



IDAHO KNIGHTLY NEWS

Barry E. Newell, KTCH, KCT, Editor
306 Maple St., Emmett, ID 83617
ksigmason@gmail.com

Editor's Note

If anyone would like to submit an article for the Idaho Knightly News, please email me your article using Microsoft Word. Keep it between 1 page and 1.5 pages.

Upcoming 2023 Events:

NW/SW Department Conf..... Oct 20-21

Reminders

Amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws can be made only by proposing the change in writing and filed with the Grand Recorder on or before December 15 before the next preceding the Annual Grand Conclave.

Also, please notify the Grand Recorder of the dates of your Christmas Observance.

NW/SW Department Conference

The first-ever combined Northwest/Southwest York Rite Conference in Salt Lake City on October 20-21, 2023,

provides excellent training, current information, an opportunity to talk to and become better acquainted with the national officers of York Rite and to find out what is happening in the other jurisdictions of the Northwest & Southwest Department.

The Conference will be held at the Little America Hotel, located at 500 Main St. in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Remember, all elected Grand Commandery officers are **required** to attend a Department Conference.

For a conference agenda and registration please see: <https://nwyr.org/home/agenda/>



The Martyrdom of the Templars

By Barry E. Newell

This month marks the 716th anniversary of the arrest and suppression of the medieval Knights Templar. The mass arrest occurred on Friday, October 13, 1307, across France. October 13th falls on a Friday this year.

Jacques DeMolay, the last Templar Grand Master, was pulled into a trap by the French King, Phillip le Belle, who was in debt to the Templars and wanted to erase the debt as well as confiscate the lands of the Templars which composed most of southern France. When DeMolay first went to France from Cyprus, he was greeted, as Chris Hodapp put it, “with interest and diplomacy” and completely deceived the Grand Master.

DeMolay was in Paris on the 12th of October, where he was a pallbearer at the funeral of Catherine of Courtenay, wife of Count Charles of Valois, and sister-in-law of King Phillip. The next day, the trap was sprung and DeMolay, along with Templars across France, were imprisoned and this would last for the aged Grand Master for the next 7 years.

Phillip had the Templars charged with heresy and many other trumped-up charges, most of which were identical to the charges that had previously been leveled by Phillip's agents against Pope Boniface VIII. By making the charges religious, he wouldn't be seen as a greedy tyrant, but as a servant of God.

The initial charges held against the Templars were 5, but would later increase to over 86.

During his torture in late October 1307, DeMolay confessed that the Templar initiatory rites included denying Christ and stepping on the cross. It is said he was forced to write a letter, and after all, this occurred, King Phillip forced his new Papal puppet (Clement V) to order the arrest of all Templars throughout Christendom.

In December 1307, DeMolay retracted his confession when interviewed by two Cardinals. Eventually, DeMolay was re-interviewed by the two Cardinals, but this time with French royal agents present where he was coerced into returning to his original guilty confession. In late 1309 he would again recant and say that he did not acknowledge the accusations and charges pushed against the Templar Order.

The Pontiff wanted to conduct trials, but Phillip intervened, and many Templars were burned at the stake as heretics (which did not require Papal approval to do). In 2001, a Vatican paleographer named Barbara Frale found a copy of the Chinon Parchment which states that in 1308 the Pope secretly absolved the Jacques DeMolay and the Templar Order. Eventually the Pope, on March 22nd, 1312, disbanded the Knights Templar through the Papal Bull, “Vox in Excelso”.

DeMolay was burned at the stake by order of the French monarch, and not the Pope, for defying the tyrannical king.

Eyewitness testimony said that DeMolay showed no sign of fear and it said during the slow death of burning at the stake, he decried the Pope and King, saying that their deaths would be avenged and that those would join him in the Afterlife. Whether he cursed them or not, both the Pope and the French King died within a year.