

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE



#749 AF & AM



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

November 2002

TEXAS MASONIC HEROES

THOMAS RUSK

"Chief Justice"

Considered by many to be the only peer of Sam Houston in the esteem, admiration, and love of the people of Texas, Thomas Jefferson Rusk actually surpassed Houston in almost everything but fame.

Born December 5, 1803, at Pendleton, South Carolina, Rusk was influenced early in life by John C. Calhoun, who encouraged him to study law. In 1832, after several partners in a gold mining scheme absconded with the company money, Rusk decided to follow them to Texas. He never recovered the money but decided to stay in Texas.

In the fall of 1835 he raised a company of volunteers at Nacogdoches, and was soon appointed Inspector General of the Texas Army. A signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, he was elected Secretary of War. During the Battle of San Jacinto he took command of the charge after General Houston was wounded and remained in command of the Army until October 1836.

After serving in the Second Congress of the Republic, Rusk refused to seek election for the Presidency. He became Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court in 1838.

Continued On Page 2

WHAT IS YORK RITE MASONRY?

An Overview

On your journey through the three degrees of Symbolic Masonry and as you have learned the proficiency lecture for each degree, no doubt many questions have arisen concerning the meaning of the ritualistic ceremonies, the historical implications and the 'why' of the legends of Freemasonry. Although many erudite brethren have delved into the history and mysteries of Freemasonry no one has as yet determined the exact time the fraternity originated or where it first came into being.

Many believe the Sublime Degree of Master Mason to be the ultimate degree of Freemasonry and that all others are added and explanatory. Most students of Freemasonry agree that the story of the Craft as presented in the three degrees is incomplete and that the degrees offered in the York Rite of

November Is For More Then Just Thanksgiving

The Liendo Plantation Civil War Reenactment will be held on November 16-17, 2002 and the Fields Store Bull Riding event will be on November 17, 2002. Your assistance would give a huge boost to your Lodge

FREEMASONRY DURING THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF CIVIL WAR MASONS

A company of the first Iowa regiment was sent to guard a railroad bridge at Mozeille mill, Missouri, which according to Rumer, was scheduled to be destroyed by guerrillas. During the raid three were captured and among them was a boy about sixteen.

A drum-head court-martial sentenced them to be executed as a lesson to other guerrillas in the neighborhood. The boy pleaded for his life, but his pleas went unheeded. Then a girl about eighteen burst upon the scene, clasped the boy in her arms, and exclaimed, "Oh soldiers please have mercy do not kill him. He is innocent, he is my brother!"

The girl at length was removed. When two soldiers advanced and unloosed her grasp upon her brother, her scream, her appeals to all for mercy, were terrible. They dragged her but a short distance from him, looking back, and seeing a black handkerchief already tied over his eyes, with one wild frantic scream, she flung the soldier *from her, and bounding back to her brother*, tore the blindfold from his eyes, and again enfolded him in her arms.

As the soldiers were again
Continued On Page 3

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE AF & AM NOVEMBER 2002 ISSUE

THOMAS RUSK

Continued From Page 1

In 1839 he endangered his friendship

with Houston by commanding the troops that removed the Cherokee from Texas. He continued his law practice in partnership with J. Pinckney Henderson, and was elected President of the Annexation Convention of 1845.

In 1846 Rusk received more votes than Houston as both were elected Texas' first two U.S. Senators. A strong voice for Texas, Rusk was able to secure a \$10 million payment for Texas' New Mexican territory. In 1856 there was support for his candidacy for President of the United States, and in 1857 was elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate. But after his wife's death, he took his own life at his home in Nacogdoches on July 29, 1857. He was a member of Milam Lodge No. 2 at Nacogdoches.

This was the thirteenth Texas Hero in the series on famous Masons who made Texans History.

Many years ago lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The spirits and lead poisoning would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone finding them would often take them for dead, and prepare them for burial. The deceased" were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days, and families would gather around, and eat, drink and wait to see if the party would wake up, thus began the custom of holding a "wake."

THE STAR CORNER

Miscellaneous Quotes From Dr Morris Morris

"The five Androgynous degrees ... are supposed to have been

introduced into this country by the French officers who assisted our Government during the struggle for liberty"....

"The degree called the Eastern Star... is strictly my own origination. By the aid of my papers, and the memory of Mrs. Morris, I recall even the trivial occurrences connected with the work- how I hesitated for a theme, how I dallied over a name, how I wrought face to face with the clock that I might keep my drama within due limits of time, etc. The name was first settled upon, The Eastern Star."

First in the array of Adoptive Degrees, highest in the ranks of brilliant and impressive thought, comes the Eastern Star, with its fixed points of Jephthah's Daughter, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa. Those who have heard our lectures in different sections of the United States are aware that we value it both for what it has done and for its future promise. We have personally communicated The Eastern Star to more than three thousand ladies, the wives, daughters, sisters, and widows of Master Masons. The degree is never communicated as from man to man- to impart it at all requires the consent and presence of five or more ladies who must be, if unmarried, at least 18 years of age. This degree is of French extraction, and has all the bellishments of that fanciful race.

It is properly conferred in a regular organization styled a Constellation, which in its American form will be shortly placed before the public- when generally adopted in our fraternity, as we doubt not it will be, it will add greatly to the practical importance of the degree."

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

I recently said that in 2 years as Secretary of Hempstead Lodge, I had only met 23 of the 46 members who lived within 15 or 20 minutes driving time from the Hempstead Lodge. The other 23 members were just names on the roster. I finally had occasion to meet Melvin Acock and Danny Banks, at different times and places, on the Friday before the fund raiser. Both worked all day Saturday at the railroad track fund raiser with us. Now, after working together all day, I'm proud to say, I know 2 more.

We had a "Work Day" at the Waller Lodge building on Saturday the 19th. Why is that in the Hempstead newsletter? Well don't forget that almoat 20% of the Hempstead Brothers are plural members with Waller Lodge. Anyway, I was impressed when 10 of us showed up at 8:00 am, ready to install 4 new ceiling fans, run the floor machine over all the floors except in the Lodge room and install 2 lighted exit signs on such a rainy day.

I had a Brother tell me the other day, that I had written something in the newsletter that embarrassed him. I started to apologize, but he said, "No, it was really a good thing. It was something I needed. It make me remember that as a Brother I owe the Lodge more then just my dues."

Maybe I have embarrassed 1 or 2 people or even make 1 or 2 mad, but if it helped at least one Brother find more light, maybe it turned out OK.

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE AF & AM NOVEMBER 2002 ISSUE

What is York Rite Masonry *Continued From Page 1*

Freemasonry comContinued On Page 3 plete the story and answer many of the questions in the mind of the newly made Master Mason.

In Royal Arch Masonry is found the essentials of symbolism and philosophy necessary for a Master Mason to understand that which he has received only in part. On the union of the Grand Lodges in 1813, a part of the compact of union read, "Ancient Craft Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, namely, those of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason including the Holy Royal Arch."

The York Rite consists of the degrees of the Royal Arch, the Council of Royal and Select Masters and the orders of the Commandery of Knights Templar. In none of these is any memorization required to advance from one degree to another. There are many easily learned parts that any interested Mason may acquire and participate in the conferring of the work. In the York Rite, most of the work is by a cast of characters made up to portray more vividly the message and the cast is robed to add to the impressiveness of the lessons.

From the Web Site of the Monroe York

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

Almost 20% Of The Lodge

Clark, Harold Wayne	11-02-31
Eakin, L. C.	11-04-13
Harvey, Kenneth	11-25-50
Herrin, Harold E.	11-12-42
Lewis, Donald R.	11-11-49
Seets, Martin Louis	11-24-69
Smith, Kenneth L.	11-24-36
Wiesner, John W.	11-13-28
Woods, Harold Ray	11-02-44
Wren, Ted W. Jr.	11-19-40

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES *Continued from Page 1*

removing her, the coat sleeve of one of them was torn during the struggle, and her eyes fell upon a Masonic breast pin that he had fasten upon his shirt sleeve. in an instant all the physical powers were relaxed, and in a calm, subdued, and confident tone of voice, she observed as she pointed to the pin, "Soldiers, let me make one more effort for my brother.

The soldiers, startled at the strangeness of her manner, unloosed their grasp upon her, and in a moment she bounded away to her brother, shielding his body again with her person at the very moment that the guns were descending to receive the word to fire. turning her back to her brother, and facing the file of soldiers, she stood forth a stately woman. there was no scream, no tear, no agonizing expression, but calm, and erect, she swept the field with her eyes, and then advancing three steps, she gave the Grand Hailing sign of a Master Mason. none but Masons among those soldier observed it, and there were many of them in that command, who now stood mute with astonishment at the strange and mysterious spectacle before them. there was a grouping of the officers for a few minutes, when the captain came forward, and in a loud voice said, that owing to the distress and interference of the young woman, the execution would be postponed until nine o'clock the next day. the guard was then ordered to be doubled, and astrict watch kept over the prisoner during the night.

Notwithstanding this precaution, it was discovered in the morning that both the boy and his sister had made their escape. during the early part of the evening,

there was a meeting of the masonic members of the company at the captain's quarters, where the girl was examined, and found to be the daughter of a Master Mason.

I had discovered 8 stories of Freemasonry during the War Between The States. This was the fifth one and I will try to run the rest in this column.

I have to say War Between The States because Great Great Grandpas Milam and Garrett both said there wasn't a darn thing Civil about it.

WHY WE MEET

We meet for the purpose of admitting members to our fellowship, to instruct them in the lessons and principles (of Masonry) and to strengthen each other in adherence thereto, said George W. Speth, in a public lecture in 1892. We meet to hand down to succeeding generations the knowledge and practice of certain ceremonies, which we have ourselves inherited from our Masonic ancestors, and the analogues of which can be traced in the remotest antiquity... Lastly we meet to practice our three grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Geisendorff, Fred W	11-30-51
Gratehouse, W. W.	11-22-44
Hamner, T. Finley	11-24-42
Holloman, "Doug"	11-09-72
Smith, Jerry W.	11-16-83

REMEMBER THESE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Ted Wren Jr. - Breathing Problems

David Hartley - Still suffering from the car accident.

Roy Shields - Suffering from a few different ailments.

John N. Daut Sr. - Still suffering back problems

This fellow had owned this large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back forty, had it fixed up nice, picnic tables, horse shoecourts, basketball court, etc. The pond was fixed for swimming when it was built. One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond as he hadn't been there for a while and look it over. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end of the pond. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man replied, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim or watch you get out of the pond, I only came to feed my alligators!"

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