

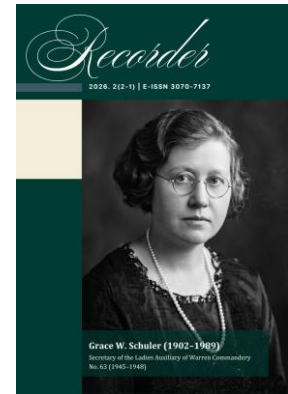
Copyright © 2026 by East European Historical Society



Published in the USA
So-publisher: Cherkas Global University
Recorder
Has been issued since 2025.
E-ISSN: 3070-7137
2026. 2(2-1): 241
DOI: 10.13187/rec.2026.2-1.241



Journal homepage:



Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

In presenting this special issue (No. 2-1) of *Recorder*, we continue the journal's mission to expand and deepen the study of the history of the York Rite in the United States, with particular attention to those dimensions of Masonic life that have long remained on the periphery of scholarly inquiry. The current issue is devoted to the activities of the Ladies Auxiliary of Warren Commandery No. 63 (Pennsylvania) during the formative decade from 1938 to 1949—a period that witnessed profound transformations both within American society and within the Masonic community itself.

Traditionally, the historiography of Freemasonry has focused predominantly on male institutions, their structures, rituals, and leadership. Yet such an approach leaves incomplete the broader social reality in which these organizations functioned. The study presented in this issue demonstrates convincingly that the Ladies Auxiliary was not merely an adjunct body but an integral component of the Masonic social world. Through its activities, we gain access to the everyday practices, values, and forms of social interaction that sustained and enriched the life of the Commandery.

The materials analyzed—minute books preserved in the Archive of Cherkas Global University—allow us to trace, with remarkable clarity, the evolution of the Auxiliary from its inception to a stage of institutional maturity. Particularly noteworthy is the dynamic interplay between dependence and autonomy: while closely connected to the Commandery, the Auxiliary developed its own organizational structure, financial base, and sphere of activity. This dual character reflects a broader pattern of women's participation in fraternal culture in the United States.

The chronological scope of the study provides an opportunity to observe how the organization adapted to changing historical conditions. The wartime years stand out as a period of intensified mobilization, during which the Auxiliary became actively involved in Red Cross work and in supporting servicemen. These activities illustrate the integration of Masonic-affiliated organizations into the wider framework of American civil society during World War II. Equally significant, however, is the postwar transition, when the focus shifted toward local charity, community support, and the maintenance of internal cohesion. In this respect, the Auxiliary exemplifies the processes of social adaptation characteristic of mid-twentieth-century America.

This special issue also reflects a broader editorial direction that *Recorder* has increasingly embraced: the publication of original research grounded in archival sources. By bringing into scholarly circulation materials such as these minute books, we not only preserve historical memory but also open new avenues for interpretation. The study of local organizations, often overlooked in favor of national structures, proves essential for understanding the lived experience of Freemasonry and its associated bodies.

Finally, it is important to emphasize that the significance of this work extends beyond the history of a single Auxiliary. It invites us to reconsider the role of women within the Masonic environment and to recognize their contributions to the formation of social networks, charitable practices, and cultural life. In doing so, it enriches our understanding of Freemasonry as a complex social phenomenon embedded in the broader fabric of American history.

We trust that this issue will be of interest not only to specialists in Masonic studies but also to historians of social organizations, gender, and community life. It is our hope that it will encourage further research into similar bodies and contribute to a more comprehensive and nuanced historiography of the York Rite and its institutions.

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Alexander C. Cherkas