

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

A Friendly Neighborhood For Your Permanent Masonic Home

Volume 108, Issue 9

September 2001

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Ted W. Wren Jr.
SENIOR WARDEN - T. Roy Shields
JUNIOR WARDEN - Kenneth Harvey
SENIOR DEACON - Steven D. Lyons
JUNIOR DEACON - L.M. Jim Ferguson
TREASURER - - - Malcolm P. Carter



SECRETARY - - - John "Corky" Daut
SENIOR STEWARD - John N. Daut
JUNIOR STEWARD - Malcolm A. Carter
CHAPLAIN - - - John Garrett
TYLER - - - R. Wayne Kluna
NEWSLETTER - - John "Corky" Daut



THE NEXT STATED MEETING September 13, 2001

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



Texas Masonic Heroes

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN -The Father of Texas

Stephen Fuller Austin came to Texas to seek a life and fortune. Instead, he exhausted both in the service of Texas. To him alone belongs the well deserved title, "The Father of Texas."

Austin was born in Wythe County, Virginia, on November 3, 1793, the elder son of Moses Austin. In 1798 the family moved to Missouri. Young Stephen attended Bacon Academy in Connecticut and Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky. In 1815 Austin became a member of Louisiana Lodge No. 109 at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, the first lodge west of the Mississippi. He later transferred his membership to St. Louis Lodge No. 111.

By the age of 27, when he decided to take up his father's venture of moving three-hundred families to settle in Texas, Austin had served three terms in the Missouri Legislature, served as a director of the Bank of St. Louis, as a federal circuit court judge in Arkansas, and as the editor of a newspaper in New Orleans.

In 1822, while meeting with officials in Mexico City, Austin became friends with Lorenzo de Zavala and other Masons in the government. In 1828 Austin and six other Masons met to form a lodge in Texas, but it was never chartered. While visiting Mexico City in 1833, Austin was arrested and thrown into prison by order of the dictator Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. He was not released until December 1834. In September of 1835, with the advance of General Cos across the Rio Grande, Austin put out a general call to

(Continued On Page 3)

THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

After meeting under an oak tree near the town of Brazoria the six Masons attending decided to apply to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a dispensation to create a new lodge in Texas. After the dispensation was issued the first Texas lodge, called Holland Lodge No. 36, was formed and opened. It was named after John Henry Holland who was the Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana.

John M. Allen delivered the charter for the new lodge to Anson Jones, the first Worshipful Master of Holland Lodge No. 36, just before the battle begin at the San Jacinto battleground. Holland Lodge No. 36 was later changed to HollandNo. 1.

Two additional Texas lodges were formed, and each given a dispensation and charter by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. They were: Milam Lodge No. 40 in Nacogdoches, and McFarland Lodge No. 41 in San Augustine. Both of these lodges were formed in 1837. Representatives from the two new lodges, and Holland Lodge No. 36, met in Houston and established the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. Anson Jones who was the fourth and final President of the Republic of Texas was elected as the first Grand Master of Masons in Texas.

By the time the first meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas was held in Houston on April 16, 1838 the list contained 25 lodges.

In Memorandum

Uncle Charlie Fulmer, age 81 the beloved uncle of Ted Jr. and "Trey" Wren and friend to everyone he met in Waller County passed away August 13, 2001. Although Uncle Charlie was not a Mason, he would have been a good one.



Masonic Questions and Answers

Q: WHY SYMBOLISM?

A: Why do we teach in symbols? Why can't we put things into plain words instead of using one thing to stand for another? Well, the answer is a bit complicated, so let's talk about it. First, we must understand that man is a complex character. He has a body and brain which help him understand the physical world around him and help him to reason things out. And, he also has a heart and a spirit and a soul which help him comprehend a language which his brain cannot. As an example, it isn't with your brain or your body that you love your God, your family and your country; it is with your heart and soul. Another way of putting it is that the language of love is not the same as the language of the tongue.

That same principle is present in Masonry. If everything in Masonry was written, there would be no spirit in it. Masonry expresses truths that are universal and can be understood without the use of words. This is symbolic language and is the means we use to communicate with the spirits, souls and hearts of other Masons. If you met with a Mason in a foreign land and couldn't speak his language, you could use signs and grips, draw a square and compasses, or draw a trowel, and he would understand. When a Mason sees the square and compasses, he knows immediately that it always stands for good and never stands for evil. And, when he sees the trowel symbol he knows that it not only is used to spread regular cement; it is also used to spread the cement of brotherly love.

To sum up, the reason we use symbolism is because only by symbols can we speak the language of the spirit, and because symbols form an elastic language which each man reads for himself according to his ability. Symbolism is the only language by which the heart, spirit and soul can be touched. To suggest that Masonry use any other language would be just as revolutionary as removing our altars or meeting in public square instead of a Lodge room. Masonry without symbols would not be Masonry.

"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.

A Note From The Secretary's Desk

Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren!

I would like to repeat a message from the Web Site of the Grand Lodge of Texas. "It is unfortunate, but true, that the memberships in all Masonic organizations are beginning to dwindle. I believe that it is because of a lack of enthusiasm among the current members and a failure of those members to promote their own organization. . ." We also find in the "Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas" Art. 393a **Solicitation.**" . . . A man is required to present himself for the Degrees of freemasonry of his own free will and accord. At the same time it [Grand Lodge] acknowledges to all Masons of it's obedience, that it is permissible and proper to extend a neutrally-worded invitation to petition for the Degrees of Masonry to a man whom you have strong reason to believe is of good moral character and reputation who is otherwise qualified to petition under the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas."

Do you know a good man who is qualified?

Did you know, if we had 28 more members the Hempstead Lodge would be able to operate on dues alone.

Why did you become a Mason???

Because your dad was a Mason? Because you wanted to improve yourself? Because you wanted to associate with some good men that you admired?

I think that they are all good reasons and I became a Mason for all 3 reasons with an additional 4th reason, my son was also a mason.

My point, we all had good reasons to become a Mason and we continue to pay our dues every year to remain a Mason, so why does the Hempstead Lodge only have 10 or 12 members at most stated meetings.

I am suggesting that every member of the Hempstead Lodge should ask themselves, if Masonry is really important in our lives why don't we all take a more active part in the Lodge meetings and activities.



(Stephen F. Austin - Continued From Page 1)

arms. The revolution had begun.

Austin went to New Orleans to urge the United States to support the Texas cause. Returning to Texas in 1836 he was persuaded to run for President of the new Republic but was defeated by Sam Houston. He accepted the post of Secretary of State but, following a brief illness, died on December 16, 1836, at the age of forty-three.

This month's new "Texas Masonic Heroes" column begins of a new series on famous Masons who made Texans History. From the Grand Lodge of Texas Website.

How Much Does It Cost Per Year To Operate Your Hempstead Lodge

Average Monthly Expenses

Utilities	\$100
Insurance	85
Phone	20
Meal	65
Postage	25
Printing	15
Misc.	30
Total	\$340

Additional Annual Expenses

Recapitulation	\$ 600
Taxes	1,250
Total	\$1,850

Estimated Annual Expenses

Monthly Exp. x 12	= \$4,080
Annual Exp.	+ 1,850
	\$5,930

Annual Income

35 Dues Paying Members x \$80	= \$2,880
Income 14 Endowed Members	= 350
Donations (Kitty Money)	= 480
Total Income	= \$3,710
Minus Annual Expenses of	\$5,930

Approximate additional funds needed per year to \$2,220

Hempstead Lodge By Laws

Article VII.

FEES FOR DEGREES

The fees for Degrees of this Lodge shall be an amount not less than prescribed in Article 307 of the Constitution and Laws and set by this Lodge from time to time.

The fees for the Degrees of this Lodge shall be as follows: for Initiation, \$30.00; Passing, \$30.00; Raising, \$30.00'. In addition to the regular fees collected by the Lodge, a \$10.00 contribution to the Masonic Home and School shall be collected from each applicant for the Master Mason's degree (Art. 307 and 163-5).

In addition to the regular fee of initiation, a \$5.00 donation to the George Washington National Memorial shall be collected from each applicant for the Entered Apprentice Degree.

One of the Brothers suggested that knowing the "By Laws" of our Lodge may be of more benefit to our members than Grand Lodge of Texas Law. If you have a question regarding the "By Laws", please let "Corky" know at 826-6267.

Remember Us In Your Prayers

As my friend Bob Scarborough said "It's either a healthy bunch or they are suffering in silence.

David Hartley is still having problems resulting from the car accident.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

Acock, Melvin Leroy	9-15-42
Ferguson, Lewie Mayo "Jim"	9-30-27
Smith, Jerry W.	9-18-45

Correction - Malcomn P. Carter won't have a birthday until December 14, 2001

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Banks, Daniel	9-19-86
Garrett, William F. "Bill"	9-13-83
Seets, Martin Louis	9-28-98
Vines, James Ray	9-30-86

Three sisters ages 92, 94, and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in the water and pauses. She yells down the stairs "was I getting in or out of the bath?". The 94 year old yells back "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses for a couple of minutes, "Was I going up the stairs or down?" she calls down. The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says "I sure hope I never get that forgetful". She knocks on the wooden table for good measure. She then yells "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749
P.O. Box 1251
Hempstead, TX 77445

