



# The Occasional Bulletin

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



Number 2

Summer

2010

## Aggieland hosts installation of TLR officers



### Next Stated Communication San Antonio, Texas

Friday, June 18, 2010  
4 p.m. Hospitality Room opens  
at the historic Menger Hotel.  
Dutch-treat dinner.

Saturday, June 19, 2010  
10 a.m. Quarterly Meeting of  
Texas Lodge of Research with  
evening Anson Jones Lecture  
and dinner, Scottish Rite.  
Host: Perfect Union No. 10  
See back page for details and  
addresses.

New officers of Texas Lodge of Research pose for their official picture following installation. Front row, from left: Installing Officer Reese L. Harrison Jr. PGM, SD; Mark Dermit, Treasurer; James McCrae, JW; Wayne Simon, WM; Merlin Howe, SW; Jim Dougherty, Secretary; Roberto Sanchez, Tiler. Back row: Darron Ross; Oscar Orum, Chaplain; David Peevy, Junior Deacon; Robert Risko Jr., JS; Brad Billings, SS; Robert Risko, JS. and Installing Marshal Pete Martinez. **See College Station, Page 6.**

### On the inside:

**TLR Study Group set to work in County Durham, England. See pictures and story on pages 4, 5 & Secretary's column on page 7.**

**Texas Lodge of Research  
Tableau of Officers  
2010-2011**

Worshipful Master	Wayne Sirmon 4617 Bit & Spur Road Mobile, AL 36608 wayne@sirmon.us
251 591-3417	
Senior Warden	Merlen Howe 2795 Westwood Road Lockhart, TX 78644-4698 b2c2795@gmx.com
512 398-9583	
Junior Warden	James McCrae 623 Walking Plow Rd. Fredericksburg, TX 78624-6411
830 669-2729	
Treasurer	Mark Dermit 1900 Scofield Ridge Pkwy #1401 Austin, TX 78727 kevit64@yahoo.com
512 587-8547	
Secretary & Occasional Bulletin Editor	James G. "Jim" Dougherty, PM P.O. Box 684684 Austin, TX 78768-4684 texaslodgeofresearch@yahoo.com
512 478-7030 (o) 512 970-8746 (m)	
Chaplain	Oscar Orum 8607 Azalea Tr. Austin, TX 78759 oorum@austin.rr.com
512 346-4310	
Senior Deacon	Reese L. Harrison Jr. PGM 711 Navarro, Suite 600 San Antonio, TX 78205 rlh@obht.com
210 224-2000	
Junior Deacon	Dave Peavy P.O. Box 2046 Austin, TX 78768 davepeavy@gmail.com
512 638-1180	
Senior Steward	Brad Billings 3205 Brompton Corinth, TX 76210 bradbst@yahoo.com
806 787-7600 (h) 806 361-2613 (m)	
Junior Steward	Robert Risko Jr. 901 Ward Ln. Athens, TX 75751 robrisko@aol.com
903 670-1726 (h) 903 681-4160 (m)	
Marshal	W. David Counts, PGM P.O. Box 338 Knox City, TX 79529 dcounts@westex.net
940 658-3596 (h) 940 658-3390 (o)	
Master of Ceremonies	Jim Rumsey 102 Joanne White Oak, TX 75699 Jim.Rumsey@Suddenlink.Net
903 220-3311 (o)	
Tiler	Roberto Sanchez 1678 Beaconsire Houston, TX 77077 rmsh13@yahoo.com
281 293-9330	
Transactions Editor	Raymond Bronk, PM 100 Quirt Dr. Burnet, TX 78611 raybronk@aol.com
512 756-2756	
Transactions Editor Emeritus	Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM, FMR
Editorial Committee	Merlen Howe, Chmn. Herbert Arbuckle III Raymond Bronk, PM Gordon W. Kelso, PM
Webmaster	Pete Martinez, PM 3204 Libby St. Tyler, TX 75707 hushpup@gower.net
903 939-2926	

*By Wayne Sirmon*

# A message from the Master

In 1829 an Alabama Mason journeyed to Texas. Prior to moving west, Bro. Dugald McFarlane had distinguished himself by serving as first Grand Lecturer when the Grand Lodge of Alabama was established in 1821. Settling in Matagorda, Bro. McFarlane became active in Texas Masonic affairs including being listed as a charter member of Matagorda Lodge No. 7 and serving as the Worshipful Master of St. Johns Lodge No. 5 in 1848. Of course, any list of distinguished Alabama Masons who made significant contributions to Texas must be headed by Bro. William B. Travis. This icon received his degrees in Alabama Lodge No. 3, just a short drive north of Mobile.

The lure of Texas remains strong almost two hundred years later. Perhaps it is not so strange that the first Master of Texas Lodge of Research who was not raised in a Texas lodge should hail from Alabama. Those early Masons traveled across the Trinity River drawn to a place where the future was yet to be determined. In Texas they found new friends; new challenges; new opportunities. Each time I travel to our meetings, I too find friendship, challenges and opportunities.

Most TLR members connect with this lodge through the *Transactions* For a number of years, I was only a "mailbox Mason" who was satisfied with the value I received from my annual dues.



Wayne Sirmon  
Worshipful Master

This excellent publication is of great value to a Masonic student, but TLR is much more. In addition to our website ([www.texaslodgeofresearch.org](http://www.texaslodgeofresearch.org)), we have 164 members at our Facebook group: "Texas Lodge of Research." During the year expect to see new additions to the website. Chief among these is the development of Masonic history and education sections that should become valuable tools for personal and lodge education. The regular quarterly meetings provide more than just a forum for the presentation of papers. We continue to host informal help sessions for budding Masonic authors where members of the Editorial Committee and others are ready, willing and able to guide new writers through the process of developing a raw idea into a polished paper.

Make plans on attending this June's Anson Jones Lec-

# College Station meeting

*Continued from Page 1*

Members of TLR from around the state converged on College Station and our spacious Hospitality Room on Friday, March 19. Despite rain and heavy winds on the outside, the usual warm camaraderie prevailed.

On Saturday, we were guests of Sol. Ross Lodge No. 1300 at the beautiful Brazos Valley Masonic Library and Museum. Approximately 40 members and guests were present, including Past Grand Masters Leonard Harvey (PM and FMR) and Reese L. Harrison Jr. Also, Fellow in Masonic Research Pete Normand, a member of the host lodge was present.

During morning business a thorough report was given

by Worshipful Master Harper on the just completed trip to the United Kingdom to inaugurate a Texas Lodge of Research Study Group in County Durham. The group, founded by W:. Dr. Alan Bell and under dispensations granted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham, United Grand Lodge of England and personal approval of then Grand Master David Counts, the group was set to work in much pomp and circumstance on March 13. The founding members of the study group number 25, all dues paying members of Texas Lodge of Research.

Papers for the afternoon session were announced by Senior Warden Sirmon. They were ti-

tled: "A History of Athens Lodge No. 165, A.F. & A.M." by Bro. Robert J. Risko Jr. and "The Table Lodge: A Forgotten Masonic Practice" by Roberto Sanchez. Both authors are first-time presenters and received their Full Member aprons following paper presentations in the afternoon.

It was announced that the June meeting would be in San Antonio and hosted by Perfect Union Lodge No. 10. The Anson Jones Lecture for 2010 will be given by the author of the newly published book, *The Better Angels of our Nature*, Michael A. Halleran. The book is a fresh examination of the Craft during the War Between the States.

---

## Master

*Continued from Page 2*

ture. Michael A Halleran's presentation will be drawn from his book, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*. This fresh look at Freemasonry during the Civil War was released in March 2010 by the University of Alabama Press. (A copy of the book is in the process of review by Past Master and FMR Pierre "Pete" Normand and will be in an upcoming issue of this magazine.)

Invest some time and travel to our quarterly meetings. Here you will find first rate fellowship along with the satisfaction of being part of an effort to research, preserve and disseminate our Masonic

heritage. Join us in San Antonio and you'll see what I mean.

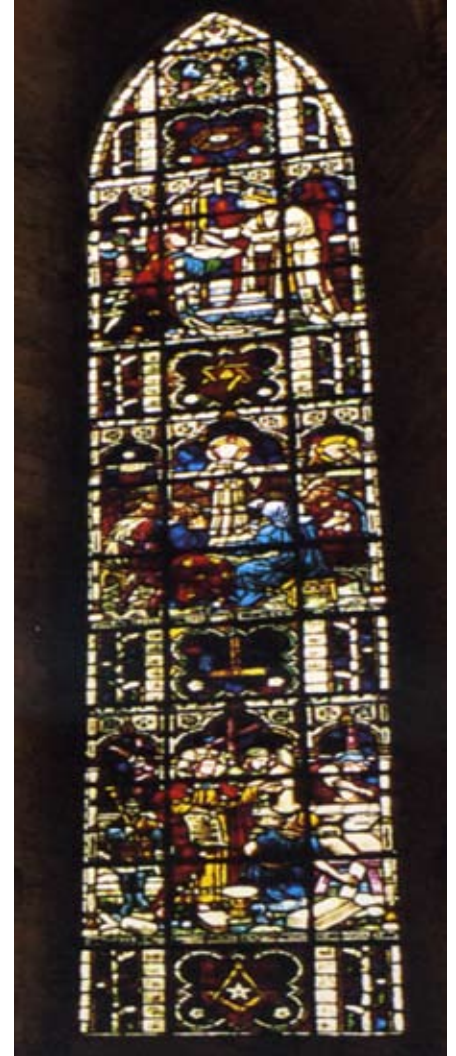
*Wayne Sirmon, WM*

PS: Bro. McFarlane would make a great topic for a TLR paper!

**Thanks to those who have requested Grand Masters' coins from Judge Jack Hightower's collection. We have run out of several, but still have PGM Joe Steed (1971), Judge Hightower (1972), one each only for Bob Schnell (1993), Billy Tinsley (1994), Mike Gower (1999), Vernon Burke (2000), Mike Nanny (2002), and Boyd Patterson (2003.) Also have Reese Harrison 2004. Coins are the non-enameled versions and are \$5.00 each, postpaid, from the Secretary. Email to reserve at [texaslodgeofresearch@yahoo.com](mailto:texaslodgeofresearch@yahoo.com). Coins are available on a first come, first served basis.**



Above: Worshipful Master Harper with Grand Lodge of Scotland Secretary and past Anson Jones Lecturer Robert L.D. Cooper (left) and library and a museum docent. The famous painting in the background is of the Grand Lodge installation of Robert Burns as Poet Lauret of Scotland. Right: Huge stained glass window in Durham Cathedral given by Freemasons to commemorate a R.:W.: Provincial Grand Master and shows Solomon building the temple, the young Jesus speaking with the doctors of the law, and St. John and the heavenly Jerusalem. Below, left: WM Harper and lady Julie in courtyard of Lumley Castle prior to Study Group festive board. Right: Secretary Dougherty didn't pack his kilt for this trip, but he and lady Jane were bundled up for a tour of Edinburgh Castle, home of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.



TLR sp

Above: Members of Durham Freemason and Secretary Doug Right: Worshipful M XLI Transactions and Temple library and



Worshipful Master Harper and W. Bro. Dr. Alan Bell escort each other to the East during ceremonies launching the County Durham No. 1 Study Group of Texas Lodge of Research. Dr. Bell is the first "Marshall," or presiding officer, of the group.

## reads brotherly love to new UK brethren



Eardulph Lodge No. 6645, which meets at the Mansions Hall welcomed Worshipful Master Harper and W. Bro. Dr. Alan Bell to their stated meeting and festive board. Dr. Bell is the first "Marshall," or presiding officer, of the group. Dr. Bell is the first "Marshall," or presiding officer, of the group. Dr. Bell is the first "Marshall," or presiding officer, of the group. Dr. Bell is the first "Marshall," or presiding officer, of the group.



# College Station snapshots



Above: Worshipful Master Harper greets new Full Members Robert J. Risko Jr. (2nd from left) and Roberto Sanchez (right). Clyde Kennester (left) encouraged Bro. Risko to do his paper on the history of Athens Lodge. Below: Junior Past Master Truitt Bradly passes along the Junior Past Master's jewel and collar. The jewel was "rescued" from an Austin thrift shop by Past Master Pete Martinez.

## ***Form and Style Manual*** **available on-line**

Texas Lodge of Research's *Form and Style Manual* is available to authors at the lodge website: [www.texaslodgeofresearch.org](http://www.texaslodgeofresearch.org) for downloading. The document goes 23 pages, so make sure you have plenty of paper.

The Editorial Committee and Senior Warden Howe stress that authors who follow the very user-friendly manual will have far less corrections to make.



# From the Secretary

By Jim Dougherty, PM, Secretary and Occasional Bulletin Editor

It only seems a few weeks have passed since we met in Nederland until we met again in College Station. There's been a lot going on with TLR. Not only do we have a new Worshipful Master ... and one from Alabama, no less, but TLR now has a new Study Group in County Durham, England.

Worshipful Master Harper and myself, accompanied by our wives, flew into Manchester, England and then took the high speed train to Edinburgh, Scotland and then to County Durham, the location of Durham Study Group No. 1. The English and Scottish hospitality was wonderful. While in Edinburgh, we visited Edinburgh Castle, had a guided tour of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and inspected the restoration work at Rosslyn Chapel. In County Durham, we were treated to two evenings accommodations at historic, and haunted, Lumley Castle, as guests of our English Brethren. On Friday night, we were invited to attend Eardulph Lodge at their regular stated meeting, where we presented a copy of *Transactions Vol. XLI* and a 50th anniversary coin to the lodge.

W.: Bro. Dr. Alan Bell, who's idea it was to form the study group and associate it with Texas Lodge of Research, brought along 24 charter members, all of whom are now members of Texas Lodge of Research. Dr. Bell did exhausting preparations on the Provincial and United Grand Lodge of England levels to insure the viability of the organization, on both sides of the Atlantic. He is in the process of fine tuning his first paper for presentation for Full Membership. We welcome our new TLR members and hope to see additional papers from them very soon.

*Transactions Vol. XLI* went to press in mid-March and was completed by April 1. Members should be receiving their copy soon. If you do not receive yours, please e-mail, or snail-mail, me at the address on the back cover of this magazine. We count on members to keep us informed when they move and returned copies of the quarterly bulletin cost the lodge \$1.05 each, whether we get back an updated address, or not. *Transactions* are not returned and are a total loss.

While we have had very good response from members to the dues mailing late last year, there are still quite a few members who have not responded. YOUR lodge counts on dues income to pay for our quarterly newsletter and annual *Transactions* printing and mailing expenses. Members who are in arrears for two years or more are automatically dropped from the mailing list. If this has happened to a TLR member you know, please relay the facts that (1) TLR doesn't issue demits, (2) no member dropped from membership is reported to their Grand Lodge as "NPD," and (3) any lapsed member of TLR needs only to pay the current year's dues to be reinstated.

We still have a limited supply of the 50th anniversary coins available by mail (see below) and at our quarterly meetings. Thanks to Bro. Clyde Kenneaster, FM, anniversary coins are also available at the Grand Lodge jewelry committee's table at statewide conferences and the Grand Annual Communication.



Jim Dougherty, PM  
Secretary



TLR's limited edition 50th anniversary coin has been a great hit with Masonic coin collectors since it went on sale in January 2008. The beautifully detailed and enameled coins will be available while supplies last at TLR quarterly meetings for \$10 each, or from the secretary's office at \$11.50, including postage and handling.

**Coins will be permanently retired in 2010, so get yours while they last.**

Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M.  
P.O. Box 684684  
Austin, TX 78768-4684

Non-profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Austin, TX  
Permit No. 1434

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

---

### Upcoming Meetings

June 18 - 19, 2010 Host: Perfect Union No. 10, Scottish Rite Temple, San Antonio. Anson Jones Lecture.  
September 17 - 18, 2010 Host: John L. DeGrazier Lodge No. 1349. Dallas.  
January 14 - 15, 2011 Host: TBA. Galveston.  
March 18 - 19, 2011 Host: Lockhart Lodge No. 690, Lockhart. Election and installation of officers.

---

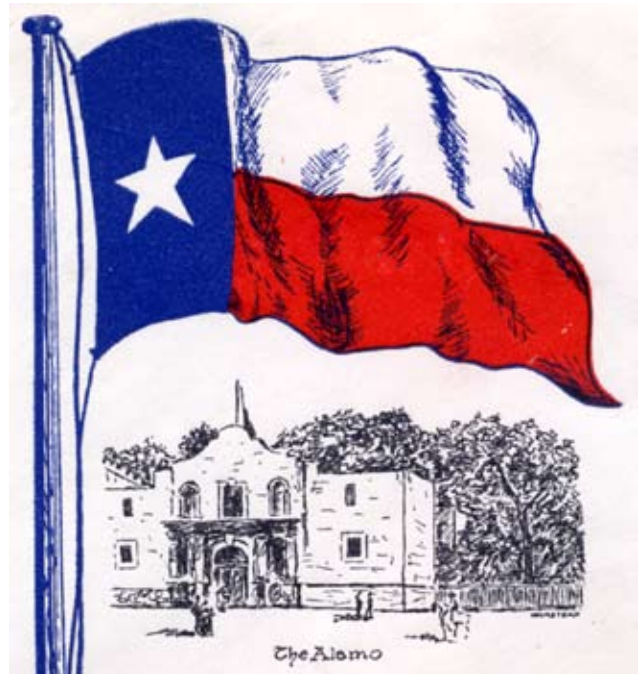
## Perfect Union Lodge No. 10 to host Anson Jones Lecture

Texas Lodge of Research returns to the Cradle of Texas Independence when it meets for the Anson Jones Lecture weekend on June 18-19, 2010 in San Antonio. The Anson Jones Lecturer is Michael A. Halleran.

Arrangements have been made for accommodations at the historic Menger Hotel for both Friday and Saturday nights at the very reasonable (for downtown San Antonio) rate of \$105.00, plus tax, per night. Contact the hotel at (210) 223-4361 and mention the TLR group rate. Parking is \$25.00, plus tax, per day, at the hotel with unlimited "in and out" privileges. But nearby ground parking lots are substantially cheaper.

The Menger is located at 204 Alamo Plaza, due south of the Alamo compound, and a short walk to the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The huge Riverfront shopping complex is also nearby, along with the riverwalk's many fine restaurants and nightspots. The Hospitality Room will open at 4 p.m., Friday, for early arrivals and will reopen on Saturday evening. Dinner on Friday will be Dutch treat, as will be lunch on Saturday. The Anson Jones Lecture dinner be a plated dinner of spring salad, chicken cordon bleu, new potatoes, mixed vegetables, dinner rolls and tea or coffee. Worshipful Master Sirmon will also be providing white wine for those so inclined. The dinner will be \$25.00 per person and

will be served at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Dress for the dinner meeting will be black tie (preferred) and cocktail dress for the ladies. **Reservations for dinner should be submitted by e-mail to: [texas-lodgeofresearch@yahoo.com](mailto:texas-lodgeofresearch@yahoo.com) no later than June 10.**



Texas Independence Centennial 1936 commemorative stamp first day cover art by Wanstead. Collection of Jim Dougherty.