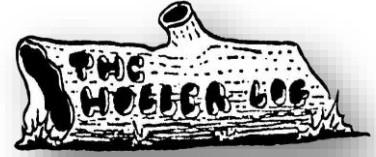


Thomas M. Holt Lodge # 492 A.F. & A.M.



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

Address: 512 Johnson Avenue, Graham, NC, 27253

Websites: www.thomasmholt492.org or 492-nc.ourlodgepage.com

The Holler Log – Spring 2017 Edition

Messages from the East:

Brethren,

Greetings from the East!

The year has gotten off to a great start. We have a busy Spring ahead of us.

The winter gun raffle is in full swing and is progressing well. The drawing will be on April 6th at the 1st stated communication, and the proceeds will be split 50/50 between the Masonic Home for Children and Whitestone. A pancake breakfast fundraiser to raise money for the lodge is scheduled for May 13th from 7:00AM to 11:30AM. The golf tournament is scheduled for September 9th at Quaker Creek at 8:00AM, and our third annual pink pancake fundraiser for breast cancer awareness will follow in the middle of October.

Degree work is also ramping up, and we will be busy with degree work in Spring and into Summer. We have a 1st degree scheduled for the 1st stated in April and a 2nd degree scheduled for the 2nd stated in April.

Worshipful Brother Alvin Billings, DDGM of the 22nd Masonic District, accompanied by Matt Cockman, DDGL of the 22nd Masonic District made their official visit to our Lodge on February 2nd. One of the topics Worshipful Brother Alvin Billings presented is the “**Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence**” award program which establishes goals as part of the Grand Master’s 2017 call for lodges to “**Let’s go to Work!**” Lodges achieving the goals will be recognized at the 2017 Annual communication. The requirements for this award are challenging, but they are within our reach. You may read and find out more about this program and its requirements on page 2 & 3 of the January/February 2017 Edition of the North Carolina Mason Newsletter.

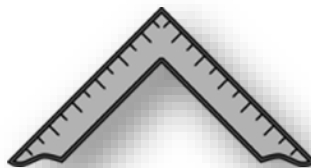
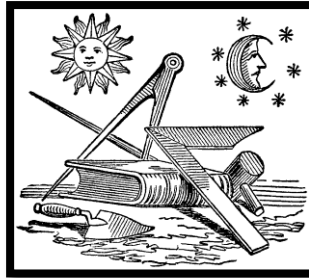
The school of instruction is scheduled for April 29th at Bingham Lodge # 272, in Mebane, NC, at 7:30 AM. Those who would like to attend are requested to arrive between 7:15 and 7:20AM.

Finally, brothers, join me in congratulating Brother Hollan Thomas Pickard who received the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Diamond Jubilee Veteran's Emblem for his 60 years of service as a Master Mason on March 16th.

Hope to see you at the lodge!

Fraternally Yours,

Chip McFalls, Worshipful Master
chip.mcfalls@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

April 6

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM
Shotgun Raffle Drawing - 1st Degree

April 20

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM – 2nd Degree

April 29

Masonic School of Instruction
Bingham Lodge # 272, Mebane, NC
School Starts @ 7:30 AM

May 4

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

May 13

Thomas M. Holt Pancake Breakfast
7:00 AM – 11:30 AM

May 18

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

June 1

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

June 15

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

Mark Your Calendar!!!

Thomas M. Holt Pancake Breakfast

Date: May 13th, 2017

Time: 7:00AM to 11:30AM



Lodge News:

- ❖ Congratulations to Brother Dennis Bullis for passing off his First Degree - Entered Apprentice Catechism. His Second Degree is scheduled for April 20th, 2017.
- ❖ The Lodge members of Thomas M. Holt would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to Brother Gene Hunter, who has served the lodge as Secretary for the past 6 years. Brother Hunter received the "Secretary of Distinction" award in the Spring of 2016. Brother Hunter has requested to retire from the position effective March 16, 2017. Brother Marcus Orr has agreed to fill the Secretary position in the interim.
- ❖ Estimates are currently being gathered by Lodge's Building Committee on the costs to resurface \ replace the Meeting Room portion of the Lodge's roof. Visual inspection of the roof shingles revealed they were in very poor condition. More details to come.

Masonic Trivia:

- ❖ The Forget-Me-Not Flower: In 1934, soon after Hitler's rise to power, it became evident that Freemasonry in Germany and in Europe was in grave danger. Realizing this danger, the Freemasons went undercover and adopted a little blue flower, the forget-me-not, to replace the Square and Compasses as the symbol whereby the Brethren could identify each other in public, as well as in the concentration camps of Europe. In 1948 when lodges reopened following World War II. This became the official Masonic emblem in honor of the valiant Brethren who carried on their Masonic work under very adverse conditions.
- ❖ A Masonic "lodge" refers to the congregation of people who meet there, it's not just the name of a building.
- ❖ Freemasonic symbols are usually regarded as existing because of the secrecy of the fraternity. However, in reality, Freemasonry started being illustrated by symbols because at the very beginning most Freemasons could not read, so the symbols served to remind the members of the teachings of the Fraternity.

A Masonic Chuckle:

- ❖ A Doctor and a Plumber are in the same Lodge. On Sunday morning, the Doctor wakes up to find that his toilet is blocked, so he calls up his Masonic Brother, the Plumber.

The Plumber replies "But I don't work on Sunday's !!!! Can't it wait until tomorrow ??." The Doctor says. "I don't like working Sundays either, but, if "YOU" were in trouble, and felt unwell Brother, I wouldn't hesitate to come over and see you."

"OK, OK." says the Plumber and goes over to see the Doctor. The Doctor takes him upstairs and looks at the toilet, The Plumber takes two aspirins from his pocket and throws them down into the bowl. "There" he says **"If that doesn't help it, and it is no better, give me a call in the morning"**.

Masonic Education: The Level and The Plumb

Like the Square and the Compasses, the Level and the Plumb are nearly always united in our Ritual. They really belong together, as much in moral teaching as in practical building. The one is used to lay horizontals, the other to try perpendiculars, and their use suggests their symbolism. By reason of their use, both are special working tools of the Fellowcraft, along with the Square; and they are also

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
20 – Don Kehler
21 – Sidney Robertson Jr.
21 – Melvin Russell
23 – Ken Dixon

May 2016

01 – Dennis Smith
03 – Coy Overman Jr.
03 – Zachary Stead
08 – Dale Landon Goad
09 – Robert Stewart
10 – Harvey Stephen 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

June 2016

03 – Leonard Pendergraph
04 – Charles Moser
05 – Dalton Drew Sharpe
12 – Chris Adams
13 – James Sprague
13 – Jimmy Wood
13 – David Vitkus
16 – Dylan Clark
19 – Stan Mullis
26 – David Putnam
27 – Dale Dodson



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

Masonic Education – The Level and The Plumb Continued.

worn as jewels by two of the principal officers of the Lodge.

Among the Craft Masons of olden time the actual work of building was done by Fellowcrafts, using materials gathered and rough hewn by Apprentices, all working under the guidance of the Master. In our Symbolism, as the Apprentice is youth, so the Fellowcraft is manhood, the time when the actual work of life must be done on the Level, by the Plumb and Square. Next to the Square and Compasses, the Level and Plumb are among the noblest and simplest symbols of the Craft, and their meaning is so plain that it hardly needs to be pointed out. Yet they are so important, in use and meaning, that they might almost be numbered among the Lesser Lights of the Lodge.

The Level, so the newly made Mason is taught, is for the purpose of proving horizontals. An English writer finds a lesson in the structure of the Level, in the fact that its surface is level when the fluid is poised and at rest. From this use of the Level he bids us seek to attain a peaceful, balanced poise of mind, undisturbed by the passions which upset and sway us one way or the other. It is a council of perfection, he admits, but he insists that one of the best services of Masonry is to keep before us high ideals and, what is more, a constantly receding ideal, otherwise we should tire of it.

Of course, the great meaning of the Level is that teaches equality, and that is a truth that needs to be carefully understood. There is no little confusion of mind about it. Our Declaration of American Independence tells us that all men are created equal but not many have tried to think out what the words really mean. With most of us it is a vague sentiment, a glittering generality born of the fact that all are made of the same dust, and sharers of the common human lot, moved by the same great faith and fears, hopes and loves - walking on the Level of Time until Death, by its grim democracy, erases all distinctions and reduces all to the same level. Anyone who faces the facts knows well enough that all men are not equal, either by nature or by grace. Our humanity resembles the surface of the natural world in its hills and valleys. Men are very unequal in physical power, in mental abilities, in moral quality. No two men are equal; no two are alike. One man towers above his fellows, as a mountain above the hills. Some men can do what others can never do. Some have five talents, some two, and some but one. A genius can do with effortless ease what is futile for others to attempt, and a poet may be unequal to a hod-carrier in strength and sagacity. When there is inequality of gift it is idle to talk of equality of opportunity, no matter how fine the phrase may sound. It does not exist. By no glib theory can humanity be reduced to a dead level.

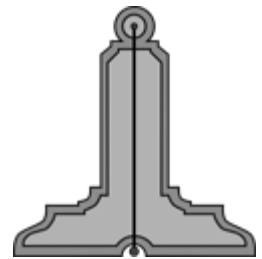
The iron wrinkles of fact are stubborn realities. Manifestly it is better to have it so, because it would make a dull world if all men were equal in a literal sense. As it is, wherein one lacks another excels, and men are drawn together by the fact that they are unequal and unlike. The world has different tasks demanding different powers, brains to devise, seers to see, hands to execute, prophets to lead. We need poets to inspire, scientists to teach, pioneers to blaze the path to new lands. No doubt this was what Goethe meant when he said that it takes all men to make one man, and the work of each is the glory of all.

What, then, is the equality of which the Level is the Symbol? Clearly it is not identity, or even similarity of gift and endowment. No, it is something better; it is the equal right of each man to the full use and development of such power as he has, whatever it may be, unhindered by injustice or oppression. As our Declaration of Independence puts it, every man has an equal and inalienable right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, with due regard for the rights of others in the same quest. Or, as a famous slogan summed it up; Equal Rights for all; Special Privileges to None! That is to say, before the law every man has an equal right to equal justice, as before God, in whose presence all men are one in their littleness, each receives equally and impartially the blessing of the Eternal Love, even as the sun shines and the rain falls on all with equal benediction.

Albert Pike, and with him many others, have gone so far as to say that Masonry was the first apostle of equality in the true sense. One thing we do know; Freemasonry presided over the birth of our Republic, and by the skill of its leaders wrote its basic truth, of which the Level is the symbol, into organic law of this land, the War for Independence, and the fight for Constitutional Liberty, might have had another issue but for the fact that our leaders were held together by a mystic tie of obligation, vowed to the services of the rights of man. Even Thomas Paine, who was not a Mason, wrote an essay in honor of an order which stood for Government without tyranny and religion without superstition - two principles which belong together, like the Level and the Plumb. Thus, by all that is sacred both in our Country and our Craft, we are pledged to guard, defend and practice the truth taught by the Level.

But it is in the free and friendly air of a Lodge of Masons, about an Altar of Obligation and Prayer, that the principle of equality finds its most perfect and beautiful expression. There, upon the Level, the Symbol of Equality, rich and poor, high and low, prince and plain citizen - men of diverse creeds, parties, interests, and occupations - meet in mutual respect and real regard, forgetting all differences of rank and station, and united for the highest good of all. We Meet Upon the Level and Part Upon the Square; titles, ranks, riches, do not pass the Inner Guard; and the humblest Brother is held in sacred regard, equally with the Brother who has attained the highest round of the wheel of fortune.

Every man in the Lodge is equally concerned in the building of the Temple, and each has his work to do. Because the task demands different gifts and powers, all are equally necessary to the work, the architect who draws the plans, the Apprentice who carries stones or shapes them with chisel and gavel; the Fellowcraft who polishes and deposits them in the wall, and the officers who marshal the workman, guide their labor, and pay their wages. Everyone is equal to every other so



Masonic Education – The Level and The Plumb Continued.

long as he does good work, true work, square work. None but is necessary to the erection of the edifice; none but receives the honor of the Craft; and all together know the joy of seeing the Temple slowly rising in the midst of their labors. Thus Masonry lifts men to a high level, making each a fellow-worker in a great enterprise, and if it is the best brotherhood it is because it is a brotherhood of the best.

The Plumb is a symbol so simple that it needs no exposition. As the Level teaches unity in diversity and equality in difference, so the Plumb is a symbol of rectitude of conduct, integrity of life, and that uprightness of moral character which makes a good and just man. In the art of building accuracy is integrity, and if a wall be not exactly perpendicular, as tested by the Plumb-Line, it is weak and may fall, or else endanger the strength and stability of the whole. Just so, though we meet upon a Level, we must each build an upright character by the test of the Plumb, or we weaken the Fraternity we seek to serve and imperil its strength and standing in the community,



As a workman dare not deviate by the breadth of a hair to the right or to the left if his wall is to be strong and his arch stable, so Masons must walk erect and live upright lives. What is meant by an upright life each of us knows, but it has never been better described than in the 15th Psalm, which may be called the religion of a gentleman and the design upon the Trestleboard of every Mason:

“Lord, who shall abide in Thy Tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy Holy Hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. In whose eyes a vile person is condemned; but he honoreth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.”

What is true of a man is equally true of a nation. The strength of a nation is its integrity, and no nation is stronger than the moral quality of the men who are its citizens. Always it comes back at last to the individual, who is a living stone in the wall of society and the State, making it strong or weak. By every act of injustice, by every lack of integrity, we weaken society and imperil the security and sanctity of the common life. By every noble act we make all sacred things more sacred and secure for ourselves and for those who come after us. The Prophet Amos has a thrilling passage in which he lets us see how God tested the people which were of old, by the Plumb-Line; and by the same test we are tried:

“Thus He Showed me; and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a Plumb-Line, with a Plumb-Line in His Hand. And the Lord said unto me; Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A Plumb-Line. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a Plumb-Line in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass them by any more.”

- SHORT TALK BULLETIN - Vol.II June, 1924 No.6
Author: Unknown

**** 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 Chip McFalls at: chip.mcfalls@gmail.com**

Please refer to the Lodge Websites for updated Lodge Information and Schedules in between issues of the Holler Log @ www.thomasmholt492.org or 492-nc.ourlodgepage.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

03 – John Harrington
03 – Jeff Lightcap
05 – Jeff Fogelman
10 – Glenn Hogan
10 – David Quigley Jr.
13 – Kelly Cummings
13 – Tony Ivan Wood
17 – David Thompson
23 – Mike Benesch
23 – Lewis Franklin
23 – Raymond Perdue
24 – Jimmy Wood
28 – Charles Bradley
29 – Isaac Holt III
34 – Bruce Taylor
37 – Jack Collins
45 – Boyd Wright
47 – Jerry Cummings

May

06 – Barry Adams
06 – Coy Overman Jr.
07 – Brad Johnson
07 – Marcus Orr
13 – Donald Holt
20 – John David Maness II
20 – Michael Shepanski
27 – William Robertson
29 – Michael Gaither
41 – Leo Creech
43 – Willard Raymond Bailey
43 – Dennis Smith
62 – Harry Smith

June

08 – Chris Adams
08 – Todd Smith
08 – Joseph Sykes
08 – Steven West
24 – Dale Dodson
26 – Herbert Holmes
26 – Donald Ray
28 – Tim Collins Jr.
33 – Gene Nolf
42 – Norman Ross
42 – William Wolfe
46 – Leonard Pendergraph