

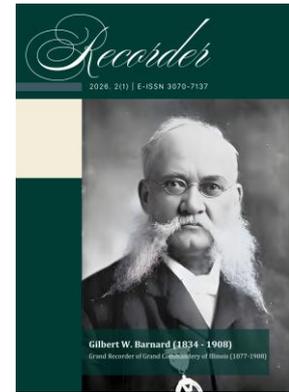
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## Review of Exhibitions at the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar (Expositions No. 022–25 Presented between April 19 and July 15, 2025)

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### Abstract

This article reviews four exhibitions held at the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar between April 19 and July 15, 2025. The exhibitions—Expositions No. 022 through No. 025—were devoted to the uniforms and material culture of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Each exhibition highlighted original and rare artifacts, including ceremonial uniforms, aprons, sashes, insignia, belts, and swords associated with specific commanderies and individual officers. Particular attention is given to the white uniform of an Eminent Commander from Bethany Commandery No. 28, which belonged to Civil War veteran Casper Ruedy, as well as to the black uniforms representing various commanderies across different states. The final exhibition focused on the eastern side of the museum, emphasizing the symbolic and ideological foundations of the Order through the display of an American Bible published in 1812 and the regalia of an Eminent Commander. Together, these exhibitions demonstrate the museum's role in preserving, interpreting, and presenting the historical legacy of the American Knights Templar through authentic material evidence and curated visual narratives.

**Keywords:** Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar, Exhibitions, Review.

Between April 19 and July 15, 2025, four exhibitions were presented at the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar: April 19 — Exposition No. 022, April 29 — Exposition No. 023, May 3 — Exposition No. 024, and July 15 — Exposition No. 025. As in previous exhibitions, these displays were devoted to the uniforms of Knights Templar from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries.

**Exposition No. 022 (April 19, 2025)** was dedicated to the black uniform of an officer Recorder from De Witt Clinton Commandery. The uniform set includes the original sash, knight's apron, black sleeves, commandery and officer insignia, a standard belt and buckle, as well as a rare original sword.

**Exposition No. 023 (April 29, 2025)** focused on a very rare white uniform of an Eminent Commander from Bethany Commandery No. 28 (Mendota, Illinois). This uniform belonged to Casper Ruedy, a Civil War veteran who served in the Union Army and held the office of Eminent Commander in 1879. The set includes a dress coat, belt, trousers, hat, and a presentation sword.

**Exposition No. 024 (May 3, 2025)** presented black uniforms of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. The exhibition featured the uniform of a Recorder from De Witt Clinton Commandery; that of a Past Eminent Commander from New Haven Commandery No. 2 (New Haven, Connecticut; apron not original); and the uniform of a Knight from Claremont Commandery No. 9 (Camden, Maine).

**Exposition No. 025 (July 15, 2025)** was devoted to the eastern side of the museum dedicated to the Masonic Order of Knights Templar (late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries). The central focus of this section is an American Bible published in Philadelphia in 1812, serving as a symbolic reminder of the Christian foundation of the Knights Templar. To the left of the Bible stands a knight dressed in the full regalia of the Eminent Commander of Jamestown Commandery No. 61 (State of New York), alongside the American flag, representing the unity of Masonic tradition and national heritage.

Exposition No. 022 (Apr. 19, 2025)  
Black Uniform of an Officer Recorder from De Witt Clinton Commandery



Exposition No. 023 (Apr. 29, 2025)  
Very rare uniform of an Eminent Commander  
from Bethany Commandery No. 28 (Mendota, Illinois)





Exposition No. 024 (May 3, 2025)  
Black Uniform of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar  
(late 19<sup>th</sup> century – early 20<sup>th</sup> century)



Exposition No. 025 (July 15, 2025)  
East Side of the Museum Dedicated to the Masonic Order of Knights Templar  
(late 19th century – early 20th century)

