

Turning The Templar Key — by Robert Lomas

In this book, *Turning the Templar Key – the Secret Legacy of the Knights Templar and the Origins of Freemasonry*, Robert Lomas, who is a member of The Masonic Knights Templar, looks to investigate whether there is any link between the original Order of the Knights Templar, which was dissolved in 1307, and the modern Masonic Knights Templar, and if there was a secret Templar tradition that existed for 280 years within Scottish Masonry before emerging in the 18th century.

The book starts out by looking at the history of the Masonic Knights Templar and trying to find their earliest rituals. Their traditional history claims descent from the original Knights Templar. He then looks into the latest academic views on the history of the original Knights Templar. In trying to find the link, he also looks at the Royal Order of Scotland, its origins and Rites.

His search moves again to Roslin and the Rosslyn Chapel, and then on to many other sites across Scotland.

He looks into the history of the St. Clairs. Prince Henry St. Clair, Baron of Roslin, was also a Norwegian Jarl. Taking this further, he looks at the Viking pirate kings and then into Scottish history and politics: pretenders to the Crown of Scotland, Custodians of Holy Relics, and Political Opportunists.

It seems that William St. Clair may have had Rosslyn Chapel built for political reasons, but he did not appear to be one who would design such an inspirational shrine. This is attributed to Gilbert Hay.

To trace the symbology of Rosslyn Chapel, Lomas then goes back into ancient symbolism and the origins of farming (somehow I missed the link to this subject).

I will leave it to you to read the book and the conclusions that Lomas comes to.

This is well worth a read as it dispels some of the Myths of the St. Clairs and the origins of Freemasonry.

