, Grand Commander, Sir William B. Wakeman, Generalissimo, Sir Abram Bartol, Captain-General, and other Knights Therein names, authorizing them to open a hold an Encampment of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders in the City of San Francisco, to be known and designated as San Francisco Encampment No. 1. That body held its first assembly and was duly organized on the 23rd day of December, 1852; and on the first day of November, 1853, a Charter was granted to it by the General Grand Encampment.

On the 23rd day of May, 1853, a Dispensation was issued by Sir William B. Hubbard, General Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment aforesaid, to Sir Isaac Davis, Grand Commander, Sir Jesse Morrill, Generalissimo, Sir Townsend A. Thomas, Captain-General, and other Knights therein named,

authorizing them to open and hold a like Encampment in the City of Sacramento, to be known and designated as Sacramento Encampment No. 2. That body held its first assembly and was duly organized on the 5th day of July, 1853; and on the 6th day of February, 1854, a Charter was granted to it by the General Grand Encampment.

On the 20th day of February, 1856, a Dispensation was issued by Sir William B. Hubbard, General Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment aforesaid, to Sir John S. Graham, Grand Commander, Sir Stillman H. Fickett, Generalissimo, Sir James W. Marshall , Captain-General, and other Knights therein names, authorizing them to open a like Encampment in the City of Columbia, to know and designated as Pacific Commandery No. 3. That body held its first assembly and was duly organized on the 27th day of May, next ensuing; and on the 10th day of September, 1856, a Charter was granted to it by the General Grand Encampment.

All these bodies, now known as Commanderies, appear to have held their elections regularly since the reception of their several Charters; to have had their officers duly installed; and to have uninterruptedly engaged in the performance of the duties for which they were instituted; and they are now properly represented in this Convocation, as follows:

San Francisco No. 1 by-

**Sir Alexander G. Abell, Commander
Sir Charles E. Blake, proxy for the Generalissimo
Sir Eli Cook, Captain-General
Sir Leander Ransom, Past Commander**

Sacramento No. 2 by-

**Sir Isaac Davis, Commander
Sir Geo. I. N. Monell, proxy for the Generalissimo
Sir Edward H. Evans, proxy for the Capt-General**

Pacific No. 3 by-

**Sir John S. Graham, Commander
Sir Stillman H. Fickett, Generalissimo
Sir J. C. Russell, proxy for the Capt-General**

All of which is respectfully submitted.

**Leander Ransom)
John S. Graham) Committee
Geo. I. N. Monell)**

DAVIS:

“I believe that this amply covers the situation and the delegates as named in the report are entitled to seats and voice in this Convocation. The work of the Committee is hereby acknowledged and appreciated and the same is discharged with our thanks.”

ABELL:

“Chairman Isaac ! - I move that ALL Knights Templar, in good standing, be invited to be present during the deliberations of this Convocation !”

EVANS: *"I'll second that motion."*

DAVIS: *You have heard the Motion and its Second. All in favor will say "AYE" ! Opposed "NAY". The motion is carried and so Ordered ! (gavel)*

"I would like to advise the members of the Convocation that on April 20th of this year, a petition was forwarded to the General Grand Encampment of the United States, respectfully requesting the issuance of a Warrant which would authorize the establishment and continuance of a Grand Commandery of Knights Templar for the State of California. At this time I would like to ask our Recorder to read the Warrant received from the Most Eminent Grand Master in response to that petition. Sir Alex, will you read the warrant ?

ABELL: *"From the office of the Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States of America -*

TO ALL TRUE AND COURTEOUS KNIGHTS OF OUR ORDER:-

Know Ye, That whereas there are now established and existing three Commanderies in the State of California, holding their authority from the Grand encampment of the United States, and working under its jurisdiction, towit: San Francisco Commandery No. 1, Sacramento Commandery No. 2 and Pacific Commandery No. 3; whereas, on behalf of those several Commanderies, it has been duly certified unto me that they are desirous to form, hold and maintain a Grand Commandery in and for the State of California subordinate to the Grand Encampment of the United States of America; therefor I, W. B. Hubbard, Grand Master as aforesaid, being satisfied that such request is reasonable and proper, by virtue of the high powers in me vested, and in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of our Order, do hereby authorize and empower the aforesaid Commanderies Nos. 1, 2, and 3, in due order, to meet at such time and place as they may agree upon, and form a State Grand Commandery in and for the said State of California, subordinate to our Grand Encampment. Such State Grand Commandery, when so formed, making due return and report to me of all their official doings and proceedings in the premises, and making a like return to our Very Eminent Grand Recorder. And for all their doings, in accordance with the rules and usages of our Order, in forming such State Grand Commandery, this shall be their WARRANT.

Given under my hand and private seal, at the city of Columbus, Ohio, this 16th day of May, A.D. 1858, A.O. 740

(Signed) W. B. Hubbard, GRAND MASTER

GRAHAM: *"Mr. Chairman, - I move that a Committee of three be appointed to prepare and present for the consideration of this Convocation, a Constitution, or Code of Statutes for the government of this Grand Commandery which we are about to form."*

EVANS: *"I'll second that motion."*

DAVIS: *"You have heard the motion of Sir John Graham, and it's seconding. Those in favor will say "AYE" - Opposed "NAY". The motion if carried. (Gavel) and I will appoint to this committee Sir Alex Abell, Sir John Graham and Sir George Monell."*

"To enable this committee to have ample time to assemble their material and prepare their report, we will stand adjourned until (looks at watch and winds it) say — three o'clock, at which time we will assemble for the continuance of the business at hand." (Sounds gavel)

NARRATOR: *"This is you Narrator again. The Convocation assembled at three o'clock as suggested and Sir Alex Abell, from the Committee just appointed, presented their report and made the recommendation that the instrument accompanying it be adopted as "The Statutes of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of the State of California." Their report was received; the Statutes taken up and considered separately and the whole were unanimously adopted. On the motion of Sir Alex Abell, the Convocation then proceeded to the election of officers for the Grand Commandery as follows:*

<i>Grand Commander</i>	<i>Sir Isaac Davis, Sacramento No. 2</i>
<i>Deputy Grand Commander</i>	<i>Sir Leander Ranson, San Francisco No. 1</i>
<i>Grand Generalissimo</i>	<i>Sir John S. Marshall, Pacific No. 3</i>

The Convocation was then adjourned until 8 o'clock in the evening and at that session, the election was resumed and the following were chosen:

<i>Grand Captain-General</i>	<i>Sir Stillman H. Fickett, Pacific No. 3</i>
<i>Grand Prelate</i>	<i>Sir James H. Culver, Sacramento No 2</i>
<i>Grand Senior Warden</i>	<i>Sir James I. English, Sacramento No. 3</i>
<i>Grand Junior Warden</i>	<i>Sir James W. Marshall, Pacific No. 3</i>
<i>Grand Treasurer</i>	<i>Sir Eli Cook, San Francisco No. 1</i>
<i>Grand Recorder</i>	<i>Sir Alexander G. Abell, San Francisco No. 1</i>
<i>Grand Standard Bearer</i>	<i>Sir George I. N. Monell, Sacramento No. 2</i>
<i>Grand Sword Bearer</i>	<i>Sir William H. Lyon, San Francisco No. 1</i>
<i>Grand Warder</i>	<i>Sir William W. Traylor, Pacific No. 3</i>
<i>Grand Capt. of the Guards</i>	<i>Sir James Ogelsby, San Francisco No. 1</i>

"The Recorder read a communication from the Grand Master of the Order, authorizing any member selected by the Convocation, to act as his proxy to install the officers-elect of the Grand Commandery. Sir Leander Ransom, Deputy Grand Commander-elect, was chosen and he proceeded to install the Commander-elect. Grand Commander Davis then installed the other Grand Officers present, and gave notice that either in person or by proxy, he would install those absent, namely: James H. Culver, James I. English, James W. Marshall and William W. Traylor, in their respective Commanderies. It was then

resolved that the Grand Commandery of the State of California be opened the following day at ten o'clock in the morning, and the Convocation was adjourned."

"We are NOW present at the First Conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of California on Wednesday, the 11th day of August, 1858. Grand Commandery has been opened in "Ample and Knightly form, " with prayer by the Grand Prelate. The Grand recorder has been appointed to prepare the necessary **RULES OF ORDER for the government of the Grand Commandery when in Conclave, and as we join them, he is presenting to the members another matter of immediate concern. **LISTEN !****

ABELL: **"Right Eminent Grand Commander – I have on my desk a matter which I believe should be presented at this time for consideration and action. It concerns the following petitions for the establishment of new Commanderies: --**

(reads) **"From Sir B. F. Myers, Sir R. C. Gridley, Sir W. W. Hanway, and six other Knights residing at or near the City of Oroville, in the County of Butte, praying for a Dispensation to open and hold a Commandery of Knights Templar in that city, to be called Oroville Commandery."**

"From Sir Aaron D. Park, Sir William McKean, Sir Edgar Bogardus, and seven other Knights residing at or near the City of Placerville, in the County of El Dorado, praying for a Dispensation to open and hold a Commandery of Knights Templar in that city, to be called El Dorado Commandery."

"From Sir Elias Garst, Sir Josiah E. Stevens, Sir J. A. Murray, and seven other Knights residing at or near the City of Marysville, in the County of Yuba, praying for a Dispensation to open and hold a Commandery of Knights Templar in that city, to be called Marysville Commandery."

RANSOM: **"Right Eminent Sir – I move that a Committee on New Commanderies be appointed and this matter be referred to them for consideration and report."**

EVANS: **"I'll second that motion."**

DAVIS: **"You have heard the motion, all in favor say "AYE – Opposed "NAY". The motion is carried and I will appoint Sir Leander Ransom, Sir John S. Graham and Sir Stillman Fickett to this committee and will request that their report and recommendations be submitted this afternoon."**

"Now with respect to these petitions which have just been read, I would advise you that quite some time ago they were submitted to Sacramento Commandery for consideration, for it was the original intent of the petitioners to transmit them to the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. They were advised at that time of the possibility of a Grand Commandery being formed in California, with the supposition perhaps, that the fees then established would not be much more than those demanded by the Grand Encampment, their transmission was stayed for the purpose of presenting them here.

"Now, since the fee established by the Statutes which we adopted in

yesterday's Convocation are TWICE the amount which these petitioners would have been required to pay Grand Encampment – had they not been persuaded to divert their original destination, I would like to suggest that, in these particular cases, some portion thereof be remitted.”

MONELL: **“I move that the statement of facts pertaining to these petitions as related by the Right Eminent Grand Commander, together with his recommendation, be referred to the Committee in whose hands the petitions have been placed.”**

EVANS: **“I'll second that motion.”**

DAVIS: **“You have heard the motion. All in favor say “AYE” – Opposed “NAY”. — and it is so ordered ! (gavel:)**

FICKETT: **“Right Eminent Grand Commander – I move you, that, for the purpose of defraying the immediate expenses of this Grand Commandery, each Commandery now existing under its jurisdiction shall, as soon as possible after the close of this Conclave, pay into the hands of the Grand Recorder the sum Of \$50.00; which sum, so paid, shall be considered as an advance on account of their future dues, and shall be so placed to their credit on his books.”**

EVANS: **“I'll second that motion.”**

DAVIS: **“You have heard this motion – and it's seconding. Do you vote “AYE” ? Those opposed “NAY”. The motion is carried and it is so ordered ! (gavel :)**

COOK: **“ Right Eminent Grand Commander ! As one of the accredited representatives from my Commandery to the Convocation of yesterday and to this first Conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of California, I pray your indulgence in a matter deemed most important by the Fraters of my Commandery.”**

“When our Commandery was organized on the 2nd day of December 1852, it was so named San Francisco Encampment No. 1, in accordance with the Dispensation so granted. We were - as we are today - justly proud of the fact that we are members of the first Commandery of Knights Templar to be organized and Chartered on the Pacific Coast of these great United States.”

“We feel that our great city of San Francisco is destined to become a leading metropolis of the world with a population that will extend into the tens of thousands. We also feel that our great State will also expand to proportions beyond the scope of our present day imagination. We likewise feel that this Magnanimous Order of Christian Knighthood will keep abreast of this expansion and will also flourish to a point far beyond that which may be in the dreams of our ardent and zealous members.”

“Now that we have successfully established a Grand Commandery of the State of California, which we know is destined to become a leader among Grand Commanderies of the Grand Encampment, the Fraters of my Commandery feel that we are entitled to and should bear a name more closely allied with that of our State and that of our Grand Commandery.”

“With these words of preamble, I respectfully present the following brief

petition:.”

**“TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
And THE APPENDANT ORDERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA:
The Officers and Members of San Francisco Commandery No. 1 Knights
Templar humbly petition and pray your affirmation of the same in the
courteous request that the name of our Commandery be changed and that
it henceforth be know as CALIFORNIA COMMANDERY NO. 1. Knight
Templar”**

**(Signed) Alexander G. Abell, Commander
Jas. C. L. Wadsworth, Generalissimo
Eli Cook, Captain-General**

DAVIS: **“ We appreciate the sincerity of the petitions in this matter and if there be no
objection this will be referred to the Committee of New Commanderies. We will
now stand adjourned until two o’clock p.m. this day.” (Gavel)**

NARRATOR: **“The Grand Commandery has assembled at two o’clock pursuant to adjournment
and the Grand recorder, in obedience to the instructions given him at the
morning session has already presented certain Rules of Order for the
government of the Grand Commandery in Conclave. These have been separately
considered and unanimously adopted.**

**Sir Leander Ransom, from the Committee on New Commanderies, has presented
his report on the petitions of sundry Knights Templar residing at, or in the
vicinity of Oroville, Placerville and Marysville and has recommended that so
soon as the several petitions shall have been properly processed in the manner
prescribed by the Statutes of Grand Commandery, that Letters of Dispensation
be granted in each instance. He has also reported that his Committee has
considered the statement and suggestion of the Grand Commander with relation
to the reduction of fees in these particular cases and upon the recommendation
of his Committee, it was ordered that “in granting Letters of Dispensation for
the formation of the several Commanderies prayed for at Oroville, Placerville
and Marysville, the sum of \$25.00 for the fees for each be remitted.”**

“Sir Leander Ransom is continuing his report —“

RANSOM: **“To the Grand Commandery of California:**

**(reads) Your Committee to whom was referred the petition of the Knights of San
Francisco Commandery No. 1, praying that its name may be changed to that of
California Commandery No. 1, have had the same under consideration, and
knowing no reason why the desire of these petitioners in that respect should
not be complied with, beg leave to submit the following Order for adoption:-**

**ORDERED, That San Francisco Commandery No. 1 be hereafter known and
designated upon the registry of this Grand Commandery as CALIFORNIA
COMMANDERY NO. 1; and that an endorsement to such effect be made by the**

Grand Recorder upon the Charter of that Body, duly attested by the Seal of the Grand Commandery.”

**(Signed) Leander Ransom)
John S. Graham) COMMITTEE
S. H. Fickett**

MONELL: **“Right Eminent Grand Commander ! I move that the report of this Committee be received and that their recommended Order be adopted !”**

EVANS: **“I’ll second that motion.”**

DAVIS: **“You have heard the motion. All in favor will say “AYE”. Those opposed say “NAY”. The “Ayes” have it and it is so ordered !” (Gavel)**

ABELL: **“R.E. Grand Commander – I would like to make this motion: That the several Commanderies now existing in this State may retain the Charters which they now hold; and that there be endorsed thereon, under Seal of the Grand Commandery, a Certificate to the effect that from this date they are beholden subordinate to and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of the State of California.”**

EVANS: **“I’ll second that motion.”**

DAVIS: **“All in favor say “AYE” – Opposed “NAY”. The “Ayes” have it and it is so ordered !” (Gavel)**

“We will now stand adjourned until eleven o’clock a.m. tomorrow.” (Gavel)

NARRATOR: **“This is your Narrator again. We have now come to the final session on the last day of the Conclave. Sir Alexander Abell, from the Committee appointed to prepare a Uniform Code of By-Laws for the subordinates has made his report, which has been received and the proposed By-Laws taken up for consideration. After having approved the same by sections, the whole were unanimously adopted and the Committee has been discharged.**

Upon the motion of Sir George I. N. Monell, it was ordered that the sum of \$25.00 be paid to the Grand Sentinel for his services during the late Convocation and the present Grand Conclave.

There is still one formality to be observed, which requires a motion from the floor. LISTEN _____ !”

EVANS: **“Right Eminent Grand Commander - may I present a motion ?”**

DAVIS: **“By all means, Sir Edward Evans ! I have been waiting thru all of these sessions for something like this from you !!”**

EVANS: **“I move that the thanks of this Grand Commandery be tendered to the several Masonic Bodies occupying the Hall in which we have assembled, for their courtesy in offering it’s use !”**

RUSSELL & BLAKE:

(together) “I’ll second the motion !”

DAVIS:

“You have heard the motion and your applause will signify your approval of the same ! (Gavel)

NARRATOR:

“”There being no further business, the minutes of this session were read and approved, and, with prayer by the Grand Prelate, the fist Conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of California was closed in AMPLE and KNIGHTLY FORM.”

“And there you have it, Sit Knights. A re-enactment of the forming of the Grand Commandery of the State of California and a resume of its first Conclave, held on August 10th, 11th and 12th, 1858. Although brief in its presentation, it is factually and historically correct.

Little do we know of the trials and heartaches encountered by those, whose determined spirit prevailed in fostering the advancement of our great Christian Order in those early days. At best, we can only surmise as to their dreams and aspirations with regard to what they possibly considered the “future of Templary” in that new and adventurous Western Frontier.

We may rest assured, however, that their banner was “unfurled in a just and virtuous cause” and that the “brilliant rays of the rising sun, shedding luster upon that banner” have ever since animated and encouraged all valiant and magnanimous Knights of our Order.

At the forming of Grand Commandery, there were but three Commanderies upon its roster. Today there are seventy-one. As we enter a second chapter in the history of our Order in California, let us remember that our heritage is one of service and devotion to the principles of the Christian religion and the practice of its virtues. May we never be compelled to forfeit the right and privilege to share this heritage with those who follow us during this New Century of Templary. May our swords ever be wielded to foster the ideals of our Institution just as they were wielded by Sir Knights Davis, Abell, Graham and those others who lighted the torch and brazened the trail for its unification and expansion – ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO ! Their example should not be hard to emulate, for – YOU WERE THERE !!!”

