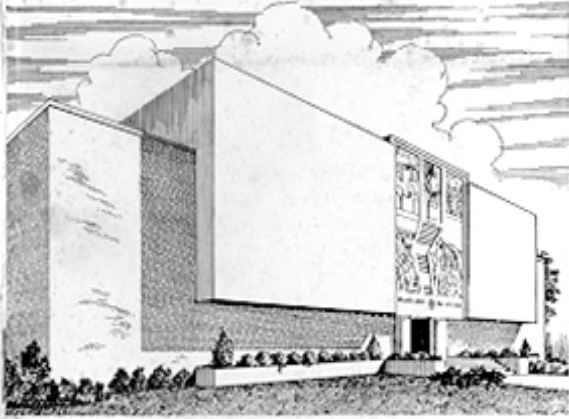


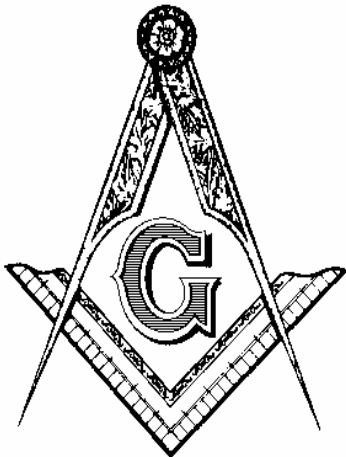
The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
June 2007
Volume 37 Number 12
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



**Stated Meeting:
June 13, 2007
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.**

**Please join us for Dinner
&
for the Stated Meeting which will fea-
ture the
election of your 2007-2008 Officers!**



Brethren,
My time as Worshipful Master of Holland Lodge Number One is drawing to a close. On June 30th 2007 I will pass the torch to the next Elected Worshipful Master with my solemn promise to assist him should he ask. I have a lot of confidence in Our Members to elect a worthy Brother and I know that those I have served with would make fine leaders of our Lodge. Look well to the East.

During the past year the Officers of Holland Lodge and the MBA have accomplished a lot, it was because of their dedication that so many improvements and changes were completed. As Master of the lodge I would be amiss if I did not thank them for their hard work. To the Officers of the MBA, your dedication and willingness to work together gave us a new leasing program, a painted under cover parking area, a clean building front, a new asphalt parking lot and most importantly you helped settle the rear parking lot dispute. Your help, guidance and understanding of our Fraternity was what made your decisions so right on target and perfect.

To the Officers of Holland Lodge who gave their all, whose passion for our great Fraternity can only be understood if you are a part of it. Each of you served with humility, passion and dedication showing a desire to see things through. To Brother Baumgardner and Brother Elmore who gave up their salary for the benefit of the lodge, to the degree teams who gave their time and then gave more in an unbelievable display of dedication in order to provide good, no, make that great degrees for our new Brethren, to Brother Kasper who managed to bring the kitchen budget to a reasonable cost and still provide good food, to all of you who came early stayed late and served without complaint I thank you. My hat is off to all of you.

As Master of Holland Lodge I wish to thank the membership for allowing me to serve, it was an experience that I will never forget. The Sam Houston lecture paid for itself, \$4000.00 in scholarships were given to four students, three of whom were Masonic related, we had 260 folks present at the Grand Master's visit. And for the first we held a dual meeting was held with the MWS Association, we voted to raise our dues to \$125.00 and Endowed memberships to \$1200.00. Services to our departed Brethren were well attended and with the help of Brother Jones, Brother Popham and Brother Stephens always doing their best the Masonic Burial services provided a necessary and solemn final farewell to our Brothers. Our Lodge gained 16 new members but unfortunately we also lost 16. We end the year with 8 petitions for membership in the works. Lastly, I would like to express my thanks to Brother Jimmy Brill who has been handling the settlement of our outstanding real estate issue with one of our neighbors.

I end this year feeling that I gave of myself and love for our Fraternity to hopefully leave it a little bit stronger and better!

Thanks again my Brothers it was a pleasure!
W.M. Duncan Chapman 2006/2007

From the South...

In my last article I endeavored to trace the origins of Freemasonry in Mexico. As mentioned earlier Freemasonry as we know it today began in England with the forming of The Grand Lodge of England in Central London when the Grand Lodges of Ireland, Scotland and England merged in the mid seventeen hundreds. From there moving to France and then to Spain and later in the beginning of the nineteenth century to Mexico. Although there were Masons in Mexico in the sixteenth century they and their lodges were considered clandestine. The Craft was not well received there mostly due to the Inquisition and the Catholic Church in general. The Spanish were in firm control of Mexico at that time and the same fears existed among the Papacy as well as the Spanish government in Mexico as existed in Europe. That is, that the philosophic concepts of The Craft might foster revolution which it did.

There were three main lodges in Mexico prior to the revolution and Texas was still a part of the Republic of Mexico. The Lodges were all clandestine as far as the American Masonic bodies were concerned

On September 27, 1821 the Mexican War for Independence had been won. The *Escocese* lodges were formed and spread throughout several states in Mexico and " numbered among it's members all who under the ancient regime had titles of nobility, all the Catholic clergy without exception, many military leaders, and all the native Spaniards of every class" (1) These aristocrats soon transformed the lodges into a powerful political machine. Generally speaking, these men were of moderate and conservative principles. At first they supported the then emperor Don Augustan de Intrude in his efforts to establish a constitutional monarchy. (2)

One of the most powerful of these *Escocese* lodges was a military lodge organized by General Nicolas Bravo who became the Grand Master of the Scottish Rite Grand Lodge.(3) In a Scottish Rite Lodge meeting in Mexico City, presided over by Worshipful Master (Venerable) Colonel Antonio Valero, it was proposed to the hundred Masons present that Inturbine be assassinated.

(4)Many Mexican Masons were appalled that the Scottish Rite Lodges and the *Escocese* lodges had become nothing more than political gangs that were composed of the political leaders of Mexico who used these Rites mainly to attain their own political ends. Those men who disagreed with the direction the Scottish Rite and *Escocese* lodges had taken were determined to introduce the York Rite into Mexico which in The United States and England had remained apart from politics. Iturbide was forced to abdicate on March 19, 1823 which left the Congress in control, issued a decree to draft a Federal Constitution which would be patterned after that of The United States and partly of that given to Spain in 1812. The Mexican Constitution was therefore modeled after two constitutions written by bodies dominated by Masons in a body dominated by Masons.

It was into this struggle between the ancient regime and the new liberal order that the United States government sent Joel R. Poinsett, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, as it's minister to Mexico in 1825.

Poinsett refrained from becoming involved in Mexican politics as much as possible. However, the then leaders of the Mexican Congress depended on him for guidance in framing the new constitution. They also requested that he procure for them charters authorizing them to work under the York Rite. At the request of Poinsett the Grand Lodge of New York issued five charters for Your Rite Lodges in Mexico City. After receiving the warrants Poinsett installed the first officers of the new York Rite at his own house.. The leading members of the *Scotch* Lodges, being the old Spaniards and aristocracy connected this affair with the politics of the country.

The two Rites published newsletters attacking each other. Finally, the two orders came to blows. In 1827 General Nicolas Bravo, Grand Master of the Scottish Rite, urged the expulsion of Poinsett and the abolition of the Masonic societies. When these demands were denied, he led a revolution to enforce them. General Vincente Guerrero, Grand Master of the York Rite led government troops against him and in 1828 won a decisive victory at the Hacienda de San Antonio de Ahuenuetla.

Some time after this conflict Joel Poinsett was recalled by the Government of the United States. During his stay in Mexico he noticed a certain plant that came into bloom around Christmas time. This plant which was the *Mexican Flame Leaf* was brought back to the United States and re-named by him as the *Poinsettia*, and bears his name to this day

In the foregoing article I have attempted to trace the history of Freemasonry in Mexico up to the time of the Texas Revolution.

"The general conclusion to be drawn from the history of Masonry in Mexico is that it had promoted liberal philosophy in that nation but it failed to cause the overthrow of a privileged oligarchy by 1835. It now remains to examine the history of Texas in the light of it's Masonic background in the United States and Mexico., which will attempt in the near future in another article.

It has now been almost a year since I published my first article in the *Alpha*. It has been an interesting and enjoyable experience. Because of the research involved in producing some of these articles I learned a great deal about Masonry and a few things about myself as well. It was always my intention to inform as well as to learn. I believe I managed to accomplish my goal for the most part. However, as I have previously stated in other articles I feel I failed to accomplish my end from time to time. Mainly, because I ran out of space which tells me that I may have bitten off more that I could chew. But, in spite of that, I received many favorable comments from the membership, mostly by e-mail which came from around the city as well as the state. Many of the brethren commented on the articles while they were visiting the different lodge meetings and it was always a pleasant and unexpected treat to hear. I hope to write more articles for *Alpha* during the coming Masonic year. I'll see you then.

(1) W.A Quincke, *The Establishment of Masonry in Texas*. C.R. Watson, *El Presidente*, 7 (3) Leonard D. Parrish, *The Life Of Nicolas Bravo* 7 (4) Lorenzo de Zavala, *Ensayo Historia de la Revolusion de Mexico desde 1808 Hasta 1830*, 108

Jerry Brainard Jones, J.W. Holland Lodge Number One, Houston, Texas

From the Secretary

Final notice for non-payment of dues was mailed May 7, 2007. Notice of suspension will be mailed June 24, 2007. Election of officers scheduled for June 13, 2007, for the Masonic year 2007-2008. Endowed memberships will increase from \$500.00 to \$1200.00 on June 24, 2007. You may wish to take advantage of an Endowed Membership at this time. Just contact your secretary at 713-723-2009.

Did you know?

APRON: What is the symbolism of the Apron?

There is not one of the symbols of Speculative Masonry more important in its teachings, or more interesting in its history than the lambskin, or white leather apron. Its lessons commence at an early period in the Mason's progress, and it is impressed on his memory as the first gift which he receives, the first symbol which is explained to him, and the first tangible evidence which he possesses of his admission into the Fraternity. The color of a Mason's apron should be pure and unspotted white. The lamb has always been considered as an appropriate emblem of innocence, and hence we are taught, in the ritual of the first degree that "by the lambskin," the Mason is reminded of that purity of life and rectitude of conduct which is so essentially necessary to his gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe forever presides.

Thank you, Bro. Phillip von Stephens for sharing this info!

Upcoming Meetings

June 13, 2007 Stated Meeting and Election of Officers
June 30, 2007 Installation of Officers
July 11, 2007 July Stated Meeting

Please be sure to check the website at
www.HollandLodge.org
for updates & announcements.

The New Worshipful Master will be posting his schedule for the 2007-2008 Masonic year after the installation and we will of course have updates right here in the Good Ol' Alpha!

Have you volunteered to serve on the Holland Lodge Historic Preservation Committee?

Brethren, the salvation, storage and preservation of our records and historical documents is of utmost importance. In the years to come our future Brethren will thank you. Your diligent, input and time for this worthwhile and necessary project will provide you with the gratification of knowing you have done a good deed and will leave you with the feeling of WELL DONE MY TRUE AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

The following Brethren have volunteered to serve your lodge for the purpose of saving the Historic records of our fraternity. Brother Emile Bussemey is currently working on a project at work which is identical to what we need to do, Brother Emile is extremely knowledgeable about saving records. Brother Chris Clemence worked in this area while working his way through college. Brother Welch's interest in history make him a driving force to get this project rolling. There are two other Brethren who have volunteered to help while working toward becoming Master Masons.

If any Brother has a desire to serve on this committee please e-mail me and let me know of your interest.

HLHPC MEMBERS AS OF 4/24/07

Duncan Chapman, Emile Bussemey, Phillip Stephens, Bob Welsh Chris Clemence and two other Brothers.

Contact Duncan Chapman, W.M. Or Phillip von Stephens, Sectary if you would like to volunteer to help with this important committee.

Congratulations to our New Endowed Members!
Chris Revell, Steven W. Lattelle,
John Gutierrez, Ronald E. Adams
and Aaron E. Duncan

You still have time to purchase your endowed membership for only \$500!
On June 24th 2007 the Endowed Membership price will increase to \$1,200 so hurry up and get your check to the Secretary before the 24th!

Congratulations to the 2006-2007 Officers
You guys had some issues to handle and worked through them in a Masonic Manner!
Peace and Harmony seem to have prevailed and your Lodge is the better for your efforts!

I hope my little "Editorial" here is representative of the members of Holland Lodge Number One when I say thank you for your time, energy and efforts!

Bill Sessums, Jr., P.M. 2000-2001

Have you made your family aware to notify your Lodge upon your passing? Have you discussed your desires regarding having a Masonic Burial Service? Your Family needs to know your desires and be willing to allow your Lodge to perform the service. Please discuss your wishes with your family and provide them with information on how to contact your Lodge. Your family will likely have many things on their minds including grief, sadness, funeral arrangements etc, make it easier for them by putting your affairs in order ahead of time. Let them know what type of funeral service you would like to have, where your will and insurance papers are kept and finally, let them know that they can turn to your Fraternity for comfort and assistance during difficult times.

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Duncan Chapman	281- 447-8200	832- 212-3181	dcc624@yahoo.com
Senior Warden	Patrick Porter	713- 796-1131	713- 294-3704	pporter78@gmail.com
Junior Warden	Jerry Jones	713-667-2817	713-201-0366	JBX@Texas.net
Treasurer	Emile A.Bussemey	713- 729-1348	713- 260-7453	bizme@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	713- 723-2009	713-723-2009	pvs@insurer.com
Chaplain	Robert Welch	713-526-0029	713-941-7800	texaswelch@hotmail.com
Senior Deacon	Wael Semaan	713-530-9786	713-530-9786	the_semaans@hotmail.com
Junior Deacon	Michael Orr, Jr.	832-477-3624	832-477-3624	michelorr@gmx.de
Senior Steward	Kurtis Kasper	832-216-3519	713-348-3027	kasper@rice.edu
Junior Steward	Christopher Clemence	832-466-1803	832-466-1803	conagher78@yahoo.com
Marshal	Duke Keller	281-497-6019	281-589-9000	dkeller@kellerallenlaw.com
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Carl Reilly	713-474-2223	713-474-2223	ctreilly@gmail.com
Musician	Rodney Elliott	713- 236-0359	713-236-0359	rodney@CommerceStreet.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713- 666-3625	713-666-3625	None
Immediate PM	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-339-9420	tbehrman@mindspring.com

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