

On The Level



” Since 1895”

April 2005

www.mastermason.com/wagonermasons

Volume 1, Number 2

Freemasonry Celebrates 115 Years In Wagoner

The story of Masonry in Oklahoma begins on April 30, 1803, when Robert L. Livingston and James Monroe, Master Masons, negotiated with the French Minister of Finance for the purchase of Louisiana Territory. The United States was represented by President Thomas Jefferson, a Master Mason, while the French were represented by Marbois, who may not have been a Mason at the time he signed the Treaty, but who was reported at one time to have been an initiate. Merriwether Lewis witnessed the signature of the President. Lewis and William Clark, both Master Masons, explored the entire area. However, that part of Louisiana which is now Oklahoma was first officially visited by Captain Zebulon Pike, a Master Mason, prominent in the Craft in 1806. He explored the territory of the Arkansas River to the Mississippi and on to New Orleans.

In 1824 Fort Gibson and Fort Towson became headquarters for Colonel Matthew Arbuckle, a Master Mason. Colonel Arbuckle, with advice from Pierre Choteau, a noted fur trader and Master Mason, became a commanding figure in every activity of the early Indian arrival into the area.

Masons who played important roles among the Cherokee people include Elias C. Boudinot, delegate to Confederate Congress, Colonel in Confederate States of America, lawyer, whose father was the first editor of the Cherokee Phoenix newspaper; John Ridge, leader of the Cherokee people and signed the Treaty of New Echota; Will Rogers, humorist and philanthropist; Cherokee Chief John Ross; Cherokee Chief William P. Ross; and Stand Watie, signed the Treaty of New Echota and the last Confederate General to surrender the colors during the War Between the States. Charles Moore, who also signed the Treaty of New Echota on December 29, 1835, is the fifth great-grandfather of one of the Wagoner Masonic Lodge No. 98 members.

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Meetings

When: 1st & 3rd Thursdays
Time: Dinner @ 6:30 p.m., Tyle @ 7:30p.m.
Location: Wagoner Masonic Lodge

**WAGONER MASONIC LODGE #98
CONTACTS**

E-mail: wagonermasons@hotmail.com

www.mastermason.com/wagonermasons

P.O. Box 951
Wagoner, OK 74477
Phone: 485-2064

Elected Officers

Worshipful Master

Roy Nichols
Home = 485-3877

Senior Warden

Rick Moore
Home = 485-0095

Junior Warden

Gary Huggins
Home = 485-3653

Treasurer

Clarence Lively
Home = 462-7795

Secretary

David Cason
Home = 485-4044



WAGONER MASONS ONLINE

WAGONER MASONIC LODGE #98 can now be contacted via e-mail address wagonermasons@hotmail.com. Your Lodge is also on the Internet at www.mastermason.com/wagonermasons and has had over 2,645 visits. That's over 475 hits since our last newsletter in April!

The website contains the history of WAGONER MASONIC LODGE #98 as well as Past Worshipful Master photos since 1895, and the ON THE LEVEL newsletter.

A calendar is included to post upcoming events and links to other appendant organizations such as YORK RITE, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, SCOTTISH RITE, BEDOUIN SHRINE, SHRINER'S HOSPITALS, and ORDER OF EASTERN STAR.



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WAGONER COUNTY

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First Floor County Courthouse
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Perpetual Members Of Wagoner Masonic Lodge #98

RICHARD L. FORD June 9, 1986	WALTER H. HEFFLEY January 22, 1990	RICHARD L. GRAY, JR. October 29, 1998
CLARENCE D. LIVELY November 12, 1986	KENNETH L. CLELAND January 21, 1992	SAMUEL L. HOMAN November 13, 1998
ROBERT F. THOMPSON November 12, 1986	LLOYD P. MILLER September 14, 1993	GLEN R. WINTERS November 13, 1998
ALBERT C. DUGGAN November 24, 1986	LARRY M. KING September 14, 1993	DENE SHOEMAKER November 13, 1998
WILLIAM R. HOMAN November 24, 1986	JAMES A. KING September 14, 1993	CHUCK E. BRADLEY June 10, 1999
FLOYD L. LUELLEN November 24, 1986	DONALD D. LINVILL October 18, 1993	BRAD C. HUTCHENS October 10, 2000
PAUL MESSER November 24, 1986	DONALD D. PITCHFORD December 14, 1993	GARY W. LONGLEY November 3, 2000
GEORGE R. SMITH November 24, 1986	STEPHEN L. WRIGHT February 5, 1994	DELMER L. KEIN November 20, 2001
DONALD E. WOFFORD November 24, 1986	WAYNE E. ORRICK April 29, 1994	STEVEN R. ADAMS November 30, 2001
JACK P. DRAKE November 24, 1986	ANDREW H. MILLARD May 17, 1994	RICK A. MOORE January 24, 2002
JEROME M. DAY, JR. December 12, 1986	GARLAND C. SHEPHERD May 22, 1995	DAIL V. WITTEN July 26, 2002
VERNON A. SULLIVAN December 15, 1986	DAVID J. CASON November 27, 1995	JOHNNY M. MEADORS November 22, 2003
PHILLIP L. DRISKILL December 15, 1986	PHILLIP SULLIVAN December 19, 1995	JERRY HEFNER February 12, 2004
DANIEL D. POWERS December 17, 1986	JACK S. ALDRIDGE December 29, 1995	PENTZOR CUNNINGHAM July 15, 2004
RUSSELL D. CHRISTY July 24, 1987	ROY L. CENTER December 29, 1995	ROGER E. HAYES November 12, 2004
ANTHONY R. LOWE May 15, 1989	MICHAEL G. WITTEN February 25, 1997	RAYBURN D. COLLINS December 6, 2004
JOSEPH B. COBB May 23, 1989	LIONEL HOPPER November 17, 1997	ELMER SHEPHERD January 8, 2005
BOBBY L. SANTINE December 19, 1989	NATHAN JONES February 20, 1998	

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Cherokee Masons petitioned the Grand Lodge of Arkansas for dispensation to open a Lodge in Tahlequah. The efforts of the brethren were so satisfactory that the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Arkansas issued a charter to Cherokee Lodge No. 21 on November 7, 1848. After the War Between the States, three of six lodges under the allegiance of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas organized themselves into a Convention and the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory came into existence on October 5, 1874. On November 10, 1892, the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory began with the aid and assistance of the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory. The two Grand Bodies were formally united as the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma during the convention of February 8, 1909, naming Joseph S. Murrow as one of two Grand Secretaries. Murrow was a Southern Baptist missionary who traveled Oklahoma establishing more than 100 Southern Baptist churches, the first Baptist Orphans Home for Indian children in Atoka, Bacone College in Muskogee, and 60 Masonic lodges earning him the distinction of being known as "*the father of Freemasonry in Oklahoma.*" Oklahoma remains to be the only state to have formed three separate Grand Lodges by convention.

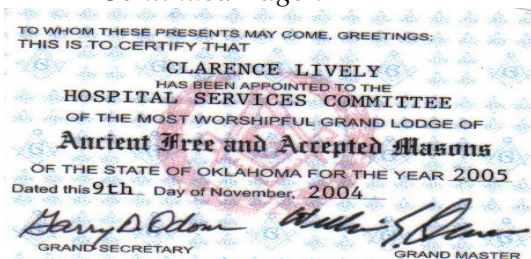
Wagoner was named after Henry Samuel "Bigfoot" Wagoner who decided the KATY Railroad needed a switch to load cattle and lumber from the area between Flat Rock and Gibson Station in 1883. The first permanent residents arrived in Wagoner on June 5, 1887 -- William H. and Sallie H. McAnnally started the Cottonwood Hotel.

On February 25, 1888, the town's request for a post office was granted and William W. Teague, a native of Indiana, was named the city's first postmaster. Samuel S. Cobb, Master Mason, became the second postmaster on July 24, 1890. Cobb was also called "*the financial power in Wagoner*" by Brad Agnew, Ph.D., in his book titled *Wagoner, I.T. – "Queen City of the Prairies"*.

The Masonic Lodge was organized in Wagoner in 1895 – when Wagoner was still in Indian Territory. John Coyle of Valley Lodge No. 6, Pauls Valley, served as Grand Master during this period. Coyle brought a wealth of experience to the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory as he had served his lodge as Worshipful Master for a non-consecutive total of fourteen years. On March 1, several members of the community who were Masons from other states gathered to write the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory so that a Lodge might be opened in Wagoner.

The meeting was called to order by W.B. Davis, T.A. Parkinson, S.S. Cobb and James Gates. Among those attending was Leo E. Bennett, who gave instructions on how to properly petition the grand lodge. Bennett served as Grand Master longer than any other in the history of Freemasonry in the area that is now Oklahoma -- 1889, 1890, 1891, and 1892. He also served as an Indian Agent, U.S. Marshal in the Indian Territory, and elected as Mayor of the City of Muskogee. Bennett was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on June 1, 1886, in Belle Point Lodge No. 20, of Fort Smith, Arkansas and affiliated with Muskogee Lodge No. 28 on March 15, 1889.

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That same evening the lodge elected its first officers: James Gates as Worshipful Master, and W.H. Jackson as Secretary. S.S. Cobb was elected Senior Warden and T.A. Parkinson as Junior Warden. The name of the new lodge was to be the same as the town's – Wagoner.

However, during the group's second meeting held March 16, 1895, at the Episcopal Church, a motion was made to change the group's name from Wagoner Lodge to St. John's Lodge. Dues were paid to the state and the lodge was named St. John's Lodge No. 83, Free and Accepted Masons. A letter of dispensation was given to St. John's Lodge of Wagoner on March 27, 1895, by Grand Secretary Joseph S. Murrow. On April 2, 1895, Alexander Clingan Cobb became the first initiated Entered Apprentice of the lodge. He was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on May, 25, 1895, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on June 8, 1895.

In January of 1896, Wagoner became the first town in Indian Territory to incorporate. The town held its first election on April 28, 1896, electing two Master Masons to office: Captain William Jackson as mayor and Terry Parkinson as a city counselor. Parkinson later served as Wagoner's fifth mayor in 1902, county clerk, and state representative from 1919 to 1921.

St. John's Lodge No. 83 was changed back to Wagoner Lodge and the group was given the number 98 on February 10, 1909, since the lodge was now under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma instead of the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory.

The lodge met for many years in the upstairs area over Castle and Hoefle Hardware on South Main. On December 1, 1962, they moved to their present location on the west side of Wagoner.

Today, Wagoner Lodge No. 98 has about 160 members. Most men who go about their jobs and professions with no hint they are Freemasons except for the way they lead their lives. Several politicians have belonged to Wagoner Masonic Lodge No. 98 over the years, including: three state representatives, one state senator, one district judge, one assistant district judge, one special district judge, two district attorneys, seven mayors, four city counselors, two county clerks, one county commissioner, four school board members, one sheriff, one under sheriff, one police chief, two Wagoner County Democratic Party chairmen, and one Wagoner County Republican Party chairman.

On the national scene, George Washington and 13 other Presidents, 8 Vice Presidents, and 42 Justices of the Supreme Court have been Masons from various lodges. 10 Masons signed the Articles of Association, 9 Masons signed the Declaration of Independence, 13 Masons signed the Constitution of the United States, 33 Masons served as General Officers of the Continental Army (8 Masons served as Aides and Military Secretaries to George Washington), and 9 Masons signed the Articles of Confederation.

The lodge is made up of men from all different types of vocations: farmers, cattlemen, business owners, bankers, attorneys, doctors, computer technicians, pharmacists, firefighters, insurance agents, insurance adjusters, retirees, teachers, coaches, politicians, principals, managers, ministers, real estate appraisers, salesmen, law enforcement, government employees, carpenters, machinists, and others.

Gloria Marshall

Wagoner County Treasurer

307 East Cherokee ♦ Wagoner, OK 74467
Phone: (918)485-2149

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Judie Thompson

Wagoner County Assessor

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Fulk Returns from Iraq

Master Mason Jamie Fulk and the OKLAHOMA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD COMPANY B 120th ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION recently returned to Wagoner after serving one year on the foreign soil of Iraq.

In 2004, the 600-soldier unit was deployed to Iraq from Fort Sill.

Fulk's unit detonated and destroyed several weapons caches near Fallujah in an area known as Camp Taqaddum. The munitions included rocket-propelled grenades, mortars, rockets, bombs, blasting caps, bullets, and detonation cord.

David J. Morris, a former Marine officer and the author of "Storm on the Horizon: Khafji – The Battle that Changed the Course of the Gulf War", was a reporter embedded with the Marines in Fallujah, Iraq. He noted that 103 known weapons caches were in the 120th's sector, "*encompassing approximately 100,000 of the estimated 600,000 tons of 'high-density' explosives strewn across Iraq.*"

The 120th destroyed approximately 100 tons of munitions every day.



Treasurer's Corner

Brothers,

The July Breakfast fund-raiser was exceptionally well. We brought in over \$325 to help defray expenses such as insurance, utilities, housekeeping, and lawn care.

Please consider supporting your Lodge by attending these events.

The Lodge prepares a good 'ole country breakfast on the 1st Saturday of each month from 7:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. The small price of \$5.00 gives you admission to the All-You-Can-Eat menu of scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage, and drink.

All funds help to defray normal expenses and keep our dues low. Carry-out orders are also available upon request.

Fraternally,

Clarence Lively, 32°, P.M.

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ROBERT COOPER, AGENT

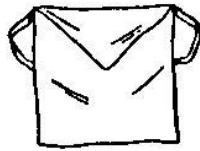
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PRINCE HALL MASONS RECOGNIZED AS REGULAR FREEMASONS

By vote of the Delegates at the last GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION, the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE, AF & AM OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA recognized the MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE, F & AM OF OKLAHOMA. It means that, as far as the GRAND LODGE OF OKLAHOMA is concerned, OKLAHOMA PRINCE HALL Affiliation Masons are full and regular (not clandestine) Masons.

The MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE, F & AM OKLAHOMA recognized the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE AF & AM OF OKLAHOMA on June 14, 2005.

This is an historic occasion for Oklahoma Masonry. We are the 38th Grand Lodge in the United States and the second Grand Lodge that is considered a "Southern" Grand Lodge to recognize our Prince Hall counterparts.

The restrictions in the obligation about not holding a Masonic conversation with a "...clandestine Mason" do not apply to an Oklahoma Prince Hall Mason. Visitation is another matter. The accord signed by the Grand Lodges does not allow visitation at this time. However, the accord does provide that each Grand Lodge shall appoint

members of a Joint Committee to discuss and work out details for an agreement on visitation which will then be presented to both Grand Lodges for consideration.

Most Worshipful Grand Master William E. Owen stated: *"As things now stand, you cannot sit in a tiled meeting of a Prince Hall Lodge and a member of Prince Hall cannot sit in a tiled meeting of your Lodge. But this restriction applies only to tiled meetings. Nothing prevents you from joining Prince Hall Masons for social events and nothing prevents your Lodge from working with a local Prince Hall Lodge to hold a joint picnic, bar-b-que, or fund-raiser."*

The above information was received from THE OKLAHOMA MASON and OKEMASON.

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Wagoner County Clerk

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Wagoner Masonic Lodge #98
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HONORING THE
LIVING
PAST WORSHIPFUL MASTERS OF
WAGONER LODGE #98



Homer Smith – 1956
Roy Center – 1959
Harvey Briggs – 1965
Gerald Nicks – 1966
Wayne Harris – 1967
Clyde Garvin – 1968
Veachel Collins – 1969
George Smith – 1971
Roy Altaffer – 1972
Bill Gravitt – 1975
Ralph Porter – 1976
Pete Blanket – 1983
Vernon Sullivan – 1984 & 1993
Clarence Lively – 1985
Richard Ford – 1986

Mark Day – 1987
Paul Messer – 1988
Don Linvill – 1989
Phillip Sullivan – 1990
William Homan – 1991
Michael Witten – 1992
Jim King – 1995
Tony Lowe – 1996
Stephen Wright – 1997
David Cason – 1998
Roger Hayes – 2000
David Nelson – 2001
Nathan Jones – 2002
Jerry Adams – 2003
Glen Bibelheimer – 2004