

# The Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge of Research



2001 - 2002

March 2001

No. 1

*Stated Communication*  
*Saturday, March 17, 2001*

Stephenville Lodge No. 267  
244 S. Columbia  
Stephenville, Texas

8:00 A.M.  
Gather at the Lodge  
9:00 A.M.  
Activities for Ladies & Guests

10:30 A.M.  
TLR Business Meeting

12:00 Noon  
Lunch at the Lodge

1:00 P.M.  
Presentation of Paper  
**"The Rise and Fall of York Rite  
Masonry in Crockett County"**  
Roy D. Harrell

#### **Installation of Officers**

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#### **Future Meetings**

Saturday, 16 June 2001  
Austin Scottish Rite Bodies, Austin

Saturday, 15 September 2001  
Rio Grande Lodge No. 81  
Brownsville

Saturday, 19 January 2002  
Hillsboro Lodge No. 196, Hillsboro

## *From The East*

My year as Master of Texas Lodge of Research has caused me to reflect on all that I have experienced as a member of what I consider the finest group of Masons anywhere. Of course, there at my side for these many years has been my wife Brenda, who has been my constant encouragement. Together we have traveled from McAllen to Wichita Falls and from Texarkana to El Paso with many stops in between. We have been driven down the wrong way of a freeway feeder in a rainstorm in Texarkana by Brother Jim Brumit, almost froze in Orange, "Quack- Quacked" at the residents of Austin, and enjoyed great fellowship all along the way. Our "Web Master," Brother Pete Martinez, has a complete list of all of the Lodges where Texas Lodge of Research has met since the Lodge was organized. I would encourage you to check that list and I believe you will see that TLR has been doing it's best to spread the "Good of Masonry" throughout Texas. For those who have access to the web, check out our web site at <http://pentium2.gower.net/Community/tlr>.

I want to thank the officers and members of each of the Lodges where TLR has met during my year as Master. I believe we had some of the best meetings TLR has enjoyed in a long time. Good fellowship prevailed at Victoria, Austin, Georgetown, and Farmers Branch. Thank you all for a job well done in making TLR feel at home in your respective Lodges!

Going over my old copies of the "Occasional Bulletin" I noticed that my "Brother" Jack Beeler, wrote a word of thanks to the outstanding team of officers who assisted him during his year as Master of TLR and I would like to do likewise. To all of the current officers of TLR, thank you for your help and support this past year.

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**Texas Lodge of Research  
2000-2001 Officers**

Master	James R. Beeler 5606 N. Navarro, Suite 200B Victoria, TX 77904 361-576-0776 (office) 361-552-1630 (home)
Senior Warden	Ross J. Cox, Sr. Rt 2, Box 19A San Saba, TX 76877 915-372-4190
Junior Warden	Dr. L. Randall Rogers P.O. Box 834 Buchanan Dam, TX 78609 512-793-2722
Treasurer	James F. Brumit, Jr., PM 819 Twilight Dr. Cedar Hill, TX 75104 972-291-7315
Secretary	Plez A. Transou, PM P.O. Box 1850 Dallas, TX 75221 214-748-9196
Chaplain	Dr. Jack E. Beeler, PM 2219 Larry Drive Port Lavaca, TX 77979 361-552-9510
Senior Deacon	John C. Elkington 5015 Groveton Lane Pearland, TX 77584-1238 281-485-2015
Junior Deacon	Gordon W. Kelso P.O. Box 3672 Austin, TX 78764 512-282-4726
Senior Steward	James C. Yelvington, III 1711 San Antonio St. Austin, TX 78701 512-707-9554
Junior Steward	Robert "Bob" Walker, PGM 4031 Big Bend Port Arthur, TX 77640 409-983-5188
Marshal	Doug Collins 80 Cheryl Lane Brownsville, TX 78521 956-544-1697
Master of Ceremonies	Roland Maddox 1009 Royal Oaks Drive Dickinson, TX 77539 281-337-2861
Tiler	Dana M. Thompson Rt 5, Box 157 Jacksonville, TX 75766 903-854-2289
Transactions Editor	Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM 908 Hilton Place Denton, TX 76201 940-387-3005
Occasional Bulletin	Dr. Michael L. Wiggins, PM P.O. Box 720397 Norman, OK 73070 405-364-7164
Assistant Secretary	Clyde W. Howard, Jr. P.O. Box 1850 Dallas, TX 75221 214-748-9196

**From The East** (continued from page 1)

For those of you who don't know him as I do, let me just say that our Secretary, Plez Transou is one of a kind. There are those who would say "WHAT" kind? Seriously though, I couldn't have made it through this past year without his support and guidance. I also want to acknowledge the great work performed by the "Book Sales Committee," not only during the past year, but also for the many, many years of service these men have given to TLR. They earn no wages, receive no compensation for the time and money they spend selling TLR books, and I believe we owe them a word of THANKS!

Our next meeting will be in Stephenville, Texas where we will have our annual election of officers. As long as I can remember we haven't found it necessary to have a recount of the votes so following the election we should have an installation of officers. I was pleased that we had a number of first time attendees at our last meeting at James A. Smith Lodge, and I hope that this trend continues. I look forward to seeing you at Stephenville and again thank you for the privilege and honor of serving Texas Lodge of Research as Master during the past year.

James R. Beeler, Worshipful Master

**Bulletin Deadline – April 10, 2001**

*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. The deadline for the June 2001 bulletin is April 10. Submit materials to:

Michael L. Wiggins  
P.O. Box 720397  
Norman, OK 73070

**E-mail Addresses**

TLR is building a database of e-mail address and we want your electronic address. This is a voluntary project that will assist in the Lodge in making quick contact with members if necessary. If you want to add your name and address to this listing, send an e-mail to [plez@dallasscottishrite.org](mailto:plez@dallasscottishrite.org). In the subject line indicate TLR Address where he can quickly identify the purpose of the message and provide your name and e-mail address in the body of the message.

**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 address for the Senior Warden is listed on this page.



## The Farmers Branch Meeting

**Pete Martinez, P. M.**

Now, let's see.... Which hat do I wear for this job? Oh, Yes!

It is the day after the meeting and as I sit here at the computer I notice that we are having a 6 inch snow outside. Very small flakes about 6 inches apart with occasional large flakes about 6 inches apart. The weather can play an interesting part in our January meeting. At the 1985 meeting in Abilene we watched sleet, pushed by a high velocity north wind, and made a "gentleman's agreement" that we would never meet west of Interstate 35 or north of Interstate 20 for our January meeting. Then in 1992 we met in Lubbock and awoke Saturday morning to 6 - 8 inches of snow on the ground. Worshipful Master James Peterson had his flight from DFW canceled and missed the meeting. So much for the "gentlemen's agreement". Then in 1997 we met in Orange, which fits the "gentlemen's agreement." There had been a very unusual ice storm a few days before that knocked out power all over that area of southeast Texas and there was no power to the Lodge. We held our meeting in the dinning room because there was a fireplace there and it was the Worshipful Master's decision to set up the East so that his back was to the fire. I seem to recall an old Native American saying about the "white man" building a large fire that kept him hot on the side close to the fire and cold on the other side. As our meeting progressed the East moved little by little toward the west. Power was restored a little later and we moved into the Lodge room.

But yesterday was a beautiful day. Although the sun was shining, it was in the lower 30s and the wind from the south had a little bite in it. The only problem some experienced was finding the Lodge. Columbia Street is only a block long and does not connect directly to any major street. Anyone planning a drive by shooting could not make a quick get-a-way. I noticed, by the map I provided on our web page, that the Lodge was right across the street from the city hall so I found my way there and, bingo, there was James A. Smith Lodge No. 395. There were several brethren and a few ladies in the dinning room and some food was available for a light breakfast. Things were looking up! More brethren and ladies were coming in and soon the tables were full with good friends and good conversation. By the time Worshipful Master James Beeler was ready to open Lodge at 10:30 the ladies were off on a tour and we had around 50 in attendance.

Following the opening ritual came the introductions where many had their ego stroked. This was followed by the reading of the minutes of the September meeting by Secretary Plez A. Transou.

Dr. William P. Vaughn, Transaction Editor, reported on Volumes XXXIII and XXXIV. Volume XXXIII should have been received by all who were members between June 1998 and June 1999. Volume XXXIV is in the works and will be shipped later this year. Treasurer James F. Brumit made his report and indicated we are solvent.

Book Sales Chairman Charles I. Bukin reported sales of over \$7,000.00 in books at the Annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Texas. The first Grand Master's Conference, held in the Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral on January 13, produced a little over \$500.00. With 18 more conferences we should have another good year for book sales.

The Necrology report indicated we lost several members this past year. A resolution of respect for our Past Master Robert L. Dillard, PGM, written by Past Master Jack E. Beeler, was read by the Worshipful Master. Past Grand Master Dillard is missed by all.

The report on the TLR Internet web page indicated we are receiving an average of 8 visits a day. A few new things have been added and the page is updated at least four times a year. The web page may be found at <http://pentium2.gower.net/Community/tlr>.

Past Master Pete Normand spoke of two of the deceased brethren mentioned in the necrology report. Neither was from Texas and yet they had an effect on us. He also announced a meeting of St. Alban's Lodge No. 1455 on March 23rd when Brother Gary Leazer will be the speaker. For information contact Pete at P.O. Box 10434, College Station, Texas 77842-0434.

The business of the Lodge was completed and after a few remarks by several individuals and noting that our speakers for the day were both Full Members and therefore would not require a vote be taken, Lodge was closed at 11:55 just in time for lunch.

When it is chilly outside a good bowl of chili inside is great! We had a great lunch.

About 1:00 o'clock the Lodge room was full and Worshipful Master Beeler called us to attention. We joined him in pledging allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag. He then placed the meeting in the good hands of Senior Warden Ross Cox who introduced the first speaker, Brother Bruce Chabot. It has been almost four years since Brother Chabot presented a paper titled "Freemasonry in 'Tom Sawyer's Conspiracy'." His paper for this meeting was "Freemasonry in the Science Fiction of Rudyard Kipling." Both of these papers were interesting and I would imagine we haven't heard the last of "Freemasonry in (name the work of another author who was a Freemason)." Brother Chabot, I believe you have something going for you. Keep it up.

Although Brother Bobby Shehorn is not a first time presenter (he presented a paper 16 months ago on "The Founding Fathers of Freemasonry in Dallas"). I believe he is the first presenter to use a computer as a visual aid. His paper, "The Egyptian Pyramid Builders and Freemasonry" was illustrated with pictures of items of ancient Egypt in a Power Point presentation projected on a screen on the east wall of the Lodge room. He weaves an interesting parallel between the two groups in his title.

With the conclusion of the two papers, and the Lodge having been closed before lunch, Worshipful Master Beeler thanked all who attended the meeting and closed the afternoon session.



## TLR Past Master Dillard Dies

Right Worshipful Robert L. Dillard, Past Grand Master and Past Master of Texas Lodge of Research, died on November 30, 2000 after a brief illness. Brother Dillard was a tireless worker in Freemasonry and was known throughout the Masonic world for his activities with the Conference of Grand Masters of North American. Brother Dillard served as the twenty-third Master of TLR in 1982-83. Bro. Dillard's contributions to society and Masonry are long and varied. All will miss him.

Past Master and Fellow Plez A. Transou wrote the following tribute to Brother Dillard. It originally appeared in *The Dallas Scottish Rite Herald* and is reprinted with permission.

### Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Master Craftsman

September 30, 1913 to November 30, 2000

By Plez A. Transou, 33°

*In ancient times, a traveler was making his way along the road when he came upon a building site where three stonemasons were working. He asked each of them what they were doing. The first workman replied, "I am cutting a stone." The second mason said, "Why, I am shaping a cornerstone." The third craftsman responded proudly, "I am building a Cathedral."*

Early morning on November 30, 2000, Right Worshipful and Illustrious Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Cathedral Builder, laid aside the Working Tools of Life. His were the precision tools of a Master Craftsman, employed in many years of dedicated service to family, church, community, and Freemasonry.

Born in 1913, the son of an independent oilman, he began his professional career in the oil fields of Texas. Starting from the ground up, he worked as a roustabout in the oil fields to finance his education. He received his Law Degree from Southern Methodist University in 1935 and a LL.M from Harvard in 1936. He served as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Dallas from 1941 to 1945. Then he associated with Southland Life Insurance Company of Dallas in 1945. He retired in 1978 as Executive Vice President to devote more time to community affairs and to his beloved Fraternity of Freemasons.

He met and married Dundee Sheeks in 1937. That perfect union of 63 years produced a loving family; one son, two daughters, 13 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. He was a lay leader in the Highland Park United Methodist Church. He taught a Sunday School Class for over 40 years. Weekends always included final preparations for his Adult Class on Sunday morning.

Robert L. Dillard, Jr., served his community in many ways. He was numbered among an exclusive group of city fathers responsible for one of the more important stages of growth in the history of the City of Dallas. He was politically active in both state and local government, and won

nationwide respect for his civic achievements. Often he remembered fondly his outstanding record of progress as President of the Board of Education in the Dallas Independent School District in 1961 and 1962. He won nation-wide respect from his peers as he traveled extensively in the interest of community affairs.

Also, he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Methodist Medical Center. He served on the Board of Directors at C. C. Young Retirement Home, Chairman of the National Board of Directors of Camp Fire Girls, and Region 10, Education Service Center.

Although he devoted an inordinate amount of time in serving his church, family and country, he found time for his Fraternity. As the senior living Past Grand Master at the time of his death, he was laid to rest with Masonic honors by the Grand Lodge of Texas. Services began in the Sanctuary of Highland Park United Methodist Church officiated by several ministers including his son-in-law, the Reverend Brother John B. Cullen, III, 32° KCCCH. Following the religious service there was a Scottish Rite Rose Croix Memorial Ceremony. Grand Lodge Officers led by Ill. and R.W. Sam E. Hilburn, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Texas, conducted the Masonic Graveside Services.

Brother Dillard's Masonic career began in 1938, with his initiation into Dallas Lodge No. 760. He served his Mother Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1947-48. Years later, he was one of the founders of a daylight lodge, Claud L. Austin Lodge No. 1450 in Dallas, Texas. In 1950 he was District Deputy Grand Master in the Fourteenth Districts and became Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Grievances and Appeals in 1954. He wore the Purple of the Fraternity as Grand Master of Masons in Texas in 1961. For many years, he was Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, and after many years of service, he assumed Emeritus status. Also, he was President of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home and School of Texas and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

Brother Dillard was a stalwart of the Dallas Scottish Rite for 56 years. He became a Thirty-second Degree Master of the Royal Secret in 1944. He was honored with the Investiture as Knight Commander of the Court of Honor five years later. In 1953 at the biannual Session in Washington D.C. he was coroneted a Thirty-third Degree Inspectors General Honorary.

In the Valley of Dallas Brother Dillard presided as Wise Master of the Dallas Chapter of Rose Croix in 1954 and Venerable Master of the Dallas Lodge of Perfection in 1977. For 25 years he worked as Degree Master of the Thirty-first Degree. When Ill. Brother Sam E. Hilburn was elected Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Orient of Texas by the Supreme Council, as one of his first duties, he appointed Brother Dillard as his Personal Representative in the Valley of Dallas.

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**Dillard** (continued from page 4)

In 1995, having received previously just about all of the known Masonic honors, Robert L. Dillard, Jr., became the 8th man in Texas over a 100 year period to receive the highest honor the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite can bestow upon any man, the coveted Grand Cross of Honor.

All Masons are assured that nothing in the Fraternity is to interfere with his duty to God, his country, his family and his fellowman. At the same time, he is admonished to practice those virtues inherent in the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. Robert L. Dillard, Jr., understood that lesson well.

His faith was well founded in his belief in God. He was a beloved husband and father. He mastered his profession. He recognized the needs of others. After a successful business career, at the time of life when most men tend to relax and enjoy the leisure of a successful career, Bob Dillard continued to seek the challenge that lies in the opportunity to be of further service. Freemasonry was fortunate to have been a recipient of his continuing devotion.

His labors ceased, a great man has left the scene. He has earned a rest. His voice is silent and he is out of sight. Even so, the wisdom of a man who touched so many lives is etched in the hearts of all who knew him.

*Death – be not proud;  
Though some have called thee Mighty and Dreadful,  
Thou are not so;  
For those whom you think'st you have overthrown  
Die not...*

**New Members**

**Elected January 20, 2001**

- C. Martin, Novi, MI
- Dwight R. Harper, Georgetown, TX
- G. Charles F. McAferty, Georgetown, TX
- Jerry Washington Library, Alexandria, VA
- Henry D. Gresham, Jr., Cypress, TX
- Thomas F. Craig, Huntsville, AL
- Jeff R. Harvey, Austin, TX
- Donald C. Brown, Arlington, TX
- Merlen F. Howe, Cedar Park, TX
- Jay H. Miller, Dallas, TX
- Richard L. Crane, Thermopolis, WY
- James E. Schmadl, Baytown, TX
- Harry E. Robertson, Jr., Georgetown, TX
- Daniel L. Patz, Ft. Worth, TX
- Michael S. Cook, McKinney, TX
- Justin W. Rowold, Chandler, TX
- Don H. Patterson, El Paso, TX
- Warren Hardin, Anna, TX
- Noel H. Coward, Jr., Maypearl, TX

- Sam Robinson, Hearne, TX
- John H. Creel, Plano, TX
- Terry W. Stogner, Lamesa, TX
- Donald H. Stratton, Temple, TX
- Jack Kellam, Fredericksburg, TX
- Virgil S. Allsbrooks, Jr., Midlothian, TX
- Benjamin M. Yudesis, San Benito, TX
- Patricia L. Cook, Houston, TX
- Ronald Houghtor, Merkel, TX
- Edward J. Floyd, Katy, TX
- Stuart D. Glasscock, Spring, TX
- Don L. Jarvis, Jr., Van Alstyne, TX
- Cantrell Autrey, Meridian, TX
- Jack A. Davis, Marshall, TX
- Barry Watson, Refugio, TX
- Dale N. Richardson, South Junction, TX
- Shawn P. Edwards, Spring, TX
- Gary J. Fulkes, Jr., Spring TX
- Dwain B. Daniel, Whitney, TX
- Bruce W. Baker, San Antonio, TX
- Donald Hawkins, Chandler, TX
- Earl G. Delaney, Jr., Waco, TX
- Andy L. Tan, Dallas, TX
- Allen R. Pier, Jr., Diana, TX
- Audie R. Lamphier, Houston, TX
- Dennis H. Rhodes, Alvin, TX
- Dr. Hunter L. Harang, Bellaire, TX
- Cliff C. Cameron, Willis, TX
- Bruce D. Smith, Bay City, TX
- James A. Smith #395, Farmers Branch, TX
- Clarence C. Hardin, Jr., Crockett, TX
- Fred W. Smith, Plano, TX

**Memoriam**

- Arthur C. Thomasson, Dale, TX
- Duane E. Anderson, Duluth, MN
- B. Franklin Summers, San Jose, CA
- Emil E. Schmidt, Jr., Guaynababo, PR
- Norman O. Huebner, Alamogordo, NM
- Richard L. Gandt, Long Beach, CA
- John M. Cunningham, Washington, DC
- Luther E. Lee, Montgomery, LA
- Gerald W. Burnworth, St. Louis, MO
- R. A. Book, Victoria, Australia
- Jack L. Hall, Pearsall, TX
- Robert C. Howe, San Antonio, TX
- Michael D. Orr, Pasadena, TX
- Robert L. Pegram, Dallas, TX
- David Peters, Katy, TX
- Bob McMahan, Weatherford, TX
- Michael T. Viergutz, TX
- Richard A. Coates, N. Richland Hills, TX
- Billy W. Price, Waco, TX
- Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Dallas, TX
- Grant W. Golden, McGregor, Canada



# THE STEPHENVILLE MEETING

## March 16-17, 2001

Stephenville Lodge No. 267 in Stephenville will host Texas Lodge of Research for its annual March quarterly meeting and election of officers. The lodge building is located at 244 S. Columbia and the phone number is 254-965-4175.

The headquarters hotel will be the Holiday Inn located at 2865 W. Washington Loop US 377. A block of rooms has been reserved for TLR at a rate of \$67 per night plus tax. The phone number for reservations directly with the hotel is 254-968-5256. Make sure you mention you are with the Texas Lodge of Research or the Masonic Lodge Group to get the special rate. Reservations should be made as soon as possible and prior to March 9 to ensure the group rate.

A hospitality room will be set up at the Holiday Inn Friday evening beginning around 4:00 PM or so. There will be a Dutch treat dinner Friday evening at 7:00 PM at the Holiday Inn. The Lodge will furnish coffee and doughnuts Saturday morning beginning around 8:00 AM. A tour of the Stephenville Historical House Museum has been organized for the ladies and non-Masonic guests. This tour will leave the Lodge building at 9:00 AM. Additional information about the weekend can be obtained from Tom Guest, 817-335-6004,

Harold Donaldson, 254-965-4175, or Steve McCoy, 254-364-2577.

**Directions to Lodge:** From the Holiday Inn, drive east on Washington St. approximately two miles into town. You will pass Tarleton State University on your left and pass over the railroad tracks. At the second traffic light after passing over the railroad tracks, turn right (south) on Columbia. Drive about two blocks and the Lodge building is on your right.

## Annual Dues

Pull out your TLR dues card and check its expiration date. If it does not indicate 12/31/01 as the expiration date, you are in arrears for your 2001 TLR dues. Texas lodge dues are payable by 31 December 2000 for the current year. 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 on 24 June 2001.

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TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH  
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Standard Mail Non-Profit Org. U. S. Postage PAID Permit No. 1652 Dallas, Texas
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