



HAUGHAY AND KEITH PHOTOS

JOHN BENNETT CAPT GENERAL

A. W. McKENZIE GENERALISSIMO

P. D. CODE COMMANDER

W. F. WESTER SENIORS WARDEN

C. S. BENEDICT TREASURER

W. B. CROWELL SENIOR WARDEN

THEO. FROLICH

W. W. JORDAN SENIOR WARDEN

A. J. DE LAMARE JUNIOR WARDEN

H. C. SCHAEFFER SWORD BEARER

J. F. CLARK WARDEN

### The Annals of Golden Gate Commandery, No. 16.

By Eminent Sir Philip D. Code

ON the 14th day of February, 1881, R. E. Commander Bruce B. Lee granted a dispensation to establish another commandery in the city of San Francisco. A very appropriate and expressive name had been selected, and the unusual number of forty-three fraters joined in petition to the grand commander of the State to grant the dispensation. As Minerva sprang fully developed from the forehead of Jove, so Golden Gate came forth fully equipped to enter upon a career of active and successful endeavor. The first meeting for the purpose of organizing the commandery was held on the 13th day of January, 1881, and the granting of the petition for a dispensation was recommended by California Commandery No. 1. The dispensation named Sir Knights William G. Gould as commander, Henry H. Blake as generalissimo and Tristram Burgess as captain general. The commandery at once proceeded to work under the dispensation and conferred the orders upon a number of candidates prior to the annual convocation of the Grand Commandery in 1881. At this convocation the commandery exemplified the Order of the Red Cross, and the work under the dispensation being approved that document was surrendered and a charter of perpetuation was granted on the 15th day of April, 1881. No time was lost, and on the 21st day of April the commandery was duly constituted by the past grand commander, Bruce B. Lee. Thus in the brief space of a little more than two months Golden Gate Commandery was enrolled upon the register of the Grand Commandery, being the sixteenth commandery in the State. The assemblies of the commandery were at first held in the Masonic Temple, on Post street, and until the completion and dedication of an asylum of its own, at 131 Post street, on the 29th day of September, 1881. At the dedication of this asylum California Commandery No. 1 and Oakland No. 11, with a brilliant company of ladies and Sir Knights, having for its guidance both intelligence and experience. Its first commander, Sir Knight Gould, had been grand commander of Kansas; its prelate, the late Hezekiah L. Hosmer, afterward grand prelate of the Grand Commandery of California, had been one of the most distinguished Masons of Ohio; Dr. Isaac S. Titus was a past grand master of the Grand Lodge of California; Theodore F. Tracy was a past grand generalissimo of the Grand Lodge of California, and Tristram Burgess, afterward grand commander of the Grand Commandery of California. The other charter members were Henry E. Blake, James M. McDonald, Champion I. Hutchinson, Carmi W. Beach, Frederick K. Bechtel, John C. Yates, William S. Mason, John B. Curtis, Samuel Myers, Charles L. Benton, Frederick D. Stadtmuller, Justin Gates, Samuel Swift, Granville Paul, William C. Stroud, Theodore H. F. Robertson, Dr. Silas M. Mouser, Herman J. Sadler, John B. Owens, Charles L. Bigelow, Frank A. Bettis, Justus F. Edwards, Burr Noble, William Henry Smith, Francis Smith, John Kirkpatrick, Jacob Z. Davis, John F. Merrill, Henry S. Crocker, Columbus Waterhouse, John G. Bloomer, George W. Deitzler, Robert N. Graves, James H. Helm, Charles L. Thomas, Charles H. Abbott, Peter F. Oakley, and John Skaz. Many of these were men of high business and social standing, who have had marked influence upon the social, business and civic interests of the city and of the State.

The first candidate permitted to pass the threshold of the commandery was Frank William Sumner, afterward grand commander of the State and the author of the excellent work on Templar tactics, a work that has had a most potent influence not only on the condition of his own commandery, but also upon that of every commandery in the State and even of many beyond the confines of the State.

Golden Gate has been honored by the Grand Commandery of the State by the election of Sir Knights F. W. Sumner and John F. Merrill to the highest place in the gift of that body, and it has honored itself and the following by selecting them to preside as eminent commanders over its own interests: William G. Gould, 1881-82; Tristram Burgess, 1882; Columbus Waterhouse, 1884; Frank W. Sumner, 1885; James H. Hatch, 1886; Franklin Dalton, 1887; Frank J. French, 1888; Andrew G. Booth, 1889; Carlos G. Young, 1890; William Edwards, 1891; Alex. E. von Weisburg, 1892; Charles L. Field, 1893; Joseph K. Firth, 1894; George D. Clark, 1895; Charles H. Murphy, 1896-97; Jonathan M. Peel, 1898; Charles L. Patton, 1899; Joseph C.

Campbell, 1900; Robert McMillan, 1901; Harvey D. Loveland, the present chairman of the executive committee of the twenty-ninth Triennial Convocation of the Grand Encampment, unique design and its beautiful uniform are evidence of the latter. It has always displayed a most knightly and commendable courtesy in receptions given to the grand and subordinate commanderies. It rightly claims the credit of having virtually introduced on the Pacific Coast the custom of fraternal visits among the bodies of the order, and its pilgrimages to sister commanderies have been a pleasant feature in its history.

Golden Gate Commandery actively participated in the convocation of the Grand Encampment held in this city in 1882 and added greatly to the interest and success of that occasion. The work of providing the needed finances and of receiving and entertaining the many visitors to this city at that time was an arduous one and devolved chiefly upon the two commanderies of the city. Like those of her sister commandery the members of Golden Gate entered with zeal upon the herculean task, striving to be among the first in extending hospitality to the pilgrims. Many will recall the scenes at Dashaway Hall and the friendships formed. Golden Gate, in all matters of preparation, escort duty, entertainment and money did its part nobly and well and left pleasant recollections upon the minds of its own and visiting Sir Knights.

In 1886 the commandery, enthused by the recollections of 1883, determined upon a pilgrimage to the convocation of the Grand Encampment at St. Louis. On this pilgrimage the commandery met with most generous receptions at various places and won great popularity for generous hospitality at St. Louis. In 1889 the commandery participated in the convocation at Washington, D. C., and there elicited the commendation of the assembled thousands, winning by its hospitality and its excellent parades a national reputation. The commandery has been well represented at all the triennial conclaves of the order since its organization, except that held at the city of Pittsburg in 1889, and at all it has fully maintained its status as one of the foremost commanderies of the land. It is justly proud of its standing; it has had honor for itself; it has honored the order in the State.

Much of the good repute of Golden Gate, next to that arising from the character of its membership, springs from the excellence of its drill corps. To those unacquainted with the important influences of a drill corps upon the condition of a commandery, such a body might appear to be an appendage more ornamental than useful. Such, however, is not the case. In all branches of the Masonic order much of the excellence and interest depend upon the impressions of the work in performing the several ceremonies. Nothing in a commandery adds more to this impressiveness than the assistance rendered by a well-drilled corps, specially selected for the purpose. Golden Gate early realized this; hence in 1883, it granted a petition presented by its captain general, Sir Knight Frank W. Sumner, signed by twenty-

four others, asking permission to form a drill corps, to serve in connection with the commandery in importing Templar and military knowledge. The knowledge gained through this instrumentality soon made itself felt, not alone in the commandery work, but also in the outside influence upon the order. Under the able instruction of Sir Knight Sumner the drill corps of Golden Gate in a short time won trophies for excellence. The corps is still one of the features of this commandery. It is now under the captaincy of Sir Knight Colonel William Edwards, a very competent drillmaster, and it is always ready to give good account of its work.

The financial condition of Golden Gate is just what it might be expected to be under the guidance of so many able business men. After disposing of Golden Gate Hall the commandery purchased a valuable lot in the Western Addition in contemplation of erecting thereon a temple. This project, however, is for the present in abeyance until it may be finally determined whether or not the several Masonic bodies will unite in erecting a Masonic Temple commensurate with the character and greatness of the city. The present Masonic Temple is no longer suitable to accommodate the growing needs of Masonry. It is hoped that by a union of the Masonic bodies, San Francisco may, in the near future, have a temple superior to any in the land. It is certain that Golden Gate will do its part in this as she has in all things tending to the interest of the order and of humanity.

The commandery is taking a very active part in the preparations for the entertainment of visitors to the approaching convocation and fully intends to add greatly to laurels heretofore won.

Not one-half the honor ever was accorded to Zerubbabel of old that is accorded by the belted and booted Knights of Golden Gate to their Zerubbabel, the seventh in an honored line. And, like Zerubbabel of old, it seems his predestined fate to be a sharer, too, of exile, even as his six predecessors of glorious memory, for never has Zerubbabel brought home yet to his asylum the chaplets of laurel bestowed upon him by worshippers at conclaves far afield. For it is a custom so old that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary that Zerubbabel must be left behind when the returning cavalcades throw forth their beauteous to the Western breeze.

Thus it was that the reign of Zerubbabel I over Golden Gate Commandery terminated in St. Louis after the convocation of 1886; Zerubbabel II in Washington in 1889; Zerubbabel III, Denver; Zerubbabel IV, Boston; Zerubbabel V, Pittsburg, and Zerubbabel VI, in Louisville, and now it is up to Zerubbabel VII to maintain the dignity and pomp of his exalted station when in the grand parade he heads the knightly host.

Zerubbabel I, it is rumored, died of a broken heart, for he never smiled again after his California friends left him in the effete East. He moped and pined, and touched not food, neither would he drink, and died even so. His beautiful black skin, stuffed, all that is left of him save memory, now graces the banquet hall of the asylum. Zerubbabel II was the lion of the Washington convocation. An unflinching appetite for champagne and chocolate bonbons nearly ended his reign, but he lived to become the especial pet of Mrs. John A. Logan, who expressed a wish for him when the convocation was over. Her wish had but to be intimated to the gallant California knight and his bearship straightway became domiciled within the Logan demesne, where he passed his days in piousness and cheer until, essaying one day to embrace a colored servant in the wholesome, hearty manner of the West, he absentmindedly cracked him a rib or two in the servitor and was sorrowfully dispatched to the happy hunting ground of well meaning but absent minded little bears. He hugged not wisely, but too well. Pittingly stuffed, in an upright position, he now hands a silver card salver to visitors at the Logan home. Zerubbabel IV, after the Boston convocation, became the pet of the Bay State Commandery of Brockton. With him as the nucleus, a zoo was formed there which is now the pride of the Brockton people, so that Zerubbabel IV may in truth be said to have builded a second temple.

And now cometh Zerubbabel VII, who, a tiny cub, fell prey in the wilds of Siskiyou to Sir Knight A. W. McKenzie, and who, a five months old cub, will occupy the place of honor before the plumed ranks of Golden Gate in the grand parade of September 6.

It is possible Zerubbabel may have company, for J. E. Doolittle of Coopers town, who has supplied the six previous Zerubbabels, has informed Golden Gate that he has a grizzly on hand, and it is probable that two bears will appear in the parade.



ZERUBBABEL VII