

# The Occasional Bulletin



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

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

2004-2005

March 2005

No. 4

## **Stated Communication Saturday, March 19, 2005**

River Oaks Lodge No. 1311  
5562 Baylor  
Fort Worth, Texas

9:00 A.M.  
Gather at Lodge Building

10:00 A.M.  
TLR Business Meeting  
& Election of Officers  
(Tiled Meeting)

12:00 Noon  
Lunch for All

1:00 P.M.  
OPEN MEETING  
PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

“Henry Eustace McCulloch: Soldier,  
Statesman, Christian Gentleman”  
by David B. Dibrell, PGM

“Captain Peter F. Tumlinson:  
Texian Ranger and Mason”  
by Brett L. Doyle

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Future Meetings Information on Page 8**

Saturday, May 15 Called Meeting in  
conjunction with Masonic Oak Weekend in  
Brazoria

Saturday, June 18, 2005 Quarterly Meeting  
and Anson Jones Lecture  
Host: Austin Lodge No. 12 - Austin

## *From The East*

Brethren:

We have successfully completed our January quarterly meeting in Goliad and with it my last opportunity to address you as Worshipful Master of the Texas Lodge of Research. Before doing so, however, I would first draw your attention to the meeting in Goliad on 15 January and the wonderful job that Worshipful Gregg Lassman and his officers, including Brothers Senior Warden Howard Yeary, Junior Warden Mike Edwards, and Secretary Glen Mize, did for us. It was great food and a great place for a Texas Lodge of Research outing.

Since the first time I served as Worshipful Master of a lodge (East Dallas No. 1200), I have tried to approach the leadership position in various Masonic bodies with a specific goal in mind, something that would benefit that particular body.

In my mind, our Fraternity needs positive publicity. It needs for all Masons to walk the walk and talk the talk about Masonry. More especially, the Texas Lodge of Research and its purposes must be the duty of all of us to disseminate to our less-informed brethren. As of 31 October 2003, the membership of the Grand Lodge of Texas stood at fewer than 120,000 Masons. The current membership of TLR is 1,216. That means that we only have a fraction over 1% of the Grand Lodge membership. One per-cent!! Furthermore, I would estimate that less than 5% of the Masons in Texas have ever heard of us. This estimate is derived by personal observation over the last couple of years in attending our meetings across the state and speaking before groups about TLR.

Having in mind the goal of exposing our Lodge to the Masons in Texas, the first thing that I did as Worshipful Master was to supply every Full Member in Texas with a TLR name badge. In the letter accompanying the badge, each Full Member was asked to wear his TLR apron and nametag to every local (Continued on Page 2)

**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
Junior Warden	James G. Dougherty P.O. Box 1192 Austin, TX 78767 512-451-0637
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
Marshal	Wayne E. Sirmon 250 Suffolk Road Mobile, AL 36608 251-343-5363
Master of Ceremonies	Clyde B. Kenneaster Jr., PM 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 22 County Road 1602 Mount Pleasant, TX 75455 903-575-0100
Occasional Bulletin	Dr. Michael L. Wiggins, PM P.O. Box 720397 Norman, OK 73070 405-364-7164

***From the East*** (Continued from the Front Page)

lodge function. Why? So he can be approached by uninformed brethren who want to learn about that apron and our lodge and help them to become members.

I implemented a program to present the story of the Texas Lodge of Research before lodges, Scottish Rite or Shrine clubs, York Rite bodies, MWSA's, or any group of Masons interested in learning about us. This presentation has been made available to any Masonic group within the borders of Texas. It has been presented to over 200 Masons across the state and the locales have ranged from the Austin Scottish Rite Temple to a picnic in the open air along the banks of the San Gabriel River. Should tradition prevail and our Senior Warden become our Worshipful Master in March, he has assured me that the program can continue.

So, as this year draws to a close, my heartfelt thanks goes out to all who have worked with me to give Texas Masons a little better knowledge of what this lodge is all about. To all my officers: Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! Thanks most especially to Past Master and Secretary Gordon Kelso, Senior Warden Jerry Yelvington, and Junior Warden Jim Dougherty. Barbara Silvus is a true gem. To her, a very special thanks for all she does. But Gordon's new Toy Chihuahua, *Colonel Beany*, is still on probation.

Personally, I want to thank my lovely wife, Cheri, for being my chief strength and support during this journey and taking care of so many details with help from *Car Two*. I would surely have been lost without Cheri.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Douglas Collins

**Attention Authors**

The Senior Warden solicits papers for review for possible presentation and publication by TLR. Obtain a *Criteria and Style Sheet* from him prior to beginning the project 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.

**The Briscoe Masonic Education Program**

During the 2004 Grand Lodge year, the Committee on Masonic Education and Service, under the supervision of the Grand Lodge Trustees, reintroduced the Masonic Education Workshop program, which was discontinued in the late 1960's. The 2004 Spring and Fall workshops were extremely well attended and received by the Freemasons of Texas. The Randall E. Briscoe Masonic Education Workshops will continue in 2005. The Spring Workshop period is March 28 through May 13 while the Fall Workshop period is August 22 through October 15. The Grand Master's coin will be distributed during the Spring Workshop. Your lodge will have information regarding a workshop in your area. Make your plans now to attend a workshop, join in the discussion, get a Grand Master's coin, and meet new brethren in your area.

**Errata**

A very small number of members found their names were omitted from the membership roster in *Transactions Volume XXXVII* and called the office of the TLR Secretary. Apparently a computer software glitch was at the bottom of this unfortunate miscommunication between the membership database and the printer. This has been corrected and we apologize to the effected brethren.

## THE GOLIAD MEETING

by Raymond G. Bronk

The first stated meeting of the Texas Lodge of Research in 2005 was held January 15 in Goliad, at Goliad Lodge No. 94. A goodly number of our Brothers gathered from around the country to attend the meeting in that historic lodge. Goliad Lodge was formed in 1852 and celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2002. What history was born in the hills and vales surrounding this little south Texas town!

It was in Goliad's Presidio La Bahia chapel that the Goliad Declaration of Independence was signed in 1835, the first in the conflict. It was to Goliad that Brother William Barrett Travis twice sent Brother James Butler Bonham to break through the Mexican lines at the Alamo and complete two 200-mile round-trip horseback quests for assistance to fortify and defend the besieged garrison of the Alamo. It was near Goliad, at the Battle of Coleto Creek, that a severely outmanned Colonel James Walker Fannin surrendered his men, believing they would be properly treated as prisoners of war. And finally, it was at Goliad where those 407 or so prisoners were divided into three parties and marched out of town on the San Antonio Road, the Victoria Road, and the San Patricio road. There, having been declared by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna "foreigners taken in arms against the [Mexican] government [that] should be treated as pirates---not prisoners of war---and shot," they were executed by riflemen. Historians, recognizing the "criminal immorality" of the Goliad Massacre, will forever deplore this action. And the cries of "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad" may have been the crucial contribution that made the battle of San Jacinto such a stunning success for Texas Independence.

The brothers of Goliad Lodge were generous in their hospitality, and it was a pleasure to sit in Lodge in their historic building. Goliad Lodge's Worshipful Master Greg Lassman and Junior Warden Mike Edwards and Secretary Glenn Mize hosted the lunch outdoors under their pavilion, and made our visit memorable.

Our headquarters for this meeting was the LaQuinta Inn in Victoria, a 20-minute drive from Goliad. Our hospitality suite provided members and their ladies and guests with snacks, libations, conviviality and conversation. On Friday evening,

members chose to dine at one of the many restaurants in Victoria.

Worshipful Master Collins opened the Saturday business meeting at 10:30 A.M. Many items of interest were discussed. A full report can be found in the minutes available from the Secretary.

Some of the interesting news and decisions of the meeting were: to take up the still-not-completed bylaws at a later meeting; to share Dr. Cooper's Anson Jones speech with our Australian Masonic brethren for one of their important conclaves; to publish on CD-ROM, all previous transactions in a PDF format and with search capabilities, in the near future, and to have a TLR booth at the 2005 Texas Masonic Family Convention. It was announced that *Transactions Volume XXXVII* had been mailed and *Transactions Volume XXXVIII* is in the formative stages under the caring hands and watchful eyes of Dr. Vaughn.

Brothers Herbert Arbuckle III and Truitt Bradley were presented with lecturer's jewels and wore them until their papers were read at the afternoon open meeting.

At that portion of the meeting, the first paper read was by full member Brother Arbuckle, titled "Que Hombre!" The paper described the life of President and Brother William McKinley. The second paper read was by full member Brother Bradley, titled "Dr. R. C. Andrews — Pioneer and Mason" that discussed this selfless early-Texas Mason.

We were asked to remember our pioneer members of TLR who have reached their twilight years. We should realize how they formed and set the stones of our foundation on which rests the strong edifice that TLR is today. Search your memory; you will find many occasions where praise should have been given them. We can remember them now, in our prayers, and with letters, cards, and phone calls.

The Senior Warden reported the wealth of good papers arriving in his mailbox. Several could have benefited from a perusal of the *Criteria & Style Sheet*. (Some of the conventions demanded by TLR papers are different from those of collegiate papers.) For answers to any questions concerning papers and presentations, help is only a phone call or e-mail away. Contact Senior Warden Yelvington or any of the editorial committee members, Brothers Arbuckle, Bronk, or Dougherty. See the inside of Page 2 of this bulletin for contact information.

See you in Fort Worth in March!

## Reflections on *National Treasure*

By Jim Dougherty, Junior Warden

Well, all my friends said: "You've got to see *National Treasure* ... it's a great movie with a positive Masonic-related plot." Even Grand Commander Ron Seale, in a letter to the Valleys of the Southern Jurisdiction, urged all Scottish Rite Masons to see it. So, after about a month in theaters, I used my Christmas "movie bucks" and took in a New Year's Eve show.

I love movies, but frankly can't remember ever seeing a film in which Masonry was fairly portrayed for what I know the fraternity to be. There are all the *Jack the Ripper* tales and the crooked South Texas sheriff sporting a square and compass ring, whose death everyone in the audience cheered. Then there is Public Television's *Inspector Morse*, who while performing in Bro. Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, chased after a murderer who scratched Masonic graffiti into the red paint of Morse's classic red Jaguar.

Probably the most famous Masonic-based tale is Rudyard Kipling's *The Man Who Would be King*. While Bro. Kipling's book is obviously written with love and respect for the Craft, the petty thief-rogue-hero (played by Sean Connery) did little to redeem himself except his remembrance of a Masonic obligation. After "pinching" Brother Kipling's pocket watch on a train in colonial India, he finds the square and compass on the time piece and immediately has to restore it to his Brother and the Masonic-inspired plot line is off and running.

Masonry and Masons have had a rough time on the silver screen. Now comes *National Treasure*, starring Nicholas Cage as a character some have likened to a 21st Century "Indiana Jones." Advertising trailers for the film were full of flashes of the square and compass, the All Seeing Eye from the Great Seal on the back of the dollar bill and other symbols a Mason would likely recognize. The movie has even more!

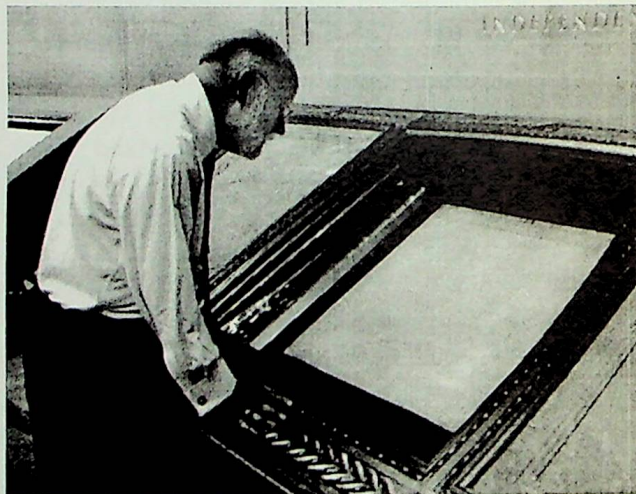
The story revolves around Knights Templar treasure, invisible-ink sketches on the back of the Declaration of Independence, which Cage's character "borrows" (along with the film's romantic interest) from the National Archives and spending

the balance of the film deciphering the clues and staying one step ahead of the bad guys.

Cage, in promotional interviews for the film, admitted his ignorance of Freemasonry and the Masons who were working for the independence of our nation. The influence of Freemasonry in American history has never been a big part of public school texts.

Despite mostly lack-luster reviews, we can all be very happy that the film has found a huge audience in its initial run. In my screening there were men and women, young and old, alike. For me as a Mason, there was the added interest of following the Masonically-inspired clues in solving the puzzle. But that may be the film's biggest failing. While it is an adventure film and there is plenty of action; the historical Masonic influences of the American Revolution will be, as in Mr. Cage's case, over the heads of most in the audience.

A celebrity once said: "I don't care what they say about me as long as they spell the name right." *National Treasure* spelled our name right.



The author, Brother Jim Dougherty viewing the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. during the 2003 Biennial Session of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. Photo by Plez A. Transou.

## The Genius of Freemasonry

Michael L. Wiggins, PM

*"Stupidity, Lonnie Roy. Pure by-God dumb stupidity. People got to where they didn't want to join up anymore. Can you imagine that? They didn't want to be Knights of the White Magnolia.... Little by little the lodges jest sorter dried up. Nobody wanted to join. No new people.... But we was big once, Lonnie Roy. Hell, there was governors and senators that was Brother Knights. We had conventions and barbecues and parades. Took over a whole hotel there in Tulsa.... Gawda mighty, now wasn't that something!"*

L.D. to Lonnie Roy  
*The Last Meeting of the  
Knights of the White Magnolia*

In December 1987, I was attending a Masonic function where there was the customary business, introductions and the obligatory speech. At that time I thought, "here we go again with another boring presentation." And I asked myself, "Do I really have to subject myself to this agony?" While I looked around for an opportunity to escape, I began to realize I was "trapped" by my location, that any attempt to "discretely" leave would be detected by many, and that I was essentially "stuck" and would have to endure the resulting "pain."

Yet in the end, it was not "painful" at all and that "boring" presentation awoke a smoldering search within myself. For me, that oration was a particularly thought provoking experience that in many ways has deeply influenced my Masonic career and my view of Freemasonry. In this presentation, the speaker discussed Freemasonry, the challenges it faced and the promise that lay in the future. That presentation was damning, enlightening and thought provoking. So much so that seventeen years later, I vividly remember the theme presented and carry a copy of that presentation in my briefcase to remind me of the details. And, when I begin to get discouraged, I drag it out for a quick pick-me-up. (If you don't believe that, just ask my wife.)

The speaker noted a Grand Lodge committee had declared in 1978 "an overall acquaintance with Masonic knowledge is necessary to the welfare of

the Craft." He continued to say that officer duties and lodge practices could interest and employ only 10 to 20% of our membership and "that Masonic education must be offered to the remaining 80% or 90% of our Fraternity or they will be lost to the Craft."

The Masonic speaker that day was Reese L. Harrison Jr., at that time the Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Brother Harrison went on to challenge every Freemason to discover the genius of Freemasonry. He noted "Masonic education awakens the interest of a Master Mason in Freemasonry and makes him enthusiastic, while ignorance keeps him lukewarm, that Masonic education makes a Mason informed and thus he becomes a dedicated Freemason and hence a better Freemason."

He asked and answered the question, "What is the genius of Freemasonry?" Harrison said, "It is the day-by-day practice by each of us of those things that Freemasonry teaches and for which it stands and has stood down over the years. But how can Freemasons practice what they do not learn and what is not taught to them through Masonology or Masonic education? How can we expect Freemasonry to prosper in our time and in the years ahead if we do not teach the meaning and mission of the symbolism, allegories, philosophy, morality, history and traditions of Freemasonry?"

The genius of Freemasonry is not our Masonic buildings and temples or the trappings of our organizations. It is not our great charities or community activities. It is not our beautiful rituals or their teachings! It is the "practice of Freemasonry" by the Freemason. Yet we cannot practice that which we do not know or understand. Thus Masonic education is the foundation for our Fraternity. Brother Carl H. Claudy in *The Master's Book* says, "One thing and only one thing a Masonic Lodge can give its members which they can get nowhere else in the world. *That one thing is Masonry.*"

Harrison asserted, "Freemasonry was never intended to be anything other than a profound quest by mankind for participation in the nature and purpose of God and the Universe. It is one of the elements of Masonic genius that this quest, common to many world religions and philosophies, was

uniquely framed within a practical, institutional brotherhood which has served its members and the human family at least since its formal organization in 1717 with the Grand Lodge of England. Freemasonry is unique. It is not just another club, lodge, or society, but, on the contrary, it is rather a startlingly creative institution, which has carried certain basic and fundamental insights down to the present day. To be a Freemason is to be both a member of an institutional fraternity, and an heir to a vast legacy of man's perception and inspiration about both the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. But do we know how to teach it? Few members of Freemasonry develop a vision of what the Craft could be and become because there is no emphasis on the richness of the fabric of Freemasonry."

He added, "Freemasons have largely stopped cherishing their legacy; not because they do not love it, but rather because they do not understand it. They do not let it speak sufficiently to them; but they incessantly do speak to and for it. The capacity to allow the mind and the spirit to roam in and through the Masonic ethic is almost extinct. Lodges that once reflected the most vital and dynamic elements of life are now symbols of stagnation, and they attract the loyalty and spirit of but few energetic men."

L.D.'s words to Lonnie Roy could echo what is happening in many Masonic lodges today because many of our brethren do not understand Freemasonry. As Brother Harrison said, Freemasonry is truly a quest. We must develop a vision for the Fraternity, educate ourselves and our fellow members, and instill in them a rich appreciation of our past and an optimistic view of our future. We can accomplish this by embarking upon our own Masonic quest and enlisting our fellow Freemasons. It begins with one Freemason and then another, one lodge and then another. We must join together on our journey in the discovery of the nature and purpose of God!

We must engage in true Masonic education, that of the symbolism, allegories and teachings of our Fraternity. We must build our own Masonic edifice within ourselves. We have to help our fellow Freemasons by providing a high quality, intellectually stimulating Masonic education

program so that we understand our fraternity, appreciate its legacy, and create its future. Only with that understanding can we band together as friends and brothers in the genius of Freemasonry.

As Brother Claudy said, "The Master whose instruction program is purely Masonic has to send to the basement for extra chairs for most of his meetings." If only L.D. and his Brother Knights had heeded these words, perhaps he would not have been lamenting the last meeting of his lodge. If we fail to heed the genius of Freemasonry, we may also be joining L.D. in exclaiming, "This-here brotherhood is now adjourned!" as he walks out of the lodge room with the initiation book.

Claudy, Carl H.: *The Master's Book*, The Temple Publishers, Washington, DC (1980).

Harrison, Reese L. Jr.: "The Quest," *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas*, Waco, TX (1987) 33-43.

Jones, Preston S.: "The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia," *A Texas Trilogy*, Hill and Wang, New York (1976).

## Did You Know?

The Committee on Masonic Education and Service has been posting a Monthly Masonic Education Program on the Grand Lodge of Texas web page since December 2001. The web page address is [www.grandlodgeoftexas.org](http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org) and a link to the monthly educational programs can be found on the main home page under programs. These brief papers, which can be read in five to ten minutes, can be used as a lodge education program or for your personal Masonic education. The programs developed since 2001 are archived on the site and include 12 programs per year during the last three plus years. That is a total of 39 programs through February 2005. The focus of the papers is on the philosophy, symbolism, allegories, history, and teachings of Freemasonry. Past programs have included topics such as Masonic symbolism, the Fellowcraft Pillars, Biblical verse in Freemasonry, and the Masonic Apron. Check out this resource. Perhaps it can assist you or your lodge in developing or enhancing the lodge's Masonic education program.

## TEXAS MASONRY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

For many years, the Grand Lodge of Texas has celebrated Public Schools Week by pausing in March of each year to pay tribute to the educational system of Texas. Yet the public and many Masons know little about the role the Masonic fraternity has played in the development of free public education in Texas. As the Masons of Texas once again mark this annual event, it is appropriate that the contributions of Freemasonry to Texas public education be highlighted.

Attempts to establish a system of public education in Texas began as early as 1823. Stephen F. Austin, a Mason, requested support from Mexico for a public school in his Texas colony. This effort met with limited response. When Texas declared its independence on 2 March 1836, the signers of the Declaration of Independence stated Mexico had "failed to establish any public system of education" although the government had substantial resources to do so. They further said that "unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect that continuance of civil liberty, or the capacity of self-government." These same men went on to draft the constitution for the Republic of Texas, which was adopted on 17 March 1836. One provision of this constitution made it a duty of Congress "to provide by law a general system of education." Many of the men involved in developing these documents were Freemasons committed to the ideal of public education.

In December 1838, Mirabeau B. Lamar, a Mason, became president of the Republic of Texas and distinguished himself as the "Father of Texas Education" for his support of a public school system. In his first address to the Congress, he pleaded for the creation of a public school system in Texas. He proposed the set aside of public lands for the creation of a permanent endowment to support public education. His educational views met with the approval of Congress and provisions were made for public education. The lasting impact of these actions was in the creation of a permanent endowment for the support of public education that lives to this day. The "school lands" of Texas continue to provide revenue to the permanent endowment and support common education in Texas and supplement the property taxes dedicated to the school systems. Many of these legislators were Masons.

In addition, the Masonic fraternity took a direct interest in education during the period between 1840 and 1860. There was a serious problem with the condition of the schools and Masonry became alarmed

that the children might go through life without formal education. Determined, individual Masonic lodges began to establish schools in towns where they were located. The lodge building itself became the town's learning center. The lodge often employed the schoolteacher and attendance was not limited to Masonic youth but opened to any person with a desire for learning. The first known primary school sponsored by a Masonic lodge opened in 1842 and by 1860 there were at least 23 Masonic sponsored schools.

The State Constitution of 1845 provided the foundation for free public schools. Of the sixty-two members drafting the constitution, at least thirty were Masons. Masons were in a position to influence the development of legislation related to public education during her formative years. All the Presidents of the Republic were Masons and many members of the various legislatures were also Masons, in some cases exceeding fifty percent of the legislative membership. Masonry has certainly played its part in the development of Texas education. The services of Masonic lodges in sponsoring schools and furnishing buildings were possibly greater than any other organization. These services must be considered as among the important transitional steps in achieving free public education in Texas.

The noted Texas historian and non-Mason Frederick Eby in his introduction to James D. Carter's *Education and Masonry in Texas to 1846* states that "Education in Texas is indebted to the courageous assistance of the Masonic Brotherhood for their labors in championing the establishment of its Public School System at the most critical moment in its history." Carter concluded his book with the following statement: "The evidence leaves little doubt that Masons were using every means in their power, in government, in private associations, in religious bodies and with individuals, to bring about the creation of education institutions."

Freemasonry continues to honor public schools. The emphasis on Public Schools Week can do much to inform the general public regarding the Masonic influence on today's public schools. In many instances, Masons offer more than lip-service to education as they provide scholarships to deserving students to assist them with college expenses, support school teachers with special recognition nights and outstanding teaching awards, and support programs that enhance school activities. Masons can be justly proud of their contributions to Texas education.

This article was adapted from Edward N. Thompson's paper "Freemasonry and Texas Education" which published in the *Transactions*, Texas Lodge of Research, Volume XXV.

## The Fort Worth Meeting March 18-19, 2005

River Oaks Lodge No. 1311 will host the March quarterly meeting of Texas Lodge of Research. The lodge building is located at 5562 Baylor Ave. in Fort Worth, a short 15 minute drive from the headquarters hotel. Drive north on Texas SH 183 (Alta Mere Drive) from IH-30, turn left or bear north onto Yale Street and then turn west on Baylor Avenue to the lodge building. Please see the TLR website for a map of the area.

The TLR headquarters will be the Comfort Suites at 6851 West Freeway in Fort Worth. It is located on IH-30 on the west side of downtown near Texas SH 183. The special TLR rate is \$65.00 per night plus tax. A block of rooms have been reserved for the weekend but reservations should be made by **March 4** to obtain the special TLR rate. After that date, reservations will be taken on a space available basis. Included in the room rate is a full hot breakfast in the hotel. This hotel is less than four years old, has an elevator, and rooms include a sofa sitting area. To make reservations, call the hotel at 817-731-9600 and ask for the Texas Lodge of Research rate.

It is anticipated the hospitality room will be opened around 3:00 P.M. on Friday, March 18, at the hotel and reopen after dinner for those night owls. The nearby Edelweiss Restaurant has been chosen for a Dutch-treat dinner. The restaurant is located at 3801 SW Boulevard. Everyone is invited to stop by the hospitality room and join us for the group dinner. These periods are great opportunities to catch up with the latest Masonic happenings and to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Saturday activities begin at River Oaks Lodge at 9:00 A.M. as we gather at the lodge for registration before the tiled business meeting at 10:00 A.M. The afternoon session will be an open meeting and include the presentation of research papers and installation of officers for 2005-2006.

---

### TLR Called Meeting at Masonic Oak Picnic Weekend

The annual Masonic Oak Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, May 15 in Brazoria. This annual event celebrates the original efforts to secure a charter for the first Masonic lodge in Texas in 1835. Details and pre-registration for the picnic are available at [www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/masonicoak.php](http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/masonicoak.php). In conjunction with this event, a special called meeting is being considered for Texas Lodge of Research on Saturday, May 14 in Brazoria. Details and specifics will be announced later.

---

Texas Lodge of Research  
P.O. Box 684684  
Austin, TX 78768-4684

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Austin, Texas Permit No. 1334
--

Grand Lodge of Texas  
PO Box 446  
Waco TX 76703-0446

