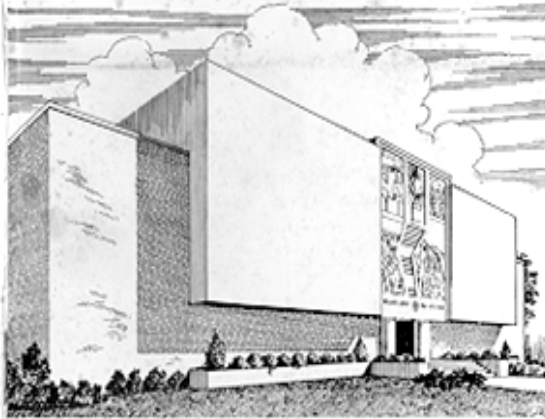


# The Alpha

**Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.**  
**4911 Montrose Boulevard,**  
**Houston TX 77006**  
**(713) 529-0912**  
**[www.hollandlodge.org](http://www.hollandlodge.org)**  
**September/October 2008**  
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**Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor**

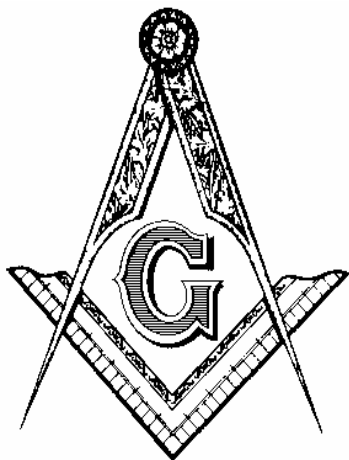


**The Next Stated Meeting**  
**October 8, 2008**

**Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

**Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.**

**Please join us for a Dinner and**  
**our July Stated Meeting**



**From the East...** "Which road do I take?" asked Alice. "Where do you want to go?" replied the Cheshire cat. "I don't know." said Alice. "Then" said the cat "It doesn't matter. If you don't know where you're going any road will take you there." (1)

Where is Holland Lodge going? Where we have been is well known. Holland Lodge began in the town of Brazoria around 1835 under what is known today as the Masonic Oak. As the Texas Army retreated across Texas (with General Santa Ana in hot pursuit) so did the charter of Holland Lodge which was stashed in the saddle bag of Brother Anson Jones, the first Master of Holland Lodge, the first Grand Master of Masons in Texas and the last president of the Republic of Texas. General Houston and his army stopped briefly at Harrisburg near where the Houston Ship Channel and Navigation Street in this city's East End meet. When General Houston was there Harrisburg briefly became the Capitol of The Republic of Texas. ( Harrisburg, being named after John R. Harris who obtained most of the land in April of 1821 through a land grant in what is now known as Harris County from Estevan F. Austin.

The chase ended on the banks of Buffalo Bayou which at that time was known as the Buffalo River, according to the abstracts of title to the land in that area The brief battle that occurred there on the twenty-first of April 1836 bought about the birth of a new republic, that of The Republic of Texas. After the battle of San Jacinto the lodge moved to several locations in Houston, which was then the Capitol of the Republic of Texas, one of which was the Senate chambers which was located on Congress Avenue in what is now downtown Houston. At some point in time the Lodge moved to the corner of Texas and Main Streets where the Rice Hotel now stands. Between the years of 1838 & 1905 Holland Lodge moved 14 times, all within the boundaries of Houston.

"Holland Lodge moved into the Scottish Rite building in 1942 until a new lodge building could be erected. This project was postponed because of the war (WW2) and materials were almost impossible to obtain. In October 1954 the building {4911 Montrose} was completed and ready for occupancy, at a cost to the Association of \$527,992.48, plus cost of the land making total investment of \$728,217.48. This is our 16th and present home"(2)

The King (of hearts) then said to Alice " Begin at the beginning till you come to the end...then stop!" (3)

That was good advice the king gave Alice. So far that is exactly what Holland Lodge has done. We have stopped! There is one very serious problem with that advice however, and that is, the king lived in Never Land and had never heard of property taxes, insurance, ancient air conditioning systems, aging grease traps, leaky urinals, urban sprawl, population explosion or The Harris County Appraisal District. If HCAD should discover that Never Land is in Harris County that "king" will be in for the shock of his life!

So, the dilemma continues as it has for the last fifteen years, our expenses continue to escalate as our resources and assets continue in a downward spiral What to do? Which road should we take? Where do we go from here? Do we sell the building? I honestly don't know. I think we may be on the road to nowhere unless we come up with a different plan. More paying tenants could be the answer. Thanks to the efforts of Right Worshipful Chapman our losses have been cut by almost half because of the paying tenants he has bought in. Meanwhile the taxman lurks in the wings with reality and patience at his side. Watching...and waiting.

(1) Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Caroll

(3) idbid

(2) History of the Masonic Building Association, pp75 Walter Chatham

If one lives in Houston one thing is for certain, and that is that hurricanes will come, stay a few hours and then pass on. Leaving in it's wake a path of destruction and temporary chaos. Each one seems to be more powerful and more destructive than the last. Hurricane Ike was the worst as far as damage goes in my memory.

Before Ike arrived I met Brother Michael Meier around eight P.M at Holland lodge to take one last look around. Michael and his wife spent the night there to discourage looters. The lights went out in the neighborhood sometimes during the night and the lodge went dark. Holland Lodge becomes very hot with no air-conditioning and very dark without power no matter what hour of the day.

**Continued on page 3**

## *Greetings From the South*

### Wearing the Plumb

The Brother wearing the Plumb not only keeps an eye on the clock. He is charged with keeping up the excellent work in the Fellowcraft degree.

The Second Degree, with its lecture, has some of the most significant allegories and symbols of our dear order. The First Degree introduces our principal tenets and the virtues we extol. It is an experience that provides guideposts to keep us solidly on the ever ascending path to reach the goals of our Masonic Journey.

We find in the Second degree not only the path, but much of the labor set out for us. It is symbolic of the second stage of life: Manhood. A Manhood reached not by time, but by effort.

The Fellowcraft degree is not just a one red-light Podunk town in the middle of the road to the Big Time. It is a place where we are prepared. A place without which the Big City is found empty and without meaning. It is a degree of upward mobility. One of the most important emblems found on the traditional Second degree tracing board is a means of ascension. The flight of stairs, not straight and easily conquered by brute strength, but Winding; the end not necessarily in sight, upon which are presented, in particular increments, the lessons to be learned along the way to gain admission to that Middle destination, where we hope to receive the nourishment, the spirit and the joy earned in arriving there in full adult maturity, not with passage of time, but with educational, mental and spiritual accomplishment.

Let us put in the full effort so that when we are tried we are proved. By the Square. By the Level. By the Plumb. Insist that Morality, Equality and Uprightness of conduct will always distinguish us. We have heard it said that being a Mason should be one's greatest recommendation. So mote it be.

Let us all take to heart and benefit from the great virtues and tenets of our excellent institution this year.

Sincerely and Fraternaly.

**Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Bob Welch, JW Holland Lodge No. 1**

### **From the Secretary**

Grand Lodge Reservations are now being taken. We have seven rooms set aside for December 4, 5, & 6th. All are non-smoking and two brethren per room. Cost for the two days at Grand Lodge in the Hilton Hotel is \$170.00 per person including dinner on Thursday evening, breakfast on Friday & Saturday morning and pre-registration. If wife goes along add \$170.00.

**CALE. Why do the old Hebrew covenants parallel the penalties of today?** Recorded in Genesis & the book of Jeremiah is the calf used in the old Hebrew covenants, performing certain ceremonies of cutting an animal a certain way, & dividing it in the midst, & walking between the parts thereof as the covenant is formed. This dividing an animal was not confined to the Hebrews but borrowed from them by all the heathen nations.

## **HISTORICAL BRETHERN**

By T.J. Burnett, Jr., P.M.

One of the anomalies found within the foundation stones of the establishment of the Freemasonic Order is discovered in the year of our Lord, 1751, in London, England. One unhappy morning, that year the Mother Grand Lodge of the world discovered that some true and trusty brethren had concluded that it was not holding to the ancient landmarks and then proceeded to form a rival group which they referred to as "the Antient Grand Lodge" dedicated to returning to its Freemasonry) original principles." To the original Grand Lodge they scornfully referred as "Moderns."

A leader of this activity was an Irishman named Lawrence Dermott, whose influence on the Craft was felt for the next 62 years, when the United Grand Lodge and reconciliation was at last achieved.

Dermott was described as "sarcastic, bitter, uncompromising" and on the other hand "the most remarkable mason that ever existed." He was a member and past master of Lodge Number 26, in Dublin, in 1746, shortly before his move to London. Within 5 years he, and other disenchanted brethren (most Irishmen) would change the face of English Masonry forever.

A leader by nature Bro. Dermott was soon elected grand secretary of the newly formed Antients Grand Lodge and, as such, wrote its book of constitution, which he called Ahiman Rezon, and which he managed to not only author but own and sell, for profit, with blessing of the Antients. He even advertised it in Gentlemen's Magazines in 1756. One wonders if his efforts were driven by his commercial or his altruistic motivation. IN either case the work has survived these last two and on half centuries and on the title page its stated object is "to help the young brother and to shew (sic) the mistaken part of the work— the true principle of Free-Masonry and to walk humbly before God."

The remarkable work was further dedicated to: The excellency of secrecy; The principles of the Craft; What sort of men ought to be initiated and what sort of masons are fit to govern lodges; Prayers used in Jewish and Christian Lodges; Old and new regulation; The manner of choosing (sic) and installing Grand-Master of officers; Masons Songs (60 in all); King Solomon's Temple; an Oratorio. Quite a book! Please note that the spelling of "Antients" is correct as then used.

Lawrence Dermott devoted his entire life to the Antients Grand Lodge and became its Deputy Grand Master in 1771. Also to this zealous man the Masonic world owes the advancement of the Royal Arch which he held to be "the root, heart, and marrow of Masonry."

In 1791 after a lifetime of dedication to his concept of Freemasonry Bro. Dermott laid down his working tools for the last time. Much of his legacy lives on today.

**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.**

From the East continued from page 1

About seven o'clock the next morning my phone rang. It was Michael reporting that Holland was still standing with little or no damage except for some minor leakage on the red side. I got in my faithful pick-up truck and drove down South Main which looked like a war zone. The street was covered in limbs which were pruned from the old Oak Trees on both sides of the street. There was no one on the street at that time except myself and a policeman whose patrol car was stuck in the mud. The street was under about a foot of water and I couldn't stop to help him. As I approached the parking lot at the rear of the building, there was about a thirty mile per hour wind blowing and it was still raining.. I saw Michael standing under the covered portion of the parking lot. We went inside and directly to the basement.

There was about two or three inches of water in the basement. We slogged our way to the ice machine and took most the ice out and put it in ice chests to take home, (to prevent further possible flooding of the basement) \*cough\* I suspect not many members have been in the basement. It is the spookiest place in the building. Always dark even with the lights on. There were no lights that morning and it was pitch black dark and even more spooky with all that water on the floor. Michael had a small flashlight with him which provided a little light, but not enough to keep me from banging my head on an iron bar that should not have been there. It was at that time Michael mentioned that what we needed was more light.

We got the ice and went up-stairs and inspected the rest of the building and it was okay. Outside the kitchen door there was a large oak tree that the storm pushed down on the air-conditioning unit which bent the cowling but it doesn't seem to be a big deal. The tree has been removed but the air-conditioning contractor needs to look at the unit before it can be turned on. Michael went up to the roof and cleaned the water spouts which were clogged with leaves and other debris. The water on the roof then began to drain off. As I was leaving the parking lot that afternoon the wind and rain had died down and the clouds began to part letting the sun through. I looked back at the building as I left the parking lot and except for the tree down on the air-conditioner it looked like just another day at Holland Lodge.

Jerry Brainard Jones, W.M Holland Lodge

## **A MASONIC ANECDOTE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

### **Thank you Bro. Meir for the contribution**

From time to time many cases have been cited to prove that the signs and tokens of Free Masonry, which speak a universal language and act as a passport to the attention and support of the initiated in all parts of the world, have stayed the uplifted hand of the destroyer, softened the asperities of tyrants, broken down the barriers of political animosity and sectarian prejudice. The most noted instance in the American Revolution where the Masonic relation afforded relief was the case of Israel Israels, who was at one time Grand Master of Pennsylvania.

Israels was a Quaker, though his name is decidedly Jewish. During the Revolution he resided on the Delaware, near Wilmington. With his brother he had determined to take up arms for freedom. But it was decided that lots be cast to determine which one should stay at home to protect the women. The lot of a soldier fell to the younger brother, Joseph.

The mother with her family had moved to Philadelphia, as her home at Newcastle, Delaware, was exposed too much to the vicissitudes of war. During the occupancy of Philadelphia by the British, the Israels family endured severe hardships and Israel watched over them with incessant anxiety. Knowing that his mother and those under her roof were in want he determined to reach them.

One of his Tory neighbors procured for him the countersign and eluding the vigilance of the sentinel, he made his way to his mother's house, which he found in possession of the British soldiers who had quartered themselves upon the family. His brother was there, too, on a secret visit. The loyalist who had given the sign betrayed the secret of Israels' expedition. He and his brother were seized and carried on board the frigate, "Rosebuck," lying in the Delaware, a few miles from Wilmington, opposite his home, there to be tried as a spy.

Being one of the "Committee of Safety" Israels' position was peculiarly perilous. His fate was decided before the trial. The testimony of his Tory neighbors was overwhelmingly against him. Several were ready to swear that while the loyal population of the country had willingly furnished their share of provisions needed by the ships of war, he had been heard to say repeatedly that he would "sooner drive his cattle as a present to General Washington, than receive thousands of dollars in British gold for them."

The British Commander upon receiving this information ordered a detachment of soldiers to go to Israels' meadows, in full view of the frigate and seize and slaughter his cattle, then feeding there. His nineteen-year-old wife saw her husband and brother taken to the frigate and watched the movements of the plunderers. Guessing their purpose, she made for the meadows in hot haste, and with an eight-year-old boy began to drive out the cattle. The soldiers threatened to shoot her if she did not get out. The heroic woman cried: "Fire away !" The cowards fired several shots, not one hit her. She drove her cattle to safety and won the admiration of the men for her heroic daring.

The trial of her husband took place. Asked by a sympathetic soldier if he was a Free Mason, Israels so declaring himself, was informed that the officers were Masons and that a Communication was to be held on board the vessel that night. He made a manly defense and at the opportune time gave the Masonic sign of distress. Not only did the haughty bearing of the officers change, but the Tory witnesses were reprimanded for seeking to injure an upright man. Presents were given to his heroic Hannah, while he and his brother were set at liberty.

But for the talismanic power of Masonry in all probability both brothers would have been shot. It is doubtful whether there has ever been devised by man a system that has the power over the human mind in the whole range of its passion that Masonry has so often, so instantaneously, so magically and so humanely exerted.

On the field of battle, in the solitude of the uncivilized forest, in the busy haunts of the crowded city, the principles of Masonry have made men of the most hostile feelings, most distant relations and most diversified convictions rush to the aid of one another.

## Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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Worshipful Master	Jerry Jones	713-667-2817	713-201-0366	Worshipfulmaster@hollandlodge.org
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Junior Warden	Robert Welch	713-526-0029	713-941-7800	Juniorwarden@hollandlodge.org
Treasurer	Emile A. Bussemey	713-729-1348	713-260-7453	Treasurer@hollandlodge.org
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	713-723-2009	713-723-2009	Secretary@hollandlodge.org
Chaplain	Henry Gonzales	281-799-2045		Chaplain@hollandlodge.org
Senior Deacon	Michael Meier	713-729-6426	713-529-0912	Seniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Junior Deacon	Ronald Adams	713-681-7359	713-882-3823	Juniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
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Musician	Rodney Elliott	713-236-0359	713-236-0359	Musician@hollandlodge.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713-666-3625	713-666-3625	None
Immediate P M	Patrick Porter	713-796-1131	713-294-3704	ImmediatePM@hollandlodge.org

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