

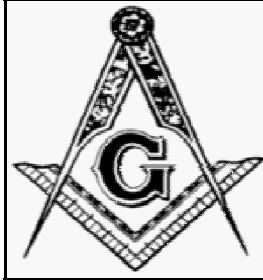
Hempstead Lodge #749 A.F. & A.M.

A Friendly Neighborhood For Your Permanent Masonic Home

Volume 108, Issue 11

November 2001

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - T. Roy Shields
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JUNIOR WARDEN - L.M. Jim Ferguson
SENIOR DEACON - Kelly Cox
JUNIOR DEACON - John Garrett
SENIOR STEWARD - Ted Wren Jr.



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TREASURER - - - Steven D. Lyons
CHAPLAIN - - - Malcolm P. Carter
TYLER - - - - R. Wayne Kluna
BULLETIN EDITOR - John "Corky" Daut



THE NEXT STATED MEETING November 14, 2001

Meal Served 6:30 PM — Meeting Starts 7:30 PM
Good Food + Big Smiles + Hearty Handshakes = A Real Welcome



Texas Masonic Heroes

JAMES BUTLER BONHAM

Faithful To His Trust

James Butler Bonham, twice sent as a messenger seeking reinforcements for the garrison at the Alamo, broke through the Mexican lines on March 3, 1836, and rode under heavy fire back into the Alamo, becoming the last man to enter the doomed mission fortress.

Born in Red Banks, South Carolina, on February 20, 1807, he grew up as a classmate and close friend of William Barret Travis. He enrolled in South Carolina College, but was expelled with the entire senior class for rebelling against school regulations and food. He studied law and opened a practice in Pendleton, South Carolina. He was censured early in his career for physically

ejecting an opposing lawyer from the courtroom for insulting Bonham's female client.

By 1835, having earned military experience as a colonel of artillery, Bonham was invited by Travis to come to Texas. Closing his law office in Montgomery, Alabama, he joined the Mobile Grays, and arrived in Texas on December 12, 1835. He was given a commission as a lieutenant of cavalry, and arrived at the Alamo with Jim Bowie on January 17, 1836.

On the fifth day of the siege, Travis sent his old friend to seek reinforcements.

Two days later thirty-two men from Gonzales broke through the Mexican lines

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The Worshipful Master's Message

W.M. Ted Wren Jr.

Civil War Days

Civil War Reenactors at Liendo Plantation on November 17th. from 9 AM to 5 PM and 18th. From 9 AM to 5 PM

↔
A joint fund raising Bar-B-Que sale will be put on jointly, for the benefit of Hempstead Lodge #749 and Waller Lodge #808. All volunteer help will be appreciated.

Bull Riding Show

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Bull Riding Show at Field's Store Rodeo Arena on November 18th at 2:00 PM

A fund raising program conceived and sponsored by Brother "Trey" Wren, Worshipful Master of Waller Lodge and assisted by Ted Wren Jr. Worshipful Master of Hempstead Lodge and brothers from both Hempstead Lodge #749 and Waller Lodge #808. All profits raised by this project will be shared by both Lodges. All volunteer help will be appreciated.



It's Masonic Law In Texas

Art. 417. Who May Vote

In balloting on petitions for the degrees or either of them, any member in good standing in a Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge is entitled to vote, and all members of the Lodge present must vote.

In balloting on petitions for affiliation; reinstatement; restoration or applications for demit; certificate of good standing; waiver of jurisdiction; certificate of dismissal; or voting on examinations for proficiency; or the business transactions of the lodge, only the members of the Lodge acting, shall vote.

If you have a question or suggestion regarding the wording or meaning of Masonic law, please let me know and I'll try to help in this column.



**From The
Secretary's
Desk**

The official Internet web site for the Hempstead Lodge #749 AF & AM, (Address listed below) has been updated. You will find a newsletter archive file on the site with copies of every newsletter since November 2000, my first one. It will also have information about meetings, study nights and fund raisers coming up on, "The Trestle Board" Page and information regarding Freemasonry in general for New-Masons and Non-Masons.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Brother Robert Williams, who is a member of Waller Lodge, for the great job he did creating the web site and taking care of all the complexities of getting it up and running.

Since Brother Williams now lives in Zavala up in East Texas and his time is spread very thin between earning a living, raising a family, serving as a District Grand Lodge Officer and working in his local Lodge Brother Williams has turned over the day to day operation of the site to me. As the Lodge Secretary and writer of this newsletter, I have the opportunity to know the day to day workings and plans of the Lodge and adjust the web site in a timely manner.

Thanks again Brother Robert for a job well done.

REMEMBER THESE IN YOUR PRAYERS

**All of the people in New York City,
those in Washington, D.C. and those in
the Armed Forces of the US and our**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

Bishop, John Lloyd	11-17-27
Clark, Harold Wayne	11-02-31
Eakin, L. C.	11-04-13
Harvey, Kenneth	11-25-50
Herrin, Harold Edward	11-12-42
Lewis, Donald R.	11-11-49
Seets, Martin Louis	11-24-69
Smith, Kenneth LaRue	11-24-36
Wiesner, John W.	11-13-28
Woods, Harold Ray	11-02-44
Wren, Ted W. Jr.	11-19-40

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Geisendorff, Fred W.	11-30-51
Gratehouse, Woodrow Wilson	11-22-44
Hamner, T. Finley	11-24-42
Holloman, Harold Douglas	11-09-72
Smith, Jerry W.	11-16-83

Visit These Masonic Sites On The Internet.

The Grand Lodge Of Texas
<http://www.gltexas.org/index.htm>

The Official Hempstead Lodge #749 Site
<http://www.geocities.com/hempstead749/>

The Official Waller Lodge #808 Site
<http://www.geocities.com/waller808/>

**Small Town Texas Lodges (Waller County
Lodges and Eastern Star Pages)**
<http://www.geocities.com/corkyscorner/lodge.htm>



**James Butler Bonham
(Continued From Page 1)**

and rode into the Alamo. Unable to persuade James Fannin to leave the presidio at Goliad, and fully aware of the fate that awaited him at the Alamo, Bonham turned his horse back toward San Antonio de Bexar, and rode to his own immortality.

A bronze plaque at the Alamo commemorates James Butler Bonham as one of the Masons who gave his life for Texas. Fire destroyed all the South Carolina Grand Lodge records in 1838, and with them any trace of Bonham's lodge affiliation.

This month's "Texas Masonic Heroes" column is the third in the new series on famous Masons



Masonic Questions and Answers

Q: Why Masonic Penalties

A: Many Masons believe that the penalties of our obligations are land-marks handed down from antiquity. This is not so. The Old Charges or Manuscripts, the first being the Regius Poem written in 1390 A.D., all contain Charges or "land-marks" that we use today, but not until the Edinburgh Register House Manuscript of 1696 was there any mention of a penalty.

Most of the books written about Masonry between 1696 and 1750 were exposures. Of the thirteen written before 1726, none mention a penalty; the seven written after that do.

In 1727, ten years after the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, "A Masons Confession" was published in Scotland and contained the first penalty to be found within an obligation.

The Wilkinson Manuscript was written in 1727, and included all three penalties and an early version of the Entered Apprentice Lecture. The unique thing about that is that there still may have been only one degree at that time.

The most famous Masonic exposure, "Masonry

Dissected," was written in 1730 by Samuel Prichard, and in it, for the first time ever, three degrees are mentioned. A ritual is given for each degree, but all three penalties were again listed with the Entered Apprentice Degree.

Then, in "Three Distinct Knocks", published in 1760, a separate penalty was given with each degree, each quite similar to those we use today. And, interestingly enough, when the two main Grand Lodges of England merged in 1813, a non-physical penalty was added to the Entered Apprentice obligation and went like this: ". . . or that being branded as a willfully perjured individual, void of all moral worth, and totally unfit to be received into this or any other worthy and warranted Lodge, or the society of men who prize honor and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune . . ."

It is obvious that the penalties have never been etched in stone. They have gone from an obligation without a penalty, to one with one penalty, to three obligations with a separate penalty for each, to a non-physical penalty in 1813, and to many changes in the wording through the years. Some Grand Lodges have changed them in recent years. In 1986, the Grand Lodge of England removed them from the obligations and put them in the lectures. The same has happened in the majority of the Grand Lodges in Europe, two in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and several Grand Lodges thus far in the United States. Most Grand Lodges have moved them to the lectures; none so far have completely removed them. It is known that quite a few American Grand Lodges are considering such a move.

The questions are these: Should we retain a form of punishment that, Masonically, has never been inflicted as far as anyone knows and would be against the law if we did? In the obligation, should we simply bind a candidate symbolically to "the ancient penalty as stated in the lecture to follow?" Should we continue to threaten a candidate with bodily harm for revealing secrets that long ago ceased to be secrets? These are questions for thought, Brethren.

(From The Grand Lodge Of Texas Internet Web Site)

"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.



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