

The Masonic Research Gazette

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

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 6-19, 2026 | DISTRICT CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 20-OCTOBER 3, 2026

Cameron B. Durham, 32° AASR - Masonic Lecturer and Writer

1. THE FORTNIGHT'S BEST MASONIC RESEARCH

The reporting window yielded strong research presentations and a concentrated September 17 group of new intellectual-history essays. Material types are stated plainly; none of these lecture notices is misrepresented as peer-reviewed publication.

Solomon's Temple in Myth & Ritual
DANIEL JOHNSON | SEPT. 10 | PRESTONIAN RESEARCH LECTURE

Takeaway. The lecture follows the Temple across biblical interpretation, architecture and later Masonic usage. Lecture value. Separate the ancient text, early-modern reception and Craft application instead of treating them as one timeless tradition. Evidence note. This is a newly delivered research lecture, not yet a published paper; consult the eventual text before quoting its argument.

SOURCE: [Quatuor Coronati programme](#)

The Evolution of Freemasonry
RIC BERMAN | SEPT. 12 | LECTURE + Q&A;

Takeaway. A research-lodge speaker presented a broad historical-development argument in Almaty. Writing value. Use the event as a prompt to define which institution, jurisdiction and period is meant whenever “Freemasonry evolved” is claimed. The listing verifies the presentation and date, but not a peer-reviewed publication.

SOURCE: [QC speaker calendar](#)

A New QC Master, a Little-Known Order

QUATUOR CORONATI | SEPT. 10 | RESEARCH PROGRAM NOTICE

Takeaway. Adam Kendall was elected incoming Master; his announced installation paper examines the Knights Commanders of the Sun and nineteenth-century anti-Catholic fraternalism. Lecture value. Compare constitutions, badges, newspapers and membership records before assigning motives to an obscure order. The notice is valuable chiefly because it identifies a defined body, question and forthcoming research trail.

SOURCE: [Quatuor Coronati profile](#)

Two Archives, One Esoteric Friendship

COREY ANDREWS | SEPT. 17 | RESEARCH ESSAY / CATALOG EVIDENCE

Takeaway. Signed books, PRS journal notices and an original J. Augustus Knapp painting document exchanges between Manly P. Hall and Joost Ritman. Writing value. It models how inscriptions and institutional journals can establish contact while leaving private conversation uncertain. Ask what each object proves independently before combining them into a friendship narrative.

SOURCE: [Embassy of the Free Mind](#)

RESEARCH - CONTINUED

Hildegard and Embodied Beauty

MARIA MARQUÉS | SEPT. 17 | INTELLECTUAL-HISTORY ESSAY

Takeaway. Hildegard's music, theology and imagery are read as an embodied route toward transcendent beauty. Lecture value. Useful comparative context for beauty as a moral and metaphysical category - not evidence of Masonic descent. Use it to compare intellectual vocabularies while keeping chronology and institutional lineage separate.

SOURCE: [Embassy of the Free Mind](#)

The Stellar Rays of Pseudo-al-Kindi

LEONARDO BALDI | SEPT. 17 | HISTORY-OF-SCIENCE ESSAY

Takeaway. A medieval theory of rays connects cosmology, optics and occult causation. Lecture value. Helps distinguish historically situated “light” theories from later symbolic uses of light in fraternity and philosophy. A lodge program could map how one word changes meaning across science, religion and symbolism.

SOURCE: [Embassy of the Free Mind](#)

Ciphers and Angel Magic: John Dee

KAVI TIWARI | SEPT. 17 | COLLECTION-BASED RESEARCH ESSAY

Takeaway. The study treats Enochian material as part of the history of cryptography, secrecy and authority. Lecture value. A reminder that secret writing, esotericism and Freemasonry overlap as research subjects without being interchangeable. Similar techniques do not by themselves prove institutional transmission.

SOURCE: [Embassy of the Free Mind](#)

2. THE PAST TWO WEEKS IN MASONIC HISTORY

Sept. 14, 1797 - Webb's Monitor

RITUAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRINT

Thomas Smith Webb copyrighted the first edition of The Freemason's Monitor. Successive editions helped standardize American monitorial forms and organizational knowledge. The digitized volume lets readers test claims against the printed text. Lodge-program angle: compare editions and ask what print preserves, revises or normalizes.

SOURCE: [Digitized 1797 edition](#)

Sept. 14, 1901 - William McKinley Dies

MEMBERSHIP, MOURNING & PUBLIC MEMORY

The 25th president, made a Mason in Hiram Lodge No. 21 during the Civil War, died after being shot at Buffalo. Knights Templar marched in his September 19 funeral procession. Museum objects and procession records document public fraternal mourning. Program angle: ask how regalia and ritual shape civic remembrance.

SOURCE: [Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library](#)

Sept. 18, 1793 - Capitol Cornerstone

A DOCUMENTED PUBLIC MASONIC CEREMONY

Washington, Maryland and Virginia Masons processed to the federal construction site; a silver plate, corn, wine and oil formed part of the ceremony. The surviving newspaper report is unusually specific, while the stone's present identification remains uncertain. Program angle: distinguish documented ceremony from the broader, unsupported claim that “Masonry designed the government.”

SOURCE: [Architect of the Capitol](#)

3. FROM THE ARCHIVES / FROM THE PROCEEDINGS

THE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT
BENEATH THE CORNERSTONE
STORY

The Architect of the Capitol identifies the Columbia Mirror and Alexandria Gazette report as the only known eyewitness account of the September 18, 1793 ceremony. It records the procession, named officers, the plate inscription and consecration. That supports a public Masonic role with unusual precision.

Limits. One newspaper account cannot tell us every participant's motive, prove that Masonic ideas authored the Constitution, or settle the stone's present location. Later searches found neither the silver plate nor conclusive geochemical evidence; the AOC calls the leading identification circumstantial.

Lecturer's method. Put four columns on a handout: eyewitness statement, later institutional summary, physical evidence, and inference. Ask the lodge to label each claim before interpreting it.

SOURCES: [Architect of the Capitol](#) | [U.S. Senate Historical Office](#)

4. DID YOU KNOW?

A MASON FOUNDED DeMOLAY -
BUT THE YOUTH ORDER BUILT
ITS OWN IDENTITY

Frank S. Land (1890-1959), a member of Ivanhoe Lodge No. 446, began the youth club that became DeMolay in Kansas City in 1919 after meeting Louis G. Lower, the son of a deceased Mason. Masonic sponsorship and meeting space were formative; the organization was not simply another Craft degree. Documented influence: founder, mentors and institutional support. Not proved: that every later DeMolay practice came directly from lodge ritual.

SOURCE: [Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library exhibition](#)

5. FAMOUS FREEMASON

PRINCE HALL | c. 1735/38-1807

A Boston leatherworker, abolitionist and community leader, Hall and fourteen other Black men were initiated on March 6, 1775, by an Irish military lodge. African Lodge later received an English charter. Hall petitioned against slavery and kidnapping and advocated schooling for Black children.

Masonry's supported role. African Lodge supplied an organized forum, authority and language for community action. Uncertainties. Hall's birthplace, exact birth year and parts of his early life remain disputed; use “circa” and avoid the once-common Barbados certainty. Lecture angle: compare lodge records, petitions and later commemorative histories.

SOURCES: [Library of Congress resource guide](#) | [African Lodge history](#)

6. WORKING TOOLS TIP

THE LEVEL

Operative use. Establishes a true horizontal plane. Moral lesson. Equality of human worth and impartial dealing, while recognizing different duties and talents. It is commonly associated with a Fellow Craft lesson, but wording and placement vary by jurisdiction; no private ritual language is reproduced.

Fortnight practice. In one lodge discussion, invite the newest and longest-serving members to speak first on the same question. Measure whether rank quietly controls whose experience counts.

7. MASONIC READING ROOM

PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY: A RESOURCE GUIDE

The Library of Congress guide gathers books, articles, newspapers, prints, manuscripts and external archives. Its chief value is not a single narrative but a research trail across catalog systems and primary-source types. Subject headings and linked collections also help researchers discover vocabulary they may not know to search.

Limitations. A guide is selective; catalog descriptions are not substitutes for reading the item, and older works may repeat claims later scholarship disputes. Exercise. Choose one fact about African Lodge. Locate one contemporary newspaper, one organizational record and one modern scholarly account; record where they agree and where certainty changes.

READ: [Library of Congress guide](#)

8. SYMBOLISM IN FOCUS

THE BEEHIVE: INDUSTRY BEFORE ANCESTRY

Historical development. Bees and hives long represented ordered labor, eloquence, civic cooperation and religious virtue outside Masonry. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American Masonic monitors adopted the hive as an emblem of industry and mutual support.

Interpretation. The strongest lodge lesson is cooperative, useful labor - not proof that Freemasonry descends from Egypt, Ephesus or medieval monasticism. Modern claims that every ancient bee image is “Masonic” confuse shared symbolism with institutional continuity. Degree placement and wording vary by jurisdiction. Date the monitor, identify its audience and compare non-Masonic emblem books before claiming a uniquely Craft meaning.

SOURCES: [Grand Lodge of Ohio](#) | [BYU Studies cultural history](#)

9. FIVE-MINUTE LODGE LESSON

ONE SOURCE, THREE LEVELS OF CERTAINTY

Opening question: What can one newspaper prove?
Point 1: The 1793 report directly supports a procession, named Masonic officers and a cornerstone ceremony.
Point 2: The surviving account does not prove broad institutional authorship of American government.
Point 3: The missing plate and uncertain stone location show how physical evidence can complicate a written record.
Practical action: Label one lodge-history paragraph “record,” “inference” and “tradition.”
Closing question: Does careful limitation weaken a story - or make it trustworthy?

SOURCES: [Architect of the Capitol](#) | [U.S. Senate](#)

10. EDITOR’S CORNER / QUESTIONS FOR THE CRAFT

THE COURAGE TO PRINT THE LIMIT

The strongest sentence in lodge history may be the one that says what the evidence cannot establish. Limits are not apologies. They show the reader exactly where the record ends and interpretation begins. This fortnight, let us honor the Craft by making every worthy claim checkable. A citation is not decoration: it is an invitation for the next Brother to test, refine or correct the story.

- Cameron B. Durham, 32° AASR
Masonic Lecturer and Writer

DISCUSS

- Which lodge story most needs a contemporary source?
- When does a shared cultural symbol become distinctly Masonic?
- What should a public institution disclose when members misuse private loyalty?

11. SOUTHEASTERN MASONIC CONVENTIONS & STATE MEETINGS

Official public pages for AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA and WV were reviewed. Only the following qualifying events carried verifiable public details relevant to this issue horizon. Missing costs, eligibility and contacts are not inferred.

N.C. 250th Anniversary Dinner at Annual Communication

Sept. 25, 2026 | Winston-Salem, N.C. Sponsor: Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of North Carolina. The official anniversary page confirms the dinner within Annual Communication. Venue, time, eligibility, cost and deadline were not published on the public page.

POINT OF CONTACT: Grand Lodge office; 2921 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27608; (919) 787-2021. Additional contact details were not published.

OFFICIAL SOURCE: [N.C. 250th calendar](#)

Georgia 9th Masonic District Convention

Sept. 26, 2026 | Georgia Sponsor: Grand Lodge of Georgia, F.&A.M.; The official table lists the date; time, location, host lodge, eligibility and cost remain “TBD” or unpublished. Registration is normally one hour before the meeting, but the event time is not posted.

POINT OF CONTACT: Grand Lodge of Georgia responsible office. The event page publishes no named contact, email, telephone or mailing address.

OFFICIAL SOURCE: [Official district-convention table](#)

Liberty Gala - 250 Years of American Independence

Oct. 3, 2026 | Embassy Suites Fayetteville/Fort Bragg, 4760 Lake Valley Dr., Fayetteville, N.C. Grand Lodge of North Carolina; hosted by Historic Phoenix Lodge No. 8. Bus history tour 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; cocktails 5 p.m.; dinner 6 p.m. Bus \$40; dinner \$130. Formal attire/dark suit. Audience eligibility is not stated. Ticket page gives conflicting Sept. 2 and Sept. 19 deadlines; both have passed.

POINT OF CONTACT: Janice, JW Events Group; janice@jweventsgroup.com; (336) 209-3230.

OFFICIAL SOURCE: [Official registration page](#)

Brent Morris Dinner-Lecture & Book Signing

Oct. 8, 2026 | Chattanooga Scottish Rite, 1345 Hickory Valley Rd., Chattanooga, Tenn. Listed by Quatuor Coronati and hosted by the Valley of Chattanooga, A.A.S.R., S.J. Audience, exact time, price and registration deadline were not published on the cited public notices.

POINT OF CONTACT: Rick Genter, 33°, General Secretary; Valley office (423) 855-0175. A direct event email was not published.

OFFICIAL SOURCE: [QC speaker calendar](#)

12. 29TH DISTRICT MEETINGS - NEXT TWO WEEKS

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20-SATURDAY, OCT. 3 | EASTERN TIME
Live AFM29th calendar checked Sept. 20. No cancellations were displayed.

Mon., Sept. 21 | 12:30-7 p.m.
Rainbow for Girls - Myrtle Beach 353
Myrtle Beach Lodge 353, 905 US-501, Myrtle Beach

Mon., Sept. 21 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Myrtle Beach Shrine Club
9589 N. Kings Hwy., Myrtle Beach

Mon., Sept. 21 | 7-8 p.m.
Masters & Wardens - Winyah 40
2617 S. Fraser St., Georgetown

Wed., Sept. 23 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Scottish Rite Regular Communication - Charleston Temple
1051 Sam Rittenberg Blvd., Charleston

Thu., Sept. 24 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Master Mason Degree - Myrtle Beach 353
905 US-501, Myrtle Beach

12. DISTRICT CALENDAR - CONTINUED

Mon., Sept. 28 | 7-8 p.m.
Conway Commandery No. 25
Conway Lodge 65, 903 15th Ave., Conway

Mon., Sept. 28 | 7-8 p.m.
Conway York Rite Bodies - Conway 65
903 15th Ave., Conway

Mon., Sept. 28 | 7-8 p.m.
Omar Chefs
9589 N. Kings Hwy., Myrtle Beach

Thu., Oct. 1 | 6:45-7:15 p.m.
Pawleys Island 409 Regular Communication
75 Haunted Trail, Pawleys Island

Thu., Oct. 1 | 7-8 p.m.
Omar Goofy Golfers
3945 Lake Dr., Loris

Thu., Oct. 1 | 7:30-8 p.m.
Order of DeMolay - Conway 65
10th Ave., Conway

Fri., Oct. 2 | 7-8 p.m.
Conway York Rite Bodies
903 15th Ave., Conway

Sat., Oct. 3 | 4-5 p.m.
Outdoor Degree - Loris 205
Location not displayed

CALENDAR SOURCE: [AFM29th.org live calendar](#)

Verification note. Each listing above was transcribed from the displayed live calendar; no recurring meeting was inferred. The Oct. 3 outdoor degree had no location displayed. Distinct Conway York Rite entries were retained as separate calendar records. Readers should reopen the official calendar before travel for late cancellations or location changes.

13. CLASSIFIEDS

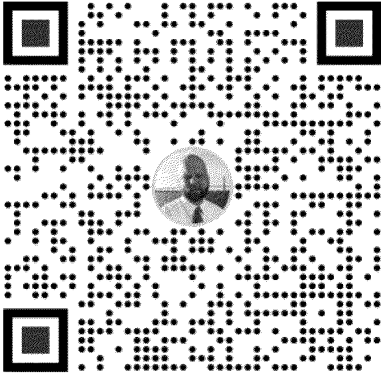
NOTICE TO LODGES, AUTHORS & ARTISANS

Appropriate classified submissions are invited for lodge education, Masonic books, lectures, regalia, restoration, research services and district events. Notices should be factual, concise and suitable for a high-contrast print edition. Acceptance remains at the Editor's discretion.

Submissions should identify the responsible lodge, author, artisan or service; distinguish public events from member-only work; and supply a verifiable source for dates and claims. No contact address, price or deadline is printed here until the Editor publishes one.

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