



FREEMASONRY AND GENEALOGY
WHAT RESEARCHERS SHOULD KNOW



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WHY FREEMASONRY?

- Primary Social Organization
- Good recordkeeping
- Amplify biographical information



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MASONIC CLUES




Artifacts

- Aprons
- Rings
- Pendants
- Lapel pins
- Caps
- Clothing
- Code books

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MASONIC CLUES




Documents

- Patents
- Certificates
- Dues cards
- Name badges

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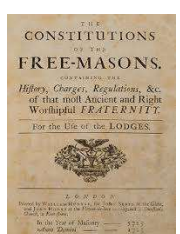
MASONIC CLUES



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WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

- The Oldest Fraternal Organization
 - Developed from medieval guilds
 - Melded with Enlightenment Philosophical Ideals
- Current Freemasonry dates from 1717
 - Lodges in London formed the Grand Lodge of England
 - Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland
- Worldwide recognition among Regular Freemasons
- Follows a set of Landmarks: Principles and Obligations

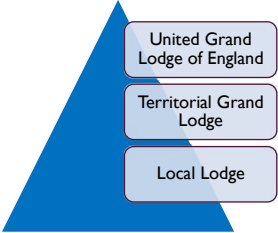


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REGULAR MASONRY

Defined by Jurisdiction

- A.F. & A.M.
- F. & A.M.
- A.F.M.
- F.A.A.M.




United Grand Lodge of England

Territorial Grand Lodge

Local Lodge


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STRUCTURE OF FREEMASONRY



■ The Lodge

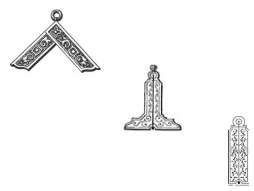
- Entered Apprentice
- Fellowcraft
- Master Mason



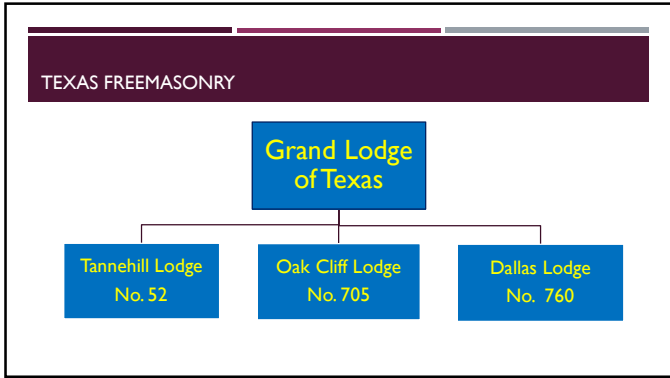
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OFFICERS OF THE LODGE

- Worshipful Master
- Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Senior Deacon
- Junior Deacon
- Tiler



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MASONIC APPENDANT ORGANIZATIONS

- York Rite
- Royal Arch Masons
- Royal & Select Masters
- Knights Templar
- Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
- Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine
- Order of the Eastern Star

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MASONIC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- The Grand Lodge Oversees Lodges in Its Jurisdiction
 - It requires each lodge to make an annual report
 - Change in officers
 - Changes in membership
 - New members
 - Affiliations
 - Demits
 - Deaths
 - Pays a per capita to Grand Lodge accordingly
- Grand Lodge Publishes the Proceedings of Its Annual Meeting
 - Includes a list of lodges in its jurisdiction
 - Each listing includes membership details
 - No digital or photographic documents available
 - Information of a particular year's Proceedings reflects the returns of the previous year
 - 1875 Proceedings
 - Includes 1874 returns data

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FINDING AN INDIVIDUAL MASON

- Start with the Timeframe
 - After 21 years old
- Consider Geography
 - Lodges are generally listed by City and County
 - Consider lodges within easy traveling distance
 - Use a map from the time period
- Mason allowed to join only one lodge
 - Except for 1856-1869
 - Name spelling errors are common
- Consult a Wide Span of Proceedings
 - Find the termini
 - EA? FC? MM?
 - SNPD = Suspended Non-Payment of Dues
 - Demitted = Voluntarily left the lodge
 - Expelled or Suspended for Unmasonic Behavior
 - Search the text of the Proceedings
 - Death notice
 - Abrupt Appearance or Disappearance

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GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

- Genealogy Services



grandlodgeoftexas.org

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GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

MASONIC RECORD SEARCH REQUEST FORM
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

THE SOURCE OF THE RECORD SEARCH IS THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS RECORDS, REGISTRY OFFICE.

- NAME IS A FULL NAME FOR INDIVIDUAL
- USE SEARCH OR SEARCH FOR RECORDS NAME
- SEARCH IS CONDUCTED AS THE RECORDS ALLOW AT LEAST
- USE OF RECORDS OF REGISTRY OFFICE AND RECORDS IN OUR FILES
- USE OF RECORDS WITH THE GRAND LODGE
- SEARCH IS IN THE RECORDS. WE DO NOT PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING MEMBERS. IF A RECORD IS FOUND OF THE MEMBERS RECORDS WE WILL PROVIDE THE RECORDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

NAME _____
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

DATE OF BIRTH _____ DATE OF DEATH _____

LOCATION OF RESIDENCE IN TEXAS _____
CITY COUNTY STATE

NAME AND/OR NUMBER OF TEXAS LODGES _____
IF YOU KNOW OF ANY OTHER LODGES

SEARCH REQUESTED BY _____
NAME ADDRESS PHONE CITY STATE ZIP

SEARCHED BY _____
NAME ADDRESS PHONE CITY STATE ZIP

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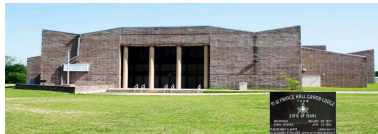
ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

- Newspaper Articles on the Lodge
- Newspaper Information on Members of the Lodge
- If the Lodge Still Exists, Ask the Lodge Secretary
- Seek out a Masonic Researcher
- Transactions of Texas Lodge of Research

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AFRICAN AMERICAN FREEMASONRY

- Prince Hall Affiliate
- Prince Hall Origin
- Appendant Bodies



The Wilbert M. Curtis
 Texas Prince Hall Library Museum
 "Telling Our Own Story"
 Dedicated June 28, 2011

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OTHER FRATERNALISM

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Independent Order of Odd Fellows | ▪ Ancient Order of Workmen |
| ▪ Knights of Pythias | ▪ Ancient Order of Hibernians |
| ▪ Fraternal Order of Eagles | ▪ Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo |
| ▪ Woodmen of the World | ▪ Knights of the Maccabees |
| ▪ Loyal Order of Moose | ▪ Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes |
| ▪ Independent Order of Foresters | ▪ Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans |
| ▪ Loyal Order of Water Buffalo | ▪ Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan |

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DALLAS SCOTTISH RITE LIBRARY & MUSEUM

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