

WILLIAM O. WARE LODGE OF RESEARCH  
BOOK REVIEW

**Oak Island Knights Templar and Freemasonry**  
By: James A. McQuiston

**Reviewed by: Orlando dos Santos, Senior Warden, William O. Ware Lodge of Research**

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Since 2016, James A. McQuiston has been working with the treasure hunters on Oak Island, Nova Scotia, appearing on the History Channel a dozen times and authoring nine books on the Oak Island mystery. His current book, *Oak Island Knights Templar and Freemasonry*, takes a look at these two well-known organizations and how their histories may intersect, especially through Mary, Queen of Scots and her four descendants who served as kings of Scotland, England and Nova Scotia, and also through the Knights Baronet of Nova Scotia. James has received a fellowship from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. This group is closely linked to Scotland's National Museum and National Records which also has strong ties to the British Museum, the Nova Scotia Archives, the College of Geographic Sciences of Nova Scotia and the Grand Lodge A. F. and A. M. of Nova Scotia. He has also been able to trace his own family tree back to one Uisdean McDonald, known historically as Hugh of Sleat, Chief of the McDonalds of the Isle of Skye. Hugh was born about 1436 and died in 1498. This clan also has strong links to The Knights Templar and or the Knights Hospitaller (Knights of Malta), and the more recent Knights Baronet of Nova Scotia.

James has done a really good job researching the families' and clan's history related to Scottish Royalty. As most who are aware of just a little bit of European history know, almost all of the royal families are interrelated, especially the western parts of the continent. He has also been able to link royals, clans, nobles, their ancestors and successors to the various orders of Knights during the holy wars and prior. Lots of historical facts are presented and laid out in this book, which leads to logical deductions and assumptions, if and when hard proof is not available or has not been uncovered to date. He mentions the first Freemasons – that is the first members of the guild, that had meetings in Mary's Chapel, a physical church building, which later morphed into The Lodge of Edinburgh, who were not Masons and thus the term "Freemason" was coined. From there he is able to trace back all the way to the Knights Templar and other medieval military orders of knights.

The links between Scotland and Nova Scotia are well presented. The name Nova Scotia means "New Scotland," and the landowners of the new world are also listed. This is what then leads to theories of what, who, when and why in this 21<sup>st</sup> century we have millions of people intrigued and extremely interested in the endeavors on "Oak Island."

There are some paragraphs that are repetitive, but the excitement of getting to read and gain more information pushes the reader past these tedious points. I am a fan of the Oak Island TV show and more especially, I am a Freemason, and this book has me transfixed on the possible relationship and connection between the Templars and Freemasons. After completing my reading of it, I am found wanting to know more. For Masons, this is a canape of what is available out there. You may be actuated into your own research to follow on where James has left off. His solid facts and timelines

are on point, and are proof of much time and research that was put into getting to publish this profound work. The only information that I would have liked to see to help supplement this production is maybe a good graphic of family trees and or lineage with attached name spelling or pronunciations and changes. This is a must read for any and all Masons, and particularly those who are interested in History, Onomatology, Anthropology and Etymology.

*Oak Island Knights Templar and Freemasonry* was published in August 2022 and is available from most online book sellers.