

## **KNIGHTS TEMPLARS AND THE DEPUTY FOR DELAWARE**

The "Deputy for Delaware" is the official representative in the State of Delaware of the Supreme Council, and the Sovereign Grand Commander of the A.A.S.R., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. He is charged with the responsibility of insuring adherence to the Constitution, etc., of the Supreme Council. In effect, he is the final authority of Scottish Rite Masonry in Delaware. It therefore follows that many, very brilliant, dedicated, capable men of the Craft have been Deputies for Delaware. Not at all surprising, all have been very distinguished Knights Templars.

The first Deputy, during the early formative period of the Scottish Rite, was Illustrious Brother James H. Coddington. He served in this special capacity during the period 1910 to 1912. Eminent Sir Knight Coddington was knighted in Northern Commandery No. 16, Towanda, Pennsylvania in 1872. He was also a Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania in 1892-1893.

Illustrious Brother Harry Jones Guthrie succeeded Illustrious Brother Coddington as Deputy for Delaware serving in that capacity from 1912 to 1923. He was the first native born Delawarean to assume that exalted station. Knighted in St. John's Commandery on October 27, 1892, he served as Eminent Commander of St. John's in 1901-1902. Most Worshipful Brother Guthrie was Grand Master of Masons in Delaware in 1902.

The resignation of Illustrious Brother Guthrie as Deputy, left Delaware in the unusual position of having no Active member for Delaware and, thus, no logical successor. From Pennsylvania came Illustrious Brother Edgar Fahs Smith to serve in that capacity. An outstanding scholar, scientist, educator, administrator and Freemason he served as Deputy for Delaware during the years 1923 to 1927. Sir Knight Smith was knighted in Palestine Commandery No. 33, Springfield, Ohio on January 29, 1886.

Sir Knight William Marshall Mask, Jr., the fourth Deputy for Delaware, was knighted in St. John's Commandery on June 8, 1905. He served as Eminent Commander in 1914-1915 and as its Treasurer from 1917 to 1933. His service in the Commandery was overlapped for many years with his service as Deputy for Delaware, a position he held for nine years, from 1927 to 1936.

Illustrious Brother Samuel Harrison Baynard, Jr. was Deputy for Delaware for the period 1936 to 1940. An outstanding scholar and Masonic author, his two-volume history of the Scottish Rite, published in 1938 is, even today sixty plus years later, an outstanding reference text of that body. Sir Knight Baynard was knighted in St. John's Commandery on May 22, 1911 and served as Eminent Commander from 1922 to 1923.

Illustrious Brother John Wallace Woodford served as Deputy for Delaware for the longest period of time, 1940 to 1957. Sir Knight Woodford served as Eminent Commander of St. John's during the term 1941-1942. He was Grand Master of Masons in Delaware in 1931-1932.

Illustrious Brother George Edmonds Vandegrift served as Deputy for Delaware in the years 1957 to 1968. Past Grand Master of Masons in Delaware in 1938-1939, he was received into St. John's Commandery in 1948.

Illustrious Brother William H. Cantwell is one who should be well known to all Freemasons in Delaware. Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Delaware in 1962, he was knighted in St. John's Commandery on June 10, 1948 and served as Eminent Commander for the term of 1959-1960. Eminent Sir Knight Cantwell could, and should, be remembered for innumerable services to Knights Templary in Delaware. It is, however, the recollection of his appearance before the fifty-first Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment in Denver in August of 1970 that quickly comes to mind. There, in his own words: "...I appear before you with humility, because I am here at the urgent requests of the Sir Knights in Delaware to speak on their behalf against the adoption of the amendment to Section 34 of the Constitution". An amendment which, had it been passed, would have, from the viewpoint of the Grand Encampment, merged the two Subordinate commanderies in Delaware into a "Grand Commandery of Maryland and Delaware". The Grand Commandery of Delaware is living testimony of the labors of Eminent Sir Knight Cantwell in these quarries of Freemasonry. Illustrious Brother Cantwell served as Deputy for Delaware for the years 1968-1974 and again in 1978.

Illustrious Brother Charles E. Daniels was elected Deputy for Delaware, in September of 1974. Grand Master of Masons in Delaware in 1960, he was created a Knight of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple in St. John's Commandery on December 8, 1955.

Illustrious Arnie E. Carlson was named Deputy in 1979 and served in that capacity until his death. Knight Carlson was welcomed into St. John's Commandery in December of 1962

Illustrious Harold T. J. Littleton, Grand Master of Masons in Delaware in 1982, assumed the reins of Deputy for Delaware in September of 1990 following the death of Sir Knight Carlson in October of 1989. Sir Knight Littleton was created a Knight of the Temple in St. John's Commandery on March 27, 1980.

In 1996, Sir Knight Warren F. Schueler, Sr., Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary assumed the reins of the Deputy for the Valley of Wilmington. Knighted in St. John's

Commandery in June of 1986, he served as Eminent Commander of St. John's in 1994.

The current Deputy for Delaware is Right Eminent Robert V. McDowell, III, Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Delaware. Illustrious Brother McDowell assumed that position on September 26, 2000 at the recent Supreme Council meeting in Pittsburgh. Illustrious Brother McDowell was received into Trinity Commandery on January 12, 1991 and was Eminent Commander of that Commandery in 1994.

And so from a Right Eminent Grand Commander of another jurisdiction, to a Sir Knight of Trinity Commandery, every Sovereign Grand Inspector General who has served as the Deputy for Delaware has been a Knight Templar; and the very first, and the current, a Grand Commander of a Grand Commandery. Recognizing even the small size of this jurisdiction, that is a rather proud record. "Such as the workman is, such also is the work."

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