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FREEMASON

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TEXAS FREEMASON
MAGAZINE

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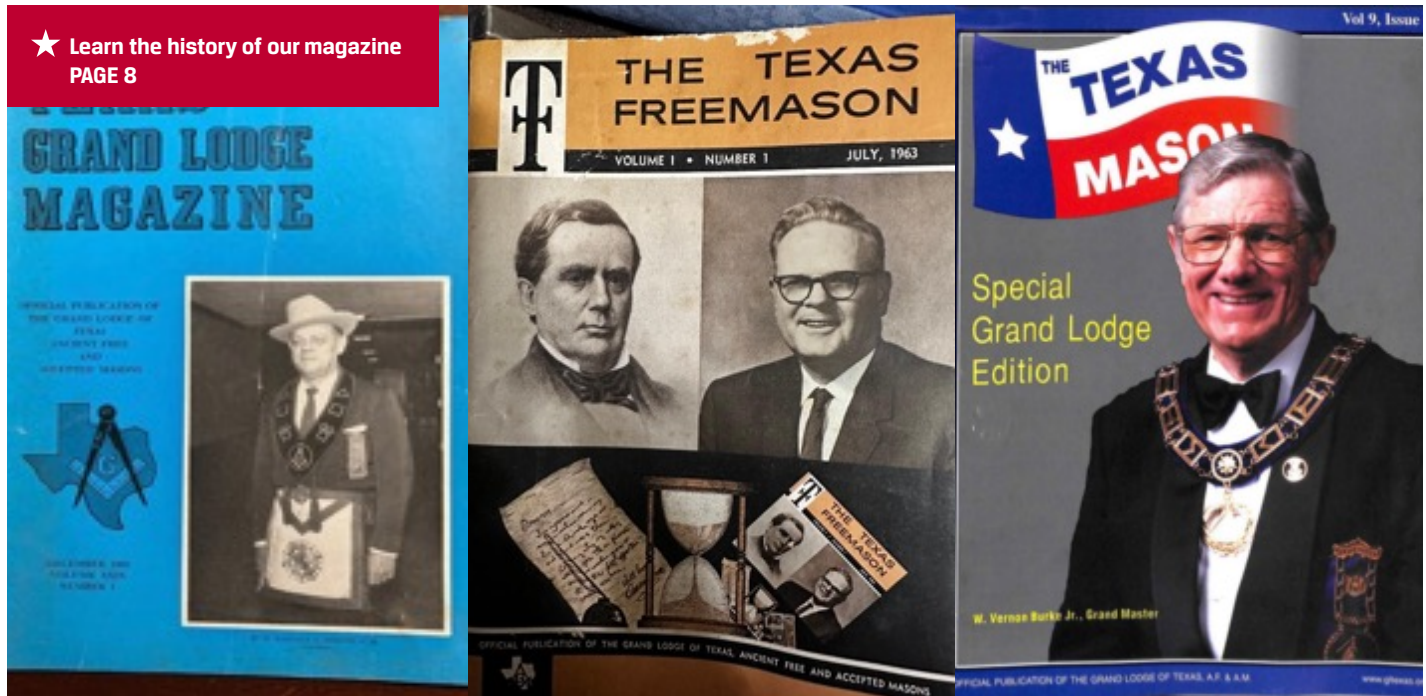
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Texas Freemason Magazine – Over One Hundred Sixty Years and Counting

The Texas Freemason Magazine is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of Texas A. F. & A. M. It is published four times a year for the members of Texas Lodges and subscribers. Spring and winter issues are available in print. Summer and fall issues are available in PDF format at <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org>. Opinions expressed by the Editors and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Grand Lodge of Texas Copyright 2020, by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. All rights reserved.

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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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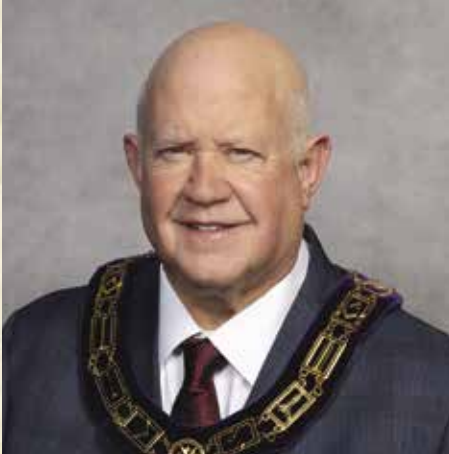
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Archives

<https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/texas-freemason-magazine>

A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



My Brethren,

Greetings. In my address to you in the Fall of 2022, I alluded to the season, and the reaping of the efforts of our great Fraternity. I wrote to you in the Summer of 2023 as our great Fraternity was continuing our good works and sowing the sustenance for our future's reaping. We are now transitioning into a new season, whereupon we must reflect upon our good works and project our noble plans for continued reaping. I often reflect upon one of the two working tools of an Entered Apprentice Mason. The 24-inch gage is a symbol that I hope each of us govern ourselves with. As Texas Masons, we must discern our usual vocations from those of a necessary demand. This powerful working tool is a reminder that the ideals and practices of man founded by integrity and character is what is required to be a true and proper Mason.

Recently, the Light that we have obligated ourselves to defend has been under deliberate attack. Man was provided the intelligence to use created objects as beneficial tools, or to craft tools from objects for beneficial purposes. In Genesis 4 we read that Cain had an opportunity to use a tool for good, but in response to jealousy

and ignorance, he chose to use an object for evil. The evil imposed upon Brother Robert Wise, his family, and McAllen Lodge No. 1110 is serious, as was the arson attack upon the beautiful Scottish Rite Temple in El Paso. I share with each of you the solemn nature of these events and I stand with each of you against the evil born of ignorance that exists in our society. Evil is to darkness as Good is to light. Do be careful and be ever mindful of your surroundings and the environment in which you work and live. Become educated on how to recognize a potential threat and how to respond to a situation. Dr. R.◌W.◌ Aaron W. Tyksinski is a qualified instructor and presents a powerful education titled, "Hate Crimes and Active Shooter Awareness." I encourage you to attend one of his presentations. It may save your life, or a family member's life, a friend or colleague, or a Brother.

The District Deputy Grand Masters of the several Masonic Districts have continued to deliver to the several Lodges of their respective Districts the importance of conducting thorough investigations. There has never been a more important time to focus on the quality of the men we are desirous to grow our Fraternity with. The Lodge's investigation of a man and his family is the single most important thing that we can do to protect our Order. Our light is for our society for perpetual benefit.

The Reinstatement and Legacy Programs have been successful this year. I am thankful for the many Worshipful Masters and Secretaries who continue to reach out to the Brothers who have not graced us with their presence for some time. I hope this continues. We are a better organization with men who have something positive to give, as opposed to falling through the cracks of an administrative discourse.

In closing, I ask that each of you live by the Masonic Code of Honor. A building cannot stand if constructed on a weak foundation, nor can our Fraternity thrive if its members are not comprised of unimpeachable character and not founded in truth. Please join me in our aim to grow our Fraternity of quality men by assisting R.◌W.◌ Bart Henderson, R.◌W.◌ Raborn Reader, and R.◌W.◌ Jim Rumsey as they continue their masonic plans for 2024, 2025, and 2026 (and beyond). I have every confidence they will lead the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas with valor and esteem.

I am grateful to be your Grand Master. I am looking forward to continuing to work in the quarries with each of you for many years. First Lady Teresa and I thank you for inspiring us to be better servants to the Craft and our collective society.

"May the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you."

G. Clay Smith
Grand Master 2023



GRAND LODGE

A WORD FROM THE Grand Treasurer



Brethren,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on several matters that I have been involved in at Grand Lodge this year.

Investments

I am pleased to announce that the June 30, 2023, year to date earnings of the Endowed Membership Fund exceeded 9%. The equity markets have been very strong this year and our account has benefited from the improvement. In my opinion we are well positioned for the future with a broadly diversified portfolio, properly allocated, with reduced investment costs. The three funds belonging to the Grand Lodge have also benefited as they have the same investment policy and plan as the Endowed Membership Fund. David Ashley and the Investment Committee have regular meetings with the investment manager to which the trustees and other stakeholders are invited.

Accounting at Grand Lodge

I have been working with our Grand Secretary Justin Duty to bring in a part-time bookkeeper which should result in the following benefits. Knowing that we will have a new Grand Secretary in January, this will reduce some of the

detailed work he will have to learn and do weekly. It will also improve internal controls, and we should achieve some cost savings in our overall accounting expense.

I am pleased to announce that the June 30, 2023, year to date earnings of the Endowed Membership Fund **exceeded 9%**. The equity markets have been very strong this year and our account has benefited from the improvement. In my opinion, we are well positioned for the future with a broadly diversified portfolio, properly allocated, with reduced investment costs.

Protecting Grand Lodge Assets

Brothers Allan Lazor and Phil Morehead have worked together to develop a plan to better protect our Grand Lodge Endowment Fund. We have already installed procedures to help protect the Endowed Membership Fund which belongs to the Lodges.



Treasurer School
Third Session
October 2

Treasurer Schools

Brothers Cody Cockroft, Chris Choat, and Sam Gibbons are to be congratulated for the two Treasurer schools conducted by Zoom so far. I encourage you to sign up for the third session which is scheduled for October 2nd.

Fraternally yours,

Rick Townsend
Grand Treasurer



NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas proudly upholds a legacy of more than a century devoted to helping children and families. We are continuing that tradition. Scholarships of \$2,500 will be awarded annually. All eligible high school seniors are encouraged to apply. Eligibility criteria are included in the application.

**APPLICATION WINDOW IS
JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 30 ANNUALLY.**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MCFSTX.ORG
FOR APPLICATION AND DEADLINE INFORMATION.



The Hoodwink

By Brother Henry Taylor, The Builder Magazine, September 1923

In the candidate's experiences of initiation, the hoodwink plays a larger part than we are wont to think. To him it is one of the most impressive of the things that are done to him. Being darkened, his other senses are all the more alert; what he touches, hears or smells takes on an added significance. His imagination is aroused, everything becomes magnified, so that some of the simplest things done about him, steps taken, or words said, assume almost terrifying magnitudes. His fears and apprehensions are abnormally active. In this state he is, so far as his emotions and mind are concerned, in a state of such impressibility that every stage of his experience leaves behind it an indelible memory. The reader may verify this for himself by recalling his own impressions, especially of his First Degree, though there were times afterwards when his being in darkness possessed an even greater power to move him to fear and awe. It is, no doubt, because darkness heightens all the sensibilities, and thereby increases the effect of the ceremonies, that the Hoodwink is used. It is an instrument of psychological effect.

This was early discovered by those in charge of initiations, for it is a matter of record that in the most ancient ceremonies the candidate was made to walk in darkness, either by shutting all light from the room or by the use of the Hoodwink. It was so in the ceremonies of Eleusis, of Isis and of Mithras; it was doubtless so in a hundred other secret fraternities of which no records remain to us.

As regards our own rites, it should be carefully noted that the purpose of the Hoodwink is not to hide things from the candidate. There is nothing to hide. Moreover, all that there is later on revealed, for the Hoodwink is removed in the early part of the ceremonies. The Hoodwink is a thing to be used to bring about a certain state of mind, and to suggest certain ideas, and may, therefore, be classified as a symbol.

Like the manner in which the candidate finds himself clothed, and the way whereby he finds himself rendered helpless and utterly dependent on his guides, the Hoodwink may be considered as a symbol of the weakness and destitution of the uninitiated. Initiation is a process of birth into a new world, or into a new relation, or into a new order of experience: relative to that new world into which he is about to enter, the candidate is like the babe unborn, a helpless creature lying bound in its

mother's womb. Accordingly, he is in darkness: not yet born he has no use of his eyes, and no light whereby to see if he could use them.

The effect and meaning of the Hoodwink, as the candidate himself knows and feels it, may be thus interpreted, but there is a larger meaning to the Hoodwink, considered as a thing apart, as one of the many symbols of the lodge, which, if we will consider it aright, will lead us into an order of ideas from which much light flows. Indeed, I have come to believe, after some study of the matter, that the Hoodwink, and the rites and experiences attendant upon it, deserves a place among the outstanding landmarks (if I may thus use a word usually reserved for other connections) of our system of symbolism.

In searching for its meaning as one of the major symbols it is significant to note that the Hoodwink is removed (symbolically, that is) by the declaration that there must be light, and that there is light. When the light comes the darkness flees away. The lodge does not cause anything to come into existence that was not already there; it creates nothing; it furnishes the candidate with no new faculties or senses; it furnishes nothing but light.

All this is true in a great way of human experience everywhere. The "profane" is one to whom a thing has not yet been revealed; he cannot see. But it is not because anyone has deliberately and arbitrarily forbidden him to see; his blindness is in himself, and is his own fault. There at his side is the object of his search, or, it may be, the great truth of which he has dreamed, but he sees nothing of either because his eyes are holden. When he has learned how to open his eyes, light comes, and he can make his own that for which he has searched. The real initiation is an internal awakening whereby he who before was blind to that which lay before him can now behold it, who now can make his own that which he needs.

Visit <https://texasfreemasonmagazine.blogspot.com/2023/08/the-hoodwink.html> for the rest of the story.



Grand Lodge Take Time to Read Committee

By Jerome Weilmuenster, Staff Writer



In this issue we will review the Grand Lodge Take Time to Read Committee, a committee focused on providing Lodges with an easy, effective community outreach program.

We find the legal authority to appoint this committee in Chapter 14 of Grand Lodge Law – Temporary Committees, Article 99, which states:

Art. 99. Other Temporary Committees. Such other committees as may be necessary may be appointed by direction of this Grand Lodge. (See also Art. 40).

The Take Time to Read program encourages kindergarten through 2nd graders to read a little something every day in the month of March. Each participating child is given a calendar to keep track of daily reading. The calendars are collected in the first part of April and every completed calendar earns a prize for the participant. If a child has not yet learned to read, a parent can read to him and complete the calendar.

Take Time to Read is a great way to build relationships with a local school (or several schools). Additionally, it can build on the relationship from Fantastic Teeth or perhaps allow the introduction of that program. But most importantly it encourages young children to read or learn to read and fosters parent/child time reading together.

The reading program is co-managed by Kathleen Saxon at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital and Texas' Grand Lodge Take time to Read committee comprised of Brothers Bruce Dalton (chair), Richard

Gaddis (co-chair), Al Alexandre, Coby Carter, Fabriel Cisneros, Johnnie Hutchins, and Kenneth Poe. The committee meets twice a year or more often by Zoom.

This program has been around since 1999, but due to Covid and other factors, participation among Texas Lodges has dropped off dramatically. If your Lodge has been looking for a community outreach program that requires just a little effort and virtually no expenditure, Take Time to Read may be just what you are looking for. The rewards are great for the Lodge and for young children.

Brother Dalton says, "I strongly encourage all Lodges to plan on how they can participate in the Grand Lodge of Texas' 'Take Time to Read' Program. Currently, a disappointingly small representation of our fraternity is participating in this rewarding program. Our Grand Master has requested that we substantially increase the number of participating Lodges this year."

For more information and to start the program for you Lodge contact the program chair, Brother Bruce Dalton at bdd2208@gmail.com or phone 817/223-1471. The program administrator Kathleen Dixon can be reached at 214/559-7817 or taketimetoread@tsrh.org.

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By Charles Lee Steen, Contributing Writer

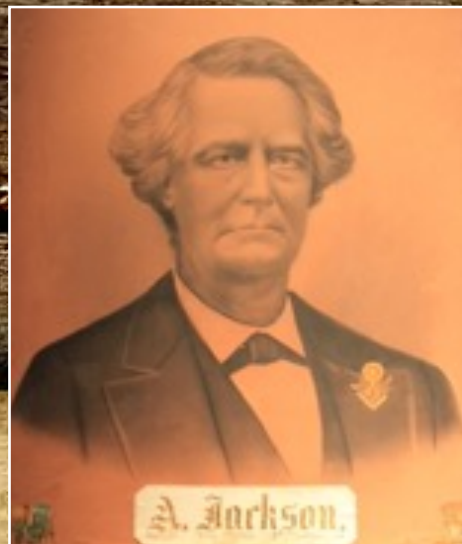
Every new Master Mason looks forward to receiving the newest issue of the Texas Freemason magazine. Published twice a year in printed form and twice a year as a PDF on the Grand Lodge of Texas website, such was not always the case.

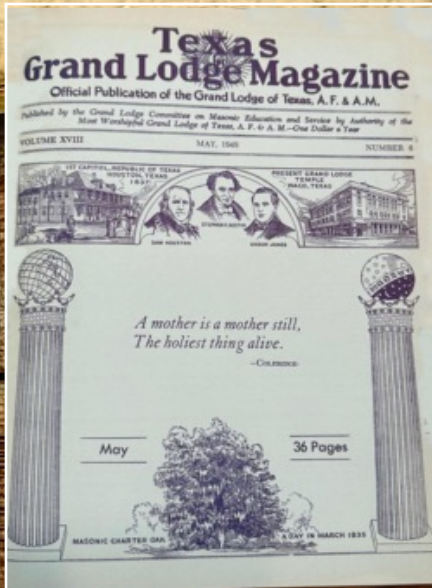
Let us go back, way back 165 years to the time when Texas Masonry was only twenty-one years old. The year is 1858 and our story unfolds at Rusk and within the walls of Euclid Lodge No. 45, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Sitting on the sidelines is Andrew Jackson who served as Worshipful Master in 1854.

Andrew Jackson was born in Georgia on March 17, 1817. Moving to Texas, he settled in Rusk in 1847 and became a

Mason by petitioning Euclid Lodge No. 45 for the Mysteries of Freemasonry. He was not made a Mason at sight, but he quickly obtained all three degrees as evidenced by the Lodge returns for 1850. He was initiated on May 10, 1850, passed to Fellowcraft the following day and on May 13, raised a Master Mason.

He entered the officer line as Senior Deacon in 1851 and would hold this office for three consecutive years before being elected to the East for 1854. In his professional life Jackson was a newspaperman and started and sold numerous newspaper companies in Rusk. In March 1850 he co-founded the weekly newspaper, "Cherokee Sentinel." Selling this company in 1856, he next started a four-page newspaper that he named, "The Texas Enquirer." It was during the time that in 1858 he also used his presses to print a new magazine which he named, "The Free Mason."





Mailed to Masons wherever dispersed throughout Texas, the magazine was first mentioned in the Grand Lodge proceedings of June 13, 1859, in Grand Master Henry Sampson's opening address. Of note Sampson referred to the magazine as the "Texas Free Mason," revealing the name had already been changed. Over the next 164 years the magazine would change its name another five times.

Commencing with the January 1931 issue the magazine was retitled, "Texas Grand Lodge Magazine." Published as an 8 by 10½ inch monthly edition, the magazine would remain this size and format style until 1950. The cover of each issue featured the likeness of Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, and Anson Jones along with the rendition of the First Capital building of the Republic of Texas and the Grand Lodge Temple in Waco.

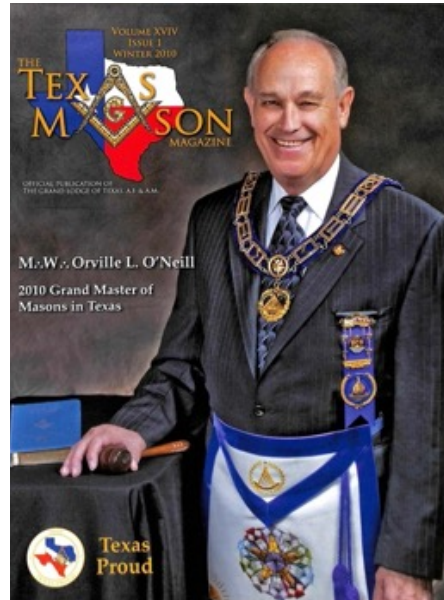
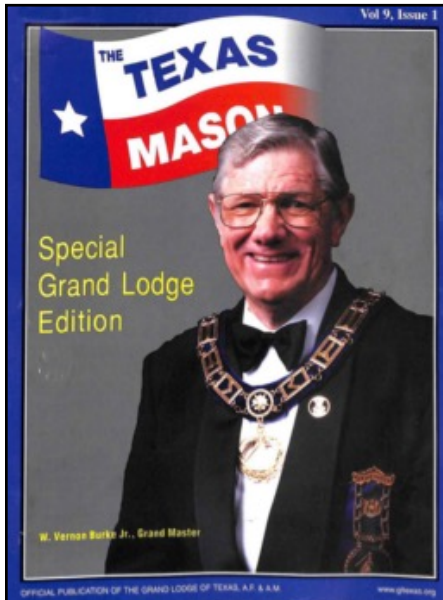
The year 1950 saw another change in the magazine when the cover was modified, and the pages became smooth glossy instead of the newspaper type. The cover would remain blue throughout the next 13½ years with a slight modification to the

center image in the latter half of the 1950s. The next change to the magazine occurred with the July 1963 issue and it was a big one. For the first time since 1858 the publication was downsized to 5¼ by 7½ inches. While the cover retained the use of glossy smooth paper, the rest of the inside pages reverted back to newspaper type paper. But perhaps the biggest change in 1963 was the magazine underwent another name change and returned to its first title by becoming, "The Texas Freemason." The cover, depicting the photographs of Anson Jones and Jim Weatherby was described on the inside as SYMBOLS OF PROGRESS illustrating the progress of communication from the days of the first Grand Master Anson Jones to current Grand Master Jim W. Weatherby. The explanation continued by remarking, "Today, for the first time in our history, our present Grand Master, M.:

W. Jim W. Weatherby, is in direct contact with every member – all 245,000 of them – thus culminating the hopes and dreams of many years.

By 1977 the magazine had changed to bimonthly issues and during the year of William Patrick Lamb as Grand Master for 1979 it changed printing to quarterly.





Mailed to Masons wherever dispersed throughout Texas, the magazine was first mentioned in the Grand Lodge proceedings of June 13, 1859, in Grand Master Henry Sampson's opening address.

The next change for the magazine occurred in Spring 1992 when it was retitled once again and became, "The Texas Mason." By 1998 the magazine had enlarged to 5½ by 8½ inches and was printed once again throughout on smooth glossy paper. This new name did not last long however and commencing with the Winter 2006 issue the name was changed to "The Texas Mason Magazine."

Seen above center is Grand Master W. Vernon Burke Jr. on the cover of Volume 9 Issue 1 of "The Texas Mason" for the Spring 2000 issue. With the renaming of the magazine the printing continued with quarterly 8 by 10 ½ inch issues until Grand Master Orville L. O'Neill year in 2010 when it changed to three issues a year until 2016. The only exception was in 2011 when four issues were printed. The magazine would remain a quarterly publication from 2016 until the present day with a few exceptions. During Jerry Kirby's year as Grand Master in 2017 the magazine was printed three times and in 2019 with the internet being widely used by the majority of Texas Masons, the magazine started printing and mailing a Spring and Winter issue while the Fall and Summer issues were available in PDF format on the Grand Lodge's website.

In 2018 the magazine again changed its name during Tommy F. Chapman year as Grand Master. Now known simply as, "Texas Freemason," this name is still in use to the present day. While the size and name has evolved over the course of 165 years, what hasn't changed is the need to keep the craft informed of items of interest and upcoming events. Each issue is thoughtfully planned to include stories that entertain and enlighten the reader and seeks to keep Masonry in Texas alive and active! Originally yearly subscriptions were one dollar and sold to anyone interested in the happenings of The Grand Lodge of Texas. In 2023 subscriptions are still sold to the general public at \$12.50 yearly while every new Master Mason is mailed an issue twice a year. So Mote It Be!

The author of this article is a Past Master of five Masonic Lodges and has published four books and is presently writing the 175-year history of Euclid Lodge No. 45, A.F. & A.M. Reference for this article dealing with Andrew Jackson and his newspaper enterprises in Rusk was obtained from Marie Whitehead's book, *A History of The Rusk Cherokeean 1847-1973*. ★



Finding Unexpected Light at Billy Gene's

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



Well, I finally found John, not that anyone was as worried about it as I was. As it turns out, he and Mrs. Deacon were having a happy, much deserved weeks' vacation on a cruise to the Caribbean. When he finally returned one of the many messages I left him, he tried to tell me that he had called and left me a message that he was going to be gone. I assured him that, had he actually left me a message, it was a good bet that I would not have been calling him and leaving him messages wondering where he was. Unbelievably, he actually saw the logic in what I said. He had just called to tell me that he was in Kerrville for the day and was not going to have enough time to drive the 45 minutes to have lunch with me. I sure didn't have anything for this month's newsletter so lunch in the big city of Kerrville sounded pretty good. On the way out the door I tapped up and asked Uncle Google where we could get a good chicken fried steak in Kerrville and the name Billy Gene's Restaurant flashed up on the screen. Exactly 35 minutes later I pulled into the parking lot of Billy Gene's (I admit I did exceed the speed limit slightly on the way). From my parking place I had a great view of the Guadalupe River which was about two hundred yards wide at this point. On the opposite side was a grassy rolling hill that seemed to go on forever. My moment of visual relaxation was interrupted by a large black F-350 that parked in the one parking place that blocked my line of sight to the river.

I looked at the driver expecting to see a really big cowboy grinning from ear to ear. Instead, I saw a really big cowboy with a much too serious look on his face. We crawled out of our trucks and walked side by side to the door of the restaurant and other than a handshake, no words passed between us. The usual jovial John was still on vacation, I guess. The booth they sat us in provided a great view of the river and he was gazing at it and the hills behind it when I asked about his vacation on the ship. His growling answer was "I don't even like boats, I don't like surprises, and I don't know why the heck she surprised me with a trip on a boat." I started to tell him that it was actually a ship and not a boat, but I figured that would further aggravate him. I asked him if he was ok, and he got a sad look on his face and continued to look out at the river. I thought maybe he was irritated at me, but I hadn't done anything yet that I could think of to make him that way. I tried to talk to him a couple more times while we were looking at the menus but all I could get out of him was, "Things aren't always what they seem to be, and people aren't always who you thought they were."

Visit <https://texasfreemasonmagazine.blogspot.com/2023/08/finding-unexpected-light.html> for the rest of the story.

Purity of Heart

By Sammy Larbi, Contributing Writer

To start this off, recall the Work of Texas Masons as it relates to the lambskin.

A few years ago, I found myself listening to *Our Oriental Heritage: The Story of Civilization, Volume 1*, which is the first massive part of an epic history of man and covers as much history in 1935 as we could piece together from prehistory, through the start of civilization in Sumer, and then through all of the civilizations from the near east to the far east. In it, there are many characters reminiscent of freemasonry, and it got me thinking about how the ancients saw lambs.

I had also been reading a children's Bible with my four-year-old son and we got to Exodus, where Pharaoh tells the midwives:

“When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth, look at the child when you deliver it. If it's a boy, kill it, but if it's a girl, let it live.”

So of course my son asks, “why?”

“Why what?”

“Why did he kill all those babies?”

“Well, it said he thought there were too many Israelites and he was afraid of their strength, so he wanted to weaken them.”

“Why?”

“Sometimes people who should not hold power over others gain it, and unfortunately, that means people without any power are forced to bear the consequences of poor decisions by those in power.”

“Why?”

“In this case, I think he was just evil.” After a moment of silent contemplation, I assumed it was OK to continue reading. A little later, we came to the Passover:

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals.”

“Why would God do something like that,” my son asked.

I was, of course, taken aback and did not quite know how to answer. He had equated my answer to what Pharaoh had done as evil, and seen that God did something similar, and with complete sincerity asked the question.

This is something much different than having data accessible with research, and in a partisan or sectarian manner, cynically asking a question in bad faith. It is what I've always thought of as purity of heart: being like a child, curious, and trying to understand the boundaries of right and wrong.



This is something much different than having data accessible with research, and in a partisan or sectarian manner, cynically asking a question in bad faith. It is what I've always thought of as purity of heart: being like a child, curious, and trying to understand the boundaries of right and wrong.

That's a long introduction, but together these two books inspired me to look a little deeper into the symbolism of the lamb in various philosophies, and purity of heart in general, so I'm going to cover some of what I learned.

The first thing I will note is that not everyone agrees with my assessment above about purity of heart. First, one Christian commentator I read tells us of double-mindedness in James and concludes that “Purity Is Whole-heartedness. Often, we understand purity as cleanness ... But biblical purity is better described as spiritual single-mindedness, whole-heartedness.”

Another references Søren Kierkegaard, the Danish Philosopher, telling us “Purity of heart is to have one thought and that thought be God.”

A Muslim commentator echoes these thoughts:

“People with sound hearts, according to the Qur’an, have faith in Allah, observe the limits and prohibitions that He has established, and submit to Him fully. In the Islamic sense, there is no other form of a sound heart, for the Qur’an defines a person with a sound heart as someone who constantly brings Allah to mind and feels at peace with His remembrance.”

So there are at least two minds when it comes to what purity of heart means.

Going back to the ancients and the symbolism of the lamb, I’ll return to the story I read to my son, in Exodus, regarding Passover. The Hebrews were to put the blood of a lamb above their doors, symbolizing their innocence in God’s eyes:

“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”

Even before that in the Bible, we see Abraham substituting a ram for his son’s innocence in a sacrifice. Abraham himself was reminiscent of a lamb here, as he had an innocent faith in the Great Architect of the Universe that nothing could go wrong, and that faith was rewarded.

The Quran says this outright:

“Verily, among his people was Abraham, when he came to his Lord with a pure heart.”

As far back as we can find in civilization, Sumerian creation myths mention sheep, in The debate between Sheep and Grain:

“There was no cloth to wear; Uttu had not been born – no royal turban was worn; lord Nijir-si, the precious lord, had not been born; Cakkan (the god of wild animals) had not gone out into the barren lands. The people of those days did not know about eating bread. They did not know about wearing clothes; they went about with naked limbs in the Land. Like sheep they ate grass with their mouths and drank water from the ditches.”

I understand this to mean that people had not yet come to light, they were innocent, like lambs. Later in the story, Grain and Sheep argue about who is more important, and Sheep mentions:

“Sweet oil, the fragrance of the gods, mixed (?) oil, pressed oil, aromatic oil, cedar oil for offerings are mine.”

It sounds like as early as we recorded as a human race, the lamb has been involved in purifying sacrifice, and it’s not just a cliché we use in our work.

Of course, there is much more than this in ancient and more modern philosophy. I cannot hope to cover it all. But I want to leave you with one idea that flipped my understanding of children and lambs:

Shepherds used various tools to guide their sheep... the rod is used to guide sheep who begin to splinter away from the flock back together... This Proverb (Proverbs 13: 24)... does not intend for children to be physically punished as the only means of correction. It refers to teaching them through guidance and appropriate discipline.

For a long time, I had never considered this. To me, this “spare the rod, spoil the child” meant you should provide a good whipping. When you consider that shepherds did not beat their sheep into submission with this tool, but instead used it to guide them, you see the innocence of a lamb compared to that of a child.

Perhaps purity of heart is the innocence of a child. Perhaps it is giving complete obedience to the Grand Architect. Perhaps, when He is seen as a Father, we could consider these as one in the same.

My only qualm – or perhaps caveat – with this view is that we mustn’t take it to be a complete surrender of thought. Freemasonry teaches us to be speculative masons, to contemplate the truth of things. It is one thing to consider the angles of a story, examine where it fits in the bigger picture, and through that, find truth in it.

But if we do not even think to ask questions that are evident to a child, then I am not sure we are arriving at any truth. I would not necessarily say we arrive at a lie either. The point is that without stopping to think about it, we would never know.



Across the State with Grand Master G. Clay Smith

By Dean Bryant and jim hoffpaur, Staff Writers

Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith, Grand Master of Texas Masons enjoying several anniversaries of Lodges in Texas.

April 22, 2023

Palestine Lodge No. 31, Celebrating 175 years of Masonry

Palestine Lodge No.31, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was chartered on May 1, 1848, by the Grand Lodge of Texas. Since that time, it has met continuously in Palestine, Texas. The earliest Masons in the newly created town of Palestine were members of Lothrop Lodge No. 21 in Crockett, Texas. On August 25, 1846, seven of them signed a petition to the Grand Lodge of Texas requesting a charter. What they got instead was a dispensation creating Palestine Lodge No. 22 with Ferdinand Justus von Kirchain being named the first Worshipful Master. The second Master, Andrew Jackson Fowler who assumed the East for 1847, also became the first Master of Palestine Lodge No. 31 when it was chartered with twenty-two Master Masons.

The first meetings of the Lodge while under dispensation were held in the home of founding member and first tiler, Doctor Elijah James DeBard. The Lodge met by candlelight on Saturday nights, and which required Mrs. DeBard and her children to leave the house and remain gone until the meeting was concluded. While this was somewhat of a hardship on the family what infuriated Julia DeBard even more was that after the meeting was over the brethren would raid her kitchen and eat up all the pies that she had spent most of the day baking for the family's Sunday dinner. By the time a charter was secured changing Palestine Lodge No. 22 U. D. to Palestine Lodge No. 31, A.F. & A.M., Mrs. DeBard had had enough and told Dr. DeBard the Lodge would have to meet someplace else.

And so it was that in 1848 the brethren started meeting in Tom Scott's general store on the southwest corner of Lacy and Church streets, the location of the parking lot of Foot's liquor store.

The Masons of Palestine Lodge No. 31 gather monthly on the first Tuesday. Meal at 6:30 pm with the Stated Meeting to follow at 7:30 pm.



Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith Grand Master presenting Palestine Lodge No. 31 with a demisemiseptcentennial certificate to commemorate the start of Freemasonry in Palestine, Texas some 175 years ago.



York Rite Bodies in Palestine, Texas.



It just would not be a celebration without a cake.

"Let them eat cake."
- Marie Antoinette



Palestine Lodge No. 31, 175th anniversary celebration attended by many Brethren.

May 27, 2023

DeWitt Clinton Lodge No.29, Celebrating 175 years of Mason

Named for a former New York governor and Mason, this Lodge dates to the Republic of Texas. Meetings began in 1845-46, and a formal charter was granted in 1848. The first Worshipful Master was Z. Williams Eddy. The Lodge established Jasper Collegiate Institute in 1850 and supported it until the school closed in 1857. The Lodge has sponsored scholarships for local students. Many prominent Jasper citizens have been members of this Lodge. The Lodge was located on the Courthouse Square until this building was completed in 1986.



Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith Grand Master presenting Dewitt Clinton Masonic Lodge No. 29 with a demisemiseptcentennial certificate to commemorate 175 years of Freemasonry.

ACROSS THE STATE



Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith Grand Master of Texas Masons and Teresa Smith, First Lady of Texas Masons enjoying the 175-year celebration at Dewitt Clinton Masonic Lodge No. 29.



An impressive day expected for the 175th celebration, with tables beautifully set up.

May 27, 2023

Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 37, Celebrating 175 years of Masonry

Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas on January 15, 1848, this lodge first convened in the Mount Pleasant settlement. Early meetings were held at Fireman's Hill in a schoolhouse owned by Henry Gillette. That building was moved to Coldspring in 1853. Early members of the lodge included many Republic of Texas pioneers, as well as distinguished public officials of Polk and San Jacinto counties. The town of Coldspring was relocated after a 1915 fire, and the lodge moved to the new townsite in 1923. A new Lodge Hall was built in 1962.



Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith Grand Master presenting Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 37 with a demisemiseptcentennial certificate to commemorate 175 years of Freemasonry.



Many Brethren, family, and friends, gathered to celebrate 175 years of Masonry in Coldspring, Texas.

June 17, 2023

David Elliott Lodge No. 364, Celebrating 150 years of Masonry in Omaha, Texas.



Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith Grand Master presenting David Elliott Lodge No. 364 with a sesquicentennial certificate to commemorate 150 years of Freemasonry in Omaha, Texas.



This was a wonderful day to receive a 50 Year Service Award from Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith, Grand Master of Texas Masons. Congratulations Brother for your 50 years of service to our fraternity.



Thank you to all the Brethren, family and friends, who attended this event, and contributed to making many wonderful memories.

ACROSS THE STATE

June 24, 2023

Ennis Lodge No. 369, Celebrating 150 years of Masonry

Ennis Lodge No. 369 is in Ennis Texas, approximately thirty-five miles south of Dallas, on the eastern edge of Ellis County. The Lodge is located at 209 North Dallas Street which is in the historic downtown area of Ennis. Ennis was established in 1871 and was incorporated in November 1873. Prior to Ennis being incorporated thirteen petitioners sought and recommended dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Texas in order to be congregated into a new Lodge. Each of the petitioners were members of Waxahachie Lodge No.90.

The petitioning brethren consisted of W.C. Wathen, John B. Adams, Isiah King, B.F. Hart, J.T. Allen, Frank Templeton, Mark Latimer, Joseph Boren, John A. Harlan, I.H. Bullard, T.C. Ashford, G.T. Allen, and J.M. Robertson. The petition was also recommended by R.W. John Mattock, District Deputy Grand Master of the Fifth Masonic District. Ennis Lodge was issued its Dispensation on September 27, 1872. The Dispensation was signed by Grand Master of Masons in Texas M.:W.: WM. Bramlette.

Grand Master Bramlette appointed Bro. W.C. Wathen as the first Worshipful Master of Ennis Lodge, Brother Frank Templeton as the first Senior Warden and Brother B.F. Hart as the first Junior Warden. Ennis Lodge's first meetings were held above Blakey's and McCarty's grocery store.

The original slate of officers was completed and those who served were brothers T.L. McCarty (Secretary), J. Blakey (Treasurer), John Mattock (Senior Deacon), Joseph Reisman (Junior Deacon) and John Harlan (Tyler).

The Grand Lodge Dispensation stated, "This Dispensation is to continue in full force until the next Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge aforesaid, unless sooner revoked by constitutional authority." The Dispensation also stated, "And it Shall be Their Duty, and they are hereby required, to return this Dispensation, with a correct manuscript of all Proceedings had under the authority of the same, together with an attested copy of the By-Laws adopted, to our Grand Lodge aforesaid, at the expiration of the time herein specified, for examination, and for such further action in the premises as shall then be deemed wise and proper." Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 received its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F&A.M on June 9th, 1873.

In 1910 a new Lodge building was built, and Ennis Lodge has been meeting in the same location for the past 111 years. Ennis Lodge has been an active and strong Lodge throughout the years and has been a valuable part of the Ennis and Ellis County community.



Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith Grand Master presenting Ennis Lodge No. 369 with a sesquicentennial certificate to commemorate 150 years of Freemasonry in Ennis, Texas.



Ennis Lodge members enjoy a wonderful day as Brethren, family and friends turn out to celebrate 150 years of Freemasonry in Ennis, Texas.



A large number of Brethren were in attendance to enjoy the fellowship at this wonderful event.

Family DAY!

Saturday, October 14, 2023
Texas Masonic
Retirement Community
1501 W. Division St, Arlington, Texas

Free
Admission

Open
10 am - 4 pm

Meet

M:W: Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas
M:E: Grand High Priest Royal Arch Chapter of Texas

Greet

Biggest Masonic Event in Texas! Masonic BBQ Cookoff! Car & Motorcycle Show!



Hot Dogs! BBQ! Ice Cream! Kettle Corn! Snow Cones!
"Ring of Fire" Solar Eclipse Watching Party!

Live Music & Shady Picnic Tables

100's of Unique Arts & Crafts Booths

Children's Games! Pony Rides! Jump Houses! Petting Zoo! Video Games!

Masonic Fundraising Opportunities

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Visit YourTMRC.org for registration and entry forms • 817-275-2893 • info@YourTMRC.org

TEXAS FREEMASON







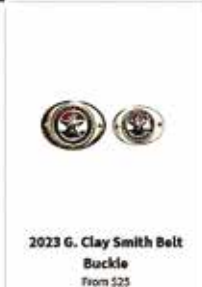



The Grand Lodge of Texas
715 Columbus Ave
Waco, TX 76701



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2023 Grand Master G. Clay Smith Items Now Available

Grand Lodge of Texas Online Store

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