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★ **San Antonio Youth Brunch**
sponsored by Alzafar Shrine
Photo taken by Grand Photographer
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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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A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



The Grand Master's motto at the beginning of this year was "Create Excitement" for Texas Masonry. It still is. In this time of national emergency, we must be the light that helps show the way. In our daily journey through life we must be the examples of brotherly love, hope and charity. I continue to ask you to brand yourselves and become visible ambassadors.

Our beloved country and Freemasonry continues to be challenged with the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, we have had several limitations placed on us since March that we have had to work through. It has not been easy; but if we continue to take responsibility for the safety of ourselves, our family, our Brothers and others, we will be leading the way as Masons for all to emulate. The Grand Master has consistently followed the Governor's direction in keeping Texas Freemasonry compliant with his several Executive Orders. The Grand Master also expects you to follow your local county and city guidelines.

Charity, Family and Legacy are still the themes of 2020. If you did not have an opportunity to attend one of the Grand Master Conferences earlier this year, there is a video that provides a way for you to see what you missed. It is available on the

Grand Lodge of Texas Facebook page and on the Grand Lodge of Texas YouTube page. The link below is a direct link to the YouTube version.

<https://youtu.be/vbY8DoEbZJs>

You are invited to the Briscoe Workshops this fall. A schedule of dates and locations will be announced in the coming weeks. They are excellent events and I hope you make plans to attend.

I plan to have at least three Grand Master's Recommendations for your consideration at our next Grand Communication. One will propose a path forward to preserve our Grand Lodge building. The second will propose an amendment to Article 508. The third one will address Endowed Memberships.

The rules and guidelines of the Honesty and Integrity Award as specified in Article 14f provides the opportunity for each lodge to recognize two outstanding high school juniors for their honesty and integrity. The identification of these students begins with the onset of school this fall. Your lodge should already have received materials for this wonderful program in the coming 2020/2021 school year.

The online merchandising is now operational on the Grand Lodge website located at the top under the dropdown menu label "Shop". <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/shop/>. On this user-friendly link you can see pictures of all the items with pricing and easy ordering and payment. I hope you will visit it and consider purchasing available items, including the First Lady merchandise from the same link.

The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer have taken steps to modernize the accounting systems for Grand Lodge. The actual processing of most accounting transactions has been outsourced to a local CPA firm with electronic approval by both

officers. It has reduced our overall accounting costs and improved information access for the Trustees.

The Trustees are already meeting on plans for our Grand Session in January. A Special Committee has been formed to develop and explore what alternatives exist if the COVID-19 pandemic does not permit us to meet as usual in January. Any sound business operation should always have a Plan B.

It is my hope you will continue to keep our families and brethren safe, as well as "Create Excitement" within our fraternity and within the community about all the ways Masonry is integral to our society. God Bless you.

Fraternally,

Paul D. Underwood
Grand Master



GRAND LODGE

A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



“Who are the Freemasons and why do they incite murderous hatred, fanatical devotion and occasional ridicule?” This opening of a recent book review by Alex Beam in an August 21, Wall Street Journal (WSJ) caught my attention. The quote from the book *The Craft: How Freemasons Made the Modern World*, by John Dickie relates the impact of Masonry in its history. Another WSJ review by Daniel Epstein states Jasper Ridley, author of *The Freemasons*, has “captured the organization’s fundamental outlook and morality” of Freemasonry.

Who are we, my brethren and I, that we attract the interest of a business news and information publication that has received 37 Pulitzer prizes and has over 42 million digital readers per month? What’s unique about a fraternity whose membership has declined from 4 million to 2 million members during the past fifty years?

However, more recently membership in many Texas Masonic Lodges seem to be strengthening. Not true in every case as we are still experiencing a significant number of Lodge mergers each year. But there is a larger number of Lodges active in their community and using modern technology to communicate with their members and attract younger petitioners.

There are several unique characteristics that attract men to join their local Lodge. An attractive Lodge website may be important. Some potential members are attracted by old stuff, the mystique of secrecy, and the opportunity to talk and enjoy the company of good men.

I’ve always wondered if the U.S. Marine Corps is targeting our membership with their slogan about “wanting a few good men.” Perhaps the idea “we make good men better” is the most unique and singular characteristic of Masonry.

The majority of civic and social organizations are focused on organizational goals. Rotary on business contacts and polio, Lions on eye sight, and others on insurance benefits or charitable outreach.

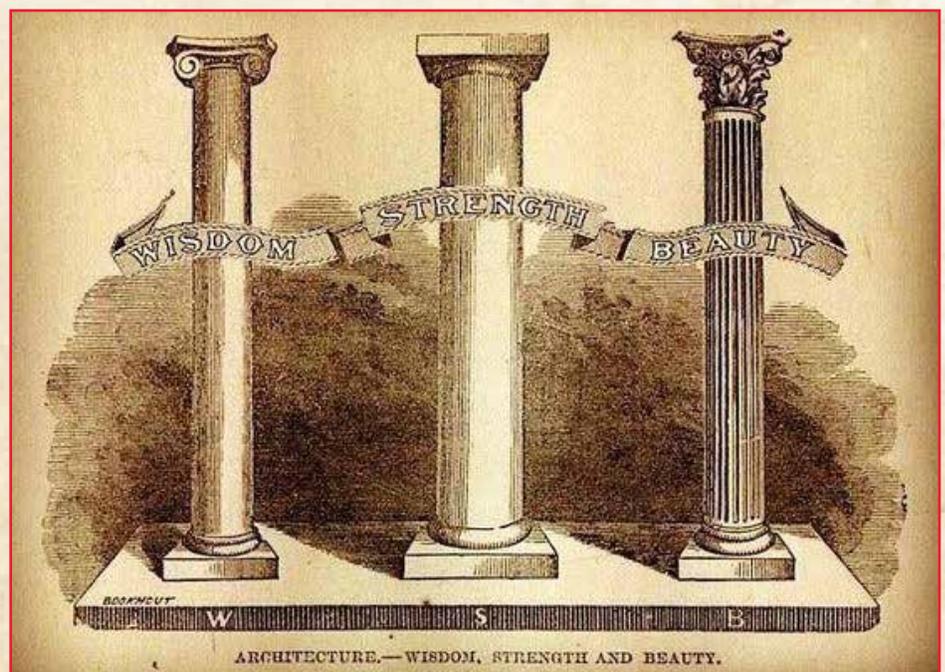
Masonry’s focus is upon improving the moral and ethical character of the individual Mason. Other than the care of widows and orphans, Masonry has no stated organizational goals. Our activities to provide educational opportunities or assistance to the ill and distressed arise from the hearts of compassionate Masons often acting in union with brothers of the individual Lodges.

In Masonry’s structure, the individual constituent Lodge is the critical component. The Lodge determines: its membership, its leadership, finance and dues, and the projects undertaken. Worshipful Masters tend to be the heart-beat within the Lodge. A wise and admired Past Master has observed, “when the Worshipful Master puts his hammer down, the Lodge stops working.”

Masons normally spend two years as wardens prior to becoming the Worshipful Master of a Lodge. During that time, they should prepare by completing the Officer Leadership Program offered by the Committee on Masonic Education as well as improving their esoteric skills.

Unfortunately, our world of good men also has evil characters and the dark will always hate and fear the light. Our conversations and rituals sometimes appear silly and obscure to those outside the fraternity, but Masonry has endured for centuries because of its devotion to wisdom, strength, and beauty. And, good men do become better men. So mote it be.

Fraternally,
Thomas Ellison, Grand Secretary



Mobile Application for Grand Lodge of Texas

Within the next few months, the Grand Lodge of Texas will release its first ever official mobile application. The app will be available from the Apple App and Google Play stores and is intended for use only by Masons from Texas and beyond. The name of the application will be revealed once it is placed in the app stores at which time it will be announced to Texas Masons.

A mobile application (or "app" as it is normally called) is a piece of software which comes pre-installed on your mobile device, or software you download and install yourself. It is a program developed for smartphones, tablets, or wearable devices running a mobile operating system, such as iOS or Android. There are thousands upon thousands of mobile applications available today. You can find one to meet almost any need and use. Examples of apps include calendars, appointment monitors, games, music, eBooks, videos, chats, and financial management. The developer for the GLOT mobile app is Barbara Maim, Co-founder and CEO of Minsh. She has worked with Grand Senior Warden, R.◌W.◌ Brad Billings, and Chairman of the GLOT Internet Committee, Hon. Craig Enderli, to bring the project to fruition.

Features of the GLOT app will include a searchable version of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, the current Texas Monitor of the Lodge, chat, regional Texas groups, access to the calendars of the Grand Master and members of the Committee on the Work, links to resource material promulgated by the GLOT (such as Briscoe Workshops), and a Masonic newsfeed. The initial cost of the application will be approximately \$7.00 per year. As the application evolves, additional material will become available.

Watch for this invaluable tool in the coming months!



GRAND LODGE

The Gift of Life

By Brother Bill Crow

The Gift of Life Committee and subsequently a Gift of Life Program, is identified in the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas, Article 126k, which states:

The Gift of Life Committee shall be a Permanent Committee which shall meet the criteria of Article 105 hereof except such Committee will have a membership of seven (7) Master Masons who are each a member and a Past Master; if available, in good standing of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. The Chairman shall at all times be a member of this Grand Lodge. It shall be the duty of the Gift of Life Committee to formulate and promulgate policies, programs and projects to encourage Texas Masonic Lodges to sponsor blood drives to benefit Scottish Rite and Shrine hospitals and other community hospitals throughout the State of Texas. (Adopted 2008)

Texas Masons began the Gift of Life Program 29 years ago in the North Texas area. Since then, regional committees have expanded to Houston, San Antonio, and the Rio Grande Valley, and today the program continues to expand across our State of Texas.

The Gift of Life program encourages and sponsors blood drives, some held within Masonic Lodges, and at other locations deemed appropriate. Many or most of the eligible blood donors in Masonry have either given blood, or worked in support of blood drives sponsored by their Lodge or other Lodges.

The Gift of Life program benefits our four fraternal hospitals: Texas Scottish Rite Hospitals for Children in Dallas and Frisco,

the Shrine Burn Center in Galveston and the Shrine Orthopedic Hospital in Houston, as well as community hospitals throughout the state.

Texas Masons' blood drives benefiting our Texas Scottish Rite Hospitals for Children and Shrine Hospitals in Texas have raised many thousands of units of platelets and blood since the inception of the Gift of Life program in 1991. Those donated units allowed physicians to provide needed surgery and other specialized treatments for children and others, and saved and/or changed countless lives.

As I contemplated this short review of the Gift of Life program for publication and collated some information from the Grand Lodge and a couple of Masonic Lodge websites, I asked myself, "What is it I want to convey to our readers about the Gift of Life program?" If you review the websites of the Grand Lodge and many Masonic Lodges in Texas you will find a section with The Gift of Life program very positively identified and explained. So, what can I convey that will demonstrate to our readers how our Masonic Brethren feel about, and how they support this very important program?

I think the "best way" may be to introduce you to a brother and best friend to many in Masonry, one who has demonstrated his support for the Gift of Life program. To say he has supported the program is an understatement...

One evening several months past I asked a best friend during fellowship at Smithfield Masonic Lodge No. 455, "What is that pin on your jacket?" He answered with a big smile, "I just received my pin today for giving 60 Gallons of platelets and or blood for the Scottish Rite Hospitals."

BLOOD 
The Gift Of Life



I was floored by his answer as I had never known anyone who had given that much blood or platelets. After I recovered, I asked “How long have you been giving blood?” I don’t recall his answer today, but I asked another question; “What caused you to begin donating blood?” His answer was one of those John Wayne moments, “Well, (Long pause) I thought that might be something I could do that would help the kids.” Later I found that Jim donates platelets and or blood in the name of the Scottish Rite and Shrine Hospitals every couple of weeks and has plans to continue doing so as long as he is able.

I am sure there are many others that have donated a remarkable amount just like Jim, over a period of time. But, it’s really not about how much you may have given, but that you have and are giving, or donating as a supporter of the Gift of Life program. Real people and needy children have been given hope and life because of the Gift of Life program.

Blood is the foundation of life and well-being. Our Grand Lodge of Texas, Gift of Life Program “sounds the alarm” and “answers the call” to deliver the most important life-saving gift that can be given, a unit of blood.

To all of those Masons that donate blood, to those that share their time managing or working a blood drive and to those Masons that encourage other non-masons to do the same, the Grand Lodge of Texas Salutes you and sincerely thanks you for what you do. The Gift of Life program is not an option, it is a purposeful mandate, gladly accepted and supported by our Texas Masons.

If you want to know more about the Gift of Life program, or want to participate as a donor or support worker, contact Brother Joe French at bigjoefrench@gmail.com or 214-394-6121. You may also download the *Gift of Life Blood Drive Manual* at https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/pdf/2016/GiftOfLifeManual_1.pdf



2020 GRAND MASTER CONFERENCES



The theme of Most Worshipful Paul D. Underwood's 2020 Grand Master Conferences is "Create Excitement." Hundreds of Texas Masons attended conferences before the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic brought things to halt in March. The Conferences are divided into four sections: Charity, Family & Fraternity, Membership, and Legacy. Each section features film segments highlighting certain Lodges followed by the Grand Master Underwood's instructive comments...

Charity

“Proactively reach out to your communities to identify win-win situations for Texas Masons and community partners... Show potential members what Freemasonry does... Support your local charities.”

Family & Fraternity

“Plan activities with and for family members... Make Masonry generational... Partner with appendant bodies.... Share your activities with other lodges...” “Get young Masons involved... Invite a Non-Mason... Volunteer for community activities... Make a positive impact on your community.”

Membership

“Get people involved.... Be Masons inside and outside the Lodge... Set a good example for young members... Mentor Younger Masons...” “Implement the Masonic ‘Pass it On’ program... Build quality from quality... Strengthen partnerships with appendant bodies... Create New Friendships.”

Legacy

“Support or leave a Tangible Legacy... Envision how future Masons will view you... Pay Masonry forward.”

Most Worshipful Paul D. Underwood inspires those in attendance with his honest and intense devotion to our Fraternity. Many thanks to our Grand Master for his message. ★





Hogs, Goats and Rodeo Food

By James C. "Chris" Williams IV

I have to tell you that he has a knack of interrupting me at the most inopportune times. "What the heck are you talking about," you say? I am talking about Brother John Deacon, that's what. Pam had gone out shopping with her friend and since I was alone with about four hours to kill I thought I would sneak a little nap. Just as my head hit the pillow the phone rang. I thought about not even looking at the caller ID and then when I did, I really thought about not answering it, but I didn't want to regret it later... like I wouldn't anyway. So, I answered and immediately regretted it. At first I was a little confused because I heard grunting noises in the background and without telling you what I thought was going on I will tell you that I almost hung up right then. "Brother Chris" he finally shouted huffing and puffing into the phone. Hold on a second." "John, what are you doing," I yelled back. As I listened it sounded like he was in some kind of a scuffle or something. Just as I was about to hang up again he came back on and abruptly asked, "What are you doing right now?" "Well, I was going to take a nap," I answered. But after what I heard the last thirty seconds I don't think I could sleep if I wanted to." "Oh cut it out," he growled. "Why don't you come down here and help me." "Are you kidding," I said? "I am not driving five hours to see you on a Saturday afternoon." "I'm not asking you to," he growled. "I am down here at the Stock Show and Rodeo and I need your help." I was instantly confused...which is nothing new. I knew our Rodeo was going on but John lived a long way from here so I asked, "You mean our Rodeo?" That got him to sputtering and spitting like he swallowed something the wrong way, "Goddamn Brother Chris, you are wasting my time here. I am hanging on to a huge ol' hog that's dang near as big as I am and I need your help." I have to tell you that many pictures ran through my mind on my way down to the Rodeo Grounds and none were pleasant. When I got there it took me a while to locate John. He was in the swine barn and to my surprise he was actually in the middle of the show ring judging hogs. He never ceases to amaze me and once again I was. When he saw me he waved me down to the gate where I met him. He told me that he was glad I was there and he needed help with a problem child, "Follow me," he said. He proceeded to tell

me that he was a swine judge at stock shows and had been doing that for many years and also showed some of his hogs. I followed him to another barn way back in a far corner where he stopped in front of a trailer that had been backed into the door. Inside was the biggest hog I think I have ever seen. He looked up at me and gave a little grunt and just stared at John. "I don't think he likes you much, John," I said. "No kidding," John replied sarcastically. "I have been trying to get this here "pain in the rear" hog out of this trailer into a pen for the last two hours. I have used up all the boys here and now they won't help me. This hog is just mean. I know you spent time around livestock on the ranch and you were my last hope." "John," I said. "I am confused. This is a show barn. This is where they show livestock. This hog don't look like he wants to be showed." "Oh he's ok Brother Chris. He just gets an attitude every once in a while. Once I get him out of this trailer and into a pen he'll be alright." "Yeah, right," I said skeptically. "He looks like he has more than an attitude." I had never done much with hogs mostly just horses and cattle but no hogs. I really wasn't looking forward to this but I helped John fix up a makeshift chute that would head him into that pen once we or rather "if" we got him out of the trailer. Before we entered the trailer I suggested to John that we just use a come-a-long and pull him out. That got me a nasty look so I called Pam and told her I loved her and followed John into the trailer.

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/hogs-goats-and-rodeo-food> for the rest of the story.





Masonry At Its Source – September 1920

By Brother Z. Starr Armstrong, Garland Lodge No. 441

Historic Evidence Found in Ancient Egypt and Throughout The Old World

Editor's Note: There are many practical-minded brethren in the modern Craft who, though good and active Masons, are little interested in questions of antiquity relating to the order. However, the antiquity of Masonry is one of the supports that has given it appeal to the greatest minds and the finest types of men of past generations as well as the present. It is proof of the great truth embodied in Masonry that endures like the truth of nature itself. Some of the so-called evidence produced by Masonic scholars is rather vague and not established perhaps to the satisfaction of a jury of twelve sitting in judgment; but such facts as Bro. Higgins, quoted in the following article, has discovered are at least as authentic and credible as much of the evidence upon which many of the accepted facts of profane history are founded. This treatise is reproduced for the benefit of Masons who find pleasure in the study of these questions. It has had extensive publication in the profane press.

With the recent explorations in the Soudan region of Africa of the ruins of Napata, the ancient capital of Ethiopia (the Kush of the Old Testament), bringing to light an ancient temple of Amon containing a huge Masonic altar, and with archaeologists getting ready to renew their explorations in Palestine and the Euphrates valley, antiquarians are expecting further additions to the vast mass of evidence of the worldwide spread of Primitive Freemasonry, which conceals in its rites, symbols and ceremonies the teaching and belief in the "Grand Architect" and "Great Geometrician of the Universe," a one and supreme God.

The most noted Masonic antiquarian in the United States, Frank G. Higgins, thirty-second degree, who has passed twenty-five years and travelled the globe in his search for Masonic relics, expects the explorations to bring to light much new material that will link the mound builders of the Mississippi Valley, the Mayas of Yucatan, the ancient Egyptians and the Chaldees into one primitive brotherhood.

"It is true that Freemasonry is the parent of all religion, the original world-wide cosmic gnosis, diffused in ancient times to the uttermost ends of the earth," said Mr. Higgins when seen in his Brooklyn home surrounded by hundreds

of books and case after case of Masonic relics. "Freemasonry is the Pompeii of prehistoric science. All the Masonic ritual, its Egyptian signs, its Chaldean grips, its Sanskrit passwords, its ancient Hebrew symbols, its cabalistic allusions and its historical record are supremely scientific and a survival through long ages, by various underground channels, of the knowledge of the universe which was gained by Sabeian astronomers from the temple tops of Chaldea, India and China and recorded by the equally learned geometers and mathematicians of the ancient Orient.

Origin Of Great Dials

"It was the knowledge, concealed within the brotherhood, that enabled them to build the gigantic sun dials, such as that at Stonehenge, in England. The two pillars of Masonry today are the same as those which stood before the Temple of Solomon, erected by the same building fraternity, under the supervision of the priest-architect who builds the Sun Temple at Tyre, before which similar pillars stood. They are the same pillars as those that stood before the ancient temples in America when Cortez gazed in wonder on the civilization of the Aztecs. They are the same pillars that fixed the solstitial points in the first crude circles of stone, with a central stone representing the sun, and the same pillars which became the Temple of Janus among the Romans, the totem poles of modern savages, and the Jakin and Boaz of European cathedrals.

"The key to the entire secret system is to be found in the ancient system, preserved from ages long anterior to their reputed time by the Israelites, of using identical characters for letters and numbers, a system called gematria, and upon which a simple mathematical formula, 10-5-6-5, is shown to be the basic source of all manifested existence—that formula when presented in the Hebrew letters corresponding to the numbers bring 'Jod-Ha-Vv-Ha,' or in English 'J-H-V-H,' or Jehovah.

"If this remarkable fact had been confined to the sacred writings of the Hebrews it might be accepted as a peculiar outcropping of national genius, but this is not the case. My researches reveal the presence of an 'esoteric,' or 'mystery' Jehovah worship throughout the entire ancient world as the basis of all the outward pantheistic cults; the real knowledge being concealed from the mass by the priesthood

and rulers, because it was too high for them to grasp. The worship of the Great First Principle, defined and also hidden by the mathematical Jehovah glyph, was at one time spread over the whole expanse of anciently civilized America, whether represented by the vanished race of mound builders of our own United States or the perished races of Mexico, Central and South America. This later wonderful fact may as readily be verified by the visitor to such a purely American collection as that in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, or the American Museum of Natural History, in New York, as by the digger in Euphrates mud or Egyptian sands.

Shown In Modern Lines

"The crowning secret of the ancients, as well as of our own time, is that the study of the structural proportions of our universe as evinced in lines of force and direction, cyclic time periods, celestial areas and visible parts, reveals the fact that it is of definite form, perfectly balanced proportion and just such a synthesis of the principles of pure geometry as to show that the features exhibited are from the same causative source as that which geometrizes the snowflake, the crystal, and the blossom. Hence the expression used in Masonry of the Grand Architect and the Great Geometrician of the Universe.

"The ancient Egyptians adopted as the key to this great cosmic philosophy the famous Pythagorean triangle of 3x4x5 proportions, which is the basis of the celebrated forty-seventh proposition of Euclid. They called the three sides Osiris Isis and Horus, considering the first two as spirit and matter and the latter as nature, evolving from the wedding of the other two. This triangle represented as the 'Eye of Horus' and typifying the sun, became the 'All Seeing Eye' of Freemasonry.

"The value of the Hebrew letters in the famous triangle is 543, which is half of an oblong of 3x4 the other half of which is 345. The sum of both equals 888 and is the value of the letters in the Greek New Testament name, Jesus. An oblong of 3x4 contains three of 4x9, and vice versa. The oblong of 4x9 was represented symbolically as the Atef crown on the head of the Egyptian Sun-god Ra, whose name really means 'light.'

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/masonry-at-its-source/> for the rest of the story.

Committee On Youth Activities

By Tommy "Chance" Chapman – Vice Chairman Committee on Youth Activities



The Committee on Youth Activities is a permanent committee of the Grand Lodge of Texas and is established by Art. 126c of the Statutes in our law book. As such, it has seven members with one rotating off every year as the newly installed Grand Master appoints a member of this Grand Lodge to fill the position for the next seven years.

“Art. 126c. Youth Activities. The Committee on Youth Activities shall be charged with the duty of encouraging all Master Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction to advance, promote, and support the youth organizations approved for Masonic sponsorship under the Laws of this Grand Lodge and for the amplification and coordination of worthy activities of the Grand Lodge and its Constituent Lodges in support of same.”

We have two youth organizations in Texas at this time: DeMolay International and the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. The Personal Representative of the Grand Master of DeMolay International in Texas is R.◊W.◊ Tommy F. Chapman, PGM, and the Supreme Inspector of the Grand Assembly of Texas is Mrs. JoAnn Weaver.

Each year, the Youth Activities Committee coordinates with the State Master Councilor of Texas DeMolay and the Grand Worthy Advisor of the Grand Assembly of Texas in planning the annual Masonic Youth Weekend. This event has been held each year since 1997 with two exceptions: 2004 and 2020. This event is partially funded from the Grand Lodge of Texas, and the remainder is paid through registration fees of attendees. Youth members and advisors arrive Friday night and receive their team assignments. Starting on Saturday, each team competes in various sporting competitions and team building activities. While they are having fun, they are also learning skills and abilities that will carry forward in their daily and professional lives in the future. Sunday morning, we conclude with awards and the Grand Master, or his



Grand Assembly of Texas
International Order of Rainbow for Girls

<http://www.texasdemolay.com>



<http://www.texasdemolay.com>

representative, bringing remarks on behalf of the Grand Lodge. While this isn't the only function of our committee, it is one of our most visible and fulfilling duties.

The Committee is currently working with the Personal Representative and Supreme Inspector to develop a tool that will help all Texas Lodges better understand both DeMolay and Rainbow. We would encourage every lodge to find a way to support both of our Masonic Youth groups. This can be becoming a sponsoring of a new Chapter or Assembly, providing Advisors to a current Chapter or Assembly, making financial donations, providing scholarships, inviting them to perform one of their open ceremonies at your installations or before a Stated Meeting, or many other opportunities.

These two organizations enrich the lives of our youth today, but they also enrich our Masonic Family both now and in the future.



To Light

The substantial majority of Texas Masons are failing to follow M.:W.: Paul Underwood's request that they follow the State of Texas guidelines and wear masks and practice social distancing when attending lodge functions. On June 26th, Texas Governor Greg Abbott pressed the seriousness of the Covid-19 virus situation by walking back some of the opening of Texas businesses. The Governor stated "At this time, it is clear that the rise in cases is largely driven by certain types of activities, including Texans congregating in bars..." While our lodges are nothing like bars, we do have members in close contact with each other for a sustained period of time. Please wear a mask if not for your protection then for that of your Brother next to you.

Another serious outgrowth of Covid-19 is the emotional and psychological burden it has placed on many of our members. We need to pay attention to this burden for the following reasons:

Nearly 1 in 10 men experience depression and anxiety

Depression can lead to suicide and men die by suicide 3.5 times more often than women.

Sixty per cent of men suffer from some sort of trauma, further affecting everyday life.

This pandemic causes us to fear the unknown; the type of fear that leads us to literally lock ourselves inside our homes and wait for the threat to go away. As time passes, and we are constantly bombarded with negative messages from the media, we start to develop depression or anxiety. How many of our Brothers are suffering in this manner?

On the whole, members of our gentle craft tend to be positive and optimistic, but at this time we should help ourselves, and each other by:

Avoiding alcohol and other drugs as coping mechanisms

Maintaining a regular schedule for meals, exercise, and sleep

Staying connected while maintaining social distancing

Trying some wellness programs like meditation, yoga, or muscle relaxation

If you or someone you know feels overwhelmed, there is help at 800/273-8255

We are nearing the edge of a black square and will be on a white square soon.

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

On the Texas Masonic Road Again

By Brother Jerome Weilmuenster



Grapevine – Antique Lodge Room



Grapevine – Mural



Lewisville – Library

Our last trip took us from Richmond, TX to Padre Island and then north to Dallas.

The trip this month will take us north on I35-E to Lewisville, then south to Grapevine and a little further south to Euless. Although there has not been the excitement of a political feud or action from the Civil War, lodges in these three cities have interesting ties to each other.

The area of north Texas from the DFW metroplex to the Red River was originally colonized by the Peters Group (or Peters Colony), a land company formed in 1841 to promote settlement. Like Stephen F. Austin's efforts, the Peters Group brought immigrants to north Texas in return for land grants for the corporation. The countryside which eventually became Lewisville, Grapevine, and Euless was originally part of Peters Colony.

The city now known as Grapevine was originally known by the two-word title of Grape Vine. Its name was due to its location on the Grape Vine Prairie near Grape Vine Springs; both names are homage to the wild grapes that grew in the area. Prior to 1914 the city and most civic enterprises used the two-word version of its name but in that year the post office changed its name to the one-word version and the two-word title was relegated to history. References to Grape Vine will be as it was before 1915. References to Grapevine will be after that date.

Starting on the north end of our journey in Lewisville, John B. Denton Lodge No.201 was chartered in January 1857. The lodge was named for John B. Denton, a Mason, preacher, and lawyer who was killed by Indians in 1841.

Lewisville area Masons had been meeting in

various places, including a depression known as Mason's Hole, just north of Main Street and west of I-35E. The first documented evidence of Masonic meetings in Lewisville indicates there were meetings in a barn that was also used as a school and church in what is now Flower Mound.

In 1859 John B. Denton Lodge No.201 bought a five-acre tract later known as Old Hall Cemetery. Lodge members and members of the local church erected the first permanent home for the lodge. The building was also used for church services and the first public school in Lewisville. However, it would soon be time to move to central Lewisville. John B. Denton Lodge purchased property at the corner of College and Cowan streets and put up a new building there in 1872. This building also housed the Lewisville Masonic Institute. (This might have been under the influence of Grape Vine Lodge No.288 which founded the Grape Vine Masonic Institute in 1868.)

In reading the early minutes of Grape Vine Lodge No. 288, it is noted that there were several early visitors from John B. Denton Lodge No.201, but none after 1890. To avoid confusion with Stanfield Lodge No.217 in Denton, John B. Denton Lodge No.201 changed its name to Lewisville Lodge No.201 in 1890. Following the name change, it was time to move again.

In 1891 a two-story building was erected on the north side of Main Street in Lewisville. As was typical, the first floor was rented for commercial use and the second floor was for lodge meetings. Unfortunately, this building burned down in a fire in 1918, destroying all the lodge records. However, Lewisville Masons were determined to prevail, and a new building was in use at the

same location by 1920. Lewisville No.201 stayed at this location until 1981 when the lodge moved to their current location at 603 Manco, just west of I35-E and south of Main Street.

Going south from Lewisville on State Highway 121 will bring you to Grapevine and the home of Grapevine Lodge No.288, more interesting Masonic ties.

The first settlers in the Grape Vine area arrived in 1842 and settled slightly south and west of the group which was eventually Lewisville. As with the Lewisville group, there were many Masons among these settlers from Missouri. It would be only natural for these Masons to visit and join John B. Denton No.201, even though it meant a ride of 1½ to 2 hours on horseback. However, after the Civil War there was an influx of settlers into Grape Vine and a critical mass of Masons decided to start their own lodge in Grape Vine.

Grape Vine Lodge No.288 was set to work under dispensation in March 1866 and received its charter in July 1866. Several of the charter members were members of John B. Denton No.201 and many more Grape Vine area Masons must have visited No.201. There continued to be visitations and courtesy degrees between the two lodges for several years.

A "dilapidated house" on the north side of town was the first meeting place for Grape Vine Lodge, but by 1868 plans had been put in place for a suitable two-story building which was opened in September 1869. Like John B. Denton Lodge's building, the first floor was a school (Grape Vine Masonic Institute) and the second floor was for lodge meetings. The new lodge building and school were just east of present-day downtown Grapevine.

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

Grape Vine Masonic Institute closed in 1886, but the buildings and property went on to become the basis for the Grapevine School District. The original lodge building and school in Lewisville also became the basis for Lewisville Independent School District.

Grape Vine Lodge continued to meet in the school building until 1888, when they moved to their current location on the southeast corner of Worth and Main Streets. Therefore, Lewisville No.201 and Grapevine No.288 have both been on respective Main Streets. But, the building purchased in 1888 proved too small for Grape Vine Lodge, and it was razed in 1915. A new, larger building was put on the same lot in 1916. This was two years after Grape Vine officially became Grapevine. Lewisville Lodge No.201 and Grapevine Lodge No.288 have both changed their names.

Grapevine Lodge has been in the same building for 104 years, with many renovations. Unfortunately, lodge minutes do not detail work done, but it seems there was no indoor plumbing until 1929, and no hot water until the early 1940's. Since one of the members of the lodge owned the local telephone company, Grapevine Lodge had one of the first commercial telephones in town.

One thing that makes Grapevine Lodge a landmark in town in the mural on the north wall depicting noted famous Masons. This painting was completed in 2008 by Jorge Castaneda. He was not a brother when he started the mural but was raised shortly after its completion. Brother Castaneda also completed three "contemporary" Trestleboards which are proudly hung inside the lodge.

Starting about 2016 a storage room was turned into a lodge museum. Some of the original chairs made by the first worshipful master for the first lodge room hang on the wall. It is also believed that the first altar and the officers' sta-

tions are in the antique room. Since one of the members of Grapevine Lodge is a graduate of the Masonic Home and School, a special corner has been dedicated to the Home and School.

Many people do not know they have been to Grapevine. If you have ever been in DFW International Airport you have been in Grapevine. All the passenger gates at DFW are in Grapevine. The international airport is one thing we have in common with the next lodge to visit, Estelle No.582.

Lewisville No. 201 begat Grapevine No. 288 which begat Estelle No. 582 in the fall of 1883. In the fall of 1883 Brother R. B. Merrill along with several other members of Grapevine Lodge petitioned the lodge for permission to petition the Grand Lodge for the founding of Estelle Lodge, named for Estelle, TX. Brother Merrill and several other members of Grapevine Lodge including Brothers Bryant and Ryan Harrington became members of Estelle Lodge. A member of the Harrington family donated the land for the original site of Estelle Lodge.

Estelle, TX was supposed to be named for a member of Grapevine Lodge whose last name was Estill, but someone in the nation's capital misspelled the name. Irving, TX later annexed the town of Estelle.

In the late 1950's Estelle Lodge moved from Irving to Euless, TX on Highway 183. (The city of Euless was named for E. A. Euless, a member of Grapevine Lodge.) In 1965 this property on Highway 183 was taken in order to widen the highway, and the lodge moved to its current location surrounded by Euless City Hall, Trinity High School, Midway Park Elementary, and the Euless post office. But, what about the international airports? The similarities continue.

From 1953 until 1974 Euless was the home to Greater Southwest International Airport. In 1974 DFW International Airport opened and

Greater Southwest ceased operations. Grapevine likes to think it is the home of DFW International.

Estelle Lodge has had its share of good times and tough times. The lodge leaders were leaders in the Estelle community and influencers in Irving and the surrounding area. In Euless, numerous business leaders, influential city employees, as well as members of the police force and others have been members of Estelle Lodge.

The current building has changed very little externally. The inside had seen few changes since the 1960's until 2019 when the building was significantly damaged by 65 mph straight line winds. Nearly three inches of water and the damaged roof resulted in over \$290,000 in damages that took fourteen months to repair. The lodge was forced to meet at the TMRC for eleven of these months. Except for the lodge room itself, the building was completely gutted and, due to asbestos contamination, was rebuilt from the foundation up.

As was the case when Lewisville No. 201 was destroyed by fire, Estelle No. 582 came together and prevailed over their adversity. Today Estelle Lodge is home to Northeast Tarrant Chapter and Council, and it has been home to another Chapter and Council, a DeMolay Chapter, and Eugene Green Lodge. Additionally, Estelle Lodge has remained involved in the community, working with the Irving Historical Society and supporting four schools through the Fantastic Teeth program.

From beginnings with settlers of Peters Colony, these three lodges have interesting Masonic ties as well as other commonalities. These lodges started schools, moved around, changed names, shared members, and helped each other with degree work - Excellent examples of Brotherhood at work.



Estelle - Lodge Room



Estelle - Marker



Lewisville - Lodge Room

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

Texas Lodge of Research



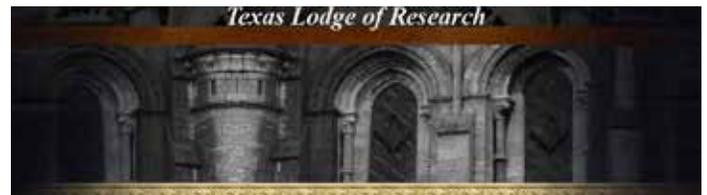
Brethren,

The September meeting of the Texas Lodge of Research will meet Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Fort Worth Masonic Temple (1100 Henderson St). Fort Worth Lodge No. 148 AF&AM will host the meeting. Our Anson Jones Lecturer this year is R.◌W.◌ E. Oscar Alleyne, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of New York. Dr. Alleyne is a frequent guest on talk shows regarding medical services and policy, and given the times, his presentation is sure to be entertaining and informative. You do NOT want to miss it! We are also bringing back the tradition of wearing academic regalia to the Anson Jones Lecture, so please bring your robe and stole.

Our December Stated Meeting is in Bryan and scheduled for Saturday, December 19, 2020, at Brazos Union Lodge No. 129 AF&AM. Details will follow the September meeting.

Our meetings are open to all Master Masons in good standing, and our meals, lectures, and presentations are open to all. Feel free to bring your ladies, or any potential new members.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt our daily and masonic routines, I am frequently reminded of the virtue of prudence. Prudence is, in the words of John Milton, “the virtue by which we discern what is proper to do under various circumstances in time and place.”



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

In these uncertain times, how do our actions affect our family, our friends, and our neighbors? When interacting in the world, what sort of judgment do we use? Do we think about how our actions, or inactions, may affect people? Do we think of ourselves when making decisions, or do we think about the implications and consequences of our actions? While COVID-19 is certainly an excellent time to think about it, I encourage you to continue to ponder and reflect on the virtue of prudence well after this pandemic subsides.

Until then, I remain...

Fraternally,

Charles E. Maddox, Worshipful Master
Texas Lodge of Research
(512) 567-6744

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Square and Compasses Holding

By Brother Bill Crow

A week or so ago, I was asked; “What do you know about the Square and Compasses Holding, Charitable 501c3 corporation”?

I must admit, not much, until I began to research the corporation and its function for the Freemason Magazine. So, let’s begin with who does what, why and how, and begin to discover the seriousness and deliberation with which the Square and Compasses Holdings (SCH) 501c3 Board of Trustees accomplish their duties for the two charities to whom revenues from an endowment are distributed.

Square and Compasses Holding filed a petition in 2007 with the State of Texas to become a 501c3 Charitable Corporation with an exclusive purpose to distribute revenue monies from an endowment fund to the Texas Masonic Home and School (now the Masonic Children and Family Services of Texas) and the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation. The initial monies in the endowment fund came from the sale of the Texas Masonic Home and School property and from the royalties received (the mineral rights on the property were retained) over the next ten (10) years from the production of gas wells.

Square and Compasses Holding is governed by a Board of Trustees. The seven

Trustees are appointed by the beneficiary charities, each appointing three Trustees while the seventh Trustee is appointed through consensus of both beneficiary charities. All are appointed for a term of three years.

The endowment funds held by SCH are invested in a broadly diversified portfolio through Westwood Holdings, a professional money management firm located in Dallas, Texas. The Investment results are reported monthly to each Board Trustee. From 2007 to January 2020, our latest SCH Grand Lodge reporting, the funds have earned approximately \$8,000,000.00.

Distributions of those investment earnings to the beneficiary charities are made under a spending policy adopted by the SCH Board of Trustees and the distributions allowed are based upon their review of applications received from our Masonic Charities: Masonic Children and Family Services of Texas and the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation.

Square and Compasses Holding distributed \$600,000.00 in December 2019 to the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation and the Masonic Children and Family Services of Texas in support of the “Lodge Scholarship” and “Fantastic Teeth” programs. Over

the past 13 years, SCH has distributed approximately \$5,500,000.00 to our Masonic beneficiary charities.

As Masons, it is important that we know and understand who and what we are, what we stand for, and how our “Masonry works” Hopefully, this brief article and others to follow will be meaningful and helpful in our understanding of those seemingly remote programs that are so important to our “walk through Masonry”.

If you would like to know more about Square and Compasses Holding’s governance and management of the endowment funds, you can contact Brother Dan Turner at danturner16@gmail.com or 214-497-5140.



MASONIC
CHILDREN &
FAMILY SERVICES
— OF TEXAS —



Brother Sherwood Owens

By Brother Robert Marshall - Past Master Waco Lodge No. 92, Member Grand Lodge Committee on History



The history of Freemasonry holds a long list of interesting people and stories. The Grand Lodge of Texas has certainly provided its fair share. One of my favorites is the story of Brother Sherwood Owens who was an active Mason and business owner in Waco, and owned a farm out near Gatesville. The farm is still in the family, and was recently featured statewide with Bro. Owens' Past Master photo on an episode of Texas Parks & Wildlife television. His farming legacy, while substantial, is only one part of an extraordinary tale.

Sherwood was born in Kentucky in 1819 and went to medical school before coming to Texas for the first time as an Army medic in the Mexican American War. Afterwards, he made his home in New Orleans where he found success with his own medical practice. In 1849, a more exciting opportunity called his name along with many other hopeful Americans. GOLD!

After a 128 day trip to California, Brother Owens double-dipped by establishing a medical office and beginning his mining operation along the Feather River. For two years, he gained considerable wealth before again relocating, this time for the Australian Gold Rush of 1851. After two more years of gold mining, Owens enlisted in the British Yellow Seas Fleet and served as a Navy surgeon during the Crimean War.

1856 showed signs of a calmer life as Sherwood came back to the states and married. Waco became his home, and in 1858 Waco No. 92 his home Lodge. He again became known by his peers as both

a good doctor and a savvy businessman. That is until the War Between the States called him back to service as an Army medic, this time for the Confederacy.

At the close of the War, Waco welcomed the good doctor home and he co-founded both the Waco Medical Association as well as the Texas Medical Association. He owned a pharmacy on Bridge Street and built the first ice factory in central Texas. Ice was big business in those frontier days before Ricky Cox could provide Texans with air conditioning. Owens' plant produced 5,000 lbs. of ice per day.

Just as he thought his war days were over, a peculiar set of circumstances arose. It was 1873. Sherwood's brother Samuel had just left office as Grand Master of Missouri when he caught word that his legendary gold-mining doctor and brother was at the center of adventure once again. Notorious outlaw Wild Bill Posey came to Dr. Owens in need of medical care for mysterious injuries. The doctor fulfilled his oath but when Posey failed to pay the bill, Owens won a lawsuit requiring the ne'er-do-well to sign over some land property to square up. That summer, Posey and his gang were on the lam after a bank robbery when they showed up at Owens' farm between Goldthwaite and Gatesville. Posey was going to have his revenge on the doctor and his family, or so he thought.

You see, what Posey didn't consider was that even though Owens had served as a medic in three wars, under three different flags, that didn't mean he couldn't handle a gun. In a matter of minutes, the Posey gang was put to flight. Two of them died and another was injured while the rest fled in terror. It wasn't long after that when a fellow member of Waco Lodge, Governor Richard Coke, raised the ransom on Posey's head, resulting in his death at the hands of a group of Native American bounty hunters.

Sherwood retired from medicine in 1883 and opened a hardware store with his sons in downtown Waco. A year later, he was elected Worshipful Master of Waco Lodge. He concurrently served on the Board of Trustees at Baylor University and operated his farm west of Gatesville. During a blizzard in 1888, both of his sons were flash frozen into their saddles. Their horses managed to carry them to a neighbor's home who used bricks from the fireplace to thaw them free and save them from an untimely fate.

The last decade of Sherwood Owens' life was relatively quiet though he did participate in renewed efforts to make Waco the capital of Texas Masonry. That dream came to pass in 1903, the same year our subject passed into that Celestial Lodge above, and what a bundle of stories he took with him.

2020 MASONIC MERCHANDISE

QTY	ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	COST Ea.	
	521PU	LAPEL PIN -	\$5.00	
	521PU-C	CHARM -	\$5.00	
	532PU	BAR CLIP TIE CHAIN - w/Charm	\$15.00	
	523PU	2" PM Jewel W / 29" Chain	\$20.00	
	535FOB	POCKET KEY FOB MM	\$40.00	
	535FOB-PM	POCKET KEY FOB PM	\$40.00	
	CUFF-PU	Cuff link Set	\$20.00	
	520PU	BRONZE COIN	\$5.00	
	524PU	ENAMEL COIN	\$10.00	
	525PU	SILVER COIN	\$80.00	
	526PU	LARGE BUCKLE Enamel w/Grand Masters Logo	\$30.00	
	522PU	SMALL BUCKLE Enamel w/Grand Masters Logo	\$25.00	
	526PU-BRZ	LARGE BUCKLE BRONZE w/Grand Masters Logo	\$30.00	
	515PU	MONEY CLIP	\$15.00	
	534PU	Masonic Pasport	\$15.00	
	PU-ECKNIFE	Commerative Knife, Boxed & Numbered W/Enamel Coin	\$50.00	
	PU-SCKNIFE	Commerative Knife, Boxed & Numbered W/SILVER Coin	\$140.00	
	527PU	BOLO TIE- w/Grand Masters Logo	\$15.00	
	530PU	3" CAR EMBLEM w/Grand Masters Logo	\$15.00	
	528PU	LOGO DECALS -	\$1.00	
	529PU	TAIL LIGHT DECALS (PAIR) S&C	\$5.00	
	529PU-PM	TAIL LIGHT DECALS (PAIR) PM	\$5.00	
	529GM	8" WINDOW DECAL S&C	\$10.00	
	536PU-NAVY	Cap - Mesh Back NAVY	\$15.00	
	536PU-KHAK	Cap- SOLID BACK KHAKI	\$15.00	
	533PU-BLAK	Shirt - M-L-XL-2XL-3XL BLACK	\$35.00	
	533PU-RED	Shirt - M-L-XL-2XL-3XL RED	\$35.00	
	540PU-R TIE	Tie Red w/Grand Masters Logo	\$40.00	
	540PU-BOW	Bow Tie Red, untied w/Grand Masters Logo	\$40.00	
	LADIES PIN	LADIES PIN/PINDANT, SAND DOLLAR	\$30.00	
	LADIES-E R	LADIES EARRINGS, STARFISH	\$30.00	
	LADIES SET	LADIES SET PIN & EAR RINGS	\$50.00	
	LADIES PUR	LADIES PURSE HOLDER	\$10.00	
	LADIES KEY	LADIES KEY FINDER	\$10.00	
	LADIES BAG	LADIES BAG ROYAL/BLACK	\$25.00	
	FIREING GL	FIREING GLASS	\$20.00	
	KOOZIE	Can Koozie W/ Grand Master Logo	\$5.00	
			SUB-TOTAL	
	Check Enclosed (Make Check Payable to Grand Lodge of Texas)		S/H Under \$50.00	\$7.00
			S/H over \$50.00	\$12.00
	VIS/MC/DISC ONLY CARD # _____		TOTAL	
	Exp: ____/____/____	CVN# _____		
	NAME: _____		RETURN TO;	
			GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS	
	Address: _____		PO BOX 446	
			WACO, TX 76703	
	CITY/STATE _____	ZIP _____		
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UNFORTUNATELY, THE 2020 PHOTO CONTEST HAS BEEN CANCELED.

Look for details on the 2021 contest to be posted on the Grand Lodge website at <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/2020-photo-contest-entries/>



Landscape



Masonry



Snapshot



Selfie