

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE AF & AM JANUARY 2003 ISSUE

ROBERT M. WILLIAMSON

Continued From Page 1

supporter of annexation, he even named one of his sons "Annexus."

Unencumbered by his peg-leg, he was popular as a lively dancer and banjo player. He became the subject of many colorful tales that were inspired by his eccentric personality and his animated oratory. Before a crowd of drought-stricken farmers, he once offered a prayer that beseeched the Lord "to send a drencher that will ... make corn ears shake hands across the row and not one of those little rizzly-drizzly sprinkles that'll make nubbins that all hell can't shuck."

In 1849 he retired to his farm near Independence to educate his children and prepare a history of Texas. He died on December 22, 1859. He was a member of Milam Lodge No. 11 at Independence.

Williamson County, established in 1848, was named for him.

This was the seventeenth Texas Hero in the series on famous Masons who made Texans History.

.....
■ A grisly bear surprised hunters ■
■ sitting by a campfire. When one ■
■ hunter started running away, the ■
■ other shouted that you can't ■
■ outrun a grisly bear. The ■
■ running hunter replied that he ■
■ didn't have to outrun the bear, he ■
■ only had to outrun the other ■
.....

A Favorite Quote

By "Unknown"

He who dies with the most toys is the winner.

Another Favorite

Also By "Unknown"

He who dies with the most toys is still dead.

FREEMASONRY IS NOT A CULT BECAUSE.

Many self styled religious experts are convinced that because Masons have a Bible in the Lodge and open and close meetings with a prayer it is a religious cult. If it was true, it would be about the sorriest run cult in existance because;

1. The person joining Freemasonry knows clearly what organization he is joining. he understands that he himself has asked to become a member.

2. He retains freedom of religion, politics, friends, family association, selection of spouse, and information access to television, radio, reading material, telephone, the internet and mail.

3. Connection with Freemasonry is usually infrequent: once or twice a month for most. Although for some, Masonic activities will occur once or twice a week, others who proudly maintain Masonic membership attending only 1 or 2 meetings each year. Many of the Brothers haven't been inside a Lodge in years.

4. A Mason can terminate his membership freely. In fact, if he fails to pay his annual dues by the 23th of June each year, his membership is terminated automatically! Should Masons wish to leave the organization, he can request a 'demit' and receive a certificate which states that he has unaffiliated with the organization under good terms. No Mason is forced to remain a member should he wish otherwise.

5. No medical/dental care interference occurs or is even offered. This is not true in the many cults that discourage and sometimes even forbid medical care. The various hospital services provided by the Shriners (Masons) are for crippled and burned children, below the age of membership in Freemasonry, and no

kind of Masonic affiliation is required for treatment in them.

6. In Freemasonry, records are kept and are available to all members. Cult records, if they exist, are confidential, hidden from members, and not shared. Freemasonry's records extend back some 300 years, all readily available.

7. While membership lists are not posted publicly, this policy is no different than that of private golf clubs or lists of employees of privately held corporations. Members are free to disclose their membership to whom-ever they please and many Masons wear rings, pins and buckles to proudly show their membership..

8. A legal system exists within Freemasonry and a Mason can also utilize non-Masonic legal and law enforcement agencies and other representatives if needed. In cults, there is only the closed, internal system of justice, and no appeal, no recourse to outside support.

9. Families of Masons talk and deal directly with schools. Children of Masons may attend public or private schools as they wish. Masonic Lodges started many public schools where there wasn't any and allowed public schools to use the lower floor of the Lodge building. In cults, children, child rearing, and education are often controlled by the whims and idiosyncrasies of the cult leader.

10. Freemasonry is not a sovereign entity above the laws of the land. Cults consider themselves above the law, with their own brand of morality and justice, accountable to no one, not even their members.

11. A Mason gets to keep his pay, any property owned and acquired, presents from relatives, inheritances, and so forth. In most cults, members are expected to turn over to the cult all monies and worldly possessions.

There will be a few more good reasons in next months issue.

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"Uncle Bill"

Continued from Page 1

grandchildren, Tiffany Williams, Kristian Williams and Garrett Hancock. Two sisters, two brothers, numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He also left behind a very large number of Masonic Brothers who remember the hundreds of ways he helped both Lodges and many of the Lodge Brothers and just about anyone else who was in need of help.

Bill passed away Saturday, December 7, 2002 at the age of 64 and was buried Tuesday,

THE ADVENTURES OF COUNT CAGLIOSTRO

One believed to have been given the name of Joseph Balsamo but who later adopted the name "Count Cagliostro", has the doubtful distinction of being the world's outstanding Masonic charlatan. He became a Mason in London in 1776, and later conceived the idea of his "Egyptian Rite", which he formulated and promoted with his wife. The project was a money making scheme; they founded lodges through out Europe. His colorful career came to an end when he established one of his lodges in Rome. He was arrested on December 27, 1789, and charged with the "crime" of being a Freemason. He was imprisoned by the papal police and was questioned, tortured, tried and found guilty. He died some years later while still in prison.

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Carter, Malcolm A.	01-24-72
Lay, Thomas Fox	01-27-50
Lyons, Steven Dale	01-12-85
McWilliams, James K.	01-12-85

THE MASON'S PLEDGE

By Dr. Rob Morris

Founder of the Order of Eastern Star

Brother, hearken, while I tell you. What we Masons pledged to do. When, prepared at yonder altar, We assumed the Mason's vow! Foot and knee, breast, hand and cheek

Hearken while I make them speak!

Foot to foot, on mercy's errand, When we hear a brother's cry, Hungry, thirsty, barefoot, naked, With God's mercy let us fly. This of all our thoughts the chief, How to give him quick relief.

Knee to knee, in earnest praying, None but God to hear or heed, All our woes and sins confessing, Let us for each other plead; By the spirit of our call, Let us pray for brothers all.

Breast to breast, in sacred casket, At life's center let us seal Every truth to us entrusted, Nor one holy thing reveal! What a Mason vows to shield, Let him die, but never yield.

Hand to back, a brother's falling, Look, his burdens are too great. Stretch the generous hand and hold him up before it is too late. The right arm's a friendly prop, Made to hold a brother up.

Cheek to cheek, in timely whisper, When the temper strives to win.

Urge the brother's bounden duty, Show him the approaching sin. Point to him the deadly snare, Save him with a brother's care.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Banks, Daniel	01-07-48
Daut, John N. Sr.	01-07-53
Moseley, Darryl E.	01-05-48
Smith, Huey D.	01-08-32
Stasny, Roland E.	01-14-50
Cox, Kelly O'Neal	01-06-66

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Brother Bill Garrett's Great Grandfather, Silas A. Garrett and his family were some of the earliest settlers in the Pine Island area, arriving in 1898.

Silas had followed his sister, Mary Jane Garrett Milam to the Pine Island area. Mary Jane was my Great Grandmother. She was married to William Jonas Milam and they had settled in Pine Island back in 1893.

So of course, Brother Bill and I were cousins. I guess we must have been about 5th or 6th cousins or something like that and although we didn't get to know each other until late in life, Bill wasn't only a Brother to me, he was family.

More Test Answers From A Sixth Grade Class

3. Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines.

4. The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a female moth.

5. Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.

I hope you enjoyed reading these. There are still a few more.

REMEMBER THESE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Ted Wren Jr. - breathing problems
Roy Shields - Multiple problems
John N. Daut Sr. - back problems

Masonic Internet Sites Of Interest

“Small Town Texas Masons” at <http://www.geocities.com/corkyscorner/lodge.htm> has something about all Waller County Masonic Lodges and a whole lot about Freemasonry.

“Hempstead Lodge #749” at <http://www.geocities.com/hempstead749> contains information specifically about the Hempstead Lodge, some general information about Freemasonry and a Photo Album with pictures from the 2002 Valentine Party, 2002 Railroad Track fundraiser, 2002 Bull Ride fundraiser, 2002 Liendo fundraiser and the December 2002 Christmas dinner and Officers at that meeting.

“Waller Lodge #808” contains information specifically about the Waller Lodge, some general information about Freemasonry and a Photo Album with pictures from the 2002 Valentine Party, 2002 Bull Ride fundraiser, 2002 Liendo fundraiser and the 2002 Christmas Party.

“Grand Lodge Of Texas” at <http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/>



HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749

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