



The Oklahoma Mason

The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

2016 - 1 The Oklahoma Mason Magazine

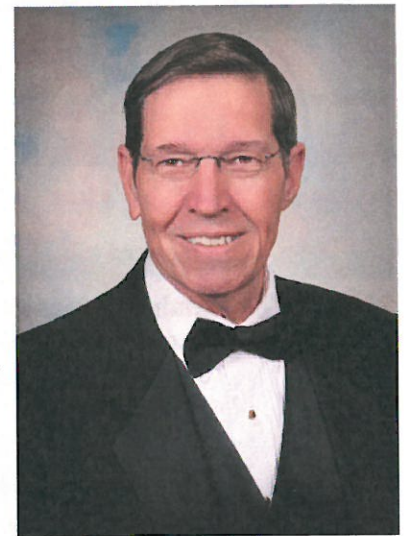
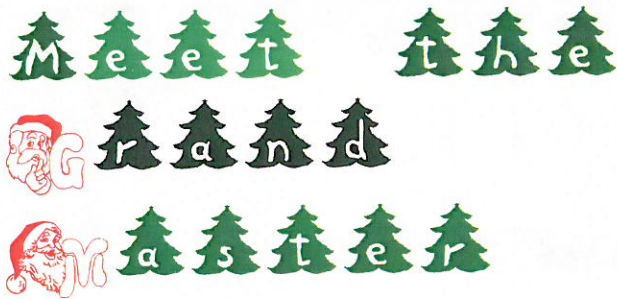
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M W Dudley Ridge Smith



“... and on earth, peace, to men of good will”



Most Worshipful Dudley Ridge Smith was born and raised in Yukon, Oklahoma, where he attended elementary and secondary school. He was graduated in 1963 and is currently living on the farm on which he was born.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1966 and served two combat tours in Vietnam: one as a paratrooper and one as a helicopter pilot. Wounded in action while flying a rescue mission near the Cambodian border, he was awarded the Air Medal with "V" device and two oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart and other service medals. M W Brother Smith served one tour in Germany, and retired from the Army in 1980 as a Captain.

He taught at Yukon High School from 1980 to 1995 and at Yokosuka High School, Yokosuka, Japan from 1995 through 1997. He also served as Adjunct Professor at Oklahoma State University, 1989-1999.

M W Brother Smith was employed by the Federal Aviation Administration as a Forensic Chemist, Toxicology Laboratory, 1998-2001; and Instructional Systems Designer, Aerospace Medical Education Division, 2001-2008. He retired from the FAA in 2008.

He holds a Bachelors degree in Chemistry from Cameron University, (1977); a Masters Degree in School Administration, Summa Cum Laude, from Central State University, (1985); and a Masters Degree in Instructional Technology from University of Oklahoma, (1995).

He and his wife, Carol, have been married for 46 years. They have two children: a daughter, Dr. Valerie Hatley of Yukon; and a son, Brother Brian Smith of Austin, Texas. His son-in-law is Brother Edward G. Hatley III of Yukon. He has one granddaughter Kira, and three grandsons: Joseph Hatley, Thomas Hatley and Noah Hatley.

Grand Master Smith was raised in Yukon Lodge #90 in 1986. He has served that Lodge in every chair except Chaplain and Tyler, serving as Worshipful Master in 1992. Presently, he serves as Treasurer. He is also a member of El Reno Lodge #50, Mustang Lodge #407, and India Lodge #551

He is a Member of Guthrie Scottish Rite, was Invested Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 2005; and Coroneted Inspector General Honorary in 2015. He serves as Director of the 23rd Degree Team. M W Brother Smith is a member of Capitol Hill Chapter, Council and Commandery, York Rite; a member of India Shrine Temple A.A.O.N.M.S; Past President and current member of India Shrine Masonic Degree Team; a member of National Sojourners, Tinker Chapter, and a member of Tall Cedars of Lebanon. He is also a member of Oklahoma Lodge of Research, The Royal Order of Scotland, Oklahoma College, M.S.R.I.C.F., and a member of The Order of the Sacred White Buffalo.

He also belongs to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and the Mensa Society.

He is a member of Yukon Order of the Eastern Star Chapter #245 and has

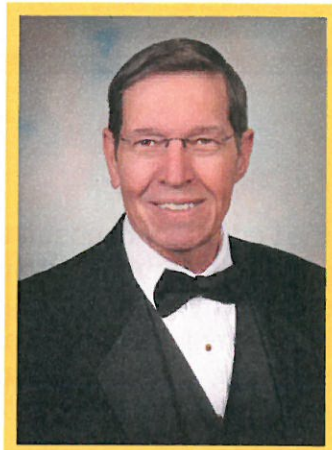


M W Smith's Pin

served as Worthy Patron eight times. He served as Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Oklahoma, 2008-2009 and as a General Grand Chapter Committee Member, 2012-2015.

He was State Rainbow Dad, 2002-2003. Rainbow Dad of Yukon Rainbow Assembly #111, various years from 1988 to 2008. He is currently on Advisory Board of Yukon Rainbow Assembly #111; was Chapter Dad of Yukon DeMolay Chapter 1989 to 1995, and is currently Treasurer of Advisory Board of Excalibur Chapter, Order of DeMolay. He was awarded Rainbow Grand Cross of Color and DeMolay Zerubbabel Key, DeMolay Advisor's Honor Key (2), Honorary Legion of Honor, and DeMolay Cross of Honor.

The Grand Master has been an "A" Certificate Lecturer since 1989 and was awarded a Lifetime "A" Certificate in 2014.



From the Grand Master

Brethren,

As we begin a new Masonic year, I want to point out some of the programs which will be available from your Grand Lodge.

First, a new program being implemented this year is the Perpetual Path Program (PPP). This program will enable Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to become Master Masons in one day. The program will be conducted at local Lodges with three to fifteen Brothers being passed and raised in a single day. The PPP program will be conducted on a Saturday since it will require most of the day to do both degrees and the educational program which will give the Brothers additional instruction about the meaning of their degrees.

Two features of this program are: 1) the Brothers going through this program will be required to purchase a perpetual membership in their Lodge at least ten days before the event, and 2) the Brothers will still have to pass their Master Masons proficiency to hold office in their Lodge or to join any of the Concordant or Androgynous bodies without waiting the required six months. I want to emphasize that the traditional method of receiving the degrees is still the best and preferred way, but the PPP program will benefit those Brothers who wish to quickly progress to the degree of Master Mason and who will purchase a perpetual membership in their Lodge. It will also benefit those Brothers who, for one reason or another, have not advanced beyond the EA or Fellowcraft degree in past years. Information about the application process to attend or host one of these events will be mailed to each Lodge.

Another new program which will be implemented this year is the Regional Explanatory Lecture program. It is a constitutional requirement that all Entered Apprentices receive the Entered Apprentice Explanatory Lecture (slides) within sixty days of their initiation and all Master Masons must receive their Master Masons Explanatory Lecture (slides) within sixty days of their raising. This requirement has not always been completed in some Lodges, so we are going to provide several opportunities for Brothers who have not received these lectures to do so. During this year, on months which have a fifth Wednesday, the Deputy Grand Lecturers and other proficient ritualists will present the EA and MM Explanatory Lectures at selected locations around the state. Brothers who have not had the opportunity to receive these lectures, or those who want to see them again, are encouraged to attend these presentations. The first of these presentations will be done on March 30, 2015. More information about times and locations will be disseminated to the Lodges.

Another new program will be a state-wide blood donation drive conducted in partnership with the Oklahoma Blood Institute. Fifteen selected Lodges will host a blood donation drive on January 18, 2016. This is a significant opportunity for the Masons of Oklahoma to help the Oklahoma Blood Institute to provide badly need blood for those who need blood transfusions. The winter is a slow period for blood donations and we hope this state-wide blood drive will help OBI to replenish their supplies. There will be an advertising campaign conducted by OBI to endeavor to increase participation. All Masons who are eligible to donate blood are encouraged to do so.

As well as these new programs, I encourage Lodges to participate in the existing programs which will be continued this year. I highly encourage Lodges to participate in the Award of Excellence program which M W Beisly reinstated last year. This is an excellent program for Lodges to be recognized for their positive activity. The application for the Award of Excellence is available from Grand Lodge and participation will help each Lodge to grow and improve in Masonry.

I want to mention that the Grand Lodge programs from last year will be continued: Mr. Mason, Medal of Honor, Prevent Blindness, CHIPS, Student of Today, Matching Funds, Student Essay Contest, White Buffalo, Leadership Workshop and all the rest. Every Lodge will have ample opportunities to grow and prosper during 2016.

Fraternally,

Ridge Smith
Grand Master



Dear Masonic Family,

The First Lady's Project of refurbishing the seats in the Lodge Room upstairs in the Grand Lodge building is going very well. The cost of refurbishing a chair is \$200.00 each. Donations of any amount are accepted. If you or a group donates \$200, a name or a group name will be put on a small label on that chair(s). Thank you to each one of you who have donated money for this worthy cause. Checks should be made to me: Carol Smith and note in the lower left hand corner that it is for the "First Lady's Project". A special account has been set up solely for this project.

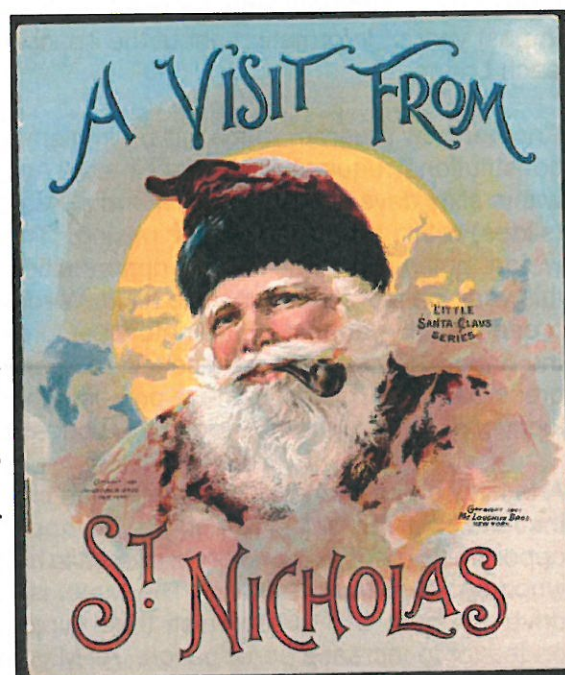
Our Masonic Family Cookbook is progressing, not quite as fast as I had hoped. The cookbook will be on a disc as well as printed form.

You may email, preferably, to me, Carol Smith at caroljbs1966@msn.com or mail to P. O. Box 851123, Yukon, Ok 73099. For questions: text or call 405-990-3390.

Sincerely,

Carol Smith, Wife
Ridge Smith, Grand Master

The poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," often known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was written by our Masonic Brother Clement Clark Moore as a Christmas present for his children in the year 1822.



Meet the Junior Grand Warden

Michael L. Dixon - R W Brother Dixon and his wife of 25 years, Karen, live in Edmond, Oklahoma. They have one son Edward, a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma and current student in the University of Oklahoma School of Pharmacy. Brother Dixon has three grown children son Michael, Jr., daughter Cathy, and son Robert, all living in northeastern Oklahoma with their families.

Brother Dixon holds an Associate in Science Degree, Connors State College, a Bachelor of Science Degree, Northeastern State University and a Master of Science Degree, Oklahoma State University. He also holds Advanced Law Enforcement Certification by the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education Training.

Brother Dixon is a career law enforcement professional retired after 25 years from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics. He is currently employed as the Director of Law Enforcement with the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission, where he is in charge of all licensing, law enforcement, regulatory enforcement and veterinarian operations related to racing and gaming at all horse racing venues regulated by the State of Oklahoma. Brother Dixon is a life member of the Oklahoma Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, and served as President of the Association. He also served as an elected member of Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System Board of Trustees in 1995-2001 and Secretary from 1997-2001.

Brother Dixon is a graduate of the U.S. Army Military Police School and has completed the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Special Agent's Course. He served in the Oklahoma Army National Guard as a Military Police Officer and in the U.S. Army Reserve as an Assistant Special Agent in the Criminal Investigation Division.

Brother Dixon is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Edmond and served as a member of the Finance Committee. He is also a member of Boy Scouts of America, Troop 79 in Edmond, having served as an Assistant Scout Master for five years and was Eagle District's Assistant Scout Master of the Year and has the Wood Badge for Adult Leadership.

Brother Dixon received his degrees in Adair Lodge #99 and was raised a Master Mason in 1968. He served Adair Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1972. He also served as Worshipful Master at Edmond Lodge #37 in 2012. Brother Dixon is a "C" Certificate Lecturer and has completed Grand Lodge Masonic Correspondence Courses I, II & III.

Brother Dixon holds perpetual memberships in Adair Lodge #99, Edmond Lodge #37, India Lodge #551, Altus Lodge #62 and the Oklahoma Lodge of Research, and is a member of Guildhall Lodge # 553.

Brother Dixon served as Grand Marshal in 2013, 2014, and 2015. He served as Co-Chairman and



member of the Grand Lodge Child Identification (CHIPS) Committee from 2009 until 2012. He also served on the Grand Tyler's Committee in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Additionally, he served as a member of the Law Enforcement Relief Committee in 2012 through 2015.

In the Scottish Rite, Brother Dixon was awarded the Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH) and is the Degree Director for the 12th Degree at the McAlester Scottish Rite, a member of the McAlester Scottish Rite Supernumerary Club, a member of the McAlester Scottish Rite Knights of Saint Andrews, and a member of the McAlester Scottish Rite Membership Committee. He is also a member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Credentials Committee and a cast member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite 12th Degree. He is also a Charter Member, Scottish Rite WSB Club (Wisdom, Strength & Beauty), a member of the Scottish Rite Research Society, and a member of the Scottish Rite Society of Central Oklahoma.

He is a member of India Shrine, the Edmond - Guthrie Shrine Club, India Shrine Masonic Degree Team, the India Shrine Past Masters Club and the India Shrine Oriental Band where he has served as Vice-President, President and Sultan. He is also current President of the Association of Shrine Oriental Bands (CSSA).

Brother Dixon's York Rite memberships include Guthrie York Rite Chapter #6, Council #48, and Commandery #1. He is also a member of Tinker Chapter of the National Sojourners, Nathaniel Green Camp of the Heroes of 76, and Edmond Chapter #247 of the Order of the Eastern Star. He is a member of the Philaethes Society. Brother Dixon is currently the Junior Warrior, in the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo.

He served as Chapter Dad for the Edmond DeMolay Chapter in 2010 and 2011 and was awarded the DeMolay, Honorary Legion of Honor.

2016 Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Master.....	M W	Dudley Ridge Smith
Deputy Grand Master.....	R W	Rick Allison
Senior Grand Warden.....	R W	C. W. "Corky" Grigsby, Jr.
Junior Grand Warden.....	R W	Mike Dixon
Grand Treasurer.....	R W	David G. David
Grand Secretary.....	M W	Bobby L. Laws
Grand Lecturer.....	R W	Ronald E. Wray
Senior Grand Deacon.....	W	Kevin Hall
Junior Grand Deacon.....	W	Mike Dill
Senior Grand Steward.....	W	John D. Church
Junior Grand Steward.....	W	Jon Bennett
Grand Marshal.....	W	Cecil Walker
Grand Chaplain.....	W	Richard W. Ehlers
Grand Bible Bearer.....	W	William V. Edds
Grand Pursuivant.....	W	Gerald R. Stegall
Grand Sword Bearer.....	W	Marvin E. Fletcher II
Grand Flag Bearer.....	W	Robert "Bob" Jameson
Grand Musician.....	W	Glendon Birdwell
Grand Tyler.....	W	David A. Sutton
Grand Photographer.....	W	Bill Howell

2016 District Deputy Grand Masters

Dist 1.....	Kendall Kottke	Dist 20.....	Kody Meder
Dist 2.....	Ryan Bibee	Dist 21.....	Clyde Schoolfield
Dist 3.....	Scott Vincent	Dist 22.....	Wesley Hale
Dist 4.....	Richard Bradford	Dist 23.....	Terry Maddux
Dist 5.....	Daniel Christopher	Dist 24.....	Michael Harden
Dist 6.....	Steve Wilson	Dist 25.....	Delbert Wilson
Dist 7.....	Henry Brown	Dist 26.....	Shannon Stubbs
Dist 8.....	Bryan Wheat	Dist 27.....	Ed Palmer
Dist 9.....	Larry Foust	Dist 28.....	Joe Morgan
Dist 10.....	Truman Ragain	Dist 29.....	John Nicholson
Dist 11.....	Robert Rolseth	Dist 30.....	Thomas Bayless
Dist 12.....	Ron Taylor	Dist 31.....	Rick McCafferty
Dist 13.....	Butch Petersen	Dist 32.....	David Hill, Sr.
Dist 14.....	John Christopher	Dist 33.....	Budd Phillips
Dist 15.....	Forrest Ridgway	Dist 34.....	Richard Heelan
Dist 16.....	Doug Davis	Dist 35.....	Rickey Colwell
Dist 17.....	Kenneth Clark	Dist 36.....	Neil Stitt
Dist 18.....	Ivan Minor	Dist 37.....	Keith Plummer
Dist 19.....	Timothy Self	Dist 38.....	Ron Chandler
		Dist 39.....	Jefferson Fluker

It Happened at Grand Lodge

Resolutions which passed and are now Oklahoma Masonic Law

Resolution #2 and Resolution #5 passed.

Until now, when a Lodge received a petition at least 28 days had to pass before the Lodge could vote on the petition. **Now, the petition must lay over at least until the next stated meeting, with no required minimum number of days.** (Resolution #2)

Until now, Lodge Secretaries were required to file a report of Lodge activity with the Grand Secretary each month whether or not there had been any reportable activity. **Now a report must be filed for a month only if there is activity to report.**

Otherwise, the report is filed quarterly. (Resolution #5)

“Activity” includes such things as Degrees, votes on proficiency, petitions received, suspensions, deaths, etc.

The Oklahoma Masonic Medal of Honor—the highest honor bestowed by the Grand Lodge—was presented to **Jesse Dan Swift, Jackie Lynn Painter, and Carl Minor Shelton**



Also at Grand Lodge Jim Tresner was elected an Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma.

Grand Master's Programs for 2016

The Perpetual Path Program

This program allows local Lodges to hold conferrals of the Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees on 3 to 15 candidates on a single day. The Grand Lodge will provide educational materials and assist with coordination, but the program is Craft-driven. Candidates wishing to participate in the program must purchase a Perpetual Membership in their Lodge. Full details will be mailed to the Lodges shortly.



The explanatory lectures of the Degrees are just that—explanatory. They explain, flesh-out, and clarify the Degrees, and are where many of the Masonic symbols are presented and given at least a surface explication. They are very important and our law provides they must be given. But, as we all know, usually when a Degree ends the Worshipful Master says, “Now Brother, there is a lecture which follows here. But it’s getting late (or “the Brother who usually gives the Lecture isn’t here tonight”), and so we’ll provide the lecture at another time.”

But that time never comes. I know of men who have been Master Masons for more than 10 years and have never heard the Lectures. That’s like a BLT sandwich that’s missing the bacon.

That is the reason for the Ritual Fulfillment Program. With the help of R W Ronald Wray, Grand Lecturer, we are scheduling a series of special evenings across Oklahoma to which you can bring members who have never received the Lectures (or those who would like to hear them again). A list of locations and dates is being sent to the Lodges and will be posted on the Grand Lodge website.



We will have a state-wide **blood donation drive** conducted in partnership with the Oklahoma Blood Institute. Fifteen selected Lodges will host a blood donation drive on January 18, 2016. This is a significant opportunity for the Masons of Oklahoma to help the Oklahoma Blood Institute to provide badly need blood for those who need blood transfusions. The winter is a slow period for blood donations and we hope this state-wide blood drive will help OBI to replenish their supplies. There will be an advertising campaign conducted by OBI to endeavor to increase participation. All Masons who are eligible to donate blood are encouraged to do so at this event.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma will conduct a Leadership Workshop on June 10-11 at the India Shrine Center, 3601 NW 36th St., Oklahoma City, OK. This is not just for Lodge Wardens and Secretaries, but for every Mason who wants to learn more about being a leader in his Lodge. There will be a special guest speaker from Texas. Cost is projected to be \$125 which will cover the cost of all meals, handouts, and a new Constitution and Code book.

From the Deputy Grand Master

In picking a subject for this article, I wanted to write about something both timely and beneficial to our Fraternity. My thoughts led me to reflect upon the Trowel. It is a very simple tool with no moving parts, just a handle and a blade. Our ritual teaches us: *“The Trowel is an instrument made use of by operative masons to spread the cement which unites a building into one common mass, but we as Free and Accepted Masons are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection...”*

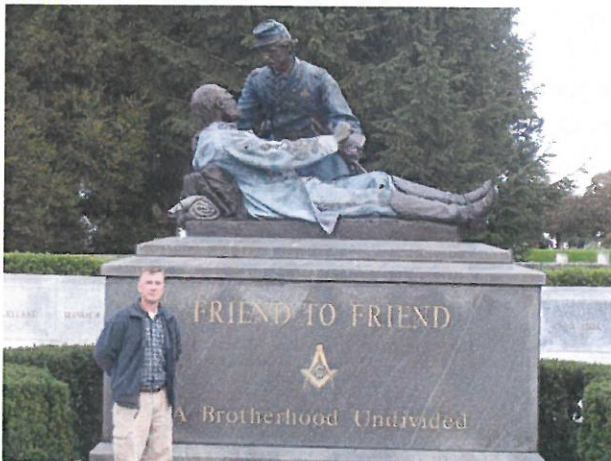
But why is the trowel the principal Working Tool of the Master Mason? I think it may have something to do with the progression of the construction of a building.



R W Richard L. Allison

Entered Apprentices are taught the use of the twenty-four inch gauge and common gavel, two rudimentary tools used to create building blocks. Much like these working tools, the Entered Apprentice lectures are rudimentary as the new Brother progresses to become a building block of our Fraternity. It is very important that these building blocks be prepared correctly. A building is no better than its materials. If our lodges are to grow and get better our Entered Apprentices need to be shaped and formed. A lot of what he has to learn is foreign to him and it is important that our new Brother be properly mentored by someone with skill and dedication. We need to make sure he knows that he became a part of our Fraternity the moment he took his Obligation.

The Fellow Craft Degree teaches us to make use of the plumb, square and level. These tools are more advanced, just as the lessons in the Fellow Craft Degree are more advanced. As our new Brother takes his second step in Masonry he receives many beautiful lectures on true respect for Womanhood, the human senses, the Orders of Architecture and the liberal arts and sciences.

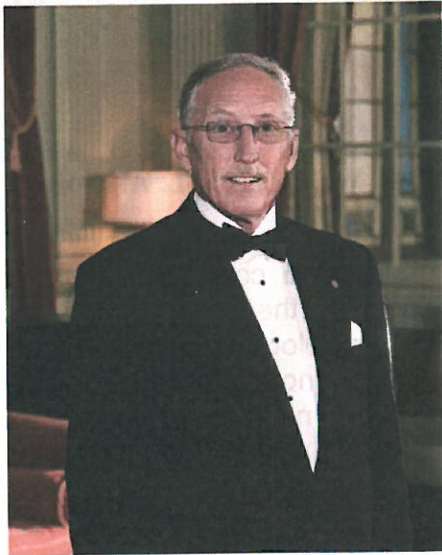


In the Master's degree the knowledge and lessons learned as Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are extended even further. We receive the final lessons of the Blue Lodge degrees. We become the cement that unites the building blocks of Masonry into one common mass. That cement has shown up in many wonderful cases over the course of history. Many of the greatest examples have shown up during the terrible trials of war. I have read many stories of cases during the Revolutionary and Civil wars where one Mason has taken care of another even though they were on the opposing side, because they were Masonic Brothers. It isn't that these Masons did not do their duty. It is just that in times of the ferocity of the war going on around them they

showed humanity to men who were their Brothers. There is a story of a Masonic doctor working in a prisoner of war camp during the Civil War who realized that some of the prisoners he was caring for were Brother Masons. This doctor passed out all the money he had among them so that they might have a better chance of surviving the degradations of the POW camp. If you read stories of Masons during wartime you will find many on this subject and they will all touch you as they have me.

In a Fraternity made up of so many different individual building blocks it is only natural that from time to time there may be some contention among our members. However, we should remember that if soldiers fighting on opposing sides can exhibit fraternal Brotherhood during times of war, surely we can do the same in our Lodge Rooms. Remember the language in our Master Mason Lecture: "...With the Mystic Trowel, let us spread liberally the cement of brotherly love and affection."

From the Senior Grand Warden



R W C.W. "Corky" Grigsby, Jr.

Masonry in Oklahoma, it just doesn't get any better than that! This year went by so fast, I think it was a blur in time; and the Craft is not slowing down. You can see it in the Okmason, everywhere Lodges are doing fund raisers, doing degrees, and something is going on in this state somewhere every day.

At the time this goes to print we have had a SUPER Grand School and an AWESOME Grand Lodge Session. Those of you that missed the Grand School should put it on your calendar for next year, you won't be sorry. We had a good school with good lecturers and really good food provided by Tammie Wray and several of the wives who came with their husbands. Remember to thank them when you see them.

Grand Lodge was outstanding, so many Lodges came this year I was impressed. Next year hopefully we will see more Lodges represented. Brethren, remember it's your Grand Lodge it belongs to each and every Mason in this Great State. You do make the difference in how we do business. I'd like to say thank you to the Grand Lodge staff

including Terry Story, who jumped through hoops and spent endless hours preparing for Grand Lodge. You guys are the best!

Now is the Holiday time of year, we become busy getting items ready for Christmas, and the New Year. I would like to ask your Lodge to take time this Season to make time to visit a Brother who is unable to get out, who hasn't been to Lodge in a while, or who may be less fortunate than ourselves. Take the time to "Go upon the errand," re-establish those contacts you once had to further Friendship and Brotherly Love to those you haven't seen for a while. Take time this coming year to make an improvement in your Lodge, become an active member and enjoy all the Blessings the Grand Architect has given you and be sure to pass some along to others.

Last but not least I ask each of you to **"Be Your Brother's Keeper"**. From the Grigsby family to your family, may you have a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Years.



Fraternally and Respectfully,
C.W. "Corky" Grigsby Jr.
Senior Grand Warden

From the Junior Grand Warden

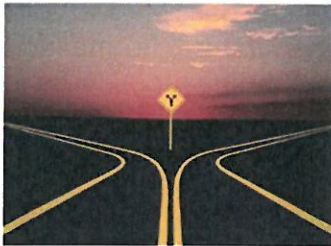
Greetings Brethren,

As I write this, my first article for the Oklahoma Mason, my family and I just celebrated Thanksgiving together and Christmas is rapidly approaching. As I reflect on the holiday season and what it means to me, I am drawn to the many things that I am eternally grateful for; my Lord and Savior, my family, my country, my health, and my fraternity. I try to give thanks to Him, who has given me these blessings, every day.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to you, the craft, the everyday Masons of our state; the men who live and work to make our great fraternity even greater each and every day and for allowing me to serve you in the Grand Line. I truly believe that we who serve you as officers in your Grand Lodge are the recipients of a tremendous gift and at the same time a tremendous responsibility to serve you the craft. I pledge to each and every one of you that I will serve the craft to the very best of my ability.



R W Michael Dixon
Junior Grand Warden



Those of you who know me, know that I am a plain spoken man and tend to tell it like it is. As we begin this journey together, I am compelled to share some concerns with you. I recently attended a speech given by M W Wendell Miller, Grand Master of Texas. During his speech M W Miller used a quote attributed to Yogi Berra, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

Brethren, Masonry in Oklahoma is coming to that fork in the road. In the very near future, we are going to be faced with some tough choices if we want our fraternity to live on and shed its beneficent light on mankind. Our membership is declining at an alarming rate, many of our lodge buildings are in much need of attention and our financial health is of major concern. These very same issues have a corresponding impact on your Grand Lodge and the upkeep of your Grand Lodge building.

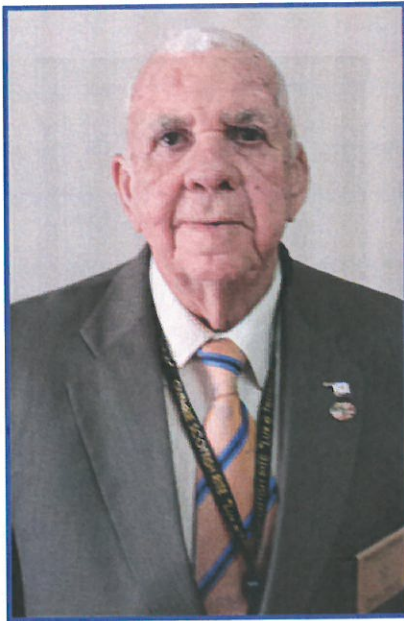
Oklahoma Masons have always stepped up in times of need. Brethren, our fraternity is now in need. It's time for us to all step up for the good of Masonry. We must find ways to grow our membership with quality men, find solutions to the financial difficulties that we all share and to restore our Masonic buildings to places of pride in our communities.

Earlier I said we are beginning a journey—well we are! Finding solutions in these tough economic times will not be quick or easy. It will take time and perseverance on the part of each and every one of us. Your Grand Lodge officers don't have all the answers, but I am confident that if we all work together we can find solutions. I am personally very interested in your thoughts and suggestions, so as I travel around the state this year, please feel free to share those with me.

I look forward to getting to know even more of you over the next few years and for the opportunity to work with and for you.

Fraternally,
Mike Dixon, Junior Grand Warden





**M W Bobby Laws
Grand Secretary**

From the Grand Secretary

Brethren,

It is indeed a pleasure to serve you as your Grand Secretary. Each of you hold a very special place in my heart as Friends and Brothers.

My heartfelt thanks to the Secretaries of all 223 Lodges in Oklahoma for the labor of love you do for your Lodge. Only those who have served before you know just how much you do for our great Fraternity!

Because we know and understand the effort required to be the Secretary of a Lodge, the office is doing everything we can to make your work easier.

We are now ready to begin the second phase of utilizing the Oklahoma Lodge Secretary's Interface Website. For those Secretaries with Internet capability we request that you contact us by telephone @ 405-282-3212 in order that we can issue you a special password to allow you to begin utilizing the program. At that time, you will be mailed a document which will assist you in learning the reporting procedures for

your membership. Using this system can save you time and postage.

Speaking of contacting us, let me remind you of the Grand Lodge Office contact information:

General Telephone Number = 405-282-3212 Grand Lodge Website = www.gloklahoma.com

Grand Secretary Bobby L. Laws, P G M = 405-282-3212 ext. 4

e-mail = okmason1@coxinet.net

Yvette Story = 405-282-3212 ext. 2 e-mail = ystory@coxinet.net

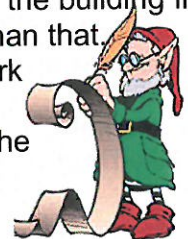
Linda Derscheid = 405-282-3212 ext. 101 e-mail = lindad1@coxinet.net

Jim Tresner = 405-282-3212 ext. 3 e-mail = jim.tresner@yahoo.com

Those who do not visit the Grand Lodge building may not be aware of the work of W Brother Terry Story, and so I would like to call him to your attention. The Grand Lodge building is not new, and it has been showing its age for some time, as any building will. Terry takes care of the building. So much is covered in that little sentence! It isn't just a matter of keeping it clean (although he does that, too). It's a matter of coaxing a reluctant boiler to keep the building warm in the winter, and an even more reluctant air conditioner to keep it cool in summer. It's a matter of repairing the plumbing and updating it a bit from time to time when funds are available. It's a matter of getting here early and staying here late, of talking with suppliers and shopping for the best prices for everything from cleaning supplies to chemicals for the boiler, of taking such great care of the grass and flower beds at the Grand Lodge building that people come by just to look, and the residents of the nursing home next door who walk around the building in good weather stop in to tell us how beautiful the flowers are. And there is much more than that.

My thanks to Terry and to the rest of the staff in the Grand Lodge building. They work for you every day!

And, on behalf of Yvette, Terry, Linda, Jim, and myself, best wishes for 2016 to all the new Lodge officers. May you have a Merry Christmas and a great year!



Fraternally,

Bobby L. Laws

From the Grand Treasurer

Greetings Brethren,

It is an Honor to serve Masonry in the State of Oklahoma as your Grand Treasurer for the year 2016. I feel fortunate having the opportunity to have a small part in building the financial structure of the Grand Lodge. At the same time I, as I hope all Masons of Oklahoma realize that much remains to be done to insure the financial security of our fraternity.



R W David G. David
Grand Treasurer

All Lodges throughout the State should review their revenue stream from regular Lodge dues. This income from regular dues should satisfy utility, insurance, secretary, Lodge bills and maintenance expenses; if not the Lodge should consider raising their Dues along with fund raisers. The income from your Perpetual Endowed Membership funds could be utilized for repair, replacement and community activities.

Visiting with many of you brethren this past year, there continues to be questions about the Perpetual Endowed Membership Fund. The PEM Fund financially, is in good condition. This Fund has a current Market Value (11/30/2015) of \$6,297,096.11 in Government Bonds invested with NAFA Capital Market. Even with the declining interest rates, these Funds are returning over 6% and close to 7%. Many Lodges are experiencing limited cash flow from dues income. The purchases of a Perpetual Membership by a member within your Lodges can reduce that dependency.

The question comes up, is this still a good investment? My answer is YES! You cannot earn this high of interest anywhere else and it is an investment in the future of your Lodge and you can never lose a member for non-payment of dues.

Beside the PEM Funds, your Grand Trustees oversee the budget for the General Fund, Building Endowment, Library & Museum, Deferred Compensation Plan and Pension Plan for our current and retired employees.

Thank you my Brethren for letting me serve you as Grand Treasurer. If you have question concerning any of the Budgeted Funds or PEM Funds, you can contact me via email atinsdavid@aol.com.

Fraternally,
David G. David
Grand Treasurer



Eastern Star Amaranth
White Shrine of Jerusalem
DeMolay Rainbow
Job's Daughters

You are welcome to submit material to
The Oklahoma Mason Magazine.
Acceptance is dependent up availability
of space. Content may be edited for
space considerations. Editor



**R W Ronald Wray
Grand Lecturer**

From the Grand Lecturer

Greetings my brethren all,

Thank you once again for allowing me to serve you as your Grand Lecturer. This is going to be an exciting year as Grand Master Smith has two new programs. The perpetual pathway and the explanatory lecture slides. The lodges will be receiving information on these programs very soon.

There are already some schools scheduled starting in January and we have already held some Deacons and Stewards classes, please check the Grand Lecturer calendar to find dates. We have one exemplification scheduled for May the seventh 2016 at Composite Lode #107 at

Shawnee.

One date to remember is the second Saturday of February which is the 13th for our annual (Iron Man) School of Instruction at Yukon Lodge #90 starting at 9:00 am. This school has continued to grow each year and the Grand Lodge Trustees have this date on their calendar.

I want to say thank you to the Certificate Lectures and my Deputy Grand Lecturers, but especially the craft for making Grand School Of Instruction this year phenomenal.

In closing let me wish each and every one of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year as we enter the holiday season remember Jesus is the reason for the season.

Fraternally,
Ronald Wray Grand Lecturer



History of Masonic Lodges of Southwest Oklahoma

W John D. Church

Member of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research, Past Master Altus Lodge # 62

Senior Grand Steward M W Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

This will include a short history of the Masonic Lodges of Jackson, Harmon, Greer, Kiowa, and Tillman Counties. The information was gathered through the Proceedings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodges of Oklahoma, Indian Territory and the Oklahoma Territory. In February 1909, with the combination of the two Grand Lodges, and as a result of a committee from both the Indian and Oklahoma Territory Grand Lodges, it was agreed that the existing 60 Indian Territory Lodges keep their current number and the existing Oklahoma Territory Lodges be renumbered beginning with number 61 based on the date of granting their Dispensation.¹

Mangum Lodge # 61: Chartered: - originally Chartered as Mangum Lodge # 685² by the Grand Lodge of Texas as part of Greer County Texas. On May 4, 1896, the land was officially assigned by Congress to Oklahoma Territory and was chartered by Oklahoma Territory Grand Lodge as Mangum Lodge #29 on the first day of the Annual communication on April 16, 1896.³ When the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory consolidated in 1909 Mangum was chartered as Mangum Lodge # 61. Mangum Lodge has had the privilege of being the home lodge of three Past Grand Masters. M W J. Frank Matthews P G M 1904 O. T. received his degrees in Mangum Lodge No. 29 (now No. 61) in 1896. He also served as a Judge in Greer and Jackson Counties. He was elected as a Representative and Senator from Greer county in 1904. M W Ray Keith Babb P G M 1959 served Mangum Lodge No. 61 as Master in 1934. He was also the President of the Certificate Lecturers Association in 1955. M W Ray K. Babb Jr. P G M 1989 received his degrees from Mangum Lodge No. 61. He also served as Worthy Grand Patron Oklahoma Eastern Star in 1994.

Altus lodge #62: Chartered 1891 U. D. -originally Chartered as Altus Lodge #711² by the Grand lodge of Texas as part of Greer County Texas. On May 4, 1896, the land was officially assigned by Congress to Oklahoma Territory and was chartered by Oklahoma Territory Grand Lodge as Altus Lodge #30 on the first day of the Annual communication on April 16, 1896.³ When the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory consolidated in 1909 Altus was chartered as Altus Lodge #62. Altus Lodge is the home lodge of M W Bobby L. Laws P G M 1990. P G M Laws received his degrees from Union Lodge No. 28 in LaGrange Ga. in 1964. He affiliated with Altus Lodge No. 62 in 1975 while stationed at Altus AFB. He also served the Grand Lodge as Grand Secretary from 1992 -1993 and 2015 to present.

Cordell Lodge #127: Originally U.D. on February 4, 1898⁴ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Cordell Lodge #38. Changed to Cordell Lodge # 127, when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory joined together.

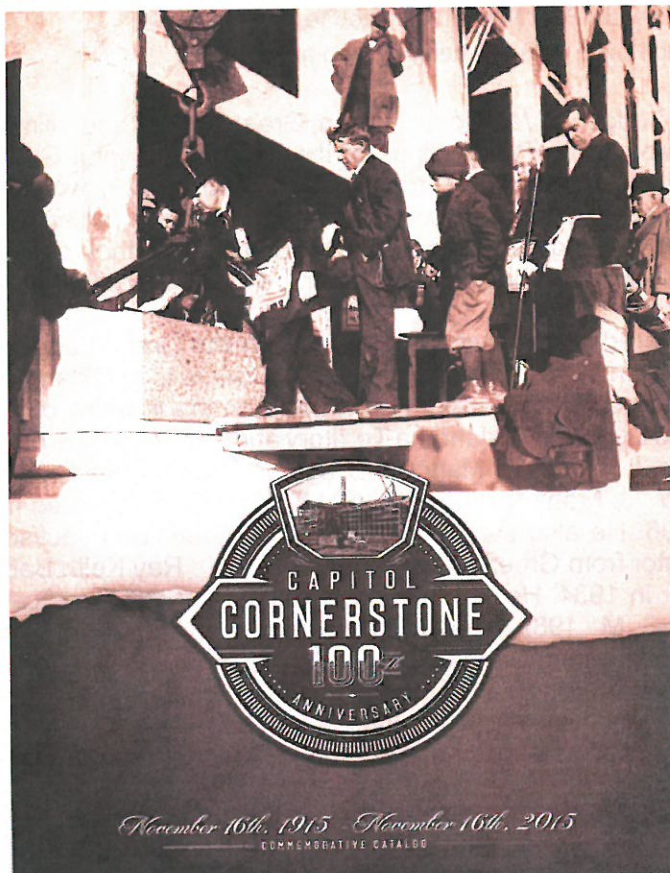
Sentinel Lodge #152: Originally U.D. on June 29, 1900⁵ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Wood Lodge #54. On October 18th 1902 the lodge was moved from the town of Wood to the Town of Barton due to the hall where their meeting took place was moved away.⁶ In the 1905 proceedings, it shows the lodge meeting in Sentinel but there is no record of the date the move was made.⁷ Changed to Sentinel Lodge # 152, when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. - Consolidated with Cordell Lodge # 127 on November 18, 1975

Granite Lodge #164: Originally U.D. on February. 17, 1901⁸ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Granite Lodge #63. Changed to Granite Lodge # 164, when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. - Consolidated with Altus Lodge #62 on August 11, 2009.

Mt. View Lodge #168: Originally U.D. on April 20, 1901⁸ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Mt. View Lodge #65 - Changed to # 168 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. In 1904 Special Dispensation was granted to move the Charter from Mountain View in Washita County to Mountain View in Kiowa County, a distance of 1½ miles, which did not affect the jurisdiction of any other lodge.⁹ Mountain View was also the home of P G M Ernest Clyde Morris P G M 1960. Bro. Morris moved to Drumright Oklahoma in 1915 and took his Masonic degrees in Drumright Lodge in 1925.

Continued on page 19

Grand Lodge Rededicates Cornerstone on Oklahoma Capitol Building



Cover of the Program for the Centennial Rededication provided by the State. Reduced from the original 8 X 11 size

It was a blustery but exciting day. On November 16, M W Smith and the Grand Lodge officers gathered at the invitation of the State officials to rededicate the cornerstone of the building originally laid with Masonic Ceremony in 1915.

It is interesting to read the account from the Proceedings of the time. (Photographs are from the 2015 ceremony. More are available on the Grand Lodge Site gloklahoma.com)

(From the 1915 Proceedings) "The cornerstone for the new state house was laid according to program at Oklahoma City, Tuesday, November 16, by the Grand Lodge of Masons for the State of Oklahoma. The day was the eighth anniversary of the admission of the state into the union. Thousands of Masons and other citizens of the state witnessed the ceremony.

The ceremonies incident to the actual laying of the cornerstone were begun at 4 o'clock, when Governor Williams presented to Most Worshipful Grand Master E. A. Monroney, a small silver trowel, donated by the Stewart Construction company, builders of the capitol.

The massive native granite rock, bearing the Masonic emblem and the names of Governor Williams and Grand Master Monroney, was elevated by a steam crane to a height of about five feet from the place where it was to rest, at the southwest corner of

the west wing, while workmen covered the base with a thick layer of mortar. Silence was proclaimed by Past Grand Master Wm. P. Freeman, of McAlester, Grand Marshal, and the Masonic ceremonies began with the formal acceptance by Grand Master Monroney of the invitation of the state for the Masons to lay the stone.

Prayer was offered by W. W. Robinson, of Geary, Grand Chaplain. Using the silver trowel presented by the Governor, Grand Master Monroney went through the form of spreading mortar on the base where the stone was to rest. At the whistled signal the stone was lowered one-third of the way while it was accorded the public grand honors in Masonry, the Masons clapping their hands three times, left over right. This was done three times until the stone was finally placed in its proper position.



After the block had been placed the different officers of the

organization tested it with level, square, and plumb line to make sure that it had been truly set. The same instruments, symbolic of those used in practical Masonry, are used in the exemplification of the teachings of the Masonic order.



Then followed the consecration of the stone, which consisted of sprinkling oil, wine and corn upon it. The corn, symbol of plenty, was placed on the stone by Deputy Grand Master Wier, of Hugo; the wine, emblem of joy and gladness, was poured by Senior Grand Warden Samuel W. Hogan, of Cashion; the oil, significant of peace, was poured by Grand Junior Warden Joseph W. Morris, of Snyder. This part of the ceremony closed with a prayer for the endurance of brotherly love and friendship.

With the striking of the stone three times with a gavel by Grand Master Monroney and an address by Woodson Norvell of Tulsa, Grand Orator, the ceremonies ended.

Grand Master Monroney remarked: "I desire at this time, on behalf of this M W Grand Lodge, to convey to our

Governor; Hon. Robt. L. Williams, his able Secretary A. N. Leecraft; Hon. Ed. S. Vaught and the members of the Capital Building Committee; Hon. Ed. Overholser, Mayor of Oklahoma City; and the citizenship of this great State and City, and to Harry Penticost; Wm. J. Pettee; Robert E. Flynn, director of the Military Band; C. R. Harkness, the director of the Masonic Band; Edward Vail McIntyre and to everyone who so thoughtfully and kindly did all in their power to make this occasion a success—the sincere thanks and appreciation of the Masonic Fraternity for their very able assistance and co-operation."

The Program in 1915

Music—Selected—Masonic Temple Band.

Invocation—Bishop Francis K. Brooke.

Music—"Oklahoma"—Apollo Club.

Address—Governor Robt. L. Williams,
ex-officio chairman, State Capital Committee.

Address—Hon. Mathew J. Kane, Chief Justice.

Address—Hon. Charles B. Stuart.

Music—Selected—Masonic Temple Band.

Cornerstone to be laid by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Invocation, by Grand Chaplain—R W W. W. Robinson.

Music—"Star Spangled Banner"—Apollo Club.

Laying of the Cornerstone by M W Almer E. Monroney,
Grand Master.

Grand Secretary will read list of certain memorials to be
deposited beneath the cornerstone.

Deposit of articles and box by Grand Treasurer.

Trial of Cornerstone by R W Deputy Grand Master A. J. Weir, R W Senior Grand Warden G. W. Samuel
W. Hogan. and R W Junior Grand Warden Joe W. Morris.

Consecration of Cornerstone.

Music—Selected—Masonic Temple Band.

Address of Grand Master—M W Almer E. Monroney.

Grand Orator's Address—R W Woodson E. Norvell.

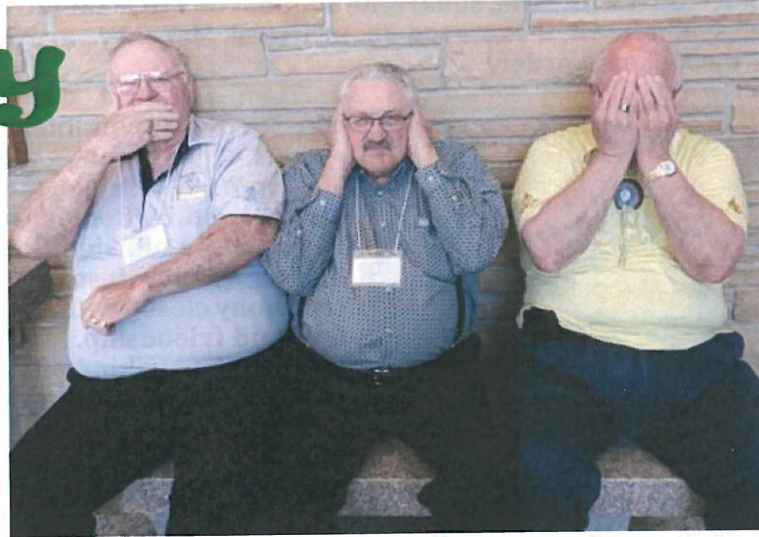
Song, "America"—Entire Audience.

Benediction, by the Grand Chaplain—R W W. W. Robinson.



Gallery

Grand School
Grand Lodge
Installation



History of Masonic Lodges of Southwest Oklahoma, continued from page 15

Ruth Lodge # 172: Originally U.D. on May 22, 1901⁸ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Ruth Lodge # 67- Changed to # 172 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. The Proceedings of 1903 state that Ruth Lodge met at Corolea in Greer County whose Post Office was in Duke. The proceedings of 1910 still show the location of the lodge in Corolea. The proceedings of 1911 show the location as Duke but there is no reference as to the exact date the Charter was moved. Consolidated with Mangum Lodge # 61 on April 5, 1977.

Eldorado Lodge # 181: Originally U.D. on October 18, 1901⁸ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Eldorado Lodge # 73 - Changed to # 181 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. Consolidated with Yeldell Lodge # 196 on October 1, 2001.

Elk City Lodge #182: Originally U.D. on November 7, 1901⁸ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Elk City Lodge #74.- Changed to #182 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified.

Sayre Lodge #195: Originally U.D. on June 25, 1902¹⁰ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Sayre Lodge # 83 - Changed to # 195 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified.

Yeldell Lodge #196: Originally U.D. on July 15, 1902¹⁰ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Yeldell Lodge # 84 in Yeldell OK. - Permission was grant by the Grand Master to move the Charter to Elmer, OK November 6, 1909. Changed to # 196 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. J. Clay Thrash P G M 1968 began his Masonic career in Yeldell Lodge No. 196 in Elmer in 1948. He served as Worshipful Master of Yeldell Lodge in 1951. He also served as the President of the Certificate Lecturers Association in 1963.

Hobart Lodge # 198: Originally U.D. on August 8, 1902¹⁰ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Hobart Lodge # 85 - Changed to # 198 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified.

Foss Lodge # 204: Originally U.D. on October 21, 1902¹⁰ under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory as Foss Lodge # 86- Changed to # 204 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. Consolidated with Cordell Lodge # 127 on September 12, 1977

Frederick Lodge # 249: Originally U.D. on February. 11, 1903¹¹ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Frederick Lodge # 92 - Changed to # 249 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified.

Snyder Lodge # 216: Originally U.D. on April 15, 1903¹² under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Snyder Lodge # 96 - Changed to # 216 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. Snyder Lodge consolidated with Frederick Lodge #249 on February 16, 1988. Joseph W. Morris P G M 1918 was made a Master Mason in Snyder Lodge in 1903 while it was still U.D.

Hollis Lodge # 219: Originally U.D. on May 7, 1903¹² under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Hollis Lodge # 98 - Changed to # 219 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. Consolidated with Altus Lodge #62 on Januaryuary. 17, 2009

Olustee Lodge #225: Originally U.D. on Jun 15, 1903¹² under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Olustee Lodge # 101 - Changed to # 225 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. Consolidated with Altus Lodge #62 on December 16, 1986

Erick Lodge # 237 Originally U.D. on Sept 8, 1903¹² under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Erick Lodge # 109 - Changed to # 237 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified.

Martha Lodge #278: Originally U.D. on January 20, 1905¹³ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Martha Lodge # 131 - Changed to # 278 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. Consolidated with Altus Lodge #62 on June 20, 1957

Texola Lodge # 295: Originally U.D. on Jun 24, 1905¹⁴ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory Texola Lodge # 138 - Changed to # 295 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The

Indian Territory unified. Charter Taken on January 8, 1958.

Gotebo Lodge #305: Originally U.D. on Sept 25, 1905¹⁴ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Gotebo Lodge # 143 - Changed to # 305 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. - Consolidated with Mt. View #168 on April 23 1973

Manitou Lodge #306: Originally U.D. on November 15, 1905¹⁴ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Manitou Lodge # 144 - Changed to # 306 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. - No reports after 1917

Headrick Lodge #311: Originally U.D. on January 20, 1906¹⁴ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Headrick Lodge # 148 - Changed to # 311 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. - Consolidated with Altus Lodge #62 on September 28, 2009

Davidson Lodge # 320: Originally U.D. on March 26, 1906¹⁵ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Davidson Lodge # 154 - Changed to # 320 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. - Consolidated with Frederick Lodge #249 on December 6, 1966

Vinson Lodge # 325: Originally U.D. on April 11, 1906¹⁵ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Vinson Lodge # 158 - Changed to # 325 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. - Consolidated with Mangum Lodge # 61 on Aug. 21, 1961

Blair Lodge #332: Originally U.D. on May 26, 1906¹⁵ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Blair Lodge # 159 - Changed to # 332 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. - Consolidated with Altus Lodge #62 on February. 1, 1988

Clinton Lodge #161: Originally U.D. on August 26, 1906¹⁵ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Clinton Lodge # 161 - Changed to #339 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. George H. Powers P G M 1978 received his degrees from Clinton Lodge No. 339 in 1947. He is a past Secretary and Treasurer of the Certificate Lecturers Association and served two terms on the Masonic Charity Foundation Board of Directors.

Delhi Lodge # 340: Originally U.D. on August 30, 1906¹⁵ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Delhi Lodge # 162 - Changed to # 340 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. Consolidated with Erick Lodge # 237 on February 9, 1959.

Retrop Lodge #355: Originally U.D. on Jun 5, 1907 under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Retrop Lodge # 170 - Changed to # 355 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. Consolidated with Sentinel Lodge #152 on March 20, 1969. No record could be found of an entry in any Proceedings of a U.D. given to Retrop, however, in the 1908 Proceeding the Charters and Dispensations Committee recommends a Charter be issued to Retrop.¹⁶

Lone Wolf Lodge # 371: Originally U.D. on April 18, 1908¹⁷ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Lone Wolf Lodge # 176 - Changed to # 371 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. - Consolidated with Hobart Lodge #198 on April 25, 1983.

Rocky Lodge #373: Originally U.D. on April 28, 1908¹⁷ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Rocky Lodge # 181 - Changed to # 373 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified. Consolidated with Hobart Lodge #198 on December 13, 1937.

Grandfield Lodge #378: Originally U.D. on May 6, 1908¹⁷ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Grandfield Lodge # 185 - Changed to # 378 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified.

Mountain Park Lodge # 383: Originally U.D. on Jun 9, 1908¹⁷ under the Grand Lodge of the Oklahoma Territory as Mt. Park Lodge # 189 - Changed to # 383 when the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma Territory and The Indian Territory unified - Consolidated with Snyder Lodge #216 on November 16, 1971. As an interesting note; the proceedings of 1925 also show a dispensation for U.D. issued to Mountain Park on May 17, 1924.¹⁸ No other references can be found to explain why a second U.D. was issued to the same town under the same lodge name. Gilbert Beebe Bristow P G M 1925 received his degrees from Mountain Park Lodge No. 168 in 1907. He served that Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1912, 1914, 1916, 1917, 1920, and 1921. He was also the first Worthy Patron of Roosevelt Chapter No. 340 Order of the Eastern Star. Continued on page 24

Season's Greetings From the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

Programs and Dates

DECEMBER

2015 Matching Funds application deadline is Wednesday 12/16/2015.

OETA - Letters are mailed to all Oklahoma Lodges regarding the upcoming OETA telethon which will be held tentatively on Saturday March 19, 2016. Lodges are asked to contribute \$1.50 per member.

JANUARY

The Oklahoma Food Bank Program – Funds for this program will be presented to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma or the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, determined by the location of the Lodge that made the contribution. A letter from the Grand Master will be mailed to all Lodges in the Spring or early Summer asking that the Lodge contribute \$2.00 per member.

FEBRUARY

Senior Essay Contest winners will be announced. Letters are sent to all participating schools announcing the names of the local division (male and female) winners and/or state-wide winners. Copies of the letters are also sent to the participating lodges. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and coordinate presentation date, time and place.**



Student & Teacher of Today forms are mailed to all Oklahoma Lodges. Lodges are encouraged to distribute these forms at their local **public schools**. Schools mail completed forms to the Masonic Charity Foundation.

MARCH

Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma Youth Scholarship Program notifications will be mailed to all Youth Group Leaders in the state. The Leaders are asked to distribute the information to all of their Youths who are attending or will attend college in the current year.

O.E.T.A. Telethon (Mason night is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2016) - Lodge contributions, plus matching funds are presented by the Grand Master.

Masonry in Action Award applications are to be submitted by Thursday March 31, 2016.

APRIL

Awards for Arts Excellence - This program will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2016 at the Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie. The Grand Master and State Superintendent honor outstanding high school students in the arts.

Senior Essay certificates and checks for winning students are mailed to all participating Lodges for presentation by the Lodge. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and arrange presentation date, time and place.**



Student of Today and Teacher of Today certificates are mailed to Schools or Lodges prior to the presentation date. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and confirm presentation date, time and place.**

MAY

Student of Today and Teacher of Today certificates are mailed to Schools or Lodges prior to the presentation date. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and confirm presentation date, time and place.**

Youth Scholarship Program - Completed scholarship applications are due. (Postmark deadline is May 1, 2016) The Education Committee of the Foundation will meet and award scholarships so that the winners will be notified in time for them to receive the scholarships at their Annual Assembly, Conclave or Bethel.

AUGUST

Senior Essay packets are mailed to all Oklahoma Lodges. **This essay contest is open to all seniors in Oklahoma Public Schools.** Lodges are encouraged to deliver these packets to their local high schools. The deadline for essays is usually the end of October. Essays are then professionally graded in November & December with results being announced in January.

SEPTEMBER

State Teacher of the Year ceremony at the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City. The Grand Master presents a framed certificate to every district winner present; a \$500 check to each Rising Star honoree, a \$1,000 check to each of the eleven Teacher of the Year finalists; a \$5,000 check to the Teacher of the Year; and a \$5,000 check to school district of the Teacher of the Year.
(This event is usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of September.)

OCTOBER

Senior Essay Contest deadline is Friday, October 31, 2016.

DECEMBER

2016 Matching Funds application deadline is Thursday 12/15/2016. Applications received after this date will be processed as 2017 business.

And let us help you with
speakers

There are great stories to be told
about Masonic Charity in Oklahoma. The Foundation will be happy to send a speaker to District meetings, Lodge meetings, Friends Nights, etc. **Call the Charity Foundation office 405-348-7500 to discuss the event and determine speaker availability.**



Well Done, Brother Andrew!!



On December 11th Brother Andrew Schaeffer presented a remarkable concert on the pipe organ in the auditorium of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple. An Entered Apprentice at Oklahoma City Lodge 36 and Director of Music Ministries and Principal Organist at First United Methodist Church in Edmond, Brother Andrew is working on a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Organ Performance at O.U.

He has appeared as accompanist for the National Lutheran Choir, received the *Officium ad Ducere* [Leadership by Service] Alumnus of the Year award from Luther North College Prep, and was recently named one of the “top 20 under 30” young church musicians and organists by *The Diapason* magazine.

It was an outstanding concert. While most people think that the hardest part of organ playing is keeping track of the hands and feet with the different keyboards involved, one of the most challenging aspects is “registration,” selecting which combination of the many voices or stops on the organ will

produce the sound desired. There are literally thousands of combinations possible on an organ the size of the one in the Scottish Rite Temple with pipes ranging from less than 4 inches in length to ones greater than 32 feet. Especially during the suite from the Nutcracker ballet, it was possible to close your eyes and truly hear all the instruments of a symphony orchestra.



The Temple’s Kimball Organ is an “orchestral organ” which differs from a “church organ” or a “theatre organ” in that many of its stops are designed to imitate the sounds of such instruments as oboes, violas, and tubas—but that only truly works at the hands of a skilled performer.

In addition to some traditional carols and secular Christmas songs, with which the audience was encouraged to sing along, the concert included “*In Dulci Jubilo*” by Johann Sebastian Bach, “*Variations sur un Noel*” by Marcel Dupré, “Greensleeves” in the arrangement by Richard Purvis, and the aforementioned suite from “The Nutcracker.”

Fortunately, even if you missed the concert, you can still hear a bit of it. The “Russian Dance” is available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3W8hvw0ME> And you can order a complete recording of Brother Schaeffer’s performance of the Nutcracker Suite at www.BirettaBooks.com for \$15 plus s&h.



A Masonic "Night Before Christmas"

by Clayton F. Wright

'Twas the Night before Christmas, and down at the lodge
Not a gavel was stirring, and in the hodge-podge
Of aprons and jewels and chairs East and West
You could savour the silence. Most gladly divest
All metal and mineral. It mattered not,
Since Christmas was nigh And the coals were still hot
In the hearth of your home place, all Masons abed,
As visions of trestleboards danced in their head.

When up on the roof there arose such a clatter
Our Tyler jumped up to see what was the matter!
He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,
Three knocks shook the panels - he wondered "What for?"
He answered the knocking with raps of his own,
And once the door opened he saw, with a moan
Of delight, it was Santa, all jolly and red
Except for one notable feature instead!
Upon his large finger he wore what we knew
Was compass and square on a background of blue!
"Why Santa!" he shouted and lowered his blade,
"I see you're a Mason!" the Tyler relayed.

He looked toward the Master's most dignified chair
And said, voice near trembling, "Most Worshipful there
Is a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!"
The Master replied, "Let's allow him - but wait!
You tell me a Gentleman, but I don't see
His apron beneath that red suit. Can it be
Our visitor hasn't been properly raised?
Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?"

"I do beg your pardon," ol' Santa said quick,
As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick
But a cane with engraving, two balls did appear
And oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear!
Adorned like the Master's, complete with a sign
Of "Lodge Number One, the North Pole" on one line!

"Now let this man enter," the Master declared,
And once in the Lodge room, the Brethren all stared,
For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen
For many a century - there in between
The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar
Gleamed two golden reindeer that shone like a dollar!

"It's Donner and Blitzen, who I must confess
Are actually images brought from the West
By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!"
And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled
An ear of fine corn, and some oil from the East,
"My friend I have plenty. Tonight we will feast
On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!"
A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,
As presents and promises flew from his sack!
This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack
For making this Christmas the best you could glean,
And soon even Deacons were laughing. They'd seen
On this very night only happiness reigned!
This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained
That only a Mason could be so inclined
To make all kids happy, make all people find
A Christmas so special. Yes, Santa was right!
Merry Christmas to All, and to all a Good Night!

Purloined from the Website of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin

Loveland Lodge # 392: Originally U.D. December 17, 1908¹⁷ under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory as Loveland Lodge # 195 - Changed to #392 when the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory and the Indian Territory unified. - Consolidated with Grandfield Lodge #378 on February. 23 1967.

Roosevelt Lodge # 398: U.D. April 10, 1909¹⁹ Under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma- Consolidated with Hobart Lodge # 198 on June 10, 1974

Gibson Lodge # 402 (Located in Gould): U.D. Jun 17, 1909¹⁹ Under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma- Consolidated with Hollis Lodge #219 on November 24, 1981. Jesse Ewell Cole P G M 1961 received his degrees from Achille Lodge No. 454 in Texas in 1927. He affiliated with Gibson Lodge No. 402 at Gould, OK. in 1935. He served this Lodge as Worshipful Master from 1938-1941. In 1956 he affiliated with Ruth Lodge No. 172 in Duke.

Tipton Lodge # 417: U.D. Sept 3, 1910²⁰ Under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma - Consolidated with Frederick Lodge #249 on October 15, 1994

Carter Lodge # 423: U.D. January 13, 1911²⁰ Under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma - Consolidated with Sayre Lodge #195 on February. 25, 1985

Willow Lodge # 433: U.D. May 8, 1911²¹ Under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma - Consolidated with Mangum Lodge #61 on June 10, 1991

Russell Lodge # 447: U.D. December 14, 1911²² Under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma - Consolidated with Mangum Lodge #61 on March 12, 1962

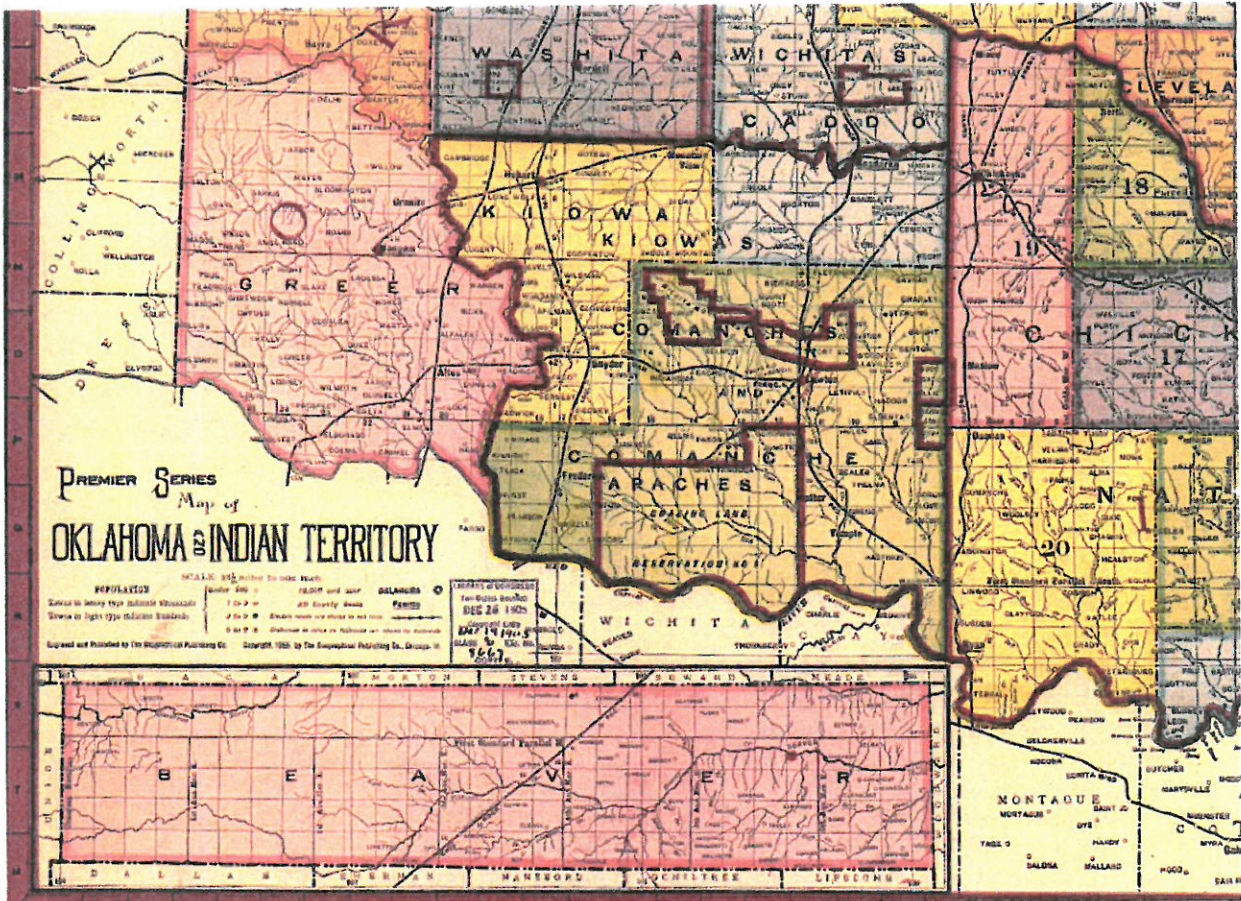
Sweetwater Lodge # 464: U.D. June 29, 1914²³ Under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma- Consolidated with Erick Lodge #237 on December 12, 1920

Hess Lodge #470: U.D. December 14, 1915²⁴, Under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma - Consolidated with Yeldell Lodge # 196 on April 13, 1944

Hollister Lodge #516: U.D. December 3, 1923²⁵ Under the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma - Consolidated with Frederick Lodge #249 on November 16, 1937

Below is a 1905 Map of the Oklahoma and Indian Territories of Southwest Oklahoma where these Lodges were located. Also a 1915 map of Southwest Oklahoma after the establishment of Jackson and Harmon counties which were divided from Greer County, and Tillman county which was part of Comanche county.

As you can see from the maps, many of the communities in Southwest Oklahoma in the late 1800's and early 1900's had a Masonic Lodge. Throughout the older proceedings you find that many of the Lodges held their regular meetings, on Saturday on or after the full moon in each month.



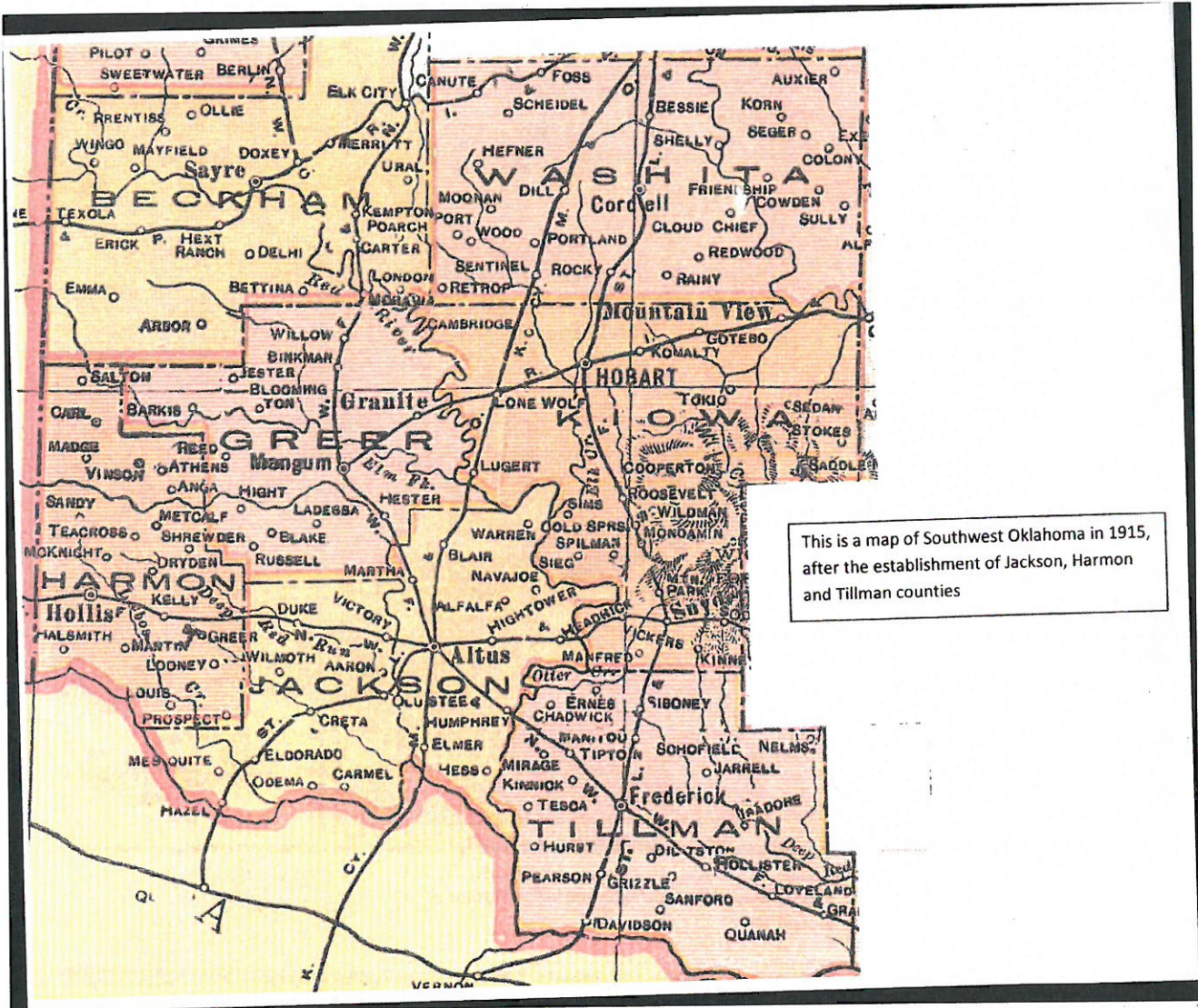
This is a map of the Oklahoma and Indian Territories around 1905

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1. 1909 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory pg. 133
2. 1897 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 17
3. 1897 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 35 "Report of Special Committee".
4. 1899 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 10
5. 1901 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 11
6. 1903 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 36
7. 1905 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 118
8. 1902 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pgs. 28 & 29
9. 1904 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 31
10. 1903 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 22
11. 1903 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pgs. 73 & 74
12. 1904 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pgs. 21 & 22
13. 1905 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 14
14. 1906 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 15

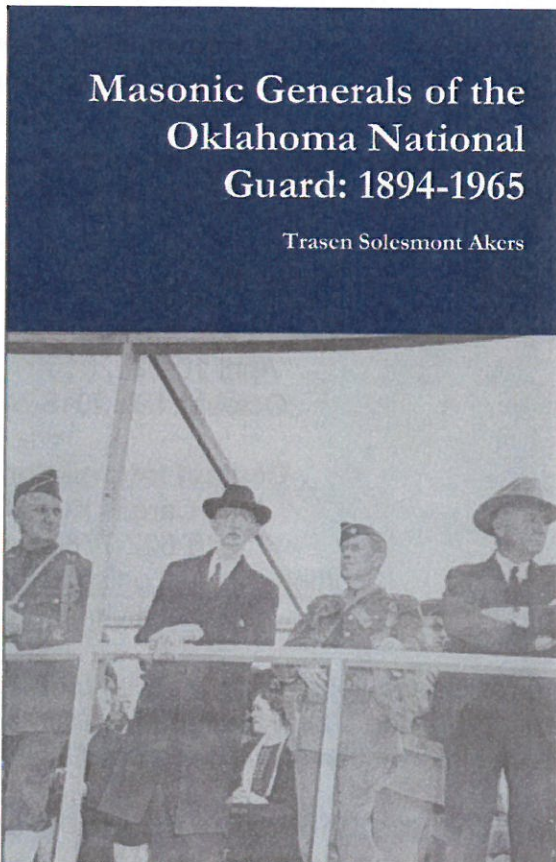
- 15. 1907 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pgs. 18 & 19
- 16. 1908 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pg. 49
- 17. 1909 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory, pgs. 123 & 124
- 18. 1925 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma pg. 83
- 19. 1910 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, pg. 46
- 20. 1911 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, pg. 31
- 21. 1912 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, pg. 14
- 22. 1913 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, pg. 13
- 23. 1915 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, pg. 19
- 24. 1916 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, pg. 56
- 25. 1924 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, pg. 33
- 26. Oklahoma Lodge of Research Volume V Grand Master of Oklahoma

<http://s8.photobucket.com/user/DougLoudenback/media/maps/ctOOO282> maponly sw panhandle 1024.j

pg.html

<http://www.okgenweb.org/okprojects/xrefrailroads.html>

NEW BOOK BY OKLAHOMA MASONIC AUTHOR TRASEN AKERS



Masonic Generals of the Oklahoma National Guard: 1894-1965

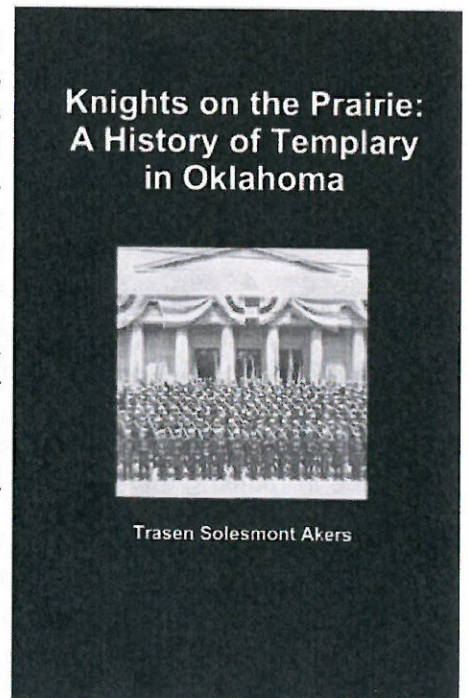
Trasen Solesmont Akers

Brother Akers is doing some interesting and very good writing. His earlier book, *Knights of the Prairie: A History of Templary in Oklahoma*, is a rich resource for those interested in how the York Rite came to Oklahoma. Filled with photographs, the book shows how the Rite expanded in the open spaces of the Territories.



Now he has done an equally fine job as chronicler of the Generals of the Oklahoma National Guard who were members of the Fraternity. With photographs and biographical sketches, he tells some compelling stories. I especially appreciated the story of Fred Daugherty, because I knew and so much admired the man. Even if

you are not a history buff, I think you will enjoy this book. It is paperbound, 108 pages, and available on Amazon for about \$10. A portion of the proceeds benefits the museum at the McAlester Scottish Rite Temple. [JT]



Knights on the Prairie: A History of Templary in Oklahoma



Trasen Solesmont Akers



Rite On!



THE SCOTTISH RITE has been an integral part of the Masonic Family in Oklahoma since 1896. Its foundational goal of offering more light in Masonry and adding to the Masonic education of Oklahoma Masons has proven to be a popular fraternal venue for men for well over a century.

As a testament to the Scottish Rite's significance in the area of Masonic education, it is noted that 44% of the Master Masons in Oklahoma also belong to the Scottish Rite.

Its popularity is driven in part by its beautiful Masonic buildings in Guthrie and McAlester, its commitment to childhood language disorders in children in Tulsa, its statewide venue of expanding Masonic friendships and contacts beyond the boundaries of the individual Oklahoma lodge, and the fact that the Scottish Rite is nationally known as being the college course in Freemasonry. The three Scottish Rite Valleys in Oklahoma have distinguished themselves for their long commitment to quality in their degree work.

All Master Masons who have fulfilled the proficiency requirements of the Blue Lodge, or have been Master Masons for more than six months, are eligible to join the Scottish Rite. The choice of belonging to Guthrie, Tulsa, or McAlester is up to the individual brother. Usually, men select the Valley which is the closest to their place of residence.

The dates for the 2016 Oklahoma Scottish Rite Reunions are shown here. The fee for joining is \$175 and the annual dues to the Rite are \$80.

Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunions

April 1-2-3, 2016
October 29-30, 2016

Contact Information

Robert G. Davis 33^o, G C
405-282-1281

gssrite@sbcglobal.net
www.guthriescottishrite.org

McAlester Scottish Rite Reunions

April 9-10, 2016
October 22-23, 2016

Contact Information

Jerry Grubbs, 33^o
918-423-6360

jrgrubbs@att.net
www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Tulsa Scottish Rite Reunions

April 16-17, 2016
October 1-2, 2016

Contact Information

Matt Cargill, KCCH
918-622-7760

office@tulsascottishrite.org
www.tulsascottishrite.org

If you want to continue your education in Masonry in 2016, or extend your fellowship with brothers beyond your own Lodge, a good place to start is to contact one of the Valley Secretaries (contact information above). For further information, you can also peruse the information on the three Scottish Rite websites.

Men joining the Fraternity today are looking for education. The Scottish Rite is a big help to our Lodges in fulfilling this interest. It has always been a big part of Oklahoma Masonry.

THE YORK RITE is the third leg which completes the great triangle of Masonic Bodies in Oklahoma, along with the Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite. Like the Scottish Rite, the York Rite is also Degree based and focused on offering Master Masons further education in Masonry. Although the Degrees of the York Rite largely originated in England, the Rite is often referred to as the American Rite since its Degrees and

Orders were organized and promulgated into a single system of work by the prominent 18th Century American ritualist, Thomas Smith Webb. The York Rite meets through local Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies which are chartered to operate in key Blue Lodges across Oklahoma.

Two of the several important Masonic traditions are particularly emphasized in the York Rite-the Royal Arch tradition, and the Knight Templar tradition. The Royal Arch tradition is concerned with discovering that which was lost in the Master Mason Degree; and the Knight Templar Tradition focuses on the values of Christian Knighthood.

It is generally held by men who have a special interest in Masonic history, legacy, education, symbolism, and philosophy that to belong to the three great Masonic Bodies inclusive of the Blue Lodge, the Scottish Rite, and the York Rite, is truly the cornerstone upon which improvement in Masonry can be fully attained.

The same joining rules apply to the York Rite as to the Scottish Rite. One must have demonstrated his proficiency in the Master Mason Degree, or been a member for not less than 6 months. The joining fee for the York Rite is set by the local Bodies. There are three venues for becoming a York Rite Mason in Oklahoma. One can petition a local York Rite Body and receive his Degrees from that Body. He can receive his Degrees at regional York Rite Festivals, held two times a year at various locations around the state. Or he can receive his Degrees at a statewide York Rite festival honoring the Grand Master of Masons in Oklahoma, which is held one day a year.

The current 2016 schedules of regional and state-wide York Rite Festivals is shown below. Questions and inquiries can be made to M W Gary A. Davis, Grand Secretary Recorder, at grandsecrec@sbcglobal.net.

West Regional Festival - at Elk City Lodge #182
January 9, Council Degree & Commandery Orders

Northeast Regional Festivals - at Eastgate Masonic Center, Tulsa
January 23, Chapter Degree
February 27, Council Degree & Commandery Orders

Central Regional Festivals - at Oklahoma City Lodge #36
February 6, Chapter Degree
February 20, Council Degree & Commandery Orders



Grand Master's Statewide Festival - August 6

Happy St. John
the Evangelist's
Day



The First 100 Days

W Michael Dill, Junior Grand Deacon

Have you ever heard of “The First 100 Days?” It is a term that has been used to measure the success of a President during the time when his influence is usually at its peak – the first 100 days after he takes the oath of office.

For example, FDR is often hailed as one of our most influential Presidents because during his first 100 days as President he pushed through 15 major bills that although controversial at the time, have persisted and are now considered some of the most important functions of government.

Presidents often get voted into office with a lot of campaign promises. We usually find out pretty quick if they are able to deliver on those promises. History has shown that if a President does not fulfill his campaign promises within the first 100 days of his office, those promises will probably go unfulfilled. There are many reasons for this. One is that pre-existing negative influences catch up with, and overcome, the positive influences which got him elected. The newly elected President must have the skill necessary to maintain the positive momentum that got him elected while at the same time keep the old negative influences at bay. He must keep his fresh, new programs and ideas from being overwhelmed by the negative, by the stagnant, by the old guard, by the “we’ve never done it that way before”.

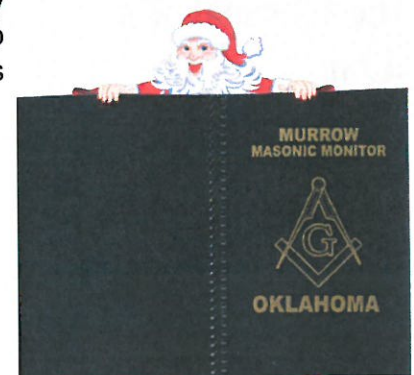
The same analogy can be applied to the Worshipful Master and his Lodge, but on a one-quarter scale. A President’s term of office is 4 years, but the Master only gets one year. In other words, instead of 100 days, the Master only gets 25 days. That means his very first Stated Communication can determine if his goals will be accomplished during his year. If he waits until his first Stated Communication to get started, he is already outside his window of opportunity to try to stay one step ahead of the “we’ve never done it that way before.”

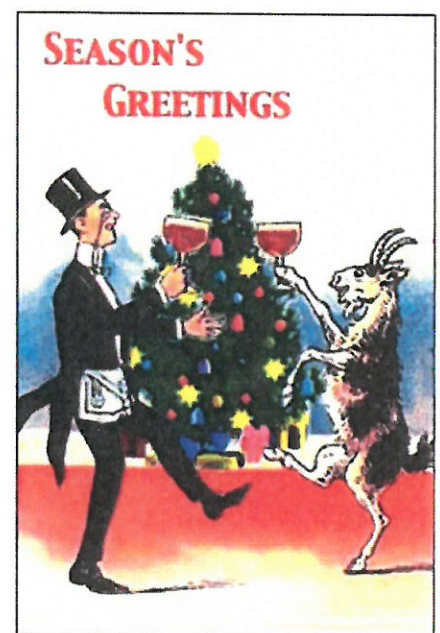
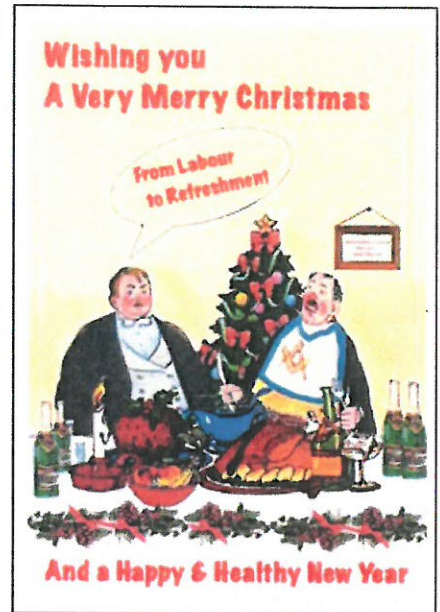
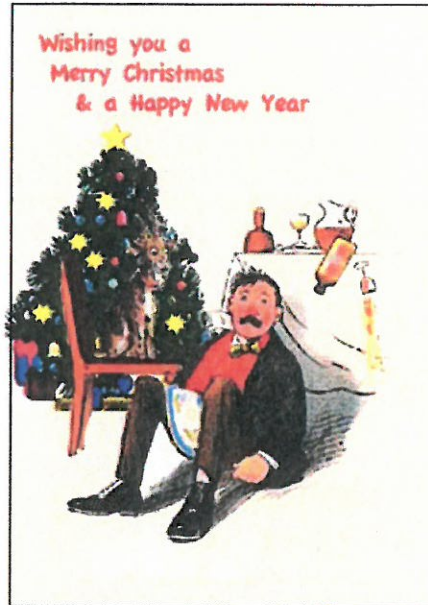


We all know Brothers who first point to reasons why something cannot be done instead of first finding ways to make things happen. Names and faces may be coming into your mind right now. No names will be mentioned to protect the guilty but you know who I am talking about. Just like our Presidents, the challenge of the upcoming and new Worshipful Master is to keep moving forward to accomplish those positive things which are his goals for the year while at same time keep the negative people and negative issues at bay.

Every Senior Warden and upcoming Worshipful Master should carefully think about what he wants to accomplish during his year. It is never too early to make plans and set goals. How will his Lodge remember his year? Will his year create positive or negative memories?

What will his legacy be?





Masonic Christmas Cards from the early 1900's

