

HEMPSTEAD MASONIC LODGE

#749 AF & AM



Worshipful Master Kenneth Harvey Secretary John "Corky" Daut
Hempstead Masonic Lodge Was Chartered December 6, 1893

Volume 110
Issue 12

December 2003

Hempstead Masonic Lodge
#749 AF & AM

P.O. Box 1251

Phone: 979-826-3933

Special points of interest:

- Meetings every second Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
- Family style meals before the meetings at 6:30 P.M.
- Study nights, Degrees and floor work, Mondays 7:00 P.M. at Waller Lodge.
- Waller Lodge meets on the second Tuesday at 7:30 P.M.
- Waller Lodge family style meals before the meetings at 6:30 P.M.

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Masonic Myths of the Founding Fathers

Myth: *Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry were Freemasons.*

Fact: Neither Thomas Jefferson or Patrick Henry were members of the Craft. An exhaustive search of Masonic records in Virginia, and elsewhere, offers no iota of evidence to make them Freemasons. Jefferson participated in the cornerstone laying of his University at Charlottesville, which was done Masonically. He praised Freemasonry and his own words proved he had never been a member of the Craft.

Myth: *All of George Washington's generals during the War for American Independence were Masons.*

Fact: Thirty-three of the generals serving under Washington were members of the Craft, a long way from "all." The late James R. Case and Ronald E. Heaton made comprehensive studies of the Revolutionary period and debunked many of the claims considered here.

Myth: *Washington insisted that the Marquis de Lafayette be made a Mason before he would promote him to general, and the same claim has been made about the Baron von Steuben.*

Fact: Both Lafayette and von Steuben were Freemasons before they arrived to help fight the British. This was true of Lafayette even though he wasn't 21 years

of age when he arrived in America. It's highly likely that Washington never did know they were Masons. The stories of both of these men are highly interesting, but space prohibits the telling of them here.

Myth: *The governors of the thirteen original colonies when Washington was inaugurated President of the United States were Freemasons.*

Fact: From Lexington until the inauguration thirty different men served as governors. Of these ten were Freemasons. That's one-third! Wouldn't it be wonderful for the country if we could claim the same percentage today?

Ten Reasons to Become a Mason

Masonry is a place to spend time with good men who will make you want to become a better man.

Masonry is a place where moral virtue is taught and respected as the cornerstone of life.

Masonry is a place where the spiritual growth of every member can rise to its fullest potential.

Masonry is a place to become better prepared for service to your family, your church and your commu-

nity.

Masonry is a place where you can be part of a great fraternity that believes in Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Masonry is a place where you can support others and give them encouragement as well as receive it yourself.

Masonry is a place where outstanding individuals from every walk of life will greet you and call you "Brother."

Masonry is a place to meet community leaders and take an active part in community activities.

Masonry is a place where you will find unlimited opportunity to acquire leadership experience, self development and personal growth.

Masonry is a place where you can be sure every man is a true and trustworthy friend.

Courtesy: First Masonic District of Ohio Officers Association

The Liendo Civil War Weekend

Once again the Hempstead and Waller Lodges joined forces to feed the people at the annual Civil War battle at the Liendo Plantation. We had a very good day Friday and Saturday was a little over 3 times as good. The rain and cold norther blew in around 11:00 AM Sunday morning and just about ruined the day. Sunday's sales were about seventy percent less than Saturday.

We want to express our thanks from both Lodges to everyone who volunteered to work during the sale

Friday

Dual members of both Lodges, John Daut Sr., 'Corky' Daut, Jim Faure'

Hempstead Lodge Brother, Kenneth Harvey.

Waller Lodge Brothers, Bob Scarborough, Mike Risley, Wes and Liz Mersiovsky and Waller's newest E.A. of less than a week .

Saturday

Dual members 'Corky' Daut and daughter Becky Huber, Steve York, John Daut Sr., Kelly and Toya Cox

Hempstead Lodge Brothers, Kenneth Harvey and Jimmy Zepeda

Waller Lodge Brothers, Calvin and Mrs. Trapp, Bob Scarborough, Mike Risley, Danny Williamson and the new E.A..

Sunday

Dual members John Daut Sr., 'Corky' Daut and daughter Becky Huber, Steve York, Kelly and Toya Cox, and 'Bob' Podvin

Hempstead Lodge Brothers Kenneth Harvey, Junior Bridges and Jimmy Zepeda.

Waller Lodge Brothers, Calvin and Mrs. Trapp, Mike Risley. Wes Mersiovsky and the new E.A..

Special Thanks

To Kelly and Toya Cox and son for all of the extra work preparing and cooking the briskets, both Friday and Saturday nights.

To John Daut Sr. and Mike Risley for preparing the way at Liendo.

And a special thanks to Brother Calvin Trapp who ran all over west Houston for a week to find and buy almost all of the groceries and supplies and for baking the peach cobbblers again. I think the peach cobbblers and ice cream are becoming our trade mark at Liendo more than the bar-b-que briskets.

Liendo Plantation was built in



1853 by Leonard Waller Groce, the son of Jared Groce, who was one of the largest most respected land owners in Texas. Originally a Spanish land grant of 67,000 acres assigned to Justo Liendo, the plantation's name-sake, Liendo was one of Texas' earliest cotton plantations. It was considered the social center of Texas receiving and lavishly entertaining early Texas dignitaries and notoriety's. Liendo was considered a typical Southern plantation, having over 300 slaves and being itself built by slave labor. Sufficient in all its needs; it was a self contained community. Like most Southern plantations, however, Liendo fell on hard times after the Civil War and changed owners several times thereafter.

Liendo had always been recognized for its warm Southern hospitality, but few people know that this

same tradition of generosity probably saved it from destruction. Among the more notable statesmen and historical figures that have spent time at Liendo was George A. Custer. At the end of the Civil War, he was stationed at Liendo. It is said that both Mr. Custer and his wife were so impressed with the plantation and the gracious hospitality shown them during their stay, that they made sure Liendo was not harmed in any way in appreciation.

Liendo was also occupied by world renowned sculptress Elisabet Ney from 1873 until she died in 1907 and by her husband Dr. Edmond Montgomery until 1911.

She and her husband had immigrated years before from Europe to the United States but had never found a new home until they found Liendo. It is reported that she, upon arriving at Liendo, walked out on the balcony, threw out her arms and said "This is where I will live and die." She lived out her life at Liendo, commuting to her art studio in Austin. She and Dr. Montgomery are buried on the Plantation grounds. She sculpted many notable works, two of her most recognized pieces being the statues of Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston which now stand in the state capitol.

In 1960 Carl and Phyllis Detering purchased Liendo from Miss Wilene Compton and began their 10 year job of restoring the plantation home. Traveling throughout the deep South and Europe, the Deterings acquired period furnishings and faithfully restored Liendo to its former glory. Liendo is recognized as a Texas historic landmark and is listed on the national register of historic places. Today, Will Detering owns and operates Liendo Plantation and continues the work of preserving and sharing this Texas landmark.

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The Masonic Funeral

Aurthor Unknown

A new Worshipful Master in a small Georgia town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first Lodge meeting.

The following Thursday the Lodge was all but empty. Accordingly, the Worshipful Master placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that, because the Lodge was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Masonic burial. The funeral would be held the following Monday afternoon, the notice said.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the Altar, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers.

After the Chaplain delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his Brethren to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead Lodge.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead Lodge," all the Brethren eagerly lined up to look in the coffin.

Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.

Remember the obligation we all took my brethren and attend and support your Lodge!!!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Since our Eastern Star Ladies merged with the Bellville chapter they will not be hosting the meal for the Lodge's December Stated Meeting

Worshipful Master Kenneth Harvey and wife Brenda have volunteered to furnish the turkey and dressing for our December meeting and the Lodge is requesting that everyone bring a vegetable or desert.

All Brothers and their families are urged to join us with an old fashioned pot luck dinner, some good fellowship and to help us celebrate the Hempstead Masonic Lodge's # 749's 110 birthday. It was Chartered December 6, 1893

Our Educated Sports Figures

Senior basketball player at the University of Pittsburgh: "I'm going to graduate on time, no matter how long it takes."

Bill Peterson, a Florida State football coach: "You guys line up alphabetically by height." And, "You guys pair up in groups of three, then line up in a circle."

Boxing promoter Dan Duva on Mike Tyson hooking up again with promoter Don King: "Why would anyone expect him to come out smarter? He went to prison for three years, not Princeton."

Lou Duva, veteran boxing trainer, on the Spartan training regime of heavyweight Andrew Golota: "He's a guy who gets up at six o'clock in the morning regardless of what time it is."

MEMBERSHIP

I became a member of Hempstead Lodge in November of 1999. Since then we have lost 11 members.

Since then, we have not raised one new Mason and we have only gained 2 members. Both are plural members from Waller Lodge.

We now have only 54 members, and 10 of those are plural members from Waller Lodge.

Almost half of our current Brothers are over 60 years old. Eight of our Brothers are between 60 and 70 years old and sixteen of our Brothers are now more then 70 years old.

Due to 50 year, endowed or paid by the Lodge members, over half (28) of the members do not pay dues

I am not predicting gloom and doom, but the facts are that Hempstead Masonic Lodge appears to be facing a serious problem. Somehow, members of Hempstead Lodge need to begin working together if we want to reverse this trend.

Woodrow W. Gratehouse

Brother Woodrow Wilson Gratehouse passed away November 26, 2003. He was 90 years old and was raised as a Master Mason 59 years ago. He went from a Marine Private to Major during WW II.

Walter A Weaver

Brother Walter A. Weaver passed away Saturday November 8, in Pasadena, Texas. He was 93 years old and was raised as a Master Mason 60 years ago. The last few years Brother Weaver had suffered from Alzheimer's.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Carter, Malcolm P. 12-10-52

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Carter, Richard A. Jr.	12-12-88
Daut, John "Corky"	12-22-92
Hartley, David W	12-08-97
Kluna, Robert W.	12-01-73
Stasny, Roland E.	12-01-73
Zepeda, Jimmy N. Jr.	12-11-80

An elderly gentleman of 85 feared his wife was getting hard of hearing. So one day he called her doctor to make an appointment to have her hearing checked.

The Doctor made an appointment for a hearing test in two weeks, and meanwhile there's a simple informal test the husband could do to give the doctor some idea of the state of her problem.

'Here's what you do," said the doctor, "start out about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he's in the living room. He says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens."

Then in a normal tone he asks, "Honey, what's for supper?" No response. So the husband moved to the other end of the room, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, "Honey, what's for supper?" Still no response.

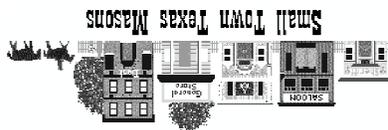
Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for supper?"

Again he gets no response so he walks up to the kitchen door, only 10 feet away. "Honey, what's for supper?" Again there is no response, so he walks right up behind her. "Honey, what's for supper?"

"Dad blame it Earl, for the fourth time, CHICKEN!"

<http://www.geocities.com/hempstead749/>

**Visit Hempstead Lodge's
Own Web Site**



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