



**The Sovereign Military Order of  
the Temple of Jerusalem**

**Priory of St. James, Toronto, Canada.**

**Newsletter  
August 2010**

**Prior: The Rev. Nola Crewe, GOTJ**

**Greetings to the Dames, Knights, Postulants and Friends of the St James Priory:**

First and foremost, we are looking forward to seeing you on Thursday at the Prior's home for our annual Garden Party. We have a number of postulants and potential postulants who will be attending and it's their opportunity to confirm their commitment and ours to get to know those who seek to join our ranks. It is also going to be a beautiful day (unlike the rain storm we encountered last year!), tasty food and wine, beer, lemonade, or whatever your potable. For directions, check the calendar below.

This Newsletter brings you up-to-date on the preparations for Convent 2010, when we play host to the Templars of the World. Make sure you have your registration in and get in touch with Sir William Upper with your availability as a volunteer. It is going to be an incredible few days that will linger forever as a time in which St James Priory will rightly take pride.

More on our history, some humour and activities of our compadres complete this issue. So read on . . .

Blessings on you and all your good works

nnDnn

Nola, Alastair, William & Harold, Your Editorial Team

## **CALENDAR**

Do add the following dates to your agenda: Send your news of upcoming events for inclusion in the next issue to Sir Alastair at [alastairi@electricscotland.com](mailto:alastairi@electricscotland.com)

### **Thursday 5 August 2010**

#### **Prior's Garden Party**

6 – 8 p.m.

at 74 Riverdale Avenue, Toronto

A time for the Templar Family

to get together and enjoy each other's company.

#### **HOW TO GET THERE:**

##### **Public Transit:**

Take the subway to Broadview, take any streetcar south to Withrow and walk one block south to Riverdale and then east ½ block to 74 Riverdale. You can also take either the King or Dundas street car east and it will take you to Withrow as well.

##### **Driving:**

Riverdale is 10 blocks south of Danforth or 4 blocks north of Gerrard running one-way east off Broadview. There is space in the driveway for 5 or 6 cars and on-street parking.

If you want further directions (or get lost) call 416 466 0311 or 416 466 7201.

### **Monday 9 August 2010**

6:00 p.m. Monthly General Meeting & socializing to follow. Meeting at:  
Desjardins Securities, 145 King Street West (King & York), Suite 2750.

## **Tuesday 10 August 2010**

Convent Meeting combined with Monday 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

## **Tuesday 17 August 2010**

6:00 p.m. Convent Meeting at 74 Riverdale Avenue. The Grand Prior will be in attendance.

## **Tuesday 24 August 2010**

6:00 p.m. Convent Meeting at 74 Riverdale Avenue.

## **Tuesday 31 August 2010**

6:00 p.m. Convent Meeting at 74 Riverdale Avenue.

## **Tuesday 7 September 2010**

6:00 p.m. Convent Meeting at 74 Riverdale Avenue.

## **Monday 13 September 2010**

6:00 p.m. Monthly meeting & socializing to follow.

## **Tuesday 21 September 2010**

6:00 p.m. Convent Meeting at 74 Riverdale Avenue: the last before the big event!

## **Wednesday 22 September 2010**

Opening Day: Registration and Opening Reception

## **Thursday 23 September 2010**

Grand Priors' Meetings  
Queen's Park Tour and reception, Niagara-on-the-Lake

## **Friday 24 September 2010**

Meetings for Grand Priors and meetings for others.  
Open evening

## **Saturday 25 September 2010**

Meeting, Investiture, Reception and Banquet

**PLEASE NOTE the one event each Templar is required to attend is the annual Investiture. If you are unable to be with us, you must receive permission from your Prior to be absent. To date, three requests have been received and granted. Dame Barbara Boles Davis will be on a charitable medical mission to Africa and Dame Deborah and Capt. Chev. Robin Tyler will be in Jerusalem, presenting a Scroll on the behalf of our Priory to the Archbishop at the Cathedral of St James.**

## **Sunday 26 September 2010**

Farewells to all our new friends

## **Tuesday 5 October 2010**

Wind-up of Convent Team: review and reports

## **Monday 8 November 2010**

General Meeting

December dates to be confirmed.

AGENDAS and confirmation of times and locations go out prior to meetings.

**\* Mark the 2nd Monday of the month in your datebook for a Templar meeting. If the agenda is thin and nothing is urgent, we will cancel it.**

**Notices and agendas will proceed every meeting and cancellations will be equally broadcast. BUT do plan on attending. Your participation, wit and wisdom are needed!**

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## **Convent 2010**

**Convent Registration Update from Sir Keith Leslie Leonard, FSA Scot, KStG, KTJ**

[Redonda@sympatico.ca](mailto:Redonda@sympatico.ca) Land Line: 416-484-1466 Mobile: 416-574-0338

Hello World!

With the Convent now only weeks away, the world is knocking at our door. Registrations for the Convent continue to arrive by post or email. To date, we have received notifications from:

Belgium  
Canada  
Denmark  
England and Wales  
Finland  
France/Portugal  
Germany  
Mexico  
NATO  
United States of America

Our newsletter has gone out to everyone who has registered, and provided us with an email address. Response to the newsletter has been very well received. We expect to work out a reciprocal arrangement with other Pories. Congratulations to the Newsletter Team for an excellent product.

We are still looking for items for the Silent Auction. The auction is being done in two parts. The opening reception will see local items such as theatre tickets, and restaurant dinners closing that night. This will give those with free time an opportunity to see Toronto. At the closing banquet, the Silent Auction will conclude. Items to date provided are swords, a picture of Queen's Park, autographed by the Premier, books, a water bottle with unusual water, and Templars stamps.

I have been making contact with a number of companies to provide us with giveaways during the Convent. I expect these will include: umbrellas, sweatshirts, pens, and water bottles.

What we ultimately have is what you can help us provide. Do you have something you would be willing to contribute? Does your company, or the company you work for have something to donate?

Remember, the net proceeds go to our charities!

## **NIAGARA & the CONVENT**

To the traditional Ontarian's trip to Niagara Falls to launch their honeymoon or just to gape at this wonder of the world, the Templars are adding a special touch during the Convent. Lcol Chev Ed Rayment has planned a trip that encompasses not only the expected trip to view the Falls, but also to take in Niagara-on-the-Lake, one of the prettiest towns in Canada, but also a revisit to 1812 when the Americans invaded and the Canadians repelled them. Sir Ed's home is on the cusp of the battlefield and his home nursed those who survived and some who didn't. The trip includes a special box lunch en route, dessert at Sir Ed's and dinner after the tour all for \$125.00. If you have never been there or if you have out-of-province Templars coming, this is a great deal to join on Thursday September 23rd, leaving Toronto at 11:30 a.m. (right after the Queen's Park Tour and coffee break in the Speaker's Apartments.

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## The Sneeze

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt.

Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears.

This class would NOT pray during the commencements, not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it.

The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families.

The speeches were nice, but they were routine until the final speech received a standing ovation.

A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then, it happened.

All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly SNEEZED !!!!

The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said,

'GOD BLESS YOU'

And he walked off the stage...

The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval.

GOD BLESS YOU!!!!

This is a true story; it happened at Eastern Shore District High School in Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia.

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## **A Brief History of the Crusades and The Knights Templar** **by the Honorable Sir Charles S. Davis III, GCTJ, Prior of St. Clair** **(A talk delivered to The Assembled Witenagemote on 18th December 1997)**

This is a history we have been providing over the past 4 issues of this newsletter and here is the final part...

In 1311, the Council of Viennes met and both Phillip and Pope Clement were greeted by a surprise. Fully 80% of the Bishops at the Council supported a motion granting safe passage and protection to any Templar that wished to address the Council. The next day, seven Templar Knights appeared on horse in full armor and wearing the white cape with the red cross. The Pope (still in league with Phillip) immediately ordered their arrest, before they could address the Council. The Council rebelled and forced the Pope to release the Templars. He did, but before they could be heard, the Pope immediately adjourned the Council for six months. The Templars rode off and were never seen again.

When the Council reconvened, the Pope announced the charges of heresy had been dropped! However, the Pope also removed his Papal charter for the order on the justification that, with

all the past controversy, no new members would join it and so it could no longer assist in future Crusades. Lastly, although Pope Clement issued another Bull where he specifically said he personally believed the Templar Order was innocent of all charges, he did not cancel his previous order to arrest any Templars that had not been questioned and submit them to inquisition. Therefore, the Templars who had not been imprisoned still had to stay in hiding.

Lastly and importantly, the Pope directed that all Templar properties be turned over the Knights Hospitallers (which eventually became the Knights of Malta) which were a smaller and younger order with which the Templars had a bitter and hard fought rivalry. Of course, in France, Phillip had already stolen all the wealth and lands, but in England the Hospitallers inherited most of the former Templar property. The Templars delayed there reaction to this for over 70 years.

Now, since the order was no longer under the protection of the Pope, Phillip was free to dispose of the imprisoned Templars as he chose. He gave amnesty to those who had confessed to heresy and had not recanted their confession, but ordered them out of France.

Phillip had kept the Grand Master, De Molay, confined in solitary and both he and the Pope had continually refused to see him. Phillip now believed that, with the Order disbanded by the Pope, De Molay, who had confessed under grievous torture, would, in public, confirm his confession to heresy to gain his freedom. Believing he had De Molay's agreement, Phillip agreed to a mass public meeting. However, when de Molay was finally allowed to speak, De Molay stated that all the confessions were false and said, knowing this statement would be his death warrant "...life is offered to me, but at the price of infamy. At such a price, life is not worth having."

Phillip was furious. He had De Molay immediately taken to a small island in the middle of the Seine and roasted to death in the most painful way possible --- slowly over a bed of charcoal.

It is said that, before he lost consciousness, De Molay called upon both Pope Clement and Phillip to meet him for judgement before the throne of God in a year's time." Both Phillip and Clement died mysteriously within months thereafter.

Was this the end of the Knights Templar????

What happened to the Paris and London treasuries that Phillip and Edward could not find. Where did the Templar fleet from Marseilles and La Rochelle sail to????

The truth is -- no one knows! And this lack of knowledge has fueled speculations that continue to produce new theories and a multitude of books to this very day!

Here's what we do know... after the formal disbandment of the Templars.

1. It is believed that a formal Knights Templar cavalry rode with Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.
2. Some group with a excellent secret organization led the Peasants Revolt in England in 1381 and seemingly sought their revenge upon the Hospitallers, killing their leadership and dismantling their buildings through England. As mentioned earlier, the Hospitallers were arch rivals of the Templars, had tried to convince the Pope to merge the two groups to be headed by a Hospitallers. Most importantly, they had lobbied for and received title to the Templar properties after 1306.
3. The St. Clair family (whose ancestor, William St. Clair, had been among the first Templar Knights to visit Jerusalem in 1128 and whose sister married Hughes de Payens, the founder of the Templars) built the Roslyn Church between 1440 and 1490 which depicts Templar Knights and is dedicated to them -- it also is a perfect duplicate of the Temple of Jerusalem.
4. There is increasing evidence that freemasonry which appeared publicly for the first time in

the mid-1600s may have had its origins in a continuation of the squires and artisans of the Knights Templar and modern freemasonry incorporates many of the Templar customs and rituals.

5. There is a disputed claim that the Duke of Orleans, as Grand Master, called a Convent of the Knights Templar at Versailles in 1705.

6. A list called "The Charter of Larminius" was published in 1785 claiming to be a list of the unbroken chain of the Grand Masters of the Order from 1129 until 1785.

7. During the French revolution, the Knights Hospitallers were again singled out and the leadership denounced and sent to the guillotine and their properties demolished. No similar effort was made against any Templars, although they were believed to be active in France at this time.

8. In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte officially recognized the Knights Templar and encouraged his officers and the nobility in France to join.

9. In 1814, King Louis XVIII of France agreed to become the royal protector of the order following a meeting with the Templar Grand Prior of England -- British Admiral Sir William Sidney-Smith, Commander of the British Fleet.

10. In 1830, Templars were active in the leadership of the second French revolution when Charles X attempted to restore an absolute monarchy in France.

11. In 1833, Templars were active in the Belgium revolt against the Dutch, which resulted in the independence of Belgium in 1833.

12. In 1845, Pope Gregory XVI offered to restore the Papal charter to the Order on the condition that the Order expel any non-Roman Catholic Templars. Since the Templars have been an ecumenical order since 1310 and many Templars (although still a minority) were of other Christian faiths, the Templars declined.

Of course, what I have just told you will not find in most history books. If they mention the Templars at all, they usually state that the Knights Templar effectively ended with De Molay's death. The Belgium Priory of the Order has documents regarding the re-establishment in France and Belgium in the late 1700s and early 1800s. We, as the modern day successors of this proud Order, maintain a dual position on this issue. Certainly, we are grateful we can document the Orders' modern history from 1804 onward. And, although history has not yielded its secrets of what happened to the Templar fleet, the Templar treasuries, or its Knights and organization, we remain hopeful that some discoveries at a future time will answer some of the anomalies that still exist.

As of now, there are only fascinating hints of what may be known someday. First, there is the list of Larminius, discovered in the early 1700s which purports to show the Grand Masters of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem from its inception through the late 1700.

Additionally, the Templar Priors in Scotland have produced a history which they claim is documented tracing the history of the Order in Scotland from 1300 to present.

Lastly, a recent book proposes a very rational explanation (compared with many of the more esoteric stories) which proposes that the Templars, both before and after 1305, were instrumental in the founding of the five Swiss Canons and formation of modern day Switzerland. Perhaps it is not circumstantial that the Templar emblem and colors appear not only on the Swiss national flag, but on the flag and arms of each of its five Canons (states)... or that Switzerland is the center of international banking... or that Switzerland has always promoted the free exercise of Christian religions of all sects.... or of the reasons for Switzerland's legendary neutrality in all world conflicts.

Today, the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem continues to exist. The Order has over 5,500 Knights and Dames in Pories and Commanderies throughout the United States and Europe, northern Africa and South America -- its largest being a priory composed of strictly of the military command officers of NATO. It is a recognized International Organization of the United Nations.

To maintain its ability to grant invest individuals with knighthood, the Order must have both a royal protector and a religious protector. At present, its royal protector is Princess Elizabeth of Schleswig-Holstein and its religious protector is His Beatitude Maximos Hakim, Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, of Alexandria and Jerusalem.

Let me give you an example of its present day leadership so you can get a flavor of the organization. The Grand Master of the Order is His Excellency Major General Sir Roy Redgrave, former Chief of Staff of the British Army (and a member of the famous acting family) and the International Commander is Rear Admiral James J. Carey (USNR). In 2000-2002, the Grand Prior of the United States was Rear Admiral Andrew O'Rourke (USNR), a Justice of New York's Supreme Court and the present Grand Prior is Brigadier General Patrick Rea (USAR).

The Knights and Dames of the Order come from all walks of life, although there is a preponderance of present and former military command officers. Also, you will find a large number of diplomats from all nations and former heads or high-ranking officials of many governments and church leaders from many various denominations. Some examples would include: seven former Cabinet and sub-cabinet officials of President Ronald Reagan's administration, the present or former Ambassadors of Israel, France, Bolivia, Italy, Romania, Hungary, Egypt, Switzerland, Portugal, and the present Under-Secretary of the United Nations.

But what do these people do? A Templar Knight today takes the same vows as did the Templar Knights 950 years ago. They no longer wear a white wool loin cloth and the definition of "chastity" has been redefined to upholding the marriage vows (a seemingly difficult task in today's society). Likewise, "poverty" is defined as a viewpoint of not making economic motivation and material desires a priority in your life. "Obedience" is personal obedience to the Christ's teachings, as well as following the command structure of the Order. For a Templar Knight, an individual's first obligation as a Christian to continually strive to perfect his own Temple to God, which should be a daily challenge.

As you may see, the Order's thrust is the same as the Templars of old -- to assure the establishment and maintenance of the freedom to worship God and Christ as each of us may understand him. The public purpose of the order is to defend and promote the ability of all Christians to practice their religion and to extend the hand of Christian charity where needed. Much like the Templars of old when they organized and funded the construction of churches throughout Europe, the Order supports churches and historical sites, regardless of denomination, in the Holy Land. In addition to annual funding these efforts, in August 2002, the Order sent a delegation to meet with and inspect the Church of the Nazarene to assess how the Order could assist in the repairs to this historic church inflicted by the recent conflicts in that area.

Responding to an immediate need in 2002, the Order in the US has suggested that each Priory sponsor a classroom in Afghanistan and this effort has been recognized by the King as assisting over 5,000 Afghan women restart their education. In Serbia, in the late 1990s, the Order was instrumental in changing the "NATO rules of engagement" to protect Serbian Christians as they sought to practice their religion (The Metropolitan of the Serbian Orthodox Church credits this effort in saving of over 2,500 lives). In Russia, since the mid 1990s, the Order worked with His Beatitude Alexis II to re-establish the Russian Orthodox Church throughout Russia, in the construction of the new Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow and the establishment of a medical/church train to travel throughout Siberia where formal churches do not exist. The Order supports efforts to improve understanding among the world religions through the Center for Peace & Diplomacy (run by a Templar Knight) which recently has sponsored meetings the Sudan, Iran and Pakistan bringing together religious and

community leaders. The Order is also active with Knightsbridge International (run by Templar Knights) to bring food and medical treatment to war-torn areas in the Philippines, Afghanistan and Iraq where the fighting deters other established charities from involvement. Local Pories may also choose other local charities to assist the "lame, ill and needy".

The Order only becomes involved when three criteria can be met: (1) the Order acts through established existing organizations, (2) the network of the Order's members can bring resources to bear on the matter at hand, and (3) the Order's activities can make a discernable difference. The vast majority of the Order's activities involve no attempt at recognition for the Order or the individuals involved. Perhaps, the inscription that Sir Thomas Lawrence (better known as Lawrence of Arabia) had placed on his gravestone tells it better -- an inscription which has been and is the phrase all the Knights Templar repeat when corresponding with each other: "NON NOBIS DOMINE NON NOBIS -- SED NOMINI TUO DA GLORIAM" or in modern English: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us; but unto thy name glory" and the rest of the psalm is "...for thy mercy and thy truth's sake." This Psalm was dedicated to the Templars by Saint Bernard for, in the founding of the Templar Order, he saw the last and best defense of Christendom.

And, as an old Scot Templar once told me, it remains true "for seven times since 1128 AD the Templars have stood at the gates of civilization against tyrants and barbarians. In Spain, it was against the Muslims, in Syria against Mongols, in Egypt against the Mamalukes, and four more instances in more modern times. And, when that evil next appears, as when it did with the Templars of old, it will find a Knight Templar on guard at the gate".

END.

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## A Letter to the Royal Canadian Military Institute

17 June 2010

L.Col. James Breithaupt, KStJ, CD, QC  
President  
- and -  
Mr. Michael T Jones  
General Manager  
Royal Canadian Military Institute  
426 University Avenue  
Toronto M5G 1S9

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Priory of St James Knights Templar, I wish to extend our sincere thank-you for the support you consistently gave our fledgling organization: providing a meeting place and a venue in which social and charitable ties and relationships could flourish and grow.

And now you are about to embark on your grand adventure of growth and rebirth: which sadly begins with many good-byes to well-loved and used bricks and mortar, a temporary farewell to an institution and to staff who have served so well.

But it is with confidence that we look to the re-opening of the Institute and to a future which will see the creation of new memories amid the riches and the traditions of the past. We enclose a token of our appreciation to be added to the gift for the staff..

May all the dreams of your Executive, staff and membership be realized in the project on which you are launched. We look forward to being there at the unveiling.

Blessings

Nola Crewe



## **Sir Ted & His Grand Crusade**

**The Grand Prior has asked that we share this information as to the cancellation of the Investiture in Ottawa and why their Prior was granted permission to be elsewhere:**

Sir Ron; I owe you a more detailed explanation why I have chosen a trip to Italy instead of remaining here for the Investiture.

During Christmas Week 1943, I fought in a most bitter battle that the media dubbed "The Stalingrad of the West." This was when we met the 1st German Parachute (Fallschirmjager) Division at a small town called Ortona. A little over three years ago, the Mayor of Ortona asked me to provide the city with a tank, the same model we had during the battle. I tasked the CF Attaches in Western Europe to find one, and after a great search one was located in Holland. The Dutch wanted \$90,000.00 and we didn't have a dime. With help from our colleague, Sir James Gervais, three Cdn businessmen each donated \$30,000.00 to buy the tank, and John Cleghorn retired Chairman of the Royal Bank gave another \$10,000.00 to move it from Holland to Italy.

The original intent was to site the tank next to a 15th century castle in Ortona, overlooking the Adriatic. Recently, the Province of Abruzzo constructed a new exit from the major highway that bypasses Ortona and this comes into an area we called during WW II "The Cider Crossroads", a site where we had a sustained battle. Our regiment lost 10 tanks and the RCR lost two companies, including "C" Company from London Ontario. Out of company strength of approximately 120, "C" Company had at nightfall 17 men left, and "B" Company of Toronto had 18.

Among the "C" Company wounded was Captain Dick Dillon of London who, in later years became the Hon. Colonel of the RCR. His widow, through the Dillon Foundation has donated \$25,000.00 to build a base for the tank at the new "Cider" site

The province intends to develop the "Cider" area into a large tourist area with lighting, parking, tourist booth, etc. and in this regard they asked my approval to move the tank to this site where it is to be the focal point of attraction. I have had three bronze plaques made ready for this event: one large one listing the names of all our members KIA in this battle; the second listing the 3 donors and John Cleghorn; and the third acknowledging the Dillon donation.

The city intends to have a large provincial/municipal display for May 30th, and I have been unable to get them to alter the date. Between the politicians and the archbishop no one is prepared to meet my objection.

Because of my long involvement with this project, and because the Italians intend to pay homage to the Cdn contribution to the liberation of Italy especially those KIA, I must attend. This will give me the opportunity to pay homage to old friends, and to take photos of the tank - and even more important - the plaques. I certainly owe a debt to all the donors and a set of photos will be small recompense.

I trust you will understand the dilemma I faced and will not think too unkindly of me in foregoing the Investiture on May 29th.

nnDnn  
Ted

## **Reply**

Sir Ted: As soon as I heard that you had to go to Italy I knew what it was all about. You have told me about the Tank and the Financial Campaign, The Battle and your Service in the Italian Campaign.

Ted - you have to be there and we, The Order and all Canadians are honoured and proud to have you there - you represent all of us; we see you as our highly decorated honoured Veteran.

Yes, we are disappointed, about the cancellation of the Priory of Simon Peter Convent and Investiture, you are an important part of that proposed event, and it is better for us put it off, rather than do it poorly or to ignore your determined effort in building the Priory.

I think the presentation of the Postulants in Toronto will add great dignity to their Investiture and that pride will carry over into the history of The Priory. I hope many of the Ottawa Knight's and Dames will come to the Toronto gathering and gain some knowledge of the Order and what we are all about.

What we all say to you now is go in peace, with peace, and see what you did so many years go to be a great building block for this generation and many more to come. Take our love and prayers with you..

Blessings. nDnn Ron Matthewman Grand Prior of Canada.

Sir Ted: I am asking our Prior elect Sir Joseph Peters to share this e-mail with the Knight's and Dames of The Priory of Simon Peter and I have sent a copy to each of the Priors of The Grand Priory of Canada so they know what your mission is all about.

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## **Go Canada Go**

### **Red Shirt**

**Sent in by John Tannahill**

If the red shirt thing is new to you, read below how it went for one man...

Last week, while traveling to Toronto on business, I noticed an army sergeant traveling with a folded flag, but did not put two and two together. After we boarded our flight, I turned to the sergeant, who'd been invited to sit in First Class (across from me), and inquired if he was heading home.

'No', he responded.

'Heading out', I asked?

'No. I'm escorting a soldier home.'

'Going to pick him up?'

'No. He is with me right now. He was killed in Afghanistan; I'm taking him home to his family.'

The realization of what he had been asked to do hit me like a punch to the gut. It was an honour for him. He told me that, although he didn't know the soldier, he had delivered the news of his passing to the soldier's family and felt as if he knew them after many conversations in so few days.

I turned back to him, extended my hand, and said, 'Thank you. Thank you for doing what you do so my family and I can do what we do.'

Upon landing in Toronto, the pilot stopped short of the gate and made the following announcement over the intercom.

'Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to note that we have had the honour of having Sergeant

Steeley of the Canadian Armed Forces join us on this flight. He is escorting a fallen comrade back home to his family. I ask that you please remain in your seats when we open the forward door to allow Sergeant Steeley to deplane and receive his fellow soldier. We will then turn off the seat belt sign.'

Without a sound, all went as requested.. I noticed the sergeant saluting the casket as it was brought off the plane, and his action made me realize that I am proud to be a Canadian.

So here's a public Thank You to our military Men and Women for what you do so we can live the way we do.

### **Red Fridays**

Very soon, you will see a great many people wearing Red every Friday. The reason; Canadians who support our troops used to be called the 'silent majority.' We are no longer silent, and are voicing our love for God, country and home in record breaking numbers. We are not organized, boisterous or overbearing.

Many Canadians, like you, me and all our friends, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of Canadians supports our troops. Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect starts this Friday and continues each and every Friday until the troops all come home, sending a deafening message that every red-blooded Canadian who supports our men and women afar, will wear something red.

By word of mouth, press, TV -- let's make Canada on every Friday a sea of red much like a homecoming Hockey game in the bleachers. If every one of us who loves this country will share this with acquaintances, co-workers, friends, and family, it will not be long before the Canada is covered in RED and it will let our troops know the once 'silent' majority is on their side more than ever, certainly more than the media lets on.

The first thing a soldier says when asked 'What can we do to make things better for you?' is 'We need your support and your prayers.' Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity, by example, and wear something red every Friday.

**IF YOU AGREE -- THEN SEND THIS ON..**

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### **Knights Templar Forum**

**By Chev. Alastair McIntyre KCTJ**

Some of you may know that I run the web site Electric Scotland which is all about the history of Scotland and the Scots, both at home and abroad.

On Canada Day (1st July) we launched our Electric Scotland Community which is a place where folk can get together to message about anything they want. I took the opportunity to add a Knights Templar forum under which I created a sub forum for St. James Priory. I am more than happy to add other forums for any other priory that would like to make use of our community.

You can see the forum at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/forumdisplay.php/105-Knights-Templar>

and it can be viewed as a guest but you do need to be a member (which is free) if you want to post a message. I might add that we also have a Facebook connection within the community and so you can link activities and messages between the community and your Facebook account.

Simply contact me at [electricscotland@gmail.com](mailto:electricscotland@gmail.com) and let me know the name of your Priory and location and I'll add you in.

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## The Death of Common Sense

Today we mourn the passing of an old friend, by the name of Common Sense.

Common Sense lived a long life but died from heart failure earlier this year. No one really knows how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, factories and offices, helping folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness. For decades, petty rules, silly laws and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense.

He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as to know when to come in out of the rain, the early bird gets the worm, and life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple,

**sound financial policies**

*(don't spend more than you earn),*

**reliable parenting strategies**

*(the adults are in charge, not the kids),*

**and it's okay to come in second**

*(or even last, as long as your best efforts were given).*

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends including body piercing, whole language and "new math." But his health declined when he became infected with the *"if-it-only-helps-one-person-it's-worth-it!"* virus.

In recent decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing regulations.

He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-seeking lawyers.

His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero tolerance policies, reports of six year old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, a teen suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student.

It declined even further when schools had to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but cannot inform the parent when the female student is pregnant or wants an abortion.

Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from Boy Scouts to professional sports.

Finally, a woman who was stupid enough not to realize that coffee is hot, and was awarded a huge payout for her stupidity, caused Common Sense to finally throw in the towel.

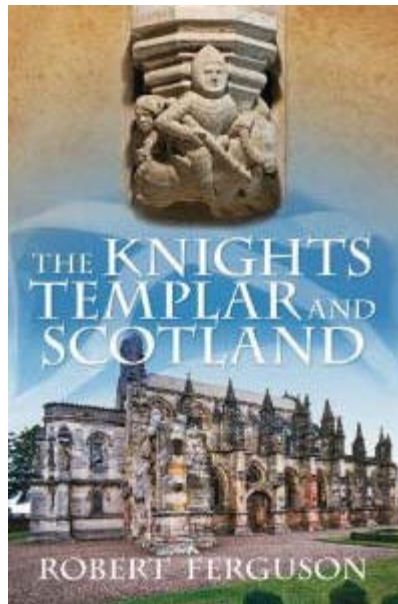
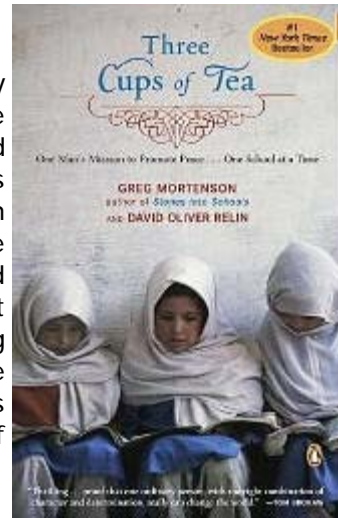
Common Sense was preceded in death by parents Truth and Trust; by spouse, Discretion; daughter, Responsibility; and son, Reason.

**Not many attended the funeral because so few realized that Common Sense was no more.**

By Knight Chevalier William Upper , CKTJ, MSc

### Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin

If you like I believe firmly that one person, fully determined, fully committed, and fully resolved is able to make a difference in the world, then this is the book for you. His humanitarian spirit is tested time and again, however, Greg Mortenson surmounting countless extraordinary complexities succeeded in his task to fund and then built fifty-five schools – largely for girls in territory that is the birthplace of the Taliban. In reading this extremely well articulated book, it occurred to me that such a journey in one's live could not have come about without some intervention by God. Certainly, Greg did the work, but God, at least in my opinion was at the helm of the journey, moving people, and intervening only at times which His wisdom was required. Read for yourself, and then ask yourself if just possibly was God in those mountains all the time?



### The Knights Templar and Scotland by Robert Ferguson

Having read these past five to six year as many books as humanly possible while still working full-time on our illustrious Order I have found THE Book for which each and every Knight and Dame should read from cover to cover so as to have a clear understanding of THE Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani.

The author covers detail such areas as: life of the templars, their rights and privileges, their involvement with Robert the Bruce, their flight to Scotland, their contribution to the historical battle of Bannockburn, The Templar Legacy with Rosslyn Chapel and finally the Modern Scottish Knights Templar`s.

As an academic I view this book as extremely well researched. It is well written and offers the reader insights into the Order's history and values. As with all history: it only offers answers to some questions, but then again that tempts us and is the lure that leads us ever onward.

After Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 1307, some 703 years ago, many myths developed. Some, I would venture to suggest, intentionally, while others simply embellished childhood fantasies of years long past.

I highly recommend this book and suggest it become part of your personal library.

There are many books touching Templar history and this is but one. I look to your reviews of memorable books you have read and join you on in the ongoing search for more of our lost and forgotten history.

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## I YEARN FOR THE DAYS WHEN INSULTS HAD CLASS . . .

The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor,  
She said, "If you were my husband I'd give you poison."  
He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

"He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." Clarence

Darrow

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." - William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.." - Oscar Wilde

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend.... if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second.... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response.

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." - Samuel Johnson

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - Oscar Wilde

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. *But this wasn't it.*" - Groucho Marx

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## A little British humour

The train was quite crowded, so a U. S. Marine walked the entire length looking for a seat, but the only seat left was taken by the poodle of a well dressed, middle-aged, French woman. The war-weary Marine asked, "Ma'am, may I have that seat?"

The French woman just sniffed and said to no one in particular, "Americans are so rude. My little Fifi is using that seat."

The Marine walked the entire train again, but the only seat left was under that dog.

"Please, ma'am. May I sit down? I'm very tired. "

She snorted, "Not only are you Americans rude, you are also arrogant!"

This time the Marine didn't say a word. He just picked up the little dog, tossed it out the train window, and sat down.

The woman shrieked, "Someone must defend my honour! This American should be put in his place!"

An English gentleman sitting nearby spoke up, "Sir, you Americans often seem to have a

penchant for doing the wrong thing. You hold the fork in the wrong hand. You drive your cars on the wrong side of the road. And now, sir, you seem to have thrown the wrong bitch out of the window!"

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## Why Scotland is a grand place

In the beginning, The Lord God Almighty, sitting on His throne on high, turned to His mate, the Archangel Gabriel and said "Gabby, today I'm going to create Scotland. I will make it a country of dark beautiful mountains, purple glens and rich green forests. I will give it clear swift flowing rivers and I will fill them with salmon. The land shall be lush and fertile, on which the people shall grow barley to brew into an amber nectar that will be much sought after the world over. Underneath the land I shall lay rich seams of coal.

In the waters around the shores there will be an abundance of fish and beneath the sea bed there will be vast deposits of oil and gas".

"Excuse me Sire", interrupted the Archangel Gabriel, "Don't you think you are being a bit too generous to these Scots"?

"Not really", replied the Lord, "wait 'til you see the neighbours I'm giving them".

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