

## **Jacob Burtner**

Knight of Elm Hill

Washington County, Maryland

Inducted 1979

Charter Member

Jacob Burtner was involved in the sport of jousting for over fifty years. He was an excellent rider and at the age of seventy years he won the Tilghmanton Joust with a perfect score, including three rings one-half inch in diameter. In the yearly days of his career, he won the Berkley Springs, West Virginia tournament on a horse he borrowed from someone who had driven it to the tournament hitched to a buggy.

Jake taught his only son, Walden, to joust and instilled in him the spirit of fair play and competitiveness. Walden became one of Maryland's finest riders, a great champion in his own right. Jake taught others to joust and he attended and participated in tournaments as long as his health permitted. He jousted at St. Mary's Church in Pylesville, Maryland when he was seventy-five years old.

In a newspaper interview in 1948 when he was seventy years old he stated: "If I were young again! If I were a young man I'd go into jousting and make a career of it. I'd joust from New York to San Francisco. Where jousting wasn't popular I'd make it popular." This personifies the devotion and enthusiasm Jake had for the sport and passed on to his son and others who knew him in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.