



THE OCCASIONAL BULLETIN

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

March 2016

Number 1

Next Stated Communication

Saturday, March 19, 2016
Plano, Texas

Host Lodge

Plano Lodge No. 768

Location

1414½ J Avenue
Plano, TX 75074

Stated meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Hotel

Accommodations have been arranged with **Hilton Garden Inn**, located at 1001 West President George Bush Turnpike, Richardson, Texas 75080, (972) 792-9393 .

There will be a hospitality room available at 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon.



From the East



On January 16th the officers, members, and guests of TLR met in Lubbock, Texas, for the Winter stated meeting. Most of the members had come in the night before and enjoyed a steak dinner at Harrigan's Steak House before retiring to the hospitality suite at the Hawthorn Suites.

The doors at Yellow House Masonic Lodge opened at 9 a.m. the next morning for coffee and refreshments. Approximately twenty-five brethren were present for stated meeting, comprised of the usual TLR suspects and Brothers from Amarillo, Lubbock, Ralls, and other surrounding communities.

The following three papers were delivered before the brothers and guests assembled. Worshipful Master Brad Billings delivered a paper on the Lubbock Study Committee of Texas Lodge of Research, which outlined how the Texas Tech Masonic Guild transitioned to become TLR's first study club. Christian Moore then presented his first paper to TLR, entitled "An analysis of Masonic Jurisprudence Relating to the Actual Past Master's Degree in the Grand Lodge of Texas," that dealt with the custom of conferring the Past Master's Degree on newly installed Masters of Masonic lodges. Upon the completion of reading his paper, Brother Moore was made a Full Member of Texas Lodge of Research and presented with the GLRT replica apron. Finally, Past Master Jim Rumsey gave an interesting presentation on the idea that the Masonic Burial is the final degree in Masonry.

After the meeting was closed, several of the brethren retired to the hospitality suite for refreshment and fellowship. Saturday night around fifteen brethren and guests attended dinner at Riversmiths. Everything considered, the event was both fun and enlightening.

Texas Lodge of Research
Officers 2015 — 2016

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TLR in Plano

From the Senior Warden's Desk—

The next meeting of TLR will be held in Plano, Texas, on March 19, 2016, at which time we will have our annual election and installation of officers.

A hospitality suite has been reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn and will be open on Friday at 4:00 p.m. After the social hour (or so) we will adjourn to a local restaurant for dinner and entertainment. Our entertainment for the evening will be music performed by the Grand Musician of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, Michael Cote.

The stated meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Plano Masonic Lodge No. 768. The Lodge is located at 1414½ J Avenue in Plano, right in the middle of historic Downtown Plano. Directions to the Lodge can be found on the Plano Lodge Web Site: www.planomasoniclodge.org. The noon meal on Saturday will be served in the North Texas Museum and Library located on the first floor of the Lodge Building and will be catered by the great kitchen staff of Plano Lodge. The usual donation will be appropriate for this meal.

Accommodations for out of town members have been made at the Hilton Garden Inn, located at 1001 West President George Bush Turnpike, Richardson, TX 75080. The rate for our group is \$94 per night. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel directly at (972) 792-9393 and asking for the TXR Room Block Code. Guests must call and reserve rooms by midnight, March 4, 2016, in order to be guaranteed the special room rate.

We look forward to seeing you in Plano.

Future Stated Meetings

Coming stated meetings of Texas Lodge of Research will be held:

June 18, 2016

Holland Lodge No. 1, Houston

September 17, 2016

San Gabriel Lodge No. 89, Georgetown

From the Master's Desk —

The Time for Research is NOW!

Much of our Masonic history is lost to "time immemorial." Even the beginning of our Craft is obscure, being loosely attached to the formation of a Grand Lodge in England in the year 1717. While this is the crucial piece of concrete evidence of our existence as a Fraternity, it is certain that Freemasonry existed prior to this date because there had to be Lodges already in operation in order to form a Grand Lodge. So when did our Craft begin? I have heard many fascinating discussions on why one person believes this date or that but the simple fact is that no unequivocal beginning is universally accepted.

The obscurity of our beginnings might be due to the frequent fires that consumed the wooden buildings in which early Lodges met. It might have been that the hours of refreshment were taken too seriously and as a result minutes were not taken at meetings. Or even secrecy might have been invoked, leading some to not record the happenings at the time. However, I believe, then as it is now, that men simply underestimated the importance of the present.

In the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Rene Belloq, Indiana Jones' nemesis, says, "Look at this. [*Holds up a pocket watch.*] It's worthless. Ten dollars from a vendor in the street, but I take it, I bury it in the sand for a thousand years, it becomes priceless..." So it is with our history. Today may seem of little importance, but ten, fifteen, or one hundred years from now this day may be the missing link in the history of your Lodge.

While attending this past Grand Lodge, I heard a report that we had lost approximately 3,500 Masons in 2015. Many of these men saw Masonry through conflicts in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. These were men who saw Masonry grow into the largest fraternity in history; men who financed the building of our Grand Lodge Memorial Temple, expanded the Texas Masonic Retirement Center, and preserved many of our Scottish Rite Cathedrals. These were men who experienced history. If Masonry has taught me one thing, it is that all men have a story to tell. If all they did was occupy a chair in a Lodge they still have invaluable insight into our national, state, and local Masonic histories.

"The high and low, the rich and poor," the accomplished Mason and the sideline observer, each man who has labored in the quarries holds a thread of our story to be woven into the quilt of our history. With so many of our great Brothers leaving us for that "house not made with hands" each year, the time for research is NOW!

Will you allow the history of your Lodge, your Scottish Rite or York Rite bodies, your Shrine, or other appendant bodies to fade into the unknown or will you preserve it? Even if you are not a writer, even if there is not a single member in your Lodge willing to write your history, you can still preserve the first-hand accounts of your members. Take the time to write down the stories of the "old timers" or interview them on video or tape recordings. Dig deeper, ask questions—record dates, times, and names—ultimately, make sure the stories and history are preserved for future generations.

Lest we forget, Herodotus, the father of history, implored us to keep the flame of inquiry ever burning "so that the actions of people will not fade with time." What we do today matters. I hope each of you will join with Texas Lodge of Research in preserving our great Masonic heritage.



Fellowship in Lubbock



The TLR Weekend: an Underrated Tradition—

Recently while reading through Leonard Harvey's book, *Masonry and the Mason*, I was struck by the parting thought which says:

With regards to Masonry and the Mason, we leave you with this thought: Proof of *Masonic membership* can be a current dues card carried in a man's pocket to be displayed upon request. Proof *that a man is a Mason* is carried in his heart, and is displayed by the life he lives. The life you live will reflect the lessons that have been taught you. You are admonished to practice out of the Lodge, those duties which you have been taught in it. Thus, you will rightfully deserve the honor that has been conferred and merit the confidence of your Brethren.

This got me to thinking about membership in Texas Lodge of Research. I understand that not all of our members are interested in research and writing papers, but I would hope that each of our members, as they have the time, would join us for the education and fellowship that surrounds our meetings.

The Friday night preceding our meetings is almost always one of the highlights of a TLR weekend. It begins with the Brethren and their guests meeting up at a hospitality room as they arrive in town on Friday. This affords an opportunity for the frequent attendees of our Lodge to catch up on news from around the state and hopefully to meet new and excited Brethren who are joining our Lodge.

This is followed by dinner at a local establishment, further solidifying the bonds of our Lodge by breaking bread and conversing with one another's families. After dinner, the group again retires to the hospitality room for snacks, drinks, and (for a few members) the occasional cigar.

This quarterly gathering of Brethren from across our great state has led to some of the most enlightening conversations I have had in Masonry. Very few entities, outside of the Grand Lodge of Texas, offer this kind of fellowship with Brethren from around the state and with as many varied interests in Masonry.

Remembering that our meetings are open to ALL Master Masons, I hope each of you will join us at our next stated meeting in Plano and help us to promote this underrated tradition in your part of the great State of Texas.

*Brad Billings
Worshipful Master*

TLR on YouTube

Announcing the arrival of the Texas Lodge of Research YouTube page. Your humble Technology Committee has set up a YouTube page to share Masonic education videos from other duly recognized Lodges of Research, Masonic Research Societies, and Masonic Researchers. In the coming months, the Technology Committee hopes to record presentations (with the presenter's permission of course) and post them to the YouTube page.

Have you ever wondered about the geometry and meaning of the regalia of the Grand Lodge Officers' aprons? Check out the video already uploaded to our site: https://youtu.be/qa_ORL-cHlk.

*Charles Maddox
Senior Steward*



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

Transactions Reprint Pre-Registration Form

Texas Lodge of Research is pleased to announce the commencement of a reprint series of its annual *Transactions*, which is nearing its 50th volume. TLR's *Transactions* include the activities of the Lodge for a particular year, but the heart of *Transactions* is the collection of research papers present by its members and invited speakers during the year.

The contents of each reprinted volume are identical to the original publication and are covered in a facsimile heavy paper binding. These volumes would be ideal for filling an incomplete collection or starting a collection and completing it as each volume is reprinted.

The reprint of Volume I, which includes the first three years of TLR's history (1959-61), is ready to be published, and Texas Lodge of Research is now taking pre-orders for this volume. **Pre-orders can be purchased using this form for \$25.00 + \$2.50 postage per volume.** Once publication is complete, each volume may thereafter be purchased for \$30.00 + \$2.50 postage by contacting the Secretary at the email address below. *The deadline for pre-orders is March 19, 2016.*

Payment may be made by cash, check, or Paypal. Please make checks to: *Texas Lodge of Research*. If using Paypal, please add \$1.00 and send funds to the Paypal account: secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com.

Order and shipping information:

Name			
Address			
City		State	ZIP
Phone	Email		
Qty	Item	Cost	Total
	Transactions, Volume I reprint (paperbound)	\$25.00	\$
		Shipping	\$
		Paypal (\$1.00)	\$
		Total	\$
		Amount Paid	\$

Texas Lodge of Research is on theAccepted

A Centralized Calendar, Planner, Communication Tool For All Masons.

Do you have access to a single calendar that shows all Masonic events around you? You should!

It is the intent of **theAccepted.org** to strengthen the fraternity by providing the members with better tools for communicating.

With faster and more direct communications from member to member, member to lodge or groups, and from lodges to members, it is our hope that the fraternity can operate in a more integrated manner. By being able to draw the membership together for event planning, questions and answers, as well as some good ol' fellowship and networking, you should be able to gather more support for your lodge's initiatives from the vast infrastructure that is our Masonic brotherhood.

Some things you should be able to do with theAccepted ...

Plan and advertise lodge events

Plan co-lodge events

Have a shared calendar space for every organization in your district

Communicate directly with other brethren

Form committee sub groups under your lodge

Get involved in questions and discussions on our forums

Discuss important masonic events and changes with Grand Lodge

Organize Polls to see how your lodge feels about Grand Lodge resolutions

Manage your own Masonic data for personal use

Set privacy settings for your personal profile

Set communication settings to throttle how often you get email notifications from groups

Find Masons who specialize in a certain profession

Help keep EA's and FC's plugged in by allowing them to find men that are at their same level

... and much, MUCH MORE!

theAccepted is an INVITATION ONLY communication tool ...

To ensure that we only have regular Masons on **theAccepted.org**, we have limited access to those who can obtain invites from other Masons that are already on. Please contact Worshipful Master Brad Billings if you are looking for someone to vouch for you, Bradleybst@yahoo.com.

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



From the Secretary

The membership of Texas Lodge of Research is around 580 members and associates. There are approximately 70 members who have not paid their dues for 2016. If you have not paid your dues, you will be dropped from membership shortly. If you have not paid your dues please send me a check for \$35.00 to:

Texas Lodge of Research
P.O. Box 1057
Georgetown TX 78627-1057

Texas Lodge of Research still has copies of back issues of many volumes of the *Transactions* available for purchase. If you are interested, please contact me at secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com for details and availability.

*Truitt L Bradly, PM, Secretary
Fiat Lux*

