

# *The Occasional Bulletin*

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

2002-2003

June 2002

No. 1

### **Stated Communication Saturday, June 15, 2002**

Faith Lodge No. 1158  
3503 Kemp Boulevard  
Wichita Falls, Texas

9:00 A.M.

Gather at the Lodge

9:30 A.M.

Breakfast at the Lodge

10:30 A.M.

Open TLR

11:00 A.M.

**Anson Jones Lecture  
Dr. William P. Vaughn  
Past Master and Fellow**

12:00 Noon

Lunch at the Lodge

1:00 P.M.

TLR Business Meeting  
And Activities for Guests

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### **Future Meetings**

Saturday, 21 September 2002  
Richland Hills Lodge No. 1348  
Fort Worth

Saturday, 18 January 2003  
Corpus Christi Lodge No. 189

### *From The East*

I am grateful for this opportunity to thank the membership of the Texas Lodge of Research for elevating me to the office of your Worshipful Master. This Lodge has been an enjoyable experience and inspiration to me ever since I became a member in 1985. The Past Masters have been dedicated Masons whom I admired greatly and appreciated the friendship of these wonderful men. I do not feel that I am worthy to be classed with them in the same office, but I am grateful for the opportunity of service opened to me. We have an outstanding slate of officers in every station this year, and with their help, I believe we will have a rewarding year together. Also the different committees, which do most of the work of the Lodge, are composed of dedicated and efficient craftsmen, which will be a credit to the work of our Lodge.

One thing that gives us status, dignity, and direction is our primary mission of spreading and encouraging the desire for Masonic knowledge. I feel that the dissemination of Masonic knowledge in our local lodges is one of the greatest needs to assure our survival. There are too many Masons who do not really understand what it means to be a Mason. So much of what goes on in the local lodges would never give one the least idea of true Masonry. It is my hope and desire that we in TLR will be able during this year to help solve that need.

Best wishes to all of you and thank you for your support in making this a meaningful and rewarding year for our Lodge.

Fraternally,  
L. Randall Rogers

## Vaughn to Present Anson Jones Lecture

Dr. William P. Vaughn has been selected to present the 2002 Anson Jones Lecture at the June Quarterly meeting to be held in Wichita Falls. The lecture is open to the public and all are invited to attend. In a change from recent years, the lecture will be presented at 11:00 AM with lodge opening at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held in the facilities of Faith Lodge No. 1158. Complete details for the weekend can be found on the last page of *The Occasional Bulletin*.

Dr. Vaughn is a Past Master and Fellow of Texas Lodge of Research. He served as Worshipful Master from 1980 to 1981 and has served as the editor of the annual *Transactions of the Texas Lodge of Research* for a number of years. He was elected a Fellow of TLR in 1986 for his contributions to Masonic scholarship. Earlier this year, Dr. Vaughn was selected for membership to the exclusive Society of Blue Friars, which is an international order of Masonic authors.

He was born in Whiting, Indiana and attended high school in Chicago, Illinois. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia and received Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in History from Ohio State University. He joined the History Department at North Texas State University in 1962, retiring a few years ago. He is married to Virginia Lee Meyer, who regularly travels with him to our TLR meetings.

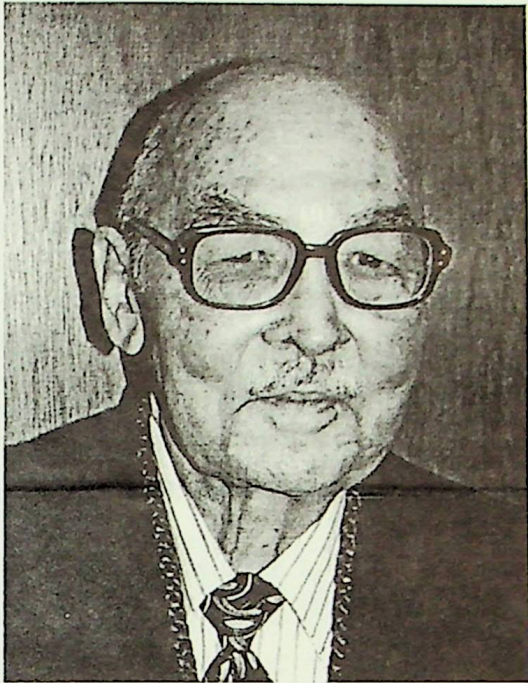
Dr. Vaughn was raised in Stanfield Lodge No. 217 in Denton, Texas in 1964 and is a Past Master. In addition, he is active in the York Rite Bodies of Denton and the Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies. He is also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Over the years, he has been active in his church, community, and professional societies. He has written, published, and presented a number of professional and Masonic articles during his career. He has also written several books including The Anti-masonic Party in the United States, 1826-1843.

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### Bulletin Deadline – July 15

*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 September 2002 bulletin is July 15. Submit materials to Michael L. Wiggins, P.O. Box 720397, Norman, OK 73070.

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## **L. Randall Rogers Worshipful Master, 2002-2003**

Dr. L. Randall Rogers was installed as Master of Texas Lodge of Research on March 16 at Kingsland Lodge No. 1424 by Past Grand Master Graham Childress assisted by Past Grand Master Bob Schnell as Installing Marshall.

Randall is truly a country boy, being born and reared on a farm near Poolville, Texas on April 25, 1919. After graduation from Poolville High School in a class of seven, he attended college for three years, and was then elected Coach of Peaster High School only nine miles from his boyhood home. He continued his education by attending summer sessions at North Texas State University in Denton. After teaching for five years, he entered the ministry and enrolled in Perkins School of Theology in Dallas where he received his BD degree. He later earned a Master of Arts degree in Greek from Southern Methodist University, a Master of Art degree in Intellectual History from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, and, finally, a doctorate degree from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

In 1951 he entered the U.S. Navy as a Chaplain and served on active duty for 23 years retiring in 1974. While in the Navy, he served in the Korean War for two years then two years on Midway Island where he designed and built a beautiful Chapel. He spent two years in Vietnam, but previously was the Sixth Fleet Chaplain in the Mediterranean for two years during which the Lebanon Crisis occurred. He ended his sea duty by serving as the Chaplain of the North Africa Command from 1968 to 1971, which was part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. During most of this time he lived in Morocco. In between these periods, he served state-side command posts at the Portsmouth, New Hampshire Naval Station, Kingsville, Texas Naval Station, Dallas Naval Station, three years with the Atomic Energy Field Command in New Mexico and three years at the Great Lakes, Illinois Recruit Training Command.

Randall's Masonic history began in 1947 when he received the Masonic degrees in John Armstrong Lodge No. 291. He was almost immediately elected to the South and served as Worshipful Master in 1950. He completed his term of office in June 1951 and one month later was inducted in the U.S. Navy. While in the Navy he was very active in the Sojourners being president of the chapter at the Kingsville Naval Air Station. In addition, he served three years as the National Chaplain for the Sojourners from 1968 to 1971. He was active in the Knight Templars in New Hampshire and Illinois. When he retired, he moved to Fort Worth and became active in all bodies of Masonry. He was Master of Hemphill Heights Lodge in Fort Worth in 1980; High Priest of Hemphill Heights Chapter, Royal Arch Masons in 1981; Commander of Southside Commandery, Knight Templars in 1981. He served as Grand Chaplain of all York Rite Bodies, Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons in 1979; Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Texas in 1984, Grand Chapter in 1985, and Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1988. He was District Deputy Grand High Priest in 1986 and 1999; District Deputy Grand Council in 1997; and District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1992. He was the Very Eminent Preceptor of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests in Dallas during 1998. He is a

member of the Red Cross of Constantine in Austin and is a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor of the Austin Scottish Rite Bodies.

Randall and his wife Leslie, who died in 1988 from cancer, raised two daughters. Randa works for Shell Oil in Houston and Angela works for the State Department of Education in Austin. In 1991, Randall married Elvira Harris of Fort Worth. One honor of which he is most proud came in 1964 when he was invited to conduct the Holy Week Service for the U.S. House of Representatives. He has one grandson named Randall who is expected to graduate from West Point Military Academy in Spring 2002. Other honors Randall has received include the Golden Trowel Award from Hemphill Heights Lodge, the Excalibur Award in 1994 from Southside Commandery, and the Cornerstone Award in 1996 from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas.

Randall became a full member of Texas Lodge of Research in 1985. He has presented five papers before TLR and published two books on Masonry, which have sold widely over the United States. The first book was published in 1990 and entitled, Two Particular Friends of Stephen F. Austin, which is now out of print. Our Masonic Presidents was published in 1998 and is currently being reprinted.

Bro. Rogers has continued to be active in the ministry and is presently pastor of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Llano, Texas. His home is at Inks Lake in Buchanan Dam, Texas.

## Committees for 2002-2003

### Finance and Audit Committee:

Leonard Harvey, PM, Chairman  
Larry Canada  
Jon Spann

### Distinguished Lecture Committee:

Plez Transou, PM, Chairman  
Jack Kelly, PM  
Leonard Harvey, PM  
Pete Normand, PM  
Reese Harrison, Jr.

### Fellow Nominations Committee:

Dr. William Vaughn, PM and Fellow, Chair  
Jack Kelly, PM and Fellow  
Dexter Sammons, PM and Fellow  
Plez Transou, PM and Fellow  
Dr. Howard Stewart, PM and Fellow

### Editorial Committee:

Gordon Kelso, SW  
Dr. Howard Stewart, PM  
Pete Martinez, PM  
H.C. Arbuckle

### Necrology Committee:

Merlen Howe, Chairman  
John Elkington  
Clyde Howard

### Book Sales and Membership Committee:

Bobby Shehorn, Chairman  
Pete Martinez  
Doug Granger  
Doug Collins  
Oscar Orum  
Gordon Kelso

### Bylaws Committee:

James Beeler, PM, Chairman  
Jack Kelly, PM  
Gordon Kelso  
Stephen McCoy  
Reese Harrison, Jr.

### Budget Committee:

James Brumit, PM, Chairman  
Plez Transou, PM  
Charles Bukin, PM

### Website Committee:

Pete Martinez, PM, Chairman

## The Kingsland Meeting

Pete Martinez, PM

Sure! You had a good day. Well I thought I did and it did start out that way, but... When I left Tyler on Friday morning it was in the lower 70's and I was comfortable in my jeans, Grand Lodge polo shirt and sneakers. I stopped at the Luby's cafeteria in Bellmead for lunch and when I opened the car door I was hit by a blast of cold air at least 20° lower than what I had in the car. ~~Add to that the wind chill factor and the fact that I didn't have a T-shirt on under my polo shirt and I knew I was in trouble.~~ Standing in the line at the food counter, a lady told me she had brought the cold wave with her from Fort Worth. I thanked her for that. After lunch I stopped by the Grand Lodge to pick up the latest law changes and had a nice visit with Grand Secretary Jim Ward. From there I headed to the mall and picked up a 3-pack of T-shirts at Sears and found a light jacket on sale at Old Navy. Back at the car I stripped off the polo shirt, slipped into one of the T-shirts, slipped back into the polo shirt and donned the light jacket. I was again comfortable.

Leaving Waco for Gatesville you begin to get into the fringes of the Texas Hill Country and cutting across country to Lampasas gets you even deeper into it. By the time you reach Burnet you are deep into the Central Texas Hill Country with its live oak and cedar trees. The Texas Almanac states they are not cedar trees, but juniper. You may have a hard time convincing the locals of that fact. I grew up in another part of the hill country (Kerrville) and I never knew they were juniper until now. The first part of my trip was through areas where cattle filled the pastures. Now I was seeing mostly sheep and goats. Two other things I noticed were an occasional coyote carcass hanging on a fence (coyotes and sheep herders don't get along very well) and catfish heads hanging on fences in the lakes area (Fishermen's trophies).

After checking into the motel in the community of Buchanan Dam, I went in search of the Rogers cabin. Now, being an employee of the Texas Department of Transportation (the highway

department for those older brethren) I know about improved and un-improved roads. I suppose the roads I took, looking for the cabin, would fall in between these definitions. Because I misread the directions I passed the cabin three times before I realized which one it was. The crew of three men putting in the concrete driveway at a new house were probably getting a little aggravated with me by that time as they had to get out of the way each time those of us looking for the cabin went by. The cabin is located on the side of a hill around 150 feet above the level of Inks Lake. Brother Rogers has a beautiful view from his windows and it made the trip worth the effort. ~~Those of us in attendance had a great time and when we had solved all the problems of Freemasonry we headed out for our evening meal.~~

I have reached the age where I really understand the allegory and symbolism of the circumambulation reading we use in the Master Masons degree. The part that says "and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird" has more meaning to me now. I don't bother with an alarm clock or a wake up call. I wake up in plenty of time to get on with the day. Of course the author of this verse didn't live in Texas and didn't know that this time of the year the mockingbird spends all night on the highest place in his domain jumping up and down and singing. This is the first sign of spring in Texas. Another sign is the bluebonnets I saw along the sides of the roads in the hill country.

When I awoke on Saturday morning I thought all of the problems of Friday were over. It was when I stepped out of the shower and started to dress that I discovered I had one last problem. I didn't have a white dress shirt to wear with my suite and I feared it would be a long way to a Wal-Mart to find one. Then I thought about my Grand Lodge polo shirt... Brethren, that silver gray polo shirt looks good under a vest and with a dark tie!

Worshipful Master Ross Cox, Sr., opened Texas Lodge of Research at 10:35 in the facility of Kingsland Lodge No. 1424 with the following Pro-Tems: Secretary, Oscar Orum; Chaplain, Stanley Cox; and, Senior Deacon, Mike Wiggins, PM. Missing were the Senior Steward, Master of Ceremonies and Marshal. Visitors were introduced and included Graham Childress, PGM. Dr. Vaughn,

Past Master and Fellow, was having trouble with arthritis. TLR Charter Member Henry Cook was present.

Brother Orum read the Minutes. He also read the names of 16 Petitioners for affiliation with the Lodge and they were duly elected to membership. The Treasurer's report was read by Brother James Brumit and approved. Transactions Editor, Brother and Dr. William P. Vaughn, reported that Volume XXXIV is about ready to distribute and Volume XXXV is in the works. Brother Vaughn discussed the background on selecting a firm to do the type setting. A firm in Austin, the A.C.L Company, has emerged at the prime candidate to do the work and Brother Vaughn will go there and visit with them next week. Dr. Vaughn moved to engage this firm to assist in the setup of the Transactions volumes pending a satisfactory meeting with the firm.

Brother Bobby Shehorn reported on book sales. Due to renovations being made at the Dallas Scottish Right building, we have been requested to remove all our books from their location. Most have been moved across the street to the facilities of Jewel P. Lightfoot Lodge in the Dallas Masonic Temple. A motion to rent space from the Dallas Masonic Temple association to store our books was approved.

Junior Warden Gordon Kelso proposed storing the books in locations in both Dallas and Austin for better distribution to the Grand Master's Conferences. He also briefly discussed mail order book sales over the Internet, which is being researched.

Webmaster Martinez reported that we have had more visitors to our website in the past two months than ever before. There were 841 visits recorded. Part of this is because of the notice sent out to those members we have e-mail addresses for and part because of a notification to the Philalethes Society list server, which has a membership of around 400. Our members are encouraged to send their e-mail address to the webmaster so that they can be notified when changes are made.

The Brother selected to be the 2002 Anson Jones Lecturer had unexpected conflicts and will not be able to attend the June meeting. It was then announced that our own Brother, Dr. William P. Vaughn, has been honored by being elected to the exclusive group known as "Blue Friars" and the

suggestion that we invite him to be our Anson Jones Lecturer met with enthusiastic response.

Brother Pete Martinez, Past Master, then took the East to conduct the election of officers for the ensuing year with the following results: Worshipful Master, L. Randall Rogers; Senior Warden, Gordon W. Kelso; Junior Warden, Douglas Collins; Treasurer, James F. Brumit, Jr., PM; Secretary, Plez A. Transou, PM and Fellow.

Worshipful Master elect Rogers then announced the schedule for the 15 June meeting in Wichita Falls to be hosted by Faith Lodge No. 1158. Noting that "nodding" takes place during the afternoon reading of papers, Lodge will open at 10:30 AM with the Anson Jones Lecture presented at 11:00 AM. Business will begin at 1:00 PM. Lunch will be served at the lodge around the Noon hour.

Brother Rogers reminded the Lodge members of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research meeting in Durant, Oklahoma, on Saturday, 1 June 2002. Durant Lodge No. 45 will be the host lodge and the meeting will begin at 1:00 PM following a group luncheon at a local restaurant. Full details of the meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope to have a good delegation in attendance at this meeting.

Lodge was called to refreshment at 12:05 and we enjoyed a fine meal prepared by the Kingsland Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Everyone gathered in the lodge room shortly after 1:00 PM and we enjoyed Brother Merlen Howe reading his first paper, "The History of Norton Moses Lodge No. 336." This was followed by the installation of officers. R.W. Graham H. Childress, PGM, was the Installing Officer assisted by R: W: R. O. Bob Schnell, PGM, as Installing Marshal. After the non-Masons were excused, Lodge was called to labor and the first order of business was to elect Brother Howe to Full Membership in the Lodge. After which, Lodge was then closed in due form.

## **In Memoriam**

William H. Bowen, Victoria, Texas

## 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 proceeding 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.

### New Members

**Elected September 15, 2001**

J.R. Martin, Full Member

**Elected January 19, 2002**

Ray Bronk, Full Member

**Elected March 16, 2002**

Merlen Howe, Full Member

### Members

F.B. McGregor, Jr., Hillsboro

John E. King, Altus, Oklahoma

Winston K. Bridges, Plano

David J. Sam, Dallas

Chad A. Barker, Austin

Gerald W. Gorman, Cedar Hill

Robert J. Ballard, Houston

Jon S. Spann, Waco

Paxton K. Williams, Houston

Samuel W. Sartain, Buchanan Dam

Yanni G. Korakianitis, Carrollton

Jewel Lightfoot Lodge No. 1283, Dallas

Jeremy L. Dabbert, Dallas

William E. Sawyer, Buchanan Dam

## Joint Meeting With Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Lodge of Research (OLR) has recently extended an invitation to TLR to participate in reciprocal visitations during June 2002. TLR members are invited to visit our Oklahoma counterparts during their June quarterly meeting which will be held on June 1 and OLR members are invited to attend TLR's June 15 stated meeting and annual Anson Jones Lecture.

The OLR meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1 in Durant, Oklahoma and hosted by Durant Lodge No. 45. Bro. John E. King, the current Master of OLR is making plans for an 11:30 AM luncheon at Salitas Restaurant (1202 W. Main) with the meeting to follow at 8:00 PM in Durant Lodge. In addition, everyone is invited to a Saturday breakfast fundraiser at Durant Lodge. Complete details can be obtained by calling Bro. King at 580-477-0892.

Local hotels in Durant include Holiday Inn, Comfort Inn and Suites, Best Western, and Budget Inn. There will not be a headquarters hotel as the Oklahoma brethren normally drive in on Saturday for their meetings. In extending the invitation, Bro. King stated "All those who can attend this meeting will be welcomed with warm fraternal brotherhood."

TLR will host our Oklahoma brethren during the weekend of June 14. The June meeting will be hosted by Faith Lodge No. 1158 in Wichita Falls, Texas. The weekend will include the usual Friday evening social and Saturday activities. This meeting will showcase the prestigious Anson Jones Lecture presented by a noted Masonic scholar. The next issue of the Occasional Bulletin will include further details for both meetings. Begin now to make your plans to attend two research lodges in June 2002. We hope to see you in Durant and Wichita Falls.

### Dues - Dues - Dues

Please take a minute, pull out your wallet, and check your TLR dues card for the expiration date. If the expiration date is not December 31, 2002, then your dues are in arrears. Please submit your payment immediately to Secretary Plez A. Transou at the Dallas address listed in the table of officers on page two. The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas call for dues to be paid in advance and the automatic suspension of all members who are in arrears as of June 30, 2002. Do not let your TLR membership expire because you failed to pay your dues.

## **The Wichita Falls Meeting**

**June 14-15, 2002**

Faith Lodge No. 1158 located in Wichita Falls will host Texas Lodge of Research for the annual Anson Jones Lecture held in conjunction with the June business meeting of the lodge. The lodge building is located at 3503 Kemp Boulevard.

The Fairfield Inn located at 4414 Westgate Drive will serve as the headquarters hotel. The TLR rate is \$67 per night plus tax if reservations are made prior to May 24. After that date, the rate is \$75 per night plus tax. Call the hotel at 940-691-1066 for reservations and ask for the special TLR rate. Direct any questions regarding the hotel accommodations to Debbie Ripperger at the hotel.

The hospitality room will be located at the Fairfield Inn and will open around 3:00 PM Friday afternoon. Arrangements for a group dinner at Davenport's Buffet are being made for Friday evening around 7:00 PM. ~~The group will proceed from the hospitality room to the restaurant, which is within walking distance of the hotel.~~

Activities will begin at the lodge building Saturday morning at 9:30 AM where breakfast will be served. Lodge will open at 10:30 AM with the Anson Jones Lecture being presented at 11:00 AM by Dr. William P. Vaughn. Lunch will be served at Noon and the business session of the Lodge will be conducted at 1:00 PM. Activities for the ladies will be arranged during the afternoon business session.

**Directions:** Faith Lodge is located at 3503 Kemp Blvd. After reaching Wichita Falls, follow US Hwy 82 west through town, which is also Kell Street. Turn south on Kemp Street and follow to the lodge building. The Fairfield Inn is located several blocks further south of the lodge at 4414 Westgate Drive just off of Kemp.

**\*\*\* ATTENTION -- SPECIAL NOTICE \*\*\***

Please note that TLR has been invited by Oklahoma Lodge of Research to visit OLR's June 1 meeting to be held in Durant, Oklahoma. Details can be found inside the newsletter on page 7. Make your plans now to join the officers of TLR in this special meeting. The members of OLR will be joining TLR at the June meeting in Wichita Falls.

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