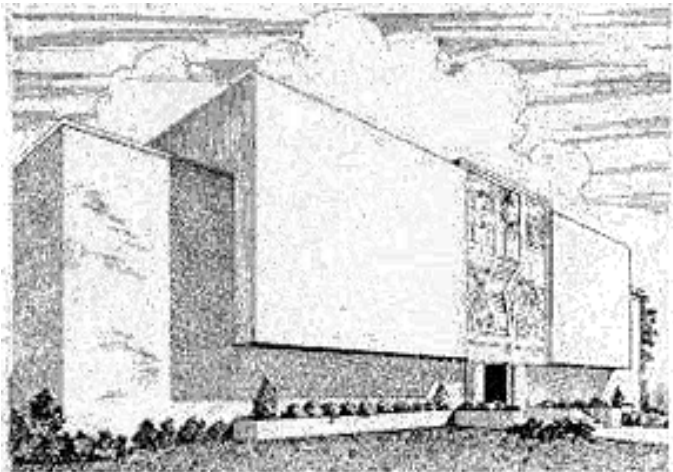


The Alpha

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



**Stated Meeting
January 11, 2006
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.**

Portrait Ceremony: R.: W.: David B Dibrell
Open Meeting before the Stated Meeting

Program: Presentation on the Texas Masonic Retirement Home, Arlington, Texas, by the Very Excellent Past High Priest of the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch of Texas, Jack L Wright

Remember this Month:

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

Remember next Month:

Official Visit of District Deputy Grand Master
R.: W.: Tom Staton,
Masonic District #30A, GLOT
Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

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

Brethren, Happy New Year! I want to thank all of the Officers of the Lodge for their hard work this past year and the work yet to be done over the next six months. Upon the delivery of this issue of the *Alpha* I hope you had a joyous holiday time and will have a happy and prosperous Year 2006. Holland Lodge has much to do in the next few months and I hope you will be a very important part of our work and activities.

I wanted to thank all of the participants in our annual holiday season family celebration on December 21, the **Annual Holland Lodge No. 1 Family Holiday Dinner Party**. We had almost 100 brethren and their families at the party, including our very special guest, taking off from a tough winter campaign from his camp at Valley Forge, Bro. and General **George Washington** popped in on our party to get warm, partake of the excellent cuisine and deliver us some inspirational, humorous and informative words. Thank you, Bro. **Jim Hodges**, for your powerful portrayal of our first President and brother Mason. I want to thank our Stewards, Mike Orr and Charlie Dreizin, along with Anna and Reyna, Bro. Collin Keel and certainly our chief cook that night, PM Earl Thompson. Earl treated us all to a great meal, turkey and ham, stuffing and gravy, yams, string bean casserole, rolls, fruit salad and pies, pumpkin and pecan. The glazed fruit appetizers stole the show. Thank you, Earl! It was wonderful to share the evening with our brothers and sisters of **Houston Chapter #385 of the Order of the Eastern Star**. The decorations and holiday music in the dining room were the masterful touch of Worthy Matron Sandy Kelly and PWM Blanche Maples. Thank you, again, Sandy and Blanche! This past year has been a blessing for us all.

This month we will celebrate 170 years of Holland Lodge #1. We will receive our new Grand Master, M.: W.: **Brian R. Dodson**, of the Grand Lodge of Texas on **Wednesday, January 18, 2005**, and will join him in celebrating the birthday of our Lodge and Masonry in Texas. This should be a wonderful celebration and I hope each of you will make an effort to attend. In addition to the reception and message of M.: W.: Dodson, Bro. and PM Jeff Burnett will be giving us a brief history of Holland Lodge #1. This will be a traditional birthday party, including cake and ice cream, with some other fun and surprises as well. Please plan on attending.

The month of January will also bring our first of several portrait ceremonies in the Lodge room. Before our January Stated Meeting, on **Wednesday, January 11, 2006**, we will have an open meeting and unveil the portrait of former Grand Master and Holland Lodge #1 member, R.: W.: **David B. Dibrell**, who will be accompanied by his wife, Marlene, along with their family and friends. David's portrait will join our other illustrious Grand Masters portraits in the Lodge room. David will join me in the East at the Stated Meeting, during which we will have a brief presentation by 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 slide presentation should be very informative.

We again have a great deal of work ahead of this the next 2 months, with several EAs currently working and 2 Fellowcrafts about to be raised as Master Masons.

Continued on page 2

As the holidays have at this point passed us by it is important to reflect upon what the holidays really mean to us as Masons. On a commemorative plate that a fellow member of this lodge gave me is a square and compass as well as the three words “Faith, Hope and Charity”. If I might so bold as to quote from the monitor one of my favorite passages “...Faith in God, Hope of immortality, and Charity toward all mankind. Of these *charity* is the greatest; for Faith may be lost in sight; Hope end in fruition; but Charity extends beyond the grave through the boundless realms of eternity.”

I did a google search on “Charity” and many of the definitions are quite obvious. 1) Provisions of help or relief of the poor; almsgiving 2) Something given to help the needy; alms 3) An institution, organization of fund established to help the needy.

Some of the other definitions were perhaps not as easily recognized: 4) Benevolence or generosity towards others or toward humanity 5) Indulgence of forbearance in judging others.

So the question I ask for you own introspection is “How are you individually doing in living a ‘charitable’ life?”

The first 2 definitions are easy for me to account for. I can find line items in my checkbook which I can correspond to those definitions of charity. I also in the past year have helped a number of my friends in various undertakings just for the sake of doing so because they needed the help. I also know the number of times that I have given blood in the name of a brother, co-worker, or family member in the past year. 1) Check. 2) Check. Definition 3) really isn’t applicable as I have neither the time, energy, nor finances to fund my own charity. I do try and contribute to our own lodge’s charitable acts, so I’ll put a check in that column as well.

Definitions 4 and 5 are the ones that are really hard to test. Is it enough to smile at random folks on the streets? Is it treating my waiter/waitress at a restaurant with respect and understanding? Is it forgiving the guy that cut me off on 610 during rush hour?

How can we apply this sense of charity to our actions in the lodge? Can it be as simple as making sure that everyone has a ride that needs one? Is it showing up for the degrees even if we don’t get the part we may have wanted? Is it letting someone else play a part that you really wanted to play?

I think that this sense of charity needs to extend further. It needs to encompass our view of the actions of the leadership of the lodge and of the MBA; and it requires that we not judge the reactions of others to decisions that have been made.

The cement of brotherly love has been running a little thin as of late. It is the opinion of the Junior Warden that adding a little more Charity in the mix will thicken up the mortar and make our lodge a more Masonic place to be.

Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.

We need your participation in the degrees, as instructors and your active participation in helping our candidates through the learning process to become a MM. Next month, we will be receiving our new DDGM, R.: W.: **Tom Staton**, for his official visit. At our February Stated meeting, on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, he will bring us a message from the GM and update us on the Grand Lodge of Texas.

We again have our “Honors to Holland,” box in the *Alpha*, recognizing members of Holland Lodge #1 for their recent accomplishments. This month we recognize the following members: R.: W.: **Bill Sessums, Sr.**, Committee on Work, R.: W.: **J. Weldon Clampitte**, 2006 Grand Orator, Grand Lodge of Texas; W.: **Brack Jones, Jr.**, 2006 Grand Tiler, Grand Lodge of Texas; R.: W.: **Gary Held**, 2006 District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Texas; Bro. **Patrick Mahoney**, Civil Law Committee, Grand Lodge of Texas; and Bro. **Bill Lins**, District Instructor, District 32. Weldon, Brack and Gary will be serving all of us as Grand Lodge officers. Patrick will be serving on the very important Civil Law Committee for a 5 year term and Bill will go from a DDGM last year straight into the responsibility of a District Instructor for a number of lodges. Congratulations to our Brethren for bringing honor and distinction to themselves and to Holland Lodge #1. They can be very proud of their respective achievements and service in masonry.

Please remember our **3rd Monday Program** this month, actually on the 4th Monday because of the visit of the Grand Master. Bros. Andy Deas and Marvin Peterson plan an evening focused on masonology. I would also 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 very interested in getting you started on a project for eventual presentation to the Lodge. Mike wants to have programs in the dining room during the dinner hour. Please contact them to get started on this program.

Do not forget **Wednesday, January 18, 2006**, when we will celebrate 170 years of masonry at Holland Lodge #1 by having a grand birthday party at the Lodge and receive the Grand Master of all Masons in Texas, M.: W.: **Brian R. 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. Yes, there will be a birthday cake! Please do not miss the visit of the Grand Master and our special celebration. Events like this only happen every 170 years, or so! A great opportunity to have some good old fraternal fun!

I hope you all had a happy Holidays and a very merry New Year!

At the time of this *Alpha* I do not know the #1 College team in the nation, but in any event: Hook’em, Horns! And Gig’em Aggies, too! I look forward to seeing you this year in Lodge.

Happy 170th Birthday, Holland Lodge #1, and Happy 2006

Fraternally, Tom Behrman, W.M.

HONORS TO HOLLAND

Congratulations to the following members of Holland Lodge No. 1 who have been recognized this past month by the Grand Lodge of Texas, or otherwise, each of whom has brought honor and distinction to both himself and to Holland Lodge:

R.: W.: Bill Sessums, Sr.,
Committee on Work

R.: W.: J. Weldon Clampitte,
2006 Grand Orator,
Grand Lodge of Texas

W.: Brack Jones, Jr.,
2006 Grand Tiler,
Grand Lodge of Texas

R.: W.: Gary Held,
2006 District Deputy Grand Master,
Grand Lodge of Texas

Bro. Patrick Mahoney,
Civil Law Committee,
Grand Lodge of Texas;

Bro. Bill Lins,
District Instructor, District 32

Masonology Volunteers

The January 23, 2006 **Third Monday Program** planned by Bros. Marvin Peterson and Andy Deas will focus on **masonology** at our Lodge. As announced previously, our Senior Steward, Bro. Mike Orr, and our PM and *Alpha* Editor Emeritus, Bro. Jeff Burnett, are both continuing to solicit 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

January, 2006 —

January 1	Sunday -	New Year's Day – HOLIDAY
January 2	Monday -	Dark
January 4	Wednesday -	Dark
January 9	Monday -	Dark
January 11	Wednesday -	HL #1 January Stated Meeting; R.: W.: Dibrell Portrait Ceremony
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; EA & FC SOI; Degree practice
January 25	Wednesday -	EA & FC SOI; and/or Degree
January 30	Monday -	EA & FC SOI; Degree practice, or Degree

February, 2006 —

February 1	Wednesday -	EA & FC SOI; and/or 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; Degree practice, or Degree
February 14	Tuesday -	Valentine's Day - HOLIDAY [Lodge Dark]
February 15	Wednesday -	EA & FC SOI; and/or Degree
February 20	Monday -	President's Day - HOLIDAY [Lodge Dark]
February 22	Wednesday -	EA & FC SOI; and/or Degree {Washington's Birthday}
February 27	Monday -	EA & FC SOI; Degree practice, or Degree

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-503-1472	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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