



The Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M.



Number 1

Spring

2010

Nederland hosts first meeting of 2010

It may have been a cold and rainy January day in Nederland on Texas's south-eastern-most corner, but there was no want for warm hospitality.

Texas Lodge of Research's first meeting of the new decade took place at the spacious hall of Nederland Lodge No. 1368. A large contingent of lodge members greeted TLR members from over the state with a freshly cooked breakfast, followed at the noon hour with a steaming bowl of chili, made from a member's family recipe. It was a good thing that the brother made a big pot. None went to waste.

TLR officers and members

See **THE NEDERLAND**, Page 7.



Bro. Barry Smith, left, Worshipful Master of Nederland Lodge No. 1368 presents one of the lodge's 50 year coins during the tiled meeting. Members of the lodge not only prepared a hot breakfast, but an outstanding chili lunch to chase away the effects of the chilly rain that covered much of the state.

Next Stated Communication College Station, Texas

Friday, March 19, 2010
4 p.m. Hospitality Room opens
at the Quality Suites Hotel.
Dutch-treat supper at Abuello's
Restaurant..

Saturday, March 20, 2010
10 a.m. Quarterly Meeting of
Texas Lodge of Research
Host: Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300
See back page for details and
addresses.

On the inside:

Texas Masons honor a Brother and his wife at reinterment at Texas State Cemetery ceremonies in Austin. Page 6.

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2009-2010**

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By Jack Harper

A message from the Master

Brethren, what a joy it was for Texas Lodge of Research to hold our January stated meeting in Nederland Lodge No. 1368. This was the first time TLR has met in Nederland, and am sure we will be back again at some time! The hospitality that was shown to us was truly outstanding; whether from our lodgings, Friday night restaurant, Saturday meals, or most especially our very own TLR logo cake! I would especially like to thank Tommy Chapman for helping to coordinate our weekend events.

Brethren, what a pleasure it has been for me to have served as the 50th Worshipful Master of TLR. It has been an exciting ride to say the least. During the year, our great State of Texas saw a scorching summer heat wave, only to be followed by the El Niño weather pattern during the fall and winter which brought copious amounts of rain. Let it also be mentioned there was a great amount of rain while in Nederland as well.

As I look back over this past year, I am very pleased by the turnouts we have had, both from TLR members and local and visiting Brethren as well. We have enjoyed each of our meetings from Hillsboro to Richardson, Lufkin to Nederland. Also, all of our papers have been very interesting as well as entertaining. We were also very fortunate to have had Dick Fletcher as our Anson Jones speaker at the June meeting in Richardson.

I would like to take a brief moment to thank each and every member of TLR for their hard work, effort, and support during this past year. I also have several special "thank you's".

First, our elected and appointed officers have been very busy, and have done their best to keep the Lodge in a sound financial position. A hearty commendation goes to Mark Dermit, who has done a fine job during his first year as Treasurer, and is to be commended for moving us to an all electronic financial system. Also, Jim Dougherty continues his fine efforts as



Jack Harper
Worshipful Master

both Secretary and *Occasional Bulletin* Editor.

Second, I would like to thank our hard-working Editorial Committee, which is composed of R:W: David Dibrell, PGM, Herb Arbuckle (our yodeling professor), and Ray Bronk. The committee was also ably assisted by Jim Dougherty. The committee this year has been extremely busy. They created our new *Form and Style Manual* which provides all the information needed by potential and future TLR authors. They also completely revamped our system by which papers are received as well as their flow through the editorial process. Lastly, they conducted informational workshops during each stated meeting with anyone who was interested in writing and submitting a paper to TLR.

Third, I would like to thank Herb Arbuckle for arranging our special event of the year. He partnered with the Texas Heritage Music Foundation and Schreiner University in Kerrville to honor Bro. Jimmie Rodgers, a very special Texas Mason. TLR was able to set up a Masonic booth and provide information to prospective TLR members, as well as to non-Masons interested in learning more about our gentle fraternity. On an exciting note, I just

Nederland welcomes TLR for first time

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gathered on Friday evening at a local hotel for refreshment and conversation in Junior Warden Merlen and Lady Judy's room as no formal hospitality room was available.

Soon, Bro. Tommy Chapman arrived with his family and the hospitality room crowd walked across the parking lot to join a group of local Masons at a very good steak house.

Bro. Chapman, who was our local contact in making arrangements in Nederland is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Council of Texas. His son, a Senior DeMolay and member of Nederland Lodge served as Chaplain, pro tem, at the meeting.

Worshipful Master Harper dropped the gavel at 10 a.m. to begin a lengthy agenda.

A total of ten new members were balloted upon and, as it

turned out, another five were collected by the Worshipful Master before he left for home.

One very important action taken was the approval of a Masonic Study Group under the auspices of Texas Lodge of Research in Trimdon, County Durham, England. The group has set their meetings around Texas and US national holidays, including Confederate Heroes Day (January), Texas Independence Day (March), US Independence Day (July) and Thanksgiving (November.)

Worshipful Master Harper and Secretary Dougherty will represent Texas Lodge of Research at the March meeting and present our British Brothers a suitable charter.

Two important presentations were made by the Worshipful Master. The first was a special

hard cover edition of *Transactions* Volume XLI to Past Master Jim Dougherty. The volume covers his year as Master of the lodge and also contains the Concise Index of previous volumes. It has become a tradition that a bound volume be presented to the former presiding officer and members of his officer tableau and authors of papers presented during that year are invited to autograph the book. Following that presentation, the Worshipful Master called up Junior Past Master Truitt Bradley and presented to him his Endowed Membership and the hand-painted and framed Past Master's certificate, prepared by Past Master Ross J. Cox Sr.

Treasurer Mark Dermit gave an impressive picture of TLR's financial standing and predicted that if we continue to see membership dues participation and growth, that TLR may be looking at purchasing another certificate of deposit to replace one we had to liquidate during darker financial days.

The Secretary relayed from Editorial Committee member Herb Arbuckle that TLR has been asked to return to the Texas Heritage Music Foundation's Tribute to Jimmie Rodgers at Schreiner University in September.

Following lunch, everyone returned to the lodge room to hear two papers. Bro. Edward M. Brown of Waco, a first time author, presented his paper "Ornaments of the Lodge," and received his Full Member apron.

Dr. Roy Harris, FM, presented his further research on expelled Past Grand Master Bascom Giles.

Most post-meeting remarks were centered on the warm hospitality of our Brothers in Nederland.

Master

Continued from Page 2

received word this past week that we have been asked to make this an annual event, and am sure we will do such!

Fourth, I am very excited about our TLR sponsored study group. On February 20th, I will make the traditional visit and speech to our San Antonio club; then in March Bro. Secretary and I will be traveling to Trimdon, Durham County, U.K. to set our newest group to work. What an exciting opportunity to spread the message of TLR, as well as for us to have the opportunity to receive many new and diverse Masonic research papers.

No Worshipful Master could be successful without the support of his nurturing Past Masters, and I have been surrounded by many! They have whispered good counsel in my ear, and have been unflinching in their support. I look forward to

joining their ranks soon, doing my best to help our current officers and members, as well as continuing to recruit new TLR members.

On a final, special note, I would like to thank Jerry Yelvington, who during his term as Senior Warden helped me during the writing process of my paper, and then while Worshipful Master for having enough trust and confidence in me to appoint me as his Junior Deacon: Thanks Jerry!

Again, thank you to each and every one of you for the honor of serving as your Worshipful Master; it is not taken lightly. I hope each of you has a great 2010, and I look forward to seeing you at a Masonic event soon!

P.S. Do not forget to check the last page of this *Occasional Bulletin* for the dates and locations of our upcoming meetings. We will be in College Station in March for the annual election and installation of officers, and I hope to meet as many Brethren as possible.



Top photo: Worshipful Master Harper congratulates first-time author Edward M. Brown following his presentation of "Ornaments of the Lodge."

Right photo: A beautifully frosted cake greeted everyone for dessert after a great chili luncheon.

Right, below: Secretary Jim Dougherty receives a hardbound presentation copy of the *Transactions* from his year as Worshipful Master (2006-07) from Worshipful Master Harper.

Below middle: Dr. Roy Harris presents his follow-up paper on expelled Grand Master Bascom Giles.

Below left: Junior Past Master Truitt Bradly receives his hand-colored Past Master's Certificate crafted by Past Master Ross J. Cox Sr.





Nederland Snapshots Photos by Pete Martinez



Texas Masons honor pioneer family at Texas State Cemetery reinterment

Rain clouds hung heavily over Austin on Nov. 19 as two blue hearses pulled to a stop near the graves of hundreds of Confederate dead and deposited the remains of two illustrious citizens of the Republic and State of Texas at their final resting spot.

Next to the Victorian wrought iron structure protecting the recumbent statue and tomb of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, a marble masterpiece by sculptor Elizabet Ney, adjoining graves awaited Texas pioneers Joseph Ross and Mary Frances Adams, who died over 100 years ago.

The journey from their homestead was a long and complicated journey. The homestead, long since sold, was in the process of being strip mined. Thanks to the efforts of great-great-grandson Col. Jim Adams, their final resting place would be in the "Arlington of Texas."

Col. Jim Adams, retired Director of the Department of Public Safety, was contacted by the mining company that the family cemetery had been found and that removal of the deceased to another location had to be accomplished. In time, Col. Adams contacted Texas State Cemetery Superintendent Harry Bradley and made application for his Confederate veteran ancestor and his wife to have a final resting place with other casualties and veterans of the War Between the States.

In remarks during the ceremonies, Col. Adams related that his great-great grandfather was an active Mason and that all Adams' grandsons, down to Col. Adams were Masons.

So, it was fitting that Col. Adams called upon Austin Lodge No. 12, one of the Republic of Texas chartered lodges, to coordinate Masonic burial rites for his ancestor. Secretary and TLR member Victor Armstrong pulled together an outstanding team, led by PDDGM Kent Kincade, who flawlessly recited the Sam B. Cantey burial service.

Grand Master David Counts, a close friend of Col. Adams, was on

hand and made appropriate and well appreciated remarks on behalf of the Craft.

Following the Masonic rites, five members of the Littlefield Chapter, Sons of the Confederacy, fired a black powder salute and played *Taps* as the ceremonies concluded.

Buried within the confines of the Texas State Cemetery are Father of Texas and Master Mason Stephen F.

Austin, and to date, three Past Grand Masters of Masons in Texas. Several Masonic Governors, as well as both of Texas' women governors and OES Sisters, Miriam "Ma" Ferguson and Ann Richards, along with numerous other members of the fraternity are interred there.

The Texas State Cemetery welcomes visitors during the week between 8 a.m. and sunset, daily.



This photo: Members of the Littlefield Chapter, Sons of the Confederacy of Austin, provided a firing squad and *Taps* honor guard for the Adams reinterment ceremonies.

Below: Harry Bradley, left, recipient of TLR's 2006 Community Builder Award, joins Grand Master David Counts and retired DPS Col. and Bro. Jim Adams at grave site. Photos by Jim Dougherty



From the Secretary

By Jim Dougherty, PM, Secretary and Occasional Bulletin Editor

Texas Lodge of Research dues statements went into the mail in mid-November. By the New Year half of our members had responded with their return card and a check by the end of the year. Thank you all for your prompt payment and support for our lodge. Several members stepped up with added contributions to the lodge and at least one Life Membership application. If you haven't responded to the statement, please do so soon. Many thanks to you all!

One bit of clarification: TLR, as a "special lodge," does not report any member who decides, for whatever reason, not to pay dues as "NPD" to his Grand Lodge. We simply drop dormant (two years in arrears) members from the lodge publications mailing list. Any former member can be reinstated with payment of the current year's dues.

Unfortunately, we had several responses from Sisters who reported their Mason husband had been *Called From Labor* during the past year. Our prayers are with the families of our departed Brethren.

As we enter 2010, we look forward to the publication of Past Master Ray Bronk's *Transactions Vol. XLII*. It's obvious that TLR's financial condition has markedly improved over the past year. Thanks to favorable printing arrangements for both the *Transactions* and the *Occasional Bulletin*, along with other expense savings, TLR is again an organization in "The Black." By keeping our operational costs in check, we can continue to hold the quality at quarterly meetings that we have come to expect and to attract the best Masonic minds for our Anson Jones Lecturer.

This past year TLR published a new *Form and Style Manual*. The Editorial Committee, composed of a journalist, an adjunct college professor, a multi-published writer, and a respected Masonic leader, spent many hours of blood, sweat and tears, to provide lodge members with a vehicle for consistency in Masonic research and writing. As far as I know, it is the only Masonic-based literary style manual in print today.

Some months ago, Professor and Bro. Alan Bell, a member of Texas Lodge of Research approached our lodge about the possibility of establishing a TLR Study Group in the United Kingdom. Bro. Bell coordinated with his District Representative to the United Grand Lodge of England and secured his local lodge as a host for meetings. Their quarterly meetings were proposed on the Saturday following Confederate Heroes Day (Jan.), Texas Independence Day (March 2), Independence Day (July 4), and Thanksgiving (last Thursday in November.) Grand Master David Counts and Grand Secretary Tommy Guest have been most supportive of TLR "stretching its wings" across the Atlantic.

Worshipful Master Harper and I will present our Brothers a special certificate of authorization at their March 13, 2010 meeting. Other members of TLR who would like to attend are invited to contact the Secretary for meeting details.

See you in Aggie Land!



Jim Dougherty, PM Secretary

The image shows two circular items side-by-side. On the left is the seal of the Texas Lodge of Research, featuring a central square with a star and the letters 'G. L. R. T.' inside, surrounded by the text 'TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH' and 'A.F. & A.M.'. On the right is a commemorative coin for '50 YEARS SERVICE TO TEXAS MASONRY' featuring a portrait of Dr. James D. Carter and the dates '1958 - 2008'.	<p>TLR's limited edition 50th anniversary coin has been a great hit with Masonic coin collectors since it went on sale in January 2008. The beautifully detailed and enameled coins will be available while supplies last at TLR quarterly meetings for \$10 each, or from the secretary's office at \$11.50, including postage and handling.</p> <p>Coins will be permanently retired in 2010, so get yours while they last.</p>
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Upcoming Meetings

March 19 - 20, 2010 Host: Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300, College Station. Election and Installation of Officers.

June 18 - 19, 2010 Host: Perfect Union No. 10, Scottish Rite Temple. San Antonio. Anson Jones Lecture

September 17 - 18, 2010 Host: TBA

January 14 - 15, 2011 Host: TBA

Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300 to host TLR in March

Once again, Texas Lodge of Research returns to the Brazos Valley and College Station's beautiful Masonic Library and Museum. Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300 will host the meeting.

Should tradition prevail, incoming Worshipful Master Wayne Sirmon and his new slate of officers will be installed at this meeting. Bro. Wayne is no stranger to Aggieland as his son is a recent graduate.

Host hotel will be the Quality Suites at 3610 Highway 6 South. Call the hotel at (979) 695-9400 and request the Texas Lodge of Research (Group No. 100825) rate of \$89, plus tax, per night. Twenty rooms have been reserved with a choice of one king or two queen beds. Friday events include the Hospitality Room opening at 4:00 p.m. at the hotel and Dutch-treat dinner at the nearby Abuello's Mexican Restaurant.

On Saturday, the lodge will be called to order at 10 a.m. at the Library and Museum located at 3411 Longmire Dr., . The Editorial Committee will again hold an information session for

prospective authors, time permitting, prior to lunch. We expect one paper to be scheduled for the afternoon open meeting followed by the installation of officers.

GM coins benefit TLR

Judge Jack Hightower, PGM and former Anson Jones Lecturer, has donated his accumulation of Texas Grand Masters' coins to benefit TLR. We have a substantial number of Judge Hightower's solid bronze coins from 1972. Also available in lesser numbers are Joe Steed's aluminum coin (1971), Bob Schnell (1993), Billy Tinsley (1994), Robert Walker (1996), Joe Regian (1997), Harry Cunningham (1998), Mike Gower (1999), Vernon Burke (2000), David Dibrell (2001), Mike Nanny (2002), Boyd Patterson (2003) and Reese Harrison (2004.)

Coins are available from the secretary at \$5.00 each, postpaid. Coins will also be available at quarterly meetings.
