

THE OCCASIONAL BULLETIN

April 2023 Number 1

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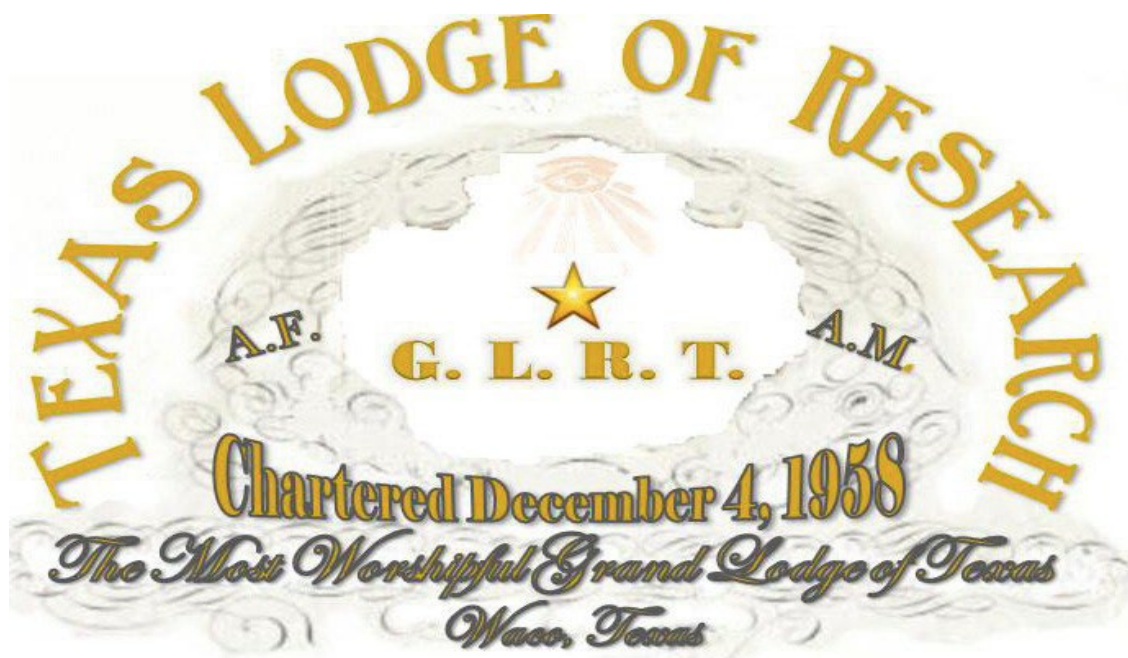
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Worshipful Master Billy Hamilton

“The only true happiness is to learn, to advance, and to improve: which could not happen unless we had commenced with error, ignorance, and imperfection.” - Albert Pike, Morals and Dogma (1871)

Brethren, it is with gratitude and a humble heart that I offer my thanks for being chosen to be Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. I appreciate the confidence and trust that you have placed in me to serve as the chief steward of our hallowed lodge in 2023. You have my vow that I will strive to carry on our customs, promote our value to the Craft, and work to restore some of our older traditions.

My thanks go out to the officers that have agreed to serve this year, elected and appointed. With such a committed group of Brothers, I look forward to a great year ahead.

Please join me in giving our appreciation to the officers of St. Alban's Lodge No. 1455 in College Station for serving as our host lodge at our March stated meeting and installation. Their hospitality and conviviality made it a truly enjoyable meeting. It was particularly nice to end the meeting with an intriguing and informative paper by Saint Alban's secretary, (as well as TLR PM and FMR) Pierre “Pete” Normand on the Masonic Club of Texas A&M.

I would like to add a personal note of thanks to PMs Jack Harper, Charles Maddox, and Christian Moore for serving as our installation team, as well as our immediate Past Master Richard Schlaudroff. Each of these Brothers has been a rich source of advice and inspiration over the years, and have helped me to better understand the rich traditions and purpose of Texas Lodge of Research. I hope to live up to the excellent example that they have set during their years in the East.

Our next meeting will be our Anson Jones Lecture, to be held at the Fort Worth Masonic Temple on June 17. I am excited to announce that our Lecturer this year is Dr. Ric Berman, PM of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, UGLE and Prestonian Lecturer. We will continue the tradition of having an afternoon business meeting and formal evening dinner for the Anson Jones meeting. More information on the event can be found at <https://www.texaslodgeofresearch.org/rsvp/>.

To round out the year, our fall meeting will be on September 16 in Fredericksburg, and our winter meeting on December 16 in Galveston. I am working with lodges in both locations, and information will be posted on the website as details are finalized.

Finally, let me encourage all our members to participate. I am pleased to announce that Bro. Robert Marshall has joined PMs Christian Moore and Charles Maddox on the editorial committee, with our SW Russell Brown as chair. This committee serves as a valuable resource, providing advice to prospective writers and rigorous editing to ensure that TLR papers meet the highest standards of academic research. The process may require time and careful attention, but in my humble opinion there are fewer accomplishments that compare to the excitement of receiving a TLR apron after what may be a year or more of study and preparation. If you have an idea for a topic, please visit our website and read over the Research Paper page and pay close attention to the Form and Style Manual. There are fewer than 100 full members of TLR currently, but we are always ready to welcome another worthy Brother. For those who rise to the challenge, your apron awaits! Safe travels, and happy writing!

Senior Warden Russell C. Brown

As most of our members are aware, the Grand Lodge of Texas held its traditional Alamo observance ceremony in San Antonio. This year, it included an additional event that was undoubtedly a moment of great pride for all Texas Masons. A piece of our heritage as Texas Masons was brought home to us by our New York brothers.

Steve King, the President of the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library of the Grand Lodge of New York Board of Trustees, travelled to San Antonio to join us at the Alamo observance. Grand Master Smith carved out a time in his schedule of events on March 4th to be there as Brother King presented the Library and Museum Board with the banner of the “Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas”.

This event was the culmination of several years of hard work, long conversations and plentiful fraternal spirit between the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas and the Livingston Masonic Library. Working with Brother King, as well as Brother Melis, the Secretary of the Livingston Library Board, a long-term agreement was entered into by both library boards to affect this historic event.

This interesting banner is not referenced in the early proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas. While the office of Standard Bearer was noted from the earliest meetings of both the Grand Lodge of the Republic, as well as the Grand Lodge, this unique banner was not specifically mentioned. However, on January 15, 1848, when this Grand Lodge of Texas was meeting in Austin, it directed that the Grand Secretary be “... authorized to procure a banner with proper Masonic emblems thereon for the use of this Grand Lodge, to be borne by the Grand Standard-Bearer at all public processions of this Grand Lodge ...”.

That banner now resides in the vault of our Library in Waco and may be displayed alongside the Republic banner.



Junior Warden Kenneth L. Cochran

In February 1931 the Grand Lodge of Virginia invited each of the Grand Lodges with whom it had fraternal relations to participate in the Masonic Bicentennial celebration of George Washington's birthday. The Grand Lodge of Texas authorized the incoming Grand Master to take part in the celebration in Alexandria, including the holding of a Special Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge in the newly completed George Washington Memorial Building during the week of its dedication.

The group attending this celebration was made up of 115 Master Masons, including virtually all the Grand Lodge officers and Past Grand Masters. Many of the Masons were accompanied by their wives and some even brought their children. Before leaving Dallas, the group had lunch in a private dining room in the Adolphus Hotel, hosted by Brother Wilbur Keith, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Masonic Education and Service and by the Dallas News newspaper.

A special train was chartered from Dallas, leaving at 2:30 P.M. on Saturday 7 May 1932, and arriving at Union Station in Washington, D.C. at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, 9 May. The train engineer, brakemen, conductor, and other employees of the train, except the Pullman porters, were all Masons, and the Pullman porters claimed to be members of Prince Hall Masonic lodges. The train was made up of six Pullman cars, a drawing room car, a club car, a dining car, and a baggage car. Another Pullman was added in Longview to pick up delegations from east Texas, Houston, and south Texas. "The trip was made without mishap and was enjoyed by all. Many old friendships were renewed, and a number of new ones made."

On Sunday, 8 May, a brief religious service was held in one of the Pullman cars by RW F. B. Thorn, Grand Chaplin while enroute. It was not possible for everyone to crowd into the car where the service was held, so it was recorded in shorthand by Brother J. L. McAtee of Waco Lodge No. 24, printed in a pamphlet and mailed to all attending upon returning from Washington.

The special train traveled on the Texas & Pacific, the Missouri Pacific, and the Pennsylvania Railway lines. Representatives of each of these railroads accompanied the group from Dallas, "and rendered every possible courtesy and convenience to those making the trip."

Upon arriving in Washington, the brethren and their ladies repaired to their respective hotels, with Grand Master Alva Bryant and his staff, including Past Grand Masters, staying at the Willard Hotel where they had a luncheon in a private room at the Hotel. The remaining Brethren stayed at the Ambassador Hotel, where at 1:30 in tuxedos, top hats, and aprons they formed into three lines to march to the Willard Hotel where they were joined by the Grand Master and his staff. The group then proceeded to march down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol.

"The parade was headed by mounted police who were followed by the Grand Standard Bearers with the American Flag, the Grand Lodge Banner and the Texas Flag marching abreast. Next in order came the Grand Master and his official staff, all in formal attire marching two abreast."

After a number of blocks marching up Pennsylvania Avenue, the Brethren boarded buses which took them to the George Washington Masonic Temple in Alexandria, Virginia. Here the Grand Master opened a Special Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M. in due an ancient form at 3:00 p.m. in the Temple's auditorium. This was the first time in the history of the Grand

Lodge of Texas that a Special Grand Communication was held outside the State of Texas. It was also the first Grand Lodge Communication ever held in the new George Washington Masonic Temple. Present at this Special Grand Communication were distinguished visitors and guest representing Grand Lodge officers, Past Grand Masters, and Masons from nineteen other states and the District of Columbia.

The opening invocation by the Grand Chaplin was followed by remarks by Grand Master Alva Bryan. He noted that in the ninety-six-year history of the Grand Lodge, it had never met outside of Texas. He went on to say what a distinguished honor it was to be the first grand lodge in the world to have the privilege of opening a special communication in the new building and thanked the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Virginia for extending the invitation.

Following these comments, the grand officers and other distinguished visitors of the various grand jurisdictions were introduced and several of these made remarks to the group. The RW Grand Orator made a short presentation that was filled with humor. Speeches by various other Grand Lodge officers followed in turn.

Tuesday and Wednesday of the week were taken up with various meetings then Thursday was the dedication of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Temple. "The Congress of the United States adjourned in recognition of the dedication program" and President Herbert Hoover attended that part of the ceremonies in which non-Masons could participate. It began with a parade through the streets of Alexandria, Virginia to the Temple on a very rainy day.

The parade was made up of approximately 18,000 Masons from various Masonic groups from across the country, including Scottish Rite and York Rite bodies. Because of the heavy rain, full regalia such as "artistic and emblematic aprons and jewels" were not worn to prevent damaging them. It concluded with Masons eight and ten abreast marching to military music up Shooter's Hill to where the Temple stands.

Following the parade, the grand masters of the various grand jurisdictions and their staff were served a buffet lunch in one of the large rooms of the Memorial, and afterwards the Grand Lodge of Virginia opened a Special Grand Communication. The gavel used at this Grand Communication was made of mahogany in Honduras and arrived in Georgetown, D.C. on a sailing vessel in 1804. It had been used as a maul to make the doors of the old Capitol building. When the British burned the Capitol in 1812, they were partially destroyed and placed in a crypt in the basement and forgotten. They were not discovered until after the fire of 6 November 1898. There is a piece of metal in one end of the gavel taken from the Goddess of Freedom statue that sits atop the Capitol building and a piece of a copper rivet in the other end that was made by Brother Paul Revere and used in the original keel of the U.S.S. Constitution.

After many introductions and speeches, the Special Grand Communication was closed, ending a very special Masonic week. Some members caught trains back to Texas, some stayed on a few days and explored Washington, D. C., while some traveled on to New York to take in the sights.

Secretary Truitt L. Bradly, PM

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. If you have had a change of address and have not let me know, please email me or send me a note to the Lodge mailing address: P.O. Box 686, Hereford, Texas 79045-0686.



Dues for 2023 are payable.

**Please contact the Secretary if you need to pay your dues
(P.O. Box 686, Hereford, Texas 79045-0868)**

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.

Editor Cody M. Cockroft

It provides me much pleasure to serve the Texas Lodge of Research as its "Occasional Bulletin" editor. The genesis of this opportunity originated in a discussion between me and Past Master Richard Schlaudroff about a year ago.

A little about the masonic me: I am a Past Master of Morton Lodge No. 72 (and current Secretary) and Rosenberg Lodge No. 881. I am a member of Sugar Land Lodge No. 1141 and Valley Lodge No. 175. I currently serve the Grand Lodge of Texas as a Deputy Grand Master at Large, District Instructor, and Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Education. In my spare time, I serve the Texas Masonic Charities Foundations as its Second Vice President.

I take duty and responsibility seriously and it is my goal to serve this Lodge and its members honorably and admirably. If you have something to share that would benefit the Lodge and are desirous for it to be considered for inclusion, please coordinate with me and the Worshipful Master. We will work with you to make it so.

TRESTLE BOARD

<p>June 17, 2023 Hosted by Fort Worth Lodge No. 148, Fort Worth, Texas</p>	<p>September 16, 2023 Hosted by Fredericksburg Lodge No. 794, Fredericksburg, Texas</p>	<p>December 16, 2023 Galveston, Texas (More details to be announced at a later date)</p>
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TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH 2023 – 2024 OFFICERS

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Worshipful Master	Billy J. Hamilton	940-600-9678	bhamiltontx75@gmail.com
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Junior Steward	Zackery A. Tedder	512-289-9203	ztedder@gmail.com
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2023 ANSON JONES LECTURER

Dr. Ric Berman, FRHistS

Dr. Ric Berman is a Past Master and former secretary of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 in London, England. He served as the 2016 Prestonian Lecturer, presenting “ Foundations - a new light on the origins and early years of Grand Lodge”.

Bro. Berman is a noted author, whose works include *Loyalists & Malcontents*, *From Roanoke to Raleigh*, *The Foundations of Modern Freemasonry*, *Schism, and Espionage*, *Diplomacy & the Lodge*. Dr. Berman holds a Masters in Economics from the University of Cambridge and a Doctorate in History from the University of Exeter. His post-doctoral research was at the University of Oxford’s Modern European History Research Centre.

Ric is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a Life Fellow of the Huguenot Society, and a Visiting Research Fellow at Oxford Brookes University. He has delivered plenary lectures at Masonic conferences and academic symposia globally, travelling over 300,000 miles in the process.

A freemason for over forty years, Ric holds active Grand Rank and is a Trustee of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry. He is a PM of Quatuor Coronati, Marquis of Dalhousie, and Temple of Athene lodges, and PZ of Marquis of Dalhousie Chapter.

Dr. Berman’s Anson Jones Lecture will be a presentation of his research on Anderson’s Constitutions, a fitting topic as this year we celebrate 300 years since the publication of that foundational Masonic document. We hope to see you there!



2023 Anson Jones Banquet and Lecture

\$55 per person, black tie formal attire.

Texas Lodge of Research invites all Masons to join us for our Anson Jones Banquet and Lecture at the Fort Worth Masonic Temple on 1100 Henderson Street in downtown Fort Worth.

The dinner and lecture is an open meeting. Spouses, EAs, and FCs are invited to join us for our evening event, as well as during any paper presentations given during the regular lodge meeting.

We have negotiated a rate of \$179/night plus tax at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites directly across the street from the Fort Worth Masonic Temple. Breakfast is included, and free parking is available at the Masonic Temple. Please select June 16 and/or 17 to see the preferred rate in the booking portal.

Agenda

2:00 pm – Texas Lodge of Research business meeting and paper presentations – 3rd floor rm #420

5:45 pm – Banquet check-in table opens – 4th floor

6:00 pm – Social hour – 4th floor

7:00 pm – Dinner and Anson Jones lecture – 4th floor
commandery asylum

Menu**

Fruit & Cheese (during social hour)

Cranberry Walnut Salad

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Roasted Red Potatoes

Buttered Broccoli

Tiramisu

Tea / Water / Coffee

***Please let us know when reserving your ticket if you have any dietary restrictions.*

The Friday night “no-host” dinner will be held at 6:30 pm at Sammie's Bar-B-Q, located at 3801 E Belknap St, Fort Worth, TX 76111.

Reserve your ticket and hotel by visiting:

<https://www.texaslodgeofresearch.org/rsvp/>

Additional Readings (from Master of Ceremonies, Brother Galloway)

A Visit to Castle Island

From the moment we are initiated into our beloved fraternity, we are taught to “seek more light.” As traveling men, we have the privilege to visit recognized lodges worldwide. In my own travels, I have visited several lodges in Texas and a handful in other states. On March 29, 2023, I visited my first lodge in another country and didn’t have to fly for several hours to get there.

Castle Island Virtual Lodge #190 sounds like a lodge that a Mason may find in a video game or cartoon. While it is an internet-based lodge, Castle Island Virtual Lodge is a legally constituted Canadian research lodge that was granted its charter in 2012 by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. According to the lodge’s website, Castle Island was the brainchild of four Manitoba Past Grand Masters seeking a way to spread Masonic light to their brothers in the remote regions of Manitoba, Canada. Since 2012 the officers, members, and visitors have met on the 5th Wednesday of every month from the comfort of their homes around the globe.

Visiting Castle Island was not too different from any other lodge. A few days before the meeting, I emailed the lodge Secretary a picture of my current dues card and driver’s license. Two days later, I found a reply in my email inbox with a secure Zoom link to the meeting. The email included the meeting time and instructions that the dress code would be suit and tie. Twenty minutes before the meeting started, I put on a suit, walked to my home office, and logged onto Zoom. Several brothers were already on the Zoom call catching up when the video came on. The lodge officers were wearing their jewels. The Worshipful Master opened the meeting by asking the Secretary to confirm that all present were properly vetted. We were instructed to mute our microphones but keep our cameras on so the officers could see our surroundings. We were also instructed to ensure that our area was properly tiled. Then the Worshipful Master began to open an Entered Apprentice Lodge.

The anticipation was building as I waited to see what the Canadian opening would look like. However, I was disappointed when, after the prayer, the Worshipful Master declared the lodge open. The officers conducted their lodge business for the first fifteen minutes. For the remainder of the meeting, the Manitoba Grand Librarian presented the history of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. The meeting lasted a little over an hour. At the end of the meeting, the worshipful master declared the meeting closed. From open to close, no one used any degree signs or language that couldn’t be shared in an open lodge.

Overall, the visit to Castle Island Virtual Lodge was a great experience. It is something I would recommend any Mason to experience at least once. It is one more opportunity to connect with our brothers. Take a few minutes to explore the lodge’s website <https://civlodge190.ca/>, or search for the lodge’s Facebook page.

I look forward to seeing you at a future Castle Island meeting.



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**



2023 – 2024 Officers of Texas Lodge of Research

(left to right: Erickson Ybarra, Chris Galloway, David Hill, Russell Brown, Billy Hamilton, Ken Cochran, Mark Dermitt, Truitt Bradly, Tyler Rowe, Chuck Springer, Cody Webb, Stephen Moore)