

The Occasional Bulletin



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

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



2007

Winter

Number 1

Next Stated Communication March 17, 2007

Friday, March 16, 2007
4 p.m. Hospitality Room at
Holiday Inn Express
810 S. Water Street (Hwy 281)
Burnet, TX

Saturday, March 17, 2007
9 a.m. Gather at lodge.

10 a.m. Tiled meeting of TLR
Valley Lodge No. 175
311 S. Main St.
Burnet, TX
Election of officers,

- High Twelve -
Catered lunch

1 p.m.
Open session, presentation of
papers:

"The Past Master's Jewel"
by Max Hirrell
"Masonry in Gillespie County"
by James McCrae
(Both authors are first-time
presenters.)

followed by installation of officers

Wiggins becomes 16th TLR Fellow in Masonic Research

Dr. Michael Wiggins became the 16th Texas Lodge of Research Fellow in Masonic Research at the January quarterly meeting in College Station. Dr. Wiggins, a petroleum engineer and former member of the faculty of the University of Oklahoma, returned only days earlier from a business consultation in Kuwait.

Introduced by the then-junior Fellow in Masonic Research and fellow *Aggie*, Pierre "Pete" Normand, the topic of his Fellows presentation was the history of Freemasonry.

Most Full Members of the lodge dressed in academic regalia in honor of the new Fellow and added an extra touch of dignity to the rare convocation. In addition, members of St. Alban's No. 1455, host lodge for the event at the Brazos Valley Masonic Library and Museum, were impeccably dressed in black tie.

Dr. Wiggins is a former chairman of the Masonic Education and Service Committee and as such served as the titular District Deputy Grand Master to Texas Lodge of Research.

Joining him for the big day was his wife, Tanya, daughter-in-law and grandson, Michael.

Congratulations, Mike!



Dr. Michael Wiggins receives his TLR Fellows jewel from his wife, Tanya. Below: Laura Normand enjoys future *Aggie* and the Wiggins' grandson Michael.



**Texas Lodge of Research
Tableau of Officers
2005 – 2006**

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Tiler 512 398-9583	Merlen E. Howe 2795 Westwood Rd. Lockhart, TX 78644 b2c2@joimail.com
<i>Transactions</i> Editor 903 575-0100	Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM 22 County Road 1602 Mount Pleasant, TX 75455

From the East

— By Worshipful Master James G. "Jim" Dougherty

It's been a great year!

Our March stated meeting was held in Harleton, in the heart of my East Texas roots. It was one of the best attended TLR meetings in years.

In June, we gathered in Austin, for another Anson Jones weekend, highlighted by a paper from my dear friend and Masonic mentor, Judge Jack Hightower, PGM. What followed was an outstanding Anson Jones Lecture by Grand Commander, and my DeMolay-era friend, Bro. Ronnie Seale, Grand Commander of the A&A SR,SJ.

Then it was to Fort Worth in November, for another memorable meeting and papers by three distinguished scholars, including Grand Master Brian Dodson.

Most recently, we gathered in College Station for the third stated meeting of my tenure as Worshipful Master and a rare event: a Fellows Convocation to confer the 16th Fellow in Masonic Research accolade upon Dr. Michael Wiggins, PM, a graduate of Texas A&M University. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to wear my University of Texas Burnt Orange *High Roller* chapeau during the meeting. Fortunately, *Peace and Harmony Prevailed* and Jane and I weren't ridden out of town on a rail ... in our new maroon-colored TrailBlazer.

It has been a great year for TLR. We are, according to Bro. Treasurer, quite solvent. And with the cooperation of a few Members (all categories, that is) who have yet to mail in their dues, the lodge will continue to sustain the high standard of research through the *Transactions* and member service, through the *Occasional Bulletin* ... on our TLR website and, for the time being, by "snail mail."

This year, I have been overwhelmed with the quality of papers presented. In 2005-06, as Senior Warden and supervisor of the work of the Editorial Committee, I had the honor of Moving, before the lodge, the approval of most of the papers presented during my year as Worshipful Master. In addition, the *Transactions* of this year, will include the prayers of my dear friend and Brother Chaplain, Rabbi Jimmy Kessler and Past Chaplain, and this year's Tiler, the Rev. Merlen Howe.

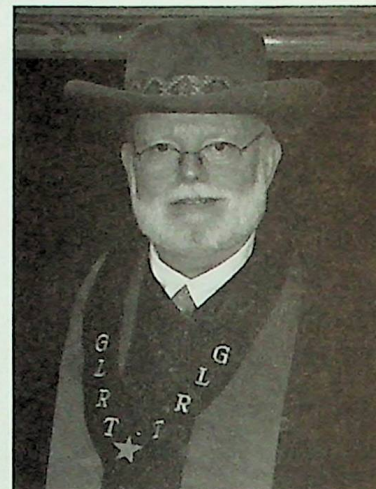
I truly appreciate the efforts of all of the line officers this year; especially TLR Secretary and my "cronies," Gordon and Rita Kelso and Barbara Silvers; Senior Warden Ray Bronk and Marjorie, and Junior Warden Truitt Bradly. Also to Dr. William Preston Vaughn, editor of the *Transactions*, who has lost much this past year and still serves our lodge with zeal. I treasure the lapel pin MC and Grand Senior Warden David Counts passed to me: it was the pin that indicated that my son is a member of the armed services of our beloved country. David's son is now a civilian. And now, I retire the pin as my son and Masonic Brother Will Dougherty has been restored to us.

All of you ... officers and members ... have been in our corner and I appreciate your hard work for Texas Lodge of Research.

Due to a family commitment, I will be out of the country in March, but we will be with you all in Burnet, in spirit. Good luck, Ray, as you begin your year in the East.

Finally, congratulations to Editorial Committeeman and new Grandpa Herb Arbuckle on the birth of his granddaughter, Lillian Faith Wilson on Jan. 6, 2007. Her arrival prevented his being with us in College Station and spared us a yodel or two. See you at a future meeting, old chum.

— Jim Dougherty, Worshipful Master 2006-07



James Griffis Dougherty
Worshipful Master 2006-07

The College Station Meeting

— By Raymond G. Bronk, S.W.

Texas Lodge of Research members and guests, including several un-disguised “teasips,” infiltrated Aggie Country at College Station for the regular January 20th Quarterly stated meeting. The weather was off-and-on rainy and dreary, but it was dry and comfortable at the College Station Hilton. The hotel was the choice for lodging and hospitality on Friday the 19th, and the members gathered there for libation and conversation for several hours prior to enjoying dinner at the many fine restaurants located in the hotel area. The Bell Ranch steakhouse located in the Hilton rated high grocery grades from several members.

On Saturday morning, members and guests congregated at the Brazos Valley Masonic Library and Museum to partake of breakfast snacks. Brother Joe King Fultz, Worshipful Master of St. Albans Lodge No. 1455 (our host lodge for the meeting), and other members of his lodge, organized the breakfast as well as the catered noon lunch.

After breakfast, non-Masonic guests and ladies visited the George H. Bush Presidential Museum or shopped in the plethora of malls and shopping venues in the area, or browsed in the beautifully appointed and stocked Library and Museum.

The tiled meeting was opened by Worshipful Master James G. “Jim” Dougherty at 10:00 A.M. with an attentive group, pleased to be comfortably seated in the

beautiful, modern, St. Albans Lodge room amongst like-minded brethren. The business portion of the meeting was brief. Details can be found in the minutes, available from the Secretary. WM Dougherty announced the passing of Virginia Vaughn, beloved wife of Dr. William Vaughn. Virginia, loved by many members for her cheerfulness, charm, and warmth, had been ill for an extended period. Bro. Dougherty announced that the Douglas Collins (XXXIX) edition of the Transaction will be presented to Past Master Collins at the March 17th meeting at Valley Lodge No. 175 in Burnet. The stated meeting was closed in peace and harmony.

At noon, members gathered in the dining area for a catered luncheon. Following the meal, the open meeting began with a formal procession of Full Members dressed in academic regalia. Following the seating of all members and guests, WM Dougherty presented Past Master and TLR Fellow Pierre “Pete” Normand to introduce Fellow of Masonic Research designate, Dr. Michael Wiggins.

Dr. Wiggins acknowledged the honor and spoke of his thoughts upon being informed of his selection to be made a Fellow. He then presented a paper for publication, titled *American Freemasonry: Dinosaur or Phoenix?* After a standing ovation for Dr. Wiggins the open meeting was closed.

Following the meeting, PM Pete Martinez presented a Power-Point presentation, based on a book published in 1540, discovered in the Grand Lodge Library. The colorfully-illustrated book describes the then-accepted and then-believed geocentric theory (planets and sun orbit the earth), prior to the discovery that the planets, in fact, orbit the sun. The presentation by Bro. Martinez was attended by many and enjoyed and appreciated by all. Thank you, Pete, for your curiosity and diligence, and always-interesting presentations.

Let’s keep sending in those fascinating and exciting original papers. Remember, always begin your writing projects for TLR by studying the *Criteria and Style Sheet*. This “first step” will simplify your writing efforts and speed the path to approval and presentation. Further help and copies of the C&SS are available from the Editorial Committee, or Senior Warden at 512-756-2756.

Our next meeting will be March 16-17 at Burnet, hosted by Valley Lodge No. 175, to nominate and install new officers and for the presentation of two new papers.

See you there!



College Station Scrapbook

Top left: TLR Past Master and Ambassador-at-Large Doug Collins with Cheri. Bottom left: Laura Normand joins TLR’s Austin office phone voice Barbara Silvus and Worshipful Master Dougherty’s wife, Jane Ulrich. College Station photos courtesy Pete Martinez and Paul Bullock.

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Hospitable Burnet invites you to the beautiful Hill Country

March 16-17, 2007

Hit the road and aim that hood ornament 35 miles northwest of Austin, setting your sights on Burnet, for the 2007 election and installation of officers and regular quarterly meeting of Texas Lodge of Research.

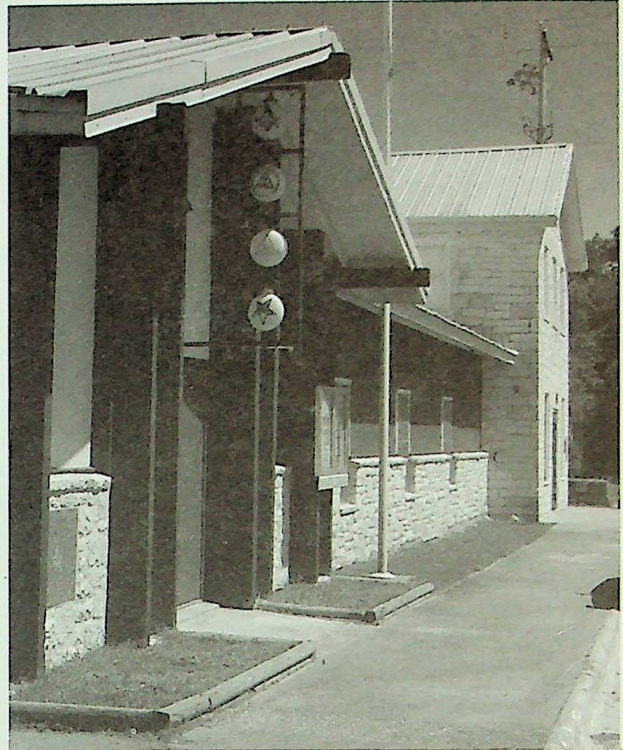
This meeting will be hosted by historic Valley Lodge No. 175, which is located at 311 S. Main (one block south on Main from the west side of the county courthouse square.)

Lodging has been arranged at the Holiday Inn Express, about six blocks south, at 810 Water St. (US 281) at a rate of \$89, plus tax. Please reserve your room by calling (512) 756-1789 prior to March 2 and request the *Texas Lodge of Research* rate. Members with pets may bunk at the Best Western Post Oak Inn (512) 756-4747. The rate is \$99.99.

The location of the hospitality room will be posted at the hotel office, so join us for snacks, refreshments and conversation. Burnet offers a choice of fine restaurants to appeal to almost every taste.

The Saturday stated meeting will begin at 10 a.m. On the agenda is the election of officers for the coming Masonic year, and will wrap-up in time for everyone to enjoy one of the host lodge's famous meals.

Two papers are scheduled, followed by the installation of officers. Come enjoy yourself in Burnet, the gateway to western hospitality.



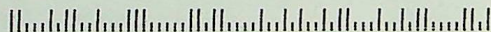
Valley Lodge's historic original building (right) and modern lodge and dining room addition.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| March 17 | Burnet. Host: Valley Lodge No. 175, 311 S. Main. |
| June 16 | Austin. Anson Jones Lecture. Host: University Lodge No. 1190. Meeting and dinner at the Austin York Rite Temple, 311 West 7th St., Austin, TX. |
| Sept. 15 | Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park, Constitution Hall. Host: Washington Lodge No. 18. |
| Jan. 19, 2008 | Dallas. Host: Claud L. Austin Lodge No. 1450, 500 S. Harwood St. |
| March 15 | Georgetown, Host: San Gabriel Lodge No. 89. |
| June 21 | Houston. Host: Gray Lodge No. 329. |
| Sept. 20 | Arlington. Host: Arlington Lodge No. 438. |
| Jan. 17, 2009 | Waco. 50th Anniversary of TLR. (Tentative) Grand Lodge Memorial Auditorium. X |

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