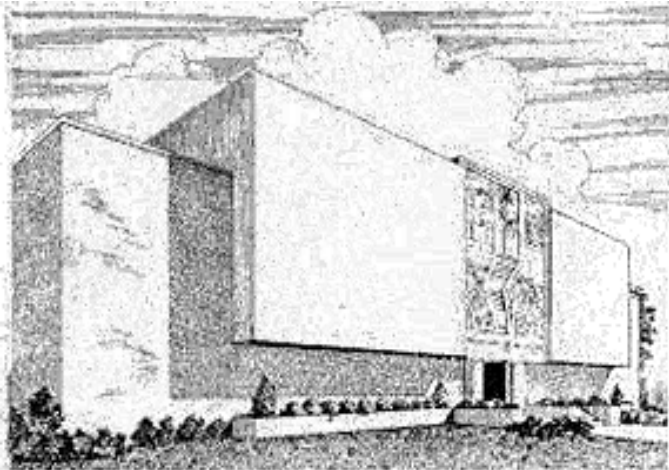


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
December 2005
Volume 36 Number 6
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



Stated Meeting
December 14, 2005
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Program: “A Report on the Grand Lodge of Texas Annual Communication in Waco,” by our Junior Warden,
Bro. Patrick B. Porter

Remember this Month:

**The Annual Holland Lodge No. 1
Family Holiday Dinner Party**
Open to all Brethren, their families and special
guests
Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Remember next Month:

**The 170th Anniversary of Holland Lodge No. 1
and visit by**
M.: W.: Brian R. Dodson,
Grand Lodge of Texas
Wednesday, January 18, 2006



Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

Holland Lodge No.1: 1835-2005
170 years of Masonry in Texas

Brethren, November and December again are filling up from the standpoint of degree work at the Lodge. We have initiated three EAs recently, already examined one, had a FC degree a couple of weeks ago and are now preparing for another FC degree before the end of the month. By the time this Alpha reaches you our two FCs may be ready for their proficiency examinations. At this pace there is a good prospect that we could raise at least two Master Masons before the end of the year! And we should have good prospects for a couple of more by this summer. I am very pleased with the progress of our candidates, not only their hard work, but the work of our instructors and EA and FC degree masters, Jr. Deacon Wael Semaan and Sr. Deacon Patrick Porter. I want to thank our Senior Deacon, Gene Wright, who has his hands full keeping up with our growing number of candidates. We are on a pace of at least one new EA every month and this puts a great deal of pressure, welcomed I might add, on our officers overseeing our candidates. We need our instructors to shepherd our candidates through the process, to the ultimate goal of becoming a Master Mason and enjoying all the benefits of being a Mason. Our District Instructor, Emile A. Bussemey, 3rd, has been doing yeoman work on instructing and participating in our degree teams. I wanted to thank our instructors, degree team participants and officers for their hard work, commitment and guidance on behalf of our newest Masons at Holland Lodge.

By the time this issue of the *Alpha* hits your mailing address, we would have all returned from our yearly trip to Waco for the **170th Annual Communication of Grand Lodge of Texas**, December 1-3, 2005. Also, at the **Stated Meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2005**, our Junior Warden, Bro. Patrick Porter, will be presenting his report on the annual Grand Lodge meeting, including reporting on the outcome of the 18 proposed resolutions and 4 Grand Master's Recommendations. We will all discuss the results and events of Grand Lodge. I hope you can attend to hear about what is happening with your Grand Lodge of Texas. The Holland Lodge brethren who attend will be delighted to talk with you about our trip.

As mentioned last month, this is the season for thanksgiving and joyful celebrations. I want to take this opportunity to wish all our Brethren and their families a wonderful Holiday season. Merry Christmas! Happy Chanukah! And a Happy New Year in 2006! Please do not forget our annual holiday season family celebration, the **Annual Holland Lodge No. 1 Family Holiday Dinner Party**, open to all Brethren and their families, on **Wednesday, December 21, 2005**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Our Senior Steward and P.M. Earl Thompson are planning on a big feed, good food and great fun. Please bring your spouse and children.

Last month we had a very well attended all-day Saturday **Forum and Exam** at Holland Lodge, the success due in large measure to the entertaining and informative program put on by our own R.: W.: Bill Sessums, Sr., of the Committee on Work, Grand Lodge of Texas. Thanks again, Bill. I also want to thank my Sisters and Brothers at Houston Chapter #385, Order of the Eastern Star, who graciously hosted the Masons of Holland Lodge No. 1 on November 3, 2005. Bro. Jack Wright gave a program and report on the Texas Masonic

Continued on page 2

Squaring Actions

So this is the final article in my series concerning my personal relationships with the working tools of the Fellowcraft degree. I saved it for last, because it is the one with out the most direct symbolism for me. I have a tough time relating to the ancient tool. Largely probably due to the fact that I had no idea how an ancient craftsman would have fashioned a square to use until I brushed up on my high school geometry.

There is a lot of talk about stuff being “on the square”, but I really have no idea how that phrase relates to the symbolism in our work. Maybe, thanks to this article, someone will explain it to me. It would also be a good test to see if anyone has continued to read my ramblings.

I know that it must have been amazingly difficult to turn stones into rectangular blocks by which the temples and other structures were constructed. The “square-ness” of an object is determined at the corners of the blocks. In the corners 3 different surfaces must come together and each of the surfaces must be at a right angle to the other 2 surfaces. All told it is 3 different measurements that must be taken on each corner to declare something “square”, with 8 corners on a rectangular block, it means that a “perfect” block would have 24 “square” relationships. (24 square measurements...24 hours in a day...24 equal angles, interesting huh?, a 3 dimensional version of the 24 inch gauge?).

I can only imagine a man working with a common gavel and stone-working tools shaping a block, sliding a square along every edge making sure that his measurement on one corner is the same as on the next and that the span in-between lines up well. The amount of energy and concentration involved must have been intense, as well as the sense of ownership that went into forming what could be regarded as something worthy of being included in a building that fitted with such exact nicety in all it’s parts.

How does this ancient procedure relate to how we are supposed to act while upon the square? I am now taking it to mean (thanks to this article) that during the 24 hours of the day we are to labor at making sure that our actions line up from one hour to the next. Realizing the acts of intemperance could lead to too large a divot being cleaved from the rock, and that acts of indecision could not take enough away to have effected any change; each measurement and action affecting the next. If one angle is less than square and another is more than square then the whole side of that block has been compromised and a lot of work will need to be re-done and the block itself will shrink in size. Failing to square our actions could almost be said to contribute to a diminishing affect on the size of the living stones that we hope to contribute to a house not made with hands.

I’m glad for the opportunity to write this article, as it has given me the opportunity to explore how the square relates to my life and some of the symbolism I believe it to contain.

Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.

Retirement Home in Arlington, Texas. Thank you, Worthy Matron Sandy Kelly. We all had a great time at the annual *UT vs. Texas A&M* dinner and party. The stories and predictions were wild and funny. The game ended up being close and most all of the predictions were way off! It was great to see the women in attendance as well. Everybody had fun.

We still have a few briskets from the October 29, 2005, 4th **Annual Holland Lodge #1 Brisket – Barbecue Sale**, held to benefit the Holland Lodge #1 College Scholarship program. Those of you who have not yet picked up your briskets, please do so as soon as possible. Please contact me if you would like a brisket, only \$40.00, and the funds go toward a great cause. We have helped three deserving college students and want to continue with this program in the future. Please contact me if you would like to contribute to our College Scholarship program. We still hope to organize a raffle for the spring to help in the scholarship fundraising efforts. Your continuing support is appreciated.

We have two new boxes in the *Alpha* this month, the first, “Honors to Holland,” and second, a request for volunteers to work in the area of masonology at the Lodge. This month in the Honors column we highlight members of Holland who were recognized last month by the Scottish Rite by being elevated to the 33E and 32E KCCH. Congratulations to our members: 33E Inspector General Honorary, **David Fallas**; and 32E Knight Commander Court of Honour: **Brent Lawrence Burg; Mark Stephan Love; Patrick Daniel Mahoney; James Allan Pas-samano; Donald Robert Sabin; William Ernest Sessums, Sr.;** and **Roy Isom Smith, Jr.** I anticipate that this box will continue to appear in future *Alpha* editions to recognize the accomplishments of outstanding Holland Lodge #1 members for their special contributions to the Lodge, to masonry and to the public in general. I would again encourage our members who have an interest in delving into masonology that they contact PM Jeff Burnett and Bro. Mike Orr. Jeff and Mike are both keenly interested in getting you started on a project for eventual presentation to the Lodge. Please do not hesitate to contact them.

On **Wednesday, January 18, 2006**, we will celebrate 170 years of masonry at Holland Lodge No. 1 by having a birthday party at the Lodge. We will also be receiving the Grand Master of all Masons in Texas, **R. W.: Brian Richard Dodson**. I hope you will all plan on attending this special event at Holland, **The 170th Anniversary of Holland Lodge No. 1**. We will be having a special program and a wonderful meal that night. There may even be a birthday cake! Please do not miss the visit of the Grand Master and our special celebration.

I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday. Again, Merry Christmas! Happy Chanukah! And have a Happy New Year in 2006! I look forward to seeing you at Holland Lodge No. 1 this upcoming year!

Fraternally, Tom Behrman, W.M.

HONORS TO HOLLAND

Congratulations to the following members of Holland Lodge No. 1 who were honored by **The Houston Scottish Rite Bodies** at ceremonies on Saturday, November 5, 2005:

33E Inspector General Honorary:
David Fallas

32E Knight Commander Court of Honour:
Brent Lawrence Burg
Mark Stephan Love
Patrick Daniel Mahoney
James Allan Passamano
Donald Robert Sabin
William Ernest Sessums, Sr.
and **Roy Isom Smith, Jr.**

Masonology Volunteers

The next **Third Monday Program** in January planned by Bros. Marvin Peterson and Andy Deas tentatively will focus on Masonology at our Lodge.

In the meantime, our Senior Steward, Bro. Mike Orr, and our PM and *Alpha* Editor Emeritus, Bro. Jeff Burnett, are both soliciting volunteers to work on short research projects, topics and brief presentations on **masonology**. There are numerous topics and research material readily available in our Library, all under the able guidance of Bros. Burnett and Orr, if you would like to undertake this valuable contribution at Holland Lodge.

The Lodge needs this type of support, and your study and participation will be rewarding not only to the Lodge, but also to yourself.

Please see, email, or call, Mike or Jeff, at your convenience. Thanks.

Lodge Activities/Calendar

December, 2005

December 1	Thursday -	Grand Lodge of Texas Annual Communication, Waco
December 2	Friday -	Grand Lodge of Texas Annual Communication, Waco
December 3	Saturday -	Grand Lodge of Texas Annual Communication, Waco
December 5	Monday -	EA & FC SOI, Certificate SOI; and/or Degree practice
December 7	Wednesday -	EA & FC SOI; and/or Degree
December 12	Monday -	Dark
December 14	Wednesday -	HL #1 December Stated Meeting
December 19	Monday -	EA & FC SOI; and/or Degree/Degree practice
December 21	Wednesday -	Annual HL #1 Family Holiday Dinner Party
December 25	Sunday -	Christmas – HOLIDAY
December 26	Monday -	Dark
December 28	Wednesday -	EA & FC SOI; and/or Degree

January, 2006

January 1	Sunday -	New Year's Day – HOLIDAY
January 2	Monday -	Dark
January 4	Wednesday -	EA & FC SOI; Degree, or Degree practice
January 9	Monday -	Dark
January 11	Wednesday -	HL #1 January Stated Meeting
January 16	Monday -	Officers practice for GM reception [M. L. King – Holiday]
January 18	Wednesday -	Reception of GM Brian R. Dodson, HL #1 170th Anniversary
January 23	Monday -	3rd Monday Program

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
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Junior Warden	Patrick Porter	713- 796-1131	713- 316-4961	JuniorWarden@HollandLodge.org
Treasurer	Emile A.Bussemey	713- 729-1348	713- 260-7453	Treasurer@HollandLodge.org
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	713- 723-2009	713-723-2009	Secretary@Hollandlodge.org
Chaplain	Max Bernstein	713- 667-5697	713-667-5697	Max.bernstein@lswc.net
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Marshal	Collin Keel	713-799-2735	713-942-8000	Marshall@HollandLodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Duke Keller	281-497-6019	281-589-9010	MasterCeremonies@HollandLodge.org
Musician	Rodney Elliot	713- 236-0359	713-236-0359	Rodney@CommerceStreet.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713- 666-3625	713-666-3625	Tiler@Hollandlodge.org
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