

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

Knights Templar in Scotland

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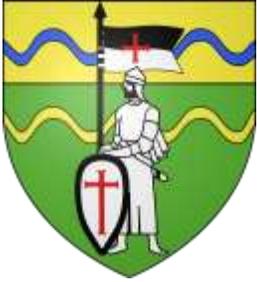
INTRODUCTION



Knights Templar in Scotland

The Knights Templar have often been portrayed as fierce warrior monks, “soldiers of Christ” on crusade. However, the Templars were not only warriors there were also monks, businessmen, landlords, bankers, and money lenders. The sudden dissolution of the Order in 1307 at the hands of King Philip IV of France has given rise to legends of surviving Templars fleeing to Scotland with their treasure from France.

This publication explores the Templar’s presence in Scotland from 1128 when Hugues de Payens met with King David I, to the present day.



Payns

Payns is a commune in the Aube department in north-central France. The Commandery of Payns was located not far from the village of Payns. Payns was the fief of the lord Hugues de Payns, founder of the Order of the Temple which founded this commandery by a donation made before the October 31, 1127. Guy Bordel, son of the first master completed the property by a donation in 1130. This Commandery was abandoned by the Hospitallers of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem when they inherited it with the disappearance of the Order of the Temple, it was amalgamated with the Commandery of Troyes in the 15th century. The *Musée des Templiers Hugues de Payns à Payns* – open to the public - pays homage to Hugh de Payens and the Templars.

Hugh de Payens

In French his name usually appears as *Hugues de Payens* or *Payns*. There is no known early biography of Hugues de Payens in existence, nor do later writers cite such a biography. None of the sources on his later career gives details of his early life. Information is therefore scanty and uncertain; embellishments depend partly on documents that may not refer to the same individual, partly on histories written decades or even centuries after his death. The earliest source that details a geographical origin for the later Grand Master is the Old French translation of William of Tyre's, *History of Events beyond the Sea*. The Latin text calls him simply *Hugo de Paganis*, but the French translation, dated to c. 1200, describes him as *Hues de Paiens delez Troies* ("Hugh of Payens near Troyes").

In early documents of that region *Hugo de Pedano, Montiniaci dominus* is mentioned as a witness to a donation by Count Hugh of Champagne in a document of 1085–90, indicating that the man was at least sixteen by this date—a legal adult and thus able to bear witness to legal documents—and so born no later than 1070. The same name appears on a number of other charters up to 1113 also relating to Count Hugh of Champagne, suggesting that *Hugo de Pedano* or *Hugo dominus de Peanz* was a member of the Count's court.

Hugues de Payens probably accompanied Hugh, Count of Champagne who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1104–07 and visited Jerusalem for a second time in 1114–16. Hugh de Payens remained in Jerusalem as there is a charter with "Hugonis de Peans" in the witness list from Jerusalem in 1120 and again in 1123. In 1125, his name appears again as a witness to a donation, this time accompanied by the title "magister militum Templi" ("Master of the Knights of the Temple"). He most likely obtained approval for the Order from King Baldwin II of Jerusalem and Warmund, Patriarch of Jerusalem at the Council of Nablus in 1120.

As Grand Master, Hugues de Payens led the Order for almost twenty years until his death, helping to establish the Order's foundations as an important and influential military and financial institution.

On January 13, 1128, Pope Honorius II grants a papal sanction to the military order known as the Knights Templar, declaring it to be an army of God.

In 1128, Hugues de Payens met King David I in Scotland. The Templar made a favorable impression on David I, according to Ailred of Rievaulx, to the extent that he (David) kept himself surround by Templars and made them the guardians of his morals by day and night.

Because none of their early charters survive, it is difficult to know when and from whom they acquired their earliest possessions. Balantrodoch (now Temple, Midlothian) was their main preceptory in Scotland by the late 12th century, and so was probably an early acquisition, probably from David I.



David of Scotland

David I or *David mac Mail Choluim* (c. 1084 – May 24, 1153) was probably the eighth son of King Malcolm III, and certainly the sixth and youngest borne by Malcolm's second wife, Margaret of Wessex. He was the grandson of King Duncan I. David spent most of his childhood in Scotland, but was exiled to England temporarily in 1093 during a power struggle following the death of King Malcolm. David was Prince of the Cumbrians from 1113 to 1124 and later King of Scotland from 1124 to 1153 when his brother King Alexander I died.

Balantrodach



Figure 1 Ruins of the church at Balantrodach

Historically the Parish of Temple was divided into three portions, the ancient parish of Clerkington, and the chapelries of Moorfoot and Balantrodach. Clerkington was a parsonage held by the monks of Newbattle Abbey, Moorfoot was a chapelry founded by monks from the same institution. Balantrodach on the other hand, was a chapelry of the Knights Templar.

Hugues de Payens was granted the chapelrie and manor of Balantrodach by David I of Scotland when they met in 1128. The Preceptory of Balantrodach was the principal house of the Order of the Temple in Scotland. It was eleven miles south of Edinburgh on the wooded banks of the river South Esk. The original church had a round nave, like so many Templar churches in imitation of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. There would also once have been a full range of domestic and administrative buildings, none of which have survived.

In this vanished Preceptory the government of the Order in Scotland was carried on, and its business administered. Charters relating to the Templars' lands were granted at Balantrodach, and there also payments by and to the Order were appointed to be made.

A certain Bartholomew was Master sometime between 1165 and 1169, and about 1180 the office was filled by Ranulf de Corbet, probably a member of that Roxburghshire family, lords of Clifton and Makerston, who appear as benefactors of the Abbey of Melrose.

Brian de Jay was Master at Balantrodach around 1226 and was then promoted to be Master of England in 1228. He was only in the post a few months when he joined

up with the English Army of King Edward to fight the Scots. He was slain by William Wallace on the field of battle. De Jay's successor in Scotland was John de Sautre, a member of a family which seems to have given several brethren to the Order, since mention is found of three other de Sautres as Templars about this time. The balance of probabilities based on architecture appears to suggest that the primary portion of the church is the cut-down eastern parts of the church of the Knights Templar, and, if that is the case, it must have been built before the order was suppressed in 1309, and probably some decades before then.

There is no reference to the parish function of their church throughout the twelfth century and it does not appear in the records of the papal tax-collector in Scotland in the 1270s nor in those of the 1290s.

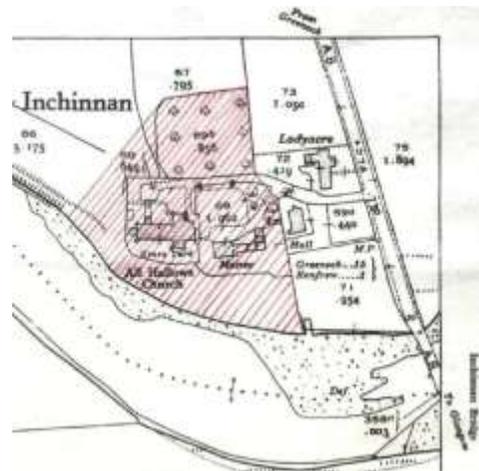
Following the suppression of the Templars, their properties passed to the Knights Hospitaller. Of the actual transference of the Scottish lands there is no record, but its accomplishment is an historic fact. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries all the known possessions of the Templars in Scotland—the houses of Ballantrodach and Culter, the church of Aboyne, the lands of Drem and Liston —are found in the hands of the Preceptor of Torphichen as local chief of the Knights of St. John; in whose possession they remained until the Reformation.

The chapel became the area's Protestant church and in 1618 the name 'Temple' became formally applied to the village. The building was in constant use as the parish church until 1840 after which it was left to fall into ruin.

The roofless shell of the church, is a rectangular structure that has evidently been rebuilt at its western end at some point in its history, since those western parts are stylistically later and are of poorer quality masonry, while rebuilding along part of the north wall suggests that an offshoot – presumably a sacristy - has been removed.

Inchinnan

Inchinnan (variously known as Inchienuin, Inchenane, Inchinan in historic documentation), sits at the confluence of 3 rivers; the White Cart, the Black Cart and the Gryffe all of which flow into the Clyde. In the 12th century the Church and surrounding land was granted to the Knights Templar by King David I. The site was known as Ladyacre. The Knights Templar had a preceptory at Greenend (House of Hill or Northbar) and patronage of the Parish Church at Inchinnan. In the churchyard are four tombstones with sloping sides, sculptured with swords, locally called the Templar's Graves.



King David I's gift to the Templars was not without a benefit. The Knights Templar were not only fierce warriors, but they were astute landlords and businessmen who ultimately owned over 500 sites in Scotland. Because of this, they became advisors to King David I and his successors.

With the support of succeeding Scottish kings, particularly Alexander I, II and III, the Order came to possess considerable property. As noted, that property included a second Preceptory at Maryculter in Aberdeenshire and the Templar houses in Denny, Liston, Thankerton, and many more.

The Knights-templar had possession in Denny, the Carse of Falkirk, and other parts of this country... They had a small house at Mount Hooly on the burgh-moor of Edinburgh. In digging a cemetery there, several skeletons were found lying cross-legged, with their swords by their sides, after the manner of their order, and indeed of military men connected nearly or distantly with the Holy Land.

Bissets

When William the Lion returned to Scotland from captivity in France and England in 1174, he brought with him a group of young Anglo-Normans whom he had befriended, and among them was one Henricus Bysset, who is on record as having witnessed a Charter c.1198. John Bysset, the son of Henricus, was granted lands in Morayshire. Bisset fortunes unfortunately suffered a severe blow in 1242 when, at a tournament held at Haddington, Walter Bysset, Lord of Aboyne, was "worsted" by the young Earl of Atholl. In revenge, he is alleged to have set fire to the Earl's house while he slept, an act for which he and his nephew John were banished from the Kingdom, his lands being dispersed among other members of his family. It is nonetheless uncertain that the crime was actually committed by Walter since in an attempt to free himself from suspicion, he requested that the Bishop of Aberdeen issue a statement excommunicating all of those who had taken part in the murder. It did not end there, however, as a pardon was later granted to the son of the Earl of Atholl for killing some Byssets in Ireland, presumably Walter and John. Nevertheless, John Bisset's descendants appear to have survived, and the name is still found in Antrim, where they became known as the MacEoin Bissets of the Glens.

Denny is a town in the Falkirk council area in Stirlingshire, seven miles west of Falkirk, and six miles northeast of Cumbernauld. The portion of the parish on the left of Castlerankine burn, a tributary of the Carron, is called Temple Denny, and is supposed to have belonged to the Knights-Templars. **Kirkliston** is a small town and parish to the west of Edinburgh, historically within the county of West Lothian. In the 13th century, the name was recorded as *Temple Liston*, referring to the Knights Templar, who possessed the Barony of Liston at the heart of the parish. The prefix *Kirk* (church) first appears in the 14th century, after the Knights Templar had been disbanded and their lands given to the Knights Hospitaller. **Thankerton** is a small village in South Lanarkshire.

Maryculter

Maryculter, or Kirkton of Maryculter, is a village in the Lower Deeside area of Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The Order of the Knights Templar were granted part of the land of Culter, which lay on the south side of the River Dee, now Maryculter, by King William the Lion in 1187.

Very little documentary evidence has survived of the Templars' activities at Maryculter but in the Trial of the Templars held in the Abbey of Holyrood, Edinburgh, in November 1309, the name of William de Middleton of the "tempill house of Culther" is recorded. The Maryculter property of the Knights Templar, extended to some 8,500 acres.

Between the years 1221 and 1236, Walter Bisset of Aboyne founded a Preceptory for the Knights Templar on their Culter property on the site of the present Maryculter House Hotel. All that remains of this building are the vaulted chambers located underneath the Resident Lounge.

Bisset swore to the monks of Kelso that their rights should not be prejudiced by his foundation for the Templars, but his oath failed in the long run to safeguard the rights of Kelso Abbey in Maryculter when in 1287 the Templars' lands on the south bank of the Dee were separated from Kelso's parish of Peterculter on the north bank.

Menzies

The origin of this clan lies in Mayneris, near Rouen, in France. The Anglo-Norman branch of the family took the name Manners, and are ancestors of the dukes of Rutland. Sir Robert de Meyners, who became Chamberlain of Scotland in the reign of Alexander II around 1248, is generally considered to be the founder of this dynasty. Sir Robert was granted lands in Glen Lion and Atholl. At a later date, Alexander, his son, married Egida, daughter of James, High Steward of Scotland and acquired Aberfeldy, in Strathtay. Their son, Robert, was a childhood companion of Robert the Bruce and, following the Battle of Bannockburn, rewarded with Glendochart and Durrisdeer. At the peak of their power, Clan Menzies held a significant swathe of the Central Highlands which included Weem, the Appin of Dull and Rannoch. The family also held land in Lothian and in Aberdeenshire. Castle Menzies, by Aberfeldy, was built around 1488 by Sir Robert Menzies, 8th Chief. In 1510, following a dispute with the Stewarts of Garth, the Menzies lands were recognised by the Crown as a Free Barony. In the following century, however, Clan Menzies to begin with ignored the Royalist Cause, although their Perthshire kinsmen, Sir Gilbert Menzies of Pitfodells fought with the Marquis of Montrose at the Battle of Inverlochy, where his son was killed. The Clan soon became divided over the Jacobite Cause, fighting on both sides at the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689. Menzies of Culdaraes supported the Old Pretender in the 1715 Uprising, and Menzies of Shian, and his son, were both killed during the 1745 campaign. Following the Battle of Culloden, several members of Prince Charles Edward Stuart's immediate following found shelter in Glen Lyon. The Menzies Baronetcy became extinct following the death of Sir Neil Menzies of Menzies in 1910.

The Templars built a chapel in 1287-8 dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This became the parish church in 1535, which was abandoned in 1782.

After the abolishment of the Order, the properties in Deeside were given to the Hospitallers. Although the Knights of St. John were in possession of Maryculter for over two centuries, little tangible evidence survives. Both the Templars and the Hospitallers proved to be excellent landlords at Maryculter, their combined lairdship extending over three centuries. When the Knights Hospitallers finally abandoned Maryculter in 1548, there were only six knights and a chaplain remaining in residence.

The ruins of St. Marys lie within the old parish kirk-yard near Maryculter House. Originally a Gothic structure of considerable refinement, it is now a fragmentary ruin, the only architectural feature extant being the piscina built into the south wall.



Figure 2 St. Mary's Chapel cemetery, Maryculter, Aberdeenshire

Templars' Park

In 1312 the Templar properties in Maryculter passed to the Knight Hospitallers whose ownership terminated with the Scottish reformation of 1560. About the year 1618, the Lands of Maryculter were purchased by John Menzies of Pitfodells. The Menzies family, who had been tenants of Maryculter since 1548, were closely associated with the civic life of Aberdeen. In 1426, Gilbert Menzies was Provost of the city and thereafter a Menzies occupied the civic chair so frequently that in the following two hundred years, the combined provostships of the Menzies family amounted to 112 years.

In 1811, Maryculter was bought by General William Gordon of Fyvie, and the Gordon family owned the estate until the death of Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon in 1931 led to the sale of the property in 1935. The estate was broken up and the home-park was bought by the City of Aberdeen Boy Scouts' Association to create Templars' Park Scout Campsite. Since its official opening by the Chief Scout, Lord Baden Powell in 1936, it has been visited by hundreds of thousands of young people from all over the world taking part in their own adventures.

The Templar chapel ruins and kirkyard is a part of the Templar Park now located on the grounds of Maryculter House Hotel. The park was dedicated to the Virgin Mary by the Knights Templars around 1225 and a Chapel was built on the site in 1287. The Kirkyard is surrounded by a wall that makes it sheltered from the park.



Figure 3 Entrance to Templars' Park, Maryculter



Aboyne Castle

The location of Aboyne Castle was selected for its strategic position near the River Dee and controlling the northern end of one of the Mounth crossings. In 1242, after the expulsion from Scotland of John and Walter Bysset of Clan Bissett, who had been accused of the murder of Patrick, Earl of Atholl, at Haddington, East Lothian, Aboyne Castle passed to the Knights Templar in that year. It passed next to the Frasers of Cowie, before passing yet again, this time by marriage, to Sir William de Keith, Great Marischal of Scotland around 1355. In 1449, De Keith's great-granddaughter, Joan, brought the castle by marriage to Alexander Gordon, 1st Earl of Huntly (1449). Its present owner is the Marquis of Huntly whose family has owned it since the early 15th century. The Formaston Stone, a relic of historical importance, is preserved at the castle. Dating from between 800 and 1000, it has a mirror symbol, a decorated Celtic cross, and an Ogham inscription.



Aboyne

In 1237, Alexander II granted the Knights Templar a charter of liberty to acquire lands in Scotland, and Walter Bysset, Lord of Aboyne, gave the Templar preceptory the church of Aboyne. Then, between 1239 and 1249, the church was conveyed to the Templars *adproprier usus* by Ralph de Lamley, Bishop of Aberdeen. According to the terms of the charter, the Templars would take charge of the temporalities of the church and maintain a vicar there, while the bishop retained authority in spiritual matters. King Alexander II confirmed the donation on April 15, 1242, and Pope Alexander IV, in 1277, the same year that John of Annan, chaplain to Alexander III, was appointed vicar. Aboyne, along with other Templar possessions in Scotland, was held by the Hospitaller's Torphichen Preceptory in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and remained so until the Reformation.

Aboyne Castle was originally a property of the Bissets. Walter Bisset of Aboyne was defeated by the Earl of Atholl in a tournament in 1242 at Dalkeith. As a result and in a fit of anger, Bisset murdered the Earl and set fire to his lodging. This started a feud, and many of the Bissets fled to Ireland (see side notes page 5). The castle passed in 1242 to the Knights Templars, then to the Frasers, then in 1355 to the Keiths (see side notes for more information).

Nairn

The Knights Templar had considerable possessions in the County of Nairn, or Moray, in 1296.

The following extract is taken from *The History of Nairn*:

"...There is a writ extant granted in their [the Knights Templar] favour at Berwick, addressed to the Sheriff of Invernairn to put them in possession of their lands, they having made submission to Edward I. This was no doubt done. From the deed of conveyance of the Temple lands in the North from Lord Torphichen, the last Master of the Order, it appears that the following were the lands held here. Those two roods of arable land lying within the territory of the Burgh of Nairn, in that part thereof called [blank] possessed by John Rose, burgess of Nairn, and his sub-tenants; those two roods of arable temple land and bouse lying within the said territory of Nairn, possessed by Hew Rose of Kilravock and his sub-tenants; all and haill those our temple lands called the lands of Pitfundie lying in the said Sheriffdom of Nairn, betwixt the strype that conies from the lands of Brodie on the east, the fludder or myre upon the south side of the common muir called the Hardmuir on the south side, the lands of Penick and wood of Lochloy on the west, and the Euchcarse of Cullbyn on the north, for the most part possessed by the lairds of Brodie, and their sub-tenants."

The site of the Nairn, Scotland "Kilravock Castle" is located next to the land that the King of Scotland gave to the First Grand Master Hugh de Payen for his Knights Templar. The de Ros/Rose looked after the Templar property in Nairn. Hugh de Payen was Robert II de Ros' Great Uncle.

Kilravock

Pronounced Kilrawk. In the 6th century A.D., following the preaching of the missionary Columba in Inverness, the Nairn valley was evangelized and settled with several Christian churches. They were marked in place names by the prefix 'Kil' – the Celtic word for church. Tradition suggests that an area in the grounds of the castle, now occupied by a dovecote, was the site of an ancient church.

Kilravock Castle has been continuously tenanted by the Roses, a family of Norman origin. They settled at Kilravock in 1293, since which date son has succeeded father without the interposition of a collateral heir, an instance of direct descent unique in Scottish history. Moreover, many Roses have borne the Christian name of Hugh, and only one attained to a higher social rank than that of laird.



Figure 4 Kilravock Castle

Ardersier

The Templars also had land designated in old charters as Temple Land, Temple Cruik, Temple Bank, and Bogschand, which lay partly in the vicinity of the town of Ardersier, between Connage, Flemington and the sea. The Temple lands of Ardersier were held by Davidsons and Mackays as portioners.

Turrif

A Templar's House once stood near the site of what is now the Turriff town hall, on land granted to the Knights Templar in the mid-twelfth century. Turrif is a town and civil parish in Aberdeenshire on the River Deveron. Little is known of this House, and the original structure is lost. The Knights Hospitallers built a structure, possibly a hotel, on the site around 1512 that stood until 1845.

Darvel

The town of Darvel in the parish of Loundoun, located twenty miles south of Glasgow. Sometime in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the lands of Darvel belonged to the Knights Templar, and rents were diverted from the Crown to the Templars. These lands apparently remained independent for many centuries after the fall of the Templars. Today several farms stand as reminders of the areas' Templar past with names such as Templehouse, Temple Darvel, Templehiil, Temple Dalquharn, Temple Croft, and Temple Dalquharn.

There are also a number of locations rumored to be associated with the Knights Templar.

Is it Rosslyn or Roslin?

Roslin was formerly spelt as Rosslyn or Roslyn and you will see all three spellings used. Today, the village is referred to as Roslin although the castle and chapel are spelled using the older Rosslyn. The name Roslin (recorded around 1240 as *Roskeilyn*) probably derives from the Celtic words *ros*, meaning a moor, and *ceilyn*, meaning holly. Legend has it the village was founded in 203 A.D. by Asterius, a Pict. In 1303 Roslin was the site of a battle of the First War of Scottish Independence.

Rosslyn Chapel



Figure 5 Roslyn Chapel

Since the late 1980s, the chapel has been the subject of speculative theories concerning a connection with the Knights Templar. Hugh de Payens served on the First Crusade with Henri St. Clair, 1st Baron of Roslin. There are stories that Hugh de Payens married a Catherine St. Clair, but there is no evidence that she existed, let alone married a Templar. The chapel, built 150 years after the dissolution of the Knights Templar, is said to have a number of Templar symbols, such as the "Two riders on a single horse" that appears on the Seal of the Knights Templar.

Kilwinning Abbey

Like Rosslyn Chapel, Kilwinning Abbey has been associated with legends of the Knights Templar. It has been said that the Templars first sought refuge there when they fled France following the events of 1307, bringing with them the famed Templar treasures, including the Holy Grail, and burying them under the Abbey.



Figure 6 Ruins of Kilwinning Abbey

Orphir Church

During the early period of Norse rule, the Mainland Orkney parish of Orphir was a center of power. The Orphir Round Church is thought to have been built by Earl Hakon. After the first crusade, Earl Håkon of Orkney had been on pilgrimage to Jerusalem to do penance for ordering the murder of Earl Magnus, later Saint Magnus, on Egilsay on April 16, 1117. Dedicated to Saint Nicholas, its design was inspired by the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

The church was probably built in 1121 or 1122 and thus seems unlikely to be connected with the Templar Order. Round churches are unusual in Britain, but those that we know of were probably created after the return of crusading knights from the Holy Land. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is round, and this probably influenced the British knights to emulate the design on their return. Orphir is the only surviving medieval round church in Scotland, dating from the 12th century.



Figure 7 Orphir Church

Templar Trials in Scotland

When Philip IV of France persuaded the pope to initiate proceedings against the Order, it was at first (1307) proposed to arrest and impeach the Scottish along with the English, Irish, and Welsh Templars. Ultimately, however, the Scots were put on trial separately before Bishop Lamberton of St. Andrews and John of Salario, a papal legate. The trial was held in November 1309 lasting until June 1310. Unlike the trial in France, where the Templars were tortured into confessing to unspeakable activities, in the British Isles there were no burnings and only three confessions after torture. Several Templars went missing; most of whom later reappeared.

Two Templar brothers at Balantrodoch, near Rosslyn, were arrested and brought to trial. They were the Englishmen Walter de Clifton and William de Middleton. The trial was presided over by William Lamberton Bishop of St Andrews, and Master John of Solerius, a papal clerk.

The first group of witnesses were various Franciscan and Dominican friars, as well as the abbots and several monks from Newbattle, Dunfermline and Holyrood Abbey. In all, there were 25 men from this category, the first to give evidence being Lord Hugo, the Abbot of Dunfermline, who had nothing essentially condemning to

say about the Templars. The subsequent clerical witnesses all concurred with this testimony.

Then followed a parade of lay witnesses, the first being Sir Henry Sinclair of Rosslyn. In his statement, he said that *'he had seen the commander of the Temple on his deathbed, receiving the Eucharist very devoutly, so far as onlookers could judge'*. His neighbor Hugh of Rydale also gave favorable testimony, as did Fergus Marischal and William Bisset.

It is important to note that in medieval hearings the inquisitors really had only two types of evidence they could use to convict: confessions, or the corroborating testimony of two witnesses.

What is clear in this case is that the papal inquisitor could not find two men to speak against the Templars, and that each witness corroborated and supported the statement of all the others to some degree. In view of the fact that King Edward II had never even wanted to bring charges, it seems fair to say that this was very much a show trial. It could be justly said to both the Pope and King Philip IV of France that an inquisition had taken place, and that no verdict against them could be made from the evidence given.

When in 1312, the Order was formally abolished by papal Bull, some of the Order's possessions in Scotland were appropriated by neighboring gentry. In 1320, papal legates were instructed to see that the goods of the Templars were transferred to the Hospitallers.

Templar Medal

The Pilgrim Medal Program was established by the Grand Priory of the United States of America (GPUSA), Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (SMOTJ) as a charitable project to assist with the preservation of the Holy Places in Jerusalem and promote the pious practice of pilgrimage. Three distinguished medal sets have been created to recognize members of GPUSA, members of the international Order (OSMTH), and Friends of the Order.

The Templar Medal (bronze) is awarded to applicants who make a pilgrimage to recognized Templar sites in Europe or the Middle East and who contemplate, either by participating in a religious service or by solitary reflection, their spiritual heritage.

The following is a list of locations throughout Scotland recognized as GPUSA Templar Medal sites:

- Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin, Midlothian
- Maryculter House, Aberdeenshire
- Templar Park, Aberdeen
- Balantrodoch, Temple, Midlothian
- Orphir Church, Orkney
- Bannockburn Battlefield, Stirling



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