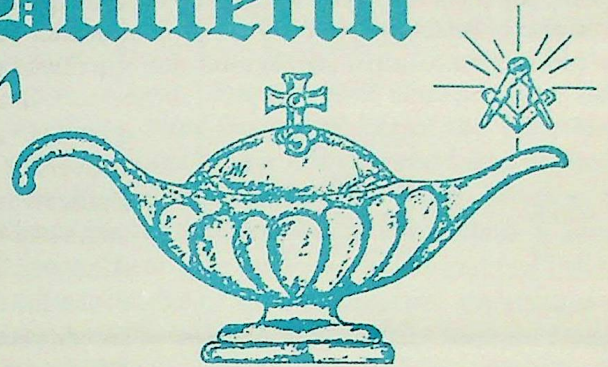


# The

# Occasional Bulletin

## Texas Lodge<sup>of</sup> Research



1999 – 2000

March 1999

No. 1

### Stated Communication Saturday, March 20, 1999

Athens Lodge No. 165  
Hwy 175 East of Town  
Athens, Texas

9:00 A.M.  
Gather at Lodge for Fellowship

9:30 A.M.  
Activities for Ladies & Non-Masonic  
Guests

10:30 A.M.  
Business Meeting of TLR  
Election of Officers

12:00 Noon  
Lunch at Lodge

1:00 P.M.  
Presentation of Papers  
& Installation of Officers

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### Future Meetings

Saturday, 19 June 1999  
Austin Scottish Rite, Austin

Saturday, 18 September 1999  
Sam R. Hamilton Lodge No. 1031,  
Grand Prairie

Saturday, 15 January 2000  
Holland Lodge No. 1, Houston

## *From The East*

This is the last time that I will write this particular column and the thought of this fact makes me very sad. Over and over again we have heard the old saying that time goes by fast when you are having a good time. This past year is no different from the old saying. There are so many officers, members, and committee members to thank for doing a very good job for TLR during the past year. Officer attendance was great at our four stated meetings, Past Masters Bill Vaughn and Mike Wiggins have produced very fine transactions and bulletins. The writers of papers presented exceeded my expectations and the host lodges were great to say the least. So, my thanks to all.

TLR has members located all over. I thank the membership for their diligence in paying their dues promptly and supporting the Lodge financially as well as physically. We are dedicated to our individual home lodges and I want to use this opportunity to encourage all to attend your own lodge regularly and support your officers in their endeavors. You don't have to confer degrees or give lectures, just give your support by being there. It takes many men to keep a lodge going so attend lodge and be one of the ones to keep it going.

Lastly, I want to urge all to support the Grand Lodge of Texas. No organization the size of our Grand Lodge could possibly function without the assistance of a large group of able and conscientious officers and committeemen. We could not hire the talent represented by our officers and on our committees. Their reports and the results achieved speak for themselves. None of us realize the tremendous amount of time and work the Grand Lodge officers and committeemen contribute to our welfare and the welfare of our Grand Lodge. The work is not easy and we all need to extend to them now and in the future complete cooperation and assistance. They deserve it.

James F. Brumit  
Worshipful Master



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

**1998-1999 Officers**

Master	James F. Brumit 819 Twilight Dr. Cedar Hill, TX 75104 972-291-7315
Sr. Warden	Clyde B. Kenneaster 7079 Woodland Dr. Athens, TX 75751 903-675-6665
Jr. Warden	James R. Beeler 5606 N. Navarro Ste 200 B Victoria, TX 77904 512-576-0776
Treasurer	R. A. Ford, PM 4802 DeMilo Houston, TX 77092 713-682-5272
Secretary	Plez A. Transou, PM P.O. Box 1850 Dallas, TX 75221 214-748-9196
Chaplain	Dr. Michael L. Wiggins, PM P.O. Box 720397 Norman, OK 73070 405-364-7164
Sr. Deacon	Ross J. Cox, Sr. P.O. Box 741 San Saba, TX 76877 915-372-4190
Jr. Deacon	Dana M. Thompson Rt 5 Box 157 Jacksonville, TX 75766 (903) 854-2289
Sr. Steward	Robert M. Reid 407 N. Casa Grande Duncanville, TX 75116 972-709-8004
Jr. Steward	Nelson Barr P.O. Box 460466 Houston, TX 77056 281-597-1782
Marshal	James C. Yelvington 1711 San Antonio St. Austin, TX 78701 512-707-9554
Master of Ceremonies	B. D. (Doug) Granger 509 SE 12th. St. Grand Prairie, TX 75051 972-642-1032
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Assistant Secretary	Clyde W. Howard, Jr. P.O. Box 1850 Dallas, TX 75221 (214) 748-9196

## Holland Lodge Lecture Announced

Holland Lodge No. 1 recently announced plans for its Second Annual Sam Houston Lecture. Brother John Mauk Hilliard from Bronx, New York has accepted the Lodge's invitation to present this special lecture on 27 March 1999. Brother Hilliard has entitled his presentation "A Commentary on the Culture of Contemporary Freemasonry."

Brother Hilliard is a native of New Mexico who was raised and attended schools in Portales. He attended Eastern New Mexico University where he graduated Magna cum laude and received Bachelor of Arts Degrees in English Literature and History. He continued his academic studies and received a Master of Arts Degree in American History. For 28 years, Brother Hilliard has been a member of the faculty at Lehman College of the City University of New York. He currently is the Director of Recruitment and Higher Education Officer of that institution. He is very active in his church and in professional, service, and community organizations.

Brother Hilliard was raised a Master Mason in Portales Lodge No. 26 in 1966. He has served as Master and Secretary of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2 in New Mexico. In addition, he is past president of the American Lodge of Research and the Philaethes Society and serves on the boards of the Livingston Masonic Library and the Scottish Rite Research Society.

The lecture will be presented at Holland Lodge located at 4911 Montrose Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77006. Plans call for an evening meal at 6:30 PM followed by the lecture at 7:30 PM. The meal is by reservation only and will cost \$17.50. Reservations can be made by mailing your name, address, and phone number to Holland Lodge. Include a check for \$17.50 for each attendee payable to the Lodge and indicate your entree choice of chicken breast or Cordon Bleu'. Reservations must be made to the Lodge by March 19. Additional reservation details can be obtained from any member of Holland Lodge or by calling the Lodge at 713-529-0912.

While Brother Hilliard is in Texas, he will speak to St. Alban's Lodge in College Station on Friday evening, 26 March. Details can be obtained by calling Pete Normand at 409-693-6526.

## Bulletin Deadline - April 10, 1999

*The Occasional Bulletin* solicits brief articles and news items of general interest to the membership of Texas Lodge of Research. These items will be reviewed by the editor and utilized on a space available basis. These items should be sent to the address noted below as typewritten copy and, if possible, on a 3-1/2" computer diskette. The computer diskette and file should be in a PC compatible format. It is preferred the file be submitted as a Microsoft Word file.

The deadline for the June 1999 bulletin is April 10. Submit materials to Michael L. Wiggins, P.O. Box 720397, Norman, OK 73070.



## The Houston Meeting

by Pete Martinez, PM

Since Texas Lodge of Research was set to labor under dispensation on 4 December 1958, we have met in Houston on 14 occasions. Eight of these meetings have been held in Holland Lodge No. 1. Both Jacques DeMolay Lodge No. 1390 and J. W. Chandler Daylight Lodge No. 1452 have hosted Texas Lodge of Research on two occasions. The Scottish Rite Temple, Gray Lodge No. 329 and Park Place Lodge No. 1172 have hosted us on one occasion each.

The latest meeting in Houston was held in Melrose Lodge No. 1294 on 16 January 1999. Depending on whether you believe the millennium starts with 1 January 2000 or with 1 January 2001, we may, or may not, hold another meeting in Houston in this century. Having experienced Houston on many occasions, the only good reason I find for going there is to attend TLR meetings. My favorite large Texas city is San Antonio and I will use almost any excuse to go there. I find that I am not alone in this. As an employ of the Texas Department of Transportation I have learned, through our Travel and Information Division, that information on San Antonio is the most requested by travelers from both inside and outside our state. One of the reasons I enjoyed this last meeting is that the drive from Tyler to Melrose Lodge is only three hours, whereas getting to the other locations in Houston takes me four hours. Of course, if I ride with my friend Charles Monroe he can knock thirty minutes off that time even though he goes the long way and 11 miles doesn't make that much difference.

Worshipful Master James F. Brumit applied the setting maul to the stone at 11:30 a.m. and opened Texas Lodge of Research in proper form. He declared that the pledge to the flags would take place after lunch at the start of the open part of the meeting.

After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, by Secretary Plez A. Transou, a correction was made. In our discussion of the Gemmell Memorial Breakfast it was mentioned that the idea of the breakfast was that of our Past Master and Fellow George H. T. French. Past Master T. J. Burnett, Jr. corrected this with the statement that Brother French said, when he learned about the breakfast, "I wish I had thought of that!" It was after Brother Gemmell's

death that the breakfast was named for him. After all, how could it be a memorial before his death?

Brother Secretary stated that we had 29 new petitions for affiliation and all were approved. The Worshipful Master then called on Senior Deacon Ross J. Cox, Sr. to introduce the distinguished brethren present. These included Grand Chaplain Gordon Kelso, Grand Photographer James G. "Jim" Daugherty, three Grand Officers of the York Rite, including Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters, John C. Elkinton, and Past Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, S. Brent Morris. There were ten Past Masters and one Fellow of Texas Lodge of Research present. An attempt to introduce the Worshipful Master of Melrose Lodge revealed he was in the kitchen "supervising" the preparation of lunch by the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star.

A proposal to form an Association of Research Lodges and Research Societies was presented by Worshipful Master Brumit. The proposal was received from Brother Paul Bessel, Master of the Civil War Research Lodge of Virginia and Librarian of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. Worshipful Master Brumit stated he was unsure of the intent of the proposed organization. Consequently, he was not in favor of committing to such an organization at this time and the subject was dropped.

Past Master T. J. Burnett, Jr. announced the second annual Sam Houston Lecture to be hosted by Holland Lodge No. 1 on 27 March 1999. The speaker will be Brother John Mauk Hilliard of Bronx, New York. Past Master Pete Normand stated Brother Hilliard would speak at a dinner of St Alban's Lodge the preceding evening in College Station. Information can be obtained from either of these Brothers.

Bills in the amount of \$15,750.33 were approved. It's a good thing they were approved as they had already been paid! (This said with tongue planted firmly in cheek.) In the report of book sales at the annual Grand Lodge communication in December it was learned that sales of \$7,187.00 were made. This sum included \$1,152.00 which was sold after Grand Lodge at the meetings of Grand Chapter and Grand Council. During the report, Junior Warden Jim Beeler declared that the book sales at the 1998 Grand Lodge session were the hottest on record, of course referring

(continued on page 4)



## Houston Meeting (continued from page 3)

to the unseasonably warm December temperature in Waco which led to almost unbearably hot temperatures in the book sales area.

Senior Warden Clyde Kenneaster pointed out this was not a book sales record. During the Grand Lodge Communication of 1990, when most of our members were in the Grand Lodge auditorium, several of our ladies took our place at the table and sold \$8,500.00 worth of books. (There must be a lesson there!) Past Master Jack Beeler thanked those that manned the table this past December and special thanks went to Past Master Chuck Bukin for transporting the books from Dallas to Waco and setting up the display.

Brother L. Randall Rogers gave the necrology report. Of the several brethren who passed in the last period, two were notable, our Past Master and former Editor of the Occasional Bulletin Joe C. Hays, Jr. and Past Grand Master John R. Collard.

Secretary Plez Transou read a letter from a former member of our Lodge who expressed displeasure with our requirements for research papers submitted to the Lodge. His main objection appears to be the requirement for end notes. Although he is a well known Masonic author and produces enjoyable articles, there are no end notes and many of his writings are biographies of famous men who just happened to be Masons. Our Editorial Committee does not consider it appropriate for TLR if a biography does not demonstrate the connection between the man and Freemasonry in some meaningful way. Without these elements the paper may be an entertaining article, but will not be considered as a paper for presentation to our Lodge and inclusion in our "Transactions."

Brother Melton "Bo" Camp, Worshipful Master of Melrose Lodge, entered the Lodge Room and was taken before the altar and introduced to the brethren. He stated that lunch was almost ready and we should take note and respond accordingly.

Worshipful Master Brumit called for a report on our efforts to have the statues of Anson Jones and Sam Houston, located near the Capitol in Austin, refurbished. Brother Kelso informed us that Brother Jack Hightower, PGM and former Supreme Court Justice of Texas, was working with the proper agency and we would have a report at the March meeting. Past Master Jack Beeler made the comment that we should rethink the Gemmill Memorial Breakfast and find another way and form to continue the gathering, possibly a dinner. Senior Warden

Clyde Kenneaster announced the plans for the 20 March meeting in Athens. They will be found on the last page of the Bulletin and for those who are reading this on the Internet it is on another link. For those of you who are on the Internet and have not found our web page it is located at <http://pentium2.gower.net/Community/tlr>. There being no further business and the two speakers for the afternoon session having already been elected to Full Membership, the Lodge was closed in due form at 11:50 am.

The Mexican food lunch served by the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star was great and the apple pie and ice cream really topped it off. The afternoon session was opened with Worshipful Master Brumit leading us in the pledge to the United States and Texas flags. He then turned the program over to Senior Warden Clyde Kenneaster who introduced the two speakers for the afternoon.

Brother Jim Hodges started off the afternoon with his paper "Stephen F. Austin - the Father of Texas." My first thoughts were, "Surely someone has done this in Texas Lodge of Research before." I was surprised when I returned home and consulted my latest copy of the "Concise Index to the Transactions of Texas Lodge of Research" and found no entry for Stephen F. Austin. Brother Hodges paper is therefore a fine addition to our wealth of knowledge on those Freemasons that colonized the Mexican state of Texas and the influence Freemasonry had on that colonization.

Brother and Dr. S. Brent Morris then presented his second paper before Texas Lodge of Research. His first paper, "Boom to Bust in the 20th Century: Freemasonry and American Fraternities," was the Anson Jones Lecture presented in the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum on 19 March 1988. His paper at this meeting was "Voting With Their Feet," an interesting study with the premise that although the number of Masons is declining, there are new bodies - not basic Craft Lodges - being formed on the fringes of Masonry. Why? Could it be because they don't have a central authority with restrictive rules/laws? In a way, I felt that he was preaching to the choir. Then the thought struck me that, if the trend continues, there will be nothing left but the choir with no one to sing to. But they would still have a wonderful time singing.

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## Charter Member Joe Hays Dies

Charter Member and Past Master Joe C. Hays, Jr. died December 11, 1998 at home. Bro. Hays was born July 18, 1914 in Beckville, Texas and grew up in Carthage. He moved to Dallas in 1933 to attend SMU. After several jobs, Joe began working for the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, a federal agency, in 1936. He continued with this organization until he received a civil service appointment with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1941. He remained with the FBI for the remainder of his career and served at several stations including Washington, D.C., Boston, St. Louis, and was finally assigned to Dallas in 1948.

Bro. Hays is survived by his wife, Betty Lou Booth who he married on November 17, 1939 and their two sons and families, Joe C. Hays III and his wife of Malaysia and the Rev. Robert B. Hays and his wife of Janesville, Wisconsin. Joe had five grandchildren and one great grandson. Joe was a member of Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church in Dallas for 51 years and served in a variety of capacities during that time.

Bro. Hays petitioned Love Field Lodge No. 1274 where he received all of his degrees in 1951. He served as Master of that Lodge in 1958-59. He was also active in the York Rite and Scottish Rite Bodies. He was a member of the Love Field Chapter and Council and Dallas Commandery. Joe was also a member of the Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies and served as librarian in retirement. He was also a member of the Order of Eastern Star. Bro. Hays held a variety of offices in these bodies over the years.

Joe C. Hays, Jr. was a Charter Member of TLR being elected at the second meeting of the Lodge in 1959. He was elected to full membership for his paper entitled "Schisms in the Grand Lodge of New York, 1822 to 1859" which he presented before the lodge at the January 1967 meeting in Houston. In 1972 he presented his second paper before the lodge entitled "The Order of Jesus Christ in Portugal." He presented a third paper, "The High Noon Club of Dallas" in 1983 and his final paper "The Gavel Club" in 1995.

Joe was appointed Junior Steward of TLR in 1966. In 1967 he was elected Junior Warden and served successively through the chairs. He was elected the eleventh Master of TLR in March 1970 and served through March 1971. He served in a variety of capacities during his 40 year association with TLR. Bro. Hays was appointed Editor of *The Occasional Bulletin* by then Master Egbert Smith in March 1985 and was repeatedly reappointed by the next 12 Masters of TLR. For a total of 13 years, he faithfully prepared and delivered *The*

*Occasional Bulletin* to our membership in a timely manner. For his service, Bro. Hays received the Golden Trowel Award in September 1990. The award was the lodge's formal recognition of his devoted service to TLR and Masonry in general and is awarded to a brother who, year after year, demonstrates his dedication to Masonry with no regard for special honors or recognition.

## Houston Meeting (continued from page 4)

There were many questions asked of Brother Morris and this continued for quite some time. Senior Warden Clyde Kenneaster finally intervened before we wore out the speaker. Besides, it was time to head back to our homes. Worshipful Master Brumit called on the chaplain for prayer and then declared the meeting closed.

## New Members

### Elected September 19, 1998

William L. Fox, Washington, DC

Lewis A. Fetzer, Plano, TX

Bert L. Schrivener, Tyler, TX

Jose E. Igoa, McAllen, TX

Joel D. Robinson, Van Alstyne, TX

### Elected January 16, 1999

Michael L. Greer, Newton, TX

Lewis W. Opsal, Cheverly, MD

Roy Centanni, Mission City, TX

W. L. Goble, Lubbock, TX

Kuddy S. Thomas, Seaman, OH

David J. Harris, Dallas, TX

Robert L.D. Cooper, Edinburgh, Scotland

Michael A. Buchan, Dime Box, TX

Emil E. Schmitt, Jr., Guaynabo, Porto Rico

Gerald M. Church, Humble, TX

Foy Cochran, Farmersville, TX

John McKeever, Richmond, TX

Frederick H. Siggelow, Chandler, TX

Michael Green, Sugar Land, TX

Charles A. Keller, Athens, TX

Raymond E. Hicklin, Corpus Christi, TX

Isaac A. Fuller, Dallas, TX

John J. Edwards, Jr., Clinton, NY

Ronny L. Williams, New Boston, TX

Alexander A. Antu, San Antonio, TX

Thomas W. Foster, Jr., Arlington, TX

Paul E. Wunsche, Spring, TX

Theo A. Mastin, Jr., Coleyville, TX

Billy J. Henderson, Dimmitt, TX

Michael D. Nied, Carrollton, TX

Dennis R. Rahn, Reading, PA

John L. Pape, Bellaire, TX

Michigan Lodge of Research, Southfield, MI

A.M. Daiyan, Arlington, TX

Arlington Lodge No. 438, Arlington, TX



# The Athens Meeting

**March 19-20, 1999**

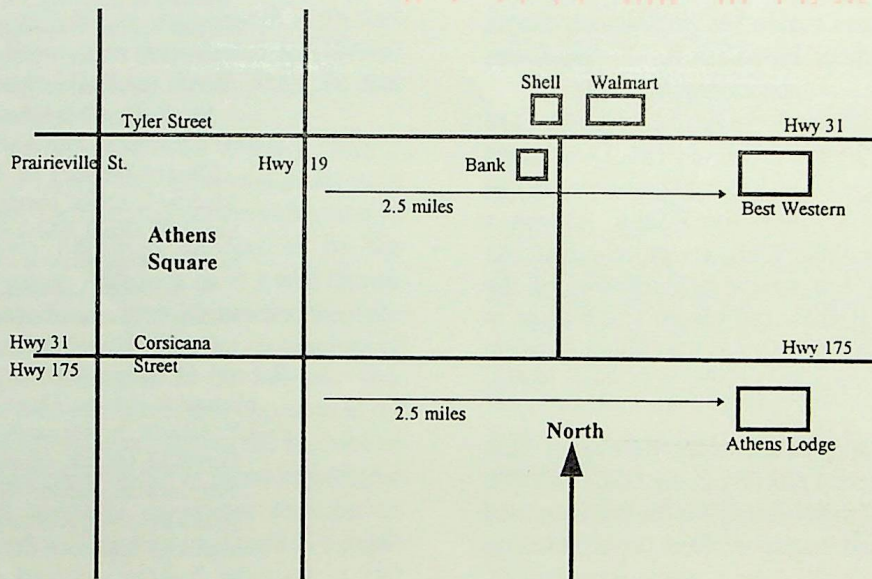
Athens Lodge No. 165 will host Texas Lodge of Research for its March quarterly meeting. The lodge building is located on Hwy. 175 approximately 2.5 miles east downtown Athens.

The Best Western Inn and Suites will serve as the headquarters hotel for the weekend. The motel is located at 2050 Hwy 31 E approximately 2.5 miles east of Athens' downtown square. A block of rooms has been reserved and the cost of a standard room will be \$46.00 per night plus tax. The phone number for reservations is 903-675-9214 and make sure you mention Texas Lodge of Research to get the group rate. Reservations should be made no later than March

10 to ensure the group rate. If you have any trouble making the reservation ask for Etta May who will assist you.

Friday evening activities will take place at the Athens Lodge. The Lodge will host dinner and a program will follow the meal. Hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings is the menu and will cost \$5 per person. Saturday morning a time of fellowship will begin at the lodge at 9 A.M. A walking tour of Athens is being planned for the ladies and non-Masonic guests. The tiled meeting will begin at 10:30 A.M. and ladies of the Eastern Star will provide lunch for \$6 per person.

Mark your calendars and join us in Athens.



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