

# [1824 Tennessee Masonic Manual](#)

Tennessee *Masonic Manual, or Freemasonry Illustrated* by [Wilkins Tannehill, Past Grand Master](#) , published 1824

This is the original equivalent of our *Tennessee Craftsman* which was used by Tennessee Lodges starting in 1824, and continuing until the next edition was published. It is a window into the Masonry of our forbears in the early years of Tennessee Freemasonry.

The PDF of the entire *Manual* is quite large, so we have divided it into manageable sections. Click on one of these links below to open the corresponding PDF file.

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[Part I, Books I and II-Origin and History of Masonry, and "Masonic Constitutions"](#)

[Part I, Book III-The Blue Lodge \(Chapters 1 through 10, covers the Degrees\)](#)

[Part I, Book III-Ceremonies, Prayers, and Precepts \(Chapters 11 through 18\)](#)

[Part II-Royal Arch Chapter and Cryptic Degrees](#)

[Appendix-Tennessee Masonic History and Constitution](#)

For background information, see this informative history by Brother John Meldorf, Fellow and Charter Master of the Tennessee Lodge of Research:

[The Origins of The Tennessee Craftsman, 1772-1866](#), excerpted from our book, *Traveling East, Selected Essays from the Annual Proceedings 1985-2005*

From the 14th page of Brother Meldorf's paper:

At the October 9, 1823 Annual Communication, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee appointed a committee to examine a "manuscript" compiled by Bro. Wilkins Tannehill. The name of this "manuscript" is not known, but most likely it was his *Masonic Manual, or Freemasonry Illustrated*, because on October 8, 1824, the Grand Lodge voted to "highly approve of the *Masonic Manual, or Freemasonry Illustrated*, by Wilkins Tannehill, PGM, and does adopt and recommend it as a useful Manual to all Lodges working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge." Thus Tennessee, for the first time, had its own Masonic text.

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