

SUL ROSS MASONIC
 LODGE NO. 1300
 A.F. & A.M.
 COLLEGE
 STATION, TEXAS
 CHARTERED 1947

Sul Ross Lodge News



Volume 29, Issue 1

Spring 2011

Special points of interest:

- Please send your articles, news items and photos
- Apron Night May 9th, information on page 11
- Masonic Lodge Night at the Ballpark June 18, information on page 11

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FROM THE EAST

BY BROTHER ADAM J. HELMS, MASTER

Brethren,

There is much I am excited to share with you all. This address will likely be my first and only to my Brothers and their families through this medium, therefore, I will take full advantage of this opportunity. The 2010-2011 Masonic year has been dynamic for Sul Ross Lodge – professionalizing the meetings, improving our financial situation, developing new mechanisms to cultivate leaders within the Lodge and formulating outreach plans to our Masonic community.

First, when a Brother, visitor or petitioner arrives on a Monday for a called or stated meeting, the first thing they will notice is the professional dress of the Sul Ross Lodge members. It was a requirement for all elected and appointed officers to wear a

coat and tie to all meetings this year. Additionally, participation on a degree team required the same dress code. This effort has led to a more professional atmosphere in our meetings and improved the Masonic product Sul Ross Lodge offers to our petitioners and Brother Masons. However, terrific fellowship and good laughs amongst the Craft has not suffered from this initiative, in fact, it has enhanced it. While Masonry holds dear the internal that makes a man a Mason - and not the external qualifications – a Brother's external is a means of showing respect for the Fraternity and his fellow Masons.

Other significant and more obvious changes have been the increase in dues, fees and meal costs. Prior to Grand Lodge in December, we were aware of



Saint John the Baptist, one of the two patron saints of Freemasonry, wearing his "vesture made of camel's hair." (read more in the article by Brother Clyde Collins.)

the Grand Master's recommendation, which was to increase
(Continued on page 3)

... AND DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SAINTS JOHN

BY BROTHER CLYDE E. COLLINS, PM

As masons we are all familiar with the phrase "Erected to God and dedicated to the Holy Saints John." Our lodges are so dedicated, yet information regarding these "Holy Saints John" or an explanation of their place as the Patron Saints of Freemasonry is not fully explored in our ritual.

They are referenced in the Entered Apprentice degree and afterwards nothing more is mentioned of them. Who were these Saints John? Why are they important to us as Freemasons?

In early Masonry, the feast day of St. John the Baptist was al-

ways celebrated by the craft. In fact, the first public Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of England, was born on St. John the Baptist day, June 24th, 1717 in London. Thereafter the Grand Lodge of England sponsored great annual celebrations of this

(Continued on page 4)



A list of some of the Sul Ross Lodge members serving in the military is provided in *Dispatches From the Front*.

“... we thank you individually who are listed and all of you collectively for your service.”



Created by Massachusetts Masons. See the following link for more info. [Masonic Passport](#)

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT

I know without a doubt that I have failed to include a number of our Sul Ross Lodge sojourners who serve our state and nation around the globe. I also realize that each of you offer this service without any thought of recognition or thanks, but we thank you individually who are listed and all of you collectively for your service.

My brothers please keep all of our service men and women in your prayers when on bended knee and let us not forget to thank them for their service and sacrifice.

The reports included adjacent and below is offered thanks to the input of Brother Roy I. Smith, Jr. If you are or know of a Sul Ross member currently serving in the military please provide a report for future newsletters. You may send a message to Brother Roy Smith at smithro@alpha1.net or Brother Chance Robinson at crobinson@aggienetwork.com.

Where are they serving?

- ILT Joseph D'Agostino is an Army combat engineer serving in Afghanistan
- Ryan Barreilles is serving an intelligence tour in

Afghanistan with a Washington, D.C. Intelligence Agency (he is also a ILT in the Army Reserves)

- ILT Franky Axline is serving the Army at Ft. Lewis, WA. His wife ILT Amber Axline is currently serving a tour in Afghanistan. Franky is likely to be deployed soon as well.
- Juan Hinojosa is serving in the U.S. Army Band and has served a tour in Iraq
- ILT (or is it Capt) Jeff Williford is serving in the USMC in Afghanistan
- ENS Chance Schrutka is in Charleston at the Navy Nuclear Power School, following that he will enter Submarine School and be assigned to a nuclear submarine.
- ILT Eddy Yuja recently finished the Army Ranger and Airborne programs
- Tim Pickerill has been promoted to CWO4 with the Army
- SSGT Ismael Villalobos is serving on the TAMU Naval ROTC staff
- 2LT Morgan Salonek has
- finished Marine Corps Officer Candidate school
- Josh Flye is an Air Force pilot flying the C-17 worldwide
- Jeff Antal is completing Air Force pilot training in Del Rio, TX
- Justin Brown is a Marine Corps Helicopter pilot in San Diego, CA
- Mark Howard is an Air Force Navigator flying the B-52
- D. L. Gibson is an Air Force Missile Officer
- Matt Beyers is a Supply Officer on a Navy Submarine
- J. B. Baquet is an Air Force Squadron Commander
- ENS Josh Morris recently returned from his first cruise upon the USS Halsey (DDG 97) after his commissioning in May 2010
- 2LT Tyler Boykin is currently in the Washington D. C. area with the USMC

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

- Sean Matula is a law student at South Texas College of Law in Houston
- Jay Matush is serving as a Police Officer with the City of College Station
- Travis Normand is about to graduate from the South Texas College of Law in Houston
- Justin Trahan has been
- serving FMC Technologies on an oil platform off the coast of Africa for several years
- Brian Cormeens is in law school in San Antonio
- Will Kovar is studying software engineering with the Univ of Phoenix
- Zac Elewitz is in graduate school in Dallas
- Walt Melnyk is a Sgt. with Bryan PD and just finished FBI Training School
- Alex Gogulski is currently posted to Seoul, South Korea with the US State Dept
- Carlos Chang is an Asst. Professor at UTEP and serving as Junior Deacon of El Paso Lodge No. 130

(Continued from page 1) returns to the Grand Lodge of Texas nearly two-fold, a resolution that was a necessity, and on the imminent track to being adopted. Therefore, it was a necessity to raise annual dues to Sul Ross Lodge from \$50 to the now adopted \$75. In December, I made a request to the Endowed Members to make a donation to the Lodge. Texas lodges have not realized revenue from the endowment investment for a few years due to our national economic situation. I am proud to say that these Brother's donated nearly \$4000 to our Lodge. In addition to a dues increase, we also raised degree fee costs for each degree \$25 (degrees are now \$55, \$50 and \$75, respectively). Stated dinner meals doubled in price from \$5 to \$10. Our stewards have made great use of this extra funding, and I have received many positive comments about the higher quality of food this year. Thank you to our Senior Steward, Jim Robbins and our Junior Steward, Chance Schrutka – we appreciate your thankless service to our Lodge. Ultimately, all of these decisions were required to strengthen the financial structure of our Lodge by mending the weak points.

A major focus the Wardens and I have emphasized this year is getting as many involved in Lodge activities as possible. Delegating initiatives to appointed officers and members, new and old, to increase Lodge participation, increase our visibility in the community and to develop future Sul Ross Lodge and Masonic leaders will be the crux of the future of our Lodge and the fraternity as a whole. Sul Ross Lodge is blessed with so many gifted Brothers; it is a goal to develop the mechanism by which they can use their talents for the greater good. A few examples: Junior Warden

Chance Robinson has gone above and beyond to extend outreach to our widows – making sure their needs are taken care of and that they have not been forgotten. He has assigned and sends out reminders to Brother's involved in his widow's outreach program to check in with them on a regular basis. Another example - April 4th we met as a Lodge to discuss how we can strengthen this new initiative, as well as to extend outreach to our Brother's who live in the Brazos Valley and/or those who can no longer attend Lodge. It is imperative that these Brothers know they are not forgotten. While this newsletter will be a foundation to this new outreach program, I hope it will only be a small piece to a much larger operation. The only way these new programs will work is an increase in membership participation. It is our goal to have an action plan developed for outreach to both our Widows and Brothers for immediate implementation in June.

To close, I would like to share with all of you how much it has meant to be Master of Sul Ross Lodge for the 2010-2011 Masonic year. In September 2010, less than two months after being installed, my Father, Bro. Crawford Helms, laid down the working tools of life. The installation of officers in July 2010 was the last time I saw my Father and was the last time my family was together as a whole. The outpouring of support I received from all of you was instrumental in the days following his death. At my request, Brothers Clyde Collins, Roy Smith and Bob Cohen performed the last rites at my Father's graveside – it was very meaningful for Sul Ross Lodge to conduct this ceremony. Tending to family affairs required that I take a leave of

absence for 6 weeks from the Lodge. Senior Warden Bobby Roggenbuck gladly stood up and took the reins and did a terrific job guiding the Lodge early in the Masonic year. Bobby – I cannot thank you enough. As Master, I have seen the hard work of so many – students putting in the time to learn their degree work, teachers volunteering many hours to their students, Bros. Treasurer and Secretary laboring in their required duties – I am a better man and a better Mason because of all of you who put your time in during my tenure in the East. Thank you for bestowing upon me the honored title of Master, Sul Ross Lodge.

Your feedback on the direction of our Lodge is always appreciated. If you wish to participate or comment on any of the upcoming opportunities, please feel free to contact me by email, ahelms@tamu.edu, or by telephone, 979-255-0752.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Adam Helms
Master, Sul Ross Lodge #1300

ABOUT THE MASTER
Brother Adam J. Helms, was raised a Master Mason in Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300, College Station, Texas in 2006. His occupation with Texas Agrilife Research (formerly Texas Agricultural Experiment Station) causes him to travel extensively, but this has not prevented Brother Helms from serving and leading Sul Ross Lodge throughout this year even as he dealt with the grief and family affairs associated with the death of his father and our brother, Crawford Helms. Many thanks go out to Brother Adam Helms for his excellent service and stewardship to our lodge this masonic year.



The late Brother Crawford Helms, father of Brother Adam Helms at Adam's installation as Master this past July.

“As Master, I have seen the hard work of so many...”

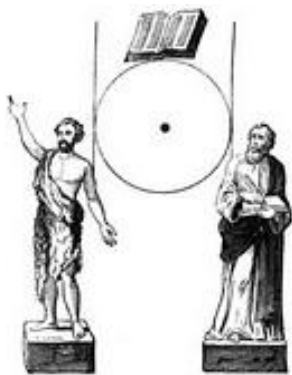


As the sun rises in Hawaii so does our WM. Sometime ask Brother Helms about his recent winter business trip to Honolulu.



Saint John the Evangelist on the isle of Patmos.

“...he finished by his learning what the Baptist began by his zeal, and by so doing, drew a second line parallel to the former.”



The Holy Saints John: the Baptizer and the Evangelist.

(Continued from page 1)

day for many years. Eventually the feast of St. John the Evangelist became important as well and many Lodges and Grand Lodges moved the beginning of their Masonic year from June 24 to December 27. We can only assume that the proximity of December 27 to the beginning of the calendar year made it expedient to do so.

The festival days were of central importance to early American Lodges as well. Both feast days were celebrated by all well governed early Lodges. Our records indicate that Brothers George Washington and Benjamin Franklin always made it a point to attend their respective observances of the St. John's Days.

As June 24th approaches so does the festival, or feast day of St. John the Baptist. So who was this Saint John the Baptist?

The four Gospels, the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, as found in the Bible's New Testament, all describe this man in almost exactly the same language. The Baptist, who was a cousin to Jesus Christ, is spoken of as "A voice crying in the wilderness," whose purpose was to, "Prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight." He must indeed have been an important man for all four Gospels to refer to him with exactly the same terminology, as this is extremely rare. In the Gospel of Luke, in fact, Jesus himself says of John, "Among them that are born of women, there has not risen any greater than John the Baptist."

High praise indeed. It becomes clearer why we as Masons should hold him in such esteem. John the Baptist, called the Baptist, because as he preached he baptized believers in the River Jordan. He lived a simple, yet powerful and devoted life. He preached single-

minded righteous living and change of character. His message was that one must live in a holy manner and that deviation from that manner was not acceptable.

John had faith in his calling. He heard the voice of duty and obeyed it. The long years of discipline and preparation in the wilderness are evidence of that. In him was the fulfillment of prophecy. He was the harbinger of a better day, the inciter to a purer life. Those who went to hear him preach saw not the vesture of camel's hair, the leather girdle or the coarse sandals. No, they beheld a man covered as with a shield, with the uplifting force and power of a sublime earnestness, shining through, above and around him, glorious in its radiance, with the Light of Him of whom he was the forerunner, quickening the hearts of men into a higher and nobler conception of morality and righteousness.

Turn for a moment from John the Baptist, the grand, magnificent, splendid man; strong, stern, severe, true in his sympathies, fearless and uncompromising in his reprovals and convictions, with a faith steadfast as the granite hills that surrounded him; to the other John, the gentle, lovable, refined the "beloved disciple" of His Lord.

John the Evangelist was the son of Zebedee and Salome. He was born in Bethsaida in Galilee. The account given of him in the Bible has a peculiar charm. His character while strongly affectionate and spiritual was also one of striking strength, energy and decision; charity and brotherly love were his dominating traits; he was the youngest and most trusted of the Master, the one to whom he told the most private matters of His life: he was with Him when He raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead; he witnessed the transfig-

uration on the Mount; he was the trusted friend, the beloved companion of His solitude, he sat next to Him at the last supper, he was with Him throughout the terrible night in Gethsemane, he followed Him before Caiaphas, and attended Him at His trial, he acknowledged Him on Calvary, and was acknowledged by Him though surrounded by armed soldiers and the bloodthirsty rabble of Jerusalem.

This, in brief, is the character of John the Evangelist, the beloved Disciple of his Lord and one of the Patron Saints of Masonry, and is said to be equal to John the Baptist because he finished by his learning what the Baptist began by his zeal, and by so doing, drew a second line parallel to the former.

Certainly St. John the Evangelist is important to us as Masons. It is fitting that while we have a relatively concrete biography on John the Baptist, whose theology and teachings were straightforward and rigid, the story of the Evangelist is more difficult to relate and requires more study much like his teachings. The writings of Saint John the Evangelist reads almost like Masonic ritual. The Gospel of John begins:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and darkness comprehended it not."

Nowhere else in the Bible since the beginning of Genesis in a passage familiar to all Freemasons is the concept of light so inextricably entwined with the idea of the divine spirit. As we progress through higher degrees the concept of the

Word, the Light and the Devine become as inseparable parts of the whole of Creation becomes of primary importance. John the Evangelist leads us forward in that direction.

In his Epistles, the Evangelist, continues to work from the theme that the Word and the Light are inevitably linked and he writes of Truth and Love as links of the same chain. The idea and practice of Brotherly Love and Fellowship is explored more thoroughly by the Evangelist than any other New Testament writer. The disturbing imagery of the Book of Revelations is the source of many esoteric schools of thought and many writers have made convincing arguments this imagery is in many ways influential to Masonry.

Also of Masonic importance is that John the Evangelist is described as among the most loyal of the Disciples of Christ and the one closest to Jesus. Even in death, Jesus entrusts the care of his mother to John, who we may assume was in many ways his best friend on earth.

Two Saints John very properly described masonically as parallel figures. Both men of impeccable character both have made a long lasting influence on the Western Mind, one dogmatic and rigid, the other intellectual and esoteric. In both we find the integrity and inflexible fidelity so common to Masonic teaching.

“Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

Someone once said that: “The history of the world is a biography of great men.” Certain it is that the greatest and most enduring monuments that mark the progress and development of humanity are not built of brass or marble, but are the lives and characters of men. The same Infinite Being, who fashioned the universe, laid the foundations of the earth and gave to every one the myriad stars its allotted course in space, also wove, with more cunning skill, the infinitely more delicate fibers of the human soul.

The life of God is inherent in all the forces of nature. It is manifest in the tiniest blade of grass as in the tallest tree, it is heard in the chirp of the smallest insect as in the lion’s roar; but the soul is of God himself.

Twenty centuries have passed away since the wise men from the East followed the Star that hung poised over the stable in Bethlehem; twenty centuries of bloody wars and devastation, and fiendish cruelties. But the leaven planted by John on the banks of the Jordan, the teachings of faith and hope and charity inculcated by the Great Teacher, the preaching of John the Evangelist, have changed the world. And believe as you may, my brethren, before the beauty and purity of their lives, before the absolute truths they taught, before the grandeur of their deaths the powers of hatred, intolerance, bigotry and superstition have battled in vain, and today, from the ends of the earth the mists and gloom that have so long enveloped humanity are being rolled away, and the sunlight and warmth of heaven are here and there illuminating the hearts of men; and sympathy and kindness are in the ascendancy. And the dove of peace that hovered over the baptism in

the Jordan is still with us, symbolizing the putting into practice of the Great Teacher’s commandment, always and earnestly preached by the Evangelist during a long life spent in His service: “Love one another.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brother Clyde E. Collins, was raised a Master Mason in Concho Lodge No. 1260, San Angelo, Texas, in 1970. He is a Past Master of Concho Lodge No. 1260 in San Angelo, Sul Ross Lodge No. 1300 in College Station, and Adam Royder Lodge No. 778 in Wellborn. Currently he serves as District Instructor for Masonic District 29-A and holds a Life Certificate in the esoteric work of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Brother Collins has been awarded the Order of the Evergreen and the Golden Trowel Award by Sul Ross Lodge. He is also active in many other Masonic bodies.

Recently retired from a life long career in law enforcement, Brother Collins and his wife, Linda now have more time to enjoy their travels and visit their family.

This article was originally presented as the keynote address at the Waco Scottish Rite Saint John’s Day Ceremonies in June 2010 while Brother Collins served as Venerable Master of Kadosh of the Waco Consistory. The speech has been slightly modified for print in this publication.



Saint John the Baptist rebuking King Herod prior to John’s tragic execution.

“...the progress and development of humanity are not built of brass or marble, but are the lives and characters of men.”



The Monastery of Saint John the Divine is a Greek Orthodox monastery founded in 1088 in Chora on the island of Patmos. It is built on a spot believed to be the cave where St. John had his visions.



Lawrence Sullivan Ross—1838-1898 Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman, Brig. General C.S.A., Governor of Texas, President of AMC

“The three steps delineated upon the Master’s carpet are emblematical of the three principal stages of human life, youth, manhood and old age.”

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

MAY

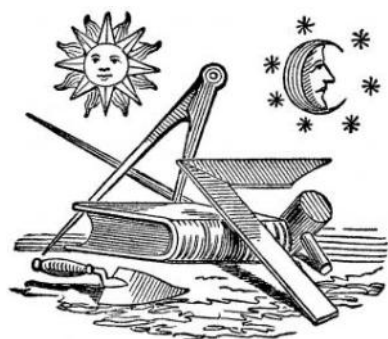
3	Hugh L. Carnahan	11	Justin D Curtsinger	24	W Jay Matush
5	Durwood Speights	11	Kurt R Thormahlen	25	Andrew L Sikes
6	Leslie C Clifton	13	M Christopher Perkins	26	Jimmy D Boswell
7	Robert C White	16	Carl D Seiter Jr	27	John B Vittrup
8	Ronald G Claiborne	18	James L Shelton	28	Michael P Becket
9	Travid G Normand	20	John H Kelly	29	Donald F Simons
9	J David Williams	20	Leslie Palmer		
10	Sam H Neuman	22	Frank J Klein		

JUNE

4	Trevor N Jones	10	Adam J Helms	16	James B Pruden
5	John T Drennan	12	James G Hutchinson	19	Laurence H Potts Jr
6	Doyle L Moore	12	Joel Latham	19	Lawrence D Romine Jr
7	R Frederick Hunter	13	Billy L May	19	Robert B Sanders
7	Henry W Ince	15	Thomas W Dew III	24	Thomas A Gilbreath
8	Ronald R Day	15	R Fletcher Massie	24	Robert L Nichols
9	C Lynn Colson	15	Allen D McCord IV	26	James B Akin
9	Alan L Miller	16	James Eller		

JULY

1	Richard J Stephenson	12	Brian T Rhoades	25	Robert Hase Jr
2	Sean M Hanley	13	Stanley G Seffert	25	Curtis N Lancaster
2	Joseph A Walraven	17	Richard H Bonds	27	Robert E Epps
4	Ryan J Ussery	17	Zachary S Elewitz	27	Roger A Fuller
5	Guy L Moody	19	William J Cross	27	Damon L Drinnon
6	James M Mann	20	Aaron D Gibbs	28	Robert S Adams
6	Charles A McLaran	20	Justin E McKown	29	Owen D West
8	John W Dutch	22	Robert A Garner Jr	29	Marco Valli
9	Horace W Vancleave	24	Matthew A Beyers	31	Albert Rollins
11	John A Branch	25	Thomas F Griffin		



Congratulations Brethren on your Preferment

R.:W.: Thomas J. Freeman is serving as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 29-A of the M.:W.: Grand Lodge of Texas

R.:I.: Owen D. West is serving as District Deputy Grand Master of Cryptic District No. 7 of the M.:I.: Grand Council of Texas R.&S.M. in the York Rite of Freemasonry



MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

3 Paul D Beckingham (1983)	13 Gary D Simmons (1983)	21 James L Breed (2007)
4 Thomas F Griffin (1978)	14 Alexander P Gogulski (2002)	22 Ralph E Ohland (2006)
6 Joseph R D'agostino Jr (2008)	17 Harry C August (1952)	23 Jimmie McMahan (1957)
7 Weldon D Nanson (2007)	18 Robert Hase Jr (1967)	23 Kenneth D Loveless (1973)
8 J David Williams (1985)	19 Alfred E Cullins Sr (1959)	23 Charles L Robertson Jr (1995)
9 R Conrad Eckard (1959)	20 Thomas A Gilbreath (1960)	24 Robert S Cohen (1982)
9 James R Snell (1995)	20 C Montel Rutledge (2002)	28 Dan C Bonds (2002)
10 James F Slowey III (1995)	21 Raymond C Freeman (1951)	30 Michael D Nanny (1979)
12 Raymond M Owensby (1977)	21 Lawrence D Romine Jr (1968)	30 Michael A Decuir (1995)
12 Jeffrey D Antal (2009)	21 Michael D Gerst (2001)	31 Curtis N Lancaster (1967)

JUNE

2 Frank J Klein (1973)	11 Cecil T Fields (1966)	27 Adam J Helms (2006)
5 John B Hopkins (1976)	11 Kent J Fuselier (1994)	28 Alan L Miller (2004)
5 Douglas V Porter (1995)	11 John E Baquet (2002)	29 Thomas W Comstock (1953)
6 Bill J Ravey (1947)	18 Ryan A Bareilles (2007)	29 H Dwayne Credor (2009)
7 Jack T Lamkin (1960)	19 Nicholas A Combs (1956)	30 J Robson Eby (1999)
7 Justin M Meyer (2010)	19 Justin K Trahan (2006)	
8 Brian T Rhoades (2010)	21 Albert Rollins (1954)	

JULY

5 James G Hutchinson (1955)	19 Sean M Hanley (2000)	25 Alfred J Lehtonen II (1995)
5 James D Ingram III (1956)	19 John P Cordova V (2010)	26 William F Kovar (2003)
5 Charles M Sneed (1971)	20 Durwood Speights (1967)	26 Trevor N Jones (2010)
7 Scott W Bratsen (2008)	20 Sean D McCarroll (2009)	27 James D Robbins (2009)
9 Robert E Epps (1953)	22 Johnny Ingram (1965)	29 James Eller (1963)
13 Michael L Epps (1994)	23 R Fletcher Massie (2007)	29 Marco Valli (2002)
18 Charles W Harrison (1990)	24 J David Giles (1958)	30 Eugene B Smith (1956)
18 Robert D Tucker (1990)	24 Damon L Drinnon (2000)	30 Shane P Bush (2001)

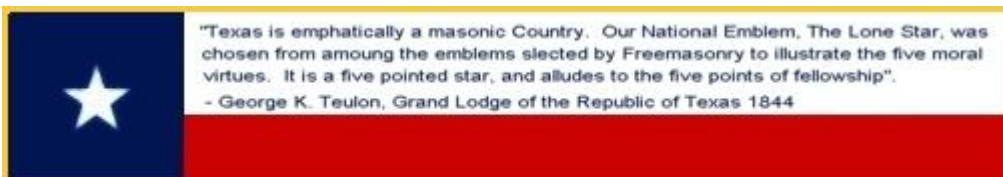


Crest of Clan Ross. Sprig of evergreen held aloft. Motto: Success Nourishes Hope

“... be true and faithful, and imitate the example of that celebrated artist whom you have this evening represented.”



Stained glass depiction of our Ancient Grand Master drawing his designs upon the trestleboard.



“Texas is emphatically a masonic Country. Our National Emblem, The Lone Star, was chosen from among the emblems selected by Freemasonry to illustrate the five moral virtues. It is a five pointed star, and alludes to the five points of fellowship”.
- George K. Teulon, Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas 1844



R.W. Gibb Gilchrist, Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas and Charter Master of Sul Ross Lodge

“But we can be proud that as our members move on, they will represent Sul Ross Lodge wherever they go.”

FROM THE WEST

BY BROTHER ROBERT R. ROGGENBUCK, JR.

Brethren,
 What a privilege it has been to serve Sul Ross Lodge as Senior Warden this Masonic Year! The fellowship provided me by this Lodge has been rewarding. Recently I attended the Grand Master’s Conference in Beaumont, Texas. I found the message of M.:W.: Carnes regarding the membership to be meaningful and I wish to share it with you. The Grand Master conveyed the importance of knowing the men we bring into our fraternity. In today’s society there are many young men who long for the age-old principles and ideals Freemasonry offers; it is important however that we ensure that we bring to our West Gate only those who will “truly conform to the established customs and usages of the order.” Examples were offered at the conference of instances where the Craft have been lax in ensuring the quality of membership possibly as a result of efforts to increase our membership numbers. While all Masons only wish to bring the best men to our West Gate it is imperative in today’s mobile society that we contin-

ue to strive and work a bit harder to ensure that only “good men and true” enter the ground floor of Freemasonry. At Sul Ross Lodge, we currently have ten active brothers working on their various degrees. While this number is actually lower than in recent years, I believe we are working toward the same goals outlined in the Grand Master’s message. We want to know the man before offering him a place in our Lodge. For this reason, for the past three years we have required that a petitioner visit the lodge on at least three separate occurrences prior to the acceptance of his petition. I see the membership of Sul Ross Lodge benefiting from this requirement. We have men of all ages interested in joining our lodge, and each is given an opportunity to share and learn with the brethren prior to his initiation. This allows the petitioner and the brethren to better understand each other and ensure that these men soon to be masons, share and respect the philosophy of Masonry. Our Lodge as I see it

has in the past and is in the future practicing the ideals and high standards the Grand Master expects of us. Let us reflect on this and continue to stress the importance of high standards in our great order.

As we all know, members tend to come and go in a college town as education is completed and future endeavors lead us in various directions. But we can be proud that as our members move on, they will represent Sul Ross Lodge wherever they go. Even though regular attendance at our meetings may be temporary in our Lodge, the quality of membership is a priority and the fraternity will be all the better for it.

Brethren, thank you for allowing me to share this message with you and for the opportunity to serve Sul Ross Lodge. I am proud to have served this lodge the past few years and I look forward to continued service in the coming years in whatever capacity I may offer.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
 Bobby Roggenbuck
 Senior Warden, Sul Ross Lodge
 No. 1300



Sweetheart Dinner held on February 14, 2011 was a great time for all involved.

FROM THE SOUTH

BY BROTHER CHANCE M. ROBINSON

Brethren,
 As I write this I have had the opportunity to read over the messages from our Master and Senior Warden, and I would be remiss if I did not echo their sentiments in saying what a pleasure it is and an honor to serve Sul Ross Lodge. We not only have a glorious past with great leaders who have set our way, but also great men and masons who today and in the

future are shining examples for our lodge and our communities (that’s not just College Station but every community where you find our members.) This past year I have had the opportunity to preside over the lodge at refreshment , and we have had some great opportunities for fellowship together. Most recently we restarted our

Fifth Tuesday Family Fun Night, and what a great time everyone had.

At the beginning of the masonic year we decided to discontinue Family Fun Night due to a sharp decline in attendance in recent years. After multiple requests, Family Fun Night returned last month with the added bonus of a potluck supper, and my how well our
(Continued on page 12)

Sul Ross Lodge was chartered in 1947, and is thought to be the first known Masonic Lodge to have functioned on the campus of a state college or university in the United States. A unique feature of the new lodge was that among its members were the president of Texas A&M College, all of the deans, and almost all of the department heads. The sizeable number of college administrators who were Master Masons provided impetus to the growth of the new lodge which created almost 100 new masons during its first year of existence. In 1951 Sul Ross Lodge purchased the Dan Russell building at 312 Jersey Street (now Bush Street). It was sold in 2000.

LOCAL CALENDAR OF MASONIC EVENTS

APRIL 2011

16	Sat.	San Jacinto Observance and Reenactment	San Jacinto Battlefield	9:00 a.m.	Houston
18	Mon.	EA Proficiency / FC Degree	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station
20	Wed.	Steve Cooke Scottish Rite Club Remembrance & Renewal Ceremony	BVMLM	7:00 p.m.	College Station
21	Thur.	Aggie Muster (San Jacinto Day)			
23	Sat.	2011 York Rite Conference	Melrose Lodge	9:00 a.m.	Houston
24	Sun.	Ivanhoe Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast	Masonic Temple	6:30 a.m.	Bryan
25	Mon.	EA Proficiency / FC Degree (tentative)	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station

MAY 2011

2	Mon.	Floor School	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station
7	Sat.	Waco Scottish Rite Central Texas Reunion	TSRLM	7:00 a.m.	Waco
9	Mon.	Stated Communication (<i>Apron Night</i>)	BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	College Station
14	Sat.	Shriners Youth Baseball Classic	SW Little League HQ		Waco
16	Mon.	FC Proficiency / MM Degree (tentative)	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station
20 - 22	Fri. - Sun.	Samuel P. Cochran Legacy Scottish Rite Convocation	Texas Scottish Rite Library and Museum		Waco
23	Mon.	Floor School	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station
30	Mon.	Floor School	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station

JUNE 2011

2	Thur.	Ivanhoe Commandery Ascension Service	Masonic Temple	7:00 p.m.	Bryan
6	Mon.	Floor School	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station
13	Mon.	Stated Communication (<i>Officer Elections / Endowed Membership Increase</i>)	BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	College Station
18	Sat.	Masonic Lodge Night at the Ballpark	BV Bank Ballpark	6:00 p.m.	Bryan
20	Mon.	Floor School	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station
24	Fri.	St. John the Baptist's Day			
27	Mon.	Floor School	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station

JULY 2011

4	Mon.	Independence Day	Lodge Dark		
9	Sat.	Officer Installation (tentative)	BVMLM	3:00 p.m.	College Station
11	Mon.	Stated Communication	BVMLM	5:30 p.m.	College Station
18	Mon.	Floor School	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station
18 - 25	Mon.	Houston Scottish Rite Reunion			Houston
25	Mon.	Floor School	BVMLM	6:30 p.m.	College Station



Mrs. Lottie Font, wife of the late Brother Jules Font, seems to be carefully considering her dominoes at the Family Fun Night on March 29th.

Masonic Lodge Night with the Brazos Valley Bombers on June 18th purchase your baseball tickets from Bobby Roggenbuck, call (936) 346-6332

NOTICE

June 13th Stated Communication
Officer elections will be conducted and increasing the cost of an Endowed Membership from \$500 to \$1000 will be considered.



IN MEMORIAM

The following brothers of Sul Ross Lodge have laid down the working tools of life during this masonic year. Let us remember their service to our fraternity, and remember their families as they grieve the loss of these brothers.

May their grief only be temporary and may they be strengthened by the merits of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Brother Fred Washington Dollar laid down the working tools of life on September 5, 2010.

Brother Claude Carlyle Blatherwick, Jr. laid down the working tools of life on September 17, 2010.

Brother Joe H. Barnes II laid down the working tools of life on October 31, 2010.

Brother William Willis Grisham Jr. laid down the working tools of life on February 5, 2011.

BROTHER PETE NORMAND IN CHICAGO

Brother Pete Normand will be the Spring Lecturer at the Chicago Scottish Rite



Brother Pete Normand, Past Master of Sul Ross Lodge, and Librarian and Curator of the Brazos Valley Masonic Library

& Museum, will be the Spring Lecturer at the Chicago Scottish Rite on the evening of April 7th. The Chicago Scottish Rite, which sold its beautiful old historic Temple in down-

town Chicago a few years ago, is now ready to begin construction on its new Temple in the western suburbs of the city. As a well-known Masonic writer, Brother Normand has been invited by a number of Masonic organizations across the country, including places like New York City, Minneapolis MN, Washington DC, Kansas City MO, New Orleans LA, and Vancouver, British Columbia, as well as any number of loca-

tions around the great state of Texas. Brother Normand is also a Past Master and Fellow of Texas Lodge of Research; a founding member, former Editor, Board Member and Fellow of the Scottish Rite Research Society; and was named the 99th member of the Society of Blue Friars in 2010.

NEW ADDITIONS IN THE LIVES OF OUR BRETHREN



Tommy Payne

With the approach of spring brought a number of new additions and sleepless nights to our brethren. These include the births of :

Charles Thomas "Tommy" Payne III born January 15, 2011 to Brother C.T. "Tom" Payne II and his wife Allison.

Elise "Ella" Brooke Gogulski born March 8, 2011 to Brother Alex Gogulski and his wife Stephanie.



Ella Gogulski and her proud father

Clara Grace Robinson born March 8, 2011 to Brother Chance Robinson and his wife Suzanne.

Also the addition of a son to the family of Brother Travis Normand.



Clara Robinson

MASONIC LODGE NIGHT WITH THE BRAZOS VALLEY BOMBERS

Saturday, June 18

6:00pm Pre-Game Picnic

7:00pm First Pitch

Brazos Valley Bank Ballpark – Bryan, Texas

Come join local Masonic lodges at the Brazos Valley Bombers baseball game. Masons, family members and friends are all invited.

The evening starts with a pre-game picnic at 6:00pm. The picnic includes all-you-can-eat hot dogs, hamburgers, brats, chicken sandwiches, baked

beans, potato chips, soft drinks and bottled water. After the picnic, take a seat and watch the game in your reserved seat.

Adults: \$15/person; Ages 4-12: \$6/person; Age 3 and Under: Free. Kids also receive two free games in the Bombers Kid Zone.

For more information about the Bombers Baseball Club visit <http://www.bvbombers.com/>

To purchase tickets call or email Bobby Roggenbuck at (936) 346-6332 or broggenbuck@gmail.com



Formerly Travis Field, the home of the Brazos Valley Bombers.

BRING YOUR APRON TO THE MAY STATED MEETING

Brethren,

On Monday, May 9th you are encouraged to attend our stated communication and bring the white leather apron that was presented you on the night you were raised a Master Mason. If you have a story from the evening you were raised to the sublime degree make sure you bring that along as well to share with the brethren your memories from that special evening.

A catered meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and you are asked to respond by phone **(979) 676-2487**, by email crobinson@aggienetwork.com, or by postal mail with your reservations. The cost for the meal is \$10.00 and is payable at the door.

I hope you are able to attend this special meeting. If you have any questions or need transportation, please call Bobby Roggenbuck at (936) 346-6332 or Chance Robinson at (979) 676-2487.

Fraternally,

Adam Helms, Master

Mail Reservation To: Chance Robinson
P.O. Box 2026
College Station, TX 77841

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Sul Ross Lodge – Apron Night Reservation Please mail by April 29th, 2011

“This apron a special gift of your lodge is to be worn on all proper occasions throughout an honorable life.”



Name: _____	Number of Guests: _____ x \$10.00 each
Your Meal: \$10.00	Guest(s): _____

Total Payment: _____ (enclosed)	

Payment can be made on May 9th, if sending payment please make payable to: Sul Ross Lodge

**SUL ROSS MASONIC
LODGE NO. 1300
A.F. & A.M.
COLLEGE STATION,
TEXAS
CHARTERED 1947**

Brazos Valley Masonic
Library & Museum
3411 Longmire Drive
College Station, Texas 77845

Mailing Address:
PO Box 10110
College Station, Texas 77842

Phone: 979-680-1300
Email: secretary@sulross.org

*Sul Ross Lodge 2010-2011
Elected and Appointed Officers*

Adam Helms, Master
Bobby Roggenbuck, Senior Warden
Chance Robinson, Junior Warden
Mike Gerst, Treasurer
Bob Cohen, Secretary
Jon Hall, Chaplain
Josh Reinbolt, Senior Deacon
B. J. Leggett, Junior Deacon
Jim Robbins, Senior Steward
Chance Schrutka, Junior Steward
Ben Baskin, Marshal
Justin Meyer, Master of Ceremonies
P. G. "Pete" Normand, Jr., Librarian
Mario Gonzales, Tiler

Sul Ross Lodge News
Chance Robinson, Editor
crobinson@aggienetwork.com

www.sulross.org
[facebook.com/SulRossLodge](https://www.facebook.com/SulRossLodge)

Stated Communication
Second Monday of every month
Meal at 5:30 p.m.
Masonic Program at 6:30 p.m.
Master Masons Lodge at 7:00 p.m.

Called meetings or Floor School
every Monday except stated
meeting at 6:30 p.m.



...that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.

**Sul Ross Masonic Lodge No. 1300, A.F. & A.M.
PO Box 10110
College Station, Texas 77842**

Address Service Requested

REMINDER

Brethren,
If you have an email address that is not on file, or if you need to update your email or mailing address with Sul Ross Lodge please send a message to secretary@sulross.org.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Bob Cohen, Secretary

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brethren and ladies can cook, the food was excellent as was the fellowship. We ate quite well, possibly to much. Thanks to everyone for making the Family Fun Night and other activities a success.

Specifically I wish to commend our stewards for their labors this year and in making our Sweetheart's Dinner an evening to remember. Our Senior Steward, Brother Jim Robbins was quite the interior decorator with beautiful centerpieces placed on each of the tables and a wonderful meal served by Jim and Junior Steward, Brother Chance Schrutka. Our ladies and masonic widows were offered quite a treat by these brethren and I thank them for their services.

I also wish to make special note

of the return of our newsletter. After a hiatus of a few years the *Sul Ross Lodge News*, first published in the 1980s, has returned.

We plan to publish this newsletter quarterly in April, July, October, and January, and we hope you enjoy the reading. We especially welcome your submission of letters, news items, photos and articles of a masonic interest,

Be sure to send us your stories whether you live in College Station or Kandahar. These items might include your travels, new babies, new jobs, etc.

Your submission of articles of a masonic nature for the reading pleasure of our members is especially requested that we might grow in masonic knowledge and philosophy

together.

My brothers **you** are Sul Ross Lodge, and **you** are worldwide "spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection" and representing our lodge in a positive light wherever you are.

So keep those letters coming, and tell us about your travels in foreign countries receiving your wages. I look forward to hearing from you, reading and including your letters, articles, and photos in the upcoming months.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Chance M. Robinson
Junior Warden, Sul Ross Lodge
No. 1300

*Please send your letters, articles
and digital photos to:*

crobinson@aggienetwork.com