

Thomas M. Holt Lodge # 492 A.F. & A.M.

Regular Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:30pm

Address: 512 Johnson Avenue, Graham, NC, 27253

Website: www.thomasmholt492.org



Upcoming Events

April 7

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

April 16

School Of Instruction

Caswell Brotherhood # 11

School Starts @ 7:30 AM

April 21

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

May 5

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

May 19

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

May 21

Fundraiser-Golf Tournament @ 8:00 AM

June 2

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

June 16

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

The Holler Log – Spring 2016 Edition

Messages from the East:

Brothers,

Greetings from the East!

As Spring is now upon us, like most, it's time to get a few projects underway.

Thanks to the generous donation by Brother Vic Euliss, we are on track to have the main entryway doors to the lodge refinished and donations from other members will allow us to replace the main window for a more energy efficient one. We hope to have both of these completed in the next 4 – 6 weeks.

Worshipful Brother Todd Smith has secured a donation from Mebane Shrubbery for mulch, which we will need some help spreading sometime around the middle of April. Thanks to all the Brothers who have assisted in getting these projects moving forward!

Also, keep in mind that the 2nd Annual Thomas M. Holt golf tournament will be held on May 21st, at Quaker Creek Golf Course. We are still looking for players, teams, hole sponsors or general donations all of which will benefit The Masonic Home for Children and White Stone Retirement Home. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact myself or Worshipful Brother Norman Ross. Help spread the word so that we can make this fundraiser a great one!

This year's School of Instruction is scheduled for April 16th and will be held at Caswell Brotherhood # 11 beginning @ 7:30am. If you would like to attend, we have planned to meet and leave from the lodge at 6:15am and should be returning by 1:30pm.

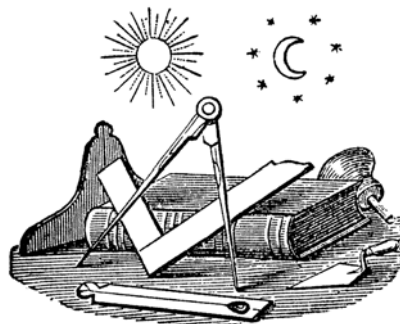
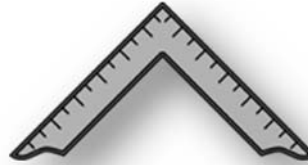
Finally, Brothers, a reminder that if you have not as yet paid your 2016 dues, please see Brother Secretary Gene Hunter.

Hope to see you at the lodge!

Fraternally Yours,

Mike Hunter, Worshipful Master

mike.hunter.nc@gmail.com



Mark Your Calendar !!!
The 2nd Annual Thomas M. Holt Golf
Tournament - May 21, 2016
Quaker Creek Golf Course
Mebane, NC – Starts @ 8:00 AM



Lodge News:

- ❖ Congratulations to Brother Frank Stone & Brother Jim Paige on being elected into the lodge. We are honored to have you as members of Thomas M. Holt Lodge # 492!
- ❖ Congratulations to Brother Gene Hunter on receiving the “Secretary of Distinction” award!!
- ❖ Congratulations to Brothers Steve Walker, and Charles Moser for completing their 3rd Degree Catechism and receiving their Proficiency Cards.

Masonic Trivia:

- ❖ Frederick A Bartholdi, a freemason, designed the Statue of Liberty that stands in the Harbor of New York City. The Grand Lodge of New York laid the corner stone on August 5, 1885.
- ❖ When Freemasonry first began, the majority of the members were Entered Apprentices, because only the Grand Lodge could raise them, and few got that privilege. They had only one sign, one token and one word; these were referred to as “The Honors”. A Mason who was raised by the Grand Lodge had three signs, three tokens and three words, these were referred to as the “Grand Honors”. Many Grand Lodges still use the term Grand Honors to describe the highest honorary greeting that shows appreciation for someone who has gone above and beyond in their service for the Grand Lodge.
- ❖ The record number of degrees given in a calendar year is held by Gate City Lodge #522 in Kansas City, Missouri. They met every day of the week, except for Sunday, and conferred 1,107 degrees in 1920. That’s an average of 21 degrees a week!

A Masonic Chuckle:

Bob and Bill were brother masons and great friends for most of their lives.

Each had agreed that when one of them passed on to that Grand Lodge in the sky above, he would attempt to make contact with the other and tell him all about what heaven was like.

As so happened, Bill went to heaven, first.

One night when Bob was just drifting off to sleep he heard Bill's voice calling to him.

“Is that you, Bill?”, “Yes, Bob. I am honoring our agreement.”

“Oh, my What’s it like?” Bob asked with some anticipation.

“It’s like nothing you could ever imagine. The lodge here is fantastic, ... better than any lodge we ever saw on Earth.”

Upcoming Birthdays

April 2016

04 – Jeff Fogleman
04 – Jeff Lightcap
05 – Chip McFalls
06 – Douglas Wilson
10 – Michael Gaither
12 – Rick Mann
18 – Charles Sully
19 – Doug Foley
21 – Sidney Roberts
21 – Melvin Russell
21 – Terry Hunley
23 – Ken Dixon

May 2016

01 – Dennis Smith
03 – Coy Overman Jr.
08 – Landon Goad
09 – Robert Reid Stewart
10 – Stephen Harvey Lineberry
11 – James Johnson
12 – Willard Raymond Bailey
13 – Ronald Long Jr.
14 – Daniel Qualls
18 – Allen Wade Bean
18 – Walter Creech
21 – Timothy Brooks
25 – Daniel Barnes
27 – Leon Apple

June 2016

05 – Dalton Drew Sharpe
12 – Chris Adams
13 – Jimmy Wood
13 – David Vitkus
13 – Alan James Sprague
14 – Charles Moser
19 – Stan Mullis
27 – Dale Dodson
30 – Leonard Pendergraph



The Brothers of Thomas M. Holt Lodge would like to wish you all a Very Happy Birthday !!!

“The meetings are always well attended, the ritual is letter perfect, the friendship nights always have tons of new people just itching to join, and the spirit of fellowship blankets the entire place.”

Bob’s eyes teared up. “Oh, my, it’s just like we’d hoped. I’m so happy for you. But I have to ask, ... that sounds really great, but you didn’t really seem all that excited. What’s wrong?”

“Well, I have some good news and some bad. The good news is that we’re raising a Fellowcraft to the third degree next Wednesday.”

“That’s fantastic. What’s the bad news?”

“Your name is on the list to be the Senior Deacon.” ☺

Masonic History: WHY WE “REMEMBER THE ALAMO”

By Bro. Dwight Stevens, Chairman, Masonic Education and Service Committee
(Printed in The Texas Mason, Spring 1998)

During his year (1998), Grand Master Harry G. Cunningham had as his emblem the Alamo Mission overlaid with the Square and Compasses. The Alamo should be remembered as the place where the Mexican Army, under command of General Antonio Lopez De Santa Anna, stormed a former Mexican mission defended by a band of Texans fighting for their independence. Among the defenders were our Masonic Brothers James Bonham, Jim Bowie, David Crockett, Almaron Dickenson and Col. William Barrett Travis.

In rooms where priests had prayed, bayonets clashed with Bowie Knives and swords. Musket and cannon fire tore into the Texan defenders. By dawn, all the Texan combatants lay dead. Their sacrifice, on March 6, 1836, would immortalize them as legends, and turn the Alamo grounds into Sacred Ground.

Each year more than three million Americans visit the Alamo. For many of the visitors, who gaze with reverence at the paintings and exhibits, the Alamo is more shrine than historic monument. They have come to the Alamo to honor those whose death gave birth to a Republic.

Brother William Barrett Travis, Commander of the Alamo garrison, is said to have drawn a line in the sand requesting all who would stay and fight to: “step across the line.” He drew that line not only in the sand, but also into the hearts and minds of every Texas Mason.

Many months after the battle, the charred remains of the Alamo defenders were laid to rest not far from the Alamo itself. Presiding at the ceremony was Brother Juan Sequin. The words he spoke at the interment speak to us even today:

“The spirit of liberty appears to be looking down from it’s elevated throne saying: Behold your Brothers: Crockett, Bowie, Travis. They preferred to die a thousand times rather than submit themselves to the tyrants yoke. Their sacrifices are worthy of inclusion in the pages of history. What a brilliant example for others to follow.”

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Alamo, please do so at your earliest possible convenience. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas have lovingly turned the Alamo Mission into a shrine. It remains to this day a shrine to the heroes of Texas liberty. The veneration of the defenders reached a new height in 1939 with the dedication of The Alamo Cenotaph. Towering sixty feet above the Alamo, the monument’s theme is “The Spirit of Sacrifice”. Statues of the principal defenders, and the names of all the Texans who died at the Alamo, are carved into the granite foundation. During your visit, you will find that the Alamo is a powerful place. It’s a place filled with legends and memories. It’s a place we all should go think about our own potential, about what we need to sacrifice so that we can keep the fraternity on the road that those men fought to preserve.

The most famous battle of the Texas Revolution came about in San Antonio at a little mission called the Alamo. On March 6, 1836, one hundred and eighty-seven men under the command of Brother William Barrett Travis were defeated by several thousand Mexican soldiers under Santa Anna. Americans and Texans alike were so enraged by this massacre that the Alamo, like the United States flag and the Statue of Liberty, became another symbol of courage and freedom. On July 4, 1976, the Grand Lodge of Texas placed a bronze marker at the Alamo, honoring the Masons who died there:

“Honoring These Masons
James Bonham James Bowie
David Crockett Almaron Dickenson
William Barrett Travis
And Those Unidentified Masons
Who Gave Their Lives in the Battle of the Alamo, March 6, 1836”

One of the few who survived the massacre at the Alamo was Mrs. Almaron Dickenson (Suzanna) who had been advised by her husband to display his Masonic apron over herself and the child during and after the battle. Santa Anna saw to her needs and even offered to adopt her child. She declined the offer declaring that she would “crawl and work her fingers to the bone to support the baby, but that she would rather see the child starve than given into the hands of the author of so much horror.”

03/06/1836 – After fighting for 13 days, 3,000 Mexicans defeated 182 Texans at the Alamo.

A few days earlier, this message was sent:

February 24, 1836,

“Commandancy of the Alamo-

To the people of Texas & all Americans in the world, Fellow citizens & compatriots

I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna; I have sustained a continual bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man.

The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion; otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls.

I shall never surrender or retreat. Then I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch — The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country —

VICTORY OR DEATH
William Barrett Travis, Lt. Col.

P.S. The Lord is on our side —
When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn, we have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 heads of cattle.

**** Please help the Lodge reduce costs: If you'd like to receive future editions of the Holler Log via email instead of paper copy, please email Mike Hunter at: mike.hunter.nc@gmail.com**

Lastly, Brothers, we hope you are continuing to enjoy this new format of the Holler Log and once again found it informative. If you have any comments, or have any items that you would like to see, or share in future Editions of the Holler Log please send an email to: hollerlog@thomasmholt492.org

Masonic Anniversaries

(The number indicates years of service)

April

02 – John Harrington
02 – Jeff Lightcap
04 – Jeff Fogelman
09 – Glenn Hogan
09 – David Quigley Jr.
12 – Kelly Cummings
12 – Tony Ivan Wood
16 – David Thompson
22 – Mike Benesch
22 – Lewis Franklin
22 – Raymond Perdue
23 – Jimmy Wood
27 – Charles Bradley
28 – Isaac Holt III
33 – Bruce Taylor
36 – Jack Collins
44 – Boyd Wright
46 – Jerry Cummings

May

05 – Barry Adams
05 – Coy Overman Jr.
06 – Brad Johnson
06 – Marcus Orr
12 – Donald Holt
19 – John David Maness II
19 – Michael Shepanski
26 – William Robertson
28 – Michael Gaither
40 – Leo Creech
42 – Willard Raymond Bailey
42 – Dennis Smith
61 – Harry Smith

June

04 – Leon Apple
07 – Chris Adams
07 – Todd Smith
07 – Joseph Sykes
07 – Steven West
23 – Dale Dodson
25 – Herbert Holmes
25 – Donald Ray
27 – Tim Collins Jr.
32 – Gene Nolf
41 – Norman Ross
41 – William Wolfe
45 – Leonard Pendergraph

