

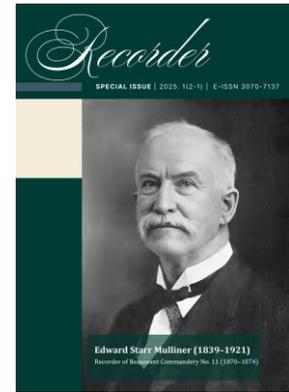
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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

You are holding a special issue of our journal — Special Issue 2-1 for the year 2025. After publishing the September and December numbers of Recorder, our editorial team came to the decision that the journal should include original research on the history of Masonic organizations. It is evident that such studies are often substantial in scope, and incorporating them into regular issues would necessarily limit space for other contributions. Thus emerged the idea of publishing special issues of Recorder dedicated specifically to in-depth scholarly work.

In December 2025, our team plans to release not just one but two special issues. Moreover, beginning next year, we intend to include original research articles on the history of Freemasonry in the United States within our regular issues as well. Starting in 2026, the Articles section will therefore feature both original studies and selected, high-value reprints.

Let us now return to the present special issue. In this inaugural special edition, we are pleased to introduce a new study on the history of the Knights Templar in Illinois, entitled “History of

Beauseant Commandery No. 11, KT (Quincy, Illinois).” Beauseant Commandery No. 11 operated in the city of Quincy from 1861 to 1911 — a full fifty years. During this period, more than 270 men passed through its ranks; several held officer positions in the Grand Commandery of Illinois, and one of them, Edward Starr Mulliner, became Grand Commander in 1887. Among the commandery’s notable members was Brigadier General George Valentine Rutherford (1830–1876), a veteran of the Civil War and an eyewitness to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

The study offers considerable genealogical value, presenting concise biographical sketches of sixty Masons who remained members of Beauseant Commandery No. 11 until their deaths, as well as a complete roster of the commandery with notes on changes in member status over time. As such, the work will be of interest to a wide audience concerned with the history of Freemasonry in the United States.

We wish you an engaging and enjoyable reading experience.

Editor in Chief

Dr. Alexander C. Cherkas