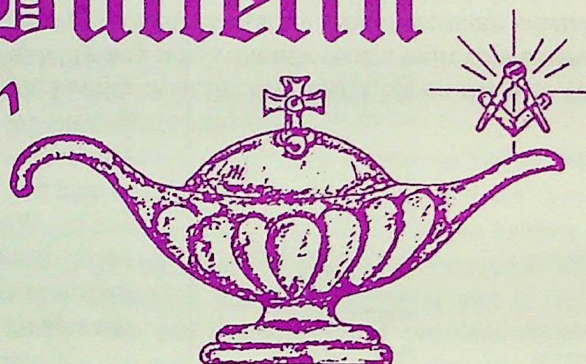


The Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge of Research



2001 - 2002

March 2002

No. 4

From The East

As this is my last article for *The Occasional Bulletin* as Worshipful Master, I begin by reflecting just a bit on the past year. It has gone very quickly and not without event. I believe we can all say that we will forever remember exactly where we were when the September 11 attacks on our country took place. Without a doubt this has been the most prolific event that has taken place in my memory. Again I ask that you consider donating through your local Lodge or through the Masonic Service Association something monetarily that would be of help to the deserving people who have been directly affected by this horrific event.

I must say how pleased I was to see so many new faces at the last meeting in Hillsboro. Our Hospitality Room was full and afterwards a group of 21 enjoyed a fine Mexican meal near the motel. The next day the tour at Hill College was very attended by 23 people. It was encouraging to hear the newest attending members already planning to write their first paper. Many thanks are in order to Brother Joe Crass who coordinated the stated meeting at Hillsboro Lodge. In all, I believe 49 people were at the noon meal put on by the Order of Rainbow Girls and Order of Eastern Star. Without a doubt the Texas Lodge of Research would not be where it is today without the hospitality of local Masonic lodges throughout the state.

During our meeting we were pleased to have as a guest Brother John King of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. Brother King is currently the Worshipful Master and has invited us to attend a special joint meeting of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research and the TLR on Saturday, June 1st in Durant, Oklahoma this year. This is not a called meeting of TLR but an invitation to TLR to join our

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Stated Communication Saturday, March 16, 2002

Kingsland Lodge No. 1424

900 Texas Avenue

Kingsland, Texas

9:00 A.M.

Gather at the Lodge

9:30 A.M.

Guest Activities

10:30 A.M.

TLR Business Meeting

12:00 Noon

Lunch at the Lodge

1:00 P.M.

Presentation of Papers

The History of Norton Moses Lodge

No. 336

By Merlen Howe

Installation of Officers

Future Meetings

Saturday, 15 June 2002

Faith Lodge No. 1158, Wichita Falls

Anson Jones Lecture

Saturday, 21 September 2002

Richland Hills Lodge No. 1348, Fort

Worth

Saturday, 18 January 2003

Corpus Christi Lodge No. 189

**Texas Lodge of Research
A.F.&A.M.
2001-2002 Officers**

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Master | Ross J. Cox, Sr. Rt 2, Box 19A San Saba, TX 76877 915-372-4190 |
| Senior Warden | Dr. L. Randall Rogers P.O. Box 834 Buchanan Dam, TX 78609 512-793-2722 |
| Junior Warden | Gordon W. Kelso P.O. Box 3672 Austin, TX 78764 512-472-7247 |
| 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 | Clifford L. Acker, PM P.O. Box 571 Liberty, TX 77575 936-336-6575 |
| Senior Deacon | Steve L. McCoy Rt. 1, Box 114 Iredell, TX 76649 254-364-2577 |
| Junior Deacon | James C. Yelvington, III 1003 Austin Highlands Austin, TX 78745 512-495-9988 |
| Senior Steward | James Lee Waymire Rt. 6, Box 133D Livingston, TX 77351 936-327-5722 |
| Junior Steward | Bobby L. Shehorn P.O. Box 821272 Dallas, TX 75238 214-739-0114 |
| Marshal | Joby Dixon 10 East 40 th Street, B-104 Austin, TX 78751 512-458-5393 |
| Master of Ceremonies | Gary Farley Rt. 2, Box 275F Goldthwaite, TX 76844 915-648-3402 |
| Tiler | Douglas Collins 80 Cheryl Lane Brownsville, TX 78521 956-544-1697 |
| 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 |

From The East (continued from page 1)

Oklahoma brethren at their stated meeting. To my surprise I learned that both lodges have conducted at least two prior meetings like this in the past. The details of the proposed meeting are mentioned elsewhere in this issue and I encourage all who are interested to attend.

Some of the details of our January meeting included the recommendation by our Junior Warden that we discontinue the idea of having some type of scholarship. Although I liked the idea, the truth of the matter is there was just not enough interest and the Scholarship Committee was dismissed. Another item of concern was the idea of privatizing our Transactions. I have appointed Dr. Bill Vaughn and Junior Warden Gordon Kelso to investigate this possibility and to report back at the March meeting in Kingsland. The subject of raising dues was discussed but after deliberation there was no motion made and the subject died on the floor.

Of course there have been some low points this year. Among the sick is Past Master Clyde Keneaster who is suffering from prostate cancer and Past Master Chuck Bukin's wife is also suffering from cancer. Our hearts are also heavy with the loss of so many members during the past year as indicated in the Necrology Report. Our Chaplain, Brother Clifford L. Acker, passed away last December unexpectedly. Not only did we lose an officer, Past Master, and book sales chairman, but I lost one of my dearest and closest friends. On behalf of the Lodge I wish to offer our deepest heart-felt sympathy to those families who have been affected by sickness and the loss of loved ones.

The next meeting will take place in Kingsland Lodge No. 1424. Kingsland Lodge is in Llano County located within the heart of the hill country. Although it will be just a bit early for the Bluebonnets, I am assured it will be an enjoyable weekend. If tradition prevails, and I'm sure that it will, Brother Randall Rogers will be installed as the next Worshipful Master. He has gone to great lengths to ensure that both his installation and his year will be a success. I encourage you to be supportive and attentive at the upcoming meetings.

With my final words as Worshipful Master of this publication I wish to express my appreciation to all of the officers of TLR both elected and appointed. Without your help and assistance our Lodge would not be the success it is. This has certainly been one of the highest points of my personal life affiliated with Freemasonry. It has been a great privilege to lead and be served by so many good men. We may not always agree on certain issues but in the end it is our common interest and love for the Craft, which prevails. Today we hear many questions concerning the future of Freemasonry and how it will survive for the next generation. There is no doubt in my mind our Craft will continue and our Lodge will survive as we are surrounded with so many fine men who have actively provided us the direction we need as we go forward. In closing I offer my eternal thanks for your support throughout the past year and I pray the blessings of almighty God be with each and every member until we meet again.

Ross J. Cox, Sr.
Worshipful Master

THE HILLSBORO MEETING

Pete Martinez, Past Master

I have often started these accounts of Texas Lodge of Research meetings speaking of the great distance traveled from my home in Tyler to the location of the meeting. Some of these travels have been by myself and it gets a little lonely. Occasionally my wife will go with me and the trip isn't so bad. This 100-mile trip to Hillsboro was made with one of the newest Master Masons of Tyler Lodge No. 1233. He is now a member of Texas Lodge of Research.

Jowel Lowery was raised during the latter part of 2001. He came to Freemasonry with a little more knowledge about the fraternity than most of our candidates do. Jowel has visited many Masonic sites on the Internet and has read several books on the Craft. He is beginning to build a good library of Masonic books. Many of the Internet sites are authored by anti-Masons and give a conflicting view of Freemasonry from those web pages like TLR's and that of many Grand Lodges. Thanks to the exposures printed by the antis, Jowel had a good idea of what he was going through in his ceremonies of initiation, passing and raising. He discovered that while the wording and movements are not exactly the same as those in the exposures, the basics are there in both. I have assured him, with my tongue planted firmly in my cheek, that "Texas is the only place where it is done right!" Jowel is very inquisitive and is always asking questions about our fraternity. It reminds me of my children when they asked me "Why, daddy?" but his questions and observations are good ones and it is a pleasure to have a new Mason that is this interested in The Craft. It also helps to pass the time quickly on what could have been a lonely two-hour drive to attend our meeting. We need more Jowels in our fraternity.

When we arrived at Hillsboro Lodge, around 9:00 a.m., there were only a few of the local folks there. Most had gone to Hill College for a tour of the Harold B. Simpson Historic Complex. They started returning around 10:00 a.m. and Worshipful Master Ross Cox, Jr., opened Texas Lodge of Research at 10:30 a.m. The meeting started with the introduction of visitors, Past Masters and Fellows and each of the others in attendance introduced themselves. Brother Joe Cross welcomed us on behalf of Hillsboro Lodge.

The minutes of the Brownsville meeting were read by Secretary and Past Master Plez Transou and approved by the Lodge. Worshipful Master Cox displayed the apron and sash presented to him by the Mexican visitors in Brownsville. Fourteen petitions for affiliation were announced and approved. Treasurer and Past Master James F. Brumit, Jr. read the Treasurer's report. We appear to be solvent and in good financial condition.

The Transactions report was given by Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM and Fellow. Volume XXXIV is ready to go to the printers. His suggestion to explore the idea of paying a professional to do the typesetting of our Transaction met with approval and it will be looked into and reported on at our next meeting. Brother Transou spoke to the prospect of having all papers submitted on computer disk. A lively discussion of paper manuscript vs. electronic manuscript followed with the members of the Editorial Committee and Brother Vaughn expressing the need to have a printed copy in their hands for checking. The motion to require authors to submit, along with their printed copy, an electronic copy on disk at the time the paper is presented passed.

Worshipful Master Cox made the book sales report. Our book sales chairman, Brother and Past Master Cliff Acker, passed away after complications from by-pass surgery. A lengthy discussion of the future of our book sales was held and, as our next meeting will include the election and installation of officers, a new chairman will be named and we will progress from there.

Our web page on the Internet continues to attract four or five hits (visitors) a day with an occasional request for the Criteria and Style Sheet by aspiring writers. There are also a few requests by those seeking information on their relatives who were Masons. These requests are hard to fill because some records date back a number of years. Some could be in the Grand Lodge archives, but the staff at Grand Lodge does not have the time to do this type of research.

The Worshipful Master of Oklahoma Lodge of Research, Brother John King, was in attendance and suggested a joint meeting, or visitation, on June 1st in Durant Oklahoma. Details will follow.

There was a lengthy discussion of our dues structure. It was stated the financial obligations of the

(continued on page 5)

Memoriam



Samuel B. Jeffrey
Sherman, TX
James K. Todd, Jr.
Dallas, TX
David Morris
Memphis, TX
John W. Andreas
Livingston, TX
James C. Martin
Lawton, OK
Robbie A. Long
Southlake, TX
Billy Henderson
Dimmitt, TX
Paul W. Cox
Waco, TX
Joe W. Clark
Overton, TX
Fredrick L. Elliott
Hudson MA
Elmer E. Teague
San Antonio, TX
Clifford Akers
Liberty, TX

New Members

Elected January 19, 2002

Gary P. Whitfield – Ft. Worth, TX
Harrison G. Moore, IV – Houston, TX
William R. Hughes – Colorado Springs, CO
Terry G. Thornhill – Sherman, TX
McCullough Lodge #273 – Mason, TX
Kemp L. Jacks – Deer Park, TX
Howard C. Boozer – Quitman, TX
William R. Gulick – San Antonio, TX
James A. Baker – Liberty Hill, TX
Curtis W. Bannert – San Antonio, TX
Wesley A. Brooks – Brownfield, TX
Lester L. Ericson – Seminole, TX
Del Scott Farler – Greenville, TX
James L. Hawkins – Midland, TX
Larry E. Hord – Cypress, TX
James R. Hurt – Dallas, TX
Daniel Lehtola – Houston, TX
Norman A. Martin – Brownfield, TX
Walter D. Melear – Canyon, TX
James Miller – Garland, TX
Edwin E. Parker – Richardson, TX
Roy Riales – Bailey, TX
Dr. Michael T. Robinson, Copperas Cove, TX
Joe Salinas, Jr. – San Antonio, TX
David D. Turner – Quannah, TX
Kenneth P. Wood – Buda, TX
Robert E. Wooten – Brownsville, TX
Eugene E. Moen – Bryan, TX
David C. Roth – Philadelphia, PA
Joel A. Lowry – Tyler, TX
Justin J. VanWie – Rhome, TX

Attention Authors

Changes to Paper Submittal

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.

To assist in the preparation of the annual Transactions volume, authors are requested to submit an electronic version of their paper to TLR. Authors should submit their paper on a 3.5-inch high density floppy disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. At the time your paper is presented you should deliver the electronic disk of your paper along with the paper copies to the Senior Warden for handling. The Publications Committee appreciates your cooperation in this matter.

Sam Houston Lecture Announced

Holland Lodge No. 1 in Houston recently announced plans for its annual Sam Houston Lecture to be held on Saturday, March 23. The lecture will be presented by Dr. and Brother Gary Leazer and will be titled, "How Did We Get Here and Where Are We Going?" A 6:30 PM dinner will precede the 7:30 PM lecture. The presentation will be tiled and tickets will be required for admission to dinner and the lecture.

Dr. Leazer holds a doctor of philosophy degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas and is an ordained Baptist minister. He served almost fifteen years on the staff of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and was director of the Interfaith Witness Department at the time of his resignation 1993. He conducted a thorough investigation of Freemasonry during 1992-1993 at the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention and presented his findings and conclusions to this Convention. Due to controversy surrounding his report, Dr. Leazer was forced to resign his position.

Dr. Leazer continues to be active in church activities through the Center for Interfaith Studies. His an adjunct professor of religion at Shorter College in Rome, Georgia and serves on the steering committee for the Masonic Information Center. Following his ouster from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, he wrote *Fundamentalism and Freemasonry: The Southern Baptist Investigation of the Fraternal Order* in 1995, which recounts the development of his report for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dr. Leazer was raised a Master Mason in Clarkston Lodge No. 492 in Clarkston, Georgia in February 1997. He is also a member of the Atlanta Scottish Rite Bodies and a Royal Arch Mason in Mt. Zion Chapter No. 16.

The dinner and lecture will be held at Holland Lodge in Houston and reservations will be required. Tickets for dinner will cost \$30 and can be obtained by contacting an officer of Holland Lodge. Additional information can be obtained from the Lodge's website, www.hollandlodge.org or calling the Lodge at 713-529-0912.

The Hillsboro Meeting

(continued from page 3)

Lodge are not met entirely with the current dues. The income from book sales and donations made several years ago by some of our charter members supplements the dues to provide working funds for TLR. These donations were invested and are paying dividends that help with the expenses. It was noted that our foreign members cost us more in postage than their \$15.00 dues cover. This discussion will continue at our next meeting.

Senior Warden Rogers spoke of the papers to be presented during the afternoon open session and gave us information on the next meeting in Kingsland Lodge No. 1424 on March 16th. See the last page of the Occasional Bulletin for details. Lodge was called from labor to refreshment for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

The open session began at 1:10 p. m. with the pledge to our flags. First time author Ray Bronk presented the first paper, "A Historical Perspective of Valley Lodge No. 175." It was a very interesting story of a Lodge that was started in 1856 amid problems with raiding Indians and later the War Between the States. Junior Warden Gordon Kelso presented the second paper. "The Lone Star Omitted" was the story of Brother and Judge Edwin Waller, a leader in the Texas revolution and the formation of the Republic of Texas.

After the papers were presented the non-Masonic visitors were excused and the Lodge was called from refreshment to labor at 2:10 p.m. Senior Warden L. Randall Rogers proposed a motion to invite Brother Ray Bronk to Full Membership. The motion was seconded and passed. After a few announcements Lodge was closed at 2:30 p.m.

Bulletin Deadline – April 19

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 2002 bulletin is April 19. Submit materials to Michael L. Wiggins, P.O. Box 720397, Norman, OK 73070.

THE KINGSLAND MEETING

March 15-16, 2002

Kingsland Lodge No. 1424 located in Kingsland will host Texas Lodge of Research for its March quarterly meeting. Kingsland is situated in Central Texas between Llano and Burnet approximately six miles south of State Highway 29 on FM 1431. The lodge building is located at 900 Texas Avenue. The headquarters hotel will be the Hill Country Lodge located at 17716 E. State Highway 29 west of Inks Lake. A block of rooms has been reserved with the cost of a standard room being \$35 per night if five or more rooms are booked, otherwise the rate will be \$42 per night. The phone number for reservations directly with the hotel is 512-793-2838. Make sure you mention you are with the Texas Lodge of Research or TLR to get the special rate. Reservations should be made by March 1, 2002 to ensure the group rate. After that date, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. If you decide to stay in the city rather than the country, there are Best Western Hotels located on State Highway 29 in Llano and on US 281 in Burnet.

Activities will begin Friday evening with a social hour at the Rogers' cabin on Inks Lake beginning at 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM or so. The group will divide up and enjoy a Dutch-treat dinner with the option of two local restaurants. The Catfish Barge is located on Inks Lake and offers, of course, catfish or if you prefer a steak, you can travel toward Llano on State Highway 29 to Big John's Steak Barn.

Activities on Saturday will begin at 9:00 AM with coffee and doughnuts at the lodge building. An outing for the wives and non-Masonic guests is being planned and will depart from the lodge building at 9:30 AM. This group will return to the building by Noon and join the men for lunch.

The TLR business meeting will be held Saturday morning at 10:30 AM and include the election of officers. In the afternoon, a paper will be presented followed by the installation of the 2002-03 TLR officers. Questions about the meeting can be directed to Dr. Randall Rogers at 512-793-2722.

Directions to the Rogers Cabin: Exit south off of State Hwy 29 at the west end of the old bridge over Inks Lake. Go south past the Catfish Barge to find the entrance to Inks Lake Village. Turn left after entering Inks Lake Village and continue on that road (never take a fork to the right). The Rogers' cabin will be the fourth house on this road.

Directions to Kingsland Lodge: If you approach Kingsland from the north on FM 1431, you will turn left or east at the first traffic light in Kingsland. If you come from Marble Falls on FM 1431, you will turn right or east at the second traffic light. You will travel 0.7 miles on RR 2545 and then turn left on Texas Ave. to the lodge building.

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