

The Masonic Research Gazette

DEVOTED TO HISTORY, SYMBOLISM, EDUCATION & THE PRIMARY SOURCES OF THE CRAFT

VOL. I | NO. 1

SUNDAY EDITION

SEPTEMBER 6-12, 2026

THIS WEEK'S BEST MASONIC RESEARCH

A measured selection for lecturers and writers. This was a thin week for newly published academic work; these items are labeled by type, and none is represented as a newly issued peer-reviewed paper.

Solomon's Temple in Myth & Ritual

Daniel Johnson | Sept. 10 | 2026 Prestonian Lecture

Quatuor Coronati's forthcoming lecture follows Solomon's Temple as historical building, biblical image, moral allegory, and central feature of Craft and Royal Arch traditions. Johnson connects medieval interpretation with Bunyan, Newton, Anderson, Thomas Wright, and Batty Langley.

Takeaway. Masonic Temple symbolism belongs to a much longer intellectual tradition than Freemasonry itself.

Lecture use. Separate the biblical Temple, later cultural interpretations, and specifically Masonic applications.

Source: [Quatuor Coronati](#)

A Visit to the Lodge in Barkerville

Tyler Baldwin / GL of British Columbia & Yukon | Surfaced Sept. 2 | Local history

A visual record of a lodge founded in the British Columbia gold-rush community of Barkerville in 1866. Its first two buildings burned; the present 1930s structure reproduces the original exterior. The founding members initially met in a saloon.

Takeaway. Lodge buildings show how Freemasonry traveled with frontier settlement and how communities reconstructed institutional memory after loss.

Lecture use. A case study in frontier Masonry, preservation, and historical reconstruction.

Source: [BC & Yukon eBee](#)

Eureka's Fourth Annual Day of Research

Florida York Rite Bodies | Announced Sept. 4 | Program notice

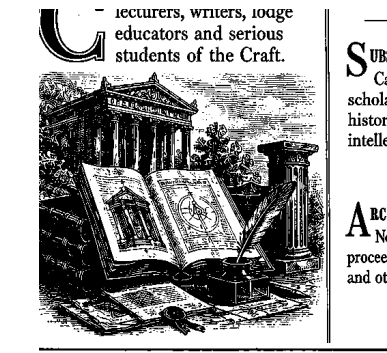
The September 19 program brings together the Florida Lodge of Research, Florida Chapter of Research, Florida Priory of Research, and Scottish Rite presenters in Dania Beach.

Takeaway. Coordinating researchers from several Masonic bodies encourages subjects to be examined across Craft, Capitular, chivalric, and Scottish Rite contexts.

Lecture use. Its multidisciplinary structure offers a model for a district education day or lodge research symposium.

Source: [Grand York Rite of Florida](#)

FROM THE ARCHIVES | FROM THE PROCEEDINGS



Decorative Gazette illustration - not a historical artifact

The Record That Survived the Fire

MASSACHUSETTS GRAND LODGE RECORDS AS INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY

The September 7, 1895 fire destroyed Boston's Masonic Temple, but much of its library survived. The Samuel Crocker Lawrence Library's digital collections now offer Grand Lodge proceedings dating to 1733, plus Moore's Masonic Monthly, the New England Craftsman, Royal Arch proceedings, and Knights Templar records.

Proceedings preserve charters, decisions, memorials, correspondence, building campaigns, and the language leaders used to explain the Craft. Read beside newspapers and lodge minutes, they help test later traditions against contemporary evidence.

Research exercise. Compare one year of local minutes with the same year's Grand Lodge proceedings. Note what each record explains, assumes, or contradicts.

Sources: [Lawrence Library Digital Collections](#) | [Masonic Digital Archives index](#)

THIS WEEK IN MASONIC HISTORY

Sept. 6, 1757 - Lafayette Is Born

Revolution, reform, and fraternity

Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, was born at Chavaniac in Auvergne, France. He became a Continental Army major general and a symbol of Franco-American cooperation.

His Masonic membership is well supported, although the exact lodge and initiation date remain disputed. The uncertainty makes him useful for teaching historical method as well as biography.

Program angle. How should Masonic educators distinguish lodge records from later fraternal tradition?

Source: [Encyclopedia Virginia](#)

Sept. 7, 1895 - Boston Temple Burns

Institutional memory in danger

Fire consumed Boston's post-Civil War Masonic Temple. Massachusetts Masons later replaced it with a more fire-resistant building.

Why it matters. The disaster opens a practical discussion of archival stewardship, insurance, disaster planning, and the vulnerability of lodge records and artifacts.

Program angle. Ask whether your lodge's minute books and historic photographs could survive a fire or flood today.

Source: [Massachusetts Freemasonry](#)

Sept. 11, 1777 - Lafayette at Brandywine

History later shaped by memory

Lafayette was wounded while attempting to rally retreating American troops at Brandywine. His conduct helped establish his reputation with Washington and the Continental Army.

Why it matters. The episode shows how later fraternal memory turns historical friendship into moral example, sometimes adding details the evidence cannot confirm.

Program angle. Compare a contemporary record with a later commemorative image.

Source: [Encyclopedia Virginia](#)

Sept. 11-12, 1826 - The Morgan Crisis

The fraternity's American crisis of trust

William Morgan was arrested after threatening to publish an exposure. Following his release the next evening, he was abducted and never reliably seen again. His fate remains unresolved and should not be reported as proven murder.

The affair damaged public confidence, produced prosecutions, and energized the Anti-Masonic movement.

Program angle. What obligations does an institution owe the public when members misuse private loyalty?

Source: [New York Courts Historical Society](#)

EDITOR'S CORNER | QUESTIONS FOR THE CRAFT

What the Fire Leaves Behind

A lodge may recover from the loss of a building, but it cannot recreate an unsigned photograph, an unscanned minute book, or the memory of why an old custom began. This week's Boston anniversary is an invitation to take custody of our own evidence.

Before the next stated communication, identify the lodge's oldest volume, confirm where it is stored, and decide who is responsible for a digital copy. Preservation is stewardship of the testimony future Brothers will need.

- Cameron B. Durham, 32° AASR

Three Questions for Lodge Discussion

- When does loyalty to an institution become harmful protection of its reputation?
- Which local lodge tradition can be documented, and which survives only through repetition?
- If a researcher opened our archives fifty years from now, what would our records reveal about the values we actually practiced?

MASONIC EDUCATION FOR THE WEEK

DID YOU KNOW?
Freemasons and the Statue of Liberty's Pedestal

DOCUMENTED PARTICIPATION - WITHOUT EXAGGERATION

The Statue of Liberty was not simply 'a Masonic project.' That formulation overstates the evidence. Nevertheless, there are documented Masonic connections.

Sculptor Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi was a member of Lodge Alsace-Lorraine in Paris. On August 5, 1884, William A. Brodie, Grand Master of Masons in New York, laid the pedestal's cornerstone in a formal Masonic ceremony. A time capsule containing civic and historical documents was placed beneath it.

The defensible conclusion is that Freemasons participated prominently in the monument's creation and public dedication - not that Freemasonry alone conceived or controlled it.

Sources: [Cornerstone account](#) | [National Park Service](#)

MASONIC READING ROOM

Search the Journals, Not Just the Web

The Museum of Freemasonry's Masonic Periodicals Online opens searchable runs of historic English-language journals. Periodicals capture debates, obituaries, lodge news, reviews, controversies, and changing interpretations that formal histories often compress or omit.

Research use. Search a symbol, person, lodge, or phrase by decade. Record the earliest verified appearance, then compare how later writers changed the claim. Treat periodical testimony as evidence from its own time, not an automatically authoritative verdict.

Digital collection: [Museum of Freemasonry](#)

FAMOUS FREEMASON
Marquis de Lafayette

1757-1834 | Soldier, reformer, and transatlantic Brother

Lafayette was a French aristocrat, military officer, political reformer, and advocate of constitutional liberty. He volunteered for the American cause, served as a major general, was wounded at Brandywine, and helped contain Cornwallis before Yorktown.

In France, he participated in the early Revolution and assisted in drafting the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

Lafayette was a Freemason, but details of his initiation are not securely documented. Accounts associate him with La Candeur or Le Contrat Social. A firmer record places him in Jerusalem Chapter No. 8 in New York during his 1824 American tour.

Masonry's role. His associations formed part of a transatlantic network of military, political, and intellectual friendship. The evidence does not justify attributing all his principles to the fraternity.

Lecture angle. How can we honor a Brother while separating records from retrospective legend?

Sources: [Biography](#) | [Masonic evidence](#)

SYMBOLISM IN FOCUS

Pillars, Globes, and a Developing Tradition

Familiar lodge furniture did not arrive everywhere in a single, fixed form. Early catechisms and floor designs show pillars developing across the eighteenth century; wardens' columns appear later, and globes were not uniformly represented.

Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty may provide a stable interpretive framework while their visual presentation changes across place and period.

Lecture use. Put dated tracing boards or floor cloths in sequence and distinguish enduring ideas from evolving material culture.

Source: [AOC study of pillars and globes](#)

WORKING TOOLS TIP
The Twenty-Four-Inch Gauge

COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

Operative use. A stonemason uses a rule or gauge to measure dimensions and lay out work accurately.

Masonic lesson. The gauge represents wise ordering of the day's twenty-four hours. It teaches proportion and disciplined stewardship of time, not necessarily a rigid division of every day into equal blocks.

This week's application. Conduct a one-day time audit. Identify one thirty-minute period lost to distraction and deliberately assign it to family, study, service, reflection, or needed rest.

Wording and interpretation vary by jurisdiction; no private ritual language is reproduced.

Source: [Grand Lodge of Ohio](#)

MEASURE THE HOURS

A well-spent day is not merely full. Attention is given in due proportion to duty, improvement, fellowship, and rest.

FIVE-MINUTE LODGE LESSON

Can Our Lodge History Survive a Disaster?

Minute 1: Ask which lodge record members would save first. Minutes 2-3: Explain how fire, water, poor storage, and obsolete media erase memory; use the 1895 Boston Temple fire as the case. Minute 4: Identify where the oldest minute book and photographs are stored. Minute 5: Assign a report on scanning, off-site backup, and disaster planning.

Closing question. Are we preserving enough context for a future historian to understand why the lodge acted as it did?

Starting point: [Lawrence Library Digital Collections](#)

29TH DISTRICT MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 6 through Saturday, September 12, 2026. Times are Eastern. Verify late changes before traveling.

DATE	TIME	LODGE OR BODY	EVENT	LOCATION
Mon., Sept. 7	6:30-7:30	Loris No. 205	Regular Communication	3517 Casey St., Loris
Mon., Sept. 7	6:45-7:45	Graddy No. 257	Regular Communication	842 S. Main St., Aynor
Mon., Sept. 7	7-8	Omar Harley Brigade	Meeting	From organizer
Mon., Sept. 7	7-8	Omar Pedalers	Meeting	10 Elm St., Conway
Mon., Sept. 7	7-8	Rainbow Girls No. 353	Meeting	905 US-501, Myrtle Beach
Tues., Sept. 8	6-7	Waccamaw Shrine Club	Meeting	10 Elm St., Conway
Tues., Sept. 8	6:30-7:30	Murrells Inlet No. 368	Regular Communication	620 County Rd. S-22-539
Tues., Sept. 8	6:30-7:30	Myrtle Beach No. 353	Regular Communication	905 US-501, Myrtle Beach
Thurs., Sept. 10	7:30-8:30	OES Waccamaw No. 89	Meeting	903 15th Ave., Conway
Thurs., Sept. 10	7:30-8:30	Omar Vettes	Meeting	From organizer
Fri., Sept. 11	5 p.m.	Scottish Rite	Fall Reunion - Day 1	1051 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.
Sat., Sept. 12	Ends 6 p.m.	Scottish Rite	Fall Reunion - Day 2	1051 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.

CANCELLED: Waccamaw Scottish Rite Club Regular Communication, Wednesday, September 9.

CALENDAR AUTHORITY & SOURCES

Meeting details were checked against the live [29th Masonic District calendar](#). Missing locations were not inferred. The Saturday reunion entry provides an ending time but no starting time.

Digital copies contain clickable source names. Principal domains: [quatuorcoronati.com](#), [freemasonry.bcy.ca](#), [grandyorkrite.org](#), [encyclopediaivirginia.org](#), [massfreemasonry.org](#), [history.nycourts.gov](#), [nps.gov](#), [freemason.com](#), and [afm29th.org](#).

ABOUT & PRINT SPECIFICATION

The Masonic Research Gazette is issued Sunday for lodge educators, lecturers, writers, and serious students of the Craft. Editor and publisher: Cameron B. Durham, 32° AASR - Masonic Lecturer and Writer.

Trim: 11 x 17 inches, portrait; two individual pages; black-and-white; 0.38-inch safety margin. Suitable for front-and-back commercial printing. Print at 100% scale; do not use 'fit to page.'

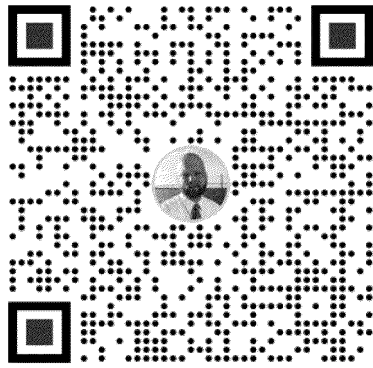
PLACE A CLASSIFIED

Reach readers interested in lodge education, Masonic books, lectures, regalia, restoration, research services, and district events. Small black-and-white notices are welcomed for consideration in a future Sunday edition. Space is limited; acceptance is at the publisher's discretion.

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