



# THE OCCASIONAL BULLETIN

TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH  
May 2022 Number 1

**June Meeting**  
**Saturday, June 18**  
Meeting 10am

**Hosted By**  
**Dallas Lodge No. 760**  
5300 Forrest Ln.  
Dallas, TX 75244

**Host Hotel**  
Courtyard by Marriott Dallas -  
Addison/Midway  
4165 Proton Drive  
Addison, TX 75001

**\$94/night plus tax**

**Registration Link:**  
[tinyurl.com/3mp74dm7](https://tinyurl.com/3mp74dm7)

**Anson Jones Lecture**  
Saturday Evening  
Location & Details TBD

Lecturer:  
**D. Allen Surratt, KGC**  
Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign  
United Grand Imperial Council  
Red Cross of Constantine

## From the Master's Desk

First of all, let me express what an honor it is to have been chosen Master of this august body and thank you for your confidence and kindnesses. I want also to express my gratitude to the officers

who have agreed to serve this year. I want again to express the Lodge's and my personal thanks to South Plains Lodge No. 1443 for hosting our Lubbock meeting in March in conjunction with the Grand Master's conference and to our principal installing officers, PGMs and FMRs Mike Wiggins and Reese Harrison, who kept us on point in a tight time window.

Texas Lodge of Research is generally recognized as one of the premier lodges in the state and one of the premier research lodges in the country. We have big shoes to fill and a few pressing tasks.



(continued on page 3)

# **Texas Lodge of Research 2022-2023 Officers**

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**Transactions Editor**

**Richard E. Schlaudroff**

**Bulletin Editor**

**Christian D. Moore, PM**

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

***September 17, 2022***

***December 17, 2022***

***March 18, 2023***

Locations to be announced  
at a later date.

### **2022 Dues**

Dues for 2022 are past due. Please  
contact the Secretary if you need to  
pay your dues.

### ***Transactions Update***

Volumes LI and LII should be  
distributed soon.

Reprints of Vol. III are available for  
\$30 from the Secretary.

The reprint of Vol IV should be  
ready soon.

## **From the Master's Desk** (continued from page 1)

Among our chores this year are getting our publications back on track, updating and reorganizing the website, improving the *Occasional Bulletin*, and at least one Bylaws change.

With respect to the *Occasional Bulletin*, we are looking for a new editor who can and will devote the time and energy needed to produce a quality instrument. The brother should understand layout and be able to find items of interest, either from our own members or from other research jurisdictions, that are of value to our members. Past Master Moore has done a yeoman's job despite other more pressing responsibilities. It has been many years since we have had an editor who did not also have other responsibilities to this Lodge. Consequently, we are looking for someone to edit the *OB* as more or less their principal task within TLR. If you believe that you have the ability, are willing to devote the time, and are interested in finding and communicating news and items of interest to our members, please contact me.

Our June meeting will be hosted by Dallas Lodge No. 760 in Dallas, Texas, on June 18. The hosting hotel is the Courtyard by Marriott Dallas Addison/Midway, 4165 Proton Drive, Addison, TX 75001, near the lodge. You may reserve a room by following this link by June 10: [tinyurl.com/3mp74dm7](https://tinyurl.com/3mp74dm7). The room rate is \$94.00 plus tax. As usual, we will have a hospitality room and a no-host dinner on Friday evening. The business meeting will be held the next morning, with lunch and any papers ready for presentation to follow. We will continue a practice reintroduced by Past Master Moore last year of presenting the Anson Jones Lecture at an evening banquet. Our Lecturer will be D. Allen Surratt of North Carolina, currently the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign of The United Grand Imperial Council of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders for the United States of America, Mexico, and the Philippines. I hope that you will join me in welcoming Ill. Bro. Surratt to Texas. It looks to be a stimulating evening. Details to follow via MailChimp.

I want to encourage you to consider writing a research paper. The communication of thoughtful and well documented ideas is the lifeblood of this Lodge, indeed of the Fraternity. Anyone can do it.

With your help, this should be a successful year for TLR as we emerge fully from the shadow of the pandemic, and I look forward to seeing you in Dallas.

Fraternally,  
Richard Schlaudroff, WM

# From the Senior Warden

## Primary source documentation: What is it and where do we find it?

One of the most important factors in the quality of your research paper will be the source of your information. These sources are divided into two types, primary and secondary. When you submit your paper, the Editorial Committee will look at your citations and identify your sources as part of the review process. While the use of secondary sources as supporting information is acceptable, your emphasis should be to rely on primary sources.

A primary source document is original to the time and place or one that gives a first-hand account of a subject. Some obvious and easily-accessible examples are Grand Lodge *Proceedings*, lodge minutes and annual returns. However, a little legwork may turn up some additional primary sources that will greatly enhance the quality of your research paper. Diaries, letters, and appointment books of famous Masons can be found in public libraries and universities throughout the country.

For example, Baylor University has 1,000 linear feet of papers in their collection related to Past Grand Master Jack Hightower, a former U.S. Representative and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas. This collection includes an entire section related to his Masonic career. The Rosenberg Museum in Galveston maintains a collection of papers of Past Grand Master Samuel May Williams, an important figure in the early days of Texas Masonry. City and state archives and period newspaper articles are also good sources of primary documents, especially deeds and permits related to the founding of Masonic lodges, the construction of their buildings, and lodge events. A simple online search will uncover many of these sources, and you may be surprised at what you find in them. It can change the direction of your paper, or inspire a completely different one.

This happened to me when I was invited to a meeting in North Carolina in 2020. I arranged a side-trip to visit the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to peruse the personal papers of John Raymond Shute II. Shute was a key figure in importing or creating many of our current Masonic invitational organizations. Among his papers was a letter to Brother Shute from Past Grand Master Samuel P. Cochran. It was an application for membership in the North Carolina Lodge of Research's correspondence circle. This was interesting in itself; however, for some unknown reason Cochran had also included a personal account of his Masonic history and family genealogy going back to the Revolutionary War. I intended to research a specific topic that day, only to find a much richer and interesting topic by accident.

The quest for primary sources does not always require travel. Many libraries and universities are in the process of digitizing their archives and making them available online, enabling access from the comfort of your own home. The papers mentioned previously of PGM Williams are one example of these digitally available sources, as are many of the personal letters to and from Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, and other notable Texas Masons.

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A good online source for primary material is *The Portal of Texas History*. Finding documents has never been easier, and the digital age has been a boon for researchers everywhere.

If you have any questions about finding sources for your paper, please feel free to contact me. I am always happy to advise. Good luck, and happy hunting!

Fraternally,  
Billy Hamilton, SW

It is an honor and a privilege to have been elected Junior Warden of the Texas Lodge of Research. I am deeply humbled by the great trust that you have bestowed upon me. What a blue-ribbon day, in my decades of being a Texas Mason, to be installed in office by Past Masters of TLR, Mike Wiggins and Reese Harrison. They are two of my greatest Masonic friends and mentors.

## **From the Junior Warden**

I still remember the words of the Secretary of the Lodge, R. A. Ford, when I first joined TLR in Houston that morning in 1984. He challenged me to “get active in the Lodge” and begin work on a paper. Unfortunately, a competing scholarly challenge was presented to me a few months later when I began law school. However, I looked forward to every copy of *Transactions* that arrived and the welcome distraction from briefing cases. I read every volume received from cover to cover and wrote letters to several authors. I will never forget seeing men that I respected in Texas Masonry wearing the distinctive apron patterned from the regalia of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. I hoped that one day, I might earn the right to wear one too.

I am a fierce advocate of education in our Texas lodges. More especially, the celebration of our great history and a deeper examination of our way of life. We all need to constantly promote membership in TLR. Consider encouraging the line officers of your home lodges to join our special group. If you do not have a Full Member of TLR in your community to sponsor the petition, please reach out to me and I will personally assure your accommodation. I look forward to upcoming meetings and the bright future of TLR. Thank you for this high honor.

Fraternally,  
Russell C. Brown, JW

## **2022 ANSON JONES LECTURER**

# **D. Allen Surratt**

Brother Surratt is certainly no stranger to active members of the York Rite of Freemasonry as he has devoted much of his Masonic career to serving the York Rite. A native of Pinehurst, North Carolina, he was raised to the Sublime Degree in 1976 and is a life member of Denton Lodge No. 404, A.F. & A.M. He is a Past Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and a recipient of the Joseph Montfort Award.



R.: E.: and M.:I.: Surratt currently serves as Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of North Carolina and is a Founding Member and Past High Priest of Mt. Ararat Royal Arch Research Chapter No. 3. He is a Past Most Illustrious Grand Master and currently Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters in North Carolina and a Past Illustrious Master of Roanoke Research Council No. 1. A recipient of both the Knight Commander of the Temple and Knight Templar Cross of Honor, he serves as Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of North Carolina.

Most Texas York Rite Masons, however, will know Brother Surratt for his service on national Masonic organizations. He is a Past Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA; a Past Great Chief of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America; and a Past Grand Master-General of the Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, where he currently serves as Grand Registrar-General. He is the Secretary-General of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America and sits on its Board of Directors.

A Scottish Rite Mason for more than forty-five years, Brother Surratt is an active member in most appendant bodies.

At present, he is the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign of The United Grand Imperial Council of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders for the United States of America, Mexico, and the Philippines.



# Petition for Membership Texas Lodge of Research

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Petitioner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 868, Hereford, TX 79045**

**Texas Lodge of Research  
PO Box 686  
Hereford, TX 79045-0686**

## **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](mailto:sales@eternitycreations.com). The cost for a name badge is \$26.50.

If you have had a change of address and have not let me know, please email me at: [secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com) or send a note to the Lodge mailing address at



**PO Box 686  
Hereford, TX 79045-0686**

as soon as possible so I will have a correct mailing address for you.

Fraternally,  
Truitt L. Bradly, PM  
Secretary  
*Fiat Lux*