

PROCEEDINGS

OF

The Grand Lodge of Texas,

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON,

Dec. A.D. 1837, A.L. 5837,

TO THE CLOSE OF

THE GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

HELD AT

PALESTINE, JANUARY 19, A.D. 1857, A.L. 5857.

By A. S. RUTHVEN,

GRAND SECRETARY, AND PAST GRAND MASTER.

COMPILED FROM THE ORIGINAL RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS NOW IN POSSESSION
OF THE GRAND LODGE, TOGETHER WITH THE CONSTITUTIONS WHICH
HAVE BEEN SEVERALLY ADOPTED UP TO THE PRESENT TIME;
ALSO, AN INTERESTING HISTORY OF THE

Origin, Rise and Progress of the Masonic Order in Texas.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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1857.

payment of the dues, (without any reference to the late payment made to the late Grand Treasurer, Asa Brigham, by the Second District Deputy Grand Master,) its work was suspended.

The Master of Matagorda Lodge, No. 7, looked upon this notice with surprise, —if not a deeper feeling,—as uncalled for by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and Masonic usage; as that instrument declares that a Lodge must be twelve months in arrears before a suspension of its work shall take place. From this cause the Master of the Lodge ceased to act, and concluded not to meet in open Lodge until the matter was investigated by the Grand Lodge during the present session.

Worshipful Brother, I hope you will lay this letter before the Grand Lodge for their action. Should its consideration be deemed worthy of reference to a committee, I shall be happy in giving any information that may be required,—being conversant with the affairs of the Lodge referred to.

Fraternally yours,

DUGALD MCFARLAND,
Past District Deputy Grand Master.

The petition of sundry Master Masons, praying for a Charter to establish a Lodge at San Augustine, was read, and the prayer of the petitioners granted; and, on motion of Bro. McDonald, the fees were remitted.

The M. W. Grand Master informed the Grand Lodge that the ill health of his family required his presence, and it was therefore inconvenient for him to remain with the Grand Lodge longer; that he could not, conveniently, attend the next Communication, and desired not to be re-elected.

On motion of Bro. A. Sterne, the thanks of the Grand Lodge were tendered to the M. W. Grand Master, N. H. Darnell, for the able and devoted manner in which he had presided over the Grand Lodge the past year.

Bro. E. Allen arose, and made a short and appropriate address in behalf of the Lodge; to which the M. W. Grand Master responded in his usual felicitous manner.

There being no further business upon the Grand Secretary's table, the Grand Lodge was called from labor, until 7 o'clock, to-morrow evening.

Attest,
JOHN M. SWISHER,
Grand Secretary.

Friday evening, January 17, 5845.

The M. W. Grand Lodge met pursuant to adjournment.

OFFICERS.

R. W. Thomas G. Western, Deputy Grand Master, presiding.
“ W. L. Cazneau, Senior Grand Warden.
“ E. W. Taylor, Junior Grand Warden.
“ Walter Winn, Grand Treasurer *p. t.*
“ J. M. Swisher, Grand Secretary.
“ Charles Mason, Senior Grand Deacon *p. t.*

R. W. D. D. Crumpler, Junior Grand Deacon.
W. S. Ralph, Grand Tyler *p. t.*

LODGES REPRESENTED.

Holland Lodge, No. 1; Milam, No. 2; Milam Lodge, No. 11; Constantine Lodge, No. 13; Orphans' Friend Lodge, No. 17; Washington Lodge, No. 18; Forest Lodge, No. 19; Graham Lodge, No. 20; Trinity Lodge, No. 21; Marshall Lodge, No. 22.

Bro. Patrick presented the report of the Committee on Subordinate Lodges; which, on motion of Bro. Crumpler, was laid on the table.

The Committee appointed to regulate Diplomas made a report, which, on motion, was laid on the table.

Bro. Rutliven offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the subordinate Lodges to this Grand Lodge be required to make duplicate returns,—one for the use of the Committee on Subordinate Lodges, and the other for the use of the Committee on Finance.

Adopted.

Bro. Patrick offered the following preamble and resolution; which, on motion, were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, The Grand Architect of the Universe has seen fit, in his wise providence, to remove by death our beloved Brother, Asa Brigham, the Grand Treasurer of this Grand Lodge: therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chair to draft a letter expressive of our sympathies with the family of our late esteemed Brother, and furnish them with a copy thereof.

The Chair appointed on said committee Bros. Patrick, Johnson and Mason.

The Chair appointed the following Brethren as a Committee on Printing,—to wit: Bros. Crumpler, Johnson and Swisher.

The Committee on Returns of Subordinate Lodges made a report, which, on motion, was laid on the table.

On motion of Bro. Patrick, the dues of Marshall Lodge, No. 22, were remitted.

On motion of Bro. Sterne,

Resolved, That the dues of Milam Lodge, No. 2, are hereby remitted for A.L. 5844.

The Grand Lodge then proceeded to the election of officers.

Whereupon R. W. Barry Gillespie, of Washington county, was declared duly elected Grand Master.

R. W. E. W. Taylor, of Independence, was elected Senior Grand Warden.

R. W. G. W. Patrick, of Montgomery county, was elected Junior Grand Warden.

R. W. Walter Winn, of Washington, was elected Grand Treasurer.

R. W. Moses Johnson, of Washington, was elected Grand Secretary.

Bros. Allen, Tryon and Patillo were appointed a committee to wait upon the officers elect and inform them of their election.

There being no further business on the Grand Secretary's table, the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment, until to-morrow, at 4 o'clock P.M.

Attest,
JNO. M. SWISHER,
Grand Secretary.

Saturday, January 18, 5845, 4 o'clock P.M.

The M. W. Grand Lodge met pursuant to adjournment.

OFFICERS.

R. W. Thos. G. Western,	Deputy Grand Master, presiding.
" A. S. Ruthven,	Senior Grand Warden <i>p. t.</i>
" E. W. Taylor,	Junior Grand Warden.
" Henry King,	Grand Treasurer <i>p. t.</i>
" Ira Munson,	Grand Secretary <i>p. t.</i>
" A. McDonald,	Senior Grand Deacon <i>p. t.</i>
" D. D. Crumpler,	Junior Grand Deacon.
W. Samuel Ralph,	Grand Tyler <i>p. t.</i>

LODGES REPRESENTED.

Holland Lodge, No. 1,	Bro. A. S. Ruthven.
Milam Lodge, No. 11,	" E. W. Taylor.
Constantine Lodge, No. 13,	" W. H. Hunt.
Orphans' Friend Lodge, No. 17,	" G. M. Patrick.
Washington Lodge, No. 18,	" D. D. Crumpler.
Forest Lodge, No. 19,	" A. McDonald.
Graham Lodge, No. 20,	" Henry King.

Prayer by the W. Grand Chaplain, Rev. Wm. M. Tryon.

The R. W. Deputy Grand Master then proceeded to the installation of Grand Officers, when the following Brothers were duly installed in their respective offices,—to wit:

M. W. B. Gillespie,	as Grand Master.
" E. W. Taylor,	" Senior Grand Warden.
" Geo. M. Patrick,	" Junior Grand Warden.
" Walter Winn,	" Grand Treasurer.
" Moses Johnson,	" Grand Secretary.

After which the M. W. Grand Master made the following communication:—

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution as the Grand Master elect for the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, Anno Lucis 5845, I hereby nominate and appoint

R. W. A. S. Ruthven,	Deputy Grand Master.
" Rev. R. E. B. Baylor,	Grand Chaplain.
" M. P. Norton,	Grand Orator.
" Henry King,	Grand Lecturer.

R. W. G. A. Patillo,	Senior Grand Deacon.
" W. H. Bourland,	Junior Grand Deacon.
" D. D. Crumpler,	Grand Sword-Bearer.
" Edward Burleson,	Grand Marshal.
" Charles Mason,	Grand Pursuivant.
" Thomas J. Hardeman,	} Grand Stewards.
" J. L. Farquhar,	
W. Samuel Ralph,	Grand Tyler.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

R. W. A. H. Lattimer,	Deputy Grand Master, First District.
" B. R. Wallace,	Deputy Grand Master, Second District.
" L. M. Hitchcock,	Deputy Grand Master, Third District.
" E. Allen,	Deputy Grand Master, Fourth District.

BARRY GILLESPIE,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Republic of Texas.

GRAND LODGE ROOM, January 18, 1845, A.L. 5845.

The officers thus appointed were then duly installed.

On motion of Bro. Crumpler, the Grand Lodge was then called from labor, until half-past 7 o'clock P.M.

Attest,
IRA MUNSON,
Grand Secretary *p. t.*

Saturday, January 18, A.D. 1845, A.L. 5845, 7½ o'clock P.M.

The M. W. Grand Lodge was called to labor pursuant to adjournment.

OFFICERS.

M. W. B. Gillespie,	Grand Master.
R. W. A. S. Ruthven,	Deputy Grand Master.
" E. W. Taylor,	Senior Grand Warden.
" Geo. M. Patrick,	Junior Grand Warden.
" A. McDonald,	Senior Grand Deacon <i>p. t.</i>
" D. D. Crumpler,	Junior Grand Deacon <i>p. t.</i>
" Henry King,	Grand Treasurer <i>p. t.</i>
" Moses Johnson,	Grand Secretary.
W. Samuel Ralph,	Grand Tyler.

The report of the Committee on Finance was read, and, on motion of Bro. Taylor, it was received and the Committee discharged.

Bro. Crumpler offered the following resolutions, which, on motion, were adopted:—

Resolved, That a Charter be granted to Graham Lodge, No. 20, U. D., and Bro. Henry King be first Master, W. H. Hunt, Senior Warden, and Hugh C. McIntyre, Junior Warden.

Resolved, That said Graham Lodge, No. 20, at their first regular meeting, proceed to the election of officers to preside over said Lodge until the next

guidance, may yet prove serviceable to my constituents; and it will be my constant endeavor to communicate with diligence and fidelity, to the Grand Lodge I am representing, all matters of interest to the Craft, and exert myself to promote the harmony of the Fraternity,—to cultivate the friendship of this Right Worshipful Grand Lodge, so as to merit its respect and confidence, and will always keep in sight the honor, interest and dignity of that Grand body I have the honor of representing.

“The system of an interchange of Representatives is now successfully followed up by almost all Grand Lodges of the Continent; and, from the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, I perceive that she is likewise highly recommending and adopting the system, and has, at the same time, appointed a Representative to the Grand Lodge of England; and she is aware of the beneficial results which may be obtained from alliances among the Masonic Bodies over all the civilized world, so that the ancient landmarks of our beloved and glorious Order may be preserved in their purity.

“It affords me high satisfaction, Right Worshipful Sir, to inform this Right Worshipful body that the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas has, by an unanimous vote, constituted your Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, Bro. James Herring, Honorary Member of the body, in consideration and as a testimonial of the great services he is rendering to the Craft; and it is quite manifest that it is not alone ourselves, but other bodies, who justly appreciate the talents, faithfulness and motives of our Right Worshipful Grand Secretary in advancing the interest of Free Masonry.

“In conclusion, you will permit me, Right Worshipful Sir, to tender you, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, the right hand of Fellowship; and to wish for yourself, and the Right Worshipful body over which you preside, prosperity and happiness.

“The Right Worshipful Bro. Willard, acting as Grand Master, replied to the address of the Representative of Texas, and, after declaring his pleasure at the occasion thus afforded him of giving him a sincere and cordial welcome, he alluded to the rapid progress of Masonry in the young Republic of the Single Star; and expressed the hope that the Grand Lodge whose Representative was then before him might go on in the diffusion of the benign principles of the Order until suns and moons and stars should cease to shine.

“The Grand Master then advanced, and, taking the new Representative by the hand, conducted him to his seat in the east.”

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence:—

“The Grand Lodge of Louisiana, in July, 1841, by an unanimous resolution, decreed, that no person belonging to the Society of Odd-Fellows should be initiated in the Masonic Mysteries in the Lodges of its jurisdiction; and that the actual members of said Lodges, who belong to the Society of Odd-Fellows, cannot continue to be members of said Lodges, unless they renounce positively the said Society of Odd-Fellows.”

“We have also the names and signatures of the officers of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for 1843, and a list of all its members, together with the names of the Lodges under its jurisdiction, by which we are also informed that fifteen are of the YORK RITE, four of the SCOTTISH RITE, and two of the MODERN or FRENCH RITE.”

In the general regulations of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Venezuela there are some things of interest. Some of the provisions are,—

That petitions for Degrees must state the age, occupation, country and religion of the applicant, and always lie over one month, when every member of the Lodge must be notified.

Petitions for affiliation must be accompanied with a Diploma and certificate from the last Lodge he belonged to, that he is in good standing and owes nothing to the Lodge.

No ballot can be taken without a majority of the members of the Lodge are present.

Not more than five can receive Degrees at the same time.

No one can be initiated who is dependent as servant or domestic, but must have a competence for himself and family, and must have attained twenty-one years of age,—except the son of a Mason, whose age must be at least eighteen years,—and he must have contributed something for charitable purposes.

No candidate for E. A. can be received for less than \$40; F. C., \$8; M. M., \$15,—in all cases in advance; and if any one should get the Degrees without the fees in advance, he is not acknowledged a Mason until full payment.

No stranger can visit a Lodge without his Diploma and strict examination.

Every visitor shall be seated by the S. D., according to his degree,—the highest in the east.

The Grand Lodge acknowledges thirty-three Degrees under its jurisdiction.

The Grand Master must have received thirty Degrees, and have presided over some subordinate Lodge.

They work under the Scottish Rite.

The voluminous and interesting documents from Europe I have been unable to get correctly translated, but I expect to do so by the next Communication.

MOSES JOHNSON,
Grand Secretary.

GRAND LODGE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS.

CALLED COMMUNICATION.

In pursuance to the call of the M. W. Barry Gillespie, Grand Master of Masons in Texas, the M. W. Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas convened in Called Communication on Monday, 7 o'clock P.M., the 23d of June, A.D. 1845, A.L. 5845, and opened in ample form.

OFFICERS PRESENT.

M. W. Barry Gillespie,	Grand Master.
R. W. A. S. Ruthven,	Deputy Grand Master.
“ E. W. Taylor,	Senior Grand Warden.
“ G. M. Patrick,	Junior Grand Warden.
“ H. C. McIntire,	Grand Treasurer <i>p. t.</i>
“ M. Johnson,	Grand Secretary.
“ G. A. Patillo,	Senior Grand Deacon.
“ W. H. Bourland,	Junior Grand Deacon.
“ M. P. Norton,	Grand Orator.

R. W. T. J. Hardeman, Grand Steward.
 " B. R. Wallace, Dist. Dep. Grand Master 2d Dist.
 " E. Allen, " " " 4th Dist.
 W. Samuel Ralph, Grand Tyler.

LODGES REPRESENTED.

Holland, No. 1, by Bro. A. S. Ruthven.
 Harmony, No. 6, " Michael Chronican.
 Milam, No. 11, " E. W. Taylor.
 Trinity, No. 14, " John M. Dorr.
 Friendship, No. 16, " W. H. Bourland.
 Orphans' Friend, No. 17, " A. G. Perry.
 Washington, No. 18, " J. L. Farquhar.
 Forest, No. 19, " Isaac Tousey.
 Graham, No. 20, " Wm. Hunt, H. C. McIntire,
 and Thomas H. Crutcher.
 Trinity, No. 21, " Geo. G. Alfred.
 Red Land, No. 23, " B. R. Wallace.

With about one hundred members and visiting Brethren.

The petition of Harmony Lodge for a new Masonic District was read, and, on motion of Bro. McLeod, it was

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to report on the petition of Harmony Lodge, No. 6.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed Bros. H. McLeod, W. H. Bourland, T. J. Hardeman, Charles Mason, M. P. Norton and J. D. Giddings said Committee.

Bro. McLeod offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the next Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas shall be held on the second Monday after the assembling of the first legislative body in Texas, and at the same place as the said legislative body will be held.

Which, on motion of Bro. M. Johnson, was read first time and referred to a committee of five,—Bros. Ruthven, Taylor, Cazneau, Allen and Perry,—with instructions to report to-morrow.

A communication from Washington Lodge, No. 18, inviting the Grand Lodge to a feast on to-morrow, the anniversary of St. John the Baptist, was received, and, on motion of Bro. Ruthven, was unanimously accepted.

On motion of Bro. Crumpler, it was

Resolved, That the M. W. Grand Master appoint a committee of five to investigate the condition and work of Washington Lodge, No. 18.

Bros. Taylor, Patrick, Norton, McFarland and Hardeman were appointed said Committee.

Bro. Johnson offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That a standing committee of five be appointed annually on foreign

correspondence, whose duty it shall be to examine all foreign correspondence and report thereon in full at each Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Whereupon the Grand Master appointed the following Brethren to compose said Committee:—Johnson, Allen, Mason, Western and Giddings.

Bro. Johnson offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to report what are the necessary qualifications to admit a stranger as visitor into the Lodges subordinate to this Grand Lodge.

The following Brethren were appointed said Committee:—Patrick, Taylor, Ruthven, Hunt and Bourland.

Adjourned, until to-morrow at 1 o'clock.

Tuesday, 1 o'clock, P.M., June 24, A.L. 5845.

The Grand Lodge met pursuant to adjournment.

OFFICERS PRESENT.

M. W. Barry Gillespie, Grand Master.
 R. W. A. S. Ruthven, Deputy Grand Master.
 " E. W. Taylor, Senior Grand Warden.
 " G. M. Patrick, Junior Grand Warden.
 " T. H. Crutcher, Grand Treasurer *p. t.*
 " M. Johnson, Grand Secretary.
 " Geo. A. Patillo, Senior Grand Deacon.
 " W. H. Bourland, Junior Grand Deacon.
 " G. Fisher, Grand Chaplain *p. t.*
 " Josiah Crosby, Grand Orator *p. t.*
 " W. L. Cazneau, Grand Marshal *p. t.*
 " W. R. Scurry, Sword-Bearer *p. t.*
 " T. J. Hardeman, Senior Grand Steward.
 " Charles Mason, Grand Pursuivant.
 W. Samuel Ralph, Grand Tyler.
 R. W. E. Allen, D. D. Grand Master 4th Dist.

ORIGINAL MEMBER PRESENT.

R. W. T. J. Hardeman.

Lodges represented as before.

About one hundred members and visiting Brethren present.

The Grand Lodge was then called to refreshment, and formed a procession with Washington Lodge, No. 18, according to the following order of the M. W. Grand Master:—

To Bro. W. L. Cazneau, P. G. Warden.

You are appointed Grand Marshal *pro tem.*, to regulate and take charge of the procession during the ceremonies of the day. At 1 o'clock you will repair to the Lodge Room of Washington Lodge, No. 18, and form the procession as follows:—

Washington Lodge, No. 18.

Tyler, with a drawn sword.
Stewards and their music.
Entered Apprentices—Fellow Crafts.
Master Masons—Deacons.
Secretary and Treasurer.
Senior and Junior Wardens.
The Holy Bible, Square and Compass, borne by the
Oldest Member of that Lodge.
Past Masters.
Royal Arch Masons.
Master of Washington Lodge.

Grand Lodge.

Grand Tyler, with a drawn sword.
Grand Stewards.
Grand Secretary and Treasurer.
Master of a Lodge bearing the Sacred Writings.
Grand Chaplain and Orator.
Grand Wardens.
Deputy Grand Master.
Grand Master.
Grand Senior and Junior Deacons.

(Signed,)

B. GILLESPIE,
Grand Master.

The procession then proceeded to the Representative Hall, and listened to an eloquent oration from Bro. Josiah Crosby; after which the procession moved to the Washington Hotel and partook of a feast prepared by the Washington Lodge; thence to the Lodge Room and resumed labor.

Bro. W. L. Cazneau was received as the Representative of Austin Lodge, No. 12.

On motion of Bro. Alfred, the following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved, That the name of Trinity Lodge, No. 21, be changed to Lothrop Lodge, No. 21.

Bro. G. W. Wright was received as Representative of De Kalb Lodge, No. 9.

The Committee to whom was referred the proceedings of Washington Lodge made the following report, which was adopted:—

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Warden and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas.

The Committee to whom was referred an examination into the affairs and proceedings of Washington Lodge, No. 18, beg leave to report that they have carefully investigated all the transactions which have occurred in the work of the Lodge, and find that many innovations have been suffered to occur, and in some instances the ancient landmarks removed; and unless some check be put to such irregular and un-Masonic proceedings we will find our institution crumbling into dust, and Masonry not only become a mere name *among us*, but become a jest and a by-word among men. And, in order that not only this Lodge may be more careful and more Masonic in their proceedings, but that it may be a warning to all Lodges subordinate to this Grand Lodge, we recommend the passage of the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That Washington Lodge, No. 18, receive from the Grand Master a reprimand for the un-Masonic and irregular proceedings which have been permitted in their labors.

Resolved, That should such innovations and irregularities continue, or similar instances occur, which have come to the notice of your Committee, they would recommend that their labors as a Lodge be suspended.

E. W. TAYLOR,
G. M. PATRICK,
D. M. McFARLAND,
M. P. NORTON,
T. J. HARDEMAN.

June 24, 1845.

The Committee to whom was referred the qualifications required of visiting Brethren, &c. made the following report:—

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Warden and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas.

The Committee to whom was referred the necessary qualifications required of visiting Brethren who may be strangers beg leave to report the following resolution:—

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge require of all Lodges subordinate to this Grand Lodge that the ancient usages, customs and landmarks be carefully sustained in examination of visiting Brethren who are strangers, and also that they be in possession of a Grand Lodge certificate under which jurisdiction they may have been last a member.

A. S. RUTHVEN,
WM. HUNT,
G. M. PATRICK.

Which was adopted unanimously.

The following resolution was passed:—

Resolved, That the Grand Master and Grand Secretary be authorized to examine the accounts of Bro. Geo. Fisher and order the payment of the balance due him, if in their opinion the same are correct.

On motion of Bro. Johnson, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge be tendered to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for the very valuable present of "Masonic Discourses, by Joseph R. Chandler."

On motion of Bro. Johnson, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Grand Lodge be tendered to the Washington Lodge for the civilities we have received at their hands this day.