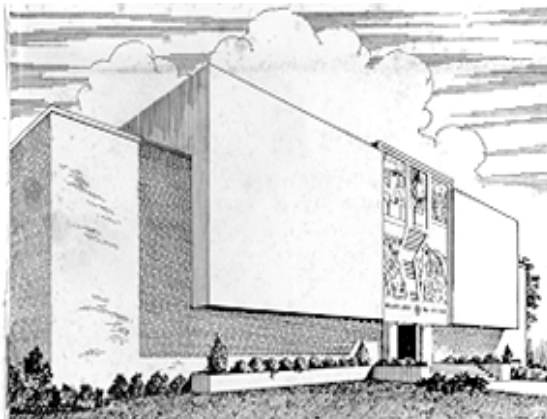


# The Alpha

**Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.**  
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**[www.hollandlodge.org](http://www.hollandlodge.org)**  
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**Volume 39 Number 7**  
**Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor**



## From the East

Once again Grand Lodge time has come and gone. My wife and I gathered our baggage and loaded it all in the trunk of the Buick and headed North on the 610 Loop. As usual we were on the outskirts of Houston around 9:30 A.M, headed West on Highway 290. I ran into some rain around Katy and had to take it easy until I turned right on Highway 6 moving toward Collage Station where it began to clear up. It was another crisp, clear Texas day. Around noon we made it to The Dixie Cafe in Hearne. I met Henry Gonzalas and our secretary Philip Von Stephens and his wife Anita there and had a chicken fried steak, same as last year and the year before. I noticed a few days earlier that there was an article in The Texas Monthly that mentioned The Dixie Cafe as one of the better stopping off places when traveling, which I already knew. We spent an hour or so there eating and talking to the many brothers and their wives who always seemed to be there about the same time every year.

About nine miles down the road from Hearne lies the town of Calvert. Calvert, Texas was in existence before the Civil war and at one time had the largest cotton gin in the world due to the number of large plantations, some of which covered tens of thousands of acres. It was also the fourth largest city in the state. To drive through the town is like being in a old Western movie. The main street which is also State Highway Six is lined with buildings built during the mid-nineteenth and twentieth centuries, although about half of them have fallen into a state of serious disrepair. The city was named after Robert Calvert, a large plantation owner who was instrumental in directing the railroad through Robertson County.

Near the center of town on Highway 6 there stands an imposing building. On the East side of this building there is displayed a large Masonic Square and Compass which is clearly visible from the street. This is Pierce Lodge 144. Pierce Lodge 144 was constructed just after the Civil War and is located on the second floor of the old bank building and is one of the oldest lodge buildings in continuous use in Texas. The fraternity owns the entire building and rents the lower portion to various businesses. The bank is no longer located there although the building is still known as "the old bank building". The town is now known as an antique center and seems to be the main source of revenue. When those of you who make the trip to Grand Lodge pass through Calvert I advise you to slow down and take a look at this amazing view of the past. It is well worth ones' time. Upon our arrival in Waco I headed straight to the Waco Hilton and checked in. I noticed that the hotel had been completely remodeled and now has a lobby. In years past there was no lobby to speak of except for three or four uncomfortable chairs near the check-in desk.

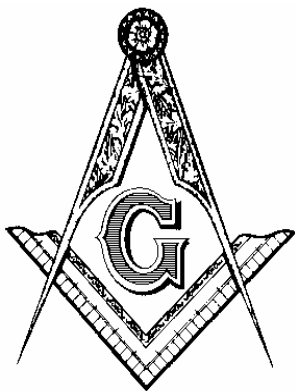
I went up to the room and in my usual fashion threw all my stuff in the middle of the bed and went back down stairs and caught a ride with one of the vans to The Grand Lodge where I recognized many friends from other lodges and other cities. Later, I met with other Holland Lodge members at one of the local steak restaurants and enjoyed a great meal.

The next morning I got up early, ate a good breakfast downstairs and caught another ride to the Grand Lodge to witness the amazing spectacle of four thousand Masons many of whom traveled clear across Texas to take part in the proceedings that take place there. For me and many others, the yearly meetings in Waco serve as a means revitalizing my commitment to the craft. As I have stated in other articles, you who have not yet visited Grand Lodge when it meets you are missing out on an interesting and important event.

Jerry Brainard Jones W.M. Holland Lodge

**The Next Stated Meeting**  
**January 14, 2008**  
**Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.**

**Please join us for a Dinner and**  
**our January 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.**

## *Greetings From the South*

### **Three Five Seven and a Bit on the Working Tools**

The Working Tools of the EA are tools of measurement.

The Apprentice lays out the rough ashlar. He gives it general shape and knocks off the really rough spots. That is to say we prepare ourselves for the Working Tools of the Fellowcraft by learning to rein in, control, and direct our passions and by learning not to cross the moral and civil boundaries of propriety and piety.

The first step in the Fellowcraft degree is not what takes place in the anteroom, it is what happens in the EA Lodge when the candidate proves his understanding of the lessons presented in the EA degree and lecture. Only when so proven are the lessons and Working Tools of the next degree presented to him.

The Working Tools of the Fellowcraft are tools designed to test and check the work.

By continual testing throughout the difficult work of transforming the rough ashlar into a suitable component for the builder's use, the Fellowcraft searches for, finds, and smoothes the imperfections of the preliminary work of the Apprentice. The Fellowcraft is tasked with obtaining the skills and knowledge to transform himself from eager youth to virtuous manhood so that he will be prepared to receive the spiritual lessons yet to come.

Enroute to the Middle Chamber the Fellowcraft has already learned the THREE Principle Tenets. He is introduced to the application of the FIVE senses and in time will understand that these senses are to be fully utilized in the obtaining of knowledge of his environment: physically and spiritually. He is particularly introduced to the SEVEN liberal arts and sciences, so named originally because by a proper understanding of each, the mind was liberated to receive even further light.

We learn in the Entered Apprentice degree that these tools are the Immovable Jewels. We should understand that while these Jewels are representations of the Working Tools and do belong in fixed stations in the lodge, the lessons represented therein are to be inculcated by each of us. If we are to unite men of every country, sect and opinion, not to mention our families, friends, brethren and neighbors we must, every day, every moment, and in every encounter demonstrate that the rough ashlar is, in fact, capable of striving toward the essence of the perfect ashlar.

The instructive tongue to succeed in imparting the great tenets of our institution must never be sharp, mean or poisonous. Our Gentle Craft promotes itself Gently without the gates and within. Otherwise all is lost.

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,**

## One Hundred DeMolays Contributed by Bro. Mike Meier

Of any 100 young men who join DeMolay, five of those 100 will become Master Councilor of their DeMolay chapters. And at least one of them will later say that he valued that experience above his college degree. Eighty or more of the 100 will go on to complete some form of post-high school education.

Many of the 100 will find their vocation through other DeMolay involvement, such as Merit Bar work. DeMolay has produced a good number of men, who after serving as chaplain of their local chapters, went on to become ministers or pastors. Along those same lines, several of the 100 DeMolays will first be introduced to some form of organized religion by attending some church or temple through a chapter function.

Of any 100 young men who become a DeMolay, thirty will drop out in their first year. Perhaps this may be regarded as a failure. But in later life, most of these will remember that they have been in DeMolay and speak well of the program and the lessons it teaches.

Of any 100 DeMolays, only rarely will one ever appear before a juvenile court judge or be in any trouble with the law. In fact, DeMolay produces a great many lawyers. And, although the percentages are not known, many of the 100 will join the military. Each of the 100 will learn something from DeMolay and most all will benefit from their association with the fraternity. Again, the percentages are not known, but a considerable number of the 100 will also go into the Masonic Lodge in later life. Of the 100 who join Masonry, many will serve as a head of one of the Masonic organizations.

A number of the 100 come from single parent families and look to their advisors (Masons) as positive role models. One out of the 100 will be awarded the rank and honor of Chevalier, the highest honor granted to an active DeMolay. Approximately sixteen of the 100 will value their time in DeMolay so much that they will "give back" to DeMolay by serving as an adult volunteer in later life.

Although only one out of every 1,000 young men in the United States, age 13 to 21, will join DeMolay, it is interesting to note that many of this nation's leaders in business, religion, and politics belonged to DeMolay in their teens. In fact, one out of every twelve State Governors is a Senior DeMolay and one out of every ten United States Senators is a Senior DeMolay.

One hundred DeMolays ... equals a high number of leaders.

The above is from -  
[www.demolay.org/aboutdemolay/onehundred.php](http://www.demolay.org/aboutdemolay/onehundred.php)

Houston Chapter #201 of DeMolay meets on the third floor of our lodge building on Wednesday evenings. They alternate their weeks between business meetings and recreational meetings. Make some time to shake some hands and share some smiles with them. Several of them are already regular Master Masons. It is often said that DeMolays are the future of Masonry in Texas.

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## Does Freemasonry have a Hermeneutic?

One might ask what is “hermeneutic”(s)? The word is derived from a Greek word which means “**to interpret.**” However, to completely understand this term of art, one needs to know its full definition.

The late eminent scholar Karl Rahner’s definition of hermeneutics, found in his Theological Dictionary, is, “[hermeneutics] a body of principles [or principle] which govern the interpretation of any statement.” It is used routinely in theological interpretation or exegesis (*one meaning is “explanation”*). However, the excising of meaning from a text based in a particular hermeneutic is not the exclusive province of theologians. Exegesis, governed by a specific hermeneutic, can be performed by any academic disciple either sacred or profane.

Now turning to the interrogatory does Freemasonry have a hermeneutic? Clearly there may be many, but only one is likely correct. The most likely correct hermeneutic for doing exegesis on Masonic rituals is simply, “allegorical.” The symbols of the fraternity are merely a form of communication. Therefore, the exegete of Masonic rituals doing exegetical work is likely to best understand the moral lesson(s) being communicated if the allegorical method is employed.

Finally, in order to apprehend the hermeneutic being proffered one must exclude all forms of fundamentalism. This means one must not allow uncritical thinking to muddy one’s thought process while engaging in Masonic exegesis. Then, once this is effected the fruits of the exegesis will be profitable for instruction vis-a-vie the tools of the craft our cherished symbols.

*Sapere aude!*

**Special Thanks for the contribution to  
Bro. Howard Gregory Butter**

## **From the Secretary**

Subject: Happy holidays from the officers of Holland Lodge No. 1.

CLAY GROUND.

What was used in casting the pillars Boaz & Jachin?

The clay used in casting the pillars had a peculiar characteristic and is only found in the plains of the Jordan. It is also used in the present day to mold intricate jewelry.

## Welcome to Our Newest Master Mason

Luis A. Del Aguila

## Welcome to Our Newest Affiliated Members

David A. Nettles from Archives #1399

## We will miss our departed Brothers

Fred L. Barry & Otto W. Tetzlaff

## **The DeMolay Stained Glass Window**

Dad Frank S. Land passed away on November 8, 1959 and was buried with honored ceremonies at Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

On the night of the funeral, Active Members of the International Supreme Council who attended the services, met and discussed the future of DeMolay. At this meeting, H. Malvern Marks, Past Grand Master and then Executive Officer in Texas, suggested thinking about a memorial for Dad Land. They were to bring their recommendations to the next Executive Committee meeting.

In the fall of 1960, a Memorial Committee was appointed for this purpose. Members included H. Malvern Marks (Chairman), George M. Saunders, Stanley Garrity, Harold Schafer, Chandler Cohagen, Albert McNally, and Dr. Claude F. Long.

This committee recommended that Dad Land's office should remain as he left it, to be forever a shrine to his memory, and his work. They further recommended that the room adjoining his office should be converted into a museum or exhibit room to house his jewels, Masonic regalia, his painting, and the bronze head that was presented at his testimonial dinner.

The International Supreme Council authorized the committee to proceed with their plans. DeMolays also sent in donations for a Dad Land Memorial. The committee knew then that DeMolays all over the world wanted to have a memorial for Dad Land. In November, 1961 the two rooms were completed.

The idea for the stained glass window came from H. Malvern Marks. He had taken it from a drawing that was part of the Members Record Book. This record book was sent to all new members beginning in 1925.

The window was placed in the memorial room so it could be seen from the street. It was also lighted so that it would be visible at night. The window is in beautiful colors and shows a DeMolay young man robed and kneeling at the DeMolay altar, on which is the Crown of Youth, the Bible, and the school books. The bottom of the window reads, "I do so promise and vow..."



**Stained Glass Window**

When the DeMolay Service & Leadership Center relocated in 1986, a decision was made to move the stained glass window inside. Through the generous donation of Past Grand Master Robert F. Hananon, the window was refurbished and dedicated on March 18, 1988.

The stained glass window is a representation of the most meaningful moment in our organization -- when a young man takes his vows as a DeMolay.

We are very happy to display the stained glass window at the DeMolay Service & Leadership Center.

Thank you Brother Meier.  
Reprinted with Permission.

## Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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