

Hempstead Lodge #749

Volume 108, Issue 5

May 2001

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - David Hartley
SENIOR WARDEN - Ted W. Wren Jr.
JUNIOR WARDEN - T. Roy Shields
SENIOR DEACON - Kenneth Harvey
JUNIOR DEACON - Junior Bridges
SENIOR STEWARD - L.M. Jim Ferguson



JUNIOR STEWARD - J. Keith Styers
SECRETARY - - Steve York
TREASURER - - H. Doug Holloman
CHAPLAIN - - John Garrett
TYLER - - - R. Wayne Kluna
EDITOR - - - John "Corky" Daut



THE NEXT STATED MEETING May 10, 2001

Meal Served 6:30 PM — Meeting Starts 7:30 PM



The Country Life Festival

Hempstead and Waller Lodges once again joined forces to host a Bar-B-Que fund raiser at the Liendo Plantation's Country Life Festival. We didn't have as many people show up as we had hoped for, due to other festivals being held in Houston, Burton, San Jacinto, Waller, and many other places. However, we still managed to clear \$384.00 for each Lodge.

Brother Calvin Trapp of Waller Lodge deserves special recognition. He bought supplies, baked 2 huge peach cobbles, hauled the equipment and along with John N. Daut and myself setup the booth and worked all day Saturday and Sunday making sandwiches and serving and helped tear down and pack up.

Special thanks also to Wayne Kluna who cooked the briskets and worked at the site and to Roy Shields, Kelly Hartley and son for going through the HEB line 5 or 6 times for the sale price briskets. Also to Ted Wren Jr., Kenneth Harvey, Roy Shields, and Jim Ferguson who worked both days.

Thanks also to Jimmy Zepeda, Mike Risley, Junior Bridges and Trey Wren who worked one of the days.

John J. Robertson's Thoughts On Masonry And Religion

The fraternity of Freemasonry just a few years ago was blessed to have attracted the attention of John Robinson, who not only wrote three books on the craft itself but became also willing to be a staunch advocate of Masonry.

Bro. John J. Robinson's last book was "A Pilgrim's Path". In this book Bro. Robinson responds to numerous religious criticisms of Freemasonry as well

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Masonic Questions and Answers

Q: How did the Masonic Lodge arrive in Texas?

A: Stephen F. Austin. Austin, along with six other Masons who migrated to Texas in the 1820s attempted to organize a Masonic lodge in 1828, when they met at San Felipe and petitioned the Grand York Lodge of Mexico for a charter dispensation. The "Yorkinos" and the "Escoceses" (adherents of the Scottish Rite) were having a serious quarrel at the same time their petition reached Mexico and sometime during their infighting the petition disappeared.

In the spring of 1835 Dr. Anson Jones and five others, met secretly under the Masonic Oak near Brazoria to avoid reprisals from the Mexican government and petitioned the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a charter. John Henry Holland, the Grand Master of Louisiana, issued the dispensation, and Holland Lodge No. 36, the first Lodge in Texas. met for the first time on December 27, 1835, with Dr. Anson Jones presiding as the worshipful master.

The Holland Lodge struggled along for several months until the Texas Revolution. The Mexican army of General José de Urrea, 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 also issued two additional charters to Texas lodges during that time period. They were the Milam Masonic Lodge #40 located at Nacogdoches and McFarland Masonic Lodge #41 located at San Augustine.

In December of 1837 delegates from the three Texas Lodges convened at Houston to organize the

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Masonic Questions and Answers



Freemasonry, The Teacher

One of Freemasonry's objectives is the making of better men. This it endeavors to do by teaching. It aims to inculcate in the minds of those who come into it some of those virtues which are recognized as prerequisites for a better life. Its teachings include brotherhood, morality, justice, tolerance, citizenship, education and freedom of ideas, of religious choice, of expression.

The worth of the individual in society is another of its prime objectives, but it believes that this worth is only achieved by the recognition of the corresponding responsibility which must accompany each privilege the individual enjoys. Upon this premise, right may be exercised properly only as long as they do not infringe those belonging to one's neighbor. This principle finds its highest expression in the term "brotherly love" which teaches us to regard the whole human race as one common family, who are sent into the world to aid, support and protect each other.

THE HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE 2001 LIFE AWARD

At the April 12, 2001 stated meeting of the Hempstead Masonic Lodge #749 A.F. & A. M.. The nomination was made, seconded and unanimously approved to bestow the 2001 Life Membership Award for Outstanding Service in Masonry to Brother Steve York for his dedication and service to all Masonry in general and to the Hempstead Lodge in particular.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

Boeger, Terry L	5-10-52
Garrett, John A.	5-2-65
Hartley, David Wade	5-2-59
Lyons, Steven Dale	5-7-60
Zepeda, Jimmy Nazario Jr.	5-30-48
Zermeno, Christopher M.	5-14-73

The Editors Corner

I first became aware of William P Doran in August of 2000 when the noted historian and author, W.T. Block wrote to the Waller County News Citizen, asking if anyone knew where in Waller County Mr. William P Doran was buried. Being an amateur historian and genealogist, it interested me enough to find the grave and report it's location to Mr Block.

Major W.P. Doran was a Confederate Hero during the war between the states, wounded at the battle of Shiloh and the first war correspondent in Texas. He wrote under the pen name "Sioux" for the Galveston News and others including the Hempstead News. He traveled 1,000 miles by ship, horse and train to warn the army headquarters in Houston about the planned yankee attack at Sabine Pass. The warning came in time for Dick Dowling to get there in time and win the battle

Mr. Doran's last years were spent in Hempstead and I found his grave in the Hempstead Cemetery. The stone monument had been toppled by vandals. In a letter to the Editor of the newspaper, I ask that the City of Hempstead (who maintains the cemetery) or a local civic group reset the stone as a matter of civic pride and respect for an old soldier. No response.

After hearing from Mr Block again I made up my mind that resetting the stone would a fitting civic project for the Hempstead Lodge. At the Lodge's Wednesday study night May 2, I ask Brother Roy Shields what he thought of the idea and he agreed it should be a project for the Lodge. On Thursday morning Roy talked to Brother Kevin and Brother Bob McWilliams and the stone was reset the same day.

At first I thought, "Well it didn't get to be a Masonic Lodge project after all." Then it came to me, a Hempstead Brother thought of it. Another Brother set it in motion and 2 more Brothers carried it through.

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Carter, Malcolm Pierce	5-2-74
Parham, William E	5-5-82
Sweetman, Clyde O.	5-9-50
Weaver, Walter A.	5-28-43
Wiesner, John W	5-25-51
Zach, Freddie Ray	5-3-74



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Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. President Sam Houston presided over this meeting, which resulted in the election of Dr. Anson Jones as the first grand master.

"Masonic Questions and Answers" 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

BIG OLD TIME CATFISH FRY

Brother Jimmy Zepeda has done stuck his neck way out and promised to fry up a big bunch of **fresh catfish** for the May 10, 2001 monthly meeting of Hempstead Lodge. Brother Doug Holloman has done stuck his neck out a little further by committing himself to furnishing the catfish.

It was suggested by a couple of the other brothers who shall remain nameless, that this notice should be placed on the back page of the newsletter with the idea that not to many people would see it and there wouldn't be a bunch of people grabbing and snatching the catfish before they got full.

John Robertson Continued From page 1

as writing about the "Evangelist Mentality."

"I've lost count of how many times I have been asked, isn't Freemasonry a separate religion?" It's a question that creates a question: "How in the world did anyone come to believe that Masonry is a religion?"

When I ask that, I am usually told by the caller's, that they heard the charge on an evangelist's broadcast, or read it in an anti-Masonic tract or book. No one who has asked me the question has claimed to have come up with the notion from personal knowledge or experience.

The basic question has been addressed over and over again. "No, Masonry is not a religion. It has no intention of being a religion. It doesn't want to be a

It's Masonic Law In Texas

CONSTITUTION AND ANCIENT CHARGES OF A FREEMASON

ARTICLE 1

Section 2 —Purposes

The purposes of this Grand Lodge are to control and regulate the practice of Freemasonry through its jurisdiction, in accordance with the immemorial usage's of this ancient and honorable Craft; to advance the moral and social interest of its membership; to foster good citizenship, honest industry and upright living; to cultivate the exercise of charity in its best and broadest sense; to assist the widows and orphans of its deceased members; to stimulate friendship, harmony and brotherly love, and generally to promote, in its on way, the happiness of mankind — it is a Fraternity of good men, linked together by honorable and indissoluble bonds, to accomplish these noble purposes, **eschewing (AVOIDING) all interest in fractional politics and sectarian religion and free from the dictation of both.**

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.

Corky (979) 826-6267

Clarence Raymond Paschall

In Memory of our Brother **Clarence Raymond Paschall** who died April 25, 2001 in Somerville, Texas. Brother Paschall was 85 years old and had been a Mason 33 years since he was raised in March of 1968.

religion". But those replies rarely have any impact on non-Masons for the simple reason that the defense of Masonry is usually directed at other Masons, not at the masses who are the targets of the anti-Masonic evangelists. What is obviously needed is a broader audience for the defense.

Clearly, one can easily assert that Freemasonry is not a separate religion. It promotes no heaven, no hell, and no means of salvation. There's no "witnessing" or arguing over religious beliefs in the lodge. There is no religious dogma. It can't be a religion.

A postman, on his route, picked up a letter from a mailbox that was addressed to GOD. The postman, seeing that the letter was not sealed, and there being no postage on it, opened and read it. It was from a man who was down on his luck, and was asking God for help. The letter asked for \$50 to get his family through the next week. The postman, being a Mason, took the letter to Lodge that evening, read it, and asked for donations for the unfortunate fellow. The Masons, wanting to help, took up a collection, and received twenty five dollars from the brethren. The Secretary placed the cash in a Lodge envelope, and gave it to the postman to deliver the following day, which he did. Another day passed, and the postman again found an unsealed letter in the mailbox addressed to GOD. Again he opened and read the letter, which thanked God for the money, but instructed him to send any future funds through the Knights of Columbus, as the Masons had kept half of it.

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