

# WILLIAM O. WARE LODGE OF RESEARCH

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## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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**I**n **Their Own Words** is a joint project of William O. Ware Lodge of Research and Crittenden-Dry Ridge Lodge No. 694.

**In Their Own Words** is an oral history project that seeks to preserve the histories of individual Masons, along with their Lodges and related organizations, for future generations.

Oral histories are quite valuable. As Freemasonry declines in terms of the numbers of men who are Masons, much of its history is at risk of being forgotten, and, thus, lost to posterity.

It is axiomatic that every man brings into Freemasonry a unique perspective. That uniqueness extends, as well, to his experiences within the Fraternity. **In Their Own Words** seeks to capture those perspectives and place them within the context of contemporary North American Freemasonry.

The men who are participating in this project are sharing their stories to the best of their recollections. Certain names, dates and places may not be precisely accurate. There is no intent to mislead found here. As with all oral histories, it should be noted that memory is fallible.

In a certain sense, **In Their Own Words** is a companion to the “Voices of Freemasonry” project that appears elsewhere on this website. All Freemasons have a voice, and, likewise, all Freemasons have a story to tell. The William O. Ware Lodge of Research is committed to providing a forum for the many voices of Freemasonry, as well as a platform from which the equally numerous stories of Freemasons may be told. As is the case with “Voices of Freemasonry,” not all of the men whose recollections are presented here are members of William O. Ware Lodge of Research or Crittenden-Dry Ridge Lodge No. 694. The intent of the project is to gain a wide range of experiences and viewpoints.

William O. Ware Lodge of Research and Crittenden-Dry Ridge Lodge No. 694 wish to express their thanks to those Masons who have taken the time to share their respective stories. This is an ongoing project, and, presumably, as time passes, the stories of more and more Masons will be captured and preserved.

It should be noted that the opinions expressed in the various episodes of **In Their Own Words** are the opinions of the individual Masons who are appearing in the videos. Such opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of William O. Ware Lodge of Research or Crittenden-Dry Ridge Lodge No. 694.