



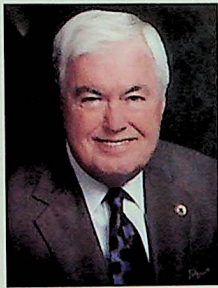
THE OCCASIONAL BULLETIN

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

March 2018

Number 4

From the Master's Desk



We had a great meeting in Houston at Temple Lodge. Thirty-nine attended including six TLR Past Masters. Five first time TLR visitors attended and twelve new members were elected. Many thanks to Brian Dodson for arranging the meeting and to Kent Cantrell, Worshipful Master of Temple Lodge, for their hospitality.

This has been a wonderful year for me as Worshipful Master of TLR. This is a position that I did not seek but willingly accepted the challenge. The Officers have all done their jobs and we are building a strong foundation for the future. Please accept my sincere thanks for a job well done, and I hope that each of you have great success in all that you strive to achieve. For me, this has been a great experience and one that I will long cherish.

Please note that our next TLR meeting in Dallas is on **April 21**, not our "normal" meeting date, but one selected because of the many conflicts on our "normal" date. Hillcrest Lodge promises great hospitality and good food. Our Senior Warden, Chris Livingston, is busy making arrangements and preparing for the election and installation of Officers. I admit to a bit of sadness that this year of service is ending but look forward to many more years of active participation.

If you are a Texas Lodge of Research member who has not yet made the commitment to write your paper and earn the TLR White Apron, I urge you to get busy and get it done now! Each of you has an idea for a

Next Stated Communication

Saturday, April 21, 2018
Dallas, Texas

Host Lodge

Hillcrest Lodge No. 1318

Location

8525 Midway Road
Dallas, Texas 75209

The Lodge will open at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and donuts with the stated meeting following at 10:00 a.m.

paper and it is either fear or procrastination that is holding you back. Make a resolution to get the process started and get a paper written and submitted. I recently finished another paper and submitted it. I fear that it will be returned to me with so many red marks that it may take days to rebuild. But even with that fear, I look forward to the comments of the Editorial Committee and then the process of correcting it. You too can have the same "fun."

Again brethren, thank you for allowing me to hold this place of honor. I look forward to the youth and vitality of our new Officers. See you in Dallas.

Fraternally,

David B. Dibrell

Texas Lodge of Research
Officers 2017 — 2018

Dallas Meeting

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The Spring TLR Meeting will be held in Dallas on **April 21** at Hillcrest Lodge No.1318.

Hillcrest Lodge meets at 8525 Midway Road in Dallas, TX 75209. Their phone number (214) 937-9156, if you get lost. A room block is held at Embassy Suites Love Field, 3880 W. Northwest Hwy, Dallas 7522, in Dallas. The TLR rate will be \$145/night which is \$16 less than the current AAA and AARP rate being offered online. A hospitality room will be open Friday evening in the hotel. Details of the Friday evening no-host dinner are being confirmed.

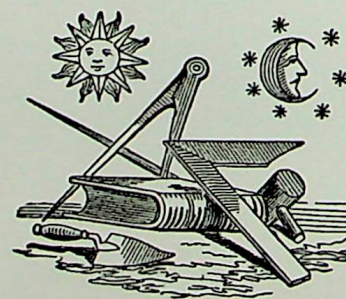
The Stated Meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 21, at Hillcrest Lodge after the breakfast. We will have two or three papers and then lunch will be available for a donation of \$12.00. Installation of Officers will be held after lunch.

Future Meetings of TLR

Kerrville, June 16
Kerrville Lodge No. 697

Waco, September 15
Waco Lodge No. 92

Weatherford, December 15
Phoenix Lodge No. 275



In Memoriam



Leonard P. Harvey

Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas
Past Master of Texas Lodge of Research
Fellow in Masonic Research

Leonard Philip Harvey was born on March 22, 1928, and passed away on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Past Grand Master Harvey grew up during the Great Depression and served proudly in the United States Army during World War II, where he was assigned to the Army Signal Corps Engineering Development Detachment. In 1948, he married his lifelong companion, Lena Ruth, who preceded him to the Celestial Lodge.

Right Worshipful Harvey was an active member of the Fraternity for sixty-four years. He served as Worshipful Master of Keystone Lodge No. 1143 in 1961-1962, District Deputy Grand Master in 1963, and Grand Master of Masons in Texas in 1989. His keen interest in education and the preservation of history motivated his activities in Texas Lodge of Research, which he led as Worshipful Master in 1987-1988. He was honored by TLR in 2002 by being named a Fellow in Masonic Research. Right Worshipful Harvey authored several important works, in particular his history of Keystone Lodge No. 1143, *A Lodge Called Keystone*, and *Masonry and the Mason*, a work directed to new Master Masons, which is still reprinted by the Grand Lodge today. Throughout his Masonic career, Right Worshipful Harvey took the time to mentor new Masons and especially to guide budding Masonic researchers.

Although his focus remained on the Blue Lodge, Past Grand Master Harvey maintained membership in many other Masonic bodies, including all York Rite bodies, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Grotto, Eastern Star, Rosicrucians, Red Cross of Constantine, and National Sojourners. In 1987, he was coroneted a 33° IGH of the Scottish Rite.

We mourn the loss of our friend and brother and hope to be united with him in the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides. Truly, he was a good man and our loss is great.

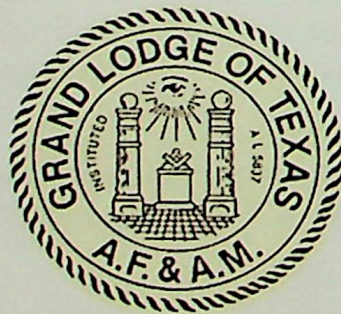
Grand Lodge History Project

Our TLR Past Master and Past Grand Master Leonard P. Harvey suggested that TLR undertake a project to write a concise history of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Groups of ten or so years will be adopted by TLR members to do the research and then submit a paper on those years. Past Grand Master Harvey has abandoned us to go to his heavenly reward. He has joined Lena Ruth but will continue to watch over our efforts. Leonard's untimely departure has caused the project a pause, but we have an obligation to him to restart and to move the project forward.

Volunteers have already selected:	Target Date
1838-1850 Brian Dodson	March 2018
1851-1870 Richard Schlaudroff	Sept. 2018
1871-1890 Jim Rumsey	June 2018
1891-1900 Glenn Garber	Sept. 2018
1901-1910 Christian Moore	Sept. 2018
1911-1920 Will Treveno	Dec. 2018
1921-1930 OPEN	
1931-1940 Ron Park	June 2018
1941-1950 Mark Dermit	Sept. 2017 (Completed)
1951-1960 Chuck Ramsey	June 2018
1961-1970 Roger Landry	Dec. 2018
1971-1980 Charles McKay	June 2018
1981-1990 Chris Livingston	March 2018
1991-2001 David Dibrell	Sept. 2017 (Completed)
2002-2010 H. David Moore	June 2018
2011-2017 Rene Silvas	March 2019
Buildings Brad Billings	March 2019

The project is now underway. Segments listed in BOLD are to be submitted for review after the meeting shown and then to the Lodge at the following meeting. If you feel you cannot make the deadline or have questions, please contact me at davidbdibrell@gmail.com.

We've had a brief setback but will press forward in honor of Past Grand Master Harvey to produce a product he will be proud to have started.



A SUGGESTED PROGRAM OF ORAL HISTORY IN THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

L. L. Walker Jr.
Past Master, Texas Lodge of Research
Fellow in Masonic Research

The popular historians Will and Ariel Durant, in their little book *The Lessons of History*, make this comment, which seems to give point to what will follow:

We must remind ourselves again that history as usually written . . . is quite different from history as usually lived: the historian records the exceptional because it is interesting - because it is exceptional. If all those individuals who had no Boswell had found their numerically proportionate place in the pages of historians we should have a duller but juster view of the past and of man.¹

We have at our disposal today the means by which every individual may, in a sense, become his own Boswell. We have at our disposal the means by which future historians, as none before them, may hear by their very own voices the reflections and the reminiscences of the unexceptional people. By these means, historians may vastly enlarge their knowledge of the contemporary reactions to what seems to them to have been the exceptional. This need not make for a duller view of the past, as the Durants suggest - to this end some historians need no help - but it should certainly make for a more just and more balanced view of history.

The means by which this may be done is the thoroughly modern discipline which has come to be called "oral history." Oral history is defined as "the tape-recording of reminiscences about which the narrator can speak from first-hand knowledge."² It is the employment of modern electronic technology for the preservation of material beneficial to future historical research. It is the process of making the voices of the past available to tomorrow's historians.

It is well that this should be so, for it is evident that our society is not one given to putting its innermost thoughts and recollections into writing. We use the telephone and greeting card manufacturers have capitalized on people's reluctance to express even a simple sentiment in their own words. Even when correspondence is a necessary part of one's vocation or profession, something of the quality of that correspondence may be sensed when we note that one manufacturer in his advertising has coined the phrase, "word processing." Where once the historical researcher could hope to draw substance and insight from the written words of his chosen subject, such may be much less the case when in the future attention is directed toward persons living today. The researcher will likely look in vain to find in what we have written any real understanding of our way of life.

We must remember that Masonry has a "rich oral tradition." In every generation, the strength of Freemasonry has depended in part upon the memories which it has had of its own past: historical, traditional, and esoteric. By retelling its traditional history, Masonry has not only provided the substance of its esoterics but has preserved the tradition as well. By clinging to the memories of its accomplishments, and by recalling and extolling the deeds of great men who have been Masons, the Fraternity has enhanced its stature in favorable times and has sustained its hope in times of adversity.

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With respect to both its history and its esoterics, Masonry seems to have two key words, "remember" and "communicate." We are well aware that if Masons forget the words and forms in which their veiled truths are made known, whatever hope there may be for the future of the Craft dies with the last man to remember and with the last instructive tongue. It is equally true, if less readily apparent, that if Masons forget their past and can no longer remember the men who held the Craft in trust during their span of years, Freemasonry will relinquish one of its principal sources of strength. It follows, then, that today and all our yesterdays should be remembered and that what is remembered should be preserved in such form that it can be made known both to Masons for their enlightenment and to others who one day may seriously inquire into the source of our enduring strength and of our social significance.

The interview is the vehicle of oral history. As such, it differs from the journalistic interview in that it has neither the narrow scope nor the deadline immediacy of such an interview. Above all, it is not an interrogation. While perceptive and even challenging questions may be asked, there is no cross-examination. The interviewee is a narrator, not a witness. In like manner, it is not a dialogue between narrator and interviewer. The interviewer does no more than ask such questions as will stimulate and encourage the flow of narrative. The whole point of the interview is to get the narrator to tell his story.

Oral history is vastly more than a tape-recorder and a burst of enthusiasm. Successful interviews of this kind are rarely done on the spur of the moment. The person selected to be interviewed should have something to say. Since the subject is Masonry, it follows that he should have something of interest or lasting value to say about Masonry. The interviewer need not know the person to be interviewed, but he should know something about him and his Masonic experiences. Some formal instruction in the techniques of conducting an interview is desirable, of course, but if this is not possible, there is available ample literature which should be sufficient to guide an interested person in his efforts.

While the interview is the vehicle, it is not the end of oral history. Words are on tape, but there has to be a decision made as to how those tapes are to be disposed of. At the least, an outline of the contents of each tape should be made and the tape and outline should be filed in a safe and accessible place. At the best, the tapes should be transcribed, reviewed by both narrator and interviewer, a typescript made and bound, and the whole work placed in a library where it can be properly catalogued and filed. In either case, the work should be catalogued and made available for study through hearing or reading.

It seems evident that a well planned program of oral history will complement Masonry's long tradition of oral transmission. Certainly, the use of oral history techniques will desecrate no landmarks, nor will it, so long as prudence is applied, violate any obligation of history. Having so said, the question is this: Where does Texas Lodge of Research, or the Grand Lodge of Texas, or both, begin the creation of a fruitful program of oral history?

Like all programs this one must begin with planning and pass on to coordinated effort. The responsibility for both planning and coordination would seem to rest with Texas Lodge of Research.

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From the Senior Warden's Desk

There are libraries dedicated to Freemasonry. What other fraternity can make such a claim? Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard said that life must be lived forwards but can only be understood backwards. Masonic research societies present an opportunity to explore vast subjects. Myth, legend, allegory, fable, and parable exist in Freemasonry as well as history. Recall that the first official Masonic history compiled by the Rev. Dr. James Anderson and published by the Grand Lodge of England begins with Adam and recounts a legendary history of the stonemason's craft down to the formation of the Premier Grand Lodge in 1717. This fanciful tale is but one example of the breadth of Freemasonry's reach.

The Master Mason is set on a quest for something that was lost. The search is a journey that lasts a lifetime. Along that rough and rugged road, the Mason should explore as many subjects as possible. Understanding is best developed through teaching and expression. If you can teach something, if you can explain it, then you have gained enough of a mastery to understand it. So I challenge you to continue the journey of the Master Mason. Find some little piece of Freemasonry that has been lost and explain it to us. Write it down and present it to us. In other words, turn it into a paper for Full Membership.

Chris Livingston, SW



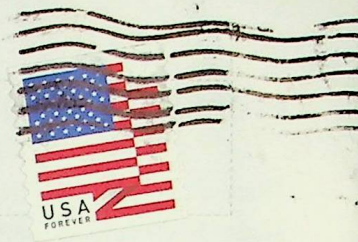
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That lodge was created pursuant to Article 201 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, which article provides that, "A Research Lodge for the purpose of promoting, encouraging, conducting and fostering Masonic research and study may be created ..." The same article goes on to establish the complete accountability of Texas Lodge of Research to the Committee on Masonic Education and Service. Whatever new program may be undertaken by Texas Lodge of Research must have the prior approval of the Committee, and to the extent provided by the law, must be under its general oversight.

Assuming that Texas Lodge of Research should and would accept responsibility for the creation of a program of oral history, the first step would seem to be that of amending our by-laws to provide for a Standing Committee on Oral History. This committee should solicit the advice, counsel, and assistance of the academic personnel heading programs of oral history at the several universities in our state where such programs are being conducted. Among these institutions are Baylor University, the University of North Texas, and the University of Texas at Austin. Based on their findings, the committee might then prepare a comprehensive program of action which they would submit to this lodge for approval, and this lodge would submit to the Committee on Masonic Education and Service a program of oral history [to be approved and implemented by the Grand Lodge of Texas].

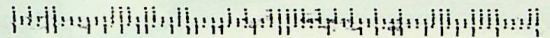
— Excerpted from *Transactions, Texas Lodge of Research* Vol. XIV (1979), 25-30.

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



Grand Lodge of Texas Library & Museum
PO BOX 446
Waco, TX 76703-0446

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From the Secretary

I have had numerous requests for Texas Lodge of Research name badges. Texas Lodge of Research members can now order directly from Eternity Creations at sales@eternitycreations.com. The cost for a name badge is \$26.50 each.

If you have had a change of address and have not let me know, please email me at secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com or to the lodge mailing address at P.O. Box 1057, Georgetown TX, 78627-1057, as soon as possible, so I will have a correct mailing address for you.

Truitt L Bradly, PM, Secretary
Fiat Lu

