

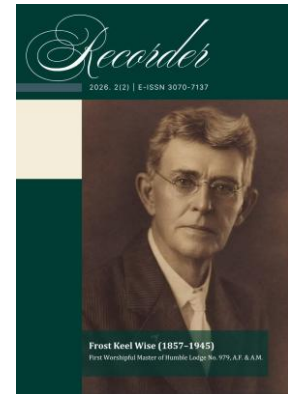
Copyright © 2026 by East European Historical Society



Published in the USA
 So-publisher: Cherkas Global University
 Recorder
 Has been issued since 2025.
 E-ISSN: 3070-7137
 2026. 2(2): 228-236
 DOI: 10.13187/rec.2026.2.228



Journal homepage:



Review of Exhibitions at the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar (Expositions No. 26–30 Presented between August 21 and October 30, 2025)

Airin Cherkas ^a^a Cherkas Global University, Houston, USA

Abstract

This section examines a series of exhibitions held at the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar between August and October 2025, highlighting key aspects of the material culture of the Order in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Four exhibitions (Nos. 026, 027, 029, and 030) are analyzed, each focusing on distinct elements such as uniforms, ceremonial accessories, and antique swords. Particular attention is given to Monroe Commandery No. 12 (New York), whose artifacts—including swords, insignia, and rare photographic materials—illustrate the historical continuity of Templar traditions. The exhibitions also address specific components of uniform culture, such as cuffs differentiated by color according to uniform type, and the evolution of ceremonial swords from mid-nineteenth-century models. Special emphasis is placed on the exhibition dedicated to New Haven Commandery No. 2, centered on the personal belongings of Sir Walter Sherman Garde. These materials provide valuable insight into the distinctive features of certain commanderies, including the use of daggers and unique aprons, thereby contributing to a broader understanding of American Templar material culture.

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

Between August 21 and October 23, 2025, four exhibitions were presented at the Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar: August 21 — Exposition No. 026, August 23 — Exposition No. 027, October 7 — Exposition No. 029, and October 23 — Exposition No. 030. As in previous exhibitions, these displays were devoted to the uniforms of Knights Templar from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries.

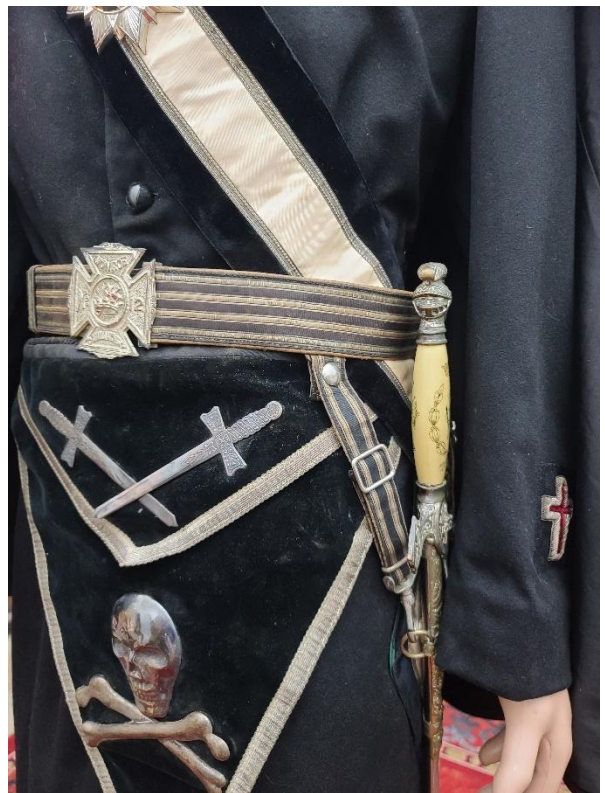
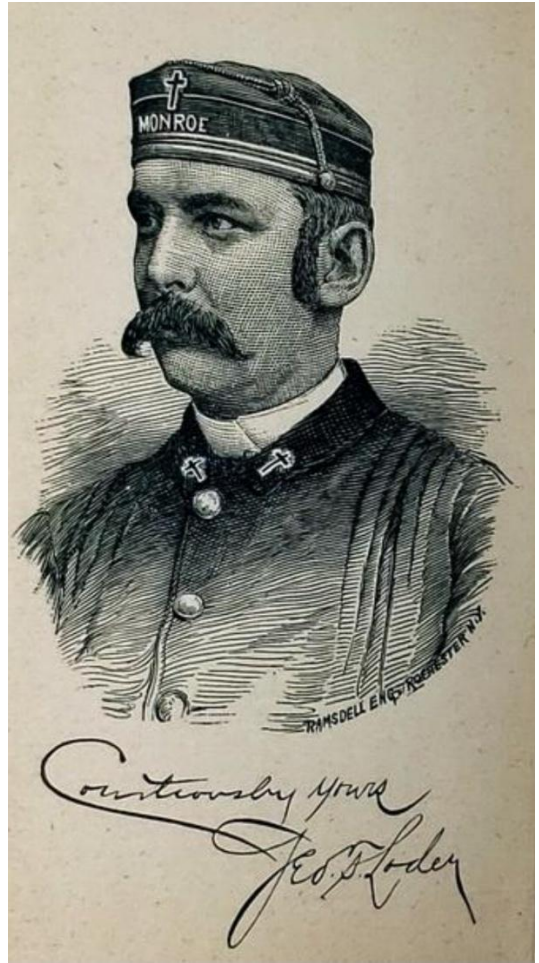
Exposition No. 026 (August 21, 2025) was dedicated to the Monroe Commandery No. 12 (Grand Commandery of New York). Founded in Rochester, NY in 1826, Monroe Commandery No. 12 will celebrate its 200th anniversary next year. The collection of the Museum of Cherkas Global University preserves several artifacts connected with this Commandery, including: two Knights Templar swords; a belt with buckle; a pin; a portrait and a rare image of one of the members of Monroe Commandery No. 12.

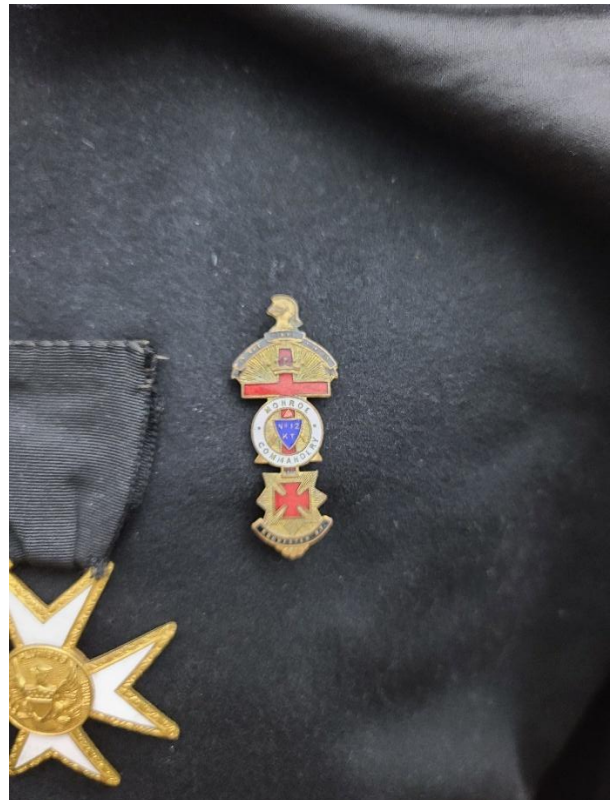
Exposition No. 027 (August 23, 2025) focused on Cuffs of American Knights Templar. Cuffs were produced in two colors: White — for the white uniform; Black — for the black uniform.

Exposition No. 029 (October 7, 2025) presented Antique Swords of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar. Our museum collection features several antique swords of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar, dating from circa 1850–1870. Their design follows earlier models from the 1840s — for instance, a similar sword belonged to Rev. Jonathan Nye (1783–1843), the second Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the USA.

Exposition No. 030 (October 23, 2025) was devoted to the Uniform of New Haven Commandery No. 2. The foundation of our exhibition is based on several personal belongings of Sir Walter Sherman Garde (1876–1946), who served as Eminent Commander of New Haven Commandery No. 2 in 1905 (photograph attached). His personal items include a sword, a belt, headgear, and a group photograph of the officers of this commandery. A photograph of Walter S. Garde is also included. New Haven Commandery No. 2 was one of the few commanderies that possessed daggers and distinctive aprons.

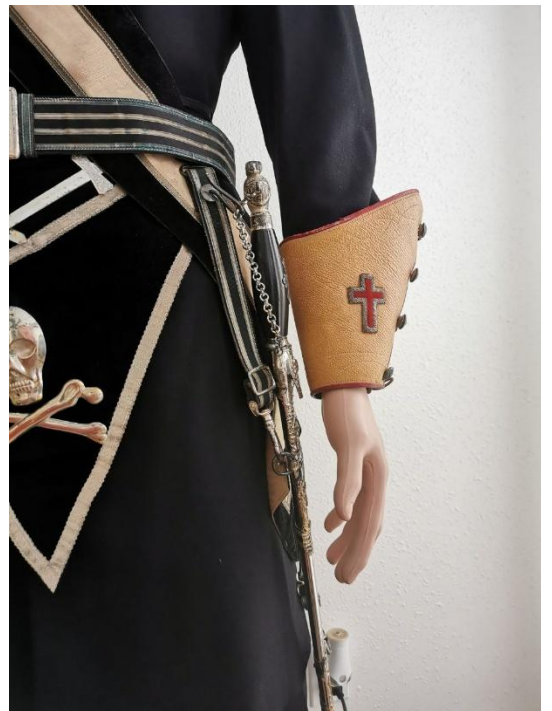
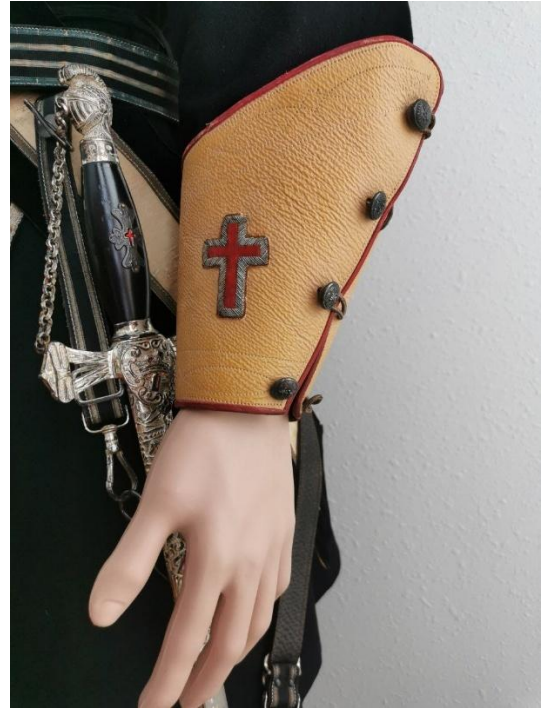
Exposition No. 026 (August 21, 2025)
Monroe Commandery No. 12 (Grand Commandery of New York)





Exposition No. 027 (August 23, 2025)
Cuffs of American Knights Templar





Exposition No. 029 (October 7, 2025)
Antique Swords of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar





Exposition No. 030 (October 23, 2025)
Uniform of New Haven Commandery No. 2



