

Watson News & Views Christmas 2007

Along a dusty, winding road,
 A little donkey bears his load.
 Young Mary, great with Child, must ride,
 While patient Joseph plods beside.
 To Bethlehem they make their way.
 "We'll count you there," the rulers say.
 The sky grows dark. The day is gone,
 and still they travel, on and on.
 The road is cold. The road is long.
 It seems no place for a donkey song.



But sing out, little donkey. Bray!
 The Prince of peace is on His way.
 At Bethlehem the inns are filled.
 Young Mary shivers, tired and chilled.
 But then a landlord, by God's grace, says,
 "you may use my stable-place."
 "And there as midnight moves to morn,
 The tiny Prince of peace is born.
 The quiet oxen see His birth,
 This Child God sent to rule the earth.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Marston and I were blessed in November to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (Knights Templars). We were guided by Fr. Peter Vasko, O.F.M., who lives in Jerusalem. Among the other Knights and Dames who went on the pilgrimage were Archbishop Herbert Groce, Jr., D.D., S.T.D. and the Grand Prior USA Major General Chev. Robert Disney and his wife Sheila. We were able to renew our baptismal vows (at the Jordan River) and our wedding vows (in Cana of Galilee), in addition to seeing many other holy sites.



Archbishop Herbert Groce, Jr., D.D., S.T.D. On the right with us following renewal of wedding vows.

Knights Templars have a long history in Israel, so we also visited Caesarea, Belvoir Fortress, and the Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem where the first Knights Templar managed the stables.

Fr. Vasko began the adventure by explaining that we

were there in the Holy Land to be *touched, healed or guided*. For me, it was to be healed. For Marston, it was to be touched. All of the pilgrims became friends over the eight days visiting sites by bus and traveling from Tel Aviv to Haifa, to Nazareth, to Tiberias, to Jericho, to Jerusalem and finally to Bethlehem.

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is the oldest Christian church in the world. This "status quo" church is jointly administered by the Franciscans, the Greeks and the Armenian Orthodox communities. The picture of the baby Jesus (above) was taken in Bethlehem at the Church of the Nativity. We were told that the baby Jesus is brought out every year for Midnight Mass and is then carried to the grotto. This grotto, which lies under the Greek Orthodox altar, is the exact place of the birth of Jesus Christ.



The Star marks the exact spot where our Lord was born.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is another "status quo" church located in the old city of Jerusalem. This church was built over the crucifixion of Jesus at Golgotha as well as the Tomb of Jesus where he resurrected. At the Church of the Nativity, we were able to touch where Jesus was born and at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where he was crucified. For me, these were the two most inspirational sites to visit as a Christian.

We were able to spend three nights at the Pilgerhaus of Tabgha on the Sea of Galilee. Tabgha is located in the north of Israel in the vicinity of many holy places. This quiet retreat was home to us, allowing us to recuperate after touring sites.

Among the many holy sites visited were Mount of Beatitudes, Church of the Anunciation in Nazareth, Mount Tabor, Cana of Galilee, Primacy of St. Peter, Capharnaum, and the Church of Heptapegon. In Capharnaum, we had a beautiful service led by Fr. Vasko and Archbishop Groce. We were each given a Jerusalem cross pin to wear as Pilgrims. Here you see Marston dousing his



head with water from the Sea of Galilee. The next day, to be healed, I symbolically threw a rock in to the Sea of Galilee. The rock represented all the guilt that I had over mistakes made and opportunities lost in raising my son, who passed away in February. How great

it was to leave all my guilt in Israel!

As our farewell event, a Convent and Investiture was held at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City of Jerusalem. This was the first event of its kind to be held in over twelve hundred years. Michael Travis, one of the pilgrims, was invested at the historic event along with five Christians who reside in Israel. All of the pilgrims participated in one way or another. I served as Marshall; Marston, Knight Protector, was dressed for the occasion in his cape and neck piece.



Jarl S. Magnusson

Over seven hundred pictures were

taken by me. I never thought that I could ever fill up a gigabyte card, but I came very close. Several of the pictures will be used in the winter issue of *Beauséant*, the national journal for the Knights Templar as Marston is the Grand Editeur and I assist.

We are planning to do several "educational" presentations in 2008 sharing our experiences hoping to encourage people to make a pilgrimage. One cannot imagine the spiritual connection that is made by visiting the place of intersection between everyday life and the life of God.



In Memory

Anthony Lee Wolfe lost his battle with cancer (Primary Effusion Lymphoma) on February 24, 2007. A small memorial service was held for him at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek attended by friends and family.

He was born in Denver, Colorado on September 13, 1966. He was able to attend Christmas Eve service at Grace Episcopal Church after having dinner with his sister Dionne, Marston and me. What a magical night that was for all of us!

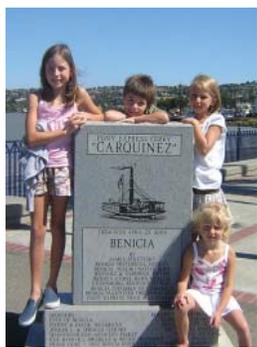
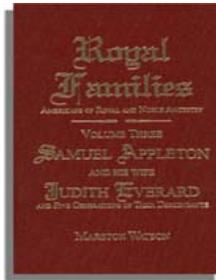
Gradually after that evening, we realized that the chemotherapy treatments were no longer working and his health declined.

Tony left a legacy at Laguna Honda Hospital. Over twenty patients and staff attended the memorial service on the ward where he spent his last days. Everyone spoke about him as a kind and gentle person who always said please and thank you and showed his appreciation for the staff who took care of the patients.

Another Book Published

Marston's third volume in the Royal Families series (Samuel Appleton and His Wife Judith Everard and Five Generations of Their Descendants) was published this year by the Genealogical Publishing Company. Thousands of Americans are direct descendants of Samuel Appleton (1586-1670) of Ipswich, Massachusetts, who had royal and noble connections to William the Conqueror, and of his wife Judith Everard, whose ancestors included William's sister Adelaide, as well as Louis IV, King of the Franks.

Author Marston continues to write and recently has been concentrating on a Watson family book containing over four hundred years historical information. While this book is not in the Royal Families series, it has been fun for him because he is making acquaintance with many Boston "Brahmin" cousins. His goal is to have this book done early in 2008.

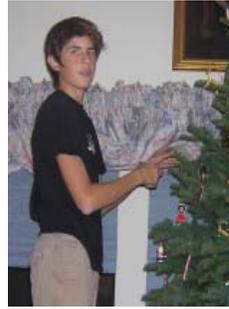


Grandchildren in 2007

We certainly have fond memories of the time we spent with the grandchildren in 2007. There was cheerleading with Sophia, a visit to the Jelly Belly factory with Xander, Easter with the Maniaci's and Watson's and bowling with the Amador's and the Watson's. Pictured at the left are Sophia Amador (now 10), Xander Maniaci (7 on December 16), Haley Watson (now 7) and Lexie Watson (now 5) on a visit to Benicia, the first state capitol of California.

On this day, they helped a sidewalk chalk street artist finish a picture of a shark. Not only was it the first time for the grandchildren but a first time for the artist! Great fun!

Kori Segerer is now fifteen and a sophomore at Northgate high school in Walnut Creek. This year she attended her first high school dance in early November. Here she is pictured with sister Haley at Easter.



Michael Amador turned thirteen this year and has been involved in Boy Scouts attaining the level of Star which means he has been active in his troop and patrol for at least 4 months as a First Class Scout, demonstrated scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in his everyday life, and earned six merit badges. Grandpa Marston took Michael to the California Genealogical Society library to work on one of his requirements. Here, though, is Michael pictured helping to decorate our Christmas tree.

Our grandchildren are a very important part of our year - we spend as much time as we can with them for they make us feel very young!

Yosemite in October



Above: Half Dome. Below: Marston and Kryssie Dupuis

Marston and I went to Yosemite on October 6 for the wedding of Kryssie Mingst who is the daughter of Don Mingst, one of Marston's high school friends. Not only did we have a great time at the wedding, but we got the opportunity to see some spectacular sites in Yosemite, such as Half Dome to the left.



Kryssie was such a beautiful bride as you can see from the picture at the left. We made sure to get a picture of Marston with Kryssie at the reception. Marston was up on his feet in true Toastmaster style to wish Kryssie and Chad a long and happy life together.

Other Notable Events

On November 27, Kathy celebrated 700 Curves workouts.

- ShesharedtheeventwithothermembersbyprovidingCurvesbars.
- Marston is organizing a New England SMOTJ commandery. A significant amount of the work was completed in the fall.
- We both attended the Williamsburg Sons of the American Revolution Congress in July. Kathy purchased a period costume that can be worn on future occasions.
- Grandma Kathy and Kori went to lunch and clothes shopping for Kori's 15th birthday.
- Kathy kept busy with web site development and maintenance. Among her clients are: Bowling Writers Association of America, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, California Bowling Writers, several California DAR Chapters, several Daughters of the American Colonists, Les Dames de 700 and National Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of the American Revolution.
- We attended the annual commemoration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday in Washington D.C. As photographer for the MOLLUS Journal, several of Kathy's pictures were in the issue that recapped the event.
- Kathy attended the USBC Masters event in Milwaukee to see Sean Rash win the event. It was awesome to see them bowl on special lanes built in Miller Park.

