

June 10, 2010

Councilman Pat Minor,

Thank you for your interest in getting stones leveled by the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas, placed at city owned buildings.

Enclosed is information:

Photo of Plano Masonic Lodge #768 located 1414 Ave. J.  
Grand Lodge Corner Stone Ceremony

By Wendell A. Clark

Photo of Corner Stone at Raymond Robinson Justice Center  
Example of a Corner stone furnished by Grand Lodge of Texas  
History of the Plano Masonic Lodge #768

If you require additional information, please contact me and I will get it for you.

If you need a letter from the Plano Masonic Lodge #768, let me know and I will get it for you.

We are talking with the Plano Independent School District about leveling a corner stone at the new Mendenhall Elementary School on 18<sup>th</sup> Street and also at the new high school being constructed in Murphy.

There are two other corner stones that have been leveled by the local Masonic Lodge, one at T. H. Williams High School, in 1961 and was named Plano High School at that time and First Christian Church on 15<sup>th</sup> St.

I hope the enclosed information will assist you in your obtaining permission from the City Of Plano to level corner stones at various upcoming city properties.

Charles Merritt  
1700 15<sup>th</sup> Place  
Plano, Texas 75074  
(972)424-4745  
cam19x9m@verizon.net



## CHECKLIST FOR CORNERSTONE LEVELINGS

When requesting a Cornerstone Leveling, please provide the name of the Host Lodge, the Date of the Leveling (*preferably on a weekday*), the Time the Lodge will open and the Time of the Leveling, and the Name of the school or the facility. *Please allow at least three weeks notice for the leveling.*

The Grand Master or his designated Representative will open a representation of the Grand Lodge prior to the Cornerstone ceremony. Therefore, with the exception of the Grand East, *the Host Lodge needs to be ready to provide brethren to fill all the Grand Lodge stations and places* in the opening and the closing of the Representation, as well as for the Cornerstone ceremony. All Brethren must be *Texas Past Masters or sitting Masters* except for the Grand Chaplain, Grand Organist and Grand Photographer. (See Article IV, Sections 1 and 6 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.)

The Cornerstone can be any size; however, *the wording on the stone MUST be as indicated* on the enclosed example. Let the contractor know the size of the stone so it can be installed after the ceremony. The Lodge will be provided with the Form to be used by the Grand Secretary (Pro-Tem) for the ceremony. After the ceremony, please send two (2) copies of the completed Form to the Grand Masters' Waco Office, *P.O. Box 446, Waco, TX 76703* and retain a copy for your Lodge file.

Please ensure that you have available the working tools, the *Trowel, Square, Level and Plumb, as well as Corn, Wine and Oil* for the ceremony, and a suitable "Time-Capsule" container for the Grand Treasurer to deposit the memorabilia, i.e., coins, newspaper articles, etc.

Also, suggest that you contact your District Instructor and arrange for a couple of practices of the opening and closing of the Representation of the Grand Lodge, as well as the Cornerstone ceremony itself. (See pages 142 – 146 of the Monitor of the Lodge.)

SPECIAL NOTE FOR THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER: If the Cornerstone leveling is for a *PUBLIC SCHOOL*, the Worshipful Master must *personally* contact the school principal to discuss the ceremony and to *ascertain if it is permissible for the Grand Chaplain to open and conclude the ceremony with a prayer.*

# GRAND LODGE REPRESENTATION

The following participated in the opening of a representation of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas:

DATE	TIME	LODGE	LOCATION
For the purpose of: CORNERSTONE LEVELING <input type="checkbox"/> DEDICATION <input type="checkbox"/> FUNERAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____			

OFFICE	OFFICER	PROTEM
<b>M. W.: GRAND MASTER:</b>	<b>Orville Lee O'Neill</b>	
<b>R. W.: DEPUTY GRAND MASTER:</b>	<b>T. E. "Gene" Carnes</b>	
<b>R. W.: GRAND SENIOR WARDEN:</b>	<b>James F. Brumit, Jr.</b>	
<b>R. W.: GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN:</b>	<b>Walter W. Rogers</b>	
<b>R. W.: GRAND TREASURER:</b>	<b>Archie Scott</b>	
<b>R. W.: GRAND SECRETARY:</b>	<b>Tommy D. Guest</b>	
<b>R. W.: GRAND CHAPLAIN:</b>	<b>Ted Dwight Hennis</b>	
<b>R. W.: GRAND ORATOR:</b>	<b>Francis Edwin Smith, Jr.</b>	
<b>R. W.: GRAND MARSHAL:</b>	<b>Ronald Dean Park</b>	
<b>W.: GRAND SENIOR DEACON:</b>	<b>James Roy Elliott</b>	
<b>W.: GRAND JUNIOR DEACON:</b>	<b>Robert Lance Clemmons</b>	
<b>W.: GRAND SENIOR STEWARD:</b>	<b>Charles A Murchison</b>	
<b>W.: GRAND JUNIOR STEWARD:</b>	<b>Wendell Paul Miller</b>	
<b>W.: GRAND ORGANIST:</b>	<b>James Walter Holloway</b>	
<b>W.: GRAND PURSUIVANT:</b>	<b>William J. Hale</b>	
<b>W.: GRAND PHOTOGRAPHER:</b>	<b>Billy Don Comedy</b>	
<b>W.: GRAND TILER:</b>	<b>Mitchell Ray Jones</b>	

**IF FUNERAL:** Include date of death, place of service and place of interment. You may use this form when forwarding two (2) copies of the minutes to my Waco office, P. O. Box 446, Waco, TX 76703.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Grand Lodge Corner Stone Ceremony

By *Wendell A Clark*  
Created 8:52 pm

## **WHY DO WE LEVEL CORNERSTONES? WHAT DO THE CEREMONIES MEAN?**

### **CORNERSTONES: MESOPOTAMIA AND ASSYRIA**

As old as civilization itself is the art of erecting a building. The cornerstone of the building is the stone that lies at the corner of two walls and forms the corner of the foundation of an edifice. Upon it the alignment of the entire structure will rest. History records, from ancient times, great ceremony involving the cornerstone before construction began on the architect's design. Records of the observance are found etched on clay tablets left by peoples of the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia and Assyria. It was a ceremony marking a moment in time. Even today, when schools, churches or local government buildings are scheduled for construction there are moments along the way to completion that are especially memorable. One of the most beautiful and meaningful of those moments is when the fraternity of Freemasons conducts a rite similar to those recorded in history. The ceremony of symbolically leveling a cornerstone. It is performed with solemn ceremonies giving dignity to the occasion.

### **MASONS HAVE PERFORMED CORNERSTONE CEREMONIES THROUGHOUT THE AGES**

The earliest record of an official Masonic ceremony, for a public building, was the laying of the Foundation Stone of the New Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Scotland on August 2, 1738. There are other records of Masonic Lodges in Ireland placing cornerstones dating from the 1500s and records in England from the late 1600s. And the list of Masonic ties to laying of cornerstones goes on and on. On September 18, 1793, President George Washington officiated at the laying of the cornerstone for the United States Capitol building. It was a major event in the creation and development of the federal city, a project very dear to the heart of George Washington. The Masonic Fraternity refers to it as one of the most memorable days in the life of George Washington, in the life of Freemasonry, and of the United States. According to the newspaper account of the day "Washington, dressed in Masonic regalia, lead a procession of officers and brethren of the Masonic Fraternity from Maryland and Virginia to the site in the District of Columbia. Upon arrival, the music and drums stopped, the flags were anchored, and the artillery fired a

volley. A large silver plate was handed to President Washington. Using a small trowel with silver blade and ivory handle, Washington deposited the plate and laid it on the cornerstone." The newspaper account specifically mentions that corn, wine, and oil were placed on the cornerstone after it was set in place...an event commemorated 200 years later in 1993 by U.S. Senator and Mason, Strom Thurmond (R-SC), along with many fellow Masons who honored the laying of the original cornerstone. The apron and sash worn by George Washington together with the trowel he used are today preserved in the Alexandria-Washington Masonic Lodge.

## **CORNERSTONES TODAY**

Cornerstones lie at the corner of two walls of a building in which certain historic documents are placed and on which historic inscriptions are engraved. The cornerstone is usually a polished stone, found near the foundation, but not a part of the foundation, and high enough from ground level to be easily read. A cornerstone generally has carved upon it such things as the name of the owner, purpose of the structure, date of the building's erection and sometimes other facts. Such a stone is frequently made hollow and, at the time it is placed, filled with various printed articles current at the time and other objects reflecting the era or time in history. Time capsules are frequently placed in building cornerstones but sometimes buried separately. Although terms are often used interchangeably, there are actually three major classifications of such stones.

**CORNER STONES** are the first stones placed at ground level. Generally, the first stone is placed in the northeast corner, from which the building traditionally commences. They are part of the structure, and therefore, are placed before or as the building is built.

**COMMEMORATIVE or DEDICATORY STONES** are the stones most commonly placed by the Masonic fraternity today. They are not part of the structure of the building, but fit into a space left in the stone or brickwork. They usually seal a cavity in which a "time capsule" type deposit is made. Generally, the placement of such a stone is the last act in the building and serves as a dedication of the building and a signal of its completion.

**FOUNDATION STONES** are the first stones placed as part of the foundation of a building. These stones are below the level of the ground.

## **WHY MASONRY IS INVOLVED IN THE PLACEMENT OF CORNERSTONES**

The medieval stone masons organizations; builders of the glorious cathedrals across Europe are, in fact, forerunners of modern speculative Masonry. References to cornerstones are found in various places in the Holy Bible in both the Old and New Testaments that indicate the antiquity of the cornerstone and its uses. Because Freemasonry is non-sectarian and because Freemasonry is heir to the historical tradition of building, it is the appropriate organization to dedicate or symbolically level the cornerstone of a public or religious edifice. For this purpose Freemasonry provides a special ritual to govern the proper performance of that duty. Among the ancients, cornerstones were laid with impressive ceremonies. The Masonic cornerstone ceremony, like most customs, has evolved over years of use. The symbolism of the cornerstone, when duly laid with Masonic Rites is full of significance, which refers to its form, to its situation, to its permanence and to its consecration. As to its form, the cornerstone must be perfectly square on its surfaces. To Masons, the square is a symbol of morality and truth. In the situation, the cornerstone will symbolically lie between the north, which Masons consider a place of darkness and the east, which Masons consider a place of light. Hence the northeast position of the cornerstone symbolizes the Masonic progress from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge. To permanence, the stone, when deposited in its appropriate place, is carefully examined with the necessary implements of operative Masonry which include the square, the level, and the plumb, themselves all symbolic in meaning. The cornerstone is then declared to be "well formed, true and trusty." Lastly, the elements of Masonic consecration are produced and the stone is solemnly set apart by pouring corn, wine, and oil upon its surface, emblematical of the nourishment, refreshment and joy which are to be the rewards of a faithful performance of duty.

## **LEVELING OF CORNERSTONES A GREAT HONOR FOR TEXAS MASONS**

Masons of the Grand Lodge of Texas are proud to continue the long time tradition of leveling cornerstones. In 1994, the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas leveled the cornerstone on the extension to the Texas State Capitol building in Austin. It was a beautiful ceremony and brought to mind the 1885 ceremony when Texas Masons leveled the cornerstone to the main state capitol building. Throughout Texas history, Masons have leveled cornerstones of schools, churches, local government buildings and public buildings. It is considered a great honor by Mason's to perform this service in their communities. The Grand Lodge of Texas receives numerous requests to officiate in the Consecration, Dedication, or laying of a cornerstone. Before requests can be considered there are certain guidelines which have come to define the role of Freemasonry in such ceremonies. For example, the building must be a public building such as a police station or school...or of sacred character such as a church. Another guideline is that buildings proposed for the laying of cornerstones must be constructed of brick, stone or concrete. Of course, veneer of such material on steel or concrete

supporting frame will qualify. The cornerstone should be an actual stone, cubical in form, upon the face of which should be carved the words "Leveled (or Laid) by the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M., "with the Masonic emblem and the year carved thereon. The other face of the stone may bear such inscription as may be necessary to describe the name of the institution erecting the building, its board of trustees, or other offices but NOT the name of the architect, engineer, contractors, or builder, as such, should be shown on the stone. It is the Grand Master who has final determination whether a cornerstone shall be laid with Masonic ceremonies.

## **FREEMASONS: WHO ARE THEY?**

Freemasonry is the oldest, and by far, the largest fraternal order in the world. Its Lodges stretch around the globe. It might well be said that the sun never sets upon the Masonic Lodge. In North America alone there are more than 2-million Freemasons. These men represent virtually every occupation and profession, yet within the fraternity, all meet as equals. Masons come from various religious beliefs and creeds, yet all believe in one God. Perhaps one of the most fascinating aspects of Freemasonry is that so many men, from so many different walks of life, meet and conduct their affairs in harmony and friendship and call each other "brother." The Masonic experience encourages members to become better men, better husbands, better fathers, and better citizens in the community. It endeavors to impress upon the minds of those who come into it virtues recognized as prerequisites for a better life. Its teachings include morality, brotherhood, justice, tolerance, citizenship, education, freedom of ideas and religious choice. Freemasonry came to America from England in the 1730's when Lodges were established in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Massachusetts, South Carolina and Georgia. American Freemasons take pride in members of the fraternity who played a part in the history of our country. Many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons and the same statement is true of those who signed the Constitution of the United States. Famous men such as George Washington, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, Lafayette, James Monroe and many others whose names awaken memories of the founding of our country. Since our country's beginning thirteen of its Presidents have been Masons. In Texas, Brother Stephen F. Austin, the father of Texas, was a Mason and considered membership in the Fraternity as an attribute for selecting the original settlers of the Texas frontier. The revolution against Mexico was lead by Brother Sam Houston, who presided over the formation of the Grand Lodge of Texas. It was he who installed Brother Anson Jones as the first Grand Master of Masons in Texas. Upon the creation of the Republic of Texas, all five presidents and vice presidents were Texas Masons. Another point of interest is the free public school system in Texas, the father of which is Mirabeau B. Lamar, a Mason. Masons have also won laurels in other fields of endeavor and we find them prominent in government, in science, in sports and entertainment: Ty Cobb, John Wayne, Al Jolson, Military General's Jimmy Doolittle and Douglas MacArthur, J. Edgar Hoover, Norman Vincent Peale, Red Skelton, Roy Clark, Will Rogers, Harry Houdini, Davy Crockett, Arthur Godfrey, Buffalo Bill Cody, Henry Ford...etc. And in man's newest field, that of space exploration with Wally Schirra, Gordon Cooper, Virgil Grissom and "Buzz" Aldrin -- all bound by the tie of Freemasonry.

## ABOUT FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry is ancient, having existed in some form for so long that many serious students have differed as to the exact time and place of its origin. Masonry is not a secret society. Its Lodges are openly marked and almost everyone in the community knows where they are located. The Grand Lodge of Texas publishes a list of members of every Lodge in the state. Many Lodges have individual bulletins with the names of the officers and of members. Masonry does have private information among its members but the fraternity does not conceal its principals or aims. In fact, the most well known of Masonic symbols, the square and compasses, are proudly worn by members everywhere. The square and compasses are examples of tools and implements of ancient architectural craftsmen. During the Middle Ages operative Masons constructed the beautiful cathedrals, castles and other stately structures in Europe, England, Scotland and Ireland. We call them operative Masons. It was during this period that the word "Free" was prefixed to the word "Mason," because these builders were one of the very few classes of persons allowed to travel from country to country as builders. These men differed from other working craftsmen because they, possessing knowledge in the art of geometry and building, were free men rather than bonded servants. These groups of operative Masons were much like labor unions in which apprentices were taught the secrets of geometry, architecture and the Mason's art of building. They then advanced to the various ranks of the fraternity. Until about the Sixteenth Century Masons were strictly an operative craft, bound together by the close ties found in the constructive craft guilds of the day. Early in the Seventeenth Century, the meeting places of these groups of men became known as lodges. In addition, men of prominence were admitted, not as craftsmen, for they were not skilled in the builders art, but rather as patrons. Gradually these men came to be known as "accepted" Masons. Thus, by the time the Seventeenth Century came to its end the accepted or speculative Masons were predominant in many of the older Lodges of Freemasons. Today Masonic Lodge is termed speculative because its emphasis is on the moral philosophy that is its foundation, rather than the operative art of the Sixteenth and earlier centuries. The tools of the operative stonemason are used by speculative Masons today to symbolize moral virtues. Freemasonry is religious in character, but it is not a religion. It offers no salvation and it doesn't tell men what to believe. Rather, Freemasonry attracts men who already adhere to religious beliefs and the moral conduct their beliefs require. But there's a much greater presence in modern Masonry...the presence of antiquity. In Masonry there are many emblems, symbols and allegories of the ancient Temples of Initiation. It has persuaded the most learned among Masonic scholars to conclude that Masonry is of very ancient origin, and is, in some aspects, the modern successor of the sublime mysteries of the Temple of Solomon and of the Temples of India, Chaldea, Egypt, Greece, and Rome... as well as containing basic doctrines of the Essenes, Gnostics and other ancient mystic Orders. As a result, there are many organizations within the Masonic fraternity. The Scottish Rite, the York Rite, the Shrine, the Grotto, Royal Arch and Cryptic Masonry. But no matter where a man fits in the body of Freemasonry, he can only have entered through the local Masonic lodge. And not until a man has completed his work in the local lodge and becomes a Master Mason can he join any of the other aspects of the fraternity. You could say these Masonic organizations

represent the hub of a Masonic wheel. A wheel with spokes extending to the entire family. Eastern Star, Job's Daughter's, Rainbow Girls and DeMolay for boys add to the total wheel of the Masonic body.

## **FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY**

Beyond the focus on individual development and growth, members of the Masonic fraternity are deeply involved in assisting worthwhile community projects and helping people. Freemasons across our land contribute more than 2-million dollars each and everyday to charitable causes including widows, orphans and disadvantaged children.

The Grand Lodge of Texas operates the Masonic Home and School in Fort Worth that provides orphaned or deprived children a wholesome home environment and education.

Royal Arch and Cryptic Masonry support the Texas Masonic Retirement Center in Arlington. Widows of Mason's who live at the home are supported by the Grand Lodge of Texas.

The York Rite Knights Templar Eye Foundation provides surgical care to the eyes and in many cases, sight to the blind...without charge.

The world famous Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas is another representation of the deep commitment to brotherly love and relief, which are held as principal tenets of Freemasonry. This world class Hospital provides surgery, prosthetics and Dyslexia learning therapy to thousands of children, of all religions and races, entirely free of charge. In fact, it was the staff of the Scottish Rite Hospital who established the original clinical definition of Dyslexia and who now provide training for professional educators in the treatment of this condition in Texas schools.

Other world famous Masonic facilities in Texas are the Shriners Hospital and Burn Center in Galveston and the Shriners Hospital in Houston. Nationally, there are 19 orthopedic and 3 burn hospitals that not only provide extensive care to burn victims but also conduct ongoing research into new treatments...all with no charge made to patients. These unique medical centers, supported in part by the Shrine Circus, have made the Shrine the most visible aspect of American Masonry.

In San Antonio, the Scottish Rite Learning Center of South Texas assists Children with dyslexia to succeed in the educational environment.

The Grotto sponsors a broad program of dentistry for handicapped children and supports cerebral palsy research.

The Eastern Star is not like the York Rite, Scottish Rite or the Shrine. It is made up of men and women with a Masonic connection. Men who join must be Master Masons while women who join must be the wife, mother, sister, daughter or granddaughter of a Master Mason. With a total membership of some 2-million, the Eastern Star is easily the largest coed fraternal society in the world. The Eastern Star maintains a home for elderly members and provides educational assistance for young people.

The Order of DeMolay is for young men ages 13 to 21. It shares many of Masonry's precepts, teaching dedication to God, to home and country. DeMolay helps mold young men into responsible citizens.

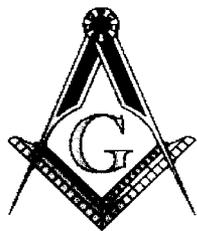
The Order of Rainbow is for girls age 12-to-20. Members don't have to have a family connection to Freemasonry, but they do enjoy Masonic sponsorship and assistance. Members of Job's Daughters do have a family connection to Freemasonry. DeMolay for boys, Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters share a Belief in God and concentrate on charitable efforts in volunteer service to others.

*Bruce Baker*

Education    Public Education Committee

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Source URL: <http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/node/1147>



*See Next Page for  
History of Lodge  
in Plano*

## Plano Lodge #768

### Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

1414 1/2 J Ave., Plano, TX, 75074, (972) 423-4818

### Established 1894

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Search

OES



General Grand  
Chapter Order of  
the Eastern Star

RAINBOW GIRLS



Plano Assembly  
No. 320 IORG



Austin Lamar Bowie Crockett Travis Houston Seguin

## A History of Plano Lodges

H. David Moore  
Member, Texas Lodge of Research  
Past Master, Plano Lodge No. 768 AF & AM  
15 APRIL 1995

### The Early Lodges

The establishment of masonry in the state of Texas preceded the settlement of many areas of the state. Dr. Anson Jones and four Brothers, in the winter of 1834-1835, "resolved to take measures to establish a Lodge of our Order in Texas." Their meeting near the town of Brazoria, in south Texas, resulted in a request for a lodge charter from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. The Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana, John H. Holland, granted the Charter and thus began Holland Lodge No. 36, under Dispensation. When the Grand Lodge of Texas was formed in 1836, Holland Lodge was rechartered as the first lodge in this grand jurisdiction.

Masonry was not far behind in the North Texas area. The first lodge chartered in this area was DeKalb Lodge No. 9 in DeKalb, Bowie County on 2 February 1840. DeKalb Lodge No. 9 demised in 1844, but was rechartered in 1892 with the same lodge number.

Dr. Daniel Rowlett, a large landowner in the Plano area, helped organize Constantine Masonic Lodge No. 13 at old Warren, now Bonham, on 18 March 1840 and was its first Worshipful Master.

Friendship Lodge No. 15 in Clarksville, Red River Co., was chartered 11 December 1841. Paris Lodge No. 27, Lamar Co, was chartered 24 January 1845. St. Johns Lodge No. 51 in McKinney, Collin Co., was chartered 24 January 1850. Tannehill Lodge No. 52, Dallas Co., was chartered 24 January 1850. Boston Lodge No. 69, New Boston, Bowie Co., was chartered 24 January 1851. Manta Lodge No. 209, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., was chartered 22 June 1858. Farmersville Lodge No. 214, Collin Co., was chartered 19 January 1858. White Rock Lodge No. 234 in Addison, Dallas Co., was chartered 16 June 1859.

Plano Lodge No. 235, Collin Co., was set to work under dispensation 15 June 1858, chartered 17 June 1859 and demised during the year of 1888. Plano Lodge No. 235's charter officers consisted of Dr. James Wilson, WM, a physician who arrived in Plano from Tennessee in 1859, George W. Barnett, S.W., who came to Collin Co. in 1843, and George R. Yantis, J.W., whose origin is unknown. Other original members of

the lodge were W. S. Coffey, James C. Fain, Robert Fitzugh, Dewitt C. Forman, William Forman, James C. Forman, George W. Givens, J. C. Givens, N. Givens, J. E. Harrison, William C. McKamy, B. E. Pegues, J. G. Vance, F. J. Vance, Samuel M. Wilkins, and B. N. Wilkins. Other distinguished members included Captain William Beverly, William B. Blalack, Dr. Henry Dye, Thomas F. Hughston, William M. Weaver, James Wells, and R. B. Whisenant.

The first meeting place is assumed to be in a building on the George W. Barnett farm, located near the banks of Spring Creek and a fresh water spring. This building served for the school, church, and other fraternal meetings like the Plano Masonic Lodge.

The second meeting place for the lodge was located over the storehouse built by James C. Forman and Hampton H. Gossum on the southeast corner of Avenue K and 15th Street. The agreement between Forman and Gossum and the Plano Masonic Lodge was to give "the Masons the privilege of building a Masonic Hall or other building on top of the storehouse" for the use and benefit of the Masonic fraternity forever." The lodge is believed to have built and moved into this building sometime in 1860.

Fires plagued Plano during the 1880's and 1890's. The lodge building was destroyed by fire in July or August of 1881. The first called meeting after the Lodge building was destroyed, was held on 7 September in the Baptist Church in Plano to devise plans for rebuilding a Hall and disposing of lodge property. The stated meeting of 1 October 1881 was held on the second floor of the Chaddick & Housewright building located on the northwest corner of Avenue K and 15th Street, known in later years as the Harrington Furniture Store. The 1st floor of the building was operated as a saloon and the lodge met above it. This stated meeting's primary purpose was to procure a suitable place for the Lodge to meet and, also, to procure Lodge Jewels, a seal, record books, and other lodge regalia. Subsequent stated meetings dealt with procurement of lodge furniture and the purchase of a lot on which to rebuild the lodge.

The Emerson lot was approved for the purchase price of \$500 in April, 1882. The committee reported in July that the property had been purchased with \$100 down and the remainder to be paid in twelve months. A committee was appointed in April to develop plans and to estimate the cost of the new building. The committee reported at the May meeting that a building 25' x 60' x 24' high would cost about \$1700. Bids for the building were solicited and the low bid of \$1893.75 was received from James L. Glorence & Co. This bid was approved by the lodge on 18 November 1882 with instructions to proceed with its construction.

Apparently the building was nearing completion, because at the 19 May 1883 stated meeting a committee composed of Brothers J. T. Kendrick, Joe W. Beverly and J.H. Reedy was appointed to rent the store room, or lower floor, of the lodge for no less than \$20 per month. The lodge also passed a motion to forbid the storeroom to be used as a drinking saloon or any gaming purposes. The lodge then passed a motion that the building committee be instructed to buy 2 or 3 dozen chairs for the lodge room and Brother J. B. Klepper was appointed to move the furniture into the new lodge room.

The lodge continued to meet in the lodge, but the records from Grand Lodge indicate that the lodge charter was arrested in 1887 for failure to meet. However, the minutes of the lodge fail to indicate this occurrence nor does there appear to be a break in the minutes through the year.

The last stated meeting of record in the minutes occurred on 21 April 1888. The M.W. Grand Lodge of Texas' records only indicate that the lodge demised in 1888. There is no written record of what happened between April and when the charter was surrendered to the Grand Lodge. Many older members agree that the lodge fell upon hard times for various reasons. The minutes of the lodge indicate a long standing indebtedness to a Brother, but after several attempts to resolve a means of repaying the Brother, the lodge finally resorted to executing a note to the Brother for the sum owed. Also, numerous members were declared in arrears for their dues resulting in charges and specifications being preferred against them. The lodge also experienced numerous demits from the members which lessened its financial base. This was apparently a result of very hard times in the community at that time. We also see in the minutes numerous charges made against members for non-Masonic conduct, for nonpayment of dues, and for public intoxication. (See minutes of 28 January and 25 February 1888 for full details) The membership was very hard on its members to be upstanding citizens of the community.

However, many members were determined to continue their masonic careers and affiliated with White Rock Lodge No. 234, in Addison, which continues to be a viable lodge in the Dallas area. It was located in the southwestern corner of Collin County. The lodge had built a hall in 1872 on property adjoining the Frankford Methodist Church prior to the church purchasing land from William McKamy in 1873. The church actually held its early worship services on the first floor of the lodge building, which was also used for other fraternal, religious, and educational purposes.

After some years, a number of Plano masons decided it was again time for Plano to have it's own lodge. The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge was duly petitioned and was granted a charter on 5 December 1894 and was to be known by the name and style of Plano Lodge No. 768, of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. The Lodge was then Constituted in due and ancient form on 7 January 1895 with Right Worshipful Sam R. Hamilton, Deputy Grand Master, performing the honors during an opening of a Deputy Grand Lodge in the Plano Lodge room.

The charter members numbered many former members and officers of Plano Lodge No. 235, such as Dr. James Wilson, the Charter Master, F. R. Ball, Thomas F. Hughston, Joseph H. Gullledge, and William M. Weaver. Other charter members were F. M. Armstrong, E. W. Dinwiddee, M. J. Ford, J. A. Gant, C. S. Haggard, and W. A. Vines, to name only a few of the notable and most recognized of the community leaders. The elected officers for the newly chartered lodge at this first stated meeting were duly installed by Right Worshipful Sam R. Hamilton, Deputy Grand Master.

The first elected and appointed officers installed were:

James F. Rowland, Worshipful Master

F. R. Ball, Senior Warden

James Mitchell, Junior Warden

W. D. McFarlin, Treasurer

James Wilson, Secretary

F. O. Miller, Chaplain

W. A. Vines, Senior Deacon

J. H. Gullede, Junior Deacon

T. C. Jasper, Senior Steward

J. M. Collier, Junior Steward

A. A. McGuire, Tiler

During this first meeting, a motion was made and approved to adopt the by-laws contained in Taylor's Monitor and the blanks filled as needed to establish the stated meeting time, the secretary's salary, the tiler's salary, and the lodge dues being set. The stated meeting was to be held on the first Tuesday night on or after each full moon at 7 o'clock PM. The secretary's salary was set at \$25 annually and the Tiler was paid one dollar for each stated meeting only, and be exempt from the payment of dues. Dues were set at the rate of \$6 per year from the time of his raising or affiliation, or until otherwise ordered by the Lodge.

The lodge members on 27 November 1894, and prior to the granting of the charter, entered into an agreement to rent the third floor of a recently erected building from H. C. Jones. The agreement specified a rental fee of \$125 semi-annually for a term of five years. The charter members signed the agreement in total for the lodge.

It was at this first stated meeting of Plano Lodge No. 768 that the first petition for initiation was received and read from Wallace Hughston, son of Thomas F. Hughston, and referred to a committee composed of J. C. Jasper, J. M. Collier, and F. R. Ball. Wallace Hughston was elected to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree on 12 February 1895 and was initiated 15 February 1895. Brother Wallace Hughston was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on 16 March and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on 13 April 1895.

The first Master Mason raised by Plano Lodge was not Wallace Hughston. At the stated meeting on 15 January, following the constitution of Plano Lodge, an Entered Apprentice from White Rock Lodge No. 234, H. B. Carlisle, petitioned Plano Lodge to receive the Fellow Craft degree. After being granted a waiver of jurisdiction from White Rock Lodge, Brother Carlisle was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on 12 March 1895, and subsequently raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason at the stated meeting on 9 April 1895, four days before Wallace Hughston received his Master Mason degree. Wallace Hughston and H. B. Carlisle were, however, examined as to their Fellow Craft proficiency at the same stated meeting on 9 April.

The first six months of the new lodge were very successful. Numerous petitions for the degrees were received as well a many petitions for affiliation from former members of Plano Lodge No. 235 coming back to their home lodge.

The 11 June 1895 stated meeting, among other business, elected Thomas F. Hughston as Worshipful Master, Joseph H. Gullede as Senior Warden, and Wallace Hughston as Junior Warden. These officers proceeded in succession to the East with James F. Rowland, serving a second time, W. A. Vines, serving three times, and James Wilson to follow through the next few years.

Joseph H. Gullede was to serve Plano Lodge four times as Worshipful Master during his masonic career, but for all his years .of dedicated service, he did not serve as a District Deputy Grand Master. It is interesting to note that on his first installation as Worshipful Master, DDGM (no name given) Bowly called the lodge to order and proceeded to confer the Past Master degree on Brother Gullede. He then installed the officers for the ensuing year.

In March 1899, Plano Lodge was invited by the First Christian Church to lay the corner stone. On 20 March, a called meeting was held for the purpose of accepting the invitation and to establish the various committees for this auspicious event. On 2 May 1899, a representation of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas was opened in Plano Lodge for the purpose of laying the corner stone for the church, a dispensation being given by Most Worshipful Grand Master Sam R. Hamilton. Most Worshipful Anson Rainey served as Grand Master for the corner stone laying ceremony. Plano Lodge also laid the cornerstone for the new sanctuary of the First Christian Church in 1985.

Plano Lodge continued to meet in the same place for many years. But in August 1924, the lodge purchased the Moore House Hotel in Plano for \$5000 from J. W. and Molly Shepard and converted it into its current meeting place. The facade of the building has the year 1925 on it, which may indicate the year it was permanently occupied by the lodge.

Wallace Hughston

Wallace Hughston was a continuous member of Plano Lodge up to the time of his death in 1959 – some sixty-four years. He was a lawyer by profession and served as County Attorney of Collin County from 1898 to 1902. He was also a State Senator from the 10th Senatorial District during the 44th Texas Legislature, a director of the Federal Housing Administration of the Dallas Area from 1948 to 1951, a member of the Selective Service Board in 1942, and a director of the Railroad Commission in Austin under Governor Beauford Jester.

Wallace Hughston served as Worshipful Master in the third year after he was raised a Master Mason. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 9th Masonic District in 1923-24. He was appointed and served as Grand Orator in 1928-29. He was elected Grand Junior Warden in 1929, served in each of the succeeding stations until he was elected Grand Master of Masons of Texas in 1932. He was the first Grand Master

from Texas to serve as the presiding officer of the Grand Master's Conference in Washington D.C. in 1932.

He belonged to the York Rite and the Scottish Rite Bodies. He was a 33 degree Scottish Rite Mason, a member of the Red Cross of Constantine, a past member of the Board of the Scottish Rite Crippled Children's Hospital, and a past director of the Masonic Home and School.

"Wallace Hughston never saw and never knew a little Mason. All Masons were big Masons to Wallace Hughston, and he died believing that the Masters Degree was the highest degree in Free Masonry. He was the wisest man I ever knew, never giving any bad advice, nor did it ever enter his mind to avenge any wrong, but held to the belief that with time, patience and perseverance all things would work out for the best.", so said Most Worshipful Grand Master William G. Procter in a letter to the Wallace Hughston Lodge No. 1393 after Wallace Hughston's death.

Thomas F. Hughston

Wallace Hughston's father, Thomas Finley Hughston, was a stalwart member of both Plano Lodges for seventy years. He served as Worshipful Master of both lodges and in just about every office throughout the years, including Secretary. We know he served as the Tiler of Plano No. 768 continuously from July 1903 through the Masonic year of 1922. He may have served longer, but the records of the lodge do not exist after 20 November 1922. There were very few meetings in the record books to indicate him not being in attendance. If there was a mainstay for Plano masonry, it was Thomas F. Hughston.

For those who remember the spittoons in the lodge, it was Thomas F. Hughston, by the direction of Worshipful Master J. M. Willis, who purchased one dozen spittoons. He presented the lodge with the spittoons and a bill for \$6.00 payable to Philpott Hardware on 18 March 1905.

Dr. James Wilson

Another outstanding member of the early history of Plano and Plano lodges was Dr. James Wilson. Brother Wilson was the charter Worshipful Master of Plano No. 235 in 1859 and was Worshipful Master of Plano No. 768 in 1901-1902. He served as District Deputy Grand Master in 1898. He died on 5 May 1905 and the Lodge called a special meeting to make the funeral arrangements. All lodges in the area were notified of the funeral to be held at 8:00 AM on 6 May. Dr. Wilson had been seriously ill for several months prior to his death and he was apparently destitute, because the lodge paid many of his expenses from July 1904 until his death. Several times the minutes provide motions to pay for his rent and personal care. A page is allotted in the minutes of the lodge for the resolution of sorrow for Dr. Wilson. "He held in high esteem the teachings and symbols of the craft, and his last efforts were spent in formulating and publishing in book form a treatise on ancient craft Masonry which he has left to the craft for its benefit and instruction." A copy of this book, "Masonic Gems", is in the possession of our current secretary, Harry F. Powell, but you must get it from him in order to spend time to read and enjoy it.

Robert B. Howey

Plano Lodge had many outstanding Secretaries to serve the lodge, but two, who together served seventy (70) years, made the most outstanding commitment to the lodge.

Brother Robert B. Howey, born in Ironpior, Province of Ontario, Canada, in the year 1872, moved to Plano with his widowed mother a few years after he was born. She later married James Mitchell and, therefore, Robert (Bob) Howey became very close to his stepfather. Bob was often called "Bob Mitchell" because there were some who never learned that they were not actually father and son. In adult life, Bob was a rural letter carrier. He was also a member of the Plano Volunteer Fire Department until the infirmities of age would no longer permit him to be an active member.

Bob Howey petitioned Plano Lodge in the Spring of 1908 and was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason on 14 July 1908, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on 18 August 1908, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on 10 September 1908. Bob was elected Worshipful Master in June 1914. Eighteen years later, in December 1932, his good friend Wallace Hughston appointed Bob to serve as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 9 during his term as Grand Master.

Bob Howey was elected secretary of Plano Lodge in June 1918. He served faithfully and efficiently in that office for the next thirty-one (31) years. During this time, pleasure in attendance at the meetings was increased ten-fold by Brother "Bob's" friendly smile and firm handshake. One always came away with the feeling that the Lodge was in very good hands, indeed.

Robert B. Howey was called by the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe on 24 July 1951. He was laid to rest with Masonic Honors in the Masonic section of the Plano Mutual Cemetery.

The second faithful and outstanding secretary of Plano Lodge was Frank W. Beverly. Frank was born in Plano on 19 August 1906 and resided in Plano his entire life.

Frank petitioned the Plano Lodge and received his Entered Apprentice degree on 5 December 1932, was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on 2 February 1933, and raised a Master Mason on 2 March 1933. He served as Worshipful Master in the Masonic year of 1936-37. He was appointed as District Deputy Grand Master in 1938 to serve the 9th Masonic District during the term of Grand Master John T. Rice. Brother Frank was a member of the Scottish Rite and the York Rite bodies. He was made life member of the lodge on 4 July 1968 and received the Golden Trowel Award from Plano Lodge in 1991. Brother Frank was elected secretary of Plano Lodge in 1948 and served as its Secretary for 39 years, from 1948 to 1987, and was bestowed the title of Secretary Emeritus of Plano Lodge after he retired from that position.

Brother Frank W. Beverly was called by the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe on 17 July 1992 after serving his family, his church, his community, his country, and his lodge as a good and faithful servant. Plano Lodge will probably never have a more dedicated, faithful, and caring individual to serve it in any capacity as our dear, Brother Frank. Everyone loved him because he cared so much for the prosperity of the

lodge and its membership. He has been sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

#### Past Masters

Plano Lodge No 768 has had ninety-one (91) Worshipful Masters to serve that office. Five have served twice, W. A. Vines served three times, and Joseph H. Gullede served four times. Twelve Past Masters have been appointed as District Deputy Grand Masters for Masonic District No. 9. Masonic District No. 9 was divided into Districts 9A and 9B in 1990. Buford C. (Cliff) Martin, Jr. was Plano Lodge's first member appointed DDGM of Masonic District 9B in 1994.

Plano has had masonry for over 130 years. Plano Lodge No. 768 is now celebrating its 100 years of success. In the past few years we have actually grown in number and remain strong while other lodges in Texas have been losing membership. I look forward to the next few years in the history of Plano Lodge No. 768.

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RAYMOND ROBINSON  
JUSTICE CENTER

CITY OF PLANO

LEVELED BY THE

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

A. F. & A. M.



A. D. 1996

A. L. 5996

NOTE: The Cornerstone can be any size; however, the wording on the stone MUST be as indicated on this example. Let the contractor know the size of the stone so it can be installed after the ceremony.

← 15 5/8" →

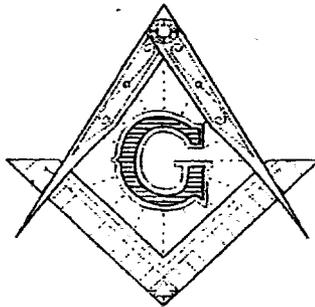
2" thick

LEVELED 1"

By The 3/4"

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS 1"

AF & AM 1"



3 7/8"

↑  
15 5/8"  
↓

AD 2010 1"

AL 6010 1"