



BRENHAM MASON

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20 A.F. & A.M.

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JOE JORDAN

BRING A BROTHER
BACK

2020-2021 OFFICERS REPORT

MICHAEL THORPE
WORSHIPFUL MASTER



Brethren, I extend to each of you my promise, that I will to the best of my abilities work with and for you. Thursday evening you re-elected me to lead our lodge as YOUR Worshipful Master. I am humbled by your trust.

The coming Masonic year is looking very EXCITING, and Busy.

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2020-2021 OFFICERS REPORT

MICHAEL THORPE, WM.

Officer Installation (6/26/2021)

First, we will have our 2021 2022 officer's installation. This will take place Saturday June 26th at 10 am with Brother Charles Law installing Officer.

A catered meal will be served following Installation. This will be an Open Installation, so family and friends may attend.

Stated Meeting/Practice Run - Meal (7/1/2021)

At our next Stated meeting on July 1st, we are **inviting family and friends** to our meal. We will have a practice run serving our Pulled pork stuffed baked potato.

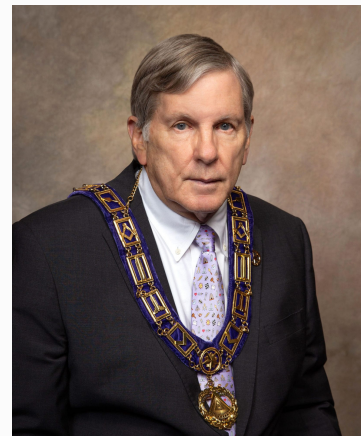
We need help with preparation and serving. We also would appreciate a head count of attendance. Please let us know if you can help and if you are attending.

Also, our July stated meeting will be casual, and Bib overalls are encouraged, not required.



Grand Master Ken Curry - Blinn Cornerstone Ceremony (7/13/2021)

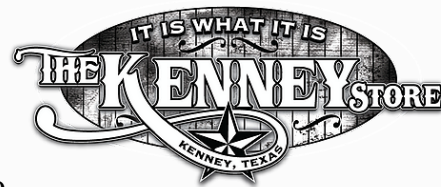
On July 13th at 10 am we will have the Blinn STEI Cornerstone ceremony, with **GRAND MASTER Ken Curry**, officiating.



We will serve a light breakfast at 0800, immediately after Open the lodge and call off. The

Representation of Grand Lodge will then be opened and called off for the purpose of the cornerstone ceremony.

After the cornerstone is laid, we will present a check to the Blinn College endowment fund for **\$15,500.00 for our 4th Blinn scholarship**, named in honor of our past masters of Graham Lodge #20. After completion of the ceremony, we will return to lodge for a meal provided by Kenney store and donated by Brother Krueger.



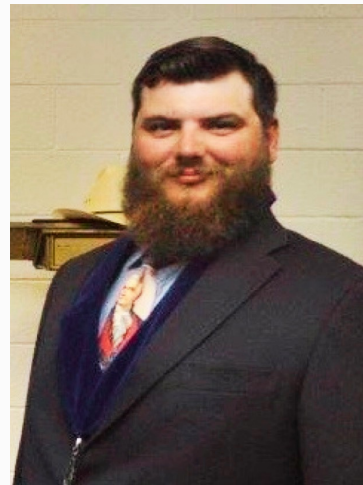
We will again need help with serving for this meal.

Let us keep shining our light, and moving forward in PEACE AND HARMONY. - MT

2020-2021 OFFICERS REPORT

AARON CURLEE SENIOR WARDEN

This past Masonic year was definitely a different one than usual. Although we couldn't do fundraisers and have meals together like we used to it was still an honor to be the Senior Warden. I wish next years officers the best in their places and look forward to all the new adventures that await our lodge.



JOE JORDAN JUNIOR WARDEN



I feel like this year was a productive one. Sitting in the South has been very rewarding. I believe you get out of Masonry what you put into it. I recommend all Masons to take an officer position in Lodge and get involved.

Over this past year, I received help from so many Brothers. There are too many to thank, so I will just say thank you to all my Graham Lodge Brothers for passing on your knowledge and making me a better Mason.

Looking to the future, I see great things for Graham Lodge. We have many new Masons, as well as potential petitioners. I believe the future goals for the Lodge should be to maintain and continue to grow membership, get ALL brothers involved that are physically able, and maintain peace and harmony as it should always be the chief strength and support of all well regulated institutions, more especially, this of ours.

LODGE NEWS

Scholarships - Burton, H.S.



Three scholarships were awarded to Burton High School students during the BHS Honors Ceremony. It was a great event attended by WM Thorpe & Eddy Jezisek. We are proud to support the brilliant and multi-talented students in Burton.



Fundraiser

July 10, 17, 24, 31

We have reserved/paid for a location to sell concessions at Hot Nights Cool Tunes.

Spanning 4 weekends in July, H.N.C.T. is a Family Oriented concert venue hosted by Downtown Brenham.

We are having a test-run at the July 1 Stated Meeting. Please bring family and friends as this is our last week before the event.

Contact Eddy Jezisek or Keith Killgore for details.

ej1095@gmail.com
(979) 218-5716



Officer Elections

At the June Stated Meeting the 2021-2022 Officers were elected.

Michael Thorpe - WM
George Allan Wells - SW
Ken Lane - JW

Kirby Simmons - Secretary
Dan Blaylock - Treasurer

Special thanks to all brothers serving as officers but especially Bro. Kirby Simmons, who has been through trials only a secretary knows for many years now.

Blinn STEI - Cornerstone (7/13/2021)



We are proud to announce that on July 13, 2020 @ 10 am we will have the Blinn STEI Cornerstone ceremony, with GRAND MASTER of Masons in Texas, Ken Curry Officiating. This is quite an honor for our lodge and our community.

We also have to thank Brother Robert S. Stark & Bro. Mike Thorpe for coordinating this venture.

It was not easy working out the details of such a large undertaking in the middle of a pandemic. As Dr. Stark has said, after many emails & conference calls this has turned out to be more than we could have ever expected.



LODGE NEWS

Brenham Maifest - Brenham, Tx May 8, 2021

The Brenham Shrine Club was proud to host the Arabia Shrine for the annual Maifest Parade. The Graham Lodge dining hall was filled almost to capacity as the Shriners held their luncheon and meeting at noon.

Special thanks to **Arabia Shriners, Rick Peña Potentate 2021**, Keith Kilgore, James Stephens, Owen Black, Mike Thorpe, and many others who were able to put this together.

Dinner Honoring Brenham & Burton Teachers of the Year June 3, 2021

Graham was proud to host the Local Teachers of the Year on their respective Campuses. A meal and History of Masonry in Texas were Provided. Also present was one of our scholarship winners along with his parents.

We were proud they came out and allowed us to honor their efforts.

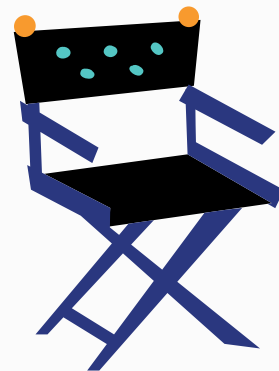
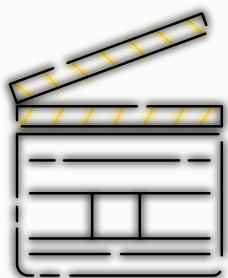


Farewell Dinner for Brother Joe Jordan

We are sad to see him go, however we are very happy for Bro. Joe Jordan and his family as they are moving to Florida for work.

Brother Jordan was our Junior Warden this year and had helped train multiple candidates. His presence will be sorely missed. Florida, you are getting a good one.





INTERVIEW WITH A BROTHER: **JOE** **JORDAN**



WITH EDDY JEZISEK

Joe Jordan is a great guy. In a short period of time he has made a significant impact on our lodge. Also, Bro. Jordan is very talented at recalling information and when you listen to his story, it makes sense why.

Joe, thanks for agreeing to talk and share your perspective.

Years a Mason

- 3+

Positions held

- Junior Warden, 2020-2021
- Senior Deacon, 2019-2020
- Candidate Trainer

Bio

- Born and Raised in New Orleans, Moved to New Braunfels, Graduated HS
- Student of the Arts, Theatre and Music
- Worked at SXSW
- Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas

I prefer to direct first, and act second. I have worked all aspects of show business. Stagecraft, Special Effects, and Makeup

What motivated you to join Masonry?

I was raised by a young single mother, and we didn't always have a lot of extra money. Growing up I had really bad eyesight and dental issues. We became friends with a gentleman who was in the Shrine and they covered all of the medical bills for my eyes and teeth at no cost.

My wife years later, had family who were Eastern Star and she had always wanted to join. That kind of started to get me remotivated.

“

Because of that connection, I will always have a fondness for the Shrine organization which of course I later learned is an appendant body of Freemasonry. I'll always remember the Fez



I'm pretty familiar with helping out the public when able. I had experience with Habitat for Humanity and worked the Houston Flood. I try to donate time when I can and as I discovered more about it, the charity work of Freemasonry piqued my interest.





How did you take that first real step to petitioning?

After we moved to Brenham, I was still a little apprehensive to come into the lodge until I met a guy at work (who had a ring). I remember asking him about Masonry three times and finally he brought me to Graham #20 and introduced me even though we were not his home lodge.

After that I filled out a petition and the rest is history. Moved up the ladder pretty fast.

Can you name any important Masonic influences in your life?

All the brothers have helped me along the way. What I try to do is to observe everybody and listen to the little things. The guys are willing to teach if you are ready to listen. I ask a lot of questions.

What made you want to stay a member? What keeps you engaged?

Lot of things, what we do for the high school kids, the elementary kids. Giving back to the community

The brotherhood and camaraderie we have are big for me too. There is also the fact that we have to live up to those who came before us, the history of the brotherhood. We have to protect that charter.

“

We have to live up to those who came before us, the history of the Brotherhood



Do you have any advice for new Masons?

Get involved. You get out of this what you put into it. Do something. Teach, Clean, Meet brothers, Fix stuff. You always get something out of serving.

What makes a peaceful and harmonious lodge?

No politics and religion. Just leave it alone. Not taking stuff too personal, sometimes things get said and are often misunderstood then someone gets mad and lets that situation affect their own experience.

I also try and stay away from cliques and subgroups. My advice is try and find something you like in everybody, make the rounds. Don't always linger too long with one group before and after meetings. Try and meet brothers outside of your normal comfort zone.

What are your thoughts on retaining members and bringing members back?

Sometimes if we are not active enough brothers get bored. I would like to see us do a number of things instead of the same old fundraisers, and stated meetings.

Give people a wide variety of work to do in the lodge.

“

Try and meet brothers outside of your normal comfort zone.

Put the right guys in Officer positions.

If you want some of the brothers to come back we have to put feet on the ground and knock on doors. Some of them might not remember the work and need reassurance.

Face to Face contact means much more than a letter or even a phone call.

BRING A BROTHER BACK

**WITH EDDY JEZISEK
& ROBERT MUELLER**

Howdy, my name is Eddy Jezisek, and I am a Master Mason and a member of Graham Lodge No. 20, Brenham, Texas.

I have to say that as much as I obsess about membership and retention, I can take no credit for Robert Mueller re-joining the lodge. He made that decision on his own.

Bro. Mueller grew up in La Grange and has some great stories about the town and the Masons when he was growing up. He is also my father-in-law and it is great to have him back in the craft. The bond that we share is pretty special.

When I petitioned, Robert and I spoke on the topic and he mentioned that he was a Mason and had to step away a while ago and really did not know if there was a way to come back in.

One day my mentor Allan Wells and I traveled to watch a degree at Lafayette #34 in La Grange, Texas which just so happens to be the home lodge of "Bob" Mueller. The Lafayette brothers were great and more than happy to show me around the lodge and answer any questions I had.



LAFAYETTE LODGE NO.34

La Grange, Texas

It hit me at some point how profound it is that my father-in-law had walked the same steps that I was taking 50 years ago. Him and I had both stood in that lodge room just like his father before us.

SMITH, JESSIE LEE	10-15-51	3-7-54	1-
GODBY, CABLE E.	5-17-62	2-8-63	3
NUNN, VERNON R.	AFFILIATED 2		
STOHLER, BEN L.	AFFILIATED 3		
MUELLER, ROBERT W.	11-30-62	11-27-63	4
CAMPBELL, JACK A.	11-12-64	3-25-65	7
WRIGHT, ALFRED E.	12-10-64	3-25-65	7
BERRY, JOHN F.	5-8-65	9-25-65	10
COOK, OSCAR L.	1-12-66	4-18-66	5
KEITH, GEORGE C.	9-22-65	4-18-66	5

HIS NAME AT LAFAYETTE, ON A FRAMED HANDWRITTEN ROSTER



BRING A BROTHER BACK

I told the brothers about the connection I had to the lodge and they thought it was great. Especially Jerry Meek who is a Past Master & Secretary of Lafayette and is very knowledgeable about the process. Bro. Meek gave me his card and said that if we needed anything to just give him a call.

The next day I stopped over and told Bob about being able to see his old lodge and we talked at length about what it looks like now and his memories of his time there.

A short time later he called and asked if I knew of anyone who could speak with him about getting back up to date as he would like to attend my next Degree.

Brother Meek and the Lafayette brothers were on it immediately and were able to get him fixed up in time for my degree.

Unfortunately, in December Bro. Mueller suffered from some serious health problems that had him in the hospital all through Christmas 2020 (during COVID) and he has not been able to make it to lodge yet.



EST. 1962 | EST. 2021

Now six months later he is starting to get around better . Even if he cannot come to lodge with us, he told me it feels great being back in the craft and honestly, that is more than enough for me.

*Special thanks again to
Lafayette Lodge 34. La Grange,
Texas.*

*Jerry Meek
Ronald Alexander
& all the Brothers.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6/7 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

6/14 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

6/21 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

6/26 (Sat.) - Officer Installation @ Graham (10:00 AM)

6/28 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00

7/1 (Thurs.) - Family Night (Meal) & Stated Meeting @ Graham 6:00 PM

7/10 HNCT Fundraiser Downtown Brenham, Texas @ 7:00 PM

7/13 (Tues.) Blinn STEI - Cornerstone with MW. Ken Curry

**Ceremony @ 10:00 AM
0800 @ Graham for Masons.**

2020-2021 Officers



Master: Michael Thorpe



Sr. Warden: Aaron Curlee



Jr. Warden: Joe Jordan



Treasurer: Dan Blalock



Secretary: Kirby Simmons



Chaplain: J.W. Burchfield



Sr. Deacon: Alan Menchaca



Jr. Deacon: Brad Kuecker

Marshal: Dr. Robert S. Stark



Tyler: Keith Killgore

Master of Ceremony: Kenneth Hetzel



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