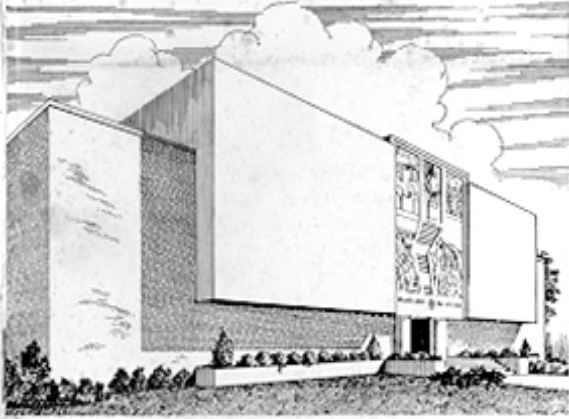


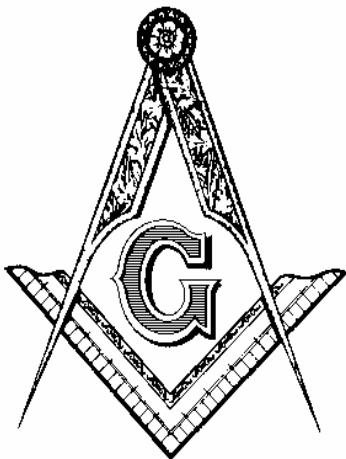
The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
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September 2007
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Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



**The Next Stated Meeting:
September 12, 2007
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.**

**Please join us for a great dinner and
then the Stated Meeting where the
business of your Lodge
will be conducted.**



Brethren,

Well, my brothers, I arrived safely back from my tour of Egypt and Eastern Africa.

I must say that it was a lot of fun and I enjoyed most every minute of it. I don't think that could have happened if I was worried about how the Lodge was going to be taken care of while I was gone and I am very happy to report that it seems the Lodge was well handled. We got two EA degrees done in my absence and the third is on the schedule and will be completed by the time that this article goes to print. I have heard that the online schedule wasn't set as well as it could have been and this is my fault. It was one of the things that I have done for the Lodge for a while and I neglected to get the information to the people that needed it.

For future reference, Entered Apprentice degrees will traditionally be done the 3rd Wednesday of the month, Fellowcrafts degrees on the 4th Wednesday, and Master Mason's degrees on the 1st Wednesday. If there are no degrees to be done, we will be having a school of instruction. I know that a lot of people rely on the calendar and I will do my best to make sure that is it kept up to date. If there is any doubt as to what is going on, please feel free to give me a call which brings me to my next subject.

I started my MBA program this past month. This means that I am in school four days out of the week and on Fridays I am working on projects with my various teams from my classes. This will mean that I won't be taking calls during what would probably be considered "business hours" as I will be in classes during those hours. The best time to reach me will be in the evenings. Ideally, aside from emergencies, the best time to talk to me will be in person on Wednesdays. If you make the time to come down to Lodge to discuss something I will make the time to hear you. Of course a quick email to give me some notice of what topic we would be discussing would make sure that I can respond to your concerns in the most effective manner, or a phone message to that same effect. I know that your time is valuable to you as mine is to me, and I would imagine that if you are concerned enough about the issue at hand to make the time to come down to talk with me that you would also want to get the issue resolved as quickly as possible as well. The only way that I can do that is make sure that I have enough information to act on if that is what is required of me. If it is a concern and something that I just need to listen to, then obviously, that is fine as well.

At the August Stated Meeting we had a number of brethren who were visiting us from Houston Lodge. After the meeting Past Master Earl Thompson took the time to give some of these brothers a tour of the facility along with some other visiting brethren. It was something that I greatly appreciated. I think those visiting brothers were suitably impressed and since they are looking for a place to meet I hope that the hospitality that was shown during the meal, during the meeting and after the meeting reflected well upon Holland Lodge.

Brethren, if you know of any lodge that is looking to re-locate, please let me, an officer or a member of the MBA board know. It is important that we are kept informed as to what is going on so that we can hopefully start to increase the utilization of the building.

I look forward to the September Stated Meeting where I will have nothing but good things to report. Until then my brothers, take care.

Fraternally Patrick Porter, W.M.

From the South...

Brethren, here I am from the south again and I will be entertaining the last article about the relationship of masonry with the country I hail from. In the past two articles we talked about king Hiram of Tyr and the Cedars of Lebanon that played a huge role in early masonry. But today we will be viewing modern masonry in Lebanon.

The oldest lodge that we have records of was Beirut No. 415 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1826, the WM was the British consular, and the lodge worked in French. Then the lodge's warrant was renewed in 1868 and was back in labor again. This lodge does not exist today. We can also trace lodges back to 1869 where we find a lodge which was operating under French jurisdiction and was a member of the "Grand Orient de France". A French mason was the first WM of this lodge then the Lebanese assumed the chair afterwards. This lodge use to meet weekly at night and conduct the business and it was located in Beirut.

After the "Grand Orient de France" abolished the condition of believing in a Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul, Lebanese lodges severed their relationship with the above Grand Lodge and started meeting under the English jurisdiction.

Another early lodge was Phoenicia Lodge that which was established in 1890 under the Egyptian Grand Lodge and was conducting business in Arabic. They acquired the warrant through a brother in Egypt who was of Lebanese descent, his name was Chahine Makarios. This lodge started with 40 members. However the "Wali" (ruler) of Beirut found out and ordered its closure and by that meetings were interrupted.

None of these early lodges exist today, however there is five lodges under the Grand Lodge of Scotland out of which three are working, and eleven under the Grand Lodge of New York out of which six are working. These lodges were chartered in the early 1900s.

And we also have plenty of lodges which we are not on fraternal relationship with. It is said that there is about 300,000 masons in Lebanon today. This will conclude my articles about the country I was raised in.

Fraternally, Wael Semaan, Junior Warden

July 30, 1773,

Contributed by Brad Reel

Eighteen men gathered at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern on King Street in Boston and organized the first Masonic Lodge in North America. The fraternal society was based loosely on medieval stonemasons' guilds. Members pledged to be true to each other, to God, and to their king. However, a number of Masons — including George Washington, John Hancock, and Paul Revere played major roles in the Revolution. Long associated with secret rituals and symbols, Freemasons are now more open about their mission of self-improvement and service to the community. Still all-male, the society today has 6,000,000 members around the world; 2,000,000 live in the United States, 50,000 in Massachusetts.

Background...Even today, when Masons are more open about their activities and goals, the nature of Freemasonry remains shrouded in mystery. It developed, in part, out of stonemasons' guilds. By the seventeenth century, English gentlemen who had never practiced the craft of stonemasonry began to join the fraternity for social reasons. In time, the fraternity borrowed various regulations, tools, and mythology from the stonemasons to create a code of conduct and a system of morality.

Freemasonry's overarching allegory is the Biblical story of the building of King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. Through symbols, ceremonies, and lectures, Freemasonry teaches its members the tenets of "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth." Following earlier stonemasons' customs of boarding in lodges located near their place of work, Freemasons organize themselves into membership "lodges" where they meet periodically for fraternal and social activities.

By 1717 four London lodges formed a so-called Grand Lodge to supervise, coordinate, and charter new lodges. Soon after, an English merchant-tailor and active Mason named Henry Price immigrated to Boston. Finding other Masons there, he decided to return to England to secure an official "warrant" for a Grand Lodge in North America. He sailed in the winter of 1732 and returned the next summer with the necessary documents. On July 30th, he gathered together the required number of Masons and organized what would later be called "The Mother Lodge of America."

The Boston lodge grew quickly and many other lodges in New England were chartered. But as membership was generally limited to well-to-do gentlemen, workingmen felt excluded. As a result, in 1752 men who called themselves "Masons according to the Old Customs" formed their own Boston lodge. They secured their charter from the Grand Lodge in Scotland.

Although Masonry traditionally emphasized conservatism and fidelity to one's ruler, this Lodge soon became a hotbed of revolutionary activism in Boston. Members met at the Green Dragon Tavern, and some historians believe that the [Boston Tea Party](#) was planned there.

Freemasonry continued to grow after independence; many leaders of the new federal government were members of the society. When Mason George Washington helped lay the cornerstone of the US Capitol in 1793, he did so in a Masonic ceremony. By 1825, when the cornerstone of the [Bunker Hill Monument](#) was laid in a Masonic ceremony, lodges had spread all across the Commonwealth.

Sources: *A Comprehensive View of Freemasonry*, by Henry Wilson Coil (Maco Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., Inc., 1973). *A Short History of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, by Louis C. King (privately published, 1983). "Masons let 'light shine in,' try to shed image of secrecy," by Michael Paulson, *The Boston Globe*, July 30, 2001. *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities*, by Mark A. Tabbert (National Heritage Museum and NYU Press, 2005). *Stalwart Builders: The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, 1733 –1970*, by Thomas Sherrard Roy (The Masonic Education and Charity Trust, 1971).

From the Secretary

Did You Know?

Atheist: What is an Atheist-

An irreligious libertine, one who denies the existence of an intelligent Supreme Being. A belief in God is one of the Landmarks of the Order.

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

Interesting Texas FACTS

Each made official by the State Legislature...

State Motto: Friendship

State Tree: Pecan

State Flower: Bluebonnet

State Bird: Mockingbird

State Dinosaur: Brachiosaur Sauropod

State Dish: Chili

State Fiber/Fabric: Cotton

State Fish: Guadalupe Bass

State Fruit: Texas Red Grapefruit

State Pepper: Jalapeno

State Insect: Monarch Butterfly (I thought Mosquito!)

State Sport: Rodeo

State Vegetable: The Texas Sweet Onion

Bet you did not know all of these!

From the Kitchen

40+ year members will receive special recognition by the Stewards before the Stated Meeting on September 8th. All 40+ year members are invited to dine with us at 6:30pm and partake of this treat for you. We already had a good time last month recognizing 50+ year members. As you the 50+ year members are also 40+, please attend again. All Masons and guests are invited to join this celebration.

Masonic Service Awards are scheduled for September 26th. Let's together support our more experienced members and thank them for the ongoing guidance they provide to us. The MSA is a public event so bring your family with you to Holland Lodge. Happiness shared is happiness multiplied.

Brother Adams and I remain honored serving as your Holland Lodge Stewards for 2007-2008 and will continue with ongoing mealtime surprises. Join with us early and often to experience what's happening and to sample our meals. We hold an impromptu Kitchen Klatch every Wednesday evening wherein all Masons are welcome to polish the Work, visit, and generally have a Masonically good time.

Brother Adams and I always look forwards to shaking your hands and filling your plates.

F & S,
Brother Meier

Lodge Activities/Calendar

Upcoming Meetings

September 12, 2007 Stated Meeting

September 19, 2007 EA Degree Practice

September 26, 2007 Masonic Service Awards

October 10, 2007 Stated Meeting

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

Join the Snowball Visitors

Bro. Brad Reel is organizing monthly "snowball" visitations. Each month a group of Holland Lodge members will visit another lodge. While visiting each month's lodge, we will recruit two members from that lodge to join us on upcoming months lodge visits. Our "snowball" will grow until June, when we will have our final visit at Holland Lodge! Each month, there will be a new sign up sheet. Members will only be committed for the month that they sign up to participate. Each month the number of Holland participants will decrease to accommodate the growing number of "snowballers". Join in the fun, contact Bro. Brad Reel at bradreel@gmail.com for information on the next visit!

We will miss our departed Brother

Doyle B. Crawford

Raised March 2, 1957, died June 3, 2007

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

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Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	713-723-2009	713-723-2009	Secretary@hollandlodge.org
Chaplain	Steven Lattelle			Chaplain@hollandlodge.org
Senior Deacon	Kurtis Kasper	832-216-3519	713-348-3027	Seniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
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Junior Steward	Ronald Adams	713-681-7359	713-882-3823	JuniorSteward@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
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