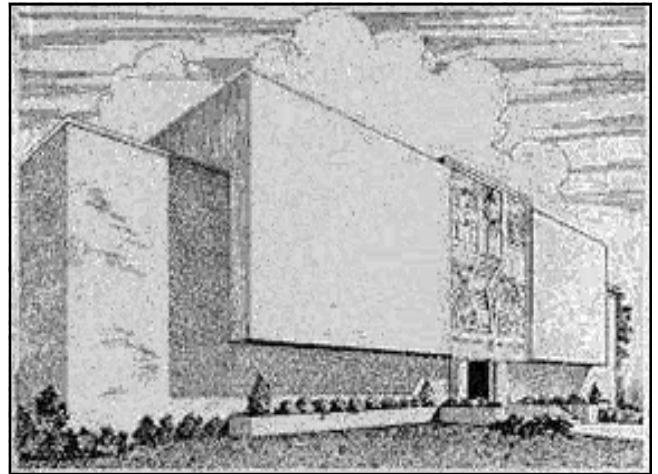


# The Alpha June 2005

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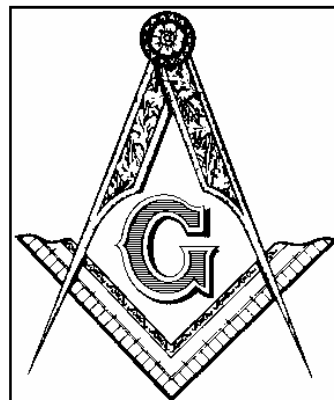
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**The June Stated Meeting  
will be held on  
June 8, 2005  
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.  
Meeting Starts at 7:30 P.M.  
Program will feature  
Officer Elections**



## Lodge Activities/Calendar

June 1	Degree or Degree Practice	<b>June 25</b>	<b>170th Installation of Officers</b>
<b>June 4</b>	<b>Sam Houston Lecture</b>	<b>June 27</b>	<b>Dark P.M. Thompson Gone Fishing!</b>
June 6	School of Instruction	June 29	SOI Officers or degree practice
<b>June 8</b>	<b>Stated Meeting—Elections!</b>	July 4	Dark Independence Day
June 13	Dark	July 6	SOI Officers or degree practice
<b>June 15</b>	<b>Entered Apprentice Degree</b>	July 11	Dark for Chapter & Council
June 20	<b>Installation Practice</b>	<b>July 13</b>	<b>Stated Meeting</b>
June 22	<b>Community Builder Award</b>		



## ***From the East...***

“Should Tradition Prevail ?”, was the BIG question at this time last year and it did. Suddenly the 169<sup>th</sup> year of Holland Lodge with Earl A. Thompson as Worshipful Master comes to its conclusion. I am most honored to join the Past Masters of the oldest Lodge in Texas and become a full member of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. Each year in my journey to the East went faster than the year before and this year seemed the fastest of all. An election, officers and Past Masters luncheon where I received my “sage advice” and installation, with Bagpipers and families joining the Brethren for a great repast. New officers, new faces, a scholarship winner and a Sam Houston Lecture began Holland’s year. EA’s, FC’s, and MM’s degrees with degree practice and SOI’s sharing light with the new and old. Grand Lodge in Waco and back to the old steakhouse on the river, then a Holiday banquet enjoyed by all. The Grand Masters return to Holland with an overflowing crowd and a soul touching talk from the heart of a Holland Brother, whose portrait will soon join other Past Grand Masters on our hallowed walls. An addition to our Golden Trowel Members, Past Master and Treasurer Emile Bussemey 3<sup>rd</sup>. Past Masters night with fourteen of the twenty-eight living Past Masters in attendance sharing the last fifty years of brotherly love. A community builder award presentation to a gentleman who in his retirement years dedicated himself to his fellow Disabled American Veterans. An election and Installation – tradition moves to the future.

Should Tradition Prevail? Is on the mind of Senior Warden Tom Behrman as I rejoin the gallery. To lead, one must understand how to follow and when to step aside and become a trusted advisor. Each Master leaves the Lodge a little better than it was before, not easily and with a few bumps in the road, but better for having shared his “light” with all the “light” still available to those who choose to share. A Lodge is a place - but with the Brothers of Holland Lodge a place where Masons work and improve themselves in faith, hope, charity and brotherly love. The attributes of Masonry and Masons are determined from within each heart through teaching and allegories passed from Brother to Brother through the many years of the Craft.

I thank all of you as a group and as individuals and appreciate the opportunity to serve as Worshipful Master this year – the 169<sup>th</sup> of Holland Lodge No.1.

***Sincerely & Fraternaly, Earl A. Thompson, W.M.***

## ***From the South... “The Monitor”***

OXFORD describes the word Monitor as, “Any of various persons or devices for checking or warning about a situation, operation, etc.”

Our Lodge monitor's definition is; “One who admonishes and teaches; hence, a book of the same pattern.”

As a Mason we should check our monitor daily, in it we find warnings and situations about our character, our day to day life, the struggle for improvement, how we should live and how we should treat others. Page after page of our monitor expounds on the simple virtue's of prayer, Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice.

In the Monitor are three charges, The first of which is and instruction on the proper and best way for you to live. You are taught to believe in God, To help your neighbor and to improve yourself, to be true and honorable to your country and your government, You are instructed to hold conversation with your well informed brethren, in the hope that you will learn and improve.

In the second charge you are taught that in the internal qualities lie the true value of a Mason, and that you should strive to improve on them every day. That you should not aggravate the offenses of your brethren, but to judge with candor, admonish with friendship and reprehend with justice.

In the last and final charge you are taught that duty, honor, gratitude and trust must be a part of your character, that you should set and example for other's less informed. That virtue, honor and reputation is the character that you bear and that you should not fail from that duty.

In the teachings of truth we learn that hypocrisy and deceit should be unknown among us that sincerity and plain dealing should distinguish us and that we should promote each other's welfare, and rejoice in each other's prosperity.

The lessons in the monitor are many, read it, study it, ask questions about it, carry it with you and refer to it often. If you know a brother mason without a monitor get him one, ask him to read it discuss it with him. The Monitor is an invaluable tool, it is priceless and precious and should be in the possession of every Mason at all times from the youngest entered apprentice to the eldest mason in the Lodge.

***Duncan Chapman, JW***

## The Print above the Water Fountain By Duke Keller

**One of the best illustrations of the bond we share as Masons comes from an often told account from the War Between the States.**

Confederate Brigadier General Lewis A. Armistead and Union Major General Winfield Hancock were West Pointers, career soldiers, and best friends prior to the War. Hancock and Armistead had fought in the same regiment during the Mexican War, and had served together in a small outpost in the American west called Los Angeles. Both were also proud Freemasons.

When the War broke out, they found themselves on opposite sides of the conflict. As fate would have it, on July 3, 1863, Armistead found himself stationed across from his old friend's artillery battery, which was positioned on Cemetery Ridge in the small and quiet college town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

After three days of fighting, what had started out as a Confederate reconnaissance to locate shoes had turned into one of the fiercest battles of the War. Pickett's Charge, named (for better or worse) for Major General George Pickett (also a Mason), is regarded as the last and greatest infantry charge in military history, and would be the turning point of the War.

One mile of open field separated Armistead's infantry from Cemetery Ridge. With fifes piping *Dixie* and battle flags fluttering, the long Confederate line marched, ranks thinning at every step, toward Cemetery Ridge. They were raked with volley after volley. As they grew closer, the Union artillery switched to canister shot. The devastation to Pickett's men was so great that, when General Robert E. Lee later rode out to order Pickett to ready his Division for a Union counterattack, Pickett replied, "General Lee, I have no division now." Pickett would lose all 15 of his Regimental Commanders, 2 Brigadier Generals, 6 Colonels, and over half of his men in the open field.

By the time Armistead's troops reached the angled stone wall and clump of trees on Cemetery Ridge, all of the standard barriers lay dead in the field. Only 150 Virginians remained with him. To guide his troops, Armistead placed his black hat on his raised sword and, mounting the wall, shouted, "Give them the cold steel, boys!" Placing his hand on a hot, smoking Union cannon, Armistead was instantly struck by two rounds.

**As Armistead fell, he cried out a sign of distress known to all Freemasons.**

Some of the men (fellow Masons) of the 69<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania came to Armistead's aid, among them Union Captain (later General) Henry Bingham, a member of General Hancock's staff. Bingham identified himself as a fellow Mason. Armistead told Bingham of his close relationship to General Hancock and asked to see his lifelong friend. Ironically, although Hancock would survive, he also lay badly wounded not 100 yards away. Distressed by this, Armistead told Bingham, "Tell him for me that I have done him and you an injury which I shall regret the longest day I live." Knowing his wound was mortal, Armistead entrusted his personal possessions to Captain Bingham, among them his Masonic watch and the Bible upon which he had taken his Masonic obligations, and asked that they be given to General Hancock. General Armistead died shortly thereafter.

Armistead's infantry had reached the farthest point of Pickett's Charge, a point now considered the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy." Armistead was the only Confederate officer to breach the Union line that day.

In 1993, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania commissioned the Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial, which depicts Armistead's exchange with Bingham. The monument occupies an honored and prominent place in the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

While this is arguably the most widely known account of Masonic assistance during the War, it was the practice of many Brethren in both armies to wear Masonic emblems or pins on their coats so that they would be recognized if they fell. In the words one of the Masons who helped bring about the construction of the monument, "The Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial...will help demonstrate to the world that Freemasonry is indeed a unique fraternity; that it's bonds of friendship, compassion, and brotherly love withstood the ultimate test during the most tragic and decisive period of our nation's history; it stood then as it stands now, as a Brotherhood Undivided."

**A print depicting the Armistead and Bingham exchange hangs in Holland Lodge's hallway (next to the library). It was presented to Holland Lodge in 1999 by Bros. Duke Keller, Jr. and P.M. Patrick D. Mahoney.**

**Don't miss the Sam Houston Lecture on Saturday, June 4, 2005!  
This is an open meeting so you can bring your friends and family.  
Please RSVP if you have not already done so.  
Hope to see you there.**