



# 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 Events:

Lewiston-CDA Joint OV ..... May 8  
Grand York Rite of Washington.... May 9-11  
Grand York Rite of Montana .. May 31-Jun 1

## Message from the Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve in this honored station.

My promise and my goal this year is to grow our presence with the Masonic and non-Masonic community, to invigorate our Constituent Commanderies, and to ensure Templary continues in Idaho. Ensuring that we keep our current Sir Knights and inspiring new members to join.

I have a busy schedule planned for my year and this will include visiting each Commandery as many times as I can, running virtual officer and committee meetings every quarter, hosting dinners for the Holy Saints John, and attending the Christmas Observances.

I will also be increasing our social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

## Chivalry, Part 2

By Barry E. Newell

Starting around 530 AD, Justinian, Emperor of the Byzantine Empire, seeks to reunite and raise the Roman Empire from the ashes. By 538 AD, he had most of Italy, Sicily, and much of Northern Africa conquered by Byzantine forces. The forces left depopulated cities and mass destruction in their wake. His forces may have been able to complete his goals, but Constantinople as well as Europe was about to get hit by a pandemic, the Bubonic Plague. Trade, one of their greatest attributes would lead to the death of almost 50% of the entire population. Small appearances of disease would appear

throughout the next couple of centuries to knock down small pockets of Europe. His forces held the conquered areas until he died in 565 AD.

With lands conquered, cities destroyed, and a population ravaged by disease and war, the time was looking horrid and brutish; death was probably a blessing in many cases. In comparison to centuries past, this must have been a very Dark Age. Low productivity/industry, bad economics, low defenses, and very low morale just left the people of Europe ripe for more invasions and tribal wars.

Yet in all of this darkness, there was still a flicker of light. The monasteries became some of the most important institutions in Europe. They were major centers of commerce and knowledge. Life was hard and strict, but these monks kept important records of history and many books/manuscripts were copied for ages yet unborn to read and learn. Monks were both men of cloth and knowledge. They were often some of the few literate in Europe.

In the 7th century, while Christianity was spreading more and more across Europe and the Church united many during this chaotic period, the followers of another Prophet were taking up arms in conquest. Islam was spreading quicker and faster than Christianity had. Spreading from Northern Africa, the Muslim Moors had hit Spain and were now on their way to France. They saw the Franks as men so stuck in a civil war they saw them as easy pickings. Moorish General Abdul Rahman al-Rafiki crossed into France with an army of 50,000 men (a mix of cavalry and infantry). Their first few incursions were massacres where chroniclers say only God knows how many were slain.

The Moorish invaders turned northward to further their conquest, but the Commander of the Frankish Army was waiting. This man was Charles Martel and he had anticipated the Moorish invasion. He was proactive and had to convince the citizenry, the farmers, to take up the sword and shield to protect their land, their lives, and their religion from these invaders. He was at a disadvantage as he was not going to be using professional soldiers, but those who were only willing to fight during the non-harvest seasons. He needed money, but he was able to convince the Church to hand over property and money to train the men into an effective corps to fight the Moors.

In October, 732, the two forces met. The Franks had dug atop a wooded hillside that gave them a strategic advantage. Both sides were at a standstill for several days when the Moorish General advanced not wanting to wait for the winter cold to hit them. Both Christian and Muslim scholars say the Frankish infantry held their ground, and while the battle ensued Charles Martel sent a group to the Moorish encampment to plunder and destroy it. Overnight the Moors withdrew back to Spain and this stunning win (known as the Battle of Tours) won Charles the nickname "the Hammer". He was heralded as the savior of Christendom.