

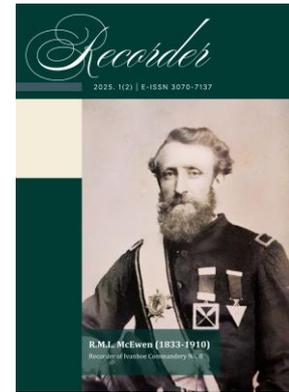
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“Little Commandery” – Children from the Masonic Widows and Orphans’ Home of Kentucky

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Abstract. While examining the Photographical Souvenir of the Twenty-Sixth Triennial Conclave in Boston (1895), researchers identified a unique photograph depicting members of Louisville Commandery No. 1 accompanied by twenty-six boys dressed in Knights Templar uniforms. These boys represented the “Little Commandery” of the Masonic Widows and Orphans’ Home of Kentucky, an institution founded in 1867 by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky to support families affected by the Civil War. The image shows the boys carrying the American flag, the Home’s flag, and likely their own banner, each wearing the official Conclave badge. The “Little Commandery” symbolized the Home’s educational, moral, and fraternal influence on its young residents.

Keywords: Little Commandery, Louisville Commandery No. 1, Masonic Widows and Orphans’ Home of Kentucky, Knights Templar, 1895 Triennial Conclave, Boston 1895, Masonic history.

While browsing the “Photographical Souvenir” of the Twenty-Sixth Triennial Conclave held in Boston in 1895, we discovered a remarkable photograph: members of Louisville Commandery No. 1 together with 26 boys dressed in Knights Templar uniforms.

The caption read:

“Little Commandery, from the Masonic Widows and Orphans’ Home of Kentucky. Louisville Commandery No. 1, Louisville, Ky.” (Fig. 1).

In the photo, the boys of the “Little Commandery” carry:

- the American flag,
- the flag of the Masonic Home of Kentucky,

- and most likely their own Commandery banner.

Each boy wears the badge of the Twenty-Sixth Triennial Conclave, Boston 1895, confirming that the photo was taken during this event.

What was the “Little Commandery”?

It originated in the Masonic Widows and Orphans’ Home of Kentucky, founded by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky in 1867 after the Civil War, when the region was home to many widows and orphans of Masons.

Over time, the Home formed its own “Little Commandery”, which was proudly presented at the Conclave in Boston in 1895 (Fig. 2-4).



Fig. 1. "Little Commandery" with members of Louisville Commandery No. 1

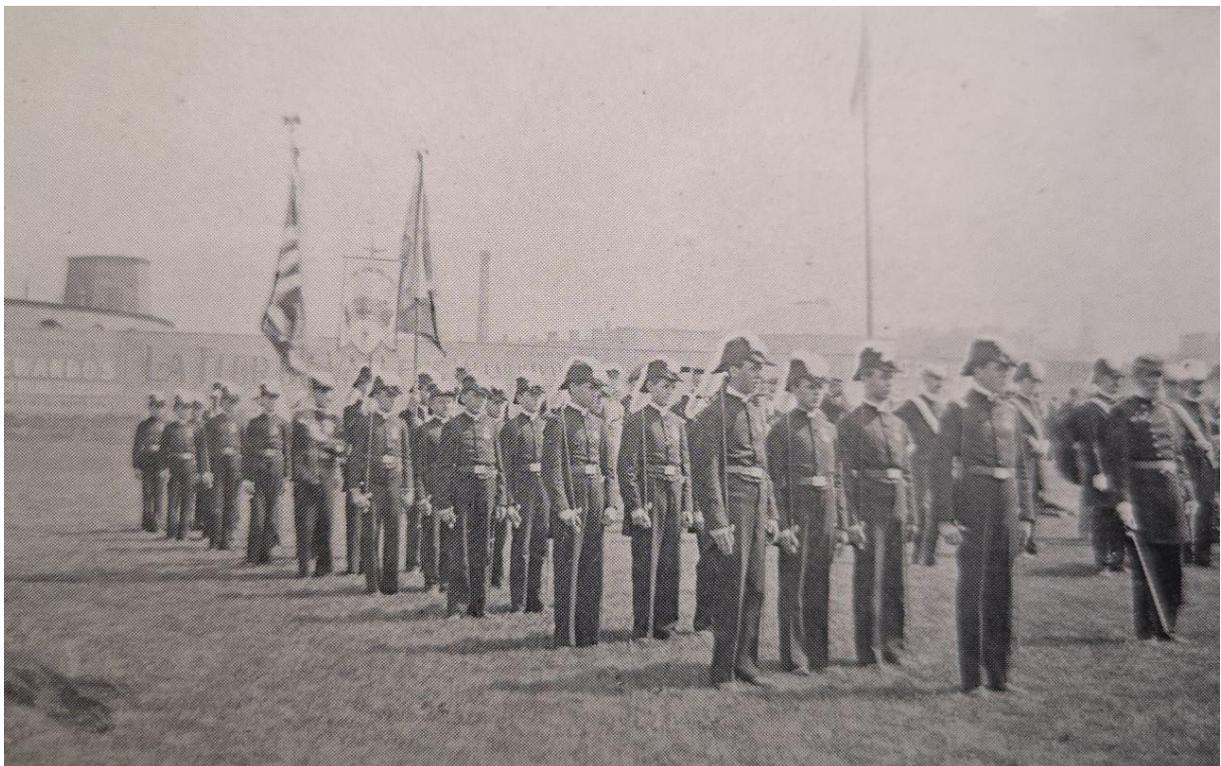


Fig. 2. "Little Commandery". Twenty-Sixth Triennial Conclave. 1895

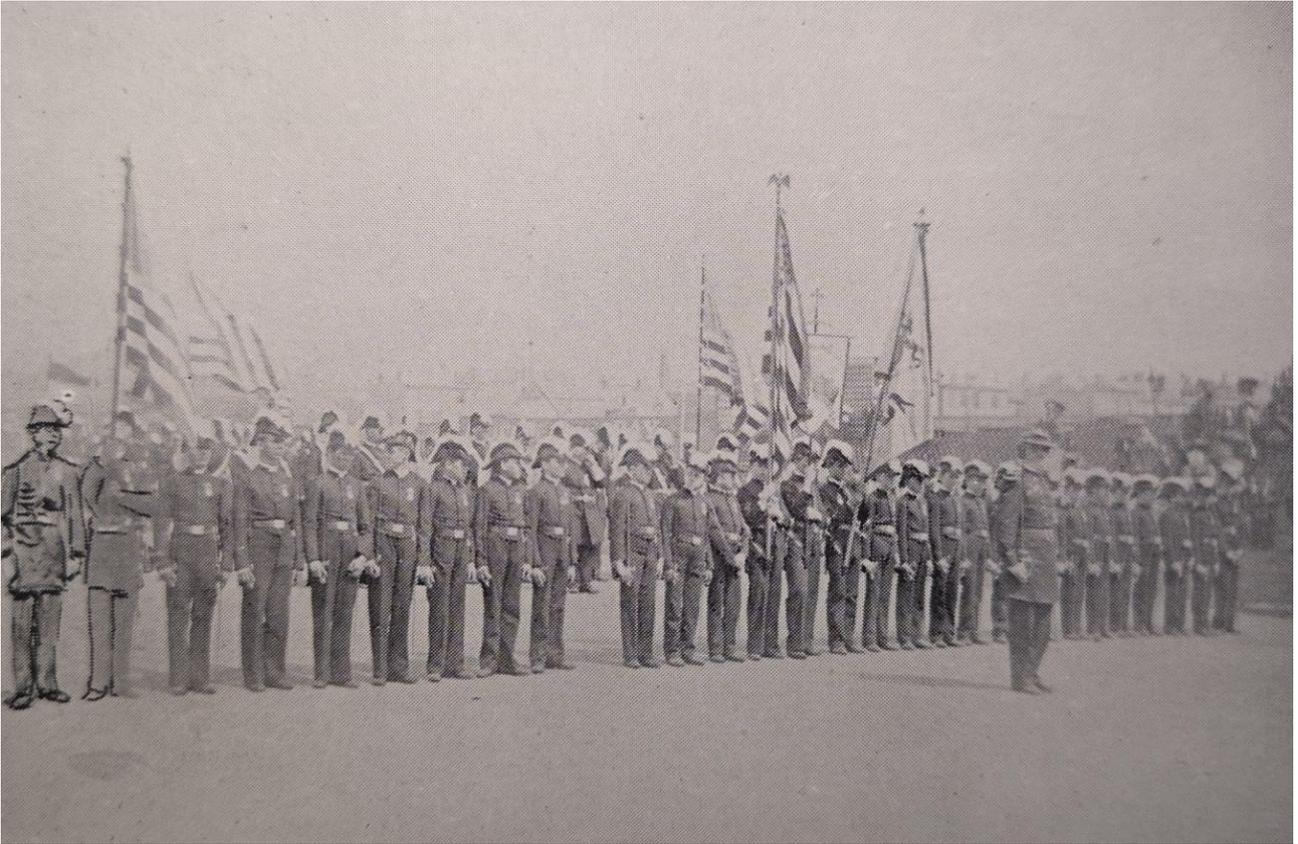


Fig. 3. "Little Commandery". Twenty-Sixth Triennial Conclave. 1895



Fig. 4. "Little Commandery". Twenty-Sixth Triennial Conclave. 1895