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FREEMASON

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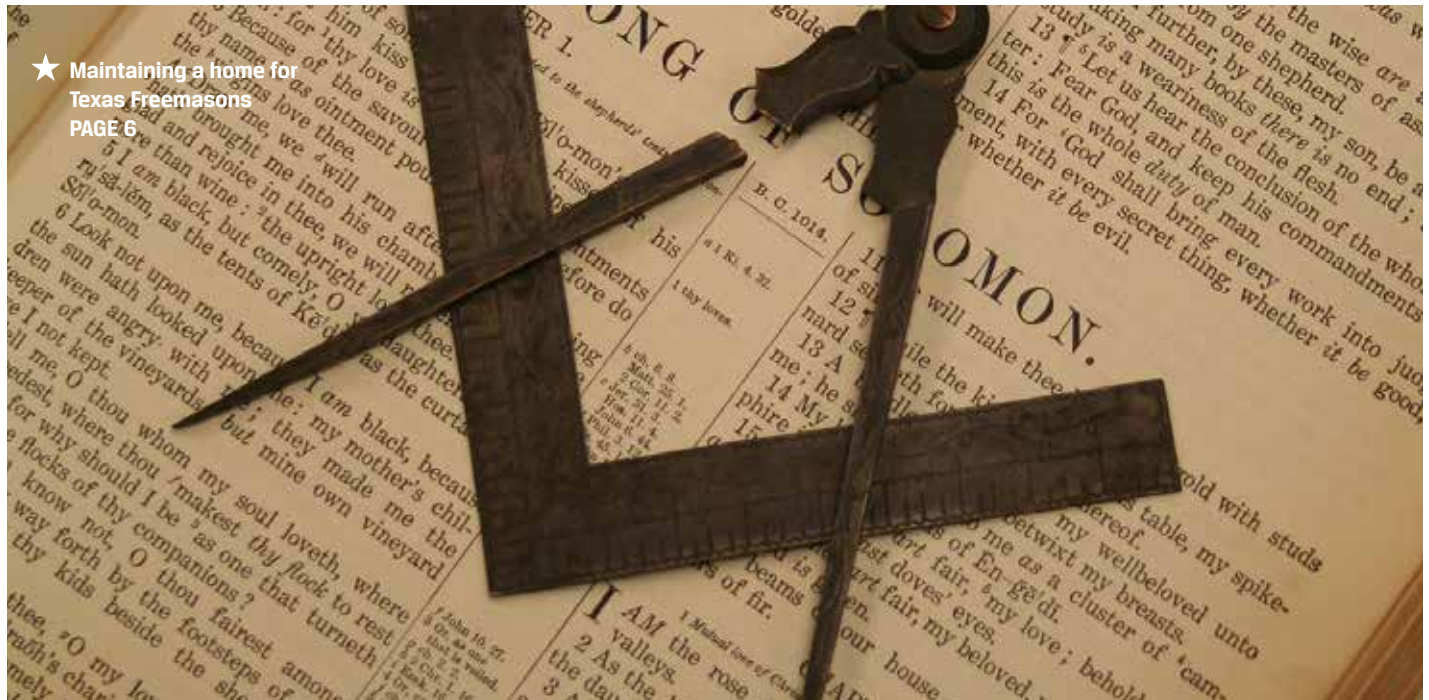
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ON THE COVER

Black eyed susan flowers on roadside near Highway 105. Brenham, Texas, May 6, 2012.

Photo courtesy of Alexey Sergeev.
<http://www.asergeev.com/index.htm>

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Please continue to send your articles and Lodge events and news to the Editors of The Texas Freemason Magazine.

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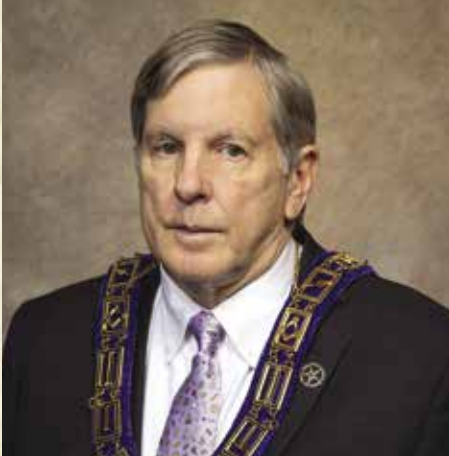
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A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



My Brothers,

I pray that this message finds you and yours safe and sound. I appreciate each of you and all that you do for Texas Masonry. Thank you for your guidance and prayers.

The summer is upon us! It is time for picnics, cookouts, camping, trips, and many other fun things. As our nation continues to reopen, stay safe in your journeys, and enjoy the Blessings that are bestowed upon us as citizens of the United States of America.

GRAND MASTER CONFERENCES.

We completed the Grand Master Conference schedule on April 10, 2021 with conferences in Garland at Hella Shrine, Dallas at Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral and McKinney at Saint John's Lodge No. 51. In each of the twenty-eight conferences Brothers participated openly and freely. There was a great exchange of ideas and thoughts. The two overriding themes of the conferences were "Spreading the Cement of Brotherly Love and Affection" and "Bring Back a Brother." Over two thousand Brothers attended the conferences, and many offered their thoughts about Brotherly Love and Bringing Back our missing Brothers.

WANTED – MISSING BROTHERS. A topic of discussion at each conference was what Lodges could do to bring back those missing Brothers who choose not to be involved in their lodges. The question was what can a Lodge do

that means enough to a missing Brother for him to want to be active? Some suggestions offered were weekend coffee clubs, quarterly dinners at restaurants with and without spouses, couples' Saturday out for Brothers with young children, lodge picnics, Saturday fishing trips, open and close lodge then go to a restaurant for the monthly stated meeting dinner, and educational programs away from the lodge's stated meeting. No one suggested more business meetings, degree work, or floor school as a strategy to bring back a missing Brother. Each Lodge must decide for itself what will work.

FELLOWSHIP AND COMRADESHIP.

At the Grand Master Conferences, attendees were repeatedly asked what they needed from our Fraternity. No one wanted to answer that question; but when they were pushed nine times out of ten the response was "I need fellowship and comradeship." The second most common response was "I need good men with good values around me." If you asked the Brothers active in your lodge what they personally need from Masonry, they will say I do not need anything from the Lodge. If you pushed for an answer, they would most likely say "fellowship and comradeship." How does your lodge provide fellowship and comradeship? Is the only fellowship in your lodge the monthly stated meeting and degree work? If that is the case, then your lodge is missing a vital essence of our Craft. Brotherly love and affection mean more than just passing by each other once or twice a month.

EVOLUTION OF A GRAND

LODGE OFFICER. When I made myself available for Grand Lodge office four years ago, I had my thoughts about the issues facing our Grand Lodge and how we should respond. As the years passed and I prepared to become Grand Master, those thoughts evolved, changed, and matured. This evolution was driven by my experiences with you and the questions you asked me. Just like the Entered Apprentice with his instructor, my interaction with you caused me to stop and think. This is a round about way to say to you, if you wish to have an impact on Grand Lodge share your visions and

beliefs with the elected Grand Lodge officers and those who are making themselves available. Influence them and you influence Grand Lodge. Visit with them and help them evolve as they move through the line or attempt to explain to you why they want to be in the line. If you like a program or idea, tell them. If you do not like a program or idea, tell them. Explain your reasoning and thought process. Our Fraternity is in a crisis. The more time you spend with those in the grand officer line or those trying to get there, the greater likelihood they will be effective leaders with whom you will be proud to share our Craft.

In closing, thank you again for all you do for Texas Masonry. Bring back a Brother and our Fraternity will prosper in the coming year.

Ken Curry
Grand Master 2021



GRAND LODGE

A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



Brethren,

What an exciting few months we have had! Grand Master Curry's conferences were a huge success. If you were unable to attend a conference Grand Master Curry introduced the Bring a Brother Back program. A link to the program materials can be found here: <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/bring-a-brother-back-program/>

I encourage you all to look at the program and consider implementing it at your Lodge.

Registration for the Officer Leadership training conferences will open soon. If your Lodge already participates in the program, we thank you for your support! If your Lodge does not currently participate, I would encourage you to consider sending your officers to the training. The information presented at the conference will give your upcoming officers the tools they will need to be successful in their roles as leaders. The weekend conferences are also an excellent opportunity to network with other brothers advancing through the various leadership roles in the Lodge.

This year the Grand Secretary's Schools of Instruction will be held in conjunction with the Officer Leadership Trainings. Also, this year we will be introducing a Grand Treasurer's School of Instruction. I would encourage all Lodge Secretary and Treasurer's to attend.



There is no cost for the one-day training session, but we do need an RSVP from you to ensure we have enough space at the venue. Please RSVP through the member portal under the events tab.

The new Grand Lodge of Texas online store is open and ready for orders. You can find all the 2021 and 2020 merchandise, as well as select items from previous years. Many of the items from previous years will be available for sale at a significant discount. All Lodge forms and awards are now available for purchase online. I encourage all Lodge Secretary's to use the online store to order Lodge supplies.

Finally, I have been working to improve the communication from the Grand Secretary's Office to the constituent Lodges and improve

the overall service you receive from my office. We have made good progress, but there is still much left to do. I want to thank my entire staff for their hard work and dedication. The day-to-day activities of the Grand Secretary's Office would not take place without their efforts.

Fraternally,

Justin B. Duty
Grand Secretary

Tranquility Lodge, the Grand Master and Relevancy

By Bruce W. Hammond, Associate Editor



Tranquility Lodge is pleased to announce the renewal of its five-year commitment to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation by pledging to fund a \$10,000 scholarship in each of the next five Masonic years beginning with this year. This continues a partnership which began under Worshipful Master Don Comedy several years ago.

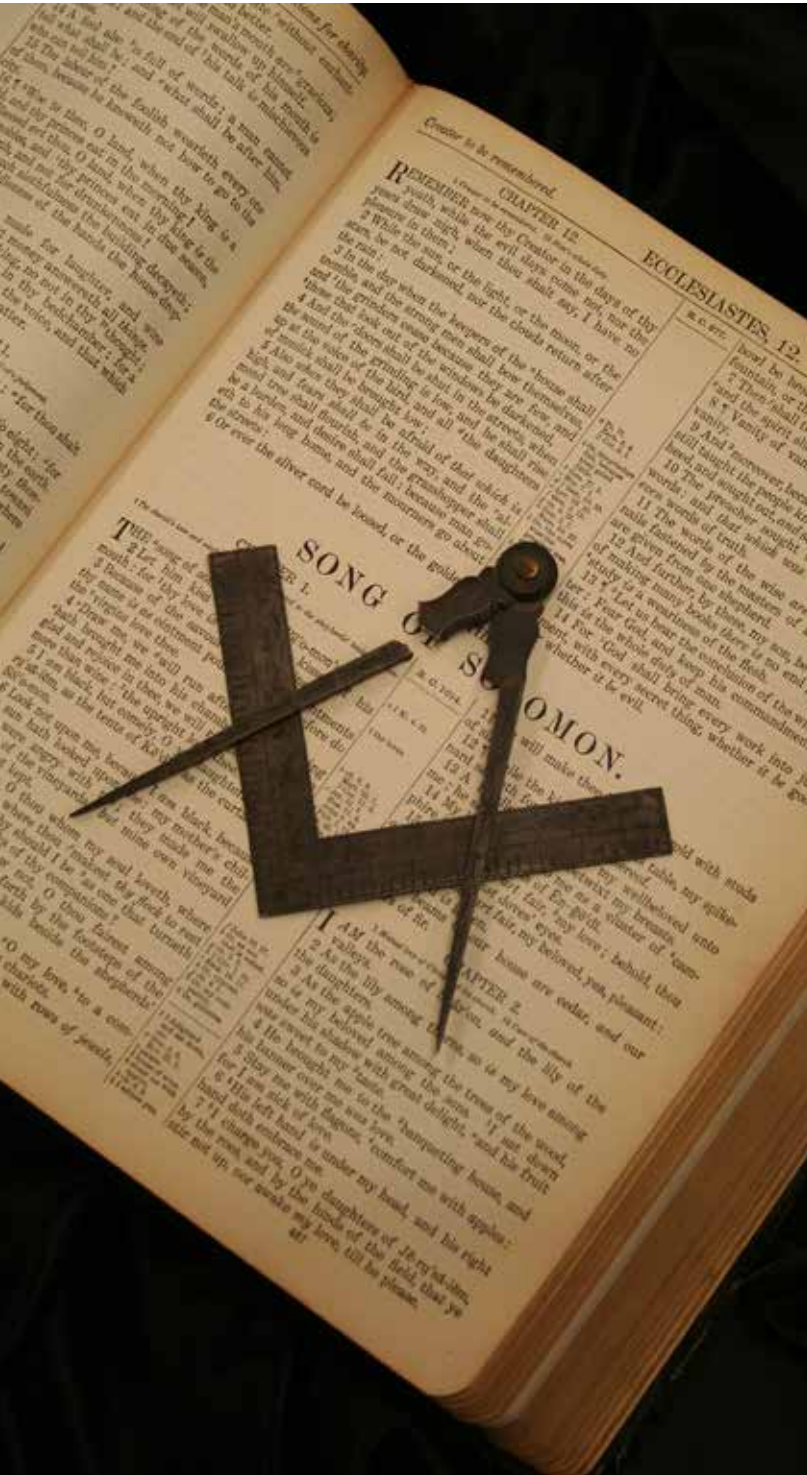
This effort is in keeping with Grand Master Curry's message that a lodge must be relevant to their members if the lodge is to continue. For a lodge to be relevant to its members, it must understand the needs of its members and then fulfill those needs. At their February meeting, the members of Tranquility Lodge articulated a need to be of service to those seeking an education to further our country's space exploration and science program. Tranquility Lodge fulfills this need of service by providing scholarships to students dedicated to the space program and other related scientific endeavors.

Many notable Masonic programs are legacy programs such as large buildings, hospitals, and such; few are solely dollar driven. The aforementioned decision by the current members of Tranquility Lodge shows they want to be relevant to the community and provide resources to better society.

Click the following link to view a Thank You video from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation demonstrating the impact Masons can have by becoming relevant to their communities and the world.

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 Webpage: <http://tl2k.org/> for information on becoming a member of Tranquility Lodge. View the lodge's video at www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/TL2K-video

How Important is it to You That We Maintain a Visible Home for Texas Freemasons?



The Bible on display in the Grand Lodge Memorial Room

Seventy-two years ago, during the 114th Grand Annual Communication, our Memorial Grand Lodge Temple was dedicated. Imagine –

Everything was newly completed. The Masons attending were in awe of the magnificent building constructed with limestone. An Immense frieze depicting the erection of King Solomon's Temple embellished the front entry, and stately columns graced the front porch. Stone carvings of Masonic symbols further adorned the exterior walls of the Temple.

Records of the building's construction show that much effort was made to accommodate the burgeoning population of Texas' newly-risen Master Masons. 1949 showed a total membership roll of 192,000 indicating a new revival in Freemasonry. Pride that the Temple was paid off in eleven years is shown in a quote from the 1956 Grand Lodge proceedings.

"The financing of this program has been a most phenomenal success. There is not one cent of money due and payable in connection with the assessment, which you made eleven years ago for this program. There is no indebtedness whatsoever and we have on hand investments totaling \$249,975.54 to serve as a reserve and to take care of such improvements a future time may require. This mighty edifice, when completed, cost \$2,321,887.16 which cost includes the building and furnishings.

The Temple Building Committee desires to express specific appreciation to those individuals and organizations, who so generously contributed financially to this beautiful Memorial Temple."

1981 brought the worry that the Masons of Texas would find it impossible to pay property taxes on the Temple after a new property tax code was enacted in Texas without raising the Lodge per capita. Following deliberation and consultation with knowledgeable Brethren in the laws governing the changes, Tom Land - Grand Master, Jimmy Willson - Deputy Grand Master, Buddy Baccus - Grand Senior Warden, Bob Waters - Grand Junior Warden, C. C. Burnett - Grand Treasurer, and Harvey Byrd - Grand Secretary, worked together to formulate a plan to place the Temple under the ownership of the newly incorporated non-profit organization, "The Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Texas." This not only allowed tax-deductible donations from members and foundations to help support the conservation of the building, the Masonic artifacts and books, and our archives, it also granted property tax-free status to the building through the Library and Museum. Thus, on October 15, 1981 a Charter was granted to the "Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Texas" by the State of Texas.

The non-profit is charged with maintaining a viable library for research purposes and a museum to interest Texas Masons and any general visitors. The mystique of Masonry itself is a draw, as are the numerous seriously wonderful historic artifacts like Sam Houston's lock of hair

and La Fayette's sash. Visitors from all over the world are astounded to see a 4,000 year old terra cotta cone from Ur and NASA artifacts in the same building.

You might ask yourself the question...That in addition to the initial investment account and non-profit status how is the ongoing maintenance of the Temple funded today? Part of the answer is found in the Grand Lodge Law Book, which has the following instruction for disbursement of a portion of the Annual Returns –

Article 163, Item 7. For the use of the Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Reserve Fund for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, to be remitted annually with its returns, the sum of \$1.25 required by Section 2 Article IX of the Constitution...

*Art. 163a. Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Reserve Fund. The sum of \$1.00 per year for each member on the rolls of all the Subordinate Lodges, shall be transferred from the Grand Lodge General Fund, to a Reserve Fund held IN TRUST, and used solely and exclusively for structural maintenance, renovation, remodeling and repair of the Memorial Masonic Grand Lodge Building. Expenditures from the Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Reserve Fund shall be made only upon authorization of the Directors of the Grand Lodge Masonic Library and Museum of Texas.
(Revised 2012)*

However, fewer members (nearly one-third of what we had in 1949) equals a significant decrease in support for the Maintenance Fund. Among recent renovations is having air-conditioning installed in the main auditorium and concourse. Large investments for improvements such as this have left the fund largely depleted. Our Temple is seventy-two years old and needs further modernization in the areas of plumbing and electrical wiring and lighting. The possibility of using the Temple as a venue for outside events, with the benefit to earn income, hinges on such improvements.

Retaining the designation of a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization as a Library and Museum is critical to the continued existence of the Temple. Today the Temple is listed on the tax rolls with a value of \$6,413,230.00. This equates to a potential property tax bill of \$177,025.16 each year if the value of the building remains the same, which it would not, if the exemptions are lost.

Seventy-two years ago an inscription was placed in the wall of the Memorial Room located at the East side of the Temple's upper concourse that reads –

IN MEMORIAM
THE FREEMASONS OF TEXAS
WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY
WITH HONOR AND DEVOTION
TO PRESERVE FREEDOM AND LIBERTY

Should we let these Brothers down? How important is the Grand Lodge Memorial Temple to you? Surely it is as important as it was to those Brothers who built it. One man cannot do it all, but together we can each do our part to increase the funding for the maintenance of the Temple.

Until we meet again at our beautiful Grand Lodge Temple, safe travels, and share the love of Freemasonry and its tenets with not only your Lodge Brothers, but also the world. Do what is right when no one is looking. Faith, Hope, and Charity my Brothers....

The broken compasses have not broken our spirit in the support of our Masonic Memorial Temple Building. Let us start today by continuing the legacy that our forefathers did many years ago. They built the Memorial Temple in honor of our Brotherhood and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our GOD and our great country for the liberties

we continue to enjoy today. Let us find a way to honor them while at the same time paying it forward as a legacy to the generations of Texas Masons yet to come. Let this be the spark that ignites the next revival of Freemasonry in Texas.

A Short History of Garland Masonry

By Eric Stuyvesant, PM Garland Lodge No. 441

(For purposes of clarification please note that Duck Creek No. 441 and Garland No. 441 are the same Lodge.)

In researching the history of Garland Masonry, we find an interesting dichotomy that has existed from the earliest Lodge records and which is still observable today.

Most of us remember the history so diligently recorded in 1968 by our Past Masters, Bro. Joe B. Motley (1952) and Bro. G. Ed Castle (1933); that after our initial institution on September 19, 1873 our Lodge building was destroyed by a windstorm some 11 months later, and, after being forced to start over, that Duck Creek No. 441 would not be duly constituted until July of 1875. What we often forget is that our great fraternity did not just spring on to the plains of Embree and Duck Creek in 1873, but rather, Masons had lived and worked in our community for years preceding our Lodge's formal constitution.

In his book *Living and Fighting with the Texas 6th Calvary*, Newton A. Keen, Charter member of Duck Creek No. 441 and son of early Garland pioneer, William Henry Keen, notes that his father's funeral in the fall 1858 was presided over by Methodist minister, and Brother, James A. Smith and that 'The funeral was preached at 11 am and the Masons buried him in the evening.' Brother and Reverend James A. Smith was a member of Tannehill Lodge No. 52 and served as Master in 1855. This is important because from the Returns of Lodges listed in the Texas Grand Lodge Proceedings from 1872 we can deduct that our Charter Members derived their membership from two primary sources: Tannehill Lodge No. 52 and Scyene Lodge No. 295. (See below") The relationship between Duck Creek No. 441 and its parent Lodges remained strong through the early years of Masonry in our community.

R.D. "Dave" Murphree was born on December 11, 1876 near Mesquite, Texas to David Quitman and Elizabeth (Florence) Murphree. After spending several years cultivating the land, D.Q. Murphree moved his family near Cedar Hill for the purpose of educating his children. R.D. Murphree's mother would pass away in 1890 when R.D. was just 11 years old, and his father would remain a widower until 1895, when he took Cora (Florence) Murphree as his second bride.

After graduating Baylor in 1898 R.D. Murphree returned to Garland and was made a Mason in Dallas, TX at Tannehill Lodge No. 52 in 1901. He was initiated on March 8, 1901, Passed on May 22, 1901 and Raised on June 22, 1901. Upon his return to Garland he would have found the Lodge on Garland Square either in the process of being built, or recently completed, and one can only speculate why he walked away from 441. At the turn of the century Garland was still an agrarian community, while Dallas was a hub of post-secondary graduates. Was this the reason Brother Murphree turned to Tannehill No. 52? The truth is we will probably never know. Regardless, R.D. Murphree was an ambitious young Mason and worked his way through the various Masonic places and stations beginning in 1902. He went on to serve as the 56th Master of Tannehill Lodge No. 52 in 1906 and is shown in this picture below.

In business, R.D. Murphree was centrally involved in the Garland



by Ed Cobb, assessor and collector for Dallas County.

Serving as Mayor of Garland between 1920 and 1924, R.D. Murphree appears to have used the intangible lessons of leadership taught men in their various Masonic stations quite often. There is a lofty moral balance that is demanded of a public servant, a balance often fumbled in the civic arena that requires one to weight their personal vision against the will of the electorate. It is rare to find an individual who stands steadfast against the political winds of the day, and walks away without visible blemish, but in April of 1924 S.E. Nicholson would be elected as Murphree's successor in an unopposed race, in an uneventful and uninspired election. During his time as Mayor of Garland R.D. Murphree would also serve on the county's executive committee and was noted as being the only anti-Klan member of the aforementioned committee and would "therefore likely have some animated sessions."

During his time as Mayor of Garland R.D. Murphree would also serve on the county's executive committee and was noted as being the only anti-Klan member of the aforementioned committee and would "therefore likely have some animated sessions."

Despite his unpopular political leanings for the era Mayor Murphree was able to rally Garland's citizenry and lead them headstrong into a more modernized era. While Texas Power and Light had installed four electric lamps on the square in 1915 it was under Mayor Murphree's stewardship that Garland built a power plant that would supply electricity to the homes and businesses in the community, moving them away from the gas lamp powered age. A stone still marks the occasion at 515 W. Ave A, home to that 1st power plant, and is seen here:



It is interesting to note that the names mentioned on the stone were all Masons, with the exception of Peter Handley, whose namesake had been a Charter Member of 441, and who had passed to the Celestial Lodge within a year of our 441 being constituted. The names can be found in the Returns of Lodges from the Grand Lodge of Texas proceedings of 1923 and were primarily members of 3 Lodges:

Tannehill No. 52, Garland No. 441, and Trinity Valley No. 1048.

In addition to electricity, Mayor Murphree envisioned and oversaw the construction of Garland's first municipal water system through the digging of a deep well, some 2300 feet down, and the installation of a storage tank to capture the reserves. For the first time, Garland would have community water rather than relying on the singularity of personal wells and outhouses.

There are many notable occurrences to R.D. Murphree's tenure as Mayor, but these are two of his greatest contributions to our community. In the days and years that followed, Murphree proved a valuable asset to those who followed in his footsteps, putting aside political differences to the advantage of Garland's citizenry. He would continue on as Garland's precinct chairman for many years, and seems to have taken great pride in reporting that harmonious meetings always prevailed.

On September 21, 1925 R.D. Murphree was involved in a significant accident just North of Mesquite when a water wagon turned in front of him. The crash was said to be unavoidable and Murphree and his passenger, Gordon Holford, sustained substantial injuries when the glass windshield shattered. Murphree lost part of one finger while another was badly mangled; in addition, Murphree sustained cuts and bruises to the face. Holford suffered a severed artery in his hand as well as other numerous cuts. Both survived. Holford was tended to in Mesquite, Murphree was carried to Forney. The injuries were said to be painful but not serious.



R. D. Murphree

While never a member of Garland Lodge, R.D. Murphree certainly paid many visits to the building on the square. His wife, Clem, was active in the Garland Chapter of Eastern Star and served as Worthy Matron in 1948-49. Their son, David W. Murphree, was a member of 441.

Our Honorable Brother Murphree passed to the Celestial Lodge on October 24, 1952 after suffering a heart attack, but in his life we find that interesting dichotomy that still affects the Garland Fraternity as much today as it did then and has done since our

Lodge was Constituted "only eight years after the close of the Civil War," and that is this: Garland is home to nearly a thousand Masons today, but they do not necessarily meet in the Lodges closest to their home. Masons travel the roads to where they find like-minded Brethren with similar interests and who somehow make them feel that they have arrived home.

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*Scyene was a small town in East Central Dallas County, Texas, United States, 10 miles east-southeast of downtown Dallas. It is now a neighborhood in east Dallas, just west of Mesquite. The town's location was bounded by South Sam Houston and Cheyenne roads on the east, Military Parkway on the north, North Prairie Creek (the creek, not the road) on the west, and Bruton Road on the south. The center of the town was located at the intersection of Scyene Road and North Saint Augustine Drive (9600 Scyene Rd. & 3000 N. St. Augustine Dr.).

ON THE MASONIC ROAD

By Bill Crow, Staff Writer

Gators, Gumbo, Greens, and Shoo-fly Pie...
What do those memories conjure-up in your mind?
This "On the Masonic Road" is about history,
memories past, and "old stuff" ...



Most often when we travel the Masonic Road, we travel in manufactured luxury, on 4, 6, or 8, lane freeways and toll roads with huge lit and electronic advertisements and billboards. Often, we are distracted at night by the glare of flashing advertisement lights so bright they might divert your attention from your driving responsibilities. We live in a fast-paced and ever-increasing plethora of diversion opportunities vying for our attention, some good, and some not so good, but hard to ignore. How did we get here? What happened to the pleasantries of travel and the unhurried pathways to where you are going?

We have to exercise our memories to recall times past when roads and highways were two lane roads, some dirt, some gravel, brick, and or concrete or asphalt. We might recall the time when the roads traveled offered information to the traveler by small locally posted road signs, advertisements and banners. We might recall the “Burma-Shave” signs and Rose and Vitalis Hair Oil advertisements and Brylcream Hair Cream signs. We might remember Tilly’s Café in Haven, Kansas, or Zentner’s Daughter and Buffalo Gap Steak House Restaurants, north and south of Abilene, Texas ... We might remember when you could get a tall glass of Buttermilk, with a side of white bread or cornbread and a cup of coffee for 11 cents for lunch, or a sign erected by the local Masonic Lodge right beside or behind the Town City Limits sign stating “Masonic Lodge, Supper at 6:30 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM.”

For those of us that reside and attend Lodge in large metroplex areas, we seldom get to, or take the time to, travel the less travelled or county roads. Many of those “Old” same signs continue to be posted on those county and community roads, we just need to find them ... they still exist.

We just need to “slow-down and take the time to remember and to find what we think we are missing.”

In Southeast Texas, as well in many

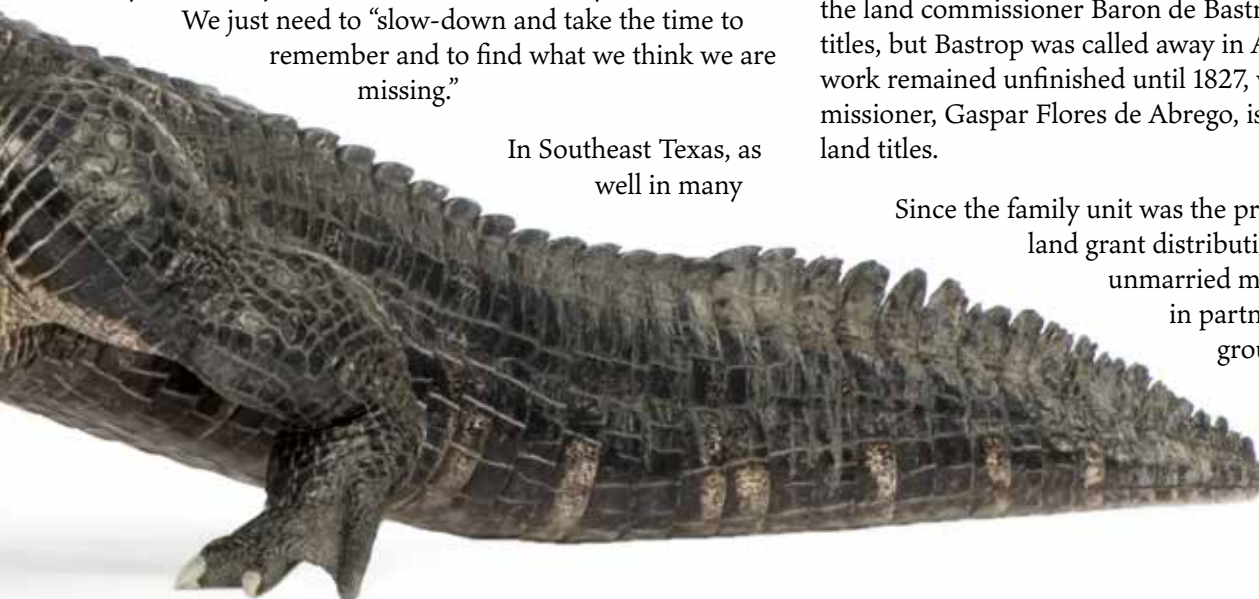
other parts of Texas, memories of Gators, Gumbo, Greens, and Shoo-Fly pie, are more than memories. They still exist as well as smoked ribs, turkey legs, catfish, and mud-bugs (crawdads), and other great Southern side delicacies that continue to salivate the pallet. Texas has been blessed with culinary treats from about every ethnic and nationality across the globe. And, as a result of those special delights, our great state has become a signpost to the world of our great diversity, our strength, and our heritage.

As I travel the Masonic Road, whether it be “On the Road,” or traveling through the vehicle of information technology, I am often amazed what I did not know or remember. An example is the Texas history of the “Old Three Hundred.” Texas history is vivid, monumental, and heavily interlaced with Masonic heritage. As many Texas history enthusiast’s and serious students know, the reference to the “Old Three Hundred” is a significant history study both in Texas history and Masonic heritage ... Let’s take a short journey back in time to visit the Austin Colony of 1821 and see what the “Old Three Hundred” is about.

The name “Old Three Hundred” is often used to refer to the settlers who received land grants in Stephen F. Austin’s first colony. In January 1821 Stephen F. Austin’s father, Moses Austin, received a permit from the Spanish to settle 300 families in Texas, but he died in Missouri a short time later before he could realize his plans. Stephen F. Austin took his father’s place and traveled to San Antonio, where he met with the Spanish governor Antonio María Martínez, who acknowledged him as his father’s successor.

By the end of the summer of 1824 most of the “Old Three Hundred” were in Texas. During 1823 and 1824 Austin and the land commissioner Baron de Bastrop issued 272 land titles, but Bastrop was called away in August 1824, and the work remained unfinished until 1827, when the new commissioner, Gaspar Flores de Abrego, issued the remaining land titles.

Since the family unit was the primary unit for land grant distribution, Austin allowed unmarried men to receive grants in partnership, usually in groups of two or three. Twenty-two such partnership titles were issued to



fifty-nine partners. In all, 307 titles were issued, with nine families receiving two titles each. The total number of grantees, excluding Austin's own grant, was actually 297, not 300. The colonization decree required that all the lands should be occupied and improved within two years; most of the settlers were able to comply with the terms, and only seven of the grants were forfeited.

The lands selected by the colonists were along the rich bottomlands of the Brazos, Colorado, and San Bernard rivers, extending from the vicinity of present-day Brenham, Navasota, and La Grange, to the Gulf of Mexico. According to the terms of the colonization agreement, each family engaged in farming was to receive one Labor (about 177 acres), and each ranching family one Sitio (about 4,428 acres). Because of the greater grant to ranchers, a large number of the colonists identified themselves as stock raisers, or ranchers although they were actually planters.

Each family's Sitio was to have a frontage on the river equal to about one-fourth of its length; thus, the east bank of the Brazos was soon completely occupied from the Gulf to what is now Brazos County. Most of the labors (farming and grower's communities) were arranged in three groups around San Felipe de Austin, which formed the nucleus of the colony.

The majority of the Old Three Hundred colonists were from the Trans-Appalachian South; the largest number were from Louisiana, followed by Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri. Virtually all were originally of British (English Speaking) ancestry. Many had been born east of the Appalachians and were part of the large westward migration of the early years of the nineteenth century. Most were farmers, and many already had substantial means before they arrived.

History presents that as many as 1/3 of the original "Old Three Hundred" may have had Masonic ties before and following the colonization of the colony. When reviewing the genealogy of the original immigrants' burial locations, many were interred in Masonic Cemeteries within or in the vicinity of the original first Austin Colony boundaries.

The Original Austin Colony of 1821 (1823-1824 and subsequently completed in 1827) included what is currently identified by the most northward boundary location(s) of Brenham, Navasota, and La Grange, Texas and then continued south to the Gulf of Mexico.

One of the great and interesting adventures that are a part of this "On the Masonic Road" travel is to explore and journey into Southeast Texas and be able to travel on or in close proximity to the original El Camino real de los Tejas. It was near to and often intersected where the East Texas communities of Brenham, Navasota, and La Grange, Texas, are located on the Northwest part of the Austin Colony.

During the Spanish colonial period in North America, numerous "royal roads"—or Caminos Reales tied far-flung regions of the empire to Mexico City. One particular collection of indigenous trails and trade routes became known as el Camino real de los Tejas, the primary overland route for the Spanish colonization of what is today Texas and Northwestern Louisiana.

The trail's name is derived not only from its geographic extent but also from some of its original users. Spaniards referred to a prominent group of Caddo Indians as the Tejas, a word derived from the Caddo term for 'friend' or 'ally.' thus, the Spanish province of Tejas, the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas, and the historic trail traversing them owe their name to the Caddo language.

In looking at this "on the Masonic Road", adventure in our rear-view mirror, we have reviewed some significant Texas history, exercised our memories, traveled some East Texas back roads, identified some great areas for further adventure and travel, probably saw some very old Texas community and Masonic cemeteries to visit, partook of great Southern Texas and Cajun cuisine, and promised ourselves to make this trip again, spending enough time to savor the history, the scenery, the culture and of course, the food again.

If you want to know more about the original Austin Colony there are three great Masonic Lodges along with several others that can share the specifics of the settlement of the Austin Colony in Texas.

These Lodges are some of the very oldest in Texas. They all three have significant history and many, many spirited stories to share. As late spring, summer, and fall descends on the great state of Texas, don't miss out in visiting historic sites in Texas along with fellowship with Brothers in Texas Lodges. Take the time to call on or visit their lodges. They are all great Lodges and would welcome your visit.



**Graham Masonic Lodge
No. 20 in Brenham, Texas**

908 Hwy. 290 W., Brenham 77833
 176-year-old Lodge (Charter granted January 13, 1845)
 Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m., except Dec.
 Dennis Todd, Worshipful Master
 Lodge Phone: 979-836-2801

Special Note: Graham Masonic Lodge No. 20 recently continued its support for education with the establishment of a new endowed scholarship to the Blinn College Foundation.

The \$15,000 gift marks the third endowed scholarship endowed by the Lodge. All three were established in honor of Masons who have served as administrators, educators, or trustees at Blinn College, including Dr. Thomas M. Spencer, Dr. James H. Atkinson, Dr. Charles Cottingham, Waldo F. Burt, Bob Ham, B.C. Crawford, Nathan L. Byrd, James Carstarphen, Johnell Schmidt, Clifford “Conway” Draehn, Dr. Greg Phillips, and former Blinn trustees Julian E. Weisler, Leon Toubin, and Steve Westbrook.

“Our primary charity is support of education,” said Past Master Michael R. Thorpe. “Most lodges in the state are involved in education.”



**Navasota Masonic Lodge
No. 299 in Navasota, Texas**

300 E. Washington, Navasota 77868
 154-year-old Lodge (Charter granted June 14, 1867)
 Meetings: Second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
 Phillip Cox, Worshipful Master
 Lodge Phone: 936-825-6931



**LaFayette Lodge
No. 34 in La Grange, Texas**

U.S. Highway 77 North, La Grange, Texas 78945
 174-year-old Lodge (Chartered in 1847)
 Meeting: First Tuesday of each Month at 7:00 PM
 John D. Alexander, Worshipful Master
 Worship Master Phone: 979-733-6645

A little History: La Grange’s Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1847, with John Murchison as the first Worshipful Master.

Historically, Texas Masons have supported many civic causes including education. The most outstanding early school in La Grange, Texas was the La Grange Collegiate Institute, which was established by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. LaFayette Masonic Lodge No. 34 loaned the church \$500.00 to assist with the building of the structure, which was situated on the corner of South Jefferson and Walnut Streets. The first school session was held in 1848. The upper story of the Institute was used as a lodge room for the Masons.

The Lodge lost its charter in 1883-84 due to inactivity, but reformed in 1889 with its original lodge number and R. P. Kirk installed as Worshipful Master. The present lodge temple was dedicated June 22, 1939.

All three of the lodge’s endowed scholarships were funded through member donations or members who included a financial gift in their wills.

Well, I’m out of gas and I need to replace the ink ribbon on this old manual typewriter and it’s time to close this “On the Masonic Road” once again.

Let’s hear it for the support our Texas Lodges gave and continue to give in support of education in Texas ... It’s Great to be a Texas Mason!!

See you soon, “On the Masonic Road.” ★

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT



OFFICER LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Summer 2021

The Officer Leadership Training will instill confidence and effectiveness for your Lodge Officers. The Committee on Masonic Education and Service offers two programs for Master Masons to become leaders who can positively impact the operation of their lodge.

2021 Dates and Locations

August 6-8	Houston
August 20-22	Waco
August 27-29	Dallas
September 17-19	Corpus
September 24-26	Lubbock

Registration for the 2021 Officer Leadership Training Program is available via the Grand Lodge Member Portal under the Events Tab: https://tx.grandview.systems/users/sign_in

Ladies Program

The Ladies Program will begin on Friday evening with a short introduction to the program, and an opportunity to meet and visit with each other.

Saturday Morning, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Structure of Freemasonry
Masonic Philosophy
Inside the Lodge Room

Sunday Morning, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Masonic Philanthropy
Masonic Funeral Planning Guide
Q&A with Grand Lodge Trustees

The Ladies are encouraged to attend all meals, breakfast, lunch, and sit-down dinner on Saturday, as well as breakfast, the Devotional, and Graduation on Sunday morning.

Attention!

The dress is business casual for all sessions. However, there will be an opportunity for pictures with the Grand Master during graduation.

Officer Leadership 101

Mentoring, Planning, Grand Lodge Law, Balloting, Masonic Education

This program is geared towards preparing officers in the areas of Planning, Grand Lodge Law, Mentoring, Masonic Education, and Balloting.

- Following the program, the participant will be better prepared for the following:
- Setting a calendar of events and effectively planning for a successful year as Worshipful Master
- Understanding Grand Lodge Law to handle gray area situations
- Following Masonic procedure for running meetings
- A better understanding of the duties of the Lodge Officers
- Executing a mentoring program to engage candidates and recently-raised Master Masons
- Provide meaningful and unique Masonic Education opportunities for the Brethren of the Lodge
- Understanding the nuances of balloting procedures for a variety of voting circumstances

Officer Leadership 201

The Practice of Freemasonry, Grand Lodge and Lodge Finance, Investigations, Membership, Leadership

This program focuses on Leadership, Grand Lodge and Lodge Finance, Membership, Investigations, and the Application of Freemasonry.

- Following this program, participants will be better prepared to handle the following:
- Organize your Officers and your Lodge's Stated and Called Meetings
- Truly Lead your Officers through a successful year in the East
- Groom future leaders to be prepared for their upcoming responsibilities
- Establish a realistic annual Budget
- Re-inspire your members and establish activities that will bolster the Lodge membership
- Goal setting and establishing benchmarks to determine progress
- Understand required documentation for Grand Lodge reporting throughout the year

The Officer Leadership Training program begins Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. and finishes at approximately 10:00 p.m. that evening. Saturday begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. followed by the morning program, lunch at noon and a Q&A session with the Grand Lodge Trustees at 5:00 p.m. Saturday will conclude with a 6:00 p.m. plated dinner with our R. W. Deputy Grand Master as the keynote speaker. Sunday will begin with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and a Devotional, followed by the last session of the weekend. Graduation wraps up the morning session and the program is scheduled to be completed by 12:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Participants of the Officer Leadership Program 101 should bring a fully-charged Laptop with Word and Excel, a current copy of the Grand Lodge Constitution and Laws, a Monitor of the Lodge, the By-Laws of your Lodge, and a copy of your Lodge's Rules and Regulations. Writing material will also be necessary.

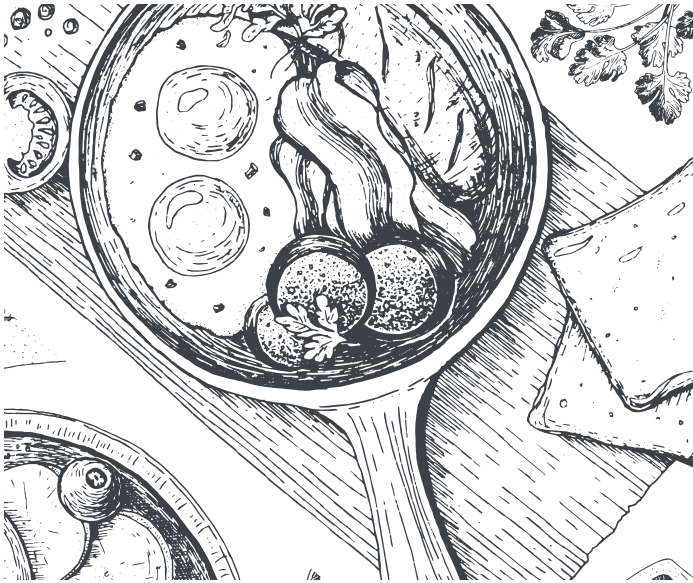
Participants of the Officer Leadership Program 201 should bring a fully-charged Laptop with Word and Excel, a current copy of the Grand Lodge Constitution and Laws, a Monitor of the Lodge, a copy of last year's Form 71 and IRS Form 990 (or 990E or 990E Postcard), and writing materials. Please collect the following information from your Lodge Secretary and Treasurer: Total Lodge Membership; number of Endowed, Life, and 50-Year Members; Annual Dues; Degree Fees and average number of annual degrees conferred; and lodge expenses such as utilities, rent, etc.

Registration for the Officer Leadership Training program will be online this year, available through the Member Portal on the Grand Lodge of Texas website beginning in May. You may call the Grand Secretary's Office for assistance if needed. Dress is business casual for the weekend, and participants will have an opportunity to have their pictures taken with the Grand Master during graduation.



Waterloo Ice House and Let the Lodge Die Rather Than Change

By James C. "Chris" Williams IV, Staff Writer



I almost didn't get to talk to him this month. He called and said that he was not going to be coming through San Antonio this month and of course I panicked and asked, "Well, how close are you going to come?" "I will be staying in Austin tonight," he said, "And then heading towards Dallas tomorrow." "Heck," I answered, "That is just an hour away from me. Why don't I drive up there and meet you for breakfast." "Ok, as long as it's early cause I need to get on the road as quick as I can," he said. "And since I am going out of my way for you, then you have to buy breakfast." I bit my tongue so I wouldn't say what immediately came to mind, and instead asked him if he had anything on his mind to put in the newsletter this month. "What kind of question is that," he growled. "I always have something on my mind." "I just meant...." "I know what you meant and to tell you the truth, I am a little aggravated this month and you are the perfect person to vent my frustrations at." I think he meant "to" instead of "at".....at least I hoped so, but I said, "Ok, John, There is a place in Austin where I had one of the best breakfasts I have ever had. It's called the Waterloo Ice House. Meet me there." "Brother Chris, I know this is Texas and I know what an Ice House is but I never had no breakfast in one....except if it was what they used to call a little "hair of the dog." "Brother John," I shot back. "There ain't no hair and there ain't no dog just a real good breakfast." "You know I am driving don't you? I can't be drinki....." "Cut it out John and just meet me there." "OK, OK, you don't have to get testy." Now for all of you out there who do not have the honor and privilege of being Texan and living in this great State, I need to explain that traditionally in Texas, Convenience stores and small beer bars were, and some still are, called ice houses. This one was once an ice house but had been converted into a restaurant but still had the look and feel of a genuine Texas "ice house." I got there before him and found a table situated strategically as far back in the corner and as far away from everyone else as possible.... because, well, you know how he is sometimes. By the time he strolled through the front door I had a couple of iced teas sitting on the table for us because neither of us are coffee people. He didn't even

look around to see if I was there and sat down as far away from me as a person could. I had to go up and get him. "Sorry Brother Chris," he said as he made it back to the table. "I didn't see you back there." I ignored him and handed him the menu which I knew he was going to like. It was all just basic home cooking, eggs, potatoes, bacon, ham, and sausage made in every way known to man, and plenty of it which is why I picked this place. He nodded his approval and looked around for someone to take our order. Our server was Sandy, a nice, bubbly, and energetic young lady who asked John if he knew what he wanted. "Yup," he said, "I am gonna start off with that Hill Country Breakfast with bacon and don't forget the gravy with my biscuits." She nodded and looked over at me and he cleared his throat semi-loudly and said, "Darlin, I'm not done yet." She raised her eyebrows in surprise and waited for him to continue. "I will also have one of those All Star Breakfast's, and a Chicken Fried Steak and Eggs breakfast. And make all them eggs over medium and don't scrimp on the gravy." "Sandy smiled and made the mistake of asking, "And what will the others be eating?" He looked at her without any understanding in his expression and she just waited. And then he got it, and blurted out, "Nooooo darling, that's just for me." It was her turn to be confused as she stood there in shock. I had been calculating all the eggs, bacon, and biscuits, he had ordered and the tally stood at 8 eggs, 6 slices of bacon, and 6 biscuits, and that didn't even count the hash browns. Slowly she turned to look at me and I quickly ordered the regular breakfast. It took her a few seconds to get it written down, and then off she went to the kitchen. I had picked a table for four because I knew there was going to be a lot of plates. We didn't have to wait long, as it seemed like only a few minutes had gone by when the kitchen door burst open and three servers headed to our table. Sandy put my plate down in front of me first and then proceeded to lay out a pattern of china in front of John that covered most of the rest of the table. As he dug right in to a big Chicken Fried Steak, I noticed two old timers sitting at the next table eyeballing John and his maxi-breakfast. They glanced over at me and shook their head as I spread my hands and shrugged. They went back to their coffee with smiles on their faces as I began to eat. I was dying to know what had John all riled up because when he is riled up about something it can be a good talk. It was futile trying to talk to him while he was eating so I just enjoyed my eggs and bacon, and boy those hash browns were great. I was halfway done when he looked up and waved at Sandy and ordered four more eggs and another plate of biscuits and gravy which caused the two old timers to raise their eyebrows. I said to one of them, "He knows that breakfast is the most important meal of the day." Both of them grinned and shook their heads again and went back to their coffee cups. John just rolled his eyes and continued to eat. The only sound that came from him was the occasional grunt or groan as all that food searched for a place to go. It made me remember that my Grandmother used to say I had a hollow leg because I ate so much when I was a kid. Man, John must have a lot of hollow places...most I am sure I would rather not know about. Finally, when all the plates had been cleaned and nothing was left that constituted nourishment of any kind, he looked up and said, "Boy am I upset."

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/waterloo-ice-house-and-let-the-lodge-die-rather-than-change/> for the rest of the story.

A LOOK BACK

Study Course in Masonry – June 1921

By Bro. C. P. Boon, San Antonio (A talk to the newly made Master Mason)



Brother C. P. Boon



One of the greatest honors that can come to any man is to be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. This honor has now been conferred upon you, and the high position will be exactly what you make out of it.

There is nothing forced upon any man in Freemasonry. Everything you have done in your initiation, passing and raising has been done of your own volition. Your future Masonic career will depend entirely upon yourself. If you “ask” you shall “receive”. If you “seek” you shall “find”. If you “knock” is shall be “opened” unto you.

Some brother has been selected to teach you in your “work” and from this brother you have learned the letter of the ritual. If you have had a teacher that has led you on to the letter and past that to the meaning of that letter and its spirit as seen today in the potentiality of Freemasonry, you will have much to be thankful for.

A new world has now been opened to you. You will find everything moving right along, and the first question you will be called upon to decide is this: will you sit on the side-line and judge what you see and hear, or will you become

a part and parcel of the activity and become assimilated by the new world and life? Much will depend upon your decision at this point. Should you sit and assume the attitude of judgement you will soon find that the “human equation” is present, and that the brothers around you are only “men” with all the faults, or at best, come of the faults of ordinary manhood. As you become more involved, you will see the finer points in the men around you.

You have reached a period in life when you are expected to and should exercise discrimination regarding all you see and hear, but the Ancient Mysteries taught their initiates “to see and hear and be silent”.

If all Freemasonry exists for today is to confer degrees, then has it reached the time when, like a “sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal” it “has a name to live but is dead.”

You are urged, therefore, to decide for yourself that you will seek to know what this Craft means in its life its virility and its spirit. Doing this, you will become a part and parcel of the great body of Freemasonry and it will have assimilated you.



Grand Lodge Committee Profile

By Bruce Hammond, Associate Editor

In this installment of our recurring column where we detail the duties and purposes of various Grand Lodge Committees, we examine the Committee on Internet. Of the twenty Permanent Committees, this is one with the most nebulous description. Moreover, it is one which may have members who are not Past Masters, but with the caveat that the Chair must be a member of Grand Lodge.

This committee is partially defined in Grand Lodge Law Article 126i in the following manner:

Article 126i Committee on Internet...In matters pertaining to the formulation, promulgation and dissemination of Masonic information said Committee shall be guided by a strict observance of the Landmarks, Ancient Customs and Usages of Freemasonry and such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Grand Trustees or prescribed by this Grand Lodge. The activities of the Committee shall be under the general supervision of the Grand Master and no new material or literature shall be promulgated until it has been approved by the Grand Trustees.

The reader is encouraged to continue reading their description and charge in the Grand Lodge Law.

From this description and lack of a direct charge as to specific duties, it is no wonder the committee responsibilities and focus changes almost as often as the Texas weather. Over the past few years, the committee has, prior to the current arrangements with Grandview, built numerous websites and implemented more than one system to support the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. This includes the session just held which allowed for a hybrid of in person/online sessions including voting and remote speakers. Most recently the committee developed and implemented the Grand Lodge App. These activities are added to the normal functions of what is essentially the Grand Lodge IT Department, charged with keeping the Grand Lodge software and computer hardware systems running, and converting older technologies to more current systems and processes.

Since there are no specific duties, we chose to use an interview style and asked current Committee Chair, Brother Craig Enderli, what the challenges and successes were that he faced, and what did he want readers to know about the committee.

Brother Enderli detailed the committee's current projects such as the Grand Lodge of Texas App ("TX Mason" on the App and Play Stores) and its upcoming addition of the Grand Masters Decisions. He also stated that he often receives comments and questions from members about the App messaging feature, wondering whether something they write will be reported to the Trustees. Craig pointed out their job is not to be the police, but to make sure the system is working. They are essentially the Highway Department, not the Highway Patrol.

He also said that one of the most challenging things was gaining access to information. His comment was that "everything has a political component," but that this issue is lessened with each new project

the committee successfully implements. It sounds like being on this Grand Lodge committee is no different than trying to get the "old guys" in the Lodge to update or add technology.

When asked what he wanted the readers to know, Brother Enderli stated:

First, that their committee is a non-budgeted committee, "there is no base budget for the committee." Every project, and every piece of hardware or software, must be cost justified to the Trustees before anything can move forward. He said that he looks at this as a mixed blessing - not being tied to what someone else wanted to do, allowing for a more agile response to member needs, Grand Trustee requests, and evolving technologies.

Second, the committee has an open-door policy to non-members of the committee, they welcome volunteers to work based on their knowledge and skills. Brother Enderli said that if you are interested all you have to do is contact him; he suggested messaging via the Grand Lodge App.

Third, that the Committee has been recommissioned to make more online resources available for the 2022 Grand Annual Communication, although he did not provide specifics for publication.

He also wants everyone to know how grateful the committee is to those previous committee members who dealt with growing pains of the committee and technology, and that the committee's job since Grandview is much more focused.

Lastly, he stated that had it not been for the efforts of Past Grand Master R.◌W.◌ Paul Underwood and Deputy Grand Master R.◌W.◌ Brad Billings, the "TX Mason" App would not exist, nor would the last Grand Annual Communication have gone so smoothly.

Brother Enderli closed with two things every Texas Mason should do, register on the Grand Lodge website Member Portal, and download the TX Mason App. The registration is free and the App is only \$6.99 per year, less than the cost of the law book update. The App includes the Grand Lodge Laws, the Monitor, access to the Merchandise Store, the Texas Freemason Magazine, and messaging functions which can be regionalized. Once you start using it, you will wonder why you waited so long to add it to your Masonic tools. In fact, it was used to research this article.

Having been around several iterations of the Internet Committee, I can tell you it is a thankless job that goes unnoticed until it doesn't work. A power spike here, an unannounced update from a provider, or just a good old-fashioned glitch, and they are in the spotlight and under the gun. This time we get to spotlight them before the glitch and for the great things they are doing for Texas Masonry.

Pioneer Park Cemetery

By jim hoffpaur, Staff Writer

Head west from the Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral down Young Street four and a half blocks to just west of Akard Plaza, then turn south between Pioneer Plaza and the Dallas Police Memorial, or for those savvy “Map Questers” who blaze a few trails of their own, make your way to 1201 Marilla Street, Dallas 75201. Here you will find Pioneer Park Cemetery, an amalgamation of four former graveyards, holding the remains of many of the city’s earliest settlers.

Located just south of the Historic District and in the Convention Center District of modern downtown Dallas, the cemetery nestles upon a knoll surrounded by the thriving high-rise city adjacent to Pioneer Plaza. Pioneer Plaza was dedicated in 1995 and recreates a cattle drive near a flowing stream through wooded acreage complete with bronze longhorn steers and three mounted cowboys. Truly ... no place but Texas!

Pioneer Park Cemetery is a reflection of Dallas’ 180-year history. Among the interred there are three War of 1812 veterans, nine participants of the Texas Revolution, one Union and twenty-eight Confederate Civil War veterans, fourteen Peters Colonists protestors, five members of the La Reunion French Colony, four Confederate colonels, two county judges, two district judges, two women of historical acclaim, one state senator, one lieutenant governor, early county and city government officials as well as clergy, lawyers, doctors, law enforcement agents, and firemen. Though he is buried in an unmarked grave in Austin, Dallas’ first citizen, John Neely Bryan (1810-77) was honored by the placement of a memorial on the grounds by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in 1954.

The cemetery location was relatively small before its March 21, 1857 purchase by local Freemasons and Odd Fellows, nine years after the establishment of Dallas County on March 30, 1846. During its 164-year history many changes have occurred.

Tannehill Lodge No. 52 and Odd Fellows Lodge No. 44 held the property approximately 99 years before the City of Dallas took charge of the care and maintenance in 1951. The first burials of two small children are believed to have taken place between 1846 and 1849.

The site consists of four sections: the Old City Section, the Jewish Section, the Odd Fellows Section, and the Masonic Section. The Masonic Section takes up approximately half of the acreage. The Old City Section was deeded to the City of Dallas in 1871. The Jewish Section, property of the Hebrew Benevolent Association, had all its graves moved to Emmanuel Cemetery. The Odd Fellows Section was also moved to another location sometime later. The Masonic Section burial site was formally closed in the early years of the 20th century with its last burials happening between 1921 and 1928. The children mentioned above were buried in the original City Section as was John Henry Long in 1870. Elizabeth McPherson’s grave (1853) is the oldest known grave in the Masonic Section.

The Confederate Monument, located on the right-hand side of the cemetery until being removed by the City of Dallas in June of 2020, was

relocated in 1961 from its original site in Old City Park, formerly Sullivan Park, less than one mile away. It was considered Dallas’ oldest outdoor art sculpture. It consisted of a 60-foot obelisk flanked by four statues: Albert Sidney Johnston, General Robert E. Lee, General Stonewall Jackson, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Originally installed in the Old City – Sullivan Park site in 1896, the Monument was celebrated during an all-day event attended by 40 Confederate and 65 Union veterans. It was removed, following an 11-4 vote by the Dallas City Council, in June 2020.

Among some of the notable Masons buried in the cemetery are:

James K. Polk Record (1834-72) who was educated in Tennessee as a lawyer. He became District Attorney of Dallas in 1860, leaving office shortly thereafter to serve in the Confederate Army. After the war he became a state senator and served as a delegate to the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1866. He served as Master of Tannehill Lodge No. 52 and was an active Odd Fellow.

Georgia native Trezevant Calhoun Hawpe (1820-83), a widower, along with his young son, moved to Dallas County where he was elected County Sheriff in 1850. After two terms he became Justice of the Peace, County Coroner, and officer of Tannehill Lodge No. 52. He organized and was 1st Colonel of the 31st Texas Cavalry in 1862. Hawpe met an early death when - during a quarrel with a friend - he was fatally stabbed on the steps of the Dallas County Courthouse.

Alexander Harwood came to Dallas in 1844 from Tennessee. Harwood was a six-term Dallas County Clerk from 1850-80. He served the Confederacy as Assistant Postmaster and represented Dallas County at the 1866 Constitutional Convention. He was also a member of Tannehill Lodge No. 52.

John McClanahan Crockett (1816-87) was a South Carolina native and moved to Dallas in 1848 to open one of the pioneer settlement’s first law



Pioneer Cemetery
Historical Marker



WM Bill Penix with Eakins
headstone, (steps leading
to the front of Dallas City Hall
in background)

offices. He served as a state legislator, Mayor of Dallas, and meteorological observer for the Smithsonian Institution in the 1850s. He was Lieutenant Governor of Texas during the first two years of the Confederacy. A prominent Mason, Crockett also helped establish The Grange in North Texas.

Kentucky native John W. Lane (1835-88) was a member of Tannehill Lodge No. 52. He settled in Dallas as a printer for the Dallas Herald in 1859 before joining the 18th Texas Cavalry during the Civil War. He was elected Mayor of Dallas but resigned to become personal assistant to Governor James Throckmorton. While serving as Texas State Representative, Lane sealed the economic future of Dallas in 1871 by amending legislation that rerouted the Texas & Pacific Railroads into the area.

James Wellington Latimer (1825-59) editor, cofounder, and publisher of first Dallas newspaper, served in 1st Division of Texas Volunteers during the Mexican War. He purchased a partnership in the Texas Times in Paris and, along with co-owner William Wallace, moved it to Dallas in 1849 - which then had only thirty-nine residents. Known originally as The Cedar Snag, then Dallas Herald, it was incorporated into today's Dallas Morning News in 1885. He also served as Justice of the Peace and Chief Justice of Dallas County, and was a Charter Member of Tannehill Lodge No. 52 and Grand Orator of the 1858 Grand Lodge of Texas Annual Communication. An ardent advocate of slavery, Latimer frequently targeted famous brother Mason Sam Houston and his political beliefs.

John C. McCoy (1818-87) of Indiana, was a lawyer and politician, He was Charter Secretary of Tannehill Lodge No. 52 and served as Dallas County's first District Clerk. Later he became District Attorney, a Mustering Officer for the Confederate Army, Texas House Representative, and founder of Dallas Bar, Dallas Historical Society Charter, and a member of Tannehill Lodge No. 52. McCoy Street is named in his honor.

Sam B. Pryor (1820-66) left Virginia for Texas in 1846 to become the first Mayor of Dallas. He was a physician by trade and a local civic leader. He served as 1st Lieutenant of the Dallas Light Artillery and, later, as Regimental Surgeon of 19th Texas Cavalry. Pryor Street bears his name.

James A. Smith (unknown-1863) arrived in Texas from Mississippi in 1846 and became the first preacher to establish a Methodist Church in

Dallas County, planted the first cotton plant, and constructed the first cotton gin in Dallas. Smith was appointed on Dec 8, 1858 as the first President of the Dallas County Fair, which later was renamed the State Fair of Texas. He was a Charter member of Tannehill Lodge No. 52 and namesake for James A. Smith Lodge No. 395 in Farmers Branch.

John Good (1827-82) left Mississippi for Texas in 1851; he was a Master of Tannehill Lodge No. 52, an active Odd Fellow, and a member of Dallas Commandery No. 6 Knights Templar. Good served as Mayor and Judge of the 16th Judicial District of Dallas before being removed during Reconstruction.

Though not buried at in Pioneer Park Cemetery, 1845 Grand Master of Texas Masons Nicholas H Darnell (1807-85), was interned at the Dallas Center Cemetery. His home lodge was Sam Houston Lodge No. 32 in Shelbyville, TX.

Tannehill Lodge No. 52 likes to refer to itself as "The Mother Lodge of Dallas." The Lodge's original petition for a Charter was made to The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas in 1847. Dispensation was promptly granted in January 1848. However, the first meeting of the Lodge was held under the Warrant of 1848 during the summer of 1849. The six Master Masons who opened that inaugural Lodge were Worshipful Master John M. Crockett, Senior Warden William O'Gwinn, Junior Warden Nat Buford, Treasurer Perry Dakin, Secretary John McCoy, and Tiler Samuel G. Newton. No blue lodge in Texas has operated under a Warrant since that first meeting.

During its 172 years, Tannehill Lodge has changed locations ten times. Its first permanent home was on the Southeast corner of Carondelet and Houston Streets. The Lodge was on the second floor. The first floor held church services on Sunday and was the home of the first public school in Dallas held Monday through Friday. During the period of its fifth home in the Kain & Campbell Building, Brother William Folsetter placed his life in great peril, scaling three flights of stairs to rescue the Lodge's records during a large fire in the building. The Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral, where it currently resides, became the Lodge's home in 2013.

Tannehill Lodge Cemetery Committee members include current Worshipful Master Bill Penix, twice Past Master Chief Bear Who Walks Softly, and current Secretary - PM Scott G Hill. Hill, who helped provide much of the detail of this article, and his now deceased father Gary, are one of the Lodge's two father-son Past Master combinations. They join William C. (whom Young Street is named after) and John M. Young, Tannehill Lodge Masters in the late 1800s.

Again, thanks go out to Secretary Scott G. Hill for his time and diligence in making this article possible.

References:

Texas State Historical Assn.

Pioneer Park Cemetery website
masonsofdallas.org

Photos: courtesy of Hubert Pralitz Photography



Nicholas Darnell
Historical Marker

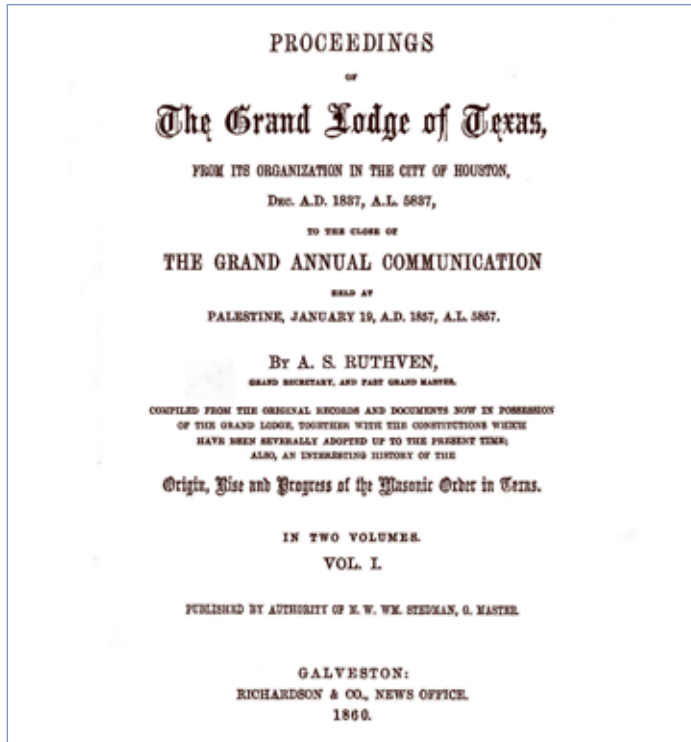


John M. Crockett headstone,
(first WM of Tannehill Lodge
operating under dispensation
in 1848)

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

Texas Lodge of Research: Education Thru Preservation

By Christian D. Moore, Worshipful Master



For the first twenty years of its existence, the Proceedings of The Grand Lodge of Texas were not made widely available. Before working on the consolidated volume of those years, Grand Secretary A. S. Ruthven requested Grand Master Wm. Stedman's approval. Grand Master Stedman's response, in part, included the observation that:

"The copies of the earlier proceedings are becoming increasingly rare, and it will not be long before they will be lost to us forever unless their preservation is secured in some such manner as is proposed by you."

While the Texas Lodge of Research would not come into existence for another century after R•W•. Ruthven's work to preserve the records and history of the Grand Lodge of Texas, its members continue to ensure that the legacy of Freemasonry in Texas is preserved for future generations.

In the coming year, TLR will strive not only to continue our work of documenting the history of Masonry within the Grand Lodge of Texas but will also work to improve how we share that history with the Masons of Texas and other jurisdictions. We are chal-

lenging ourselves to find new and innovative ways to share the incredible work done by TLR members with others. We expect that this will include a continuation of virtual options for attending the public parts of our quarterly meetings, an increase in presentations by our members to other bodies, and taking the quarterly meetings to parts of the state that haven't hosted a TLR meeting in some time.

We invite all Masons and their families to join us for each meeting weekend, and we look forward to discussing ways that we can help bring the Texas Lodge of Research to your community through a presentation, establishment of a study club, or by hosting a future meeting.

For more information about TLR and our upcoming meetings, please visit www.TexasLodgeOfResearch.org

Fraternally,

Christian D. Moore
Worshipful Master
Texas Lodge of Research

John Joseph Ray, The Oldest Mason

By Jeremy Hogan, Chairman, Committee on History

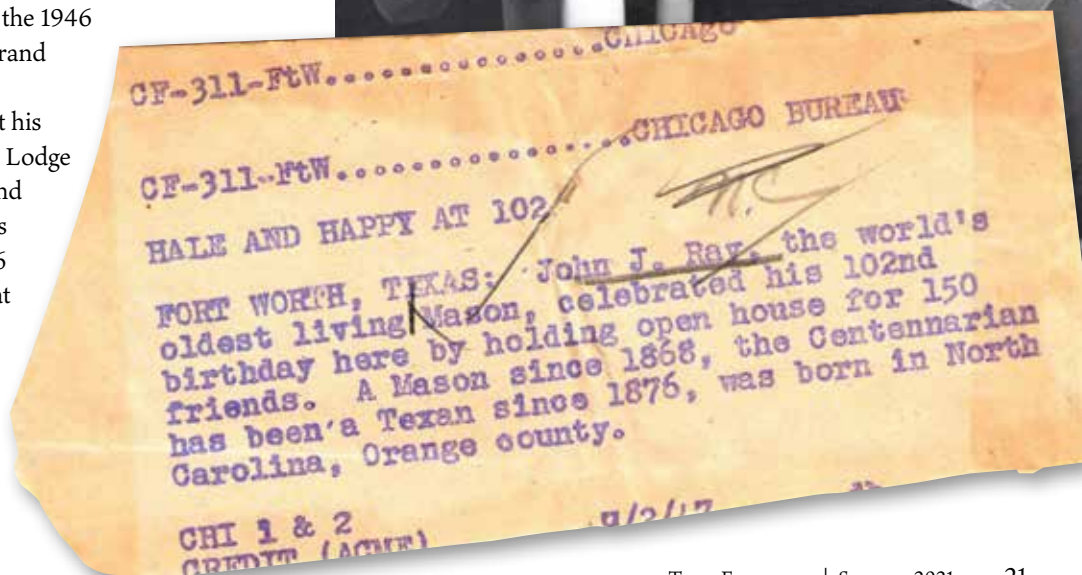
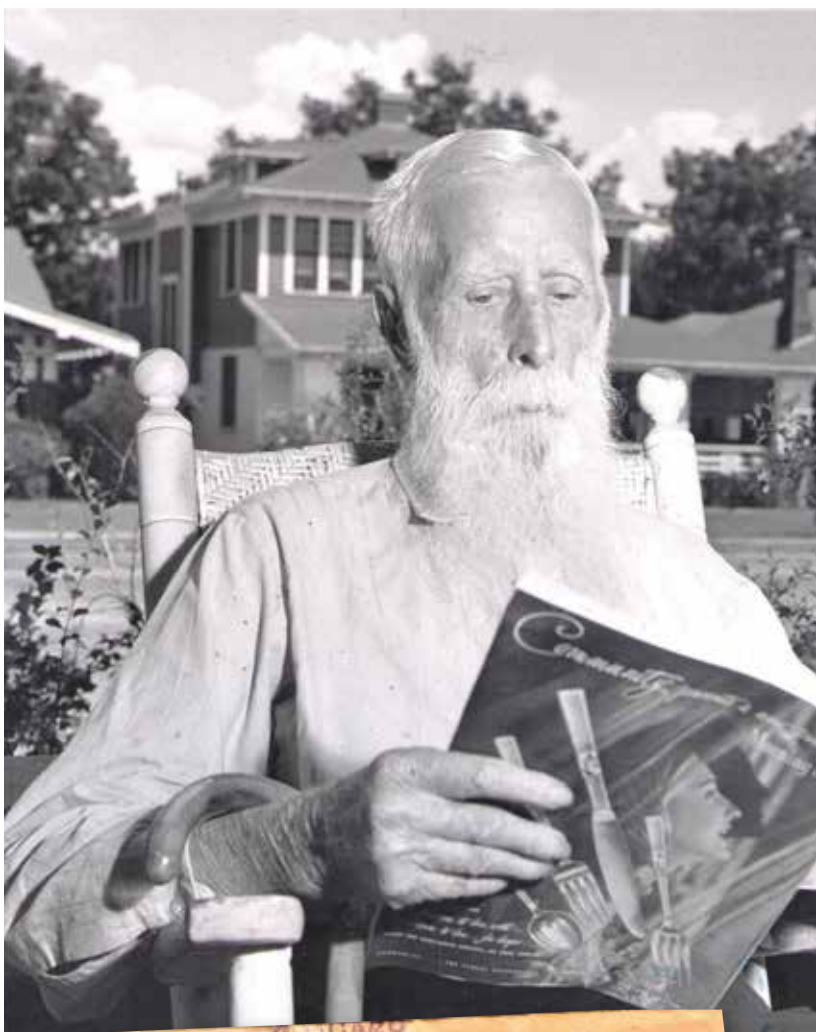
John Joseph Ray was born on Sept 2, 1845 in Orange County, North Carolina. At the age of twenty-two, he was raised as a Master Mason in Gravel Hill Lodge No. 232 in Gravel Hill, Tennessee. At the age of twenty-five, he affiliated with Dublin Lodge No. 504. Dublin, Texas which is eighty miles southwest of Fort Worth.

Grand Lodge records indicate that Brother Ray served Dublin Lodge in almost every station twice, and from 1898 to 1905 he was the lodge Secretary. He served as the District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 36 in 1902 and Masonic District No. 67 in 1905. He also served as the Grand Junior Steward in 1907, the Grand Tiler in 1909, 1912, and 1915-1918. Brother Ray was then the Grand Senior Steward in 1922, and finally the Grand Senior Deacon in 1923. Brother Ray was also on a number of Grand Lodge Committees during these years.

He was also a member of the Texas Royal Arch and had attended their annual sessions for 70 years. In 1945 he received the Knights of the York Cross of Honor from the Chapter and Council of Royal Arch Masons.

The 1946 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas detail a speech, wherein more of his accomplishments were mentioned. At the age of 100, he conferred the Royal Arch Degree in order to “show the youngsters how to do perfect work.” The Royal Arch Degree is one of the longest degrees in Freemasonry lasting almost twice as long as the Master Mason degree. This laborious degree requires approximately a dozen men, and lots of props.

Brother Ray was not in attendance at the 1946 Grand Lodge, but he attended The Grand Lodge of Texas and York Rite annual communications regularly throughout his life. On his 105th birthday, the Grand Lodge of Texas presented him with a diamond Past Master’s pin. He passed from this Earth on May 7, 1952 at the age of 106 being the oldest Mason in the world at that time. Brother Ray had been a Mason for 84 years.





MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, ONE SMILE AT A TIME!



This Super Hero loves his FTFC kit!
Photo provided by School Nurse at Benfer Elementary, in partnership with Northwest Lodge No. 1434



Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas (MCFS) created the Fantastic Teeth Fan Club program in 2010. The program's focus is to help young children and their parents learn to prevent painful dental problems, teach healthy oral hygiene habits, and in the process, avoid expensive and painful treatments.

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We welcome your call about bringing the Fantastic Teeth Fan Club to your community! We're glad to show you how to help local children and their parents avoid the pain and expense of toothaches. Your Lodge involvement will be recognized with a Brighter Futures certificate, in signage at our booth during Grand Lodge, and on the MCFS website. Call our office at 817-503-1500 for more information.



Photo provided by First Grade Teacher at Richards Elementary in partnership with Richards Lodge No. 1116

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	529KC-PM	TAIL LIGHT DECALS - Pair w/PM	\$5.00	
	529SC8	8" WINDOW DECAL - S&C	\$10.00	
	530KC	3" CAR EMBLEM - w/Grand Master's Logo	\$15.00	
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