

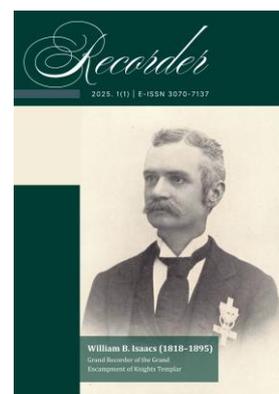
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*In Memoriam*

William B. Isaacs (1818–1895) Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

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Abstract. This article examines the life and service of William B. Isaacs, the ninth Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the United States. Born in Connecticut in 1818 and later residing in Richmond, he became a prominent member of Richmond Commandery No. 2. Elected Grand Recorder in 1886, Isaacs was repeatedly re-elected, reflecting the unique continuity traditionally associated with the offices of Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer. He served until his death in 1895, after which his son, William B. Isaacs Jr., temporarily assumed the role. The study highlights their contribution to the administrative stability of the American Templar Order.

Keywords: William B. Isaacs (1818–1895), Richmond Commandery No. 2 (Richmond, Va.), Knights Templar, Biography, Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

William B. Isaacs was born on April 10, 1818, in Norwalk, Connecticut, and moved to Richmond in 1845.

He was a member of Richmond Commandery No. 2 (Richmond, Va.).

In 1886, he was elected Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar (Fig. 1) at the XXIII Triennial Conclave, and was re-elected to this position at the Conclaves of 1889 and 1892.

After the establishment of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in 1816, William B. Isaacs became the 9th Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. Before him, the office was held by John James Loring (1816–1826), Oliver M. Lowndes (1826–1829), James Herring (1829–1835), Charles Gilman (1835–1850), Benjamin B. French (1850–1859),

Samuel G. Risk (1859–1862), John D. Galdwell (1862–1871), and Theodore S. Parvin (1871–1876).

It is also important to clarify that, among all officer positions in the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, repeated re-election of the same individual was considered normal only for two offices — Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder. For other officer positions, such repeated service was not standard practice but rather an exception.

However, returning to William B. Isaacs — he held this office until his death on June 9, 1895.

Interestingly, just a few days later, on June 12, 1895, his son William B. Isaacs Jr. was appointed Acting Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, a position he held until the next Triennial Conclave, which took place on August 26–31, 1895.



Fig. 1. Sir Knight William B. Isaacs.