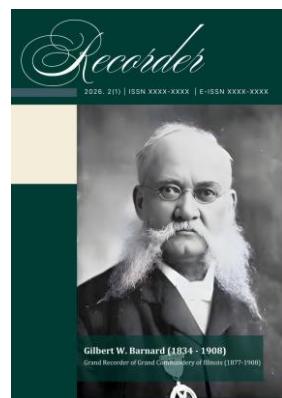




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Personnel of Winchester Grand Encampment No. 1, Knights Templar (Winchester, Virginia) in 1821: A Historical and Genealogical Study

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Abstract

This study examines the personal composition of one of the early Knights Templar organizations in the United States—Winchester Grand Encampment—as of 1821, when its membership consisted of 31 individuals. The source base of the research includes materials from the commercial genealogical database Ancestry.com as well as published documentary collections.

In the conclusion, the author notes that the analysis of the membership of Winchester Grand Encampment in 1821 allows for several important observations regarding the social, age-related, and geographical characteristics of its members. First and foremost, a significant proportion of the members were veterans of the American Revolutionary War. At least eight members of the Encampment had military experience from the Revolutionary War; most of them served as privates, while two held the non-commissioned officer rank of sergeant. This indicates that Winchester Grand Encampment relied heavily on the authority and life experience of men who had participated in key events of early American history. Additional evidence of the military character of this milieu is provided by the service of Presley Marmaduke, who held the rank of captain during the War of 1812.

The age composition of the Encampment demonstrates a combination of generations. Alongside elderly members, such as William Kelley, who was 70 years old in 1821, the organization also included relatively young men, including Samuel H. Lauck and Norman Nash, both aged 31. The average age of 51 years indicates the predominance of mature and socially established men, a characteristic feature of leadership-oriented and fraternal organizations of the period.

The geographical distribution of the members shows that the influence of the Encampment extended beyond a single city and even beyond one state, encompassing Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Mississippi. Finally, the identified family continuity—illustrated by the Lauck family—highlights the role of Winchester Grand Encampment not only as a social institution but also as an intergenerational structure that reinforced traditions and values within individual families.

Keywords: Winchester Grand Encampment, membership composition, 1821, Knights Templar.

Introduction

On March 2, 1900, during the dismantling of an old brick building in Richmond known as the Market House, located on the city square, workers discovered an old lead box. Since the premises in which the box was found had long been occupied by Freemasons, the box was transferred to them. Upon opening the box, Masonic regalia and documents were discovered¹. After the documents were examined and their authenticity confirmed, the materials were published in 1902 in the journal *The American Tyler*.

Materials

Among the discovered documents, the most significant was a copy titled “A List of the Officers and Members of Winchester Grand Encampment of Sir Knights Templars, No. 1”. This document is reproduced in full below: “A list of the Officers and Members of Winchester Grand Encampment of Sir Knights Templars, No. 1, Held in the Fields of Winchester, State of Virginia.

¹ Hoover, J. (1902). An Historic Commandery. *The American Tyler*. Volume XVI. No. 22. P. 518.

Founded Anno Domini 1813, Anno Lucis 5813, and in the Era of Sir Knight Templars 831.

Officers

Most Excellent Sir Knight Daniel Walker Thomas, Esq., Grand Generalissimo.

Reverend Sir Knight George Reed, Excellent Grand Captain General.

Excellent Sir Knight Lemuel Bent, Esq., Grand Captain of the Host.

Excellent Sir Knight Peter Lauck, Grand Standard Bearer.

Excellent Sir Knight Conrad Kremer, Grand Marshal.

Excellent Sir Knight Samuel H. Lauck, Grand Registrar.

Excellent Sir Knight James Hill, Grand Treasurer.

Excellent Sir Knight James Foster, Grand Sword Bearer.

Members.

Sir Robert Maloney, Sir Henry Severs, Sir William P. Helm, Sir Dolphin Drew, Esq., Sir William Herrin, Sir Jacob R. Thomas, Sir Presley Marmaduke, Sir William Kelley, Sir John A. Haupe, Sir Warner Throckmorton, Esq., Reverend Sir Norman Nash, Sir Abraham Lang, Sir Joseph P. Thomas, Sir William W. Blanchard, Sir Isaac Hershell, Sir Edward Jackson, Sir John Wilson, Sir Cyrus B. Baldwin, Sir John Denton, Sir Philip Klipstine, Sir John R. Heyden, Sir John Kern and Sir James Keller.

Deposited, (together with a Triangle, Cross and Star-Jewels of our Order on the thirtieth day of the Seventh Month called July), Anno Domini 1821; Done by Order of our Said Encampment at Wimchester.

D.W. Thomas, M. E. G. G. L.

Attest:

George Reed, E. G. C. G.

Samuel H. Lauck, E. G. R.

Lemuel Bent, E. G. C. H.

The object of this deposite is to shew to some future Age, that the science of Free Masonry is in a flourishing state, not being Trammelled with Governmental fetters as in Ages past — It is also designed to shew that the Religion of Jesus Christ is flourishing and fast gaining ground on Heathenism which has for so many Centuries Inveloped the world in gross darkness and Idolotry. It is hoped when these lines shall again be Exhibited to the Human Eye; it will be high Meridian of Gospel day, when the Glorious Sun of Righteousness shines forth its resplendent beams to Earth's remotest bounds, and all the Inhabitants bow to the mild Centre of the all Glorious Emmanuel — That the Great God of the Universe may hasten the time is the prayer of

Daniel Walker Thomas, Esq.

Most Excellent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment of Virginia, held in the Fields of Winchester.

“On the thirtieth day of the seventh month (called July), Anno Domini 1821, Anno Lucis 5821, and in the Era of Sir Knights Templars 839. Amen”¹.

In this document, a total of 31 members of the Winchester Grand Encampment are listed. This roster represents one of the earliest surviving lists of Knights Templar not only for the state of Virginia but also for the United States as a whole. In order to establish genealogical information about these individuals, the present study draws upon materials from the commercial genealogical database Ancestry.com, as well as documentary compilations such as Genealogical, Burial, and Service Data for Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in Virginia² and Proceedings of the General Grand Encampment³.

Results

Thus, from the document presented in the Materials section, we learn that the Winchester Grand Encampment was founded in 1813⁴. The organization also possessed its own official seal (Fig. 1), which was reproduced in the original publication.

¹ Hoover, J. (1902). An Historic Commandery. The American Tyler. Volume XVI. No. 22. P. 519.

² Luman, Myron R. (2021). Genealogical, Burial, and Service Data for Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in Virginia. Second Edition. Heritage Books, Inc.

³ Proceedings of the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States 1816 to 1856. New Orleans, La.: Bulletin Book and Job Office. 1859.

⁴ Hoover, J. (1902). An Historic Commandery. The American Tyler. Volume XVI. No. 22. P. 519.



Fig. 1. Seal of Winchester Encampment No. 1¹.

Surprisingly, in 1816, during the establishment of the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, representatives of the Winchester Grand Encampment were not present at this assembly and did not become among its founders². This circumstance may indicate that not all Knights Templar organizations in the United States were represented at the founding assembly.

In 1821, the Winchester Grand Encampment consisted of 31 members, including 8 officers. Among the members of the organization were four Esquires and two Reverends. The Esquires included Daniel Walker Thomas, who held the highest office of Grand Generalissimo, Lemuel Bent, who served as Grand Captain of the Host, as well as two members—Warner Throckmorton and Dolphin Drew³.

It should be noted that in the United States the title Esquire denoted a person holding a license to practice law, that is, an individual occupying a high social position. For example, in the first officer corps of the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States in 1816, among the twelve officers, eleven were Esquires and one was a Reverend, the latter holding the office of Prelate⁴.

Using the commercial genealogical database Ancestry.com, we identified brief biographies of the earliest Knights Templar of the state of Virginia. These biographies are presented and numbered in the same order as in the membership list of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

No. 1. Esq. Thomas, Daniel Walker (1760–1834)



¹ Hoover, J. (1902). An Historic Commandery. The American Tyler. Volume XVI. No. 22. P. 520.

² Proceedings of the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States 1816 to 1856. New Orleans, La.: Bulletin Book and Job Office. 1859. P. 3.

³ Hoover, J. (1902). An Historic Commandery. The American Tyler. Volume XVI. No. 22. P. 519.

⁴ Proceedings of the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States 1816 to 1856. New Orleans, La.: Bulletin Book and Job Office. 1859. P. 4.

Daniel Walker Thomas was born on November 12, 1760, in Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. He was married to Sarah Potts Ellis.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment. In the same year, he was elected to the highest office within the Encampment—Grand Generalissimo.

He died on September 6, 1834, in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia.

No. 2. Rev. Reed, George A. (1766–1849)

George A. Reed was born on February 13, 1766, in Ireland. He was married to Martha Chambers Tilden.

From 1796 onward, he resided in Winchester, where he served as a minister of the Methodist Church¹. In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

He died on April 1, 1849, in Winchester, Virginia.

No. 3. Esq. Bent, Lemuel (1766–1849)

Lemuel Bent was born on February 17, 1766, in Canton. He was married to Betsey Lewis.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment and was elected to the officer position of Grand Captain of the Host.

He died on April 5, 1849, in Winchester, Virginia.

No. 4. Capt. Lauck, Peter (1753–1839)



Peter Lauck was born on December 31, 1753, in Pennsylvania. He was married to Amelia Lauck.

He was a veteran of the American Revolutionary War and served with the rank of Private².

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment and was elected to the officer position of Standard Bearer. In 1823, at the establishment of the Grand Encampment (Commandery) of Knights Templar of Virginia, he was elected to the office of Grand Treasurer.

He died on October 2, 1839, in Winchester, Virginia.

¹ Morton, F. (1925). The Story of Winchester in Virginia the Oldest Town in the Shenandoah Valley. Strasburg, Va.: Shenandoah Publishing House. P. 214.

² Luman, Myron R. (2021). Genealogical, Burial, and Service Data for Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in Virginia. Second Edition. Heritage Books, Inc. P. 240.

No. 5. Kremer, Conrad (1755–1837)

Conrad Kremer was born on January 5, 1755, in Germany. He was married to Catherine Helphenstine.

He registered for military service in 1776 and was a veteran of the American Revolutionary War. In 1822, he served as Superintendent of Police in Winchester.

He was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment and, in 1821, was elected to the officer position of Grand Marshal. In 1823, he was among the founders of the Grand Encampment (Commandery) of Knights Templar of Virginia and was elected Grand Senior Warden.

He died on May 29, 1837, in Winchester, Virginia.

No. 6. Lauck, Samuel H. (1790–1828)

Samuel H. Lauck was born on December 10, 1790, in Winchester, Virginia. He was the son of Peter Lauck and was married to Mildred Lindsey.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment and was elected to the office of Grand Registrar (equivalent to Recorder). In 1823, at the establishment of the Grand Encampment (Commandery) of Knights Templar of Virginia, he was elected Grand Standard Bearer.

He died on March 5, 1828, in Frederick County, Virginia.

No. 7. Hill, James (1757–1830)

James Hill was born in 1757 in Chesterfield, Chesterfield County, Virginia. He was married to Anne Hill.

He was a soldier of the Continental Army and served in the Virginia Line with the rank of Private. In 1818, he resided in Sussex, Virginia.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment and was elected Grand Treasurer.

He died in 1830.

No. 8. Foster, James (1759–1841)

James Foster was born in 1759.

He served in the American Revolutionary War in the Virginia militia with the rank of Private and was associated with Winchester and Frederick County.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment and was elected Grand Sword Bearer. In 1831, he resided in Frederick County, Virginia.

He died in 1841.

No. 9. Maloney, Robert

Robert Maloney resided in London Grove, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

No. 10. Seavers, Henry (1768–1857)

Henry Seavers was born on July 25, 1768, in Virginia. He was married to Elizabeth H. Seavers.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment and was also affiliated with Mount Carmel Encampment. In 1823, he was among the founders of the Grand Encampment (Commandery) of Knights Templar of Virginia and was elected Grand Captain General.

He died on January 1, 1857, in Winchester, Virginia.

No. 11. Helm, William P.

In 1821, William P. Helm was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

In 1845, he resided in Noxubee County, Mississippi, and in 1850 he was living in Yazoo County, Mississippi.

No. 12. Esq. Drew, Dolphin (1776–1856)

Dolphin Drew was born in 1776.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

He died on September 4, 1856, in Kabletown, Jefferson County, Virginia.

No. 13. Herrin, William (1762–1847)

William Herrin was born in 1762 and was married to Elizabeth Herrin.

He was a veteran of the American Revolutionary War and served as a Sergeant in the Virginia militia.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

He died on December 26, 1847, in Intermont, Hampshire County, Virginia.

No. 14. Thomas, Jacob R.

In 1820, Jacob R. Thomas resided in Waterford, Loudoun County, Virginia.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment. In 1823, he represented Warren Encampment¹. In 1824, he resided in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County².

No. 15. Capt. Marmaduke, Presley (d. 1823)

Presley Marmaduke was born in Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, Virginia. He was married to Sarah Klise in 1810.

During the War of 1812, he commanded a local militia company in April 1814³.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

He died on July 28, 1823, in Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, Virginia.

No. 16. Kelley, William (1751–1822)

William Kelley was born in 1751 in Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He was a veteran of the American Revolutionary War and served with the rank of Private.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

He died on June 8, 1822, in Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

No. 17. Haupe, John A.

In 1821, John A. Haupe was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.
He was not recorded as residing in Winchester or Frederick County.

No. 18. Esq. Throckmorton, Warner (1783–1826)

Warner Throckmorton was born in 1783 in Winchester, Virginia. He was married to Catherine Inskeep.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment. In 1823, he was among the founders of the Grand Encampment (Commandery) of Knights Templar of Virginia and was elected to the second-highest office of that body—Deputy Grand Master.

He died on March 13, 1826, in Romney, Hampshire County, Virginia.

¹ Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Masons of Virginia. Winchester, 1823. P. 7.

² Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Masons of Virginia. Winchester, 1824. P. 15.

³ Bushong, M.K. (1941). A history of a Jefferson County West Virginia. Charles Town, West Virginia: Jefferson Publishing Company. P. 71.

No. 19. Rev. Nash, Norman (1790–1870)

Norman Nash was born on November 17, 1790, in Ellington, Tolland County, Connecticut.

In 1820, he resided in Frankfort, Hampshire County, Virginia. In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

He died on November 11, 1870, in Port Huron, St. Clair County, Michigan.

No. 20. Lang, Abraham (1770–1844)

Abraham Lang was born on December 24, 1770.

In 1820, he resided in Bethel, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

He died on December 29, 1844, in Jonestown, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.

No. 21. Thomas, Joseph P.

In 1821, Joseph P. Thomas was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

No further biographical data could be reliably identified.

No. 22. Blanchard, William W. (1785–1872)

William W. Blanchard was born on May 17, 1785, in England.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment. In 1823, he represented Mount Carmel Encampment¹.

He died on January 18, 1872, in Shelbyville, Shelby County, Missouri.

No. 23. Hershell, Isaac

Isaac Hershell was not recorded as residing in Winchester or Frederick County.

In October 1778, Isaac Hershell served in the 14th Virginia Regiment with the rank of Sergeant. In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

No. 24. Jackson, Edward

In 1821, Edward Jackson was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

No additional reliable biographical information has been identified.

No. 25. Wilson, John

John Wilson was not recorded as residing in Winchester or Frederick County.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

No. 26. Baldwin, Cyrus B. (1782–1855)

Cyrus B. Baldwin was born on September 25, 1782, in Newtown, Fairfield County, Connecticut.

In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

He died on August 15, 1855, in Rockbridge, Virginia.

¹ Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Masons of Virginia. Winchester, 1823. P. 7.

No. 27. Denton, John

John Denton was not recorded as residing in Winchester or Frederick County. In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

No. 28. Dr. Klipstine, Philip

In 1810, Philip Klipstine was recorded in Winchester in the age category of 45 years and over. In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

No. 29. Heyden, John R.

In December 1778, John R. Heyden served in the 3rd Virginia Regiment with the rank of Private. He resided in Bolivar, Jefferson County, Virginia. In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

In 1823, he represented Warren Encampment¹. In 1824, he resided in Harpers Ferry².

No. 30. Kern, John (1788–1839)

John Kern was born on December 22, 1788, in Frederick County, Virginia. In 1820, he resided in New Market, Shenandoah County, Virginia. In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

He died on August 24, 1839, in Wayne, Ohio.

No. 31. Keller (Keeling), James (1769–1846)

James Keller (also recorded as Keeling) was born on March 18, 1769. He was married to Christiana Hickman.

He resided in Frederick County, Virginia. In 1821, he was a member of the Winchester Grand Encampment.

He died on November 16, 1846, in Fountain County, Indiana.

Unfortunately, no reliable biographical data could be identified for four members of the Winchester Grand Encampment due to the prevalence of their names in contemporary records. These individuals are Joseph P. Thomas, Edward Jackson, John Wilson, and John Denton. For several other members, the available biographical information remains incomplete.

All identified biographical data have been systematized and summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Membership of the Winchester Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in 1821

No.	Name	Revolutionary War Service, Rank	Year of Birth	Age in 1821	Place of Residence
1	Thomas, Daniel Walker	-	1760	61	Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia
2	Reed, George A.	-	1766	55	Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia
3	Bent, Lemuel	-	1766	55	Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia
4	Lauck, Peter	Private	1753	68	Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia

¹ Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Masons of Virginia. Winchester, 1823. P. 7.

² Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Masons of Virginia. Winchester, 1824. P. 15.

5	Kremer, Conrad	Private	1755	66	Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia
6	Lauck, Samuel H.	-	1790	31	Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia
7	Hill, James	Private	1757	64	Sussex, Virginia
8	Foster, James	Private	1759	62	Frederick County, Virginia
9	Maloney, Robert	unknown	unknown	unknown	London Grove, Chester County, Pennsylvania
10	Seavers, Henry	-	1768	53	Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia
11	Helm, William P.	unknown	unknown	unknown	Noxubee, Mississippi
12	Drew, Dolphin	-	1776	45	Kabletown, Jefferson, Virginia
13	Herrin, William	Serg.	1762	59	Intermont, Hampshire County, Virginia
14	Thomas, Jacob R.	unknown	unknown	unknown	Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, Virginia
15	Marmaduke, Presley	unknown	unknown	unknown	Sherpherdstown, Jefferson County, Virginia
16	Kelley, William	Private	1751	70	Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
17	John A. Haupe	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
18	Throckmorton, Warner	-	1783	38	Romney, Hampshire County, Virginia
19	Nash, Norman	-	1790	31	Frankfort, Hampshire, Virginia
20	Lang, Abraham	-	1770	51	Bethel, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania
21	Thomas, Joseph P.	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
22	Blanchard, William W.	-	1785	36	Mount Carmel, Virginia
23	Hershell, Isaac	Serg.	unknown	unknown	unknown
24	Jackson, Edward	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
25	Wilson, John	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
26	Baldwin, Cyrus B.	-	1782	39	Rockbridge, Virginia
27	Denton, John	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
28	Philip Klipstine	unknown	unknown	unknown	Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia
29	Heyden, John R.	Private	unknown	unknown	Harpers Ferry, Virginia
30	Kern, John	-	1788	33	New Market, Shenandoah, Virginia
31	Keller	-	1769	52	Frederick County, Virginia

According to the data presented in Table 1, at least eight members of the Winchester Grand Encampment were veterans of the American Revolutionary War. Of these, six served as privates and two held the rank of sergeant. For ten members of the Encampment, no reliable information regarding military service could be identified, while the remaining members were not veterans of the Revolutionary War. In addition, at least one member of the Encampment—Presley Marmaduke—served with the rank of captain during the War of 1812.

The oldest member of the Winchester Grand Encampment was William Kelley, who was 70 years old in 1821. The youngest members of the organization were Samuel H. Lauck and Rev. Norman Nash, both aged 31. Birth dates are known for nineteen individuals, which makes it possible to calculate the average age of this group. Thus, in 1821, the average age of the Knights Templar within the Winchester Grand Encampment was 51 years.

Information on the places of residence of the members of the Winchester Grand Encampment is also of particular interest. For six members, no residence data could be identified. Ten members resided in Frederick County, Virginia, which included the town of Winchester; eleven lived in other parts of the state of Virginia; and four resided outside the state—three in Pennsylvania and one in Mississippi. Consequently, in 1821 the geographical reach of the Winchester Grand Encampment extended beyond a single state, encompassing three states in total.

The example of the Winchester Grand Encampment also demonstrates patterns of family continuity. For instance, members of the Lauck family—Peter Lauck and Samuel H. Lauck—were father and son, illustrating the intergenerational transmission of membership within the organization.

Conclusion

The analysis of the membership of the Winchester Grand Encampment in 1821 allows for several important conclusions regarding the social, age-related, and geographical profile of the members of this organization. Most notably, a significant proportion of the Encampment consisted of veterans of the American Revolutionary War. At least eight members had military experience during the Revolutionary War; the majority of them served as privates, while two held the non-commissioned officer rank of sergeant. This suggests that the Winchester Grand Encampment relied heavily on the authority and life experience of individuals who had participated in the formative events of early American history. Additional evidence of the military character of this milieu is provided by the service of Presley Marmaduke, who held the rank of captain during the War of 1812.

The age composition of the Encampment reflects a clear intergenerational structure. Alongside elderly members such as William Kelley, who had reached the age of seventy by 1821, the organization also included comparatively young men, including Samuel H. Lauck and Norman Nash, both aged thirty-one. The average age of fifty-one years indicates the predominance of mature, socially established men, a characteristic feature of leadership-oriented and fraternal organizations of the period.

The geographical distribution of the members further demonstrates that the influence of the Winchester Grand Encampment extended beyond a single city and even beyond the boundaries of one state, encompassing Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Mississippi. Finally, the identified pattern of family continuity—illustrated by the Lauck family—underscores the role of the Winchester Grand Encampment not only as a social institution but also as an intergenerational structure that reinforced traditions and values within individual families.

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