

FEBRUARY 2026 LECTURE

“THE HISTORY OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR” (PRINCE HALL AFFILIATED)



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THE HISTORY OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR (PRINCE HALL AFFILIATED)

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- KNIGHTS TEMPLAR FROM MEDIEVAL JERUSALEM TO MODERN PRINCE HALL TEMPLARY
- WE WILL EXPLORE THE LINEAGE OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, FROM THE HOLY LAND TO PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY IN AMERICA.
- WE WILL UNDERSTAND HOW CHRISTIAN KNIGHTHOOD, SERVICE, AND DEVOTION EVOLVED THROUGH TIME.
- FOCUS: THE FOUNDING AND HERITAGE OF ROBERT DE CRAON COMMANDERY No. 8, ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, OUR MISSION.

THE ORIGINS OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR (1119 A.D.)

- FOUNDED IN JERUSALEM BY HUGUES DE PAYENS AND EIGHT KNIGHTS TO PROTECT CHRISTIAN PILGRIMS.
- RECOGNIZED BY THE CHURCH IN 1129 AT THE COUNCIL OF TROYES.
- MOTTO: 'NON NOBIS, DOMINE, NON NOBIS, SED NOMINI TUO DA GLORIAM' ('NOT UNTO US, O LORD, BUT UNTO THY NAME GIVE GLORY').
- LEGACY: COMBINED MONASTIC PIETY WITH MARTIAL DISCIPLINE—SYMBOLS OF FAITH, COURAGE, AND SACRIFICE.

THE SUPPRESSION AND SURVIVAL OF THE TEMPLAR SPIRIT

- 1312: ORDER DISSOLVED BY POPE CLEMENT V UNDER PRESSURE FROM KING PHILIP IV OF FRANCE.
- MANY KNIGHTS EXECUTED OR ABSORBED INTO OTHER ORDERS.
- THE IDEALS OF THE TEMPLARS—FAITH, DUTY, AND CHARITY—LIVED ON WITHIN FREEMASONRY.
- THE TEMPLAR LEGACY CONTINUED THROUGH MASONIC CHIVALRIC ORDERS.



THE RISE OF MASONIC TEMPLARY

- 18TH CENTURY: CHRISTIAN KNIGHTHOOD RITUALS INTEGRATED INTO MASONIC SYSTEMS IN EUROPE.
- MASONIC TEMPLARY BECAME A SPIRITUAL CONTINUATION OF THE MEDIEVAL ORDER.
- CORE PRINCIPLES: DEFENSE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, BROTHERHOOD, BENEVOLENCE, AND DISCIPLINE.
- MODERN KNIGHTS SERVE NOT WITH SWORD AND SHIELD, BUT WITH FAITH AND CHARITY.

PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY AND THE TEMPLAR TRADITION

- PRINCE HALL ESTABLISHED AFRICAN LODGE NO. 459 IN 1775 UNDER THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.
- TEMPLAR ORDERS LATER CONFERRED WITHIN THE PRINCE HALL YORK RITE SYSTEM.
- PURPOSE: TO UNITE CHRISTIAN MASONS IN SERVICE, FAITH, AND MORAL STRENGTH.
- EMPHASIS: FAITH IN GOD, FIDELITY TO THE CRAFT, AND BROTHERHOOD ACROSS ALL DIVISIONS.

THE FOUNDING OF ROBERT DE CRAON COMMANDERY NO. 8



- NAMED AFTER ROBERT DE CRAON, SECOND GRAND MASTER OF THE ORIGINAL KNIGHTS TEMPLAR (1136–1149).
- FOUNDED UNDER THE PRINCE HALL GRAND COMMANDERY, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS.
- WE STRIVE TO SERVE THE ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY WITH DISTINCTION, FAITH, AND LEADERSHIP, THROUGH CHARITABLE OUTREACH, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AND DIGNIFIED REPRESENTATION OF CHRISTIAN KNIGHTHOOD, THE COMMANDERY REFLECTS THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF THE TEMPLAR TRADITION.

OUR MISSION



ROBERT DE CRAON COMMANDERY No. 8 STRIVED TO SERVE THE ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY WITH DISTINCTION, FAITH, AND LEADERSHIP BY UPHOLDING THE CHRISTIAN IDEALS OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR MASONRY THROUGH CHARITABLE SERVICE, SPIRITUAL EXAMPLE, AND PRINCIPLED LEADERSHIP. THROUGH VISIBLE ACTS OF COMPASSION, FELLOWSHIP, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, THE COMMANDERY STRENGTHENS BOTH THE FRATERNITY AND THE COMMUNITY, DEMONSTRATING THAT TRUE KNIGHTHOOD IS DEVOTION TO GOD EXPRESSED IN SERVICE TO HUMANITY.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF TEMPLARY TODAY



OUR LINEAGE FLOWS FROM JERUSALEM'S HOLY MISSION TO MODERN PRINCE HALL TEMPLARY.
ROBERT DE CRAON COMMANDERY NO. 8 STANDS AS A LIVING TESTAMENT TO THAT HERITAGE.
AS CHRISTIAN KNIGHTS, WE MUST UPHOLD OUR VOWS, SERVE WITH HUMILITY, AND STRENGTHEN
OUR SPIRITUAL CHAIN.

REFLECTION: 'FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH AND CROWNED WITH ETERNAL LIFE.'



QUESTIONS