

The Masonic Research Gazette

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

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 20-OCTOBER 3, 2026 | DISTRICT CALENDAR: OCTOBER 4-17, 2026

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

1. THE FORTNIGHT'S BEST MASONIC RESEARCH

Five verified items met the reporting-window test. Three are newly delivered research or education programs, one is a sourced lodge-history essay, and one is a newly issued local periodical. A program listing proves that a presentation occurred; it does not turn the talk into a peer-reviewed publication.

...and so to refreshment: A brief history of the Festive Board

CLIVE MOORE | SEPT. 21 | NEWLY DELIVERED RESEARCH LECTURE

Takeaway. A focused history of the customs surrounding lodge refreshment was delivered at Watermeads Lodge No. 8097, Freemasons' Hall, London. Lecture/writing value. Build a local-history talk by comparing menu cards, minute books and contemporary etiquette; the official listing verifies delivery, not a published paper.

SOURCE: [Quatuor Coronati speaker calendar](#)

Discovering Secrets of the Unlawful Societies Act

PAUL CALDERWOOD | SEPT. 21 | NEWLY DELIVERED ARCHIVAL LECTURE

Takeaway. Annual returns created under the 1799 legislation can identify members, occupations and a lodge's changing condition. Lecture/writing value. Treat compulsory paperwork as a prosopographical source, then test each name against directories, censuses and newspapers.

SOURCE: [Quatuor Coronati speaker calendar](#)

His Father's Lodge: Sul Ross and the Work of Repair

JOHNSON CITY LODGE NO. 561 | SEPT. 21 | SOURCED HISTORY ESSAY

Takeaway. A lodge essay uses Texas proceedings and public archives to examine Lawrence Sullivan Ross, institutional inheritance, war memory and repair. Lecture/writing value. Its forthright treatment of slavery, the Confederacy and Native history models how lecturers can supply context without erasing uncomfortable evidence.

SOURCE: [Johnson City Lodge No. 561](#)

October 2026 Lodge Newsletter

CLAREMONT LODGE NO. 436 | OCT. 1 | NEW LOCAL PERIODICAL ISSUE

Takeaway. This lodge newsletter is evidence of present-day programming and the kind of born-digital ephemera future historians will need. Lecture/writing value. Archive a copy with its original date and URL, then compare its public narrative with minutes only when access and jurisdictional rules permit.

SOURCE: [Claremont Lodge No. 436](#)

RESEARCH - CONTINUED

Leadership Conference Presentation

S. BRENT MORRIS | OCT. 3 | NEWLY DELIVERED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Takeaway. The Grand Lodge of Indiana Leadership Conference hosted a presentation by the Masonic author and researcher. Lecture/writing value. Use the listing to locate the event, not as a substitute for the speaker's text; request an authorized handout before quoting conclusions.

SOURCE: [Quatuor Coronati speaker calendar](#)

2. THE PAST TWO WEEKS IN MASONIC HISTORY

SEPT. 25, 1786 - PENNSYLVANIA DECLARES SOVEREIGNTY

Pennsylvania lodges severed dependence upon the Antients Grand Lodge in London and organized an independent Grand Lodge. Significance: the change marks post-Revolution institutional sovereignty, not the beginning of Masonry in Pennsylvania. Program angle: compare political independence with the documentary acts by which a fraternity becomes self-governing.

SOURCE: [Pennsylvania Masonic history](#)

SEPT. 29, 1784 - CHARTER FOR AFRICAN LODGE NO. 459

The Grand Lodge of England granted a charter to African Lodge in Boston. Significance: the warrant gave a durable institutional basis to the lodge led by Prince Hall and his brethren. Program angle: read the charter history beside Hall's civic petitions; avoid collapsing authorization, local agency and later denominational development into one event.

SOURCE: [Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama history](#)

OCT. 1, 1928 - THE PHILAETHES SOCIETY IS FOUNDED

Masonic writers organized the society at the Masonic Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Significance: it created a national network for research and writing. Program angle: assign one early article and audit its sources by modern standards.

SOURCE: [Philaethes Society history](#)

3. FROM THE ARCHIVES / FROM THE PROCEEDINGS

THE PAPER TRAIL CREATED BY SUSPICION

The Unlawful Societies legislation exempted qualifying lodges but required recurring registration of the lodge's name, place and times of meeting and member names. Surviving returns - such as those cataloged for British Lodge No. 8 - can reconstruct networks that ordinary narrative histories overlook.

What the evidence shows. Names, dates, stated occupations and administrative continuity can be compared across years. Limits. Compliance was uneven; catalog descriptions are not the documents themselves; a return records official status, not the whole experience of membership.

For the lecturer. Select one return, transcribe only what is visible, then add separate columns for corroboration and inference. The distinction prevents an occupational label or shared surname from becoming an invented biography.

PRIMARY/CATALOG SOURCES: [UK legislation PDF](#) | [UK National Archives catalog](#) | [Calderwood research note](#)

4. DID YOU KNOW?

RESEARCH LODGES HELPED REFORM MASONIC HISTORY

Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, founded in London in 1884, became closely associated with documentary or “authentic” Masonic history. Its influence lies in method: testing origin stories against records, chronology and material evidence. That does not mean every conclusion by every member was final, nor that documentary criticism originated solely in Masonry.

SOURCE: [Quatuor Coronati Lodge](#)

5. FAMOUS FREEMASON

MEL BLANC | 1908-1989

The actor behind Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and many other voices joined Sunnyside Chapter, Order of DeMolay, in 1925 and Mid Day Lodge No. 188 in Portland in 1931; in 1951 he joined the Scottish Rite Valley of Los Angeles and Al Malaikah Shrine.

Supported role. After his 1961 automobile accident, Blanc increased appearances supporting Masonic and Shriners children's hospitals. Uncertainty: the record supports affiliation and service, not a claim that Masonry created his artistic gifts. Lecture angle: voice, public identity and quiet service.

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

6. WORKING TOOLS TIP

THE PLUMB

Operative use: tests whether work is vertically true. Moral lesson: upright conduct and alignment between profession and action. It is commonly associated with the Fellow Craft in American Preston-Webb practice, but wording and degree placement vary. Fortnight practice: audit one promise: do your calendar, speech and conduct stand on the same line? No private ritual wording is disclosed.

REFERENCE: [Grand Lodge of Ohio working-tools overview](#)

7. MASONIC READING ROOM

MASONIC PERIODICALS ONLINE

This searchable collection covers fourteen major British Masonic periodicals from roughly 1790-1906. It is powerful for tracing vocabulary and contemporary disputes; OCR errors, editorial bias and incomplete runs require verification against page images. Exercise: search “unlawful societies” or “festive board,” record title/date/page, and compare usage across three decades.

ACCESS: [Museum of Freemasonry research resources](#)

8. SYMBOLISM IN FOCUS

THE ANCHOR AND ARK

The anchor had long represented hope and steadfastness in classical and Christian art before monitorial Masonry paired it with an ark. Historically, the pairing belongs to particular printed and jurisdictional traditions; it is not proof of an unbroken ancient Masonic lineage. Modern explanations often emphasize hope and safety through life's voyage. Verify the teaching used in your jurisdiction.

REFERENCE: [Grand Lodge of Ohio educational essay](#)

9. FIVE-MINUTE LODGE LESSON

WHAT CAN AN ANNUAL LODGE RETURN PROVE?

Opening question: What can an annual lodge return prove - and what can it never prove?

Teaching point 1 - Law created the record. The statutory exemption required administrative disclosure. The form exists because a government wanted lodges identified, not because brethren intended to write their collective biography.

Teaching point 2 - A list is evidence, not a complete life. A name, address or occupation may be exact and still omit informal work, kinship, belief, conflict and motive.

Teaching point 3 - Corroboration creates careful social history. Directories, censuses, newspapers and other lodge records can confirm identity or reveal that two similar names are different men.

Practical action: Choose one historic member and make a three-column sheet: record, corroboration, inference. Closing question: Which records are we preserving now for researchers a century hence?

SOURCES: [UK legislation](#) | [National Archives catalog](#)

10. EDITOR'S CORNER / QUESTIONS FOR THE CRAFT

Records made for bureaucracy can outlive the memories they were never designed to capture. The lesson is double: read administrative sources critically, and preserve today's context so tomorrow's historian need not guess. - Cameron B. Durham, 32° AASR

Questions: (1) When does a lodge tradition become a historical claim? (2) What context should accompany our digital newsletters and minutes? (3) How should a lecturer address a respected Mason whose public record also contains injustice?

11. SOUTHEASTERN MASONIC CONVENTIONS & STATE MEETINGS

Verified forward calendar for Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Qualifying events were found in Tennessee, Virginia, Florida and Georgia; no filler has been inferred for the other states.

OCT. 8 - BRENT MORRIS DINNER-LECTURE-BOOK SIGNING

Sponsor/venue: Chattanooga Scottish Rite, 1345 Hickory Valley Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421. Exact time, public eligibility, registration deadline and cost were not published on the pages reviewed.

POINT OF CONTACT: Rick Genter, 33°, General Secretary; Chattanooga Scottish Rite office, 423-855-0175. Additional contact details were not published.

OFFICIAL: [QC event listing](#) | [host site](#)

OCT. 10, 10 A.M. - CIVIL WAR LODGE OF RESEARCH NO. 1865

Event: October stated communication; official calendar lists “Various Locations.” Attendance is for Master Masons in good standing. Exact venue, program, deadline and cost were not published.

POINT OF CONTACT: Civil War Lodge of Research No. 1865 / Virginia Research Lodge calendar and contact page; additional details were not published.

OFFICIAL: [official calendar](#)

OCT. 17, 10 A.M. - VIRGINIA RESEARCH LODGE NO. 1777

Venue: Kempsville Masonic Temple, 4869 Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462. Called communication; Wor. Richard Collins presents a paper related to York Rite Masonry. Fish fry: \$15; RSVP requested. Lodge sessions are for Master Masons in good standing.

POINT OF CONTACT: Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777, responsible lodge office/contact page. A named event contact, email and telephone were not published.

OFFICIAL: [official event calendar](#)

OCT. 17, 8 A.M.-4 P.M. - THE LIGHT WITHIN SYMPOSIUM

Sponsor/venue: Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80, 321 E. Dakin Ave., Kissimmee, FL 34741. Practical Freemasonry program with S. Brent Morris, Robert Johnson, Jason Richards and Hunter Adak; breakfast/lunch, panel and vendors. Open to Entered Apprentices and above with proof of good standing. Public page did not publish a cost or deadline.

POINT OF CONTACT: Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 / official registration page; additional contact details were not published.

OFFICIAL: [registration](#) | [Grand Lodge directory](#)

SOUTHEASTERN CALENDAR - CONTINUED

OCT. 25-28 - GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Venue: Macon Centreplex, Macon, GA. Included because the official hotel group rate deadline is Oct. 9; banquet space is limited. Public cost and session eligibility were not published.

POINT OF CONTACT: Grand Lodge Office, 811 Mulberry St., Macon, GA 31201; PO Box 4665, Macon, GA 31208-4665; 478-742-1475; gsec@glofga.org.

OFFICIAL: [event/hotel notice](#) | [official contact](#)

12. 29TH DISTRICT MEETINGS - NEXT TWO WEEKS

LIVE CALENDAR WINDOW: SUNDAY, OCT. 4-SATURDAY, OCT. 17, 2026 | EASTERN TIME. No cancellations were displayed when verified. No event was displayed for Oct. 4, 16 or 17.

MON. OCT. 5 | 6:30-7:30 P.M. - Loris 205 - Regular Communication
3517 Casey St., Loris, SC 29569

MON. OCT. 5 | 6:45-7:45 P.M. - Graddy 257 - Regular Communication
842 S. Main St., Aynor, SC 29511

MON. OCT. 5 | 7-8 P.M. - Omar Harley Brigade - Meeting
Call Chris Owens for location: 843-602-1077

MON. OCT. 5 | 7-8 P.M. - Omar Pedalers - Meeting
10 Elm St., Conway, SC 29526

MON. OCT. 5 | 7-8 P.M. - Rainbow for Girls Myrtle Beach 353 - Meeting
Myrtle Beach Lodge 353, 905 US-501, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

TUE. OCT. 6 | 6:30-7 P.M. - Jordanville 297 - Regular Communication
Location not displayed

TUE. OCT. 6 | 6:30-7 P.M. - Winyah 40 - Regular Communication
2617 S. Fraser St., Georgetown, SC 29440

TUE. OCT. 6 | 6:45-7:45 P.M. - Seaside 419 - Regular Communication
Myrtle Beach Lodge 353, 905 US-501, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

TUE. OCT. 6 | 6:45-7:15 P.M. - Horry 381 - Regular Communication
903 15th Ave., Conway, SC 29526

THU. OCT. 8 | 7:30-8:30 P.M. - OES Waccamaw No. 89 - Meeting
903 15th Ave., Conway, SC 29526

THU. OCT. 8 | 7:30-8:30 P.M. - Omar Vettes - Meeting
Call Rusty Watson for location: 843-685-5540

MON. OCT. 12 | 6:30-7 P.M. - Conway 65 - Regular Communication
903 15th Ave., Conway, SC 29526

DISTRICT CALENDAR - CONTINUED

MON. OCT. 12 | 6:45-7:15 P.M. - Grand Strand 392 - Regular Communication
919 6th Ave. S., North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

MON. OCT. 12 | 7-8 P.M. - G & W Shrine Club - Meeting
36 Omar Way, Georgetown, SC 29440

MON. OCT. 12 | 7:30-8:30 P.M. - OES Loris No. 106 - Meeting
3517 Casey St., Loris, SC 29569

MON. OCT. 12 | 7:30-8:30 P.M. - Order of the Amaranth 20 / Socastee 421 - Meeting
7650 Butler Rd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

TUE. OCT. 13 | 6-7 P.M. - Waccamaw Shrine Club - Meeting
10 Elm St., Conway, SC 29526

TUE. OCT. 13 | 6:30-7:30 P.M. - Murrells Inlet 368 - Regular Communication
620 County Rd. S-22-539, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

TUE. OCT. 13 | 6:30-7:30 P.M. - Myrtle Beach 353 - Regular Communication
Myrtle Beach Lodge 353, 905 US-501, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

TUE. OCT. 13 | 6:45-7:45 P.M. - Horry 381 - MM Degree
Conway Lodge 65, 903 15th Ave., Conway, SC 29526

WED. OCT. 14 | 6:30-7:30 P.M. - Wac. Scottish Rite Club - Regular Communication
Myrtle Beach Lodge 353, 905 US-501, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

THU. OCT. 15 | 7:30-8:30 P.M. - Order of DeMolay / Conway 65 - Meeting
903 15th Ave., Conway, SC 29526

AUTHORITATIVE CALENDAR: [29th Masonic District live calendar](#)

CALENDAR DESK NOTES

STATE COVERAGE AUDIT. Qualifying regional events were verified in Tennessee, Virginia, Florida and Georgia. No qualifying statewide meeting, research conference, convention or deadline was verified for Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina or West Virginia during the publication search. The local South Carolina district entries above are reported separately from the regional-convention standard.

ELIGIBILITY. A restriction is printed only when the official organizer states it. The Virginia research-lodge sessions are identified for Master Masons in good standing; the Florida symposium states Entered Apprentices and above with proof of good standing. No unstated public access, recognition or reciprocity has been inferred.

TRAVEL CHECK. Programs, venues and cancellations can change after press time. Before travel, open the linked official notice and confirm time, venue, eligibility and registration status directly with the published responsible office. Where a page supplied no named contact, price or deadline, this edition says so rather than filling the gap.

CALENDAR METHOD. The 29th District list reproduces every event displayed in the live calendar for Oct. 4-17, including a “location not displayed” entry and two organizer-provided telephone instructions. No recurrence was inferred, and no cancellation was displayed at verification.

13. CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICES OF USE TO THE CRAFT INVITED

Lodge education - Masonic books - lectures - regalia - restoration - research services - district events

Contact the Editor - Rates and Deadlines Upon Request

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