

The Waller Mason Lodge #808 Online Newsletter



The Waller Masonic Lodge Buildings From December 30, 1897 To The Present

Worshipful Master Gary Mosmeyer - Editor John "Corky" Daut
The February 2013 Issue

The 'No Chicken' Bar-B-Que Chicken Sale

By Corky

The Worshipful Master mentioned at a meeting or two back that he wanted to have a two or three fundraisers before his year is up. It just dawned on me that he wasn't here when we had the "NO CHICKEN" Bar-B-Que chicken fund raiser. So here is the story for those who weren't here or have forgotten.

Waller Lodge held a new type of fund raiser this past August, a "NO CHICKEN" bar-b-que chicken fund raiser.

What is a no chicken sale, you may ask? During the August stated meeting, one of the Brothers made the suggestion that we should hold a fundraiser to raise cash for a small local project. Of course being small town Texans what could be more Masonic then a bar-b-que chicken sale.

After some discussion, it was decided that the price of chickens has increased so much since the last sale, our profits would pretty small. It was also brought up that many of the Brothers are getting older and the August temperature here would be in the 100's.

One of the Brothers stood up and said he would rather just donate \$20.00 to the project then try to bar-b-que and sell the hot chicken halves in our summer heat. Almost every one of the members present agreed that it was an excellent idea for a summer fund raiser and the "No-Chicken Sale" was born.

It was decided to extend the program through the September stated meeting, so that every member not
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there for the August meeting could have a chance to participate in helping our Lodge. A notice about the, "No Chicken Sale", was also included in the September newsletter.

We probably took in about as much as the profit we would have made in a past bar-b-sale sale without an upfront financial outlay and it all took place in the air conditioned Lodge Room.

This idea worked pretty well in the boiling hot Texas summer so it may work just as well in our February cold and rainy weather. I would gladly donate \$20.00 not to have to stand under an awning, on the side of the road in the February weather trying to sell a Bar B Qued chicken half.



Education Versus Intelligence

By Corky

Just for fun, I used to sign my name and follow it with "HSG - ALC". Actually, all it meant was "High School Graduate - A Little College". The reason I mention it is because I have heard talks and read articles by many religious leaders and historians with long strings of credentials following their names and still I am often amazed at some of these men's lack of intelligence. But, as it has been said, owning \$10,000.00 worth of woodworking tools would not make a man a cabinetmaker, neither does having one or more degrees of higher learning insure that a man has the intellect or common sense to know how to use it.

I am talking about something very simple like having the ability to distinguish between a group of religious men wanting to live a moral, productive life and a religion.

Religions DO the following:

Practice sacerdotal functions	-	Masonry does NOT!
Teach Theology	- -	Masonry does NOT!
Ordain Clergy	- -	Masonry does NOT!
Define sin and salvation	- -	Masonry does NOT!
Perform sacraments	- -	Masonry does NOT!
Publish or specify a Holy Book	-	Masonry does NOT!
Describe or define the Deity	- -	Masonry does NOT!

Freemasonry DOES NONE of these things. And, Masonic Law forbids discussing religion in the Lodge.

“Masonry Does Not Teach Christ”

How many of these so called “anti-Masonic authorities” have charged Masonry with not teaching Christ, as if not teaching Christ is an unforgivable sin.

Of course it is true. Masonry does not teach about Christ. It also does not teach about Mohammad, or Confucius, or Abraham, or Shiva, or any other religious figure because Masonry Is Not A Religion and does not teach religion of any kind. Masonic lodges are non-denominational and non-political. Partisan and sectarian discussions are not permitted in Lodges.

Think about it, if Freemasonry did actually teach about Christ, it would be called a religion.

Even if many of these anti-Masonic leaders have outstanding educations and qualifications as religious leaders, they still do not appear to have the intellect to understand that a fraternal group of men who believe in God and only teach fellowship, charity and the promotion of integrity and good citizenship is not a religion.

Are the Elks, Moose, Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World and other fraternal originations with secrets, who also do not teach Christ in their Lodges also separate religions?

“Masons Worship Their Own God, GAOTU”

One of the favorite charges anti-Masons love to bring against Masonry is that Masons have a different God of their own, called GAOTU or The Great Architect Of The Universe. The phrase, Great Architect of the Universe, came into Freemasonry as early as 1723, according to Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, when it appeared in James Anderson's Book of Constitutions. Anderson, a Scottish Presbyterian minister in London however, did not invent the phrase.

The phrase, Great Architect of the Universe, was repeatedly used by Reformed theologian John Calvin (1509-1564) . "In his Commentary on Psalm 19, John Calvin states the heavens 'were wonderfully founded by the Great Architect.' Again, according to the same paragraph, Calvin writes 'when once we recognize God as the Architect of the Universe, we are bound to marvel at his Wisdom, Strength, and Goodness.’”

Anyone with normal intelligence would have to acknowledge that the term, “The Great Architect of the Universe” was not a Masonic invention since it first appeared 200 years before Freemasonry in the writings of one of the most important “Christians” of the Reformation whose ideas founded the Presbyterian Church.

“Masons Have Their Own Savior, Hiram Abif”

In his sermon, an evangelical preacher, Pastor DeLong called Hiram Abif “another Savior” for Freemasonry who “was miraculously raised to life after several days.”

Dr. Gary Leazer, PGC was ask to critique the sermon and responded by explaining that.

“Freemasonry teaches neither of Pastor DeLong’s claims. Any biblical student will acknowledge there are two Hiram (or Huram) connected with the building of King Solomon’s temple. One was Hiram, King of Tyre (1 Kings 5:1, 1 Chr. 14:1). The second Hiram was also from Tyre. He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Dan (2 Chr. 2:13). This Hiram was skilled in the making of bronze and built the pillars, the basin on the backs of twelve oxen, and other temple implements...

Masonic ritual tells the story of Hiram Abif being killed by three men, who secretly buried his body and tried to escape. Later, the temporary grave is discovered and the body is carried to the Temple grounds to be

properly reburied. Masonic ritual says nothing about Hiram Abif being brought back to life as Pastor DeLong claims. In fact, the Masonic emphasis is that Hiram was murdered and remained dead.”

“The Anti-Masons Creed”

Believe as I believe no more, no less;
That I alone am right, you must confess.
Feel as I feel, think only as I think;
Eat what I eat, and drink what I drink
Look as I look, do always as I do;
And then and only then I'll fellowship with you.

The sad truth is that many of these really rabid anti-Masonic “leaders” will never admit that Masonry is not a religion, not because of any personal religious beliefs or facts, but because they depend on the sale of their anti-Mason books, videos and speaking invitations for their livelihood. It is a business rather than a faith.

I think St. Luke says it best! - Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:



This Month's Humor

Where to Have Lunch Today

A group of Masons, all under age 40, discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally they all agreed that they would meet at the Black Knight Inn Lounge because the waitresses there were gorgeous, with tight skirts and tighter tops.
(And the Steak Sandwich is cheap)

Ten years later, at age 50, the Masons once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at the Black Knight Inn Lounge because the food and service was good and the wine selection was excellent.

Ten years later, at age 60, the Masons again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally they all agreed that they would meet at the Black Knight Inn Lounge because they could dine in peace and quiet and the restaurant had large screen TVs.

Ten years later, at age 70, the Masons discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at the Black Knight Inn Lounge because the it was wheelchair accessible and had an elevator.

Ten years later, at age 80, the Masons discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally they all agreed that they would meet at the Black Knight Inn Lounge because they had never been there before.

The Quote Of The Month Is By Jay Leno:

"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

Recognizing Waller Lodge Outstanding Brothers

By Corky

Brother and P.M. Doyle Sitton was born in the middle of the great depression on the 29th of January in 1935. He married Miss Eunice Haney on June 6, 1956 and they have 3 children, David, James and Jim.

Brother Doyle has been a member of the Waller Baptist Church since 1956.

He also served as a US Marine in the Marine Reserve Corp.

He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason on March 18, 1958, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on June 17, 1958 and raised as a Master Mason on July 24, 1958.

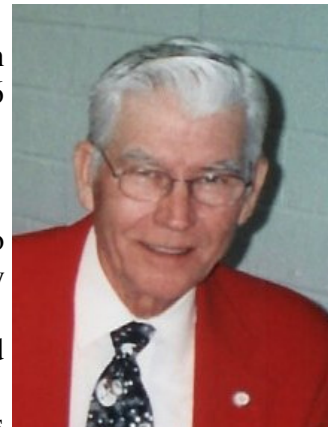
Brother Doyle was the first Waller Lodge Member to purchase an Endowed Membership. He purchased it on the same day he was raised in 1958.

He became an officer for the Lodge two years later, in June 1960, by serving as the Junior Stewart. He continued working his way through the chairs as Senior Stewart, Junior and Senior Deacon, Junior and Senior Warden, until he served as the Worshipful Master in the 1966-67 Masonic year. He has since served another term as Junior Stewart, 3 terms as Secretary, 4 terms as Treasurer and 9 terms as Chaplin. He has served as an officer of Waller Lodge for a total of 24 years and is still serving. And, this does not count the uncountable committees he has served on and fund raisers he has worked in during his 55 years as a member of Waller Lodge. And Brother Doyle's hand is always one of the first in a pocket when a donation is requested.

Beside his many duties in the Lodge, he has taken time to be a member of the Waller Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and served as Worthy Patron along side of his wife Eunice who served as worthy Matron..

Brother Doyle received his 50 Year Service Award on July 9, 2008.

In all fairness, I would also have to add that Brother Doyle started researching the history of the Waller Lodge many years ago. He gave me the notes he had gathered, when he discovered that I had started doing serious research in 2004 to write a history of the Lodge. That's why Brother Doyle's name is first on the list of credits in my history book.





Cynthia Ann Cox Loses A Seventeen Year Battle

Cynthia Ann Cox, the daughter of Past Master Ed Locklear and wife of Past Master Paul Cox passed away January 18, 2013. Born December 31, 1968 to Betty and Brother Ed Locklear, she has been a lifetime resident of Hockley, Texas. She was a Waller High School graduate, Certified Cosmetologist by the State of Texas, which allowed her to serve as a successful business woman. Cynthia was joined in marriage to the love of her life, Brother Paul Cox, on May 11, 1991.

Cynthia will be remembered for her sweet and gentle nature, her thoughtfulness towards others, her drive and determination and her zest for life. Cynthia was a devoted mother, loving and cherished wife and daughter, and a true friend to all that were blessed by her presence. Cynthia is survived by her husband, Paul of 21 years, her parents, Betty and Ed Locklear, daughter, Lacey and son in law Jeffery, daughter Kaitlyn, and son Adam. She is also survived by her mother in law Linda Cox, sister in-law Julie and husband Marcus, and their daughter Marlie. Brother-in-law Bryan Cox and wife Erica and their daughters Avery and Sadey.

Cynthia will also be greatly missed by numerous other family and friends. She was a much loved fixture at Waller Lodge for many years until her sickness made it to hard for her to attend.. Cynthia was preceded in death by her beloved father in law, Brendle Cox and her grandmother Elvera Schiel.

A gathering and memorial celebration of her life was held for family and friends at Canon Funeral Home in Waller, Texas on Tuesday, January 22, 2013. The Memorial Service was conducted by the Reverend Tom Dobbs of the Pine Island Baptist church officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family would prefer remembrances in her name as a 17 year survivor of breast cancer to Kaitlyn and/or Adam Cox at First National Bank of Waller. Contributions will be used to enhance the future of their education.

The Waller Lodge Electronic Newsletter

Subscriber's Extra Features

Surviving The Big Ones

By John "Corky" Daut

The big ones for me were that 16 year period between the Great Depression and World War II. Being born in 1928, I grew up during the hard times between the stock market crash of 1929 and the end of World War II in 1945.

Most of you readers are too young to remember one of the most unique general stores in the world, according to Mr. Purvis. Not only was it unique, but also a help to many people in those hard times during the depression. Besides, I expect that many of those old enough, didn't spend much time in Waller Texas (about 40 miles west of Houston on 290.) It was named God's Mercy Store and it was owned and operated by Mr. Albert D. Purvis. It's story is best told by an advertisement that appeared in the 1926 Community Fair booklet published by the Waller Chamber of Commerce.



GOD'S MERCY STORE

Waller, Texas

God's Mercy Store, the one great store of it's kind in the world, where you have the privilege to set the profit on the goods you buy. All goods are sold at cost, nothing added as profit or gain to the store. Any percent you add to your purchase will be received with many thanks. The great store of general merchandise was not established by the righteousness of man, but by the spirit of Christ which is Love, Mercy, and Self denial.

Come and see.

A. D. Purvis

A Servant of God

"The love of money is the root of all evil." I Timothy 6:10

COMING
To Hempstead and Waller

Natural Gas
The Perfect Heating & Cooking Fuel

That means you will want gas burning
Stoves and Water Heaters

We urgently request you to call at your nearest convenience and inspect our stock of

L & H Gas Ranges
and
Nesco Saffemetic Gasoline Stoves
For those who are not connected with gas mains.

ALSO
The Wonderful Natural Gas
LAWSON
Automatic Storage Water Heater

The scientific design arrangement of this Lawson Automatic Water Heater, provides for the most efficient use of fuel, and with all their advantages, will save the owner's pocketbook from the heat loss. It is a Lawson Automatic Storage Water Heater, and is the best of its kind and is the most modern.

These goods are now on display at our store and we will be most happy to have you see them and allow us to tell you of their many superior qualities.

God's Mercy Store
A. D. PURVIS, Manager

WALLER TEXAS

Mr. Purvis explained that he had had a vision from God one night in which he was instructed to price everything in his store at his cost to help his customers survive the hard times. He was to let each customer give what he could afford or what he thought was fair for the profit. The store operated for many years under that policy. To the best of my memory there was a box (cigar box?) at the cash register where each customer dropped in what he or she thought the profit should be.

The God's Mercy Store was located across the street from Haney's Feed Store. I remember going there with my mother and grandmother. It was a long wood frame building with a big porch across the front. It had a barber shop on one end and a Sinclair service station and a feed store on the other end. There was a tall white scale and 2 bread boxes just outside the dry goods department that told your weight and fortune for a penny. They had wooden crates of chickens and turkeys at the feed store end.

The bread boxes are a thing of the past now. When I was a kid, almost

every store had at least one bread box outside their store. They were about 2 1/2 or 3 foot square and a couple of feet deep. They had a slanted metal covered lid (to shed rain and so people wouldn't sit on them) and were on legs about a foot or so high. The bread man would usually come by the store before daylight and fill the bread box 6 mornings a week. He would stop back by after he finished his route and collect his money and the old bread.

The main thing I remember about the God's Mercy Store is that I didn't like going into the store and I hung on to mama. Maybe it was because I was still just a kid, but somehow I always felt kind of funny, like maybe a semi-religious feeling, when I went in with my mother or grandmother. Hey, It was God's store and I wouldn't have been a bit surprised if God had met us coming down the aisle. In fact, I'm not sure I would have went inside that store by myself.

While we are in Waller County, I'll tell you about my uncle "Buster" Milam. "Buster" was driving home on the "Old Houston Highway" late one night (That's the little 2 lane road south of the railroad from Highway 290.) His headlights picked up the body of a dead mule laying in the road. A little further down, he saw a car in the ditch on the side of the road. He stopped in the middle of the road and started shining the car's spotlight around to see if anyone needed help.

Of course most cars, with spotlights, back in the 30s were police cars. But, Buster probably never even thought of that until he heard the gunshots and the bullets hitting his car. For the next few minutes, "Buster" drove the car while laying on the floorboard instead of sitting up in the seat as he hastened away from the area..

That was his first and last meeting with the infamous pair of bank robbers, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. "Buster" said he guessed they didn't like being in the spotlight.

I probably shouldn't tell this on myself, but I will. Thinking about the old Houston highway made me think about this. Nellie and I were coming back to Humble from Pine Island one night, recently (written in 1997).

Well, I don't see to good after dark and we often take the old highway down to Hockley, then cross the railroad, over to 290 (before the freeway).

Well, I was cruising along when I noticed these headlights, way down the road seemed awful bright. I kept waiting for him to hit his dimmer switch as he got closer. He didn't so I flicked my bright lights up and down. Didn't bother him at all. Along with some choice names muttered under my breath so Nellie wouldn't hear, I flipped my bright lights again. I finally decided I would just have to tough it out if that fool driver wasn't going to cooperate. I would just slow down and pray that we passed OK. He must have been about 2 or 3 blocks away when I finally realized he only had 1 headlight and that he was actually coming down the railroad track beside the road and pulling a long string of freight cars. I don't guess locomotives have dimmer switches. Hey, I told you I don't see so good at night.

Masonic Talk

By Carl Claudy

"I'm seeking a little light," said the New Brother, sitting down by the Old Tiler and reaching for his cigar case.

"I think I have a match-" the Old Tiler felt in his pocket.

"I get you!" grinned the New Brother, "But that's not the light I am looking for. I want light on a Masonic subject."

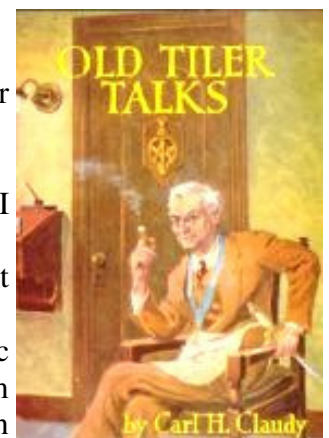
"I don't pretend to be the only Masonic illuminant," answered the Old Tiler, "but if I have what you want, be sure I'll let it shine."

"Every now and then," began the New Brother, "I hear Masonic talk in public places. At a poker game in a club where I was recently, I heard one man say, 'Them you have passed, but me I shall not pass!' Lots of men say they will do this or that on the square or on the level. I run across 'and govern yourself accordingly' in print every now and then. Are such public quotations from Masonic work against good Masonic practice?"

"It seems to me your question isn't very complete," answered the Old Tiler.

"Why not?"

"It takes no account of motives. If you hear a man say that the stream rose and his house and his children were in danger, but a tree fell across the rushing waters, so that in His mercy God damned the stream, you have heard testimony to His glory. And if you hear some man couple the name of Deity with the word which



begins with D, you listen to profanity. Same sounds in each case; the difference is, the motive, the meaning."

"If I declare that I will do what I say I will do 'on the square,' any one understands that I mean I will act honestly. If any hearer knows the expression is Masonic, surely the fraternity has not been injured. But if I say to a stranger, or within a stranger's hearing, 'these are certain Masonic words, and we use them in the degrees' and then repeat various phrases, I skirt dangerously close to breaking my obligation, and by the very fact that I seem to be careless with Masonic business, I am doing it harm!"

"That's very plain, said the New Brother.

"Suppose some man wants to learn if I am a Mason? Suppose I meet a man with a Masonic pin and want to examine him Masonically? What about that?"

"You shouldn't want to do things which can't be done!" laughed the Old Tiler. You might, indeed, put the stranger through an examination as to what Masonry he knew, but it wouldn't be Masonic. You have no right to constitute yourself an examining committee. That is the Master's prerogative.

"Suppose he wants to talk Masonic secrets with me?"

"No Mason wants to talk Masonic secrets with any man he doesn't know to be a Mason! The man who wants to talk secrets, without having sat in lodge with you, or being vouched for to you, is either very new or a very poor Mason or no Mason at all!"

"But surely one can talk Masonry with strangers; if they wear the pin and have a card they are probably Masons, and-"

"Talk all the Masonry you want! But make sure it is the Masonic talk you could utter in the presence of your wife. Your true Mason won't want you to talk any other kind in public. Not long ago I was on a train, and behind me two men, neither of them Masons, arguing about Masonry. The things they knew which were not so wonderful! But I never opened my mouth. And the conductor, whom I have known for years as a Mason, heard them, and all he did was wink at me. We knew the truth; they didn't. What was the use of stirring up an argument?"

"What about giving some sign or word in a mixed company, so I can let the other fellows know I am a Mason?" asked the New Brother.

"Oh!" cried the Old Tiler. "You've been reading novels! You have an idea that when you go to a card party you should wiggle your ears or something, so that other Masons will know you are one, too! Nothing to that! Masonic recognitions are not for pleasure, but for need and use. You have been taught how to let others know, if you need to. You know how to recognize a Mason when he lets you know. But these are not for social gatherings, and the man who lards his speech with Masonic expressions is merely showing off."

"I asked for light; we could substitute you for one of the Lesser Lights," said the New Brother.

"If you mean that for a joke," the Old Tiler answered slowly, "I shall think my words were wasted."

"I didn't," protested the New Brother. "I was only trying to say, perhaps clumsily, that I thought you'd make a good Master!"

"Then I shall think only of the motive, thank you for the compliment, and forget the way you put it!" smiled the Old Tiler.



Once, Lincoln Lodge #138 of Filmore, MO, when their members were growing old and no initiations were being held, a campaign for new members was launched. All of the young men of Filmore and the vicinity were balloted upon in the Lodge. All the successful candidates were then handed a petition.

Masonic or Un-Masonic, it worked and the Lodge soon had enough new members to continue work.

It would appear that this procedure, once considered by many to be largely Un-Masonic, is once again being practiced in some statewide jurisdictions. Otherwise, how could 7,000 plus new initiates possibly be gathered for a one-day class? Just wondering...



From The Book "The Lodge Goat: Goat Rides, Butts
And Goat Hairs.

WHEN PAPA'S BEST BOY TOOK THE M. M. DEGREE

BY NELSON WILLIAMS.

When Papa's best boy took the M. M. Degree,
In the Order symbolic known as Freemasonry,
He found many friends who were willing to serve
As committees on testing the strength of his nerve.
Of his gall 't was conceded he ever stood pat,
For his papa before him had plenty of that;
And so 't was his grit that all wanted to see,
When papa's best boy took the M. M. degree.

With a mother, God bless her, in beauty enshrined,
And a papa a dozen or two points behind,
He had good looks to spare, and in candor we say
He stood an Apollo, when stripped for the fray.
But the boys had been waiting for lo, many years!
For the chance that but once in a lifetime appears,
And they anticipated the fun there would be
When papa's best boy took the M. M. degree.

And so they turned out by the dozen and score,
Turned out to get even for intrigues of yore;
For now be it known unto all who are here,
This boy had a papa (which is not very queer),
But the papa he had was a lively old duck
Who for other folks' feelings cared never a shuck,
And who never suspicioned what sport there would be
When papa's best boy took the M. M. degree.

He had badgered poor candidates, weary and sore,
Until, quite exhausted, they dropped to the floor;
This to you may be startling, but do not forget
That it frequently happened in old Lafayette,
And wherever candidates suffered and bled
They found this gay papa had been there ahead;
So each one of them vowed that present he'd be
When papa's best boy took the M. M. degree.

And so present they were, and for business too,
And the young man most surely had plenty to do.
It was business here and business there,
Sometimes on his feet, sometimes in the air;
He vowed that he would, but concluded he would n't;
He thought that he could, but he found that he could n't,
And the boys all danced in evident glee
When papa's best boy took the M. M. degree.

But as all things earthly must come to an end
It is useless much further this tale to extend.
Sufficient to say that this young novice found
That in Masonry dangers are lurking around,
And that when least expected they sometimes appear
To fill timid souls with misgivings and fear.
They were everywhere present as each one could see
When papa's best boy took the M. M. degree.

But he must expect to find things that annoy,
For 't is his misfortune to be papa's boy,
And papa has ever been full of Old Nick;
On candidates ever would turn a mean trick,
So the natural thing for the brethren to do
Was to even with papa when Tommie went through,
And they did the job well, as each member could see,
When papa's best boy took the M. M. degree.



TEXAS BEER JOINT SUES CHURCH....

In a small Texas town, (Mt. Vernon) Drummond's bar began construction on a new building to increase their business. The local Baptist church started a campaign to block the bar from opening with petitions and prayers.

Work progressed right up till the week before opening when lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground.

The church folks were rather smug in their outlook after that, until the bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect actions or means.

The church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise in its reply to the court.

As the case made its way into court, the judge looked over the paperwork. At the hearing he commented, **'I don't know how I'm going to decide this case, but as it appears from the paperwork, we have a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that does not...**



The Power Of Prayer

2nd Annual

Pleasant Hill Masonic Lodge #380 A.F. & A.M.



Chili Cook-off



And Car Show

Benefiting the

Tri-County Volunteer Fire Department

Saturday February 16, 2013

Field Store Rodeo Arena 30628 FM 1488 near FM 362 north in Field Store

Teams will be awarded cash prizes and trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Peoples Choice, Showmanship and Furthest Distance Traveled in the Chili and Beans Categories.

Trophies will be awarded for winners in the Car Show and People's choice awards.

We will also have vendor booth sites available for retail sales.

Cook-off teams and vendor booths are open to anyone who would like to help support the Fire Department. For entries please contact: Dallas Kirkpatrick at 281-389-5620 or entry forms can be emailed to dallas.kirkpatrick@hotmail.com

This Chili Cook-off will be open to the public from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. All-You-Can-Eat Chili and Beans for a \$10.00 entry fee (kids 12 and under free) and will be served starting at 12:00. To-go containers will also be available for sale. Proceeds from all Chili and Bean sales will benefit the Tri-County VFD.

There will be a Live Auction and a Silent Auction to support the Fire Fighters. Please come out and do some shopping and enjoy all the chili and beans you can eat and help support your local Tri-County Volunteer Fire Department.

For further information please contact Brother Dallas Kirkpatrick at dallas.kirkpatrick@hotmail.com

Lots Of Folks Have Memories of the 1964-65 World's Fair

From The National Heritage Museum

Lots of folks have memories of the 1964-65 World's Fair, held in the borough of Queens in New York City, and recognized by the Fair's memorable icon, the Unisphere. There were lots of popular pavilions and attractions at the Fair, ranging from the memorable - like General Electric's Progressland (developed by Walt Disney and later transplanted to Disneyland as the Carousel of Progress) - to the perhaps less-than-memorable, like the AARP's Dynamic Maturity pavilion.

But did you know that there was also a Masonic pavilion at the 1964-65 World's Fair? The theme of the Fair was "peace through understanding," and so it seems a natural fit that the Grand Lodge of New York decided to sponsor The Masonic Brotherhood Center, with its theme of "Brotherhood: the Foundation of World Peace."

Outside, the pavilion featured 50-foot tall (and very space-agey) square-and-compasses. Inside the building, items on display included the bible that George Washington used when he first took the Presidential oath of office, as well Simon Bolivar's 32nd degree Scottish Rite apron and his 32nd degree Scottish Rite collar.

If you go to Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens today, you can still see the Unisphere as well as the Tent of Tomorrow, but you won't find too much of the 1964-65 World's Fair beyond that - certainly not those huge square-and-compasses. (Although I'm happy to report that our colleagues over at the Livingston Library at the Grand Lodge of New York inform us that those great space-age square-and-compasses still survive.)

If you've got memories of The Masonic Brotherhood Pavilion, we'd love to hear about them - just share them in the comments below. Pictured above is a small booklet produced by the Grand Lodge of New York for the World's Fair:



Brother James Fred Loof's Golden Trowel Award



Brother Fred and his Family after the award ceremony.

Brother Fred was awarded the highest award Freemasonry can bestow upon a Brother on Monday, February 4, 2013, the Golden Trowel Award for outstanding service to the fraternity. It only took 3 Brothers to present the award, Worshipful Master Gary Mosemeyer, Worshipful Grand Tyler, Robert Podvin and the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Bryan Dotson of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

I am very sorry, but at my age, I wasn't fast enough or have memory enough to list all of Brother Fred's astonishments in the Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite and Shrine, but it seemed like it took about 5 minutes to read them all.

However, I do know that he served as Worshipful Master for Waller Lodge 1981/82, as the DDGM of the District #108 for 985 and has served as the Treasurer of the Lodge for the last 4 years and he is a past Potentate for the Arabia Shrine in Houston. I also know that

if any Brother needs help, advice or mentoring or just a good friend, Fred is there for you.

The History of Waller Lodge

Do you remember when Waller Lodge met upstairs over the German-American Bank? — How did Waller Lodge prove that a petitioner lived closer to Waller Lodge, then to Pleasant Hill, Lodge in 1898? — What did the Waller Lodge have to sell In 1939 in order to pay the rent? — How did Waller Lodge change it's stated meeting nights in July of 1946?

For The Answers Read

The 64 page booklet with 110 years of Waller Lodge History, 1897 thru 2007 has been reprinted. Send Your Donation Today, To — Waller Lodge — P.O. Box 158 — Waller, TX For A Measly \$10.00 Donation, Postage Paid. — Larger Donations Will Be Welcomed



My First Visit To The Lodge

Author Unknown

It was just three weeks ago that I became a member of the Deep Hollow Lodge, No. 111. That night, I was so mixed up about what happened, that I decided to go to the meeting tonight to see just how things are done there. I got through with the milking early, fed the hens, saw that the pigs were penned up, went to shave, and once again, put on my blue suit that Uncle Josh gave me for Confirmation. I cranked up old Henry and started out on the twenty-nine mile trip to the Lodge.

A little while after I got there, the men all came in, sat down on the benches and looked kind of quiet. Then a feller at the end of the room, sitting a bit higher than me, hit a hammer on something; said that everybody should watch how the're clothed. I knew he meant me, so I fixed my tie and took off my rubbers. Seems he must be the boss of the outfit, cause he gave orders to a lot of men. There was a father and a son there who had something to do with it. I know one was the junior and the other was the senior. I can't remember their first names, but I think the last name was Warden.

Then along comes a feller with a long stick in his hand. He shook hands with everybody, and then they would stand up and blow in his ear. When he got to me, I shook his hand and blew in his ear too, but he didn't like it much. He called me Confusion. Then the feller, I think they call him Master, asked if anyone knew me, and they did, so that was all right. After that, an old man got up and said some nice prayers, and we all sang a song, which was pretty good. While we were still standing, everybody started moving their hands in different ways, so I did the same. Then along comes a feller, guess he belongs to the church, cause I heard him called 'Deacon'. He lit some candles; can't figure out why, cause it was plenty light in the room. Then the Master told someone to tell the feller outside that the lodge was open, but he didn't seem to care, cause he didn't come in anyway.

Then the boss called the feller at the desk the Secretary and told him to do some reading. This was the first time I saw a real Secretary. I once read a story in a magazine where a married man ran away with his Secretary; couldn't imagine who would run away with the old man and what for.

The Master got up and said the Lodge was open and that he was looking for business. Don't think anybody gave him any, though a few of the men did some talking about sickness and other things. After a while, the Master told the son of the father that we was to have some refreshments; then the junior one hit his hammer and we stood up, and he told us also about getting some refreshments. I waited around a bit to see what we would get to eat and drink, but seems they plumb forgot about it all, cause I didn't see anybody get anything, so I got my hat and coat and went home. Guess I won't go anymore, cause everybody's all mixed up, just like myself.



In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the Mystic delivered grave news: "There's no easy way to tell you this, so I'll just be blunt. Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year." Visibly shaken, Laura stared at the woman's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself and to stop her mind racing. She simply had to know. She met the Fortune Teller's gaze, steadied her voice and asked, "Will I be acquitted?"

A Deadly Deception?

by Anne M. Stegen

The following comes from a very bright young woman who is very involved with the Masonic Youth Orders that I had the pleasure to meet on Twitter. You can read her full bio below the article. I wanted to say that she offers a fresh and interesting perspective on the fraternity from a unique perspective of both being within and without the regular goings on of the Blue Lodge. After reading her paper, I thought it offered a great deal of value to the community on several levels and she graciously allowed FmI to republish her work. I think you'll enjoy reading it as much as I did. – MT

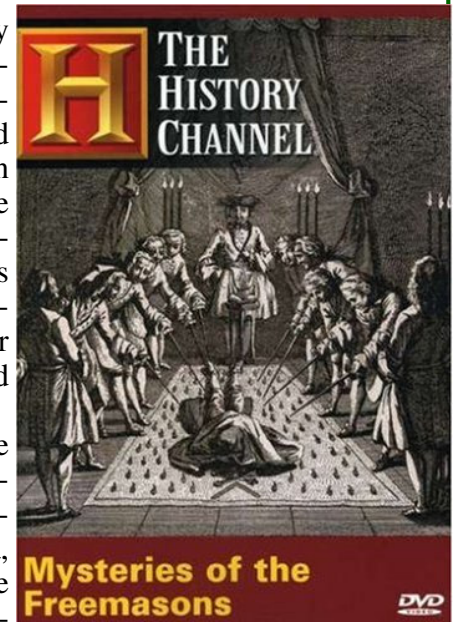
The History Channel gets a lot of things wrong.

That is, they get facts wrong concerning certain details of say, Freemasonry or Masonic symbols. Considering that Freemasonry is the History Channel's biggest obsession, just behind World War II, this is a rather serious offense. They take an obviously negative attitude towards Masons, connecting them to conspiracies left and right. One special about the alleged 2012 shift even mentioned that Freemasonry is inherently a conspirator in the matter. The program alluded to the "secrets" that Masons have, but gave no evidence to definitely connect the two. That form of ignorance is frustrating. The paranoia that has arisen in the general public is unfounded. There is no plot to create a "new world order." Masons are not that coordinated. Instead, they focus on making their members better people, and helping their communities. Freemasonry is a benevolent society and is unjustly connected to conspiracy theories and plots for a new world order.

I am not a Mason. I am a woman, but I have extensive observations of the "Craft" of Freemasonry from my father and grandfather's extensive involvement in the fraternity. My father started in the Blue Lodge, the basic Freemasonry. He was a member of Camelback Daylight Lodge No.75 in Mesa, Arizona. Yearly installations of officers are held and are often open to the public. Camelback Daylight Lodge's membership consisted of elderly gentlemen, so the Regular Installation of Officers were usually an event with ill-fitting and wrinkled tuxedos, walkers, bolo ties, oxygen tanks, and hearing aides buzzing away, but also warm handshakes, and big hugs for me. It was always astounding to think that these men were accused of plotting world domination.

The fear comes from the unknown. Freemasonry still has some traditions that have been lost to the ages in common society. While ignoring the symbolism, people get hung up on the details—"Why are they wearing aprons?"—and jump to the conclusion that these gentlemen are obviously conspirators. Freemasonry began as an operative masonry guild—thus the aprons—that transformed into a gentlemen's club that fostered the ideas of tolerance and truth during the Enlightenment. "Speculative" Freemasonry (as opposed to operative masonry) and the Illuminati were formed during the same era, so they are often connected. The Illuminati was formed on the same basis, tolerance and truth, and was not able to continue due to persecution by the Bavarian government. The Illuminati is no longer in existence, despite what Dan Brown says, and it is definitely not connected to Freemasonry. The fear in America that comes from the term "Freemasonry" is based on Americans' general paranoia of anything they don't yet understand. My challenge to you, then, is to join the fraternity and judge for yourself.

It is unlikely that such a plot for world domination or a new world order could be conceived in Freemasonry, even in the higher levels of the organization. The Blue Lodge is not governed by an international, or even national leader. In the United States, every state is autonomous. The Grand Lodge of the state regulates and directs the local lodges in their jurisdiction. The many different Grand Lodges are kept in check by a process of recognizing each other. If the Grand Lodge of one area decrees something that is against Masonic teachings, the Grand Lodges of other areas will declare it a "clandestine" Lodge, and members are forbidden from attending lodge meetings there. This system makes it nearly impossible to create a viable conspiracy of the magnitude of a new world order. There are other branches of Freemasonry, such as the York Rite and the Scottish Rite, but to join these appendent groups, one must first be a member of the Blue Lodge. There is no conspiracy within these branches because the Grand Master, the leader of the Grand Lodge, ultimately controls those branches as well. The fabled 33rd Degree Masons are often charged with making malicious plots in the dark smoky room. First of all, smoking is not allowed in lodge rooms. Secondly, these men are just Scot-



tish Rite Masons, still subordinate to the Grand Master. Thirdly, many of these men are also Shriners, the same elderly gentlemen who wear the funny red hats, dress as clowns and do tricks in miniature cars in parades. The finger pointing must stop.

Many people and groups today attack Freemasonry without looking into the truth. Thousands of web sites claim things like “Freemasonry is a Non-Christian Occult Religion,” “Christians Beware – of Freemasonry,” (Keohane) and “Freemasonry proven to worship Satan, as its symbols venerate the sex act.” Bad grammar, poorly constructed HTML layouts, and “telling” photographs of “Masonic” symbols and regalia accompany these sites. The experts referenced have Masonic titles, like 33rd Degree, slapped at the end of their name. Anti-Masonic literature has the same fallacies. The Indiana Freemason web site analyzes one such book, *The Deadly Deception: Freemasonry Exposed by One of Its Top Leaders* by James Shaw, and finds four outright lies on the front cover alone. The various arguments against Freemasonry are baseless and uninformed.

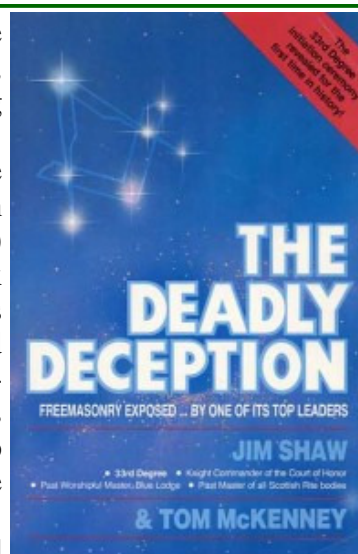
Yes, Masons keep secrets. When you were little, did you ever have a club? Did that club have passwords that you kept secret from “outsiders”? Did it make you feel special to be a part of that club, especially because it had secret passwords? Apply that same concept to a club for older men, and you get the idea. While a Mason may not tell you what the passwords are, they are not really secrets anymore. If someone is really curious, the Masonic “Ritual,” a book containing Masonic ceremonies is already published in various forms. Charles William Heckethorn (1965), secret society expert, says, “The outside world, who cannot believe that Masonic meetings, which are so jealously guarded against the intrusion of non-Masons, have no other purpose than the rehearsal of a now totally useless and pointless ritual, followed by conviviality [a break for refreshments], naturally assume that there must be something more behind; and what seems to fear the light is usually supposed to be evil.” The ceremony to initiate new members has always been an object of attack because of the seemingly strange things parts of the ceremony. Essentially it involves the reenactment of a story. Various objects and words are used to represent a lesson that the initiate should always bear in mind. The phrase “on the level” comes from one such lesson.

What is the creed of Freemasonry? What do they believe? Much confusion has arisen over the issue, and anti-Masonic groups do all they can to keep it that way. Freemason Roger Firestone articulately answers, “Freemasonry strongly encourages its members to belong to an established religion, although that is not a requirement for membership (only that a candidate profess a belief in a Supreme Being). Masonry is a fraternal organization that encourages morality and charity and studies philosophy. It has no clergy, no sacraments, and does not promise salvation to its members.” Every Masonic activity starts with a prayer (and the presentation of the national flag, when appropriate). John the Baptist and John the Evangelist are the patron saints of Freemasonry, keeping high ideals and high pursuits at the forefront. Freemasonry is not a religion itself, but it strengthens the beliefs and morals of its members.

Members of the fraternity enjoy the privileges of having brothers all over the world. Masons and their families can always call upon other members in times of need. Travelers, the infirmed, those in distress can take comfort when they meet up with another Mason, whether they have known him previously or not. The Masonic family, including the women’s and youth groups, is a tight-knit community. Often a Masonic ring on a man’s right hand signifies that he will meet you on the level.

Freemasonry is dedicated to the betterment of its members, but also its community. Shrine hospitals, the Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment, the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation and Scottish Rite hospitals are all beneficiaries of Masonic sponsorship. The South Carolina Freemasonry web site says, “The Freemasons of North America contribute over two million dollar a day to charitable causes.” Local Lodges also have programs to help the nearby schools, hospitals and youth organizations. If Freemasonry had malicious intentions, would not these resources be better employed elsewhere?

Suggesting that Freemasonry is anything but benevolent is ludicrous. Implying that it is involved in conspiracies is ignorant. Americans worried about a new world order should turn their attention to other groups with that goal. And the History Channel needs to get these facts correct. Factual errors and dramatization are unacceptable. In the war for public opinion, Freemasonry should be the benign and prestigious organization that teaches belief in a Supreme Being, high ideals for living, and brotherly love



Film Has Unique View Of Oak Island

By BEVERLEY WARE South Shore Bureau

BRIDGEWATER — Petter Amundsen looks up on the beautiful fresh snow that has blanketed the world around the Evangelical Lutheran chapel, where he plays the organ.

It's an incongruous setting, given the conversation in which he is engrossed.

Amundsen is in Norway, where his day job as chapel organist means he has played for King Harald V and Queen Sonja. But he's talking about what has gripped his heart for the last 10 years — uncovering the secrets of Oak Island in Mahone Bay.

His efforts culminated in a film released in Norway last year that will be shown in London this spring, but the amateur cryptologist is making plans to show it beforehand in Nova Scotia.

The film will debut in 40 theatres in England beginning April 23, though Amundsen would like a screening in Chester on April 13, a year to the day after its release in Norway.

Amundsen has made three trips to film on Oak Island since 2003, the most recent in 2011. He believes the movie will generate interest in Oak Island and boost tourism in the region.

“From the interest gathering in Norway, I assume there will be tremendous international interest as well,” Amundsen said.

“It is a very effective film that is creating enthusiasm around the Oak Island saga.

“People come out of the cinema with stars in their eyes. This is something quite effective that could impact tourism if it is handled well.”

Chester Playhouse general manager Erick Bickerdike is holding April 13 open.

“It sounds like a very interesting film; we'd love to have it here.”

The provincial Tourism Department said it will contact Amundsen about potential opportunities to show the film that could involve museums.

Amundsen has some unconventional theories about Oak Island but said he can prove them through the analysis of symbols, cyphers, codes, astronomy, literature, mathematics and history.

He has published a book about his theory that William Shakespeare's works were actually written by Sir Francis Bacon and his nephew, Sir Henry Neville, and that those manuscripts could be hidden on Oak Island.

He made a four-part television series based on the book that aired in Norway in 2009, and released his film Shakespeare: The Hidden Truth last year.

But his theory doesn't stop with Shakespeare, and his final conclusion is quite shocking.

The documentary follows the tale of English actor and Shakespearean scholar Robert Crumpton, a fierce critic of Amundsen who “decided to go to Norway to knock some sense into my stupid head,” Amundsen said. Crumpton travelled to Oslo, where he met Amundsen in the chapel where he plays organ. From there, the two began a road trip that took them to England, Switzerland and, eventually, Oak Island.

Amundsen said he had the support of Oak Island land owner Fred Nolan to visit and film at the location he believes holds the secret to the island's treasure — Nolan's Cross.

“I've measured it, I've been into the swamp and researched the bottom of it and looked at photographs. The so-called money pit, that's not a big part of my theory.” Amundsen said.

Amundsen said he believes the Nolan's Cross site holds the lost treasures of Jerusalem — in particular, the menorah that was in the Second Temple of Jerusalem.

“The evidence put forth in the film is quite strong,” he said. “Scholars have been trying to pull my theories apart for several years now and they're not able to do so.”

Amundsen conceded his theory is “difficult to tell without sounding like a mad man's ramblings,” but he said his film makes everything clear.

There are a number of theories about where the menorah and other temple treasures could be. Some believe it is in the Vatican's storerooms, others believe it is at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea, while a British archeologist has argued it was returned and is in the West Bank.



Amundsen said the emperor Titus took the menorah from the Second Temple of Jerusalem to Rome after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 and placed it in the Temple of Peace. He said it stayed there until Rome was vandalized in 455, and then the temple treasures were taken to Carthage.

The menorah and other objects were said to be seized by a Byzantine general in 534, and the sacred objects were brought to Constantinople.

Amundsen said it was believed the menorah brought bad luck to every city it was in. Some say it was sent back to Jerusalem, but there is no record of that happening. "That's where the track stops," Amundsen said.

He believes the trail is picked up in the 1600s and that Freemasons brought the temple treasures from Scotland to New Scotland — Nova Scotia — and specifically to Oak Island.

Amundsen said geometry, history, astronomical data and symbols of Judaism, Christianity and Freemasonry support his theory that Oak Island is the site of the long-anticipated Third Temple — not a building but a place — a geometric pattern in the ground where two faiths merge, with the joining of the Christian cross and Jewish tree of life.

"It's a fantastic theory story that I think has merit," he said. "It's quite a fantastic idea but it's the only thing that makes sense when you look at the evidence. It's just a fantastic idea. You look at the evidence and that is the solution that is easiest to get at."

But he said he hopes he never knows for sure. He wants the site left untouched, saying it would create too many problems if the treasures were recovered.

All he wants to do is tell the story effectively and create interest in the site, and Amundsen hopes others will join the debate.

"I get emails every week from people who find things I haven't seen. My theory is just a theory. It's open for lots of debate, and I love that."

Amundsen said he cannot offer a "qualified opinion" on scientists' views that the so-called man-made underground workings on Oak Island are nothing more than the region's natural geology.



A Short History Of Hempstead Texas

From the Hempstead Chamber of Commerce web site

The town of Hempstead and its environs have been shaped by large outside events. During the third and fourth decades of the nineteenth century, there was considerable colonization of the then Mexican territory, of which Texas was a part, by colonists from the United States and Germany. The first major colonial venture of this nature was undertaken by one Moses Austin, and later brought to fruition by his son Stephen. The Austins contracted with the Mexican government for a large block of land (eventually — through a piloting error — to lie along the east side of the Brazos River) which they, in turn, divided among a number of colonists. These original colonists were slave holding cotton planters, who in the early 1820's effectively introduced cotton farming to the area. Produce for this newly formed hinterland was shipped to the coast by river, and from there to the already operating ports of Galveston, and New Orleans.

This land east of the Brazos River was rich fertile loam, and was perfect for growing cotton and corn. The deep sand hills surrounding what is presently Hempstead were the answer to the watermelon grower's dreams. Hempstead later was to be known as the watermelon capitol of the United States. Watermelons were shipped all over the country, and people from everywhere came to buy them, because no watermelon flavor could equal that of the Hempstead melon. As many as 1800 railroad car loads were shipped in a single season. On the land also flourished pecan trees, fruit trees, dewberries, grape vines, and trees for building materials.

The Colonists, such as Jared E. Groce and J. W. McDade, who had land holdings with palatial plantations homes and many slaves, worked with other colonists in an attempt to secure land held by Mexico at that time. Mexico would concede nothing to the colonists: therefore, the war for Texas Independence from Mexico was declared in 1836. After this war, the colonists made greater fortunes, and secured more land and slaves so the cotton kingdom grew into a land of plenty for the plantation owners.

A few items from the Hempstead Golden Anniversary Edition,¹ concerning the early 1820's — 1830's are appropriate here;

Quote: "Stage Coach robbed near Six Shooter Junction, March 11, 1834. Money and valuables taken, but

mail got through to Washington and Austin.” Road was from Galveston to Hempstead to Washington to Austin.

This is the first place in research where we found mention of the name “Six Shooter Junction” as an alias for Hempstead, but it seems from later quotes from Hempstead and Houston papers that this name was widely known and much feared by some.

Another quote from the same paper: “The pioneer, Edwin Waller, for whom the county is named, shipped the first cotton to Mexico in 1831. It was shipped by schooner from the Brazos river to Maramoras, Texas.”

Another story we gleaned is that in 1836 General Sam Houston made a visit to this territory and was entertained by Jared E. Groce on his famous Plantation that is still (1972) a historical place. It is located about five miles from Hempstead. The report says they dined and later danced to music furnished by the Groce slaves.

Some of the stage coach trails are still in existence in and around Hempstead. These are not used for traveling now, but are still visible. These and other historical markings bring the story book picture of long ago back to file so that we now may savor the splendor and bravery of those who prepared the way for our good life in the declining 20th century.

River transportation soon proved inadequate for the flourishing crops that had to be marketed. The large plantations had built their own cotton gins, and some of the towns had gins, but wagon transport to markets or shipping points was too slow. The need for a railroad became apparent within two decades of the founding of Austin’s colony.

The Houston and Texas Central Railroad was destined to change Hempstead into a fully incorporated town. This railroad company had its genesis in a convention held in Chappel Hill, Texas. Although the railroad was largely the project of the business men in Houston, the company included Dr. R.R. Peebles and James W. McDade. These two men, on December 29, 1856, entered into an agreement to form the Hempstead Town Company to lay out the town of Hempstead. They offered the officials of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad lots and blocks in the new town to induce these officials to have the railroad run through the town.

The official minutes of the City Council of Hempstead on file in the City Hall gave us this quote: “The original survey defined in the ordinance, and in an act of the legislature, approved March 13, 1871, incorporating said city; shall be recognized as the boundaries of the city of Hempstead as surveyed in January A.D. 1857.

“The Boundaries of the city of Hempstead shall be as follows: Beginning at a stake 200 ft. south of the southeast corner of the Abbot tract; thence 3,920 ft. westward to a stake, which is the north west corner of the town of Hempstead; thence 9,260 feet southwestward to a stake which is the southwest corner of said town; thence 9,408 ft. east to a stake which is the southeast corner of said town; thence 9,260 ft. northward to a stake which is the northeast corner of said town; thence 5,488 ft. westward to the point of beginning. The whole area consists of 2,000 acres.”

This property was originally a part of the Groce holdings. After the death of Mr. Groce, his widow married Dr. Peebles, and she and Dr. Peebles sold the land for the Hempstead plot for \$ 10.00 per acre.

A charter was drawn up and recorded making Hempstead a validated city. This charter is now in the State Archives of Texas in Austin, Texas



The Rite of Perfection

The Rite of Perfection that had flourished in France in the first half of the 18th century had been sanctioned by the Grand Lodge of France in Bordeaux, the oldest provincial Masonic center in France.

Stephen (Etienne) Morin, a traveling wine merchant, received his Masonic degrees in Loge La Francaise, Bordeaux. Several years later he became Master of a new lodge, Loge Parfaite Harmonie, which was concentrating on "higher" degrees. At the time, France was a hotbed for additional, or "higher," Masonic degrees.

Morin sailed to the West Indies with authority to spread the Rite of Perfection in the Western Hemisphere and to "create Deputy Inspectors in all places where the sublime degrees are not established." It was in Jamaica that he met Henry Andrew Francken, who was deputized by Morin and given authorization to take the Rite to the American colonies.

Francken's Masonic background is unknown. He may have received the degrees in Holland, although some historians believe he was initiated in the West Indies between 1762-67.

Both Morin and Francken played important roles in establishing the "higher" degrees in the Western Hemisphere and laying the foundation for today's Scottish Rite.