



The Occasional Bulletin

Texas Lodge of Research, A.F. & A.M.



Number 3

Fall

2009

Fletcher provides outstanding Anson Jones Lecture

Texas Lodge of Research had its June Quarterly Meeting under the auspices of Richardson Lodge No. 1214 and Eagle Lodge No. 41 in Richardson on June 20. Fifty members and guests signed the register.

Junior Past Master Truitt Bradley explained that Worshipful Master Jack M. Harper II and Senior Warden Wayne Sirmon were absent due to family commitments.

Acting Senior Deacon and Grand Junior Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Texas Ronald Park introduced numerous Masonic dignitaries.

Treasurer Mark Dermit read the report of the Audit Committee provided by Right Worshipful Bro. Harvey, which was approved.

Treasurer Dermit continued by asking the lodge to accede to



Richard E. "Dick" Fletcher, Executive Director of the Masonic Service Association, center, with Fellow in Masonic Research and TLR Past Master Plez A. Transou, before Fletcher's lecture presentation.

Worshipful Master Harper's request that the lodge answer the Grand Master's call to donate \$1,000 to Grand Lodge. He so moved and, after a second, the floor was opened for discussion. Right Worshipful Reese L. Harrison Jr., FM, clarified details of the request by the Grand Master and Trustees. He noted that the funds were to go to the Grand Lodge Operating Fund. The Motion was approved.

Past Master Bronk was called upon to report on the Transactions and Concise Index in Vol. 41. He mentioned that the publication was done with great savings to the lodge. He went on to say that the new *Form and Style Manual* for authors, the updated version of the former *Criteria and Style Sheet*, is almost ready for distribution. The Editorial Committee, composed of Brothers H. C. Arbuckle, Bronk, Past Grand Master David Dibrell and Alternate Member James Dougherty, PM, have spent many hours crafting the document. Past Master Bronk asked to be allowed to approach the East, where he invested Junior Past Master Bradley with the TLR Junior Past Master's jewel. In return, Past Master Bronk was presented with his endowed membership in appreciation of his service to the lodge as Master in 2007-08.

Next Stated Communication Lufkin, Texas

Friday, Sept. 18, 2009
4 p.m. Hospitality Room opens
at the Best Western
Crown Colony Inn.
Dutch-treat supper at
the Cotton Patch Cafe.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009
10 a.m. Quarterly Meeting of
Texas Lodge of Research
Host: Lufkin Lodge No. 669
See back page for details and
addresses.

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2009-2010**

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By Jack Harper

A message from the Master

Brethren, what a hot start to the summer we have had so far! Many in Texas are not only suffering from high temperatures and little rain, but much of the state is now in a drought. So, what is a good brother to do on such a hot, dry day (after all the yard work, and work around the house has been done, of course)? The answer is to stay inside where it is nice and cool, and read a Masonic book!

As mentioned in an earlier column, I greatly enjoy reading all forms of Masonic books, and of late I have been reviewing those particular volumes I have about Texas Masonry. What makes many of the Texas Masonic books stand out is that almost all have been written by members of Texas Lodge of Research!

Here is just a sampling of some Texas Masonic books: written by our members:

- Masonry in Texas: Dr. James David Carter, PM (our first worshipful master)
- Education and Masonry in Texas 1846-1861: Dr. James David Carter, PM
- Masonry Along the Brazos Valley: Dr. George Henry Timothy French, PM
- Masonology — An Anthology: Dr. George Henry Timothy French, PM (am currently reading)
- A Lodge Called Keystone; A Seventy Five Year History: Leonard P. Harvey, PGM, PM
- One Hundred Years of Masonry in Midland: Sam E. Hilburn, PGM, PM
- Behold, How Good: John E. "Jack" Kelly, PGM, PM
- Regalia of the Grand Lodge Officers, The Grand Lodge of Texas A.F & A.M.; Pete Martinez, PM
- The Texas Masons: Pierre G. "Pete" Normand, PM
- Two Particular Friends of Stephen F. Austin: L. Randall Rogers, PM
- Our Masonic Presidents: L. Randall Rogers, PM
- Phoenix Lodge: The First Twenty Five Years 1864-1889: Rev. J. Dexter Sammons, PM
- Pioneer History of Dallas, Texas; A Masonic Perspective 1848-1874: Bobby L. Shehorn, FM
- Huts and Sheds: Dr. Howard R. Stewart, PM



Jack Harper
Worshipful Master

-Masonic Almanacs and Anti-Masonic Almanacs: Plez Transou, PM

-The Anti-Masonic Party in the United States 1826–1843: Dr. William Preston Vaughn

-Pursuit of a Thread: Deed Lafayette Vest, PM (am currently reading)

Obviously, it might take some time to locate these books, as many are out of print; however, some are still available for sale from the Grand Secretary's Office of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Also, they are available to be checked out from the Grand Lodge of Texas Library. Brethren, there is no cost to check out these books; simply pay for shipping to mail them back.

As I mentioned in my last column, our own Texas Lodge of Research Editorial Committee has begun holding meetings coinciding with our stated meetings to meet with interested brethren. The committee will highlight some of the more common mistakes as well as discuss successful writing techniques. These meetings began at our June stated meeting and will continue so long as there is interest.

Please know that I welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions; you will find my contact information located in every issue of the *Occasional Bulletin*.

P.S. Do not forget to check the last page of the *Occasional Bulletin* for the dates and locations of our upcoming meetings. We will be in Lufkin in September and Nederland in January. I hope to meet as many brethren as possible during this year.

Editorial Committee introduces revamped Form and Style Manual

After years of study and discussion, the Editorial Committee of Texas Lodge of Research announced the publication of the *Form and Style Manual*, which replaces the former *Criteria and Style Sheet*.

The 23-page printed manual is available for download at the TLR website, www.texaslodgeof-research.org.

The committee, consisting of *Transactions* Editor Raymond Bronk, H. C. Arbuckle III, David B. Dibrell and Jim Dougherty, revamped the former writing guide, bringing it more into line with current research style. It does rely somewhat on original documents compiled by Dr. William P. Vaughn, PM, FMR, and *Transactions* editor emeritus, but is substantially different from the earlier document.

Beginning with papers submitted after Aug. 1, 2009, the *Form*

and *Style Manual* will be the document used by the Editorial Committee in editing papers.

SUBMISSION POLICY CHANGES

Because of the need to ensure research paper submission is handled in a businesslike manner, authors will be required to mail submissions to the TLR mailing address: P.O. Box 685685, Austin, TX 78768-5685. Authors must submit one paper copy plus an electronic copy on a CD. The lodge secretary will log in submissions, retain the CD version, and pass along the paper copy to the senior warden to begin the editorial process.

Following the business session in Richardson, Bros. Bronk and Arbuckle held an informative forum-style session for prospective authors. It is expected that additional forums will be offered at upcoming meetings.



TLR's limited edition 50th anniversary coin has been a great hit with Masonic coin collectors since it went on sale in January 2008. The beautifully detailed and enameled coins will be available while supplies last at TLR quarterly meetings for \$10 each, or from the secretary's office at \$11.50, including postage and packing.



Past Grand Masters Leonard P. Harvey, left, and Reese L. Harrison Jr. exchange ideas before the morning meeting.



TLR Editorial Committee members Raymond Br III, center, hold an informal seminar on preparation authors. It is expected that these seminars will co

Richardson meeting

Photos by Jim Dougherty and Pete Martinez



Left photo: Junior Past Master Truitt Bradly adjusts the full-member apron presented to Bro. Fletcher. The apron flap was hand enscribed for the occasion by noted western artist and Austin Lodge No. 12 Secretary Victor Armstrong.

Right photo: Editorial committee veteran, H. C. Arbuckle III, center, gives a few bits of wit and wisdom to two local Masons and soon-to-be authors.



...nk, PM, left, and H. C. Arbuckle
...on of research papers for first-time
...ntinue at future meetings.



2008 Anson Jones Lecturer Dr. Gary Leazer, left, joins Fellows in Masonic Research PGM Leonard P. Harvey and Pete Normand, right, during the lunch hour. Dr. Leazer had flown in from Georgia.

snapshots



TLR to participate in tribute to Bro. Jimmie Rodgers

Texas Lodge of Research has received permission from Grand Master David Counts, FM, to participate in the 22nd edition of Texas Heritage Music Foundation's Living History Day on Friday, Sept. 25, at the Robbins-Lewis Pavilion on Schreiner University campus in Kerrville. The event is also a tribute to Blue Yodeler Jimmie Rodgers, the father of country music and a Texas Mason.

TLR will have a Masonic information table manned by area TLR members and will be included on the program, according to Dr. Kathleen Hudson, director of the THMF.

Past Master Jim Dougherty will be on hand to present copies of *Transactions Vol. XLI* to both the libraries of the foundation and Schreiner University. Vol. XLI contains papers by Brother H.C. Arbuckle III, FM, and Past Master and Fellow in Masonic Research Pete Normand that answer the questions surrounding Jimmie Rodgers' Masonic memberships in Mississippi and Texas.

Jimmie Rodgers was initiated, passed and raised in Blue Bonnet Lodge No. 1219 in San Antonio and was a member of the San Antonio Scottish Rite and Alzar Shrine. Unfortunately, he died in 1933, little more than two years



Masonic Brothers Jimmie Rodgers, left, and Will Rogers in Kerrville, circa 1931.

THE RICHARDSON MEETING, *Continued from Page 1.*

It was announced that, following lunch, the Anson Jones Lecture would be given by Illustrious Brother Richard E. "Dick" Fletcher, past grand master of Vermont and executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association. On motion by Bro. Arbuckle, Bro. Fletcher was voted full membership in Texas Lodge of Research pending presentation of his paper.

Dr. Gary Leazer of Stone Mountain, Ga., was introduced. He was the Anson Jones Lecturer for 2008.

Bro. Treasurer gave his report on the finances of Texas Lodge of Research and moved that all bills received, or about due, be paid.

Bro. Martinez reported on Fellow in Masonic Research Dr. William P. "Bill" Vaughn's condition and received response from Brother Pete Normand. Bill is in a nursing home in Mount Pleasant, following a stroke earlier this year. Brother Normand also commented on Dr. Leazer's report to the Southern Baptist Convention some 15 years ago. The convention's Christian Life Committee report regarding the Masonic fraternity report was favorable to Baptist men having the choice of joining the Masonic fraternity. However, the report was basically gutted and Dr.

Leazer eventually was forced out of his position with the SBC. So impressed was Dr. Leazer with the men he met while preparing the report, he became a Mason and has served as worshipful master of the lodge in Stone Mountain, Ga.

It was announced that there would be a pre-lunch-hour tutorial session with members of the Editorial Committee and *Transactions* Editor for those interested in getting started on their first-time research paper.

With peace and harmony prevailing, Worshipful Master Pro Tem Bradly closed the lodge at 11 am.

Following an outstanding barbecue lunch arranged by Bro. Frank Amadon, FM, and members of the host lodges, the members and guests reconvened in the lodge room for the Anson Jones Lecture. Bro. and Past Master Pierre Normand introduced Bro. Richard "Dick" Fletcher, the 33rd Anson Jones Lecturer. His paper was titled "Why the Enlightenment?"

Past Master and Master Pro Tem Bradly presented Bro. Fletcher with his Texas Lodge of Research full member apron.

The lodge was adjourned until the September meeting in Lufkin.

after becoming a Texas Mason.

Bro. Arbuckle, who has been associated with the event for many years, will entertain with several Jimmie Rodgers songs ... and yes, he'll also yodel. Masons are invited to dress in appropriate Masonic regalia.

The festivities begin at 9 am and the Masonic part of the program is expected to begin at noon.

This is a free event and open to the entire Texas community. Each year, thousands of students, teachers, parents and people from all walks of life attend Living History Day to experience firsthand the heritage, history, music and stories of Texas, as presented by more than 50 performers and living exhibits.

Friday evening at 7:30, the THMF will pay tribute to Hispanic Heritage Month by showcasing the music of Joel Guzman and Sarah Fox, recently featured at the 28th Annual Conjunto Festival in San Antonio.

For a map and additional information go to www.texasheritagemusic.org.

TLR website changes

From the Secretary

By Jim Dougherty, PM, Occasional Bulletin Editor

There has been some confusion recently about the correct location for the Texas Lodge of Research website. The correct website location is **www.texaslodgeofresearch.org**. Webmaster Pete Martinez, PM, is working to rid us of the two obsolete locations which appear when one “Googles” TLR.

The new website allows members and the general public to access information on lodge activities more efficiently, according to Webmaster Martinez.

MOVING?

Please save your lodge unnecessary postage and printing costs by reporting any changes of address.

Transactions Vol. XLI was mailed the last week in March. If you didn't receive yours, please e-mail the secretary.

Wow, it's been quite a summer so far. Hundred-plus degree temperatures and little or no rain for what seems to be months. Well, as long as the air conditioning continues to chug along, so will your secretary and his dutiful assistant, Chubs, the pug grand-dog.

One of the highlights of the past months has been the ongoing work of the TLR Editorial Committee, reported on elsewhere in the *Occasional Bulletin*.

It was my honor as a past member of the committee to have been asked to sit in on their deliberations via e-mail and several eye-ball-to-eyeball meetings at quarterly sessions and here in Austin. In Austin, we were the luncheon guests of Mrs. Mary Mazurek, administrator of the Scottish Rite Dormitory. With the kind permission of Past Grand Master and former Anson Jones Lecturer Judge Jack Hightower, we were afforded access to the SRD board president's conference room, where the air conditioning was doing its job above and beyond the call of duty.

If you have a female member of your family heading to the University of Texas in a few years, she couldn't find a better residence than the SRD.

To say that crafting the new manual was a daunting job is a given. Early on, it was discovered that the former *Criteria and Style Sheet*, so beautifully done by Fellow in Masonic Research Dr. William Preston Vaughn, was being given to prospective authors in a couple of versions. The printed booklet we had in the secretary's office was not the newer version being offered on the TLR website.

The committee, made up of H.C. Arbuckle III, Raymond Bronk, PGM David Dibrell, and myself, had the task of taking Dr. Vaughn's structure and incorporating grammati-

cal and style changes to meet today's standards of accepted use.

The members of the committee are a strong-willed lot, and there were more than a few disagreements along the way. But, in the end, the document is one that should serve the lodge for many years to come.

One of the recommendations the committee made that is not directly contained in the *Form and Style Manual* involves the submission of papers by an author.

Beginning immediately, papers are to be sent to the TLR address (P.O. Box 684684, Austin, TX 78768-4684.)

Authors are to submit a printed draft along with a digital file on CD. The secretary will, upon receipt, log in the paper, stamp the printed draft with a “Received” date stamp and pass it to the senior warden for distribution to the committee. Everything else stays the same. This added step at the beginning of the process is to assure that papers are accounted for throughout the editorial process.

It's great that the committee is holding forums at quarterly meetings to encourage first-time authors to contribute to the wealth of Masonic knowledge that fills 41 volumes of *Proceedings of Texas Lodge of Research*.

The *Form and Style Manual* is available in PDF format and downloadable at TLR's website: www.texaslodgeofresearch.org.



Jim Dougherty
Secretary

Lufkin Lodge No. 669 to host fall 2009 TLR meeting

Texas Lodge of Research returns to the piney woods of East Texas for its Sept. 18–19, 2009 quarterly meeting. Rooms have been blocked for us at the Best Western Crown Colony Inn and Suites, located at 3211 S. 1st St. (US 69) in Lufkin. Call for reservations at (936) 634-3481, and ask for the Texas Lodge of Research rate. That rate is \$85 per night, plus tax, and is guaranteed through Sept. 11.

The Hospitality Room will open at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18, at the hotel. Dinner that evening will be at the Cotton Patch Cafe at 6 pm. The restaurant is located at 3207 S. 1st St. and is adjacent to the hotel, so no car will be necessary. We will be in a private room.

Saturday's meeting will be held at the lodge hall located at 508 N. John Redditt Drive (US 69, just north of Texas 94). Coffee and juice will be available at 9 a.m. The tiled business meeting will be gavelled to order at 10 am. Lunch will follow the conclusion of the business session, and we are being promised a real East Texas treat: southern fried chicken and all the trimmings. There is the possibility of up to two papers being delivered after lunch.

We suggest that out-of-town members who may not know their way to, or around, Lufkin download an Internet Google map with the above addresses.

Upcoming Meetings

Jan. 15–16, 2010 Host: Nederland Lodge No. 1368. Nederland

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