

The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.

4911 Montrose Boulevard,

Houston TX 77006

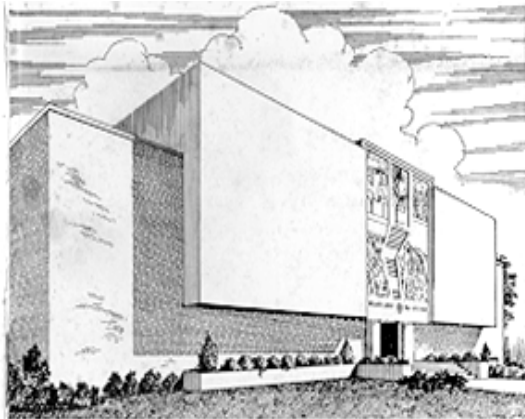
(713) 529-0912

www.hollandlodge.org

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Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



Stated Meeting:

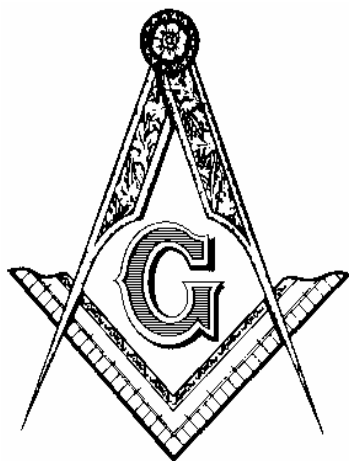
April 11, 2007

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for Dinner
&

for the Stated Meeting where the
business of Your Lodge is conducted!



From the East... Brethren, the Beehive, a symbol of Masonry, reminds us that Bees never quit, neither do Masons. Working together we can overcome any problems issues or challenges that adversely effect our lodge. I believe that and so should anyone that considers himself a Mason.

This question of whether or not Holland Lodge is for sale keeps coming up not only with our own members but it has come to my attention that the above question is being asked by many Masons in our district and around the State. I want to address this matter and explain why I consider it my duty to keep the membership of our Lodge informed about all things pertinent to our facility.

When invested with the insignia of the Master of Holland Lodge I accepted the responsibility of leadership. That responsibility (at least from my way of thinking) requires that I should keep the membership informed about any and all things of importance concerning our facility. Brethren, the facility belongs to you, what happens to it should be your decision, you should be involved in all aspects of our facility including approval of the day to day operations of the facility, and you should vote for or against any major repairs and expenses such as replacing doors, floors, adding office's or cleaning the building. You should decide if we are going to list or sell our facility. At this time Holland Lodge is not listed for sale with anyone and has not been since the beginning of this Masonic Year. It has been my practice to report to the membership when someone sends me a proposal, letter of intent, offer or anything that could impact our facility. I believe it to be my duty and responsibility to report this type of information to you, our members. Yes, we have a tax problem and yes, we are looking at our options and trying to come up with solutions but No, we have not listed the building for sale.

Brethren, it seems that some of our members have misconstrued my actions and think that I have been attempting to sell our facility, that is not true. Only you can authorize the sale of our building. I have simply been reporting to you information that should be considered and acknowledged by our membership. When offers are made you should be aware. **I hope this clears the air.**

Brethren, my opinion is that with hard work and diligence we can over come our tax problem by simply utilizing our facility to its fullest capacities, simply stated, by bringing in more renters. I asked the Masonic Building Association, which is made up of representative of our three ownership bodies, to come up with a possible leasing agreement for our property. The members of the MBA have prepared an agreement that they hope will help allow us to secure new tenants for our facility. The MBA met, discussed and worried over the correct amount to charge and over the ramifications of the liability associated with leasing to "non-owners". It was noted that we currently have 6 non owner bodies meeting in the building already!

There are many factors to consider regarding to the use of our facility, i.e. utilization of the kitchen and dinning hall, which lodge room is needed, how many meetings are to be held and on what dates, is there a need for office or storage space and this is just for starters as each tenant may have different needs. The MBA has worked hard to address these issues with a new leasing agreement which will be presented at the next stated meeting. Like any decision that affects the Lodge there will be those who will object to any attempts to fully utilize our building. We must investigate our options and implement some additional revenue raising opportunities or we are being negligent. Please plan to attend the stated meeting and learn first hand about the details and work that has gone into the development of this leasing agreement, be willing to discuss it intelligently and then cast your vote for or against the implementation of this revenue raising suggestion from the M. B. A.

In the July 2006 stated meeting I told you that I would report to you any and all things of importance concerning our lodge and facility. I have done that, our Lodge is not for sale. We have been working on ways to raise non dues revenue to pay our taxes and I am asking you to do your best to come out and participate in the process. As is taught to us through the symbol of the Bee Hive, with hard work we can overcome any problems that come before us.

Duncan Charles Chapman, Worshipful Master

From the South... The Holy Bible and How It Became Holy

As I look back at the time I began to study The Bible and its history I realize that to present a complete history of that good book in the space allotted to me in this publication is at best an absurd notion. It is my intention to explain how the Holy Bible was introduced into Free Masonry.

The first sacred texts began to emerge from the deserts and ancient cities of the Near East some one thousand years before the time of Jesus Christ. They were printed by hand on papyrus and often were about three or four feet in height and between ten to twenty feet in length. They were fixed on two round pieces of wood and rolled around these wooden rods to form scrolls. The Greek word for scroll was "bible". The scrolls could then be laid upon a flat surface and unrolled as the reader began to read.

The first texts were in ancient Hebrew and consisted of the first five books to which we now refer as The torah, or The Law. These first five books were Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. They were followed by the books of the Prophets, and the latter prophets, and later by the New Testament.

In the fourth century a scholar, Eusebius Hieronymus, more commonly known as Jerome, or in the Christian realm as St. Jerome (of removing the thorn from the paw of a lion fame) began to translate the ancient texts from Greek and Hebrew into Latin. Greek which was the most common language of that time and was the first language to be written from left to right. These Latin texts carried the Bible well into the Renaissance hundreds of years after Latin ceased to be a spoken language.

The texts translated by Jerome were known as *The Latin Vulgate* which means "common latin", or the every day Latin spoken by the majority of the Latin speakers of that time. He died in 420 at the age of 80.

The Bible, of course could not have been introduced to the world had it not been for the invention of paper and ink. The Chinese invented and perfected "India Ink" which was a mixture of soot from pine smoke and lamp oil mixed with gelatin of donkey skin and musk. Ink invented by the Chinese Philosopher, Tien-Lcheu became common around 1200 B.C. Other less reliable forms of ink appeared as early as 2100 B.C. Other cultures developed inks using the natural dyes and colors derived from berries, seeds, and other plants. By 400 A.D. a stable form of ink was developed around Samarkand and was brought to North Africa by Arab traders and introduced into Spain by the Arabs. This ink was made from a compound of iron-salts, nutgalls and gum. This basic formula remained in use for centuries. When first applied to paper it was a bluish black, turned to a darker black and then over the years turned to a dull brown color commonly seen in old documents. Before paper as I have previously mentioned, early writings were done using papyrus made from river reeds or parchment which is usually made from sheep hide that had been milled by hand into a thin sheet. This process was very time consuming.

The earliest forms of paper were also invented by the Chinese circa 105 A.D. by Ts'ai Lun. He made it possible to use a variety of materials such as tree bark, hemp and rags. The sturdiest of paper at that time was made from bamboo. It was white and absorbent and held the ink used at that time preventing it from drying and literally falling off the page. Due to Chinese secrecy paper did not appear in Japan until 700 A.D. It was introduced into Spain by the Arabs circa 711 A.D. Paper was not widely used in Europe until the later part of the 14th century when paper mills began to appear.

Johann Gutenberg (1400-1468), the inventor of the printing press has been deemed one of the most important people in regard to the spread of The Bible than any other person in history. His invention which used movable metal type, and allowed works to be printed one after another without the use of scribes, who often made mistakes in the transcriptions of the work in which they were employed. These printings were done on parchment and in Latin. It was he who produced the first printed bible, known to this day as *The Gutenberg Bible*.

In the early 1600's King James the First took it upon himself to have The Bible translated from the *Latin Vulgate* into the English language. To accomplish this he used 70 Catholic scribes who did the work by hand resulting in more inaccuracies and in some cases outright mistranslating some passages which some scholars suspect was an effort to convince the common folk that God was indeed an Englishman.

The first mention of The Bible being Holy occurred after 1611 when the King's scribes had finished their work and it was turned over to a printer in London by the name of Robert Barker and in 1633 the first *Holy Bible* appeared for distribution. It was that printer who referred to the bible as "Holy", not the King.

The *Holy Bible* was introduced as furniture of the Lodge in London by William Preston (1742-1818) around 1760 and in the rituals of that same year was described as one of the lights of Masonry. In the American System it is both a piece of furniture and a great light. Brother Preston is and was at that time a powerful and influential force within The Craft. I would like to discuss Brother Preston further, but as you can see once again I'm running out of space. I'll see you here next month. I hope!

Jerry Brainard Jones, J.W. Holland Lodge Number One, Houston, Texas

From the Secretary

Special notice: Lodge DUES are due and payable at this time. Please remit your \$75.00 dues at this time to Holland Lodge No. 1. Otherwise please call your secretary to make other arrangements. My lodge & office phone numbers are on the back of the Alpha. Your Lodge is pleased to announce that in the coming weeks several Master Mason's degree and some Fellowcraft degrees as going to be scheduled. Those of you who use the Internet, keep posted I will ask the webmaster to post the time and dates of each degree.

Did you know?

COWAN: What is the difference between a Cowan and an eavesdropper? An eavesdropper is an intentional listener. A Cowan may therefore be classed as an unintentional listener in Speculative Masonry. It is a Scotch term of contempt. A drydyker, one who builds dykes or walls without mortar. So therefore according to Speculative Science, Masonry has no place for anyone that builds their symbolic walls without the cement of brotherly love. Ez 13:10-15.

Thank you, Bro. Phillip von Stephens for sharing this info!

2007 Masonic Oak Picnic

The 2007 Masonic Oak Picnic will be **Sunday, May 20th** at the Masonic Oak Park in Brazoria. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with the program and devotional service at 10:00 a.m. A catered barbeque lunch will be served afterwards. Tickets will be available at registration. In the past they have been \$7.50. **Remember, this is an outdoor picnic so dress accordingly. For complete details go to: <http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/masonicoak.php>**

Brad Reel (one of your Holland Lodge Brothers) will be organizing a group to caravan down to the event. Please contact Bro. Reel for more information: breel1@houston.rr.com

Upcoming Meetings

April 11, 2007 Stated Meeting

April 29, 2007 Honoring of Bro. Forsgard at Glenwood Cemetery at 1:00 pm with reception to follow at Holland Lodge

May 9, 2007 Stated Meeting

May 20, 2007 Masonic Oak Picnic

June 13, 2007 Stated Meeting

Please check the website at

www.HollandLodge.org for updates & announcements.

You won't want to miss this!

Brethren,

The following article was written by my friend Mrs. Ann Becker and I have her permission to include it in the Alpha. It is a part of your history and deserves your attention and attendance. We are, after-all, the oldest Masonic Lodge in Texas. Duncan, W.M.

On April 29, 2007 at 1:00 pm., Gustave August Forsgard (1848-1932) will receive a Texas State Historical Marker on his grave-site in Glenwood Cemetery. The dedication will be immediately followed by a reception at the Masonic Lodge on Montrose Blvd., Holland Lodge No. 1.

His place of burial, Glenwood Cemetery, has 15,000 residents and only four Texas State Historical Association markers. Famous people are buried in Glenwood including Anson Jones, Howard Hughes Sr. and Jr., Gene Tierney, Denton Cooley's family, James Baker, Frederick Rice and most of the earliest Houston pioneers including Charlotte Allen, wife of August Chapman Allen, founder of Houston.

G.A. Forsgard was born in Sweden in 1832 and came to the Galveston/Houston area in 1848. He was sponsored by Swen Jaensson, known as Swante Palm, an early Swedish pioneer, (whose estate donated the first 10,000 volumes to start the library at UT) who was known for assisting in the immigration of other Swedish settlers.

G.A. Forsgard came alone by boat during a three month trip, landing in Galveston. He settled in the Brazoria area and picked cotton for a time, then moved to Houston becoming the official liaison between Swanthe Palm and the large Swedish hill country settlements by meeting the boats in Galveston and helping them navigate this new territory of Texas.

He was a book dealer, banker, and an inventor. He was a Past Master Mason of Holland Lodge #1, He was a volunteer fire-fighter with Hook and Ladder No. 1, and fought for the Texas Confederacy during the Civil War commanding a unit that successfully held off an attempted invasion by the Union troops. He married Jennie Lusk, niece of one of the Mayors of Houston, Andrew Jackson Burke. G.A. Forsgard was related through marriage to E.H. Cushing, who during the Civil War was the third and most celebrated publisher of the Telegraph operating the business for 13 years.

G.A. Forsgard is the perfect example of the tough Texas pioneer, eager to succeed in this new land and willing to help others join him.

Ann Becker

This Historical dedication is due in part and central to Bro. Forsgard's belief and dedication to Masonry. His year in Masonry as the leader of Holland #1 is recorded in our minutes and there were many interesting things that happened during his year. Brethren as members of Holland Lodge owe it to Bro Forsgard to attend the dedication ceremony.

Please mark April 29Th 2007 at 1PM at Glenwood and ending at Holland # 1 as a date in your calendar to attend. I really hope to see you there. Duncan Chapman, W.M. 2006/2007

We will miss our departed Brothers... None that we know of have passed away recently.

Have you made your family aware to notify your Lodge upon your passing? Have you discussed your desires regarding having a Masonic Burial Service? Your Family needs to know your desires and be willing to allow your Lodge to perform the service. Please discuss your wishes with your family and provide them with information on how to contact your Lodge. Your family will likely have many things on their minds including grief, sadness, funeral arrangements etc, make it easier for them by putting your affairs in order ahead of time. Let them know what type of funeral service you would like to have, where your will and insurance papers are kept and finally, let them know that they can turn to your Fraternity for comfort and assistance during difficult times.

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Duncan Chapman	281- 447-8200	832- 212-3181	dcc624@yahoo.com
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Treasurer	Emile A.Bussemey	713- 729-1348	713- 260-7453	bizme@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	713- 723-2009	713-723-2009	pvs@insurer.com
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Senior Steward	Kurtis Kasper	832-216-3519	713-348-3027	kasper@rice.edu
Junior Steward	Christopher Clemence	832-466-1803	832-466-1803	conagher78@yahoo.com
Marshal	Duke Keller	281-497-6019	281-589-9000	dkeller@kellerallenlaw.com
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Carl Reilly	713-474-2223	713-474-2223	ctreilly@gmail.com
Musician	Rodney Elliott	713- 236-0359	713-236-0359	rodney@CommerceStreet.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713- 666-3625	713-666-3625	None
Immediate PM	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-339-9420	tbehrman@mindspring.com

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