



FRONT COVER

Shows a copy of Thomas Phipps Dorman's drawing which was featured on the front cover of the Souvenir Booklet published at the time of the Consecration.

This was intended to symbolise both the Victory at the end of World War One, and also that of the Crusaders in capturing Jerusalem centuries before.

A HISTORY OF VICTORY PRECEPTORY No 207

Consecrated on Friday 16th May 2019, at The Masonic Hall, Princes Street, Northampton.

Compiled by Eminent Knight Barry Stephenson, Past Provincial Aide-de-camp, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of this Consecration.

Introduction

In 1919, Northampton, along with the rest of the United Kingdom and Europe, were doing their best to return to the routine of normal life after the devastation of the First World War. Regiments were being disbanded, and ex servicemen, many suffering from shell shock and disabilities through injury, were returning to their native shores and once again looking for peace time employment.

The “Victory” had of course come at a cost, with some 1,700 men of the town having been killed in action. As a major centre of Shoemaking, Northampton had played its part in the War effort, and indeed the Towns Factories had supplied over 23 million pairs of Boots to the Armed Forces during the conflict. In 1919 General Lord Horne received the Freedom of Northampton and in his response thanked the Town for keeping the Army “so well supplied with Boots.”

The population of Northampton in 1919 was around 90,500 compared to a figure of some 215,300 today.

A significant event in that year was the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on the 28th June, which officially marked the end of the First World War, and led to the creation of The League of Nations, the predecessor of the United Nations we recognise today.

Also in June on the 21st, the German High Seas Fleet was scuttled at Scappa Flow.

Lady Astor, an American by birth was sworn in as the first female member of the British Parliament on 1st December that year.

The “Save The Children” charity was established in 1919. Its original mission was to provide starvation relief to children in Austria, Hungary and Germany where the devastation of World War One and the Allied blockage of Germany had created a famine.

Also in that year, the Rotary Dial Telephone was invented allowing people for the first time to dial the number themselves rather than making calls via an operator. The Pop up Toaster was another invention which first appeared in 1919.

The Forming of Victory Preceptory

In the beginning.....

A number of established Knights Templars, being existing members of London based and other Preceptories, but living in and around the Northampton area, held an inaugural meeting within a few hours of the Armistice being signed to end the hostilities of World War One, on 11th November 1918.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a proposal to form and consecrate a new Preceptory in Northampton itself, which would be the first such for the Order of Knights Templar within this area.

The person leading this initiative was V. E. Knight Thomas Phipps Dorman, who was a prominent Mason in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. He had a particular interest in Masonic History and wrote a number of books including the history of Pomfret Craft Lodge No 360 in 1910, (although never a member) and the history of the Province in 1912.

A Past Master of Eleanor Cross Lodge No 1764, and Dene Lodge No 228 (Berkshire), he was particularly involved in the formation and consecration of other Craft Lodges and side orders within the Province. Thomas Phipps Dorman was the Chairman of the Directors of the Masonic Hall Company that ran the Princes Street premises, and although never officially appointed as such he often acted as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

He was very much involved in Masonic Charities including the four-shilling fund and was a Patron of the Masonic Boys School.

Although there are no specific records of this meeting, it was obviously successful, because some six months later "Victory Preceptory", came into existence. The chosen name clearly refers to that Victory achieved after the cessation of World War One, but as you will see from later comments, T. P. Dorman also had a wider vision associated with the Crusades.

There were 27 Founder Members of The Victory Preceptory, with V. E. Knight Thomas Phipps Dorman having the honour of being installed as the first Eminent Preceptor, and V. E. Knight The Rt. Hon. Lord Lilford as 1st Constable. The 2nd Constable was to be The Knight Thomas Horton, and E. Knight George William Horatio Nelson, was to be installed as Registrar. A full list of all the Founder members is given in Appendix A, and many went on to serve in high office both in Knights Templar and other orders.

The Rt. Hon. John 5th Lord Lilford already had a very distinguished Masonic Career and was at the time of the Consecration the Provincial Grand Master of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire in the Craft, having been installed in that Office on the 19th July 1912, and served in that role until 1936. Thomas Horton the 2nd Constable Elect had also previously been installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Craft in 1915

The Consecration

On Friday 16th May 1919 a delegation from Great Priory travelled to Northampton to consecrate The Victory Preceptory, 207. It was led by the M. E. and Supreme Pro Grand Master, R. Loveland Loveland, K.C., G.C.T., and he was assisted by the Gt. Chancellor, Gt. Registrar, Gt. Marshal, P. G. Prelate and other distinguished offices of Great Priory. A full list of those officiating on this occasion is given in Appendix B.

On the day of the Consecration, and presumably to fortify themselves for the work ahead, they partook of a light Lunch at 1:15 pm. A total of 38 Knights were in attendance and the Solemn Ceremony of Consecration commenced promptly at 2:15 pm, which the minutes say was impressively carried out by the M. E. and Supreme Pro Grand Master R. Loveland Loveland K.C. G.C.T.

An Arch of steel was formed and the Consecrating Officer entered, preceded by the Great Marshal and other Great Officers. Having assumed the chair, the Pro Grand Master appointed his officers for the Ceremony, opened the Chapter and called on the Chaplin to offer up prayers.

The Consecrating Officer then summoned the Petitioning Knights to appear before him in the West, the Warrant was duly read, and they then signified their approval of the Knights nominated in that Warrant to preside over them. They followed an Oration by the Chaplin on the nature and principles of the Order.

The Ceremony continued with the petitioning Knights marching in procession around the Preceptory on three occasions, and the Consecrating Officer following suit whilst on separate perambulations scattering corn, pouring wine, and sprinkling oil at each corner. Each perambulation was interspersed by the Chaplin giving an Invocation, and he then carried the Censer three times around the Preceptory before the candles on the Sepulchre were lit.

The Consecrating Officer then declared the Preceptory duly consecrated, and continued by consecrating the Standards and to constitute the Preceptory.

The Eminent Preceptor, along with the 1st and 2nd Constables referred to above were inaugurated into their respective offices, and The Knight Horace Walter Dover was elected and invested as Treasurer. The Eminent Preceptor then invested his officers as indicated in Appendix B.

On the conclusion of these appointments, the Eminent Preceptor proposed that the Preceptory give best thanks to the M. E. Pro Grand Master and the officers of Great Priory for having come down to consecrate the Preceptory and that they be made Honorary Members. This proposal was duly seconded and carried.

A Ballot then took place for some 11 candidates wishing to join the order, which promised well for the future, although one of these was never actually installed. The meeting was closed and the Alms collected amounted to 52 shillings and 6 pence.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre

In the souvenir booklet commemorating the Consecration of "The Victory Preceptory" Thomas Phipps Dorman wrote a very interesting article in respect of The Church of the Holy Sepulchre and its supposed "connection" with Knights Templar.

Back in 1919, and even to the present day The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is often referred to as "the Templars Church" and he suggested that "a note of wonderment may be raised by those who knew Northampton well, that the Founders of the Preceptory which had just been Consecrated did not arrange to have the name "Holy Sepulchre" connected therewith."

He adds that "there is a prevalent idea that the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton was founded by the Knights Templars, a supposition which had obtained greater credence because it was accepted by certain historians of the time. The structure of the original "Round" part of the Holy Sepulchre church is indeed based on the church or shrine of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which adds to this theory.

However he goes on to provide three reasons, each conclusive in itself, which at once disprove the accuracy of this traditional belief.

In the first place, judging from the style and character of the early architecture, it may be safely concluded that the date of the foundation of this church cannot be much later than the year 1100.

Secondly, Henry I confirmed this church to the priory of St. Andrew by a charter dated around 1116, and it remained in the sole charge of the Priory uninterruptedly until long after the dissolution of the Templars.

Thirdly, the English possessions of Knights Templars are accurately known, and the order never possessed any property in Northampton, or even in the County.

As a sequel to these statements, the order of the Templars was not founded until the year 1118, and it did not obtain a foothold in England until 1134.

Whilst the above may seem conclusive, there is clear evidence within records of local history that this church does indeed have a Templar connection. It was in fact founded by the great Earl of Northampton, Simon de Senlis (or St. Liz) on his return from The Holy Land.

In the year 1096, he in common with many of the nobles and knights of England, joined in the first crusade, which ended in the capture of Jerusalem by assault on July 15th 1099. Simon survived all the toils and perils of the journey and the strife, and returned in safety to England before the close of that memorable year. In all probability, Earl Simon began the work shortly after his return, intending the church to be his thank offering to God for the restoration of the sacred sites in Jerusalem to Christendom, and for his own preservation.

The drawing on the front cover of both the 1919 souvenir booklet, and this more recent history was an attempt by T. P. Dorman, as he says “to symbolise “The Victory” at the end of World War One, and also of the freedom of Jerusalem from the Turks, so meritoriously achieved centuries ago by the Crusaders (we try to represent), and locally applied by the connection of the old church in the past and the new Preceptory of that day”.

The Next 100 years

13th October 1919 - Lord Lilford, who was as stated above, already PGM in the Craft, was installed as the Third, 1st Provincial Grand Principal of The Holy Royal Arch in the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, and so became ruler of both orders which he served for many years, until stepping down in 1937.

At the same Provincial HRA Convocation meeting, two further members of Victory Preceptory were honoured in the persons of John Dickens who was installed as 2nd Grand Principle, and William Charles Cattell as 3rd Grand Principal. A “Victory” full house!

24th October 1919 - T. P. Dorman’s tenure as Eminent Preceptor was somewhat short lived as he only presided over two further meetings both in that same year. The first held on this date, was recorded as an Emergency meeting where the Preceptory’s first candidate, a William John Stanton was installed, the Guard, George Robinson was obligated and the By-Laws passed by the Knights present.

In order to perpetuate the reasoning behind the Preceptory’s chosen name and providence, these By-Laws established that one of the regular meetings would be held on the nearest Wednesday to the

11th November each year, with two others on the last Wednesday in January and March, a practice which continues until this day.

The second, and his last meeting as Eminent Preceptor of Victory was held less than three weeks later on the 12th November 1919, when Evening Dress was worn, and V. E. Knight Lord Lilford was installed as Eminent Preceptor in his place. The Installation Ceremony itself was conducted by E. Knight S. B. Wilkinson, Acting I. P. Preceptor, a Founder Member of Victory and a Provincial Grand Chancellor by rank. V. E. Knight T. P. Dorman acted as Marshall.

The minutes of this meeting also show a number of joining members from Shadwell Clerke Preceptory No 154 in London, a trend which continued for a little time. A meal was on offer following the Ceremony at a cost of 7 shillings and 6 pence per person.

By January 1920, Morning Dress had become the stated attire which continued thereafter.

On the 31st March 1921, Perseverance Preceptory, 218 was consecrated in Kettering, followed by Wendlynburgh Preceptory, 236 in Wellingborough on the 9th June 1925. With these three Preceptory's now established, permission was granted by Great Priory to form a Provincial Priory which was duly constituted in November 2025.

At the regular meeting of Victory Preceptory held on the 11th November 1925, the V. E. Knight T. P. Dorman informed the Knights that the new Provincial Priory was to be inaugurated on 15th January 1926, and that he had been nominated by the M. E. and Supreme Grand Master as Provincial Prior Elect of the new Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

He then proposed that Victory Preceptory should present the Provincial Banner to Provincial Priory on this occasion which was duly seconded and carried.

It is perhaps no surprise that V. E. Knight T. P. Dorman one of the founders and leading lights in the formation of Victory Preceptory and in bringing Knights Templar into the region was selected for this high office.

To add to the honour bestowed on Victory Preceptory by Great Priory, another founder, E Knight John Dickens was to be installed as Provincial Sub-Prior, and E. Knight George Horatio Nelson as Provincial Vice Chancellor, a post he held with distinction until retiring in 1949 owing to ill health.

United Priors Preceptory, 240 was consecrated on 20th January 1926, in Huntingdon, five days after Provincial Priory was inaugurated, thus giving a K. T. presence in each of the two Counties of the newly formed Province.

October 31st 1927 - An Emergency meeting was convened where E. Comp. Major Leslie Phipps Dorman, the son of our first Eminent Preceptor was installed as a Knight of the Order. This date also being the 70th birthday of Thomas Phipps Dorman he entertained the whole of the Knights present to a Banquet which the minutes record "was served in an excellent style".

The normal Installation Meeting was then held just a few days later on the 9th November 2027.

23rd February 1930 – V. E. Knight T. P. Dorman, Past Provincial Prior, Founder, and the first Eminent Prior of Victory Preceptory entered into rest. The Eminent Preceptor, E. Knight William

Henry Horton made feeling reference to the loss of the order in general and the Victory Preceptory in particular by the very sad death of the Provincial Prior.

The previous Sub-Prior, V. E. Knight John Dickens was installed as Provincial Prior later that year, with another Victory founder, E. Knight Evan Harries Harries-Jones being installed as the new Sub-Prior.

15th August 1931 – Death of E. Knight Samuel Blaze Wilkinson, Prov. Chancellor, a Founder Member and Acting I. P. Preceptor at the Consecration. He was a dress manufacturer, with a factory in Talbot Road, a generous man and a brilliant ritualist.

1933 - V. E. Knight Evan Harries Harries-Jones is installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

10th May 1934 – Death of John Dickens, Provincial Prior, and Founder of Victory Preceptory. He was a printer by trade.

November 1934 – All Victory Summons up to and including that of March 1934 carry the heading “Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire” as at its inauguration back in 1919. By the meeting held on the 14th November 1934, this had changed to “Province of Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford, as we know it today, although in the absence of Provincial records I can give no reasons as to why this change took place or exactly when. As the Ampthill Preceptory, 260 in Kempston, Bedfordshire was consecrated some five years earlier on the 18th October 1929, it seems strange that such a move did not occur earlier.

January 1935 – The Summons shows V. E. Knight Lord Ampthill now as Provincial Prior of the Province, with V. E. Knight Evan Harries Harries-Jones continuing as Sub-Prior.

March 1935 – The minutes record “The financial position was considered and it was decided to make voluntary contributions for the liquidation of the debt”

20th November 1935 – The Summons shows an “In memoriam” for V. E. Knight Lord Ampthill.

20th February 1936 – Masonic Mourning for King George V.

November 1936 – The Summons shows V. E. Knight Evan Harries Harries-Jones now as Provincial Prior., and for the following meeting in January 1937 the name of E. Knight William Charles Cattell, another Victory founder, is added as Sub-Prior of the Province.

March 1937 – The Summons states that the V. E. Prior is desirous that the Preceptory should qualify as a Key Stone Preceptory of the New Premises Fund, and has donated a substantial sum as a nucleus. The Treasurer E. Kt Ernest Ingman will be glad to receive donations.

1937 – V. E. Knight William Charles Cattell is installed as the 1st Provincial Grand Principal of the Holy Royal Arch for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. He served in this office until March 1951.

At the same Provincial HRA Convocation, William H. Percival, a joining member of Victory Preceptory on 12th November 1919, was installed as 2nd Provincial Grand Principal of the Province.

30th December 1937 – Death of John Gilbert Sturton, Founder and first 2nd Standard Bearer of Victory Preceptory.

Second World War – Hostilities commenced on the 1st September 1939 and continued until the 2nd September 1945, some 6 years later. It is perhaps surprising that as a Military Order, and one which arose out of the cessation of the previous Great War, these events didn't in some way feature in the minutes of that period. There is no indication that any member of the Preceptory was killed during the Great War.

In fact I can find no reference to it whatsoever either at the outset, its conclusion or at any time in the period in between. Meetings continued as normal throughout the war, (some 18 were held) with a healthy average attendance of around 28 members per meeting.

27th February 1940 – Death of Samuel Edgar Hipwell, Founder and first Almoner of Victory Preceptory.

20th September 1941 – Death of Charles Arnold Newman, Founder and first Capt. Of Guards of Victory Preceptory.

1941 – Leslie Phipps Dorman was appointed as Provincial Marshal and continued to serve in that Office until becoming Provincial Sub Prior in 1946.

11th November 1942 – First occasion that a Chapter of the Victory Priory of The Knights of Malta was opened following the normal Installation meeting of Victory Preceptory, although this does not feature as an item on the Summons for a further three years. Knight Stuart Harold Guise Humfrey was the first Eminent Prior of Malta to be so installed.

13th November 1940 - First time that a list of acting Officers for the ensuing year appeared on the Summons for the Installation of a new Eminent Preceptor.

1944 - V. E. Knight Evan Harries Harries-Jones is installed as Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

14th November 1945 – First occasion that a Victory Summons contains reference to a Priory of The Knights of Malta being held.

22nd November 1945 – Death of George Somes Euson, Founder and first Marshal of Victory Preceptory.

28th March 1945 – Dark Lounge Suit now shown as an option for attire alongside Morning Dress for the first time.

1946 – E. Knight Leslie Phipps Dorman installed as Sub-Prior, replacing William Charles Cattell.

Some time after

17th December 1946 – Death of E. Knight Rt. Hon. Lord Lilford, Founder, and 1st Constable at the Consecration of Victory Preceptory.

1949/50 -I have not been able to trace the actual date, but some time after his retirement in 1949, E. Knight George Horatio Nelson entered into rest. At that time, V. E. Knight Leslie Phipps Dorman, the then Provincial Sub-Prior, presented his Eulogy and had much to say about George's contribution both to the Province in general and Victory Preceptory in particular.

E. Knight George Horatio Nelson was a Founder member of Victory Preceptory and the 1st Registrar, holding this office until 1943. His contribution was immense, and in the eulogy it states, - it can best be covered by the phrase "For years HE was the Preceptory"

E. Knight Nelson was also a Founder of the Perseverance, Wendlynburgh & United Priors Preceptories, and was active in all of them.

As stated previously, Provincial Priory was constituted in 1925, and at the subsequent Consecration the following January he was appointed as the 1st Provincial Registrar. E. Knight Leslie Phipps Dorman goes on to record, that "it is not too much to say that without E. Knight Nelson, no Provincial Priory would have been formed at that time." Whilst V. Emt. Knight Thomas Phipps Dorman (his father) had been the 1st Provincial Prior, and thus the nominal instigator, he adds that "E. Knight Nelson was the Instructor and did the routine work for years."

V. E. Knight Dorman goes on to state that it had been hoped to write a History of the Province from his notes after he retired, but unfortunately they were not clear enough, and for this reason the just credit to E. Knight George Horatio Nelson is likely to be overlooked. 100 years on it is perhaps fitting that we remember him now.

26th July 1951 – William H. Percival was installed as 1st Provincial Grand Principal of the Holy Royal Arch for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. He resigned in March 1959.

1951 – Death of V. E. Knight E. H. Harries-Jones, Provincial Prior, Founder member and first 1st Herald of Victory Preceptory.

1951 – Death of V. E. Knight William Charles Cattell, Provincial Prior and Founder of Victory Preceptory.

23rd November 1951 – V. E. Knight Major Leslie Phipps Dorman is installed as Provincial Prior by the M. E. and Supreme Grand Master, The Rt. Hon. Lord Harris.

23rd January 1952 – W H Percival informed the Committee that the Treasurer could no longer meet the expense of drinks taken at the Festive Board, which had previously been the accepted practice. It was agreed that in future all drinks must be paid for by the members. A sad day indeed!

6th February 1952 – Death of King George VI

1954 – Bertram Guillaume a member of Victory from 20th March 1926 was installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Craft for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire .

2nd May 1956 – Death of E. Knight I. T. Frisby, one of the candidates proposed at the consecration who had risen to the rank of Prov. Gt. Chancellor.

27th March 1957 – The Summons contained a proposal to increase the Annual Subscriptions to Two and a Half Guineas, but at the actual meeting an amendment was tabled and duly passed that it should increase to Three Guineas.

26th March 1958 – It was agreed to donate from the Charity Account, a sum of 60 Guineas to the Provincial Grand Master's lists for the Boys Festival 1958

12th November 1958 – At this Installation meeting, Knight H. N. Colpman was scheduled to be installed as Eminent Preceptor. Unfortunately he had been quite ill for some time and had asked to stay for a further year as 1st Constable, and to defer his installation as Eminent Preceptor until the following year. This request was granted.

The 2nd Constable, Knight Benjamin David Harries agreed to be installed as Eminent Preceptor in his stead and this was duly executed. For some strange reason, the Honours Board shows E. Knight H. N. Colpman as having served as Eminent Preceptor for two years from November 1958 and 1959, and no credit is given at all to E. Knight B. D. Harries for his service to the Preceptory.

1959 – Harry George Lewis who became a Knight of Victory Preceptory on 30th January 1935 was installed as 1st Provincial Grand Principal of the Holy Royal Arch for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

Another "Victory" member, Benjamin David Harries who became a Knight on 17th January 1945 was installed as 3rd Grand Principal at the same Provincial HRA Convocation.

1962 - Bertram Guillaume was installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Craft for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

13th November 1963 – Knight Edward James Hayward was scheduled to be installed as Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year. However his apologies were minuted as he had embarked on a World Cruise so could not be present. His installation was completed at the following meeting on the 29th January 1964.

1963 – Richard Augustus Palmer who became a member of Victory Preceptory on the 18th March 1954 was installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

1964 – Thomas Faulkner Gammage who became a member of Victory Preceptory on 29th March 1939 was installed as Provincial Sub-Prior.

January 25th 1967 – The now V. Emt. Knight Alan Edgar Stewart was installed as a Knight in Victory Preceptory, and took the Malta degree in May 1968. He held several Offices, including Treasurer but resigned in March 1981 when he moved to the Isle of Man. In April that same year he was a Founder of St. German's Preceptory of Man No 498, and was installed as it's Eminent Preceptor in September 1982. He is also a Past Prior of Trafalgar Priory (Huddersfield - Batley) No 259 and was appointed a Knight of Lazarus of Jerusalem KLJ in October 1988.

Alan re-joined Victory No 207 in January 2008 and therefore has the longest continuous service in Knights Templar, (52 years in the Order) of any of the current members at the time of the Centenary.

1969 - Thomas Faulkner Gammage installed as Provincial Prior of Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford, but had a short tenure as he died on 14th April 1970.

12th November 1969 – This was effectively our “Golden Jubilee”, 50 years since the Consecration, but there is no mention of this fact in the minutes of this or any other meeting that year, so it appears to have passed without celebration.

1971 – Richard Augustus Palmer was installed as Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. At the same Provincial Lodge meeting, Dennis Roy Baker, who became a Knight in Victory Preceptory on 28th March 1962 was installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Craft.

29th December 1971 – Death of V. Emt. Knight Leslie Philip Dorman, Past Provincial Prior.

22nd March 1972 – Last meeting of Victory Preceptory to be held at the Masonic Hall, Princess Street, Northampton prior to its demolition.

8th November 1972 – First meeting of Victory Preceptory to be held at Freemasons Hall, St. Georges Avenue.

1973 – Richard Augustus Palmer was installed as Grand Superintendent of the Holy Royal Arch for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

At the same Provincial Convocation, Clifford Ellam Jones who became a Knight of Victory Preceptory on 12th January 1955 was installed as Deputy Grand Superintendent, the first time this appointment had been made.

26th March 1975 – Paul Stuart Heath was installed as a Knight in Victory Preceptory on this date, and has been a loyal servant now for over 44 years. At the time of our Centenary this will make him our longest continuously serving member in the Preceptory. He became Eminent Preceptor in November 1989, and has served as Chaplin since November 1999.

3rd May 1975 – Dispensation was given by the Provincial Prior V. Emt. Knight Norman H. Wright for Victory to hold a special meeting for the purpose of working the Malta Degree.

Representatives were also present from Perseverance Preceptory, 218, Wendlynburgh Preceptory, 236, United Priors Preceptory, 240, St. Oswald Preceptory, 243 and Ampthill Preceptory, 260.

14th November 1979 – “Diamond Jubilee” - Dedication of Victory Preceptory’s Banner. This was presented by the outgoing Eminent Preceptor, E. Knight Brigadier Doidge Estcourt Taunton, C. B., D. S. O., D. L., to commemorate the completion of his year in Office along with the Diamond Jubilee of the Consecration of the Preceptory.

The Ceremony was carried out by the Provincial Prior, V. Emt. Knight Norman Horace Wright, J. P., K. C. T., assisted by his Provincial team. This was followed by an Oration, given by the Provincial Sub-Prior, V. Emt. Knight Rev. G. L. North, P. Gt. Prelate, on the significance of the Banner.

It is a very interesting piece, focusing on the colours of the Banner, and although far too long to include here, it is well worth a read. Whilst making clear that there is no historical or ritual

connection with the original Knights Templars or any other Orders of Chivalry, it points out that we make use of their story as the narrative basis of our ritual, and draw much of our philosophy from our concept of their virtues and ideals.

One strange feature of this Oration, is that although it was being delivered on the occasion of our Diamond Anniversary, with 1979 being 60 years after our Consecration, the Introduction refers to the year of our “Golden Jubilee”, a message repeated again in the conclusion.

I can only assume this was an early version of the perils of cutting and pasting, where an Oration originally prepared for a Preceptory’s 50th year Anniversary was recycled for our 60th.

Based on the above, our Preceptory Banner when re-dedicated at the Centenary meeting will be just short of 40 years old.

1980 – John Charles Bennett who was installed as a Knight in Victory Preceptory on 31st January 1962, installed as Provincial Sub-Prior under The Rev. G. L. North as Provincial Prior.

November 1991 – Committee Meeting minutes confirmed that Victory Preceptory’s equipment held in store at St. Georges Avenue, Northampton had been independently valued for Insurance purposes at £3,995.00.

30th March 1994 – Rt. Emt. Knight Rev. G. L. North, Past Provincial Prior, delivered a paper on the Knights Templar Degree, which the minutes record as being “a most enjoyable paper on the Knights Templar Degree with great verbal dexterity, highlighting many facets of the order previously unknown, but to the great pleasure of his appreciative audience.” Unfortunately a copy of this paper is not on record. His passing was recorded in the minutes of the November 1995 meeting.

At the very next meeting in November 1995 Knight J. R. Lowe was installed as Eminent Preceptor.

31st January 1996 – V. Emt. Knight Richard Sandbach, Gt. Chancellor presented a paper entitled “The Templars and the Rose Croix” which was acclaimed by all the Knights attending.

1997 – Peter Kitson who was a joining member of Victory Preceptory on 13th November 1985 was installed as Grand Superintendent in the Holy Royal Arch for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. He had previously served this order as Third Provincial Grand Principal from 1992 and as Second Provincial Grand Principal from 1994

10th November 1999 – V. Emt. Knight John C Bennett, Past Great Registrar and former Sub-Prior made an Honorary member of the Preceptory.

2001 – Maxwell William Bayes who became a member of Victory Preceptory on 25th March 1992 was installed as Third Provincial Grand Principal in the Holy Royal Arch for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

13th November 2002 – Honours Board made and installed in the anti-room at St Georges Avenue.

2011 – Maxwell William Bayes was installed as Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, for the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. He had previously served this order as Assistant Provincial Grand Master from 2004, and as Deputy Provincial Grand Master from 2007.

At the same meeting Norman Pope who became a member of Victory on 30th January 2002 was installed as Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft.

25th January 2012 – A most interesting lecture entitled “The Siege of Malta” was presented by Kt Gary Austin. This event took place in 1565 when Knights and Christians took refuge on the Isles of Malta against massive odds from the Muslims of the Ottoman Empire from Turkey. The minutes record that it was “a truly chilling story of considerable violence and bloodshed with graphic descriptions.”

12th November 2012 – Dispensation was granted to hold this Preceptory Meeting at 14, High Street, Daventry, due to the closure of the Masonic Hall in St. Georges Avenue in Northampton, as new premises in the Town were not yet available. This was signed by E Kt John Payne, Provincial Vice Chancellor.

Further dispensations to continue to hold the meetings in Daventry were granted for the 30th January 2013, and the 27th March 2013 pending the opening of Sheaf Close in Northampton.

13th November 2013 – The first meeting of Victory Preceptory held at Sheaf Close, Lodge Farm, Northampton.

29th May 2019 – Centenary Meeting and Banner Rededication led by The Provincial Prior of Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford, Right Eminent Knight Roger Charles Wortley, with the support of the Provincial Officers of the year.

Concluding Notes

Victory Preceptory has prospered over the first 100 years following its Consecration, with 300 regular meetings having been held, plus a further 9 Emergency or Special ones (including the

Centenary) making a grand total of 310 occasions that its Knights have met under the Banner of the Cross. Since the first occasion in November 1942, a total of 78 Victory Priory's of The Knights of Malta have also taken place.

Starting with the 27 Founder Members back in 1919, we have added to our numbers over this period, by installing some 206 candidates as Knights, with a further 15 Knights becoming Joining Members.

In addition, records show that 101 Knights have so far been installed as Eminent Preceptors of Victory Preceptory, and long may it continue. Appendix C provides a full list of these individuals who have added so much to the success and well being of the Preceptory.

So, as the Sun sets on our Centenary celebrations, may the Cock's crow on each morning that follows, call to our remembrance our duties as Knights Templars, and remind us thus early to ask for assistance in order to perform them throughout the day for the next 100 years and more.

I will finish with a few words from our most illustrious Founder, V. E. Knight Thomas Phipps Dorman to whom we owe our very existence, and trust that he would feel that all things considered, we have not made too bad a job in reaching this current milestone.

As he wrote at the time of the Consecration “Suffice it to say, that if we have created in you a desire to wish prosperity to “The Victory” Preceptory of Knights Templar, Northampton, then our job is well done.”

E. Kt. Barry G. Stephenson, PPrGtAdeC

15th May 2019

APPENDIX A

27 Founder Members of

The Victory Preceptory No 207

OFFICERS

V. E. Knight THOMAS PHIPPS DORMAN K.C.T.	Preceptor.
E. Knight SAMUEL BLAZE WILKINSON	Acting I.P. Preceptor
V. E. Knight THE RT.HON. LORD LILFORD	1 st Constable
Knight THOMAS HORTON	2 nd Constable
Knight GEORGE ALLEN SMITH	Chaplin
Knight HORACE WALTER DOVER	Treasurer
E. Knight GEORGE WILLIAM HORATIO NELSON	Registrar
Knight GEORGE SOMES EUNSON	Marshal
Knight SAMUEL EDGAR HIPWELL	Almoner
Knight EVAN HARRIES JONES	1 st Herald
Knight GEORGE EDWIN HOLMES	2 nd Herald
Knight OWEN PARKER	1 st Standard Bearer
Knight JOHN GILBERT STURTON	2 nd Standard Bearer
Knight CHARLES ARNOLD NEWMAN	Capt. Of Guards
Knight HAROLD WILKINSON	Organist.

MEMBERS

Knight W. C. Cattell	Knight W. H. Moody
Knight John Dickens	E. Knight C. H. Perram
Knight F. T. Eaton	Knight W. D. Sadler
Knight E. Ingman	Knight W. T. Sears
Knight H. Johnson	Knight E. F. Teesdale
Knight F. A. Wright	Knight H. L. B. Budge

APPENDIX B

Consecration Team from Great Priory For the Consecration of

The Victory Preceptory No 207

at the

Masonic Hall, Prince's Street, Northampton

On Friday 16th May, 1919, at 2.15 pm

Led by the

M. E. and Supreme Pro Grand Master,

R. LOVELAND LOVELAND, K.C., G.C.T.

Assisted by

V. E. Knight the Rev. T. T. Blockley, P. G. PrelateAs Chaplin

V. E. Knight T. H. Gardiner, G.C.T., Gt. Treasurer.....As 1st Constable

V. E. Knight A. J. Thomas, G.C.T., Gt. Registrar.....As 2nd Constable

V. E. Knight A. D. Hansell, K.C.T., Gt. Vice Chancellor.. As Registrar

V. E. Knight B. Marr Johnson, K.C.T., Gt. Marshal.....As Marshal

E. Knight J. F. Cleaves, P.G.Std.....As Standard Bearer

E. Knight F. S. S. N. Isitt, P.G.Organist.....As Organist

with

E. Knight W. Crombie.....As G.M's Banner Bearer

Knight J. Dickens.....As Sword Bearer

E. Knight E. Mills.....As Capt. Of Guard

APPENDIX C

EMINENT PRECEPTORS OF VICTORY PRECEPTORY NO 207

1919	T. P. DORMAN	1952	T. F. GAMMAGE	1986	P. F. O. GAME
1919	LORD LILFORD	1953	T. H. DOCKRELL	1987	W. THOMPSON
1920	T. HORTON	1954	C. F. HARLOW	1988	D. V. RUSHMAN
1921	J. DICKENS	1955	G. J. W. WAREING	1989	P. S. HEATH
1922	G. S. EUSON	1956	C. S. I. MARGETTS	1990	R. M. HAYES
1923	H. WILKINSON	1957	W. G. SMITH	1991	R. E. LEWIS
1924	S. E. HIPWELL	1958	B. D. HARRIES	1992	P. L. COOKE
1925	E. HARRIES – JONES	1959	H. N. COLPMAN	1993	E. S. TARRY
1926	G. E. HOLMES	1960	A. AUFLECK	1994	J. R. LOWE
1927	E. INGHAM	1961	L. T. HEGGS	1995	K. A. J. SMITH
1928	C. A. NEWMAN	1962	J. S. MUDD	1996	M. A. RICHARDS
1929	W. H. HORTON	1963	E. J. HEYWOOD	1997	B. L. COULSTON
1930	S. H. BARBER	1964	G. S. GARRARD	1998	J. GARSIDE
1931	W. E. WHITTON	1965	H. H. HOWARD	1999	M. W. CALVERT
1932	I. T. FRISBY	1966	G. H. LOWICK	2000	J. S. ISLEY
1933	C. A. MARKHAM	1967	R. A. PALMER	2001	M. W. PEPPER
1934	W. H. PERCIVAL	1968	C. E. JONES	2002	R. FOULGER
1935	R. MAYES	1969	P. GIBSON	2003	I. R. WEBB
1936	C. C. HARDWICK	1970	F. C. J. SMITH	2004	J. W. O. PAYNE
1937	LT. COL. J. WILLIAMS	1971	N. G. DURHAM	2005	K. RAPKIN
1938	H. E. ROBERSON	1972	D. R. THOM	2006	R. R. RICE
1939	T. HYETT	1973	A. E. WILSON	2007	B. J. HOWARD
1940	MAJ. L. P. DORMAN	1974	J. C. BENNETT	2008	M. W. BAYES
1941	B. GUILLAUME	1975	D. R. BAKER	2009	C. J. HAYNES
1942	S. H. G. HUMFREY	1976	N. H. ROLF	2010	K. BRUDENELL
1943	C. R. WHITTON	1977	L. E. W. WELLS	2011	N. POPE
1944	T. T. WEST	1978	BRIG. D. E. TAUNTON	2012	D. TEMPEST
1945	J. C. POWER	1979	T. C. ELLIOTT	2013	T. C. BLAKEMORE
1946	E. U. STANTON	1980	B. R. CHAMPION	2014	J. JAMES
1947	H. G. LEWIS	1981	J. A. EYTON-JONES	2015	B. G. STEPHENSON
1948	F. W. RANCE	1982	N. D. JONES	2016	R. L. ALLISON
1949	C. E. BURTON	1983	C. C. MARSTON	2017	N. SIDEY
1950	F. L. LARSON	1984	T. F. BROWN	2018	M. C. CLEMENTS
1951	A. E. DICKENS	1985	R. W. P. SMITH		