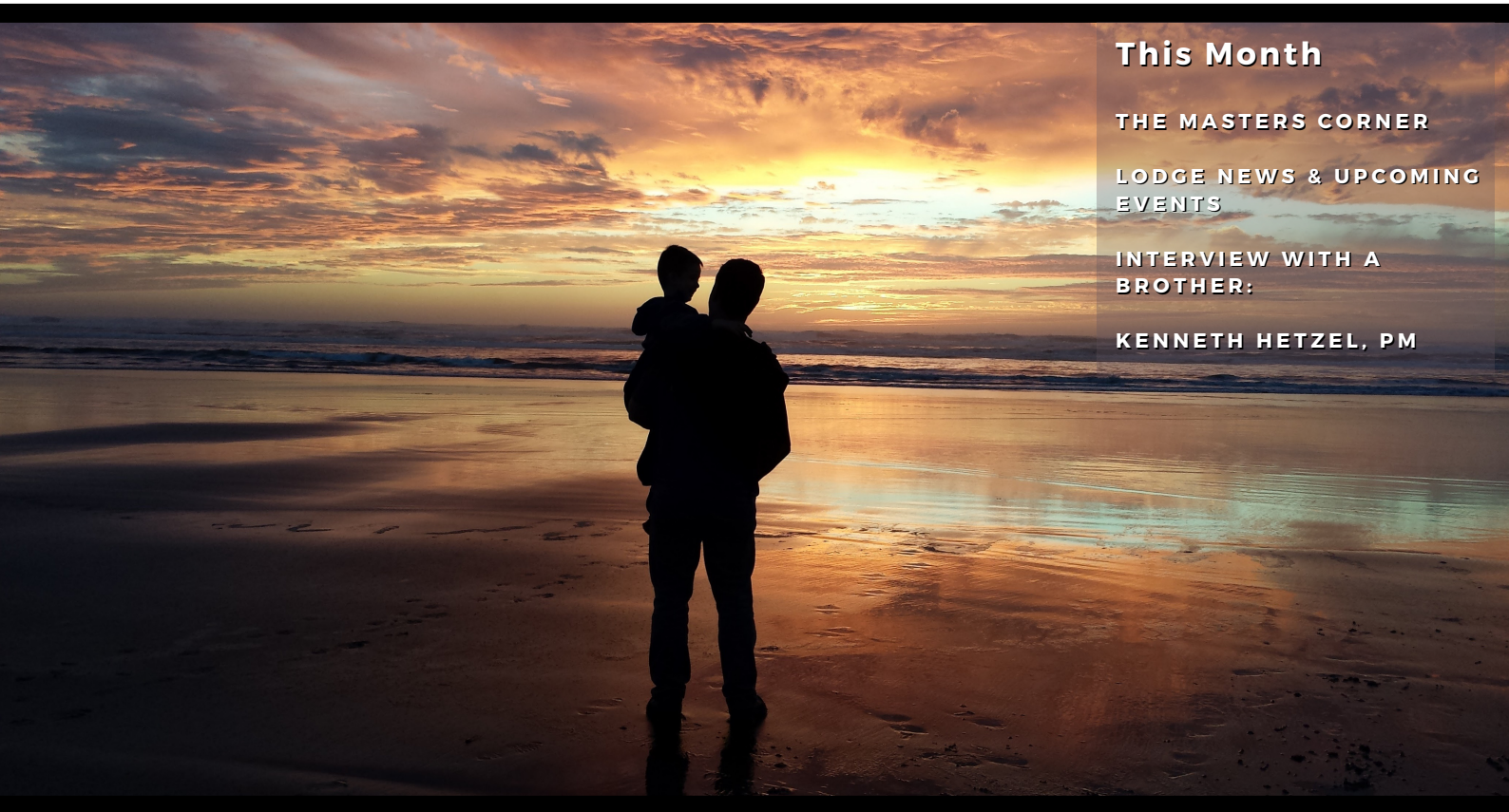




BRENHAM MASON

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



This Month

THE MASTERS CORNER

LODGE NEWS & UPCOMING
EVENTS

INTERVIEW WITH A
BROTHER:

KENNETH HETZEL, PM

THE MASONIC RING

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Those men who help my dad each day,
They wear those Mason rings.
A Square and Compass set in gold,
The praise of which I sing.

My dad, he hurt his back you know,
One cold and wintery day.
He slipped and fell upon the ice,
The insurance would not pay.

And since that time those rings I see,
On hands that help us much.
With mowing lawns and hauling trash,
Each day my heart they touch.

My Mom cried from happiness,
The time the Masons came.
To aid our family in distress,
Without a thought of gain.

And when I'm big, just like my dad,
Of this it must be told.
I want to wear a ring like his,
A Square and Compass gold.

Long years have passed since when
My dad was in that plaster cast.
And since I swore that Solemn Oath,
Which unites us to the last.

But more than that I'm proud to say,
I wear his Mason ring.
The one dad wore for many years,
Until his death this spring.

And one last time his comrades came,
To aid my weeping mother.
They praised and bid a fond farewell,
To our fallen Brother.

And after which MY son did ask,
About their Aprons white.
And of the rings upon their hands,
Of gold so shiny bright.

With tearful eyes I said with pride,
They're men of spirit pure.
Those men who wear those Mason rings,
Of that you can be sure.

And before he went to bed that night,
The family he foretold.
Someday I'll wear a ring like dad's,
A Square and Compass gold.



THE MASTER'S CORNER



MICHAEL THORPE, WM.



Brethren,

What a year we are having. January was busy, and history has taken place.

Graham Lodge # 20 Has had another Birthday and we are 177 years in continuous service to our brothers, our community. Brothers, I am very Proud of our Historic Lodge and each of you who have strived to be better. I look forward to that continued work in Masonry. Let us SHINE our LIGHT brightly.

I was able to Attend our Grand Lodge Communication, and it was HISTORIC. Before I explain this historic event, I must first tell of another proud part of my Grand Lodge attendance. Most of you know that Ms. Susan Myers was chosen by Grand Master Curry to receive the Humanitarian award.

On Friday afternoon at the Open session of Grand Lodge Grand Master awarded this high award to Ms. Myers. I was honored to stand on stage with her as this award was presented. She gave an inspirational talk to ALL THE BROTHERS attending, and received a standing ovation from THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS.

Also on Friday afternoon in the TILED session of Grand Lodge, the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS was introduced to the GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS. He along with his officers, were present in support of Resolution No. 25. The vote was almost unanimous to pass this. The result is each Lodge in Texas may now determine if they wish to allow the Prince Hall lodges to use their Lodges.

Brothers, it is a GREAT feeling to be a TEXAS Mason and I am proud of these historic Votes.

Back home we are planning our widow's banquet, to be at the Lodge On Feb 19th at noon. We are also planning the march school week, and EMS First responder's week.

We are beginning to get and settle on what we will be serving at the HOT night's cool tunes in July. PLEASE visit with brother Jezisek for your input on this fun and rewarding community project.

Lastly, this was the hardest decision I have had to make as Worshipful Master. I chose to cancel Lodge this month due to the weather, and concerns for our brother's safety.

I will tell you this was truly a difficult decision.

I Thank RW DDGM Newberry for his assistance in the Law and Brother Wells for his input, I appreciate each of you for understanding.

We will continue to Practice Monday evenings at 6 PM, and right now we are working on the EA degree. I am working diligently to be able to confer our next candidate.

Don't Forget that on Feb 13th we will have a family day at the lodge and will have the super bowl on. Games, food and fun for the whole family. Come join us.

GOD IT IS GOOD TO BE A TEXAS MASON.

LODGE NEWS

**** Family Night ****

Super Bowl Watch Party

Sunday February 13, 2022

Interested in Freemasonry? Brothers, Families, and Friends are welcome to come out for food and fellowship starting at 5:00 PM Super Bowl Sunday. Not interested in football? There will be plenty to do and plenty of food. Bring your favorite chili and fixings to enter a friendly competition to see who has the best of the night.



Official Visit - DDGM

Thursday March 3rd, 2022

Right Worshipful Carlton Newberry, District Deputy Grand Master, will make his first official visit to the lodge at our February 3rd Stated Meeting. If within your CT, come out and honor our friend and brother.



LODGE NEWS

**Grand Lodge of Texas: 186th
Grand Annual Communication
January 20, 2022 - January 22,
2022 @**

**Grand Lodge of Texas, 715
Columbus Ave, Waco, TX 76701,
USA**

Susan Meyers, one of District 44's closest partners in regard to charitable endeavors, received the W. B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award from Grand Master Ken Curry. The Carrell Award is the highest award available to Non-Masons. She gave a stellar acceptance speech and we are grateful for our working relationship now and continuing on in the future.



**DONNIE BARRONE, WARREN LODGE NO 56 AF & AM
LLOYD LESIKAR, WARREN LODGE NO. 56
SUSAN MEYERS
MW KENNETH CURRY, GM**



**LLOYD LESIKAR, WARREN LODGE NO. 56 MICHAEL THORPE, GRAHAM LODGE
NO. 20 SUSAN MEYERS DONNIE BARRONE, WARREN LODGE NO 56 AF & AM MW
KENNETH CURRY, GM**

MONDAY NIGHT PRACTICE

Graham Lodge No. 20

****Degree Team****

Science • Health • Wellness

The Brothers diligently at work. Sort of.



CLIFFORD BRISBIN, MIKE THORPE, KENNETH HETZEL



BORIS DAVIS, ALLAN WELLS, NICK NELMS

Bro. Kenneth Hetzel

Wisdom, Strength, and Humility.

with Eddy Jezisek



Brother Hetzel is great to sit and visit with. A listener and storyteller, Kenneth is able to impart wisdom with ease. His ancestors were early settlers in the area resulting in him knowing pretty much everyone. He knows everybody and I mean everybody. His impact as a good man stretches far and wide.

As a mentor and friend, Bro. Hetzel is a favorite. This is probably because in the real cowboy way, if he comments on an issue you know time and due thought has been put into it.

Whether it be greeting at church, preparing candidates, filling in chairs, working fundraisers, or talking to brothers that need to hear a friendly voice, you are much appreciated. Thank you Brother.

Kenneth Hetzel.
Past Master (1995) Graham Lodge No. 20
Scottish Rite 32°
Shriners International
Brenham's First Baptist Church

Where are you originally from? Where did you grow up?

I'm originally from here in Brenham, I was actually born at the Milroy Hospital here in town.

What do you do for a living?

I do some ranching and I am retired from LaRoche. After I graduated high school I went to school in Waco and learned a trade then worked as a Mechanic for 45 years.



Were the Masons visible in the public when you were a young kid?

You know, I don't think so. I don't recall seeing a lot of masonic events going on. Actually my first interaction with masonry was probably at a masonic funeral. Daddies' cousin was a banker in Fayetteville, and he passed away kind of young and they requested a Masonic Funeral, that was my first connection to Masonry. It was a moving service.

What made you want to become a Mason?

After working in Brenham I met some good guys who happened to be Masons. Robert Klingsporn was one of those. I also had neighbor who I met through the cattle business and he was a Mason, they set the spark there. No clue what I was getting into.

What is your home lodge?

Here at Graham, I came up around 1987.

What positions have you served in Lodge?

Steward to start with both Deacons, both Wardens, the East and afterward Master of Ceremonies. My year in the East came somewhat unexpectedly. We had another brother lined up but he was not able due to other work obligations. The lodge came and talked me into it. It just so happened to be the 150th anniversary year in 1995. Every brother stepped up and we had a great year. Robert Stark, Chris Dalrymple, Mike Thorpe, too many to list, the guys carried a lot of weight.

Are you a member of the Appendant bodies?

Yes, Scottish Rite, and the Shrine.

What was the culture of Graham Lodge like over the years?

Mostly good, we have had our ups and down, but for the most part it was very very good. Especially after tough times, our brotherhood comes together to help each other. When we had fundraisers we had the support of everybody.

I have heard that we had some tough financial challenges to overcome back then.

Yes, there was some of that, we passed the hat to pay the bills sometimes. You know, we always seemed to get it done. Sometimes we didn't have the money to fix the lights, more or less scholarships and other things. We did not have excess money it was a tight budget.



Kenneth Hetzel , Robert Stark, and Butch Giles, 2021



Kenneth Hetzel , Clifford Brisbin, Blinn Cornerstone, 2021



Kenneth Hetzel & Allan Wells
2021 HNCT

Can you elaborate on a few Brothers that you admire most and what makes them stand out to you?

We are all Brothers, but who stood out for me was Lewis Heuvel and Carl Gambill. They worked together at Sun Oil and if something needed done they were on it. They mowed the yard, of the lodge needed cleaning they did it. They lived Masonry. Louis did all the teaching at that time and I can't overstate that enough. Cant even begin to name the guys that stepped up through the years.





Lewis Heuvel 33°



Carl Gambill



Kenneth Hetzel, 1995



Eddy Jezisek, Kenneth Hetzel, Jack Brannen, Blinn Cornerstone, 2021

Are there any Masonic events that were especially memorable to you?

The people that I went to Scottish rite with that was a special bond there.

What is the secret to a peaceful and harmonious lodge?

Cannot have popularity contests or side fighting. Remember your obligations.

What is the most powerful method to grow engagement and membership?

If you get the young ones started well, their friends notice and some of them show interest. But they have to see someone doing it right. Representing Masonry well.

What would you like for us to accomplish in the future?

I like to see young members, someone to pick it up. But we need members coming for the right reasons.

What has the lodge meant to you over the years?

It has been a place of security and understanding from a brother. Always someone to talk to and confide in. Very rewarding to help when and where I can.

Brothers Under Duress



Masonic Persecution in Wartime Germany

with Eddy Jezisek

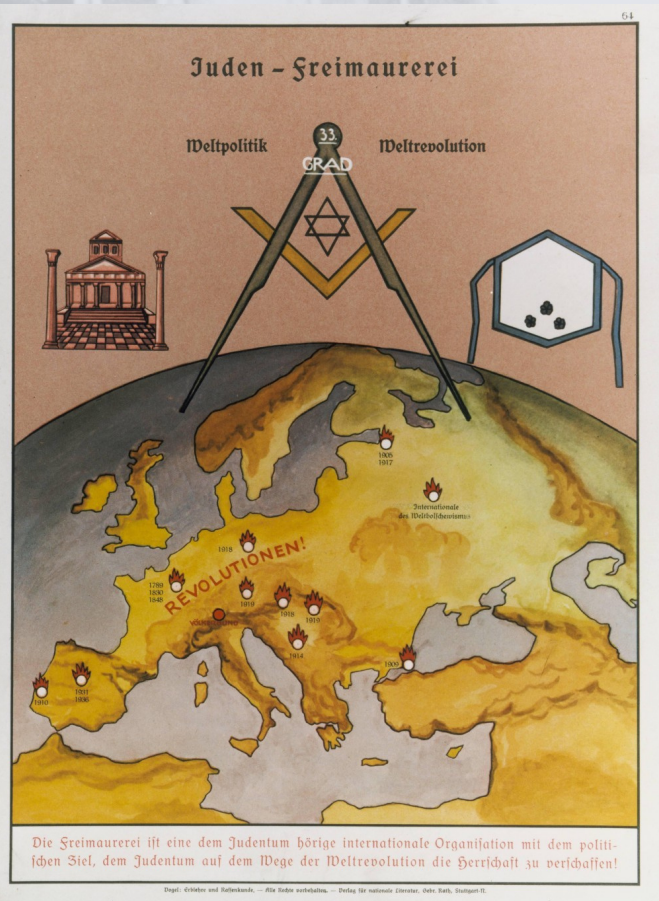
The events leading up to and beyond World War II are perhaps the most scrutinized time in history. The worst and best parts of mankind were on full display throughout. European Masons were not exempt from the terror ravaging their territories. In spite of regulations concerning political dealings in lodge, our brothers especially in the German occupied territories were publicly demonized to the level of open persecution, even summarily killed and imprisoned as political prisoners. According to first hand accounts, everywhere the Nazi's invaded, Masons were rounded up and persecuted. (Hodapp , 2013, p. 99)

Origins of Anti-Masonic Hatred

A popular slogan of Nazis was "All Masons Jews - All Jews Masons." (p. 136) Little did the Nazi party know that we are accepting of ALL good men with certain characteristics that have nothing to do with race, obviously there are Masons from all over the globe. But the regime was not known for its search for the truth but rather a political machine, bent upon spinning lies to benefit whatever agenda the party was trying to pursue.



"Under the Nazi regime, Freemasonry was banned and its members hunted down. They were beaten, imprisoned and sometimes killed. Masonic temples were sacked and destroyed – the temple in Jersey being a prime example. Propaganda against Freemasons and its alleged connection with Judaism was rife." (Lomax, 2013)



In post-World War I Europe, the losing side, especially Germany was suffering from horrible economic conditions. Some were a result of severe war reparations while others were caused by mismanagement of government resources and corruption. The politicians in Germany needed someone to blame and they chose first and most severely the Jews, then later other sub-populations. Many Germans were also fostering a primal hatred for the democratic ideals that belonged to the countries who had defeated them.

The conditions for Masonic persecution were endemic as Masonry, while not a religion or a substitute for one, have elements that ruffled the Nazi regime.

Masons were thought to be pro-enlightenment, supporters of education and free-thinking ideals. Therefore, despite being unequivocally false in his accusations of a grand conspiracy, Adolf Hitler in his socialistic rant Mein Kampf, lumped Freemasonry into the so called 'intelligentsia' and the 'bourgeoisie' press which he stated "today is always Jewish". (p. 150)

"Hitler also saw a dangerous connection in the fact that Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and a majority of the French cabinet were all Freemasons." (p. 150) He even accused Masonry of being an "excellent instrument" and "completely under the Jews spell" (Gorley, 2015)

The Purge Advances

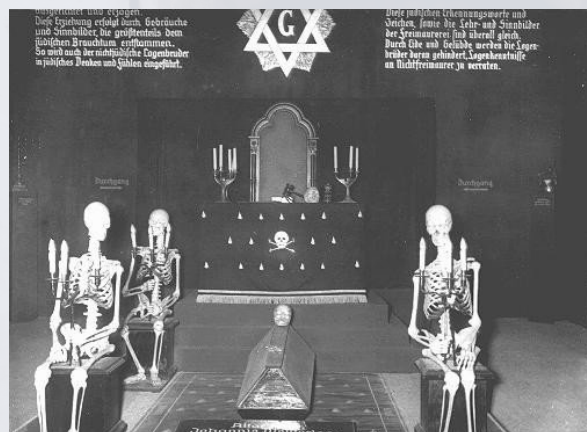
January 30, 1933 Adolf Hitler, a failed artist, via corruption was appointed German Chancellor. Hitler had never achieved enough democratic votes to hold office but through physical violence and political maneuvering was able to wrest control of a country willing to do almost anything to end their own suffering.

Brother Gorley's research states that by April 7th of 1933, the ex-pilot turned Minister of the Interior Hermann Goring had forcibly met with the Grand Master of Masons in Germany and declared that Masonry in its regular form was henceforth disbanded and if the organization were to survive, they would be required to alter themselves into a pseudo-germanic ritual cult. I will not dive further here as Gorley goes into much greater detail on this subject and his article is fascinating and well worth the read. Find it at: <http://www.thelaudablepursuit.com/articles/2015/2/6/freemasonry-and-the-holocaust>.

In two years, every Masonic Lodge and appendant body in Germany was shuttered. All Masonic assets were seized by the state. All buildings were vandalized, records stolen or destroyed, and Masons declared "hostile to the state." (Gorley, 2015) German officers were barred from membership in Freemasonry. No new members were to be initiated and those already in the service of the military were to renounce their membership and were sidelined.

The Propaganda

German Freemasonry being publicly obliterated did not stop Goebbels and his political machine from expanding the demonization and tying the craft to a phantom Jewish conspiracy. There are preserved examples of this material and unfortunately it was effective. Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the Security Police, (who would later be killed in Czechoslovakia) created a special section to deal with Freemasonry. (Gorley, 2015) The Nazis were now seizing more assets and pursuing Freemasons who by 1939 were full-on enemies of the state. Captured Freemasons were now subject to little or no civil rights protection.



The Camps

Now openly arrested and sent to concentration camps, incarcerated Masons were forced to wear the inverted red triangle of political prisoners. Even so, our brothers persevered and are documented to have formed lodges even within the camps one of which know as “Lodge Liberte Cherie” (Beloved Liberty Lodge). Started by seven Belgian brothers in Esterwegen Concentration Camp. It is said that they befriended a Catholic Priest who stood watch enabling them to have their meeting in privacy. (Gorley, 2015)



Kennzeichen für Schutzhäftlinge in den Konz. Lagern
Form und Farbe der Kennzeichen

	Politisch	Berufs-Verbrecher	Emigrant	Bibel-sorcher	Homo-sezuell	Asozial
Grund-farben	Red inverted triangle	Black inverted triangle	Dark blue inverted triangle	Black inverted triangle	Red inverted triangle	Black inverted triangle
Abzeichen für Rückfällige	Red inverted triangle with horizontal lines	Black inverted triangle with horizontal lines	Dark blue inverted triangle with horizontal lines	Black inverted triangle with horizontal lines	Red inverted triangle with horizontal lines	Black inverted triangle with horizontal lines
Häftlinge der Straf-kompanie	Red inverted triangle with a white circle	Black inverted triangle with a white circle	Dark blue inverted triangle with a white circle	Black inverted triangle with a white circle	Red inverted triangle with a white circle	Black inverted triangle with a white circle
Abzeichen für Juden	Red Star of David	Black Star of David	Dark blue Star of David	Black Star of David	Red Star of David	Black Star of David
Besondere Abzeichen	Jüd. Rasse-schänder	Rasse-schänderin	Flucht-verdächtig	Häftlings-lummer	Beispiel: A striped uniform with a red inverted triangle and the number 2307.	
	Pole	Tscheche	Wehrmacht Angehöriger	Häftling Ia	A striped uniform with a red inverted triangle and the number 2307.	

Forget-Me Not

Tradition has it that the Forget-Me-Not flower was used as a masonic emblem during the war. (Osman, 2012)



The Total Number

While it is impossible to say exactly how many Freemasons were murdered by the Nazis during WWII, but estimates are in the **80,000-200,000 range**. (Hodapp , 2013, p. 150)

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- Lomax, F. (2013). Fred's Five Minute Talks. Addlestone, Surrey: Lewis Masonic.
- Osman, A. T. (2012, January 9). Square of Virtue . Retrieved February 3, 2022, from www.squareofvirtue.wordpress.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2/3 February Stated Meeting
(Cancelled due to Weather)**

6:00 Dinner

7:00 For Masons



**2/5 Mark S. Herzog Reunion 414 (Day 2)
at Houston Scottish Rite**



**2/7 Practice Night @6:00
Called Meeting FC Exam**

**2/12 Mark S. Herzog Reunion 414 (Day 3)
at Houston Scottish Rite**

**2/13 Super Bowl Sunday
Family Night at the Lodge + Chili Comp.**

2/14 Practice Night @6:00

**2/19 12:00 Noon
Widows Honor & Luncheon
at Graham Lodge Dining Hall**



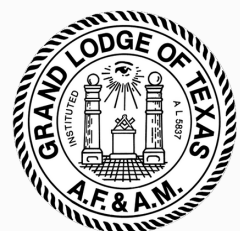
2/28 Practice Night @6:00

**** Official Visit - R.W. Carlton Newberry, DDGM ****

3/3 February Stated Meeting

6:00 Dinner

7:00 For Masons



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

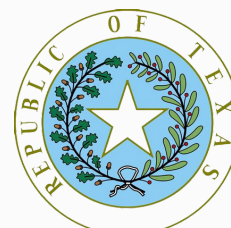
Master of Ceremony: Kenneth Hetzel

Senior Steward: Bill Grubbs

Junior Steward: Brad Tegeler



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BRENHAM, TX 77834



www.grahamlodge20.com