



# THE TRESTLEBOARD



Volume 3, Issue 12

Davy Crockett Lodge #1225 A.F. & A.M.

July 2011

## **\*\*From The East\*\***

First, let me thank the membership of our lodge, for their preferment and express how honored I am to be selected as Worshipful Master of our great lodge. And special thanks to the brethren and their families who have been there for me and guided and assisted me during this journey. I want to thank Worthy Matrons Jo Holloway and Toni Emblem for being my escorts for the installation and look forward a great relationship this year with our two chapters with the projects we have planned. Thanks to Rick Holloway for all he did in his year for us this year. We have no time to waste this year, I have it packed full of good and wholesome projects and events. My core goal is training and education for all our Brethren. We have many new Master Masons and they very excited and are coming to Lodge regularly. Some or most, have already stepped into the officer line, I even had to use appointed positions due to all the Brethren wanting to work and contribute to our Lodge. I know many times men are put in a leadership position and have many grand ideas but few of them come to fruition. Usually this is due to lack of planning and participation, Brethren we may finally have the "perfect storm". We have definite plans with obtainable goals and most importantly the participation to make it happen. I'm not talking about just the new, young Brethren. I'm seeing a "revitalization" of the veteran membership. My first project is The Widows Outreach Program. Our lodge and our O.E.S. sisters are teaming up to contact our widows and let them know they are not forgotten. This is not something we should do...it is something we must do, we are obligated to do at least this much for our passed Brethren. Along those same lines I will institute an outreach program for our membership we haven't seen for awhile. I'm working on a methodology to not only establish contact but maintain it. It is not enough to call a Brother that hasn't been to lodge and ask him to come back. We need to contact them as a friend and brother and see how he is doing. If you haven't been o Lodge in awhile, I think you are missing out on something great. Last year the Davy Crockett Light Brigade was founded. The members of this illustrious group have brought forward presentations during our meetings that are...well truly outstanding, exceptionally good quality and highly informative programs. Be sure to read our newsletter the Trestle Board for upcoming programs. I have several lodge visits planned and I believe I have our first family night scheduled for late July and it will not be held here at the lodge...we're going bowling, location to be determined. I also have a good old fashioned homecoming (or picnic) planned. And September 27<sup>th</sup> brother Dan Mason will be presented his 50 year award by M.W.: T.E. "Gene" Carnes Grand Master of Texas Masons. All our events will be published in the newsletter. We are trying to be good stewards of the lodge and save where we can, so if you have email and are not receiving the newsletter via email, please give the secretary your email address so he can add you to our mailing list. It not only helps us cut down on the cost of postage it facilitates getting important information to our membership faster and more efficiently. In closing, let me say again how honored I am to be chosen to be Worshipful Master for this year and how thankful I am to be a member of such a great a lodge as Davy Crockett.

## **Upon the Secretary's Desk!**

**by Chris Williams Secretary**

Brethren it's a new year!! On Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> we thanked JPM Rick Holloway for his service to the Lodge the past year and welcomed the newly installed officers of Davy Crockett for the 2011/2012 Masonic Year. They are:

- Worshipful Master - Patrick Giles**
- Senior Warden Wes - O'Neill**
- Junior Warden - Brad Kohanke**
- Treasurer- PM Burt Reynolds**
- Secretary- PM Chris Williams**
- Senior Deacon- Mike Bragg**
- Junior Deacon- Chris Drzymala**
- Senior Steward- Doug Montgomery**
- Junior Steward- Tim Dellagiacom**
- Chaplain- APM Vic Woodfield**
- Tiler- Jason Munsterteiger**
- Master of Ceremonies- Aaron Gonzalez**
- Marshall- Tony Perez**

**Congratulations and good luck to all our new officers !!!**

## **This Month's Humor**

### **THE WILDLIFE**

**Two men were riding in a truck together through Montana observing the wildlife along the way. Upon spotting a wild elk, the first man says to the other, "Did you know that elks have sex about 10-12 times a day!?" The other man replies "Oh no! Don't tell me that." "Why?" the first man asks. The other man says, "I just joined the Masons!"**

## **\*\*\*\*\*STATED MEETING PROGRAMS \*\*\*\*\***

**Stated Meeting 7-5-11  
Program**

**"Inspirational Masonic Stories"**

**Two Short Stories**

**Presented By**

**PM & DI @ Lg., Bro Dan Mason**

**Stated Meeting 7-19-11  
Program**

**"Why Square Your Work?"**

**A Fresh Look at Masonic Symbolism**

**Presented By**

**Our WM Brother Patrick Giles**

**Stated Meeting 8-2-11  
Program**

**"A Little Bit of Brit Wit"**

**"Tonight We Laugh at Ourselves"**

**Presented By**

**Bro Brad Kohanke**

## Indirect Light

A monthly "opinion" by  
Brother Bradley Kohanke, 32

I've been a Human Resources professional for over 20 years now. In that role, I've probably interviewed thousands of applicants for various positions with different companies. Along with the standard questions about whether or not a candidate actually knows how to fulfill the requirements of the position, I also like to find out what kind of personality they have so I can tell if they will be a good "cultural" fit for the company and the department. Questions regarding teamwork, desired management styles, etc. are all pretty standard. One question I ask is not standard. I want to know what their biggest "pet peeves" are. For example, if they don't like to be "micro-managed" and I know that is a quality the hiring manager possesses, this person won't be happy in the long term and I will be trying to fill this position again very soon. This leads me to this month's discussion. Let me start by saying that my biggest pet peeves are hypocrisy, people who say they will be someplace and then don't show up or bother to call, and MOST OF ALL – inconsiderate drivers. Brethren, this last pet peeve goes beyond just being an annoyance for me. It has bordered on "road rage." There have been times in the past when someone has cut me off or blocked my entrance onto the freeway when I have tail-gated, screamed obscenities, given the "one-finger salute," etc. The level of anger that would rise in me was ridiculous and I felt like something had to be done (and my wife "told" me that something had to be done) to control it. Well, I remember seeing this commercial on TV for Fandango, the service where you can order movie tickets on-line in advance so you don't have to stand in line at the theatre. This young couple orders their tickets and arrives at the theatre. When they try to park however, another car cuts them off and steals their parking place. The young man looks down at a Buddha that he has attached to his dashboard, sighs, and parks his car elsewhere. Then they go to the door and are let in, while the parking space thief is told the movie is sold out. Karma has rewarded good behavior. So...I got a little Buddha and attached him to my dash board – and guess what. IT DIDN'T WORK WORTH A CRAP!!! Someone would cut me off; I'd look at the little Buddha and say, "What are you laughing at fatty?" Then I would go back to my usual tirade against the other driver. Then one day, after already being raised to Master Mason, joining the Scottish and York Rites, and finally the Shrine, I decided to buy some decals for the back of my truck. I wanted to show my pride in my affiliation with Freemasonry and perhaps even do a little recruiting by having those symbols visible. After placing these decals on my vehicle, the inevitable happened; someone almost side-swiped me on the freeway because they were texting and not paying attention. I started to get mad, but then like a bolt of lightning it hit me. I was no longer some anonymous driver who could do whatever vengeful things he wanted and then go on about his business. Those symbols that I had so lovingly placed on the back of my vehicle made me a visible representative of Freemasonry. My actions on the road were now going to be reflective of the Craft as a whole and it was my responsibility to act in a manner befitting a Mason. I looked over at the driver who looked at me apologetically and I smiled and waved to let him know that I knew he didn't do it on purpose. Then we both went on our merry ways. Since that time, I can honestly say that those symbols have been a constant reminder to me to be tolerant of others' mistakes, and to refrain from getting angry on the roadway. My wife has even remarked, "What happened to you? You never seem to get mad while driving anymore." I explained my epiphany and she said, "Hey, whatever works." It is a shame that it took placing those decals on my car to remind me to act in a manner befitting a Mason. After being raised to Master Mason, I should have already known that from that point forward, I was a representative of the Fraternity and had a responsibility to act accordingly. But we are forever growing and forever learning. I guess you could say that on that particular day, I "became" a better Mason. For those of you purchasing the new Masonic license plates for your vehicles, I hope this story will hold a special lesson and meaning for you. Until next month brethren..."Food for thought is nourishment for the soul."

## Profile of a Brother

(A monthly feature introducing the Brothers of Davy Crockett Lodge)



This month's profile is on Brother John Root. Brother John was Initiated on Nov. 5, 1958, Passed Nov. 19, 1958, and Raised Dec. 3, 1958 in Union Lodge No. 79 in Bristol, New Hampshire. Brother John was born in London England on June 24, 1937.

In November 1952 his family moved from London England to the US. He graduated from Bristol High School in Bristol, NH in 1954 and from the University of New Hampshire in 1958. He was commissioned in the Air Force and went on active duty in December 1958. He asked his Lodge to get him through the Degrees before leaving for active duty and they complied. Brother John served 37 years in the USAF and retired as a Colonel on Jan 1, 1989. John lost his first wife "Toni" to lung cancer in 2006 with whom he had two sons. He now has four grandsons. In 2008 he married Gail who is the Widow of a US Navy Captain he served with at the US Embassy in Malaysia. Gail has a daughter who lives in Los Angeles. When asked to tell one unknown fact he says that he was co-founder and first race director of the New Hampshire Marathon. Aside from maintaining his membership in his Mother Lodge, John is also a charter member of General Court Lodge No. 1784 in Concord NH. The membership is comprised exclusively of men who have served as Representatives or Senators of the NH Legislature. He joined the Scottish Rite bodies and the Shrine while stationed in Hawaii in the 70's but demitted due to his first wife's illness and never re-affiliated. Due to his having to move on average every two years he was never able to join the line at any Lodge but during retirement he was served on the School Board, the MH Post Secondary Education Commission, and the NH State Board of Education and was elected to serve as a Representative in the NH State Legislature. When asked who has been the most influential person on your Masonic Career John says that it was "Wor. Morton H. Cavis, Past Master of my home Lodge in NH and my employer from the time I graduated from college to the time I went on active duty. He was my instructor for all three degrees and was a life-long friend until he entered the Celestial Lodge." The reason John decided to be a Mason is that "In the small town of Bristol, NH where I worked during my high school and college vacations I came to know many of the local businessmen, several of whom were Masons. I saw them as good men and good citizens and felt that I would like to be more closely affiliated with them." When asked, John states that Masonry to him is "A journey of self-improvement with like minded men."

## The Profound Pontifications of Brother John Deacon

Almost the whole month had gone by and I realized I hadn't heard from the huge one, my Brother John. It was almost lunch time on a Friday and I was thinking that it was going to be a real problem if I didn't get to experience the profundity of his wisdom and knowledge. Nahhhh, not really. It would mean I would have to make something up and I surely don't think all of you want to read something I made up. So I called his cell phone and after ringing ten times Mrs. Deacon answered. I thought that was strange that he wasn't out on the road somewhere. I asked where the great one was and she told me that he was in the hospital which scared the heck out of me. Without calmly finding out what was wrong I just assumed (we all know what happens when you assume) that it was bad and asked for the name of the hospital and the room number and hung up. Being a Friday afternoon we were just winding down for the week and just had a few cars needing to be picked up by customers so I asked Leonard if I could get out a little early to go visit John in the hospital. He wanted to know what was wrong with John and all I could do is just stand there with a dumb look on my face and say "I don't know." He said at his age it's probably not good so get out of here and call us and let us know. I knew I had a long drive ahead of me but getting out at noon would put me at the hospital in plenty of time for visitors. I drove as fast as I dared and pulled up in front of the hospital right at five o'clock. It wasn't a big hospital but I ended up having to ask for directions anyway. They had him ensconced in a room on the second floor way back in the corner (big surprise). I could hear his booming voice long before I got to his door. It sounded like he was complaining about something (another big surprise). As I got to the doorway I saw Mrs. Deacon give him a kiss on the cheek and tell him to behave himself. She looked up and saw me, came over and smiled and gave me a hug and said, "I am glad you are here. I have to run some errands. You can deal with the grouch for a while." I promised I would get him under control to which she gave me a little smirk on her way out the door. As I stepped into the room a nurse flew by me and blocked my way and snarled. "Only immediate family is allowed in here." Before I could reply John said, "He's OK, he's my Brother." She walked up to me and I could see the little badge around her neck that said "Hi, my name is Mona, I am here to give you the best care anywhere." And while I was contemplating that, she looked me up and down with a stern stare and said. "You don't look a bit like him." With no time to think I quickly replied, "We had different Mothers." She continued her inspection and walked out of the room mumbling something about "that's what they all said." I shook my head to clear it and walked over to John's bed and asked him what he was in for. He said that they were going to do a knee replacement the next day. I was stunned. I said with a trace of sarcasm in my voice, "I drove all the way up here, worried about you and all that's wrong is the bum knee you have had forever?" "My wife told me you hung up before she could tell you what was going on," he shot back.

....Go to next PANEL.....)

"It's not my fault you came all the way up here."  
"Heck, you could have called me back," I said. "I told her not to call you back," he replied. "I am glad you came because otherwise we couldn't have talked this month and you would have just had to make something up." Hmmmm, I thought. That's a little freaky and way too clairvoyant for me..... but he was right. So I settled down in the recliner next to his bed and asked, "So what is your major problem? I could hear you complaining about something when I stepped out of the elevator way down the hall. You know they will just throw you out of here if you keep it up and Nurse Mona looks like she could do just that." "Brother Chris," John complained. "It's the food. It's terrible and there's not near enough of it and Nurse Mona doesn't seem to care. I see her and my wife talking in the hall whispering to each other and looking at me. I think they are doing this to me on purpose. I am about to pass out from hunger." "Ok, OK John," I said as soothingly as I could, I will go and get you a big hamburger or something and smuggle it into the hospital. Would that make you happy?" John's voice got real low and he looked from side to side like he thought the room might be bugged and whispered, "I have got it handled. We should have some more company in a few minutes." No sooner than he had uttered those words that four guys walked into the room. One had a bouquet of flowers and one had a card and the other two were carrying a very large box that had a big bow on it. Before anyone could say anything Nurse Mona appeared in the doorway and announced that only immediate family could be in the room to which John told her that all four were his Brothers. She said "No way" and proceeded to study each of their faces one by one. They were all frozen in place and obviously afraid to move. She was pretty intimidating. Finally she turned to John and said, "Mr. Deacon I see no family resemblance in any of these men." The one holding the flowers said, "That's because..... and before he could finish she turned on him and cut him off .... "You'd better not say that you all had different Mothers." We all just stood there like statues, all of us afraid to speak. All of a sudden Mona threw up her hands and said, "Just be warned that visiting hours are over at Eight O'clock and anyone who is left I will throw out." I don't know about the other fellers but I surely believed her and made a note to myself to be long gone by eight. As she was leaving, John called out to her and asked if she would shut the door because we had some important family business to discuss. She whirled around in the doorway and gave all of us a withering stare which spoke volumes about what she was thinking right then and she backed out slowly closing the door as she did. . "Holy Maloney, John," I said. "That lady is all business." .....Go to page 5

## WORK, WORK, WORK

### By Bro. Alphonse Cerza, Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

Work always has been an important concept and word to Americans and to Freemasons. Our pre-eminence among nations of the world is the result of a superabundance of natural resources, the willingness of our people to work converting these natural resources into useful things to make life comfortable, and a governmental form which encourages individual effort in a climate of freedom to develop one's inherent abilities. The most important of these factors is the utilization of one's talents at work. In Freemasonry we utilize the work constructing King Solomon's Temple as a symbol to build character. It takes work to prepare to teach the candidate the catechism; and it takes work by the candidate to learn the catechism and secure the needed proficiency to advance from one degree to the next. All terms connected with the tools and work of the operative masons are used as symbols in the Craft. Therefore, work is the foundation stone in Freemasonry and the work ethic is the foundation stone of the American Way of Life. As a practical matter, it is well to observe that everything is the result of work by someone. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the shelter we use to protect us from the elements are all the result of work engaged in by many persons. It involves planning, the securing of the natural resources, and work to convert the material into the finished product. Likewise, it is work that makes a candidate into a member. First, it takes work by many members to prepare themselves to be able to confer the degrees with skill. It takes work by one or more members to learn the catechism and to teach it to the candidates. It takes work by the candidate to learn the catechism to gain proficiency to advance to the next degree. And, if the lodge is doing its work well, it will retain an interest in the new member after he receives the third degree and will teach him many fundamentals about the Craft, its philosophy, its heritage, and its organization and work. This is the method whereby the lodge can convert a member into a Freemason. There is a vital difference between being a member and being a Freemason. Following the formalities of receiving the degrees makes the candidate a member, but he does not become a Mason until he has learned about our heritage, has an understanding of the philosophy of Freemasonry, and has adopted the lessons of the degrees into his everyday life. It takes much additional work to bring this about, but it is a necessary part of the work of every lodge which has been neglected for too many years in too many places. Conferring the degrees does not complete the work of Freemasonry. It is just the beginning. Unfortunately, for too many years the word "work" when used by Masons has described only the ritualistic work conducted by the lodge. And in most places lodge instruction on ritualistic matters, ritualistic schools, teaching by Grand Lecturers and other instructors have done a creditable job in this area of Masonic work. Some have been critic of our Masonic leaders on the basis that there has been too much emphasis on perfecting the ritualistic work of the lodge with the thought that this is the only thing that matters in order for the Craft to be successful. There is no question that the ritualistic work of the lodge is of vital importance for it contains the philosophy of the Craft and is the vehicle used to teach the candidate the Lessons that are the foundation of Freemasonry. Doing good ritualistic work is important because it is the first exposure of the candidate to the Craft and the first impressions are always lasting ones. The trouble is that so much emphasis is placed on this phase of our work that everything else is neglected. Placing so much emphasis only in the form has caused us to neglect the substance contained in the degrees. It has been the easy way out for many officers who find it easy to work by

rote and to give no attention to the meaning or to the purpose of the ritualistic work. There is a need for additional work with the candidate before he is initiated, after he has received each degree, and after he has completed all the formal steps to become a member. Some Grand Lodges have recognized this need by establishing Educational Committees which have devised programs to give each candidate additional instruction beyond the ritualistic work of the three degrees. Many of these committees have prepared booklets for the candidates which are excellent and serve a useful purpose. (Sec M.S.A. Digest, "Tried and Proven.") Placing these booklets in the hands of the candidate is fine, but what assurance do we have that the candidate will read the material and that when he reads it he will fully understand it. What we need is more time spent with the new member either personally or in group meetings to answer their questions and to inform them about the nature of the Craft and its work. These additional activities are valuable to the candidate and new member, but they are also important to the lodge, because they enable the officers to set additional members to work. A working member is always an interested member. It is the duty both traditional and expressed of the Worshipful Master to set the Craft to Work and to give it proper instruction. In too many places for too many years this duty has been interpreted too narrowly and has been confined only to the conferring of the degrees. As a result of this attitude and interpretation there has been too much Masonic unemployment among our members. The apathy that has existed within the Craft in recent years and the continual net loss of members year after year would seem to indicate that more work is needed to make the Craft an important part in the lives of its members. As in the business world where productivity has been declining each year for some time, we are paying the price with loss of members and apathy. When productivity is reduced in the market place, we have fewer good results from the lesser work performed. It will eventually mean fewer jobs because persons cannot afford to pay the resulting higher prices. With fewer goods purchased, social tensions increase. Reduced profits result and we have more inflation. Everyone is hurt as a lower standard of living results. There has been too much underachievement per worker in the United States for too many years. Likewise, there has been too much Masonic unemployment because we have not utilized the talents of each of our members by putting them to work on projects that will make him an interested and involved member working for the benefit of the lodge and its members. (See June, 1980 Short Talk Bulletin, "What's Your Line?") There seems to be a contagious co-relation between the causes that reduce productivity in the market place and in the Masonic organization. So it is worthy of note that if we can bring about an increase in productivity in the market place and in the Craft everyone in our country and in our Fraternity will receive valuable dividends. In the words of Brother James A. Garfield, twentieth President of the United States, "If the power to do hard work is not a talent, it is the best possible substitute for it." How can we improve this situation within the Craft? It all boils down to the fact that more work will have to be done by everyone involved, apply themselves with diligence in the performance of their duties; to be determined to do a better job than has been done in the past; and to expand the scope of their work and that of the lodge. It means that the officers should consider ways and means of improving conditions in the lodge and its work. .... Conclusion on page 8

"You darn tootin' she is," he hurriedly replied. "We don't have much time. Brother Chris these are my Brothers Harold, Lloyd, Vester, and Bob. Brothers this is my Brother Chris from San Antonio. We shook hands all around and Bob said, "So this is who you tell all them stories to and everyone thinks you are so durn smart and such. Brother Chris, you and me need to talk sometime." "We don't have time for that," John interrupted as I nodded in agreement with Bob. "Let's get to it. Brother Harold, You see that the door is properly tiled." Brother Harold replied, "Yes Wor.... I mean OK John." He put a chair in front of the door and sat down. While I stood there with my mouth hanging open in shock, the big box was opened a big plastic bag was untied and I watched as more food was pulled out than I thought could possibly fit in that box. No wonder it took two to carry. There was chicken of every kind and description. There was Fried Chicken, Baked Chicken, Chicken Tenders, and even gizzards and livers which I can do without but the rest of them seemed to like them a lot. Next came out a pot of Chicken and Dumplings which made my mouth water uncontrollably. Then they hauled out about 10 ears of corn on the cob and a bowl of fried Okra which I reached for right away. Heck they even had two loaves of home made bread. I remarked that the only thing missing was something to wash it all down which got me a sideways glance and a shake of the head by Brother Vester as he pulled out a gallon of Tea and a gallon of Lemonade and cups for everyone. We were all digging in when John seemed to remember something and turned and called out across the room, "Mr. Jackson? Are you awake over there?" It was then I realized that this was a two patient room and there was a long curtain separating the two beds. "Hell yes I am awake," growled the voice from the other side of the curtain. "How could anybody sleep with all that racket going on over there?" "Well I am sorry about that," John replied apologetically. "Are you hungry?" "It's about time," he growled again. "I thought you'd never ask. I was just about to push my panic button and have Nurse Mona break up your party. But you just bought my silence. Now pull this durn curtain out of the way and let me have some real food. I have been in here four days and I can't take it any more either." We all ate fast and in total silence savoring all the wonderful tasting homemade food. The only family business that was discussed throughout the meal was that everyone needed to go to dinner at Brother Lloyd's house some night because it was his wife that had make most of the dinner. I can tell you dear readers it was a meal that I would drive five hours to have anytime. While the Brothers were cleaning up the mess that we made, Brother Harold opened the window to let the smell dissipate. Mr. Jackson broke the silence saying, "You know that it's not going to take Nurse Mona long to figure out your little game. "Whatever do you mean Mr. Jackson," John asked with an innocent look on his face. "I am just saying that she will figure out that you all are Masonic Brothers at some point and she won't be happy. She is a by the book person." "How did you figure it out," John asked? "It really wasn't that hard," he replied. "My Father was a Mason.. ( next panel)

. Anyway, thanks for the dinner. Now pull that curtain and let me sleep." John's food posse said their goodbyes and told John they would check on him after his surgery and left. I looked up at the clock and it was already close to seven o'clock. I had to drive back that same night so I needed to extract any wisdom of any kind worth using in my column in less than an hour. I sure didn't want to be here when Mona came back. I said in a low voice nodding towards the curtain that separated John's bed with Mr. Jackson's, "Do you have anything you want me to tell the Brothers who read the Newsletter?" He pondered a moment before replying and then said, "Don't worry about talking low. What I have to say can be said in front of anyone." A low growl came from the other side of the curtain, "I would just as soon you keep it low. I'm trying to sleep." John lowered his voice to just above a whisper and said, "Brother Chris when did you decide to become a Mason?" "Oh my gosh," I thought to myself. "I am waiting to hear something profound and important and he's asking personal questions." And aloud, "I was initiated in 1984 John so it must have been sometime before that. But what does that have to do with anything?" "No," he said. "When did you decide to be - come a Mason?" "Come on John," I asked. "What do you want me to say? I was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in 1985. I guess I became a Mason then, right?" "No My Brother, you are not getting what I am asking," he said as he frowned at me. "Then I am confused John. You need to unconfused me." "Me too," chimed in the voice on the other side of the curtain. John and I looked at each other and then at the curtain. Then he shrugged and said, "Brother Chris, people are always asking me when I became a Mason and I have always answered like you did and then the other day it hit me like a lightning bolt right between the eyes." And as he said it he gave this dramatic demonstration of his idea of a lightning bolt hitting him right between the eyes. "John," I said hurriedly as I looked at the clock, we don't have much time. You need to not be so dramatic and get to the point." "He's right," echoed Jackson from next door. You are giving me a headache. Get to it man." "OK, OK here it is," he said with an exasperated tone, glancing at the curtain as he spoke. "When you were initiated, you were "made" a Mason. When you were Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason you were told that you were entitled to all the "rights and benefits" of a Master Mason, but nowhere in any of your Degrees or your memory work did anyone tell you or did you read that you had "become" a Mason. You know why? Because you hadn't. Just because a man is Initiated, Passed, and Raised does not mean he has "become" a Mason. Finishing the Degrees does not mean that instantaneously a Brother has become the man that our Principals and Teachings can make him. There are many, many Brothers out there that have never made ...next page

the decision to “become” a Mason. Oh, sure, they had to be good men, of good character to even be considered for membership into our gentle Brotherhood, but “becoming” a Mason takes time, and study, and reflection, and lots and lots of hard work. No wonder that it is said that Masonry is a “Way of Life” because for most Brothers it becomes your life and is a lifetime work in progress. Given the proper amount of time and thought it becomes a part of everything you say and do .... of every decision you make and every life you touch. It inspires you to do things you never thought you could do. But just because you carry a membership card doesn’t .... and I repeat, doesn’t mean you have become a Mason.

“I think I understand what you are saying John,” I said hoping I wasn’t disturbing Mr. Jackson. “It is pretty easy to spot each of those Brothers who have “become” a Mason. There aren’t that many of them though.” “Yup, Brother Chris,” he said, “but there are many, many more Brothers out there who have made the conscious decision to begin the work necessary to “become” a Mason. All Masons are good men, but there are those who you just know that have “become” everything that Masonry is about. They have not an unkind word or thought, but always a thoughtful smile and a warm handshake. A Brother who you know immediately would do anything for you and who you could trust with your life. They are men who go about their lives doing good things for others without fanfare or recognition. Too many Brothers walk around with a membership card in their wallets and think that means they have “become” a Mason but I can tell you that they are wrong in their thinking. There is a difference in being a good man and “becoming” a Mason. Now do you know what I am talking about?” Before I could answer a sad sounding voice from the other side of the curtain said, “Well I sure do. You make a very good point. I happen to be one of those card carrying Brothers. I never made that decision to “become” a Mason.” John and I just stared at each other not saying anything. I could imagine Mr. ... err... apparently Brother Jackson lying there staring at the ceiling absorbing John’s words. The silence was finally broken by John who asked, “Why didn’t you say you were a Mason before?” I heard the Brother take a deep breath and blow it out, and then he said, “Well I guess I was a little ashamed. Not ashamed to be Mason but ashamed that I never learned how to be a true Mason. My Lodge Brothers were all good men I am sure, but I never felt like I was one of them and it was easier to not go to Lodge than to make a place for myself there. I figured that I was a Master Mason so I was as much a Mason as any of them but just now I sadly realize that I never was.” Then I heard him chuckle and say, “Brothers, I stopped believing in coincidences long ago and I believe that somehow I was supposed to be right here tonight to hear what you said. Thank you for saying it and ..... thanks for the dinner. Now be quiet and let me sleep.” John and I just stared at each other with a dumb look on our faces. “So, Brother Chris,” said John “Did I give you something to pass on to the Brothers?” All I could do is shake my head and smile. “John,” I said. “You surely did and I will tell you what I think. ...next panel

I think you “became” a Mason a long time ago.” “I am not so sure about that, Brother Chris,” he said seriously. “But I appreciate you saying it. I just hope that when the Supreme Architect calls me home, he won’t be disappointed in me.”

All of a sudden the door burst open and there she was..... Nurse ... Mona, and she had one of those “HA, I caught you” looks on her face. She looked around the room and seemed disappointed that the other Brothers were already gone and then her eyes settled on me. I glanced at the clock and realized I was on her time. I could feel my hair prickling on the back of my neck as I stammered in a weak voice, “I was just leaving.” “You sure are,” she growled. “It’s eight o’clock. Say your good- byes and get out. I’ll be waiting outside.” Well I just stood there frozen for a few seconds and I realized that my knees were shaking. “Boy she scares the crap out of me,” I said. “I am sure glad I am not in here.” “Thanks a lot,” John whined. “You’d really go and leave a Brother behind knowing how she is?” “I feel confident that you and Brother Jackson can take her no problem,” I said not really meaning it. “Don’t count on it”, Came the voice from beyond the curtain and I realized I needed to get while the getting was good. I said, “OK John, I gotta go now.” “Here take this box with you,” he said quickly. “No John,” I said. “What if she smells it. She will surely kick my rear end all over the place.” “Better you than me,” he shot back. “Now go!” I grabbed the box and did what my Dad told me a long time ago to do in a tight situation. I kept a stiff upper lip and a puckered rear .... and stepped out into the hall. Oh yes, she was waiting for me all right. I said a little prayer and ended with a whispered “So Mote It Be” that I could get by Nurse Mona with this big box of food trash with my hide still intact.... and boldly started for the elevator. Then out of nowhere something devious popped into my mind and I thought, “What the heck” and changed my course to pass close by where she was standing with her hands on her hips her eyes shooting daggers at me. As I went past her I leaned in and whispered in her ear that John had told me that he thought she was a real hot chick. Boy... she reacted as if she had been slapped. As I got on the elevator she was still standing in the same spot with a stunned look on her face. I must have laughed half the way home. I made a mental note to myself not to answer any call from John for a couple of weeks. He was going to need time to cool off. I hope to talk to you all next month. Have a good one.

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[. Davy Crockett Lodge # 1225 A.F. & A. M](#)

**Stated Meetings -- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays**

Meal at 6:30; Open Lodge at 7:30 for Business Meeting  
Masonic Philosophy and History during meeting.

**“Receiving Masonic Light” Training and Instruction**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays.**

# Calendar for July and August

**July 5<sup>th</sup> -- Stated Meeting (The program for this meeting will be two short inspirational stories about Masonry, presented by PM and DI at large Brother Dan Mason)**

**July 12<sup>th</sup> -- Practice or Degree**

**July 19<sup>th</sup> -- Stated Meeting (The Program for this meeting will be “Why Square Your Work?”, presented by Wor Master, Bro Patrick Giles. This is an original and fresh look at Masonic Symbolism.)**

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Lodge visit to Lonnie Irvin Daylight Lodge**

**July 26<sup>th</sup> -- Practice or Degree**

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Stated Meeting (The Program for this meeting will be “A Little Bit of Brit Wit” presented by Brother Brad Kohanke. This is a humorous look at how some people look at Masons. The Light Brigade fulfills its’ obligation to entertain. No Masonic education or history tonight)**

**August 9<sup>th</sup> – Practice or Degree**

**August 16<sup>th</sup> – Stated Meeting (The Program for this meeting symbolism of the Fellowcraft Degree. You must be at least a Fellowcraft to see this program. Presented by PM Bro Chris Williams.)**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Practice or Degree**

**August 30<sup>th</sup> – Family Night!! Hey everyone, we’re going bowling. The WM is having a Bowling Night for Davy Crockett Brothers, Wives and Ladies. Come out and show your stuff. If you don’t Bowl then come out a heckle those who are.**

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## July Birthdays

Joe Mears	Richard Holloway	L.A. Price	Scott Barlow	Jason Munsteteiger
Larry Bennett	George Wilson	Gary Zimmerman	Reginald Mote	Wayne Walters
Howard Hoffman	George Oommen	Oscar Cortez	Paul Carrion	Dave Hammons
Billy Wayne Mayo	Miguel Castilleja	Ludolf Ingwersen	Edward Montalvo	Buster Horlen
James Earl McKeown		Charles Brown		

**Happy Birthday Brothers!!!**

From Page 4 ...It means that the officers must change their point of view that the word "work" is restricted to the ritualistic effort of the lodge. The officers must take a genuine interest in each resident member as these two elements will give some indication of the abilities of the members and what their individual interests may be. Each person is different and is not interested in the same thing. We must recognize that not all of our members are interested in the rote learning of the lectures and the degree work and will not spend the time doing something in which they are not interested. When these individual interests and talents are ascertained they should be utilized by the lodge by assigning proper work to the member. It is surprising how member's favorably respond to requests to work for the lodge within the areas of their interests. To be singled out to perform a task and to be recognized for the abilities that one possesses is always flattering. This will make the member a better member and the lodge also will benefit from the work done. As the skills, abilities, and talents of the members are explored, it is likely that the lodge may find it necessary to adopt new beneficial programs to put these members to work. It cannot be said at any time that we have all the workers we need and that there are no new programs or work to be done by the lodge. The use of a little imagination will often disclose new important areas in which the lodge can function for the benefit of the members, the lodge and the community. There is always room for Masonically unemployed members to become employed. Specific suggestions cannot be made that will apply everywhere. To be taken into consideration is the type of members who belong to a specific lodge, local conditions, what has taken place in the past, and how much the unemployed members can be motivated to take an active part in the work of the lodge. There may be a need of having new committees appointed. It is also likely that the committees that exist must be converted into working committees rather than existing in name only. Giving the member a title and duties to perform plus a bit of recognition may be enough to get him to work. It should not be hard to find things that need attention. You can start by considering the physical condition of the premises where the lodge meets. Do the premises need to be painted? Do the grounds need to be spruced up with a lawn, flower beds, bushes, a flag pole, etc.? Are there widows of deceased members who have been neglected? Are there sick members who need some attention? Does the lodge need a library with Masonic books? Are there members with hobbies such as stamp and coin collections with items of Masonic interest that ought to be put to work in organizing a display of these items at an open meeting? Do you have a member whose hobby is gourmet cooking who can be put to work preparing fancy dishes for lodge dinners? Do you have able members who are students who can be put to work preparing talks on Masonic subjects? These are some of the questions that come to mind at once as one explores areas to create work for the Masonically unemployed members. Here are some suggestions that might be considered. If you have a number of retired members with time on their hands, why not adopt the "welcome wagon" idea of the business community? Form a Welcome Committee in your lodge, arrange to get the names and addresses of all new families which move into the community, and have these retired members call on them to welcome them as neighbors. Visit with the new family and let them know that if they need any help or information that the lodge is ready to help. This sort of project will create much good will with the new residents and the working members will get a "lift" from the work. There is always need for expanded educational activity in our lodges. The scholars, teachers, and readers of Masonic literature have been neglected by our lodges. These members should be put to work studying various phases of Masonic history, the lodge records to find interesting items, the philosophy of the Craft with the view of having them present talks to the members. Study Clubs might be considered on the lodge level or community level. Forums and round table programs should be considered as a means of creating work for Masonically unemployed members. There is much work to be done by the lodge and its members. And with the increase in the amount of work done everyone will profit.

*Thanks to Bro Wayne Anderson FCF MPS and The Sunday Masonic Paper*

## Reflections of a Mason's Wife

**From Juana Weatherall**

**(wife of Bro. James Weatherall, P.G.M. Arkansas)**

I AM NOT A MASON. I'm not even a man. Better than both of these, perhaps, I am the wife of a Mason. Many times I have wanted to stand up at a Masonic function and tell those present just how much the Masonic Fraternity has positively affected my life, but I never quite gathered the confidence. Perhaps I was afraid you would think me silly, or out of place, or worse yet, insincere. Knowing that I probably will never stand before any of you and verbally express my feelings, I hope you will not be offended that I take this means to communicate my long-silent thoughts. I married a young man when we were both nineteen years old. We were sure that we were mature adults ready to take on the responsibilities of adult life, not realizing at the time that we were such novices. As soon as he was old enough, my young husband petitioned the local Lodge and was accepted. He worked at the memorization of the Degrees with a dedication I had not before seen in him. He attended Lodge regularly and was soon working his way through the chairs of his Lodge. With each new step, his confidence in himself grew, his maturity increased, his moral values became more firmly entrenched. Although I was vaguely aware of these changes, it was several years before I fully realized to what extent Masonry was affecting our lives. I can't recall where we were, or the words my Mason spoke, but suddenly the light bulb came on, and without doubt I understood, and feel even more strongly today, that everything my husband is, and everything my children and I are, is so intricately interwoven with his Masonic beliefs, values, and responsibilities that our personal lives and our Masonic lives are one. At nineteen I would not have thought of having a network of friends and support as exists in the Masonic Fraternity. Just to mention a few, there's the Masonic wife (a nurse) who worries about my husband's dietary habits; the Mason who offers to take my younger son for a weekend when he knows I'll be temporarily a single parent; the Mason who has spent hours arranging activities for the ladies for Grand Lodge session, and the one who volunteered his wife to drive me around town if I needed her. I know that if ever I am in physical, emotional, or financial need, help is near, and that a Mason is only a phone call away. Simple words written on a cold piece of paper can't express the warmth I have in my heart. My life has been enriched by the experiences I have had and by the people I have met through my husband's affiliation with the Masons. I love the man my husband has become even more than I loved that naive nineteen-year-old boy I married twenty-three years ago. I love the Masonic Fraternity and its principles of living, for making him the man he is. And, so, I finally get around to what I've wanted to state for so long, but lacked the nerve to say:

**"Thank you, Masons everywhere. I love you all! "**

*By W. Bro. Dwight Seals  
Camden Lodge #159, Camden Ohio*

## Brother George Wythe Baylor

George Wythe Baylor was born August 2, 1832 in Fort Gibson, Indian Territory. The family moved often during his early years. In 1836 they relocated to Natchez, Mississippi where his father died. Over the next several years the family moved to Fort Gibson to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas, and finally back to Fort Gibson. In 1845, Baylor moved to Texas to live with his brother John in Ross Prairie near La Grange. He went to Rutgersville College and later, through the influence of his uncle R.E.B. Baylor, he attended Baylor University at Independence, Texas. He worked for a short time as a clerk with the Commissary Department of the U. S. Army at the Alamo in San Antonio. Gold fever took him to California in 1854. 1856 finds Baylor in San Francisco and a member of the Vigilance Committee. According to family letters, George could not find steady employment or strike it rich in the gold fields. By late 1859 he was back in Texas and living with his brother in Weatherford. Baylor joined the Confederate cause at the outbreak of the Civil War. Serving first with his brother's Arizona brigade. By late summer, he was aide-de-camp to Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston. Following the battle of Shiloh, Baylor returned to Texas and was elected colonel of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment of the Arizona Brigade. He also led a Cavalry regiment during the Red River campaign of 1864 and was commended for gallantry. Following the war, Baylor continued his restless lifestyle, never staying in one place for long. In September of 1879, Baylor was commissioned a lieutenant in the Texas Rangers and ordered to take over the command of a detachment of Rangers in El Paso. Baylor was able, through his knowledge of Spanish and his friendships with many of the leading citizens of El Paso, to put to rest the lingering hatreds caused by the Salt Wars. He was soon involved in protecting the region from attacks from the Apaches. Baylor used local guides and worked closely with Mexican authorities on the south side of the Rio Grande. One of Baylor's greatest successes as a Ranger came in January 1881. For several weeks the U. S. Tenth Cavalry and the Rangers were kept busy in pursuit of Victorio's band of Apaches. In January 1881 a small band of Apaches attacked a stagecoach in Quitman Canyon. Following the cold trail, Baylor and his Rangers tracked the Apaches down the bank of the Rio Grande and into Mexico. Along the way they found items taken from the stage. The trail turned back into Texas, where they found a fresh camp site. Following the trail into the Eagle Mountains, the Rangers came across a camp that was only hours old. Baylor's men met up with a detachment of Rangers from Lt. Nevill's company at Eagle Springs. After more tracking, the Rangers finally came upon the Indian camp. A fight ensued on the morning of January 29. The fight, though small, has come down through history as the last Indian battle in Texas. In 1882 Baylor was promoted to captain of Company A. In 1885 Baylor's Company A was disbanded due to budget cuts. After his Ranger service, Baylor was elected from El Paso to serve in the Texas State House of Representatives. He also served as clerk of the district and circuit courts for a number of years. He died on March 17, 1916 in San Antonio. He is buried in the Confederate Cemetery in San Antonio. He is a member of the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame. Numerous Masonic organizations claim Bro. George W. Baylor to be a member of our great Fraternity, including the Grand Lodge of Texas.

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### Quotable

*“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do, than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines! Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”*

*Brother Mark Twain (aka Bro Samuel Langhorne Clemens)*

**My Brothers: At our Stated Meeting of June 7<sup>th</sup> Brother Doug Montgomery had the program for the evening. Brother Doug is one of our newest Master Masons and the Light Brigade Committee had asked him if he would present a program about his experiences and thoughts as he progressed through the three Degrees. I was absent that night but I am told it was very emotional and spoken from the heart and I was asked to share it with all the Brothers. These are Brother Doug's words.....**

### **My Journey Through the Degrees**

By Doug Montgomery

When beginning this presentation I was confronted with several questions. How do I tell my Brothers about that which they have seen and experienced for themselves? How do I tell my Brother of the most wonderful thing I have ever been lucky enough to experience, when he stands beside me and has done it himself? How do I tell my Brother my world has changed and I have found the things that fill my soul with joy, Because when I look at you my Brother I see those things that most changed me. How do I tell my Brother that it was him who has opened my eyes to the light that I might see? After all It was you my Brother who opened the door to me. It was you my Brother who said let the candidate enter. It was you my Brother who said Masonry demands a solemn oath and had me proclaim my faith in God. It was you my Brother that demanded I kneel at the Altar and take a solemn oath before God and my Brothers to live a way of life as ancient and proven as time itself. A way of life that demands far more than any other, yet demands nothing more than to live your life in the spirit of friendship and Brotherly love toward all mankind. How do I tell you those things that are so dear to me and changed me so much? When I know you already know. So I do not want to tell you of the parts of the degree because you have all done that been there and got the Apron. I would like to tell you of me, and what happened to me along the way. Let's go back a few years and see what brought me to this point. After I retired from the military, I met brother Tim, one of the best men I have ever known, I love you my brother and am glad we are making this journey together. Through brother Tim I met Joseph. This is where the story begins because Joseph was the primary influence for me seeking to be a Freemason. I met Joseph and we immediately became friends, we seemed to have a lot in common and had the same basic principles and philosophies about life. We could both sit and talk for hours about anything and everything. We must have found ways to fix the world a hundred times, but really all we were interested in was fixing ourselves and our lives. One thing that seemed to always come up was. Why is it that there are so many people who would not take the time to stop, listen, and offer assistance as needed? When we first started discussing Freemasonry it was casual because of something we had seen or heard and we would talk about it. Seems like Freemasonry came up more and more often, as we found things to read about it. In Freemasonry we saw a group of men who believed in the same principle tenants as we did. We came to admire the freemasons the more we read. Imagine a group of people who want nothing more than to live In the spirit of friendship and brotherly love. One day when I came over to Joseph's house he had a templar sword. Holy !@#\$. His grandfather had given it to him and finally let him know that he was a Mason. It took several months to get any info from his grandpa but it wound up with Joseph putting a letter in the mail slot here at the lodge. Imagine my surprise when I found out Tim's grandfather was also a Master Mason. Well that was enough for me, I knew it was time for me to knock on the door and seek admittance. We all knew this was the right thing to do. I think that one thing that will always stick out in my memories is the times we would get together and study our degree work. There were four of us in our EA program and we would get together sometimes two three times a week. I always looked forward to the work because it never ceased to amaze me how many of life's lessons are in them. It was such a joy to see the light bulb come on when one of us would understand a lesson and how it impacts our lives. It was truly exciting being able to learn a new way of life with such men as these. One particular lesson was that of circumscribing our desires and keeping our passions in due bounds. It became very important when Joseph was confronted by someone I have come to pity, anyway this man so hated Joe for no other reason than he was a freemason. This man went so far as to wish him harm and said he would pray to his god for Joe's demise. Brother Joe in the freemason style as we were being taught attempted to talk with the man to no avail. He even went to this man's church and asked for help from the man's pastor, still to no avail. I learned a valuable

lesson of how to respond to someone who confronts you in a less than friendly manner. All of my life I have been taught to be strong I will not be belittled or threatened. I won't be pushed around. It was at Joe's funeral that this lesson finally hit home. Here I was telling a story about one of my best friends, looking straight into the eyes of the man who caused him such grief. I wanted to rip his head right off no pity no remorse be done with this man forever. After all that has been the way since childhood. If thine eye offends thee pluck it out, and I really wanted to pluck that sucker. As I was speaking and as I was looking at this man I began to see into this man's inner soul, I don't know how but I could see the things in his life that threatened and scared him so much that he would wish his own son in law dead. My god I began to pity this man for the fear in his heart and I now wish that he could find a way to see other people for what they are on the inside. I wish he could see the light and find the joy of living in the principles tenants of our fraternity. Wouldn't the world be a much better place if we could all just put away our prejudices and hatred, suppress our fears and take the time to actually see people. This is the lesson brother Joe left me with and this is the lesson that will remain with me foremost for the rest of my life. Brother Chris: you were there for me in my time of need when I had nowhere to go I was lost wandering nowhere to turn and wound up at your house, I barely knew you but I knew as a brother I could count on your help. I do not know what you had planned but looking back on it you must have been going somewhere you were all dressed and ready to go softball uniform everything. You never said a word you took me in, gave me your time and support and never mentioned anything, When I left and said thanks you said "No problem brother anytime" These are the actions that impact a man's soul. Because of you I was able to confide in a brother and lighten the trouble in heart for losing such a dear and wonderful friend Because of you and your action's I understand what it is to be a mason. One night shortly after Joe's death I was sitting in Lodge and we were discussing brother Rob. He was a good friend who decided Masonry was not for him and left the lodge during his EA degree. I was having a hard time and started to question my own commitment. Well brother Keith you stood right in front of me and looked me dead in the eye and questioned my faith in god. Really PO'd me, but it instantly made me once again in front of my brothers declare my belief in deity, It was if a light bulb had instantly been turned on but the instant I spoke back and proclaimed my belief and faith in God. I knew right then and there the supreme architect has my brother and my faith was well founded. I have never had cause to question again. Something I would like to tell you I have never before knelt at an alter. I have never before sworn a solemn oath to God. I have been taught to revere god and never swear to or ask for anything even in the throes of life's misfortunes I have never called on god. I have been taught that God helps those who help themselves. If you do not do it for yourself you do not deserve it. This invoking the aid of deity and swearing upon the holy alter this was an entirely new concept for me. The obligation was an extremely big step for me. And what I have learned from it is this. I must open my heart and mind to god and man I can no longer go through this life as a lone man on my way to the end making my own way never asking for anything from anyone. Oh sure you can be a success, you can have numerous awards and accolades your abilities and skills can be admired your wealth can be envied. But at the end of the day when it is you and you alone Standing in front of the gates of the temple trying to get in none of that matters one single bit. Nothing else matters except what you have done and the impact you have made on this earth. I remember the night I did my Fellowcraft Degree. Brother Brad is really a saint because it was a particularly stressful day for me and I was quite nervous, so much so that I was sweating profusely and I know I was dripping and thru it all Brad never said a word just grabbed my arm and conducted me around as if nothing at all was wrong. By the end of the evening my clothes were soaking wet. But you know what even though it had to be pretty gross all that sweat Brad never said a word, he conducted me around as if I was the most wonderful thing ever. Once again the actions of my brother demonstrate to me the principle tenants in action. It truly is the inner qualifications that recommend a man to be made a mason. Working with my brothers and learning the lessons, I was able to see a new way of life and a way to live that I wish everyone could share. I would like to leave you with this one last message. A heartfelt message that has become a way of life for me. I sincerely and solemnly promise and swear to be a true and lawful brother to all of mankind and these things that I have sworn will guide my actions forever.

## Humor Break

One Sunday, in counting the money in the weekly offering, the Pastor of a small church found a pink envelope containing \$1,000.

It happened again the next week!

The following Sunday, he watched as the offering was collected and saw an elderly woman put the distinctive pink envelope on the plate.

This went on for weeks until the pastor, overcome by curiosity, approached her. "Ma'am, I couldn't help but notice that you put \$1,000 a week in the collection plate," he stated.

"Why yes," she replied, "every week my son sends me money and I give some of it to the church."

The pastor replied, "That's wonderful. But \$1,000 is a lot, are you sure you can afford this? How much does he send you?"

The elderly woman answered, "\$10,000 a week."

The pastor was amazed. "Your son is very successful; what does he do for a living?"

"He is a veterinarian," she answered.

"That's an honorable profession, but I had no idea they made that much money," the pastor said. "Where does he practice?"

The woman answered proudly, "In Nevada .. He has two cat houses, one in Las Vegas , and one in Reno "

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## The Spell

An old man goes to the Wizard to ask him if he can remove a curse he has Been living with for the last 40 years.

The Wizard says, 'Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words That were used to put the curse on you.'

The old man says without hesitation, 'I now pronounce you man and wife.'

# **The Book On The Altar**

(By Carl Claudy)

**At the Meuzzin's call for prayer  
The kneeling faithful thronged the square;  
Amid a monastery's weeds,  
An old Franciscan told his beads,  
While on Pushkara's lofty height  
A dark priest chanted Brahma's might,  
While to the synagogue there came  
A Jew, to praise Jehovah's Name.  
The One Great God looked down and smiled  
And counted each His loving child;  
For Turk and Brahmin, Monk and Jew  
Had reached Him through the gods they knew.**

**If we reach Him in Masonry, it makes little difference by what sacred name  
we arrive.**

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## **Masons and Texas History and Heritage**

The Masons of Texas have much for which to be proud, for it is said that the history of Texas and Masons are so interwoven that they can't be separated. The first known Mason to come to Texas was Major Zebulon M. Pike, in 1806. Masons were among the first Americans to migrate to Texas about 1821. At the age of 27, Stephen F. Austin, a Master Mason, accepted and successfully carried out his father's deathbed request to settle three hundred families on a land grant he had obtained from Mexico. Austin was authorized by Governor Antonio Martinez to carry on the colonization under his father's grant. Martinez warned Austin that the Mexican government was not prepared to extend administration over the colonist and that Austin must be responsible for their good conduct.

By the 1830's, the settlers from the United States outnumbered the Texas Mexicans and the Mexican dictator Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna imposed measures to reverse this trend. The settlers rebelled, and the Mexican government outlawed Masonry in Texas on October 25, 1828 because of the political philosophies of Texas Masons. In 1828, Austin

and six other Masons met to form a Masonic Lodge in Texas; however it was never chartered. In March 1835, five Master Masons met beneath an oak tree in Brazoria and petitioned Grand Master John H. Holland of Louisiana for a charter to form a lodge in Texas. By the end of 1837, three lodges had been chartered in Texas by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. On December 20, 1837, President Sam Houston presided over a convention of representatives of these three lodges and elected Anson Jones the first Grand Master of Masons in Texas.

Freemasonry was not so much the instrument of political change, as it was simply the most natural forum for the exemplification of those principals and tenets that free men hold most dear. On March 1, 1836, Sam Houston and 58 other delegates rode into Washington on the Brazos for a Convention to declare independence from Mexico. Twenty-two of these delegates were Masons. The Convention appointed Sam Houston Commander in Chief of the Texas Army. Eleven of the twenty-five on the committee appointed to draw up a Constitution of the Republic were Masons. The men who led the revolution and formed the government were, by and large, active Masons whose Masonic philosophy was the inspiration behind their deeds.

Between 1838 and 1845 the Texas Grand Lodge issued charters to twenty-one more lodges, and membership increased from seventy-three to 357. In addition, there were probably some 1,100 Masons from other jurisdictions living in Texas at this time. From the Texans' resolve to gain independence from Mexico, to the annexation by the United States, Masons took most of the major parts. Although constituting only 1½ percent of the population, Masons filled some 80 percent of the republic's higher offices. Every president and vice president of the Republic of Texas was a Mason, as was the first governor. Every chief justice of the Republic was a Mason. Fifteen Masons were in the first House of Representatives and seven were in the first Senate, and eleven in the executive branch. Thirty-one governors of Texas were Masons, and two of the governors also served as the Grand Master of Masons in Texas. Many cities and towns, and 102 Texas counties were named for men who were Masons. Schools, buildings and awards are named for them. The first public building in a new community was often a two story Masonic Lodge, with the first floor serving as a school classroom or meeting hall.

Masons have a good reason to be proud of their heritage and involvement in the history of Texas, and they continue to affect the course of Texas history today. Masons of Texas practice the tenets of the Fraternity, to assure "the world at large may be convinced of its good effects."

*-Based on information from the Grand Lodge of Texas Library and Museum, Waco Texas.  
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