



Hempstead Masonic Lodge #749 AF & AM

*Worshipful Master Kelly Cox Secretary John "Corky" Daut
Hempstead Masonic Lodge Was Chartered December 6, 1893*

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HOLLAND NO. 36 --- LOUISIANA'S GIFT TO TEXAS

A Little more than 150 years ago, Texas became a nation, and the Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was formed. Playing a vital part in each of these events was Holland Lodge No. 36, the "Home of Texas Presidents" --- and Louisiana's Gift to Texas.

Freemasonry didn't just happen in Texas. It was the result of love, devotion, dedication, hardship, and suffering. This is the story of how it came about.

Freemasonry came to Texas from two directions. It was brought across the mountains, forests, and bayous from the Atlantic, and across the Rio Grande from Mexico and Spanish America.

It is believed that the first Mason to make Texas his home was Nathan Davis, a native of South Carolina, who came to Texas from Illinois in 1818; however, several Masons joined Austin when he established his colony at San Felipe on the Brazos River (about 50 miles west of the present day city of Houston).

As factions fought one another for control of the government, Austin had the job of dealing with them. One thing was certain; many of these officials were members of the Masonic fraternity. Because

of his skill and the important part he played in the settlement of Texas, Austin is known as the "Father of Texas."

A meeting had been held at San Felipe on February 11, 1828, attended by Austin and six brothers from his colony. They determined to apply for the charter. The mails were very undependable and this first application for a lodge in what is now Texas was lost.

This was the condition in the winter of 1834 and 1835, when a group of Masons began meeting looking toward the establishment of a lodge in Texas.

The motivating force behind these meetings was Anson Jones. Brother Jones was a physician who had received his Masonic Degrees in Harmony Lodge No. 52 in Philadelphia, being raised in May 1827. Serving in all three chairs, he was Worshipful Master in 1832. After completing his term, he moved to New Orleans where he resided for almost a year. Because of his love of Masonry, he was known to visit often. Quite likely, he met the Grand Master, John Holland. Thus, when he moved to Texas in 1833, he had made many contacts in

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From The East



Brother Jim Ferguson was passed to the Degree Of Fellowcraft.

Despite loosing seven Brothers in the past year,

we now have two Entered Apprentices and one Fellowcraft actively working. We also have added four dual members and one transferred member to the roster in that same period of time. In addition, we have a couple of other Brothers who are seriously planning to transfer their memberships to Hempstead Lodge and one other man who has picked up a petition.

It appears that Freemasonry is on the rise in our area. The only downside is the many good Brothers we have been missing at our meetings lately.

Louisiana Masonry.

In the winter of 1834-35, five Master Masons, who had made themselves known to each other, consulted among themselves, and after various interviews and much deliberation, resolved to take measures to establish a Lodge of their own in Texas.

In March 1835, Dr. Jones, together with John H. Wharton, Asa Brigham, James A.E. Phelps, Alexander Russell, and J.P. Caldwell, met in a little grove of wild peach or laurel. The place of meeting was back of the town of Brazoria in what had been a family burying ground. The spot was secluded and out of the way of "cowans and eavesdroppers," and they felt they were alone.

It was here at 10 o'clock in the morning that the first formal Masonic meeting in Texas calling for the establishment of the Craft was held. It was decided to apply to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a Dispensation to form and open a lodge, to be called Holland Lodge in honor of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of that body, John H. Holland.

There are several reasons why the name Holland might have been chosen. First, Holland was a distinguished Mason who had served as Grand Master of Louisiana since 1825. Second, it is highly likely that he was known by Anson Jones and others of the group who had spent some time in New Orleans. Third, Holland was remembered for his intervention with Mexican officials who had sentenced Adolphus Sterne to death for his support of the Freedonian Republic in 1828. This had been an attempt by Anglo colonists to set up a free republic in the Nacogdoches area. Sterne was the first known Scottish Rite Mason in Texas. Fourth, Texans have always been practical and probably felt naming the new lodge after the Grand Master might assure them a charter.

After some delay, the dispensation was received by Jones, and a meeting was called for December 27, 1835, in the second story of the old courthouse building in Brazoria, and Holland No. 36 under dispensation, was instituted and opened.

The officers were Anson Jones, Worshipful Master; Asa Brigham, Senior Warden; and J.P. Caldwell, Junior Warden. Little did they realize they would meet for only a short time in Brazoria, for Santa Anna had plans for Brazoria

In March, Brazoria was abandoned, and troops

led by General Urrea took possession of the city. The courthouse was burned along with the rest of the town. The records, books, jewels, and everything else belonging to the lodge was destroyed. The brethren were scattered.

In the meantime on January 27, 1836, Grand Master John Holland had granted a formal charter to Holland Lodge No. 36. He placed this charter in the hands of John M. Allen of Louisiana Lodge No. 32. Brother Allen had been sent to New Orleans to recruit volunteers for the Texas Army.

The Texas Revolution was reaching a climax when the charter was finally delivered to Worshipful Master Jones on the prairie between Groce's plantation and the San Jacinto battlefield.

Throughout this battle of San Jacinto, the charter of Holland Lodge no. 36, remained in the saddlebag of Anson Jones.

As peace returned to Texas, the members of Holland Lodge No. 36 were too scattered to reconvene the Lodge at Brazoria during 1836 and 1837. The Worshipful Master, Anson Jones had been elected to the Texas Senate. The capitol of the Republic was the newly founded city of Houston. This city, named for the hero of San Jacinto, was less than a year old.

Dr. Jones called a meeting of Holland Lodge No. 36 to convene on November 8, 1838, at 8:00 PM, in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol. At this meeting, the officers were installed and seven brethren came forward to affiliate.

Meanwhile, Grand Master Holland gave permission for Milam Lodge No. 40 to organize in Nacogdoches and McFarland Lodge 41 in San Augustine.

On December 20, 1837 representatives of Holland, Milam, and McFarland Lodges met in the Senate Chamber of the Republic of Texas and there formed the Grand Lodge of Texas. Presiding over the meeting was Sam Houston, President of the Republic.

The brethren who formed the Grand Lodge of Texas came from many different jurisdictions and each followed a different form of the ritual. After much discussion that lasted for some time, Texas adopted the ritual then used in Tennessee.

Over 150 years have passed and Holland Lodge has celebrated its Sesquicentennial. It is a Lodge respected and held dear by every Texas Mason. Holland No. 36 is truly Louisiana's gift to Texas.

The Dirty 3/4 Dozen

In 'Secretary's Corner' of the Sugar Land Lodge #1141 newsletter this past April said,

"We are down to twelve (12) Brothers who have not paid their 2005 dues. So that you will not become one of the 'Dirty Dozen' please send your dues payment today."

The article reminded me to check Hempstead Lodge's books. I discovered that we have the usual eight (8) Brothers who still have not paid their dues with only 42 days left before automatic suspension.

So that you will not become one of the 'Dirty 3/4 Dozen' please send your dues payment today.

National Treasure

The movie "National Treasure", although not about Freemasonry, it is one of the few movies that portrays it's references about Freemasonry in a positive light. The movie was released last Tuesday on DVD. If you didn't get to see it when it was at the movies, you may want to buy a copy.

REMEMBER US IN YOUR PRAYERS

John N. Daut Sr. - Had another back procedure on an outpatient basis last Wednesday.

Pam York - feeling better after visiting the ER.

Cynthia Cox - As if cancer and chemo treatments weren't enough, now Cynthia now has a pinched nerve in her neck.

Masonic Anniversaries

Carter, Malcolm Pierce	05-02-74	31
Parham, William E	05-05-82	23
Sweetman, Clyde O.	05-09-50	55
Wiesner, John W	05-25-51	54
Zach, Freddie Ray	05-03-74	31

Happy Birthdays

Garrett, John A.	05-02-65	40
Hartley, David Wade	05-02-59	46
Lyons, Steven Dale	05-07-60	45
Podvin, Robert F.	05-25-49	56
Zepeda, Jimmy N. Jr.	05-30-48	57
Zermeno, Christopher	05-14-73	32

UPDATES

A belated happy birthday to Brother Malcolm A. Carter who celebrated his 79th. birthday 4-1-05. We all hope the eye operation was a big success and you can drive to meetings at night again.

I must also apologize for leaving Brother John N. Daut Sr. off the list of those who worked in the Hempstead Lodge yard sale last month.

Since John rode to the Lodge with me, in my car, that Friday morning, it doesn't leave me much excuse does it. . . Except maybe old age. . . Naw.

So, if you've ever been left out. Now you know if I left my own son out, I don't do it on purpose.

I am an equal opportunity Leaver Outer.

The Railroad Track Bar-B-Que Facility

Just about every Hempstead Lodge Brother knows that the City of Hempstead Railroad Track Bar-B-Que Facility, where our Lodge has had many successful Bar-B-Que fund raisers, was destroyed by a wayward pickup last December.

The "Town Centre" origination is going to replace the old wrecked B-B-Q facility with a new park like modern facility designed and built using a railroad theme to celebrate Hempstead's railroad history. It will include some trees and sculptures.

The planed new food sales area is to look similar to an old depot and will have an adjoining covered eating area. The big pits will resemble a locomotive pulling a train. They are to be placed on railroad wheels attached to a short railroad line.

At the April meeting a motion was passed for the Lodge to send the "Town Centre" organization a donation to show our support for the project.

From The Editor's Desk

I have been informed by the Grand Secretary that the "Texas Mason" magazine list of address is not on a computer and may contain mistakes and may even be omitting some members. If you do not receive your copy of the Masonic magazine, please let me (Corky) know so I can send your name and address to Grand Lodge and we can get their address list corrected.

A plane was taking off from Kennedy Airport. After it reached a comfortable cruising altitude, the captain made an announcement over the intercom, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking.

"Welcome to Flight Number 293, nonstop from New York to Los Angeles. The weather ahead is good and, therefore, we should have a smooth and uneventful flight. Now sit back and relax... OH, MY GOD!" -----

Silence ----- followed, and after a few minutes, the captain came back on the intercom and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am so sorry if I scared you earlier. While I was talking to you, the flight attendant accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!"

A passenger in Coach yelled, "That s nothing. You should see the back of mine!"

*Visit The Newly Revised
Hempstead Lodge Web Site At
www.geocities.com/hempstead749*

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