

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE



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TEXAS MASONIC HEROES

BEN MILAM

"Who will follow old Ben Milam?"

Bad luck had followed Ben Milam most of his life. What luck he did have finally ran out when he was killed by a Mexican bullet in the Battle of San Antonio on December 8, 1835. He became the first in a long line of immortal Texas heroes.

Benjamin Rush Milam was born in Frankfort, Kentucky, on October 20, 1788. He grew up in Kentucky and served in the War of 1812. In 1815, when he and two partners chartered a schooner to take a load of flour to South America, the Captain and most of the crew died of yellow fever, and the rest were nearly killed in a storm.

Milam went to Texas in 1818 to trade with the Comanche Indians. Among the tribes he met David G. Burnet who was living with the Comanche. The two men formed a friendship that lasted many years. In 1819 Milam joined the fight for Mexican Independence from Spain. Betrayed and imprisoned in Mexico City, he was released through the intervention of the American Minister in Mexico City, Joel Poinsett, who was also the man who introduced York Rite Masonry into Mexico.

By December of 1835 Milam had joined the Texas volunteers' siege of

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WAS GENERAL SANTA ANNA'S LIFE SAVED BECAUSE HE

That question usually comes up every April, around San Jacinto Day.. Why was Santa Anna not executed after his defeat at San Jacinto? Surely, after the atrocities at the Alamo and many others, he deserved to die.

Santa Anna attempted to sneak away during the turmoil of the battle, but his horse bogged down in Vince's Bayou. He found some clothing and hid out during the night. The next day, some of the Texans who were looking for stragglers, picked him up but did not realize that he was a prize catch. When he was grouped with other prisoners, some addressed him as "El Presidente," and his captors took him directly to General Sam Houston.

William R. Denslow, author of 10,000 Famous Freemasons, writes: "It is said that Santa Anna owed his life to the giving of the Masonic sign of distress, first to James A. Sylvester; secondly to Sam Houston; and thirdly, to a group of Texas soldiers, among whom were John A. Wharton, George W. Hockley, Richard Bache, Dr. J. E. Phelps and others.

In his book, *Masons In Texas, History and Influence to 1846*, Dr. James D. Carter holds another view: "It may be that Masons saved the life of Santa Anna but if so, they did not act because he made claim to their mercy as Masons. All of the Masons to whom he

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FREEMASONRY DURING THE WAR

A Masonic Emblem Saves a Yankee Officer

At the terrible battle of Pittsburg Landing, or Shiloh, Capt. G.A. Strong, belonging to one of the Michigan Regiments, was fatally wounded on Sunday, the 6th of April. Captain strong was a Mason and Knight Templar. When he received the fatal wound and fell on the battlefield, he had on his person a fine gold watch, and wore a Masonic breast-pin. A captain of a Texas rangers approached him, as he lay on the ground, and discovered the Masonic emblem on his person. Knowing that the wounded officer would be robbed, and perhaps murdered, if left where he had fallen, the Texan had him carried to a tent, where he bound up his wounds as well as he could, furnished him with water, and took means to protect him from insult and robbery. The battle was still raging, and was renewed on the next day, Monday, when the northern troops succeeded in repulsing the southern army, and in recovering the grounds, tents, etc., they had lost on Sunday. On Tuesday, Captain Strong was found in the tent where the Texan officer had left him, still alive and fully sensible, and with his valuables safe upon his person.

It was observed by one, who gave

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Texas Heroes

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General Cos at San Antonio. But as the weeks wore on, and the weather turned cold, many of the Texan officers and men were voting to give up and go home. Milam wasn't about to give up. He stepped forward and shouted, "Who will follow old Ben Milam into San Antonio? Who will go with old Ben Milam to Bexar?" Three hundred men stepped forward. The assault on San Antonio was a success, and the Mexicans surrendered after five days of fighting, but Ben Milam, the old impresario, lay dead.

Colonel Edward Burleson recorded in his diary that Milam was buried with Masonic honors in the courtyard of the Veramendi Palace. He was a member of Hiram Lodge No. 4 at Frankfort, Kentucky.

This was the eleventh Texas Hero in the series on famous Masons who made Texans History.

General Santa Anna

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appealed knew that Santa Anna had previously disowned Masonry; that further, his many offenses against Texas and Mexican Masons had placed him outside the protection of any Masonic obligation. Santa Anna's life was saved because the Texas leaders considered him worth more to Texas alive than dead."

That is probably the closest we have to the truth. Sam Houston and others, who could have ordered a military trial and convicted their foe of an infinite number of war crimes, however they knew their victory was tenuous at best, and executing Santa Anna would probably give him the martyrdom he did not deserve. And, they did not know who would replace him in the vacuum that would exist if he was executed.

Cooler heads prevailed and Santa Anna was spared, not because of any Masonic connection, but because it was the politically expedient thing to do.

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

As a few of you already know, but many don't, I enjoy writing just for fun. I have been writing a column about the 1930's and 40's for the Humble, Kingwood and East Montgomery County newspapers for a little over 4 years now. Before that I wrote the column called "Pine Island Now and Then" for the Waller County News Citizen for a couple of years. I was rereading some of the old Pine Island columns tonight and ran across something I wrote maybe 5 or 6 years ago and I'll quote it here

A good friend and neighbor here in Pine Island told me that on a recent trip to Waller she waited in the pickup while Clay went into the Post Office. A strange man walked by while she was waiting.

When Clay got back in the pickup, the first thing he said was, "Linda, do you know whose hat that man was wearing?"

"Sure, it's Ted Wren Jr's hat." She answered without even stopping to think about it.

Now, that little story immediately brings to mind two questions. First, what was so outstanding about Ted's hat that people on the street recognize it, even on a stranger? And second, if that hat was so recognizable to everybody in Waller County, why would anyone wear that hat in public and have people all over town saying, "Poor old guy must be broke. That's Ted's old hat."

You know, Brother Ted never did thank me for getting his name put in a newspaper, but he probably will.

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Acock, Melvin Leroy	08-21-92
Cox, Kelly	08-27-01
Eakin, L. C.	08-30-40
Garrett, John A.	08-23-94
Harvey, Kenneth	08-17-98
Smith, Gary Lynn	08-27-98

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

Bridges, Junior W.	08-28-32
Carter, Malcolm Pierce	08-14-52
Carter, Richard Albert Jr.	08-27-65
Parham, William E.	08-15-52

SAY A PRAYER FOR

David Hartley - Back problems
Ted Wren Jr. - Breathing problems
John N. Daut Sr. - Back & Heart
Roy Shields - Multiple problems

War Between The States

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an account of this occurrence, that a mason, though a rebel, and in arms against his government, could not do otherwise than protect and aid his wounded, dying opponent, with such a talisman of peace intervening between them.

I had discovered 8 stories of Freemasonry during the War Between The States. This was the second one and I will try to run the rest in this column.

I have to say War Between The States because Great Great Grandpas Milam and Garrett both said there wasn't a darn thing Civil about it.

THE STAR CORNER


This is the third and last section of the column on Dr. Robert Morris

The International Eastern Star Temple and the offices of the General Grand Chapter are located in Washington, D.C. In the Reception room of the International Eastern Star Temple, over the mantel, hangs an oil painting of this distinguished Master Builder of our Order. This was a gift from the Grand Chapter of Kentucky and was unveiled by his grand daughter, Miss Ella Morris Mount, Past Grand Matron and Grand Secretary of Kentucky.

Dr. spent a great part of his life in Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. The last twenty-six years were spent in LaGrange, Kentucky, where his family was reared and educated. His home is now the property of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky and is maintained as a Shrine in honor of the Master Builder of our Order.

The "Little Red Brick School Building in Mississippi" is owned by the Grand Chapter of Mississippi and is maintained as a Shrine in honor of Dr. Morris' writing of the Ritual in Mississippi.

On July 31, 1888, when the news of his death was sent to all parts of the world, profound grief was expressed at his passing as his whole life had been devoted to the uplifting of humanity. He was buried in the cemetery in La Grange, Kentucky, where admiring friends from all over the world have erected a tall marble shaft in his memory. On one side of the shaft is the Square and Compasses and on the other side is the Five Pointed Star.

Dr. Morris was 

generous, tender of heart and loving in disposition. He was happiest when sharing with others that which the Lord had

bestowed upon him.

As the stars which bedeck the canopy of heaven are the beauty and glory of the night and light the pathway of man on his journey through life, so may the beautiful Star in the East, with all its significance, ever remain the glory of the Order of the Eastern Star and light the pathway of the members in the fulfillment of their vows.

Please send your Comments and Suggestions For the Eastern Star column to Corky at 979-826-6267 or E-mail to pineilse@swbell.net

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MEETING A NEW FRIEND

A Brother decided to stop at one of those big rest areas on the side of the highway to use the washroom.

The first stall was taken, so he went into the second stall. He had just sat down when he heard a voice from the other stall. "Hi there, how is it going?"

Now the Brother wasn't the type to strike up conversations with strangers in restrooms on the side of the road, and don't know what to do.

Finally he said, "Not bad."

Then the voice says, "So, what are you doing?"

The Brother thought it was a little weird, but answered, "Well, I'm going back east."

Then he heard the person, all flustered, say: "Look, I'll call you back when I get back in the car. Every time I ask you a question, some idiot in the next stall keeps answering me!!!"

**HERE LIES THE
HEMPSTEAD
MASONIC LODGE
MAY IT
REST IN PEACE**

This may soon be the epithet for a Lodge that has fought it's way through numerous trials and tribulations after it's almost 110 years of existence since June 5 1893.

You may be asking, "What's the Joke?" Well, I'll tell you, the joke is that 2 fund raisers in a row have been canceled. Knowing the state of our finances as I do, we already owe every penny currently in the checking account for bills that will have to be paid before the 15th of this month. Money still in our savings account money will pay our normal operating expenses for about three months.

Sometime about November our lights and telephone will be cut off, the building insurance cancelled, meals we'll no longer be served and there won't be a newsletter.

Now to all of the Brothers who will say, "Wait a minute, If we are in that much trouble, I'll write a check to help the Lodge." Brothers, donations are always appreciated but in this case it's like sticking a piece of tape on a flat tire. It may roll a little ways, but it won't fix the problem.

The only real "FIX" would be for the Brothers of Hempstead Lodge to **put aside all of their petty little disagreements and hurt feelings or whatever the reason is for not participating** and start working together to make this Lodge a success. Otherwise we can return our charter to the Grand Lodge of Texas and the few left, who really believe in Masonry and it's teachings can move their memberships to Waller Lodge.

A man is in bed with his wife when there is a knock on the door. He rolls over and looks at the clock, and it's half past three in the morning. "I'm not getting out of bed at this time," he thinks, and rolls over. Then, a louder knock follows.

"Aren't you going to answer that?" says his wife.

So he drags himself out of bed and goes downstairs. He opens the door and there is a man standing at the door. It doesn't take the homeowner long to realize the man is drunk. "Hi there," slurs the stranger. "Can you give me a push??"

"No, get lost. It's half past three. I was in bed," says the man and slams the door. He goes back up to bed and tells his wife what happened and she says, "Dave, that wasn't very nice of you. Remember that night we broke down in the pouring rain on the way to pick the kids up from the baby sitter and you had to knock on that man's house to get us started again? What would have happened if he'd told us to get lost??"

"But the guy was drunk," says the husband. "It doesn't matter," says the wife. "He needs our help and it would be the Christian thing to help him." So the husband gets out of bed again, gets dressed, and goes downstairs. He opens the door, and not being able to see the stranger anywhere he shouts, "Hey, do you still want a push??" He hears a voice cry out, "Yeah, please."

So, still being unable to see the stranger he shouts, "Where are you?" The drunk replies, "Over here, on the swing."

HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749

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