

4 June 2021

A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 29



A little Knight Templar news does you good

Staying in touch

Dear Brother Knights

I was very very pleased to see so many of you at the annual meeting of the Province last week—which was conducted online.

Well over sixty members abandoned their favourite programmes and other activities to join us for the first-ever evening meeting of Provincial Priory—arranged for 7pm so that those who have daytime employment could join us without taking time off work.



We were treated to some fascinating and delightful recollections by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, who described his early experiences of the Order within this his Mother Province.

In the course of my own Address, I said that I am well aware that there is genuine concern among many of you about resuming physical meetings at the present moment. I fully respect those feelings and I hasten to assure you that I do not envisage lifting the suspension of Knight Templar meetings for the remaining six weeks or so of this season. However, I am looking forward to a joyful return in September.

Certainly, we have all missed our meetings and the fellowship of our brethren and I am sure that there will be much celebration when circumstances permit us to meet again.

As a warm up, we are planning a demonstration of the ritual beforehand – to remind us of the finer details (after 18 months rest). This will probably be held online during late August and the details will be publicised in the newsletter and on the website.

I am hoping that in September a small Provincial Party will start to attend Installation meetings and the Vice Chancellor will be in touch with all Provincial Officers and members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard to see who would like to accompany me and add their own magic to those occasions.

However please remember that **no member** should feel under any pressure to return to meetings until they feel that the time is right for them and the safety of their family.

If you would like to read the full Address and an outline of some of the activities that we hope will take place, please go to the KT website (www.kt-msw.org) where you will find it in the News section.

Yours in the bonds of the Order
R E Kt Paul Calderwood

It Makes You Think

by R.E.Kt. Dr Vivian Thomas KCT

The challenge in this short article is to recognise that no-one has produced any definitive proof as to the origin of our Templar Masonry.



We do know that the first written record of the degree being conferred was on 28th Aug, 1769, at *The Green Dragon Tavern* in Boston, Mass. The recipient was one Bro William Davies (I hope he was Welsh) under the auspices of a travelling warrant held by an Irish regimental Lodge (N0 322).

However, before that time there were several references that raise some interesting theories. In an early French exposure called "The Broken Seal", written in 1745, we find the claim that the origin of Freemasonry dated back to the time of the Crusades, being derived from the Knight Masons, "who practised ceremonies with secret signs, grips and words".

Illustrations of Masonry by William Preston, dated 1861, records: "William the Conqueror, having acquired the crown of England in 1066, appointed Gandolph, Bishop of Rochester, and Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, as joint patrons of the Masons, and during the reign of Henry 2nd, the Grand Master of the Knights Templar superintended the Masons and employed them in building their temples in Fleet St in 1155"

The Chevalier Andrew Ramsay, in his famous oration of 1737 certainly endeavoured to show that Freemasonry was linked to and descended from the crusading knights. I found one claim that during the Crusades there were 27,000 masons present.

What can be made of these claims and quotes from the mid-1700's, which relate to events 600 years previously? If we look at the Templar strongholds in Outremer - Krak de Chevalier being a prime example - the expertise in their construction is readily evident.

I think it entirely reasonable to assume that the warring and heavily armed knights and their sergeants-at-arms would not have been free to design and construct their castles. It is more likely that skilled journeymen had formed part of the whole entourage and, just as membership of the knights became restricted through certain rituals, so would admission to the fraternity of Masons be equally restricted, in order to achieve the right payment for the differing levels of skills.

As their defeats in The Holy Land caused the retreat of the Crusaders, so also followed the repatriation of those skilled workers, through Cyprus and eventually, back to their homeland. Could all of that knowledge have then been utilised in the construction of the wonderful Cathedrals we see across Europe, especially France, and, of course, England, which long preceded 1717. Hence, an early form of our present-day Freemasonry could well have seen its formation earlier than we might have thought.

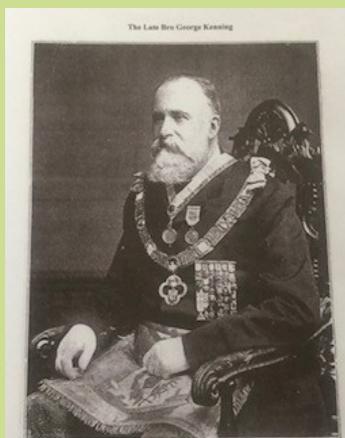
This short article represents some extracts from a presentation I gave to the 2009 Triennial Conference of the ten Grand Priorities which met at Winchester, when I was challenged to develop a talk on the origin of Templar Masonry. There remains a tenuous and tantalising dotted line from the return of The Templars to Europe & initiation of Elias Ashmole in 1646.

A profile of **GEORGE KENNING**

by Kt Gary Lillywhite



Some of you have bought your regalia new and so you know its source. Others have bought it second-hand or had it passed on to them. Those of you who are using pre-owned regalia: how old is it? Where did it come from? Who made it?



You may well own and be using jewels and regalia made by George Kenning, who was probably the most prolific and best regalia maker of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Look on the reverse of your jewels, at the labels in your cap, tunic, mantle. You may see the name Kenning.

Many of you have probably heard the name before. But, who was George Kenning? The man, the mason, the regalia maker. My photos show three Kenning K.T. Jewels dating to 1912; a 1930s Grand Priory Preceptor's cap by Kenning, and a portrait of the man himself.

George Kenning was born in London on 2nd of April 1836. After serving a seven year apprenticeship, he opened his first regalia shop and factory unit in 1860 at Little Britain in London. He employed one worker. Most regalia was hand-made and was sourced from outworkers in London's East End.

George Kenning was initiated into Freemasonry on the 4th of April 1861 in Lion and Lamb Lodge No.192. This was the start of a Masonic career spanning 40 years. He was a member of 14 different orders, totalling 39 different Lodges and Chapters etc.

For the purposes of this article I will only concentrate on his K.T. membership. He entered Kemeys Tynte Encampment No.48 on 19th March 1869 and became a Knight of Malta 17th December 1869. He was a Founder of Holy Palestine Preceptory No. 129 in London and an Honorary Member (1878) of St. Mary's commandery in Philadelphia.

As the Kenning business grew it was necessary to gain bigger premises and employ more staff. Also regalia had to be made by machine with only the best Grand Lodge regalia being made by hand. George Kenning's business expanded into a true Masonic empire, making and supplying regalia, furniture, banners, books, anything that a Freemason of lodge needed.

The business expanded to occupy three London premises plus branches in Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow. At the height of his empire, George Kenning suddenly died at home in Sydenham South London on 26 October 1901. His funeral was at Elmers End cemetery in 31st October and an obituary read:

IN MEMORIAM. Bro. George Kenning. DIED 26th OCTOBER 1901.

Non omnis moriar. The reaper death has garnered to his store a face and form familiar to us all. One, as the years rolled on,esteemed the more, one whom alas we never can recall. A loving husband, father, and a friend, a Mason true, in thought in word and deed.

To poor brethren he'd his hand extend, widow and orphan aid in time of need. Active his life, though simple, he was found, ever subservient to strict duty's call.

Domestic joys within his home abound, courteous to friends and strangers, one and all. Sadly, yet hopefully, we The flowers of memory his life shall crown, and bud and blossom in the silent dust.lay him down, commend him to our heavenly father's trust. The flowers of memory his life shall crown, and bud and blossom in the dust.

The Latin, *Non omnis moriar*, translates as I shall not wholly die. After George Kenning's death, his son carried on the business as George Kenning & Son. Later the company merged with that of Richard Spencer to become George Kenning & Spencer. The final merger was with William Toye - to finally become the name that many of us will recognise as Toye Kenning & Spencer, a major supplier and maker of Masonic regalia. So, true to *Non omnis moriar*, over a century after George Kenning's death, **his name truly does live on.**



AND A LIGHTER MOMENT

If at any time you have been a victim of a spellchecker or a predictive text mistake I am sure that you will smile when you read the following:



Eye halve a spilling chequer, hit cane with my pea see,
Hit plane lea marques four my revue miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Aye strike a quay and type a whirred hand weight fore it two say Weather eye am
wry tor wrong, hit shows me strait a weigh;

As soon as a mist ache is maid hit nose bee for two long
And eye can putt the error rite, hits rare lea ever wrong.

Eye halve run this poem threw it, aye am shore; you? please two no, Its litter purr
fact in it's weigh, my cheque her tolled me sew.

THE TEMPLAR QUIZ

by Kt Stephen Roberts

I hope that you enjoyed the Templar Word Puzzle that was published in the last edition.

Here is the solution, as promised:



		K	N	I	G	H	T				D	N	A	L	Y	L	O	H		
P	R	I	O	R	Y					Y	R	O	T	P	E	C	E	R	P	
	E	D	A	S	U	R	C		T	O		O				C		D		
						A	S		T	E	A		Y			O		L		
					N	E		P		D	M			A		M		E		
				D	D		E		D			P			L	P		I		
	P		I	O	N	C		R	O	I	R	P	L			A		H		
T	I	A	H		E	O	E			R				E		N	R	S		
E	L	R		C		S	I			O					M	I	W	C		
M	G		P		S		T	T	V	L	L					O			H	
L	R					N		I	A	A					M	R	N	U		
E	I				E		N	I	H	G	E		V	D	E			N		
H	M			N		C	T	C		L	I			A		L			T	
T	A		I		I	N	S		B			L			L		I			
E	G	M		A	E	E		A					B			I		T		
M	E		L	R	R		T							O			A		A	
P			E	A		S	A	T	L	A	M	F	O	T	H	G	I	N	K	
L		V	M		N			R	E	L	L	A	T	I	P	S	O	H	T	
A	E			O								E	R	H	C	L	U	P	E	S
R			C			H	U	G	U	E	S	D	E	P	A	Y	E	N	S	