



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**December 5th**

LODGE IS DARK  
(Grand Lodge)

**December 12th**

EA Degree

**December 19th**

MM Degree

**December 26th**

LODGE IS DARK

**[Online Calendar](#)**

**Grand Lodge  
178th Grand Communication**

The Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas was held on December 5-7 in Waco.

Congratulations to Brother Kevin Main, Past Master of Plano Lodge, who was installed as District Deputy Grand Master for District 9-B!

**RESULTS OF RESOLUTIONS**

- Holdover Resolution 7 – Passes
- Tabled Resolution No. 17A – Post-poned
- Resolution No. 1 – Defeated
- Resolution No. 2 – Passed
- Resolution No. 3 – Tabled
- Resolution No. 4 – Defeated
- Resolution No. 5 – Defeated
- Resolution No. 6 – Defeated
- Resolution No. 7 – Passed
- Resolution No. 8 – Passed
- Resolution No. 9 – Passed
- Resolution No 10 – Defeated
- Resolution No 11 – Passed
- Resolution No 12 – Passed
- Resolution No 13 – Tabled
- Resolution No 14 – Defeated
- Resolution No 15 – Passed as amended
- Resolution No 16 – Passed
- Resolution No 17 – Withdrawn
- Resolution No 18 – Passed as amended
- Grand Master's Recommendation No 1 – Adopted as amended
- Grand Master's Recommendation No 2 – Adopted



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R. W. Kevin K. Main

## From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren, please notify the Secretary of any address changes. Thus far, I have received two returns of dues notices due to bad addresses. It is your responsibility to let me know if your address changes.

Fifty-year and endowed dues cards and dues notices were sent out prior to Thanksgiving, so be on the lookout for yours.

**- H. David Moore, Secretary**

## Winter Festive Board

On Saturday, January 18, 2014 we will enjoy a Festive Board in the North Texas Masonic Museum & Library beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$40 per person.

Payment can be made via PayPal. An email containing a link for payment will be sent shortly.

Seating is limited.

### Menu

Appetizers  
Standing Rib Roast  
Braised Leeks  
Roasted Root Vegetables  
Dessert

## Scholarships

Plano Lodge, in conjunction with the North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library is awarding two \$1,000 scholarships toward higher education to local students. The decision will be based upon qualification and merit of an essay focused on Masonic history in Texas or its historical territories.

The due date is February 1st at 7:00 p.m. for the following school year (Fall to Spring). Applications can be submitted:

By Mail:

**Plano Masonic Lodge #768  
Attn: Scholarship Committee  
PO Box 860282  
Plano, TX 75086**

or

In Person:

**Plano Masonic Lodge #768  
1414 ½ J Ave  
Plano, TX 75074**

We will accept applications and essays anytime throughout the year leading to the deadline.

The Scholarship Committee will review, rank, and approve the submitted applications. The scholarships will be awarded to the two best essays.

Decisions will be announced in May.  
Awards will be presented in July.

The lodge will make payment directly to the college or university upon enrollment by the scholarship recipient.

## Scholarships, continued

While the scholarship is based upon the historic essay, we would like to know about you, your situation, your plans, and any circumstances that you feel we should know.

Masonic affiliation is not a prerequisite to apply, but is definitely allowed.

### Essay Guidelines:

- Fraternal or Masonic History in Texas
- At least 3 full pages (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12-pt Times New Roman font)
- Proper referencing of source material.
- Masonry can be interpreted to include other fraternal or appendant bodies.
- **Suggestions:** Personal biographies, Masonic functions, social functions, educational functions, charitable functions, Masonic places, eras and local fraternal impact, fraternal organization history
- Texas history may be Plano, Dallas, Peter's Colony, Republic of Texas, State of Texas, or other geographical or historical tie to our community

Essays will become property of the North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library collection, and may be republished or publicly displayed with credit assigned to author.

The North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library will be open for research during normal hours of operation.

### Application Must Include

1. Full Name
2. Address (must live within Collin County or an adjoining county)
3. Phone Number
4. Email Address
5. College or Institution's Name & Address (if known)
6. Past Semester's Transcript (Minimum of 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 Scale)
7. Interest or Degree Plan
8. Personal Paragraph

## The Sun at Meridian Height

# *John Quincy Adams and Freemasonry*

By Barry Parrish, Junior Warden

This word by word copy of an original John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) letter is dated December 8, 1832 by our 6th President was recently auctioned by Early American Historical Auctions, Inc. The auction bid price for this letter was between \$10,000-\$15,000. The year he became President, he was elected with 108,740 national popular votes, roughly the population of McKinney, TX today. His salary was \$25,000 a year as President roughly \$520,500 in 2012 value as adjusted by the Consumer Price Index. I offer this content to the Masonic community because the physical letter and the content of his views have never previously been publically documented as it is a letter missing from previous collections, according to the auction house's knowledge. The letter is dated in December 8, 1832 outside the date boundaries of prior published correspondence between the two men.

“In 1847 Adams published a 284-page book entitled, “Letters on the Masonic Institution” which included eight letters he wrote to Stone dating between December 24, 1831 and September 4, 1832. (This specific letter offered here in our sale was not included.) To our knowledge, there is no record of any Anti-Masonic John Quincy Adams letters having sold at a major public auction in the past 35 years!”

This letter particular letter was addressed to William Leete Stone (20 April 1792 New Paltz, New York – 15 August 1844 Saratoga Springs, New York) who was a journalist and historical writer mostly on topics relating to the American Revolutionary War. Soon after the William Morgan tragedy, Stone, who was a Freemason, addressed a series of letters on “Masonry and Anti-Masonry” to John Quincy Adams, who in his retirement at Quincy had taken interest in the anti-Masonic movement. In these letters, which were afterward collected and published (New York, 1832), the author maintained that Masonry should be abandoned, chiefly because it had lost its usefulness. The writer also cleared away the mists of slander that had gathered around the name of De Witt Clinton, and by preserving strict impartiality he secured that credence which no ex parte argument could obtain, however ingenious.

The auction house continues:

“In his retirement after leaving the Presidency in 1829, John Quincy Adams took an interest in the Anti-Masonic movement, and William Stone wrote to Adams on the subject and published a 556-page book in 1832 entitled “Letters on Masonry and Anti-Masonry, addressed to the Hon. John Quincy Adams. By William L. Stone.” Stone had published some of the letters he had received from Adams in his New York newspaper, “Commercial Advertiser.”

The letter reads in full:

*William L. Stone, Esqr. New York, --- Washington 8, Decr. 1832*

*Dear Sir —*

*I promised a further reply to your Letter of the 30th ulto. but before commencing upon it must say a word more upon matters antecedent.*

*In a note appended to your publication of my first letter, you observe that eight or ten years ago, before you ever heard of Morgan, you proposed a revisal of the obligations, and that the barbarous penalties and language, complained of by me should be expunged. This is another Evidence to me of that rectitude of principles and soundness of judgment, which have preserved your heart and mind, from that almost universal depravation which it is the character of the Masonic Oaths, Obligations and Penalties generally to produce. It is known to be one of the most ordinary phenomena of insanity, that the sufferer is perfectly rational and intelligent upon every subject but one; and wherever that is touched upon, raving distracted. The Masonic History of the last seven years, has abundantly proved, that the Oaths, Obligations and Penalties, of that Institution, produce upon the immense majority of the men to whom they are administered, and by whom they are taken, a similar partial aberration from moral principle.*

*They lose the moral sense in everything relating to their Masonic Obligations, and retain it entire, or perhaps little impaired with respect to everything else. This appears to me to account for the fact so portentously proved in the Morgan Murder transactions, that multitudes of men otherwise of fair characters and blameless lives were deeply and awfully implicated in that horrible Calendar of Crimes.*

*It accounts also for the fact of that desperate adherence of so many otherwise honest men to those barbarous, absurd and abominable Oaths, Obligations and Penalties. For it is to them that the high minded men of the fraternity now declare that they will cling to the last gasp of their existence.*

*To this fact I wish to point your special attention. It is against these Oaths, Obligations and Penalties, and against them alone, that the pure and disinterested Spirit of Anti Masonry is arranged. The abolition of them is the great moral reformation which Anti Masonry has undertaken to accomplish, and from which I trust it will not swerve. With the Oaths and Obligations, the Secrets fall of course, and all those being abandoned if the Free Masons wish to continue as a charitable, benevolent and convivial fraternity, no mortal on earth will object to their so doing.*

*The Oaths, Obligations and Penalties therefore now constitute the only matter at issue between Masonry and Anti Masonry. And I ask you if an aberration of intellect, as well as of moral feeling more monstrous can be imagined, than the inflexible adherence to the determination that they will continue to swear men upon the penalties of having their throats cut from ear to ear--of cutting open the left breast and tearing out the heart and vitals, of severing the body in two, and of smiting off the skulls that they will never reveal to anyone under the Canopy of Heavens Secrets, which have been divulged and proclaimed on the housetops. And this, in the name of the living God! I have endeavored to show that the administration of these Oaths was vicious, when it was to keep secrets that were secret. But now -- that they are known to everyone who will read--what is it but a blasphemous taking of the name of God in vain?*

*In your letter of the 28th ulto. you do emphatically declare it as still your earnest desire to destroy this wretched structure of Free Masonry, and I give you the most unqualified credit for sincerity in this declaration. But will you allow me in friendship and in confidence to say, that some of your strictures in your paper, upon the Anti Masons, since the disappointment of the late Elections [Anti Masonic presidential nominee William Wirt won only 7.8% of the popular vote], has led not me but some of them, to doubt your attachment to their cause. I do earnestly wish them to be sensible as I am that your book is the best Anti Masonic book that ever was published. They differed from you with regard to the Candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency; but now that the Election is over, cannot you pursue with them the common object; which is to prevail upon the Free Masonry to do, that which you urged them to so, even before the fate or the offence of Morgan, had arisen in the series of events. Remember that it is in the power of the Masonic Fraternity to demolish the whole system of political Anti Masonry forever. To effect this object the single thing they have to do, is to cease administering the entered Apprentice's Oath. It would follow of course that they would administer none of the others. Let them do this, and they will never again have an Anti Masonic Candidate to oppose or defeat them.*

*To come now to your letter of the 30th ulto. I have not received from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, a copy of the printed minutes of their proceedings in June last. In the great object of prevailing upon the Masons voluntarily to abandon their Idol, I have felt curiosity to ascertain how far it has a prospect of success.*

*Having left your Book at my residence at Quincy I am not able from more recollection to refer to the several circumstances mentioned in your narrative whereas I drew the inference that (the conspiracy for the kidnapping and murder of Morgan, originated in the Chapter at Rochester). But I think you say that (it was there, Morgan had been admitted to the Royal Arch degree) at the proposal of James Ganson. You say it was there also that on the formation of the Chapter the forms of admission had been introduced from the old manuscript of which you gave me a copy. Being the forms which had been used by judge Hosmer, in Connecticut. You intimate also that it was from there that Morgan had copied the obligations as they are published in his book. It occurred to me then that (the Chapter at Rochester was the one that he had specially offended) and that which in Masonic Law was responsible for the suppression of his Book.*

*The Masons at Batavia had discovered that he and Shiller were preparing for the publication of the Book, which it was their great object to suppress. But Morgan was not one of them. They had excluded him from their Chapter, in a most offensive manner, by getting up a second Petition, without his name, and without assigning any reason for his exclusion after having obtained a Charter for a Chapter by a petition in which he had joined. He did not belong therefore to the Chapter at Batavia, nor was it there that he had obtained the means of divulging the Secrets, but at Rochester. It was then the Chapter at Rochester which became responsible for the suppression of the Book and for the punishment of the proposed publisher (It was the obligation administered to him by them that he was about to violate, and it was for them and them along to convict and punish him).*

*Hence also I inferred the extraordinary agency of James Ganson in the conspiracy--he having been the Sponsor of Morgan at his admission to the Royal Arch degree. The conspiracy embraced two objects--the suppress the Book and to punish the author. It is apparent that the transportation of Morgan to Niagara had been previously concerted at the Chapter in Rochester. That by their direction he had been seized at Batavia by a party from Canandaigua, carried there and lodged in prison, to be exactly in such position that he might at the moment of his liberation, be unlawfully seized and transported whither they should direct. For this direction the nightly journey of Loton Lawson from Canandaigua to Rochester, and his return early the next morning was affected. He was followed by men charged with executing the Instruction of the Chapter; and the carriages for his transportation to the fort of Niagara had been all prepared and arranged before hand. The Chapters at Batavia and LeRoy were the informers against Morgan (The Lodge at Canandaigua undertook to arrest, and deliver him up to the Chapter at Rochester, and they were to consummate the Punishment precisely because it was to and by them that his Masonic vows had been made). Mr. Whittlesey informs me of another fact not noticed in your book-- That (after Morgan was lodged in the fort at Niagara; another messenger was sent to Rochester and returned thence before he was put to death. That the messenger bore this Order from the Chapter I cannot doubt.)*

*From the annunciation in your book that you was authorized to state that the Grand Encampment at New York had taken measures for ascertaining what charges had been made in the forms of admission in the Western Encampments subordinate to them, I had hoped that an authentic disclosure of the result would before this have been published. Why you was authorized to excite the expectation of such disclosure, unless with the intention to fulfill the expectation, I do not enquire. Your book I think mentions some of the innovations as having been introduced from Vermont by a number of the present Congress. May I enquire who that is, and what the precise terms which he introduced into the obligations were? — I am very respectfully, your friend — (Signed) J. Q. Adams.*

“It is believed that Freemason William Morgan of Batavia, New York was murdered in 1826 for planning to reveal the secrets of their order. In 1882 a monument to Capt. William Morgan was placed in the Batavia City Cemetery. It reads:

“Sacred to the memory of Wm. Morgan, a native of Virginia, a Capt. in the War of 1812, a respectable citizen of Batavia, and a martyr to the freedom of writing, printing and speaking the truth. He was abducted from near this spot in the year 1826, by Freemasons and murdered for revealing the secrets of their order. The court records of Genesee County, and the files of the ‘Batavia Advocate,’ kept in the Recorders office contain the history of the events that caused the erection of this monument.”

It was said that Morgan was abducted and murdered and his body thrown into the Niagara River. In 1827 a body was washed ashore. The first inquest decided that it was Morgan. A trial was held and Freemasons were convicted of abducting Morgan, yet there wasn’t enough evidence for a murder conviction.

A subsequent inquest identified the body as a Canadian, though, it did not matter. The story of Morgan’s murder frightened the public and America’s first third political party, the Anti-Masonic Party, was organized in New York in 1827.”

# Plano Masonic Lodge #768

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons

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## 2013-2014 SENIOR OFFICERS

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## 2013-2014 JUNIOR OFFICERS

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