

Templars of the Plains

A Monthly Publication of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas



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Patrick C. Carr,

Right Eminent
Grand Commander

2026-2027

From the Grand Generalissimo

Sir Knight Delmus "Dale" Morrow, Eminent Grand Generalissimo

The Grand Commander has asked the current Grand Commandery Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.



Good day to you Sir Knights: As America approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, we find ourselves looking back—not just at the battles and documents, but at the ideas and communities that helped shape the nation we live in. As I write this article in the late days of June, our nation is preparing to celebrate its 250th anniversary. As I reflect on the events that led up to the formation of this great nation, the names of many of the men who are associated with these events come to mind. I am sure many of these men feared that they may be hung for treason and their families fall into ruin for the stand that they were taking against the crown.

Several of these men, who put their lives, their fortunes and their reputations on the line, were known Templar Knights. Yes, the Order of the Temple was known to have been worked in the Colonies prior to the founding of this country. The first recorded conferral of the Order of The Temple was in August of 1769, on Captain William Davis. In December of the same year the Order was conferred on Brother Paul Revere.

Interestingly enough on May 14th 1770, the Order of the Temple was conferred on General Joseph Warren, who is credited with organizing the famous 1775 midnight ride of Sir Knight Paul Revere who was dispatched to warn Brother John Hancock and Samuel Adams (not known to be a Mason) that the British were coming to arrest them. The British reportedly had orders to arrest the two organizers of the "Sons of Liberty". Sir Knight Paul Revere completed his ride and warned both Hancock and Adams. However, on his return, Revere was detained and questioned for a time in the early morning hours by the British Regulars. Revere's horse was confiscated to replace the tired steed of a British soldier. Sir Knight Paul Revere had to walk home (this from a handwritten account in Revere's own hand).

While very few records still exist from the time, it is believed that there were less than 500 Knights Templar in the colonies at the time of the revolution. We would be hard pressed to believe that the Sir Knights aforementioned were the only members of our Order who risked life and limb to combat what they believed to be a great tyranny inflicted by the British crown.

Along the forging of our country came the forging of our order in what would become the United States of America. Templary grew throughout the New England States as well as the Eastern Seaboard States. Our brothers soon formed what would become the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. In 1819, Dewitt Clinton, then Mayor of New York City and would eventually be elected Governor of New York, was chosen and elected to be the first General Grand Master. On a side note, Clinton was Governor of New

York during the infamous “Morgan Affair” of 1826 which drug Masonry through some of the darkest years of this young country. Yet our order has overcome.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of this great nation, let us also remember our brothers and Sir Knights who bled and sacrificed everything that we may live free. We know what kind of men they were. Let us, as Templar Knights of today, be men of unimpeachable character and keepers of the faith.

Dale Morrow

Brotherhood and the Birth of a Nation: Freemasons and America’s Approaching 250th Anniversary

Sir Knight Michael K. Colbary, Eminent Grand Guard/Inspector for Templar District No. 3



As America approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, we find ourselves looking back—not just at the battles and documents, but at the ideas and communities that helped shape the nation we call home today. Among those influences, one group quietly supported and influenced the birth of this Republic in ways that still echo today. *The Freemasons*: Far from being mysterious or hidden, early Freemasonry served as a gathering for men who believed that liberty, character, honor and responsibility were worth discussing long before they were worth fighting for. Freemasonry was a workshop of ideas, a place where colonists learned to think like citizens of a free nation long before that nation existed.

Freemasonry in a New Land

Freemasonry arrived in the American colonies in the early 1700s, during a time when the world was waking up to science, reason, and human dignity. Lodges began to appear in cities like Philadelphia, Boston, Charleston, and Williamsburg. Inside those rooms, men who might never have spoken as equals outside—merchants, craftsmen, officers, scholars—met face to face. They debated, they studied, they challenged each other to be better. In a world divided by class and status, freemasonry was a place where character mattered more than wealth and ideas, mattered more than rank. Those habits of equality and open discussion shaped many of the leaders who would eventually guide the colonies toward independence.

Founders Shaped by the Craft

Some of America’s most familiar names spent time in a Masonic lodge long before they appeared on the pages of history.

George Washington, initiated in 1752, carried Masonic principles of duty and integrity with him from the battlefield to the presidency.

Benjamin Franklin, a Grand Master in Pennsylvania, printed Masonic literature that helped spread Enlightenment ideas across the colonies.

Paul Revere, known for his midnight ride, was also a respected Masonic leader in Massachusetts.

John Hancock, whose signature seems to shout freedom from the Declaration, also wore the square and compasses.

These men didn’t act in secret. They acted as citizens whose character had been sharpened by the fraternity, education, and a shared belief in liberty. Freemasonry didn’t create the Revolution—but it helped prepare many of the minds that made it possible.

Ideas That Helped Shape a Nation

When we read the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution, we see reflections of the same values discussed in early lodges:

*Freedom of conscience;
Equality among men;
Resistance to tyranny;
Civic responsibility;
The pursuit of knowledge and moral improvement.*

These principles didn't belong only to Masonry, but the fraternity provided a place where they could be explored, debated, and lived. In that sense, Freemasonry became one of the quiet classrooms of the American Revolution.

Symbols and the American Imagination

People sometimes notice familiar symbols—like the All-Seeing Eye or the Unfinished Pyramid—and assume secret influence. But in truth, early America and Freemasonry both drew from the same well of Enlightenment imagery: reason, virtue, architecture, and the idea that human beings could build a better world. These symbols weren't tools of control; they were shared expressions of hope and aspiration.

Freemasonry's Role Today

As the nation prepares to celebrate 250 years, Masonic lodges across the country are honoring the past in the way the Founders would have respected most: by serving their communities. Modern Freemasons focus on:

*Charity;
Veterans' assistance;
Scholarships;
Historical preservation;
Community improvement.*

The work is simple, steady, and patriotic—not political. Freemasonry today aims to strengthen the same civic character that helped build this nation in the first place.

An Anniversary Worth Remembering

America's 250th anniversary is more than a celebration of dates and documents. It is a moment to honor the countless people and groups who shaped the character of our Republic. Freemasonry's role in early America is a reminder that this country was not built by one man or one idea—but by citizens who believed they could build something better together. Among those citizens were men who gathered in lodges and rooms, studied virtue, debated liberty, and shook hands as brothers.

As America celebrates 250 years of independence, the legacy of those early builders reminds us that the promise of this nation—freedom, responsibility, and hope—still belongs to us all.

A few of the hands that built these United States wore a Masonic ring. And their legacy still shines in the nation they helped to raise.

Michael K. Colbary



Sir Knights, When our Blessed Lord taught His disciples to pray, He did not begin with a long theological statement or a complicated ritual formula. He began with words that are both simple: "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."

In these opening words of the Lord's Prayer, we find a foundation for Christian faith and Templar service. Before we ask for daily bread, forgiveness, guidance, or deliverance, we are first taught that we must first recognize who God is, who we are in relation to Him, and the reverence due to His holy name.

The prayer begins with the word "Our." This is not merely private language. Christ does not teach us to pray "my Father," but "Our Father." In that one word, we are reminded

that prayer draws us not only closer to God, but also closer to one another. It shows the universality of God. Many Protestant traditions have emphasized the personal relationship between the believer and God through Jesus Christ. Yet even within that personal relationship, we are never meant to walk alone. We are part of a brotherhood of faith, bound together under the Great Architect of the Universe.

As Freemasons, we should understand the importance of this word. In our lodges, worldly rank, wealth, and station fade in the presence of the Great Architect of the Universe. As Knight Templars, we take that lesson even further, for our Order calls us to live as Christian knights, united not merely by fraternity, but by faith. The words "Our Father", aka the Pater Noster, remind us that our brother is not a rival or a stranger. He is a child of God.

The next word, "**Father**," speaks to one of the most beloved beliefs in Protestant Christianity: that through Christ, we may approach God not as distant subjects trembling before an unknown power, but as children coming before a loving Father. This does not make God casual or common. Rather, it reveals His mercy. The God who made heaven and earth permits us to come before Him with trust, humility, and confidence.

This is a powerful thought for a Knight Templar. We are taught courage, but Christian courage does not come from pride. It comes from knowing that we serve under the banner of a Heavenly Father who is just, merciful, and faithful. A Sir Knight who kneels in prayer is strengthened, because he remembers the source of his strength.

The words, "who art in heaven," remind us of God's majesty and sovereignty. He is our Father, but He is also in heaven. He is near enough to hear us, yet high enough to rule over all creation. God is both personal and supreme, both loving and holy, and accessible through the Christ.

Finally, we come to the phrase, "hallowed be thy name." To hallow something is to hold it as holy, sacred, and set apart. God's name is not to be used lightly, carelessly, or selfishly. His name represents His character, His truth, and His presence. As Christian Knights, we hold the holiness of God at the center of worship. We do not make God holy by our prayers; rather, we acknowledge that He already is holy. Our prayer is that His name would be honored in our hearts, in our homes, in our churches, and in the world.

To pray "hallowed be thy name" is to ask that our lives reflect rightly upon the God we claim to serve. It means our speech should be seasoned with grace. Our dealings should be honest, and our charity should be sincere.

Sir Knights, the next time we pray these words in our commandery, may we be ever mindful of the sacredness of these words. Pray them slowly, thoughtfully, and faithfully.

In Christ,

Gary B. Strout

Sir Knight Gary B. Strout, CTC, Eminent Grand Prelate

5th Annual Knight Templar Feast

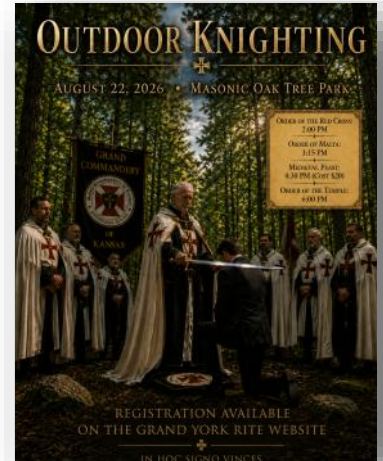


The 5th Annual KT Feast will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2026, at the McPherson Community Building. The banquet will be provided, along with the requisite toasts. Each person registered will receive a firing cannon to commemorate the event. The special guest speaker for this year's feast will be Sir Knight Moises Gomez of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey. Sir Knight Gomez is a well known speaker and will be making a presentation about his experience at ground zero during 9/11 when he worked for the Port Authority.

This is a fantastic event you will not want to miss! Registration is available on the Grand York Rite website and this event is limited to only 100 people. The registrations are filling up fast, so be sure to register today!

Knight Templar Outdoor Knighting

On August 22, 2026, the Grand Commandery of Kansas will be hosting an outdoor Templar event. The event will start at 3:00 PM at the Masonic Oak Tree Park in Little River, Kansas. The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta will be conferred on awaiting candidates. Dinner will be provided and includes what will resemble a traditional meal eaten outside and under the beautiful skies of Kansas. As darkness descends upon the gathering, the Order of the Temple will be conferred. This will be a little bit unusual as the Right Eminent Grand Commander is requesting those in attendance to wear a medieval costume instead of their Class A uniforms. This would be a good time to wear those items you have for the Rennfaire or borrow a cloak from your local commandery, lodge, or Scottish Rite. Cap and Mantle would also be acceptable. The Templars of old rarely had matching uniforms and it will be no different this year. It has been rumored the Grand Commander will be wearing chain mail!! The cost for the meal is \$25 and includes glassware and a special coin for all who attend. Registration is available on the Grand York Rite website so please preregister so there will be enough food for everyone who desires to attend.



July Grand Commander's Schedule

The Grand Commander will be traveling to represent Kansas Templary around the country and will also be making his official visit to the following Commanderies:

Conferral of Red Cross and Malta Orders	July 8, 2026	McPherson, KS
Hiawatha Commandery No. 13 Official Visit	July 9, 2026 @ 6:00 PM	Zoom Call
Conferral of the Order of the Temple	July 10, 2026	Newton, KS
Rainbow Grand Assembly	July 11, 2026	Wichita, KS
Great Smokies York Rite Gathering	July 12-14, 2026	Maggie Valley, NC
Knight Masons Ingathering	July 18, 2026	Junction City, KS
Leavenworth Commandery No. 1 Official Visit	July 21, 2026 @ 7:00 PM	Overland Park, KS
York Rite Sovereign College of North America	July 23-26, 2026	Des Moines, IA