

United Religious Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple
and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta
of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas

Explanation given by V. Em. Knight C.G. Pagett, P.Gt.Registrar
and

Eulogy given by Em. Knight M.B. Simpson, P.Gt. Herald

on the occasion of the 451st. meeting of the
Richard de Vernon Preceptory, No.52
Being the 150th. Anniversary of the Consecration of the Preceptory.

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Richard de Vernon Preceptory, No.52

Prologue

Page 13 of the Centenary Booklet.

Original Conclaves of the Founders.

Henry Charles Vernon Gentleman
Hilton Hall, Shareshill, Nr. Wolverhampton
Installed a Knight Companion in the Beauceant Encampment No.35
(Now Howe - Beauceant Encampment / Preceptory, No.67)
Balloted 17th. May, 1850. Installed 11th. July, 1851.
(One of 14 candidates elected on 17th. May, 1850, when
the Encampment was consecrated)
Resigned 18th. February, 1853.

Godefroi de Bouillon Encampment No.42, Staffordshire.
Consecrated 14th. October, 1853, by Sir Kt. Col. George
Augustus Vernon (His blood brother, who was Grand
Commander of Staffordshire).
First Eminent Commander on its consecration.

Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire by Patent dated
17th. June, 1851. Ceased 1856
Provincial Grand Commander, Worcestershire, 10th. June, 1857.

Charles John Vigne
Installed a Knight Companion in the Holy Cross Encampment
No.50 Coryton, Dorset (Subsequently Axminster then
Plymouth) 1844-1893 when erased
Became Provincial Grand Commander, Dorset, 1855.

William Masefield Draper/Gentleman Dudley
Member of Harmonic Lodge, No.313 (Now 252) Worcestershire
Installed in the Cross of Christ Encampment No.20, London.
(Now Preceptory of St. George No.6, London). 18th. June 1847.
Eminent Commander of Beauceant Encampment No.35
5th. May, 1857.

Thomas James Agent, Walsall
Installed a Knight Companion in the Cross of Christ Encampment
No.20, London, 21st. September, 1849
First Eminent Commander of Richard de Vernon Encampment,
No.52 10th. June, 1857.

Original Conclaves of the Founders (Continued)

John Orme Brettell (Brettelle) Dudley
 Installed a Knight Companion in the Cross of Christ Encampment
 No.20 (Now Preceptory of St. George, No.6 London)
 18th. June, 1847.
 Founder of Beauceant Encampment, No.35, 17th. May 1850

John Aston Ironmaster Dudley
 Installed a Knight Companion in the Beauceant Encampment No.35
 17th. May, 1850.

William Howells Tipson
 Installed a Knight Companion in the Beauceant Encampment, No.35,
 17th. December, 1856.

Thomas Richard Cooper Surgeon Oldbury
 Member of Harmonic R.A.C. 213 (Nov 252)
 Installed a Knight Companion in the Beauceant Encampment No.35
 9th. February, 1855

John Jeffs Confectioner Hall Street, Dudley.
 A Companion, was obligated as a serving Companion on
 10th. June, 1857, and was subsequently appointed Equerry.

N.B. It should be noted that Richard de Vernon Encampment, No.52 was
 consecrated immediately prior to the Installation of Henry Charles
 Vernon as Provincial Grand Commander (Provincial Prior), and the
 appointment and investiture of the Provincial Officers.

(See Appendix A)

All the Knight Companions at this time bore the titles of SIR KNIGHT

The nomenclature of titles was altered on 25th. April, 1873 to :-

Encampment	Preceptory
Eminent Commander	Eminent Preceptor
1st. Captain	Constable
Expert	Marshall

At the Consecration Meeting the Expert (Marshall) should be shown as
 Sir Knight Frederick DEE, who was installed in the Encampment of
 the Cross of Christ, No.20, London 21st. September, 1849

Richard de Vernon Preceptory, No.52.

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A Knight Templar Tracing Board was presented to the Preceptory by The V. Emt. Provincial Sub-Prior, Sir Knight Abraham Green, on the 7th. February, 1894. Neither the tracing Board or the explanation have survived.

Subsequent research has found three K.T. Tracing Boards, from other sources, of varying styles/designs, but which type was presented must remain a mystery.

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The Preceptory Logo first appeared on the summons of the Golden Jubilee meeting in 1907. This subsequently formed the basis of the Preceptory Banner, some 139 years after the consecration of the Preceptory.

Source of Material :-

Beauceant Encampment No.35, Minute Book, 1850-1890

Howe- Beauceant Preceptory No.67, Review, 1850-1911

Origin and Progress of the Preceptory of St. George, No.6 ,1795-1895
By C Fitzgerald Matier

A History of the Province of Staffordshire and Shropshire, 1849-1999.
By R. E. n. K. Ian Moxon, Provincial Prior.

Grand Superintendants in and over the Province of Staffordshire
By E. Comp. Ronald A. Stevens, Grand Superintendent 1980-1985.

Many hours of enquiries, correspondance, telephne calls and patience.

Richard de Vernon Preceptory, No.52

An Explanation of the Preceptory Banner

To describe the symbols and significations of the details depicted within the time being allowed would not do justice to such an important item :- so of necessity this will be a very short version of the result of the researches necessary to have a meaningful result.

First I must acknowledge the assistance given by Em. Kt. G.S. Angell and Em Kt. E.J. Bate.

The Encampment name, and I make no excuse for using the original title, was that of Richard de Vernon Encampment, who took part in the Third Crusade under Richard the Lionheart. The title is clearly shown on the warrant.

There is no recorded minute of the choice of name, but the "de Vernon" family, whose family seat was Haddon Hall, Bakewell, Derbyshire, seems to have been an obvious choice.

(See Appendix B)

In the mid 1800, the Vernon family home was then at Hilton Park, Shareshill, Near Wolverhampton, were heavily involved in masonic affairs.

Sir Kt. Colonel George Augustus Vernon

A member of the Cross of Christ Encampment No. 20.

(Now St. Georges Preceptory No.6, London)

Was Grand Superintendent of Staffordshire 1853-1864

Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire

and the first Provincial Grand Commander of

Staffordshire 1849-1864

His Flood Brother. Henry Charles Vernon

was installed a Knight Companion in the Beauceant Encampment No.35.

(Now the Howe- Beauceant Preceptory No.67)

One of fourteen candidates at the Consecration, on 17th. May, 1850

Founder and first Eminent Commander of Godefroi de Bouillon

Encampment No.42, 1853

Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Staffordshire 1853-1866

Ultimately becoming the first Provincial Grand Commander,

Worcestershire, 1857, following the consecration of

No.52 until 1866.

(See Appendix E)

The central portion or design depicted on the banner also has its origin veiled in allegory.

The design (Logo) surfaced at the Golden Jubilee meeting in 1907. Once again there is no recorded minute, but the design has been in use continuously since that date, and is the basis of the banner design produced some 135 years after the consecration.

Research shows that Em. Kt. E.J. Chambers and a member of Harmonic Lodge, No. 252, visited Pennsylvania, USA, in 1902, and on his return to the U.K. he deposited various books, photographs, papers and medals with the Library and Museum at Worcester Masonic Hall. And there will be found a medal struck by the Mar. Commandery, No. 36, to commemorate a Pilgrimage to San Francisco in 1883
(See Appendix C)

This is described :-

A cross with ornamental limbs, bearing in the centre a crowned shield, quartered with Masonic Emblems, and charged in the centre with an irradiated cross. The limbs of the cross have a monogram M.C., below 1869, and at the sides small banners (35mm in size)

The design appears to have been "borrowed" from our American Knights, of No.36, and has been used from 1907, up to our Golden Jubilee year, 1957.
(See Appendix D)

This is now described:-

The number 52 (as registered on the roll of the Great Priory of England and Wales) over
A crown of Kent
The side banners bear the 'Eucuceant' and 'Christian Cross' which were carried into battle by our ancient brethren.
The shield is quartered with Masonic symbols depicting the progress required:-
Craft - Royal Arch- Pate Cross (K.T.) - Pascal Lamb (Malta)
In the centre an irradiated cross depicting the seven wounds of Christ.
The whole is garlanded with Laurel leaves.
Below 7th. May 1857 (the date of consecration)

Sir Knights of the Richard de Vernon Encampment

Up-standing

Draw Swords

In olden days the Banner or Flag was always the rallying point for the members of a particular unit. Around it they gathered, under it they fought, and to keep it flying and to keep it in safety, they were prepared to give their lives. It was symbolical to them of all that was best of honour and virtue, of chivalry, loyalty and courage. As it was raised above them, it stood for all these things.

This banner represents our Encampment, and all that it stands for.

Sir Knights We will salute the Banner, with three, taking the time from me

Sir Knights Return swords

Be seated.

Eminent Commander- That is my explanation of the Encampment Banner.

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Officers appointed at the first Provincial Grand Conclave, Worcestershire,
10th. June, 1857.

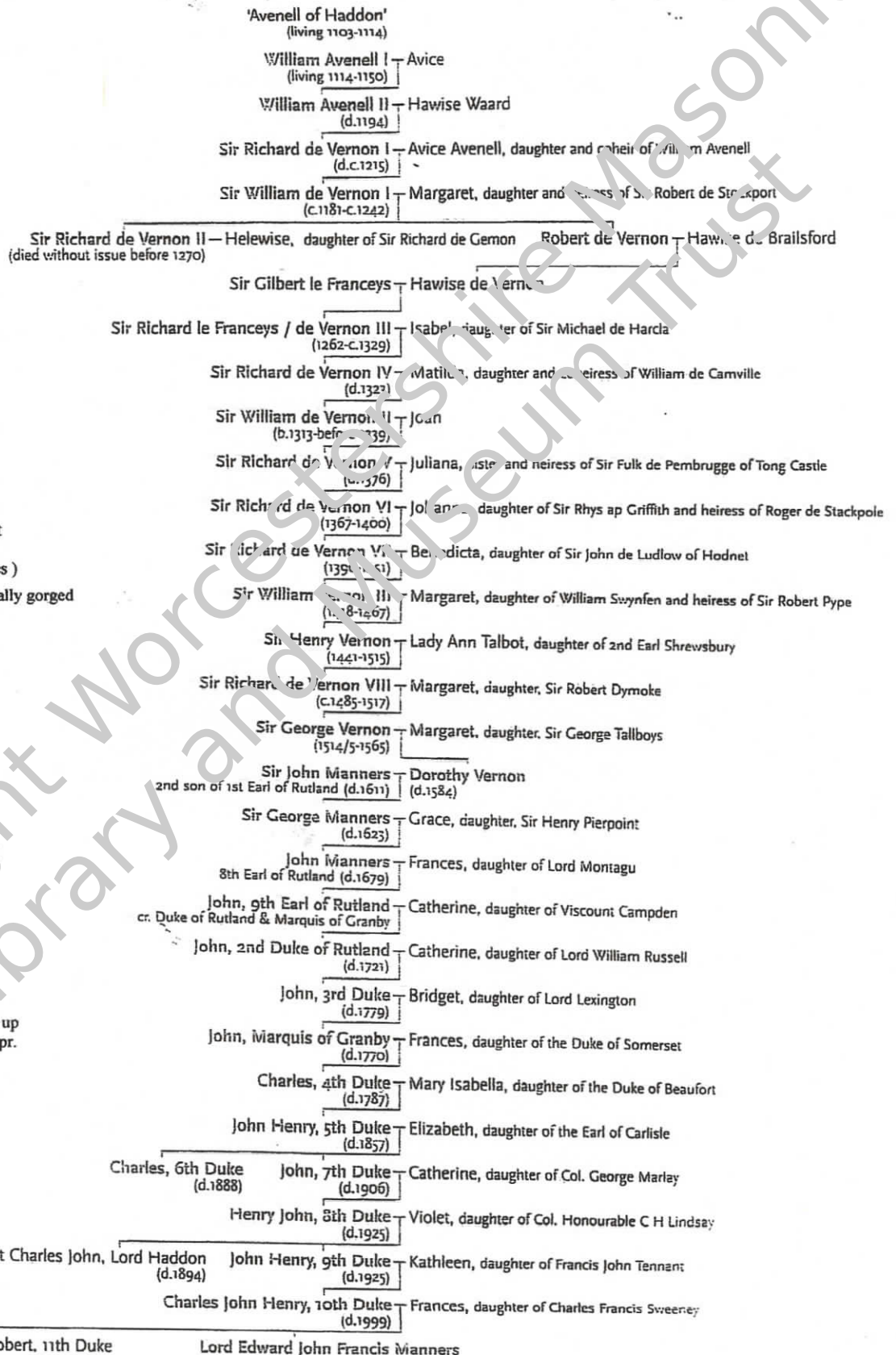
Appendix A

V. W. Sir Knight			
Albert Hudson	Royds	Deputy Grand Commander	Banker
Sir Knights			
John Orme	Brettell	1st. Captain of Lines	
John	Aston	2nd Captain of Lines	Ironmaster, Netherton, Dudley.
<i>REV.</i> Alexander George	Davies	Prelate	<i>clerk in Holy Orders</i> Clerk, Dudley.
Matthew	Dennison	Registrar	Chemist, Dudley.
William	Masefield	Treasurer	Draper (Gentleman) Dudley.
William	Howells	Expert	Merchant, Tipton.
Frederick A.	Edwards	1st. Standard Bearer	Surgeon, Walsall.
Henry	Lewis	2nd. Standard Bearer	Merchant, Wolverhampton.
James A.	Slipton	Aide de Camp	
Thomas Richard	Cooper	Captain of Lines	Surgeon, Oldbury.
Dudley	Parson	1st. Herald	
David	Percock	2nd. Herald	Surveyor, Horseley Heath, Tipton.
Companion, Serving Brother			
James	Jeffs	Equerry	Confectioner, Hall Street Dudley

Richard de Vernon Preceptory , No.52

Appendix B.

The Family Tree of the "de Vernon" Family



Family Crests



Vernon Semper Viret

(Vernon always flourishes)

A Boar's head, erased, Sa, Ducally gorged and bristled, Or.



Pour y parvenir

(In order to accomplish)

On a chapeau. Gu, a peacock in pride, ppr.

Richard de Vernon Preceptory, No.52

The Vernon Family Coat of Arms



"Vernon Semper Vire"

(Vernon always flourishes)

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Appendix C

The Preceptory Logo

W. Brother E.J. Chambers of Harmonic Lodge, No.252 and a member of the Preceptory made a business trip to America in 1904.

On his return to the United Kingdom , on 6th. September, 1904 he gave an interesting narrative of his visit to the Masonic Temple at Philadelphia and at the same time presented to the Lodge (No.252), several books, photographs and medals.

(see page 46 of the Centenary Festival Souvenir)

A medal commemorating a Pilgrimage of the Mary Commandery No.36 in 1883 to San Francisco is to be found in the American Section of the Worcestershire Library and Museum collection of medals and jewels No.857.

This medal is described:-

A cross with ornamental limbs, bearing in the centre a crowned shield, quartered with Masonic Emblems, and charged in the centre with an irradiated cross. The limbs of the cross have a monogram M C, below 1883 and at the sides small banners. 35mm in size.

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(See Appendix D)

Picture of the Mary Commandery No.36.
Knights Templar Philadelphia Summons
dated May 13th. 1886.

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Appendix E

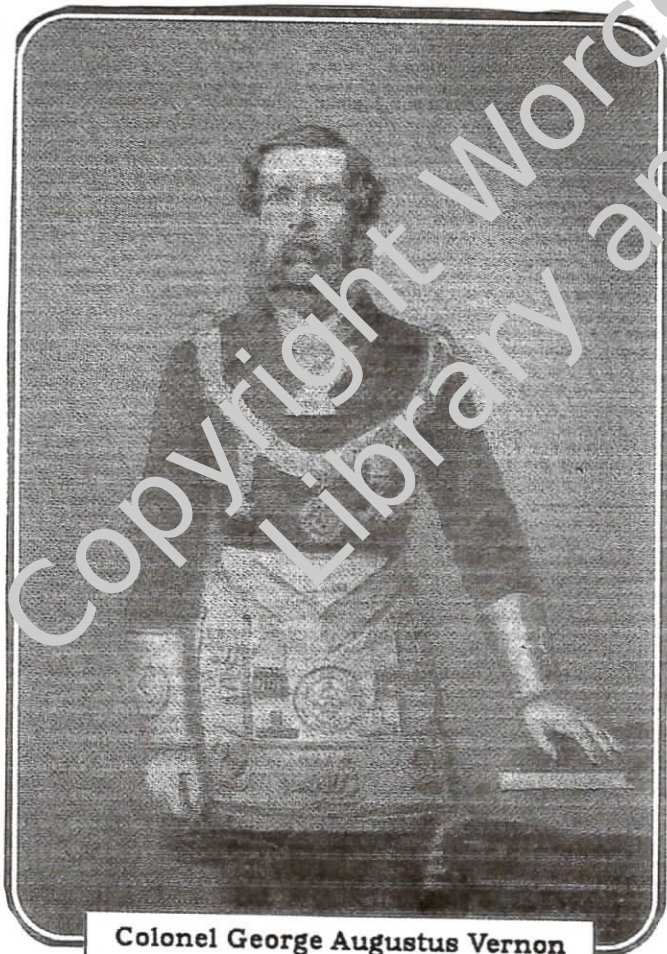
Sir Knight Henry Charles Vernon

First Provincial Grand Commander
10th. June 1857 to 1886



Henry Charles Vernon

Miniature, Collection of the
Vernons of Hilton, Keevil Manor, Wiltshire.
Photograph: Cherry Ann Knott



Colonel George Augustus Vernon

Sir Knight Colonel George Augustus Vernon

First Provincial Grand Commander Staffordshire
1849-1864



Sir Knight William Kenwright Harvey

Wearing Knight Templar Regalia of the day (c 1860)

The badge is described as:

A white kid skin, about 13 1/2 inches long and 15 1/2 inches broad, with a border of black silk watered ribbon, the ribbon to be 4 inches broad.

In the centre of the badge a Red Cross Patée, in velvet or embroidery. A belt of black silk velvet, five inches broad in front, and three inches broad behind, is to be worn attached to the badge. The belt to have on the front the emblems of Mortality in a triangle.

Sash or Baldric (Not shown)

A silk watered ribbon, four inches wide, worn over the right shoulder, with a black silk fringe.

Sword.

The sword when worn by Knights is to be suspended by the sash or baldric. The guard of the sword to be two isosceles triangles, the handle, black, and an oval pommel.

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Eulogy - with a mainly spiritual theme

Brother Knights,

I felt greatly honoured to be asked by our Eminent Preceptor to address you on what is undoubtedly an historic occasion. Enquiring as to my brief, I was told it was to be a eulogy with a mainly spiritual theme. This posed the question---- of whom or what was it to be in praise? Was it to be more of an oration--- a formal address or harangue of a ceremonial kind--- or a homily, a tedious moralising discourse.

The answer was --- Make it what you will, as long it is spiritual, as, like Pontius Pilate,---"What I have written I have written"--It is already printed on the summons.

Well Bro. Knights ---we are met in celebration but surely also in thanksgiving for the great privilege of being successors in pilgrimage to the many knights who have populated this preceptory over the last hundred and fifty years----- and how appropriate are the words-- well known to us of that ancient Masonic Prayer-----
"We remember with thankfulness before God our founders and benefactors, who laid their foundations in fidelity and built their walls in uprightness --- and those who have supported them by their constancy and enriched them by their service.

A pause in progress always suggests an ending and it was T. S. Elliot who said "To end a journey is to arrive back at the beginning".

The early days of the preceptory bore a variety of different names of officers, as did the order and there are many Knights present, who were admitted to "The United Religious and Military Orders" and upon their certificate from Great Priory nowhere does the word Masonic appear.

In the 1970s' however, to some surprise, this was changed—and how rightly so, for one has only to visit that all knowing modern gazette -the internet ,to see the numerous groups, on both sides of the Atlantic, asserting themselves as knights Templar, who strive to connect with the mediaeval but have no concern with spiritual warfare.

Whatever our ancient heritage, we rightly acknowledge our Masonic roots and the path of progressive enlightenment by which we came to knighthood in this wonderful Christian Order.

Our ceremonies really do spell out "The Christian Life in Action", with the challenging injunctions of Saint Peters 1st Epistle General and Saint Paul writing to the Christian Community at Ephesus.

How significant it is Bre Knights that in the arming of our brethren , there is nothing for the back--- that is , -- nothing to defend those who turn back in Christian Warfare---and to the Christian armed for defence in battle, the apostle recommends only one WEAPON OF ATTACK--but it is enough ---the SWORD of THE SPIRIT, which is --THE WORD OF GOD.

Banners have a significant place in our preceptories,. From the Ancient Order the VEXILUM BELLI (or STANDARD of WAR) And the BEAUCEANT, which spelt darkness and destruction to the INFIDEL and light , peace and protection to the Faithful ..

But I suggest to you Bro Knights that we carry another banner

Not the preceptory banner , which has been so lucidly explained to us this evening.

Not the escutcheon of our Patron in Arms --the NOBLE RICHARD

Nor the proud boast of Heraldic Seize Quarters of the latter day Vernons.

But ---unseen, like light itself,---A SPIRITUAL BANNER of LIGHT, a rich tapestry, in which are woven the glittering threads of the many knights whose work and witness contributed so much to the progress of this preceptory over 150 years.

As latter day knights, how can we do other than, as the motto "LUCEM ACCIPE et EFFER" suggests " RECEIVE THE LIGHT AND BEAR IT FORTH"

The gauntlet is always down.---we face many challenges in what seems to be an ever darker and perverse world. Surely we can have no greater guidance than the HOLY GOSPELS on which we were all obligated -- and the SOLEMN CHARGE of our HEAVENLY CAPTAIN recorded by the blessed APOSTLE MATTHEW ---

"Let Your Light So Shine Before Men That They May See Your Good Works and Glorify Your Father Which Is In Heaven"