



Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 AF & AM
897 East Blanco Road • Boerne, Texas 78006

October 2014



FROM THE EAST

Greetings Brethren,

How many times have you heard a new Worshipful Master of a lodge ask the question that sounds something like this: "How is it that we have so many Masons on our membership rolls and we have so few Masons attending our Stated meetings?" This is the age old question which has more than one answer. Before we explore the answer let us first answer the question of why do Masons frequent the Lodge and other Masonic functions.



I have an idea of why some of us darken the door of the Lodge almost every time it opens. In my estimation there are four major reasons we are drawn to gather with other Masons. One reason men gather is for the fellowship with other men of like ideas and commitment. We are bound together in Truth, Brotherhood, and Charity. Ours is the largest and oldest fraternity in in the world. How good it is to see men working together in Peace and Harmony.

Another reason men are attracted to Masonry is to give something back to our communities in the form of Charity. Within our local Kendal Lodge 897 we have several fundraisers each year in which we raise funds to enable the Lodge to give scholarships at three local High Schools for students planning to attend an institution of higher learning. We also give to other local Women Shelters and to local EMS operations.

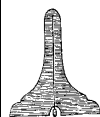
Masonic History fascinates many of our mem-

bers. Thousands of volumes have been written about Masonic activities ranging from hundreds of years ago up until today. Texas Masonic history becomes very real when spoken about by those interested. History can come alive to us even today. The Texas Lodge of Research is an excellent organization for those inclined to love Masonic days gone by.

Now we come to the heart of the matter, esoteric work in the degrees of Masonry and the trial questions and answers. How many times have we talked to a brother whom we haven't seen in a while and after being invited back to Lodge he tells us that he probably doesn't remember enough to even get through the doors. If I have heard it once I have heard it a hundred times. Well my friend, all we need is our Texas dues card and a picture ID. Many Masons spend countless hours learning the work and totally enjoying the degree work as well as teaching students. This Mason is one of those who loves the work and also looks forward to the fellowship that goes along with learning and teaching the same work which was learned by my father and his father before him.

Now let's finish this up with the answer to our original question. Why do many Masons not attend regularly? If you allow me some leeway on this one I would appreciate it. Do you remember part of our teachings that have to do with the symbolic Lodge? As I recall it would encompass all that we see and all that we don't see. I would submit to you that we have all of our Lodge members practicing good Masonry each and every day. Masonry is practiced at home, work, within our families, at places of worship, as well as within the body of our Lodges. Good men practicing Masonry everywhere they go. My dad and granddad were some of these good Masons.

**Sincerely and Fraternaly,
David Bruton, PM
Worshipful Master**



FROM THE WEST

Masonic Trivia Collected by Bro. Ray Dotson



For the sixth time in history, a pre-revolutionary Bible owned by the Masonic order was to be used for the swearing in of a U.S. president.

George W. Bush had intended to take the oath of office as the nation's 43rd president on the historic Masonic bible. George Washington was the first, in 1789. The last was George H.W. Bush, who used the Bible in 1989.

On Friday, 19 January 2001, three officials of the Manhattan-based St John's Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons boarded an Amtrak liner for Washington, D.C., carrying the nine-pound, 234-year-old King James Bible in a special container. At Union Station, they were met by inaugural committee officials and escorted to the inaugural site. They were literally waiting in the wings in a room adjacent to the inauguration platform when, at the 12th hour, a decision was made (attributed to the Vice President, but not confirmed) not to jeopardize the Bible because of the rain then pelting the area.

Bound in London in 1767, the Bible was brought to the colonies and given by Jonathan Hampton to the St. John's Lodge in lower Manhattan three years later when he became its grand master.

Just before Washington was to take his oath of office on the steps of Federal Hall in New York City on April 30, 1789, it was discovered that there was no Bible on hand. The then-New York Gov. Robert Livingston, a Masonic grand master, borrowed the lodge's bible from St. John's Masonic Lodge, which had meeting rooms just a short distance away. A statue of Washington marks the site in front of the present-day Federal Hall on Wall Street.

No printer in the colonies produced Bibles at the time, and the London import, bound in maroon Moroccan leather with silver hasps, was "probably close to a year's wages for the average fellow." Despite its age and history, the lodge today puts no

monetary value on the book. "I guess the word is priceless," a representative said.

Other presidents who have placed their left hand on the Masonic Bible were Warren G. Harding in 1921, Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953, and Jimmy Carter in 1977. Among the six, only Washington and Harding were Masons.

Harry Truman, probably the most active Mason among the nation's chief executives, did not use it, nor did several other Masons who served as president

In 1867, President Andrew Johnson, attending the dedication of a new Masonic temple in Boston, asked that the George Washington inaugural Bible be brought to his hotel room, and was seen by aides "to weep as he held it in his hands".

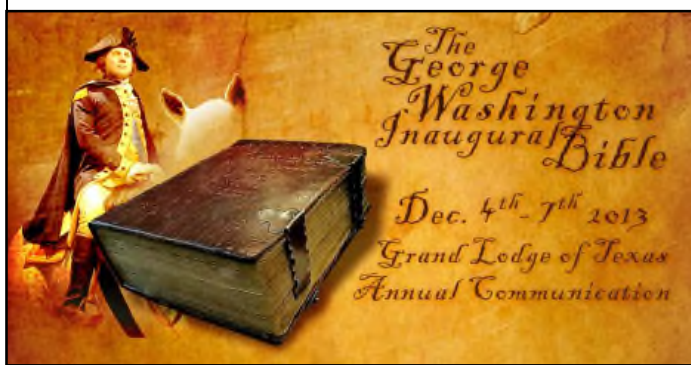
In addition to its role in presidential oath-taking, the Bible was used at Washington's funeral in December, 1799, the dedication of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. in 1885, the relaying of the U.S. Capitol's cornerstone in 1959, and the christening of the aircraft carrier USS George Washington at Norfolk, Va., in 1992.

It was on display at the New York world's fair in 1964-65 and at the White House for 30 days after the elder Bush's inaugural.

Between travels, it is maintained by the National Parks Service in a protective display case at Federal Hall, open to Genesis 49, 50, the pages on which Washington rested his hand to be sworn in.

**Fraternally,
Bill Carder
Senior Warden**

**[Note this Bible was on display in Waco at our
last Grand Lodge Annual Communication]**





FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren,

The Obligation

An obligation when entered into is a moral or legal requirement of duty and is a legally enforceable agreement to perform an act or provide a monetary compensation. The word literally means “binding to” it is more than an oath, and more than a vow, it combines both, and has been used in one form or another throughout history. It has been described as “the surest symbol of good faith.”

The moral principles of Masonry are mandated from more than three hundred years of observance and practice. There is no conflict with belief in God; duties to your country, family or yourself. A mason must honor that which he has pledged learning the lessons that are symbolic and allegoric in nature, and living them daily.

“From time immemorial, men have entered into the covenants of brotherhood and friendship under solemn oaths of fidelity and loyalty, and whenever the circumstances and purposes justified it, secrecy has been pledged. This oath bound practice among Masons has many precedents and is based upon the truths and principles of The Great Light in Masonry. The obligation in such a covenant is given in the name of God; perjury in such oaths is subject to severe and deadly penalties which are symbolic in nature.

The obligation voluntarily taken, binds us to do certain things, which arise out of a sense of duty that unites us to a contract with the fraternity that is nonnegotiable, must be faithfully performed and can never be revoked, even upon suspension or expulsion.

Honoring what we have promised will provide that purpose in life to develop integrity, to be a successful person....we must have integrity. Our word is our bond. We must have a moral compass which might be described as our inner sense, or a moral belief system, which distinguishes what is right from what is wrong, functioning as a guide for morally appropriate behavior.^[1] Integrity is that trait that inspires, that brings leaders to the forefront and demonstrates especially, in trying times, that we honor our obligation even when no one is watching.

Our observance of the obligations strengthens the bond to the fraternity, bringing us into a closer relationship with the fraternity and **The Great Architect**. There are occasions when events transpire that we judge injurious to ourselves. In many instances they are really to our advantage, though we may not be aware of it at the time.

“Duty then is the *sublimest* word in the English language. We should do our duty in all things. We can never do more, we should never wish to do less.”^[2] What more could be expected of any individual, more especially he be a Mason.

A mason must live by the obligation understanding the symbols and allegory represented, remembering, we there stand a just and up right mason, human in nature, and traveling upon the Level of Time, to that undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveler returns, but when one door closes another opens.^[1]

1. Monitor of the Lodge, Grand Lodge of Texas 2013
2. Robert E. Lee 1807—1870

**Fraternally,
Clarence Smith
Junior Warden**



FROM THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

Brethren... I hope that you were able to attend the Grand Master's Workshop on Saturday, the 20th of September. It was moderated by Brother Chris Williams who is a member of the Grand Lodge of Texas Masonic Education and Service Committee as well as Davey Crockett Lodge No. 1225. The information presented through his questions and the discussion following is applicable to what's going on at our lodge as well as others. Brother Williams did an excellent job and is to be commended.

October is a busy month and here are just a few things to put on your calendar:

- Alzar Shrine is hosting a **Chili Cook-off and Masonic Picnic at Camp Alzar** on Saturday, October 4th. The day will start with a Master Mason's Degree at 7:00 AM to be put on by Davey Crockett Lodge No. 1225. Chili weigh-in starts at 8:30 AM, cooking starts at 10:00 AM, and judging starts at 3:00 PM with awards at 4:00 PM. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM with a dance from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. No tickets required and it's open to all Masons and their families. This is in our backyard so come on and have fun.
- Our Texas Hill Country DeMolay Chapter is having a **Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday morning, October 11th at Kendall Lodge. It starts at 8:00 AM so come by, have pancakes, bacon, and drinks with us. No tickets required, but donations are accepted. Be generous and support our young men.
- On Saturday, October 25th we will have our **Fall Fundraiser Sausage and Brisket Dinner**. We'll start serving at 11:30 AM and serve until 2:30 PM. As usual this will include meats, sides, condiments, drinks, and dessert. The tickets are only \$9.00 and you will not go away hungry, but usually caring a "to go" container. Currently we are planning on the Eastern Star ladies and Bloodmobile being at the dinner as well.

So don't say that there is nothing going on at the lodge. We always have something going on that you can be a part of.

As I said last month, we have begun selling raffle tickets for our Fall Raffle. They're going to be **\$5.00 apiece or five tickets for \$20.00**. You might win a **\$500 Gift Certificate to Academy Sports** or a **\$300 Gift Certificate to Best Buy**. This is a win – win situation. You win because you're in the raffle with chances to have your ticket drawn and high school seniors in Boerne and Comfort win as some of them will be given scholarships to earn a higher education. If you're in Boerne or the surrounding area, come by and one of us will be glad to sell you raffle tickets. If you're out of town, mail us a check and we'll mail you the tickets and put your stubs in the drawings to be held at 7:00 PM on December 15th. **So help us support Education in Kendall County!**

Remember:

On every third Monday we have a great fellowship and a good meal with our Brethren, their families, visiting Brethren, visitors, and guests. We start serving at 6:15 PM and don't stop until just prior to our Stated Meeting at 7:30 PM. Our Stewards work hard to make each meal great! So you, your wife, and children come and join us. I guarantee you that you will come back!

Gary L. Bausell, PM
Secretary

Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 Death



Brother Ronald Edward Tibbetts

(April 28, 2014)

Almighty Father! Into Thy hands we commend
the soul of our beloved Brother.



Brother Chuck Ramsey, PM and Current Secretary of Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge #794, Spoke At Our September Stated Meeting On "Commitment"

Building Preservation Fund September 2014 Donations

Donor In Memory/Honor of

Charlie Davenport Alvin Reinhard, PM

Bob Easterling Jack Easterling

Abb Kestler Jr. Abb Kestler Sr.

John Pritko

Breakfast & Fellowship With The DEMOLAY Texas Hill Country

Bacon,
Pancakes,
Orange Juice,
& Coffee

Saturday
October 11, 2014
8:00 - 11:00 am



Kendall Masonic Lodge #897 897
E Blanco, Boerne, Texas 78006

Donations Appreciated

Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 BBQ Sausage & Brisket Dinner



Good Food!

Saturday, October 25, 2014
11:30 am — 2:30 pm

897 E. Blanco Rd, Boerne, Texas
(Next to the Post Office)

Donation: \$9.00 (Includes Tea & Dessert)

KENDALL LODGE



NO. 897 **AF & AM**



CHAPTER 200

Stated Meetings

Kendall #897 - 3rd Monday
OES #200 - 1st Tuesday