



The Victor

The Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

www.grandprioryofthescots.org



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Notes

There is a time frame of March 1st when members that have not paid current oblations, will be put on the inactive list and will not receive further issues of The Victor.

We treasure your membership in the Order as you are both dedicated and involved. Please let your Prior know if you need assistance for this year, or if there is another explanation.

Due to the global pandemic, this year's investiture at Balgonie Castle has been postponed until 2022. See page 2.

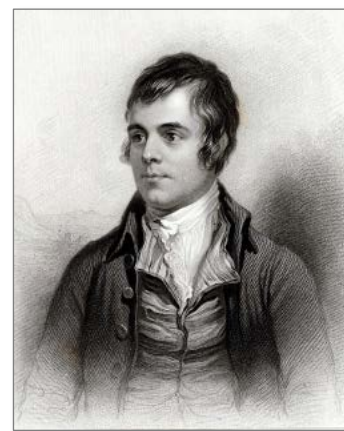
Editor's Comments

Until such time that the global pandemic passes, our newsletter remains a viable source for fellowship and interaction with each other. In addition to what I publish, would you have short articles or other things of interest that your fellow Knights and Dames would be interested in? Please let me know if you do.

Staying in step with articles specific to the Templars published last year, this issue includes a short article about the Sinclair's, Roslynn Chapel, and their connection to our Order which I hope you find interesting.

It is noted that the recipe's in this issue are a Cajun recipe I enjoy and an original recipe by my best friend and wife, Sandra. How about you? Have a recipe to share?

Happy Birthday Rabbie



January 25, 1759

Grand Bailiff Message



Greetings: I hope you are all safe and keeping well.

We are now in the second month of 2021 and in many places in the throes of lockdown. At least the vaccine is out there which is a wonderful feat considering the time frame of when the virus first appeared. I have not received mine yet, but hopefully it will be soon.

November and December were sad months for our Order as we lost two members heart attack and age – Chevalier James Sharp and Chevalier Thomas Paulson. They were dedicated members of the Order and will be greatly missed. Other members have had serious illnesses and are now recovering. All are remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

One of the big disappointments this year is the postponement of our visit to Scotland. We will be there on June 6, 2022. It was the only solution and even our Grand Prior fully agrees with the decision.

I need to discuss an essential event that should be held each year within the Order. That is the business meeting (Convent). Obviously 2020 was an exception, but we hope to remedy this toward the latter half of 2021.

In the past, the Convent was held either in April, May or June and if we had five or more postulants, the investiture was held in November. Unfortunately, we have had less than five postulants over the last few years, so I allowed the Priorities to incorporate their investiture into the Convent. **THE INVESTITURE DOES NOT REPLACE THE CONVENT.** Cheryl and Neil are very much aware of this and will keep their members informed of their plans. Protocol Officers will help and need to be aware of what is expected of them. **PLEASE REFER TO PAGES A/B 7 AND 8 IN THE MANUAL.**

Postulants who wish to be invested later this year should be aware that they are invited to come to Scotland as member of the Order. It is absolutely fine if you want to wait to be invested in Scotland.

I look forward to seeing everyone whether it be in the United States in 2021 or Scotland in 2022.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and we will meet again soon.

It is that time again for oblations to be paid. Our fiscal year starts on October 1st and we give a few months leeway, but as of March 1, 2021, those in arrears will go on the inactive list. If anyone has a problem meeting the deadline, please let your Prior know so that it can be addressed.

Our webmaster, Chevalier Allen Cummings is always grateful to receive articles for the newsletter which is issued every February, July, and November.

Thank you for your dedication and faithfulness to each other and the Order.

Sincerely,
H.E. Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ
Grand Bailiff



In Memory



Chevalier Thomas Robert Paulson departed for his heavenly home on 29 December 2020 at the age of 86. Tom was born in Lookingglass, Oregon on 21 May 1934 to Robert Lawrence Paulson and Ann Irene (Morgan) Paulson.

Tom is survived by his loving wife Donna (Stovall) Paulson of 66 years, his daughters Barbara Spaulding (Donald), Tomala Paulson (Kim Farr), and son Ajrn Paulson (Karen), grandson Casey Paulson and granddaughter Kailey Paulson.

He served his country from December 1953 to August 1974 in the United States Army retiring as a CW4. His 21 years of service included a tour in Korea, and two tours in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. He also served in Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Texas, and Italy, and was able to take his family to all of these locations. Among his many awards and decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Medal with 41 Oak Leaf Clusters, and Senior Army Aviator Badge. After retiring he was a corporate pilot flying Fixed and Rotary Wing aircraft in Alaska and later Oregon.

Tom loved hunting and looked forward to going to hunting camp each October with his brothers Buddy Ray Paulson and Arlie Ross Paulson (Peggy). He also loved reading western books, and woodworking. Family was very important to him, and he spent a lot of time travelling to visit his children.

He was proud of his Celtic and Norse heritage as well as his family's pioneer history dating back to colonial America, and their progress from the east coast to the west coast which included the Oregon Trail in 1845. After his retirement in 2004 he made numerous trips to Ireland, Scotland, and Norway with his family. A favorite highlight was taking his wife Donna, daughter Barbara, daughter-in-law Susan, and his two grandchildren Casey and Kailey to Scotland in 2005 for his and Donna's investiture at Balgonie Castle. Another was Ajrn's investiture at Balgonie Castle in 2013.

He was a member of the Scottish Knight Templar, United Methodist Church, Veterans of Foreign War, American Legion, Douglas County Celtic Society, Oregon Hunters, and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot Association. He regularly delivered food for the Winston/Dillard Food Pantry.

Tom is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Ann Paulson, daughter-in-law Susan Rinaker Paulson, and his sister, Sandra Paulson Feigum.

There will be a private interment with military honors at the Roseburg National Cemetery and a celebration of life in May. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Scottish Knight Templars in Tom's name.



In Memory



James Edd Sharp, Lord Blorant

James Edd was welcomed into a heavenly eternity on Monday, 11/30/2020 at the age of 80 years. Throughout his life, James has been involved with many charitable and family endeavors. Coach of his daughters' softball team. Youth and Young Adult Sponsors at various churches. Sunday school and BTC teacher.

In 2017, James was personally selected by Arkansas Governor, Asa Hutchinson as a State Board of Elections Commissioner. He served until his passing.

Member of the Red Oak Missionary Baptist Church, Republican Party of Boone County, Knight Commander and Guard de Crosse of the Military and Hospitaller Order of the Knights Templar of Jerusalem (Emeritus). Member of the St. Andrews Society of California, St. Thomas Icon, Noble Society of the Celts, Clan Donald of USA and Clan Campbell Society of NA.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara Ellen Burns Sharp. Their two daughters: Barbara (Therese) Sharp Rose and Janet E. Sharp. He is preceded in death by his son, James Edd Sharp, II on the same day.



Update from the Priory of Robert the Bruce

Dear Chevaliers and Dames,

This past year has been one of many challenges. As we look forward to 2021 let us continue to be positive and hopeful. With the beginning of the vaccine getting out and the hope that we will all be able to be vaccinated by the end of the Summer.

I want to let you know that I have rescheduled out Convent for November 13, 2021. This is a time for us to have a meeting all together and discuss the events within the Priory. I want to be sure that it will be safe for all to attend. I look forward to a time that we can gather again and share our lives.

I am pleased to report that the Commandery of the Good Sir James raised \$640 for Families Forward charity based in Irvine. The Commandery of the Isles raised \$405.00 for the Midnight Mission in Los Angeles over the Christmas season. Thank you to all who contributed to these charities. Please continue to make donations on your own to your favorite charities in the name of the Templar's. I was able to donate food for the Orange County food bank during the holidays thru a food drive put on by my office.

In the meantime, please stay safe and keep in touch with friends and family as we still need that connection if it is only over the phone or video chats. I know several families that plan a virtual dinner together, even though you are not in the same place you can share you lives.

Love and prayer to all. Thank you for your continued service.

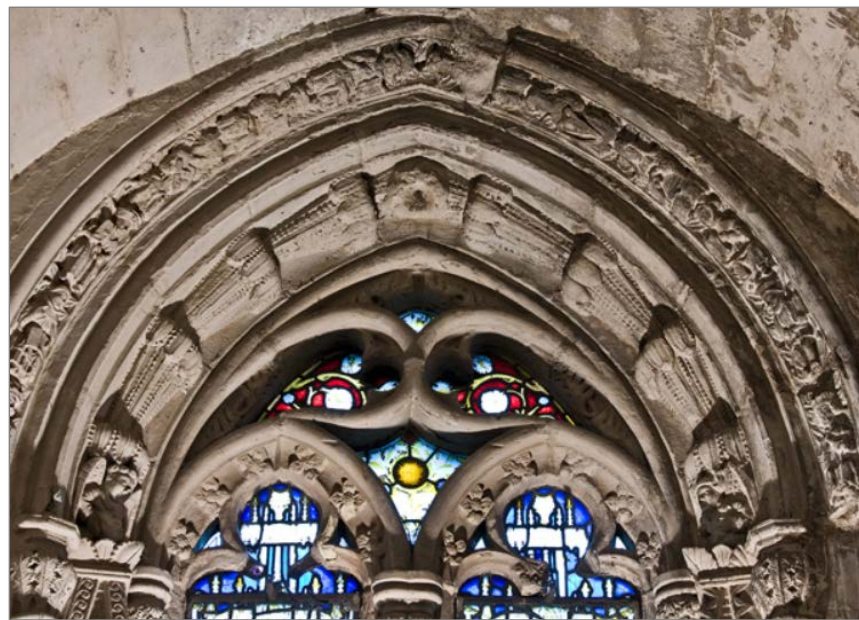
All my best,

Dame Cheryl Cook, GOTJ
Prior
Priory of Robert the Bruce



The Sinclair's, Roslynn Chapel & The Templars

Source - Wikipedia



Surrounding a window are carvings of maize or Indian Corn. The presence of this plant carving in the Chapel raises many questions. Not only is it an exotic plant but it originates from North America, a country traditionally thought to have been discovered by Columbus in 1492, almost 50 years after Rosslyn Chapel was built.

Some supporters of the theory contend that there are stone carvings of American plants in Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland. The Chapel was built by Henry Sinclair's grandson William Sinclair and was completed in 1486. Columbus made his first voyage in 1492. This is seen by writers Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas as being compelling evidence for the theory that Sinclair had sailed to America, although scholars have said the plants are simply stylized depictions of common European plants.

In addition, some writers such as Native American historian Evan Pritchard have claimed that Glooscap, the spiritual hero figure of the Mi'kmaq people, is in fact a depiction of an early European explorer, most likely Henry Sinclair.

The claim that Henry Sinclair explored North America has been popularized by several other authors, notably by Frederick J. Pohl, Andrew Sinclair, Michael Bradley, William S. Crooker (who claimed to have discovered Henry Sinclair's castle in Nova Scotia), Steven Sora, and more recently by David Goudsward. The claim is based on several separate propositions:

1. That the letters and map ascribed to the Zeno brothers and published in 1558 are authentic.
2. That the voyage described in the letters as taken by Zichmni around the year 1398 to Greenland reached North America.
3. That Zichmni is Henry Sinclair.

The Sinclair's, Roslynn Chapel & The Templars Contunued

The name "Zichmni" is either totally fictitious, or quite possibly a transliteration error when converting from handwritten materials to type. Johann Reinhold Forster tried to relate this to the name "Sinclair", but "Prince Sinclair" is not normal usage, while "Prince of Orkney" seems a better fit. Frederick Pohl claimed that the "Z" could have come from a misreading of the cursive "d'O" in "d'Orkney". In addition, the "k" and "y" do not appear in Italian, so would need to be represented by other letters – "ch" in Italian is a hard "k" sound, so might well have been used to represent the "k".

Alleged Templar connections

Intertwined with the Sinclair voyage story is the claim that Henry Sinclair was a Knight Templar and that the voyage either was sponsored by or conducted on the behalf of the Templars, though the order was suppressed almost half a century before Henry's lifetime.

Knight and Lomas speculate that the Knights Templar discovered under the Temple Mount in Jerusalem a royal archive dating from King Solomon's times that stated that Phoenicians from Tyre voyaged to a westerly continent following a star called "La Merika". According to Knight and Lomas, the Templars learned that to sail to that continent, they had to follow a star by the same name. Sinclair supposedly followed this route.

The theory also makes use of the supposed Templar connection to explain the name Nova Scotia ("New Scotland" in Latin). It is based on the 18th-century tale that some Templars escaped the suppression of their order by fleeing to Scotland during the reign of Robert the Bruce and fought in the Battle of Bannockburn.

Claims persist that Rosslyn Chapel contains Templar imagery. Andrew Sinclair speculates that the grave slab now in the crypt is that of a Templar knight. According to author Robert Lomas, the chapel also has an engraving depicting a knight templar holding the sword over a head of an initiate, supposedly to protect the secrets of the templars. Rosslyn Chapel was built by Sir William St Clair, last St Clair Earl of Orkney, who was the grandson of Henry. According to Lomas, Sir William, the chapel builder, is also the direct ancestor of the first Grand Master of Masons of Scotland, also named William St Clair (Sinclair).

According to Lomas, the Sinclair's and their French relatives the St. Clair's were instrumental in creating the Knights Templar. He claims that the founder of Templars Hugh de Payns was married to a sister of the Duke of Champagne (Henri de St. Clair), who was a powerful broker of the first Crusade and had the political power to nominate the Pope, and to suggest the idea and empower it to the Pope.

However, a biography of Hugues de Payen by Thierry Leroy identifies his wife and the mother of his children as Elizabeth de Chappes. The book draws its information on the marriage from local church cartularies dealing chiefly with the disposition of the Grand Master's properties, the earliest alluding to Elizabeth as his wife in 1113, and others spanning Payen's lifetime, the period following his death and lastly her own death in 1170.

National Tartan Day – April 6th



Woodrow Wilson said of the Scots, "Every line of strength in American history is a line colored with Scottish blood."

The contribution of the immigrant Scots upon North America is massive, and these people have remained proud of their heritage.

Numerous groups and societies throughout Canada and America have taken the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath (1320) as their national date to celebrate their Scottish roots.

On December 19th, 1991, in response to action initiated by the Clans & Scottish Societies of Canada, the Ontario Legislature passed a resolution proclaiming April 6th as Tartan Day, following the example of other Canadian provinces.

America followed suit on March 20th, 1998, when Senate Resolution 155 (S.Res. 155), proposed by US Senate Republican majority leader Trent Lott, was passed unanimously, proclaiming April 6th as National Tartan Day.

The Declaration of Arbroath – April 6th, 1320



The Declaration of Arbroath, Scotland's Declaration of Independence, is the name usually given to a letter, dated 6 April 1320 at Arbroath, written by Scottish barons and addressed to Pope John XXII.

The most often quoted line from the declaration, which was originally written in Latin, is a statement of Scottish independence.

"For, as long as 100 of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be subjected to the lordship of the English," it says.

"It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom, for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself."

The only surviving copy is a fragile sheepskin parchment, carefully preserved by the National Records of Scotland.

Balgonie Investiture 2013 Memories

Will you be going in 2022? It is a thrill of a lifetime attending an investiture and banquet in a 15th century castle.



The Grand Priory's aim is to promote Scotland's cultural heritage through the ideals of Chivalry. In todays world, these aims include the following:

- 1 - To perpetuate the chivalric traditions of knighthood.*
- 2 - To carry out significant works of welfare and charity.*
- 3 - To be a patron of Historical, Heraldic, and Genealogical studies concerning the Order, and Knighthood connected with the Order.*
- 4 - To protect the National Culture of Scotland*

Cajun Shrimp and Oyster Soup

Recipe by G. Allen Cummings

Ingredients

1/2 cup of light olive oil.
1 stick of real butter.
1 chopped green bell pepper.
1 chopped red bell pepper.
1 cup sliced green onions.
3 table spoons of minced garlic (wet from the jar - do not use dried garlic).
3 cups V8 juice.
2 (8 ounce) bottle clam juice.
1 cup water.
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme.
1/2 teaspoon dried basil.
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper.
2 bay leaves.
1 teaspoon salt.
1 cup uncooked long-grain white rice.
3 oz cans of fancy select premium whole oysters – Don't like oysters? Omit and double the shrimp.
1/2 cup of uncooked deveined shrimp – Don't like shrimp? Omit and double the oysters.
hot sauce - to taste.



Directions

1. Melt butter with Olive oil in a large pot over MEDIUM heat.
2. Sauté green and red bell peppers, onions, and garlic until tender.
3. Stir in V8 juice, clam juice, and water.
4. Season with thyme, basil, cayenne pepper, bay leaf, and salt.
5. Stir in oysters and shrimp.
6. Bring to a boil for 5 minutes.
7. Stir in rice. Reduce heat, and cover. Simmer for 15 minutes. Do not remove lid until after 15 minutes.
8. Remove the bay leaves.
9. Season with hot sauce if desired.

Tuscan Soup

Recipe by Sandra Cummings

Ingredients

Chicken broth - 6 cups.
Onion - 1; chopped.
Mild Italian sausage - 3 links (3.5 oz per link).
Potatoes - 3 large; cubed.
Fresh spinach - 1 bunch washed and chopped (or 1/2 pkg frozen chopped spinach).
Milk - 1/4 cup.
Whipping cream - 1/2 cup.
Salt and pepper to taste.



Directions

1. Remove skin from sausage and crumble into frying pan. Add chopped onion and cook over medium heat. When meat is done, place in a colander and drain fat.
2. Place meat in a large pot. Add stock and potatoes. Boil until potato is cooked. Then add spinach and continue to cook until spinach is lightly cooked.
3. Remove soup of head and stir in milk and whipping cream. Do not add any salt if using canned stock.



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God is First

Others are Second

I am Third