



# Hempstead Masonic Lodge #749 AF & AM

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

Volume V Issue XI November 2004

## FREEMASONRY IN TEXAS

The Masonic fraternity, brought to the American colonies in the mid-eighteenth century, was well established in all of the United States by 1820. Among the first Americans to migrate to Texas in the 1820s were a number of Masons, including Stephen F. Austin. Austin attempted to organize a Masonic lodge in 1828, when he and six other Masons met at San Felipe and petitioned the Grand York Lodge of Mexico for a charter dispensation. The petition evidently reached Mexico at the height of a quarrel between the "Yorkinos" and "Escoceses" (adherents of the Scottish Rite) and disappeared. A more successful effort occurred in the spring of 1835 when Dr. Anson Jones and five others, fearing Mexican reprisals, met secretly under the Masonic Oak near Brazoria and petitioned the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a charter. The grand master of that state, John Henry Holland, issued the dispensation, and Holland Lodge No. 36 met for the first time on December 27, 1835, with Jones presiding as worshipful master. The Holland Lodge struggled for several months until overwhelmed during

the Texas Revolution by the Mexican army of Gen. José de Urrea, which destroyed all the lodge's records and equipment. Because of a scattering of the membership the brethren decided not to reopen the lodge at Brazoria. Instead, they opened it at Houston in October 1837. The Grand Lodge of Louisiana issued two additional charters to Texas lodges during this period: Milam No. 40 at Nacogdoches and McFarland No. 41 at San Augustine. In December 1837 delegates from these three lodges convened at Houston to organize the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. President Sam Houston presided over this meeting, which resulted in the election of Anson Jones as the first grand master. Between 1838 and 1845 the Texas Grand Lodge issued charters to twenty-one more lodges, and membership increased from seventy-three to 357. In addition, there were probably some 1,100 Masons from other jurisdictions living in Texas at this time. Although constituting only 1½ percent of the population, Masons filled some 80 percent of the

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### From The East

November is here again and as always it is a very important month for Hempstead Lodge. No, I don't mean because it's deer season. We will be having the most important fundraiser of the year at the Liendo Plantation Civil War Reenactment on November 19, 20 and 21 In partnership with Waller Lodge. Any help you can give during the fundraiser will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer to help please see me or Corky to get a free parking pass.

### SPIRITUAL WEALTH

"Mason receiving the third degree should be entering upon a lifetime of study, self-improvement and service to his fellows, and his lodge is intended to be and should be the source of light and instruction and a field for serious and devoted work for the principles, which our institution inculcates and upon which it is founded. The conception that the prosperity and greatness of a lodge is measured by its large membership and its wealth is erroneous. That lodge is prosperous and great which commands the affections of its members, and displays spiritual rather than material wealth."

## MASONRY IN TEXAS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

republic's higher offices. All of the presidents, vice presidents, and secretaries of state were Masons.

After annexation Masons continued to be equally prominent in the state government, and between 1846 and 1861 five of the six governors were members of the fraternity. Masonry continued to prosper; by 1860 Texas had 226 active lodges and 9,000 members. The Civil War saw between one-third and one-half of the membership in military service. During the war the Grand Lodge issued dispensations for thirty-two traveling military lodges established within army units. Meager records, however, make it impossible to determine exactly how many such lodges were actually formed. The Grand Lodge experienced severe financial difficulties during these years. Many lodges were unable to pay their annual assessments, and in 1861 the grand treasurer was directed to sell all United States government bonds and invest the money in Confederate bonds. The Grand Lodge was thus rendered penniless by the defeat of the Confederacy. Reconstruction brought continued financial problems as local lodges sought remission of their annual dues. Although the Grand Lodge frequently complied, it also canceled over fifty charters between 1865 and 1880 for financial reasons. Prosperity gradually returned, and by 1878 the Grand Lodge was solvent and membership had reached 17,000. This trend continued for many years except for brief downturns. As after most wars, Masonic membership showed a dramatic increase after World War I; in Texas it climbed from 94,000 in 1920 to more than 134,000 in 1929. The Great Depression brought an equally dramatic decline, to a low of 95,000 in 1937. A number of local lodges lost their temples, constructed during the prosperous 1920s, and their membership declined by as much as 60 percent. The waning of the depression and the onset of World War II produced the reinstatement of many former members, and after 1945 thousands of new members joined the lodge. Postwar membership reached 245,000 in 1961. A magnificent new Grand Lodge Temple was constructed at Waco in 1948. This building, supposedly patterned after King Solomon's biblical temple, contains 135,000 square feet and includes a



library and museum of Texas memorabilia, open to the public.

The charitable and benevolent activities of Texas Masonry fall into two categories. Before 1900 most of the money and effort was directed to education, especially in those years before establishment of a viable public school system. The Grand Lodge established an education fund in 1847 and appointed a superintendent of education the following year. Between 1850 and 1873 the legislature chartered seventeen Masonic-sponsored schools. Texas Masons also helped establish more than 100 other unchartered schools. In addition, many of the early public schools initially met in lodge buildings. In the twentieth century Texas Masons have broadened the scope of their philanthropic efforts. Those limited to the Masonic family include the Masonic Home and School in Fort Worth, the Home for Aged Masons in Arlington, and the Scottish Rite Dormitory for Women at the University of Texas at Austin. Among the Masonic charities serving the public are the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children in Dallas and the Shriners Burns Institute at Galveston. Since the early 1960s Texas Masonry, like other fraternal organizations, has faced a serious membership decline. From the 1961 high of 245,000, the number of Masons dropped to 201,000 by the end of 1985, when 960 working lodges were reported. Changes in modes of living and moral values are among the reasons given for the failure to attract more new members.

A young lady came home from her first day commuting into the city. Her mother noticed she was looking a little peaked and asked, "Honey, are you feeling all right?" "Not really," she replied. "I'm nauseous from sitting backward on the train." "Poor dear," Mom said. "Why didn't you ask the person sitting across from you to switch seats for a while?" "I couldn't," she replied, "there was no one there."

## WHY WE MEET

We meet for the purpose of admitting members to our fellowship, to instruct them in the lessons and principles (of Masonry) and to strengthen each other in adherence thereto, said George W. Speth, in a public lecture in 1892. We meet to hand down to succeeding generations the knowledge and practice of certain ceremonies, which we have ourselves inherited from our Masonic ancestors, and the analogues of which can be traced in the remotest antiquity... Lastly we meet to practice our three grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

## *From The Editor's Desk*

Brothers, it is that time again, The dues cards for 2005 are here and your payment can be made anytime between now and the first of the year.

Please remember that Grand Lodge Law states that Lodge dues must be paid in advance by January 1, 2005. After that date you are not considered a Mason in good standing until your dues are paid.

After the two turtles collided, the policeman asked the snail what he saw.

The snail said, "I just don't know officer. It all happened so fast."

## MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Geisendorff, Fred W	11-30-51
Hamner, T. Finley	11-24-42
Holloman, "Doug"	11-09-72
Smith, Jerry W.	11-16-83

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Clark, Harold Wayne	11-02-31
Harvey, Kenneth	11-25-50
Seets, Martin Louis	11-24-69
Smith, Kenneth L.	11-24-36
Wiesner, John W.	11-13-28
Woods, Harold Ray	11-02-44
Wren, Ted W. Jr.	11-19-40

## Where Did It Go?

How do I know that my youth is all spent?  
Well, my get up and go has got up and went.

But in spite of it all I am able to grin  
when I recall where my get up has been.

Old age is golden-so I've heard it said-  
but sometimes I wonder when I get into bed,  
with my ears in a drawer and my teeth in a cup,  
my eyes on the table until I wake up.

Ere sleep dims my eyes I say to myself,  
"Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?"

And I'm happy to say as I close my door,  
my friends are the same, perhaps even more.

When I was young, my slippers were red,  
I could pick up my heels right over my head.  
When I grew older, my slippers were blue,  
but still I could dance the whole night through.

But now I am old, my slippers are black,  
I walk to the store and puff my way back.  
The reason I know my youth is all spent,  
my get up and go has got up and went.

But I really don't mind when I think, with a grin,  
of all the grand places my get up has been.  
Since I have retired from life's competition,  
I accommodate myself with complete repetition.

I get up each morning, and dust off my wits,  
pick up my paper and read the "obits".  
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead,  
so I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed

## SECRECY

"Within proper bounds, Masons may and should welcome publicity. A secret society is one which seeks to conceal its existence and its objects. Freemasonry is not such a society and is secret only as to the obligations, means of recognition, ballots upon candidates and forms and ceremonies observed in conferring degrees. With the exception of those particulars, Masonry has no reservations from the public. As to everything else -- its design, its moral and religious tenets and the doctrines taught by it, the time and place of its meetings, the names of the officers of a Lodge and those belonging to it -- are all in no way secret and may be known by any one."

The young lady had been married about a year when one day she came running up to her husband jumping for joy.

Not knowing how to react, the husband started jumping up and down along with her.

"Why are we so happy?" he asked.

"Honey, I have some really great news for you!" She said, "I'm pregnant!"

The husband was ecstatic as they had been trying for a long time.

Then she said "Oh, honey there's more."

"What do you mean more?", he asked.

"Well we are not having just one baby, we are going to have TWINS!"

Amazed at how she could know so soon after getting pregnant, he asked her how she knew.

"It was easy" she said, "I went to the pharmacy and bought the 2 pack home pregnancy test kit and both tests came out positive!"

*Visit The Newly Revised  
Hempstead Lodge Web Site At  
[www.geocities.com/hempstead749](http://www.geocities.com/hempstead749)*

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