



The Byzantium



United Grand Imperial Council Red Cross of Constantine

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Issue 2

THE GRAND SOVEREIGN



Burch E. Zehner, KGC

GRAND SOVEREIGN'S MESSAGE

The 142nd Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council scheduled for June 12th, 13th, & 14th, 2014 will be held in Fairborn, Ohio. The Dayton International Airport is nearby and we are only minutes from I-75 & I-70, the crossroads of America. Our committees are making final plans so your visit will be such that you will return home with great memories. We have some wonderful things to show you in Dayton, the home of aviation and many great inventions. I'm personally looking forward to seeing many of you whom my lady Lynn and I have met in our travels across the United States of America. We truly appreciate the warm welcome and wonderful hospitality which has greeted us wherever our visitations have taken us. And we in return want to show you our Ohio hospitality.

Traditionally the first Saturday of October is the Ohio Divisional Assembly which was held at the Ohio Masonic Home in Springfield. There were approximately one hundred Knights Companions present (or one third of all the Knights Companions in Ohio) for the conferral of all five degrees and orders. Those present came from all eight Conclaves in Ohio plus a couple of members from Kentucky. Lafayette Conclave has great costumes for the Order of St. John the Evangelist. The Order of the Knight of the Holy Sepulcher with a large cast was conferred by St. Columbia Conclave. I'm proud to say all the degrees and orders were portrayed in an outstanding manner. Yes, I might be a little bit prejudiced.

Also, in October of 2013, I was invited to attend the Grand Lodge, F&AM of Ohio, the Grand Chapter, RAM of Ohio, the Grand Council R&SM of Ohio, and the Grand Commandery of KT of Ohio. I was introduced as the Grand Sovereign of our International Masonic organization in each of these Grand Bodies and was extended many courtesies and honors. While there I saw and conversed with many members of the Red Cross of Constantine from Ohio and other states.

Next we flew to Charleston, South Carolina for the Southeastern Regional Assembly. This was their third time and with their enthusiasm and dedication they're becoming more proficient each year. Their Assembly was held in the beautiful Scottish Rite Center and while we were busy, the ladies were treated to a bus trip around Charleston.

The first weekend of November we drove to Grantville, Pennsylvania for our fourteenth year visiting the Eastern Regional Assembly. They always make make us feel at home and being with our Grand Recorder, KC Fred G. Kleyn, KGC, PGS; KC Thomas W. Jackson, KGC; PGS, KC Robert S. Finley, Senior Grand General and KC Franklin C. Boner, Grand Marshal made it a really special weekend. All of the activities are planned out in detail from the reception and dinner on Friday to the Saturday information session with the Grand Recorder, followed by the conferral of degrees and orders, introductions, memorial service and excellent banquet with very good entertainment. Did I mention hospitality rooms? They average between 250 and 300 Knights Companions and their ladies at the Saturday evening banquet. There were 13 Intendants General from 10 states plus 4 Past Intendants General. The Rt. Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania, K.C. Jay Smith and I were each asked to address the audience.

Later in the month we went to the Reception for the Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Ohio. It was well attended starting with numerous Sir Knights forming a long line for the reception of many dignitaries including the Grand Master of Masons, M.W. Bro. and K.C. Norman J. Mick. I was introduced along with my other Grand Officers; Knights Companions Steven A. Duncan, Grand Chamberlain, Jim J. Buckingham, Grand Standard Bearer, Franklin C. Boner, Grand Marshal, Bobby G. Campbell, Grand Sentinel, Duane A. Kemerley, Grand High Prelate and Martin R. Trent, Grand Aide. These appointed officers are all very active Masons serving in many bodies of Freemasonry.

December was a busy month with six of Ohio's eight Conclaves holding their Assemblies in the wonderful spirit of the Christmas season. I was able to attend four of those Conclaves and helped install their new officers. Some Conclaves conclude the evening with entertainment which everyone enjoys. The ladies are always dressed in their beautiful Christmas best which makes the whole room come alive with color. This speaks so well of the important social aspect of the Red Cross of Constantine. I missed two Assemblies because of snow storms.

The New Year started off the second half of my term as Grand Sovereign by being invited to the Tennessee Divisional Assembly held in early January in Nashville. They have a noon meal on Saturday and all the activities take place in the Grand Lodge building where the five Conclaves of Tennessee confer all the degrees and orders. It was a pleasure to watch these well-rehearsed Knights Companions come together and go about setting up and presenting our Constantinian Degrees. I met the Grand Master of Tennessee, M.W.B. Roy C. Etherton, who besides being very gracious took a large part in the degree work. And as in past years my Lady Lynn and I were treated royally by K.C. Joe Harrison, Grand Chancellor and K.C. Richard Van Tassell, I.G. for Tennessee.

Looking forward, the month of February brings the Allied Masonic Degrees weekend in Reston, Virginia. We have attended this event for almost twenty years. That's always a great time to see old friends and make new ones. This is where you meet the leaders of national and international Masonic Bodies and learn more about our fraternity. If you have never attended you should do so and thereby increase your Masonic knowledge and experiences.

The Northwest Regional will meet in in Kennewick, Washington in the month of March and judging from previous years they will have a fine turn out of representatives from the states of Oregon, Idaho and Washington. Their venue starts with a reception and dinner on Friday. On Saturday they confer all three degrees and the two appendant orders and conclude the day with a formal banquet. We expect to be joined there by several other Grand Officers.

All of this traveling has given us the opportunity to see many parts of our great country and renew old friendships and make new ones. Everywhere I have been the Knights Companions have observed our dress code. And it's important that we maintain the dignity and stature of our order by wearing proper attire, such as tux, sash and jewels. The social aspect is further enhanced when ladies are present at our banquets. The ladies also appreciate having something to do while we are taking care of business.

As a reminder, all Intendants General are expected to attend the Annual Assembly as well as Sovereigns, Viceroys and Recorders. All Knights Companions and their ladies are most welcome. I am really looking forward to greeting everyone.

Yours in Faith, Unity and Zeal,

Burch E. Zehner, KGC



142nd UGIC Annual Assembly – DAYTON, OHIO

The UGIC Annual Assembly will be held in Dayton, Ohio, on 12, 13, and 14 June 2014. See the website at redcrossconstantine.org, annual assembly, for detailed information on registration. A revised Registration Form has been posted. Time is growing short, **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW**, you don't want to miss this great event!

GUATEMALA CONCLAVE

The Guatemala Conclave held its Annual Assembly in Guatemala City on Saturday, 30 November 2013. At the business session, officers were elected for 2014. Following the Assembly, a dinner with Ladies was held in a private event location. In attendance was KC Denny Strole, IG Mexico and Guatemala.



L to R front row: KC Oswald Hernandez Huerta; KC Denny Strole, IG Mexico/Guatemala; KC Jose Ramon Huerta Ardon, Puissant Sovereign; KC Eduardo R. Perez P.; KC Humberto A. Juarez Navas; and, KC Francisco Alberto Saenz Maldonado.

L to R back row: KC Jose Abraham Aviles Hidalgo; KC Enrique Eduardo Alwood Lagos; KC Carlos Antonio Araujo Grimaldi; KC Alfonso Rene Ortiz Sobalvarro; and, KC Victor Augusto Aquino Alvarado.

ALASKA CONCLAVE

On 12 October 2013, the Conclave met at the Anchorage Shrine Center (home of the 3 Masonic Lodges in that city.) At that session, two new KCs were added to the Alaska Conclave. The Puissant Sovereign reports a great Assembly, and a great dinner afterward, with 19 in attendance!



L to R, front row: KCs Mitchell L. Coulthard, John Bishop (new KC), Bruce L. Downs (new KC), Steven Warner, David Prentice (Eminent Viceroy).

L to R, back row: KCs Lee O. Seagondollar, Jim McGoldrick, Jack Newell, Johnny L. Wallice (IG Alaska), Thomas Schram. The photographer, not in the photo of course, was KC Dennis N. Oakland (Puissant Sovereign.)

CITY OF MEXICO CONCLAVE

The Conclave's Annual Assembly was held in Mexico City on 25 January 2014 where a new Poissant Sovereign and Eminent Viceroy were elected and installed by the Intendant General for Mexico and Guatemala.



L to R: KC Denny Strole, IG Mexico & Guatemala; KC Jaime Galicia, PS; KC Ricardo Ruiz, EV

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

On 26 October 2013, the Southeast Regional Assembly was held in Charleston, SC. The event was well attended by Conclave members and UGIC officers, including the Grand Sovereign.



L to R, front row: KC Richard E. Van Tassell, IG Tennessee; KC William R. Miller, Grand Viceroy; KC Burch E. Zehner, Grand Sovereign; KC Lloyd F. Christopher, IG South Carolina; and, KC Frederick G. Kleyn, Grand Recorder.

L to R, back row: KC Larry Dempsey, The Saints John Conclave, Charleston, SC; KC Douglas Knauer, Carolina Conclave, Spartanburg, SC; KC Ricky C. Freeman, All Saints Conclave, Columbia, SC; KC Jere Crumley, New Covenant Conclave, Macon, GA; KC C. Wayne Glass, St. Ambrose Conclave, Atlanta, GA; KC Lamar Jackson, Good Shepherd Conclave, Albany, GA; KC Raymond Broom, New Covenant Conclave, Macon, GA; KC Melvin F. Byrd, All Saints Conclave, Columbia, SC; KC Andre E. Lovas, IG Georgia Northern; and, KC Robert G. Kirkpatrick, IG Florida.

SAINT HONORE CONCLAVE

The 2014 officers of Saint Honore Conclave, Jacksonville, Florida, were installed by Intendant General Robert G. Kirkpatrick, PGHP, on January 11, 2014. The Annual Banquet and Installation were held at the Deercreek Country Club in Jacksonville.



L to R: KC Robert G. Kirkpatrick, PGHP, PS, IG, Division of Florida; KC Kevin S. Sanders, Sr. Gen.; KC M. Daniel Fullwood, PGM, Std. Bearer; KC Glenn E. Chandler, PGHP, Eminent Viceroy; KC Darryl A. D'Angina, PGHP, Puissant Sovereign; KC Corbin P. Elliott, Jr. Gen.; KC H. Wiley Hart, Prelate; KC Steven M. Barnett, Prefect; KC Charles Robert Cooper, Sentinel; and KC Brian R. Poole, Herald.

AD 313: The Time of Tolerance

by KC Vincenzo Pulvirenti

Past Sovereign Eboracum Conclave - Catania, Italy

The fourth century AD was marked by a strong, undeniable dynamism which supported innovative drive. It was the era of transition to a new religious, political and social reality. The last persecutions of Christians, the failure of the Roman Tetrarchy, Constantine's victory at the Milvian Bridge under the sign of Christ, the meeting between Constantine and Licinius in which the Christian Religion was confirmed as lawful, characterized a society still divided between paganism and Christianity and was the maker of great political and religious change. It was the age of ideological upheaval caused by the political ideology of Constantine the Great.

The historical sources which celebrate the milestones of the military and political career of Constantine are mainly: "*De mortibus persecutorum*" (*On the Death of the Persecutors*) of Lactantius, and "*The Life of Constantine*" and "*Ecclesiastical History*" of Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea. These accounts, unfortunately, function to represent the emperor as an instrument of divine providence, and outline a highly idealized portrait of the king as a servant of God and his image on earth, equipped with all the highest virtues indispensable to carry out its mandate.

Quite apart from the overtly laudatory, the sources, however, also report evidence of concrete steps by which Constantine became the first guarantor of religious freedom and at a later date, the promoter of the institutionalization of the new religion. Among the first came the provisions by which it put an end to the persecution of Christians and he allowed the citizens of the Roman empire complete freedom of worship.

This year marks the seventeenth centennial of the proclamation of religious tolerance, a problem still topical which, long before the declaration of human rights, the Empire undertook to respect the conscience of every human being.

The Roman Catholic tradition has related the restoration of religious peace with a formal act: the Edict of Milan, or Edict of Tolerance of February AD 313, which would have ushered in a revolution in politics and religion. From time immemorial this edict has been subject to various evaluations by researchers, who often stood on different sides of the issue. So much so that today, when referring to the Edict of Milan one generally adds, the preface 'so called' because there is no unequivocal proof of the existence of this document.

In 313 the political setting of the Roman Empire was ruled by two personages both elevated to the dignity of Augustus: Constantine the Western Emperor and Licinius the Eastern Emperor.

What is certain is that Constantine and Licinius met in Milan in February 313 for the marriage of the latter with Constantia, half-sister of Constantine. On this occasion, the two Emperors discussed the question of religious policy. On the question of Christianity the decisions taken in Milan by the two emperors had to be relatively simple: they agreed that Christians throughout the Empire should enjoy the freedom of worship and obtain restitution of property confiscated in the course of previous persecution.

The Lactantius testimony and Eusebius versions in this regard are fundamentally the same. Lactantius cites the Latin text of a disposition of Licinius for enforcement of the resolution adopted during the Milanese reunion, while Eusebius cites the Greeks' version of such imperial disposition. Both the Latin document and the Greek clearly state that the measure reproduces the decisions taken jointly.

The agreement of Milan did not translate into any formal act. The existence of an edict had been assumed by a passage of Eusebius, according to which after the defeat of Maxentius, Constantine and Licinius would have enacted a "most perfect law" in favor of Christians.

Even today, while the historical vulgate continues to refer to an "Edict of Milan", many scholars consider its existence unlikely. By 1891 the German historian Otto Seeck with his publication of the book "*Das sogenannte Edikt von Mailand*" had demonstrated its non-existence with incontrovertible arguments. The misinterpretation, to a large extent, derives from the misleading assignation of the term "edict" to a document of bureaucratic provisions sent to the functionaries of the Empire. So, into Constantine's biography and into legend, a directive was transformed in a solemn declaration of intent to become the best known example of that upheaval that will assure the rise of Christianity in the Empire and lead to the development of modern Christian identity.

On the other hand, the most complete text which discusses the "Edict of Milan", namely that of Lactantius, expressly refers to a message sent to the governor of Bithynia, where the edict of Galerius (AD 311) was applied to a very limited extent. The text of the message closed with the recommendation of its dissemination through public posting, but this is just a recommendation that made binding the imperial directive.

In fact, the edict, even if it is shown to be in part an historical forgery, has become over the centuries an epochal symbol, and AD 313, in many ways, the beginning of an era of radical political and social transformation that opened Christianity to the masses and set the conditions for its passage, in a few decades, from a lawful but private religion to a public and official religion, and finally, a unique religion of the Roman Empire.



About the author: KC Vincenzo was born in Milan in October 1939. He attended Catania (Sicily) public schools and the University of Catania, receiving a degree in Physics; he is a teacher of Physics. He was Raised a Master Mason in "Victoria" Lodge #806 in Catania, June 1974, and served as Master on two occasions (1981-1983 and 1996-1998). Exalted in Katana Chapter 32, Royal Arch Masons in 1978, and served as High Priest. He also served as Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Italy from 2004-2007. In 1978, greeted in Royal & Select Master in Etna Council #15, serving as Illustrious Master. Knighted in 1978 in Amenaro Commandery #13, and served as Eminent Commander for 3 years. Elected as a Knight Companion in the Conclave "United States Premier" in Pittsburg in 2002. He also served a Sovereign of Eboracum Conclave in Catania. He has many other credits too numerous to mention here; KC Vincenzo is a credit to our Fraternity!

Saint Denys Conclave

On 2 December 2013, at the Annual Assembly of Saint Denys Conclave in Wyoming, two new Knights Companions were installed. One of the KCs installed as a new member of Saint Denys Conclave was the sitting Grand Master of Masons in Wyoming.



L - R: K.C. Ralph Levi, Puissant Sovereign; new member K.C. William Townsend, Grand Master of Masons of WY; new member K.C. Dean Ellingson; and, K.C. Merle McClure, Eminent Viceroy.
(Photo by K.C. Kenneth Humphrey, Past Sovereign.)

ALL OHIO ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Twentieth Annual All-Ohio Assembly was held at the Ohio Masonic Home in Springfield on 5 October 2013. The Knights Companions attending from Ohio's eight Conclaves amounted to over one-third of their combined membership. As is the custom, the Conclaves portrayed the three orders of our fraternity as well as the Senate of Sovereigns and College of Viceroyes for those advancing to those positions. Observing the work was the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign and both of Ohio's Intendant Generals.



L to R are: Newly installed KCs Dow T. Voelker, David D. Mowry, Timothy B. Strawn, N. Crowell Shane, KC Harvey C. Lowry, Intendant General Division Ohio Western, KC Tony Bachman, KC Richard L. Weaver, Intendant General Division Ohio Eastern, and KC Burch E. Zehner, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign.

St. Simon Conclave

St. Simon Conclave, Sioux Falls, SD, met on 2 November, in Aberdeen to confer the Degrees upon Vincent Webb. Following lunch for the Knight Companions and their ladies in the Masonic Center, the Knights Companions retired to confer the degrees. After the conferral and business meeting, officers for 2013-2014 were elected:

KC Richard Decker, Sovereign; KC Matt Schatz, Viceroy; KC Douglas C. McFarland, Senior General; KC Clinton G. Erhart, Junior General; KC Robert D. Osborn, PS, Treasurer; KC Robert D. Webb, PS, Recorder; KC Roger L. Kehm, PS, Prelate; KC Richard A. McBride, Prefect ; KC Roland Kleinschmidt, Standard Bearer; KC Roger H Hansen, Herald; KC Greg Hall, Sentinel. After a memorial service, the new officers were installed by KC Charles H. Walker, Intendant General for South Dakota.



L to Right: KC Clinton G. Erhart; KC George Cross, PS; KC Douglas C. McFarland; KC Vincent Webb; Richard A. McBride; KC Roland Kleinschmidt; KC Greg Hall; KC Robert D. Webb; KC Lyle B Rowen Sr., PS; KC Charles H. Walker, PS, Intendant General for South Dakota; KC Richard W. Siefel, PS; KC Robert D. Osborne; KC Roger L. Kehm; KC William G. Neale, PS; KC Lawrence Holmes, PS.

Editor's Note

This is about photos for The Byzantium newsletter. First, thanks to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter; your inputs enhance the quality of the newsletter.

Second, here are a few things for future inputs. Remember to include the “who, what, where, and when” in the articles that accompany photos. It saves time, yours and mine, if the submission is complete when first submitted. As for the photos, please send digital photos singularly (not attached to an article); paper photos won't work. In the photo captions, be sure to identify everyone, usually from left to right, to include each individual's name and title, if appropriate. About titles, it would be well to review the Constitution about the proper manner to address titled individuals. Finally, when preparing to take a photo don't include too many people, 4 -6 should be the maximum. Also, ensure all are facing the camera, and take a look at the background, watch for windows or lights that may reflect and ruin a great photo. Keep those inputs coming, the next issue will be published in October 2014!

Many thanks, KC Denny Strole; any questions e-mail me at: dstrole@gmail.com

FIRST YORK RITE CONFERENCE OF LATIN AMERICA

A three day York Rite Conference, the first ever, was held in Guatemala City 21 - 24 November 2013. The conference president was Jaime Perez Velez Olvera, and the Conference Coordinator was Humberto Alfredo Antonio Juarez Navas (Ambassador of the International General Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch), assisted by Alejandro Larrave, High Priest of Royal Arch Chapter No.1 in Guatemala. In attendance were 60 York Rite Masons, including Edmund T. Harrison, General Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch International; Dave Grindle, Grand Secretary General of the Council of Cryptic Masons; Sir Dave Goodwin, Grand Master Knights Templar; and, Thomas Jackson, Executive Secretary of the Confederation of Regular Grand Lodges of the World. In addition, many officials of the Grand Chapters and Grand Masters of Latin America were present.

Freemasonry in Latin America is growing at a great rate, particularly York Rite Masonry. The purpose of this Conference was to bring the leaders of this vast geographic area together, and develop a plan to organize future growth. To this end, the first order of business was to discuss and establish the Grand Chapter of Central America, consisting of Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras. This was accomplished with all leaders in agreement.

The second major undertaking was to establish viable geographic regions within Latin America. Several recommendations were discussed, and in the end, three regions were established: In the North, Mexico and the Grand Chapter of Central America; In lower Central America and Northern South America, Panama, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador and the Caribbean area; and finally, in the South, the remaining South American countries. Appropriate officials will be appointed to regulate these geographic regions. It is anticipated that a Deputy Grand High Priest will be appointed for each region, who will report directly to the General Grand High Priest.

In addition to these important decisions, there were many presentations to update conference attendees on various aspects of the York Rite and its growth in Latin America.

The Conference was conducted throughout in Peace, Harmony and Brotherly Love! Old friendships were renewed and new friendships created, that will only strengthen our Fraternity as we grow in the future.



L to R: Humberto Alfredo Antonio Juarez Navas, Ambassador of the General Grand Chapter International for Central America and York Rite Conference Coordinator; Joao Guilherme C. Ribeiro, Deputy General Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons for Latin America; SK Laurence Tucker, Right Eminent Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar; SK David Goodwin, Most Eminent Grand Master, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar; Milton S. Roberts, Deputy General Grand Master of General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International; Edmund D. Harrison, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter International; David Grindle, General Grand Recorder, Cryptic Masons International; and Jaime Perez-Velez Olvera, President of the First York Rite Conference in Latin America.

(Contributed by KC Denny Strole, IG-Mexico/Guatemala & Companion Alejandro Larrave, HP Guatemala Chapter #1)

BLACK HILLS CONCLAVE

In January 2014, Black Hills Conclave met at the Masonic Center in Rapid City, SD to elect officers for 2014. After the election, those officers as well as the appointed officers were installed by Past Potentate MWB and KC Robert Morrow. Upon completion of the Installation, everyone retired to the dining hall for a meal and fellowship. At this time KC Michael Gilleland was presented with his Past Puissant Sovereign jewel by KC Charles H. Walker, Intendant General Division of South Dakota. Plans are in work for a joint Assembly of Black Hills Conclave and St. Simon Conclave tentatively scheduled for 3 May 2014.



L – R: KC Don Huxford, Senior General; KC Jon Gonsor, Recorder/Treasurer; KC Herbert Cook, Prefect; KC George Bauder, Puissant Sovereign; KC John Laughlin, Eminent Viceroy, KC Shawn “Jake” Smith, Herald; KC Stanley Bevier, Standard Bearer; and, KC David True, Prelate.

***A BIT OF HISTORY* (continued from the October 2013 Byzantium)**

The Red Cross of Constantine in America began its march of recorded history in 1869 when the Earl of Bective, at that time Lord Kenlis, Grand Sovereign of the Grand Imperial Conclave of England, appointed Colonel W. J. B. MacLeod Moore, then the Grand Prior of Masonic Knights Templar of Canada, as the Chief Inspector General of the Order of Red Cross of Constantine for the Dominion of Canada. On February 16, 1870, the Sovereign Grand Conclave of England Authorized Illustrious Sir W. J. B. MacLeod Moore of La Prairie Canada, to introduce the Order into the United States.

Under this commission of the Grand Imperial Conclave of England, several Conclaves were organized, among them the Grand Imperial Council of Illinois on August 30, 1872, with Sir Jonathan J. French as Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign. Thus, only 2 months and 16 days separated the institution of what in later years was to become known as the Empire of the East and the Empire of the United States, Mexico and the Philippines, or the Empire of the West. From June 14, 1872 to May 29, 1875, a total of ten Grand Imperial Councils were chartered in Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, Vermont, Maine and New Jersey.

On June 1, 1875, representatives of these Grand Councils met in the Masonic Temple in New York City, and established a Sovereign Grand Council of the United States with Albert G. Goodall of New York as Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign. The Council had limited jurisdiction of the State Grand Councils. Specifics of the Grand Council were outlined in a document that listed powers of the Council and limitations of the Council. A fee for membership was established as to be “not less than \$10.00” and the stipulation placed upon membership that no one would be admitted who “is not a Royal Arch Mason in good standing.”

The links of brotherhood with England remained strong. Through the influence of Sir Knight Alfred Creigh, a treaty was signed on March 10, 1877, wherein the Sovereign Grand Council of the United States of America made and entered into a solemn and binding obligation with the Grand Imperial Council, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, and Appendant Orders for England, Wales and the British Dependencies. The Treaty acknowledged the power and authority of the Mother Council of England, united into one Grand Body all Grand and Subordinate Bodies in the United States, pledged Masonic faith that the “landmarks” as preserved in England and the work of the ritual should be preserved intact in every respect and to preserve a perpetual friendship, based upon Christian principles, representatives were to be appointed that fraternal intercourse “may be preserved forever.” This Treaty remained until March 6, 1894, when the Grand Imperial Council at Pennsylvania withdrew from the Sovereign Council. And, on January 30, 1895, the Grand Imperial Council of Illinois also withdrew from the Sovereign Council. Charles E. Chalmes, Past Grand Sovereign of the Grand Imperial Council of Pennsylvania, in a 1935 written history stated that the Order had attracted the outstanding leaders of the Craft in the various states establishing Grand Councils. When the responsible and powerful leaders banded together in a new organization, one can appreciate their personal ambition to dominate this country-wide Order, which had always been most exclusive.

In response to Pennsylvania and Illinois decisions, the Grand Sovereign of the Sovereign Grand Council, issued a proclamation that all Conclaves and Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine were warned and commanded not to communicate with either of these two Grand Councils. The edict was without teeth or meaning and the Sovereign Grand Council of the United States thereafter gradually ceased to function and disintegrated. The ambitions of prominent Masonic leaders to form a nation-wide Grand Jurisdiction with absolute power met with failure.

(to be continued in the October 2014 issue of The Byzantium)

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE
142ND ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

June 12-14, 2014

Holiday Inn

2800 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324

(937) 426-7800 or Fax (937) 426-1284

\$115 + tax single or double occupancy.

**Room reservations must be made before May 20th, 2014 to receive
"UGIC Red Cross Constantine " discounted rate**

Registration Fee \$160.00 per person

Name _____ Lady's Name if attending _____

First and Last

First and Last

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name & Location of Conclave _____

Office _____ National Office _____

National Office in Other Masonic Body _____

Have you made your reservations with the Hotel? YES NO

I (we) are Flying Air Line - _____ Flight # _____

I (we) will arrive on _____ I (we) will depart on _____

(DATE) (TIME)

(DATE) (TIME)

Registration Fee of \$160.00 Per Person includes Lunch Friday & Saturday; Dinner Thursday, Friday & Saturday plus the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force and the Carillon Historical Park tours.

Number _____ @(\$160.00) each \$ _____

Knight Comp Lady

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| [] | [] | Will attend the Thursday Evening Dinner Reception, June 12 th |
| [] | [] | Will attend the Friday Men's and Ladies Lunch, June 13 th |
| [] | [] | Will attend the Friday Air Force Museum Tour/Dinner, June 13 th |
| [] | [] | Will attend the Saturday Men's/Ladies Carillon Park Tour/Lunch June 14 th |
| [] | [] | Will attend the Saturday Grand Banquet, June 14 th |

Special Dietary Needs _____

Wheel Chair _____

Make Checks Payable To:

"142nd Annual Conclave"

Mail Check and Registration To:

Martin R. Trent

(937) 864-5603

4267 South Xenia Drive

standrews619@yahoo.com

Enon, OH 45323-1648

This completed form, and your check must be received by May 10, 2014

NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 17, 2014



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