

# The Occasional Bulletin



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

P. O. Box 684684 • Austin, Texas 78768-4684

2004-2005

June 2004

No. 1

## **Stated Communication Saturday, June 19, 2004**

Palo Duro Lodge No. 1239  
1701 S. Polk Street  
Amarillo, Texas

12:00 Noon  
Gather at Lodge Building  
For Lunch

1:30 P.M.  
TLR Business Meeting  
(Tiled Meeting)

7:00 P.M.  
Anson Jones Banquet & Lecture  
Palo Duro Lodge Building

OPEN MEETING FOR  
INTERESTED PARTIES  
Reservations Required  
(Details on Back Page)

Hon. Sean Graystone

“Albert Pike’s Journey Through  
Texas and New Mexico, 1831-1832”

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## **Future Meetings**

Saturday, September 18, 2004  
Concho Lodge No. 1260  
San Angelo, Texas

## **From The East**

I could not start this term as Worshipful Master of the Texas Lodge of Research without extending my gratitude and thanks to several Masons who have gone this way before me.

Brother Gordon W. Kelso has truly been a source of inspiration and leadership for the past year. Several issues forced themselves to be dealt with this past year and Gordon has truly relieved succeeding Masters, myself included, by taking them head-on and solving the problems. Brother Kelso is now the installed Secretary of TLR and I look forward to continue working with him this year. Congratulations, Gordon! You have done well.

I was extremely honored to be installed as Worshipful Master by R.W. Leonard P. Harvey, Past Grand Master 1989, and R.W. David B. Dibrell, Past Grand Master 2001, both Full Members of Texas Lodge of Research. R.W. Brother Harvey, who is also a Past Master of TLR, did his usual excellent job of informing the guests about our Fraternity and what it means to us before the installation ceremonies began. R.W. Brother Dibrell did an outstanding job as Marshal considering the nervousness of one particular Master-elect. Again, thanks to you both!

There were two Brothers who retired from their offices after many years of distinguished service to TLR. Brother Plez A. Transou, Past Master and Fellow, retired as Secretary after 15 years and was elected Secretary Emeritus. Thank you, Plez, for all your years of dedicated service and love for the Texas Lodge of Research. All of us wish you well and will count on your experience and knowledge for many years to come. Brother James F. Brumit, Past Master, has been a true manager of our money having served as Treasurer for five years. Thanks, Jim, for your service to Texas Lodge of Research. You, too, will be a source of experience and knowledge.

(Continued On Next Page)

**Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M.  
Officers 2004-2005**

Master	Douglas Collins 80 Cheryl Lane Brownsville, TX 78521 956-572-1950 956-546-0161 dcdpd2493@aol.com
Senior Warden	James C. Yelvington III 1003 Austin Highlands Austin, TX 78745 512-443-6080 Jamesclaude@hotmail.com
Junior Warden	James G. Dougherty P.O. Box 1192 Austin, TX 78767 512-451-0637 jdougherty1@austin.rr.com
Treasurer	Dr. Roy D. Harris 3803 Hidden Hollow Austin, TX 78731 512-345-4328
Secretary	Gordon W. Kelso, PM P.O. Box 684684 Austin, TX 78768-4684 512-472-7247 office
Chaplain	Thomas G. Keithley Jr. 1612 Kiltartan Drive Dallas, TX 75228 214-319-6913
Senior Deacon	Harry Madeira 3714 S. Peach Hollow Circle Pearland, TX 77584 281-568-8888
Junior Deacon	Raymond G. Bronk 100 Quirt Drive Burnet, TX 78611 512-756-2756
Senior Steward	Truitt L. Bradly 3707 Buffalo Springs #304 Georgetown, TX 78628 512-567-4756
Junior Steward	W. Oscar Orum 8607 Azelea Trail Austin, TX 78759 512-346-4310 oorum@austin.rr.com
Marshal	Wayne E. Sirmon 250 Suffolk Road Mobile, AL 36608 251-343-5363
Master of PM Ceremonies	Clyde B. Kenneaster Jr., 7079 Woodland Drive Athens, Tx 75751 903-675-6665
Tiler	Paul Bullock 11501 Loweswater Lane Austin, TX 78754 512-272-4459
Transactions Editor	Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM 205 Silver Leaf Street Mount Pleasant, TX 75455 903-575-0100
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## *From the East*

(Continued from Front Page)

I want to congratulate the newly elected officers, Brothers Jerry Yelvington, Senior Warden, Jim Dougherty, Junior Warden, Roy Harris, Treasurer, and Gordon Kelso, Secretary.

On a personal note, I want to thank my wife Cheri, who has done so much to help and support me that I could never express my love in words, my stepson, Brother Dillon Vanderford Jr., who videotaped the installation, and his fiancé, Laura Gomez, son-in-law Sam Micciche of Denver, and a special thanks to my mother, Courtenay Collins, and dad, Brother Grover T. Collins of Brownsville, Texas.

Brethren, the years ahead of us will be filled with challenges. The most special of these challenges is that of membership. No, I'm not talking about the number of dues cards issued every year. I'm talking about that special membership which allows one to wear the distinguished gold-edged apron of the Texas Lodge of Research. The apron must be earned by writing an acceptable, well-researched paper on a Masonic topic. The "secrets" of Freemasonry refer to the ritual and modes of recognition. They do not refer to the history of your lodge and/or its distinguished members. They do not refer to other Masonic topics that can add to the general knowledge of the Craft. We have had papers on Masonic glassware, music, events with Masonic connections, the American Revolution, The Texas Revolution, and the War Between the States. There is hardly an event in the history of Texas or the *United States that has not had some type of Masonic connection*. There is a wealth of knowledge waiting for YOU to research. There is a very special apron waiting for YOU to wear.

I am going to do two things to raise the profile of TLR among Texas Masons. First, all the quarterly meetings will be held outside the DFW-San Antonio-Houston "triangle." On 19 June, we will meet in Amarillo for our prestigious Anson Jones Lecture. This event sponsors a prominent Mason presenting a lecture on a Masonic topic of his choosing. This year, our Anson Jones Lecturer will be Ill. Sean Graystone, 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Freemason and recipient of the Grand Cross from the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction. The title of his lecture is "Albert Pike's Journeys to Texas and New Mexico 1831-32." Further details on the banquet, the lodge meeting at Palo Duro Lodge No. 1239, and how to make reservations for the banquet and the hotel are on the back page and they will also be posted on the TLR website at [www.texaslodgeofresearch.org](http://www.texaslodgeofresearch.org).

Secondly, I am making myself available to any lodge, combination of lodges, Scottish Rite clubs, Shrine or Shrine clubs, or any other group of Masons who would like a program on the Texas Lodge of Research. This will consist of a background and short history and then be opened to Q&A. I will have petitions for affiliation and Criteria and Style Sheets with me for distribution. If your Masonic group is interested, please contact me at 956-572-1950, 956-546-0161 or e-mail me at [dcdpd2493@aol.com](mailto:dcdpd2493@aol.com). My mailing address is 80 Cheryl Ln., Brownsville, TX 78521-2816.

Our goal is not to put more men into Masonry; it is to put more Masonry into men.

Most fraternally, Douglas Collins

## Douglas Collins

### Master 2004-2005

Douglas Collins was born in Harlingen, Texas on December 8, 1944. After his graduation from Brownsville High School in 1962, he joined the United States Air Force where he served four years as aircraft electrician at Air Force installations in Alconbury, England and at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. He was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1966. It was during his Air Force service that Doug thought it wise to pursue higher education and that was undertaken with a brief course at Troy State College in Troy, Alabama.

Settling down with his first marriage, Doug became the father of three sons: Richard, Bobby and David, and he has since seen Amber, a granddaughter, appear on the scene. In February 1998, Doug and Cheryl were married and with a great deal of affection, he refers to her as his best friend, lover and constant road buddy.

Upon his discharge from the Air Force, Doug began his law enforcement career as a member of the Brownsville Police Department. Following brief service there, he moved to Dallas where he joined the Dallas Police Department as a patrolman. In order to enhance his career in law enforcement, Doug took advanced courses on the El Centro and Eastfield campuses of the Dallas County Community College District and at Abilene Christian University in Abilene. Eventually appointed detective, he served in that capacity until his retirement in 1990. In addition to receiving the Life Saving Award from the Dallas Police Department, Doug received other special recognitions throughout his law enforcement career.

At the present time, he owns and operates "A Moment in Time Photography" in Brownsville. He is a member of the Professional Photographers of America and the International Association of Panoramic Photographers. His expertise in the photography field has led to several places of service in our fraternity in various branches of Freemasonry.

Brother Collins was raised a Master Mason in East Dallas Lodge No. 1200 in 1982 and eventually served as Worshipful Master of that lodge in the 1988-1989 year. He affiliated with Keystone Lodge No. 1143 in 1990, and served as Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1993-1994. Additional Masonic Lodge affiliations include offices in Mercedes Lodge No. 1010 of LaFeria, Rio Grande Lodge No. 81 in Brownsville and he is a Charter Member of Tranquility Lodge No. 2000.

In September 1985, Doug began his service in Texas Lodge of Research and was elevated to full membership status after presenting his first research paper in 1999. He served as Marshal and Tiler before holding his first elective office as Junior Warden in 2002, and as Senior Warden in 2003 before being elevated to the leadership office of Worshipful Master, being installed as such on March 20, 2004.

His service to the Grand Lodge of Texas include his appointment by Grand Master J.P. Vogel as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 14-F in 1992; Grand Photographer 1994 through 1997, and as Assistant State Coordinator under appointment of Grand Master Farris L. Benham in 1995.

Doug's quest for more light in matters Masonic piqued his interest in York Rite Masonry. In 1982, he was exalted in Dallas Chapter No. 47, Royal Arch Masons; greeted as a Select Master in Dallas Council No. 18, Royal and Sect Masters, and knighted in Dallas Commandery No. 6, Knights Templar.

It was his desire to further serve the Craft that led him to affiliate with George Washington Chapter No. 422, Royal Arch Masons in Richardson, Texas where he served as Most Excellent High Priest in 1990-1991. After relocating to Brownsville, Texas, Doug was instrumental in establishing Brownsville Chapter No. 495 in that city.

His activities with George Washington Chapter brought about his affiliation with George Washington Council (Changed to John C. Callahan Council) No. 408, Royal and Select Masters where he served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1991-1992,

and in the process of establishing of a new Chapter in Brownsville, a new Council - No. 414 was established to serve the Companions of that area.

In 1992, Doug served as Commander of Dallas Commandery No. 6, Knights Templar and has served as Recorder of Hidalgo Commandery No. 94 in Weslaco, since affiliating with that Commandery in 2000. He is a Charter Member of Texas Chapter, Knights Preceptor.

Honors bestowed upon Doug in recognition of his service to various York Rite bodies include: The Cornerstone Award from Brownsville Chapter No. 495, Royal Arch Masons; Cryptic Triangle Award from Brownsville Council of Royal and Select Masters No. 495; and the Excalibur Award from Hidalgo Commandery No. 94. In addition, he has received the Order of High Priesthood, Silver Trowel and Super Excellent Master Degree.

Brother Collins is a Charter Member of Lyle L. Cross York Rite College No. 147 in Dallas, having served as Charter Marshal. He served as Preeminent Governor of the College in 1996-1997. He is also a dual member of South Texas York Rite College No. 169 in Corpus Christi. The York Rite Sovereign College of North America honored him in 2002 with the investiture of the prestigious Purple Cross Award.

Having been knighted in Anson Jones Council No. 47 Knight Masons in Houston in 1993, Doug later petitioned the Grand Council for dispensation to form a new Council of Knight Masons in the Dallas area when Rose of Sharon Council No. 49, Knight Masons was formed in 1993 with Doug serving as Charter Excellent Chief of the Council in 1993-1994. Upon his retirement as Excellent Chief, he was elected to the office of Scribe where he continues to serve.

In addition, Brother Collins was received into Holystone Council No. 274 Allied Masonic Degrees in Dallas and later petitioned for, and in 1996 received, dispensation from the Grand Council to organize Col. William Barrett Travis Council No. 344 in the Dallas area. He served as Charter Sovereign Master.

Other Masonic related memberships include The Royal Order of Scotland and the South Texas Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine.

A Thirty-Second Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Shrine and Charter member of Allah Grotto – all of Dallas, Brother Collins might aptly be described as a “complete” Mason.

As a Past President of the Brownsville Republican Club, Doug attended the 2000 and 2002 Republican State Conventions. He is a member of the Brownsville Art League, and he and Cheryl are members of the First Presbyterian Church of San Benito.

Douglas Collins — the forty-fifth Worshipful Master of Texas Lodge of Research assumes the gavel of authority with credentials satisfactory to our expectation of his continuing good and square work as a leader of the Craft. May God richly bless his service to our Texas Lodge of Research!

By Leonard P. Harvey, Past Master of TLR  
Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas

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## THE DALLAS MEETING

By Raymond G. Bronk

Spring came to Dallas at the same time as did the Texas Lodge of Research for the 19-20 March meeting. The weather in Texas is beautiful this time of year and Friday and Saturday were no exceptions. The bluebonnets were beginning to beautify the roadsides, and many of the attendees who had driven from their home areas commented on the beauty of our Texas outdoors, especially at this time of change of season. The GAOTU's Spring surprises are inspiring, and Masonic parallels can easily be drawn at this time of renewal.

Our host quarters, the Comfort Inn near the Galleria, followed up their great rates and rooms with an equally impressive and large hospitality suite that was just right for the host of members (perhaps a recent record) who attended this important meeting. Snacks, drinks and fellowship of this crowd made the Friday afternoon and evening particularly satisfying. Old friendships were further cemented, intellects were further stimulated, and when the evening ended, peace and harmony still prevailed.

Saturday morning began with a continental breakfast at the hotel and breakfast snacks at our host lodge, Keystone Lodge No. 1143. Keystone Lodge was an excellent host and Worshipful Master Joe Moses and his group, including the "Keystone Angels," (the ladies of Keystone Lodge) did yeoman service with their accommodations, host attendance, food preparation and menu. Keystone Lodge shares the beautiful spacious, vaulted-ceiling lodge room and premises with two other lodges, John L. DeGrazier No. 1349, and Vickery Lodge No. 1351. Thanks to all those cordial and helpful members who made our visit so pleasant.

The lodge opened promptly at 10:00 AM with WM Gordon W. Kelso presiding. He acknowledged and welcomed the packed house and began the spirited and informative business meeting. We had the honor of the attendance of three Past Grand Masters: Right Worshipful John E. "Jack" Kelly, Leonard P. Harvey and David B. Dibrell All full members. We were also honored with the attendance of five of the seven living Fellows in Masonic Research: John E. "Jack" Kelly PGM, Leonard P. Harvey, PGM, Plez A. Transou, PM, J. Dexter Sammons, PM and Pierre G. "Pete" Normand, PM. Members can obtain other details of the business meeting from the Secretary.

The nomination of officers, with voting by full members for the office of Junior Warden went smoothly with Fellow Pete Normand presiding. After the nomination, approval and election of officers, incoming Master Douglas Collins named the appointive officers of the lodge. The lodge was then called to refreshment.

While the TLR members were meeting, their ladies and guests took advantage to visit at their pace and leisure the nearby Galleria and the antique shops across the street from the lodge. They returned in time to enjoy lunch.

After lunch, the lodge resumed in refreshment. A paper was presented by Brother Michael Berryman Smith, a Mason raised less than two years ago. He is a member of Arlington Heights Lodge No. 1184. Upon becoming a Master Mason, Brother Smith hit the ground running, joined TLR, and has already produced one scholarly paper and has definite thoughts about another. It is great to see such enthusiasm and expertise in a new Brother. Brother Smith's paper, titled: "*George Whitfield Terrell, Texas Patriot, Texas Mason*," was well received, and when the lodge was returned to labor, he was presented with the replica apron of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, a garment earned by only 83 members of TLR worldwide, with 63 of those in Texas.

Two Past Grand Masters performed the installation ceremony for the new officers. Leonard P. Harvey, PGM was Installing Officer, and David B.

Dibrell, PGM was Master of Ceremonies. The ceremony was carried out with expertise and warmth by both officers. The new officers being seated, the guests were excused, and the lodge returned to labor by newly installed Worshipful Master Douglas Collins.

Brother Collins presented some thoughts and goals for the coming year. He then presented outgoing Master Kelso with a beautiful calligraphic and illustrated Past Master certificate commissioned for this occasion by Ross J. Cox Sr., PM. Brother Kelso made moving and gracious comments in his acceptance. The new officers then assisted Brother Collins in closing the lodge.

We can all take encouragement from the example of Brother Smith and his timely production of a research paper. Help and advice in paper preparation, at any stage, is available from the members of the Editorial Committee. They can also provide a *Criteria and Style Sheet and Writing Guidelines*, or you can download the pamphlet from the TLR website. Contact Senior Warden Jerry Yelvington or Brothers Dougherty, Arbuckle, or Bronk at the addresses found on page 2.

See you in Amarillo in June!

## Bulletin Deadline – July 16

The deadline for articles and news items for the June issue of *The Occasional Bulletin* is July 16. Submit materials to the editor by mail (address on page 2) or electronically at [mwiggins@ou.edu](mailto:mwiggins@ou.edu).

## Did You Attend??

Did you attend one of the Spring Randall E. Briscoe Masonic Education Workshops held throughout the State of Texas? These workshops were well received and incorporated a Question and Answer session discussing the philosophy, teachings and symbolism of Freemasonry. To implement this program, the state was divided into 25 areas with the Grand Master appointing a workshop chairman for each area. Multiple workshops were held in each area and attendance ranged from 19 to over 100 in the workshops. One Workshop Chairman shared the following comment. "One elderly Mason came up to me and told me he was 91 years old, had been a Mason for 60 years, and this was the best presentation he had ever been to. I think we have hold of a winner!" If you missed the Spring Workshops, you missed an excellent Masonic education program and you should make plans to attend a Fall Workshop program, which will be held from August 30 through October 15.

## The Amarillo Meeting June 18-19, 2004

Palo Duro Lodge No. 1239 will host the June quarterly meeting of Texas Lodge of Research along with the annual Anson Jones Lecture. The lodge building is located at 1701 S. Polk St., just north of Interstate 40 and west of Interstate 27 at the intersection of S. Polk Street and W. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Amarillo. Please see the TLR website for a map of the area.

The headquarters hotel will be the Best Western Amarillo Inn located at 1610 S. Coulter Drive. The special TLR rate is \$55.00 per night plus tax. Reservations must be made by **June 1** to obtain the special TLR rate. To make reservations, call the hotel at 806-358-7861 and ask for the TLR rate. **Ask for Christy if you have any problems with making reservations.** Please note that many activities are scheduled this weekend in Amarillo and hotel accommodations are at a premium. Do not delay in making your reservations!

On Friday evening, June 18, a tour to Palo Duro Canyon State Park has been arranged to depart from the hotel at 6:00 PM to see the "Texas Legacies" pageant. **The cost per person is \$45.00.** The price includes transportation to and from the canyon in a chartered, air-conditioned bus, a tour of the canyon itself, center seating in the amphitheater (best seats, period.), and a barbeque dinner at Palo Duro Canyon State Park. This is a little less than it would cost if you took the tour in your own vehicle and a whole lot less stress on the mind and body. Please note: The Master must put up a **non-refundable deposit on 18 May of \$100.00** and payment for **all** reservations must be made **in full on 1 June**. They do not accept business or personal checks, so guess whose credit card is footing this venture? Doug Collins asks that you PLEASE let him know before the 17th of May if you will attend and that you PLEASE send in your payment to arrive no later than the 28th of May. There must be a minimum of 30 persons or the event will be canceled and all money returned. Checks should be made out, and payments sent to: **Texas Lodge of Research, 207 W. 18th St., Austin, TX 78701.** Please do not send payments to the TLR post office box address.

Saturday activities will begin at Palo Duro Lodge at 12:00 Noon with registration and lunch before the tiled business meeting at 1:30 PM. The afternoon session will be devoted to TLR business and will be adjourned in time to rejoin your spouse or guests for the evening Anson Jones banquet and lecture.

The Anson Jones Lecture and banquet will be at the Palo Duro Lodge. The banquet will begin at 7:00 PM.

The Anson Jones Lecturer this year is Illustrious **Sean Graystone**, 33° GC, Chairman of the Advisory Conference for the Santa Fe, NM, Scottish Rite Bodies. His presentation is entitled, "Albert Pike's Journeys through Texas and New Mexico, 1831-32." This should be of special interest to all Scottish Rite Masons. Tickets for the lecture and banquet are **\$20.00 per person** and reservations will be appreciated. Please call or e-mail Doug Collins if you plan on attending to ensure appropriate arrangements are made. The banquet will be catered by Brother Tim Youngblood, Worshipful Master of Palo Duro Lodge and chef in his own restaurant in Amarillo.

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