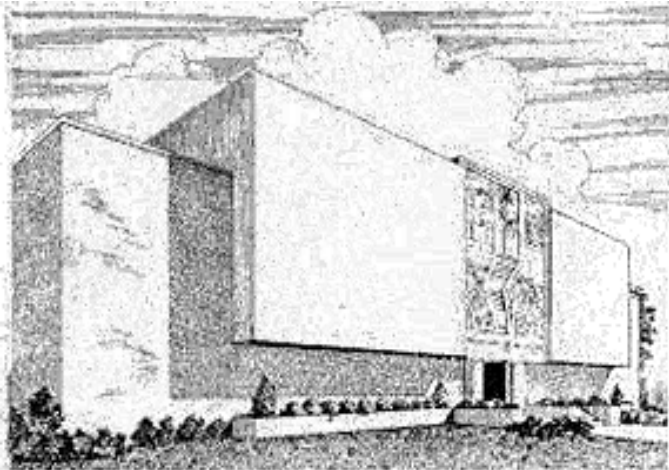


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
February 2006
Volume 36 Number 8
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



**Stated Meeting
February 8, 2006
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.**

**Program: Official Visit of R.: W.: Tom Staton,
District Deputy Grand Master,
Masonic District #30A**

**50 year Masonic Service Awards
at the Stated Meeting
Wednesday, February 8, 2006**

Remember next Month:

**2006 Holland Lodge No. 1
Golden Trowel Award
Mark J. Sandler, P.M.
Wednesday, March 15, 2006**

**9th Annual Sam Houston Lecture
Dr. Margaret C. Jacob,
UCLA Distinguished Professor of History
Saturday, March 25, 2006**

**Both are open meetings but be sure to get your
tickets ahead of time for the Lecture!**

Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

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

Brethren, we welcomed in the New Year and celebrated our **170th Anniversary** at Holland Lodge #1 with a visit from the Grand Master of all Masons in Texas, M.: W.: **Brian R. Dodson**, of the Grand Lodge of Texas, on Wednesday, January 18, 2006. We had a terrific turnout of visiting Brethren and Grand Lodge representatives. After dining on fajitas, cake and ice cream, we repaired to the Lodge room for a tiled Lodge and reception of the Grand Master. Bro. **Thomas Jefferson "TJ/Jeff" Burnett**, PM, delivered the **170th Anniversary** paper and speech, chronicling the history of Holland Lodge #1 (originally Holland Lodge #36, under dispensation from Louisiana), tracing our origins from Mexico, to the Republic of Texas and eventually the State of Texas. If you ever have a question about our history, or our various addresses, ask Jeff because he knows all the answers and many stories. I was pleased to make several presentations on behalf of the Lodge to the Grand Master, including one of our gold belt buckles, a hunting shirt with our 170th Anniversary logo and, to celebrate his visit at the anniversary celebration, a framed reproduction of the first two pages from our minute book, pages 1 and 2 from Book A, dated January 29, 1836, authorizing the installation of our first officers, including our first Master, Bro. Anson Jones ("Physician"). These pages are a reproduction of the oldest records of Masonry in Texas and it was a pleasure to present them to the Grand Master for his year. It was great for all assembled to share in the celebration and to hear the Grand Master's speech on fraternity, fellowship, friendship and fun in our Lodges --- goals all of us should strive to practice.

At our January Stated meeting before opening we all enjoyed the unveiling of the portrait of former Grand Master and Holland Lodge #1 member, R.: W.: **David B. Dibrell**, in the Lodge room. David was accompanied by his wife, Marlene, along with their friends and guests. David's portrait as Grand Master joins our other honored members' portraits who have also served as Grand Masters of Texas. There are more portraits to come for our Lodge room! The assembled brethren enjoyed the slide presentation and program of Very Excellent Past High Priest of the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch of Texas, **Jack L. Wright**, on the **Texas Masonic Retirement Home**, in Arlington, Texas. The program was informative and reminded us all of our obligation to our brethren, their widows and orphans. The TMRH is a beautiful and wonderful Masonic institution and operates in Arlington on behalf of all of us.

On Monday evening, January 23, 2006, Bros. **Andy Deas** and **Marvin Peterson** double teamed to put on our second **Third Monday Program** this year, as promised focusing on the field of masonology. Andy presented a paper on "The Morgan Affair," the early nineteenth century incident which gave rise to the first anti-Masonic sentiment and movement in the United States, manifesting itself later in the Anti-Masonic Party. Marvin circulated a recent book by Michael Johnson, **The Freemasons**, and gave an extensive review. Those in attendance in the dining room engaged in a lively discussion following the program, asking questions, offering comments and participating in the practice of masonry. As hoped for by the Third Monday Program Committee, Bro. Jeff Burnett and our Senior Steward, Mike Orr, the process of practicing masonry downstairs as well as upstairs has begun. Per Mike, plan on seeing more presentations and discussions of masonology in the dining room in the future.

I want to remind you again of the considerable work ahead of this the next couple of months, with 3 EA degrees to be done and 2 Master Masons to raise. I am sure our degree masters will be calling on you and we need your participation in the degrees. We also need our members as instructors and

Continued on page 2

“From the South” Come and Get It...

During the holiday season I like everyone else probably ate well and way too much. In some cases I helped cook and other times I was cooked for. In each case it was a meal where friends and family came together and celebrated being together.

Well, after listening to the Grand Master's speech and hearing his message of fellowship, I thought I would give some attention to the work that our stewards have done over the past couple of years.

This year our Senior Steward, Mike Orr has done an excellent job of fostering fellowship amongst the brethren. Most meals are eaten family style around one large table. It is an interesting approach to the meal and often makes the meal more enjoyable, and makes me feel better because there is no place to go for seconds which I don't ever need. Mike has also done a great job in presentation. Most of the stated meetings have had some kind of associated theme with the dinner which is a much appreciated addition. It was nice to see the consternation on the faces of many of the members when Mike brought out non-alcoholic beer during October and also revisited the idea for the Grand Master's visit. That kind of ingenuity makes me proud to be a member of Holland Lodge.

The year previous with Wael in the kitchen was nice as well. I believe that most of the brethren got to experience new and exciting foods which they otherwise might not have been exposed to. It was a pleasure to go to lodge and have food which I normally wouldn't have expected. The meals definitely provoked conversation and showed how adaptable some of the membership was.

I could go on about the great work that Bro. Jerry Jones, Bro. Allen Johnston, and Bro. Duncan Chapman did as well; or about all the extra work that I have seen other brothers provide in the kitchen. Bro. Earl Thompson and his holiday meals, WM Tom Behrman and his Saturday morning breakfasts and all the other brothers like Gregg Wood, Kurtis Kasper and Charley Dreizen who silently work behind the scenes to foster the strong bonds of fellowship which can be experienced in the dining hall.

I know that there is a whole category of Masons which are fondly called “Knife-Fork-and-Spoon” Masons. These brothers routinely just show up for the meals or during the major events. Now, on some level this could be found irritating, but on another level it makes complete and utter sense. The dining room is where most of the fellowship takes place, whereas the lodge room is the foundation for wanting to experience that fellowship.

Now, I understand that the business of the lodge is done upstairs, and that the meal is just an accessory to what is going on in the lodge, but if the meal is the most fun portion of the evening who can blame folks for not wanting to go upstairs? I think we should invite more of the member whom we seldom see and not make them feel like they have to finish the evening with the rest of us. If they have enough fun at dinner, they might end up staying for the meeting without the guilt trip.

Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.

From the East continued...

your active participation in helping our candidates through the learning process to become a MM. Please let us hear from you on how you can participate and help.

At the Stated meeting this month, on **Wednesday, February 8, 2006**, we will be receiving our new **District Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: Tom Staton**, District 30A, for his official visit to Holland Lodge. He will bring us a message from the Grand Master and will update us on the Grand Lodge of Texas. Also, the DDGM and our Secretary have informed me of the following members eligible for 50-year service awards: Bro. **Raymond Donald Mapp**, of Freeport, Texas; Bro. **Paul Elroy Compton**, of Houston, Texas; Bro. **Wayne Edward Glenn**, of Houston, Texas; Bro. **Fred Assad Maniha**, of Houston, Texas; Bro. **John William Potts**, of Houston, Texas; Bro. **Robert Allison Spain, Jr.**, of Houston, Texas; and Bro. **Edwin Arnold Rainey**, of Houston, Texas. All of our honorees will be invited to the Stated meeting and those who can attend will be recognized by me and our DDGM and presented with their pins, cards and certificates on that night. Please plan on attending.

I hope you will mark your calendars for next month as well. As announced at the last Stated Meeting, on **Saturday, March 25, 2006**, we will have the **9th Annual Sam Houston Lecture**, with our guest lecturer, **Dr. Margaret C. Jacob**, Distinguished Professor of History at UCLA. Professor Jacob will present a PowerPoint presentation on the topic "**Masonic Secrecy and the Paradox at the Heart of Modernity.**" We have also made arrangements with the publisher for Dr. Jacob's new book, "**The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts & Fiction**," to be available for sale at a discount. Dr. Jacob's will be autographing books before the lecture. As before, the lecture will be open to visiting brethren, spouses, families and friends. The brochure will be out soon and will be included in the March issue of **The Alpha**. Also next month, on **Wednesday, March 15, 2006**, do not forget that we will be honoring one of our own, Bro. **Mark Sandler**, PM, with the **Golden Trowel Award**.

Based on the extensive discussion, questions and comments at the January Stated Meeting involving the Lodge real estate and the ongoing work of the Strategic Planning Committee, the SPC is considering a town hall format meeting, possibly on a Saturday morning, for all members to attend in order to express their views with respect to the situation of our Lodge. If that decision is made, I will get out a notice in the next **Alpha** so that all who desire may attend and express their ideas and views about the Lodge real estate. Otherwise, as we have done to date the SPC will continue to keep the Lodge informed of the status of the situation, as necessary and at least as frequently as at its Stated meetings.

If you otherwise were asleep on January 4, yes, the University of Texas did beat Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl and, yes, the University of Texas was awarded the 2005 National Championship Trophy. Some of you may have forgotten, but I may remind you again so that you do not forget. As always, Hook'em, Horns, and Gig'em Aggies! See you at Lodge.

Fraternally, Tom Behrman, W.M.

HONORS TO HOLLAND

Our Secretary and our District Deputy Grand Master have furnished me with the following names of our members eligible for 50-year Masonic Service Awards.

Raymond Donald Mapp, of Freeport, Texas
Paul Elroy Compton, of Houston, Texas
Wayne Edward Glenn, of Houston, Texas
Fred Assad Maniha, of Houston, Texas
John William Potts, of Houston, Texas
Robert Allison Spain, Jr., of Houston, Texas
Edwin Arnold Rainey, of Houston, Texas

Congratulations to these members of Holland Lodge.
Those able to attend they will be honored at the February Stated Meeting.

Your Alpha is available on line at
www.HollandLodge.org

Don't be left out...send me an email so that you can be added to our email distribution list for the e-Alpha and other Lodge notices.

sessumsjr@gmail.com

News from the Secretary

Dues notices were sent out in
December of 2005.

Please check your dues card and remit your dues if you are not current.

Please join me in welcoming our newest
Members gained by Affiliation:

Jacob S. Lenington
Terry W. Stogner
Charles N. Richter

We will miss our departed Brothers...

Harion Richardson Raised February 1, 1978

Died January 5, 2006

Hope to see you at Lodge soon, there are a lot of degrees and works going on that you can take part in or just enjoy watching!

Lodge Activities/Calendar

February, 2006 —

February 1	Wednesday -	Master Mason's Degree
February 6	Monday -	EA & FC SOI; Officers practice for DDGM reception
February 8	Wednesday -	HL #1 February Stated Meeting; DDGM Official Visit
February 13	Monday -	EA & FC SOI; EA Degree practice
February 14	Tuesday -	Valentine's Day - HOLIDAY [Lodge Dark]
February 15	Wednesday -	2 EA Degrees
February 20	Monday -	President's Day - HOLIDAY
February 22	Wednesday -	Dark {MWS; Washington's Birthday}
February 27	Monday -	MM Degree practice

March, 2006 —

March 1	Wednesday -	Master Mason's Degree
March 6	Monday -	Dark
March 8	Wednesday -	HL #1 March Stated Meeting
March 13	Monday -	EA & FC SOI, certificate work; or Degree practice
March 15	Wednesday -	HL #1 Golden Trowel Award
March 20	Monday -	EA & FC SOI, certificate work; or Degree practice
March 22	Wednesday -	Dark {MWS}
March 25	Saturday -	9th Annual Sam Houston Lecture
March 27	Monday -	EA & FC SOI; EA Degree practice
March 29	Wednesday -	EA Degree

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-339-9420	WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org
Senior Warden	Duncan Chapman	281- 447-8200	832- 212-3181	SeniorWarden@HollandLodge.org
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
Senior Deacon	Eugene Wright	281-593-1867	281-592-6446	SeniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Junior Deacon	Wael Semaan	713-530-9786	713-530-9786	JuniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Senior Steward	Michael Orr	713-290-1934	713-613-2830	SeniorSteward@HollandLodge.org
Junior Steward	Charlie Dreizin	713-524-7039	713-524-7039	JuniorSteward@HollandLodge.org
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
Immediate PM	Earl A Thompson, III	713-466-8452	281-893-0550	eat003@wans.net

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