

**Alexander A. Fleury
Knight of Woodbine
Baltimore County, Maryland
Inducted 2000**

Alexander A. Fleury, "Knight of Woodbine", was born in Towson, Maryland on May 1, 1922. In 1928 his family moved to the ancestral farm, "Woodbine" (established 1793), in Upper Falls, Maryland. Alex's father, Paul Aime Fleury III, a member of the Jousting Hall of Fame, had ridden in the in the early 1900's and taught several boys and girls, including his five sons, one daughter, one granddaughter and George and Mary Lou Bartram how to joust. Alex became interested in riding tournament at the age of twelve and in 1935 rode Mary Lou Bartram's horse, "Lady", in his first tournament at St. Mark's Church, Fallston, Maryland where he placed 2^d in the Amateur Class. In August of the same year he won 1st place with the only perfect score of the day at St. John's Church, Long Green Valley, Maryland which promoted him to the Professional Class. In the summer of 1936, Alex won several tournaments and placed in the money in various tournaments throughout Maryland. In 1937, he competed in the tournament at St. Stephen's Church, Bradshaw, Maryland and won the first of three victories necessary to retire the St. Stephen's Sterling Silver Trophy. Although not official, the winner of the St. Stephen's tournament was given the title of Maryland State Champion. Alex won the second leg in 1939 and the third in 1940 giving him permanent possession of the trophy and the title of Maryland State Jousting Champion for a third time. Alex won and placed in numerous tournaments during the seven years prior to World War II in 27 different locations in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

During World War II, Alex served three years as a pilot in the Army Air Force and was assigned to the European Theater for eight months. After the War he attended the University of Maryland School of Engineering and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. After graduating, he was employed by the J.E. Greiner Co,

an engineering firm in Baltimore. He spent his first two years working on the original Chesapeake Bay Bridge as a Construction Engineer and during the next thirteen years planned and designed many highways and bridges throughout the East. He married Katherine Smith of Bel Air, Maryland in 1952 and they have three daughters, Stephanie Anne Fleury McGuire (1955), Mary Josephine Fleury Voight (1959), and Alexandra Katherine Fleury Reynolds (1966). In 1965 he accepted a position with the Prince George's County Government Department of Public Works as Chief of Planning and Programming and was awarded his Professional Engineering Certification in 1968. After thirty-eight years in highway and bridge planning and design, he retired in 1988. Alex and Kitty now reside in a retirement community in Annapolis, Maryland where he spends most of his time working at the wood shop, playing bridge, gardening, fishing and of course playing with his five granddaughters and three grandsons.

The Knight of Woodbine last rode in a tournament in 1968 when his two eldest daughters begged him to compete. Although he had not ridden since 1955, he did not want to disappoint his girls so he agreed to ride in the Semi-Professional Class using a borrowed horse and lance. The several years that had passed since his last tournament had not dulled his skills in the least and he took 1st prize with a perfect ride.

Alex still believes that horses and jousting are a wonderful activity and is proud to be part of this majestic sport. He has collected many clippings and articles concerning the sport; and of course he still has his St. Stephen's Silver Loving Cup to remind him of "his glory days" as the Knight of Woodbine.

