



# The T. L. of R. Bulletin

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## FIRST QUARTER BULLETIN – 2021

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### DECEMBER 12 STATED MEETING

The meeting was held in the Lodge Hall of our “Home Lodge,” Sparta Lodge No. 99 in Sparta, TN. Twelve members and visitors were in attendance. Senior Deputy Master Jason Francis Hicks presided, as Brother Master William Alan Peck was unable to attend. Sparta Lodge No. 99 was thanked for their hospitality, for the excellent box lunch meal that they furnished in accordance with COVID guidelines, and for being our “Home Lodge.”

Our speaker was Right Worshipful Brother L. Alvin Hill, Sr., Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Grand Lodge, who presented “Two Grand Ole Masons” about two Grand Ole Opry performers who were Masons: [Brother Joseph Lyndoll Edwards, 33°](#), who played fiddle in the Grand Ole Opry Staff Band for 32 years and performed regularly on the Opry for 48 years, and [Brother Melvin David Sloan](#), whose Melvin Sloan Dancers, aka the Tennessee Travelers, square danced on the Opry from 1980 to 2002. Both of these Brothers provided numerous performances for the Fraternity over the years, free of charge. Brother Hill’s papers regarding these Brothers will be published in our 2021 Proceedings, hopefully later this year.

The following deaths were reported:

Thomas Ernest Brooks, Sr., Fellow and Master of the Lodge of Research in 1990, Clinton, TN,

Alpha Lodge #376, died 9/25/2020;

James M. Hursey, Spring City, TN, Rhea Springs Lodge #310, died 11/9/2020;

James Wesley Walker, Jr., Clarksville, TN, Palmyra Lodge #747, died 9/16/2020;

William Charles Williams, Dandridge, TN, Hamblen Lodge #767, died 10/8/2020

Our Master Scholar Medals, which will be awarded to all who complete our Tennessee Masonic Academy program of study, were presented to our first two members to complete the program: Brothers Michael Adam Neulander and Jason Francis Hicks.

Six petitions for membership were approved. After the meeting \$32 was collected for the Grand Lodge Library and Museum Fund.

### 2021 OFFICERS

The officers elected and/or appointed to govern the Tennessee Lodge of Research for the Year 2021 are:

Master – Jason Francis Hicks, Cookeville Lodge No. 266, Cookeville, TN

Senior Deputy Master – Derrell Wayne “Boo” McAfee, Old Hickory Lodge No. 598, Old Hickory, TN

Junior Deputy Master – David Clinton Swam, Sr., Somerville Lodge No. 73, Somerville, TN

Secretary/Treasurer – George Caleb Ladd III, Benton Lodge No. 111, Santa Fe, TN

Chaplain – Wallace Edward Bernard, Charlotte Lodge No. 97, Charlotte, TN

Tiler – Michael Adam Neulander, Pleasant Grove Lodge No. 138, Culleoka, TN

### MARCH 6 MEETING

Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 6 at Western Sun Lodge No. 88 in Troy, TN. Our speaker will be Brother Master Jason Hicks, who will present “John Raymond Shute, Jr., the Innovator of Modern Masonry.” Brother Shute was instrumental in the founding of the Allied Masonic Degrees, the Knight Masons, and the Grand College of Rites. This was the capstone paper which completed Brother Hicks’ studies and activities in the Tennessee Masonic Academy and earned him his Master Masonic Scholar medal.

A meal will be served at 12:00 Noon Central Time (there will be a requested donation of \$10 for the meal). 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.

### **Driving Directions for the March 6 Meeting:**

From **Interstate 40**, just west of **Jackson**, take **Exit 79** and proceed **west** on **US Highway 412 West** for **43 miles**. **Merge** onto **US Highway 51 North**, and proceed **north** for **22.7 miles**. Turn **right** onto **State Highway 21** (which is Rives Road) and proceed **east 0.2 mile**. Western Sun Lodge No. 88 is located at [238 East Highway 21, Troy, TN 38260](#).

From **Memphis**, take **US Highway 51 North**, and proceed north approximately **70 miles** to **Troy**. Turn **right** onto **State Highway 21** (which is Rives Road) and proceed **east 0.2 mile** to **238 East Highway 21**.

### **REMAINING MEETINGS DURING 2021**

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

### **PASSING OF PAST MASTER, FELLOW, AND SECRETARY EMERITUS ROBERT ELMER GOOCH**



It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Brother Robert Elmer Gooch, 33°, a pillar of the Tennessee Lodge of Research for many years. Born November 29, 1928 in Oakville, KY, he entered the celestial Lodge above on January 17 at the age of 92.

Brother Gooch was Secretary Emeritus of the Lodge of Research, having served as Secretary from 1997 through 2005. He served as Master in 1989, and was elected a Fellow of the Lodge of Research on December 10, 1994. He was a Charter Member.

Brother Gooch was also a pillar of the Masonic bodies of Clarksville, serving as Secretary of Clarksville Lodge No. 89 from 1983 until 2015 and as Secretary/Recorder of the Clarksville York Rite bodies for many years.

His service to the Fraternity extended statewide via the Lodge of Research and Grand York Rite bodies. Most Excellent Companion Gooch was Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Tennessee in 1990. For a number of years he served as Grand Instructor-Inspector of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Tennessee, inspecting and grading every Commandery on its activities, ritual proficiency, and conferral of the Order of the Temple. He was a holder of the KYGCH and a recipient of the Order of the Purple Cross.

Brother Gooch was also active in the Scottish Rite, the Red Cross of Constantine, Allied Masonic Degrees, and several other appendant bodies.

Brother Gooch served his country in the United States Air Force and was a World War II veteran, retiring after 20 years of service as a Master Sergeant. He then went on to work in Civil Service in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky as a Personnel Management Specialist, where he received the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civil Service.

On a personal note, Brother Gooch was my mentor as Secretary of the Lodge of Research. He left me good templates for correspondence, the quarterly bulletins, and the annual proceedings which I have used these last 15 years. I owe a great deal to the good and wholesome instruction I received from Brother Gooch.

Much wisdom in Masonry is transmitted through casual conversations during our fellowship with each other. While I was going through the chairs of the Lodge of Research during Brother Gooch's final years as its Secretary, he and I traveled hundreds of miles together to Lodge of Research meetings in East and West Tennessee. I learned a great deal during the conversations we had as we traveled.

The Fraternity will greatly miss this exemplary Brother and servant. I am grateful for the blessing of having Bob Gooch as my friend, mentor, and Brother.

### **MASONIC BOOK CLUB RESTART**

From <https://scottishrite.org/media-publications/masonic-book-club/>:

The Masonic Book Club (MBC) was formed in 1970 by two Illinois Masons, Alphonse Cerza and Louis Williams. The MBC primarily reprinted out-of-print Masonic books with a scholarly introduction; occasionally they would print original texts. After some 40 years of service to the Craft, the directors in 2010 decided to dissolve the MBC. The club originally was limited to 333 members, but the number eventually expanded to nearly 2,000, with 1,083 members when it dissolved in 2010.

In 2017 MW Barry Weer, 33°, the last president of the MBC, transferred the MBC name and assets to the Supreme Council, 33°, SJ USA. The revived Masonic Book Club has the goals of publishing classic Masonic books and of supporting Scottish Rite SJ USA Philanthropies. Membership is open to anyone 18 years or older who is interested in the history of Freemasonry and allows you to purchase MBC editions at a pre-publication discount.

The new MBC will have a different business model than the old. Most significantly, there will be no dues; being a member entitles you to purchase books at a pre-publication discount. For details, visit the website:

<https://scottishrite.org/media-publications/masonic-book-club/>