



# THE OCCASIONAL BULLETIN

TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH, A.F. & A.M.

June — 2014

Number 2

## Stated Communication

Saturday, June 21, 2014

Houston, Texas

Host Lodge

Memorial Lodge No. 1298

Location

Houston Scottish Rite Temple  
2401 W Bellfort Avenue



The Stated meeting will be opened at 3:00 PM and the Lecture and Dinner will follow at 6:00 PM. The dress for the lecture will be black tie for officers and tuxedo or dark suit for members.

Hotel

Quality Inn & Suites Reliant  
Park/Medical Center located at 2364  
South Loop West, Houston, TX, 77054  
Phone: (713) 799-2436

There will be a hospitality room available on both Friday and Saturday. We will have dinner Friday evening at a local restaurant to be announced later.

## From the East

I trust this newsletter finds all of our members and their families doing well. I want to begin by thanking the members for entrusting me with the Texas Lodge of Research Charter and bestowing upon me the honor of serving as Worshipful Master of this noble and majestic body. The March meeting and installation of officers was held at my home lodge, and I want to especially thank the members of Pine Tree Lodge for hosting the annual meeting.

I want to welcome and congratulate Brother James D. Nyfeler, who successfully presented his paper entitled *James Harvey Ralston, Charter Master of Alamo Lodge No. 44* and was elected a Full Member of Texas Lodge of Research.

Holding with tradition, Senior Warden Brad Billings will be chairing the Editorial Committee, which is composed of Past Masters Wayne Sirmon and Jack Harper and Full Member Rob Risko. Currently we have two papers circulating through the committee. If you have an idea for a paper, please submit the new *Notice of Intention to Submit Research Paper* form to the committee. Over the course of the past two years, several fully written papers were rejected by the Editorial Committee because they failed to meet the standards for publication or failed to contribute to the body of Masonic knowledge. I urge you to submit your ideas first, then proceed with your research and writing after the committee has approved your ideas, thesis, and research problems.

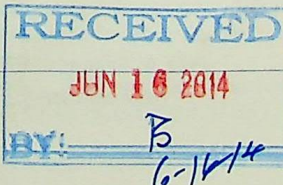
An order of business for all authors to note: at the March meeting, the Lodge voted to allow other citation styles in TLR research papers. Those authors who are accustomed to writing in the MLA, APA, Chicago, Harvard, or Turabian styles may now submit papers in these formats. Of course, the traditional TLR style will continue to be accepted. This change will be reflected in a revision of the *Form and Style Manual* that will be published this year.

The June meeting will be held in Houston, Texas, and will be the annual Anson Jones Lecture. The meeting will be hosted by Memorial Lodge No. 1298. The meeting will be held in the Houston Scottish Rite located at 2401 W. Bellfort Avenue in Houston. The Lodge will be opened at 3:00 PM for the TLR business meeting. The Lecture and dinner will be at 6:00 PM at the Scottish Rite. The lecturer will be Hon. Michael R. Poll. Dress for the lecture will be black tie for officers and tuxedo or dark suit for members.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Houston in June, and am excited about this year for Texas Lodge of Research.

Fraternally,

Jim Rumsey



## Texas Lodge of Research

Officers 2014 — 2015

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## William P. Vaughn

1933 – 2014

### Past Master & Fellow, Texas Lodge of Research

Compiled by **Pierre G "Pete" Normand, PM, FMR**

William Preston Vaughn, 80, died on 17 March 2014, at Pleasant Springs Nursing Home in Mount Pleasant, Texas.

He was born 28 May 1933, in Whiting, Indiana, the oldest child of James and Georgiana (Preston) Vaughn. He attended high school in Chicago, Illinois, and graduated cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1955. The following year, he received a Master of Arts degree, with a major in history, from the Ohio State University. He then accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and served in the Artillery. After active duty, he remained in the U.S. Army Reserve, resigning in 1964 at the rank of captain.

In 1961, he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, with a major in history, from The Ohio State University. The following year, he was on the history faculty at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles.

In 1961, he married Virginia Lee Meyer. He came to the faculty at North Texas State University at Denton in the Fall of 1962, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1969. Dr. Vaughn was one of the founders of the local chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon (social) fraternity at N.T.S.U. and served as the fraternity's province supervisor. He was also active in the Denton County Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. He also held membership in Phi Alpha Theta, the history honorary fraternity, and in Phi Delta Kappa, the international fraternity for professional educators.

Dr. Vaughn was a member of several learned and professional societies, including the Southern Historical Association, The Organization of American Historians, and the Society of Historians for the Early American Republic. He also enjoyed genealogy and was a member of Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stonewall Jackson Camp, and The Confederate Military Lodge of Research.

Dr. Vaughn was made a Mason in 1963, and was raised to the degree of Master Mason in Stanfield Lodge No. 217, Denton, on 13 February 1964. He was a dual member of Bolivar Lodge No. 418, Sanger, Texas. He was a past master of both lodges, and was a past presiding officer of the three York Rite bodies in Denton. He was an active member of the Dallas Scottish Rite, where he served as a Degree Master, and received the Thirty-third Degree in 1987.

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In 1974, in Texas Lodge of Research, following the presentation of a paper titled "The Boston Daily Advocate: Chronicle of Antimasonry Extremism," he was elected to Full Membership in the lodge. In 1980, he served as Worshipful Master of the lodge, and served for many years as the Editor of *The Transactions*, the annual volume of Texas Lodge of Research. He wrote the booklet, "Criteria and Style Sheet and Writing Guidelines for Papers Submitted to Texas Lodge of Research A.F. & A.M.," the first comprehensive style-sheet with writing guidelines for authors submitting papers to Texas Lodge of

Research. In 1986, Texas Lodge of Research elected him its ninth Fellow in Masonic Research. Dr. Vaughn was a prolific author, and wrote a great number of published articles and papers. His first book was titled "*Schools for All: The Blacks and Public Education in the South, 1865-1877.*"

But, he is best known nationally as the author of his 1983 book, which was titled "*The Antimasonic Party in the U.S.: 1826-1843.*"

In 2002, in Washington, DC, he was named the ninety-first member of the Society of Blue Friars, an invitational organization for Masonic authors, being only the sixth Texas Mason to be so honored.

For many years, Dr. Vaughn and his wife, Virginia, were active members of St. Mary's Anglican Church in Plano. With a fine bass-baritone voice, he was an active member of the choir, and was a soloist for his church. For many years he was a member of the Chorus of the Scottish Rite Valley of Dallas.

Dr. Vaughn was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia, his parents, and one sister. He is survived by his daughter, Rhonda and her husband Billy Wayne Horton of Talco, Texas; two grandchildren, Jennifer White of Paris, Texas, and Angela Hackler of Omaha, Texas; and one great-grandchild, Addison Grace Hackler of Omaha, Texas.

## The Importance of the Printed Word In Masonry

By George H.T. French, MD, DDS  
Past Master and Fellow Texas Lodge of Research

Originally delivered before the Kenneth D. Gemmell Annual Breakfast Texas Lodge of Research December 4, 1982 in Waco, Texas and published in Volume XVIII of *The Transactions of Texas Lodge of Research*.

Although we are in a Texas Lodge of Research meeting, this presentation does not pretend to be, nor is it, a research paper. It limits itself to being an exhortation based on the importance of the printed work in the dissemination of Masonic knowledge and information.

In a recent official publication of one of our Sister American Grand Lodges, there appeared a short article entitled **Masonic Education**. The title was printed in bold-faced type. The author dealt with Ceremonial Masonry, which consists of the knowledge and practice of the ceremonies used in lodge in the Making of a Mason. And he also dealt with Corporate Masonry, which is the relationship between lodges and their Grand Lodge, plus the organization and administration of the Craft in general and the subordinate lodges in particular. But notwithstanding the bold-face type title, nothing about Masonology. Masonology? What is that? So frequently is the term "Masonic Education" used to mean nothing more than the memorization of the Masonic Ritual, that it has been thought adequate by some Masonic scholars to the term Masonology. And place under this Masonology umbrella the study and knowledge of the Tenents, Principles, Doctrine, History, and Jurisprudence of Freemasonry.

The first two groups of activities, Ceremonial and Corporate, unfortunately constitute the only intramural activities indulged in by most Masonic Lodges; notwithstanding the fact that Masonology is the essential third activity which contains the core and heart of Freemasonry!

And what is alarming, and even suicidal, is that seldom do more than 20 percent of the lodge members participate in Ceremonial and/or Corporate Masonry. Which means an 80 percent unemployment rate! And nobody seems to worry or do anything about this, notwithstanding the fact that many brethren talk incessantly about decreasing lodge membership.

In the early 1700s there was full employment in a lodge's evening activities. This may have been noted by the many brethren who have had the opportunity to witness a representation of MINE HOST circa 1725.

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## Petition for Membership

Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a regular Texas lodge, or of a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Texas, shall be eligible to become a member of Texas Lodge of Research upon being proposed by a Full Member of Texas Lodge of Research and elected by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting of the lodge.

The proposed member shall furnish the lodge Secretary with a copy of his current dues card, or a Certificate of Good Standing, and a photo identification (a photocopy is acceptable) with the petition. Membership will continue so long as the member is in good standing in a regular Texas lodge, or of a lodge in a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Texas, and the annual dues are current.

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Texas Member ID No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Number of Subordinate Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge City: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Lodge of \_\_\_\_\_ List additional lodge memberships, if any, on reverse side.

Past Master of a subordinate lodge: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grand Master: \_\_\_\_\_ Past Grand Master: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommendation of a Full Member of Texas Lodge of Research

Full Member Printed Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Full Member's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues are \$35 per calendar year and are payable in advance.

Endowed Memberships are \$500 payable to Texas Lodge of Research

Mail petition with \$35 check, a copy of your current dues card, and a copy of a photo ID to:

**Texas Lodge of Research, PO Box 1057, Georgetown TX 78627-1057**

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This is a Masonic play put on by brethren from Fort Bend County and Harris County which clearly shows all members present enthusiastically participating in the evening's three lodge activities; 1. the making of a Mason; 2. the catechistical lecture; and 3. conviviality round the table. So—let's go back to the 1700s? No ... and Yes. What does that mean?

No, because considerations of strategy and tactics forbid the use of symbols of lost causes. Besides which, it is a serious thing to take away from a man his belief in progress, in a future. Therefore, there should not be a return to the 1700s.

Yes, although there cannot be a physical return to the 1700s, there can be a thoughtful study of MINE HOST, and of TABLE LODGES, to pick out the principles that rules those successful meetings in those successful lodges.

Instead of delving into the past, what about looking out over the contemporary Masonic world at large, and copying what some successful jurisdictions may ne doing? For instance, M.W. Dwight L. Smith, P.G.M. of Indiana, tells in a recent issue of *The Indiana Freemason* that during a certain period or time, in the United States—with near 240 million inhabitants—there were created four new lodges. Whereas in the United Kingdom, one fourth of that population, there were created fifty-three new lodges. Copy them? No. Study them? Yes. But how does one study them? Visit England? Not all of us, for different reasons, can thus indulge.

That leads to ask how that knowledge and that experience, of the past and of the present, can be obtained. The answer is the written word. All that knowledge and all that information is presented in Masonic Journals and Masonic books. Hence the IMPORTANCE OF THE PRINTED WORD IN FREEMASONRY.

That is why Texas Lodge of Research, through two of its Masters, Brother Plez Transou and William P Vaughn, created a Committee on Masonic Literature, whose mission it is to display and make available some carefully selected Masonic books in Texas lodges. Brethren, prevail upon your Masters, and especially upon your Wardens, to look into this matter. At the end of the breakfast approach Brother Transou, the current Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Literature, and ask him for details. Get something going in your lodge my Brother!

## 2014 Anson Jones Lecture

As Worshipful Master Rumsey announced in his message on the front page of this bulletin, Brother Michael R. Poll has been selected to be the 2014 Anson Jones Lecturer. Brother Poll, a Past Master in Etoile Polaire Lodge #1, Cervantes Lodge #5, Germania Lodge #46 (New Orleans, Louisiana) and Hiram-Takoma Lodge #10 (Washington, D.C.). He is a Masonic author and historian, a Founding Fellow and Past President of The Masonic Society, a Fellow of the Philalethes Society, a Fellow of the Maine Lodge of Research and a contributor to Heredom, the publication of the Scottish Rite Research Society as well as many other Masonic and non-Masonic publications.

Brother Poll also owns *Cornerstone Book Publishers*, and specializes in Masonic reprints, both print versions and e-books. As editor of the *Occasional Bulletin*, I choose to reprint the preceding article by Dr. George H.T. French, The Importance of the Printed Word In Masonry, as an introduction to Brother Poll. When Dr. French presented his thoughts to the Gemmell Breakfast, Texas Lodge of Research was selling books at Grand Master's conferences and other functions. TLRs books sales were one of the few, if not the only, source of Masonic books for the average Mason. Internet sites like Amazon and EBay have brought the "Printed Word in Masonry" within easy reach of the majority of Masons.

Brother Poll has, and is, doing the student of Masonry a great service by reprinting many great Masonic works which were unavailable to average Masons. *Cornerstone Book Publishers* is also active in the publishing of new Masonic and esoteric books as well as contemporary literature and pulp fiction.

*Cornerstone Book Publishers* website is <http://www.cornerstonepublishers.com>



## The March Meeting

On Friday evening before the March meeting, many Texas Lodge of Research officers and members met at the hospitality room at our hotel. Grand Master Jerry Martin and his Lady Betty and Texas Lodge of Research's Past Master and Fellow, Deputy Grand Master Michael Wiggins join in as well. We drove to a local Tex-Mex restaurant for the evening meal and then returned to the hotel for more fellowship before retiring for the night.

Pine Tree Lodge No 1396, the home lodge of Senior Warden Jim Rumsey, was the host for the March meeting. Lodge was opened by Worshipful Master Reese L. Harrison, Jr. at 10:00 AM. Eight petitions for membership in Texas Lodge of Research were read and approved.

Senior Warden Rumsey presented the report of the Editorial Committee and Texas Lodge of Research approved a change to the Form & Style Manual to allow papers to include the citations methods APA, MLA, Chicago, etc. in addition to the method previously required in the Form & Style Manual.

The Worshipful Master asked Deputy Grand Master Michael Wiggins to preside during the election of officers. After the elections and prior to lunch, Bro James Nyfler presented his paper *James Harvey Ralston: Charter Master of Alamo Lodge No. 44*. Following lunch, Worshipful Master Harrison made a presentation on A.W. Gus Houston, Grand Master of Masons in Texas in 1914.

Worshipful Master Harrison introduced Grand Master Jerry Martin and Deputy Grand Master Michael Wiggins as installing officers for the officers of Texas Lodge of Research for 2014—2015, and the elected and appointed officers were duly installed..

Worshipful Master Rumsey presented Past Master Harrison with his Past Master's Certificate and the Immediate Past Master's Jewel.



James Nyfler presented his paper entitled *James Harvey Ralston: Charter Master of Alamo Lodge No. 44* and was presented his Texas Lodge of Research apron by Worshipful Master Reese L. Harrison, Jr.





Installed Officers of Texas Lodge of Research with Grand Master Martin and Deputy Grand Master Wiggins

## Request for *Occasional Bulletin* Articles

The format of *The Occasional Bulletin (OB)* has changed and is returning to more articles and fewer pictures. In future editions there will be opportunities for members of Texas Lodge of Research to submit short articles relating to Masonic topics for publication in the *OB*. Publication of an article does not make a member eligible for full membership in Texas Lodge of Research.

I will also use articles previously published in the *OB* and short papers from *The Transactions* as there are many current members who have not benefited from the

wisdom of the early members of Texas Lodge of Research, those founding members who contributed so much to the success of our lodge.

Please submit your article in Microsoft Word format as either as an attachment to an email, on CD/DVD, or flash drive. While the editorial guidelines will not be as strict as for submitting a paper, please cite your sources where necessary and attribute any quoted material to the proper author.

## Future Meetings of Texas Lodge of Research

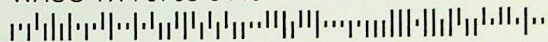
September 20, 2014 — Fort Worth, Texas

January 17, 2015 — San Antonio, Texas

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## From the Secretary

The collection of the annual Texas Lodge of Research member dues has been a successful endeavor. We have 113 members who are Endowed Members or Exempt from paying dues, we have received the dues from over 400 members, and had over 40 members who had not paid in 2013, renew their membership. There are over 100 members who have not paid their dues and as of January 31, 2014 were dropped from active status in Texas Lodge of Research. If you received this copy of *The Occasional Bulletin* by mail, you should be current with your dues. If you did not receive a copy in the mail, someone gave you a copy, or had to download it from the Texas Lodge of Research website, you may have been dropped from the lodge membership roles. You can contact me at [secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com) and I will let you know if the records indicate if you are current or not. You can mail your dues to:

Texas Lodge of Research  
PO Box 1057  
Georgetown TX 78627-1057

Texas Lodge of Research has in its inventory almost 3,000 copies of recent *Transactions, Texas Lodge of Research AF & AM*. The oldest Volume is XVII (1981 -1982 Richardson) with 187copies. There are some from the 1990s and most are from this century. As I have the responsibility of storing and preserving this inventory, I would like to liquidate as much of it as possible.

If you are interested in adding to your collection of the *Transactions*, email me your wish list, and I will check the availability of the requested volumes and will advise you which ones are available. Vol. XVII is \$15, others from the 1980s and 1990s are \$10 and anything from 2000 and more recent are \$5 per issue. Lodges wishing to add to your library can also request discounted Volumes. - Truitt L Bradly, PM — *Fiat Lux*