

# Hempstead Lodge #749 A.F. & A.M.

A Friendly Neighborhood For Your Permanent Masonic Home

Volume 109, Issue 4



April 2002

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Ted W. Wren Jr.  
SENIOR WARDEN - T. Roy Shields  
JUNIOR WARDEN - Kenneth Harvey  
SENIOR DEACON - Steven D. Lyons  
JUNIOR DEACON - L.M. Jim Ferguson  
SENIOR STEWARD - John N. Daut

JUNIOR STEWARD - Malcolm A. Carter  
SECRETARY - - - John "Corky" Daut  
TREASURER - - - Malcolm P. Carter  
CHAPLAIN - - - John Garrett  
TYLER - - - R. Wayne Kluna  
BULLETIN EDITOR - John "Corky" Daut



**THE NEXT STATED MEETING April 11, 2002**

Meal Served 6:30 PM — Meeting Starts 7:30 PM

Good Food + Big Smiles + Hearty Handshakes = A Real Welcome



## Texas Masonic Heroes

### JAMES FANNIN

Commander at Goliad

Remembered as the Commander of the doomed garrison at the Presidio LaBahia at Goliad, James Walker Fannin, Jr., carried the heavy responsibility of the lives of his men with increasing anguish during the cold, gray days of March 1836.

Born January 1, 1804, the son of Dr. Isham Fannin grew up on a plantation near Marion, Georgia. Although he was admitted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1819, he withdrew in 1821 during his third year. Several years after returning to Georgia he married Minerva Fort, by whom he had two daughters. The Fannins moved to Texas and settled at Velasco in the fall of 1834.

Fannin became a proponent of Texas Independence, and on October 2, 1835, participated at Gonzales in the first battle of the revolution as the Captain of the Brazos Guards. On October 27 Fannin and Jim Bowie, who had been sent by Stephen F. Austin to Bexar, led the Texas forces in the battle at Mission Concepcion.

In February 1836, Fannin was elected Colonel of the Provisional Regiment of volunteers at Goliad, where he began strengthening the fortifications at the presidio. With the Mexican Army under General Urrea approaching, Fannin was torn between obeying Houston's orders to retreat to Victoria, Travis' pleas for reinforcements at the Alamo, or remaining at his well fortified outpost.

*Continued on page 3*

JAMES FANNIN Continued from page 1

### *Another Waller County*

### *Landmark Disappears*

The old Pine Island post office and home on the southeast corner of the Old Houston Highway and Cochran Road caught on fire Monday, March 18 about noon and was completely destroyed.

The original building was built in the later part of the 1800's by Duncan D. Robertson. John Wesley Pennington bought the two acres with the store and post office from Will Cameron in 1897. John served as postmaster until he died and his wife Frances took over as postmaster in 1903. After John died, Frances closed the store and just kept the post office open.

After Frances died, Her daughter, Mamie Milam took the job of postmaster in 1914. Mamie had the living quarters torn down in 1924, leaving the post office section as a separate building. She had a new house built around the old post office which was included as the northwest corner of the home. The Pine Island post office was merged with the Hempstead post office in 1938 and Mamie sold the place.

So, the northwest corner of the building was about 120 years old and the rest of the building was 78 years old.

I have pictures of the old family car (an open top model T) parked in front of the post office. It was used to carry the mail bags on the one mile trip from the depot to the post office. One picture (taken near Christmas) shows mail bags stacked about six feet high in the rear seat, stacked on both running boards, on the front

*Continued on page 3*



*The Star Corner*

*A Note From The  
Secretary's Desk*

**Q. Does the Order of the Eastern Star have any special projects?**

**A.** Yes. Our Order of the Eastern Star membership supports E.S.T.A.R.L (Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership) and college or university scholarship awards to students of any race, creed, or color; Eastern Star Home for its senior members in California; J. Clifford Lee and Marguerite Rennie Memorial Cancer Funds; Memorial Cancer Dressing Stations; Heart Research Foundation and a Benevolent Fund for the relief of qualified indigent and distressed members or Chapters. Additional charities are also supported.

Popular Misconceptions

**Q. Is the Order of the Eastern Star a secret society?**

**A.** No. Secret societies are underground and hard to find. We are easily found within the community. We do enjoy a distinctive means of identifying each other. Only members are allowed in a closed meeting.

**Q. Can I afford membership in the Order of the Eastern Star?**

**A.** Yes. Financial position is not considered in the Order. Members come from all economic stations of life.

**Q. Is my religious faith allowed in the Order of the Eastern Star?**

**A.** Yes. Members of all religions may belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. We only require a belief in a Supreme Being.

**Q. Is the Order of the Eastern Star time-consuming?**

**A.** After your Initiation into our Order during a regular meeting, you may attend as your time permits.

**Q. Is there any memory work?**

**A.** There is no mandatory memory work except the means of making yourself known if you wish to visit a Chapter or if you become an officer. A short proficiency examination is strictly voluntary but encouraged.

**Q. Is the Order patriotic and democratic?**

**A.** Yes. Members are taught an allegiance to preserve the good order of their country. We strongly support the government of the United States of America.

*Please send your Comments and suggestions to Corky at 979-826-6267 or to pineilse@swbell.net*

Hempstead Lodge has been joined by Waller Lodge in two fundraisers since the last newsletter. The first was the "Bicycle Ride" in Hempstead. The second was at the "Railroad Track" in Hempstead.

At the "Bicycle Ride", of the 10 Brothers who worked, 6 were dual members, 3 were single members of Hempstead and 1 was a single member of Waller.

At the "Railroad Track", of the 9 Brothers who worked, 4 were dual members, 4 were single members of Hempstead and 1 was a single member of Waller.

Somehow, the above figures seem to tell a sad story.

Before I continue, please remember that Waller is my home Lodge and Hempstead is my plural Lodge so I am not trying to lay blame, just state facts.

In last December's newsletter, I wrote the following,

“. . . working together with just a little luck, the Liendo Bar-B-Ques, a "Bull Riding Show", and maybe a couple of Turkey Shoots could provide all the money (Over Dues) needed for operating both Lodges.

Then **individual fund raisers** like Waller's Chicken Bar-B-Ques and Hempstead's Bicycle Race would bring the Lodges enough extra for any special projects."

Soon after, there was an announcement at both Lodges that we would share equally, in all future fundraisers.

Waller Lodge has 65 members, **not counting the duals**. Out of that 65, only one Waller Brother worked in these two fundraisers. The profits were divided equally.

Before, in each Lodge, a small group of Brothers would work maybe 4 small fundraisers a year to earn an extra \$2,000 dollars. Together, it seems that a small group of **dual members** will have to work 8 small fundraisers to earn \$2,000 for each Lodge.

By the way, this is not just me. I have already heard the same comments from over half of the dual members.

W.M. Ted Wren Jr. brought another interesting fact to my attention. The average age of those who worked the first fundraiser was 62.5 years old. The average age of those working the second was 65.5 years old.



Fannin's force of four-hundred men left the presidio the morning of March 19, and by mid-morning found themselves surrounded by a superior force on open ground. Fannin surrendered his men, hoping they would be treated fairly as prisoners of war. On Palm Sunday, March 27, they were led outside the gates, executed, and tossed into a mass grave.

Fannin was a member of Holland Lodge No. 36, and served as Deacon at its last meeting at Brazoria before the arrival of the Mexican Army.

*This month's "Texas Masonic Heroes" column is the eighth in the new series on famous Masons who made Texans History.*

## *Brother George M. Cohan*

At the age of 16, Bro. George M. Cohan published his first song, "Why Did Nellie Leave Home?" It was his first of hundreds of tunes, some of which would become standards. Bro. Cohan's song list includes popular tunes like "Give My Regards to Broadway" and "Mary's a Grand Old Name," as well as such patriotic anthems as "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "Over There." Twenty-three years later, just before America's entry into World War II, Congress authorized Bro. Franklin Roosevelt to present Bro. Cohan with a gold medal. In addition to song writing, Bro. Cohan was a playwright, producer, and actor. He appeared in "Ah Wilderness" and "I'd Rather Be Right," and wrote plays including "The Little Millionaire," "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," and "The Merry Malones." He was immortalized in 1942 in Hollywood's "Yankee Doodle Dandy," and in 1968 in the Broadway musical "George M!" Bro. Cohan was raised in New York city's Pacific Lodge No. 233 in 1905. He was also an active Shrine Mason.

*(Continued from page 1)*

fenders, in the front passenger seat and on top of the hood. That was the second load for that day.

The store and post office served as a multipurpose community meeting place for the people living in the area in it's early days.

Mail addressed to the personnel and students of Prairie View College was picked up by a special carrier and distributed by the college mail room. The same carrier picked up the outgoing mail from the college and delivered it to the post office. It is hard to imagine now, but the small post office did a huge amount of business in the early 1900's, requiring two or three mail clerks.

*By the way, for those who don't know, Mamie Milam was my grandmother. My mother was born and raised in the original house until she was 14 years old and the new one was built in 1924. - Corky*

## **Masonic Questions and Answers**

**Q: Is it true Masonry teaches that all faiths are equal?**

**A:** No. It would be out of place for a fraternity to do so. Masonry does teach respect and toleration -- that all human beings have an equal right to follow their own faith and that no one has the power to deny them that right. So does the Canadian Charter of Rights and the United States Constitution, but that does not make the Charter or the Constitution religious documents.

**Q: Is it true Masons have their own Bible?**

**A:** No. A Masonic Bible, frequently given as a gift among Masons, is what anyone thinks of as a Bible (usually the Kings James Version) with a presentation page and, sometimes, a special concordance showing the scripture passages quoted in Masonic ceremonies. Some also contain reference sections on Masonic terminology, history, and the like. A Masonic Bible is as generic as the Gideon's Bible in hotel rooms.

"Masonic Questions and Answers" It is basically for new Masons, Masonic wives and children. However, we may all benefit from being reminded sometime. Please let the editor know if you have a question.

## **MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES**

McWilliams, Robert Lee 4-15-63

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO**

Wallingford, George G. 4-25-20

## **Say A prayer For**

Roy Shields, still having an assortment of problems.  
Ted Wren , still having trouble breathing.  
Pam York, may be looking at a knee replacement.  
Corky, skin cancer removed again after 7 months.

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, "Father, me dog is dead. Could ya' be saying a mass for the poor creature?"

Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not, we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no telling what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature.

"OK," Muldoon said, "I'll go right away father. By the way, do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate for the service?"

Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why didn't

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