

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE

#749 AF & AM



Volume 110, Issue 1

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

January 2003

TEXAS MASONIC HEROES

**ROBERT M.
WILLIAMSON**

**"The Patrick Henry of the
Texas Revolution"**

Born in Georgia about 1805, Robert McAlpin Williamson was crippled at the age of fifteen. His right leg became permanently bent back at the knee necessitating the use of a wooden leg, which earned him the nickname "Three-Legged Willie." During his two-year illness he studied law and was admitted to the bar before he was nineteen.

In 1826 Williamson came to Texas and settled at San Felipe de Austin. Over the next several years he established a newspaper, the Cotton Plant, and edited two others, the Texas Gazette and the Mexican Citizen.

A fiery advocate of Texas Independence, he was elected as a delegate to the Consultation of 1835, where he was commissioned a major and ordered to organize a company of rangers. He later participated in the Battle of San Jacinto. In December 1836 he was elected Judge of the Third Judicial District and to the Texas Supreme Court, and later served in both the Texas House and Senate.

In 1837 he married Mary Jane Edwards of Austin County, who bore him seven children. A staunch
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**"Uncle Bill"
William F. "Bill" Garrett,**

"Uncle Bill" was born prematurely to Clifford A. and Clara Marie Garrett on June 26, 1938. He grew up on the family farm, hunting and fishing in the woods, fields and ponds in the Pine Island area. Bill was mechanically minded even as a young boy making and fixing things around the farm and becoming the neighborhood fixit person.

After graduating from Waller High School Bill, following his boyhood leanings, enrolled in the University of Texas and majored in Civil and Structural Engineering. He worked as a Civil Structural Engineer until his retirement in 1986.

He was initiated into the Masonic Lodge, at the Waller Masonic Lodge #808 AF & AM on January 13, 1983 and raised to the degree of Master Mason on September 13, 1983. Bill served as the Worshipful Master of the Waller Lodge in the 1989/1990 Masonic year. He joined the Hempstead Masonic Lodge #749 AF & AM as a plural member October 14, 1999.

Bill served during the Korean War and was a member of the Waller VFW.

"Uncle Bill" is survived by his wife of 40 years, Janet E. Deaton Garrett. His daughter Nannette R. and her husband, Robert Williams of Zavalla, Texas. His daughter Jennifer K. and husband Keith Hancock. His
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**FREEMASONRY
DURING THE WAR**

**GETTYSBURG,
JULY 3, 1863**

On Cemetery Ridge, during Pickett's Charge, Confederate Brigadier General Lewis A. Armistead and Union Major General Winfield S. Hancock were on the opposite sides of a fierce battle. Both were Masonic Brothers, who in calmer times had shared Fraternal ties. As the battle raged, each lay wounded within a few hundred yards of each other. Armistead's cries for help were heard by several Brothers in the Union ranks who came to the aid of their Brother, though he was a confederate officer.

Captain Henry Bingham, a Union Aid to Hancock came upon the mortally wounded Armistead, who asked Bingham to relay a message of regret and convey his personal effects, including a Masonic watch, to his old friend Hancock. Armistead died two days later without seeing Hancock. But, his message was received and the spirit of **Brotherhood** survived.

*I had discovered 8 stories of
Freemasonry during the War Between
The States. This was the seventh one.*

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★
 ★ Waller Masonic Lodge ★
 ★ #808 AF & AM turned ★
 ★ 105 years old last month. ★
 ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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ROBERT M. WILLIAMSON

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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"

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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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