

The Occasional Bulletin



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

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

Number 2

Fall

2007

From the East

— By Worshipful Master Raymond Bronk

One of the valued perquisites of the Master of Texas Lodge of Research is the opportunity to choose the venues where the quarterly stated meetings will be held. Like all Masters before me, I, too, chose some of my meeting sites for favorite reasons. There is a risk in that privilege. One must also consider the utility, availability, and reasonability of those venues, the ease for members to attend and other practical factors, in order that attendance should be reasonable for members of TLR, else the Master might open Lodge in near-empty rooms. The September meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos was my favorite TLR meeting ever.

The exciting venue — the replica of Independence Hall; the site — within feet of the actual building where brave patriots risked their all to create, sign and publish a document that declared independence from an adopted homeland then ruled by a despotic dictator bent on the destruction of these pioneers and their aspirations. They did not know then that the 187 defenders of the Alamo were slaughtered and that 342 prisoners at

Goliad would soon be executed. From this historic building led the first footsteps of General Sam Houston, newly elected Commander-in-chief of the tiny Texas Republican Army — usually accurately described as a “rag-tag” mob — on a fifty-day humiliating retreat to the plains of San Jacinto. There, Houston and his “army” met General Santa Anna’s jaded, weary and unwary troops, and in less than fifteen minutes of



Worshipful Master
Raymond Bronk

ruthless, revenge-driven combat, his “army” — shouting “Remember the Alamo” and “Remember Goliad,” their valor superior to their expertise — forever gained the freedom and glory of Texas and almost a million square miles of property. On the premises of the Washington Historic Site TLR members walked in the faded footprints of Texas greats such as Sam Houston, Anson Jones, Davy Crockett, Stephen F. Austin, and scores more true Texas heroes.

To walk the ground where these heroes trod and met and to hold Lodge in “Independence Hall” is heady stuff for a historian. It was a thrill and a privilege to strike the gavel and to sit in Lodge on those premises with

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**Next Meeting: Hosted by Claud L. Austin Lodge No. 1450
Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral, 500 S. Harwood, Dallas, TX**

Friday, January 18, 2008

Hospitality room opens at 4 p.m., Best Western Cityplace Inn
4150 North Central Expressway

Saturday, January 19, 2008

10 a.m. quarterly meeting of Texas Lodge of Research, Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral, 500 S. Harwood, in downtown Dallas
12 Noon. luncheon followed by open meeting and presentation of papers.

View the *Occasional Bulletin* in color at the TLR website:
www.texaslodgeofresearch.org

**Texas Lodge of Research
Tableau of Officers
2007 – 2008**

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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King James Bible pages go on display at Grand Lodge

Few members know that among the treasures of Masonic research amassed by TLR in its almost 50 years of existence are four pages from the 1611 King James version of the *Holy Bible*.

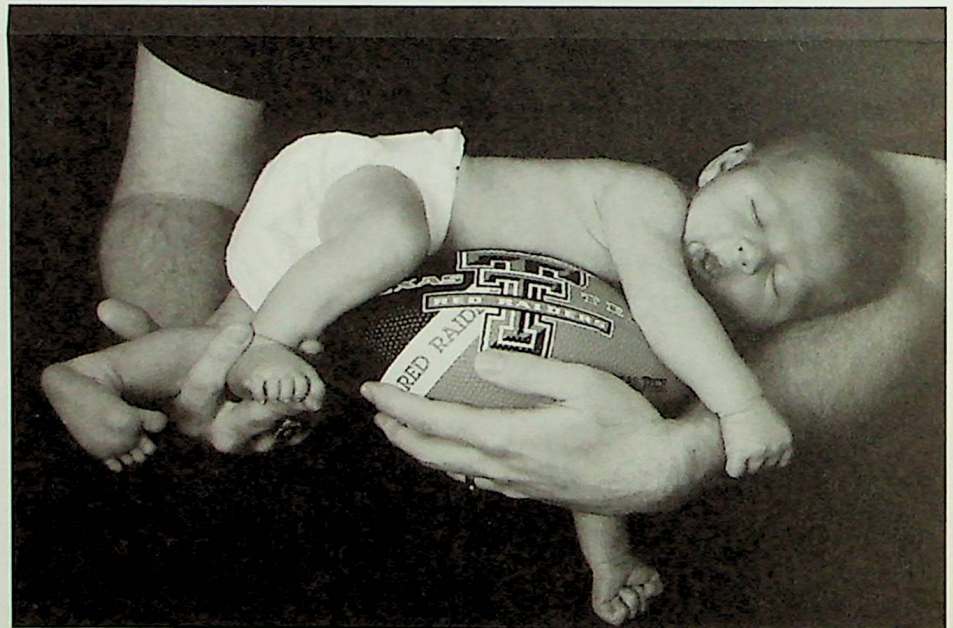
The pages contain the passages of the circumambulation readings from the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees. They were purchased by the lodge in 1990 and archivally mounted and framed.

While they have been displayed at some TLR events, it was decided that the time was right

to fulfill the original Motion that the pages be on permanent display for the benefit of the Masons of Texas and the general public. A motion was made at the Washington-on-the-Brazos meeting that the pages be conveyed, on loan, to the Grand Lodge Library and Museum as part of the Texas Lodge of Research display. By unanimous vote, the transfer was ordered.

It is expected that the display will be completed in time for the Grand Annual Communication in December.

TLR Junior Warden a first time dad



Texas Lodge of Research Junior Warden Jack Harper and wife, Julie, are the proud parents of a son, Jake Michael. Born 26 September 2007, he weighed in at a respectable 9.9 pounds and 22 inches.

Our collective congratulations go out to Jack and Julie and we hope to see the future Grand Master and Red Raider at our Dallas meeting.

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The Washington-on-the-Brazos meeting

The members and guests of Texas Lodge of Research wended their way to Washington-on-the-Brazos for the 15 September stated meeting, as did the creators and signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence 171 years ago, 1 March 1836.

Many TLR members overnighted at the Best Western Inn of Brenham, in comfortable quarters, while our famous heroic forefathers slept under trees, in scarce inns and scattered dwellings, or any place that would shed inclement weather.

Members of Washington Lodge, our host lodge, met us at our hotel hospitality room and members and guests and visitors had a delightful few hours just conversing, refreshing and enjoying each other's company. Thanks go out to Senior Steward, Col. Andrew McVeigh for his hard work



It was a "shirt and tie lodge" after a few minutes in the heat and humidity of Independence Hall at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park.

in setting up, closing down and making the room a great success. Later, most of us gathered for seafood and other delicious meals at a popular Brenham eatery. After more conversation back at the inn, we departed for our quarters.

Washington Lodge prepared a breakfast of kolaches, donuts, juice and coffee already waiting our arrival at the restaurant area of the State Historical Park. At 9 AM, WM Bronk gavelled the forty, or so, members to a tiled session in the replica of historic Independence Hall.

While the declaration-drafting pioneers in 1836 suffered from freezing weather and no doors or windows covering openings in the old hall, TLR members cheerfully noted the summer heat and plexiglas-covered windows, two doors, little, or no, breeze, and no electrical power or air conditioning. However, no amount of weather discomfort could lessen the thrill and privilege of opening lodge in those premises where many of the most famous heroes of early Texas settlement had met and trod.

We adapted our modern Masonic routine to enjoy a meeting of our modern TLR Masons and guests in this historic setting. We recognized distinguished Masonic guests and thanked our Washing-

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the goodly crowd of members and guests who attended

Our next meeting, my last as Master, will leave this rural site and be held in Dallas. We will open Lodge at Claud E. Austin Lodge No.1450. Although the Dallas/Fort Worth area is now a huge metropolis, it too, has interesting and important early Texas Masonic history aplenty. We can discover there stories that need to be told in future TLR papers. And so it is in most of our meeting places. Meeting in Austin, Washington, Burnet, Dallas, Amarillo, Galveston, Waco, and the hundreds of other meeting places in the last 49 years provided us with great reasons to visit and learn, and gave us opportunities to discover the "secrets" of these locales;

to expand our personal Texas historic knowledge data bases and to gain inspiration for TLR papers. I urge all members to attend our quarterly meetings. To that end, we always try to make the monetary costs as low as decorum and circumstances permit. We search for quality and comfort as well as economically pleasing headquarters. Before traveling to these meetings, take the time to learn a little about the area or locale, and to prime your brain with questions that can be answered by the visit and the interaction with the local gentry or local TLR members and guests who are also attending our meetings. You'd be surprised what can happen. TLR will benefit from your writings and YOU will be the better for it.

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Above: PGM David Dibrell (left) and Senior Warden Truitt Bradley (right) at Friday supper. Right: Worshipful Master Bronk congratulates new Full Member Donald Garrido. Below: Worshipful Master Bronk presents the Carter Award for Excellence to Paul Bullock. Photos by Pete Martinez.



Washington Scrapbook

ton Lodge No. 18 hosts: WM Don Lemon, PM and TLR Fellow Pete Normand, and PM Joe King Fultz. These good men and others, too many to name, were instrumental in hosting and supporting a great visit and lodge meeting and a wonderful afternoon open TLR meeting. We are eternally grateful, my Washington Lodge brothers.

Business matters took up most of the meeting, and thanks were given to the great work and the subsequent impressive report by the Audit/Finance committee, led by PGM and TLR Fellow RW Leonard P. Harvey, assisted by the other hard-working members. Details of the report and other business may be found in the minutes of the meeting available through TLR Secretary Bro. Jim Dougherty.

Endowment certificates were presented by WM Bronk to Bros. Roy Harris, Willie Bohlmann and Gary Whitfield. Senior Warden Bro. Truitt Bradley reported that two papers would be presented at the afternoon open meeting.

Bro. Secretary reported that he still has copies of a number of old



Transactions volumes for sale. Consult the list of available volumes on the opposite page and an order form.

Lodge was closed at 10:50 AM. After a tasty noon meal presented and served cafeteria-style by members of Washington Lodge, the open portion of our meeting was opened at 1:30 PM.

Various pronouncements about the history of Masonry in the Brazos Valley were presented

by Fellow in Masonic Research Pete Normand. After those remarks WM Bronk welcomed our non-Masonic guests, including his wife Marjorie, daughter Beth and son Tim.

Bro. Donald Garrido then presented an interesting paper titled "Freemasonry in the Panama Canal Area, 1977-2000." WM Bronk then followed with his paper titled "The Influence of Environment and Freemasonry on the Texas Declaration of Independence." Brother Garrido was presented with Full Membership documents and the distinctive TLR apron. Bro. Garrido then made several gracious remarks about TLR and the delight in receiving his replica of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas Apron, able to be worn by less than 90 living persons.

There being no further business to conduct, the open meeting was closed in peace and harmony.

Keep those papers coming in. The prize is worth the effort. The Editorial Committee and Senior Warden stand ready to answer questions and to provide assistance.

See you in Dallas next year!

From the Secretary

Brethren:

In the coming days you will be receiving your Texas Lodge of Research dues packet. Please be aware of certain changes, made after much discussion, and aimed at saving the lodge substantial sums on printing and postage. Those changes are:

The dues statement will include your 2008 TLR dues card. We are instituting an "honor system" and expect members to pay their dues immediately on receipt. The card is of no value until payment is received.

Check your current TLR dues card. If it is not a 2007 card you are probably in arrears. Please send your dues payment immediately, or contact the TLR Business Office at (512) 480-0200, or by email at texaslodgeofresearch@yahoo.com.

Transactions, Vol. XL, should be in the mail by early December. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT COPIES WILL ONLY BE SENT TO MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES WHO HAVE PAID THEIR CURRENT (2007) DUES. Beginning with the second issue of the **Occasional Bulletin** for 2008, only members current in their dues will receive a subscription.

Membership in Texas Lodge of Research is an honor and privilege, but along with membership comes the obligation of paying the nominal dues needed to provide for the benefits of being a member of the premier research lodge in the United States.

Fraternally,

Jim Dougherty, Secretary

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First meeting of the new year: Big D., my, oh yes!

The 19 January Quarterly Meeting of Texas Lodge of Research marks our return to Dallas and the beautiful Scottish Rite Cathedral at 500 South Harwood St.

Accommodations have been arranged at the Best Western Cityplace Inn, 4150 North Central Expressway, a short drive from our meeting site. The Hospitality Room will open at 4 PM in the hotel lobby.

A very reasonable rate of \$59.00, plus tax, has been negotiated by Worshipful Master Bronk. Please make arrangements by calling the hotel at (214) 827-6080 and ask for Elizabeth. The block of rooms will be held until 4 January. Rooms, if available, after the 4th will still qualify for the TLR Rate. The hotel is "pet friendly" for animals under 25 pounds for an additional \$25.00 per night.

Saturday morning's tiled business meeting will begin at 10

AM and parking is available at the rear of the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Coffee and donuts will be available at 9 AM at the Scottish Rite.

Two papers are expected be presented after lunch at the open meeting.

We sincerely hope that every TLR member in the Metroplex will come out and support the lodge. But, wherever you reside, come enjoy the convivial atmosphere of a TLR weekend ... and bring a prospective member with you!

Fiftieth anniversary coin due by Grand Lodge

TLR's fiftieth anniversary commemorative coin is expected to be available at the Grand Annual Communication in Waco this coming December.

The coin features TLR's Charter Worshipful Master Dr. James D. Carter on the obverse and the distinctive TLR Full Member apron on the reverse.

Coins are minted in pewter by a group of disabled Masons in



Canada. The coins will also be available at the quarterly lodge meetings, or by mail from the Secretary's office.

Price and ordering details will be in the next *Occasional Bulletin*.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 14-15, 2008. Host: San Gabriel Lodge No. 89. Georgetown.

June 20-21, 2008. Anson Jones Lecture. Host: Gray Lodge No. 329. Houston.

September 19-20, 2008. Host: Arlington Lodge No. 438. Arlington.

January 2009. 50th Anniversary Celebration. Host: J.H. Gurley No.337. Lee Lockwood Library & Museum. Waco.

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