
HOLLAND LODGE NO. 1 A.F. & A.M.
EST. 1835



Photograph by Brittany Lucas

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From the East



From the East

Brethren and Friends of Holland Lodge No. 1,

Our guest speaker in March, Robert Northcutt, whom many of you may have met at Wardens Retreats, gave a thought provoking talk, and left us with a charge to thank those important people in our lives who have significantly contributed to who we are today. I am still working on it. And along these lines consider this my thanks to those fine men and brethren who taught me the work I know, and to those who add to my stock of knowledge and understanding each time we meet. And I add thanks to those of you who are teaching others today and are making an important contribution to their lives.

March 2011 was a busy month for Holland Lodge No. 1! I congratulate the new Master Masons and welcome the new EAs.

Our work is excellent, and more importantly, meaningful.

Our core band of brothers demonstrated Masonry at work as well as their own dedication and efforts. We are blessed with such committed brethren, and I still wonder at those who do not participate. It is just astounding what such effort will produce, not only in moving degrees for the candidates, but in the hearts of the brethren participating and supporting by their presence. Please consider what good will come into your lives through purposeful, continuing participation in the work of Masonry at Your Lodge!! We always miss those absent from our endeavors to enlighten ourselves and our eager candidates. Come on down.

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From the East

Monday April 4th we will have dinner at 6:00 pm, an FC proficiency at 7:00 pm and the meeting of our educational Masonic Symbolism Discussion Group at 7:30 pm in the Library.

On Wednesday April 6th we will have dinner at 6:00 pm and at 7:00 pm another MM degree conferral.

Every Monday we are there to engage in the esoteric instruction.

Our Stated Meeting is Wednesday April 13th with dinner at 6:30 pm and the meeting at 7:30 pm, during which there will be a bit more said about “unsolicited bids” on the building.

Come to the Lodge whenever you can – make a sincere effort to ensure that you can!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Bob Welch
Worshipful Master

Bob Welch, Worshipful Master 2010-2011



From the Secretary

BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE OF ZERUBBABEL.

Who granted permission to the Jews to build the second Temple?

The foundation for the second temple was laid 537 B.C., & completed 516 B.C. After returning from captivity, the Jews under Zerubbabel laid the foundation. When the people of the land offered to assist in rebuilding the temple, Zerubbabel & the principal men of Judah refused them this honor, since Cyrus had granted his permission to the Jews only. Ez 5: 2 (479); 4: 2, 3 (478); Zec 4:9 (856).



Phillip von Stephens, Secretary 2010-2011

FROM THE SENIOR DEACON

Holland Lodge #1 AFAM 1835-2010

**175th Anniversary of Holland Lodge #1 AFAM
Saturday, May 14, 10:30am-1:30pm**

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of the formation of Holland Lodge and the establishment of organized Freemasonry in Texas, we will gather at the Lodge building (4911 Montrose Boulevard, Houston TX 77006) on Saturday, May 14 2011 at 10:30 a.m.. Members of Frontier Lodge #28 and the Texas Army will give a historical presentation touching on the delivery of a charter from Louisiana to our founding brothers and discussion of the Texas revolution. Most Worshipful T.E. "Gene" Carnes, Grand Master of Texas, will speak about the past and future of Texas Masonry. We warmly welcome all members, visitors, family, and friends to participate in this historical event.

RSVP notices will be sent via email, or you may contact the senior deacon at Murphy@alumni.rice.edu. Keep up to date with this and other events by visiting the website: www.hollandlodge.org

S&F

Matthew B. Murphy
**175 Years of Masonry
in Texas**

MATTHEW B. MURPHY, SENIOR DEACON - 2010-2011

FROM THE SENIOR DEACON

Holland Lodge #1 AFAM 1835-2010

Saturday May 14, 2011

Holland Lodge #1 4911 Montrose Blvd. Houston TX 77006

SCHEDULE of EVENTS


- 10:45 Raising of flags, Pledge of Allegiance to US and Texas flags
10:50 Introduction - WM Bob Welch (OUTDOORS)
11:00 - 11:30 Presentation by members of the Texas Army/
Frontier Lodge
11:30 Cannon/musket fire
11:35 - 11:50 Presentation by Sam Houston IV
11:50 - 12:00 Presentation by Brother Ron Brown
12:00 - 1:00 Address by GM Gene Carnes on the future of Texas
Masonry (HOLLAND LODGE BLUE ROOM)
1:00 - 1:30 Refreshments (HOLLAND LODGE KITCHEN)
Closing remarks - WM Bob Welch

MATTHEW B. MURPHY, SENIOR DEACON - 2010-2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- April 4, 2011- **FC Exam** Holland Lodge at 7:00 p.m. & **Masonic Symbolism Discussion** Holland Lodge Library at 7:30 p.m. The topic of discussion will be "Reception in the Degrees." Master Masons only. Dinner at 6:00 p. m. **Esoteric Studies** for all Freemasons will also be occurring.
- April 6, 2011 - **MM Degree** - 6:00 p.m. meal and 7:00 p.m. Conferral.
- April 13, 2011- **Stated Meeting** - The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the stated meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.
- April 16, 2011 - **San Jacinto Observance & Reenactment** 9:00 a.m. at the San Jacinto Battleground.
- May 2, 2011 - **Masonic Symbolism Discussion** - Holland Lodge Library at 7:00 p.m. Astrology & Freemasonry Part 1 of 2. Master Masons only. Dinner at 6:00 p. m. **Esoteric Studies** for all Freemasons will also be occurring.
- May 11, 2011 - **Stated Meeting** - The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the stated meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.
- May 14, 2011 - **Celebration of 175th Anniversary of Holland Lodge No. 1** at Holland Lodge No.1 and to begin at 11:00 a.m. The Most Worshipful Grand Master T.E. "Gene" Carnes will speak and Frontier Lodge No. 28 will re-enact some of the historical events relevant to the 175th Anniversary of Holland Lodge No. 1 and Texas.
- June 6, 2011 - **Masonic Symbolism Discussion** - Holland Lodge Library at 7:00 p.m. Astrology & Freemasonry Part 2 of 2. Master Masons only. Dinner at 6:00 p. m. **Esoteric Studies** for all Freemasons will also be occurring.
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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



*Freemasonry is a
peculiar system of
morality, veiled in
allegory, and
illustrated by symbols.*

York Rite Masonry

Ruthven Commandery No. 2

6:00 p.m. Meal and 7:00 p.m. Stated Meeting

April 8, 2011

Houston Council No.1 R&SM

6:00 p.m. Meal and 7:00 Stated Meeting - Red Room

April 11, 2011

York Rite Masonry

The Holiest Days in Christendom “The Triduum”

By

Reverend Sir Knight Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, STS, Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Maryland

When one asks the random man or woman on the street, “What is the holiest day for Christians?”, the two days most frequently mentioned are Easter and Christmas. While these are indeed important, Easter being the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord and Christmas being the Feast of the Incarnation, our deeper tradition rests in other, much more significant days in the Christian year. Specifically, the Triduum, or “Great Three Days” of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter, combine to represent the holiest of days for Christians.

Most of us are very familiar with at least two of these three days. Maundy Thursday, the day on which our Savior gathered with his disciples for a final meal and at which he not only showed himself as servant of the servants through the washing of feet, but also instituted the Eucharist, or Lord’s Supper, as the “meal of the baptized” and a foretaste of the feast to come. It is also the night on which he was betrayed by Judas Iscariot and handed over to Pilate for trial, conviction, and sentencing. Good Friday, of course, is the day on which our Lord was nailed to the Cross and died, once and for all times for the forgiveness of all our sins and the sins of the world, and then buried and descended into the place of the dead (or hell, if you will) to comfort and defeat sin, death, and the devil so that we might all be assured that death will have no power over us.

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York Rite Masonry

The Vigil of Easter is an event in the Church which served as the primary day in the early Church for baptisms and reception of new people into the Christian faith. As the name suggests, this was a night in which the church stood vigil --- on watch --- for the coming of the new day and the resurrection of our Lord. In the early days, the Vigil ran deep into the night, and the first Eucharist of the Easter season was celebrated early in the morning --- often at sunrise.

For much of the 20th century, the Vigil of Easter was often overlooked, and the Easter Sunrise Service took its place. It wasn't until the liturgical renewal movement in the 1970's that the Vigil began to be celebrated in churches. The Vigil is marked in different ways, but it is becoming increasingly popular. Truth be told, the time to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord is at the Vigil, rather than on Sunday morning, long after the tomb was found empty.

The Triduum, or Great Three Days, is really one very long "day" of worship. It begins with Maundy Thursday (and no benediction), continues through the Good Friday liturgy (again, no benediction), and concludes with the Saturday evening/night Vigil, traditionally a two to three-hour service opened with the lighting of the New Fire (often a large bonfire), Old Testament readings, psalms, prayers, canticles, baptism, and then the first Eucharist of Easter. In some churches, there is a breakfast or "brunch" to break the fast of the Triduum following the Vigil.

What does all this have to do with our common work as Templars? Quite a bit actually.

In my travels, I have become distressed with the number of Good Friday observances being held, complete with fancy dinners. Good Friday is the most solemn day in Christendom and is historically marked by a fast and not a feast. This time when we should be gathered in prayer in our several churches reflecting on the sacrificial act of Jesus on the Cross and the gift of grace which God has bestowed upon us. If we as Templars would like to commemorate our Savior's death on the Cross, perhaps we would be wiser to do so in the context of a "Holy Week Observance" earlier in Holy Week, inviting the public to join with us, perhaps in the context of a "stations of the cross" devotional? A well-designed asylum offers us a wonderful opportunity to

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York Rite Masonry

provide Christian witness while quietly disproving the notion of Freemasonry being “anti-church” or “anti-Christian.”

Let me suggest, however, that a better place for Templars to gather during The Triduum is in their home church, or, should a group wish to attend together, the ideal time would be for the Vigil, participating in the service of anticipation. In some areas, where the Vigil might not be commonly celebrated, Templars might opt to gather at one church and offer assistance as readers and worship assistance for the Vigil (and many a pastor would appreciate the help, given that a “full Vigil” has eleven readings from the Old Testament, and that’s BEFORE the baptism and Eucharist). There are a host of opportunities for us to mark these holy days without impinging on the proper role of our churches by conducting events of our own.

Do not misunderstand me. Events such as our Easter Sunrise Service in Washington, D.C., and other similar gatherings across the Grand Encampment are right and proper, especially when we use the opportunity to open our worship to the community as an outreach and Christian witness.

But for the Great Three Days, our place as Christian Knights is in the fellowship of our home congregations, and not at a Masonic gathering. In doing this, we also help to educate our non-Masonic friends that Freemasons, and Knights Templar especially, are not working against the church and her teachings, but support her with heart, mind, and soul.

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York Rite Masonry

We welcome articles, about York Rite Masonry, for this section by York Rite Masons. Please submit your article to the Worshipful Master. His e-mail address is located on our web-page (www.hollandlodge.org).

Scottish Rite Freemasonry

Houston Scottish Rite Bodies

Stated Meeting
April 28, 2011 6:00 p.m. Meal and 7:00 p.m. Stated Meeting

July 18 & 19, 2011

REUNION

Scottish Rite Freemasonry

What is the First Religious Attack on Freemasonry?

John Wycliffe (1330-1384), the reformer and translator of the Bible into English, attacked Freemasons in 1383 on economic --- not religious --- grounds, for behaving like a trade union. “For they conspire together that no man of their craft shall take less on a day than they set...And that none of them shall do ought but only hew stone, though he might profit his master...by laying on a wall...” In other words, Freemasons would not work for less than the set wage and they, as hewers of stone, would not take on work of another craft, the layers. Wycliffe, however, had no religious concerns with Freemasonry.

The first published religious attack appeared much later in 1698, nineteen years before the Premier Grand Lodge was formed in London in 1717. (This, by the way, is nice evidence that there was enough Masonic activity in London in 1698 for a warning to be issued.)

The text that follows is from a leaflet [*To All Godly People in the Citie of LONDON*] distributed by a “M. Winter” [dated 1698] that contained basically two charges against the fraternity. First, the members swear oaths “against all without their following” and presumably to support each other. Second, Freemasons have secret signs and are “meeters in secret,” which are the “Ways of Evil-doers.”

*This part of the article above was used by permission of the
Scottish Rite Journal of Freemasonry
Southern Jurisdiction USA
From the November/December 2010 Issue*

Scottish Rite Freemasonry

We welcome articles, about Scottish Rite Masonry, for this section by Scottish Rite Masons. Please submit your article to the Worshipful Master. His e-mail address is located on our web-page (www.hollandlodge.org).



Texas Lodge of Research A.F. & A. M

Texas Lodge of Research is dedicated to Masonic research not only for Texas Freemasonry but also for Freemasonry generally. Please visit their web-page for more information.

www.texaslodgeofresearch.org

Letters to Holland Lodge No. 1

Dear Brother Butter,

Thank you very much for emailing me an electronic version of The Alpha.

Congratulations to all involved in its production. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and it made me miss my beloved Houston, Texas, and Holland Lodge. If I ever have the good fortune of being able to move back to Houston, I will certainly return to Holland Lodge. I look forward to receiving future copies of The Alpha.

Fraternally,
Gustavo Perez
Atlanta, GA

(The note below was forwarded to the editor by Brother Gustavo Perez and reprinted with permission)

Dear Brother Perez,

Thanks , it was great to hear from you again sorry it has been so long. This news letter is great your Lodge should be very proud ,it will take me a while to read it all but what I've read so far is well written , an very interesting . Looking forward to hearing from you soon .

Fraternally yours ,
Jeff Babb
Sr. Warden , Fidelity Lodge #558
Harrison Tenn.

Congratulations, Brother Butter, on a wonderful, enjoyable, and educational magazine--it's worthy as a Grand Lodge publication. Please keep me on the mailing list.

S&F
Richard Werlein

Please write us and let us know your thoughts concerning Holland Lodge No.1.

(PEACE & HARMONY)



Gus A Brandt
Worshipful Master
Holland Lodge No. 1 1912-1913
Grand Master of Texas 1923-1924

Notes:

Any member of Holland Lodge No. 1 that requests and submits an article for inclusion in future Alpha's will be considered for publication. Freemasons who are not members of Holland Lodge No. 1 who submit articles may be considered for publication. Deadline for submission is the last day of the month. The first week of each month is the week of publication. One's request and article may be sent to the Worshipful Master at his email address.

If one desires to have the Alpha delivered as a PDF do so by sending the request to the Worshipful Master at his e-mail address. Receiving the Alpha in a PDF format will allow for printing of either the whole Alpha or individual pages. Additionally, one may request to be placed on the Alpha distribution list. Additionally, back issues of the Alpha are located on the web-page, www.hollandlodge.org

The Alpha is the official publication of Holland Lodge No.1. All articles, letters or commentary reflect personal points of view and are not the official position of Holland Lodge No. 1 or The Grand Lodge of Texas unless explicitly stated as such.

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2010 - 2011 Officers

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LEARNING MORE ABOUT HOLLAND
LODGE NO.1 AND THE EVENTS
SCHEDULED PLEASE LOOK AT THE
CALENDAR LOCATED ON THE
LODGE'S WEB-PAGE,
WWW.HOLLANDLODGE.ORG

EDITOR GREG BUTTER, CHAPLAIN 2010-2011

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