

The Scottish Rite Valley of

A History of the Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite Knights of Saint Andrew

At the June 2006 stated meeting, the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, Brother David A. Burkus, KCCH, asked for a volunteer to look into the establishment of a Knights of Saint Andrew Chapter for the Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite. Brother Jesse A. Norman volunteered to look into the establishment of such a chapter. On December 22, 2006 a letter was sent to all 32° and this appeal produced 26 Charter Members. Our Charter was signed and approved by the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the State of Virginia, Illustrious James D. Cole, 33°, on March 31, 2007.

The Newport News Scottish Rite Knights of St. Andrew is a service organization dedicated to the service of the Valley of Newport News. Full membership is restricted to 32°. The Knights of St. Andrew generates membership for the Valley, abides by the Val-

ley's by-laws, and those approved by the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the State of Virginia.

The Knights of St. Andrew are identified by their sometimes flamboyant uniform and regalia; often entering special events accompanied by bagpipes and drums, becoming the elite unit of all Scottish Rite Masons. Uniforms and regalia are set forth in the by-laws of the organization and by vote of the members. This is a great means of attracting younger members (ages 18 through 55 yrs.). It has all the magic and color used by the Shrine following WWII in the early 1950's, before a tired and aging membership put it to rest. KCCHs and 33° Masons can remain members, but without any voting rights and cannot hold an office, in this group.

The Tartan (plaid) for the Valley of Newport News has been selected as Stewart Black.



Mission of the Knights of Saint Andrew

The Knights of St. Andrew is an elite unit of select 32° Scottish Rite Masons.

We exist as a service organization on behalf of all members of our Consistory. We are under the immediate supervision of the Secretary of the Scottish Rite Consistory and provide services

where needed. This includes, but not limited to, aiding the Tilers, acting as greeters, providing escort services for dignitaries or for special events created for the ladies during reunions or other functions, serving as guides, assisting the Scottish degree work, helping present the Colors and

Hosting the Ring ceremony for the Spring and Fall Reunions. The Knights of St. Andrew also assist in calling committees, participate in parades or civic activities, promote fund-raising events, and aid in any special event. The list can continue on as new ideas and concepts are developed to meet needs and goals. Our flexibility and enthusiasm make the Knights of St. Andrew one of the Valley's most active and desirable organizations. It is an excellent way to nurture and develop future leaders as they learn their organizational and leadership skills, explore the inner structures of their Scottish Rite Centers, and thus gain a deeper admiration for our Order and Brethren who work in Freemasonry as a whole.

The origins of the Order date back to the period of 1220-1232 A.D., when a Confraternity was established in the city of Acre, then the Crusader Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem (occupying the same territory as the modern state of Israel) to protect pilgrims and merchants.

This Confraternity, consisting of burgesses and knights of largely French heritage, met in the city's castle - and chose the Holy Apostle, St. Andrew, as their patron. They constituted themselves as a Crusading Order of Knights with the object of resisting tyranny and protecting public safety.

During the turmoil of the Sixth Crusade, these worthies of the Order defended the poor, the sick, and the weak from adver-

saries. In the best tradition of the military and religious orders of the time, they founded their lives on prayer, charity, service, and protection.

About this time, procession of Acre was being contested by the Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick II, operating from his base in Sicily. Through his marriage to Yolande, daughter of John of Brienne (a leading Crusader), the Emperor had become embroiled in the affairs of the Crusader States. The Emperor sent a fleet of ships against Acre in 1227, whereupon the Knights and Officers of the Order of St. Andrew of Jerusalem appealed to Pope Gregory IX, who excommunicated the Emperor for this action.

During the subsequent negotiations with the Muslims by the Emperor Frederick, the Knights of St. Andrew remained aloof. Though some progress for the Crusaders appeared at first to have been made, their adherence to treaty commitments made at that time eventually enabled an army of Turks in pay of the Sultan of Egypt, to crush the remaining Crusader enclaves by about 1244.

It was at about this juncture that the existing historical records of the Knights of St. Andrew were lost. It is speculated that the records may have been transported to Byzantium in hope of safekeeping, only to be lost yet again when the city fell to the Turks in 1453.

