



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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Hempstead Masonic Lodge
 #749 AF & AM
 P.O. Box 1251
 Hempstead, Texas 77445
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Special points of interest:

- Meetings every second Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
- Family style meals before the meetings at 6:30 P.M.
- Study nights, Degrees and floor work, Mondays 7:00 P.M. at Waller Lodge.
- Waller Lodge meets on the second Tuesday at 7:30 P.M.
- Waller Lodge family style meals before the meetings at 6:30 P.M.

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Freemasonry's Organization

Just as the individual is the foundation of our Society of Friends and Brothers, so is the Masonic Lodge the fundamental organization of it. This basic unit of the organization is sometimes called the "Blue Lodge", sometimes the Craft Lodge, but it always operates under standards prescribed by a Grand Lodge. There is no higher Masonic authority than a Grand Lodge, and each is the sovereign authority within the State or Country over which it claims jurisdiction. The Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Tennessee is the supreme governing authority over every Lodge in Tennessee. Its chief officer has the title Grand Master, but is known as the Grand Master of Masons in Tennessee, signifying his election by the Ma-



sons of Tennessee whose votes are cast by their duly elected representatives. He acts for all of the Masons collectively who live within the State and are members of its Lodges.

The Officers of the individual Lodge are the Worshipful Master (the term worshipful being used in the Old English manner, meaning respected), and the Senior and Junior Wardens. The term warden means

"watcher" or "supervisor", taken from the Old English term used by the stonemasons of the eighteenth century. In addition, the Lodge has a Treasurer and Secretary as well as two Deacons. Both of the latter are messengers who carry messages at the direction of the Master or the Senior Warden, to others about the Lodge, as the occasion requires. These two brethren also see to the accommodation of visitors when the Lodge is assembled. There are also Stewards, who oversee to the preparation and serving of food, along with other duties. There is a Chaplain, charged with offering prayers and reading the Bible at specific times. The officer outside the door is the Tiler or Tyler, who guards the Lodge from intrusion.

Hempstead Lodge Under New Management

Well Brothers, it appears that most of you missed an outstanding Hempstead Lodge installation dinner and ceremony.

Our New Worshipful Master Kelly Cox outdid himself providing grilled steaks, chicken breasts and shrimp cocktail along with boiled potatoes, big butter beans and dinner rolls with another table full of deserts.

We had about 50 or so Brothers, friends and family members at the ceremony to install Worshipful Master Kelly Cox, Senior Warden "Bob" Podvin, Junior Warden "Bubba" Schiel, Treasurer John Daut Sr., Secretary "Corky" Daut, Senior Deacon Jimmy Zepeda and Junior Deacon "Bill" Parham.

Brother Steve York served as Installing Master

and Brother Tommy King served as Installing Marshall.

Only twelve members of Hempstead Lodge were present, but there were six of our Brothers from Waller Lodge who always try to support the Hempstead Lodge events. There was also six other Master Mason visiting from other Lodges.

The Old Grey Mare

The city fellow was driving to fast in the rain and slid into the ditch on the old country. He walked down to the nearest farm and knocked on the door. When the farmer open the door, the city fellow ask if he had a tractor that could pull his car out of the ditch?

"Nope, my tractor is broke down right now, I have a horse that can pull the car out for you."

The city fellow walked back to the car and waited.

Pretty soon the farmer showed up with an decrepit looking old gray mare wearing an old horse collar and harness. He fastened one end of a strap to the harness and hooked the other end to the car. Then he took the reins and said "Get up Nellie." The horse just stood there.

Then the Farmer said "Get up Blackie." The horse just stood there.

Then he said "Get up Will." The horse just stood there.

Then he said "Get up Old Grey." The horse started forward and pulled the car out of the ditch.

The city fellow looked stunned and ask, "Why did you call three names of horses that weren't there and then call her name and she started pulling?"

"Well I'll tell you son, old Gray has gone blind and has completely lost all her self confidence. She won't even try to do a job by herself. But, as long as she thinks there are some others with her, she'll work as good as she always did."

That story reminds us of some of our Masonic Lodge Brothers who have lost self confidence and think they can't contribute very much to the Lodge anymore.

Brothers, you are wrong. The older Master Masons have many years of Masonic experience, Lodge traditions, memories of our Lodge History and in Lodges as small as

Hempstead, help fill the chairs as Pro Temps when needed and with their wisdom gained through many years of experience, give good and wholesome advice when needed.

Some of you may not believe it but just seeing your faces sitting in the Lodge and knowing that you are giving your support can make a big difference. I have been Secretary for almost 5 years now and still haven't sat in Lodge with one third of the Brothers living in or near Hempstead

Are Plural Members, Second Class?

A Hempstead Brother, was overheard remarking, at the recent Installation, that it looks like the Waller Lodge Brothers are taking over Hempstead Lodge .

I think it had something to do with the fact that the all five of the newly installed officers happened to be plural members.

WHAT ARE PLURAL MEMBERS?

Hempstead Lodge currently has 12 members who went through the same 3 degrees, took the same oaths, pay the same dues and are just as much legitimate members of Hempstead Lodge as any other member. A Plural member is one who loves Masonry enough to belong to 2 different Lodges and attend meetings and work fund raisers to support both Lodges.

"Plural members" currently make up 25% of Hempstead Lodge. With out them, there wouldn't be but 36 members and only 15 of those 36 actually pay dues. That would be a total income of \$1,200 from dues. That amount wouldn't even pay the last 12 months utility bills of \$1,548.98.

June is the most important Lodge meeting of the year, when officers who will run your Lodge for the next 12 months are elected. Out of those 11 Hempstead Brothers present at the meeting, 8 were "plural members".

Water To Burn

Uncle Roy Shields and Junior Bridges repaired a leaking fixture in the men's rest room back in June? I would like to give them credit for doing the Lodge's maintenance work. \$75.70 did seem a little expensive for parts to stop a leak. However, after getting the water bill I wish we had spent the money a whole lot sooner. Guess what it costs to run 37,600 gallons of water down the drain? Did You Guess \$72.64. And, I did check the meter and the reading was correct.

A month later, at the Installation Ceremony, again 8 of the 11 Hempstead members present. were "plural members."

Only three Hempstead "single members" attended this major ceremony for their Lodge that 6 visiting Waller "single members" had enough interest to attend. Can there be any wonder why 4 of the last 6 Worshipful Masters of Hempstead Lodge have been "plural members".

The Hempstead team for the "Masonic District #108 E.A. Degree Team Competition" was made up of 4 "plural members" and 4 borrowed Waller Members.

At the True Blue award ceremony and dinner for the Mason's Friend, Randy Lewis, only 3 Hempstead "single members" attended.

If the 7 or 8 "plural members" and the 3 or 4 "single members" who are always there and do 99% of the work didn't do it, there probably wouldn't even be a Hempstead Lodge?

We plural members aren't 2nd class members, we are just Brothers who remember kneeling at the Alter and don't mind working for Masonry.

As a wise old Mason called Uncle Roy once told me, "No one gets any more from Masonry then they are willing to put into it."

THE MASTER STOOD AND LOOKED AT HIS LODGE

The Master stood and looked at his
Lodge,

The same old few were there,
The ones he knew he could depend upon
The work of the Lodge to share.

—
But where are the many we've raised these
years,

Who craved to be Masons true?
To whom we've given so much of our
time

In degree work, guiding them through.

—
The Master stood and looked at his Lodge
And silently he thought:

Where have we failed that they're not here
In spite of the truth we taught?

—
Did they really want friendship and brotherly
love

As they claimed when they knocked at
our door?

Or did they just join, our symbol to wear,
And so won't come out any more?

—
The Master stood and looked at his Lodge
And said to the same old few:

"Come, Brothers, let's get them back -
Come, we have work to do!"

—
And they went to work on the stay-at-
homes,

And their efforts began to tell;
Old faces and new came out again,
And attendance started to swell.

—
The Master stood and looked at his
Lodge,

No longer worried and blue;
His sheep were back in the fold again,
Sharing in the work ...we all must do.

Masonry In Early America; Did You Know . . .

The first assembly of the Continental Congress was presided over by a Master Mason, Peyton Randolph, Provincial Grand Master of Virginia. The Revolutionary War was a distinctly Masonic enterprise. The Boston Tea Party was organized in St. Andrews Lodge, at an adjourned meeting, and that every "Indian" who threw the tea into the harbor was a member of that Lodge. Paul Revere, made his immortal ride, when he was the Junior Warden of that Lodge. More than fifty of the fifty six signers of the Declaration of Independence were members of the Masonic fraternity. All but one of the five members of the Constitutional Convention were Masons. Richard Henry Lee, who moved the Resolution of Independence in the Continental Congress, was a Mason. Lee, and all five members of that committee — Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston — were Masons. The American Flag was made by the widow of John Ross, a Mason, and was placed in the hands of George Washington, who was elected Grand Master of Virginia, but did not accept because of his duties as commander-in-Chief of the American Army, which absorbed all his attention and time. Washington took the oath of office as President of the United States upon a Bible brought from St. Johns Lodge No. 1, of New York. The oath of office was administered by Chancellor Livingston, Grand Master of the state of New York. The Governors of every one of the original thirteen states at the time Washington was inaugurated were Masons. Washington demanded that Lafayette coming from France, and Von Stuben coming from Germany, be made Masons. All of Washington's Brigadier Generals except one were Masons. The Constitution of the United States was written by Masons.

Free Speech, Free Religion, and Free Schools were the gifts of Masonry America, and these were opposed by all anti-Masonic institutions. The four Major Generals who almost ruined Washington and the cause of Freedom were the four who were not Masons. These are historical facts and are a part of the rich heritage of our nation. HOWEVER, no part of the above facts are now taught in our free schools, which were made possible by the foresight of our Masonic forebears.

Courtesy of Bro. C.J. Jennings

Something Nice

I was talking to Brother John Garrett the other day and he told me the following story.

Some of you know John's Brother-in-law, Steven DeLarosa and some may know Stephen has a handicapped daughter named Amanda who is just turning 18 and like most young 18 year olds she needs to feel some independence. Her handicap keeps her from driving a car. So they decided a golf cart she could drive around the property would be a great birthday present for Amanda.

They stopped at the Texas Golf Cart sales lot, on 290 on the east side of Brenham, to see if they could afford one. As the salesman showed them around, they told him their plan for Amanda. The cheapest cart on the lot was \$800 and pretty much out of their price range so they left their name and cell phone number with the salesman for him to call them if something less expensive came in. They were about 5 or 6 miles from Brenham when the cell phone ring. It was the salesman, who said come on back, he talked to his boss who said Amanda needed the cart worse then he did and it was hers, no charge.

Let us all remember, Texas Golf Carts is one of the good guys.

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Acock, Melvin Leroy	08-21-92
Cox, Kelly	08-27-01
Garrett, John A.	08-23-94
Harvey, Kenneth	08-17-98
Schiel, "Bubba"	08-20-01
Smith, Gary Lynn	08-27-98

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 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

The minister was passing a group of young teens on the church lawn and stopped to ask what they were doing.

"Nothing much, Pastor," replied one boy.

"We were just seeing who can tell the biggest lie about their sex life."

"Boys, boys, boys!" he scolded. "I'm shocked. When I was your age, I never even thought about sex."

They all replied in unison , "You win Pastor!"

NEWS FLASH! - Austin, Texas----- Central Texas worst air disaster occurred today when a small two-seater Cessna 150, piloted by two Texas A&M University students, crashed into a cemetery earlier today at College Station.

The Aggie Corps Members search and rescue workers have recovered 300 bodies so far and expect the number to climb as digging continues into the evening.

The pilot and co-pilot survived and are helping in the recovery efforts.

***Hempstead
Lodge Is On
The Internet
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geocities/
hempstead
749***

HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749

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