FREEMASONRY AND GENEALOGY
WHAT RESEARCHERS SHOULD KNOW

WHY FREEMASONRY?
- Primary Social Organization
- Good recordkeeping
- Amplify biographical information

MASONIC CLUES
Artifacts
- Aprons
- Rings
- Pendants
- Lapel pins
- Caps
- Clothing
- Code books
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
REGULAR MASONRY
Defined by Jurisdiction
A.F. & A.M.
F.& A.M.
A.F.M.
F.A.A.M.

STRUCTURE OF FREEMASONRY
- The Lodge
  - Entered Apprentice
  - Fellowcraft
  - Master Mason

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE
- Worshipful Master
- Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Senior Deacon
- Junior Deacon
- Tiler
TEXAS FREEMASONRY

Grand Lodge

of Texas

Tannehill Lodge
No. 52

Oak Cliff Lodge
No. 705

Dallas Lodge
No. 760

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

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
  - Affiliates
  - 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 1866–1869
- Name spelling errors are common
- Consult a Wide Span of Proceedings
- Find the term(s)
- SAI: 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

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

- Genealogy Services
  - grandlodgeoftexas.org
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

AFRICAN AMERICAN FREEMASONRY

- Prince Hall Affiliate
- Prince Hall Origin
- Appendant Bodies

OTHER FRATERNALISM

- Independent Order of Odd Fellows
- Knights of Pythias
- Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Woodmen of the World
- Loyal Order of Moose
- Independent Order of Foresters
- Loyal Order of Water Buffalo
- Ancient Order of Workmen
- Ancient Order of Hibernians
- Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo
- Knights of the Maccabees
- Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes
- Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans
- Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan
Richard Schlaudroff, 32° KCCH
Librarian and Archivist
Dallas Scottish Rite Library & Museum
500 Harwood Street
Dallas, Texas 75201
(214) 748-9196
librarian@dallasscottishrite.org