

Iowa Research Lodge No. 2 **NEWSLETTER**

May 2025

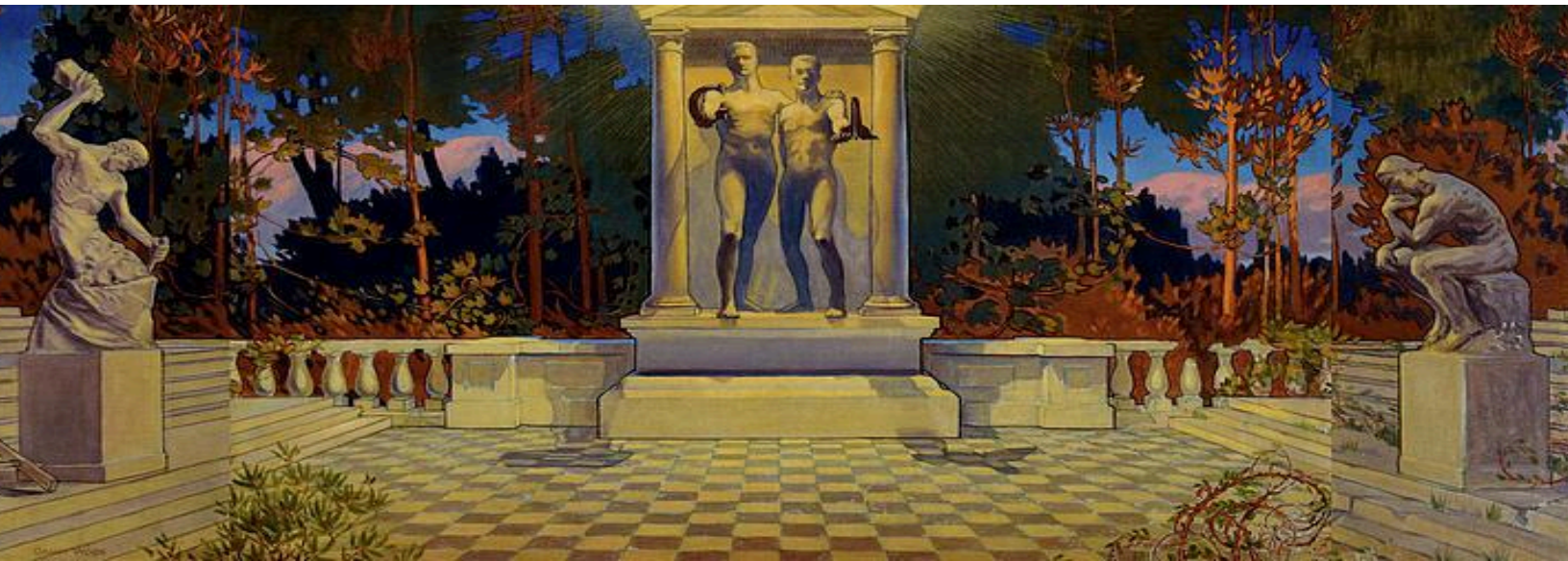
Membership Audit!

To maintain your active status within IRL2 and receive future communications, please scan here to complete our member form.

More information on Page 3.



Scan me



Changes and More Changes

2024 was a busy year for Iowa Research Lodge No. 2, and it brought several noteworthy changes. We held three stated meetings and a special meeting. We adopted a new set of bylaws and elected officers twice. We have new officers, a new home, a new website, and two new forthcoming publications. The future of Masonic research in Iowa is bright!

New Location

Located for decades at a private residence, IRL2 has moved its physical location into the Des Moines Valley Scottish Rite Consistory located at 519 Park St. in downtown Des Moines. IRL2 appreciates the Scottish Rite's willingness to host us. Having a Masonic building to store our property and hold meetings is a good thing for the lodge's long-term stability. If you get a minute, please thank Bro. Joe White, Secretary Registrar, and Bro. Bryce Hildreth, Personal Representative, for this courtesy and their willingness to advance Masonic research in Iowa.

New Contact Information and Website

- IRL2 new website: <https://iowaresearchlodge.com>
- New email address: iowaresearchlodge@gmail.com

New Meeting Schedule

Our old bylaws required that IRL2 hold meetings on the last Saturdays of March and September. The new bylaws have changed the meeting schedule starting in 2025. Meetings will now be held in the second quarter and the fourth quarter of each calendar year, with elections during the Fall meeting.

The precise dates, times, and locations of each meeting will be **emailed** to members and **posted** to the new website ahead of the event. This provides the lodge flexibility both with booking speakers and avoiding conflicts with other Masonic events. This flexibility will improve our events and help us increase attendance.

New Officers of IRL2

The new bylaws also included a change in the officer terms and a new schedule for elections. The old bylaws required annual officer elections at the Spring meeting. Under the new bylaws, beginning in 2024, officer terms are two years, and elections will be held at the Fall meeting of even-numbered years.

At the Fall 2024 elections, the following officers were elected for terms beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2026:

- Worshipful Master: Timothy Whipple
- Senior Warden: Craig Long
- Junior Warden: Dallas Downey
- Secretary: Thomas Cox
- Treasurer: Art Pixler

Next Meeting of IRL2

Spring Meeting: May 30, 2025, 6:00 PM, at the Des Moines Scottish Rite Consistory (519 Park St., Des Moines)

RSVP here (by 5/23): iowaresearchlodge@gmail.com

Featured Speaker: Author, Historian, and Museum Curator, **Mark Tabbert**, will be presenting on the history of American Masonry, including how the split between the Antients and the Moderns was resolved here in America.

New Publication Plans

Later this year, we will make two new publications exclusively available as a benefit to members of IRL2. The lodge has an extensive back catalog of its publications, and we are working to make some of these available after being out of print for many years.

The first to look forward to is a reprint of “**How to Kick a Sacred Cow**,” a classic written by a founding member of IRL2, Jerry Marsengill. The second forthcoming publication is “**Iowa Research Lodge No. 1**,” a reprint of the history and transactions of the first Iowa research lodge. If you’ve ever wondered about “No. 1,” you will enjoy this book. It contains the history, founding members, and research papers of the very first research lodge formed in Iowa.

For many years, IRL2 provided a printed book upon payment of the \$40 dues for membership. This model required large minimum print runs and substantial postage costs to ship books to individual members. This old bulk-order model is no longer feasible due to rapidly dwindling membership and rapidly increasing production and postage costs.

With the advent of high-quality on-demand publishing, it has become economically feasible to publish books digitally and print them one at a time. The unit costs are lower, and the publisher ships the bound product directly to the consumer.

That's why, moving forward, **instead of charging for meals and providing free books**, we intend to **provide free meals (with speakers) and charge for books**. Our goals are to offer a variety of affordable and unique publications, to seek to increase attendance at stated meetings, and to eliminate the need to store large amounts of inventory from print runs. If you don't want a publication, you needn't order it. If you want more than one copy, you may order as many as you want.

IRL2 Membership Survey and Renewal

Whether you wish to **remain** or **become** a member of Iowa Research Lodge No. 2, **please go to the link below (or use the QR code)** to fill out our updated membership form:



Scan me

<https://bit.ly/IowaResearchLodgeInterest>

Once we have compiled a refreshed list of sustaining members, we will send you a dues notice.

Whether you are a longtime IRL2 member or a new Mason, **please respond** to this circular by completing the membership form. To save on postage and printing, this may be the last paper communication. Moving forward, dues will be transacted electronically, and communications will be by email or text. If you want to be an engaged member, you will need internet access and an email account. You will also find it convenient to provide a mobile number for future text messaging.

About Mark Tabbert - Featured Speaker for 30 May (6:00 PM @ DMSRC)

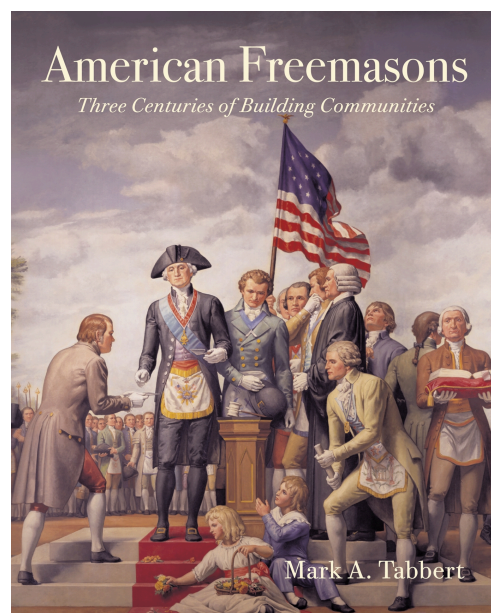


Mark A. Tabbert holds a master's degree in American history and has worked as a museum curator for over 25 years. In 2023, he retired as the Director of Museum Collections at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, Alexandria, VA. He is the author of six books, including **American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities** (NYU Press, 2005) and **A Deserving Brother: George Washington and Freemasonry** (UVA Press, 2022). He became a Freemason in 1998, is a Past Master of two Masonic Lodges, and currently serves as Junior Warden of Des Moines Lodge No.1, Burlington, Iowa. He is a 33rd Degree in the Scottish Rite (NMJ) of Freemasonry, a member of the Society of Blue Friars, and Quatuor Coronati Lodge 2076. Mark is a past

president of the Masonic Library & Museum Association, a fellow, and a member of several American Masonic lodges of research and research societies.

About Tabbert's Book: "American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building American Communities"

Volunteer associations of all varieties form the foundation of American history and culture. By far, the oldest and largest of all American volunteer associations is Freemasonry, but what exactly is Freemasonry? Why have three centuries of American men from Paul Revere and Ben Franklin to Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, Harry Truman and Thurgood Marshall been



drawn to its rituals, symbols, and precepts? And why did John Quincy Adams call it "a seed of evil, which can never produce any good?"

Published in conjunction with the National Heritage Museum, this extravagantly illustrated volume offers a brief overview of Freemasonry's origins in 17th-century Scotland and England before exploring its evolving role in American history, from the Revolution through the labor and civil rights movements, and into the 21st century. *American Freemasons* explores some of the causes for the rise and fall of membership in the fraternity and why it has attracted men in such large numbers for centuries. Tabbert also examines the relationship between the privacy of a Masonic lodge and the public environment of the American community. *American Freemasons* is the perfect introduction to understanding a society that, while shrouded in mystery, has played an integral role in the lives and communities of millions of Americans.

Praise for “American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building American Communities”:

"With a membership that included George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, Jesse Jackson and Gerald Ford, and millions of Americans in between, Masonry has been an integral part of this country's history. Yet until now, no single book has traced the progress of the fraternity from the early eighteenth century to the early twenty-first century. Mark Tabbert expertly guides readers through that extraordinary history. This beautifully-illustrated book is the best introduction to the Masonic past now available for brothers and curious outsiders."

-Steven C. Bullock, Professor of History, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and author of “Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry & the Transformation of the American Social Order, 1730-1840”

"American Freemasons makes a significant contribution by providing a one-volume overview of the entire history of Masonic activity in what is now the United States. Tabbert synthesizes the latest research on this important social institution, contextualizes Freemasonry within the broad sweep of American history, and breaks new ground in analyzing the trends of the most recent decades. With illustrations drawn from the rich collections of the National Heritage Museum, this volume is visually appealing as well as intellectually rewarding."

-William D. Moore, Associate Professor; American Material Culture, Boston University

Listen: “American Freemasons” audiobook available on Patreon, read by the author, Mark Tabbert:

<https://www.patreon.com/c/magiacademics/shop>



Please respond to our short IRL2 membership form today!

