

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 3, 2012

## This Month's Feature Stories

- Our Newsletter is One Year Old!
- Freemasonry in the Republic of Texas



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## Freemasonry in the Republic of Texas



The first Masonic Lodge in Texas was formed in March of 1835, approximately a year before Texas declared independence from Mexico. Although there were Masons in Mexico - Santa Anna was a Mason - the Catholic church frowned on Freemasonry. Therefore, the first lodge was formed in secret.

Five Master Masons - John H. Wharton, Asa Brigham, James A. E. Phelps, Alexander Russell, and Anson Jones, who would be the last President of the Republic - decided to form a lodge

in Texas.

In secret they began planning how to do it. They were shortly joined by a sixth Master Mason, John P. Caldwell. The first meeting was held in a secluded grove of trees on General John Austin's place near Brazoria. A petition was drawn up and sent to New Orleans, requesting that the Grand Lodge of Louisiana charter Holland Lodge, named for the Grand Master of Louisiana's Grand Lodge, J. H. Holland.

By this time a seventh Master Mason, W. D. C. Hall, had joined the group. The officers were to be Anson Jones, Worshipful Master, Asa

Brigham, Senior Warden, and J. P. Caldwell, Junior Warden.

A dispensation to open the lodge, which was to be known as Holland Lodge No. 36 under the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, arrived. On Dec. 27, 1835, the lodge was opened at Brazoria. Meetings were held on the second floor of the old courthouse there.

At this point things were getting hot in the disputes with Mexico. The lodge met in Brazoria for the last time in February of 1836. The acting Senior Deacon for that meeting was James

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## Programs & Announcements



We are busy this month! September 14 is the Annual Hilltop gathering. Directions and map to get there on the website under "Events".

At our regular stated meeting on September 13 we will have

the last visit of the Masonic year from our DDGM Roland Martin. He will be presenting important communication from the Grand Lodge. This is a meeting you don't want to miss.

This month our dining out is still undetermined—Keep checking your emails for announcements!

Family Night, Wednesday Sep-

tember 18 starting at 6:30. we will be showing Tommy Lee Jones in *The Man of the House!* A Texas Ranger must protect a group of University of Texas cheerleaders who have witnessed a murder.

Gather your friends and family and join us! Serving popcorn and soft drinks (don't forget the steward's fund) or you may bring your own.

*And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:3*



*"The grand object of  
Masonry is to  
promote the  
happiness of the  
human race"*

*Jefferson*



*"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."*



## The Charge—A Message From the East *Worshipful Master James Urban*

Brethren far and wide, I want to personally invite you to the annual Hilltop Degree put on by the various lodges here in West Texas. The event will be held on September 14 this year at 5PM for dinner and 6 for degree. If you have not already purchased your tickets, they are still available, but they are \$11 now so that we can have enough money for the catering. It is going to be a great degree with some great representative from all lodges, but particularly the excellent degree workers from

Lubbock Lodge.

Naturally, this brings me to my next point, which is formalizing the hilltop group that has been meeting. Although we have met under new leadership, we have not formally created an organization. Thanks to all the brethren who have assisted and agreed to work and set up for hilltop, in particular, I want to thank Van Baker of Wolforth-Frenship Lodge for the work he has done. Thanks to his efforts, it seems as though

Hilltop will be much more efficient going forward. That being said, we hope that we can create a West Texas Hilltop Association to formally work for this event on an on-going basis with representatives from each lodge. Given that Lubbock Lodge always has a strong presence at hilltop, I invite all to participate. Thank you and continue the good work.



## From the West—What is Tolerance?

*Senior Warden Glenn Fant*

The practice of recognizing and respecting the beliefs or practices of others that differ from our own. To tolerate is not to endorse or adopt; it merely means allowing others to be themselves - as they allow us to be ourselves.

In Masonry, we are taught to be tolerant of many things. We learn to take in men of "good character", regardless of how they might differ from each of us individually. We are told, that we should never recom-

mend a man to a participation in our degrees unless we feel that by a similar fidelity he would bring honor and respect to our fraternity.

Through a series of slow changes, there has been reduced vigilance. Then there is the concern for the decreasing numbers, which seems to have been taken as justification for allowing quantity among us rather than quality. We must remember our purpose; to make good men better; not to

make bad men conform. We are not in the rehabilitation business, but we are sometimes forced to take that route in our defense, because we did not guard our gates sometime in the past. We must learn from those black eyes or we are doomed to receive them again. Our aim was never to take every man and reform them into adequate men; yet in the name of numbers, we seem to have lost sight of that goal.

More next month.



## From the South - Clandestine? What is Clandestine?

*Junior Warden Kevin Rush*

Every Master Mason knows that he must not visit a clandestine Lodge, not talk Masonically with a clandestinely made Mason, but not all Master Masons can define clandestinism.

Mackey states: "The (Anderson) Constitutions declare, Section 8, that where a number of Freemasons shall take upon themselves to form a Lodge without a Grand Master's Warrant, the regular

Lodges are not to countenance them nor own them are fair brethren, and duly formed. In other words, Lodge formed without a Warrant from the Grand Master (we now say Grand Lodge) is "clandestine," and so a "clandestine Masons" is one made in a Lodge without a Warrant."

Even this definition will not wholly serve; many old Lodges began and worked for a while without a Warrant yet were

never Clandestine. "The Lodge at Fredricksburg" in which Washington was initiated, had no Warrant or Charter until long after the First President was made a Mason.

In Texas specific information can be found in Article 15 and 463 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, AF&AM.



*Benj. Franklin*



## From the Secretary Jerry Hendrick

*Taking Care of Business*

To make possible the advancement of Masonry from yesterday until today, there was required the moral course of many Masons. They were masons who were determined that no personal cost was to great to pay for Liberty, Justice and Tolerance. To make possible Masonry of today, there were Masons who suffered reprisals,

financial sacrifices and even death.

While we cannot peer too far into the future, we must remind ourselves that step by step, by degrees, we are making Masonry of tomorrow. We have Devine assurance that if we do the work of Masonry, if we discharge our sacred obligations if we hold fast to all that is

true, Masonry will be a stronger force of tomorrow than it is today.




## From the Senior Deacon John Rosser

*Visiting Brothers & Prospects*

Last month we had the following guests attend our stated meeting: Roland Martin, DDGM of Emma Lodge, Bob Clemons, PM, Bob Chesser and Rolan Pirtle of Yellowhouse Lodge, Charles Leatherwood and John Berry of Crosbyton Lodge, Charles and Tim Smith of Mackenzie and Van Baker of Wolfforth Lodge.

Why do I or any other Mason come to Lodge?

From WHITHER ARE WE TRAVELING by Dwight L Smith,

"The purpose of Freemasonry is the same as it has been since the day when the stones for King Solomon's Temple were hewn, squared and numbered in the quarries where they were raised. It is to take an individual – just one man at a time, mind you, and as good a man as possible

– and try to make a better man out of him. That is all. More to come next month.



*Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.*

*Mark Twain*



## From the Senior Steward Brandon Gould

*Food, Flowers & Frolic*

Brethren, it is now my favorite time of year, football has started, temperatures are dropping, and fall is just around the corner! In the coming months I look forward to sharing good food and great fellowship with each of my brothers as we come together in unity. I would like to thank everyone who helped me set up and clean up last month as well as thank you

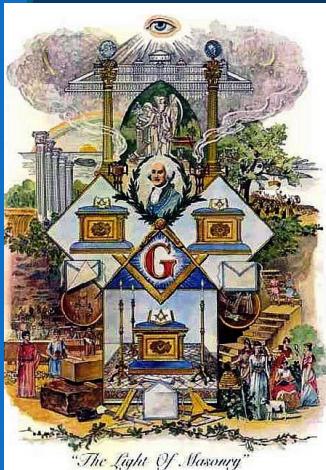
for the warm welcome and compliments on my first meal. I look forward to serving everyone meals for the coming months and I would like to take a moment to remind everyone of the stewards fund. While the meals are always free the costs incurred are not and even as little as a one dollar donation helps me to be able to provide great quality meals.

Thank you all again for entrusting me with the duties of feeding y'all and I hope I no one goes away dissatisfied,

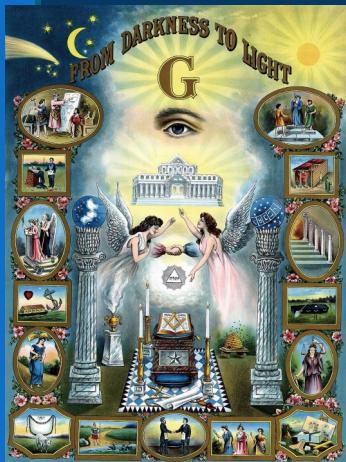


*Upcoming Menu for September*

**Homemade Beef Stroganoff with egg noodles and mushrooms, bread cake, and iced tea.**



"The Light Of Masonry"



In the meantime, the Grand Lodge of Louisiana had issued the charter for Holland Lodge No. 36, which was delivered to Anson Jones by John A. Allen. It was handed over to Jones while the army was on the march, between Groce's Store and San Jacinto. It was in his saddlebags when the Texas Army camped on Buffalo Bayou, and was still in his saddlebags on April 21. It may be the only Masonic Lodge charter in history to be carried into a battle before being presented to the members of the lodge.



## Freemasonry in the Republic of Texas con't from Page 1

Fannin. A month later he would be murdered at Santa Anna's orders.

In March Brazoria was abandoned.

*Continued on page 4*  
All of the Masonic property, including the dispensation to open the lodge, was captured and apparently destroyed by Urrea's army. Wharton, Phelps, and Jones joined Sam Houston's army.



ANSON JONES

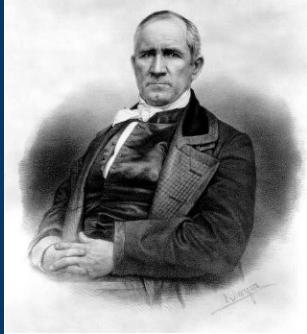
After San Jacinto so many members of Holland Lodge No. 36 had been killed in combat or scattered by the war that the lodge didn't assemble again until October of 1837. By then two more lodges in Texas had been chartered by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana-Milam at Nacogdoches and McFarlane at San Augustine. Holland had moved from Brazoria to Houston.

In the winter of 1837/38, delegates from the three lodges then existing in Texas met in Houston to form the Grand Lodge of the Lone Star Republic. Holland Lodge became Holland Lodge No. 1 of the Grand Lodge of Texas, having been the first lodge established in Texas. The first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas was none other than Anson Jones.

If you get the idea Freemasonry was important in the Republic and later in the State of Texas, you are absolutely right. During the 19th and much of the first half of the 20th Century, it was virtually impossible to be elected to a statewide office in Texas without being a member of a Masonic Lodge.

Whether or not Lorenzo de Zavala, the first Vice President of the Republic, was a Mason I don't know, but it

is not impossible that he was. There were many Catholic Masons, who simply said nothing to the priest about being a member of the order. Ben Milam, a Mason, converted to Catholicism in Kentucky before coming to Texas.



As previously mentioned, Santa Anna himself was a Mason. Upon being brought before Sam Houston at San Jacinto, he recognized Houston as a fellow Mason and immediately gave the 'brother in distress' sign.

Source: <http://seguingazette.com>

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(Brother Bob Clemons has an outstanding presentation on this topic. I'll bet he could be talked into giving it some night.)



## Lubbock 1392 in Action

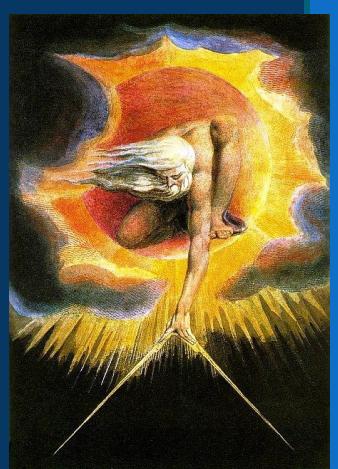


It's our newsletter's FIRST BIRTHDAY!



The 2013-14 officer line for Lubbock Lodge about to be installed L-R PM Elmer "Coke" Etgen, Tiler; PM Heath Morgan, Marshal; Sr. Steward, Brandon Gould; PM Dewain Collins, Chaplain; PM Jerry Hendrick, Secretary; PM Finus Branham, Treasurer; Jr. Warden, Kevin Rush; PM Glenn Fant, Sr. Warden; PM James Urban, Worshipful Master. Not present were Jr Deacon Allen Jolly and Sr. Deacon, John Rosser Photo by Bro. Cole Shooter

**More Pics of the Installation will be up soon at:  
[www.lubbockmasoniclodge.org](http://www.lubbockmasoniclodge.org)**



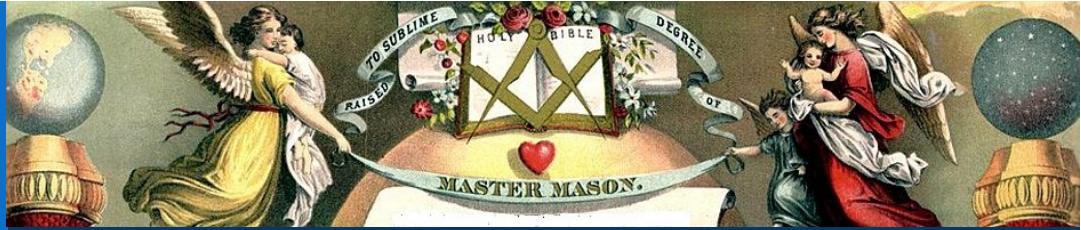
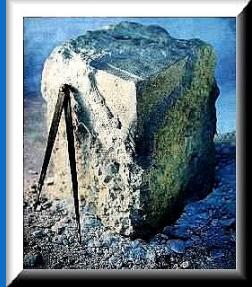
LUBBOCK  
MASONIC LODGE  
#1392  
MASONIC DIST 93-A

4539 Brownfield Dr  
Lubbock, TX  
79410-1721

**Meetings:**  
**Second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Meal: 6:30pm**

**Floor School:**  
**Every Tuesday @ 7p.m.**

[lubbockmasoniclodge.org](http://lubbockmasoniclodge.org)



**Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth**

**This Month's Sickness & Distress**

Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone, and be sure to keep them in your prayers.  
If you know of sickness or distress with a brother or his family, please let us know.

**This Month's Brothers & Birthdays**

Bobby Day - 9/5  
WM Elmer "Coke" Etgen - 9/7  
Henry Housour - 9/10  
Bobby Cook - 9/11  
Coy Cooper - 9/17  
Joe Sanders - 9/17

Ata Sagnak - 9/25  
Richard Bruns - 9/25  
Dewain Collins - 9/30

**The Quarry:  
Our Esoteric Work  
By Bro. Joe Sanders**

**What is Esoteric Work in Masonry?**

It's a new Masonic year so let's take things from the top.

In Masonry, "esoteric work" refers to the elements of Masonic ritual and teaching that are to be communicated only to a properly qualified member and are unlawful to write or publish. Esotericism is a broader field of studies and practices.

What are we trying to do with our Esoteric Work?



- We are trying to improve ourselves in Masonry by: Examining the great questions of life. - Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? What is the essential nature of reality? What is wisdom, truth, or beauty? Etc.
- And by practicing introspection ("Know thyself"). - What do I really believe and value? What are my virtues and vices? What are the secret hopes and fears that influence how I think, feel and act? How do I need or want to change? Etc.

**REMINDER: FLOOR PRACTICE  
EVERY TUESDAY STARTING  
PROMPTLY AT 7:00PM**



*The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it."*

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