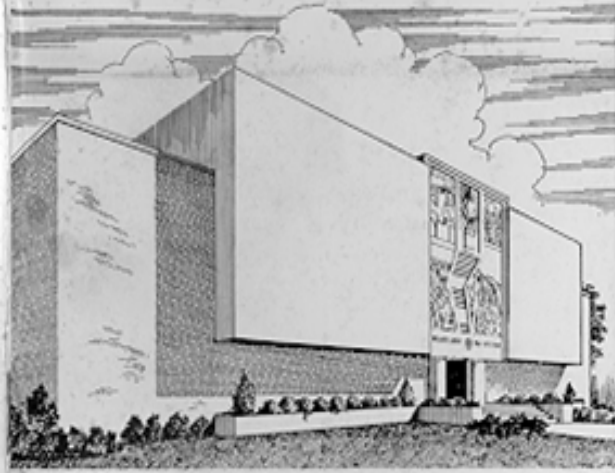


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
October 2004
Volume 35 Number 4
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



Come early for the October Stated Meeting

October 13, 2004
Dinner at 6:00 P.M.
Open Meeting Starts at 7:00 P.M.

Stated Meeting begins at
7:30 P.M. As Usual!

50 Year Awards to be Presented

A special open program will be held
at 7:00 p.m. October 13th
to honor or 50+ year Masons!

13 of our long serving Brothers have
been invited to attend.

*Your attendance and support
will be appreciated by all.*

From the East...

As most of you have seen Holland No. 1 has gone “to the dogs” and made the cover of “the Texas Mason” magazine. Patrick Mahoney P:M: wrote the lead article for the magazine based on our community builder award last Spring. It was a great idea and tribute to Holland Lodge No. 1 and our Grand Master.

Holland has raised another Master Mason, Brother Robert Carpenter and has a Master Mason’s Degree on September 29, 2004 – last Wednesday in September. Come out and see YOUR Master Masons Degree Team at work, they are enlightening and bring all Masons back to their raising –even voices from the past. October stated will have as the program a “Bible Presentation” to Bro. Carpenter by our District Instructor, Past Master and Golden Trowel recipient, Bro. Bill Sessums, Sr. Normally done after a degree, this will be a special” Stated Presentation” to share with all .

The November stated will include a special program saluting our veterans and our flag with Brother Robert Ehlers a vexilologist and veteran. All veterans are asked to attend and participate as we honor our Holland Masonic Veterans,

October is the “Fund Raising” month with our Brisket and Bar-be-que sale on Saturday October 23. Holland’s family of Masonic bodies will be participating. Wednesday, October 6, will be Volunteer Organization for everyone who will participate in the Scholarship Fundraiser. The more volunteers we have, the more successful the event will be, NOW is the time to turn in your orders and sell orders to your friends and family. Prepared, wrapped and expertly cooked whole brisket for \$40.00 and plate lunches with all the trimmings and two meats \$10.00. Simply sell a few, buy a few and take home plates to your family to be a part of another successful scholarship event. You should be hungry just thinking about it. Buy one extra for the upcoming holiday season – no two.

Do not forget to sign up for Grand Lodge in Waco the first weekend of December.

Things are happening at Texas oldest Masonic Lodge – Be active and bring a Brother back to Lodge to be a part of this 169th year.

Fraternally, Earl Thompson

The History of Grand Lodge - The Origins - the Premier Grand Lodge - Expansion Overseas

Freemasonry in England - The origins of Freemasonry are the subject of great debate. That there is a connection with the operative stonemasons who built the great medieval cathedrals and castles is generally accepted by Masonic historians – but whether that connection was direct or indirect is the subject of speculation.

The first record of the ‘making’ of an English Freemason is Elias Ashmole, the antiquarian and herald, whose collections formed the basis of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. He recorded in his diary that a lodge met at his father-in-law’s house in Warrington, Cheshire on 16 October 1646 to make him a Mason. None of those involved was a stonemason. In the later 1600s there is further evidence for the existence of Freemasonry as a separate organisation unrelated to groups controlling the stonemason’s craft.

Organised Freemasonry became established on 24 June 1717 when four London lodges came together at the Goose and Gridiron Ale House, St Paul’s Churchyard, formed themselves into a Grand Lodge and elected Anthony Sayer, Gentleman, as their Grand Master – the first Grand Lodge in the world. Initially the Grand Lodge was simply an annual feast for lodges in London but in 1721 John, Duke of Montagu, was elected Grand Master and the Grand Lodge met in ‘quarterly communication’ and began to establish itself as a regulatory body, attracting to it lodges meeting outside London.

In 1723 the first rulebook – the Constitutions of Masonry – was published and William Cowper, Clerk of the Parliaments, was appointed Secretary to the Grand Lodge to keep minutes of its meetings. By 1730 the Grand Lodge had over 100 lodges in England and Wales under its control and had begun to spread Freemasonry abroad, warranting lodges to meet in Madrid and Calcutta.

For historical reasons separate Grand Lodges were formed in Ireland (1725) and Scotland (1736). Between them the ‘home’ Grand Lodges took Freemasonry around the globe. From the 1730s lodges were set up in Europe, the West Indies, North America and India.

In the later 18th and the 19th centuries British Freemasonry was taken to the Mid and Far East, Australasia, Africa and South America, mirroring the development of the British Empire. When those areas eventually achieved nation status many of the lodges formed independent local Grand Lodges, but other lodges decided to remain with their parent Grand Lodge – resulting in the United Grand Lodge of England still having some 750 lodges overseas, principally in Commonwealth countries. The premier Grand Lodge of England continued developing in the 1730s and 1740s without any opposition. There had been considerable public interest – meetings were advertised and reported on in the growing number of local newspapers – more especially in what the ceremonies of Freemasonry were. Enterprising journalists and pamphleteers were not slow to produce ‘exposures’ of what they believed were the ‘secrets’ of Freemasonry. Publicity increased interest and a growing number of aristocrats, landed gentry and professional men began to seek admission. In 1737 the first Royal Freemason was made - Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, son of King George II.



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Did you know, this information was obtained by visiting
www.Hollandlodge.org
And linking to the “Origins” link!

**From The South
Old Has Beens**

Past Masters have long referred to being an (old has been). This analogy is at best incorrect. What is it I wondered, that made the Past Masters so dedicated, determined, and willing to give there time and money to insure the betterment of Masonry.

Go to any lodge and you will find the Past Masters participating in all phases of the lodge, you will find them doing rituals, funerals, coaching, cooking, holding officer position and working around the lodge.

The Past Masters work tirelessly, they come when called or needed and without complaint. When they have a complaint there is usually a good reason for it. If the lodge is not being operated properly, if the members are not being kept informed, if they are not given the right to vote on lodge expenditures, then and only then do they complain? And you can bet that they tried to resolve the problem by first visiting with Worshipful Master.

So I ask you, what it that makes a Past Master so dedicated?

Is it his love for Masonry, his belief in helping all mankind?

Is it his Masonic teachings such as relief truth and brotherly love?

I think it is all of those, but most of all I think he was a dedicated Mason from the moment he placed his hand on the Holy Bible and swore his allegiance to his Lodge.

To all the Past Masters that I know I salute you.

Fraternally, Duncan Chapman, J.W.

From the Secretary

Grand Lodge reservations are now being made. Please RSVP by sending your check for \$154 to reserve your room and meals in Waco, December 2, 3 &4.

Be sure to make you reservation checks payable to Holland Lodge No. 1.

Are you an Endowed Member?

**Remember, only \$500 for an
Endowed Membership!**

Are you online?

Have you been to www.HollandLodge.org ?

Do you get the e-Alpha notices on your email?

**Send you email address to billjr@insper.com
and get online with your Lodge!**

Lodge Activities/Calendar

September 27	Master Degree Practice
September 29	Master's Degree
October 4	EA/FC School of Instruction
October 13	Stated Meeting
October 23	Scholarship Fund Raiser Bar B Que!
October 25	School of Instruction
October 27	FC Degree Practice
November 1	EA/FC Festival
November 3	Dark
November 6	Forum and Exam
November 8	Dark
November 10	Stated Meeting –Veterans Salute!

**More dates will be published
on the
website in the coming weeks.**

**Be sure to check our the
website at
www.hollandlodge.org
for updates!**

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		HOME	OFFICE	e-mail
Worshipful Master	Earl A. Thompson	(713) 466-8452	(281) 376-5530	WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org
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Musician	Rodney Elliot	(713) 236-0359		Rodney@CommerceStreet.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	(713) 666-3625		
Immediate PM	Patrick D. Mahoney	(713) 932-1993	(713) 552-1700	Patrick@mahoney-associates.com

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