

## The Cypress Light Newsletter

Published by The Cypress Masonic Lodge #1423 under Charter Granted by The Grand Lodge of Texas



### September 2005

#### Web Page:

<http://mastermason.com/cypress/>

#### Stated Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – 8:00 pm  
Dinner – 7:00 pm

#### School of Instruction

Monday – 8:00 pm  
Fellowship – 7:00 pm

#### Officers

Worshipful Master  
James Hagan

Secretary  
Benny F. Clark, P.M.



#### Cypress Charter #1102 Order of the Eastern Star

#### Stated Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> Monday – 7:30 pm

#### Officers

Worthy Matron  
Cora Ferguson

Worthy Patron  
Benny Clark

Secretary  
Betty Jo Artis  
281.351.9133

#### Prayer Chain

Leonard Novacinski Sr.  
Foot surgery – bed rest 6 months  
Bob Garson  
Nursing home near Willowbrook  
Mall

## The Cypress Light Newsletter

The lodge is looking for contributions to the monthly newsletter. The Lodge would like to ask that each person who has an e-mail address available to them, present the e-mail address to Leonard Novacinski at ([lnovacin@yahoo.com](mailto:lnovacin@yahoo.com)) so that he can compile the list and present it to the lodge secretary. The purpose is three fold:

First, in order to continue to be better stewards of the Lodge funds, the Worshipful Master has requested we continue e-mailing the newsletters to the brothers and mail a hard-copy to those who do not have e-mail addresses available.

Secondly, this will enable the Worshipful Master and Secretary to communicate official news in a more efficient manner.

And thirdly, the goal is to communicate to members of the Lodge updates presented on our Cypress Lodge #1423 Website, which can be found on the internet at:  
<http://mastermason.com/cypress/>

## Death of a Brother

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the death of R. Furman Vinson, 33° Past Grand Master of Texas, and Past Personal Representative of the Lubbock Scottish Rite. RW Vinson passed away at 3:30 AM in Lubbock on August 10. His funeral was held on Saturday, August 13 at 10:00 AM at the First United Methodist Church in Matador, Texas. Masonic graveside services were conducted by PGM Buddy Baccus.

If you need any more information, call Beverly or Bob at the Lubbock Scottish Rite-806/747-3268.

## 50 Year Pin Presentation

It is with the greatest honor the Cypress Lodge #1423 will bestow a 50 Year Pin upon Brother Robert L. Burchett on September 17, 2005 at 5:00 pm. Brother Burchett is a Charter Member of the Cypress Lodge and now resides in Trinity, Texas. Brother Billy Ward, DDGM will be present to present the pin to Brother Burchett.

# RUDYARD KIPLING AND HIS MASONIC CAREER

## Preface

The Lodge of Hope and Perseverance, No. 782, English Constitution in Lahore, Punjab, India was seeking a Secretary. The year was 1885 and there was a new resident in Lahore, a young man, not yet of legal age, employed as an assistant editor of the provincial newspaper. His father was a Freemason, a notable artist, and Curator of the Lahore Museum. It was suggested that the son was eminently suited for the vacant office, and thus, at twenty years and six months, Rudyard Kipling became a Freemason and Lodge Secretary in a Masonic connection that influenced his life and writings through many years. During those years his fame grew as, in Somerset Maugham's appraisal, "our greatest storyteller". To recall something about Kipling's engagement with Freemasonry is the purpose of this presentation. To read Kipling with an eye for Masonic references is an interesting enterprise. Others have found it so and have written on the subject. In his "The Life of Rudyard Kipling", C. E. Carrington makes several references to the Masonic influence. I have drawn on this and other sources in bringing this presentation to you on Kipling, the Man and Mason.

## Kipling's Masonic Life:

In "Something of Myself" Kipling writes: "In 1885, I was made a Freemason by dispensation (being under age) in The Lodge of Hope and Perseverance 782 E.C. because the Lodge hoped for a good Secretary. They did not get him, but I helped, and got Father to advise me in decorating the bare walls of the Masonic Hall with hangings after the prescription of King Solomon's Temple. Here I met Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, members of the Araya and Brahmo Samaj, and a Jewish Tyler, who was a priest and butcher to his little community in the city. So yet another world was opened to me which I needed." We get a little more detail in a letter Kipling wrote in the London Times dated March 28, 1935: "In reply to your letter I was Secretary for some years of the Lodge of Hope and Perseverance No. 782, English Constitution which included Brethren of at least four different

creeds. I was entered by a member of the Brahmo Samaj (a Hindu), passed by a Mohammedan, and raised by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew. We met, of course, on the level and the only difference that anyone would notice was that at our banquets some of the Brethren, who were debarred by caste rules from eating food not ceremoniously prepared, sat over empty plates. I had the good fortune to be able to arrange a series of informal lectures by Brethren of various faiths, on baptismal ceremonies of their religions."

Kipling also received the Mark Master degree in a Lahore Mark Lodge and affiliated with a Craft Lodge in Allahabad, Bengal. Later, in England he affiliated as an honorary member of the Motherland Lodge, No. 3861 in London. He was also a member of the Authors' Lodge, No. 3456, and a founder-member of the Lodge Builders of the Silent Cities, No. 4948, which was connected with the War Graves Commission and which was so named at Kipling's suggestion

## "Are You a Mason?"

I am one of a band,  
Who will faithfully stand,  
In the bonds of affection and love;  
I have knocked at the door,  
once wretched and poor,  
And there for admission I stood.

By the help of a friend,  
Who assistance did lend,  
I succeeded an entrance to gain;  
Was received in the West,  
By command from the East,  
But not without feeling some pain.

Here my conscience was taught,  
With a moral quite fraught,  
With sentiments hold and true;  
The onward I traveled,  
To have it unraveled,  
What Hiram intended to do.

Very soon to the East,  
I made my request,  
And "light" by command did attend;  
When lo! I perceived,  
In due form revealed,

A Master, and Brother, and Friend For the widow distressed,  
There's a cord in my breast,  
For the helpless and orphan I feel:  
And my sword I could draw,  
To maintain the pure law,  
Which the duties of a Mason reveal.

Thus have I revealed,  
(Yet wisely concealed),  
What the "free and accepted" will know.  
I am one of a band,  
Who will faithfully stand,  
As a Brother, wherever I go.

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To report Sickness and Distress, contact Brother Alan Cleveland at 281.373.4844 or at e-mail address [acleveland@ev1.net](mailto:acleveland@ev1.net)

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To receive Lodge News by email contact Leonard Novacinski at 281.373.1950 or at e-mail [lnovacin@yahoo.com](mailto:lnovacin@yahoo.com)