

A History of LaValette Commandery No. 15



The history information was compiled by Em. Sir Hamilton A. Mattison.

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John Parasot De La Valette, after whom this Commandery was named, was the 48th Grand Master of the Knights of St. John. He was born of a noble family in 1494, and died August 21, 1568, in the defense of Knight Templarism. La Valette Commandery received a dispensation on March 14th, 1868, to open a Commandery in the City of Evansville, and on April 8, 1868, a charter was issued by the Grand Commandery of the State of Indiana to La Valette Commandery, No. 15 Knights Templar. The Charter Members named by the Grand Commander were as follows:

Sir George H. Fish
Sir Henry T. Dexter
Sir W. P. Noble
Sir John C. Bennett
Sir S. S. Armstrong
Sir H. L. McClelland
Sir S. T. Jones
Sir W. H. Jennings
Sir Jessie R. Jameson
Sir John A. Young

The Commandery was organized by the election of the following named officers:

Sir George H. Fish.....Eminent Commander
Sir Henry T. Dexter.....Generalissimo
Sir W. P. Noble.....Captain General
Sir Nicholas M. Goodlett.....Prelate
Sir Charles H. Butterfield.....Senior Warden
Sir James F. Welborn.....Junior Warden
Sir William E. Hollingsworth.....Treasurer
Sir Andrew J. Colburn.....Recorder
Sir Alexander Sharra.....Standard Bearer
Sir Samuel W. Thompson....Sword Bearer
Sir James K. Minor.....Warder
Sir Elias M. Bundy.....Captain of the Guard

The first conclaves of this Commandry were held in Masonic Hall on Main Street, near the corner of

Second. Afterwards in the building on the corner of First and aMain Streets, known as the Merchants National Bank Building, from which in 1887 the Commandery moved its quarters to the new building erected by Mr. James L. Orr, on the corner of Second and Locust Streets, known as Orr's Block, where elegant quarters had been prepared and in which many years of prosperity have been enjoyed.

A number of inspections under the orders of the Grand Commander have been made by Sir Knights, appointed for that purpose as Grand Inspectors and in nearly all of such inspections La Valette Commandery has taken the first rank among the Commanderies of the State.

The first pilgrimage of La Valette Commandery to a Triennial Encampment of the United States was made to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1887, Rt. Eminent Sir E. W. Patrick as Eminent Commander.

The next pilgrimage was to Chicago in 1880, Eminent Sir H. A. Mattison headed the Commandery in their pilgrimage on this occasion. In 1886 the Commandery attended the Triennial Conclave at St. Louis, Mo. under command of Eminent Sir Emmerson B. Morgan. In 1901 the Commandery made a pilgrimage to the Triennial Conclave at Louisville, Eminent Sir R. E. Graves Commanding.

From the ranks of La Valette Commandery several Sir Knights have been especially honored. Rt. Eminent Sir Ephriam W. Patrick being Grand Commander in 1886 and Rt. Eminent Sir Sidney W. Douglas in 1902. Our eloved frater Eminent Sir Emmerson B. Morgan died in 1895, being at the time Grand Junior Warden. Eminent Sir George H. Steel is at the present writing, Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery.

Sir Herman Engel was the efficient Recorder of the Commandery for a quarter of a century. Thus from a small beginning La Valette Commandery has grown to be one of the most prosperous and well disciplined Commanderies in the State. The actual membership of La Valette Commandery on October 1, 1913, was two hundred and eighty.

The following named Sir Knights have served La Valette Commandery as Commanders:

George H. Fish, Ephriam W. Patrick, Charles H. Butterfeld, William E. Hollingsworth, Hamilton A. Mattison, William M. Balkey, George N. Wells, Jesse W. Walker, Sidney W. Douglas, Emerson B. Morgan, Erastus P. Houston, Cicero Buchanan, William S. Pollard, Moses N. Ross, Simeon P. Gillett, Alfred W. Dmery, Charles P. Bacon, Stephen B. Lewis, Will L. Swormstedt, Charles E. Scoville, Clarence L. Hinkle, James B. Rucker, Richard E. Graves, Edward Pl Busse, William H. Patrick, James O. Parker, George H. Steel, Albert R. Messick, Morton J. Compton, William W. ross, John H. Dykeman, Edward R. Smith.

OFFICERS OF 1913



Em. Sir Frank C. Baugh
Eminent Commander



Sir George D. Heilman
Generalissimo



Em. Sir George H. Steel
Captain General



Sir G. Netter Worthington
Senior Warden



Sir Edward A. Torrance
Junior Warden



Em. Sir Morton J. Compton
Prelate

OFFICERS OF 1913



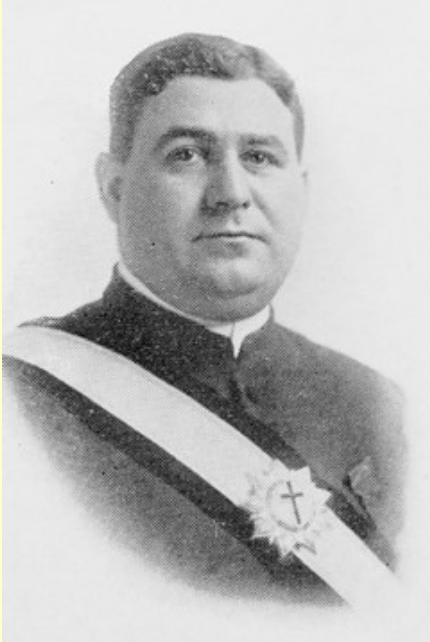
Sir Louis Wollenberger
Treasurer



Sir Edward C. Roach
Recorder



Sir Albert W. Funkhouser
Standard Bearer



Sir Pearl B. Wallace
Sword Bearer

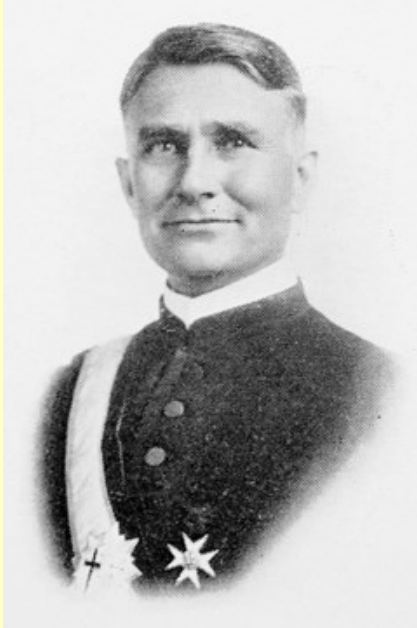


Sir Leo Edward Price
Warder

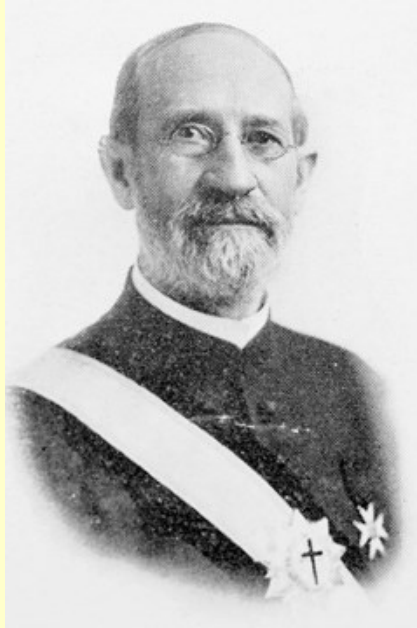


Sir John Wyttbach
Third Guard

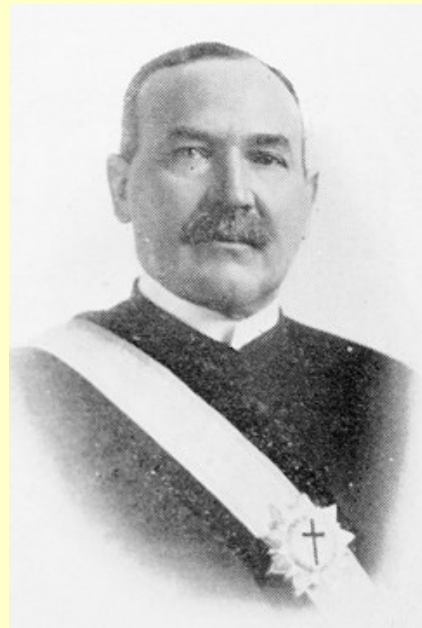
OFFICERS OF 1913



Sir Ulrich H. Seiler
Second Guard



Sir William Halbrooks
First Guard



Sir Thomas M. Norwood
Sentinel

No Photos available

EM. Sir William W. Ross-Trustee

Em. Sir John H. Dykeman-Trustee

Em. Sir Edward R. Smith-Trustee

Em. Sir Hamilton A. Mattison-Historian

Sir W. Harrison Biber-Chorister

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