

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE



#749 AF & AM



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Worshipful Master T. Roy Shields
Secretary John "Corky" Daut

December 2002

TEXAS MASONIC HEROES

WILLIAM B. TRAVIS

"God and Texas -- Victory or Death."

Only twenty-six old at the time of his death, William Barret Travis will always be remembered as the brash and defiant young "defender of the Alamo." The eldest of eleven children, Travis was born August 9, 1809, in Edgefield County, South Carolina. His family moved to Conecuh County, Alabama, in 1818, where he attended Evergreen Academy. He later studied law, and was admitted to the bar before his twentieth birthday. Shortly thereafter, he became a member of Alabama Lodge No. 3. In 1831, after an unhappy marriage, Travis left his wife and young son behind and went to Texas, settling at Anahuac. His divorce became final in November 1835.

Angry with the Mexican Centralist regime, Travis became the leader of the War Party at Anahuac. In 1832 he moved to San Felipe de Austin and opened a law office, and in 1834 he was appointed Secretary of the Ayuntamiento. In June 1835 Travis raised a company of volunteers and captured the Mexican garrison at Anahuac. He had so distinguished himself during the fall campaign that he was appointed Major

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FALL FUNDRAISERS

The Field's Store Bull Ride

The Bull Ride Show turned out to be a great success. We had very nice weather, just cool enough to make a light jacket comfortable. There were 15 Brothers who volunteered to work the event. Brothers Kenneth Harvey and Wayne Kluna from Hempstead Lodge and Brothers Trey Wren, Richard Venterca, Calvin Trapp, Jim Hooper, Mike Risley, James Magee, Wes Mersiovsky, Paul Cox, Danny Williamson and Zane Williamson from the Waller Lodge and dual members of both Lodges, John Daut Sr., Ted Wren Jr. and Corky.

The Liendo Plantation Civil War Reenactment

The Liendo fundraiser was one of
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December 12, 2002

**Do not forget this date.
The ladies of the
Hempstead Order of the
Eastern Star will be
cooking a Christmas
dinner for the December
Stated Meeting. We will eat
at 6:30 PM**

FREEMASONRY DURING THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

ESCAPE

Many years after the war had ended, a son of brother L.J. Williams of Downsville Lodge No. 464 N.Y. reported in Lodge of a story his father had told him of an Masonic experience he had during the war.

When the war broke out the Entered Apprentice and the Fellowcraft degrees had been conferred on him in New York. He went out in defense of his country without having been raised to the degree of Master Mason. it was his misfortune to be taken a prisoner of war while at or near Savannah, Ga. while he lay in the southern prison. He communicated through letters with some of his friends in the north. His lodge in New York, through proper officials, got in touch with Zerubbabel Lodge in Savannah, and made the request that the Savannah Lodge, as a favor to the Brethren of the north, confer the Master Masons degree on the Fellowcraft Brother, L.J. Williams.

One night my father was taken from his prison and conducted to the Savannah Lodge room. it was a remarkable occasion. he wore his bedraggled blue uniform, a token of his sympathy with the cause of the north. all of the chairs were occupied by Confederate Officers. he was

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William B. Travis

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of Artillery and was soon transferred to the cavalry with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In early February 1836 Travis rode into the Alamo with twenty-five men, and assumed joint command of the garrison, with Jim Bowie in charge of the volunteers, and Travis in command of the regulars. On February 24, however, Bowie fell ill with pneumonia, and Travis was left in full command.

On that day Travis penned his famous letter "To the People of Texas and all Americans in the World." He wrote, "...I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country - Victory or Death." It remains as the most heroic document in American history.

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

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Carter, Richard A. Jr.	12-12-88
Daut, John "Corky"	12-22-92
Hartley, David W	12-08-97
Kluna, Robert W.	12-01-73
Stasny, Roland E.	12-01-73
Zepeda, Jimmy N. Jr.	12-11-80

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

SAY A PRAYER FOR

Bill Garrett - Multiple problems
 Ted Wren Jr.- Breathing problems
 Roy Shields - Multiple problems
 John N. Daut Sr. - back problems
 Bill Garrett - Just found out, been sick and in the hospital a few days

Fall Fundraisers

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the best ones we have had in a long time.

We tried something new at Liendo this year. We set up the tent Thursday and started selling food on Friday before the Reenactment started instead of starting Saturday as in the past. That way we were able to sell to bus load after bus load of school students and to the reenactors who were moving in and setting up camp.

Saturday was probably the best single day the two Lodges have ever had, taking in about \$2,500 for the day. By 5:00 pm. we had sold out of everything we had except brisket.

Sunday wasn't quite as good a day as Saturday, but we still took in about \$2000.

We decided to sell hamburgers and hot dogs on Friday since we would be serving mostly school kids. Since the "Buffalo Burger" people didn't show up this year we decided to continue selling them Saturday and Sunday. We ended up selling about 350 hamburgers, most with cheese and nearly 300 hot dogs over the weekend for an additional \$1500 or \$1,600 and this was above our normal brisket sales.

Money wise, the Liendo Civil War Reenactment weekend took in over \$500.00 for Friday, about \$2,500 for Saturday and about \$2,000 for Sunday making a total gross sales of about \$5,000 for the weekend.

In all, we raised close to \$3,000 for each Lodge from the Bull Ride and the Liendo weekend.

Although I have often been a voice in the Lodges about keeping our prices lower, this weekend was an eye opener. In the future I will loudly recommend that we sell Bar B

Que sandwiches for \$5.00 and cheeseburgers for \$4.00 for 2 reasons. First, no one complained about our prices. In fact many people didn't even know the prices of the individual items when they ordered and were only interested in the total. Second, adding items in your head with all those 50 cent prices was twice as hard and made it twice as likely to make a mistake. Besides, I went through 7 rolls of quarters over the weekend and almost run completely out a couple of times.

BOTH LODGES OWE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING

Brothers Mike Risley, Calvin Trapp, Wes Mersiovsky and Bob Scarborough from Waller Lodge and dual members John N. Daut Sr., Jim Faure and Corky and Wes' wife, Liz who helped work the Friday sale.

Brother Kenneth Harvey from Hempstead Lodge. Brothers Calvin Trapp, Mike Risley, Bob Scarborough, Richard Ventrea from Waller Lodge and dual members John N. Daut Sr., and Corky and Mike's wife Carolyn and daughter Michelle who helped work the sale Saturday.

Brothers Kenneth Harvey, Junior Bridges and Wayne Kluna from Hempstead Lodge and Brothers Calvin Trapp, Richard Ventrea, Wes Mersiovsky and James Magee from Waller Lodge and dual members, John N. Daut Sr. and Corky for working Sunday.

Special thanks are in order to Kenneth Harvey and Wayne Kluna of Hempstead Lodge for cooking all the briskets Friday night and to Calvin Trapp for putting the supplies together, fronting the money for them and making numerous trips to Sams and local grocery stores and baking his famous peach cobbles.

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THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

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surrounded by men who wore the Gray. they were on opposite sides of a struggle to the death, but they were brethren. then and there he was raised a master mason and acclaimed a friend and brother by his enemies.

But the more significant feature of the story was yet to follow. For on the same night my father escaped from his prison and joined his companions of the north. I have visited Savannah since then and looked up the record of his Raising. in red ink, on the same page that records the fact that the degree was there conferred, is the brief annotation: " On this night brother Williams escaped from prison ".

I have talked with my father about the matter a number of times. when asked about his ' escape ' he always smiles peculiarly. you may put it down as an escape, he told me, but it wasn't an escape, strictly speaking. for on that night some men came to my prison. they put me in a boat and carried me off some distance. then they deposited me on some neutral soil between the lines. from there I found my way back to my friends.

Who my rescuers were, I have never learned. it is their own secret, and it has never been disclosed. but in my mind I know exactly to whom I may attribute the 'escape' in question. his name is Hiram. I had discovered 8 stories of Freemasonry during the War Between The States. This was the fifth one and I will try to run the rest in this column.

I have to say War Between The States because Great Great Grandpas Milam and Garrett both said there wasn't any thing Civil about it.

TEN MASTER MASONS

BY STEVEN K. ROBISON, PM

Ten Master Masons, happy, doing fine; One listened to a rumor, then there were nine.

Nine Master Masons, faithful, never late; One didn't like the "Master", then there were eight.

Eight Master Masons, on their way to heaven; One joined to many clubs, then there were seven.

Seven Master Masons, life dealt some hard licks; One grew discouraged, then there were six.

Six Master Masons, all very much alive; One lost his interest, then there were five.

Five Master Masons, wishing there were more; Got into a great dispute, then there were four.

Four Master Masons, busy as could be; One didn't like the programs, then there were three.

Three Master Masons, was one of them you? One grew tired of all the work, then there were two.

Two Master Masons with so much to be done; One said "What's the use", then there was only one.

One Master Mason, found a brother true! Brought him to the Lodge, then there were two.

Two Master Masons didn't find the work a bore; Each brought another, then there were four.

Four Master Masons saved their Lodges fate; By showing others kindness, then there were eight.

Eight Master Masons, loving their Lodges bright sheen; Talked so much about it, they soon counted sixteen.

Sixteen Master Masons, to their obligations true; Were pleased when their number went to thirty-two.

So we can't put our troubles at the Lodges door; It's our own fault for harming the Lodge we adore.

Don't fuss about the programs or

the "Master" in the East; Keep your obligation by serving even the very least.

TEST ANSWERS FROM A SIXTH GRADE CLASS

1. Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics

They lived in the Sarah Dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that all the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

2. Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he reached Canada.

I hope you enjoyed reading these. There will be some more.

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

I wanted to personally thank Wayne Kluna and Kenneth Harvey for cooking the briskets on Friday for the Liendo sale and to Kenneth Harvey for working both Saturday and Sunday and Wayne and Junior Bridges for working Sunday.

It was nice to see 3 of the Hempstead Lodge Brothers participating in the event.

And of course we had three Waller/Hempstead dual members John Daut Sr., Jim Faure and myself

A Favorite Quote

By Dolly Parton

"If you want rainbows, you have to put up with the rain."

George finally saved enough money to take his wife and mother in law on a trip to the Holy Land. They were walking along one of the old streets in a village in Israel when George's mother in law gave out a loud gasp, grabbed her chest and fell to the ground.

The local EMS informed George that the mother in law was dead.

The American Counsel told George that it would cost \$5,000 to ship her body back to the U.S., however, it would only cost \$100 to have her buried in Israel.

After thinking for a few minutes, George said,. "OK, I'll pay the \$5,000, lets send her back home to the U.S."

When the Counsel ask why not bury her in Israel and save all that money, George replied, "No I don't think so. I heard y'all buried a feller near here, a little while back and after 3 days he came back to life and I just can't take that kind of a chance with her."



HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749

P.O. Box 1251

Hempstead, TX 77445

