



The Alpha
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175th Anniversary Special Edition

Holland Lodge #1 AFAM
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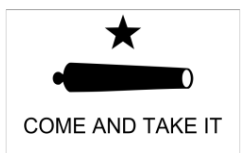
175 Years of Masonry
in Texas

A blue rectangular graphic containing white text and a Masonic star logo. The star is a five-pointed star with a red 'G' in the center. The letters 'E', 'T', 'A', and 'S' are placed at the top, left, right, and bottom points of the star, respectively. A red cross is also visible at the top point.



Holland Lodge 175th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, May 14, 2011



Officers of Holland Lodge #1, the Grand Lodge of Texas, and Sam Houston IV gathered on May 14, 2011 to celebrate 175 years of Holland Lodge, organized masonry in Texas, and Texas Independence.

On Saturday, May 14, 2011, officers, members, friends, and family of Holland Lodge #1 A.F. & A.M. gathered to commemorate 175 years since the founding of Holland Lodge and of proud Texas and Masonic history. There was lively discussion and great fellowship by all. We are very thankful to have hosted guest speakers from Grand Lodge, Frontier Lodge #28, Texas Army, and The Sons of the Republic of Texas. The program began with opening introductions by Worshipful Master Bob Welch and a prayer was offered by Greg Butter, the chaplain. Members of the Texas Army served as color guard and led attendees in the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.



General Sam Houston IV and Most Worshipful T.E. "Gene" Carnes meet in front of the Anson Jones statue.



Col. John Martin and members of the Texas Army, dressed in historically appropriate attire, presented the colors at the opening of the Holland Lodge 175th Anniversary.

Presentations were then made by Matthew Murphy and Greg Butter. Brother Murphy offered a Texas Flag that was flown of the State Capitol building on April 21, 2011, which was the 175th anniversary of the victory at San Jacinto and of the day Dr. Anson Jones received the charter from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana authorizing the masons of Texas to meet as Holland Lodge #36. Brother Butter presented through W.M. Welch to the lodge several recognitions and proclamations. They included an official recognition by Governor Rick Perry and the State of Texas, and a commendation by the City of Houston and Mayor Anise Parker all honoring the history, service, and achievements of Holland Lodge #1 during its 175 year history. In a coming presentation, Brother Butter was also able to organize a formal proclamation by Judge Emmet, proclaiming June 8th, 2011 as Holland Lodge 175 years of Masonry in Texas Day in Harris County, Texas. Butter also presented a framed copy of an article in the Houston Chronicle documenting the 175th anniversary event and history of the lodge.



Grand Master Carnes presents Holland Lodge with an official recognition of its 175th anniversary. As Holland #1 is the oldest lodge in Texas, this is the first such recognition awarded by the Grand Lodge of Texas.



Brothers Matthew Murphy and Colin Clarke present the 175th Battle of San Jacinto Anniversary flag to WM Bob Welch (left). Brother Greg Butter presents an official proclamation by Gov. Rick Perry in recognition of Holland Lodge's 175 years of history and service (right).

After these presentations, Brother Murphy introduced the invited speakers of the day. Colonel John Martin, who is a Colonel in the Texas Army and Past Master of Frontier Lodge #28, offered his thoughts about masonry's impact on the Texas Revolution and gave a brief history of Texas Army and its resurrection in 1969 when it was officially reactivated by Governor Preston Smith for ceremonial and historical purposes. General Sam Houston IV, great grandson of our own Sam Houston, spoke about his ancestor and their proud family history. For many years, he has been active in the education of students in Texas History and was pleased to become part of the Texas Army due to its role in promoting education and pride in Texas.



Past Grand Master Elmer Murphey III (far right) and other members of Grand Lodge eagerly observe the presentations.



Brother Ron Brown (right) presents Col. John Martin with a formal recognition of his service by the Sons of the Republic of Texas.



Brother Jim Glover speaks about origins of Frontier Lodge #28 (left), while Brother Sam Whitley (right) offers his thoughts on early Freemasons and the founding of the Republic of Texas. Glover is a Past Master of Frontier Lodge and active member of the Texas Army and Brazoria Historical Militia. Whitley is a Past Master and current secretary of Frontier Lodge, in addition to his appointments in the Texas Army and Texas Navy.

Ron Brown, President of the San Jacinto Chapter #1 of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, spoke about the impact that masons have made on Texas, the nation, and the world. He quipped about Texas Masonry being so great that we have even claimed the moon as part of our jurisdiction (referring to Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin’s special deputation on the moon and the founding of Tranquility Lodge #2000 in 1969). Brown commended Holland Lodge on its history, reputation, and dedication to the craft. Brother Brown made presentations to Col. Martin, Sam Houston IV, Bob Welch, and Matthew Murphy, commending them on their efforts at promoting Texas and Masonic history. Brother Jim Glover, Past Master of Frontier Lodge #28 and member of the Texas Army and Brazoria Historical Militia, shared historical accounts and tales of masonry before and after the Texas revolution and provided a history of the original founding and eventual restoration of Frontier Lodge. Brother Glover shared Brother Brown’s praise of Holland Lodge, stating that it is recognized for its excellence in masonry. Sam Whitley, Past Master and secretary of Frontier Lodge, provided additional insights about the earliest Texas masons, their role in the revolution, and the evolution of masonry in the state over the past 175 years. Most Worshipful T.E. “Gene” Carnes, Grand Master of Masons in Texas in 2011, spoke briefly about the role Holland Lodge #1 has and continues to play in Texas masonry. He then presented W.M. Welch with an antique booklet titled “Frontier Times” containing an original article by Anson Jones. It was the strict edict of G.M. Carnes that the lodge should display this artifact with our historical items for the enjoyment of all masons. He then remarked that it was the custom of Grand Lodge to present official recognitions to lodges on their 100th and 150th anniversaries. As no other lodge had existed for 175 years, a new certificate was prepared and signed by G.M. Carnes to honor Holland Lodge on its 175th birthday. Brother Butter offered a



Grand Master T.E. "Gene" Carnes speaks about the history and significance of Holland Lodge #1, while Secretary Phillip Von Stephens looks on (left). Ron Brown, Sam Houston IV, and visitors share personal stories about the rich history of Texas and the masons who played a critical role in the state's founding (right).

closing prayer, and W.M. Welch then invited all attendees downstairs to enjoy a mouth-watering gumbo lunch.

As chairman of the Holland Lodge 175th Anniversary Committee, I would like to personally thank so many who made the event an inspiring success. Brothers Barry Podwin, Claude Eichenour, and Robert McCaslin prepared a fantastic meal with the aid of Roy Gal, Colby Lewis, and John Armitage, among others. Greg Butter did an outstanding job in promoting the event, with recognition in the Houston Chronicle and Texas Monthly. Jason Santeford and Michael Meier also contributed to the logistics and planning of the event. As a team, we were able to display that masonry is alive and well in Texas. Hopefully Sam Houston, Anson Jones, and the other founding brethren would agree.

Matthew B. Murphy
Senior Deacon, Holland Lodge #1



Brothers Podwin, Gal, and Eichenour serve deliciously prepared gumbo, rice, and desserts to our guests.



Holland Lodge's dining room was at capacity for the 175th anniversary lunch. More than 150 people attended the event.