

The Masonic Research Gazette

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

VOL. I

SUNDAY EDITION

OCTOBER 4-10, 2026

THIS WEEK'S BEST MASONIC RESEARCH

A measured selection for lecturers and writers. Archival resources, exhibitions and forthcoming programs are labeled by type; no newly published peer-reviewed paper was verified this week.

EXHIBITION | CLOSING OCTOBER 16

Before Independence Becomes Legend

The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library's Nothing Short of Independence brings wartime documents into the United States' 250th anniversary year. Its materials include a soldier's discharge certificate signed by George Washington.

Documents bring the practical work of war into view: people, supplies, service and the difficult transition to peace. They also help a lecturer distinguish a contemporary record from the story later built around it.

Lecture use. Ask what a document proves, what it suggests and what it cannot tell us. The exhibition runs April 6-October 16, 2026.

Source: [1] SRMML

EXHIBITION | THROUGH DECEMBER 4

Maps Are Arguments, Too

Mapping Change in North America, 1755-1834 examines how maps recorded and asserted territorial claims. War, settlement and Indigenous lands belong in the story of the changing boundaries.

A map deserves the same careful questions as a written account: Who made it? For whom? Which interests did it serve? Its confident lines can conceal competing claims.

Lecture use. Pair a regional map with a lodge charter. Geography supplies context; it does not by itself prove Masonic influence. On view through December 4, 2026.

Source: [2] SRMML

RESEARCH PREVIEW | NOVEMBER 12

An Uncomfortable Chapter

Quatuor Coronati announces Adam Kendall's The Knights Commanders of the Sun and Nineteenth-Century Anti-Catholic Fraternalism for November 12, 2026.

The published synopsis describes an order founded around 1875, its Masonic and fraternal influences, and research using rare primary sources. This is a preview of the announced paper, not a review of the full text.

Discussion. How should researchers distinguish a member's ideology, a related organization's beliefs and the principles of Freemasonry? Honest history makes room for difficult evidence.

Source: [3] Quatuor Coronati

FROM THE ARCHIVES | FROM THE PROCEEDINGS

The Minutes May Have the Last Word

A local tradition may begin with an old meeting place, a charter date or a story about why the lodge adopted a custom. Its age alone does not establish its accuracy.

QC's research resources provide early Grand Lodge minutes, AQC indexes and links to older volumes. Such records offer ways to test a later account against evidence from its own time.

Research exercise. Write three headings: Claim, Contemporary Evidence, Later Retelling. Choose one tradition and locate its earliest support. A missing reference in one source is not automatically disproof.

This is an invitation to investigate; no new finding from Graddy's minute books is claimed.

Source: [4] QC resources

THE RESEARCHER'S NOTEBOOK

Claim: What exactly is being asserted?

Record: What is the earliest supporting source?

Limit: What does the evidence leave unresolved?

Record author, date, volume and page. Keep an uncertainty visible until evidence resolves it.

THIS WEEK IN MASONIC HISTORY

THIS WEEK IN MASONIC HISTORY

October 8, 1793: Hancock Dies

John Hancock died on October 8, 1793. The National Park Service documents his public career; Massachusetts Grand Lodge identifies him among the members of the Lodge of Saint Andrew associated with the Sons of Liberty.

The familiar signature should not stand in for the whole man. His responsibilities included the presidency of the Continental Congress and service as governor of Massachusetts.

Why it matters. A famous Brother's membership is a historical fact. The influence of Masonry on each decision is a separate question that needs evidence. This anniversary invites thoughtful biography rather than easy attribution.

Source: [5] NPS | [6] Massachusetts GL

THIS WEEK IN MASONIC HISTORY

Chicago Burns; Relief Travels

The Great Chicago Fire began on October 8, 1871. California's Grand Lodge historical timeline reports that California Masons responded by raising more than \$13,000 for relief.

The anniversary marks the disaster's beginning; the fundraising followed. It offers a practical example of help reaching beyond a lodge's immediate neighborhood.

For the lodge. What assistance can we organize, finish and account for? Relief becomes more useful when an intention has an assigned task, a responsible person and a clear result. The historical figure is reported as published, without an invented modern-dollar equivalent.

Source: [7] California GL

EDITOR'S CORNER | QUESTIONS FOR THE CRAFT

Aim the Gavel Carefully

A Brother can spend an entire evening explaining how the lodge ought to improve and still leave his own rough edges untouched. The common gavel is a working tool, not a remote control for the fellow across the room.

This week, choose one small piece of work: return the call, welcome the quiet visitor, read the source before repeating the story, or finish the task you promised. Wisdom is useful; wisdom with its sleeves rolled up is better. We need not solve every problem before the next meeting. We can, however, arrive having improved something besides our opinion of ourselves.

Cameron B. Durham

Draft prepared for the editor's review.

Three Questions for Lodge Discussion

1. Which opinion needs better evidence?
2. Which personal habit needs work?
3. Which act of relief can we finish this week?

MASONIC EDUCATION FOR THE WEEK

DID YOU KNOW?

Connections Need Context

Massachusetts Grand Lodge identifies John Hancock, Paul Revere and Joseph Warren as Saint Andrew members associated with the Sons of Liberty.

Overlapping membership does not establish that a lodge formally directed every revolutionary action. A Masonic connection should lead to a better question, not an automatic conclusion.

Source: [6] Massachusetts GL

MASONIC READING ROOM

Read Beyond the Index

QC offers a searchable list of AQC papers through 2025, indexes and links to early volumes.

Assignment. Search a symbol or lodge name. Find the full paper and note its author, year, volume and page. Then identify the evidence behind its central claim. An index locates the reading; it does not replace it.

Source: [4] QC resources

FAMOUS FREEMASON

John Hancock

Merchant, congressional president, governor

Hancock’s public life brought commerce, revolutionary politics and government together. His presidency of the Continental Congress placed him at the center of its work; his service as Massachusetts governor continued beyond the struggle for independence.

Massachusetts Grand Lodge identifies his membership in the Lodge of Saint Andrew. Honor the documented Brother while keeping his membership distinct from claims about the motivation behind each public act.

Source: [5] NPS | [6] Massachusetts GL

SYMBOLISM IN FOCUS

Conduct and Limits

The Grand Lodge of Ohio’s public account presents the square as a reminder of upright dealings and the compasses as moderation and self-restraint.

This week’s application. Being right in an argument does not excuse an uncharitable manner. Test both the claim and the conduct used to defend it.

This is public educational interpretation; ritual wording and usage vary by jurisdiction.

Source: [8] Ohio GL

WORKING TOOLS TIP

One Rough Edge at a Time

The common gavel shapes rough stone and symbolizes personal improvement. Ohio’s public educational account connects it with work, reflection and the removal of imperfections.

A seven-day practice. Identify one recurring habit. Pause when it arises, choose one constructive replacement and review progress. This exercise is editorial application, not prescribed ritual.

Source: [9] Ohio GL

FIVE-MINUTE LODGE LESSON

Can You Prove That?

Minute 1: Present a claim about a famous Mason. Minute 2: Identify the source. Minute 3: Separate membership, public action and inferred motive. Minute 4: Show one verified account and one uncertainty. Minute 5: Ask members to bring evidence for a local tradition.

Use Hancock as the example. The aim is a better research habit.

29TH DISTRICT MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Published recurring schedules. Individual October occurrences are unconfirmed. All times Eastern; confirm before traveling.

DATE	LODGE / BODY	MEAL	MEETING	LOCATION / STATUS
Mon., Oct. 5	Graddy No. 257 AFM	6:45 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	842 S. Main St., Aynor Schedule-based [10]
Mon., Oct. 5	Loris No. 205 AFM	6:45 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	3517 Casey St., Loris Schedule-based [11]

Looking ahead locally: Myrtle Beach No. 353 and Murrells Inlet No. 368 publish second-Tuesday schedules: October 13, meal 6:45 / meeting 7:30 p.m. Murrells Inlet now lists 620 Collins Ave.; confirm the address before travel. [12,13]

Calendar authority: This is a schedule-based shortlist, not a complete district calendar. The embedded dated event list was unavailable in the extracted public page. Calendar updates: waccamawsrc@gmail.com. [14]

CONVENTIONS, RESEARCH GATHERINGS & LOOKING AHEAD

Oct. 16-17 | Prince Hall Holy Royal Arch, SC. Organizer lists 9 a.m. Friday through 5 p.m. Saturday. Confirm venue, eligibility and current fees; the September 26 early-registration deadline has passed. ggcchram.com [15]

Oct. 20 | Greenville Scottish Rite. Empire Lodge, Mauldin; meal 6:15, meeting 7:15 p.m. Visitors need a current Scottish Rite dues card. greenvillescottishrite.org [16]

Oct. 28 | Charleston Feast of Tishri. District lists meeting 7:30 p.m.; standing dinner time 6:30. Confirm reservations and details: (843) 571-4699, secretary@SRCharleston.org. [17]

Research ahead: QC’s Kendall lecture, Nov. 12, 2026; Cambridge conference, Sept. 3-5, 2027. Check attendance and booking terms. [3,18]

CALENDAR AUTHORITY & SOURCES | PUBLISHER’S DESK

SOURCE DESK

[1] SRMML: Independence exhibit

[2] SRMML: Mapping Change

[3] QC: November lecture

[4] QC: Research resources

[5] NPS: John Hancock

[6] Massachusetts GL: Tea Party

[7] California GL: Historical timeline

[8] Ohio GL: Square & compasses

[9] Ohio GL: Common gavel

[10] AFM29th: Graddy

[11] AFM29th: Loris

[12] AFM29th: Myrtle Beach

[13] AFM29th: Murrells Inlet

[14] AFM29th: Calendar

[15] Prince Hall HRAM: Annual session

[16] Greenville Scottish Rite

[17] AFM29th: Charleston SR

[18] QC: Cambridge conference

ABOUT & PRINT SPECIFICATION

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PLACE A CLASSIFIED

Masonic books, lectures, regalia, restoration, research assistance and district notices are welcomed for consideration. Acceptance is at the editor’s discretion. Contact, rates and deadlines await confirmation.

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CAMERON B. DURHAM

THE CAROLINA CRAFT

South Carolina’s Place in the Masonic Story

PUBLIC HISTORY & EDUCATION | Historical statements are sourced. Discussion exercises and practical applications are original Gazette material, not private ritual or an account of completed lodge work.

Why A.F.M.?

The name records a union, not a contest of prestige.

South Carolina’s Grand Lodge account traces the designation Ancient Free Masons to the union completed on December 26, 1817. Thomas W. Bacot presided at the joint communication and became Grand Master of the united body. The account describes an earlier, short-lived union and renewed negotiations before the final settlement.

The initials deserve their proper place in a local lodge notice. They identify a jurisdiction’s inherited name. They should not be turned into a claim that the individual Brother is more ancient, more legitimate or more learned than a neighbor whose jurisdiction uses another designation.

For a local lecture, start with the exact institutional name, then explain the history behind it. End with a practical question: when our own disagreements arise, what steps make reconciliation durable rather than merely ceremonial? That question is an editorial application of the history, not a claim about present disputes.

Sources: [19]

Harmony Requires More Than a Vote

A discussion for the present, suggested by the past.

The word harmony is easy to put in a speech and harder to put into a working arrangement. A unanimous vote can record an intention, but everyday conduct determines whether the intention survives. The useful local question is not whether members agree on everything. It is whether they can disagree without depriving one another of dignity.

Consider a routine disagreement over a meal, a program or a building project. Before debating a solution, identify the actual decision, the people it affects and the information still missing. Some quarrels persist because members are arguing about different questions under the same heading.

For discussion, let one Brother state his concern while another restates it fairly before answering. The exercise does not guarantee agreement. It does establish that listening has taken place. No jurisdictional rule is proposed here; this is a simple educational exercise in the conduct of fellowship.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

Charleston, May 31, 1801

A South Carolina beginning with a wider history.

The Valley of Charleston’s history, adapted from Arturo de Hoyos, places the opening of the Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree in Charleston on May 31, 1801, with John Mitchell and Frederick Dalcho presiding. It identifies the council as the first Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree in the world.

This is a firm place to begin a South Carolina presentation. Yet the opening of a governing body is not the same thing as the invention of every degree it later administered. The historical account follows earlier high-degree developments and the Order of the Royal Secret before reaching Charleston.

The local significance is considerable without embellishment. A lecturer can honor the city’s role while keeping a timeline of earlier developments beside the founding date. Readers should consult the full institutional history for the distinctions; this brief introduction does not reproduce degree ceremonies or private ritual.

Sources: [20]

A Name Is Not a Map

How to avoid letting a label write the history.

A historical name can carry a tradition, an aspiration or an association. It need not describe the birthplace of every element of an institution. The careful reader therefore asks what a label meant when it was used, who used it and what evidence connects it to the subject under discussion.

For a Scottish Rite study evening, prepare a page with three headings: name, document and date. Do not begin by assuming that familiar modern organization names appeared unchanged in every earlier record. Search the wording that the document itself uses, then explain how it relates to the modern institution.

This method also helps with local lodge names. A commemorative title, a town name and a number may each have a separate history. The small labor of identifying them prevents an attractive phrase from becoming an unsupported origin story. The exercise concerns historical method, not the value of a tradition.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

A Cornerstone With a Question

Washington’s ceremony is documented; its exact location is harder.

The United States Senate’s historical account dates George Washington’s laying of the Capitol cornerstone to September 18, 1793. It describes the procession with Masons and an inscribed silver plate placed beneath the stone. It also explains that the exact location of that cornerstone remains uncertain.

The episode offers a useful distinction between an event and a surviving object. Evidence that a ceremony occurred does not mean every later detail about the building can be settled. A record may establish one point securely while leaving another unresolved.

Use the example in a lodge history lesson: list the event, the record used to describe it and the remaining question. Resist the temptation to make the story more complete than the evidence allows. An honest uncertainty can make a lecture more interesting because it invites further inquiry instead of closing the matter with a flourish.

Sources: [21]

Washington Beyond the Portrait

Membership, public action and inferred motivation.

Mount Vernon’s account describes Washington’s Masonic activity, including his association with Alexandria Lodge, his correspondence with lodges and his participation in the Capitol cornerstone ceremony. It also records Masonic rites at his funeral. These are specific connections that can be discussed without attributing every political decision to Freemasonry.

A portrait of a famous Brother may open a conversation, but it cannot carry the whole argument. Ask what the person actually did within a lodge, what he said about the fraternity and which documents support the account. Distinguish those questions from the influence a modern reader would like to find.

For a presentation, choose one documented episode rather than racing through a list of accomplishments. Give the audience enough context to understand the action. A modest claim with a clear source will usually teach more than a grand claim whose evidence disappears when somebody asks for the page number.

Sources: [22]

Paul Revere Had Work to Do

A life in the Craft extended beyond one famous ride.

The Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction profiles Paul Revere as a silversmith, entrepreneur and Freemason. Its account describes his extensive service in Masonic office, his work toward the 1792 merger of Boston’s two Grand Lodges and his subsequent service as Grand Master.

That administrative work offers a different lens from the familiar patriotic story. Institutions depend on members who keep records, bring people together and finish unglamorous duties. These tasks seldom produce a dramatic image, but they help make a continuing organization possible.

A useful famous-Freemason program can therefore ask about service rather than celebrity. Which responsibilities did the Brother accept? What can be learned from the work itself? This issue avoids an exact initiation date because institutional summaries differ on that detail; the officeholding and broader association are enough for the present educational purpose.

Sources: [23]

The Local History Waiting at Home

A small project that does not require a famous ancestor.

Choose one modest object in your lodge: a photograph, an officer’s jewel, a minute book or an old program. Write down what is already known and separate it from what has only been repeated. The first result may be a short description with several questions. That is still useful progress.

Record the location of the object, the visible date and any names written on it. Ask a responsible lodge officer before handling records or making copies. A family recollection may supply a lead, but preserve it as a recollection rather than quietly converting it into a verified fact.

Publish a small research note only after its central claim has support. If uncertainty remains, name it. A careful account of one local object gives future readers something they can test and extend. An elaborate story without sources merely gives them more work to undo.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

SYMBOLISM IN FOCUS

The Tools Are Waiting for the Hand

PUBLIC HISTORY & EDUCATION | Historical statements are sourced. Discussion exercises and practical applications are original Gazette material, not private ritual or an account of completed lodge work.

The Beehive: Shared Labor

A symbol of industry, not a licence to overwork.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio’s public educational account treats the beehive as an emblem of industry and cooperative work. Its lodge application stresses that work at different levels contributes to the whole, including the responsibility of experienced members to assist those still learning.

For this week’s discussion, ask what cooperation looks like when it is working. A completed task may depend on the person who planned it, the person who carried it out and the person who noticed a missing detail. Applause for only the most visible role can hide the shared labor.

The Gazette’s application is simple: distribute one lodge task with a clear result, a named helper and a realistic deadline. Afterwards, thank the people whose effort made the result possible. Industry is not proved by keeping every Brother busy. It is better shown by useful work completed without needless strain on the people doing it.

Sources: [24]

Do Not Confuse Noise With Industry

A practical discussion for any committee.

A committee can be very active without getting nearer to its purpose. A useful way to test its work is to finish the sentence: because of this meeting, somebody can now do something that could not be done before. If the sentence has no answer, the group may need a clearer decision.

Choose one project and write its intended result in ordinary language. State what completion would look like. Then divide the work into tasks small enough for individual members to understand. A list of helpers is more useful when every helper knows what assistance is wanted.

This is an editorial exercise inspired by the beehive, not a prescribed way to conduct lodge business. It gives the symbol an observable application. At the next review, ask what was finished, what was learned and what remains. Those questions make cooperation easier to see and make praise more fairly shared.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

The Rough and Perfect Ashlars

Usefulness gives improvement a practical direction.

Ohio’s public account contrasts the rough ashlar with the stone prepared for use in building. It presents the pair as symbols of growth through work, education and the support of others. Its interpretation emphasizes contribution rather than a claim that any person becomes flawless.

That distinction helps keep a symbol from becoming a weapon. Calling another Brother rough may flatter the speaker more than it helps the listener. A better application begins with the work one can honestly identify in oneself: attention, patience, reliability or the willingness to learn.

For a short lesson, ask each participant to name a task he now performs more capably than a year ago. Then ask what helped him improve. Practice, correction and another person’s encouragement may all belong in the answer. The ashlar becomes a way to speak about growth without turning fellowship into a competition over who appears most polished.

Sources: [25]

Correction Without Humiliation

A lesson is stronger when the learner can use it.

An experienced member may notice an error immediately. The first question is whether he can correct it in a way that leaves the learner able and willing to try again. The second is whether the correction addresses the task instead of attacking the person.

Begin with the specific point that needs attention. Demonstrate a better approach if that is helpful, then give the learner a chance to apply it. A long explanation of one’s own experience can be less useful than a short explanation of what to do next.

This proposed discussion concerns ordinary instruction and fellowship, not changes to ritual or lodge authority. Invite participants to compare two examples: a correction that helped them and one that made learning harder. Identify the difference in conduct. The purpose is to improve the way members teach, while keeping the standard of the work intact.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

Plumb and Level

Upright conduct and equal regard belong together.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio’s working-tools account associates the plumb with integrity and the level with equality. Its public explanation places the tools alongside the square as moral reminders in the Fellow Craft’s education. California’s public symbolism account makes similar associations.

For everyday application, test both the treatment and the standard. Does a member receive a fair hearing? Is the same expectation of honesty applied to the familiar friend and the newcomer? Equal regard need not mean pretending that every person has the same skills, duties or authority.

Ask a discussion group to consider an ordinary decision: allocating a task or responding to a suggestion. Separate the relevant qualifications from matters that should not decide the outcome. The point is not to recite a symbol beautifully and leave it on the wall. It is to make conduct more upright and judgment more even-handed.

Sources: [26], [27]

The Trowel and a Difficult Conversation

Friendship can carry a truthful disagreement.

Ohio’s public account explains the trowel through its operative use in spreading the material that joins stones. Its Masonic interpretation concerns brotherly love and friendship. The image provides an opening for a practical question: what joins people when the conversation becomes uncomfortable?

Avoid assuming that affection requires agreement or that disagreement requires hostility. State the issue clearly, give the other person room to answer and keep the matter separate from unrelated grievances. A useful response may be firm without making the relationship expendable.

For a discussion exercise, describe a harmless fictional disagreement over a lodge program. Ask which words help the speakers understand each other and which turn the exchange into a contest. The exercise is original editorial application. Its aim is conduct that can sustain both honest speech and continued fellowship, rather than a polished appearance of peace.

Sources: [26]

The Common Gavel Returns

One small improvement can be a serious piece of work.

The common gavel appeared in this issue’s working-tools tip as a public symbol of shaping rough stone and personal improvement. The practical exercise deserves a second look because it asks for an action small enough to repeat rather than a promise large enough to impress.

Choose a habit you can observe: interrupting a speaker, putting off a promised call or repeating a claim before checking it. Describe a replacement action in one sentence. When the occasion arises, apply the replacement and note what happened. A short review at the end of the week is enough.

The point is not to score another person’s character. It is to connect attention with action. If the plan failed, make it more specific before making the promise more ambitious. This follow-up is a Gazette exercise; it does not introduce private ritual or prescribe a jurisdiction’s interpretation.

Sources: [9]

The Gauge Leaves Room for Rest

Proportion can be practiced without a rigid timetable.

Ohio’s public explanation of the twenty-four-inch gauge uses the tool as a reminder of balance and stewardship of time. It presents the day as something to use deliberately. The lesson need not be made into a claim that every life can be divided into identical blocks.

A member may be balancing employment, family responsibilities, study and needed rest. Start with the demands that are real, then identify one small period that could be used with greater intention. A plan that ignores necessary rest or other responsibilities will not become wiser merely by sounding industrious.

For discussion, ask what a well-spent half hour could look like this week. Reading, helping, listening and resting may all be appropriate answers in different circumstances. The application is original: the gauge encourages proportion, while the member must still exercise judgment about the actual day in front of him.

Sources: [28]

THE MASONIC READING ROOM

Before the Story Goes Into Print

PUBLIC HISTORY & EDUCATION | Historical statements are sourced. Discussion exercises and practical applications are original Gazette material, not private ritual or an account of completed lodge work.

A Book of Rules With a Wider Life

Anderson’s Constitutions belongs in its own historical setting.

The Museum of Freemasonry describes the 1723 Constitutions as more than a rulebook. The volume included a legendary history, songs and a reworking of the stonemasons’ ancient charges. The museum also traces editions produced in other places and languages.

This combination should influence how the book is read. Regulations, legendary narrative and song are different kinds of text. They should not be treated as though each offered the same kind of historical testimony. A reader must identify what a passage is doing before deciding what it proves.

For a lodge reading session, select a short public passage and identify its category. Is it instructing conduct, telling an origin story or expressing a shared ideal? The exercise does not diminish the work’s importance. It gives that importance a more precise explanation and prevents reverence for a book from replacing attention to its contents.

Sources: [29]

Franklin the Printer

A book’s travels offer a research trail.

The same museum account identifies Benjamin Franklin’s 1734 publication in Philadelphia as America’s first Masonic book. It describes that edition as a copy of Anderson’s text with an additional song. This is a specific printing connection rather than a general claim that Franklin originated the work.

The useful research question is what changes when a text is printed for a new audience. Begin with the title page, imprint and contents. Compare the items that can actually be inspected. Do not assume that a change in place or publisher necessarily produced a change in teaching.

An educational display can place those questions beside a local anniversary booklet. Who printed it? Who chose its contents? Which earlier source was used? The method brings the history of a famous publication into contact with the ordinary books a lodge owns, where evidence may be close enough to examine directly.

Sources: [29]

The Index Is Only the Door

AQC is a route into a subject, not a substitute for reading.

Quatuor Coronati’s research resources provide a searchable paper list, indexes and access routes to older AQC volumes. These are useful starting points when a lecturer has a subject but no reliable trail of reading. The resource’s existence does not make every later summary of a paper accurate.

Write down the exact title, author and publication details of a promising item. Obtain the complete text where access permits. Read the argument and the evidence before turning the title into a takeaway. An attractive title can concern a narrower subject than the reader first expects.

For a group, let each member report one claim, one source supporting it and one question left open. The exercise is small enough for a single meeting. It makes research visible as a process that can be checked, rather than a performance in which the speaker’s confidence has to stand in for the missing citation.

Sources: [4]

Search Like a Patient Reader

A practical sequence for finding the missing reference.

Begin with the words a source is likely to contain, not the conclusion you hope to reach. Try a person’s name, a lodge name, a title or a distinctive phrase. When the first search fails, note what was tried and change one part of the search at a time.

Older documents may use a spelling or designation different from the one familiar today. A broad search can help discover that difference; a narrower search can then test it. Keep the search result separate from the evidence. A result points to material, while the material itself must be read.

This is original Gazette guidance for a reading session. Give participants ten minutes to locate a source and five minutes to explain why it is relevant. Reward a clearly stated limit as much as a successful find. Good searching makes it easier to know what has been checked and what remains.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

A Minute Book Has a Purpose

Read institutional records without asking them to be everything.

A minute book was made for the business of an institution. It may record a motion, an election or a payment while saying little about the conversation that made the decision possible. A later newspaper report may supply color but omit the exact wording of the motion.

When sources differ, first ask whether they were trying to do the same job. The difference between a formal record and a public account can explain an apparent mismatch without making either worthless. It can also reveal a real contradiction that deserves closer attention.

For a local exercise, compare one event in two records and write a short note about what each adds. Do not publish personal information simply because it appears in an old volume. Obtain the appropriate permission for access and reproduction. The proposed method is a way to improve research practice, not a finding about any particular lodge’s records.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

Photographs Need Their Names

Identification gives an image a future.

A group photograph can survive in excellent condition and still lose much of its meaning if nobody records the people, place or occasion. An attractive image caption should therefore begin with identification, not an embellished story about what the photograph must represent.

Write down any original inscription before adding a new description. Distinguish a name supplied by a witness from a name established by a dated record. When uncertainty remains, keep the wording honest: identified by, believed to be or not yet identified. Preserve the source of the identification as well as the proposed answer.

For a lodge project, begin with one photograph rather than an entire cupboard. Seek permission, make an appropriate copy and attach a short descriptive note. The result may be modest, but it gives the next researcher a starting point that is stronger than a familiar face accompanied only by somebody’s best guess.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

A Map Is a Viewpoint

An exhibition prompts a question for local history.

The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library’s Mapping Change exhibition examines territorial claims and changing boundaries in North America. This issue’s research selection points readers to the exhibition as historical context, not as evidence that Freemasonry controlled those changes.

The accompanying exercise is to look at an old map and ask who made it, when it was published and what the boundaries represent. Compare the map’s date with the event being discussed. A later map may show a place clearly while still being unsuitable as evidence of its earlier name or limits.

Then locate the lodge or town in a separate contemporary record. The two sources may enrich each other, but neither should be made to carry a claim outside its purpose. This exercise keeps geographical imagination connected to documents and gives a lecturer a way to make a familiar location newly interesting.

Sources: [2]

Leave the Uncertainty Visible

A small sentence can protect a large argument.

A lecturer may feel pressure to close every question before taking the floor. That pressure can tempt a writer to turn a possibility into a fact. A better approach is to state the strongest supported conclusion, then identify the remaining limit in ordinary language.

Use specific limits. An initiation date may be uncertain even when membership is supported. An event may be dated even when its exact location remains unresolved. A source may be old and useful without being the first account. Naming the uncertainty allows the reader to understand its actual extent.

Before printing, underline every sentence containing always, all, first or proved. Ask what evidence supports that level of certainty. This is an editorial checking exercise, not a rule against decisive writing. Strong prose becomes more trustworthy when its confidence is proportionate to the record and its unanswered questions are still available to the reader.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

LODGE EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

A Program Worth Taking Home

PUBLIC HISTORY & EDUCATION | Historical statements are sourced. Discussion exercises and practical applications are original Gazette material, not private ritual or an account of completed lodge work.

Five Minutes With a Real Question

A short lesson needs a clear purpose.

Choose a question small enough to answer in the time available. Why is this object in the lodge? What does a public explanation of this symbol mean in ordinary conduct? Which record supports a familiar local claim? One clear question gives the audience something to follow.

Use the first minute to state the question, the next two to present an example and its source, the fourth to identify the lesson and the fifth to invite a response. A member should be able to say what he learned without reconstructing a long introduction.

This is a proposed Gazette format for public educational content, not an instruction to alter ceremonies or disregard the lodge’s own arrangements. Offer the lesson through the appropriate officer. End on a practical point that can be remembered. A well-chosen short program can begin a longer conversation without asking the audience to absorb a whole book.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

A Discussion About Evidence

Use this issue’s Hancock account as the example.

Place three statements before the group: a person belonged to a lodge; a person took part in a public action; a public action occurred because of his membership. Ask which statement each source actually supports. The statements may sound related while making different demands on the evidence.

Invite one member to identify the source for membership and another to identify the source for the public action. Leave the claim about motive open unless a relevant document supports it. The point is not to deny influence. It is to distinguish influence that can be shown from influence that is only assumed.

Close by asking members to apply the same distinction to another biography. The lesson turns a familiar famous-Freemason feature into a repeatable research habit. It uses public historical material and needs no private ritual language, invented quotation or dramatic claim about a person’s hidden intentions.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

Welcome the Quiet Brother

Fellowship is made through ordinary attention.

A newcomer can be greeted by many people and still leave without a real conversation. A simple welcome becomes more useful when somebody explains the immediate arrangements, asks a sincere question and leaves room for the visitor to answer in his own way.

The same attention can help a long-standing member who has become less visible. An invitation should be considerate rather than a demand for an explanation. Ask what would make participation easier, then listen before suggesting a solution. Avoid treating every absence as evidence of indifference.

This is an original fellowship prompt for discussion. Ask members to name one small act that made them feel included. Use the answers to choose a practical improvement for the next gathering. The result need not be a new committee or a formal program. It may be one person taking responsibility for an ordinary kindness that previously depended on chance.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

Mentoring Without a Monologue

The learner needs a chance to speak.

An experienced Brother can help by answering the question that was asked, checking whether the answer was understood and inviting the next question. A long account of everything he knows may leave the learner impressed but still uncertain about the point that first troubled him.

For a mentoring conversation, ask the learner to explain the subject in his own words. Listen for the part that needs attention and address that part. If the question calls for a jurisdiction-specific answer, use the appropriate authorized source rather than a memory of what another jurisdiction does.

The exercise is proposed educational practice, not a substitute for lodge authority or established instruction. Its purpose is to help the teacher see what the learner has actually understood. A short exchange that produces a clear next step can be more useful than an impressive speech that produces only a polite nod.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

Plan Relief That Can Be Finished

A historical example points toward a present duty.

The California relief response to the Chicago fire, discussed on the front page, provides a historical example of assistance beyond an immediate neighborhood. This proposed exercise does not claim that any local lodge has undertaken a particular appeal. It asks how an intention might become a completed piece of work.

Begin by establishing the actual need with an appropriate source or responsible organizer. Identify the type of help wanted and who can coordinate it. Keep the task proportionate to the available people and resources. Respect the privacy of those receiving assistance.

Afterward, record what was delivered and thank the people who helped. Do not turn a recipient’s circumstances into publicity without permission. The useful report is one that makes accountability possible. A modest task completed carefully gives the word relief a concrete meaning and gives the lodge something it can evaluate before promising a larger effort.

Sources: [7]

Public Service Without the Spotlight

Useful work need not become a spectacle.

A service project may offer an opportunity for publicity, but publicity is not the test of whether the service was worthwhile. Ask whether the work met the need it was meant to address and whether it treated the people involved with consideration.

If a public report is appropriate, explain the result accurately. Avoid inflated totals, invented volunteer hours or a caption that makes an ordinary action seem extraordinary. An honest description can recognize effort without turning every contribution into a triumphal story.

This is Gazette editorial guidance for a discussion about conduct. Compare a report centered on the organization with a report centered on the completed work. Which gives a reader the information needed to understand what happened? The exercise helps connect the desire to present the Craft well with the obligation to describe it truthfully.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

Design a District Research Day

A proposed program, not an announced event.

A useful research day could bring several short presentations together around one question: how do we know our own history? A local-records case, a public symbolism study and a session on evaluating sources would give members different ways into the subject.

For planning purposes, propose a welcome, three concise talks, a break and a moderated discussion. Give each speaker a clear time allowance and ask for a source list. Keep any restricted material within the appropriate setting. Check the audience, venue and permissions before advertising.

No date, sponsor or speaker commitment is asserted here. This is an original program concept that a lodge or district could adapt. A worthwhile first gathering need not be large. Its success would be measured by the quality of the questions, the usefulness of the evidence and the work participants can continue after the chairs are put away.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

The Program After the Program

Give the lesson somewhere to go.

A good talk can vanish quickly if its audience receives neither a source nor a next step. Before the speaker finishes, offer one thing to read, one question to discuss or one small task to attempt. The suggestion should fit the subject rather than merely extend the meeting.

A history talk might lead to identifying a local record. A symbolism lesson might lead to observing one habit. A reading-room feature might lead to finding the full paper behind an index entry. The follow-up should be specific enough for a member to begin without another explanation.

This is a proposed way to make lodge education useful beyond the evening. Ask for a brief report at a later gathering, with room for an honest account of what did not work. A lesson becomes more valuable when it produces further inquiry, clearer understanding or a piece of conduct that somebody has deliberately improved.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

DISTRICT DESK | CALENDAR AUTHORITY | SOURCE REGISTER

Bring the Lodge’s Notice to the Paper

A Notice Readers Can Use

Lodge event advertising begins with verified details.

Give the event’s full name, the sponsoring lodge or body, the date, the location and the audience. Distinguish a meal or reception from the start of the program. If registration is required, supply the actual deadline and the person or official page handling it.

Explain whether the event is public, limited to members, restricted by degree or subject to other attendance conditions. State any confirmed price plainly. Do not leave a reader to infer that a notice appearing in this newspaper is an invitation open to everyone.

For an advertisement, submit final wording and a lodge-approved emblem or image. An unconfirmed detail should be resolved before the notice is presented as a firm invitation. Page eight is reserved for lodge event advertising; this issue contains no invented advertiser or booked event.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

The Calendar Is a Starting Point

Standing schedules deserve an occurrence check.

This edition’s district listings use the published recurring schedules for Graddy and Loris on October 5. The October occurrences are not individually confirmed. Myrtle Beach and Murrells Inlet’s second-Tuesday dates fall on October 13, outside the Sunday-Saturday edition week.

For travel, confirm with the responsible lodge or organizer. A regular schedule does not account for every cancellation, special communication or change of venue. Meal time and meeting time must be kept separate. The changed Murrells Inlet address also requires reconciliation before travel.

Regional notices on page two are labeled with their remaining checks. Prince Hall affiliation is identified. Readers should verify eligibility, venue and current registration terms directly with the organizer. The publication does not claim that its shortlist is a complete calendar or that an absence of retrieved entries means nothing is happening.

Sources: [10], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17]

A Paper With a Continuing Identity

Eight pages; one fold; room for the lodge.

The Gazette retains its illustrated masthead, bold serif headlines, black section banners and ruled columns. This expanded edition has eight finished pages, each 289 by 380 millimetres for this one-time Newspaper Club printing. Pages one through seven carry editorial and educational content; the back page is reserved for Masonic event advertisements.

This PDF supplies eight single pages in reading order for Newspaper Club’s digital tabloid press. The printer arranges the sheets and fold. The finished newspaper keeps its nested, single-fold format without staples. This size is a one-time production adaptation; future editions retain the Gazette’s standing format.

Editor and publisher: Cameron B. Durham, 32° AASR, Masonic Lecturer and Writer. Advertising contact, rates and deadlines await the editor’s direction. Support details and the verified PayPal destination also remain pending. No advertising price, print run or payment arrangement is invented in this edition.

Gazette educational application; proposed discussion.

SOURCE REGISTER | PUBLIC ACCOUNTS CHECKED OCTOBER 4, 2026

Click each reference in the digital edition. Archival resources and established educational accounts are not represented as newly issued academic papers. Some official sites supplied indexed descriptions when full-page retrieval was blocked; claims have been limited to the material available.

[1] SRMML: Nothing Short of Independence	[16] Greenville Scottish Rite: October 20 meeting
[2] SRMML: Mapping Change	[17] AFM29th: Charleston Scottish Rite bodies
[3] QC: Next meeting and Kendall lecture	[18] QC: Cambridge 2027 conference notice
[4] QC: Research resources and AQC indexes	[19] South Carolina GL: Why A.F.M.?
[5] National Park Service: John Hancock	[20] Valley of Charleston: History of the Rite
[6] Massachusetts GL: Boston Tea Party connections	[21] United States Senate: Capitol cornerstone
[7] California GL: 175-year historical timeline	[22] Mount Vernon: Washington and Freemasonry
[8] Ohio GL: Square and compasses	[23] Scottish Rite NMJ: Brother Paul Revere
[9] Ohio GL: Common gavel	[24] Ohio GL: The beehive
[10] AFM29th: Graddy No. 257	[25] Ohio GL: Rough and perfect ashlars
[11] AFM29th: Loris No. 205	[26] Ohio GL: Masonic working tools
[12] AFM29th: Myrtle Beach No. 353	[27] California GL: Freemasonry symbols
[13] AFM29th: Murrells Inlet No. 368	[28] Ohio GL: Twenty-four-inch gauge
[14] AFM29th: District calendar	[29] Museum of Freemasonry: Anderson’s Constitutions
[15] Prince Hall HRAM: South Carolina annual session	

FOR READERS & LODGE EDUCATORS: This edition separates public historical statements from original educational applications. No private ritual is reproduced. The proposed Editor’s Corner remains identified for review. Individual local occurrences, convention details, payment information and advertising arrangements remain unconfirmed where marked.

IN THIS EDITION: Front-page research and history, 1; education and district notices, 2; Carolina history, 3; symbolism and working tools, 4; the reading room, 5; lodge education and fellowship, 6; source register and publisher’s desk, 7; lodge event advertising, 8.

THE ADVERTISING DESK | PREPARING A NOTICE FOR PRINT

Approval Before Placement

Have the sponsoring lodge approve the wording and public contact before submission. A notice should identify who is responsible for the event. Ask the organizer to resolve uncertain dates, locations or eligibility. A draft in this paper is not a confirmed booking, and publication should not be used to make an unapproved event appear official.

Type That Can Be Read

Use a clear event title and make the date, time and venue easy to find. A busy illustration should not obscure the information. Black-and-white artwork and strong contrast suit this newspaper. Supply the cleanest available original artwork; a tiny screenshot enlarged to fill an advertisement may lose the detail readers need.

Changes Deserve a Correction

When an advertised detail changes, give the editor the corrected information and identify the notice affected. A cancellation or venue change should be easy to distinguish from an ordinary promotional announcement. The useful correction tells readers what changed and where to obtain the confirmed details, without inventing a reason or assigning blame.

LODGE EVENT ADVERTISING

Masonic Events & Lodge Announcements

Reserved for event advertisements supplied and approved by participating lodges. No advertisements have been booked or invented for this proof.

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

Lodge dinners • Lectures • Reunions • Charity events • District gatherings

Full-page or divided placements can be arranged when approved advertisement copy is supplied.

Advertisement intake: Sponsor and lodge number; event title; confirmed date and times; venue; attendance eligibility; confirmed charge or registration requirements; approved public contact and artwork. Rates and deadlines await the editor’s direction.