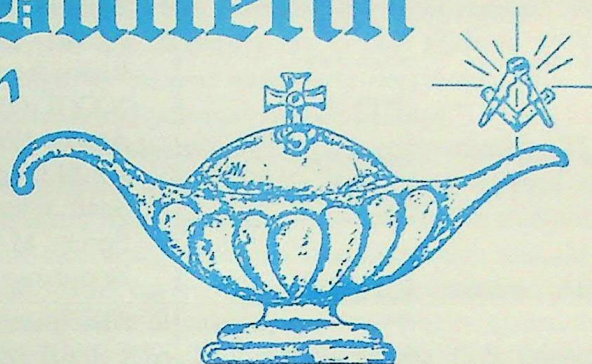


# The

# Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge<sup>of</sup> Research



1999 – 2000

January 2000

No. 4

## Stated Communication Saturday, January 15, 2000

Holland Lodge No. 1  
4911 Montrose Blvd.  
Houston, Texas

8:30 A.M.

Gather at Lodge  
Breakfast (\$4.00/person) & Fellowship

10:30 A.M.

Business Meeting of TLR

12:00 Noon

Lunch at Lodge  
(\$7.00/person)

1:00 P.M.

### Presentation of Papers

“The Development of Protestantism and  
Freemasonry in Texas”  
W.J.R. Tucker, PM

“A Pathway of Importance to Texas  
Masonry”  
Dr. Howard R. Stewart, PM

.....

### Future Meetings

Saturday, 18 March 2000  
Victoria Lodge No. 40  
Victoria, Texas

## From The East

Masonry is alive and well in the form of Texas Lodge of Research. This is the first message for the new year, new century, and the new millennium.

Texas Lodge of Research ended the last century with more than 1400 members. With this number at work in our local lodges, there can be a growth in attendance, Masonic education, and leadership.

As Master of Texas Lodge of Research, I challenge you to become a force in your local lodge. Go to the master of your lodge and volunteer to present a program at each stated meeting. Do this yourself or have a guest speaker be present. Approach a member of your lodge to have a program on lodge history or one on a prominent member. You will be surprised at the reception of the members. This will be seen in both the listener and the presenter. Before you know it, there will be an increase in attendance and you will be asked to come and present a program in other lodges. This is what we are looking for, a chance to improve in Masonry. Let the members know that there can be more than questions and answers and a business meeting in a lodge.

I, again, challenge you to go forth and provide Masonic education in your lodge. Texas Lodge of Research could not have a better meeting place than Holland Lodge No.1 to begin a new year, new century, and a new millennium. (Indulge me on this point.)

Once again Texas Lodge of Research is alive and well. Come and be with us in Houston for fun, fellowship, and Masonic brotherhood. Linda and I are looking forward to seeing you in Houston.

So Mote It Be.

Clyde Kenneaster  
Worshipful Master



**Texas Lodge of Research  
A.F. & A.M.  
Officers 1999-2000**

Master	Clyde B. Kenneaster 7079 Woodland Dr. Athens, TX 75751 903-675-6665
Sr. Warden	James R. Beeler 5606 N. Navarro Ste 200B Victoria, TX 77904 512-576-0776
Jr. Warden	Ross J. Cox, Sr. P.O. Box 741 San Saba, TX 76877 915-372-4190
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Chaplain	Ray Kirkpatrick 2781 Lake Breeze Dr. Chandler, TX 75758 903-849-3832
Sr. Deacon	Gordon Kelso P.O. Box 3672 Austin, TX 78764 512-282-4726
Jr. Deacon	B.D. (Doug) Granger 509 SE 12 <sup>th</sup> St Grand Prairie, TX 75051 972-642-1032
Sr. Steward	Dana M. Thompson Rt. 5 Box 157 Jacksonville, TX 75766 903-854-2289
Jr. Steward	Jim Hodges 4901 Valerie Bellairre, TX 77410 800-456-9712
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## LeGrand Paper Condensed

Brother Bates LeGrand's TLR paper "Circumambulation Meditations" was recently condensed and printed as a Short Talk Bulletin (STB) by the Masonic Service Association for North America (MSA). Bro. LeGrand is a full member of TLR and Past Master of Richardson Lodge No. 1214. His paper originally appeared in Volume XXXII (1997-98) of our *Transactions*. The article appeared in the August 1999 issue of *The Short Talk Bulletin*. Subscriptions to the STB are \$4.00 per year to US addresses and \$5.00 per year outside the US. Send subscription information to MSA, 8120 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, MA 20910-4785. Back issues of Bro. LeGrand's STB 8-99 can be ordered for \$0.50 each at the same address.

## Back Issues of Transactions

TLR has approved the donation of back issues of our *Transactions* to municipal, school, and lodge libraries. These donations must be requested and sponsored through a TLR member. To arrange for the donation, write Bro. Clyde Howard, Assistant Secretary, requesting the donation and indicating the recipient library. The available issues will be shipped to the member for presentation. In addition, members may request the back issues for their personal library by contacting Bro. Howard and forwarding a check for \$10.00 to cover shipping. Not all years are available and will be shipped on a first come, first served basis.

## Bulletin Deadline - January 21

*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 March 2000 bulletin is January 21. Submit materials to Michael L. Wiggins, P.O. Box 720397, Norman, OK 73070.

## Attention Authors

The Senior Warden solicits papers for review for possible presentation and publication by TLR. Obtain a criteria and style sheet from the Senior Warden prior to writing your paper as it describes suitable paper topics and format for your paper. Following instructions assists the reviewers in considering your paper and also reduces your work prior to final submission.



## THE MANSFIELD MEETING

Gordon W. Kelso, Senior Deacon

The September meeting of our nomadic Texas Lodge of Research was held in the beautiful Mansfield Lodge No. 331, Mansfield, Texas. Located on Highway 287, sixteen miles southeast of Fort Worth, Mansfield dates back to 1857. Two Fort Worth businessmen, Ralph S. Mann and Julian B. Feild, moved to this wheat-producing area where they built a sawmill and the first steam-powered gristmill in the state. The original spelling for the little settlement was Mansfeild, obviously after the two entrepreneurs, but at some early time, the "i before e except after c" rule was invoked and ol' Julian's European roots became a subject for the disinterested historian. Incidentally, Feild also owned a general merchandise store and became the postmaster in 1860. The Mansfield gristmill milled and delivered flour for the Confederate Army. (Feild had become a Captain in the 15th Texas Cavalry, CSA). Following the Civil War, the mill received US government contracts to supply flour and meal to Indian reservations and federal army outposts throughout the area and further West.

And now, the meeting... Old-time hospitality was in evidence everywhere! Worshipful Master John Lahue, Sr. was the perfect host seeing to it that we were all warmly greeted and that the accommodations matched our every need. Mrs. Joyce Lahue, the Lodge's First Lady tended to the refreshments and luncheon, organizing her lady assistants to not only prepare but serve some mighty tasty Italian cuisine. Thanks for the treat!

Prior to the meeting's official opening, a brief private gathering of the TLR leadership was held, in the words of one officer, "to take a look at things." It was the feeling of some in this meeting that it was time to reassess the Lodge's current direction/purpose and re-dedicate its efforts using the mission statements found in Dr. George H.T. French's article titled, "The Austin Meeting" (TLR Transactions, Volume XV, pp 131-138). The TLR leadership of March 1973 met at Austin Lodge No. 12 to establish a comprehensive TLR Lodge management plan. Perhaps one of the most important organizational points the leaders agreed upon was that "the delegation of such broad

responsibilities to the two Wardens relieved the principal officer of having to actively perform many routine duties. His role became that of an administrator. These modifications proved themselves to be not merely 'cosmetic changes in the system', but fundamental improvements that allowed the Wardens, as future Masters of the Lodge, to become personally acquainted with the business and government of the Lodge."

With inspiration from the prior meeting, TLR Worshipful Master Clyde Kenneaster opened the business meeting at about 10 am in the traditional and customary manner. There was much said about the TLR book sales, past and present. After considerable discussion, it was generally agreed that the Book Sales Committee and the TLR principle officers would re-visit the subject between this and the Houston meeting in January 2000 where a follow-up report would be given. An overheard sideline conversation mentioned that we might better address the question of making our books available to Texas masons through the internet, and take orders only for books at Grand Master's Conferences, "...taking receipt for same...", eliminating forever the practice of having aging men lug book inventories from one corner of the state to another and other difficulties experienced in our current sales system.

Aside from the Worshipful Master's announcement of a renewed commitment to the "Austin Meeting" blueprint, other items of business during the morning portion of the meeting were routine in nature. Should you really have an interest, contact the Secretary asking for a private reading. He will, most likely, honor the request and entertain you with a sonorous recitation.

Following the great lunch, Senior Warden James R. Beeler introduced the papers to be presented: Brother Douglas Collins' "Stephen Powers: Master Mason, Master Citizen," and Brother Bobby Lynn Shehorn's "The Founding Fathers of Freemasonry in Dallas." Brother Beeler explained that Brother Collins' paper had been approved by the Editorial Committee for presentation at this meeting. Brother Shehorn's work was still in final revision awaiting Committee approval and, though the paper would be read this date, final acceptance would be addressed at the January meeting. (Mansfield continued on page 4)



## **Mansfield** (continued from page 3)

Before the readings, however, Brother Herbert Beckwith, former Mansfield Lodge Secretary and current Lodge Chaplain, presented a short history of the Lodge. After the meeting, it was learned that this good Brother had made much of the Lodge's great looking furniture. His "Master's Station" podium was one of the most practical and handsome creations of the Lodge and his chairs for the Master and Wardens were both unique and utilitarian. It was perfectly clear to everyone that this good man and Mason was a master craftsman in more ways than one!

As a specific note of interest, at the 1870 founding of Mansfield Lodge No. 331, a J.T. Feild served as Senior Deacon and a Brother Julian Feild was a "member at large." Could this have been Julian - the town's founder and Julian - a Lodge founder - one and the same? And, would J.T. be Julian's son? Brother Beckwith now has another project in uncovering the answer!

Brother Doug Collins, former Grand Photographer, led-off with his reading which recounted the historical development of the Brownsville area and the enormous contribution lawyer and statesman Stephen Powers made to bring about that development. His paper produced information generally unknown to those in attendance and added substantially to the body of Texas Masonic knowledge. This will be good reading when you receive the next volume of the Transactions.

Brother Bobby Shehorn's presentation traced the emergence of Dallas' Tannehill Lodge No. 52 and, specifically, the lives of three of the Lodge's outstanding founders. This paper was a walk back through time where the listener learned of the greatness of Tannehill's founders, how they made their important contributions to the growing Dallas community and to masonry at the time. His research for this project is impressive and, following its final edit, will also add a wealth of information to our archives. Brother Shehorn was accompanied at this meeting by several Tannehill brethren and Worshipful Master C.J. Lackey of Bonham's Constantine Lodge No. 13, the Lodge which "birthed"

Tannehill in 1849, some 150 years ago!

The Texas Lodge of Research was called back following the paper presentations and Brother Collins was unanimously elected to Full Membership in the TLR. Brother Howard Stewart, PM, was enthusiastically elected to become a TLR Fellow. Dr. Stewart has long and faithfully served TLR and so many other areas of our fraternity. That he would at this meeting be elected to receive the prestigious honor and title of Fellow is not only appropriate, "it's about time!" Congratulations, Honorable Sir!

Having ended with an especially high moment, the September 25th, 1999 regular meeting of the Texas Lodge of Research concluded as it had begun...in peace and harmony...friendship and brotherly love. Thank you, Mansfield Lodge No. 331, for a great day! Adieu.

## **Annual Dues**

TLR dues for the year 2000 were payable by 31 December 1999. If you have not yet paid your dues please remit them immediately to the Secretary at the address on page two. Those with unpaid dues will be automatically suspended.

## **New Members**

### **Elected September 25, 1999**

#### **Full Member**

Douglas Collins, Brownsville, TX

#### **New Members**

Grand Lodge of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ

O. Tip Garza, Austin, TX

Michael F. Jones, Chesterfield, MO

Lubbock Scottish Rite, Lubbock, TX

Columbus O. Jones, Jr., Austin, TX

Jerry P. Davies, Commerce, TX

Robert G. Kirk, Grand Prairie, TX

John E. Wilson, Spring, TX

Gary D. Dixon, Hawkins, TX

Autrey Perkins, Carrollton, TX

William J. Giles, Jr., Baytown, TX

James E. Whisman, Pearland, TX

Kenneth L. Ketner, Lubbock, TX

C. Thomas Behrman, Houston, TX

Charles H. Lee, Summerville, SC

Herbert A. Beckwith, Arlington, TX

Daniel S. Smith, Grand Prairie, TX

Michael L. Wiseman, Garland, TX



## When Is A Man A Mason?

Joseph Fort Newton

When he can look over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage - which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellowman.

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins - knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them and above all how to keep friends with himself.

When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.

When star-crowned trees, and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks aid without response.

When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.

When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow-mortal and see something beyond sin.

When he knows how to pray, how to live, how to hope.

When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellowman, and with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song - glad to live, but not afraid to die?

Such a man has found the only secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.

(Reprinted from the October 1944 issue of the Texas Grand Lodge Magazine.)

## So Mote It Be

**Question:** What is the origin of the words 'So mote it be', which we use at the end of our Opening and Closing odes, etc.

**Answer:** From the Masonic point of view, they came into our usage in the 14th century, and our two earliest versions of the *Old Charges* both include the phrase in their closing words, which I render in modern spelling, as follows:

*Regius MS.*, c. 1390, after a closing prayer adds, 'Amen, amen, so mote it be, Say we so all, for charity.'

*Cooke Ms.*, c. 1410, has 'Amen so mote it be.'

The phrase literally means 'So be it' and is was used in the middle ages in England as a pious finale to prayers and blessings. It should be noted that the medieval formula began with the Hebrew word 'Amen,' nowadays often omitted from Masonic usage. The word 'Amen' has a range of meanings all related to fidelity, constancy, sureness, trust, and when used at the end of Hebrew prayers and blessings it was a formula.

(From "Questions and Answers" of the 14 September 1995 Summons for Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 076, London.)

## Memoriam



William A. Bradley  
Hereford, Texas

David R. Bell  
Pearland, Texas



# The Houston Meeting

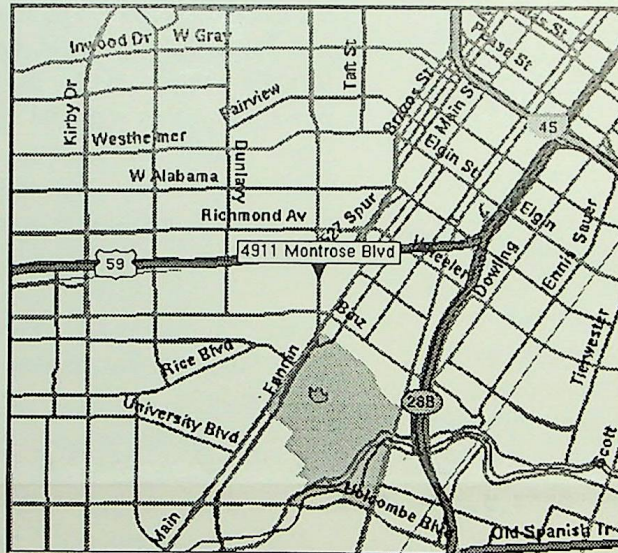
## January 14 – 15, 2000

On January 14-15, Texas Lodge of Research will hold its quarterly meeting in Houston where Holland Lodge No. 1 will be our host. The lodge is located at 4911 Montrose Boulevard near Herman Park and the Medical Center.

The LaQuinta Inn at 4015 SW Freeway will serve as the headquarters hotel for the weekend. A block of rooms has been reserved and the cost of a standard room will be \$59.00 per night plus tax. The phone number for reservations is 713-623-4750 and make sure you mention Texas Lodge of Research to get the group rate. Reservations should be made as soon as possible to ensure the group rate.

Saturday morning Holland Lodge will furnish a full breakfast at a cost of \$4.00 per person starting at 8:30 AM, followed by a time of fellowship. The tiled meeting will begin at 10:30 A.M. and the lodge will furnish lunch at a cost of \$8.00 per person. Several papers will be presented after lunch.

We look forward to a great time in Houston. All Master Masons are welcome at our stated meetings and our ladies and non-mason friends are invited to attend all activities except the tiled lodge meeting on Saturday morning. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for this meeting.



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