

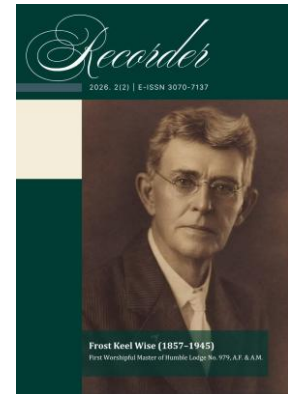
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Museum News

The Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar Today: Spring 2026

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Abstract

This section presents selected exhibitions of the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar (Cherkas Global University), reflecting the formation and development of its collections from 2024 to 2026. Since its establishment on August 1, 2024, the museum has created its core thematic collections: swords, uniforms, badges, and photographic materials. Subsequently, the holdings were significantly expanded through the addition of new collections—personal belongings and souvenirs (2025), as well as artifacts of other Masonic orders (2026).

By March 2026, the museum's holdings had reached approximately 1,000 items, demonstrating the dynamic development of the institution. Special attention is given to the design of the western exhibition space, the central feature of which is a portrait of the first Grand Master of the Knights Templar of the United States, Sir Knight De Witt Clinton (1769–1828). Presented together with a document bearing his personal signature, this ensemble highlights the museum's role as a space for preserving historical memory, material culture, and the personalized history of American Templar Freemasonry.

Keywords: Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar, Cherkas Global University, collections, uniforms, badges, photographs, Knights Templar history, Spring 2026.

This section presents selected exhibitions of the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar (also known as the Museum of Cherkas Global University). The museum was established on August 1, 2024, and at that time four main collections began to take shape:

The Sword Collection (Collection No. 1);

The Uniform Collection (coats, aprons, belts, and sashes) (Collection No. 2);

The Badge Collection (badges, badge pins, ribbons, and jewels) (Collection No. 3);

The Photo Collection (portrait and group photographs of members of the Knights Templar, as well as promotional materials produced by commanderies in the United States, including souvenir postcards) (Collection No. 4).

On November 1, 2025, a new collection was added to the museum—the Collection of Personal Belongings and Souvenirs (Collection No. 5). On February 14, 2026, another new collection was established—the Collection of Artifacts of Other Masonic Orders (Collection No. 6).

As of March 2026, the museum's holdings comprised approximately 1,000 items.

In March 2026, work was carried out on the western section of the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar. The central feature of the exhibition became a portrait of the first Grand Master of the Knights Templar of the United States, Sir Knight De Witt Clinton (1769–1828) (Fig. 1), who also served as Governor of the State of New York. The exhibition also includes a document bearing De Witt Clinton's personal signature (Fig. 2). The portrait was painted in oil in 2025 by the artist Lyudmila N. Bogutskaya (b. 1979). It should be noted that De Witt Clinton led the General Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar of the United States from its establishment in 1816 until his death in 1828.



Fig. 1. Sir De Witt Clinton (1769–1828), 1st Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the United States. Oil Painting. By Art. Lyudmila N. Bogutskaya (1979 year of birth). 2025

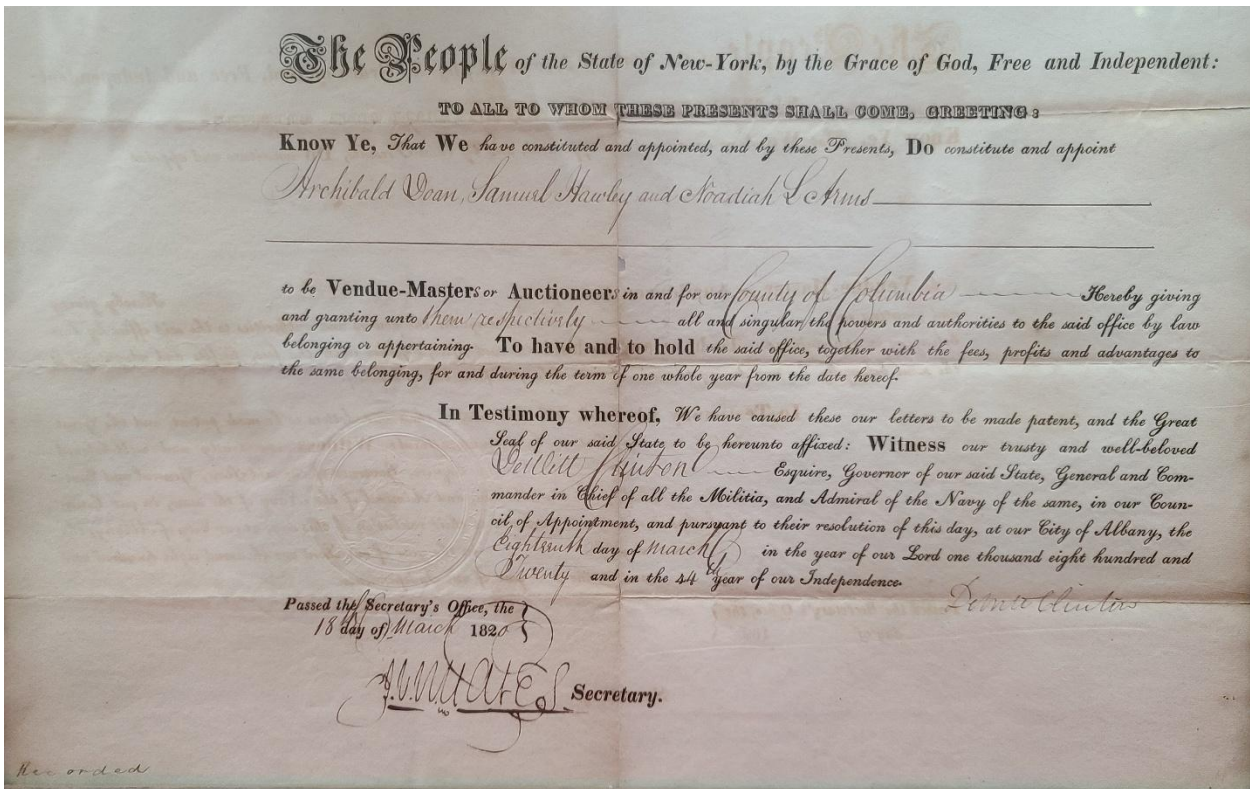


Fig. 2. Document "The People of the State of New York." 1820. Autograph of De Witt Clinton.