



BRENHAM MASON

GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20 A.F. & A.M.

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THE MASTERS CORNER

LODGE NEWS & UPCOMING
EVENTS

INTERVIEW WITH A
BROTHER:

DR. ROBERT S. STARK, PM.
IN REMEMBRANCE.



FOUNDING FATHER

Freemasonry has tenets peculiar to itself. They serve as testimonials of character and qualifications, which are only conferred after due course of instruction and examination. These are of no small value; they speak a universal language, and act as a passport to the attentions and support of the initiated in all parts of the world. They cannot be lost as long as memory retains its power. Let the possessor of them be expatriated, shipwrecked or imprisoned, let him be stripped of everything he has got in the world, still those credentials remain, and are available for use as circumstances require. The good effects they have produced are established by the most incontestable facts of history. They have stayed the uplifted hand of the destroyer; they have softened the asperities of the tyrant; they have mitigated the horrors of captivity; they have subdued the rancour of malevolence; and broken down the barriers of political animosity and sectarian alienation. On the field of battle, in the solitudes of the uncultivated forest, or in the busy haunts of the crowded city, they have made men of the most hostile feelings, the most distant regions, and diversified conditions, rush to the aid of each other, and feel a special joy and satisfaction that they have been able to afford relief to a Brother Mason.

- Benjamin Franklin

THE MASTER'S CORNER



MICHAEL THORPE, WM.



Brethren,

It has been a month of many blessings and a few hardships for this brother.

I and my family wish to THANK each of you for your thoughts and prayers while we grieved the death of my oldest Daughter.

Your kind words and thoughtful deeds did not go unnoticed.

Thank each of you for carrying on the labors of masonry.

We then all dealt with our grief with the passing of our Brother Robert Stark. We came together as Masons and paid final respects to our dear brother. Beth and family expressed gratitude and love for this final tribute.

Though we all dealt with this and other trials in our life's, It was still easy to see our GOD at work in us. Everyday I found GOD had blessed me, God was with me and gave strength and comfort. I was able to find positive in my life, and remember the good in my memories of Brother Stark and my daughter.

So through the darkness when we look up and accept guidance from our GOD we can find strength and love.

Let us continue the work in the quarry and spread the light of spiritual LOVE.

Let us walk upright in our several stations, and show what we as masons are. Love one another, support one another, and lift each other up. Look to the Grand architect for your guidance.

Our lodge is busy and there is room for each of you to assist with your talents.

We have new EAS needing to be taught, be a meal host for a stated meeting, in the next week we will be distributing the Fantastic teeth bags to our grade school children, that is great to see the smiles.

We are already in planning stages for EMS week, and Public education week. We are planning our Widows night or day. We are planning our JULY HOT NIGHTS COOL TUNES menu.

Come be a part of your lodge and spread the light.

I hope to see each of you soon, and Labor with you.

Michael Thorpe, WM

LODGE NEWS

Prayers for the Thorpe Family

Bro. Thorpe and family are mourning the passing of his daughter Anna Hansen on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Please keep them in your prayers during this time.



Memorial Service for Brother Robert S. Stark Thursday, November 4th, 2021

Memorial Services for our Brother Robert S. Stark were held at St. Mathews Lutheran church, at Sandy Hill.

8819 FM 2621 Brenham, Texas 77833



Masonic services were following, at Graham Lodge.

Master Mason Degree 11/11 @ Graham 7:00 PM

We have a brother who has turned in his FC work and is waiting patiently for his next degree. If you would like to assist in this please contact the lodge or Allan Wells and he will get you pointed in the right direction.



INTERVIEW WITH A BROTHER: DR. ROBERT S. STARK

WITH EDDY JEZISEK



Dr. Robert Stark was in many ways the outward face of Masonry to our community. He was a constant at almost every Masonic event and to the last man, we all have a story to tell about Robert. We are all feeling a deep loss at his sudden passing.

This interview which is a mix of his written responses and our conversations.

Can you tell us a little bit about who you are and where you are from?

My name is Robert S. Stark, D.O. I was born in Brenham but we lived in El Campo until I was in 4th Grade when Dad decided to move us back home. Graduated from Brenham High School then attended Blinn and later University of Texas.



I went to Med school in Ft. Worth and we moved back to Brenham where I have been an Osteopathic family physician ever since.

Was Masonry active around town when you were growing up?

Graham Lodge was here of course but I was not aware of activity? Shrine was more noticeable back then and my grandfather was a member. At the time that was no ask no tell, but was impressed with how he lived his life & figured the Lodge Masonic had something to do with it.

How did you petition?

I was at the Gun & Rod barbecue right after I turned 21 and I asked Dr. (Charles) Cottingham about joining. He had me petitioned and signed up before I left.

I joined in 79' and because of school, I took a little while to go through the degrees but finished up in 1980.

What positions have you held in lodge?

I am a has been (pretty much been everything at least once except Secretary.

Appendant bodies?

Shrine/Scottish Rite/York Rite

How has the culture of Graham changed over the years?

The lodge has been more active in the past with more member input.



Can you elaborate on some of the brothers that you admire most and what made them stand out to you?

Several brothers are memorable for what they have contributed to the lodge. Dr Cottingham served as Secretary & always had the answers to Masonic questions. Bob Ham, Lewis Heuvel, Carl Gambill, B.C. Crawford were all guys who kept this lodge moving in the right direction and giving more time than was expected. My biggest mentor other than my grandfather I guess would be Skip LeFevre. He pretty well taught me the 'Masonic ropes' & honed what little knowledge I might have had (lot of stories). Without him pushing/pulling me I might not have been as active in Masonry.

Are there any Masonic events that stood out to you over the years?

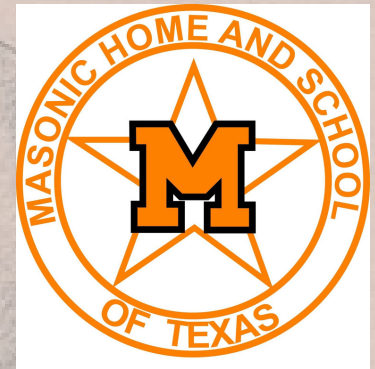
My son joining the Lodge, I am quite proud of him. In general, going to Grand Lodge was always the highlight of the year. Heading to Waco was general expectation for Bro Skip & was 3-4-day extravaganza. Wouldn't miss it for anything.



John Wayne

1907 - 1979

Travis Simpkins



What is the secret to a peaceful and harmonious lodge?

As it says during installation. Some are to serve others are to follow. Better to have more Indians than chiefs

In your opinion, what is the most powerful method to grow engagement and membership?

Positive thought/activities in the lodge and community. Peace & harmony in the lodge goes a long way as well

What would you like to see Graham accomplish in the future?

Continuation of civic projects Including student scholarships. Maintain and upgrade lodge property and cemetery as well.



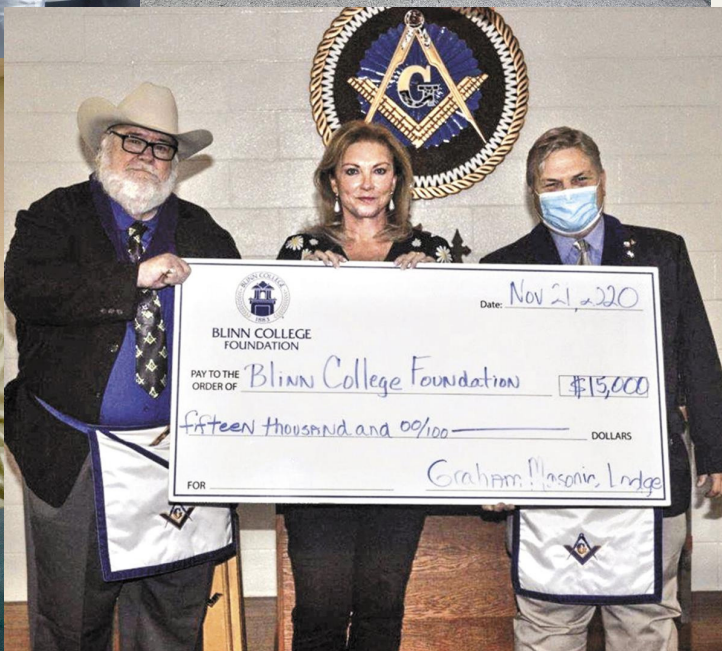
What has kept you active in Masonry?

As much as anything it was supporting the youth of the community I suppose. The Masonic Home & School had a program at GLOT each year. One of the first programs I attended had Brother Burl Ives singing & playing with the kids. It was a bit of a surprise and you could tell he wasn't doing it for recognition or anything like that. He was just purely there for the kids. Remarkable thing that was. It hasn't been quite the same since they closed the home & school but we still have programs for dental care/ dyslexia/burns/ orthopedic we can support. Knowing we're working together to better ourselves should be in the back of our minds. I am grateful for the friendships developed over the years across Texas I might never have known otherwise.

And we are grateful for you brother. Til' we meet again. 🧐

JOHN
WAYNE

MARTIN





DR. ROBERT STARK

JULY 25, 1956 - OCTOBER 31, 2021

PAST MASTER
GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20
HUBERT LODGE NO. 67

ENDOWED MEMBER
GRAHAM NO. 20
HUBERT NO. 67
LEE SCOTT NO. 793
TRANQUILITY LODGE NO. 2000

GOLDEN TROWEL 1997
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER 1995
DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER 4X
SCOTTISH RITE
YORK RITE
AAONMS



Memories of Brother Stark

Robert Stark was a true renaissance man. A polymath, his mind ran with such veracity that it is remarkable that he ever actually slept. Always learning, planning and preparing, he kept us on our toes as he thought out a hundred steps in the future. He was extraordinarily proud of his family, profession, lodge, city, and his schools. His mental thoroughness was only matched by his heart for the community, especially kids. As a young educator I heard stories of Dr. Stark going far beyond his vocational duty to help those in need and this is a common theme as you talk to people around the community. His kindness when no one was watching spread throughout. He lived Masonry.

When I first met at the lodge, I was sort of taken aback at his directness and matter of fact tone which we laughed about later. He said “Eddy, if you think I’m tough you should have met my Dad and Harry Lee. But as fast as you had him figured as gruff, he would ignore all of us to have a conversation with my three-year-old daughter. She still points out of the window at the lodge EVERY time we pass by on 290 saying “are we going to the Mason lodge to eat cupcakes with Dr. Stark?” He made sure that she was taken care of and had an endless supply of chocolate coins.

In some ways, I believed Robert longed for another time. He admired the past and revered the men who came before him. I think a lot of us have that in common. I often think on our conversations, which are making more and sense now as time goes by. I guess that I am just now catching up with what he was trying to tell me. Thanks for your kindness, vision, and for pushing us to be better. I will miss our talks very much.

-Brother Eddy Jezisek

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/8 Practice Night

**11/11 Master Mason Degree
7:00 PM**

11/15 Practice Night

11/22 Practice Night

11/29 Practice Night

**12/2 December Stated Meeting
Dinner at 6 - Lodge Opens at 7
Food Committee - Mike Thorpe/Ken Hetzel**

2021-2022 Officers



Master: Michael Thorpe



Sr. Warden: George Allan Wells



Jr. Warden: Ken Lane



Treasurer: Dan Blalock



Secretary: Kirby Simmons



Chaplain: Aaron Curlee



Sr. Deacon: Jerry Jackson



Jr. Deacon: Eddy Jezisek Jr.

Marshal: Dr. Robert S. Stark



Tyler: Keith Killgore

Master of Ceremony: Kenneth Hetzel

Senior Steward: Bill Grubbs

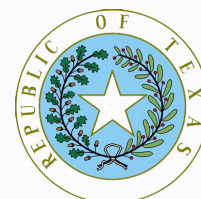
Junior Steward: Brad Tegeler



GRAHAM
LODGE
= NO. 20 =
EST. 1845
BRENHAM, TEXAS



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BRENHAM, TX 77834



www.grahamlodge20.com