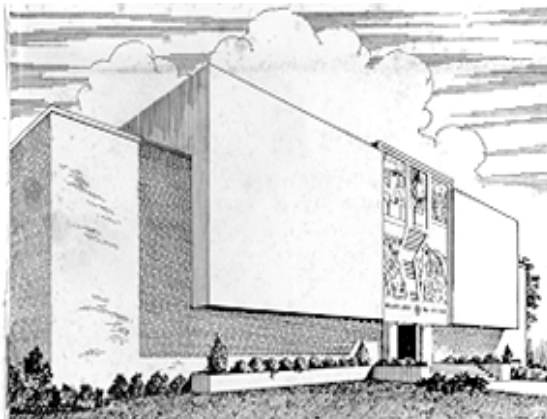
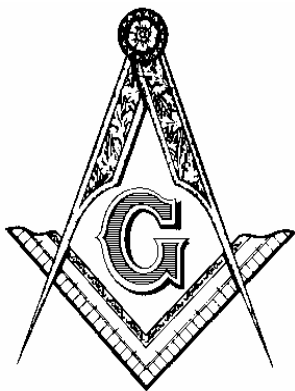


# The Alpha

**Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.**  
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**[www.hollandlodge.org](http://www.hollandlodge.org)**  
**April 2009**  
**Volume 39 Number 9**  
**Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor**



**The Next Stated Meeting**  
**April 8, 2009**  
**Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Please join us for a Dinner and**  
**our April Stated Meeting**



**Stated Meetings are held on the**  
**2nd Wednesday of each month.**  
**Please check the website at**  
**[www.HollandLodge.org](http://www.HollandLodge.org)**  
**for updates & announcements.**

**There are Degrees and Proficiency Exams**  
**taking place on a regular basis...check the**  
**website for details.**

## From the East

Much has been said and written regarding the Masonic life and times of Brother George Washington, which is well documented. He was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia on February 22, 1732. Sometime around 1742 his father died. The family estate consisted of the family farm which was located on the Rapprochement River. After his elder brother, Lawrence died 10 years later in 1752, George was twenty years old and succeeded to the position which Lawrence held as Major and adjutant general in one of the military divisions of the state.

Washington was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on November 4, 1752 according to the records which are still in existence at the Lodge at Fredericksburg along with the receipt of the entrance fee of two pounds, which was no small amount at that time.

On the 3rd March 1753 Brother Washington was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft and on the 4th of August in that same year he was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. There is some disagreement among scholars as to where he was made a Mason. Some English writers have asserted that he was made a Mason during the old French war in a military Lodge attached to the 46th Regiment. The Bible on which he is said to have been obligated is still in existence. That same Lodge which existed at Halifax, Nova Scotia was dissolved some time in the 18th century. There are however, records that survived that Lodge which mention that he was indeed there and according to those documents he did receive some sort of Masonic degree there. Scholars do agree that he was made a Mason in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, which is still in possession of the records relating to his raising along with the Bible on which he was obligated.

The Lodge at Fredericksburg was known as a "self starter" which was a term used at that time to describe Lodges that were formed by Freemasons without a charter from a Grand Lodge which of course which would today be considered a clandestine lodge. The Lodge at Fredericksburg was composed mostly of Scots and the Lodge received its' charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, so it can be said that Brother Washington was a Scottish Freemason.

During the Revolutionary War Washington did continue to visit the military Lodges. After the war he settled down to the business of establishing the various institutions necessary run the new Nation. It has been said that the founding Fathers (13 of the signers were Freemasons) relied on Masonic philosophy to frame the new Constitution. Masonic writers and historians have dismissed this notion as Masonic myth.

After the Revolution Washington and the Founding Fathers thoughts turned to building a capitol city. The new city was named after him although he referred to it as "Federal City" as long as he lived.

In early America the majority of the existing building were constructed of wood. Washington and the founding fathers came to the realization that the principal government buildings should be constructed of stone to insure their survival. The decision to use stone as the main building material raised an interesting question; which was, where were they going to find enough stone masons to complete such a monumental task?

The planners of the Federal City turned to several Scottish Lodges located in the area. The Scots were Operative Stone Masons who were in contact with other Stone Mason Lodges in Scotland. Before 1790 plans were being contemplated to build a "President's House". Pierre-Charles L'Enfant, a French born architect designed the layout for the new "federal city" which was in the shape of a diamond. Each side of the diamond measured ten miles, totaling one hundred square miles. Washington laid the corner stone of the Capitol building on September 18, 1793.

L'Enfant selected one James Hoban a Freemason and a working stone mason and architect from Ireland to select a site, draw up the plans and oversee the construction of the President's House The corner stone was laid by George Washington on the 13th of October 1792 in a Masonic ceremony. Most if not all of the craftsmen who built the Presidents House' later known as "The White House" were Freemasons. There was a shortage of workers still, even after the Scottish emigrants arrived from Scotland. The house was completed in November 1800. Brother George Washington never lived in The Presidents House. He died on December 14, 1799.

**Jerry Brainard Jones W.M. Holland Lodge**

## Greetings From the South...

“Behold how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity.....”

Command or Invitation?

This verse, introduced in the first degree, is certainly heard by most of us as a command: to stop and consider the value and benefit of Brotherly Love and Unity. There are lots of “beholds” in scripture. All can be taken as commands, orders, directions. The deep voice echoing the word “BEHOLD” admonishes us to stop, look, and try to understand the object of the sentence beginning with the word.

If we actually follow the command in the case of the 133 Psalm, we quickly realize just what it is we are to consider. If we follow up on our initial understanding, we find that we can also take BEHOLD to be an “invitation.” An invitation to look deeply and subjectively into the meaning of the verse. We contemplate, read other sources, view the world around us and come to a greater understanding of the heart of the passage. We are in fact exercising the practice of exegeses that Brother Butter wrote about last month.

Next in the text we hear about the precious oil and the dew of Hermon. The precious oil was not bound by its intended limits, namely Aaron’s noggin, but in fact overflowed on to his beard and garments, knowing no limits, just as the Brotherly Love needed for brethren to dwell together in unity can know no bounds without losing its essence.

Similarly, the dew of Hermon descended and covered entirely the dry and harsh topography of the Mountains of Zion, providing the necessary moisture to provide life for the land. The dew covered the rocks, the plants, the good and the bad without notice and exemplifies the meaning and extent of God’s love; being without preference or prejudice.

Just as the dew of Hermon was a gift of grace for all it covered, so too is the love offered by God to all. Understanding this we better understand our commission to extend without limits or boundaries Brotherly Love to all people.

We have heard it said our duty is to our fraternal brethren but we have also heard it stated that it is to extend to all. Brethren means not only our brothers in the Lodge. It means in our rituals, “..the whole human race.”

My VSL states that in the eyes of God there is no Greek or Jew, Slave or Free, Male or Female. Today we know that this is about the all inclusiveness of God’s love and the all inclusiveness of “Brotherly Love.” It means also that there is no White or Black, Christian or Muslim, Rich or Poor, Gay or Straight, Anglo or Hispanic, European or Asian. God loves them all.

This is the love that we see in the stories of Ruth, mentioned here last month, and the Good Samaritan, who extended Brotherly Love to one who under different circumstance would have offered only hatred.

These concepts are not new. The world has been blessed in all times and ages with great teachers of love, acceptance and inclusion. Jesus, Buddha, Gandhi, Dalai Lama, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Theresa and on and on and on. We just need to hear the command and accept the invitation: BEHOLD.

Only when we are able to see a brother or a sister in every human being we meet will we have inculcated perhaps the greatest Masonic Principle, that of Brotherly Love.

Let us all take to heart and benefit from the great virtues and tenets of our excellent institution this year.

**Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Bob Welch, Junior Warden**

## Whence Came You?

Bro. Oliver Day Street

Daily this question is asked by Masons without the slightest thought as to its real meaning.

It is fitting that the answer we make to it in the lodge is well nigh unintelligible, for it is about as intelligible as any ever given it or as probably ever will be given it.

Who can answer the question "Whence came you?"

Who has ever answered it ? Who will ever answer it ?

Equally baffling and profound is that companion question, familiar in some jurisdictions, "Whither art thou bound?"

Equally an enigma is the answer we give it. Simple as these questions appear, they search every nook and cranny and sound every depth of every philosophy, every mythology, every theology, and every religion that has ever been propounded anywhere by anybody at any time to explain human life.

They allude to the problems of the origin and destiny of mankind; they lie at the foundation of all the thinking and of all the activities of man except such as are concerned with the purely utilitarian question "What shall we eat and wherewithal shall we be clothed?"

All our better impulses, all our loftier aspirations, all our faiths, all our longing for and striving after a nobler state of existence, either in this or a future life, are but attempts to answer these two questions.

They are the supreme questions which men have been asking themselves and each other ever since men were able to think and to talk, and they are the questions which men will continue to ask oftenest and most anxiously until the time when we are promised that we shall know even as we are known.

It is thus that study and reflection bring out the beauty and the profound significance of the simplest of Masonic formulae.

- Source: The Builder - February 1917

**Thank you Bro Meier for the contribution.**

## From the Secretary

The Master's Fund could use some contributions. We have some brethren in serious need in the short term. Many thanks to Barry Podwin, Duncan C. Chapman, Brad Reel, Holland Lodge members as a whole and the many vendors who supported the Shriner's in their efforts to provide drivers for the transportation from airports to local hospitals in the Houston and Galveston areas. More thanks for all the help in making for a successful tailgate party at the Shriner's Blue Gray football game. Likewise that money goes to help pay for the treatment to may children.

### **CORD. What cord was used by the Masons during the Middle Ages?**

The threefold cord was very much cherished by the Comocine Masters during the middle ages, as well as the Companions of the Royal Arch of today.

### **We will miss our departed Brothers**

Luther B. Van Cleve II  
Gilbert T. Chafin  
Hunter Harang  
Ralph O. Robinson Jr.  
Kenneth E. Zimmerman  
Edward H. Holland  
James R. Barker Jr.  
Leroy C. Richter

## The Printed Alpha, to Live or Die?

My Brothers, the Alpha is your Lodge newsletter. It is the means that announcements, occasions, degrees, special meetings (like MWGM visits and DDGM visits) and educational meetings have traditionally been communicated to you. Those times seem to have changed.

It is also a place for you to read articles written by your elected and appointed officers and others who choose to contribute.

I am sad to say that the Alpha seems to be falling on hard times. I can't "edit" a newsletter that has no input.

That being said, if you have an article you have wanted to see in print, or if you would like to write an article for consideration in the Alpha please email me at [sessumsjr@gmail.com](mailto:sessumsjr@gmail.com)

**In today's world the printed word seems to be getting less and less attention. There are those Brothers who do not have access to the internet or who just prefer the printed newsletter so I hope you will consider contributing. Who knows, we might even get the calendar back in the Alpha if enough Brothers ask the Lodge Officers. Thanks for your time.**

**Bill Sessums Jr. P.M.**

## Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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