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History of Streator Commandery No. 70, Knights Templar (Streator, Illinois) (1905–1917): Formation and Early Development

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Abstract

The article examines the early period in the history of Streator Commandery No. 70 (1905–1917), which formed part of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar. Particular attention is also devoted to its ceremonial and drill culture.

The study is based on three groups of historical sources: published collections of documents, archival materials, and museum exhibits.

In conclusion, the author arrived at the following findings:

First, during the period from 1905 to 1917, the Commandery's membership grew from 62 to 143 members – an increase of more than twofold. Particularly vigorous growth was observed during the periods of 1907–1908 and 1915–1917.

Second, the membership structure facilitated the regular rotation of officers and the formation of a core group of active Knights, a group that included William H. Jennings, Abner G. Rich, James A. Curry, and others.

Third, the most significant figure within the Commandery was William H. Jennings, who was elected Eminent Commander in 1907. Beginning in 1914, he was elected to officer position within the Grand Commandery of Illinois. Ultimately, in 1921, he became the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

Fourth, the Commandery paid considerable attention to ceremonial culture, which was especially evident in the inspection reports and participation in parades. As a result, Streator Commandery No. 70 demonstrated a high level of ritual and drill discipline.

Keywords: Streator Commandery No. 70, Streator, Illinois, Grand Commandery of Illinois, Knights Templar, York Rite, 1905–1917.

1. Introduction

In the history of the American Masonic Order of Knights Templar, represented by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, there remain a significant number of little-known pages. A considerable portion of these insufficiently studied topics concerns the history of the commanderies that formed part of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. It should be noted that 100 years ago, in 1926, there were 1,685 Knights Templar commanderies operating within the United States ([Proceedings of the Grand Encampment..., 1928: 170](#)). Taking into account the establishment of additional commanderies in subsequent years, their total number may have reached approximately 2,000.

In the present study, we intend to examine the initial period in the history of Streator Commandery No. 70 during 1905–1917, that is, from the establishment of the commandery in 1905 until 1917.

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2. Materials and methods

The study is based on three groups of historical sources: published collections of documents, archival materials, and museum exhibits.

The first group includes the materials of the annual conclaves of the Grand Commandery of Illinois covering the years 1905–1917. As an additional source, the “Proceedings of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. 37th Triennial Conclave” for 1928 was also utilized ([Proceedings of the Grand Encampment..., 1928](#)).

Among the archival materials, documents preserved in the Archive of Cherkas Global University (Houston, USA) were used, particularly the files devoted to Streator Commandery No. 70 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 46-48](#)). Although these files cover the period from 1926 to 1937, they also contain information relating to the early history of the commandery.

The museum exhibits are represented by artifacts of the commandery preserved in The Museum of the History of the American Knights Templar at Cherkas Global University (Houston, USA). Among these exhibits is a medal of Streator Commandery No. 70 dedicated to the Triennial Conclave held in 1910 in the Illinois capital, the city of Chicago ([MHAKT CGU. Collection 3. Badges and Ribbons. Exhibit No. 262](#)).

The source base of the study also predetermined the methodological tools employed in this research. Thus, the historical-genetic method made it possible to examine the circumstances surrounding the establishment of the commandery and to identify the principal results of its early activities during 1905–1917. Through the historical-comparative method, the regional features of the commandery’s development were analyzed and identified. In turn, the method of source criticism was applied in the analysis of the materials from the annual conclaves of the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

3. Discussion

Although the historiography of the commanderies of the American Masonic Order of Knights Templar began to take shape as early as the nineteenth century, the level of scholarly study devoted to the history of individual commanderies remains relatively low. In 2026, Konstantine V. Taran, in his historiographical survey of the history of Knights Templar commanderies, noted that, unlike academic historiography formed within the university environment, the majority of works devoted to the history of commanderies were produced within the Order itself by its own members ([Taran, 2026: 217](#)).

The first books devoted to the history of individual commanderies began to appear during the 1880s. Among the earliest authors was Jesse B. Anthony, who published a study on the history of Apollo Commandery No. 15 ([Anthony, 1882](#)), as well as Stephen Berry, who published a book on the history of Portland Commandery No. 2 ([Berry, 1882](#)). It is important to note that Apollo Commandery No. 15 belonged to the Grand Commandery of New York, while Portland Commandery No. 2 formed part of the Grand Commandery of Maine.

Two years later, one of the first works devoted to the history of a commandery belonging to the Grand Commandery of Illinois appeared. The author of this work was Norman T. Gassette, and the study was devoted to the oldest Illinois commandery – Apollo Commandery No. 1 ([Gassette, 1884](#)). Much later, in 1917, William Lee Roy Milligan published the history of another Illinois commandery – Ottawa Commandery No. 10 ([Milligan, 1917](#)).

In 2025, Alexander Cherkas turned to the study of commanderies within the state of Illinois and, in a series of publications, examined the histories of Beauseant Commandery No. 11 ([Cherkas, 2025a](#)), Bethany Commandery No. 28 ([Cherkas, 2025b](#)), El-Aksa Commandery No. 55 ([Cherkas, 2025c](#)), and Quincy Commandery No. 77 ([Cherkas, 2025d](#)).

Thus, it is possible to trace the continuity of the historiographical tradition devoted to the study of commanderies belonging to the Grand Commandery of Illinois from the late nineteenth century to the early twenty-first century.

4. Results

On September 29, 1905, sixty-two Knights Templar signed a petition addressed to the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois requesting the establishment of a commandery in the city of Streator, LaSalle County ([Forty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1905: 47](#)). The submitted petition was referred to the Committee on Charters and Dispensations ([Forty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1905: 57](#)). The committee recommended approval and the issuance of a charter to the petitioners for the establishment of a commandery to be known as Streator Commandery No. 70 ([Forty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1905: 67](#)).

On October 24, 1905, the seventieth commandery within the Grand Commandery of Illinois – Streator Commandery No. 70 – was officially established ([164th Annual Conclave..., 2020: 87](#)). Its first commander was appointed Samuel McFeely, while Lisle R. Colley became Recorder ([Forty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1905: 113](#)). Organizationally, the commandery was assigned to the Fourth District ([Forty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1905: 118](#)).

On January 31, 1906, the Grand Commander was informed that Streator Commandery No. 70 wished to be formally constituted on February 13, 1906 ([Fiftieth Annual Conclave..., 1906: 30](#)). In 1906, the commandery numbered 62 members ([Fifty-first Annual Conclave..., 1907: 78](#)).

In 1906, among the members of the commandery listed as deceased was James T. Applegate ([Fiftieth Annual Conclave..., 1906: 150](#)). No information concerning newly admitted members was reported. Samuel McFeely and Lisle R. Colley continued to serve in their respective positions as commander and recorder ([Fiftieth Annual Conclave..., 1906: 119](#)).

In 1907, the membership of the commandery increased to 70 members. During the year, 8 members were created, 2 admitted, 1 dimitted, and 1 deceased ([Fifty-first Annual Conclave..., 1907: 78](#)).

William H. Jennings Em. Commander
 James A. Curry Gen.
 Milton C. Pirkey Capt. Gen.
 James R. Williams Sen. War.
 Louis L. Bennion Jun. War.
 Harry L. Manley Prelate
 Robert S. Sharfenberg Treas.
 Lisle R. Colley Recorder
 Clinton J. Bartlett Stan. Bearer
 Orion H. Howe Swd. Bearer
 Abner G. Rich Warder
 Sherman McQuown Sentinel ([Fifty-first Annual Conclave..., 1907: 154-155](#)).

Past Commander: Samuel McFeely ([Fifty-first Annual Conclave..., 1907: 155](#)).

Members: John C. Ames, Charles Brooker, Oswin H. Bourne, Ezra H. Bailey, Clinton J. Bartlett, Louis L. Bennion, William H. Boys, Sylvester A. Blanchard, Thomas Bawden, James A. Curry, Lisle R. Colley, Benjamin F. Colehower, William S. Cherry, Paul R. Chubbuck, Andrew J. Daugherty, John M. Davidson, Isaac F. Echard, John W. Fornof, William C. Flick, Oakley Griggs, Louis L. Graves, Adam Greener, David E. Huggans, Richard J. Howells, Hugh Hall, Lyston D. Howe, Orion H. Howe, Arthur W. Higby, Edward S. Holmes, William B. Jones, William H. Jennings, Matthew W. Jack, Joseph Kopf, Edward D. Kenward, Louis O. Lorenze, John A. Larimer, Robert W. Law, Milo J. Luther, Samuel McFeely, James M. McCoy, Harry L. Manley, Frederick E. Mills, Emil Morris, Sherman McQuown, John C. Pirkey, Milton C. Pirkey, Charles H. Rathbun, Walter L. Ross, Walter Reeves, Oscar B. Ryon, Charles T. Rowland, Abner G. Rich, Samuel C. Smith, Thomas J. Spencer, James Sexton, Phillip Saunders, Charles R. Schurman, Aaron K. Stiles, William L. Smith, Robert S. Scharfenberg, John N. Shinn, Harry Taggart, William H. Smalley, Frank A. Shunk, John M. Stewart, James R. Williams, William J. Williams, Charles H. Williams, Andrew R. VanSkiver, Robert H. Zoller.

Created: Adam Greener, Frank A. Shunk, Edward D. Kenward, Emil Morris, Sherman McQuown, William H. Smalley, Abner G. Rich, Edward S. Holmes.

Admitted: Harry M. Taggart, John M. Stewart.

Dimitted: Walter B. Wignal.

Dead: Barnet L. Bonar ([Fifty-first Annual Conclave..., 1907: 155](#)).

In 1907, William H. Jennings was elected to the office of Eminent Commander (Fig. 1). He became one of the most prominent figures not only within the commandery itself, but also throughout the Grand Commandery of Illinois. William H. Jennings was born on March 9, 1868, in Ottawa. In 1902, he became a Master Mason, and in the same year joined Streator Chapter No. 168 R.A.M.. In 1905, he became a member of the newly established Streator Commandery No. 70 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 47. F. 113](#)).

Looking ahead, it should be noted that in 1914 he was elected to his first officer position within the Grand Commandery of Illinois, and in 1921 he was elected Grand Commander ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 47. F. 114](#)).

In 1908, the membership of the commandery increased to 82 members. During the year, 12 members were created, 2 admitted, and 2 deceased ([Fifty-second Annual Conclave..., 1908: 166-167](#)).

William H. Jennings Em. Commander
 Lisle R. Colley Recorder ([Fifty-second Annual Conclave..., 1908: 103](#)).

Created: Edward Finney Burkholder, Charles Albert Brown, Frank Dudley Ball, Edward Gaylord Ball, Chauncy Percival Ball, William Charles Boldt, Arthur Burling Cole, John Allen Courval, Thomas Robert Holmes, George Brinton Koontz, George Edward Mason, George Walter Weiss.

Admitted: Robert William Crawford, Edward James Ryon ([Fifty-second Annual Conclave..., 1908: 166-167](#)).

Dead: William Henry Smalley (Nov. 6, 1907), William Lloyd Smith (May 22, 1908) ([Fifty-second Annual Conclave..., 1908: 132](#)).



Fig. 1. William Henry Jennings (1868–1933). 1921 ([Archive CGU. F. 3. Op. 1. D. 47. F. 112](#))

In 1909, the membership of the commandery increased to 88 members. During the year, 8 members were created, 1 admitted, and 3 deceased ([Fifty-third Annual Conclave..., 1909: 119](#)).

James A. Curry Em. Commander
 Wm. C. Flick Recorder ([Fifty-third Annual Conclave..., 1909: 121](#)).

Created: Arthur Milan Barackman, Thomas English, Edward Mattock Griggs, Frederick William Herbert, Carl Henry Iserman, Frank Tuthill Potts, Harry Allen Smalley, William Walter Thirdohr.

Admitted: Robert Martin Stene ([Fifty-third Annual Conclave..., 1909: 159](#)).

Dead: Thomas H. Spencer (Oct. 23, 1908), Aaron K. Stiles (March 31, 1909), Walter Reeves (April 9, 1909) ([Fifty-third Annual Conclave..., 1909: 116](#)).

According to Special Orders No. 6 of the Grand Commander, dated April 24, 1909, Dan. G. Swannell, Eminent Sir and Past Commander, was appointed Special Inspector and was to inspect Streator Commandery No. 70 on April 28, 1909 ([Fifty-third Annual Conclave..., 1909: 21](#)). No information regarding the results of the inspection was reported.

In 1910, the membership of the commandery increased to 90 members. During the year, 5 members were created, 2 dimitted, and 1 deceased ([Fifty-fourth Annual Conclave..., 1910: 141](#)).

James Albert Curry Em. Com.
 Milton Clyde Pirkey Gen.
 James Reed Williams Capt. Gen.
 Louis Lyle Bennion Sen. War.
 Abner Gentry Rich Jun. War.
 Harry Lewis Manley Prelate
 Robert Sebastian Scharfenberg Treas.
 William Carl Flick Recorder
 Arthur Milan Barackman Stan. Bearer
 William Walter Thiedohr Swd. Bearer
 Edward Mattock Griggs Warder
 Sherman McQuown Sentinel ([Fifty-fourth Annual Conclave..., 1910: 164](#)).

Past Commanders: Samuel McFeely, William Henry Jennings, James Albert Curry ([Fifty-fourth Annual Conclave..., 1910: 164](#)).

Members: John C. Ames, Isaac C. Ames, Charles Brooker, Oswin H. Bourne, Ezra H. Bailey, Louis L. Bennion, William H. Boys, Sylvester A. Blanchard, Thomas Bawaen, Frank D. Ball, Charles A. Brown, William C. Boldt, Edward G. Ball, Chauncey P. Ball, Edward F. Burkholder, Arthur M. Barackman, Arthur P. Crawford, James A. Curry, Lisle R. Colley, Benjamin F. Colehower, William S. Cherry, Paul R. Chubbuck, Arthur B. Cole, John A. Courval, Robert W. Crawford, Andrew J. Dougherty, John M. Davidson, Isaac F. Echard, Thomas English, John W. Fornof, William C. Flick, Oakley Griggs, Edward M. Griggs, Louis L. Graves, Adam Greener, Josiah M. Haumun, David E. Huggans, Richard J. Howells, Hugh Flail, Lyston D. Howe, Orion H. Howe, Arthur W. Higby, Edward S. Holmes, Thomas R. Holmes, Frederick W. Herbert, Carl H. Iserman, William B. Jones, William H. Jennings, Mathew W. Jack, Joseph Kopf, George B. Koontz, Louis L. Lorenz, John A. Lorimer, Robert W. Law, Samuel McFeely, James M. McCoy, Harry L. Manley, Frederick E. Mills, Emil Morris, George E. Mason, Sherman McQuown, John C. Pirkey, Milton C. Pirkey, Frank T. Potts, Charles H. Rathbun, Walter L. Ross, Charles T. Rowlands, Abner G. Rich, Edward J. Ryon, Oscar B. Ryon, Arthur G. Sweet, Samuel C. Smith, Harry A. Smalley, Robert M. Stene, James Sexton, Phillip Saunders, Charles R. Schurman, Robert S. Scharfenberg, John N. Shinn, Frank A. Shunk, John M. Stewart, Harry M. Toggard, William W. Thiedohr, Andrew R. Van Skiver, James R. Williams, William J. Williams, Charles H. Williams, George W. Weiss, George G. Whitcomb, Robert H. Zoller ([Fifty-fourth Annual Conclave..., 1910: 164-165](#)).

Created: Isaac Carlos Ames, Arthur Ponsonby Crawford, Josiah Marvin Haumun, Arthur Garfield Sweet, George Granville Whitcomb ([Fifty-fourth Annual Conclave..., 1910: 165](#)).

Dimitted: Clinton J. Bartlett, E. D. Kenward ([Fifty-fourth Annual Conclave..., 1910: 165](#)).

Dead: Milo J. Luther (Jan. 3, 1910) ([Fifty-fourth Annual Conclave..., 1910: 138](#)).

In 1910, the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States was held in the Illinois capital, the city of Chicago. Streater Commandery No. 70 also participated in the parade dedicated to this event with a delegation of 51 Sir Knights ([Fifty-fourth Annual Conclave..., 1910: 40](#)). To commemorate this occasion, the commandery issued a memorial medal ([Figure 2](#)).



Fig. 2. Medal of Streater Commandery No. 70 ([MHAKT CGU. Collection 3. Badges and Ribbons. Exhibit No. 262](#))

In 1911, the membership of the commandery increased to 96 members. During the year, 9 members were created, 1 dimitted, and 2 deceased ([Fifty-fifth Annual Conclave..., 1911: 117](#)).

James R. Williams Em. Commander

Wm. C. Flick Recorder ([Fifty-fifth Annual Conclave..., 1911: 119](#)).

Created: Rollin Swindler, Geo. T. Knox, Wm. M. Griffith, Richard Wm. Phillips, Ralph T. Ball, E.G. Zelm, C.L. Holl, J.W. Smith, A.B. McVay.

Dimitted: Arthur W. Higby ([Fifty-fifth Annual Conclave..., 1911: 144](#)).

Dead: Samuel McFeely, P.C. (Oct. 28, 1910), Arthur P. Crawford (June 30, 1910) ([Fifty-fifth Annual Conclave..., 1911: 154, 162](#)).

In 1912, the membership of the commandery increased to 105 members. During the year, 10 members were created, and 1 member was deceased ([Fifty-sixth Annual Conclave..., 1912: 117](#)).

A. G. Rich Em. Commander

Wm. C. Flick Recorder ([Fifty-sixth Annual Conclave..., 1912: 119](#)).

Created: Charles P. Grant, John Alband, William D. Brown, Ernest E. Harwood, Walter P. Hampton, George E. Proud, John D. Ruder, Richard H. Schuoman, Adam Wagner, William T. Smith ([Fifty-sixth Annual Conclave..., 1912: 143](#)).

Dead: Charles R. Schuoman (Aug. 26, 1911) ([Fifty-sixth Annual Conclave..., 1912: 159](#)).

In 1913, the membership of the commandery increased to 112 members. During the year, 6 members were created, and 1 member was admitted ([Fifty-seventh Annual Conclave..., 1913: 171](#)).

Edward M. Griggs Em. Commander

Arthur M. Barackman Gen.

George G. Whitcomb Capt. Gen.

Richard J. Howells S.W.

George W. Weiss J. W.

Harry Lewis Manley Prelate

Isaac F. Echard Treas.

Wm. C. Flick Recorder

Harry Allen Smalley St. B.

Edwin F. Burkholder Sw. B.

Walter P. Hampton Warden

Sherman McQuown Sent. ([Fifty-seventh Annual Conclave..., 1913: 367](#)).

Past Commanders: William H. Jennings, Milton C. Pirkey, Abner G. Rich, James A. Curry, James Reed Williams.

Created: Harvey Henry Julien, Ward Erastus Swift, Frederick T. Rolph, Frank Elmer McLean, Robt. Lightbody, Jr., George J. Powers ([Fifty-seventh Annual Conclave..., 1913: 368](#)).

Admitted: Wm. Schoenholfen ([Fifty-seventh Annual Conclave..., 1913: 368](#)).

In 1914, the membership of the commandery increased to 115 members. During the year, 4 members were created, and 1 member dimitted ([Fifty-eighth Annual Conclave..., 1914: 185](#)).

Arthur M. Barackman Em. Commander

Wm. Carl Flick Recorder ([Fifty-eighth Annual Conclave..., 1914: 187](#)).

In the personal records, 6 members were listed as created: William Beesley 3rd, Samuel John Patch, Chas. Herbert, Max Murdock, Russell Carl Osborn, Chas. Alfred Porter.

Dimitted: Frederick E. Mills ([Fifty-eighth Annual Conclave..., 1914: 232](#)).

In 1914, Past Commander William Henry Jennings was elected to the office of Grand Warden in the Grand Commandery of Illinois ([Fifty-eighth Annual Conclave..., 1914: 2](#)).

According to the results of the 1914 inspection, 57 members out of the 115 members of Streator Commandery No. 70 were present, including 54 Sir Knights in full uniform. The officers were present in full attendance and received a perfect score of 100 points during the inspection. The commandery records were evaluated at 98 points, while the remaining categories received scores ranging from 95.5 to 97.1 ([Fifty-eighth Annual Conclave..., 1914: 125](#)).

In 1915, the membership of Streator Commandery No. 70 increased to 122 members. During the year, 9 were created and 2 deceased ([Fifty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1915: 233](#)).

George G. Whitcomb Em. Commander

Abner G. Rich Recorder ([Fifty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1915: 235](#)).

Created: George Dee Warren, R. W. Winsor, William L. Applegate, William Henry Jennings, Harry Campbell Hill, Andrew Hunter Anderson, George Greutzner, William Cadit Jones, Ralph Huggans ([Fifty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1915: 279](#)).

Dead: William S. Cherry (June 10, 1914), George Edward Proud (May 8, 1915) ([Fifty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1915: 228](#)).

In 1915, Past Commander William Henry Jennings was elected to the office of Grand Sword Bearer in the Grand Commandery of Illinois ([Fifty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1915: 2](#)).

During the annual conclave, Streator Commandery No. 70 participated in the parade as part of the 6th Regiment of Knights Templar ([Fifty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1915: ii](#)).

According to the results of the 1915 inspection, the Commandery received an overall score of 96 points ([Fifty-ninth Annual Conclave..., 1915: 158](#)).

The Commandery also petitioned for permission to hold two social events:

November 30, 1915. – To Streator commandery No. 70, to appear in full templar uniform and to attend the annual ball of said commandery to be given in Streator December 7, 1915 ([Sixtieth Annual Conclave..., 1916: 101](#)).

December 10, 1915. – To Streator commandery No. 70, to hold a special election at the first stated conclave of said commandery in January, for the purpose of electing a treasurer, for the remainder of the templar year. Due notice of the time of holding election shall be given by mail to the members of said commandery ([Sixtieth Annual Conclave..., 1916: 101](#)).

In 1916, the membership of the Commandery increased to 128 members, although it was noted that the membership for the previous year had actually been 125 rather than 122. During the year, there were 10 created, 1 admitted, 3 demitted, 1 suspended, and 4 deceased ([Sixtieth Annual Conclave..., 1916: 3](#)).

Richard J. Howells Em. Commander
Walter Perry Hampton Gen.
Orion Harrison Howe Capt. Gen.
Harry Allen Smalley S.W.
Samuel John Patch J.W.
Harry Lewis Manley Prelate
Charles Pearl Gaut Treas.
Abner Gentry Rich Recorder
William H. Jennings, Jr. St. B.
William Beesley, 3rd Sw. B.
Max Murdock Warder
John Calvin Pirkey Sent. ([Sixtieth Annual Conclave..., 1916: 169](#))

Created: Charles Arthur Herbert, Paul Hamilton Patterson, Walter Bernhardt Hattenhauer, Arthur O'Neil Hutchinson, Robert Arnold Ferguson, John Harner, John Henry Swartz, Charles Wasson Kent, Elgie Lloyd Horn, Emrys Evans.

Admitted: Thomas William Ward.

Dimitted: Charles Arthur Herbert, Richard William Phillips, Ralph Thomas Ball.

Suspended: Joseph Nelson Smith ([Sixtieth Annual Conclave..., 1916: 170](#)).

Dead: John M. Davidson (Apr., 1916), Isaac Francis Eckard (Oct. 8, 1915), Joseph Kopf (Oct. 11, 1915), Oswin H. Bourne (Feb. 4, 1916) ([Sixtieth Annual Conclave..., 1916: 173](#)).

In 1916, Past Commander William Henry Jennings was elected to the office of Grand Standard Bearer in the Grand Commandery of Illinois ([Sixtieth Annual Conclave..., 1916: 2](#)).

The Commandery petitioned for permission to:

October 17, 1916. – To Streator Commandery No. 70 to appear in full Templar uniform at a public reception to be given in honor of the ladies on Tuesday, October 24, 1916, the eleventh anniversary of the Commandery, in the asylum of said commandery at Streator, Illinois ([Sixty-first Annual Conclave..., 1917: 22](#)).

In 1917, the membership of the Commandery increased to 143 members. During the year, there were 16 created and 1 demitted ([Sixty-first Annual Conclave..., 1917: 219](#)).

Walter P. Hampton Em. Commander
Abner G. Rich Recorder ([Sixty-first Annual Conclave..., 1917: 221](#)).

Created: John Dunn, Jenkin Lewis Howells, Henry Albert Grube, Ralph Gilbert Mackey, Lyston Dreweth Howe, Jr., John Henry Pile, Ammon Samuel Johnson, George Washington Hunter, Emanuel Marvin Davis, Harry R. Sawyer, Wells Hosmer Press, Linden Chester Mulford, Oscar Edvil Stokes, Frank Lorenz, William Ellsworth Pile, Eldo Marion Rinehart.

Demitted: Josiah Marvin Hannum ([Sixty-first Annual Conclave..., 1917: 267](#)).

In 1917, Past Commander William Henry Jennings was elected to the office of Grand Junior Warden in the Grand Commandery of Illinois ([Sixty-first Annual Conclave..., 1917: 2](#)).

On November 27, 1917, Streator Commandery No. 70 petitioned for permission to hold a special election on Tuesday, December 11, A.D. 1917, for the purpose of electing a Recorder to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Recorder A. G. Rich ([Sixty-second Annual Conclave..., 1918: 110](#)).

5. Conclusion

Summarizing the early history of Streator Commandery No. 70 (1905–1917), the following conclusions can be drawn:

First, during the period from 1905 to 1917, the Commandery's membership grew from 62 to 143 members – an increase of more than twofold. Particularly vigorous growth was observed during the periods of 1907–1908 and 1915–1917.

Second, the membership structure facilitated the regular rotation of officers and the formation of a core group of active Knights, a group that included William H. Jennings, Abner G. Rich, James A. Curry, and others.

Third, the most significant figure within the Commandery was William H. Jennings, who was elected Eminent Commander in 1907. Beginning in 1914, he was elected to an officer position within the Grand Commandery of Illinois. Ultimately, in 1921, he became the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

Fourth, the Commandery paid considerable attention to ceremonial culture, which was especially evident in the inspection reports and participation in parades. As a result, Streator Commandery No. 70 demonstrated a high level of ritual and drill discipline.

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