



The T. L. of R. Bulletin

Published quarterly by the Tennessee Lodge of Research

George C. Ladd, PM & Secretary/Treasurer

4521 Turkey Creek Road, Williamsport TN 38487-2123

Phone: (931) 682-2263 email: TnLodgeOfResearch@gmail.com website: www.tnlor.org

FOURTH QUARTER BULLETIN – 2020

SEPTEMBER 12 STATED MEETING

The meeting was held in the Lodge Hall of Volunteer Lodge No. 549 in Chattanooga. Thirteen members and visitors were in attendance. Past Master Sanford Dale Lancaster presided. Volunteer Lodge No. 549 was thanked for their excellent hospitality and for the excellent meal that they furnished.

With the aid of Volunteer Lodge's large-screen television and their technically savvy members, the Lodge of Research enjoyed its first presentation via Zoom. Speaking from his home, Brother John Russell Meldorf III, the Charter Master of the Lodge of Research, presented "Whence Cometh Us?" telling the story of the formation and chartering of the Tennessee Lodge of Research thirty-five years ago. A [video of Brother Meldorf's excellent presentation](#) is available in the Member's Area of our website. His paper will be published in our 2020 Proceedings next year.

The following deaths were reported:

William Paul Bluege, Cookeville, TN, Cookeville Lodge #266, died 10/8/2019;
Raymond Glenn Campbell, Morristown, TN, Evening Star Lodge #180, died 12/23/2017;
Edward Bryan Green, Lebanon, TN, Lebanon Lodge #98, Life Member, died 2/3/2020;
Robert Fred Hern, Holladay, TN, Mt Carmel Lodge #333, died 11/12/2019;
Leo Leonard Lowden, Waverly, TN, Waverly Lodge #304, died 8/5/2020;
Randall Keith Marshall, Franklin, TN, Hiram Lodge #7, died 4/11/2019;
Herbert Julian Nichols, Rutledge, TN, Bright Hope Lodge #557, died 2/15/2012;
John Ferrell Nichols, Jr, Knoxville, TN, Charles H. McKinney Lodge #433, died 5/17/2019;
William Rogers Sylar, Jr., Past Grand Illustrious Master of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of TN,
Georgetown, TN, Cleveland Lodge #134, died 7/19/2020

Five petitions for membership were approved. A motion was passed that the charity collected after the meeting be given to the National Alzheimer's Association in memory of William R. Peck, who passed away on August 10. He is the father of our Brother Master William Alan Peck. \$40 was collected.

DECEMBER 12 MEETING

Our next meeting will be Saturday, December 12 at our "home Lodge," [Sparta Lodge No. 99](#) in Sparta, TN. Our speaker will be Right Worshipful Brother L. Alvin Hill, Sr., Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Grand Lodge, who will present "Two Grand Ole Masons" about two Grand Ole Opry performers who are exemplary Masons. [Brother Joseph Lyndoll Edwards, 33°](#) played fiddle in the Grand Ole Opry Staff Band for 32 years and performed regularly on the Opry for 48 years. [Brother Melvin David Sloan](#) is an "all-round musician whose Melvin Sloan Dancers, aka the Tennessee Travelers, square danced on the Opry from 1980 to 2002."

(https://www.wilsonpost.com/community/music-came-naturally-for-melvin-sloan/article_8a485cc6-002f-57e1-aabc-c06b79aa166f.html)

Both these Brothers are very generous with their talents, providing numerous performances for the Fraternity over the years. Brother Edwards was awarded the General Grand Council Triennial Entertainer Award and Brother Sloan received the General Grand Chapter Triennial Entertainer Award.

A box lunch barbecue meal will be served for a suggested donation of \$8. The meal will be served at 12:00 Noon Central Time. The speaking presentation will begin at 1:00 PM. The regular meeting of the TLR will begin following the speaking program. The public is invited to the speaking presentation, after which all who are not Master Masons will be asked to retire (Master Masons who are non-members are welcome to visit our regular meeting). **Wearing Masks** and social distancing will be strongly encouraged. We will have masks on hand if you need one.

We will elect 2021 Officers at this meeting and install them afterwards.

Driving Directions:

From **Interstate 40** in **Cookeville**, take **Exit 288** and proceed **south** on **State Highway 111** for **14.1 miles**. Take the exit to **US Highway 70** in **Sparta**. Turn **left** (east) onto **US Highway 70**, which is also **West Bockman Way**. Proceed **0.3 mile** to **Masonic Drive**. Turn **right** into **Masonic Drive**. Sparta Lodge No. 99 is located at [99 Masonic Dr, Sparta, TN 38583](#).

MEETINGS DURING 2021

March 6, 2021 – Western Sun Lodge No. 88, Troy, TN

June 12, 2021 – West Nashville-Phoenix Lodge No. 131, Nashville, TN

September 11, 2021 – Rhea Lodge No. 47, Jonesboro, TN

December 11, 2021 – Sparta Lodge No. 99, Sparta, TN

BYLAWS CHANGE APPROVED AT THE SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING

This was presented at the June 13 meeting and printed in the Third Quarter Bulletin.

Current wording:

Article V. Membership, Fees and Dues

Section 1. Regular Members. Membership is available to all Master Masons who are in good standing in a subordinate Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee or who are in good standing in a Lodge of a jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. Application for membership shall be submitted in writing on a petition form from the Tennessee Lodge of Research, and will be accompanied by the fee of \$5.00 and annual dues of \$10.00. Applicants whose petitions are approved at the Lodge's Regular Meeting in September and December will be afforded paid up membership for the following Calendar Year. Applicants whose petitions are approved at the Lodge's Regular Meeting in March and June will be afforded paid up membership for the current Calendar Year. Dues will become due and payable on January 1 of each year for the ensuing Calendar Year.

Change—Add the following paragraph:

The Lodge of Research will offer to newly raised master masons one year of access for a year after they are raised. At the end of the year they will be given the opportunity to petition the Lodge of Research for membership. If they do not petition for membership they will lose access. If they choose to petition the \$5.00 fee will be waived.

Rationale:

At the December 14, 2019 LOR meeting, a motion was made, seconded, and passed that we obtain the emails of all newly made Master Masons and those raised during 2019 and offer them temporary access to the Member's Area of our website, waiving their first year's dues and allowing them to continue access after the first year by submitting a Petition and paying the \$10 annual dues. Removing the Application Fee will facilitate the transition to full membership of those who wish to become full members. The \$5 Application Fee is no longer required to fund the operation of the Lodge of Research, and there are no expenses associated with receiving a Petition other than mailing a letter acknowledging the receipt of it. The bylaws proposal allows the newly raised brothers access but not membership since they have not petitioned.

2018 PROCEEDINGS

Work continues on the 2018 Proceedings, and we hope to publish the booklet in January. Papers will include "Corn, Wine, Oil, Milk, and Honey" by Gerald Leek, 33°, "Reflections on Brother Harry S. Truman" by Thomas Henley, "The Philosopher's Stone" by Richard Kretz, "The Contrast of Freemasonry and Alcoholics Anonymous" by Robert Hart, and "Craft or Crafty?" by Lorne Urquhart.

This year, due to the pandemic, there was no TLR/Scottish Rite/Observance Lodge #686 sponsored [Esoteric Masonry Conference](#) in October. But, several of the presenters from the past Conferences, members of the Society of Masonic Orators and Litterateurs, have submitted papers on esoteric Masonry to be included in the 2018 Proceedings booklet—to provide a contribution to the study and exploration of esoteric Masonry this year. These submitted papers include "Transliterating the Sacred Symbolic Name" by Thomas Driber, Ph.D., 33°, "Are You a Fellowcraft Mason?" by Nick Gatlin, 32° KCCH, "Understanding the Royal Secret Through the Pythagorean Monad" by Ryan Driber, 32° KCCH, and "Gender and Union in Freemasonry" by David Stafford, Ed.D., 33°.

SETH, Son of Adam, and the Two Pillars

from Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia *by* Henry Wilson Coil, 33°. 1995. *Richmond: Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company, Inc.*

Among the variations of the Patriarchal theory of the origin of Masonry, was one much emphasized by Dr. [George] Oliver to the effect that primitive Masonry was preserved by the descendants of Seth and kept separate from the descendants of Cain, but that a spurious Freemasonry of the Gentiles was established by a sect of Sethites who seceded. Josephus relates the myth of the two pillars erected by Seth to preserve the sciences, but the Gothic Legends attribute that act to the children of Lamech, although Seth is mentioned. In some degrees of the 18th Century, the pillars and deposit of the secrets were attributed to Enoch.