

HISTORY OF
BETHANY COMMANDERY No. 28,
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
(MENDOTA, ILLINOIS)

BY
ALEXANDER C. CHERKAS

Houston, 2025



Joseph William Edwards (1832–1925)
Eminent Commander 1872–1873, 1875–1877

Cherkas Global University Press

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By
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Houston: Cherkas Global University Press

181 pp.

Printed by the decision of the Academic Council of Cherkas Global University
(Protocol 7 dated September 4, 2025)

Editor – Irina Cherkasova

Digital Imaging Manager – Anastasiia Cherkasova

Cherkas Global University Press
13906, Polarstone Ct., Houston, TX, 77044

E-mail: office@cherkasgu.press
Come visit us online at www.cherkasgu.press

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ISBN 979-8-9865618-4-4

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*To all the Knight Brothers of
Bethany Commandery No. 28,
dedicated*

Introduction

The period from the late 18th to the early 19th century in the United States saw the rapid development of the Masonic Order of the Knights Templar. As early as 1826, the organization's scattered camps united to form the General Grand Camp. As the order developed in the 1850s and 1860s, its organizations were created throughout the United States, including in Illinois. On October 27, 1868, the 28th commandery was created in the city of Mendota in this state – Bethany Commandery No. 28. This work is devoted to a detailed description of the activities of this commandery over the 127 years of its existence, that is, from 1868 to 1995, when the commandery was closed. The materials for the study were the reports of the annual conclaves of the Grand Commandery of the Knights Templar of Illinois from the library of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial (Washington, D.C., USA). These reports contain information about the composition of Bethany Commandery No. 28 over the years of its existence.

Since the study was essentially historical-statistical, it relied on historical-chronological and statistical methods. The use of the historical-chronological method allowed us to present the history of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in chronological order, and the use of the statistical method allowed us to analyze and interpret a large amount of statistical information and draw appropriate conclusions.

The history of Bethany Commandery No. 28 remains little researched. In fact, to date there has been no dedicated research on that subject. However, Bethany Commandery No. 28 is mentioned in a couple of works. For instance, Bethany Commandery No. 28 and its membership are mentioned in 'The Past & Present of La Salle County, Illinois', the town of Mendota being part of that county¹. The commandery is also mentioned in a later work – 'Biographical and Genealogical Record of La Salle County, Illinois' ². We may also designate our study as a history of Bethany Commandery No. 28 covering the first fifty years of its existence³.

¹ The Past & Present of La Salle County, Illinois... Chicago, 1877.

² Biographical and Genealogical Record of La Salle County, Illinois. Vol. 1. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1900.

³ Cherkas A. (2025). A History of Bethany Commandery No. 28, K.T. (1868–1918). *Bylye Gody*. 20(1): 264-288.

In addition to works in which Bethany Commandery No. 28 is mentioned only episodically, there exists a considerable body of scholarship devoted to the history of other Commanderies of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar.

The principal distinction of our work from that of our predecessors lies in the fact that we examine the history of the Commandery over its entire period of existence, whereas other authors have generally addressed the histories of extant Commanderies in connection with commemorative anniversaries. For example, in 1938 Charles E. Baldwin published *History of Columbia Commandery No. 2 Knights Templar (1863–1938)*⁴, a work prepared for the 75th anniversary of the Commandery's founding. In 1930 John L. Tewksbury produced *History of Camden Commandery No. 23, Knights Templar. Camden, Maine*⁵, which marked the 25th anniversary of that Commandery. Likewise, in 1890 Edward T. Schultz published *History of Maryland Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar*⁶, on the occasion of its centennial.

Histories of Commanderies have also been published without reference to jubilee events. Notable examples include Stephen Berry's *History of Portland Commandery No. 2, of Knights Templar*⁷ and Norman T. Gassette's *History of Apollo Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, of Chicago, State of Illinois*, among others.

⁴ *Baldwin C.E.* (1938). *History of Columbia Commandery No. 2 Knights Templar (1863–1938)*. Washington DC.

⁵ *Tewksbury J.L.* (1930). *History of Camden Commandery No. 23, Knights Templar. Camden, Maine. Camden*.

⁶ *Schultz E.T.* (1891). *History of Maryland Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar. Baltimore*.

⁷ *Berry S.* (1882). *History of Portland Commandery No. 2, of Knights Templar. Portland*.

CHAPTER 1. Formation and development of the commandery in 1868–1918

Mendota, Illinois, was incorporated as a town in 1859. A significant role in the development of that town was played by a railroad running through it. In 1865, Mendota had a population of around 2,000⁸.

Bethany Commandery No. 28 was chartered on October 27, 1868⁹, at Mendota, La Salle County¹⁰, on the initiative of 10 members of the local community¹¹.

On a side note, at that time any commandery's members were referred to as 'knights', with the word 'swords' also used. Commanderies were typically established in the following way. As a common practice at the time, a commandery would be formed from among members of an area's local community, with the initial step being a visit to the area by a group of officers from the Grand Commandery of the state it was in. There was an election-based system. The highest officer positions would be occupied by the charter members, with the lower ranks filled by members of the local community. Officer elections would be held on an annual basis. All paperwork would be handled by an officer known as the Recorder, whose job was to capture any changes to the commandery's membership in a special book known as the Register and who was responsible for all correspondence in and out of the commandery. Each commandery had a flag and badge of its own.

In 1868, Bethany Commandery No. 28 consisted of the following officers:

Frank Allen Hardin	Commander
George Emerson	Generalissimo
David Alpheus Cook	Captain General
Wilbur Fisk Bromfield	Prelate
George Frank Stannard	Senior Warden
Preston I. Davis	Junior Warden
John Hamilton Harris	Treasurer
Anthony Bennett Gould	Recorder
John Clark Corbus	Standard Bearer
James Alfred Church	Sword Bearer

⁸ The Past & Present of La Salle County, Illinois... Chicago, 1877.

⁹ Proceedings of the Twelfth annual conclave, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, steam book and job printers, 1868. P. 434.

¹⁰ Proceedings of the Twelfth annual conclave, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, steam book and job printers, 1868. P. 404.

¹¹ Proceedings of the Twelfth annual conclave, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, steam book and job printers, 1868. P. 396.

Jason Martin Liscom Warden

Jason Reed Liscom Captain of the Guards¹².

The commandery had the following members from among the local community: George M. Black, John Clark Corbus, James Alfred Church, James B. Dawson, Alpheus Dean, Joseph W. Edwards, Robert L. Gilmore, William S. Harrington, Frederick H. Haskill, and Jason R. Liscom¹³.

In 1869, membership in Bethany Commandery No. 28 grew to 23 (its local members only)¹⁴.

Officers:

Frank Allen Hardin Commander

George Emerson Generalissimo

David Alpheus Cook Captain General

Wilbur Fisk Bromfield Prelate

John Clark Corbus Senior Warden

Robert L. Gilmore Junior Warden

James Brown Dawson Treasurer

Frederick Henry Haskill Recorder

Joseph William Edwards Standard Bearer

Preston Irving Davis Sword Bearer

Anthony Bennett Gould Warden

Jason Reed Liscom Captain of the Guards¹⁵.

The commandery had the following members from among the local community: William Atkinson, W.F. Bromfield, G.M. Black, John C. Corbus, E.P. Cook, D.A. Cook, J.A. Church, Alpheus Dean, J.B. Dawson, P.I. Davis, J.W. Edwards, George Emerson, R.L. Gilmore, A.B. Gould, F.A. Hardin, W.S. Harrington, F.H. Haskell, J.R. Liscom, J.M. Liscom, Samuel Morrison, T.F.A. Newport, M.H. Pantan, and William Truman¹⁶.

¹² Proceedings of the Twelfth annual conclave, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, steam book and job printers, 1868. P. 434.

¹³ Proceedings of the Twelfth annual conclave, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, steam book and job printers, 1868. P. 434.

¹⁴ Proceedings of the Thirteenth annual conclave, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, steam book and job printers, 1870. P. 453.

¹⁵ Proceedings of the Thirteenth annual conclave, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, steam book and job printers, 1870. P. 530.

¹⁶ Proceedings of the Thirteenth annual conclave, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, steam book and job printers, 1870. P. 531.

In 1870, membership remained at 23¹⁷. In that year, the commandery appointed its first Representative – in the person of George Emerson, who was also appointed Eminent Commander that same year¹⁸.

George Emerson	Commander
Joseph William Edwards	Generalissimo
David Alpheus Cook	Captain General
William Shaw Harrington	Prelate
Preston Irving Davis	Senior Warden
Robert L. Gilmore	Junior Warden
James Brown Dawson	Treasurer
Frederick Henry Haskill	Recorder
Samuel Morrison	Standard Bearer
William Truman	Sword Bearer
Anthony Bennett Gould	Warden
Jason Reed Liscom	Captain of the Guards ¹⁹ .

In 1871, membership reached 30, with 11 individuals joining as created members and four members demitting²⁰. George Emerson remained the commandery's Representative²¹. The practice of combining the positions of Representative and Commander would persist from then on.

George Emerson	Commander
Joseph William Edwards	Generalissimo
David Alfred Cook	Captain General
William Truman	Prelate
Preston Irving Davis	Senior Warden
Robert L. Gilmore	Junior Warden
James Brown Dawson	Treasurer
Frederick Henry Haskill	Recorder
Daniel Meisenbach	Standard Bearer
Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport.....	Sword Bearer
Jason Martin Liscom	Warden

¹⁷ Fourteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, letter-press printers, 1870. P. 81.

¹⁸ Fourteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, letter-press printers, 1870. P. 86.

¹⁹ Fourteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, letter-press printers, 1870. P. 118.

²⁰ Fifteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, printers, 1871. P. 19.

²¹ Fifteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, printers, 1871. P. 27.

Jason Reed Liscom Captain of the Guards²².

There was one Past Commander – Franklin Allen Hardin²³. The commandery had the following members: William Atkinson, Hiram Anderson, Wilbur F. Bromfield, John C. Corbus, David A. Cook, Edgar P. Cook, James B. Dawson, Preston I. Davis, Alfred Dean, Joseph W. Edwards, George Emerson, Anthony B. Gould, R.L. Gilmore, Samuel A. Gardner, Franklin A. Hardin, Frederick H. Haskell, William Hays, Elezer J. Hills, James Hastings, William H. Hale, Jason M. Liscom, Jason R. Liscom, Daniel Meisenbach, Samuel Morrison, James I. Metler, Thomas F.A. Newport, George F. Standard, William Truman, James L. Taylor, and Joseph Van Law²⁴.

Demitted: James A. Church, Mathew H. Panton, George M. Black, and William S. Harrington²⁵.

In 1872, the position of Representative went to Robert L. Gilmore²⁶. Membership reached 31, with two individuals joining as created members and one member passing away²⁷.

Joseph William Edwards Commander
 Robert L. Gilmore Generalissimo
 David Alfred Cook Captain General
 William Truman Prelate
 Preston Irving Davis Senior Warden
 Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport Junior Warden
 James Brown Dawson Treasurer
 Frederick Henry Haskell Recorder
 Daniel Meisenbach Standard Bearer
 James Lewis Taylor Sword Bearer
 James Iliff Metler Warden
 Jason Reed Liscom Captain of the Guards²⁸.

Past Commanders: Frank A. Hardin and George Emerson. Created: George R. Barse and Henry H. Dean. Dead: Wilbur F. Bromfield²⁹.

²² Fifteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, printers, 1871. P. 134.

²³ Fifteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, printers, 1871. P. 134.

²⁴ Fifteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, printers, 1871. P. 134.

²⁵ Fifteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Horton and Leonard, printers, 1871. P. 134.

²⁶ Sixteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1872. P. 16.

²⁷ Sixteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1872. P. 19.

²⁸ Sixteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1872. P. 107.

In 1873, membership reached 35, with five individuals joining as created members and one member demitting³⁰.

Joseph William Edwards	Commander
Robert L. Gilmore	Generalissimo
Henry Hobert Dean	Captain General
William Truman	Prelate
Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport	Senior Warden
Preston Irving Davis	Junior Warden
James Brown Dawson	Treasurer
Frederick Henry Haskill	Recorder
Daniel Meisenbach	Standard Bearer
James Iliff Metler	Sword Bearer
Charles Albert Hawley	Warden
Benjamin Napoleon Moss	Captain of the Guards ³¹ .

Past Commanders: Frank A. Hardin and George Emerson. Created: Benjamin Napoleon Moss, Charles Albert Hawley, Martin D. Paxson, Ruggles B. Van Law, and John J. Short. Demitted: George R. Barse³².

In 1874, membership reached 40, with six individuals joining as created members and one member demitting³³.

Robert L. Gilmore	Commander
Frederick Henry Haskill	Recorder ³⁴ .

Past Commanders: Frank A. Hardin, George Emerson, and Joseph William Edwards³⁵. Created: James W. Cornelius, Henry Dodge, Luke

²⁹ Sixteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1872. P. 107.

³⁰ Seventeenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1873. P. 32.

³¹ Seventeenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1873. P. 128.

³² Seventeenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1873. P. 128.

³³ Eighteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1874. P. 29.

³⁴ Eighteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1874. P. 107.

³⁵ Eighteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1874. P. 107.

Goodwin, Oscar Lindstrom, Thomas D. Palmer, and Freedom M. Rice³⁶.
Demitted: William Hays³⁷.

In 1875, membership reached 42, with three individuals joining as created members, one joining as an admitted member, one member demitting, and one passing away³⁸.

Joseph William Edwards Commander

Frederick Henry Haskill Recorder³⁹.

Created: Stephen N. Fish, James E.J. Lytle, and George C. Schurtz⁴⁰.

Admitted: Casper Ruedy⁴¹. Demitted: Charles A. Hawley⁴². Dead: Joseph Van Law (Mar. 21, 1875)⁴³.

In 1876, membership remained the same, with four individuals joining as created members, two members demitting, and two being suspended⁴⁴.

Joseph William Edwards Commander

Casper Ruedy Generalissimo

William Henry Hale Captain General

Robert L. Gilmore Prelate

James E.J. Lytle Senior Warden

William Truman Junior Warden

James Brown Dawson Treasurer

Frederick Henry Haskill Recorder

Daniel Meisenbach Standard Bearer

George Cornat Schurtz Sword Bearer

Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport Warden

Benjamin Napoleon Moss Captain of the Guards⁴⁵.

³⁶ Eighteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1874. P. 109.

³⁷ Eighteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1874. P. 111.

³⁸ Nineteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1875. P. 22.

³⁹ Nineteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1875. P. 47.

⁴⁰ Nineteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1875. P. 49.

⁴¹ Nineteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1875. P. 50.

⁴² Nineteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1875. P. 51.

⁴³ Nineteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1875. P. 56.

⁴⁴ Twentieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1876. P. 81.

Past Commanders: Frank A. Hardin, George Emerson, Joseph William Edwards, and R.L. Gilmore⁴⁶. Created: George W. Tewksberry, Will C. Andress, Edgar W. Rice, and John Simminger. Suspended: Hiram Anderson and Henry H. Dean. Demitted: Samuel A. Gardner and Samuel Morrison⁴⁷.

In 1877, membership increased by four, with one individual joining as a created member, three members demitting, two being suspended, one being reinstated, and one passing away⁴⁸.

Joseph William Edwards Commander

Frederick Henry Haskill Recorder⁴⁹.

Past Commanders: Frank A. Hardin, George Emerson, Joseph William Edwards, and R.L. Gilmore. Created: William Jenkins⁵⁰. Reinstated: Henry H. Dean⁵¹. Demitted: David A. Cook, Henry H. Dean, and Jason M. Liscom⁵². Suspended: F.A. Hardin and J.I. Metler⁵³. Dead: Stephen N. Fish (Sept. 13, 1877)⁵⁴.

⁴⁵ Twentieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1876. P. 27.

⁴⁶ Twentieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1876. P. 81.

⁴⁷ Twentieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Knight and Leonard, printers, 1876. P. 81.

⁴⁸ Twenty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1877. P. 36.

⁴⁹ Twenty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1877. P. 68.

⁵⁰ Twenty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1877. P. 72.

⁵¹ Twenty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1877. P. 76.

⁵² Twenty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1877. P. 78.

⁵³ Twenty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1877. P. 80.

⁵⁴ Twenty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1877. P. 85.

In 1878, membership increased by four to 42, with four individuals joining as created members, one joining as an admitted member, one member being reinstated, and two demitting⁵⁵.

Casper Ruedy Commander

Frederick Henry Haskill Recorder⁵⁶.

Past Commanders: Frank A. Hardin, George Emerson, Joseph William Edwards, and R.L. Gilmore. Created: Martin Olsen, George F. Watson, David V. Plaisted, and James Clark. Admitted: Arthur Cox McIntire. Reinstated: James I. Metler. Demitted: George Emersen and George F. Stannard⁵⁷.

In 1879, membership decreased by two to 40, with two members demitting⁵⁸. Despite the appointment of another person as Eminent Commander, Casper Ruedy stayed at Bethany Commandery No. 28, serving as its Representative⁵⁹.

William H. Hale Commander

T.F.A. Newport Recorder⁶⁰.

Demitted: Will C. Andress and James W. Cornelius⁶¹.

In 1880, America's Knights Templar forces were divided between 20 divisions. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Divisions were wholly composed of commanderies from the state of Illinois, with Bethany Commandery No. 28

⁵⁵ Twenty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1878. P. 65.

⁵⁶ Twenty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1878. P. 84.

⁵⁷ Twenty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1878. P. 90.

⁵⁸ Twenty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1879. P. 59.

⁵⁹ Twenty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1879. P. 69.

⁶⁰ Twenty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1879. P. 78.

⁶¹ Twenty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1879. P. 84.

being in the 2nd Division⁶². The 1st Division had 2,010 members, the 2nd Division had 1,259 members, and the 3rd Division had 925 members⁶³. Thus, in size, the divisions varied from battalion- to regiment-size.

In that same year, membership reached 48, with 14 individuals joining as created members, three members demitting, two being suspended, and one passing away⁶⁴. Casper Ruedy continued in the position of Representative⁶⁵.

William Henry Hale	Commander
Luke Goodwin	Generalissimo
Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport	Captain General
J.W. Edwards	Prelate
James E.J. Lytle	Senior Warden
Casper Ruedy	Junior Warden
D.V. Plaistead	Treasurer
James Ferguson	Recorder
A.C. McIntire	Standard Bearer
J.B. Simminger	Sword Bearer
William Jenkins	Warden
Benjamin Napoleon Moss	Captain of the Guards ⁶⁶ .

The commandery had the following Past Commanders: William H. Hale, J.W. Edwards, and Casper Ruedy. It had the following members: William Atkinson, John C. Corbus, James Clark, E.P. Cook, E.S. Childs, W.F. Conkey, E.G. Cass, F.J. Burdett, J.B. Dawson, P.I. Davis, A. Dean, Henry Dodge, R.M. Dewey, S.B. Dix, J.W. Edwards, Henry F. Eckenbrecht, James Ferguson, Robert L. Gilmore, Luke Goodwin, William H. Hale, F.H. Haskell, William Jenkins, J.E.J. Lytle, Oscar Lindstrom, Daniel Miscenbach, J.R. McGregor, J.I. Mettler, B.N. Moss, A.C. McIntire, F.A. Mathews, T.F.A. Newport, Martin Olsen, T.D. Palmer, M.D. Paxson, D.V. Plaistead, Casper Ruedy, F.M. Rice, J.B. Simminger, George C. Scheurtz, John J. Short, James L. Shaw, F.P. Snyder, William Truman, James L. Taylor, G.W. Tewksbury,

⁶² Twenty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1880. P. 40.

⁶³ Twenty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1880. P. 53.

⁶⁴ Twenty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1880. P. 63.

⁶⁵ Twenty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1880. P. 74.

⁶⁶ Twenty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1880. P. 113.

Lewis Taylor, Ruggles B. Van Law, and William Wylie⁶⁷. October 18, 1879, saw the passing of J.R. Liscom⁶⁸.

In 1881, the commandery had 49 members, with three individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, and one being suspended⁶⁹.

T.F.A. Newport Commander

James Ferguson Recorder⁷⁰.

Created: Frederick Edwin Cavell, James G. Ruff, and Charles William Van Vliet. Demitted: Martin Oleson. Suspended: James I. Mettler⁷¹.

In 1882, membership sharply increased to 72, with 24 individuals joining as created members, one joining as an admitted member, one member being suspended, and one passing away⁷².

T.F.A. Newport Commander

F.E. Cavell Recorder⁷³.

Created: George E. Wills, Bernard Kirk, Isaac N. Norman, Edward B. Carpenter, Samuel M. Heslett, James Clarkson, William H. Irwin, Haren C. Doan, Joseph James Pool, George Kelly, George W. Lindsay, Charles E. Rossette, Samuel Hastings, William Wilson, Berkley Gillett Barrett, John W. Blee, David A. Towne, Samuel C. Wiley, John Ezekiel Tibbetts, Philip Sine Pierce, John Henry Crance, Julius Hanson, Arthur E. Carpenter, and Edward

⁶⁷ Twenty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1880. P. 113.

⁶⁸ Twenty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Hazlitt and Reed, printers, 1880. P. 140.

⁶⁹ Twenty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1881. P. 51.

⁷⁰ Twenty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1881. P. 68.

⁷¹ Twenty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1881. P. 74.

⁷² Twenty sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1882. P. 69.

⁷³ Twenty sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1882. P. 98.

Albert Reed⁷⁴. Admitted: Peleg M. James. Suspended: John Baptiss Simmenger. Dead: John J. Scott (Dec. 4, 1881)⁷⁵.

In 1883, the commandery now had 77 members, with nine individuals joining as created members and four members demitting⁷⁶.

Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport	Commander
Frank P. Snyder	Generalissimo
Thomas D. Palmer	Captain General
William Henry Hale	Prelate
Luke Goodwin	Senior Warden
Casper Ruedy	Junior Warden
D.V. Plaistead	Treasurer
William H. Irwin	Recorder
George Edward Wills	Standard Bearer
James Clark	Sword Bearer
Samuel Dix	Warden
Benjamin Napoleon Moss	Captain of the Guards ⁷⁷ .

Past Commanders: Joseph William Edwards, Robert L. Gilmore, Casper Ruedy, William H. Hale, and Thomas F.A. Newport. Created: Oliver Wetherbee, Frederick C. Chadwick, Lorenzo Wells Calson, Walter Herbert Packard, James R. Hoffman, Lafayette Carnahan, William W. Gilmore, James Buckingham, and Charles H. Ingalls. Demitted: Frederick J. Burdett, Edmund S. Childs, Daniel Meisenback, and Freedom M. Rice⁷⁸.

In 1884, membership was up by one to 78, with four individuals joining as created members, one member being reinstated, two demitting, one being suspended, and one passing away⁷⁹.

⁷⁴ Twenty sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1882. P. 105.

⁷⁵ Twenty sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1882. P. 105, 116.

⁷⁶ Twenty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1883. P. 36.

⁷⁷ Twenty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1883. P. 121.

⁷⁸ Twenty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1883. P. 122.

⁷⁹ Twenty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1884. P. 39.

Frank P. Snyder Commander
 William H. Irwin Recorder⁸⁰.

Created: William B. Nolan, August Swanson, William Liscom, and Axel Gulbransen. Reinstated: John B. Siminger. Demitted: Arthur E. Carpenter and James Ferguson. Suspended: Edward Albert Reed. Dead: Oliver Wetherbee⁸¹.

In 1885, membership increased by five to 83⁸².

Frank P. Snyder Commander
 William H. Irwin Recorder⁸³.

Created: William Clarence Holdren, Charles R. Cross, Charles D. Jones, Charles L. Dodge, and David M. Vosburg⁸⁴.

In 1886, membership decreased by two to 81, with five individuals joining as created members, five members demitting, and two being suspended⁸⁵.

Thomas D. Palmer Commander
 Julius Hanson Generalissimo
 Samuel Dix Captain General
 William Jenkins Prelate
 George Edward Wills Senior Warden
 William Truman Junior Warden
 David V. Plaistead Treasurer
 William H. Irwin Recorder
 James Clark Standard Bearer
 Frederick E. Covell Sword Bearer
 Charles L. Dodge Warden
 Benjamin Napoleon Moss Captain of the Guards⁸⁶.

⁸⁰ Twenty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1884. P. 76.

⁸¹ Twenty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., printers, 1884. P. 84.

⁸² Twenty-ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., Printers, 1885. P. 36.

⁸³ Twenty-ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., Printers, 1885. P. 72.

⁸⁴ Twenty-ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., Printers, 1885. P. 81.

⁸⁵ Thirtieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington: Pantagraph Stationery Company, Printers, 1886. P. 26.

Past Commanders: Joseph William Edwards, Robert L. Gilmore, Casper Ruedy, William H. Hale, Thomas F.A. Newport, and F.P. Snyder⁸⁷. Created: William McMahon, William Moffatt, Louis P. Cassic, William H. Edwards, and Levi W. Wheeler. Demitted: Charles W. Van Vleit, George W. Lindsey, P.M. James, Marion D. Paxon, and Charles D. Jones. Suspended: James L. Shaw and William Wilson⁸⁸.

In 1887, membership was down by six to 75, with three individuals joining as created members, one member being reinstated, five demitting, three being suspended, and two passing away⁸⁹.

Julius Hanson Commander

William H. Irwin Recorder⁹⁰.

Created: Milton H. Everett, Samuel P. Prescott, and Matthew Buhler. Reinstated: James L. Shaw. Demitted: James L. Shaw, Walter H. Packard, John E. Tibbetts, Thomas D. Palmer, and Lafayette Cornahan. Suspended: James E.J. Lytle, James R. McGregor, and William B. Nolan. Dead: Fred A. Mathews (Nov. 18, 1886) and Henry Dodge (June 6, 1887)⁹¹.

In 1888, membership was down by four to 71, with two members demitting and two passing away⁹².

S.B. Dix Commander

E.B. Carpenter Recorder⁹³.

⁸⁶ Thirtieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington: Pantagraph Stationery Company, Printers, 1886. P. 99.

⁸⁷ Thirtieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington: Pantagraph Stationery Company, Printers, 1886. P. 99.

⁸⁸ Thirtieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington: Pantagraph Stationery Company, Printers, 1886. P. 100.

⁸⁹ Thirty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., Printers, 1887. P. 35.

⁹⁰ Thirty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., Printers, 1887. P. 68.

⁹¹ Thirty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., Printers, 1887. P. 77, 88.

⁹² Thirty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., Printers, 1888. P. 41.

⁹³ Thirty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., Printers, 1888. P. 106.

Demitted: Oscar Lindstrum and Milton H. Everett. Dead: James G. Ruff (Nov. 7, 1887) and William Atkinson (Jan. 31, 1888)⁹⁴.

In 1889, membership increased by three to 74, with eight individuals joining as created members, two members demitting, and three passing away⁹⁵.

William Jenkins	Commander
William H. Irwin	Generalissimo
Julius Hanson	Captain General
Thomas F.A. Irwin	Prelate
George Edward Wills	Senior Warden
James Clark	Junior Warden
David V. Plaistead	Treasurer
E.B. Carpenter	Recorder
F.H. Haskell	Standard Bearer
William P. Wixom	Sword Bearer
Samuel P. Prescott	Warden
Benjamin Napoleon Moss	Captain of the Guards ⁹⁶ .

Past Commanders: Joseph W. Edwards, Robert L. Gilmore, Casper Ruedy, William H. Hale, Thomas F.A. Newport, Frank P. Snyder, Thomas D. Palmer, Julius Hanson, and Samuel B. Dix⁹⁷. Created: H.J. Cheesman, George Hensel, Abel W. McFarland, C.W. Wilson, Zimri Smith, Charles C. Strong, Thomas H. Stetler, and James W. Turner. Demitted: Isaac N. Norman and George W. Tewksbury. Dead: Luke Goodwin (Dec. 16, 1888), James R. Hoffman (Feb. 17, 1889), and Ezra G. Cass (Aug. 2, 1889)⁹⁸.

⁹⁴ Thirty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt and Co., Printers, 1888. P. 115, 126.

⁹⁵ Thirty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: H.S. Tiffany and Co., Printers, 1889. P. 39.

⁹⁶ Thirty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: H.S. Tiffany and Co., Printers, 1889. P. 123.

⁹⁷ Thirty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: H.S. Tiffany and Co., Printers, 1889. P. 123.

⁹⁸ Thirty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Chicago: H.S. Tiffany and Co., Printers, 1889. P. 124, 173.

In 1890, the state of Illinois saw its commanderies divided between two districts. Bethany Commandery No. 28 was assigned to District No. 199. Its membership decreased by two to 72, with three individuals joining as created members, three members demitting, and two being suspended¹⁰⁰.

William Jenkins Commander

Casper Ruedy Recorder¹⁰¹.

Created: John Eckert, D.E. Hapeman, and R.A. McBride. Demitted: A. Dean, R.M. Dewey, and L.P. Cassie. Suspended: B.G. Barrett and John H. Crance¹⁰².

In 1891, membership remained the same at 72, with two individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, and one passing away¹⁰³.

William H. Irwin Commander

Casper Ruedy Recorder¹⁰⁴.

Created: Herbert H. Clark and Rev. George A. Pollock. Demitted: William H. Liscom. Dead: Robert L. Gilmore (May 31, 1891)¹⁰⁵.

In 1892, membership was up by one to 73, with six individuals joining as created members, three members demitting, and two passing away¹⁰⁶.

⁹⁹ Thirty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1890. P. 35.

¹⁰⁰ Thirty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1890. P. 76.

¹⁰¹ Thirty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1890. P. 116.

¹⁰² Thirty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1890. P. 125.

¹⁰³ Thirty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1891. P. 58.

¹⁰⁴ Thirty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1891. P. 110.

¹⁰⁵ Thirty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1891. P. 119.

¹⁰⁶ Thirty-sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1892. P. 73.

William H. Irwin	Commander
George Edward Wills	Generalissimo
David V. Plaisted	Captain General
T.F.A. Newport	Prelate
F.E. Cavell	Senior Warden
Samuel P. Prescott	Junior Warden
Samuel Hastings	Treasurer
Casper Ruedy	Recorder
John Eckart	Standard Bearer
George W. Andrew	Sword Bearer
James Clark	Warden
Benjamin Napoleon Moss	Captain of the Guards ¹⁰⁷ .

Past Commanders: Joseph W. Edwards, William H. Hale, Julius Hanson, T.F.A. Newport, William Jenkins, Casper Ruedy, and Frank P. Snyder¹⁰⁸. Created: Permenas L. Harris, William E. Hess, Edward L. McCredie, George W. Andrew, Edward S. Morahn, and Abe A. Swearingen. Demitted: Samuel B. Dix, Charles L. Dodge, and George A. Pollock. Dead: E.B. Carpenter (Sept. 3, 1891) and David A. Town (Dec. 27, 1891)¹⁰⁹.

In 1893, membership was down by one to 72, with four individuals joining as created members, five members demitting, and one passing away¹¹⁰.

T.F.A. Newport	Commander
Casper Ruedy	Recorder ¹¹¹ .

Created: Harry S. Cooper, Robert N. Crawford, and Harry J. Lee. Demitted: Charles W. Wilson, W.H. Edwards, H.J. Cheesman, E.S. Morahn, and Julius Hanson. Dead: Lewis Taylor (June 10, 1893)¹¹².

¹⁰⁷ Thirty-sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1892. P. 168.

¹⁰⁸ Thirty-sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1892. P. 168.

¹⁰⁹ Thirty-sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co, 1892. P. 169.

¹¹⁰ Thirty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1893. P. 40.

¹¹¹ Thirty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1893. P. 86.

¹¹² Thirty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1893. P. 95, 115.

In 1894, membership totaled 68, with two individuals joining as created members, one member being reinstated, three demitting, one being suspended, and two passing away¹¹³.

T.F.A. Newport Commander

Casper Ruedy Recorder¹¹⁴.

Created: Shannon T. Burke and Richard H. Cooper. Reinstated: Berkley G. Barrett. Demitted: H.H. Clark, Axel Galbranson, and John B. Siminger. Suspended: August Swanson. Dead: William McMahon (Feb. 4, 1894) and James Clarkson (Mar. 30, 1894)¹¹⁵.

In 1895, membership was up by six to 74, with six individuals joining as created members¹¹⁶.

T.F.A. Newport Commander

George Edward Wills Generalissimo

David V. Plaisted Captain General

Samuel P. Prescott Prelate

R.N. Crawford Senior Warden

F.E. Cavell Junior Warden

Samuel Hastings Treasurer

Casper Ruedy Recorder

John Eckart Standard Bearer

William Colson Sword Bearer

A.A. Swearinger Warden

Benjamin Napoleon Moss Captain of the Guards¹¹⁷.

Past Commanders: Joseph W. Edwards, William H. Hale, William Jenkins, Thomas F.A. Newport, Casper Ruedy, Frank P. Snyder, and William H. Irwin. Created: Frank Frederick Fritz, Williston Franklin Colson, Emil

¹¹³ Thirty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1894. P. 72.

¹¹⁴ Thirty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1894. P. 118.

¹¹⁵ Thirty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1894. P. 128, 149.

¹¹⁶ Thirty-ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1895. P. 179.

¹¹⁷ Thirty-ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1895. P. 175.

John Kreis, Andrew Compton, Jonas Alfred Youngren, and Frederick Ralph Bailey¹¹⁸.

In 1896, membership remained the same at 74, with four individuals joining as created members, two members demitting, and two passing away¹¹⁹.

One of the deceased members was Casper Ruedy. Here is what is said in his regard in the proceedings of the 40th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois: "Bethany Commandery No. 28, K.T., Mendota, Ill., on last Easter Day committed to the tomb the mortal remains of one of its most faithful members, and a past Commander of that Commandery, Sir Casper Ruedy, who was called to his eternal home. His earthly pilgrimage ended on the 3rd of April. At the time of his death he filled the post of Recorder of his Commandery. For a long time he had been a devoted member of the Order, and a highly esteemed citizen of Mendota."¹²⁰

T.F.A. Newport Commander

John Eckart Recorder¹²¹.

Created: Adelbert D. Gillett, Edward L. Watts, Howard B. Hall, and William N. Mitchell. Demitted: Hazon C. Doane and Berkley G. Barrett. Dead: James Clark (Sept. 27, 1895) and Casper Ruedy (Apr. 3, 1896) (Fig. 1)¹²².

¹¹⁸ Thirty-ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1895. P. 176.

¹¹⁹ Fortieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1896. P. 70.

¹²⁰ Fortieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1896. P. 88.

¹²¹ Fortieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1896. P. 126.

¹²² Fortieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1896. P. 137, 158.

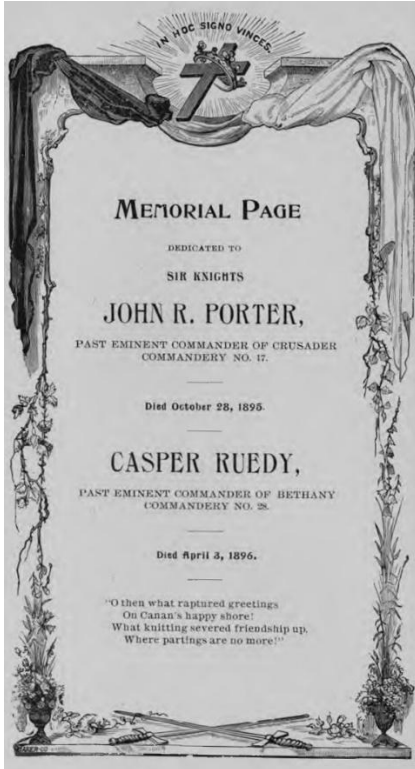


Fig. 1. Memorial page for Past Eminent Commander Casper Ruedy¹²³

The holdings of the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar at Cherkas Global University include a couple of rare items that once belonged to Casper Ruedy – a full uniform and a presentation sword (Fig. 2). He received that sword from Bethany Commandery No. 28 as its Past Eminent Commander.

¹²³ Fortieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1896. P. 154.



Fig. 2. Uniform of Past Eminent Commander Casper Ruedy

C. Ruedy's personal effects which are in the museum's collection include his regulation trousers, coat, hat (Fig. 3), commandery badge (Fig. 4), belt, and sword.



Fig. 3. Uniform's coat and hat



Fig. 4. Commandery badge

Worthy of special mention is the sword. What makes this item particularly rare is that it is a presentation sword (Fig. 5). On a side note, Casper Ruedy participated in the American Civil War, enlisting in the Union Army's 12th Illinois Infantry Regiment. He joined the commandery as a well-regarded member of the local community¹²⁴.



Fig. 5. C. Ruedy's gold sword

The inscription on the sword's blade reads 'Presented to C. Ruedy, P.E.C., by Bethany Commandery No, 28, K.T.' (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6. Inscription on the blade of C. Ruedy's sword

¹²⁴ The Past & Present of La Salle County, Illinois... Chicago, 1877. P. 107.

In 1897, the Grand Commandery of Illinois was split into eight districts, with Bethany Commandery No. 28 being assigned to District No. 3.

In that same year, membership sharply dropped to 63, with two members demitting, eight being suspended, and one passing away¹²⁵.

George E. Wills Commander

John Eckart Recorder¹²⁶.

Demitted: John W. Blee and Charles C. Strong. Suspended: John C. Corbus, Frederick C. Chadwick, James B. Dawson, William H. Hale, Charles H. Ingles, George Kelly, James L. Taylor, and J.W. Turner. Dead: D.V. Plaisted (June 29, 1897)¹²⁷.

In 1898, membership was down by one to 62, with two individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, one being suspended, and one passing away¹²⁸.

George E. Wills Commander

R.N. Crawford Generalissimo

William F. Colson Captain General

Samuel P. Prescott Prelate

P.L. Harris Senior Warden

T.F.A. Newport Junior Warden

Samuel Hastings Treasurer

John Eckart Recorder

A.D. Gillett Standard Bearer

F.F. Fritz Sword Bearer

F.R. Bailey Warden

- Captain of the Guards¹²⁹.

June 4, 1898, saw the passing of Benjamin N. Moss, the commandery's longtime Captain of the Guards¹³⁰.

¹²⁵ Forty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1897. P. 76.

¹²⁶ Forty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1897. P. 116.

¹²⁷ Forty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1897. P. 197, 218.

¹²⁸ Forty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1898. P. 61.

¹²⁹ Forty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1898. P. 58.

Past Commanders: Joseph W. Edwards, William Jenkins, Thomas F.A. Newport, Frank P. Snyder, and William H. Irwin. Created: Warren Charles Griggs and Edward Freeman Hempstead. Demitted: Preston I. Davis. Suspended: James Buckingham. Dead: Benjamin N. Moss¹³¹.

In 1899, membership remained the same (62), with two individuals joining as created members, one member being admitted, one demitting, and two passing away¹³².

Robert N. Crawford Commander

Frank F. Fritz Recorder¹³³.

Created: Charles W. Hazard and Charles McFarlain. Admitted: G.W. Crowden. Demitted: Howard B. Hall¹³⁴. Dead: William Jenkins (Aug. 29, 1898) and Samuel M. Haslet (Nov. 21, 1898)¹³⁵.

In 1900, membership was up by five to 67, with nine individuals joining as created members, one member being reinstated, two demitting, and three passing away¹³⁶.

Robert N. Crawford Commander

Frank F. Fritz Recorder¹³⁷.

Created: Edward R. Isaac, Henry W.F. Henning, John C. Corbus, Jr., Robert J. Hoteling, James B. Keeler, Xaviere F. Gehaut, Harry L. Fordham,

¹³⁰ Forty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1898. P. 58.

¹³¹ Forty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1898. P. 59.

¹³² Forty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1899. P. 59.

¹³³ Forty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1899. P. 98.

¹³⁴ Forty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1899. P. 113.

¹³⁵ Forty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1899. P. 116.

¹³⁶ Forty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1900. P. 53.

¹³⁷ Forty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1900. P. 92.

Fred T. Davis, and William H. Davis. Reinstated: Charles H. Ingalls. Demitted: Harry S. Cooper and Frank P. Snyder. Dead: William Truman (July 10, 1899), Samuel C. Wiley (Feb. 13, 1900), and William W. Gilmore (May 12, 1900)¹³⁸.

In 1901, membership increased by two to 69, with five individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, one being suspended, and one passing away¹³⁹.

Robert Nelson Crawford	Commander
John Clark Corbus, Jr.	Generalissimo
Adelbert Dennis Gillett	Captain General
Samuel P. Prescott	Prelate
Permanious L. Harris	Senior Warden
Frederick E. Covell	Junior Warden
Emil J. Kreig	Treasurer
Frank Frederick Fritz	Recorder
James Bradley Keeler	Standard Bearer
Henry William Ferdinand Henning	Sword Bearer
Daniel Charles Tower	Warden
Thomas F.A. Newport	Captain of the Guards ¹⁴⁰ .

Past Commanders: William H. Irwin, George E. Wills, Thomas F.A. Newport, William Franklin Colson, and Robert N. Crawford. Created: Harry B. Brittan, Arthur G. Harris, Daniel C. Tower, William G. Cove, and Ulyses N. Thornton. Demitted: Alfred J. Youngren. Suspended: George W. Andrew¹⁴¹. Dead: Levi William Wheeler (Nov. 15, 1900)¹⁴².

¹³⁸ Forty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1900. P. 105, 132.

¹³⁹ Forty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1901. P. 65.

¹⁴⁰ Forty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1901. P. 58.

¹⁴¹ Forty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1901. P. 58-59.

¹⁴² Forty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1901. P. 139.

In 1902, membership was down by one to 68, with two individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, one being suspended, and one passing away¹⁴³.

John C. Corbus, Jr. Commander

Frank F. Fritz Recorder¹⁴⁴.

Created: Orbed W. Briggs and Oscar P. Harris. Demitted: Arthur G. Harris. Suspended: Charles McFarlain. Dead: Charles R. Cross (Sept., 1901)¹⁴⁵.

In 1903, membership remained the same (68), with three individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, and two passing away¹⁴⁶.

Robert N. Crawford Commander

Oscar P. Harris Recorder¹⁴⁷.

Created: John C. Crowell, James B. Daugherty, and Herbert M. Rodgers. Demitted: Charles H. Ingles. Dead: Edgar P. Cook (Oct. 31, 1902) and Albert W. McFarland (Jan. 22, 1903)¹⁴⁸.

In 1904, membership decreased by one to 67, with one individual joining as a created member and two members passing away¹⁴⁹.

Robert Nelson Crawford Commander

Adelbert Dennis Gillett Generalissimo

Frederick E. Covell Captain General

Edward Freeman Hempstead Prelate

¹⁴³ Forty-sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1902. P. 59.

¹⁴⁴ Forty-sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1902. P. 116.

¹⁴⁵ Forty-sixth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1902. P. 136, 164.

¹⁴⁶ Forty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1903. P. 76.

¹⁴⁷ Forty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1903. P. 130.

¹⁴⁸ Forty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1903. P. 178.

¹⁴⁹ Forty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1904. P. 77.

Parmenas Leonard Harris Senior Warden
 Frederick Ralph Bailey Junior Warden
 John Clark Corbus, Jr. Treasurer
 Oscar Porter Harris Recorder
 James Bradley Keeler Standard Bearer
 Albert Allison Swearingen Sword Bearer
 Henry William Ferdinand Henning Warden
 Thomas F.A. Newport Captain of the Guards¹⁵⁰.
 Past Commanders: Joseph William Edwards, George Edward Wills,
 Thomas F.A. Newport, John Clark Corbus, Jr., and Robert Nelson Crawford.
 Created: Edward James Staten¹⁵¹. Dead: Arthur Cox McIntire (Mar. 2, 1904)
 and Joseph J. Pool (June 7, 1904)¹⁵².

In 1905, membership remained the same (67), with three individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, and two passing away¹⁵³.

Robert N. Crawford Commander
 Oscar P. Harris Recorder¹⁵⁴.

Created: Andrew C. Harris, William H. Carnahan, and Nels Bean.
 Demitted: Richard H. Cooper. Dead: David M. Vosburg (Mar. 5, 1905) and
 George Hensel (June 15, 1905)¹⁵⁵.

In 1906, membership was up by four to 71, with seven individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, one being suspended, and one passing away¹⁵⁶.

¹⁵⁰ Forty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1904. P. 65, 124.

¹⁵¹ Forty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1904. P. 65.

¹⁵² Forty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1904. P. 151.

¹⁵³ Forty-ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1905. P. 62.

¹⁵⁴ Forty-ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1905. P. 112.

¹⁵⁵ Forty-ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1905. P. 129, 159.

¹⁵⁶ Fiftieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1906. P. 47.

Robert N. Crawford Commander
 Henry W.F. Henning Recorder¹⁵⁷.

Created: John M. Harris, Stephen M. Perkins, Rudolph W. Witte, William H. Kidd, Leroy P. McMillan, George D. Tower, and Lorrin I. Graves. Demitted: William Wylie. Suspended: William C. Holden. Dead: Bernard Kirk (Apr. 5, 1906)¹⁵⁸.

In 1907, membership increased to 79, with eight individuals joining as created members, one member being reinstated, and one passing away¹⁵⁹.

Robert Nelson Crawford Commander
 Adelbert Dennis Gillett Generalissimo
 Frederick E. Covell Captain General
 Edward Freeman Hempstead Prelate
 Parmenas Leonard Harris Senior Warden
 Frederick Ralph Bailey Junior Warden
 Rudolph William Witte, Jr. Treasurer
 Henry William Ferdinand Henning Recorder
 James Bradley Keeler Standard Bearer
 Albert Allison Swearingen Sword Bearer
 Oscar Porter Harris Warden
 Thomas Faucett Aaron Newport Sentinel (Captain of the Guards)¹⁶⁰.

Past Commanders: John Clark Corbus, Jr., Robert Nelson Crawford, Joseph William Edwards, William Harry Irwin, Thomas F.A. Newport, and George Edward Wills¹⁶¹. Created: Benjamin Horace Smith Angear, Walter Edwin Annable, Alman Andrew Clapsaddle, William R. Foster, Ira S. Geft,

¹⁵⁷ Fiftieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1906. P. 118.

¹⁵⁸ Fiftieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1906. P. 136, 165.

¹⁵⁹ Fifty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1907. P. 77.

¹⁶⁰ Fifty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1907. P. 72.

¹⁶¹ Fifty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1907. P. 72.

John Henry Hoffman, Benjamin Dean Mosher, and John J. Thomassen. Reinstated: William Charles Holdren¹⁶². Dead: Nels Bean (Aug. 23, 1906)¹⁶³.

In 1908, membership increased to 81, with five individuals joining as created members, one member being reinstated, two demitting, one being suspended, and one passing away¹⁶⁴.

Adelbert D. Gillett Commander

John H. Hoffman Recorder¹⁶⁵.

Created: John Malcolm Aitken, Frank Edward Blakeslee, Alfred James Foot, Theodore Ward, and George Samuel Wiley. Suspended: Philip Sine Pierce. Demitted: William George Cove and Xavier Francis Gehart. Reinstated: Philip Sine Pierce¹⁶⁶. Dead: William Fitch Conkey (Sept. 27, 1907)¹⁶⁷.

In 1909, membership decreased to 79, with two individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, and three passing away¹⁶⁸.

Robert N. Crawford Commander

- Generalissimo

John Clark Corbus, Jr. Captain General

John H. Hoffman Recorder¹⁶⁹.

¹⁶² Fifty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1907. P. 73.

¹⁶³ Fifty-first annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1907. P. 154.

¹⁶⁴ Fifty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1908. P. 41.

¹⁶⁵ Fifty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1908. P. 102.

¹⁶⁶ Fifty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1908. P. 150.

¹⁶⁷ Fifty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1908. P. 129.

¹⁶⁸ Fifty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1909. P. 118.

¹⁶⁹ Fifty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1909. P. 120.

Created: Ezra Grant Hoffman and Fred Blair Keeler. Demitted: Robert J. Hotaling¹⁷⁰.

Dead: Frederick Henry Haskell (July 21, 1908), William Harry Irwin (Mar. 23, 1909), and Edward Lilly Watts (Oct. 14, 1908)¹⁷¹.

In 1910, membership grew to 86, with 14 individuals joining as created members, five members being suspended, and two passing away¹⁷².

Robert N. Crawford	Commander
Frederick Edwin Cavell	Generalissimo
John Clark Corbus, Jr.	Captain General
Frederick Ralph Bailey	Senior Warden
John J. Thomassen	Junior Warden
Edward Freeman Hempstead	Prelate
George Daniel Tower	Treasurer
John H. Hoffman	Recorder
William H. Kidd	Standard Bearer
Albert Allison Swearingen	Sword Bearer
Theodore Ward	Warden
Thomas Faucett Aaron Newport	Sentinel ¹⁷³ .

Past Commanders: Robert Nelson Crawford, John Clark Corbus, Jr., Joseph William Edwards, Thomas Faucett Aaron Newport, George Edward Wills, and Adelbert Dennis Gillett¹⁷⁴. Created: Willard Signor Alyea, George Esleie Blanchard, James Jay Dunbar, Robert Ingersoll Fischer, Benjamin Jacob Feik, Frank Wellett Graves, Harrison Lee Graves, Stephen Arthur Hopps, Clifford Crossman Hopps, Harace Oscar Kelly, Charles Christian Kohl, Louis Frank Knauer, Charles Frederick Lathrop, and Louis Dewitt Smith. Suspended: Orbed W. Briggs, Andrew Compton, Charles D. Hazard,

¹⁷⁰ Fifty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1909. P. 146.

¹⁷¹ Fifty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1909. P. 111.

¹⁷² Fifty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1910. P. 140.

¹⁷³ Fifty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1910. P. 75.

¹⁷⁴ Fifty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1910. P. 75.

Samuel Hastings, and Edward R. Isaac¹⁷⁵. Dead: William Moffatt (Sept. 9, 1909) and George C. Schuetz (Dec. 19, 1909)¹⁷⁶.

In 1911, membership decreased to 85, with two individuals joining as created members, two members demitting, and one passing away¹⁷⁷.

Robert N. Crawford Commander

John H. Hoffman Recorder¹⁷⁸.

Created: John D. McRea and William S. Matteson. Demitted: Ulysses N. Thornton and LeRoy P. McMillan. Dead: Willard Signor Alyea (Oct. 28, 1910)¹⁷⁹.

In 1912, membership decreased to 84, with four individuals joining as created members, one joining as an admitted member, one member being reinstated, four demitting, two being suspended, and one passing away¹⁸⁰.

Robert N. Crawford Commander

John H. Hoffman Recorder¹⁸¹.

Created: John O. Andrews, David L. Barnett, Charles D. Larabee, and Edward A. Miller. Admitted: George H. Yule. Reinstated: Edward A. Reed. Demitted: Zinni Smith, Edward A. Reed, Harry J. Lee, and George W. Crowden. Suspended: Lorin I. Graves and William C. Holdren. Dead: Philip S. Pierce (Feb. 15, 1912)¹⁸².

¹⁷⁵ Fifty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1910. P. 76.

¹⁷⁶ Fifty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1910. P. 135.

¹⁷⁷ Fifty-fifth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1911. P. 116.

¹⁷⁸ Fifty-fifth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1911. P. 118.

¹⁷⁹ Fifty-fifth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Ill.: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1911. P. 130, 159.

¹⁸⁰ Fifty-sixth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1912. P. 116.

¹⁸¹ Fifty-sixth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1912. P. 118.

¹⁸² Fifty-sixth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1912. P. 130, 159.

In 1913, membership increased to 88, with four individuals joining as created members, one joining as an admitted member, and one member demitting¹⁸³.

Robert Nelson Crawford	Commander
Frederick R. Bailey	Generalissimo
John Clark Corbus, Jr.	Captain General
Stephen M. Perkins	Senior Warden
George E. Blanchard	Junior Warden
George H. Yule	Prelate
George Daniel Tower	Treasurer
John Henry Hoffman	Recorder
William H. Kidd	Standard Bearer
Rudolph William Witte	Sword Bearer
Williston F. Colson	Warden
Edward A. Miller	Sentinel ¹⁸⁴ .

Past Commanders: R.N. Crawford, J.C. Corbus, Jr., W.F. Colson, J.W. Edwards, T.F.A. Newport, George A. Wills, and A.D. Gillette. Created: Charles F. Bowers, Robert C. Finley, Forrest Lee Tower, and Arthur C. McIntire. Admitted: Edward B. Tabor. Demitted: John J. Thomassen¹⁸⁵.

In 1914, membership grew to 92, with four individuals joining as created members, one joining as an admitted member, and one member demitting¹⁸⁶.

Edwin F. Hempstead	Commander
John H. Hoffman	Recorder ¹⁸⁷ .

Created: James H. Browning, Albert William McIntire, George James Their, and Charles Whitney McCray. Admitted: John Hepburn Walker. Demitted: William P. Wixom¹⁸⁸.

¹⁸³ Fifty-seventh annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1913. P. 170.

¹⁸⁴ Fifty-seventh annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1913. P. 262.

¹⁸⁵ Fifty-seventh annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1913. P. 263.

¹⁸⁶ Fifty-eighth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1914. P. 184.

¹⁸⁷ Fifty-eighth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1914. P. 207.

In 1915, membership increased to 94, with five individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, and two passing away¹⁸⁹.

Frederick R. Bailey Commander

John H. Hoffman Recorder¹⁹⁰.

Created: Warren Atwood Prescott, Robert Hallenberg, Washington Wallace Dunbar, Charles Clark Case, and Harry Dunrith Conkey. Demitted: Charles Christian Kohl. Dead: Thomas F.A. Newport (Aug. 1, 1914) and George Wills¹⁹¹.

In 1916, membership remained the same (94), with six individuals joining as created members, two members demitting, three being suspended, and one passing away¹⁹².

Frederick Ralph Bailey Commander

Stephen Manson Perkins Generalissimo

George Eslie Blanchard Captain General

Rudolph William Witte Senior Warden

Charles Whitney McCray Junior Warden

Robert Hallenberg Prelate

George Daniel Tower Treasurer

John Henry Hoffman Recorder

William H. Kidd Standard Bearer

Louis Frank Knauer Sword Bearer

Eddie Tower Moore Warden

Corbus Plumer Gardner Sentinel¹⁹³.

As Bethany Commandery No. 28 grew in numbers, membership tracking became more prone to inaccuracies. Specifically, it cannot be established

¹⁸⁸ Fifty-eighth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1914. P. 184.

¹⁸⁹ Fifty-ninth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1915. P. 232.

¹⁹⁰ Fifty-ninth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1915. P. 234.

¹⁹¹ Fifty-ninth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1915. P. 197, 255.

¹⁹² Sixtieth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1916. P. 2.

¹⁹³ Sixtieth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1916. P. 80.

from the records when the commandery was joined by Corbus Plumer Gardner, listed as its Sentinel in 1916.

Created: Henry Tower, Eddie Tower Moore, Oscar T. Wills, Christian W. Von Ohlen, Albert Dow Van Ormun, and William James Swisher. Demitted: John Orville Andrews and James Bertis Daugherty. Suspended: Frank W. Graves, Charles W. Griggs, and Herbert Monford Rogers¹⁹⁴. Dead: John Eckart (Oct. 6, 1915)¹⁹⁵.

In 1917, membership increased to 102, with nine individuals joining as created members, one joining as an admitted member, one member demitting, and one passing away¹⁹⁶.

Stephen Manson Perkins Commander

John Henry Hoffman Recorder¹⁹⁷.

Created: Clarence Willard Hubbard, George Lewis Swartsley, Gustav Fritz, William Samuel Andrews, Clyde Arthur Moorhead, Aden Adair Danilson, Glen Dee Grogan, Lester John Morrison, and John Stoldorf. Admitted: Henry A. Buel. Demitted: H.F. Eckenbrecht. Dead: S.T. Burke (Jan. 29, 1917)¹⁹⁸.

The following members of the commandery served in the American army during World War I: Louis Dewitt Smith, William James Swisher, Roy Philip Hoffman, and Newton Franklin Shipper¹⁹⁹.

¹⁹⁴ Sixtieth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1916. P. 81.

¹⁹⁵ Sixtieth annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1916. P. 164.

¹⁹⁶ Sixty-first annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1917. P. 218.

¹⁹⁷ Sixty-first annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1917. P. 220.

¹⁹⁸ Sixty-first annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1917. P. 241.

¹⁹⁹ Sixty-second annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1918. P. 229.

In 1918, membership grew to 106, with eight individuals joining as created members, two members demitting, and two passing away²⁰⁰.

George E. Blanchard Commander

John Henry Hoffman Recorder²⁰¹.

Created: Roy Phillip Hoffman, Harry Elmer Martin, Jesse Edgar Wixom, Walter Scott Aitken, William W. Wylie, Ralph Abraham Hess, Newton Franklin Shipper, and Raymond W. Jones. Demitted: R.A. McBride and James H. Browning. Dead: Samuel Plumer Prescott (Feb. 28, 1918) and George Daniel Tower (Apr. 24, 1918)²⁰².

Table 1. List of members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 (1868–1918)

No.	Name	Year joined/status changed
1	Aitken, John Malcolm	(1908–)
2	Aitken, Walter Scott	(1918–)
3	Alyea, Willard Signor	(1910–1910 dead)
4	Anderson, Hiram	(1871–1876 suspended)
5	Andress, Will C.	(1876–1879 demitted)
6	Andrew, George W.	(1892–1901 suspended)
7	Andrews, John Orville	(1912–1916 demitted)
8	Andrews, William Samuel	(1917–)
9	Angear, Benjamin Horace Smith	(1907–)
10	Annable, Walter Edwin	(1907–)
11	Atkinson, William	(1869–1888 dead)
12	Bailey, Frederick Ralph	(1895–)
13	Barnett, David L.	(1912–)
14	Barrett, Berkley (Burkley) Gillett	(1882–1890 suspended, 1894 reinstated, 1896 demitted)
15	Barse, George R.	(1872–1873 demitted)
16	Bean, Nels	(1905–1906 dead)

²⁰⁰ Sixty-second annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1918. P. 250.

²⁰¹ Sixty-second annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1918. P. 252.

²⁰² Sixty-second annual conclave the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1918. P. 271.

17	Black, George M.	(1868–1871 demitted)
18	Blakeslee, Frank Edward	(1908–)
19	Blanchard, George Eslie	(1910–)
20	Blee, John W.	(1882–1897 demitted)
21	Bowers, Charles F.	(1913–)
22	Briggs, Orbed W.	(1902–1910 suspended)
23	Brittian, Harry B.	(1901–)
24	Bromfield, Wilbur F.	(1869–1872 dead)
25	Browning, James H.	(1914–1918 demitted)
26	Buckingham, James	(1883–1898 suspended)
27	Buel, Henry A.	(1917–)
28	Buhler, Matthew	(1887–)
29	Burdett, Frederick J.	(1880–1883 demitted)
30	Burke, Shannon T.	(1894–1917 dead)
31	Calson, Lorenzo Wells	(1883–)
32	Carnahan (Cornahan), Lafayette	(1883–1887 demitted)
33	Carnahan, William H.	(1905–)
34	Carpenter, Arthur Eugene	(1882–1884 demitted)
35	Carpenter, Edwin Burnham	(1882–1891 dead)
36	Case, Charles Clark	(1915–)
37	Cass, Ezra G.	(1880–1889 dead)
38	Cassic (Cassie), Louis P.	(1886–1890 demitted)
39	Cavell (Covell), Frederick Edwin	(1881–)
40	Chadwick, Frederick C.	(1883–1897 suspended)
41	Cheesman, H.J.	(1889–1893 demitted)
42	Childs, Edmund S.	(1880–1883 demitted)
43	Church, James Alfred	(1868–1871 demitted)
44	Clapsaddle, Alman Andrew	(1907–)
45	Clark, Herbert H.	(1891–1894 demitted)
46	Clark, James	(1878–1895 dead)
47	Clarkson, James	(1882–1894 dead)
48	Colson, Williston (William) Franklin	(1895–)
49	Compton, Andrew	(1895–1910 suspended)
50	Conkey, Harry Dunrith	(1915–)
51	Conkey, William Fitch	(1880–1907 dead)
52	Cook, David Alfred	(1869–1877 demitted)
53	Cook, Edgar Pumphrey	(1869–1902 dead)
54	Cooper, Harry S.	(1893–1900 demitted)
55	Cooper, Richard H.	(1894–1905 demitted)

56	Corbus, John Clark	(1868–1897 suspended)
57	Corbus, John Clark, Jr.	(1900–)
58	Cornelius, James W.	(1874–1879 demitted)
59	Cove, William George	(1901–1908 demitted)
60	Crance, John Henry	(1882–1890 suspended)
61	Crawford, Robert Nelson	(1893–)
62	Cross, Charles R.	(1885–1901 dead)
63	Crowden, George W.	(1899–1912 demitted)
64	Crowell, John C.	(1903–)
65	Danilson, Aden Adair	(1917–)
66	Daugherty, James Bertis	(1903–1916 demitted)
67	Davis, Fred T.	(1900–)
68	Davis, Preston Irving	(1869–1898 demitted)
69	Davis, William H.	(1900–)
70	Dawson, James B.	(1868–1897 suspended)
71	Dean, Henry Hobert	(1872–1876 suspended, 1877 reinstated and demitted)
72	Dean, Alpheus (Alfred)	(1868–1890 demitted)
73	Dewey, R.M.	(1880–1890 demitted)
74	Dix, Samuel B.	(1880–1892 demitted)
75	Doan (Doane), Haren (Hazon) C.	(1882–1896 demitted)
76	Dodge, Charles L.	(1885–1892 demitted)
77	Dodge, Henry H.	(1874–1887 dead)
78	Dunbar, James Jay	(1910–)
79	Dunbar, Washington Wallace	(1915–)
80	Eckenbrecht, Henry F.	(1880–1917 demitted)
81	Eckert (Eckart), John	(1890–1915 dead)
82	Edwards, Joseph William	(1868–)
83	Edwards, William H.	(1886–1893 demitted)
84	Emerson, George	(1869–1878 demitted)
85	Everett, Milton H.	(1887–1888 demitted)
86	Feik, Benjamin Jacob	(1910–)
87	Ferguson, James	(1880–1884 demitted)
88	Finley, Robert C.	(1913–)
89	Fischer, Robert Ingersoll	(1910–)
90	Fish, Stephen N.	(1875–1877 dead)
91	Foot, Alfred James	(1908–)
92	Fordham, Harry L.	(1900–)
93	Foster, William R.	(1907–)

94	Fritz, Frank Frederick	(1895–)
95	Fritz, Gustav	(1917–)
96	Gardner, Samuel A.	(1871–1876 demitted)
97	Geft, Ira S.	(1907–)
98	Gehaut (Gehart), Xaviere (Xavier) Francis	(1900–1908 demitted)
99	Gillett (Gillette), Adelbert (Albert) Dennis	(1896–)
100	Gilmore, Robert L.	(1868–1891 dead)
101	Gilmore, William W.	(1883–1900 dead)
102	Goodwin, Luke	(1874–1888 dead)
103	Gould, Anthony Bennett	(1868–1880 suspended)
104	Graves, Frank Wellett	(1910–1916 suspended)
105	Graves, Harrison Lee	(1910–)
106	Graves, Lorrin I.	(1906–1912 suspended)
107	Griggs, Warren Charles	(1898–1916 suspended)
108	Grogan, Glen Dee	(1917–)
109	Gulbransen (Galbranson), Axel	(1884–1894 demitted)
110	Hale, William Henry	(1871–1897 suspended)
111	Hall, Howard B.	(1896–1899 demitted)
112	Hallenberg, Robert	(1915–)
113	Hanson, Julius	(1882–1893 demitted)
114	Hapeman, D.E.	(1890–)
115	Hardin, Franklin (Frank) A.	(1868–1878 suspended)
116	Harrington, William Shaw	(1868–1871 demitted)
117	Harris, Andrew C.	(1905–)
118	Harris, Arthur G.	(1901–1902 demitted)
119	Harris, Parmenas (Permanious; Dermenas) Leonard	(1892–)
120	Harris, John M.	(1906–)
121	Harris, Oscar Porter	(1902–)
122	Haskell (Haskill), Frederick Henry	(1868–1908 dead)
123	Hastings, James	(1871–1880 demitted)
124	Hastings, Samuel	(1882–1910 suspended)
125	Hawley, Charles Albert	(1873–1875 demitted)
126	Hays, William	(1871–1874 demitted)
127	Hazard, Charles W. (D.)	(1899–1910 suspended)

128	Hempstead, Edward (Edwin) Freeman	(1898–)
129	Henning, Henry William Ferdinand	(1900–)
130	Hensel, George	(1889–1905 dead)
131	Heslett (Haslet), Samuel M.	(1882–1898 dead)
132	Hess, Ralph Abraham	(1918–)
133	Hess, William E.	(1892–)
134	Hills, Elezer J.	(1871–1880 demitted)
135	Hoffman, Ezra Grant	(1909–)
136	Hoffman, James R.	(1883–1889 dead)
137	Hoffman, John Henry	(1907–)
138	Hoffman, Roy Phillip	(1918–)
139	Holdren (Holden), William Clarence (Charles)	(1885–1906 suspended, 1907 reinstated, 1912 suspended)
140	Hopps, Clifford Crossman	(1910–)
141	Hopps, Stephen Arthur	(1910–)
142	Hoteling (Hotaling), Robert J.	(1900–1909 demitted)
143	Hubbard, Clarence Willard	(1917–)
144	Ingalls (Ingles), Charles H.	(1883–1897 suspended, 1900 reinstated, 1903 demitted)
145	Irwin, William Harry	(1882–1909 dead)
146	Isaac, Edward R.	(1900–1910 suspended)
147	James, Peleg M.	(1882–1886 demitted)
148	Jenkins, William	(1877–1898 dead)
149	Jones, Charles D.	(1885–1886 demitted)
150	Jones, Raymond W.	(1918–)
151	Keeler, Fred Blair	(1909–)
152	Keeler, James Bradley	(1900–)
153	Kelly, George	(1882–1897 suspended)
154	Kelly, Harace Oscar	(1910–)
155	Kidd, William H.	(1906–)
156	Kirk, Bernard	(1882–1906 dead)
157	Knauer, Louis Frank	(1910–)
158	Kohl, Charles Christian	(1910–1915 demitted)
159	Kreis (Kreig), Emil John	(1895–)
160	Laraber, Charles D.	(1912–)
161	Lathrop, Charles Frederick	(1910–)
162	Lee, Harry J.	(1893–1912 demitted)
163	Lindsay, George W.	(1882–1886 demitted)

164	Lindstrom (Lindstrum; Lindstrome), Oscar	(1874–1888 demitted)
165	Liscom, Jason Martin	(1869–1877 demitted)
166	Liscom, Jason Reed	(1868–1879 dead)
167	Liscom, William H.	(1884–1891 demitted)
168	Lytle, James E.J.	(1875–1887 suspended)
169	Martin, Harry Elmer	(1918–)
170	Mathews, Fred A.	(1880–1886 dead)
171	Matteson, William S.	(1911–)
172	McBride, R.A.	(1890–1918 demitted)
173	McCray, Charles Whitney	(1914–)
174	McCredie, Edward L.	(1892–)
175	McFarlain, Charles	(1899–1902 suspended)
176	McFarland, Abel (Albert) W.	(1889–1903 dead)
177	McGregor, James R.	(1880–1887 suspended)
178	McIntire, Albert William	(1914–)
179	McIntire, Arthur C.	(1913–)
180	McIntire, Arthur Cox	(1878–1904 dead)
181	McMahon, William	(1886–1894 dead)
182	McMillan, Leroy (LeRoy) P.	(1906–1911 demitted)
183	McRea, John D.	(1911–)
184	Meisenbach (Miscenbach, Meisenback), Daniel	(1871–1883 demitted)
185	Metler (Mettler), James Iliff	(1871–1877 suspended, 1878 reinstated, 1881 suspended)
186	Miller, Edward A.	(1912–)
187	Mitchell, William N.	(1896–)
188	Moffatt, William	(1886–1909 dead)
189	Moore, Eddie Tower	(1916–)
190	Moorhead, Clyde Arthur	(1917–)
191	Morahn, Edward S.	(1892–1893 demitted)
192	Morrison, Lester John	(1917–)
193	Morrison, Samuel	(1869–1876 demitted)
194	Mosher, Benjamin Dean	(1907–)
195	Moss, Benjamin Napoleon	(1873–1898 dead)
196	Newport, Thomas Faucett Aaron	(1869–1914 dead)
197	Nolan, William B.	(1884–1887 suspended)
198	Norman, Isaac N.	(1882–1889 demitted)

199	Olsen (Oleson), Martin	(1878–1881 demitted)
200	Plaisted (Plaistead), David V.	(1878–1897 dead) Civil War
201	Packard, Walter Herbert	(1883–1887 demitted)
202	Palmer, Thomas D.	(1874–1887 demitted)
203	Panton, Mathew H.	(1869–1871 demitted)
204	Paxson (Paxon), Martin (Marion) D.	(1873–1886 demitted)
205	Perkins, Stephen Manson	(1906–)
206	Pierce, Philip S.	(1882–1908 suspended and reinstated, 1912 dead)
207	Pollock, Rev. George A.	(1891–1892 demitted)
208	Pool, Joseph James	(1882–1904 dead)
209	Prescott, Samuel Plumer	(1887–1918 dead)
210	Prescott, Warren Atwood	(1915–)
211	Reed, Edward Albert	(1882–1884 suspended, 1912 reinstated and demitted)
212	Rice, Edgar W.	(1876–1880 suspended)
213	Rice, Freedom M.	(1874–1883 demitted)
214	Rodgers, Herbert Monford	(1903–1916 suspended)
215	Rossette, Charles E.	(1882–)
216	Ruedy, Casper	(1875–1896 dead)
217	Ruff, James G.	(1881–1887 dead)
218	Schurtz (Scheurtz; Schuetz), George Cornat	(1875–1909 dead)
219	Shaw, James L.	(1880–1886 suspended, 1887 reinstated and demitted)
220	Shipper, Newton Franklin	(1918–)
221	Short, John James	(1873–1881 dead)
222	Simminger (Simmenger; Siminger), John Baptiss	(1876–1882 suspended, 1884 reinstated, 1894 demitted)
223	Smith, Louis Dewitt	(1910–)
224	Smith, Zimri (Zinni)	(1889–1912 demitted)
225	Snyder, Frank P.	(1880–1900 demitted)
226	Stannard, George Frank	(1871–1878 demitted)
227	Staten, Edward James	(1904–)

228	Stetler, Thomas H.	(1889–)
229	Stoldorf, John	(1917–)
230	Strong, Charles C.	(1889–1897 demitted)
231	Swanson, August	(1884–1894 suspended)
232	Swartsley, George Lewis	(1917–)
233	Swearingen, Albert (Abe) Allison	(1892–)
234	Swisher, William James	(1916–)
235	Tabor, Edward B.	(1913–)
236	Taylor, James Lewis	(1871–1897 suspended)
237	Taylor, Lewis	(1880–1893 dead)
238	Tewksberry (Tewksbury), George W.	(1876–1889 demitted)
239	Their, George James	(1914–)
240	Thomassen, John J.	(1907–1913 demitted)
241	Thornton, Ulysses (Ulyses) N.	(1901–1911 demitted)
242	Tibbetts, John Ezekiel	(1882–1887 demitted)
243	Tower, Daniel C.	(1901–)
244	Tower, Forrest Lee	(1913–)
245	Tower, George Daniel	(1906–1918 dead)
246	Tower, Henry	(1916–)
247	Town (Towne), David A.	(1882–1891 dead) Civil War
248	Truman, William	(1869–1899 dead)
249	Turner, James W.	(1889–1897 suspended)
250	Van Law, Joseph	(1871–1875 dead)
251	Van Law, Ruggles B.	(1873–)
252	Van Ormun, Albert Dow	(1916–)
253	Van Vliet (Vleit), Charles William	(1881–1886 demitted)
254	Von Ohlen, Christian W.	(1916–)
255	Vosburg, David M.	(1885–1905 dead)
256	Walker, John Hepburn	(1914–)
257	Ward, Theodore	(1908–)
258	Watson, George F.	(1878–1880 demitted)
259	Watts (Watte), Edward Lilly	(1896–1908 dead)
260	Wetherbee, Oliver	(1883–1883 dead)
261	Wheeler, Levi William	(1886–1900 dead)
262	Wiley, George Samuel	(1908–)
263	Wiley, Samuel C.	(1882–1900 dead)
264	Wills, George Edward	(1882–1914 dead)
265	Wills, Oscar T.	(1916–)
266	Wilson, Charles W.	(1889–1893 demitted)

267	Wilson, William	(1882–1886 suspended)
268	Witte, Rudolph William (Jr.)	(1906–)
269	Wixom, Jesse Edgar	(1918–)
270	Wixom, William P.	(1889–1914 demitted)
271	Wylie, William	(1880–1906 demitted)
272	Wylie, William W.	(1918–)
273	Youngren, Jonas (Alfred) Alfred (Jonas)	(1895–1901 demitted)
274	Yule, George H.	(1912–)

As evidenced in Table 1, Bethany Commandery No. 28 had whole families serve it during the period 1868–1918. Specifically, there were the four Hoffmans, the two Gilmore brothers, the three Liscoms, and the four Towers. The commandery's membership included at least 12 American Civil War participants (another two believed to have served too) and four World War I participants. Of all those, the highest in rank was Colonel Arthur Cox McIntire (1836–1904).

Table 2 summarizes the changes in membership in Bethany Commandery No. 28 in the period under review.

Table 2. Bethany Commandery No. 28 membership statistics, 1868 to 1918

Years	Members	Created	Admitted	Reinstated	Demitted	Suspended	Deceased
1868	10	10	-	-	-	-	-
1869	23	13	-	-	-	-	-
1870	23	-	-	-	-	-	-
1871	30	11	-	-	4	-	-
1872	31	2	-	-	-	-	1
1873	35	5	-	-	1	-	-
1874	40	6	-	-	1	-	-
1875	42	3	1	-	1	-	1
1876	42	4	-	-	2	2	-
1877	38	1	-	1	3	2	1
1878	42	4	1	1	2	-	-
1879	40	-	-	-	2	-	-
1880	48	14	-	-	3	2	1
1881	49	3	-	-	1	1	-
1882	72	24	1	-	-	1	1
1883	77	9	-	-	4	-	-
1884	78	4	-	1	2	1	1

1885	83	5	-	-	-	-	-
1886	81	5	-	-	5	2	-
1887	75	3	-	1	5	3	2
1888	71	-	-	-	2	-	2
1889	74	8	-	-	2	-	3
1890	72	3	-	-	3	2	-
1891	72	2	-	-	1	-	1
1892	73	6	-	-	3	-	2
1893	72	4	-	-	5	-	1
1894	68	2	-	1	3	1	2
1895	74	6	-	-	-	-	-
1896	74	4	-	-	2	-	2
1897	63	-	-	-	2	8	1
1898	62	2	-	-	1	1	1
1899	62	2	1	-	1	-	2
1900	67	9	-	1	2	-	3
1901	69	5	-	-	1	1	1
1902	68	2	-	-	1	1	1
1903	68	3	-	-	1	-	2
1904	67	1	-	-	-	-	2
1905	67	3	-	-	1	-	2
1906	71	7	-	-	1	1	1
1907	79	8	-	1	-	-	1
1908	81	5	-	1	2	1	1
1909	79	2	-	-	1	-	3
1910	86	14	-	-	-	5	2
1911	85	2	-	-	2	-	1
1912	84	4	1	1	4	2	1
1913	88	4	1	-	1	-	-
1914	92	4	1	-	1	-	-
1915	94	5	-	-	1	-	2
1916	94	6	-	-	2	3	1
1917	102	9	1	-	1	-	1
1918	106	8	-	-	2	-	2
Total		266	8	9	85	40	52

As evidenced in Table 2, in the 50-year period from 1868 to 1918 Bethany Commandery No. 28 had a total of 274 individuals go through it (266 created and eight admitted members). It is worth noting that its admitted members included members of the local community who had performed acts of special merit in society – like, for instance, having fought in the Civil War (e.g., Casper Ruedy). Over that 50-year period, 84 members of the commandery demitted for varying reasons and 40 were suspended, with nine of the latter being reinstated afterwards. Fifty-two of the knights passed away while a

member of the commandery. The commandery's 137 deceased and demitted members combined had a total of 1,627 years of service between them, i.e. an average of 11.8 years per person. Of its deceased members, the knight with the longest record of service was Thomas F.A. Newport – 45 years, and the one with the shortest was Willard Signor Alyea (died in an accident) – 1 year. Of the commandery's demitted members, the knight with the longest record of service was Henry F. Eckenbrecht – 37 years, and the one with the shortest was Edward S. Morahn – just 2 years. The commandery's deceased members, on average, served much longer than their demitted counterparts.

Figure 7 illustrates the changes in Bethany Commandery No. 28 membership size in the period under review.

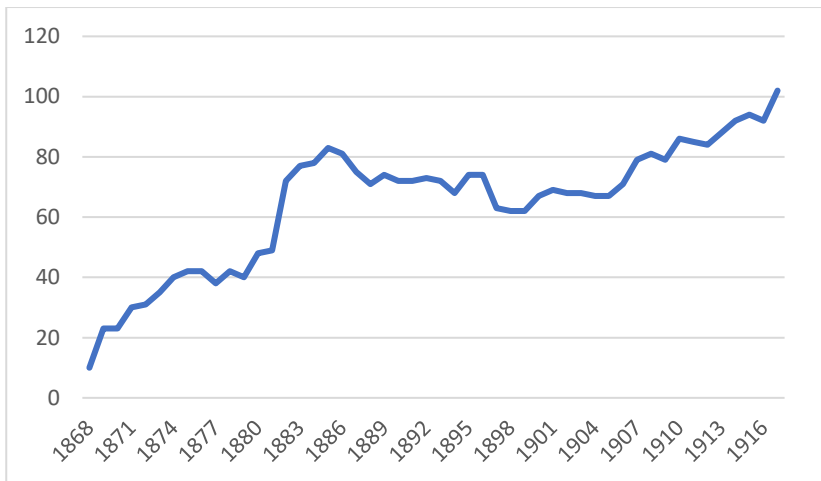


Fig. 7. Changes in Bethany Commandery No. 28 membership size in 1868–1918

As evidenced in Figure 7, membership in Bethany Commandery No. 28 increased briskly on two occasions – in 1885–1886, and in 1917–1918, when it exceeded 100.

In the period 1868–1918, Bethany Commandery No. 28 had 21 different Eminent Commanders. Here they are in chronological order: Frank Allen Hardin (1868–1869), George Emerson (1870–1871), Joseph William Edwards (1872–1873; 1875–1877), Robert L. Gilmore (1874), Casper Ruedy (1878), William H. Hale (1879–1880), Thomas F.A. Newport (1881–1883; 1893–1896), Frank P. Snyder (1884–1885), Thomas D. Palmer (1886), Julius Hanson (1887), S.B. Dix (1888), William Jenkins (1889–1890), William H. Irwin (1891–1892), George E. Wills (1897–1898), Robert N. Crawford (1899–1901; 1903–1907; 1909–1913), John C. Corbus, Jr. (1902), Adelbert D. Gillett

(1908), Edwin F. Hempstead (1914), Frederick R. Bailey (1915–1916), Stephen Manson Perkins (1917), and George E. Blanchard (1918).

At that time, major commanderies typically appointed their Eminent Commander for a term of 1 year. By contrast, Bethany Commandery No. 28, which must have experienced talent shortages, often let one person occupy this position for 2 years and more, with the record belonging to Robert N. Crawford at 10 cumulative years.

CHAPTER 2. Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1919–1995

In 1919, membership increased by three to 109, with six individuals joining as created members and three members passing away²⁰³.

Rudolph Wm. Witte	Commander
Charles Whitney McCray	Generalissimo
Robert Hallenberg	Captain General
James Abram G. Waits	Prelate
Louis Frank Knauer	Senior Warden
John Lester Morrison	Junior Warden
Robert Nelson Crawford	Treasurer
John Henry Hoffman	Recorder
Charles David Larabee	Standard Bearer
Clarence W. Hubbard	Sword Bearer
Forrest Lee Tower	Warden
Corbus Plumer Gardner	Sentinel ²⁰⁴

Created: William Frederick Fox, Benjamin Harry Reck, James Abram Garfield, Frank B. Kaufman, Otto Schilberg, and James Ellis²⁰⁵. Dead: John Stoldorf (June 6, 1918), Henry Tower (Oct. 8, 1918), and Robert Ingersoll Fischer (Apr. 3, 1919)²⁰⁶.

In 1920, membership increased to 123, with 18 individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, and three passing away²⁰⁷.

Charles Whitney McCray	Commander
John Henry Hoffman	Recorder ²⁰⁸

²⁰³ Sixty-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1919. P. 202.

²⁰⁴ Sixty-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1919. P. 291.

²⁰⁵ Sixty-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1919. P. 292.

²⁰⁶ Sixty-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1919. P. 446.

²⁰⁷ Sixty-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1920. P. 202.

²⁰⁸ Sixty-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1920. P. 204.

Created: Charles H. Wells, Charles Mansford Salander, Charles David Powell, George Duncan Smith, William Henry Neill, Fred Asia Crossman, Samuel A. Miller, Arthur C. McInture, John Washington Payne, Charles B. Willshay, Amos Landis Rutt, John Knauer, Ernest Frederick Legner, William B. Van Vorst, Frank Angels Wiley, Clarence W. Small, Trygoa Wegner Thorsen, and Tracey Travers Tower²⁰⁹. Demitted: Edward L. McCredie²¹⁰. Dead: Fred Asia Crossman (Apr. 14, 1920), John Charles Crowell (date of passing unknown), and Lester John Morrison (Apr. 8, 1920)²¹¹.

In 1921, membership increased to 134, with 13 individuals joining as created members and two members passing away²¹².

Robert Hallenberg Commander

John Henry Hoffman Recorder²¹³

Created: Lester E. Potter, Bruno Raymond Wandelt, Mefflin Charles Bullis, Amos T. Smith, William Herbert Dack, Emery Cutts, Adolph Gustav Tesche, Frank Joseph Menz, John William Robinson, Charles Edward Bradshaw, Raymond Paul Guirnip, and William Russell McIntyre²¹⁴. Dead: Harry L. Fordham (Feb. 18, 1921) and Amos Landis Rutt (Jan. 19, 1921)²¹⁵.

In 1922, membership decreased to 133, with four individuals joining as created members, two members demitting, and three passing away²¹⁶.

²⁰⁹ Sixty-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1920. P. 238.

²¹⁰ Sixty-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1920. P. 238.

²¹¹ Sixty-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1920. P. 331.

²¹² Sixty-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1921. P. 202.

²¹³ Sixty-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1921. P. 204.

²¹⁴ Sixty-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1921. P. 229.

²¹⁵ Sixty-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1921. P. 288.

²¹⁶ Sixty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1922. P. 202.

Louis Frank Knauer Commander
 John Henry Hoffman Recorder²¹⁷

Created: Frank Cornelius Lenihan, William Minor Avery, Arthur Anglemier, and William Rolland Smith. Demitted: Ezra Grant Hoffman and Robert Coe Finley²¹⁸. Dead: William H. Kidd (Jul. 1, 1921), Walter Scott Aitken (Jul. 4, 1921), and Ruggles Van Law (Jan. 6, 1922)²¹⁹.

In 1923, membership increased to 135, with six individuals joining as created members and four members demitting²²⁰.

Charles D. Larabee Commander
 John Henry Hoffman Recorder²²¹

Created: John William Banks, Christoph Walter Jacob, Julian Knauer Erbes, Orrin Jackson Gray, Ernest August Koropp, and Charles Clarence Parks. Demitted: Mathew Buhler, Horace Oscar Kelly, James Abram Garfield, and Warren A. Prescott²²².

In 1924, membership increased to 136, with four individuals joining as created members, two members being suspended, and one passing away²²³.

David Louis Barnett Commander
 John Henry Hoffman Recorder²²⁴

²¹⁷ Sixty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1922. P. 204.

²¹⁸ Sixty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1922. P. 225.

²¹⁹ Sixty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1922. P. 280.

²²⁰ Sixty-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1923. P. 202.

²²¹ Sixty-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1923. P. 204.

²²² Sixty-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1923. P. 224.

²²³ Sixty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1924. P. 202.

²²⁴ Sixty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1924. P. 204.

Created: Frank Henry Carter, Howard Leon Sprague, Rogers Wilber Pratt, and Winfred Field Warren. Suspended: Jay J. Dunbar and John Daniel McRae²²⁵. Dead: William Russel McIntyre (Aug. 12, 1923)²²⁶.

In 1925, membership increased to 141, with 10 individuals joining as created members, three members demitting, and two passing away²²⁷.

Clarence W. Hubbard Commander

David Louis Barnett Recorder²²⁸

Created: John Daniel Wilson, Clarence Willard Potter, Leonard Signard Thorsen, Charles Edison Merritt, Ralph Christian Jacob, Walcott Gumaer VanEtten, Henry Winn Davis, Albert James Kidd, Arthur Louis Eckart, and Max Bradshaw. Demitted: Robert Hallenberg, John Daniel Wilson, and Aden A. Danielson²²⁹. Dead: Charles E. Bradshaw (Nov. 28, 1924) and Corbus P. Gardner (May 3, 1925)²³⁰.

In 1926, membership decreased to 138, with five individuals joining as created members, three members demitting, two being suspended, and two passing away²³¹.

Forrest Lee Tower Commander

Rudolph W. Witte Recorder²³²

²²⁵ Sixty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1924. P. 224.

²²⁶ Sixty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1924. P. 281.

²²⁷ Sixty-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1925. P. 252.

²²⁸ Sixty-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1925. P. 254.

²²⁹ Sixty-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1925. P. 274.

²³⁰ Sixty-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1925. P. 330.

²³¹ Seventieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1926. P. 252.

²³² Seventieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1926. P. 254.

Created: Jacob Bernart Thorsen, Frank Herbert Gurney, William Edward Gillett, Charles Anson Pardridge, and Edwin Ford Wilson. Demitted: Edward D. Smith²³³, George Lewis Swartsley, and John Washington Payne. Suspended: Edward James Staten and Clarence Small²³⁴. Dead: Charles David Larabee (Past Commander) (June 10, 1925) and Joseph William Edwards (Past Commander) (Sept. 8, 1925)²³⁵.

In 1927, membership remained the same at 138, with two individuals joining as created members, one member being reinstated, and three passing away²³⁶.

Glen Reese Henn Commander
Rudolph W. Witte Recorder²³⁷

Created: Edward J. Tabor and Theodore Fred Schildberg. Reinstated: Clarence W. Small²³⁸. Dead: Cristian W. Von Ohlen (Aug. 26, 1926), William Samuel Andrews (Nov. 30, 1926), and Frederick Edwin Cavell (Apr. 21, 1927)²³⁹.

In 1928, membership increased to 143, an all-time high for Bethany Commandery No. 28, with six individuals joining as created members and one member demitting²⁴⁰.

Frank B. Kaufman Commander
Rudolph W. Witte Recorder²⁴¹

²³³ Date of joining unknown.

²³⁴ Seventieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1926. P. 274.

²³⁵ Seventieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1926. P. 319-320.

²³⁶ Seventy-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1927. P. 252.

²³⁷ Seventy-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1927. P. 254.

²³⁸ Seventy-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1927. P. 275.

²³⁹ Seventy-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1927. P. 335.

²⁴⁰ Seventy-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1928. P. 252.

Created: Arthur Joseph Legner, Edward John Welsch, John Alexander Woods, Bruce Wellington Gilmore, Roy Swope, and Arthur Dudley Steckel. Demitted: Ernest Frederick Legner²⁴².

In 1928, Bethany Commandery No. 28's appearance in a Knights Templar parade was covered for the first time in the Grand Commandery's annual conclave proceedings (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. Bethany Commandery No. 28 marching in a parade in 1928²⁴³

The stock market crash on October 24, 1929, marked the beginning of the Great Depression. Many people in the United States lost their jobs and had to move elsewhere in search of work. The crisis could not but have affected the Masonic organizations too.

In 1929, membership in Bethany Commandery No. 28 decreased to 138, with two individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, three being suspended, and three passing away²⁴⁴.

Charles D. Powell Commander

Rudolph W. Witte Recorder²⁴⁵

²⁴¹ Seventy-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1928. P. 254.

²⁴² Seventy-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1928. P. 276.

²⁴³ Seventy-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1928.

²⁴⁴ Seventy-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1929. P. 252.

Created: Gilman Monroe Beatty and Frank Wilson Grisell. Demitted: William S. Matteson. Suspended: Harry B. Brittan, Charles H. Wells, and George S. Wiley²⁴⁶. Dead: Clarence W. Small (Sept. 15, 1928), Albert A. Swearingen (Dec. 28, 1928), and Arthur C. McIntyre (May 18, 1929)²⁴⁷.

In 1929, Bethany Commandery No. 28's appearance in a Knights Templar parade was covered for the second time in the Grand Commandery's annual conclave proceedings (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9. Bethany Commandery No. 28 marching in a parade in 1929²⁴⁸

In 1930, membership decreased to 135, with one individual joining as a created member, one member demitting, two being suspended, and one passing away²⁴⁹.

Christoph W. Jacob Commander
Rudolph W. Witte Recorder²⁵⁰

²⁴⁵ Seventy-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1929. P. 254.

²⁴⁶ Seventy-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1929. P. 273.

²⁴⁷ Seventy-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1929. P. 328.

²⁴⁸ Seventy-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1929.

²⁴⁹ Seventy-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1930. P. 202.

²⁵⁰ Seventy-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1930. P. 204.

Past Commanders: John C. Corbus, Williston F. Colson, Robert N. Crawford, Adelbert D. Gillette, Edward F. Hempstead, Fred. R. Bailey, Stephen M. Perkins, George E. Blanchard, Rudolph W. Witte, Charles W. McCray, Louis F. Knauer, David L. Barnett, Clarence W. Hubbard, Forrest L. Tower, Glen D. Grogan, Frank B. Kaufman, and Charles D. Powell²⁵¹.

Created: George McKiney Sowers. Demitted: Edwin W. Annable. Suspended: Arthur A. Anglemeier and Raymond P. Gunnip²⁵². Dead: Henry A. Buel (Past Commander) (Sept. 13, 1929)²⁵³.

In 1930, Bethany Commandery No. 28's appearance in a Knights Templar parade was covered for the third, and last, time in the Grand Commandery's annual conclave proceedings (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10. Bethany Commandery No. 28 marching in a parade in 1930²⁵⁴

In 1931, membership decreased to 133, with one individual joining as a created member, one member demitting, and two passing away²⁵⁵.

Jesse Edwin Wixom Commander
Christoph W. Jacob Recorder²⁵⁶

²⁵¹ Seventy-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1930. P. 209.

²⁵² Seventy-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1930. P. 235.

²⁵³ Seventy-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1930. P. 272.

²⁵⁴ Seventy-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1930.

²⁵⁵ Seventy-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1931. P. 182.

Created: Benjamin Beryl Feik. Demitted: Theodore Fred Schildberg²⁵⁷.
Dead: Frank H. Steller²⁵⁸ and John N. Knauer (May 4, 1931)²⁵⁹.

In 1932, membership continued to decrease, dropping to 121, with one individual joining as a created member, two members demitting, eight being suspended, and three passing away²⁶⁰.

Tracy Travers Tower Commander

Christoph W. Jacob Recorder²⁶¹

Created: Carl Conard. Demitted: Frank A. Wiley and Fred B. Keeler.
Suspended: A.A. Clapsaddle, Charles C. Parks, J. Hepburn Walker, Washington W. Dunbar, Raymond W. Guinnip²⁶², Lester E. Potter, Roy Swope, and Edward J. Tabor²⁶³. Dead: William W. Wylie (June 25, 1931), H.W. Fred Henning (Sept. 3, 1931), and Albert W. McIntire (Sept. 4, 1931)²⁶⁴.

In 1933, membership decreased to 118, with two members demitting and one passing away²⁶⁵.

²⁵⁶ Seventy-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1931. P. 184.

²⁵⁷ Seventy-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1931. P. 213.

²⁵⁸ Whilst the man is listed among the deceased, it is not known when he joined the commandery and when he passed away. Also, he does not figure among the deceased in the city of Mendota. It must be an error by the editor.

²⁵⁹ Seventy-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1931. P. 213.

²⁶⁰ Seventy-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1932. P. 164.

²⁶¹ Seventy-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1932. P. 166.

²⁶² In 1930, they suspended a man with a similar name, Raymond P. Gunnip. This must be a clerical error.

²⁶³ Seventy-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1932. P. 187.

²⁶⁴ Seventy-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1932. P. 214.

²⁶⁵ Seventy-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1933. P. 116.

John A. Woods Commander
 Charles Edson Merritt Generalissimo
 Arthur L. Eckart Captain General
 C. Walter Jacob Recorder²⁶⁶

Past Commanders: Robert Nelson Crawford (1898-1899, 1901, 1903-1906, 1908), John Clark Corbus (1902), Williston Franklin Colson (1900, 1903), Edwin Frederick Hempstead (1914), Frederick Ralph Bailey (1915-1916), Stephen Manson Perkins (1917), George Esie Blanchard (1918), Rudolph William Witte (1919), Charles Whitley McCray (1920), Louis Frank Knauer (1922), David Louis Barnett (1924), Clarence Willard Hubbard (1925), Forrest Lee Tower (1926), Glen Dee Grogan (1927), Frank Bowman Kaufman (1928), Charles Daniel Powell (1929), Christoph Walter Jacob (1930), Jesse Edwin Wixom (1931), and Tracey Travers Tower (1932)²⁶⁷.

Demitted: Roy Phillip Hoffman and Walcott Gunnar Van Etten²⁶⁸. Dead: Adelbert Dennis Gillette (Past Commander) (June 10, 1932)²⁶⁹.

In 1934, membership was down by three to 115²⁷⁰. No member movement statistics are available for this year.

Charles Edson Merritt Commander²⁷¹

In 1935, membership decreased to 109, with one individual joining as a created member, three members demitting, three being suspended, and one passing away²⁷².

George McKinley Sowers Commander

²⁶⁶ Seventy-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1933. P. 125.

²⁶⁷ Seventy-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1933. P. 125.

²⁶⁸ Seventy-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1933. P. 147.

²⁶⁹ Seventy-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1933. P. 168.

²⁷⁰ Seventy-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1935. P. 152.

²⁷¹ Seventy-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1935. P. 152.

²⁷² Seventy-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1935. P. 152.

C. Walter Jacob Generalissimo
 Clarence Willard Potter Captain General
 W.F. Colson Recorder²⁷³
 Created: David Alexander Edgecomb. Demitted: Harry Denwith Conkey,
 Newton Franklin Shipper, and Benjamin Beryl Feik. Suspended: Orrin
 Jackson Gray, Arthur Moorhead, and Bruno Ralph Wandelt²⁷⁴. Dead:
 W.H. Carnahan (Feb. 8, 1935)²⁷⁵.

In 1936, membership decreased to 102, with two members demitting,
 three being suspended, and two passing away²⁷⁶.

Raymond W. Jones Commander
 Clarence Willard Potter Generalissimo
 Christopher Walter Jacob Captain General
 W.F. Colson Recorder²⁷⁷
 Demitted: Lorenzo Wells Calson and A.D. VanOrnum. Suspended:
 A.J. Kidd, W.J. Swisher, and C.F. Bower²⁷⁸. Dead: James Bradley Keeler
 (Mar. 19, 1936) and William Henry Davis (Apr. 18, 1936)²⁷⁹.

In 1937, membership decreased to 89, with one member being reinstated,
 eight demitting, five being suspended, and one passing away²⁸⁰.

Clarence Willard Potter Commander
 Julius K. Erbus Generalissimo

²⁷³ Seventy-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights
 Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and
 Stationery Company, 1935. P. 161.

²⁷⁴ Seventy-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights
 Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and
 Stationery Company, 1935. P. 181.

²⁷⁵ Seventy-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights
 Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and
 Stationery Company, 1935. P. 206.

²⁷⁶ Eightieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
 of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery
 Company, 1936. P. 136.

²⁷⁷ Eightieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
 of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery
 Company, 1936. P. 145.

²⁷⁸ Eightieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
 of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery
 Company, 1936. P. 165.

²⁷⁹ Eightieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
 of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery
 Company, 1936. P. 183.

²⁸⁰ Eighty-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights
 Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and
 Stationery Company, 1937. P. 103.

Chas. M. Salander Captain General
 W.F. Colson Recorder²⁸¹

Reinstated: Roy Swope. Demitted: Stephen Manson Perkins, Edwin Freeman Hempstead, Edwin F. Wilson, James B. Thorsen, Frank E. Blakeslee, B.H.S. Angear, John W. Robinson, and Gustav Fritz. Suspended: Louis DeWitt Smith, William F. Fox, Otto Schildberg, Howard L. Sprague, and Frank H. Carter²⁸². Dead: John William Banks (Mar. 20, 1937)²⁸³.

In 1938, membership continued to decrease, dropping to 86, with one member demitting and two passing away²⁸⁴.

Charles Manfred Salander Commander
 Clarence Willard Potter Generalissimo
 Raymond Walter Jones Captain General
 Williston F. Colson Recorder²⁸⁵

Demitted: James Ellis²⁸⁶. Dead: Rudolph William Witte (Past Commander) (Apr. 8, 1938)²⁸⁷ and Ira S. Geft (Jan. 16, 1938)²⁸⁸.

In 1939, membership continued to decrease, dropping to 78, with one individual being admitted (by affiliation), three members demitting, three being suspended, and one passing away²⁸⁹.

²⁸¹ Eighty-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1937. P. 112.

²⁸² Eighty-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1937. P. 129.

²⁸³ Eighty-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1937. P. 143.

²⁸⁴ Eighty-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1938. P. 137.

²⁸⁵ Eighty-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1938. P. 146.

²⁸⁶ Eighty-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1938. P. 163.

²⁸⁷ Eighty-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1938. P. 173.

²⁸⁸ Eighty-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1938. P. 176.

Charles Manfred Salander Commander
 Russell Guy Carr Generalissimo
 John Alexander Woods Captain General
 Williston Franklin Colson Recorder²⁹⁰
 Admitted: Russell Guy Carr. Demitted: Benjamin F. Feik, Chas. B. Willshay, and Clarence W. Hubbard. Suspended: Tracy Travers Tower, Benjamin D. Mosher, and Amos D. Smith²⁹¹. Dead: Daniel Charles Tower (Mar. 24, 1939)²⁹².

That same year, 1939, the Great Depression officially ended in the United States. However, with the start of World War II, the situation would not change much for the better for the commandery.

Although no reports are available covering the period 1940–1941, it is known that membership totaled 68²⁹³ in 1941. Which means that membership continued to drop in 1940 too. It is also known that in 1940–1941 the post of Eminent Commander in the commandery was held by Russell Guy Carr²⁹⁴.

In 1942, membership fell further – to 64²⁹⁵, with one individual joining as a created member, one member demitting, one being suspended, and three passing away²⁹⁶.

²⁸⁹ Eighty-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1939. P. 128.

²⁹⁰ Eighty-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1939. P. 136.

²⁹¹ Eighty-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1939. P. 154.

²⁹² Eighty-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1939. P. 165.

²⁹³ Eighty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1942. P. 104.

²⁹⁴ Eighty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1942. P. 122.

²⁹⁵ Eighty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1942. P. 104.

Russell Guy Carr Commander
 Roy Swope Generalissimo
 Clarence Winfred Potter Captain General
 Charles Manfred Salander Recorder²⁹⁷
 Created: William Wayne Hallinan. Demitted: Gilman Monroe Beatty.
 Suspended: William Roland Smith²⁹⁸. Dead: Frederick Ralph Bailey (Past
 Commander) (Oct. 11, 1941)²⁹⁹, Alfred James Foot (Jan. 26, 1942), and John
 Malcomb Aitken (Mar. 3, 1942)³⁰⁰.

No report is available for 1943. However, it is known that in 1943 membership continued to decrease, dropping to 61³⁰¹. In 1943, the post of Commander was held by Frank Cornelius Lenihan³⁰².

In 1944, membership in the commandery was up for the first time since the start of the economic depression, totaling 64³⁰³, with four individuals joining as created members, two joining by affiliation, and three members demitting³⁰⁴.

Frank Cornelius Lenihan Commander

²⁹⁶ Eighty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1942. P. 104.

²⁹⁷ Eighty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1942. P. 122.

²⁹⁸ Eighty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1942. P. 109.

²⁹⁹ Eighty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1942. P. 99.

³⁰⁰ Eighty-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1942. P. 101.

³⁰¹ Eighty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1944. P. 88.

³⁰² Eighty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1944. P. 120.

³⁰³ Eighty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1944. P. 88.

³⁰⁴ Eighty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1944. P. 88.

David Alexander Edgecomb Generalissimo
 Charles Sherwood Merritt Captain General
 Charles Manfred Salander Recorder³⁰⁵

Created: George Washington Day, John Earl Black, Robert Sommerville Black, and Eddy Augustus Walker. Affiliated: Barney Joseph Josephson and Arthur Judson Spauling. Demitted: Herbert William Dack, Bruce Wellington Gilmore, and John Joseph Keefe (date of joining unknown; may have joined during a period for which there are no data available)³⁰⁶.

Thus, the year 1944 marked the start of a period of revival for Bethany Commandery No. 28.

In 1945, membership increased to 67, with one individual joining as a created member and two joining by affiliation³⁰⁷.

Charles Sherwood Merritt Commander
 David Alexander Edgecomb Generalissimo
 Jasse Edwin Wixom Captain General
 Charles Manfred Salander Recorder³⁰⁸

Created: Wilson Ernest Johnson. Affiliated: Charles Sherwood Merritt and R.J.L. McKelvey³⁰⁹.

In 1946, membership decreased to 66, with two individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, one being suspended, and one passing away³¹⁰.

Christoph Walter Jacob Commander
 Roy Swope Generalissimo
 Jasse Edwin Wixom Captain General

³⁰⁵ Eighty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1944. P. 120.

³⁰⁶ Eighty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1944. P. 107.

³⁰⁷ Eighty-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1945. P. 104.

³⁰⁸ Eighty-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1945. P. 155.

³⁰⁹ Eighty-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1945. P. 137.

³¹⁰ Ninetieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1946. P. 104.

Charles Manfred Salander Recorder³¹¹

Created: Francis McGiverin Derick and Glifford Carr. Demitted: Russell Guy Carr (Past Commander). Suspended: George H. Yule³¹². Dead: Forest Lee Tower (Past Commander) (Nov. 12, 1945)³¹³.

In 1947, membership increased to 67, with three individuals joining as created members and two members passing away³¹⁴.

Charles Manfred Salander Commander

Eddy Augustus Walker Generalissimo

Jesse Edwin Wixom Captain General

Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr. Recorder³¹⁵

Created: Raymond Gus Erbes, Milo William Jordan, and Charles Sherwood Merritt, Jr.³¹⁶. Dead: Eddie Tower Moore (Nov. 6, 1946) and Arthur Lewis Eckart (Mar. 25, 1947)³¹⁷.

In 1948, membership increased to 72, with four individuals joining as created members and one joining by affiliation³¹⁸.

Eddy Augustus Walker Commander

Jesse Edwin Wixom Generalissimo

George Washington Day Captain General

Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr. Recorder³¹⁹

³¹¹ Ninetieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1946. P. 153.

³¹² Ninetieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1946. P. 137-138.

³¹³ Ninetieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1946. P. 126.

³¹⁴ Ninety-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1947. P. 136.

³¹⁵ Ninety-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1947. P. 178.

³¹⁶ Ninety-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1947. P. 163.

³¹⁷ Ninety-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1947. P. 154.

³¹⁸ Ninety-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1948. P. 168.

Created: August Charles Mende, Ross Abram Hotchkiss, Ray Kreiser, and Willard Francis Merritt. Affiliated: Ezra Grant Hoffman³²⁰.

In 1949, membership remained the same at 72, with four individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, and three passing away³²¹.

Charles Sherwood Merritt, Jr. Commander
 George Washington Day Generalissimo
 Raymond Gus Erbes Captain General
 Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr. Recorder³²²

Created: Stanley Edgcomb, Ralph Eugene Miller, Lester Henry McLaughlin, and Samuel Ernest LeMarr. Demitted: William Wayne Hallinan³²³. Dead: Glen Dee Grogan (Past Commander) (Aug. 6, 1948)³²⁴, William Edson Hess (Nov. 18, 1948), and Edward John Welsch (Mar. 6, 1949)³²⁵.

In 1950, membership increased to 73, with five individuals joining as created members, one joining by affiliation, and five members passing away³²⁶.

Charles Sherwood Merritt, Jr. Commander
 George Washington Day Generalissimo

³¹⁹ Ninety-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1948. P. 216.

³²⁰ Ninety-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1948. P. 198.

³²¹ Ninety-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1949. P. 120.

³²² Ninety-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1949. P. 161.

³²³ Ninety-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1949. P. 144.

³²⁴ Ninety-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1949. P. 133.

³²⁵ Ninety-third Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1949. P. 136.

³²⁶ Ninety-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1950. P. 134.

Willard Francis Merritt Captain General
 Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr. Recorder³²⁷

Created: Ovid Losson Davis, Theobald John Helbig, Harvey Foster Cook, Norman Gebe Mortonson, and Ralph Waldo Yenrich. Affiliated: Andrew Corwin Harris³²⁸. Dead: David Lewis Barnett (Past Commander) (Sept. 12, 1949)³²⁹, Arthur Judson Spaulding (Sept. 29, 1949), Edward Alonzo Miller (Nov. 1, 1949), Permanaues Leonard Harris (Feb. 6, 1950), and George James Their (Mar. 1, 1950)³³⁰.

The period of revival for Bethany Commandery No. 28 ended quite unexpectedly in 1950, whilst membership in the American Masonic order of Knights Templar, overall, continued to increase – through to 1961 (1,627 commanderies with a combined membership of 398,000)³³¹.

In 1951, membership decreased to 71, with one individual joining as a created member, one member demitting, one being suspended, and one passing away³³².

Charles Sherwood Merritt, Jr. Commander
 Willard Francis Merritt Generalissimo
 Clifford Carr Captain General
 Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr. Recorder³³³

Created: George Allen Reints. Demitted: Frank Herbert Gurney. Suspended: Milo William Jordan³³⁴. Dead: data not available (some pages missing from the report).

³²⁷ Ninety-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1950. P. 171.

³²⁸ Ninety-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1950. P. 154.

³²⁹ Ninety-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1950. P. 143.

³³⁰ Ninety-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1950. P. 146.

³³¹ Proceedings of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA. Forty-ninth Triennial Conclave. Philadelphia, 1964. P. 117.

³³² Ninety-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1951. P. 120.

³³³ Ninety-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1951. P. 156.

In 1952, membership decreased to 68, with three members demitting³³⁵.

Willard Francis Merritt Commander
 George Washington Day Generalissimo
 Clifford Carr Captain General
 Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr. Recorder³³⁶

Demitted: Charles Whitney McCray, Frank Joseph Menz, and Francis McGivern Derick³³⁷.

In 1953, membership remained the same at 68, with one individual joining as a created member, one joining by affiliation, and two members passing away³³⁸.

Clifford Carr Commander
 George Washington Day Generalissimo
 Ralph Eugene Miller Captain General
 Christoph Walter Jacob Recorder³³⁹

Created: Emmerson Devo Tidd. Affiliated: Russell Guy Carr³⁴⁰. Dead: George E. Blanchard (Past Commander) (Dec. 11, 1952) and Robert N. Crawford (Past Commander) (Apr. 21, 1953)³⁴¹.

³³⁴ Ninety-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1951. P. 141.

³³⁵ Ninety-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1952. P. 136.

³³⁶ Ninety-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1952. P. 170.

³³⁷ Ninety-sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1952. P. 145.

³³⁸ Ninety-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1953. P. 136.

³³⁹ Ninety-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1953. P. 173.

³⁴⁰ Ninety-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1953. P. 149.

³⁴¹ Ninety-seventh Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1953. P. 159.

In 1954, membership decreased to 63, with three members demitting and two passing away³⁴².

Clifford Carr Commander
 Ralph Eugene Miller Generalissimo
 Ovid Losson Davis Captain General
 Charles Manfred Salander Recorder³⁴³

Demitted: Norman Mortonson, Arthur John Legner, and Arthur Dudley Steckel³⁴⁴. Dead: Charles Daniel Powell (Past Commander) (Aug. 8, 1953)³⁴⁵ and Ezra Grant Hoffman (Nov. 15, 1953)³⁴⁶.

In 1955, membership decreased to 62, with one individual joining as a created member and two members passing away³⁴⁷.

Ralph Eugene Miller Commander
 Willard Francis Merritt Generalissimo
 Clifford Carr Captain General
 Charles Manfred Salander Recorder³⁴⁸

Created: Glenn Milford Momeny³⁴⁹. Dead: Leonard Signard Thorsen (Jul. 16, 1954) and Raymond Gus Erbes (Aug. 20, 1954)³⁵⁰.

³⁴² 98th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1954. P. 152.

³⁴³ 98th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1954. P. 193.

³⁴⁴ 98th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1954. P. 167.

³⁴⁵ 98th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1954. P. 177.

³⁴⁶ 98th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1954. P. 181.

³⁴⁷ 99th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1955. P. 160.

³⁴⁸ 99th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1955. P. 184.

³⁴⁹ 99th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1955. P. 149.

³⁵⁰ 99th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1955. P. 138.

In 1956, membership decreased to 60, with two individuals joining as created members and four members passing away³⁵¹.

Clifford Carr	Commander
Willard Francis Merritt	Generalissimo
Ralph Eugene Miller	Captain General
Charles Sherwood Miller	Recorder ³⁵²

Created: Elmo Elwood Steele and Reginald Kenneth Robeson³⁵³. Dead: Charles Edson Merritt (Past Commander) (Jul. 14, 1955)³⁵⁴, John Manion Harris (June 1, 1955), Steven Arthur Hopps (Jul. 26, 1955), and Earnest August Koropp (Jul. 29, 1955)³⁵⁵.

In 1957, membership decreased to 56, with one individual joining as a created member and five members passing away³⁵⁶.

Willard Francis Merritt	Commander
Glen Milford Momeny	Generalissimo
Clifford Carr	Captain General
Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.	Recorder ³⁵⁷

Created: Robert Gerald Miller³⁵⁸. Dead: Louis F. Knauer (Past Commander) (Oct. 4, 1956), Frank C. Lenihan (Past Commander) (Oct. 10,

³⁵¹ 100th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1956. P. 164.

³⁵² 100th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1956. P. 181.

³⁵³ 100th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1956. P. 138.

³⁵⁴ 100th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1956. P. 149.

³⁵⁵ 100th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1956. P. 152.

³⁵⁶ 101st Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1957. P. 178.

³⁵⁷ 101st Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1957. P. 231.

³⁵⁸ 101st Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1957. P. 186.

1956)³⁵⁹, Andrew C. Harris (June 8, 1956), and Julian K. Erbes (Dec. 10, 1956)³⁶⁰. (There is no information available on the fifth deceased member).

In 1958, membership decreased to 52, with four members passing away³⁶¹.

Willard Francis Merritt	Commander
Emerson Devoe Tidd	Generalissimo
Clifford Carr	Captain General
Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.	Recorder ³⁶²

Dead: John Alexander Woods (Aug. 1, 1957)³⁶³, William R. Foster (Oct. 30, 1957), Robert Sommerville Black (Nov. 12, 1957), and Roy Swope (Dec. 15, 1957)³⁶⁴.

In 1959, membership decreased to 51, with one individual joining as a created member, one member demitting, and one passing away³⁶⁵.

Willard Francis Merritt	Commander
Emerson Devoe Tidd	Generalissimo
Clifford Carr	Captain General
Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.	Recorder ³⁶⁶

Created: Warren Walter Neff. Demitted: Charles Anson Pardridge³⁶⁷.
Dead: George W. Day (Sept. 19, 1958)³⁶⁸.

³⁵⁹ 101st Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1957. P. 196.

³⁶⁰ 101st Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1957. P. 200.

³⁶¹ 102nd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1958. P. 148.

³⁶² 102nd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1958. P. 194.

³⁶³ 102nd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1958. P. 164.

³⁶⁴ 102nd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1958. P. 168.

³⁶⁵ 103rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1959. P. 122.

³⁶⁶ 103rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1959. P. 168.

In 1960, membership decreased to 49, with one member demitting and one passing away³⁶⁹. Two members of Bethany Commandery No. 28, Clifford Crossman Hopps and Charles Frederick Lathrop, received their 50-year jewels and certificates³⁷⁰.

Warren Walter Neff	Commander
Ralph Eugene Miller	Generalissimo
Elmo Elwood Steele	Captain General
Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.	Recorder ³⁷¹

Demitted: Roger W. Pratt³⁷². Dead: Dwight A. Haperman (Aug. 4, 1959)³⁷³.

In 1961, membership increased to 51, with four individuals joining as created members, one member demitting, and one passing away³⁷⁴.

Ralph Eugene Miller	Commander
Elmo Elwood Steele	Generalissimo
Emerson Devoe Tidd	Captain General
Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.	Recorder ³⁷⁵

³⁶⁷ 103rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1959. P. 129.

³⁶⁸ 103rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1959. P. 140.

³⁶⁹ 104th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1960. P. 143.

³⁷⁰ 104th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1960. P. 164-165.

³⁷¹ 104th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1960. P. 188.

³⁷² 104th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1960. P. 149.

³⁷³ 104th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1960. P. 160.

³⁷⁴ 105th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1961. P. 119.

³⁷⁵ 105th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1961. P. 165.

Created: William Keeler Holliston, John Raymond McClanahan, Raymond James Neff, and Stanley Myron Pointer. Demitted: George Allen Reints³⁷⁶. Dead: Benjamin Harry Reck (Aug. 17, 1960)³⁷⁷.

In 1962, membership increased to 52, with one member being reinstated³⁷⁸. The commandery continued to be part of 3rd District³⁷⁹.

Elmo Elwood Steele	Commander
Emerson Devoe Tidd	Generalissimo
Clifford Carr	Captain General
Glen M. Momeny	Recorder ³⁸⁰
Reinstated: William James Swisher ³⁸¹ .	

In 1963, membership increased to 53, with one individual joining as a created member³⁸². Starting in that year, the term 'knighted' replaced 'created'.

Elmo Elwood Steele	Commander
Emerson Devoe Tidd	Generalissimo
Clifford Carr	Captain General
Glen M. Momeny	Recorder ³⁸³
Knighted: Arden Holmes Campbell ³⁸⁴ .	

³⁷⁶ 105th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1961. P. 126.

³⁷⁷ 105th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1961. P. 138.

³⁷⁸ 106th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1962. P. 147.

³⁷⁹ 106th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1962. P. 207.

³⁸⁰ 106th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1962. P. 207.

³⁸¹ 106th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1962. P. 157.

³⁸² 107th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1963. P. 150.

³⁸³ 107th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1963. P. 212.

In 1964, membership increased to 55, with four individuals joining as knighted members, one member being suspended, and one passing away³⁸⁵.

Elmo Elwood Steele Commander
 Emerson Devoe Tidd Generalissimo
 Clifford Carr Captain General
 Glen M. Momeny Recorder³⁸⁶

Knighted: Jerome Grant Schmidt, William Edward Schmidt, Franklin Lincoln Walters, and William Grant Walters. Suspended: Samuel Ernest LeMarr³⁸⁷. Dead: Adolph Gustav Tesche (Feb. 13, 1964)³⁸⁸.

In 1965, membership decreased to 48, with one member demitting, one being suspended, and five passing away³⁸⁹.

William Keeler Holliston Commander
 Charles Manfred Salander Generalissimo
 Ralph E. Miller Captain General
 Glenn M. Momeny Recorder³⁹⁰

Demitted: Theodore John Helbig. Suspended: Samuel Ernest LeMarr³⁹¹. Dead: Jesse Edwin Wixom (Dec. 29, 1964)³⁹², Robert John Livingston

³⁸⁴ 107th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1963. P. 160.

³⁸⁵ 108th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1964. P. 154.

³⁸⁶ 108th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1964. P. 218.

³⁸⁷ 108th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1964. P. 166.

³⁸⁸ 108th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1964. P. 184.

³⁸⁹ 109th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1965. P. 148.

³⁹⁰ 109th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1965. P. 196.

³⁹¹ 109th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1965. P. 148.

McKelvey (Nov. 3, 1964), Ralph Abraham Hess (Nov. 11, 1964), Dr. Wilbur Menor Avery (Jan. 26, 1965), and William James Swisher (Mar. 5, 1965)³⁹³.

In 1966, membership remained the same at 48, with two individuals joining, one member being reinstated, one being suspended, and two passing away³⁹⁴.

Emerson Devoe Tidd	Commander
William Keeler Holliston	Generalissimo
Willard Francis Merritt	Captain General
Glenn M. Momeny	Recorder ³⁹⁵

Information is available only on the deceased members. Dead: Clarence W. Potter (Past Commander) (Jul. 5, 1965)³⁹⁶ and Charles Frederick Lathrop (Jan. 8, 1966)³⁹⁷.

In 1967, membership decreased to 47, with five individuals joining, one member demitting, one being suspended, and four passing away³⁹⁸.

Emerson Devoe Tidd	Commander
William Keeler Holliston	Generalissimo
Willard Francis Merritt	Captain General
Glenn M. Momeny	Recorder ³⁹⁹

³⁹² 109th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1965. P. 164.

³⁹³ 109th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1965. P. 168.

³⁹⁴ 110th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1966. P. 131.

³⁹⁵ 110th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1966. P. 169-170.

³⁹⁶ 110th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1966. P. 134.

³⁹⁷ 110th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1966. P. 137.

³⁹⁸ 111th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1967. P. 83.

³⁹⁹ 111th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1967. P. 121.

Information is available only on the deceased members. Dead: Christopher Walter Jacob (Past Commander) (Jul. 19, 1966), Eddy August Walker (Nov. 5, 1966)⁴⁰⁰, Ovid Losson Davis (June 22, 1966), and Clifford Crossman Hopps (Apr. 21, 1967)⁴⁰¹.

In 1968, i.e. the year marking the 100th anniversary of its foundation, the commandery had its membership increase to 52, with five individuals joining, one member being reinstated, and one passing away⁴⁰².

Willard Francis Merritt	Commander
William Keeler Holliston	Generalissimo
Elmo Elwood Steele	Captain General
Glenn Momeny	Recorder ⁴⁰³
Dead: Harvey Foster Cook (Mar. 30, 1968) ⁴⁰⁴ .	

In 1969, membership decreased to 47, with one individual joining, two members being suspended, and four passing away⁴⁰⁵.

Robert J. Godfrey	Commander
Paul L. Henry	Generalissimo
Elmo Elwood Steele	Captain General
Glenn Momeny	Recorder ⁴⁰⁶

Dead: Russell Guy Carr (Past Commander) (June 26, 1968), David Alexander Edgecomb (Aug. 29, 1968), Frank Wilson Grisell (Feb. 27, 1969), and Ross Abram Hotchkiss (Feb. 1, 1969)⁴⁰⁷.

⁴⁰⁰ 111th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1967. P. 86.

⁴⁰¹ 111th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1967. P. 90.

⁴⁰² 112th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1968. P. 104.

⁴⁰³ 112th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1968. P. 145.

⁴⁰⁴ 112th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1968. P. 111.

⁴⁰⁵ 113th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1969. P. 95.

⁴⁰⁶ 113th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1969. P. 136.

In 1970, membership remained the same at 47, with three members passing away⁴⁰⁸. There is no information available on member movement within the commandery.

Robert J. Godfrey	Commander
Reginald K. Robenson	Generalissimo
Elmo Elwood Steele	Captain General
Glenn Momeny	Recorder ⁴⁰⁹

Dead: Frank Bowman Kaufman (Past Commander) (Feb. 27, 1970)⁴¹⁰, Frank Wilson Grissell (Feb. 27, 1969)⁴¹¹, and William Edward Gillette (Nov. 19, 1969)⁴¹².

In 1971, membership decreased to 45⁴¹³, with one individual joining, one joining by affiliation, two members demitting, and two passing away⁴¹⁴.

Glenn Milferd Momeny	Commander
Reginald Kenneth Robenson	Generalissimo
Keith Eugene Hansen	Captain General
Leo Thelbert Pope	Recorder ⁴¹⁵

⁴⁰⁷ 113th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1969. P. 104.

⁴⁰⁸ 115th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1971. P. 68.

⁴⁰⁹ 114th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1970. P. 124.

⁴¹⁰ 114th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1970. P. 87.

⁴¹¹ Listed erroneously (already listed in the information for the previous year).

⁴¹² 114th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1970. P. 90.

⁴¹³ 116th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1972. P. 56.

⁴¹⁴ 115th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1971. P. 68.

⁴¹⁵ 115th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1971. P. 154.

Dead: Barney Joseph Josephson (Apr. 20, 1970) and Carl Conard (Mar. 20, 1971)⁴¹⁶.

In 1972, membership totaled 46, with one individual joining, one member being reinstated, and one passing away⁴¹⁷. That year, Bethany Commandery No. 28 ranked last-but-one in membership among the commanderies comprising the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

Paul L. Henry, Sr. Commander
 Keith Eugene Hansen Generalissimo
 Albert J. Swanson Captain General
 Glenn Momeny Recorder⁴¹⁸
 Dead: Wilson Ernest Johnson (Nov. 5, 1971)⁴¹⁹.

In 1973, membership decreased to 45, with two individuals joining and three members passing away⁴²⁰. The commandery still ranked last-but-one.

Paul L. Henry, Sr. Commander
 Keith Eugene Hansen Generalissimo
 Albert J. Swanson Captain General
 Glenn Momeny Recorder⁴²¹
 Dead: Herschel Walter Kloke⁴²² (June 30, 1972), Clifford Carr (Jul. 7, 1972), and Ray Kreiser (Feb. 14, 1973)⁴²³.

⁴¹⁶ 115th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1971. P. 116.

⁴¹⁷ 116th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1972. P. 56.

⁴¹⁸ 116th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1972. P. 138.

⁴¹⁹ 116th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1972. P. 100.

⁴²⁰ 117th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1973. P. 73.

⁴²¹ 117th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1973. P. 137.

⁴²² Date of joining unknown.

⁴²³ 117th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1973. P. 50.

Whilst there are no reports available covering the period 1974–1979, it is known from one of the subsequent reports that membership in the commandery totaled 49⁴²⁴ in 1979. The commandery finished fourth-from-bottom in membership.

In 1974, the post of Commander was held by Albert J. Swanson, in 1976 – by Emerson D. Tidd, in 1977 – by Lewis E. Miller, in 1978 – by Albert J. Swanson again, and in 1979 – by George L. Baumann, Jr.⁴²⁵.

In 1980, membership remained the same at 49, with three individuals joining, one member demitting, and two passing away. The commandery ranked 65th in membership among the 68 commanderies⁴²⁶.

Lewis E. Miller	Commander
Ventley O. Carter	Generalissimo
Claude C. Collings	Captain General
Glenn Momeny	Recorder ⁴²⁷
There is no member information available.	

In 1981, membership totaled 45. A 50-year service award was bestowed upon George M. Sowers⁴²⁸. The commandery ranked 64th in membership among the 67 commanderies⁴²⁹.

Ventley O. Carter	Commander
Claude C. Collings	Generalissimo
George Baumann	Captain General
Glenn Momeny	Recorder ⁴³⁰

⁴²⁴ 124th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1980. P. 62.

⁴²⁵ 124th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1980. P. 137.

⁴²⁶ 124th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1980. P. 62.

⁴²⁷ 124th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1980. P. 137.

⁴²⁸ 125th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1981. P. 67.

⁴²⁹ 126th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1982. P. 114.

There is no member information available.

In 1982, membership totaled 44, with two individuals joining as knighted members, one member being suspended, and two passing away⁴³¹.

Ventley O. Carter	Commander
Claude C. Collings	Generalissimo
George Baumann	Captain General
Glenn Momeny	Recorder ⁴³²

Knighted: Herman Prather and Rolvin H. Streeter. Suspended: Edward C. Patterson⁴³³. Dead: Charles Mandred Salander (Past Commander) (Dec. 5, 1981)⁴³⁴. (There is no information available on the second deceased member.)

In 1983, membership totaled 39, with one individual joining, three members demitting, two being suspended, and one passing away⁴³⁵.

Albert Julius Swanson	Commander
Claude C. Collings	Generalissimo
Ventley Owen Carter	Captain General
Glenn Momeny	Recorder ⁴³⁶

In 1984, membership decreased to 38, with one individual joining as a knighted member, one joining by affiliation, one member demitting, and two passing away⁴³⁷.

⁴³⁰ 125th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1981. P. 117.

⁴³¹ 126th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1982. P. 114.

⁴³² 126th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1982. P. 214.

⁴³³ 126th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1982. P. 214.

⁴³⁴ 126th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1982. P. 101.

⁴³⁵ 127th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1983. P. 64.

⁴³⁶ 127th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1983. P. 121.

Albert Julius Swanson	Commander
Claude C. Collings	Generalissimo
Ventley Owen Carter	Captain General
Glenn Momeny	Recorder ⁴³⁸

In 1985, the commandery had the following officer lineup:

Ventley Owen Carter	Commander
Lewis E. Miller	Generalissimo
Brian G. Swanson	Captain General
Glenn Momeny	Recorder ⁴³⁹ .

In 1986, the commandery had the following officer lineup:

Ventley Owen Carter	Commander
Lewis E. Miller	Generalissimo
Brian G. Swanson	Captain General
Albert J. Swanson	Recorder ⁴⁴⁰ .

In 1987, the commandery had the following officer lineup:

Ventley Owen Carter	Commander
Lewis E. Miller	Generalissimo
Brian G. Swanson	Captain General
Albert J. Swanson	Recorder ⁴⁴¹ .

In 1988–1889, the post of Commander was held by Ventley Owen Carter⁴⁴².

In 1989, the commandery had 29 members⁴⁴³.

⁴³⁷ 128th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1984. P. 64.

⁴³⁸ 128th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1984. P. 148.

⁴³⁹ 129th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1985. P. 129.

⁴⁴⁰ 130th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1986. P. 141.

⁴⁴¹ 131st Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1987. P. 155-156.

⁴⁴² 134th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1990. P. 159.

In 1990, membership decreased to 25, with two members demitting and two passing away⁴⁴⁴.

Ventley Owen Carter Commander
 William G. Momeny Generalissimo
 Henry Gerdes Captain General
 Albert J. Swanson Recorder⁴⁴⁵

In 1991, membership remained the same at 25, with no movement in the membership recorded⁴⁴⁶.

Albert J. Swanson Commander
 Ventley Owen Carter Generalissimo
 Robert J. Krenz Captain General
 Robert Ritter Recorder⁴⁴⁷

No membership data are available for 1992–1995.

On July 30, 1995, Bethany Commandery No. 28 was closed due to low membership, with its members being consolidated with Ottawa Commandery No. 10⁴⁴⁸.

Table 3. List of members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 (1919–1995)

No.	Name	Year joined/status changed
1	Aitken, John Malcolm	(1908–1942 dead)
2	Aitken, Walter Scott	(1918–1921 dead)

⁴⁴³ 134th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1990. P. 67.

⁴⁴⁴ 134th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1990. P. 67.

⁴⁴⁵ 134th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1990. P. 158.

⁴⁴⁶ 135th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1991. P. 81.

⁴⁴⁷ 135th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 1991. P. 182.

⁴⁴⁸ 163rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company, 2019. P. 122.

3	Andrews, William Samuel	(1917–1926 dead)
4	Angear, Benjamin Horace Smith	(1907–1937 demitted)
5	Anglemier, Arthur	(1922–1930 suspended)
6	Annable, Walter Edwin	(1907–1930 demitted)
7	Avery, William Minor	(1922–1965 dead)
8	Bailey, Frederick Ralph	(1895–1941 dead)
9	Banks, John William	(1923–1937 dead)
10	Barnett, David L.	(1912–1949 dead)
11	Beatty, Gilman Monroe	(1929–1942 demitted)
12	Black, John Earl	(1944–)
13	Black, Robert Sommerville	(1944–1957 dead)
14	Blakeslee, Frank Edward	(1908–1937 demitted)
15	Blanchard, George Eslie	(1910–1952 dead)
16	Bowers, Charles F.	(1913–1936 suspended)
17	Bradshaw, Charles Edward	(1921–1924 dead)
18	Bradshaw, Max	(1925–)
19	Brittian, Harry B.	(1901–1929 suspended)
20	Buel, Henry A.	(1917–1929 dead)
21	Buhler, Matthew	(1887–1923 demitted)
22	Bullis, Mefflin Charles	(1921–)
23	Calson, Lorenzo Wells	(1883–1936 demitted)
24	Campbell, Arden Holmes	(1963–)
25	Carnahan, William H.	(1905–1935 dead)
26	Carr, Glifford	(1946–1972 dead)
27	Carr, Russell Guy	(1939–1946 demitted, 1953 Affiliated – 1968 dead)
28	Carter, Frank Henry	(1924–1937 suspended)
29	Case, Charles Clark	(1915–)
30	Cavell (Covell), Frederick Edwin	(1881–1927 dead)
31	Clapsaddle, Alman Andrew	(1907–1932 suspended)
32	Colson, Williston (William) Franklin	(1895–)
33	Conard, Carl	(1932–1971 dead)
34	Conkey, Harry Dunrith	(1915–1935 demitted)
35	Cook, Harvey Foster	(1950–1968 dead)
36	Corbus, John Clark, Jr.	(1900–)
37	Crawford, Robert Nelson	(1893–1953 dead)
38	Crossman, Fred Asia	(1920–1920 dead)
39	Crowell, John C.	(1903–1916 dead)

40	Cutts, Emery	(1921–)
41	Dack, William Herbert	(1921–1944 demitted)
42	Danilson, Aden Adair	(1917–1925 demitted)
43	Davis, Fred T.	(1900–)
44	Davis, Henry Winn	(1925–)
45	Davis, Ovid Losson	(1950–1966 dead)
46	Davis, William H.	(1900–1936 dead)
47	Day, George Washington	(1944–1958 dead)
48	Derick, Francis McGiverin	(1946–1952 demitted)
49	Dunbar, James Jay	(1910–1924 suspended)
50	Dunbar, Washington Wallace	(1915–1932 suspended)
51	Eckart, Arthur Louis	(1925–1947 dead)
52	Edgecomb, David Alexander	(1935–1968 dead)
53	Edgecomb, Stanley	(1949–)
54	Edwards, Joseph William	(1868–1925 dead)
55	Ellis, James	(1919–1938 demitted)
56	Erbes, Julian Knauer	(1923–1956 dead)
57	Erbes, Raymond Gus	(1947–1954 dead)
58	Feik, Benjamin Beryl	(1931–1935 demitted)
59	Feik, Benjamin Jacob	(1910–1939 demitted)
60	Finley, Robert C.	(1913–1922 demitted)
61	Fischer, Robert Ingersoll	(1910–1919 dead)
62	Foot, Alfred James	(1908–1942 dead)
63	Fordham, Harry L.	(1900–1921 dead)
64	Foster, William R.	(1907–1957 dead)
65	Fox, William Frederick	(1919–1937 suspended)
66	Fritz, Frank Frederick	(1895–)
67	Fritz, Gustav	(1917–1937 demitted)
68	Gardner, Corbus P.	(? - 1925 dead)
69	Garfield, James Abram	(1919–1923 demitted)
70	Geft, Ira S.	(1907–1938 dead)
71	Gillett (Gillette), Adelbert (Albert) Dennis	(1896–1932 dead)
72	Gillett, William Edward	(1926–1969 dead)
73	Gilmore, Bruce Wellington	(1928–1944 demitted)
74	Graves, Harrison Lee	(1910–)
75	Gray, Orrin Jackson	(1923–1935 suspended)
76	Grisell, Frank Wilson	(1929–1969 dead)
77	Grogan, Glen Dee	(1917–1948 dead)
78	Guirnip, Raymond Paul	(1921–1930 suspended)

79	Gurney, Frank Herbert	(1926–1951 demitted)
80	Hallenberg, Robert	(1915–1925 demitted)
81	Hallinan, William Wayne	(1942–1949 demitted)
82	Hapeman, Dwight E.	(1890–1959 dead)
83	Harris, Andrew Corwin	(1905–?, 1950–1956 dead)
84	Harris, Parmenas (Permanious; Dermenas) Leonard	(1892–1950 dead)
85	Harris, John M. (1866–1955)	(1906–1955 dead)
86	Harris, Oscar Porter (Nov. 15, 1870–Oct. 29, 1933)	(1902–)
87	Helbig, Theobald John	(1950–1965 demitted)
88	Hempstead, Edward (Edwin) Freeman	(1898–1937 demitted)
89	Henning, Henry William Ferdinand	(1900–1931 dead)
90	Hess, Ralph Abraham	(1918–1964 dead)
91	Hess, William E.	(1892–1948 dead)
92	Hoffman, Ezra Grant	(1909–1922 demitted, 1948–1953 dead)
93	Hoffman, John Henry	(1907–)
94	Hoffman, Roy Phillip	(1918–1933 demitted)
95	Holliston, William Keeler	(1961–)
96	Hopps, Clifford Crossman	(1910–1967 dead)
97	Hopps, Stephen Arthur	(1910–1955 dead)
98	Hotchkiss, Ross Abram	(1948–1969 dead)
99	Hubbard, Clarence Willard	(1917–1939 demitted)
100	Jacob, Christoph Walter	(1923–1966 dead)
101	Jacob, Ralph Christian	(1925–)
102	Johnson, Wilson Ernest	(1945–1971 dead)
103	Jones, Raymond W.	(1918–)
104	Jordan, Milo William	(1947–1951 suspended)
105	Josephson, Barney Joseph	(1944–1970 dead)
106	Kaufman, Frank B.	(1919–1970 dead)
107	Keeler, Fred Blair	(1909–1932 demitted)
108	Keeler, James Bradley	(1900–1936 dead)
109	Keefe, John Joseph	(?- 1944 demitted)
110	Kelly, Harace Oscar	(1910–1923 demitted)
111	Kidd, Albert James	(1925–1936 suspended)
112	Kidd, William H.	(1906–1921 dead)
113	Kloke, Herschel Walter	(? – 1972 dead)
114	Knauer, John	(1920–1931 dead)
115	Knauer, Louis Frank	(1910–1956 dead)
116	Koropp, Ernest August	(1923–1955 dead)

117	Kreis (Kreig), Emil John	(1895–)
118	Kreiser, Ray	(1948–1973 dead)
119	Laraber, Charles D.	(1912–1925 dead)
120	Lathrop, Charles Frederick	(1910–1966 dead)
121	Legner, Arthur Joseph	(1928–1954 demitted)
122	Legner, Ernest Frederick	(1920–1928 demitted)
123	LeMarr, Samuel Ernest	(1949–1964 suspended)
124	Lenihan, Frank Cornelius	(1922–1956 dead)
125	Martin, Harry Elmer	(1918–)
126	Matteson, William S.	(1911–1929 demitted)
127	McClanahan, John Raymond	(1961–)
128	McCray, Charles Whitney	(1914–1952 demitted)
129	McCredie, Edward L.	(1892–1920 demitted)
130	McIntire, Albert William	(1914–1932 dead)
131	McIntire, Arthur C.	(1913–)
132	McInture (McIntyre), Arthur C.	(1920–1929 dead)
133	McIntyre, William Russell	(1921–1923 dead)
134	McKelvey, R.J.L.	(1945–1964 dead)
135	McLaughlin, Lester Henry	(1949–)
136	McRea, John D.	(1911–1924 suspended)
137	Mende, August Charles	(1948–)
138	Menz, Frank Joseph	(1921–1952 demitted)
139	Merritt, Charles Edison	(1925–1955 dead)
140	Merritt, Charles Sherwood	(1945–)
141	Merritt, Charles Sherwood, Jr.	(1947–)
142	Merritt, Willard Francis	(1948–)
143	Miller, Edward A.	(1912–1949 dead)
144	Miller, Ralph Eugene	(1949–)
145	Miller, Robert Gerald	(1957–)
146	Miller, Samuel A.	(1920–)
147	Mitchell, William N.	(1896–)
148	Momeny, Glenn Milford	(1955–)
149	Moore, Eddie Tower	(1916–1946 dead)
150	Moorhead, Clyde Arthur	(1917–1935 suspended)
151	Morrison, Lester John	(1917–1920 dead)
152	Mortonson, Norman Gebe	(1950–1954 demitted)
153	Mosher, Benjamin Dean	(1907–1939 suspended)
154	Neff, Raymond Jemes	(1961–)
155	Neff, Warren Walter	(1959–)
156	Neill, William Henry	(1920–)

157	Pardridge, Charles Anson	(1926–1959 demitted)
158	Parks, Charles Clarence	(1923–1932 suspended)
159	Patterson, Edward C.	(? – 1982 suspended)
160	Payne, John Washington	(1920–1926 demitted)
161	Perkins, Stephen Manson	(1906–1937 demitted)
162	Pointer, Stanley Myron	(1961–)
163	Potter, Clarence Willard	(1925–1965 dead)
164	Potter, Lester E.	(1921–1932 suspended)
165	Powell, Charles David	(1920–1953 dead)
166	Prather, Herman	(1982–)
167	Pratt, Rogers Wilber	(1924–1960 demitted)
168	Prescott, Warren Atwood	(1915–1923 demitted)
169	Reck, Benjamin Harry	(1919–1960 dead)
170	Reints, George Allen	(1951–1961 demitted)
171	Robeson, Reginald Kenneth	(1956–)
172	Robinson, John William	(1921–1937 demitted)
173	Rossette, Charles E.	(1882–)
174	Rutt, Amos Landis	(1920–1921 dead)
175	Salander, Charles Mansford	(1920–1981 dead)
176	Schilberg, Otto	(1919–1937 suspended)
177	Schildberg, Theodore Fred	(1927–1931 demitted)
178	Schmidt, Jerome Grant	(1964–)
179	Schmidt, William Edward	(1964–)
180	Shipper, Newton Franklin	(1918–1935 demitted)
181	Small, Clarence W.	(1920–1926 suspended, 1927 reinstated – 1928 dead)
182	Smith, Amos T.	(1921–1939 suspended)
183	Smith, Edward D.	(? – 1926 demitted)
184	Smith, George Duncan	(1920–)
185	Smith, Louis Dewitt	(1910–1937 suspended)
186	Smith, William Rolland	(1922–1942 suspended)
187	Sowers, George McKinney	(1930–)
188	Spauling, Arthur Judson	(1944–1949 dead)
189	Sprague, Howard Leon	(1924–1937 suspended)
190	Staten, Edward James	(1904–1926 suspended)

191	Steele, Elmo Elwood	(1956–)
192	Stetler, Thomas H.	(1889–)
193	Steckel, Arthur Dudley	(1928–1954 demitted)
194	Stoldorf, John	(1917–1918 dead)
195	Streeter, Rolvin H.	(1982–)
196	Swartsley, George Lewis	(1917–1926 demitted)
197	Swearingen, Albert (Abe) Allison	(1892–1928 dead)
198	Swisher, William James	(1916–1936 suspended, 1962 reinstated – 1965 dead)
199	Swope, Roy	(1928–1932 suspended, 1937 reinstated – 1957 dead)
200	Tabor, Edward B.	(1913–1932 suspended)
201	Tabor, Edward J.	(1927–)
202	Tesche, Adolph Gustav	(1921–1964 dead)
203	Tidd, Emmerson Devo	(1953–)
204	Their, George James	(1914–1950 dead)
205	Thorsen, Jacob Bernart	(1926–1937 demitted)
206	Thorsen, Leonard Signard	(1925–1954 dead)
207	Thorsen, Trygoa Wegner	(1920–)
208	Tower, Daniel C.	(1901–1939 dead)
209	Tower, Forrest Lee	(1913–1945 dead)
210	Tower, Henry	(1916–1918 dead)
211	Tower, Tracey Travers	(1920–1939 suspended)
212	VanEtten, Walcott Gumaer	(1925–1933 demitted)
213	Van Law, Ruggles B.	(1873–1922 dead)
214	Van Ormun, Albert Dow	(1916–1936 demitted)
215	Van Vorst, William B.	(1920–)
216	Von Ohlen, Christian W.	(1916–1926 dead)
217	Walker, Eddy Augustus	(1944–1966 dead)
218	Walker, John Hepburn	(1914–1932 suspended)
219	Walters, Franklin Lincoln	(1964–)
220	Walters, William Grant	(1964–)
221	Wandelt, Bruno Raymond	(1921–1935 suspended)
222	Ward, Theodore	(1908–)
223	Warren, Winfred Field	(1924–)
224	Wells, Charles H.	(1920–1929 suspended)

225	Welsch, Edward John	(1928–1949 dead)
226	Wiley, Frank Angels	(1920–1932 demitted)
227	Wiley, George Samuel	(1908–1929 suspended)
228	Wills, Oscar T.	(1916–)
229	Willshay, Charles B.	(1920–1939 demitted)
230	Wilson, Edwin Ford	(1926–1937 demitted)
231	Wilson, John Daniel	(1925–1925 demitted)
232	Witte, Rudolph William (Jr.)	(1906–1938 dead)
233	Wixom, Jesse Edgar	(1918–1964 dead)
234	Woods, John Alexander	(1928–1957 dead)
235	Wylie, William W.	(1918–1931 dead)
236	Yenrich, Ralph Waldo	(1950–)
237	Yule, George H.	(1912–1946 suspended)

As evidenced in Table 3, Bethany Commandery No. 28 had whole families serve it during the period 1919–1995. Specifically, there were the five Smiths, four Merrits, four Milleresses, and the three Thorsens.

Table 4 summarizes the changes in membership in Bethany Commandery No. 28 in the period under review.

Table 4. Bethany Commandery No. 28 membership statistics, 1919 to 1995

Years	Members	Created	Admitted	Reinstated	Demitted	Suspended	Deceased
1919	109	6	-	-	-	-	3
1920	123	18	-	-	1	-	3
1921	134	12	-	-	-	-	2
1922	133	4	-	-	2	-	3
1923	135	6	-	-	4	-	-
1924	136	4	-	-	-	2	1
1925	141	10	-	-	3	-	2
1926	138	5	-	-	3	2	2
1927	138	2	-	1	-	-	3
1928	143	6	-	-	1	-	-
1929	138	2	-	-	1	3	3
1930	135	1	-	-	1	2	1
1931	133	1	-	-	1	-	2
1932	121	1	-	-	2	8	3
1933	118	-	-	-	2	-	1

1934	115	no	no	no	no	no	no
1935	109	1	-	-	3	3	1
1936	102	-	-	-	2	3	2
1937	89	-	-	1	8	5	1
1938	86	-	-	-	1	-	2
1939	78	-	1	-	3	3	1
1940	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1941	68	no	no	no	no	no	no
1942	64	1	-	-	1	1	3
1943	61	no	no	no	no	no	no
1944	64	5	2	-	3	-	-
1945	67	1	2	-	-	-	-
1946	66	2	-	-	1	1	1
1947	67	3	-	-	-	-	2
1948	72	4	1	-	-	-	-
1949	72	4	-	-	1	-	3
1950	73	5	1	-	-	-	5
1951	71	1	-	-	1	1	1
1952	68	-	-	-	3	-	-
1953	68	1	1	-	-	-	2
1954	63	-	-	-	3	-	2
1955	62	1	-	-	-	-	2
1956	60	2	-	-	-	-	4
1957	56	1	-	-	-	-	5
1958	52	-	-	-	-	-	4
1959	51	1	-	-	1	-	1
1960	49	-	-	-	1	-	1
1961	51	4	-	-	1	-	1
1962	52	-	-	1	-	-	-
1963	53	1	-	-	-	-	-
1964	55	4	-	-	-	1	1
1965	48	-	-	-	1	1	5
1966	48	2	-	1	-	1	2
1967	47	5	-	-	1	1	4
1968	52	5	-	1	-	-	1
1969	47	1	-	-	-	2	4
1970	47	no	no	no	no	no	3
1971	45	1	1	-	2	-	2
1972	46	1	-	1	-	-	1
1973	45	2	-	-	-	-	3
1974	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1975	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1976	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1977	no	no	no	no	no	no	no

1978	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1979	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1980	49	3	-	-	1	-	3
1981	45	no	no	no	no	no	no
1982	44	2	-	-	-	1	2
1983	39	1	-	-	3	2	1
1984	38	1	1	-	1	-	2
1985	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1986	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1987	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1988	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1989	29	no	no	no	no	no	no
1990	25	-	-	-	-	2	3
1991	25	no	no	no	no	no	no
1992	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1993	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1994	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
1995	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Total		144	10	6	63	45	109

As evidenced in Table 4, in the 50-year period from 1919 to 1995 Bethany Commandery No. 28 had a total of 154 individuals go through it (144 created and ten admitted members). Between 1919 and 1995, 63 members of the commandery demitted for varying reasons and 45 were suspended, with six of the latter being reinstated afterwards. 109 of the knights passed away while a member of the commandery.

Figure 11 illustrates the changes in Bethany Commandery No. 28 membership size in the period under review.

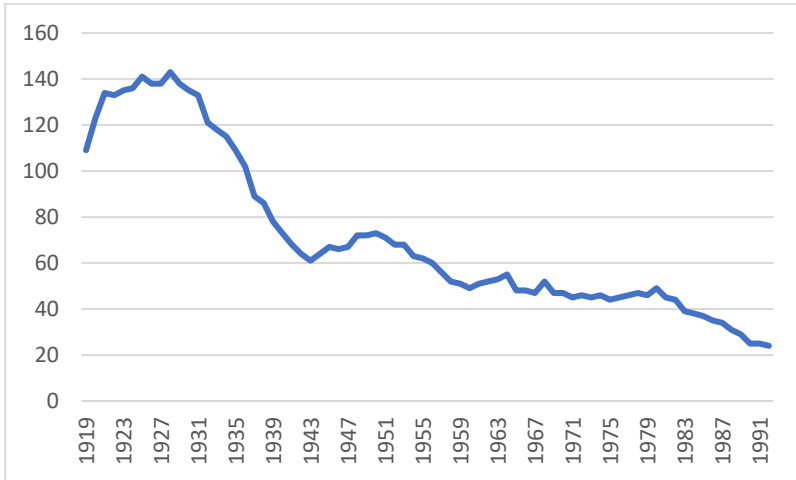


Fig. 11. Changes in Bethany Commandery No. 28 membership size in 1919–1995

As evidenced in Figure 11, the membership of Bethany Commandery No. 28 demonstrated two pronounced periods of growth, in 1927–1929 and in 1948–1951. The decline in membership observed between these intervals was directly correlated with the impact of the Great Depression. Following 1951, the Commandery entered a phase of continuous decline in membership.

In the period 1919–1995, Bethany Commandery No. 28 had 46 different Eminent Commanders. Here they are in chronological order: Rudolph Wm. Witte (1919), Charles Whitney McCray (1920), Robert Hallenberg (1921), Louis Frank Knauer (1922), Charles D. Larabee (1923), David Louis Barnett (1924), Clarence W. Hubbard (1925), Forrest Lee Tower (1926), Glen Reese Henn (1927), Frank B. Kaufman (1928), Charles D. Powell (1929), Christoph W. Jacob (1930), Jesse Edwin Wixom (1931), Tracy Travers Tower (1932), John A. Woods (1933), Charles Edson Merritt (1934), George McKinley Sowers (1935), Raymond W. Jones (1936), Clarence Willard Potter (1937), Charles Manfred Salander (1938–1939), Russell Guy Carr (1940–1942), Frank Cornelius Lenihan (1943–1944), Charles Sherwood Merritt (1945), Christoph Walter Jacob (1946), Charles Manfred Salander (1947), Eddy Augustus Walker (1948), Charles Sherwood Merritt, Jr. (1949–1951), Willard Francis Merritt (1952), Clifford Carr (1953–1954, 1956), Ralph Eugene Miller (1955), Willard Francis Merritt (1957–1959), Warren Walter Neff (1960), Ralph Eugene Miller (1961), Elmo Elwood Steele (1962–1964), William Keeler Holliston (1965), Emerson Devoe Tidd (1966–1967), Willard Francis Merritt (1968), Robert J. Godfrey (1969–1970), Glenn Milferd Momeny (1971), Paul

L. Henry, Sr. (1972-1973), Albert J. Swanson (1974, 1978, 1983-1984, 1991), Emerson D. Tidd (1976), Lewis E. Miller (1977), George L. Baumann, Jr. (1979), Lewis E. Miller (1980), Ventley Owen Carter (1981-1982, 1985-1990).

As we have noted, at that time, major commanderies typically appointed their Eminent Commander for a term of 1 year. By contrast, Bethany Commandery No. 28, which must have experienced talent shortages, often let one person occupy this position for 2 years and more, with the record belonging to Ventley Owen Carter at 8 cumulative years.

CHAPTER 3. Biographical sketches of the members of the Commandery

This chapter represents a brief biographical account concerning the members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 who remained on duty until their last breath, some with a service record of over 50 years. The list compiled is in chronological order by date of death and comprises the 146 members it was possible to find information on.

Bromfield, Wilber Fisk (abt. 1815–1872)

Wilber F. Bromfield was born around 1815.

He became one of the early members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1868.

That same year he held the office of Prelate, continuing in the role again in 1869.

He died in 1872.

Van Law, Joseph (1822 – March 21, 1875)

Joseph Van Law was born in 1822.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1871, but did not hold any officer positions.

He died on March 21, 1875.

Fish, Stephen N., Dr. (Sep. 20, 1835 – Sep. 13, 1877)

Dr. Stephen N. Fish was born September 20, 1835, he was a native of Vermont and son of Hon. Nathaniel Fish of West Haven, was a graduate of Rush Medical College. He settled in East Paw Paw, Michigan, where he practiced medicine for twelve years. Known for his skill, dedication, and compassion, Fish was a respected physician and surgeon, active in the Masons and the I.O.O.F.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1875. He did not hold any officer positions.

His heavy workload took a toll on his health, leading to his death in September 1877. His funeral, attended by an estimated 3,000 people,

reflected the deep regard in which he was held. He left behind a wife, a son, and family in Vermont.

Dead September 13, 1877.

Liscom, Jason Reed (Feb. 11, 1808 – Oct. 18, 1879)

Jason Read Liscom was born on February 11, 1808.

He became one of the early members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1868.

That same year he was appointed Captain of the Guards, an office he continued to hold from 1869 through 1872.

He died on October 18, 1879.

Short, John James (Apr. 15, 1840 – Dec. 4, 1881)

John James Short was born on April 15, 1840.

He served as a soldier in the Civil War.

In 1873 he became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28, though he did not hold any officer positions.

He died on December 4, 1881.

Wetherbee, Oliver (1817 – Oct., 1883)

Oliver Wetherbee was born in 1817.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1883, but did not hold any officer positions.

He died in October 1883.

Mathews, Fred A. (1851 – Nov. 18, 1886)

Fred A. Mathews was born in 1851.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1880 but did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 18, 1886.

Dodge, Henry H. (Aug. 11, 1823 – June 6, 1887)

Henry H. Dodge was born on August 11, 1823, in North Brookfield, Massachusetts.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1874 but did not hold any officer positions.

He died on June 6, 1887.

Ruff, James G. (Sep. 2, 1846 – Nov. 7, 1887)

James Ruff was born on Sep. 2, 1846.

James Ruff was recorded on July 1, 1863, in the U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations for Bureau County, Illinois, as an 18-year-old, single, white male residing in the 5th Congressional District. The birthplace entry – misread in a transcript as “N. Bumourd”—represents the common clerk’s abbreviation “N. Bruns.” for New Brunswick. Listed in the Class “Birthdates, Ages 17–20,” Ruff was among young men eligible for future service; the register itself does not prove actual enlistment. His appearance on the federal draft list places him in Bureau County during the war years and aligns with census evidence of Ruff family members born in New Brunswick living in Princeton, Bureau County, later in the decade.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1881. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 7, 1887.

Atkinson, William (Dec. 4, 1806 – Jan. 31, 1888)

William Atkinson was born on 4 December 1806, in County Armagh, Ireland.

He married Mary Ross in 1843, in Melugin Grove, Lee, Illinois, United States. They were the parents of at least 5 sons and 4 daughters. He immigrated to Lee, Illinois, United States in 1877 and lived in Mendota, LaSalle, Illinois, United States in 1870 and Brooklyn Township, Lee, Illinois, United States in 1880.

He became one of the early members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1869. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on January 31, 1888.

Goodwin, Luke (May 4, 1826 – Dec. 16, 1888)

Luke Goodwin was born on May 4, 1826.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1874.

In 1880 he held the office of Generalissimo, and in 1883 he served as Senior Warden.

He died on December 16, 1888.

Cass, Ezra G. (Oct. 14, 1858 – Aug. 2, 1889)

Ezra G. Cass, born October 14, 1858, in Grand Detour, Illinois.

He was a journalist and editor of the Lee County Times in Paw Paw. He owned and edited the paper for over a decade, earning a reputation for intelligence, integrity, and ability. A member of Bethany Commandery, Knights Templar, he was highly respected throughout Lee County.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1880. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on August 2, 1892.

Hoffman, James R. (1843 – Feb. 17, 1889)

James R. Hoffman was born in 1843 in Stark County, Ohio.

He later moved to Mendota, Illinois, where he worked as a farmer. During the Civil War he served in the Union Army from 1862 to 1864 as a member of the 104th Illinois Infantry. He was married to Anna Hoffman, and by 1880 they had two sons: William, age 13, and De Lion, age 5.

In 1883 he became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28, though he did not hold any officer positions.

He died on February 17, 1889.

Gilmore, Robert L. (1844 – May 31, 1891) (Past Commander)

Robert L. Gilmore was born in 1844 in Illinois and worked as a store clerk.

He became one of the early members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1868 at the age of 24.

He advanced quickly through the officer ranks: serving as Junior Warden from 1869 to 1871, Generalissimo and Representative in 1872, Generalissimo again in 1873, and Commander in 1874.

From 1875 onward he was recognized as Past Commander, and in 1876 he held the office of Prelate.

He died on May 31, 1891.

Carpenter, Edwin Burnham (Jun. 13, 1819 – Sep. 2, 1891)

Edwin Burnham Carpenter was born on June 13, 1819, in Vermont and later moved to Mendota, Illinois.

He worked as an organ manufacturer.

He was married to Tibitha Carpenter, and together they had four children.

Carpenter became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1882, and in 1888–1889 he held the office of Recorder.

He died on September 2, 1891.

Town, David A. (Jul. 12, 1827 – Dec. 27, 1891)

David A. Town was born on July 12, 1827, in Marion, Ohio, and moved with his family to Paw Paw, Illinois, in 1834. In 1850 he joined a party of gold seekers bound for California, where he spent several years; on his return journey he survived the wreck of the steamer Yankee Blade. Returning to Illinois in 1855, he entered business in Earlville, later establishing the City Bank under the name D. A. Town & Son.

He married Ellen F. Hudson in 1855, and together they raised one surviving son. Town was active in community and civic life, remembered as a devoted husband, father, and respected businessman. A committed Mason, he belonged to Meridian Lodge No. 188, serving as treasurer for 30 years, and was also a member of Mendota Chapter No. 79, Royal Arch Masons.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1882. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on December 27, 1891.

Taylor, Lewis (Oct. 2, 1834 – June 10, 1893)

Lewis Taylor родился October 2, 1834 in England.

Moved to Mendota. Worked – Grain Dealer. Женился на Mary Taylor имел двух детей: Irving - 13 years and Adelle – 11 years.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1880. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on June 10, 1893.

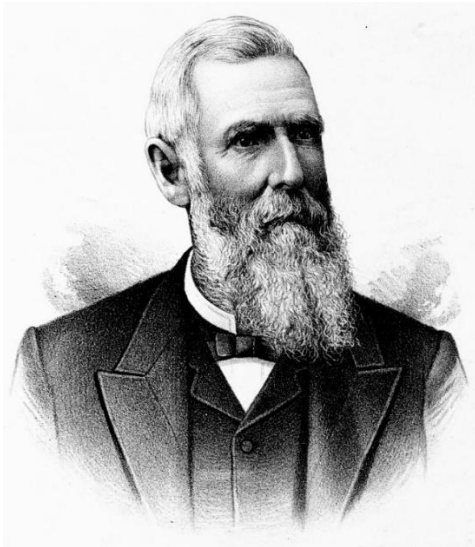
Clarkson, James (Dec. 29, 1829 – Mar. 30, 1894)

James Clarkson was born December 29, 1829.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1882. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on March 30, 1894.

McMahon, William (Jan. 17, 1829 – Feb. 4, 1894)



William McMahon was born January 17, 1829 in Pennsylvania.

In 1860 McMahan married Sarah A. Clark and settled on a farm in Wyoming Township, Lee County, Illinois, where they lived for many years and raised their family. Alongside farming, he devoted himself to public service. He was elected County Surveyor in 1867, holding the post for 17 years, and also served as Supervisor, Assessor, and member of the County Board of Supervisors. He was widely respected for his clear judgment, integrity, and dedication to civic duty.

A lifelong Presbyterian, he united with the church as a young man in Danville, later transferring to the Cotton Hill church in Wyoming Township, and finally to the Presbyterian Church in Paw Paw in 1888. He was also active in fraternal life, belonging to Corinthian Lodge No. 205 (A.F. & A.M.), Mendota Chapter (Royal Arch Masons)

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1886. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on February 4, 1894.

Clark, James (1840 – Sep. 27, 1895)

James Clark was born in 1840.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1878.

Over the years he served in several officer roles: Sword Bearer in 1883, Standard Bearer in 1886, Junior Warden in 1889, and Warden in 1892.

He died on September 27, 1895.

Ruedy, Casper (1835 – Apr. 3, 1896) (Past Commander)

Casper Ruedy was born in 1835 in Switzerland.

He immigrated to the United States in 1850, first settling in New York before moving to Mendota, Illinois, in 1860.

During the Civil War he served with Company B of the 12th Illinois Infantry.

He was married and the father of eight children.

Ruedy became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1875.

The following year, in 1876, he rose to the high office of Generalissimo, and in 1878 he was elected Commander. From 1879 onward he was recognized as Past Commander, and that same year also served as Representative. He later held several additional offices: Junior Warden in 1880 and 1883, and Recorder from 1890 to 1895.

He died on April 3, 1896.

Plaisted (Plaistead), David V. (1832 – June 29, 1897)

David V. Plaisted was born in 1832.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1878.

He served as Captain General in 1892 and again in 1895.

He died on June 29, 1897.

Samuel M. Heslet (Jil. 29, 1826 – Nov. 21, 1898)

Samuel M. Heslet was born July 29, 1826 and resided in Mendota, LaSalle County, Illinois, at the time of the Civil War. By profession a teacher, he enlisted for service in the Union Army at age 37, joining Company C of the 104th Illinois Infantry. He entered service on August 9, 1862, in Mendota and was officially mustered in on August 27, 1862, at Ottawa, Illinois. Heslet was commissioned as a Captain, standing 5'8½" tall with sandy hair, blue eyes, and a light complexion.

Although his regiment was organized for a three-year term, Captain Heslet resigned his commission on March 11, 1863, after several months of service. His brief but honorable contribution reflects the strong civic and patriotic spirit of the Mendota community, many of whose residents volunteered for service in the Union cause.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1882. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 21, 1898.

Jenkins, William (1846 – Aug. 29, 1898) (Past Commander)

William Jenkins was born in 1846.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1877.

Over his years of service he held several offices: Warden in 1880, Prelate in 1886, and Commander in 1889. From 1890 he was recognized as Past Commander, and that same year he was again elected Commander for a second term.

He died on August 29, 1898.

Moss, Benjamin Napoleon (1835 – June 4, 1898)

Benjamin Napoleon Moss was born in 1835.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1873 and that same year was appointed Captain of the Guards. He continued to serve in this office across multiple years—1876, 1880, 1883, 1886, 1889, 1892, 1895, and 1898—making him, in all likelihood, the long-standing Captain of the Guards for a period of twenty-five years.

He died on June 4, 1898.

Truman, William (Apr. 16, 1833 – July 10, 1899)

William Truman was born on April 16, 1833.

He became one of the early members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1869.

He served as Sword Bearer in 1870, Prelate from 1871 to 1873, Junior Warden in 1876, and again Junior Warden in 1886.

He died on July 10, 1899.

Gilmore, William W. (1836 – May 12, 1900)

William W. Gilmore was born 1836.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1883. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on May 12, 1900.

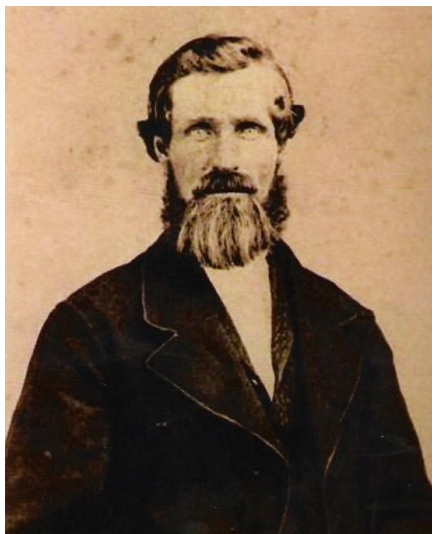
Wheeler, Levi William (Jun. 16, 1837 – Nov. 15, 1900)

Levi William Wheeler was born June 16, 1837.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1886. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 15, 1900.

Samuel Charles Wiley (Nov. 11, 1833 – Feb. 13, 1900)



Samuel C. Wiley was born November 11, 1833, in Mercer, Maine, and moved with his family to Freedom, Illinois, at the age of 11. He married Mary M. Thompson in 1858, and together they raised eight children. Wiley farmed in Mendota Township until 1875, when he moved to Earlville and entered the lumber trade under the firm Hapeman & Wiley. He later focused on land and stock interests. Respected for his ability and judgment, he served as supervisor in both Mendota and Earl townships and represented his district in the Illinois State Legislature from 1862 to 1864. He was also a Knight Templar, admired for his integrity and public service.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1882. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on February 13, 1900.

Cross, Charles R. (1855 – Sep. 1, 1901)

Charles R. Cross was born 1855.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1885. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on September 1, 1901.

Cook, Edgar Pumphrey, Dr. (May 2, 1833 – Oct. 31, 1902)

Edgar Pumphrey Cook was born on May 2, 1833.

He became one of the early members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1869 but did not hold any officer positions.

He died on October 31, 1902.

McFarland, Abel W. (Aug. 21, 1834 – Jan. 22, 1903)

Abel W. McFarland was born August 21, 1834 in Ohio and later settled in Brooklyn Township, Lee County, Illinois. By July 1, 1863, during the Civil War draft registration, he was recorded as a 27-year-old married white male residing in the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois. His entry appears in the U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863–1865 (Class 1, Subdistricts 10–17, Volume 2 of 7; Series Nm-65, Entry 172).

Class 1 included men aged 20–35 and married men up to age 45, making McFarland part of the primary pool of those liable for service. While the draft record itself does not confirm that he actually served, it documents his presence in Lee County during the war years and his inclusion among those eligible to be called into Union military service.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1889. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on January 22, 1903.

McIntire, Arthur C. (Jun. 19, 1836 – Mar. 2, 1904)

Arthur C. McIntire was born June 18, 1836, in Waldo County, Maine, and moved with his family to near Mendota, Illinois, in 1852. In 1861 he married Emma Sarah Linn of Lee Center. By July 1, 1863, during the Civil War draft registration, he was recorded as a 26-year-old married white male, residing in the 6th Congressional District of Illinois. His name appears in the U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863–1865 (Class 1, Subdistrict 1-42, Volume 1, Series Nm-65, Entry 172).

While the record confirms his eligibility for service under the Class 1 category (men aged 20–35 and unmarried, or married men up to 45), it does not provide evidence of actual enlistment. Nevertheless, it places McIntire among the thousands of Illinois residents whose names were documented during the Union's wartime mobilization.

He served as colonel on the staffs of Governors Oglesby and Fifer and was sheriff of La Salle County from 1872 to 1876.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1878.

In 1880 he held the office of Standard Bearer.

He died of pneumonia March 2, 1904 at his home northeast of Mendota. Remarkably, his brother William died the same evening in Aneta, Iowa, also of pneumonia. Colonel McIntire was survived by his four children.

Pool, Joseph James (Now. 16, 1839 – Jun. 7, 1904)

Joseph James Pool was born Now. 16, 1839.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1882. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on June 7, 1904.

Hensel, George (Jul. 20, 1833 – Jun. 15, 1905)

George Hensel was born Jul. 20, 1833.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1889. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on June 15, 1905.

Vosburg, David M. (1827 – Mar. 5, 1905)

David M. Vosburg was born 1827.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1885. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on March 5, 1905.

Bean, Nels (1849 – Aug. 23, 1906)

Nels Bean was born 1849.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1905. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on August 23, 1906.

Kirk, Bernard (Dec., 1833 – Apr. 5, 1906)

Bernard Kirk was born December, 1833 in Ireland.

Civil War veteran. By July 1, 1863, he was recorded in the U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863–1865 as a 29-year-old married white male, listed in Class 1 for the 5th Congressional District of Illinois (Series Nm-65, Entry 172).

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1882. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on April 5, 1906.

Conkey, William Fitch (May 3, 1833 – Sep. 27, 1907)



William Fitch Conkey was born May 3, 1833.

William Fitch Conkey was an officer in the Union Army during the American Civil War whose career reflected steady advancement through merit and service.

He enlisted on December 26, 1861, receiving his first commission as a Second Lieutenant in Company A of the 57th Illinois Infantry Regiment. Less than six months later, on June 7, 1862, he was promoted to First Lieutenant, and on November 21, 1863, he achieved the rank of Captain. Conkey served throughout the duration of the war with the 57th Illinois Infantry, a regiment engaged in numerous campaigns across the Western Theater.

After nearly four years of active duty, Captain Conkey was mustered out of service on July 7, 1865, in Louisville, Kentucky, having faithfully served his country from the early years of the conflict through to its conclusion. His record of service, marked by successive promotions, testifies to his leadership and dedication as an officer of the Union Army.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1880. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on September 27, 1907.

Haskell, Frederick Henry (Dec. 11, 1832 – July 21, 1908)

Frederick Henry Haskell was born on December 11, 1832.

He became one of the early members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1868.

In 1889 he held the office of Standard Bearer.

He died on July 21, 1908.

Watts, Edward Lilly, Dr. (May, 1866 – Oct. 14, 1908)

Edward Lilly Watts was born May, 1866.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1896. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on October 14, 1908.

Irwin, William Harry (1853 – Mar. 23, 1909) (Past Commander)

William Harry Irwin was born in 1853.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1882.

From 1883 to 1887 he served as Recorder, later holding the office of Generalissimo in 1889.

He was elected Commander in 1891 and 1892, and from 1893 was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on March 23, 1909.

Schurtz (Scheurtz), George Cornat (abt. 1830 – Dec. 19, 1909)

George Cornat Schurtz (also recorded as Scheurtz) was born around 1830. He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1875. In 1886 he held the office of Sword Bearer. He died on December 19, 1909.

Alyea, Willard Signor (Sep. 13, 1883-Oct. 28, 1910)

Willard Signor Alyea was born September 13, 1883. He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1910. He did not hold any officer positions. He died on October 28, 1910.

Newport, Thomas Fawcett Aaron (Dec. 1829 – Aug. 1, 1914)
(Past Commander)

Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport was born in December 1829. He became one of the early members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1869. Over his long career in the Commandery he served in many offices: Sword Bearer in 1871, Junior Warden in 1872, Senior Warden in 1873, Warden in 1876, Recorder in 1879, Captain General in 1880, and Commander from 1881 to 1883. From 1884 he was recognized as Past Commander.

He later returned to leadership, serving as Prelate in 1892 and again as Commander from 1893 to 1896. In subsequent years he held various positions including Junior Warden (1898), Captain of the Guards (1901, 1904), and Sentinel (noted in 1907 and 1910). It is likely that from 1900 through 1912 he continuously held the office of Sentinel (Captain of the Guards).

Newport's decades of active service made him one of the most prominent and enduring figures in the history of Bethany Commandery. He died on August 1, 1914.

Wills, George Edward (March 22, 1834 – Sept. 18, 1914)
(Past Commander)

George E. Wills was born March 22, 1834 in Detroit, Mich.

His father and mother, George and Mary Wills, died while he was yet a boy, and at the age of eleven, he was thrown upon his own resources. The first seventeen years of his life were passed in Detroit and then he spent a year at New Brighton, Pa.

In 1854 he went to Jackson County, Iowa, where he divided his time between farming and teaching school. Thence he came to Mendota, Ill., which at that time was just coming into being, and rented a farm west of the new city site, where he prospered as a person of faithful toil which enabled him to purchase the homestead in Troy Grove, half a mile south of this city, in 1874.

Mr. Wills was united in marriage in 1856 to Miss Mary Bunker. To that union were born five children, James M. and James S., deceased, George A., traveling salesman, and Oscar F. and Edgar of this place. Mr. Wills died February 9, 1877. In 1887, on October 12th, Mr. Wills was married to Miss Sarah Miller, and two children blessed this second marriage, Roy M. and Jennie Mabel of Mendota. Four grandchildren also are living, Chester M., Lee A., Paul and Irvin.

Mr. Wills' life furnishes a splendid example of how a young man, thrown upon his own resources in early life, may rise to success through force of character, indomitable will and faithfulness to himself and his fellow men. All through his life the two pillars of his strength were religion and education. As a man he was kind, generous, and above all just, and his life was ever guided by the golden rule. As a citizen he was of our best, taking at all times a deep interest in his community and his county. During his many years of activity, both in Troy Grove and Mendota, the latter being the home of his declining years, he freely gave his services to the public. For twelve years he was a road commissioner of Troy Grove, was a member and president of the Mendota Union Fair association and rendered faithful and efficient services.

His religious affiliation was with the First Presbyterian church of this city, as a member and elder for many years, and he has had the satisfaction of knowing one of his sons also accepted and like capacity. His wise council and active co-operation will be sadly missed by the congregation. He was a member of Mendota Lodge No. 176, A. F. and A. M., of Mendota Chapter No. 79, R. A. M.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1882.

In 1883 he held the office of Standard Bearer, in 1886 and 1889 he served as Senior Warden, in 1892 and 1895 as Generalissimo. He was elected Commander in 1897 and 1898, and from 1899 was recognized as Past Commander.

Men like George E. Wills have not lived in vain, and his example and precepts will be a source of emulation to younger generations. His family

relations were the happiest and his affection and goodness of heart found their most tender expression in that circle.

The rest of his life on earth was clouded with ailment and though every effort was made upon the part of loved ones to lengthen his days, they were numbered; he passed quietly and calmly to meet his Savior when in early manhood he professed to be the follower.

The funeral service was held at the Presbyterian church on Sunday at 2 o'clock p. m. and was largely concourse of sympathizing friends paying a last testimony to the worth of the "quiet sleeper" and the high esteem in which he was held.

Rev. J. A. McKenzie delivered the sermon which was a beautiful tribute to the memory of a good man and an exhortation to the younger generation to follow in his footsteps. The remains were at Restland in charge of the Masonic order.

He died on Sept. 18, 1914.

Eckert (Eckart), John (1860 – Oct. 6, 1915)

John Eckert (also recorded as Eckart) was born in 1860.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1890.

He first held the office of Standard Bearer in 1882, and again in 1895. From 1896 to 1898 he served as Recorder.

He died on October 6, 1915.

Crowell, John Charles (Mar. 14, 1858 – Nov. 16, 1916)

John Charles Crowell was born March 14, 1858.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1903. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 16, 1916.

Burke, Shannon T. (March, 1854 – Jan. 29, 1917)

Shannon T. Burke was born March, 1854.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1894. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on January 29, 1917.

Prescott, Samuel Plumer (Oct. 1844 – Feb. 28, 1918)



Samuel Plumer Prescott was born in October 1844, the son of S. P. Prescott and Mary M. Carleton.

He arrived in Bureau County, Illinois, in 1869. On October 8, 1871, he married Frances A. VanVelzer in Princeton, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1887.

Over the years he served in several officer roles: Warden in 1889, Junior Warden in 1892, and Prelate in 1895, 1898, and 1901.

He died on February 28, 1918.

Tower, George Daniel (David) (Oct. 31, 1853 – Apr. 24, 1918)

George Daniel (David) Tower was born on October 31, 1853.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1906.

He held the office of Treasurer in 1910, 1913, and 1916.

He died on April 24, 1918.

Stoldorf, John (1863 – Jun. 6, 1918)

John Stoldorf was born 1863.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1917. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on June 6, 1918.

Tower, Henry (Nov. 2, 1858 – Oct. 8, 1918)

Henry Tower was born November 2, 1858 in Bureau County, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1916. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on October 8, 1918.

Fischer, Robert Ingersoll (Aug. 24, 1876 – Apr. 3, 1919)

Robert Ingersoll Fischer was born August 24, 1876.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1910. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on April 3, 1919.

Crossman, Fred Asia (1882 – Apr. 14, 1920)

Fred Asia Crossman was born 1882.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1920. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on April 14, 1920.

Morrison, Lester John (Oct. 19, 1881 – Apr. 8, 1920)

Lester John Morrison was born on October 19, 1881, in Iowa.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1917 and in 1919 held the office of Junior Warden.

He was married and the father of two young children.

He died on April 8, 1920.

Fordham, Harry L. (1869 – Feb. 18, 1921)

Harry L. Fordham was born in 1869 in Pennsylvania.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1900. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on February 18, 1921.

Rutt, Amos Landis (Mar. 6, 1878 – Jan. 19, 1921)

Amos Landis Rutt was born on March 6, 1878.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1920 but did not hold any officer positions.

He was married to Charlotte Rutt.

He died on January 19, 1921.

Kidd, William H. (Sep. 26, 1852 – Jul. 1, 1921)

William H. Kidd was born on September 26, 1852.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1906.

He served as Standard Bearer in 1910, 1913, and 1916.

He was married to Emma J. Kidd and had a son, John Burton Kidd.

He died on July 1, 1921.

Aitken, Walter Scott (Nov. 8, 1894 – Jul. 4, 1921)

Walter Scott Aitken was born November 8, 1894 in Dimmick, LaSalle County, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1918. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on July 4, 1921.

Van Law, Ruggles (1848 – Jan. 6, 1922)

Ruggles Van Law was born in 1848 in Ohio.

He worked as a railroad station agent and was married to Katharine Van Law.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1880 but did not hold any officer positions.

He died on January 6, 1922.

McIntyre, William Russel, Dr. (Jun. 20, 1878 – Aug. 12, 1923)

William Russel McIntyre was born on June 20, 1878, in Mendota, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1921 but did not hold any officer positions.

He was married to Rose O. McIntyre.

He died on August 12, 1923.

Bradshaw, Charles E. (May 15, 1871 – Nov. 28, 1924)

Charles E. Bradshaw was born on May 15, 1871, in Lee County, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1921 but did not hold any officer positions.

He was married to Mae L. Bradshaw and had a son, Max L. Bradshaw, who joined the same Commandery in 1925.

He died on November 28, 1924.

Gardner, Corbus Plumer (1869 – May 3, 1925)

Corbus P. Gardner was born in 1869.

He worked as a lawyer.

He was married to Georgia Gardner and had two children: Margaret and Robert B. Gardner.

The date of his admission to Bethany Commandery No. 28 is not established.

He served as Sentinel in 1916 and again in 1919.

He died on May 3, 1925.

Larabee, Charles David (Oct. 1, 1881 – Jun. 10, 1925)
(Past Commander)

Charles David Larabee was born on October 1, 1881, in Meriden, Illinois. He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1912. He served as Standard Bearer in 1919 and was elected Commander in 1923.

From 1924 he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on June 10, 1925.

Edwards, Joseph William (Jun. 10, 1832 – Sept. 8, 1925)
(Past Commander)



Joseph William Edwards was born on June 10, 1832, in Washington, D.C.

He worked as a physician and was married to Harriet Edwards, with whom he had four children.

Edwards became one of the first members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1868.

He held numerous offices: Standard Bearer in 1869, Generalissimo in 1870 and 1871, Commander from 1872 to 1873 and again from 1875 to 1877, Prelate in 1880, and Standard Bearer again in 1883. From 1873 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

Dr. Edwards was the first member of the Commandery to complete fifty years of service, marking him as one of its most enduring and distinguished figures.

He died on September 8, 1925.

Ohlen, Cristian W. Von (1863 – Aug. 26, 1926)

Cristian W. Von Ohlen was born in 1863.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1916. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on August 26, 1926.

Andrews, William Samuel (Apr. 22, 1861 – Nov. 30, 1926)

William Samuel Andrews was born April 22, 1861.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1917. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 30, 1926.

Cavell, Frederick Edwin (Oct. 3, 1850 – Apr. 21, 1927)

Frederick Edwin Cavell was born on October 3, 1850.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1881.

He served as Recorder in 1882, Senior Warden in 1892, Junior Warden in 1895, and Generalissimo in 1910.

He died on April 21, 1927.

Small, Clarence W. (Feb. 1893 – Sep. 15, 1928)

Clarence W. Small was born February 1893.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1920. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on September 15, 1928.

Swearingen, Albert Allison (Mar. 30, 1846 – Dec. 28, 1928)

Albert A. Swearingen was born on March 30, 1846, in Moorefield, Ohio.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1892.

He held the office of Sword Bearer in 1904, 1907, and 1910.

He died on December 28, 1928.

Arthur C. McIntyre, Dr. (Sep. 24, 1872 – May 18, 1929)

Arthur C. McIntyre was born September 24, 1872.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1920. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on May 18, 1929.

Buel, Henry Augustus (Aug. 28, 1846 – Sept. 13, 1929)
(Past Commander)



Henry A. Buel was born on August 28, 1846, in Franklin, New York.
He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1917.
Although he did not hold office there, he was a Past Commander of
another Commandery.
He died on September 13, 1929.

Knauer, John N. (May 4, 1882 – May 4, 1931)

John N. Knauer was born May 4, 1882 in Mendota, Illinois.
Wife – Louise Knauer.
He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1920. He did
not hold any officer positions.
He died on May 4, 1931.

Wylie, William W. (Nov. 29, 1859 – Jun. 25, 1931)

William W. Wylie was born November 29, 1859 in Waltham Township, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1918. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on June 25, 1931.

Henning, Henry William Ferdinand (1862 – Sept. 3, 1931)

Henry William Ferdinand Henning was born in Illinois in 1862.

He was married to Laura E. Henning, and they had three sons.

He joined Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1900.

He served as Sword Bearer in 1901, Warden in 1904, and Recorder in 1906–1907.

He died on September 3, 1931.

Albert William McIntire (Jul. 24, 1866 – Sept. 4, 1931)

Albert William McIntire was born July 24, 1866 in Mendota, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1914. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on September 4, 1931.

Gillette, Adelbert Dennis (Sep. 4, 1850 – Jun. 10, 1932)
(Past Commander)

Adelbert Dennis Gillette was born on September 4, 1850, in Ophir, LaSalle County, Illinois.

He was married to Sarah Gillette, and they had a daughter, Lillian A. Gillette.

He entered Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1896.

His officer service included Standard Bearer in 1898, Captain General in 1901, Generalissimo in 1904 and 1907, and Commander in 1908.

From 1909 he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on June 10, 1932.

Carnahan, William H. (Feb. 23, 1862 – Feb. 8, 1935)



William H. Carnahan was born February 23, 1862 in Compton, Lee County, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1905. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on February 8, 1935.

Keeler, James Bradley (Dec. 20, 1848 – Mar. 19, 1936)



James Bradley Keeler was born on December 20, 1848, in Morris, Illinois. He was married to Catherine Keeler. He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1900. He served multiple times as Standard Bearer—in 1901, 1904, and 1907. He died on March 19, 1936.

Davis, William Henry (Oct. 23, 1857 – Apr. 18, 1936)

William Henry Davis was born on October 23, 1857, in Shabbona Park, Illinois.

He was married to Ruth Winn Davis.

He joined Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1900 but did not hold officer positions.

He died on April 18, 1936.

Banks, John William (Jan. 26, 1862 – Mar. 20, 1937)

John W. Banks was born January 26, 1862 in Paris, Ontario, Canada.

He was a prominent civic leader in Compton, Illinois, where he served as mayor and was widely regarded as one of the community's leading businessmen. He also served several terms on the Board of Supervisors from Brooklyn Township.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1923. He did not hold any officer positions.

Died in March 20, 1937 at his home following a brief illness with pneumonia. He was survived by his sons Stanley and Smith Banks of California.

Witte, Rudolph William (Sep. 30, 1879 – Apr. 8, 1938)
(Past Commander)

Rudolph William Witte was born on September 30, 1879, in Mendota, Illinois.

He was married to Jeanetta Witte.

He joined Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1906.

His officer service included Treasurer in 1907, Sword Bearer in 1913, Senior Warden in 1916, and Commander in 1919. From 1920 he was recognized as Past Commander, and from 1926 to 1930 he served as Recorder.

He died on April 8, 1938.

Geft, Ira S. (Nov. 26, 1876 – Jan. 16, 1938)

Ira S. Geft was born on November 26, 1876, in Troy Grove, La Salle County, Illinois.

He was married to Sophia J. Geft.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1907 but did not hold officer positions.

He died on January 16, 1938.

Tower, Daniel Charles (Dec. 29, 1868 – Mar. 24, 1939)

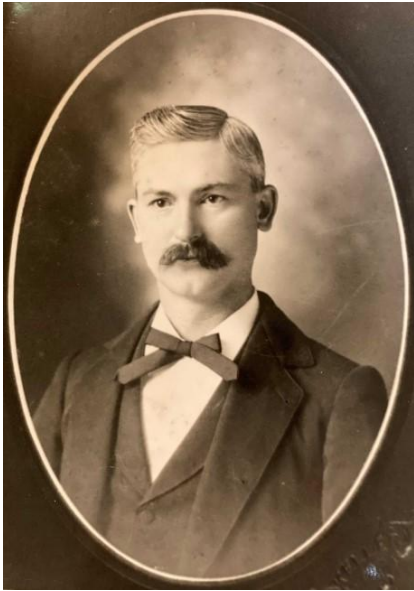
Daniel Charles Tower was born on December 29, 1868, in Bureau County, Illinois.

He was married to Josephine Scott Tower.

He joined Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1901 and in the same year held the office of Warden.

He died on March 24, 1939.

Bailey, Frederick Ralph (Sep. 9, 1862 – Oct. 11, 1941)
(Past Commander)



Frederick Ralph Bailey was born September 9, 1862 in Poughkeepsie, NY.

He was a long-time Mendota resident and businessman. He owned and operated the Bailey Furniture Store for many years, retiring around 1935. He was active in the Methodist Church and local civic life.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1895.

In 1898 he held the office of Warden, in 1904 and 1907 he served as Junior Warden, in 1910 as Senior Warden, in 1913 as Generalissimo, and in 1915–1916 as Commander. From 1917 he was recognized as Past Commander.

Dead of pneumonia on October 11, 1941. He was survived by his wife, children Ralph Bailey, Helen Howe, and Marie Tower, as well as step-children and grandchildren.

Foot, Alfred James (Oct. 8, 1869 – Jan. 26, 1942)

Alfred James Foot was born October 8, 1869.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1908. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on January 26, 1942.

Aitken, John Malcomb (Sep. 16, 1852 – Mar. 3, 1942)

John Malcomb Aitken was born September 16, 1852 in Bristol, England.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1908. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on March 3, 1942.

Tower, Forest Lee (Feb. 25, 1890 – Nov. 12, 1945)
(Past Commander)

Forest Lee Tower was born on February 25, 1890, in Madison, Kansas.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1913.

He held the office of Warden in 1919 and was elected Commander in 1926.

From 1927 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on November 12, 1945.

Moore, Eddie Tower (Mar. 24, 1887 – Nov. 6, 1946)

Eddie Tower Moore was born on March 24, 1887, in Mendota, Illinois.

He was married to Ina R. Moore.

He joined Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1916 but did not hold officer positions.

He died on November 6, 1946.

Eckart, Arthur Lewis (Mar. 8, 1887 – Mar. 25, 1947)

Arthur Lewis Eckart was born on March 8, 1887, in Mendota, Illinois.

He was married to Maude O. Eckart.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1925 and served as Captain General in 1933.

He died on March 25, 1947.

Grogan, Glen Dee (May 10, 1883 – Aug. 6, 1948)
(Past Commander)

Glen Dee Grogan was born on May 10, 1883, in Crawford County, Illinois.

He was married to Clara M. Grogan and worked as a veterinarian. They had a son, Robert N. Grogan.

He entered Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1917, became Commander in 1927, and from 1928 was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on August 6, 1948.

Hess, William Edson (Nov. 7, 1864 – Nov. 18, 1948)

William Edson Hess was born on November 7, 1864.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1892 and remained affiliated for fifty years, though he did not hold officer positions.

He died on November 18, 1948.

Welsch, Edward John (Apr. 19, 1880 – Mar. 6, 1949)

Edward John Welsch was born April 19, 1880.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1928. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on March 6, 1949.

Barnett, David Lewis (Feb. 15, 1867 – Sept. 12, 1949)
(Past Commander)

David Lewis Barnett was born on February 15, 1867, in Decatur, Macon County, Illinois.

He was married to Mary G. Barnett, and they had a son, David D. Barnett. He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1912.

Barnett served as Commander in 1924 and was recognized as Past Commander from 1925 onward.

In 1925 he also held the office of Recorder.

He died on September 12, 1949.

Spaulding, Arthur Judson (Nov. 6, 1885 – Sept. 29, 1949)



Arthur Judson Spaulding was born November 6, 1885 in Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1944. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on September 29, 1949.

Miller, Edward Alonzo (Mar. 27, 1866 – Nov. 1, 1949)

Edward Alonzo Miller was born on March 27, 1866, in Mendota, Illinois.

He was married to Louisa Mae Miller.

He joined Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1912 and served as Sentinel in 1913.

He died on November 1, 1949.

Harris, Permanaus Leonard (1863 – Feb. 6, 1950)

Permanaus Leonard Harris was born in 1863.

He was married to Caroline Harris.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1892.

Harris held the office of Senior Warden multiple times—1898, 1901, 1904, and 1907.

He died on February 6, 1950.

Thier, George James (Jun. 29, 1883 – Mar. 1, 1950)

George James Thier was born January 29, 1883.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1914. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on March 1, 1950.

Blanchard, George Eslie (May 28, 1868 – Dec. 11, 1952)
(Past Commander)

George E. Blanchard was born on May 28, 1868, in Troy Grove, La Salle County, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1910.

He served as Junior Warden in 1913, Captain General in 1916, and was elected Commander in 1918.

From 1919 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on December 11, 1952.

Crawford, Robert Nelson (Nov. 28, 1867 – Apr. 21, 1953)
(Past Commander)

Robert N. Crawford was born on November 28, 1867.

A prominent resident of Mendota, he served as La Salle County Treasurer, elected in 1934.

He was also president of the Mendota National Bank from 1897 to 1931 and later maintained a business office in Mendota until shortly before his death.

Crawford became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1893.

His officer service included Senior Warden in 1895, Generalissimo in 1898, and Commander in 1899–1901, 1903–1907, and 1909–1913. He also served as Treasurer in 1919.

From 1899 onward he was recognized as Past Commander. With sixty years of continuous service, Crawford was one of the most enduring members of Bethany Commandery.

He died on April 21, 1953.

Powell, Charles Daniel (Dec. 12, 1873 – Aug. 8, 1953)
(Past Commander)



Charles Daniel Powell was born on December 12, 1873, in Illinois.

He was married and had three daughters.

He entered Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1920 and was elected Commander in 1929.

From 1930 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on August 8, 1953.

Hoffman, Ezra Grant (Mar. 28, 1867 – Nov. 15, 1953)

Ezra Grant Hoffman was born on March 28, 1867, in La Moille, Bureau County, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1909.

He did not hold officer positions.

In 1922 he demitted from the Commandery, but in 1948 he re-affiliated.

He died on November 15, 1953.

Thorsen, Leonard Signard (Sep. 1, 1889 – Jul. 16, 1954)

Leonard Signard Thorsen was born September 1, 1889 in Leland, La Salle County, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1925. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on July 16, 1954.

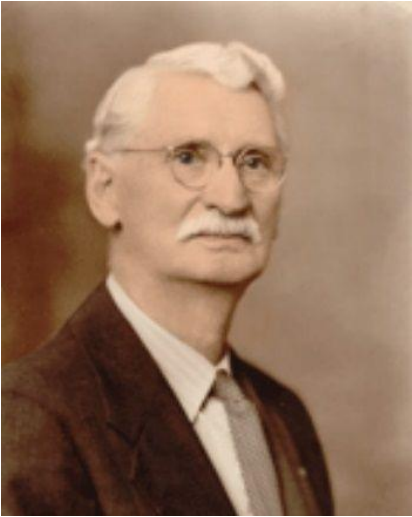
Erbes, Raymond Gus (Dec. 28, 1894 – Aug. 20, 1954)

Raymond Gus Erbes was born on December 28, 1894, in Mendota, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1947 and served as Captain General in 1949.

He died on August 20, 1954.

Merritt, Charles Edson (Jun. 16, 1864 – Jul. 14, 1955)
(Past Commander)



Charles Edson Merritt was born on June 16, 1864, in Henry, Marshall County, Illinois.

He joined Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1925.

He served as Generalissimo in 1933 and was elected Commander in 1934.

From 1935 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on July 14, 1955.

Harris, John Manion (1866 – Jun. 1, 1955)

John Manion Harris was born in 1866.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1906. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on June 1, 1955.

Hopps, Steven Arthur (Oct. 13, 1881 – Jul. 26, 1955)

Steven Arthur Hopps was born October 13, 1881 in Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1910. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on July 26, 1955.

Koropp, Earnest August (Apr. 13, 1876 – Jul. 29, 1955)

Earnest August Koropp was born April 13, 1876 in Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1923. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on July 29, 1955.

Knauer, Louis Frank (May 27, 1879 – Oct. 4, 1956)
(Past Commander)

Louis F. Knauer was born on May 27, 1879, in Mendota, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1910.

He held the office of Sword Bearer in 1916, Senior Warden in 1919, and was elected Commander in 1922.

From 1923 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on October 4, 1956.

Lenihan, Frank Cornelius (Jun. 21, 1886 – Oct. 10, 1956)
(Past Commander)



Frank C. Lenihan was born on June 21, 1886, in Bureau County, Illinois.

He served in World War I. Lenihan became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1922 and later served as Commander from 1943 to 1944.

From 1944 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on October 10, 1956.

Harris, Andrew Corwin (Feb. 13, 1868 – Jun. 8, 1956)

Andrew C. Harris was born on February 13, 1868, in Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1905 but did not hold officer positions.

In 1950 he was affiliated with the Commandery.

He died on June 8, 1956.

Erbes, Julian Knauer (May 14, 1894 – Dec. 10, 1956)



Julian K. Erbes was born May 14, 1894 in Mendota.
 He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1923. He did not hold any officer positions.
 He died on December 10, 1956.

Woods, John Alexander (Jan. 20, 1887 – Aug. 1, 1957)
 (Past Commander)

John Alexander Woods was born on January 20, 1887, in West Brooklyn, Illinois.
 He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1928.
 He was elected Commander in 1933 and served as Captain General in 1939.
 From 1934 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.
 He died on August 1, 1957.

Foster, William Russell (Jan. 24, 1863 – Oct. 30, 1957)



William R. Foster was born January 24, 1863, in Troy Grove, Illinois, was La Salle County's most celebrated educator. Over a career spanning 56 years, he taught in one-room schools and served as county superintendent of schools for 42 years. Foster established rural school districts, expanded libraries, and organized innovative educational programs. A lifelong Mason and Baptist, he was widely honored for his service.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1907.

Although he did not hold officer positions, he remained affiliated with the Commandery for fifty years of service.

He died on October 30, 1957.

Black, Robert Sommerville (Jan. 4, 1892 – Nov. 12, 1957)

Robert Sommerville Black was born January 4, 1892 in Cook County, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1944. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 12, 1957.

Swope, Roy (Jul. 6, 1898 – Dec. 15, 1957)

Roy Swope was born on July 6, 1898, in Lee County, Illinois.

He joined Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1928.

He was suspended in 1932 but reinstated in 1937.

He later served as Generalissimo in 1942 and again in 1946.

He died on December 15, 1957.

Day, George Washington (Jan. 28, 1889 – Sep. 19, 1958)

George W. Day was born on January 28, 1889, in Mendota.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1944.

He served as Captain General in 1948 and as Generalissimo in 1949–1950 and again in 1952–1953.

He died on September 19, 1958.

Haperman, Dwight A. (1865 – Aug. 4, 1959)

Dwight A. Haperman was born in 1865 in Illinois.

The date of his admission to Bethany Commandery No. 28 is not established.

He did not hold officer positions in the Commandery.

He died on August 4, 1959.

Reck, Benjamin Harry (Jun. 15, 1888 – Aug. 17, 1960)



Benjamin Harry Reck was born June 15, 1888, on a farm near Mendota.

Educated at the University of Illinois and its law school, he practiced law in Mendota beginning in 1913 as senior partner in the firm Reck and Claus. From 1919 to 1934, he served as judge of the La Salle County Court. Reck was active in numerous civic and professional organizations: he presided over the Illinois County and Probate Judges Association, helped organize the Illinois Big Brothers and Sisters Association, directed the National Bank of Mendota, and served as president of both the Mendota Building and Loan Association and the Restland Cemetery Association. He was also a charter member and past president of the Mendota Kiwanis Club, a Mason, and an Elk. He married Alma Schuetz in 1921, with whom he had two children.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1919. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on August 17, 1960.

Tesche, Adolph Gustav (1867 – Feb. 13, 1964)

Adolph Gustav Tesche was born in 1867.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1921. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on February 13, 1964.

Wixon, Jesse Edwin (Dec. 9, 1872 – Dec. 29, 1964)
(Past Commander)

Jesse Edwin Wixon was born on December 9, 1872, in Troy Grove, La Salle County, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1918.

He served as Commander in 1931 and was recognized as Past Commander from 1932 onward. Later he held additional offices: Captain General from 1945 to 1947 and Generalissimo in 1948.

He died on December 29, 1964.

McKelvey, Robert John Livingston (Feb. 4, 1879 – Nov. 3, 1964)

Robert John Livingston McKelvey was born February 4, 1879.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1945. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 3, 1964.

Hess, Ralph Abraham (Jun. 18, 1889 – Nov. 11, 1964)

Ralph Abraham Hess was born June 18, 1889 in Troy Grove, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1918. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 11, 1964.

Avery, Wilbur Minor, Dr. (Jun. 9, 1876 – Jan. 26, 1965)

Wilbur M. Avery was born June 9, 1876 in Compton Lee, Illinois.

Dr. Wilbur M. Avery dedicated his life to medicine, practicing as a physician for 60 years in Lee, Paw Paw, and Mendota. Known for his long service and devotion to community healthcare, Avery retired in 1961 after decades of medical service.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1922. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on January 26, 1965.

Swisher, William James (Aug. 20, 1887 – Mar. 5, 1965)



William James Swisher was born on August 20, 1887, in Illinois.

He was a World War I veteran.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1916 but did not hold officer positions.

He was suspended in 1936 and reinstated in 1962.

He died on March 5, 1965.

Potter, Clarence Willard (Feb. 2, 1891 – Jul. 5, 1965)
(Past Commander)

Clarence W. Potter was born on February 2, 1891.

He joined Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1925.

He held several officer positions: Captain General in 1935, Generalissimo in 1936, Commander in 1937, Generalissimo again in 1938, and Captain General in 1942.

From 1938 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on July 5, 1965.

Lathrop, Charles Frederick (Jun. 3, 1875 – Jan. 8, 1966)

Charles F. Lathrop was born June 3, 1875 in Mendota, Illinois.

Lathrop served as superintendent of the Rochelle Municipal Power and Light Company from 1911 to 1933, retiring after more than two decades of service. A devoted Methodist and Mason, he was a member of the Rochelle Methodist Church and held a 55-year membership in the Rochelle Masonic Lodge.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1910.

He did not hold officer positions but was honored with a jewel for fifty years of service.

He died on January 8, 1966.

Jacob, Christopher Walter (Apr. 1, 1899 – Jul. 19, 1966)
(Past Commander)

Christopher Walter Jacob was born on April 1, 1899, in Mendota.

He joined Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1923.

He served as Commander in 1930, Recorder from 1931 to 1933, Commander again in 1946, and Recorder again in 1953.

From 1931 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on July 19, 1966.

Walker, Eddy August (Feb. 7, 1883 – Nov. 5, 1966)
(Past Commander)

Eddy August Walker was born on February 7, 1883, in Sheffield, Bureau County, Illinois.

He entered Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1944.

He held the office of Generalissimo in 1947 and was elected Commander in 1948.

From 1949 he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on November 5, 1966.

Davis, Ovid Losson (Sep. 27, 1898 – Jun. 22, 1966)

Ovid Losson Davis was born on September 27, 1898, in La Salle, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1950 and served as Captain General in 1954.

He died on June 22, 1966.

Hopps, Clifford Crossman (Feb. 23, 1880 – Apr. 21, 1967)

Clifford Crossman Hopps was born on February 23, 1880, in Woodford County, Illinois.

He entered Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1910.

Although he did not hold officer positions, he was honored with a jewel for fifty years of service.

He died on April 21, 1967.

Cook, Harvey Foster (Sep. 19, 1887 – Mar. 30, 1968)

Harvey Foster Cook was born September 19, 1887, in West Brooklyn, Illinois, the son of Robert W. and Cynthia Foster Cook. He worked as station master for the CB&Q Railroad for more than 40 years before retiring. Deeply active in fraternal and civic life, he was a member of the First United Presbyterian Church of Mendota, the Elks Lodge, Eastern Star, White Shrine, Brooklyn Masonic Lodge, and a 50-year member of the Royal Arch Chapter.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1950. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on March 31, 1968.

Carr, Russell Guy (Feb. 21, 1903 – Jun. 26, 1968)
(Past Commander)

Russell Guy Carr was born February 21, 1903 in Illinois.

Russell Guy Carr became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1939.

He served as Generalissimo in 1939 and as Commander from 1940 to 1942. From 1941 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

He demitted in 1946 and re-affiliated in 1953.

He died on June 26, 1968.

Edgecomb, David Alexander (May. 14, 1896 – Aug. 29, 1968)



David Alexander Edgecomb was born on May 14, 1896.

A World War I veteran, he became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1935.

He held the office of Generalissimo in 1944 and 1945.
He died on August 29, 1968.

Grisell, Frank Wilson (May 8, 1893 – Feb. 27, 1969)

Frank Wilson Grisell was born May 8, 1893 in Van Irin, Illinois.
He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1929. He did not hold any officer positions.
He died on February 27, 1969.

Hotchkiss, Ross Abram (Jul. 24, 1878 – Feb. 1, 1969)

Ross Abram Hotchkiss was born July 24, 1878 in Meriden, La Salle County, Illinois.
He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1948. He did not hold any officer positions.
He died on February 1, 1969.

Gillette, William Edward (May 14, 1885 – Nov. 19, 1969)



William Edward Gillette was born May 14, 1885 in Mendota.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1926. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 19, 1969.

Kaufman, Frank Bowman (Sep., 1887 – Feb. 27, 1970)
(Past Commander)

Frank B. Kaufman was born in September, 1887 in Mount Pleasant, Henry County, Iowa.

He was a native of Mt. Pleasant, Illinois, rose from humble beginnings to become president of Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett, one of the nation's largest hardware firms. Starting as a packer and order clerk in 1905, he worked his way to the top and was named president in 1946. Under his leadership, the company moved from its Chicago headquarters to a new 38-acre complex in Evanston. After retiring in 1952, Kaufman joined Haeger Potteries, Inc. as assistant to the president. Active in civic life, he was a Mason, Shriner, Elk, and president of the North Shore Country Club in Glenview, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1919.

He was elected Commander in 1928 and from 1929 was recognized as Past Commander.

He served faithfully for fifty years in Bethany Commandery.

He died on February 27, 1970.

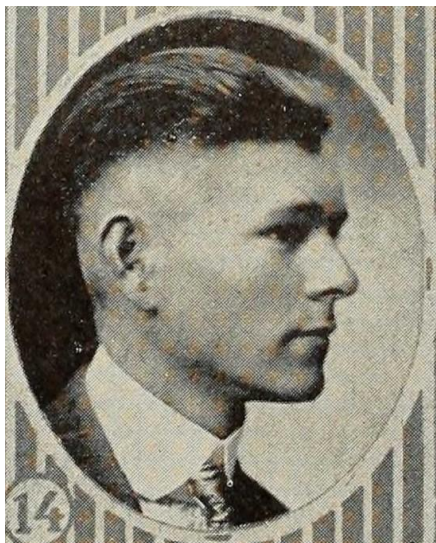
Josephson, Barney Joseph (Nov. 20, 1889 – Apr. 20, 1970)

Barney Joseph Josephson was born November 20, 1889 in New Windsor, Illinois.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1944. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on April 20, 1970.

Conard, Carl (Nov. 12, 1898 – Mar. 20, 1971)



Carl Conard was born on November 12, 1898, in Paris, Illinois, the son of William and Laura Connell Conard.

A World War I veteran, he later became associated with Standard Oil.

Conard was an active Mason, serving as past master of Mendota Lodge No. 270 AF&AM, and was also affiliated with the Scottish Rite, Mendota Commandery, and the American Legion.

He was married twice, first to Berniece Doherty (d. 1923) and later to Millie Beatty (1951). He had one son, Carl Jr.

Conard became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1932 but did not hold officer positions.

He died on March 20, 1971.

Johnson, Wilson Ernest (Jan. 20, 1903 – Nov. 5, 1971)

Wilson Johnson was born January 20, 1903, in Dimmick Township, the son of Ernest and Margaret (Wilson) Johnson.

He served 24 years on the La Salle County Board of Supervisors, including terms as chairman (1969–70). He was active in numerous committees and was deeply engaged in community life. A Mason and Shriner, Johnson was also a member of the Waltham Grange for 50 years. He married Gladys Guenther in 1969.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1945. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on November 5, 1971.

Kloke, Herschel Walter (Jul. 13, 1928 – Jun. 30, 1972)

Herschel Walter Kloke was born on July 13, 1928.

The date of his admission to Bethany Commandery No. 28 is not known, and he did not hold officer positions.

He died on June 30, 1972.

Carr, Clifford (Nov. 5, 1895 – Jul. 7, 1972)
(Past Commander)

Clifford Carr was born on November 5, 1895, in Ophir Township, La Salle County, Illinois.

He entered Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1946.

His officer service included Captain General in 1951–1952, Commander in 1953–1954 and 1956, and Captain General in 1955 and again from 1957 to 1959 and from 1962 to 1964.

From 1954 he was recognized as Past Commander.

He died on July 7, 1972.

Kreiser, Ray (Nov. 4, 1894 – Feb. 14, 1973)

Ray Kreiser was born November 4, 1894.

He became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1948. He did not hold any officer positions.

He died on February 14, 1973.

Salander, Charles Mandred (Jun. 28, 1892 – Dec. 5, 1981)
(Past Commander)

Charles Mandred Salander was born June 28, 1892 in Princeton, Illinois.

Charles Mandred Salander became a member of Bethany Commandery No. 28 in 1920.

He served as Captain General in 1937, Commander in 1938–1939 and 1947, Recorder in 1942, 1944–1946, and 1954–1955, and Generalissimo in 1965.

From 1939 onward he was recognized as Past Commander.

He served sixty years in Bethany Commandery before his death on December 5, 1981.

Conclusion

Bethany Commandery No. 28 provides a case in point for how to establish a commandery in a thinly populated area – it was set up in Mendota, a tiny town in the state of Illinois. By the start of the 1870s, the town had a population of just around 2,000, with this proving to be a key factor behind the organization's relatively low membership numbers.

The primary materials for this study were the reports of the Grand Commandery of Illinois held in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Not all of the annual reports were available there, the ones missing being those for 1934, 1940, 1941, 1970, 1974–1979, 1981, and 1991–1995. The area with the least coverage was the latter years of the commandery's operation, when membership was at an all-time low. Due to the unavailability of some of the reports, the picture of the life and activity of Bethany Commandery No. 28 did not come out as complete as it could have been. The other complicating issue was the complete lack of materials of private origin and visual material. Nevertheless, a fairly comprehensive picture of the life and activity of Bethany Commandery No. 28 was achieved through this research.

Over the 127 years of its existence, from 1868 to 1995, Bethany Commandery No. 28 had 428 members, with 161 of those passing away while in service. However, given the fact that in the second half of the 20th century the organization ceased to include personal information in its reports, it was not possible to establish the identities of all the members, with 26 remaining unknown.

Bethany Commandery No. 28 had its membership increase sharply three times in its history: in 1885–1886, in 1927–1929, and in 1948–1951. In each case there was a different factor at play. In 1885–1886, the commandery was going through the difficult process of making – a solid foundation had been laid for the organization in the preceding 15 years, which translated into membership gains. In 1927–1929, the surge occurred during the boom years preceding the Great Depression. Finally, in 1948–1951, the governing factor was the end of World War II. In 1928–1930, the commandery each year took part in parades organized in conjunction with the annual conclaves of the Grand Commandery of Illinois. In the 1960s, the commandery experienced a period of stagnation, which lasted until the early 1990s. In 1995, Bethany Commandery No. 28 was closed due to low membership, with its members being consolidated with Ottawa Commandery No. 10.

As a source, this work has a significant genealogical potential via its third chapter, which contains not only information on deceased members but close relatives as well. The chapter provides numerous valuable photographs too.

The appended list of 402 members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 can be regarded as a valuable genealogical source on the history of the city of Mendota, Illinois. Apart from being a source of genealogical information, the list also helps trace the continuity in serving the Masonic order of Knights Templar. Specifically, from 1889 to 1942, the Smith family was represented in the commandery by as many as six members. Following second are the Tower, McIntyre, Harris, and Davis families, each represented by five members, followed by the Hoffman family – four members. On the other hand, the Cook family served the commandery for nearly 100 years, from 1869 to 1968, through the three of its members – just a little longer than the three members of the Gilmore family (from 1868 to 1944). Lastly, most definitely worthy of note is the Hess family – two of its members served the commandery almost continuously from 1892 to 1964. Both passed away while on duty. A similar case is that of the Knauer family – two of its members served the commandery from 1910 to 1956, i.e. a little less than 50 years, with both likewise passing away while on duty. And these by no means are the only such cases with Bethany Commandery No. 28.

By 1928, membership in Bethany Commandery No. 28 reached an all-time high of 143. Over the years, the membership included Civil War and World War I veterans. In terms of profession, it included intellectuals (doctors and engineers) and farmers. Between 1868 and 1995, Bethany Commandery No. 28 had at least 67 different commanders, with some of those holding the post for several years. And while service length varied among its members, from less than a year with the commandery to more than 60 years, they all had one thing in common – being part of Bethany Commandery No. 28.

The author wishes to extend gratitude to the management of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial for kindly providing access to the resources needed to conduct this research.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1. List of members of Bethany Commandery No. 28 (1919–1995)

No.	Name	Year joined/status changed
1	Aitken, John Malcolm	(1908–1942 dead)
2	Aitken, Walter Scott	(1918–1921 dead)
3	Alyea, Willard Signor	(1910–1910 dead)
4	Anderson, Hiram	(1871–1876 suspended)
5	Andress, Will C.	(1876–1879 demitted)
6	Andrew, George W.	(1892–1901 suspended)
7	Andrews, John Orville	(1912–1916 demitted)
8	Andrews, William Samuel	(1917–1926 dead)
9	Angear, Benjamin Horace Smith	(1907–1937 demitted)
10	Anglemier, Arthur	(1922–1930 suspended)
11	Annable, Walter Edwin	(1907–1930 demitted)
12	Atkinson, William	(1869–1888 dead)
13	Avery, William Minor	(1922–1965 dead)
14	Bailey, Frederick Ralph	(1895–1941 dead)
15	Banks, John William	(1923–1937 dead)
16	Barnett, David L.	(1912–1949 dead)
17	Barrett, Berkley (Burkley) Gillett	(1882–1890 suspended, 1894 reinstated, 1896 demitted)
18	Barse, George R.	(1872–1873 demitted)
19	Bean, Nels	(1905–1906 dead)
20	Beatty, Gilman Monroe	(1929–1942 demitted)
21	Black, George M.	(1868–1871 demitted)
22	Black, John Earl	(1944–)
23	Black, Robert Sommerville	(1944–1957 dead)
24	Blakeslee, Frank Edward	(1908–1937 demitted)
25	Blanchard, George Eslie	(1910–1952 dead)
26	Blee, John W.	(1882–1897 demitted)
27	Bowers, Charles F.	(1913–1936 suspended)
28	Bradshaw, Charles Edward	(1921–1924 dead)
29	Bradshaw, Max	(1925–)
30	Briggs, Orbed W.	(1902–1910 suspended)

31	Brittian, Harry B.	(1901–1929 suspended)
32	Bromfield, Wilbur F.	(1869–1872 dead)
33	Browning, James H.	(1914–1918 demitted)
34	Buckingham, James	(1883–1898 suspended)
35	Buel, Henry A.	(1917–1929 dead)
36	Buhler, Matthew	(1887–1923 demitted)
37	Bullis, Mefflin Charles	(1921–)
38	Burdett, Frederick J.	(1880–1883 demitted)
39	Burke, Shannon T.	(1894–1917 dead)
40	Calson, Lorenzo Wells	(1883–1936 demitted)
41	Campbell, Arden Holmes	(1963–)
42	Carnahan (Cornahan), Lafayette	(1883–1887 demitted)
43	Carnahan, William H.	(1905–1935 dead)
44	Carpenter, Arthur Eugene	(1882–1884 demitted)
45	Carpenter, Edwin Burnham	(1882–1891 dead)
46	Carr, Glifford	(1946–1972 dead)
47	Carr, Russell Guy	(1939–1946 demitted, 1953 Affiliated – 1968 dead)
48	Carter, Frank Henry	(1924–1937 suspended)
49	Case, Charles Clark	(1915–)
50	Cass, Ezra G.	(1880–1889 dead)
51	Cassic (Cassie), Louis P.	(1886–1890 demitted)
52	Cavell (Covell), Frederick Edwin	(1881–1927 dead)
53	Chadwick, Frederick C.	(1883–1897 suspended)
54	Cheesman, H.J.	(1889–1893 demitted)
55	Childs, Edmund S.	(1880–1883 demitted)
56	Church, James Alfred	(1868–1871 demitted)
57	Clark, Herbert H.	(1891–1894 demitted)
58	Clark, James	(1878–1895 dead)
59	Clarkson, James	(1882–1894 dead)
60	Compton, Andrew	(1895–1910 suspended)
61	Conard, Carl	(1932–1971 dead)
62	Conkey, Harry Dunrith	(1915–1935 demitted)
63	Conkey, William Fitch	(1880–1907 dead)
64	Cook, David Alfred	(1869–1877 demitted)
65	Cook, Edgar Pumphrey	(1869–1902 dead)
66	Cook, Harvey Foster	(1950–1968 dead)
67	Cooper, Harry S.	(1893–1900 demitted)

68	Cooper, Richard H.	(1894–1905 demitted)
69	Corbus, John Clark	(1868–1897 suspended)
70	Corbus, John Clark, Jr.	(1900–)
71	Cornelius, James W.	(1874–1879 demitted)
72	Cove, William George	(1901–1908 demitted)
73	Crance, John Henry	(1882–1890 suspended)
74	Crawford, Robert Nelson	(1893–1953 dead)
75	Cross, Charles R.	(1885–1901 dead)
76	Crossman, Fred Asia	(1920–1920 dead)
77	Crowden, George W.	(1899–1912 demitted)
78	Crowell, John C.	(1903–1916 dead)
79	Cutts, Emery	(1921–)
80	Dack, William Herbert	(1921–1944 demitted)
81	Danilson, Aden Adair	(1917–1925 demitted)
82	Daugherty, James Bertis	(1903–1916 demitted)
83	Davis, Fred T.	(1900–)
84	Davis, Henry Winn	(1925–)
85	Davis, Ovid Losson	(1950–1966 dead)
86	Davis, Preston Irving	(1869–1898 demitted)
87	Davis, William H.	(1900–1936 dead)
88	Dawson, James B.	(1868–1897 suspended)
89	Day, George Washington	(1944–1958 dead)
90	Dean, Henry Hobert	(1872–1876 suspended, 1877 reinstated and demitted)
91	Dean, Alpheus (Alfred)	(1868–1890 demitted)
92	Derick, Francis McGiverin	(1946–1952 demitted)
93	Dewey, R.M.	(1880–1890 demitted)
94	Dix, Samuel B.	(1880–1892 demitted)
95	Doan (Doane), Haren (Hazon) C.	(1882–1896 demitted)
96	Dodge, Charles L.	(1885–1892 demitted)
97	Dodge, Henry H.	(1874–1887 dead)
98	Dunbar, James Jay	(1910–1924 suspended)
99	Dunbar, Washington Wallace	(1915–1932 suspended)
100	Eckart, Arthur Louis	(1925–1947 dead)
101	Eckert (Eckart), John	(1890–1915 dead)
102	Eckenbrecht, Henry F.	(1880–1917 demitted)
103	Edgecomb, David Alexander	(1935–1968 dead)

104	Edgcomb, Stanley	(1949–)
105	Edwards, Joseph William	(1868–1925 dead)
106	Edwards, William H.	(1886–1893 demitted)
107	Ellis, James	(1919–1938 demitted)
108	Emerson, George	(1869–1878 demitted)
109	Erbes, Julian Knauer	(1923–1956 dead)
110	Erbes, Raymond Gus	(1947–1954 dead)
111	Everett, Milton H.	(1887–1888 demitted)
112	Feik, Benjamin Beryl	(1931–1935 demitted)
113	Feik, Benjamin Jacob	(1910–1939 demitted)
114	Ferguson, James	(1880–1884 demitted)
115	Finley, Robert C.	(1913–1922 demitted)
116	Fischer, Robert Ingersoll	(1910–1919 dead)
117	Fish, Stephen N.	(1875–1877 dead)
118	Foot, Alfred James	(1908–1942 dead)
119	Fordham, Harry L.	(1900–1921 dead)
120	Foster, William R.	(1907–1957 dead)
121	Fox, William Frederick	(1919–1937 suspended)
122	Fritz, Frank Frederick	(1895–)
123	Fritz, Gustav	(1917–1937 demitted)
124	Gardner, Corbus P.	(- 1925 dead)
125	Gardner, Samuel A.	(1871–1876 demitted)
126	Garfield, James Abram	(1919–1923 demitted)
127	Geft, Ira S.	(1907–1938 dead)
128	Gehaut (Gehart), Xaviere (Xavier) Francis	(1900–1908 demitted)
129	Gillett (Gillette), Adelbert (Albert) Dennis	(1896–1932 dead)
130	Gillett, William Edward	(1926–1969 dead)
131	Gilmore, Bruce Wellington	(1928–1944 demitted)
132	Gilmore, Robert L.	(1868–1891 dead)
133	Gilmore, William W.	(1883–1900 dead)
134	Goodwin, Luke	(1874–1888 dead)
135	Gould, Anthony Bennett	(1868–1880 suspended)
136	Graves, Frank Wellett	(1910–1916 suspended)
137	Graves, Harrison Lee	(1910–)
138	Graves, Lorrin I.	(1906–1912 suspended)
139	Gray, Orrin Jackson	(1923–1935 suspended)
140	Griggs, Warren Charles	(1898–1916 suspended)

141	Grisell, Frank Wilson	(1929–1969 dead)
142	Grogan, Glen Dee	(1917–1948 dead)
143	Gulbransen (Galbranson), Axel	(1884–1894 demitted)
144	Guirnip, Raymond Paul	(1921–1930 suspended)
145	Gurney, Frank Herbert	(1926–1951 demitted)
146	Hale, William Henry	(1871–1897 suspended)
147	Hall, Howard B.	(1896–1899 demitted)
148	Hallenberg, Robert	(1915–1925 demitted)
149	Hallinan, William Wayne	(1942–1949 demitted)
150	Hanson, Julius	(1882–1893 demitted)
151	Hapeman, Dwight E.	(1890–1959 dead)
152	Hardin, Franklin (Frank) A.	(1868–1878 suspended)
153	Harrington, William Shaw	(1868–1871 demitted)
154	Harris, Andrew Corwin	(1905–?, 1950–1956 dead)
155	Harris, Arthur G.	(1901–1902 demitted)
156	Harris, Parmenas (Permanious; Dermenas) Leonard	(1892–1950 dead)
157	Harris, John M.	(1906–1955 dead)
158	Harris, Oscar Porter	(1902–)
159	Haskell (Haskill), Frederick Henry	(1868–1908 dead)
160	Hastings, James	(1871–1880 demitted)
161	Hastings, Samuel	(1882–1910 suspended)
162	Hawley, Charles Albert	(1873–1875 demitted)
163	Hays, William	(1871–1874 demitted)
164	Hazard, Charles W. (D.)	(1899–1910 suspended)
165	Helbig, Theobald John	(1950–1965 demitted)
166	Hempstead, Edward (Edwin) Freeman	(1898–1937 demitted)
167	Henning, Henry William Ferdinand	(1900–1931 dead)
168	Hensel, George	(1889–1905 dead)
169	Heslett (Haslet), Samuel M.	(1882–1898 dead)
170	Hess, Ralph Abraham	(1918–1964 dead)
171	Hess, William E.	(1892–1948 dead)
172	Hills, Elezer J.	(1871–1880 demitted)
173	Hoffman, Ezra Grant	(1909–1922 demitted, 1948–1953 dead)
174	Hoffman, James R.	(1883–1889 dead)
175	Hoffman, John Henry	(1907–)
176	Hoffman, Roy Phillip	(1918–1933 demitted)

177	Holdren (Holden), William Clarence (Charles)	(1885–1906 suspended, 1907 reinstated, 1912 suspended)
178	Holliston, William Keeler	(1961–)
179	Hopps, Clifford Crossman	(1910–1967 dead)
180	Hopps, Stephen Arthur	(1910–1955 dead)
181	Hotchkiss, Ross Abram	(1948–1969 dead)
182	Hoteling (Hotaling), Robert J.	(1900–1909 demitted)
183	Hubbard, Clarence Willard	(1917–1939 demitted)
184	Ingalls (Ingles), Charles H.	(1883–1897 suspended, 1900 reinstated, 1903 demitted)
185	Irwin, William Harry	(1882–1909 dead)
186	Isaac, Edward R.	(1900–1910 suspended)
187	Jacob, Christaph Walter	(1923–1966 dead)
188	Jacob, Ralph Christian	(1925–)
189	Johnson, Wilson Ernest	(1945–1971 dead)
190	James, Peleg M.	(1882–1886 demitted)
191	Jenkins, William	(1877–1898 dead)
192	Jones, Charles D.	(1885–1886 demitted)
193	Jones, Raymond W.	(1918–)
194	Jordan, Milo William	(1947–1951 suspended)
195	Josephson, Barney Joseph	(1944–1970 dead)
196	Kaufman, Frank B.	(1919–1970 dead)
197	Keeler, Fred Blair	(1909–1932 demitted)
198	Keeler, James Bradley	(1900–1936 dead)
199	Keefe, John Joseph	(?- 1944 demitted)
	Kelly, George	(1882–1897 suspended)
200	Kelly, Harace Oscar	(1910–1923 demitted)
201	Kidd, Albert James	(1925–1936 suspended)
202	Kidd, William H.	(1906–1921 dead)
203	Kirk, Bernard	(1882–1906 dead)
204	Kloke, Herschel Walter	(? – 1972 dead)
205	Knauer, John	(1920–1931 dead)
206	Knauer, Louis Frank	(1910–1956 dead)
207	Kohl, Charles Christian	(1910–1915 demitted)
208	Koropp, Ernest August	(1923–1955 dead)
209	Kreis (Kreig), Emil John	(1895–)

210	Kreiser, Ray	(1948–1973 dead)
211	Laraber, Charles D.	(1912–1925 dead)
212	Lathrop, Charles Frederick	(1910–1966 dead)
213	Lee, Harry J.	(1893–1912 demitted)
214	Legner, Arthur Joseph	(1928–1954 demitted)
215	Legner, Ernest Frederick	(1920–1928 demitted)
216	LeMarr, Samuel Ernest	(1949–1964 suspended)
217	Lenihan, Frank Cornelius	(1922–1956 dead)
218	Lindsay, George W.	(1882–1886 demitted)
219	Lindstrom (Lindstrum; Lindstrom), Oscar	(1874–1888 demitted)
220	Liscom, Jason Martin	(1869–1877 demitted)
221	Liscom, Jason Reed	(1868–1879 dead)
222	Liscom, William H.	(1884–1891 demitted)
223	Lytle, James E.J.	(1875–1887 suspended)
224	Martin, Harry Elmer	(1918–)
225	Mathews, Fred A.	(1880–1886 dead)
226	Matteson, William S.	(1911–1929 demitted)
227	McBride, R.A.	(1890–1918 demitted)
228	McClanahan, John Raymond	(1961–)
229	McCray, Charles Whitney	(1914–1952 demitted)
230	McCredie, Edward L.	(1892–1920 demitted)
231	McFarlain, Charles	(1899–1902 suspended)
232	McFarland, Abel (Albert) W.	(1889–1903 dead)
233	McGregor, James R.	(1880–1887 suspended)
234	McIntire, Albert William	(1914–1932 dead)
235	McIntire, Arthur C.	(1913–)
236	McIntire, Arthur Cox	(1878–1904 dead)
237	McInture (McIntyre), Arthur C.	(1920–1929 dead)
238	McIntyre, William Russell	(1921–1923 dead)
239	McKelvey, R.J.L.	(1945–1964 dead)
240	McLaughlin, Lester Henry	(1949–)
241	McMahon, William	(1886–1894 dead)
242	McMillan, Leroy (LeRoy) P.	(1906–1911 demitted)
243	McRea, John D.	(1911–1924 suspended)
244	Meisenbach (Miscenbach, Meisenback), Daniel	(1871–1883 demitted)
245	Mende, August Charles	(1948–)
246	Menz, Frank Joseph	(1921–1952 demitted)

247	Merritt, Charles Edison	(1925–1955 dead)
248	Merritt, Charles Sherwood	(1945–)
249	Merritt, Charles Sherwood, Jr.	(1947–)
250	Merritt, Willard Francis	(1948–)
251	Metler (Mettler), James Iliff	(1871–1877 suspended, 1878 reinstated, 1881 suspended)
252	Miller, Edward A.	(1912–1949 dead)
253	Miller, Ralph Eugene	(1949–)
254	Miller, Robert Gerald	(1957–)
255	Miller, Samuel A.	(1920–)
256	Mitchell, William N.	(1896–)
257	Moffatt, William	(1886–1909 dead)
258	Momeny, Glenn Milford	(1955–)
259	Moore, Eddie Tower	(1916–1946 dead)
260	Moorhead, Clyde Arthur	(1917–1935 suspended)
261	Morahn, Edward S.	(1892–1893 demitted)
262	Morrison, Lester John	(1917–1920 dead)
263	Morrison, Samuel	(1869–1876 demitted)
264	Mortonson, Norman Gebe	(1950–1954 demitted)
265	Mosher, Benjamin Dean	(1907–1939 suspended)
266	Moss, Benjamin Napoleon	(1873–1898 dead)
267	Neff, Raymond Jemes	(1961–)
268	Neff, Warren Walter	(1959–)
269	Neill, William Henry	(1920–)
270	Newport, Thomas Faucett Aaron	(1869–1914 dead)
271	Nolan, William B.	(1884–1887 suspended)
272	Norman, Isaac N.	(1882–1889 demitted)
273	Olsen (Oleson), Martin	(1878–1881 demitted)
274	Pardridge, Charles Anson	(1926–1959 demitted)
275	Parks, Charles Clarence	(1923–1932 suspended)
276	Packard, Walter Herbert	(1883–1887 demitted)
277	Palmer, Thomas D.	(1874–1887 demitted)
278	Panton, Mathew H.	(1869–1871 demitted)
279	Patterson, Edward C.	(? - 1982 suspended)
280	Paxson (Paxon), Martin (Marion) D.	(1873–1886 demitted)
281	Payne, John Washington	(1920–1926 demitted)
282	Perkins, Stephen Manson	(1906–1937 demitted)

283	Pierce, Philip S.	(1882–1908 suspended and reinstated, 1912 dead)
284	Plaisted (Plaistead), David V.	(1878–1897 dead)
285	Pointer, Stanley Myron	(1961–)
286	Pollock, George A., Rev.	(1891–1892 demitted)
287	Pool, Joseph James	(1882–1904 dead)
288	Potter, Clarence Willard	(1925–1965 dead)
289	Potter, Lester E.	(1921–1932 suspended)
290	Powell, Charles David	(1920–1953 dead)
291	Prather, Herman	(1982–)
292	Pratt, Rogers Wilber	(1924–1960 demitted)
293	Prescott, Samuel Plumer	(1887–1918 dead)
294	Prescott, Warren Atwood	(1915–1923 demitted)
295	Reck, Benjamin Harry	(1919–1960 dead)
296	Reed, Edward Albert	(1882–1884 suspended, 1912 reinstated and demitted)
297	Reints, George Allen	(1951–1961 demitted)
298	Rice, Edgar W.	(1876–1880 suspended)
299	Rice, Freedom M.	(1874–1883 demitted)
300	Robeson, Reginald Kenneth	(1956–)
301	Rodgers, Herbert Monford	(1903–1916 suspended)
302	Robinson, John William	(1921–1937 demitted)
303	Rossette, Charles E.	(1882–)
304	Ruedy, Casper	(1875–1896 dead)
305	Rutt, Amos Landis	(1920–1921 dead)
306	Ruff, James G.	(1881–1887 dead)
307	Salander, Charles Mansford	(1920–1981 dead)
308	Schilberg, Otto	(1919–1937 suspended)
309	Schildberg, Theodore Fred	(1927–1931 demitted)
310	Schmidt, Jerome Grant	(1964–)
311	Schmidt, William Edward	(1964–)
312	Schurtz (Scheurtz; Schuetz), George Cornat	(1875–1909 dead)
313	Shaw, James L.	(1880–1886 suspended, 1887 reinstated and demitted)
314	Shipper, Newton Franklin	(1918–1935 demitted)

315	Short, John James	(1873–1881 dead)
316	Simminger (Simmenger; Siminger), John Baptiss	(1876–1882 suspended, 1884 reinstated, 1894 demitted)
317	Small, Clarence W.	(1920–1926 suspended, 1927 reinstated – 1928 dead)
318	Smith, Amos T.	(1921–1939 suspended)
319	Smith, Edward D.	(? – 1926 demitted)
320	Smith, George Duncan	(1920–)
321	Smith, Louis Dewitt	(1910–1937 suspended)
322	Smith, William Rolland	(1922–1942 suspended)
323	Smith, Zimri (Zinni)	(1889–1912 demitted)
324	Snyder, Frank P.	(1880–1900 demitted)
325	Sowers, George McKinney	(1930–)
326	Spauling, Arthur Judson	(1944–1949 dead)
327	Sprague, Howard Leon	(1924–1937 suspended)
328	Stannard, George Frank	(1871–1878 demitted)
329	Staten, Edward James	(1904–1926 suspended)
330	Steele, Elmo Elwood	(1956–)
331	Stetler, Thomas H.	(1889–)
332	Steckel, Arthur Dudley	(1928–1954 demitted)
333	Stoldorf, John	(1917–1918 dead)
334	Streeter, Rolvin H.	(1982–)
335	Strong, Charles C.	(1889–1897 demitted)
336	Swanson, August	(1884–1894 suspended)
337	Swartsley, George Lewis	(1917–1926 demitted)
338	Swearingen, Albert (Abe) Allison	(1892–1928 dead)
339	Swisher, William James	(1916–1936 suspended, 1962 reinstated – 1965 dead)
340	Swope, Roy	(1928–1932 suspended, 1937 reinstated – 1957 dead)

341	Tabor, Edward B.	(1913–1932 suspended)
342	Tabor, Edward J.	(1927–)
343	Taylor, James Lewis	(1871–1897 suspended)
344	Taylor, Lewis	(1880–1893 dead)
345	Tesche, Adolph Gustav	(1921–1964 dead)
346	Tewksberry (Tewksbury), George W.	(1876–1889 demitted)
347	Tidd, Emmerson Devo	(1953–)
348	Their, George James	(1914–1950 dead)
349	Thomassen, John J.	(1907–1913 demitted)
350	Thornton, Ulysses (Ulyses) N.	(1901–1911 demitted)
351	Thorsen, Jacob Bernart	(1926–1937 demitted)
352	Thorsen, Leonard Signard	(1925–1954 dead)
353	Thorsen, Trygoa Wegner	(1920–)
354	Tibbetts, John Ezekiel	(1882–1887 demitted)
355	Tower, Daniel C.	(1901–1939 dead)
356	Tower, George Daniel	(1906–1918 dead)
357	Tower, Forrest Lee	(1913–1945 dead)
358	Tower, Henry	(1916–1918 dead)
359	Tower, Tracey Travers	(1920–1939 suspended)
360	Town (Towne), David A.	(1882–1891 dead)
361	Truman, William	(1869–1899 dead)
362	Turner, James W.	(1889–1897 suspended)
363	VanEtten, Walcott Gumaer	(1925–1933 demitted)
364	Van Law, Joseph	(1871–1875 dead)
365	Van Law, Ruggles B.	(1873–1922 dead)
366	Van Ormun, Albert Dow	(1916–1936 demitted)
367	Van Vliet (Vleit), Charles William	(1881–1886 demitted)
368	Van Vorst, William B.	(1920–)
369	Von Ohlen, Christian W.	(1916–1926 dead)
370	Vosburg, David M.	(1885–1905 dead)
371	Walker, Eddy Augustus	(1944–1966 dead)
372	Walker, John Hepburn	(1914–1932 suspended)
373	Walters, Franklin Lincoln	(1964–)
374	Walters, William Grant	(1964–)
375	Wandelt, Bruno Raymond	(1921–1935 suspended)
376	Ward, Theodore	(1908–)
377	Warren, Winfred Field	(1924–)
378	Watson, George F.	(1878–1880 demitted)

379	Watts (Watte), Edward Lilly	(1896–1908 dead)
380	Wells, Charles H.	(1920–1929 suspended)
381	Welsch, Edward John	(1928–1949 dead)
382	Wetherbee, Oliver	(1883–1883 dead)
383	Wheeler, Levi William	(1886–1900 dead)
384	Wiley, Frank Angels	(1920–1932 demitted)
385	Wiley, George Samuel	(1908–1929 suspended)
386	Wiley, Samuel C.	(1882–1900 dead)
387	Wills, George Edward	(1882–1914 dead)
388	Wills, Oscar T.	(1916–)
389	Wilson, Charles W.	(1889–1893 demitted)
390	Wilson, William	(1882–1886 suspended)
391	Willshay, Charles B.	(1920–1939 demitted)
392	Wilson, Edwin Ford	(1926–1937 demitted)
393	Wilson, John Daniel	(1925–1925 demitted)
394	Witte, Rudolph William (Jr.)	(1906–1938 dead)
395	Wixom, Jesse Edgar	(1918–1964 dead)
396	Wixom, William P.	(1889–1914 demitted)
397	Woods, John Alexander	(1928–1957 dead)
398	Wylie, William	(1880–1906 demitted)
399	Wylie, William W.	(1918–1931 dead)
400	Yenrich, Ralph Waldo	(1950–)
401	Youngren, Jonas (Alfred) Alfred (Jonas)	(1895–1901 demitted)
402	Yule, George H.	(1912–1946 suspended)

Appendix 2. Eminent commanders of Bethany Commandery No. 28

Frank Allen Hardin (1868-1869)
 George Emerson (1870-1871)
 Joseph William Edwards (1872-1873, 1875-1877)
 Robert L. Gilmore (1874)
 Casper Ruedy (1878)
 William H. Hale (1879-1880)
 Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport (1881-1883, 1893-1896)
 Frank P. Snyder (1884-1885)
 Thomas D. Palmer (1886)
 Julius Hanson (1887)
 S.B. Dix (1888)
 William Jenkins (1889-1890)
 Wm. H. Irwin (1891-1892)
 George E. Wills (1897-1898)
 Robert N. Crawford (1899-1901, 1903-1907, 1909-1913)
 John C. Corbus, Jr. (1902)
 Albert D. Gillette (1908)
 Edwin F. Hempstead (1914)
 Frederick R. Bailey (1915-1916)
 Stephen Manson Perkins (1917)
 George E. Blanchard (1918)
 Rudolph Wm. Witte (1919)
 Charles Whitney McCray (1920)
 Robert Hallenberg (1921)
 Louis Frank Knauer (1922)
 Charles D. Larabee (1923)
 David Louis Barnett (1924)
 Clarence W. Hubbard (1925)
 Forrest Lee Tower (1926)
 Glen Reese Henn (1927)
 Frank B. Kaufman (1928)
 Charles D. Powell (1929)
 Christoph W. Jacob (1930)
 Jesse Edwin Wixom (1931)
 Tracy Travers Tower (1932)
 John A. Woods (1933)
 Charles Edson Merritt (1934)
 George McKinley Sowers (1935)
 Raymond W. Jones (1936)
 Clarence Willard Potter (1937)
 Charles Manfred Salander (1938-1939)
 Russell Guy Carr (1940-1942)

Frank Cornelius Lenihan (1943-1944)
Charles Sherwood Merritt (1945)
Christoph Walter Jacob (1946)
Charles Manfred Salander (1947)
Eddy Augustus Walker (1948)
Charles Sherwood Merritt, Jr. (1949-1951)
Willard Francis Merritt (1952)
Clifford Carr (1953-1954)
Ralph Eugene Miller (1955)
Clifford Carr (1956)
Willard Francis Merritt (1957-1959)
Warren Walter Neff (1960)
Ralph Eugene Miller (1961)
Elmo Elwood Steele (1962-1964)
William Keeler Holliston (1965)
Emerson Devoe Tidd (1966-1967)
Willard Francis Merritt (1968)
Robert J. Godfrey (1969)
Robert J. Godfrey (1970)
Glenn Milferd Momeny (1971)
Paul L. Henry, Sr. (1972-1973)
Albert J. Swanson (1974)
Emerson D. Tidd (1976)
Lewis E. Miller (1977)
Albert J. Swanson (1978)
George L. Baumann, Jr. (1979)
Lewis E. Miller (1980)
Ventley O. Carter (1981-1982)
Albert Julius Swanson (1983-1984)
Ventley Owen Carter (1985-1990)
Albert J. Swanson (1991)

Appendix 3. List of Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Prelate (1868–1995)

Years	Commander	Generalissimo	Captain General	Prelate
1868	Frank Allen Hardin	George Emerson	David Alpheus Cook	Wilbur Fisk Bromfield
1869	Frank Allen Hardin	George Emerson	David Alpheus Cook	Wilbur Fisk Bromfield
1870	George Emerson	Joseph William Edwards	David Alpheus Cook	William Shaw Harrington
1871	George Emerson	Joseph William Edwards	David Alfred Cook	William Truman
1872	Joseph William Edwards	Robert L. Gilmore	David Alfred Cook	William Truman
1873	Joseph William Edwards	Robert L. Gilmore	Henry Hobert Dean	William Truman
1874	Robert L. Gilmore	-	-	-
1875	Joseph William Edwards	-	-	-
1876	Joseph William Edwards	Casper Ruedy	William Henry Hale	Robert L. Gilmore
1877	Joseph William Edwards	-	-	-
1878	Casper Ruedy	-	-	-
1879	William H. Hale	-	-	-
1880	William Henry Hale	Luke Goodwin	Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport	J.W. Edwards
1881	T.F.A. Newport	-	-	-
1882	T.F.A. Newport	-	-	-
1883	Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport	Frank P. Snyder	Thomas D. Palmer	William Henry Hale

1884	Frank P. Snyder	-	-	-
1885	Frank P. Snyder	-	-	-
1886	Thomas D. Palmer	Julius Hanson	Samuel Dix	William Jenkins
1887	Julius Hanson	-	-	-
1888	S.B. Dix	-	-	-
1889	William Jenkins	William H. Irwin	Julius Hanson	Thomas F.A. Irwin
1890	Wm. Jenkins	-	-	-
1891	Wm. H. Irwin	-	-	-
1892	William H. Irwin	George Edward Wills	David V. Plaisted	T.F.A. Newport
1893	T.F.A. Newport	-	-	-
1894	T.F.A. Newport	-	-	-
1895	T.F.A. Newport	George Edward Wills	David V. Plaisted	Samuel P. Prescott
1896	T.F.A. Newport	-	-	-
1897	George E. Wills	-	-	-
1898	George E. Wills	R.N. Crawford	William F. Colson	Samuel P. Prescott
1899	Robert N. Crawford	-	-	-
1900	Robert N. Crawford	-	-	-
1901	Robert Nelson Crawford	John Clark Corbus	Adelbert Dennis Gillett	Samuel P. Prescott
1902	John C. Corbus	-	-	-
1903	Robert N. Crawford	-	-	-
1904	Robert Nelson Crawford	Adelbert Dennis Gillett	Frederick E. Covell	Edward Freeman Hempstead
1905	Robert N. Crawford	-	-	-
1906	Robert N. Crawford	-	-	-

1907	Robert Nelsen Crawford	Adelbert Dennis Gillett	Frederick E. Covell	Edward Freeman Hempstead
1908	Albert D. Gillette	-	-	-
1909	Robert N. Crawford	...	John Clark Corbus	-
1910	Robert N. Crawford	Frederick Edwin Cavell	John Clark Corbus	Edward Freeman Hempstead
1911	Robert N. Crawford	-	-	-
1912	Robert N. Crawford	-	-	-
1913	Robert Nelson Crawford	Frederick R. Bailey	John Clark Corbus	George H. Yule
1914	Edwin F. Hempstead	-	-	-
1915	Frederick R. Bailey	-	-	-
1916	Frederick Ralph Bailey	Stephen Manson Perkins	George Eslie Blanchard	Robert Hallenberg
1917	Stephen Manson Perkins	-	-	-
1918	George E. Blanchard	-	-	-
1919	Rudolph Wm. Witte	Charles Whitney McCray	Robert Hallenberg	James Abram G. Waits
1920	Charles Whitney McCray	-	-	-
1921	Robert Hallenberg	-	-	-
1922	Louis Frank Knauer	-	-	-
1923	Charles D. Larabee	-	-	-
1924	David Louis Barnett	-	-	-
1925	Clarence W. Hubbard	-	-	-

1926	Forrest Lee Tower	-	-	-
1927	Glen Reese Henn	-	-	-
1928	Frank B. Kaufman	-	-	-
1929	Charles D. Powell	-	-	-
1930	Christoph W. Jacob	-	-	-
1931	Jesse Edwin Wixom	-	-	-
1932	Tracy Travers Tower	-	-	-
1933	John A. Woods	Charles Edson Merritt	Arthur L. Eckart	-
1934	Charles Edson Merritt	-	-	-
1935	George McKinley Sowers	C. Walter Jacob	Clarence Willard Potter	-
1936	Raymond W. Jones	Clarence Willard Potter	Christopher Walter Jacob	-
1937	Clarence Willard Potter	Julias K. Erbus	Chas. M. Salander	-
1938	Charles Manfred Salander	Clarence Willard Potter	Raymond Walter Jones	-
1939	Charles Manfred Salander	Russell Guy Carr	John Alexander Woods	-
1940	Russell Guy Carr	-	-	-
1941	Russell Guy Carr	-	-	-
1942	Russell Guy Carr	Roy Swope	Clarence Winfred Potter	-
1943	Frank Cornelius Lenihan	-	-	-
1944	Frank Cornelius Lenihan	David Alexander Edgecomb	Charles Sherwood Merritt	-

1945	Charles Sherwood Merritt	David Alexander Edgecomb	Jasse Edwin Wixom	-
1946	Christoph Walter Jacob	Roy Swope	Jasse Edwin Wixom	-
1947	Charles Manfred Salander	Eddy Augustus Walker	Jesse Edwin Wixom	-
1948	Eddy Augustus Walker	Jesse Edwin Wixom	George Washington Day	-
1949	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Jr.	George Washington Day	Raymond Gus Erbes	-
1950	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Jr.	George Washington Day	Willard Francis Merritt	-
1951	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Jr.	Willard Francis Merritt	Clifford Carr	-
1952	Willard Francis Merritt	George Washington Day	Clifford Carr	-
1953	Clifford Carr	George Washington Day	Ralph Eugene Miller	-
1954	Clifford Carr	Ralph Eugene Miller	Ovid Losson Davis	-
1955	Ralph Eugene Miller	Willard Francis Merritt	Clifford Carr	-
1956	Clifford Carr	Willard Francis Merritt	Ralph Eugene Miller	-
1957	Willard Francis Merritt	Glen Milford Momeny	Clifford Carr	-
1958	Willard Francis Merritt	Emerson Devoe Tidd	Clifford Carr	-
1959	Willard Francis Merritt	Emerson Devoe Tidd	Clifford Carr	-
1960	Warren Walter Neff	Ralph Eugene Miller	Elmo Elwood Steele	-
1961	Ralph	Elmo Elwood	Emerson	-

	Eugene Miller	Steele	Devoe Tidd	
1962	Elmo Elwood Steele	Emerson Devoe Tidd	Clifford Carr	-
1963	Elmo Elwood Steele	Emerson Devoe Tidd	Clifford Carr	-
1964	Elmo Elwood Steele	Emerson Devoe Tidd	Clifford Carr	-
1965	William Keeler Holliston	Charles Manfred Salander	Ralph E. Miller	-
1966	Emerson Devoe Tidd	William Keeler Holliston	Willard Francis Merritt	-
1967	Emerson Devoe Tidd	William Keeler Holliston	Willard Francis Merritt	-
1968	Willard Francis Merritt	William Keeler Holliston	Elmo Elwood Steele	-
1969	Robert J. Godfrey	Paul L. Henry	Elmo Elwood Steele	-
1970	Robert J. Godfrey	Reginald K. Robenson	Elmo Elwood Steele	-
1971	Glenn Milferd Momeny	Reginald Kenneth Robenson	Keith Eugene Hansen	-
1972	Paul L. Henry, Sr.	Keith Eugene Hansen	Albert J. Swanson	-
1973	Paul L. Henry, Sr.	Keith Eugene Hansen	Albert J. Swanson	-
1974	Albert J. Swanson	-	-	-
1975	-	-	-	-
1976	Emerson D. Tidd	-	-	-
1977	Lewis E. Miller	-	-	-
1978	Albert J. Swanson	-	-	-
1979	George L. Baumann, Jr.	-	-	-
1980	Lewis E. Miller	Ventley O. Carter	Claude C. Collings	-
1981	Ventley O.	Claude C.	George	-

	Carter	Collings	Baumann	
1982	Ventley O. Carter	Claude C. Collings	George Baumann	-
1983	Albert Julius Swanson	Claude C. Collings	Ventley Owen Carter	-
1984	Albert Julius Swanson	Claude C. Collings	Ventley Owen Carter	-
1985	Ventley Owen Carter	Lewis E. Miller	Brian G. Swanson	-
1986	Ventley Owen Carter	Lewis E. Miller	Brian G. Swanson	-
1987	Ventley Owen Carter	Lewis E. Miller	Brian G. Swanson	-
1988	Ventley Owen Carter	-	-	-
1989	Ventley Owen Carter	-	-	-
1990	Ventley Owen Carter	William G. Momeny	Henry Gerdes	-
1991	Albert J. Swanson	Ventley Owen Carter	Robert J. Krenz	-
1992	-	-	-	-
1993	-	-	-	-
1994	-	-	-	-
1995	-	-	-	-

Appendix 4. List of Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Prelate
(1868–1995)

Years	Senior Warden	Junior Warden	Treasurer	Recorder
1868	George Frank Stannard	Preston J. Davis	John Hamilton Harris	Anthony Benett Gould
1869	John Clark Corbus	Robert L. Gilmore	James Brown Dawson	Frederick Henry Haskill
1870	Preston Irving Davis	Robert L. Gilmore	James Brown Dawson	Frederick Henry Haskill
1871	Preston Irving Davis	Robert L. Gilmore	James Brown Dawson	Frederick Henry Haskill
1872	Preston Irving Davis	Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport	James Brown Dawson	Frederick Henry Haskill
1873	Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport	Preston Irving Davis	James Brown Dawson	Frederick Henry Haskill
1874	-	-	-	Frederick Henry Haskill
1875	-	-	-	Frederick Henry Haskill
1876	James E.J. Lytle	William Truman	James Brown Dawson	Frederick Henry Haskill
1877	-	-	-	Frederick Henry Haskill
1878	-	-	-	Frederick Henry Haskill
1879	-	-	-	T.F.A. Newport
1880	James E.J. Lytle	Casper Ruedy	D.V. Plaistead	James Ferguson
1881	-	-	-	James Ferguson
1882	-	-	-	F.E. Cavell
1883	Luke Goodwin	Casper Ruedy	D.V. Plaistead	William H. Irwin
1884	-	-	-	Wm. H. Irwin
1885	-	-	-	Wm. H. Irwin
1886	George Edward Wills	William Truman	David V. Plaistead	William H. Irwin

1887	-	-	-	William H. Irwin
1888	-	-	-	E.B. Carpenter
1889	George Edward Wills	James Clark	David V. Plaistead	E.B. Carpenter
1890	-	-	-	C. Ruedy
1891	-	-	-	C. Ruedy
1892	F.E. Cavell	Samuel P. Prescott	Samuel Hastings	C. Ruedy
1893	-	-	-	C. Ruedy
1894	-	-	-	C. Ruedy
1895	R.N. Crawford	F.E. Cavell	Samuel Hastings	C. Ruedy
1896	-	-	-	John Eckart
1897	-	-	-	John Eckart
1898	P.L. Harris	T.F.A. Newport	Samuel Hastings	John Eckart
1899	-	-	-	Frank F. Fritz
1900	-	-	-	Frank F. Fritz
1901	Permanious L. Harris	Frederick E. Covell	Emil J. Kreig	Frank Fred Fritz
1902	-	-	-	Frank F. Fritz
1903	-	-	-	Oscar P. Harris
1904	Parmenas Leonard Harris	Frederick Ralph Bailey	John Clark Corbus	Oscar Porter Harris
1905	-	-	-	Oscar P. Harris
1906	-	-	-	Frederick F.W. Henning
1907	Parmenas Leonard Harris	Frederick Ralph Bailey	Rudolph William Witte, Jr.	Henry William Ferdinand Henning
1908	-	-	-	John H. Hoffman
1909	-	-	-	John H. Hoffman
1910	Frederick Ralph Bailey	John J. Thomassen	George Daniel Tower	John H. Hoffman
1911	-	-	-	John H. Hoffman
1912	-	-	-	John H. Hoffman
1913	Stephen M. Perkins	George E. Blanchard	George Daniel Tower	John Henry Hoffman

1914	-	-	-	John H. Hoffman
1915	-	-	-	John H. Hoffman
1916	Rudolph Wm. Witte	Charles Whitney McCray	George Daniel Tower	John Henry Hoffman
1917	-	-	-	John Henry Hoffman
1918	-	-	-	John Henry Hoffman
1919	Louis Frank Knauer	John Lester Morrison	Robert Nelson Crawford	John Henry Hoffman
1920	-	-	-	John Henry Hoffman
1921	-	-	-	John Henry Hoffman
1922	-	-	-	John Henry Hoffman
1923	-	-	-	John Henry Hoffman
1924	-	-	-	John Henry Hoffman
1925	-	-	-	David Louis Barnett
1926	-	-	-	Rudolph W. Witte
1927	-	-	-	Rudolph W. Witte
1928	-	-	-	Rudolph W. Witte
1929	-	-	-	Rudolph W. Witte
1930	-	-	-	Rudolph W. Witte
1931	-	-	-	Christoph W. Jacob
1932	-	-	-	Christoph W. Jacob
1933	-	-	-	Christoph W. Jacob
1934	-	-	-	-
1935	-	-	-	W.F. Colson
1936	-	-	-	W.F. Colson
1937	-	-	-	W.F. Colson

1938	-	-	-	W.F. Colson
1939	-	-	-	Williston Franklin Colson
1940	-	-	-	-
1941	-	-	-	-
1942	-	-	-	Charles Manfred Salander
1943	-	-	-	-
1944	-	-	-	Charles Manfred Salander
1945	-	-	-	Charles Manfred Salander
1946	-	-	-	Charles Manfred Salander
1947	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.
1948	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.
1949	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.
1950	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.
1951	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.
1952	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.
1953	-	-	-	Christoph Walter Jacob
1954	-	-	-	Charles Manfred Salander
1955	-	-	-	Charles Manfred Salander
1956	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Miller
1957	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr

1958	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.
1959	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.
1960	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.
1961	-	-	-	Charles Sherwood Merritt, Sr.
1962	-	-	-	Glen M. Momeny
1963	-	-	-	Glen M. Momeny
1964	-	-	-	Glen M. Momeny
1965	-	-	-	Glen M. Momeny
1966	-	-	-	Glen M. Momeny
1967	-	-	-	Glen M. Momeny
1968	-	-	-	Glen M. Momeny
1969	-	-	-	Glen M. Momeny
1970	-	-	-	Glenn Momeny
1971	-	-	-	Leo Thelbert Pope
1972	-	-	-	Glenn Momeny
1973	-	-	-	Glenn Momeny
1974	-	-	-	-
1975	-	-	-	-
1976	-	-	-	-
1977	-	-	-	-
1978	-	-	-	-
1979	-	-	-	-
1980	-	-	-	Glenn Momeny
1981	-	-	-	Glenn Momeny
1982	-	-	-	Glenn Momeny
1983	-	-	-	Glenn Momeny
1984	-	-	-	Glenn Momeny
1985	-	-	-	Glenn Momeny

1986	-	-	-	Albert J. Swanson
1987	-	-	-	Albert J. Swanson
1988	-	-	-	-
1989	-	-	-	-
1990	-	-	-	Albert J. Swanson
1991	-	-	-	Robert Ritter
1992	-	-	-	-
1993	-	-	-	-
1994	-	-	-	-
1995	-	-	-	-

Appendix 5. List of Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, Warden, Captain of the Guards (1868–1919)

Years	Standard Bearer	Sword Bearer	Warden	Captain of the Guards
1868	John Clark Corbus	James Alfred Church	Jason Martin Liscom	Jason Reed Liscom
1869	Joseph William Edwards	Preston Irving Davis	Anthony Bennett Gould	Jason Reed Liscom
1870	Samuael Morrison	William Truman	Anthony Bennett Gould	Jason Reed Liscom
1871	Daniel Meisenbach	Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport	Jason Martin Liscom	Jason Reed Liscom
1872	Daniel Meisenbach	James Lewis Taylor	James Iliff Metler	Jason Reed Liscom
1873	Daniel Meisenbach	James Iliff Metler	Charles Albert Hawley	Benjamin Napoleon Moss
1874	-	-	-	-
1875	-	-	-	-
1876	Daniel Meisenbach	George Cornat Schurtz	Thomas Fawcett Aaron Newport	Benjamin Napoleon Moss
1877	-	-	-	-
1878	-	-	-	-
1879	-	-	-	-
1880	A.C. McIntire	J.B. Simminger	William Jenkins	Benjamin Napoleon Moss
1881	-	-	-	-
1882	-	-	-	-
1883	George Edward Wills	James Clark	Samuel Dix	Benjamin Napoleon Moss
1884	-	-	-	-
1885	-	-	-	-
1886	James Clark	Fred E. Covell	Charles L. Dodge	Benjamin Napoleon Moss
1887	-	-	-	-
1888	-	-	-	-
1889	F.H. Haskell	William P. Wixom	Samuel P. Prescott	Benjamin Napoleon Moss
1890	-	-	-	-
1891	-	-	-	-

1892	John Eckart	George W. Andrew	James Clark	Benjamin Napoleon Moss
1893	-	-	-	-
1894	-	-	-	-
1895	John Eckart	William Colson	A.A. Swearingen	Benjamin Napoleon Moss
1896	-	-	-	-
1897	-	-	-	-
1898	A.D. Gillett	F.F. Fritz	F.R. Bailey	...
1899	-	-	-	-
1900	-	-	-	-
1901	James Bradley Keeler	Henry William Ferdinand Henning	Daniel Charles Tower	Thomas F.A. Newport
1902	-	-	-	-
1903	-	-	-	-
1904	James Bradley Keeler	Albert Allison Swearingen	Ferdinand William Henry Henning	Thomas F.A. Newport
1905	-	-	-	-
1906	-	-	-	-
1907	James Bradley Keeler	Albert Allison Swearingen	Oscar Porter Harris	Thomas Taucett Aaron Newport
1908	-	-	-	-
1909	-	-	-	-
1910	William H. Kidd	Albert Allison Swearingen	Theodore Ward	Thomas Faucett Aaron Newport
1911	-	-	-	-
1912	-	-	-	-
1913	William H. Kidd	Rudolph Wm. Witte	Willistrom F. Colson	Edward A. Miller
1914	-	-	-	-
1915	-	-	-	-
1916	William H. Kidd	Louis Frank Knaner	Eddie Tower Moore	Corbus Plumer Gardner
1917	-	-	-	-
1918	-	-	-	-
1919	Charles David Larabee	Clarence W. Hubbard	Forrest Lee Tower	Corbus Plumer Gardner

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