

ALBERT PIKE's MASONIC, TEMPLAR, AND ROSICRUCIAN RECORD

by JAMES A. MARPLES, VII^o
Life Member, Nebraska College, S.R.I.C.F.

Quite soon after I became a Mason in 1982, I began to read Masonic History extensively in the Library of the Wichita, Kansas, Scottish Rite Bodies where I then belonged. On several occasions, I was enthralled by an old document which contained a real rarity -- the full Masonic Biography of Albert Pike (1809-1891). Many modern authors attempt to briefly summarize this scholarly work. As a consequence, due to their haphazard brevity they only present a "condensed version," which glosses-over pertinent details. Such brevity really does a disservice because it minimizes the wide and fruitful vineyard of Freemasonry in which Pike cultivated, and it fails to reflect his diverse fraternal friendships therein. The work of Freemasonry is comparable to a stonemason's quarry --- many ashlar, many stones, many departments, and many channels of activity. Indeed, it takes a strong man to devote 41 years of his life to the fullness of such an endeavor.

Other books I read about Pike discussed various other aspects of his life, including the first Fraternal Order he was a member of - the Odd Fellows Lodge. Others talked about the practical aspects of his "circle of interaction" in following the principles of Masonic Charity. I have long promised myself that I would compile a single paper, which would be a handy guide for a reader who wants to have a fuller context within fingertip-reach. I hope this paper will be helpful to anyone who seeks clarity on Albert Pike's Masonic, Templar and Rosicrucian Record.

Albert Pike was born 200 years ago.... on December 29, 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts. He attended Harvard University and later explored a great many States in the American West and South. He married Mary Ann Hamilton and started raising children in Arkansas. As I indicated, Albert Pike's first encounter with Fraternal Lodges was his joining the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge in Arkansas in the 1840s. Quite rapidly, he rose to attain the presiding office --that of "Noble Grand" of the Odd Fellows' Lodge. Even more rapidly, he presided over the Statewide Body in the capacity of "Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas of I.O.O.F." Odd Fellowship was largely based on Masonic influences. In a similar vein, both Orders have a statewide governmental slate of Officers composing a State "Grand Lodge." On a National level, Craft Masonry has avoided any national leadership body. Quite differently, in Odd Fellowship, there is a "Sovereign Grand Lodge," headed by a "Sovereign Grand Master." Some years later, Pike used that knowledge of a national hierarchy in the Scottish Rite Supreme Council, which from its founding in 1801, has leadership ranks based on a similar notion of sovereignty of its top officers nationwide.

The following Masonic Record was gathered and compiled by Illustrious Brother William L. Boyden, P.M. 33^o, who for many years was Librarian at the Scottish Rite "House of the Temple" of The Supreme Council, 33^o --- the headquarters of the Southern Jurisdiction U.S.A., in Washington, DC. Boyden lists Albert Pike's advancement in a clear, comprehensive manner step-by-step --- accordingly in each sector of our Fraternity:

BLUE MASONRY:

Western Star Lodge No. 2 at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Entered Apprentice, July 1850.

Fellow Craft, July 1850.

Master Mason, August 1850.

Demitted November 4, 1852 (to) Magnolia Lodge No. 60 at Little Rock:

Charter Member, November 4, 1852.

Worshipful Master, December 27, 1853.

Demitted, 1857 (or possibly 1858).

Again affiliated with this Lodge about 1884 and remained a member until his death.



Marion Lodge No. 68 , New Orleans, Louisiana:
Affiliated in 1858.
Demitted in 1860.

Kilwinning Lodge No. 341, Memphis, Tennessee:
Affiliated: ___ ?
Made an honorary member, February 24, 1871.

Pentalpha Lodge No. 23, Washington, DC:
Affiliated October 4, 1880
Demitted January 1, 1883.

ARKANSAS GRAND LODGE:

Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Law and Usage, November 7, 1853.
Chairman of the Committee to Revise, Collate, and Digest the Decisions of the Grand Lodge, November 9, 1853.
Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, November 11, 1853.
Chairman of the Committee on Library, November 7, 1854.
Chairman of the Committee to Prepare a System of Laws and By-Laws for the Government of Subordinate Lodges, November 8, 1854.
Member of Committee to procure and present to the Grand Secretary a full suit of Regalia and Gold-headed Cane, November 10, 1854.
Grand Orator, November 7, 1864.
Member of the Committee to obtain a Charter for St. John's College (established by the Grand Lodge of Arkansas) in 1850, shortly after he had been made a Mason, and in that charter he was named as one of the incorporators.
Trustee of St. John's College, November 10, 1853.
Re-elected November 7, 1864, and again November 7, 1865.
Chairman of the Committee to prepare an address to the Masonic Fraternity of Arkansas on the subject of St. John's College, November 11, 1853.
President, St. John's College, November 18, 1853.
Representative of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas at the National Masonic Convention at Chicago, Illinois --September 13-14, 1859.
Representative of the Grand Lodge of Kansas near the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, 1860.
Representative of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana near the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, November 21, 1870 - to the year 1891.
Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Lower California (Mexico) near the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, November 10, 1885.
Member of the Board of Regents of the American Masonic Home for the widows and orphans of Freemasons, Washington, DC, 1859.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS:

Grand Lodge of the Federal District of Mexico.
Grand Lodge of Hidalgo, Mexico.
Grand Lodge of Jalisco, Mexico.
Grand Lodge of Lower California (Mexico).
Grand Lodge of Caxaca, Mexico, February 20, 1886.
Grand Lodge of Peru, December 1, 1884.
Grand Lodge of Vera Cruz, Mexico.
Alpha Home Lodge No. 72, New Orleans, Louisiana, December 7, 1869.
Columnas de Hidalgo Lodge, Mexico. Ven. Master ad vitam, December 2, 1881.
Egalite-Humanite Lodge No. 20, Buenos Ayres, Argentina, August 20, 1885.
Hijos del Trabajo Lodge No. 83, Bacino (Barcelona), Spain, June 20, 1888.
Kane Lodge No. 454, New York City, September 4, 1877.
Honorary Worshipful Master of Losanna Lodge, Naples, Italy, December 17, 1886.
Perfect Union Lodge No. 1, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1869.
Perfetto Unione Lodge, Naples, Italy, January 15, 1886.



Perpetual Master of Albert Pike Lodge No. 55, City of Mexico, and each year that Lodge elected a provisional Master to preside, June 15, 1876.
Ruiz (Carlos K.) Lodge No. 2, Leon, Mexico, February 25, 1886.
San Andres Lodge No. 9, Havana, Cuba, November 21, 1869.
Star in the East Lodge No. 218, St. Thomas, West Indies, March 31, 1873.
Temple des Amis de Y Honneur Francaise Lodge, Paris, France, September 5, 1877.
Verdad Lodge No. 8, Seville, Spain, June 29, 1885.

CAPITULAR MASONRY:

Mark Master, November 19, 1850.
(Virtual) Past Master, November 21, 1850.
Most Excellent Master, November 22, 1850.
Royal Arch Mason, November 29, 1850.
Demitted May 14, 1872.
Affiliated with Lafayette Chapter No. 5, Washington, DC, about 1872.

ACTIVITY WITH GRAND CHAPTERS OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS:

Member of the Convention which formed the Grand Chapter of Arkansas, April 28, 1851.
Grand High Priest, November 15, 1853. Re-elected, November 14, 1854.
Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, November 9, 1852.
Member of the Committee, October, 1861.
Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Law and Usage, November 9, 1852.
Chairman, October 30, 1856.
Chairman, November 3, 1859.
Member of the Committee, October 1861.
Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Library, November 14, 1853.
Member of the Committee, November 13, 1854.
Chairman, October 30, 1856.
Grand Representative, District of Columbia, February 9, 1877.
Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.
Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Nevada near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, February 22, 1879.
Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Oregon near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, October 7, 1870.
Represented the Grand Chapter of Arkansas at the General Grand Chapter of the United States, Chicago, 1859.
Represented the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia at the General Grand Chapter of the United States, Buffalo, N.Y., 1877.
Represented the Grand Chapter of Louisiana at the General Grand Chapter of the United States, at Hartford, Connecticut, 1856.

ACTIVITY WITH THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF R.A.M. IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Member of the Committee to prepare a formula for the installation of Officers of Grand Chapters, 1856.
Member of the Committee to inquire into matters of dispute with the Grand Chapter of Florida, 1856.
Member of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, 1856.
Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, 1859.
Member of the Committee on Royal Arch Regalia, 1859.
Chairman of the Committee on Royal Arch Cipher, 1877.
Member of the Committee on Jurisprudence, 1877.
Arkansas Council of High Priesthood, 1854.



CRYPTIC MASONRY:

Received the Degrees of Royal and Select Master in Columbia Royal Arch Chapter,
Washington, DC, December 22, 1852.

Assisted in the formation and was Thrice Illustrious Master of Occidental Council No.1 of
Cryptic Masons, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 5, 1853.

President of the Convention forming the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Arkansas,
November 6, 1860.

KNIGHT TEMPLARY:

Received the degrees (Orders) of Templar Masonry No. 1, in Washington Encampment
(Commandery), Washington, DC, February 9, 1853.

First Eminent Commander of Hugh de Payens Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, at Little
Rock, Arkansas, December 20, 1853 to October 1856. Remained a member until his death.

HONORARY MEMBER:

Grand Commandery of Arkansas, April 23, 1890.

Honorary Past Provincial Grand Prior of the Great Priory of Canada, October 15, 1874.

SCOTTISH RITE:

Received the degrees from 4th to 32nd in Charleston, South Carolina, at the hands of Albert G.
Mackey, Secretary-General, March 20, 1853.

Deputy Inspector General for Arkansas, March 31, 1853.

Deputy Inspector General for West Tennessee, April 12, 1854.

Sovereign Grand Inspector General, in special session, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1857.

Special Deputy for Louisiana, April 25, 1857.

Active Member of The Supreme Council, 33, March 20, 1858.

Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Consistory of Louisiana, 1856-1859.

Elected Sovereign Grand Commander, ad vitam, of The Supreme Council of the 33 for the
Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, and proclaimed as such by the Secretary-
General, Albert G. Mackey, January 3, 1859.

Grand Representative of The Supreme Council of Colon (Cuba), August 26, 1886.

HONORARY MEMBER:

Supreme Council of Belgium, March 6, 1874.

Supreme Council of Brazil, July 2, 1873.

Honorary Grand Master/ Sovereign Grand Commander of the Grand Orient and Supreme
Council of Brazil, 1874.

Supreme Council of Canada, October 16, 1874.

Supreme Council of Colon (Cuba).

Supreme Council of Egypt.

Honorary Sovereign Grand Commander of Egypt.

Supreme Council of England and Wales, October 11, 1870.

Supreme Council of France, November 27, 1889.

Supreme Council of Greece.

Supreme Council of Hungary, 1878.

Supreme Council of Ireland, November 24, 1870.

Supreme Council of Italy, June 2, 1875.

Honorary Sovereign Grand Commander of The Supreme Council of Italy.

Supreme Council of Mexico, December 9, 1878.

Supreme Council of New Granada (United States of Colombia), April 23, 1866.

Supreme Council Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) of The United States of America.

Supreme Council of Peru, July 9, 1866.

Supreme Council of Romania, September 20, 1881.

Honorary Sovereign Grand Commander of The Supreme Council of Romania, September 20,
1881.

Honorary Sovereign Grand Commander, ad vitam, of The Supreme Council of Santo Domingo
(Dominican Republic), April 2, 1888.

Supreme Council of Scotland, February 2, 1874.

Supreme Council of Spain, August 20, 1879.



Supreme Council of Switzerland, April 3, 1887.
Supreme Council of Tunis.
Honorary Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Commander of The Supreme Council of Tunis.
Supreme Council of Uruguay.
Aigle Council of Kadosh No. 6, New Orleans, Louisiana

OTHER MASONIC BODIES:

Named the first Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge, R.S.Y.C.S., for the United States of America of The Royal Order of Scotland, October 4, 1877, and continued as such until his death.

President of the Masonic Veteran Association of the District of Columbia, from its organization in 1879 to the time of his death 1891.

Honorary Member of the Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois, August 30, 1888.

Honorary Member of the Masonic Veteran Association of the Pacific Coast, July 14, 1887.

Supreme Magus of the Rosicrucian Society, whose See was located at Washington DC, May 17, 1880.

Honorary Past Supreme Magus of the Grand High Council of the Society of Rosicrucians of the United States.

Grand Protector of the Rite of Adoption (fraternal activities and events for Females who had a relative connected to Masonry).

The above Masonic Record of Pike, as noted earlier, was initially compiled by Brother William L. Boyden, 33°. Various parts of this Record are often cited by modern writers who fail to cite Boyden's name or cast it aside in the fine-print of obscure footnotes. I am very grateful to the late Brother William Boyden for diligently and meticulously sifting through the reams of old documents, letters, certificates and diplomas to compile and collate an impressive Record of a distinguished Freemason, Templar, and Rosicrucian ---- the full Record of Albert Pike, P.M.; P.G.H.P.; P.I.M.; P.C.; 33°; Prov.: Gr. Master; and IX°.

Few people today stop to take the time to reflect upon the fact that, if Albert Pike were alive today, he would be eligible for membership in the Knights of the York Cross of Honor (K.Y.C.H.)....since he fulfilled the requirement of presiding over the four York Rite Bodies. In addition, since he was a Past Grand High Priest -- Pike would technically receive the title of Knight of the York Grand Cross of Honor (KYGCH).

Several years ago, I remember reading an old copy of The Knight Templar Magazine from the 1960's, I believe. It had a brief news item detailing a bit of history from nearly 100 years earlier. It must have been in the late 1860s or in the 1870s when Sir Knight Albert Pike visited a Commandery of Knights Templar in Louisville, Kentucky. In his letter, Pike noted that he was so pleased that most of the Templars he saw assembled there were also members of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. Pike thanked them for their fraternal courtesies and that he cherished the valiant levels of Knighthood inculcated in Masonic Degrees of both Rites. Pike closed his letter by saying that he had the honor to be both a Templar and a Kadosh. That simple acknowledgement is what our young members need to hear today. Harmony is the strength and support of all societies -- but more especially when experienced by the Rites. As you will see later on in this paper, Pike's Templar friendships in Kentucky in the 1860s were renewed again in the year 1889, just prior to his death.



It is said that anyone who stands before the public, such as a civic official, must have a bit of an 'ego' or else they would lack the courage to perform their daily duties. This is somewhat true (to a lesser extent) in fraternal societies. We must remember that Albert Pike was human, after all. He had human virtues --- and human frailties. Pike was mainly a lawyer and a newspaperman by profession ---before he finally devoted his later life full-time to Freemasonry. He had been the first Reporter of the Arkansas Supreme Court; and later a Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court during the days of the Confederacy. I have seen a large oil portrait of Pike in the State Capitol Building in Little Rock. The portrait features Pike with a greatly exaggerated grimacing countenance to his face. I would politely caution people to follow the old adage to "not judge a book by its cover." With respect to Albert Pike's life, don't judge him by an unflattering portrait of him or by a few ill-formulated sentences or paragraphs of text. It behooves people to not "judge" another person; rather, "evaluate the man" on his merits in a quiet and thoughtful way.

As an attorney, Pike had amassed great sums of money --- yet he also spent large sums of money. Pike had comprehension of over a dozen languages and taught himself the Sanskrit language late in life. He had been admitted to the famed Harvard University, but couldn't afford to pay all tuition fees so he never graduated. Pike also saw the sparse side of life by walking on foot in the wilderness in the American Midwest and South. Pike was a polished gentleman who appreciated the finer points of civilized manners and had mingled with the upper crust of high-society. Yet, he also witnessed the horrors of war when men died on the battlefield. Pike dealt with American Indians in both his capacities as a soldier and as an attorney.

Pike's service as a General in the Confederacy during the Civil War has been praised by many and scorned by some. With his Southern tendencies, interwoven with his Northern birth, he was looked upon with suspicion by both sides. Perhaps Pike compounded the anxiety of others by his near-constant traveling to different locales to evade harassment in order to "buy time" until he could take the Oath of Loyalty to the Union. Pike fled, and in doing so, made a zigzag turnabout by circling back to Arkansas, gathering his wife and family and initially heading to Mexico. Having a change of heart, he left his son Yvon Pike in charge of the family at the old town of Boston, Texas-- in order for Albert to go to Shreveport, Louisiana where he boarded a steamboat bound for New Orleans, and from there to Memphis, Tennessee. There he asked some friends to intercede on his behalf to request a Presidential Pardon. By June 1865, a petition with 18 signatures appealing for his pardon was sent to President Johnson. Pike sought refuge at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada for two months. After a great deal of haggling (and ending his time on-the-run as a fugitive) Pike was finally granted a Presidential Order which was essentially a conditional pardon on August 30, 1865, for his activities during the Civil war by Lincoln's successor as President of the United States, Brother and Sir Knight Andrew Johnson, 32^o and a KT. Pike had to complete a probationary period or "parole" demonstrating good behavior, free from any treasonous activity. Just over a year later, Pike submitted his Oath of Allegiance to the Secretary of State, William H. Seward. Pike never accepted a full pardon because the terms wouldn't restore his lost property, which had been confiscated. Further, an additional clause would have forced him to pay court-costs which he felt were already deducted when his confiscated property was sold. And, thirdly, a full pardon would imply that he was guilty of treason. For those reasons and others, he declined a full pardon and the clean-slate it would have afforded.

After the Presidential Order was issued, Pike felt it safe-enough to leave Canada and go to New York City where he was involved in the printing of a new ritual for the Scottish Rite's Lodge of Perfection. While in New York, he mailed a circular to all Members of The Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, asking them to convene in Charleston, South Carolina on November 16, 1865. The Supreme Council was plagued by vacancies and adjourned until it met again in Charleston on April 16, 1866. At that session, King Christian IX of Denmark, King Charles XV of Sweden, Prince Oscar of Sweden, and Grand Duke Constantine of Russia were unanimously elected to receive the Thirty-third degree and rank of Honorary Membership in the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. Brother T.P. Shaffner was authorized to confer the degree on those Masons. Pike's belief was: "Honors change manners and the prestige of the bestower." How true.



Albert Pike moved to Washington, DC, permanently in 1870. His wife Mary Hamilton Pike, who was stricken with severe illness, did not accompany him to Washington. Mary Ann died in 1876. Some critics of Pike label his separation from his wife cowardly. I will not comment because each person copes with a crisis in his own way. Some of Pike's children stood by their father, and his daughter Lilian tended to Albert's needs in his old age.

In 1874, Sir Knight Albert Pike, 33° (along with Sir Knight D.B. Tracy, 33° of Detroit, Michigan, attended the annual assembly of the Great Priory of Knights Templar of Canada, held at the Masonic Hall in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Nineteen K.T. Preceptories were on the roll and fourteen were represented there that day. Before the assembly closed, Sir Knight Pike was honored by being elected an honorary member of the Great Priory, with the rank and precedence of a Provincial Grand Prior.

Also in 1874, Pike saw his eldest son Luther Hamilton Pike elected a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in the Scottish Rite on May 6, 1874. Brother Luther H. Pike was elected a Thirty-third Degree on May 30, 1876 and received the degree that same day; and he subsequently elevated to receive the Grand Cross of the Court of Honour on October 18, 1880 at ceremonies held in the District of Columbia. When Albert Pike died in 1891, his son Luther directed the funeral ceremonies. Sadly, Illustrious Brother Luther Pike did not live many more years -- he died on January 9, 1895 at the age of 56.

In 1879, Albert was nearly penniless and The Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite's Southern Jurisdiction (over which he presided) voted to give him a yearly stipend, an annuity of \$1,200 for the remainder of his life. It is my personal opinion that his good friend Illustrious Brother and Sir Knight Albert G. Mackey, 33° and a KT, who died in 1881 was the prime mover and shaker in getting The Supreme Council to essentially look after Pike's financial well-being by granting the annuity.

I believe that Albert Pike's firm belief in GOOD COMMUNICATION among Masons is what made him stand-out. Pike (like me) was a prolific letter-writer. He wrote to Masons around the globe. There is a letter he wrote in 1890 on display in the Library of the Wichita Scottish Rite Bodies concerning a petty dispute that the Valley of Ft. Scott, Kansas had with the Valley of Wichita in matters of candidates' residency and jurisdictional lines for acceptance. Pike's penmanship when he was past 80 years of age was still flawless. Despite his sometimes moody personality, he exhibited kindness and patience toward the Brethren, urging them to appoint a committee of 6 Brethren from each Valley to decide the issue. Apparently, they deliberated and solved the squabble without the State's Inspector-General or Pike himself having to settle it. Because of his regular communications, Official and Occasional Bulletins and missives ---Albert Pike became well-known in Masonic circles. Because he was available, Pike was often sought-out for advice. His advice was often solely that of an "individual Mason." Pike had no legal or fraternal authority beyond his bailiwick. However, he was respected for things such as his civic virtue. One time, an American was traveling in Belgium and asked a Belgian Mason if that nation's flag was displayed at meetings of Bodies of the Scottish Rite in Belgium? The Belgian said: "Yes, Pike taught us that."

It was via postal correspondence that Albert Pike encountered and built lasting friendships with Col. William James Bury McLeod Moore of Canada and His Imperial Highness, Prince Demetrius Rhodocanakis of Greece. All three were Knights Templar. All three had attained the Thirty-Third Degree in the Scottish Rite. And all three eventually received the numeric grades I° through IX° of Masonic Rosicrucianism. Frater McLeod Moore urged Pike to write a set of Regulations for Rosicrucian Colleges; however Pike was cautioned by Moore not to increase or decrease the number of Grades, nor to alter the names of the Grades. Pike accomplished this task, and much of his work in that area remains to this day....reflecting much credit to his keen intellect. Col. Moore wrote to Pike on April 26, 1880 which gave Pike a full accounting of the organization of the Rosicrucian Society in Canada being given its Charter from the Rosicrucian Society in the Kingdom of Greece. Pike was made Supreme Magus of the Rosicrucian Society in the United States on May 17, 1880, and took an enthusiastic interest in the Society.



However, Albert Pike felt a deep sense of loss after his beloved friend Albert Mackey died in 1881----and it marked a slow decade of decline ---both in health and in spirit. His activity within the wider scope of Masonry began to narrow a bit. Pike was himself getting older and, as noted, his finances were on a fixed income controlled by a yearly budget limited to his annuity. At times during that final decade of life (and even sporadically in earlier years) Pike was friendly and gregarious. Other times, he was reclusive, cantankerous, and even a bit too pompous, strong-minded and stubborn. This may in part be attributed to his success-driven personality combined with impatience, and perhaps even health-issues aggravated his immense physical size and weight. Pike admitted he had rheumatic gout in both feet at times. And in 1889, he had a succession of ailments, gout, fever, boils, dyspepsia, headache, rheumatism, neuralgia, and lumbago. He loved smoking pipe tobacco and the occasional cigar. He enjoyed large, lavish meals and fine wine. By late 1890, he had grown weaker and frail. His voice grew husky and his throat felt obstructed. At approximately 8 o'clock p.m. on April 2, 1891, Pike died inside the "old" House of the Temple headquarters of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction of the U.S.A., then located 3rd and "E" Streets in Washington, DC, otherwise known by the physical description 433 Third Street N.W in Washington DC." According to the late Sir Knight James Case, KTCH, former Grand Historiographer of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut: before Pike died, he took his finger and scrawled an image beside his bed, in Hebrew: "Shalom. Shalom. Shalom" (Peace. Peace. Peace) three times. He had previously instructed that his body be cremated; but his family and friends ignored his wishes and buried him in Oak Hill Cemetery. Years later, by a special Act of Congress spearheaded by U.S. Senator from Kansas --Illustrious Brother and Sir Knight Arthur Capper, 33^o and a KT----Pike's remains were disinterred from that cemetery, transported, and placed inside a stone crypt within the walls of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction headquarters building, now known as the "new" House of the Temple building at 1733 16th Street N.W. in Washington, DC. There was a funeral service performed for Pike in the Congregational Church, the largest house of worship at that time in Washington, as well as an Episcopal Church service the next day just prior to his burial. While Pike openly demonstrated respect and tolerance for many of the world's major religions, he lived and died as a Trinitarian Christian. His "Last Will and Testament" which was executed January 10, 1887 began: "In the name of God, Amen".

One of his most kindhearted and magnanimous accomplishments as a Templar, occurred less than two years before his death when he extended his hand of friendship to visiting Templars from Kentucky who came to visit him before they marched in a highly publicized parade in Washington, DC, in 1889. The event was marvelously described in The New York Times in such an interesting way, that no excerpt can do it justice.... so I include it here, for our scholarly review:

"THE KNIGHTS' PILGRIMAGE. WASHINGTON FILLED WITH WAVING PLUMES. ARRIVAL OF MANY OF THE VISITING COMMANDERIES --- PREPARING FOR A GREAT PARADE TODAY .

WASHINGTON, Oct 7, 1889 ---- A brisk, chilly, northwest wind which fluttered the flags and streamers decorating the buildings along the line of march which will be followed by the Knights Templar to-morrow, proved rather a cold welcome to the visiting Commanderies when they arrived in this city to-day; but the warm reception, which they received from the crowds on the streets acted as an effort. The organizations already comfortably settled here, together with the ladies accompanying them, have been engaged in viewing the public buildings and other points of interest. The district Commanderies resplendent in plumes and bright uniforms, have been busily engaged in escorting the arriving guests to their headquarters. The roll of drums and blare of trumpets everywhere filled the air, as Commandery after Commandery filed up the wide avenue. The city is a city of waving plumes, flaunting flags, and glittering costumes.

The Golden Gate Commandery of California arrived in this city at 3 o'clock this morning. It marched directly to the Normandie, which was profusely decorated in its honor, and to-day the members were busily engaged in viewing the sights of the capital city. The pet of the Commandery, a bear called Zerubbabel, is an object of much curiosity and admiration. This evening, the Commandery, in full regalia, visited the various Commanderies of the District of Columbia, after which a reception was held.

The drill corps of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of Louisville, Ky., accompanied by a large number of ladies, escorted by DeMolay Commandery of Louisville and members of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky, this afternoon paid their respects to Gen. Albert Pike, Sovereign



Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction, Scottish Rite. The General received them kindly, made a brief address, and presented each of them with a book. The ladies were also introduced to Gen. Pike and the boys afterward to Miss Lilian, the General's daughter.

Trains are constantly arriving at both railroad stations to-night, bringing Knights and their friends. Quarters have been engaged for 22,000 Knights, but 18,000 is probably a conservative estimate of the number of Knights who will be here. It is expected that at least 15,000 or 16,000 persons will be in line to-morrow morning. The crowd falls considerably short of that which thronged the streets and all public places the night before the last inauguration. It is on the whole a better-appearing and more prosperous looking assemblage than its great predecessor. A large number of the Knights have come prepared for a long stay, and have brought the ladies of their families with them.

The Northwestern States have sent a finely-representative body of men here. Dakota makes a good impression with five Commanderies, viz.: Cyrene of Sioux Falls, Fargo No. 5, Grand Forks No. 8, Jamestown No. 12, and Damascus of Aberdeen. Washington sends only eleven members of the Grand Commandery, the recent severe fires in the State compelling the Knights there to remain at home. Montana sends Commanderies from Helena and Butte City. Damascus of St. Paul and Zion of Minneapolis are representative Minnesota organizations. Wyoming has only one Commandery, that from Cheyenne. Tennessee, Georgia and Virginia are the only Southern States which send a good representation to the Conclave. The banner States, in the number of Knights and Commanderies here, are Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New-York, and Massachusetts. Kentucky sends only three Commanderies, but two of them, Louisville No.1, and DeMolay No. 12, of Louisville, are crack organizations.

C.F. Crocker, Vice President of the Southern Pacific Company; Russell J. Wilson, Evan J. Coleman, and J.B. Wright, its Superintendent, arrived here from San Francisco to-night in Mr. Crocker's private car, to attend the Conclave. They were received by the California Commandery to-night, and will leave Washington in a few days for New-York, where they will take the French steamer for Havre Saturday next."

The above news report nicely illustrated the excitement, optimism, and Masonic fellowship that prevailed. Our Illustrious Brother, Most Excellent Companion, Eminent Sir Knight and Frater Albert Pike, K.T. and 33^o and IX^o was a unique man who made his presence known in Masonic, Templar and Rosicrucian circles. By fully examining his complete Masonic biography, we can better grasp the multitude of good deeds and positive actions that he performed. Many people are either unaware or misinformed (or a mixture of both) of his good actions. Like any human, he undoubtedly made mistakes. However, if we look at Albert Pike's life -- in its full context --- we see a lot of goodness to emulate.

Our worthy Frater Albert Pike, IX^o has now been deceased 118 years and his mortal body now lies peacefully in a crypt or vault in Washington, DC as it has for the past 65 years. It reminds me of Father Christian Rosenkretz, IX^o who was a Catholic monk and founder of our Rosicrucian Society. He was remembered by friends and Fraters with kindness and respect some 120 years after his death.....and still remembered to this day. The good actions of good men deserve to be remembered.

I close this paper with Albert Pike's own keen insight:

"WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE DIES WITH US; WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL."

SOURCES / RECOMMENDED READING :

- Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry by Albert G. Mackey, 33^o and a KT.
- A Life of Albert Pike by Walter Lee Brown
- History of the Knights Templars of Canada by John Ross Robertson
- The New York Times, "THE KNIGHTS' PILGRIMAGE; WASHINGTON FILLED WITH WAVING PLUMES, ARRIVAL OF MANY OF THE VISITING COMMANDERIES-- PREPARING FOR A GREAT PARADE TO-DAY", Wednesday, October 8, 1889.



- Albert Pike biography by Fred Allsopp.
- Bibliography of the writings of Albert Pike by Ray Baker Harris.
- conversation between James A Marples and James Case, KTCH, circa 1983.
- History of Masonic Rosicrucianism in Canada.
website: <http://sric-canada.org/history.html>

About the Author:

James A. Marples, VII^o, is a Perpetual Life Member of Mulvane Lodge #201 A.F. & A.M. in Mulvane, Kansas. He is also a Life Member of the El Dorado Kansas York Rite Bodies as well as the Lincoln Nebraska Scottish Rite Bodies; The Royal Order of Scotland; The Robert-the-Bruce Association; National Sojourners; Heroes of '76; North Texas York Rite College; George Washington Masonic Stamp Club; and Nebraska College M.S.R.I.C.F.

He is a Regular Member of Holyrood Council #61 of Knight Masons (Nebraska); the Allied Masonic Degrees; the Red Cross of Constantine.

