

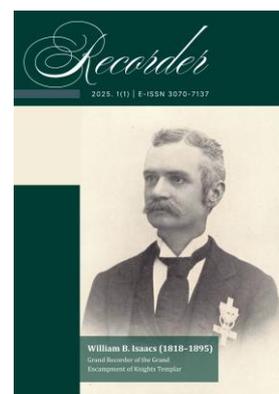
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Anniversaries

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Washington Commandery No. 1 (Washington, D.C.)

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Abstract. This text presents a concise historical overview of Washington Commandery No. 1, founded on January 14, 1825, in the nation's capital and destined to become one of the most distinguished Knights Templar bodies in the United States. By 1855, it was the largest Commandery in the country, with 104 swords. Notable figures included Benjamin B. French, the 6th Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, and Recorder William J. Rhees. In 1895, under Eminent Commander Edward Mahl, the Commandery participated in the Boston Triennial Conclave parade. Today, Washington Commandery No. 1 remains active, preserving nearly two centuries of Masonic and Templar tradition.

Keywords: Washington Commandery No. 1, Washington, D.C., Knights Templar, history, Anniversary, 1825–2025.

On January 14, 1825, Washington Commandery No. 1 was established in the nation's capital, becoming one of the earliest and later one of the most prominent Knights Templar Commanderies in the United States.

By 1855, the Commandery counted 104 swords, making it the largest Templar body in the country at that time.

Among its distinguished members was Benjamin B. French (1800–1870), the 6th Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the USA.

During the mid-1850s, the Recorder was William J. Rhees.

In 1895, the Eminent Commander was Edward Mahl. That same year, Washington Commandery No. 1 took part in the grand parade at the Triennial Conclave in Boston (1895) (Fig. 1).

A photograph of the organization's badge from that period is also presented.

Today, Washington Commandery No. 1 continues to exist, preserving two centuries of Masonic and Templar heritage in the heart of Washington, D.C.





Fig. 1. Washington Commandery No. 1 took part in the grand parade at the Triennial Conclave in Boston. 1895