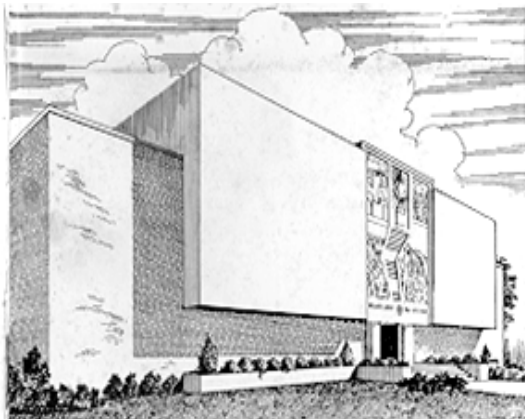
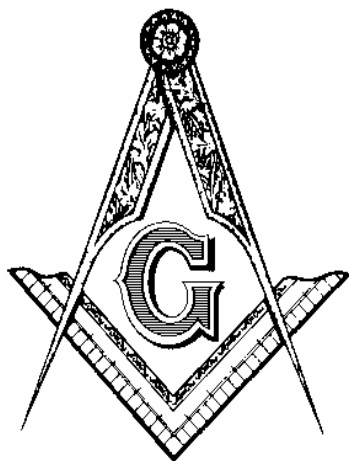


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
May 2007
Volume 37 Number 11
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



Stated Meeting:
May 9, 2007
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.
Please join us for Dinner
&
for the Stated Meeting where the
business of Your Lodge is conducted
and the Presentation of
Golden Trowel Award
to Bill Sessums Jr.



From the East...

(How Time Flies) May and June will prove exciting.

The officers of Holland Lodge have worked diligently, labored long, and with very little if any dissension. All information concerning Holland Lodge and the Appendant bodies was discussed among the Officers and then presented to the membership for approval or disapproval, I believe this is the way a Masonic Lodge should be run. When an offer for the purchase of our facility was received it was examined and discussed by the Real Estate Committee who then reported it to the officers and it was then reported in detail, to the membership, (there were 3 presentations) at each meeting the Brethren in attendance voted not to accept or counter any of the offers.

The Real Estate Committee is comprised of Brothers Jimmy Brill, Duke Keller, Nick Evenhoff, Patrick Porter, and Jerry Jones. I would like to express my sincere thanks to each of them for their hard work and advice. Please note: **AT NO TIME FROM JUNE OF 2006 UNTIL JUNE OF 2007 HAS OUR FACILITY BEEN LISTED OR OFFERED FOR SALE.** That is a decision that only you (the membership) can make.

The officers of Holland Lodge, The MBA, The Chapter and Council, The Commandery, the Committeeman and the Alpha editor deserve your praise, to a man, whatever the job, they had a let's get this done attitude. I thank them and so should you. If and when you meet one of your officers or committee volunteers please let them know that you appreciate there dedication and accomplishments.

I would like to express my thanks:

To our treasure Brother Bussemey, who was forever providing advice on keeping within the budget and always donated to every cause, we need more Brethren like you, Thanks Emile. To our Secretary Brother Phillip, who was a Constant reminder of things that needed doing. To our SW, Brother Porter, who was instrumental in the Scholarship fundraiser and whom I believe will do a great job next year, Thanks Patrick you were my right arm.

To our JW, Brother Jones who was always available to do degree work, see to the sick and provided funeral services at the drop of a hat. Your dedication is unbelievable.

To our SS, Brother Kasper who was given the task of cutting the kitchen expense in half. I did not think it could be done, but Brother Kasper not only provided good food he managed to stay below budget. Thanks you sir.

To our SD, Brother Semaan, even in the course of going to school, working at night, helping with the family, and changing jobs, somehow you always managed to do your share.

To all the Brethren that worked on the degree teams, thank you for a job well done. If you have never heard Brother Popham do the lecture you have missed a special treat.

Thanks to all of the officers of each of the bodies, Holland Lodge is better because of you.

Capping off this year

The Grand Masters program, The Sam Houston lecture and The Scholarship fundraiser were all great with lots of attendance, thanks to the membership for that. The back Parking lot was paved, the under cover parking area was pressure washed and painted.

The front of the building was cleaned and a fund started So that we can clean the rest of the building and the MBA provided a new leasing program which was voted and approved by the membership so that we have a procedure for acquiring new tenants in our building.

Meetings were scheduled for Wednesday only, unless it was necessary to practice and this helped us keep our budget under control. The officers of all the bodies were diligent in cutting off the lights and the A/C, this helped with the expense and operation of our facility.

The Masters fund, depleted over the last few years was able to provide assistance to many during this past year, this was due to some of the Brother's unselfish donations to this fund.

Brethren, it has been and honor to serve as the Worshipful Master of Holland Lodge this year, I will always remember the great group of people I had the privilege of working for.

Thank You All,
Duncan Chapman, W.M.
Holland One 2006/2007

P.S. May and June promise to be very exciting with the upcoming Golden Trowel, A program by Brother Steen from Palestine Lodge and our election of officers! You will not want to miss May and June and besides that I want you there.

From the South...

The history of Freemasonry in Mexico can not be discussed without first tracing it's beginnings in England, France and Spain. As has been noted, Freemasonry as we know it today began in London when the Grand Lodges of Scotland, Ireland and England came together in the 1760's to form the Grand Lodge of England in London. Before that time lodges met in pubs or other venues, some of which still exist today. Masonic scholars are divided on a time when The Craft first began, there are records at Lodge Number Zero in Scotland which date sometime in the tenth century.

Freemasonry began in France in 1732 and was then banned by the Catholic King Louis XV, with the blessing and encouragement of the Papacy in 1737. However, Masonry was not destroyed by that ban and it continued to flourish. Meetings continued and membership increased. However the French, and their never ending quest to make things in general "more French" embellished the original concept of The Craft by adding higher degrees, or new rites. Deistic and even atheistic elements crept in to distort the original philosophic concepts. In 1773 the Grand Orient was organized with the intent of reversing the changes and additions introduced into Masonry in France. This caused a conflict within The Craft which did not come to an end before the Revolution in 1789.

There are a number of scholars who attribute the beginning of the Revolution to Freemasonry. However most Masonic Scholars agree that the effect of The Craft on the Revolution was negligible. Bernard Fay wrote that "Freemasonry itself did not make The Revolutions but prepared and achieved them" (1) It should be noted, however that many of the leaders of that conflict were indeed Masons, Napoleon, his brother, Joseph and Lafayette to name three of many.

Unification of the Grand Orient and the *Grand Loge Generale Ecossaise de France* took place in 1804. in 1805 Napoleon gave his consent for his brother, Joseph Bonaparte, to become Grand Master of French Masons. It was through Joseph Bonaparte and the French Army that Masonry was reestablished in Spain.

The first Masonic Lodge was established in Spain as early as 1728 and in 1729 a Grand Lodge was established. In 1738 Pope Clement XII issued a Papal Bull Against Freemasons and in 1740 the members of the lodge at Madrid were arrested and imprisoned, eight of whom were executed. In 1750 a Catholic Priest, Joseph Torrubia, Pro-Censor and Reviser of the Inquisition was authorized to seek admission into Masonry; to take all oaths and to acquire a list of the membership of all the Masonic Lodges in Spain. He then appeared before the Inquisition and declared that Freemasonry was dangerous to religion and good government. (1) A sentence of death to all who were found guilty of being Masons was issued by the Ferdinand VI. In a country where thousands of it's citizens were executed at the hands of the Inquisition, between 1481 and 1783 It is not known how many Masons were executed for no other reason except that they were Masons. In 1793, the Cardinal Vicar reissued the decree of death against Freemasons. This was not only due to the hate of Masonry by the Catholic, but by the fact that many of the leaders of the French Revolution were Masons and by fear that Masonic philosophy would generate revolution in Spain.

In May of 1808 Napoleon forced Charles IV and his son Ferdinand, renounce their claim to the Spanish throne. Joseph Bonaparte, the Grand Master of French Masons, was placed on the Spanish Throne and all restrictions against Masons were removed. Spaniards also came into contact with Masonry through the English Army which took part in the Peninsular wars. Four English lodges are known to have been in Spain, two at Gibraltar, and one in Madrid and one at Cadiz. Spanish historians, however have very little to say about Freemasonry in Spain.

The earliest mention of Masonry in Mexico is found in the records of the Inquisition which had jurisdiction over Central America and the Philippine Islands. This evidence indicates that a Masonic Lodge may have existed in Mexico about 1785. There is no doubt that Masons were in Mexico at this time and held meetings. In the absence of a charter in Mexico from a Grand Lodge it is assumed at that time, Mexico had the same status as that of the first Masonic meetings in the English colonies before 1735, meeting under "time immemorial." Jose Mateos, one of the founders of the Mexican National Rite in 1826, wrote the earliest history of Masonry in Mexico. He states that a lodge of The Scottish Rite was established in Mexico City in 1805, although he writes " that all records of this lodge were destroyed immediately after Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla was made a Mason in this lodge in 1808 raised *el grito de Dolores* which started the war for Mexican independence." (2) Another account of this lodge that in the years 1805 and 1806, the celebrated German Naturalists, the Arago Brothers, with the equally famous Antiguary Ehlullar, founded the first Masonic Lodge in the Capitol of Mexico: a Lodge with which were connected the most remarkable men of the Vice-Royalty, whether of European or Mexican origin, all of whom were well capable at that time of embracing the sacred cause that animates Masonry. Amongst these enthusiastic believers was Miguel Hidalgo, Curate of the Village of Hidalgo, in the State of Guanajuato, who later on became the Father of Mexican Independence. (3)

In the foregoing article I have attempted to trace the highlights of Masonry in Mexico. It is a daunting task to fit it all into the space allotted to me in this publication and I have been forced to drastically abridge my findings. There is much more to tell. I fear I have fallen short of my original goal. I will try again to tie the loose ends together next month.

(1) Benard Fay, *Revolution and Freemasonry* 314 - (2) Jose Maria Mateos, *Historia de la Masoneria en Mexico desde 1806 hasta 1884*, pp 8-9 - (3) Haywood, *Freemasonry and Roman Catholicism*, 117-118

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

From the Secretary

Final notice for non-payment of dues will go out May 7, 2007. Please remit your dues at this time or call your secretary at 713-723-2009. The W:M: is still receiving and accepting donation for the cleaning of Holland Lodge. Keep those contributions coming in and see how beautiful Holland Lodge really is from the outside.

Did you know?

DOTAGE: What is meant by an old man in dotage?

The fruit has ripened and rotted in old age, childish desires, a loss of judgment and memory, and a senseless garrulity of speech, absence of that intellect which is required for the comprehension of our mysteries. Ec 10: 13.

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

**Congratulations to our newest Master Mason
Steven W. Lattelle
Raised April 4, 2007**

2007 Masonic Oak Picnic

The 2007 Masonic Oak Picnic will be **Sunday, May 20th** at the Masonic Oak Park in Brazoria. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with the program and devotional service at 10:00 a.m. A catered barbeque lunch will be served. Tickets will be available at registration. In the past they have been \$7.50. **Remember, this is an outdoor picnic so dress accordingly. For complete details go to:**
<http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/masonicoak.php>

Brad Reel (one of your Holland Lodge Brothers) will be organizing a group to caravan down to the event. Please contact Bro. Reel for more information at this email address: bree1@houston.rr.com

Upcoming Meetings

May 9, 2007 Stated Meeting

May 20, 2007 Masonic Oak Picnic

June 13, 2007 Stated Meeting & Election of Officers

Please check the website at

www.HollandLodge.org for updates & announcements.

The Golden Trowel Award

**The Golden Trowel Award will be presented to
Brother Bill Sessums, Jr.
at the May Stated Meeting**

There will be an open portion of the meeting so family and friends may join us for the presentation.

At the request of Brother Sessums we are holding this presentation in conjunction with our Stated Meeting.

**Brother Sessums is a Past Master, Endowed Member
and the Editor of our Monthly Alpha.**

**Please join us at the Stated Meeting and share you
thoughts and be a part of this presentation.**

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 Stevenson, Bob Welsh
Chris Clemence and two other Brothers.

This project will come before the membership at the next stated. Hopefully you can be present to hear about the committees efforts.
Duncan Chapman, W.M.

We Will Miss Our Brother

William F Kahlden, Jr.

Raised June 3, 1959

Died September 11, 2006

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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