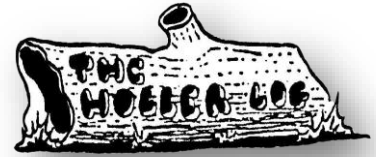


Thomas M. Holt Lodge # 492 A.F. & A.M.

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

July 7

Short Meeting & Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Family Night

July 21

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

August 4

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM
Scheduled 3rd Degree

August 18

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

September 1

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM
Shotgun Raffle Drawing

September 15

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

The Holler Log – Summer 2016 Edition

Messages from the East:

Brothers,

Greetings from the East!

I hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer!

We finally have some of the new renovations at the lodge completed. The new front window has been installed, the main entrance doors have been refinished, mulch and landscaping added to the front of the Lodge, and a new column installed on the front porch, thanks to a donation from Brother Roger Stutts of Bula Lodge, and finally a spring cleaning was performed for the interior of the Lodge. If you have not been to the lodge recently, I encourage you to come to one of our meetings and see the improvements. Thanks to everyone that had a part to play in getting these projects completed! If you are on Facebook, pictures of the renovations are on our page: www.facebook.com/groups/ThomasMHoltLodge

Our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament, which was originally scheduled for May 21st but postponed due to weather, was held on June 25th. After expenses, the lodge raised \$4100.00, which will be split between our Oxford Orphanage and Whitestone charities. Many thanks to everyone involved that helped with the fundraiser, with a special thanks to WB Norman Ross for organizing the event. Great job everyone!

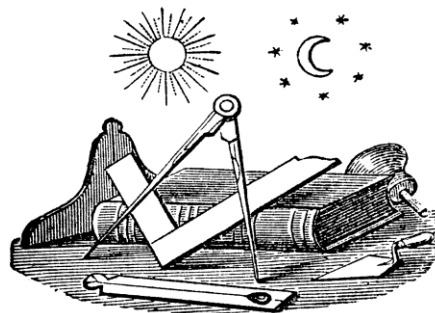
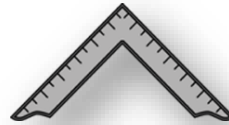
Our next fundraiser will be raffling off a Remington Model 1100 12ga. shotgun with the proceeds for this fundraiser to benefit our lodge. Tickets will be \$5.00 each or (5) for \$20.00 and will be available for sale at our first stated meeting on July 7th, with the drawing on the first stated meeting September 1st. Please see myself or one of the other officers, if you would like to get some tickets to sell! Thanks to Brother Kevin Dean and his family for the gun donation!

Lastly, I would like to remind you that our July 7th stated meeting will be Family night at the lodge. We will have a very short business meeting and then have the lodge open to families and guests. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be served, so come out to the meeting and bring your families!

Hope to see you at the lodge!

Fraternally Yours,

Mike Hunter, Worshipful Master
mike.hunter.nc@gmail.com



Mark Your Calendar !!!

Family Night At The Lodge

July 07, 2016 @ 6:30 pm

Families and Guests Welcome

Lodge News:

- ❖ Congratulations to Brother Stephen Craven for completing his 3rd Degree Catechism and receiving his Proficiency Card.
- ❖ Congratulations to Brother Marcus Orr on the new addition to his family!
- ❖ Congratulations to Worship Brother Todd Smith and his wife Alicia for being commissioned by Grand Master, Bryant Webster to be ambassadors to the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, NC.
- ❖ Thanks to Brother Gene Hunter for re-finishing the painted trim/border on our lighted Lodge sign.
- ❖ Congratulations to Bro. Zack Stead on his 2nd degree Catechism. His 3rd Degree is scheduled for August 4th.

Masonic Trivia:

- ❖ In 1892 the world's tallest building was the Masonic Temple at Randolph and State Streets in Chicago.
- ❖ Every United States President from Tennessee (Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, and James K. Polk) was a mason. All were born in North Carolina.
- ❖ To show no favor toward any religion, George Washington took his oath of office on a Bible borrowed from a nearby Masonic Lodge.
- ❖ The examination of a candidate for proficiency in the previous degree was first introduced in 1850 in Louisiana.
- ❖ On his famous solo flight across the Atlantic, Charles Lindbergh wore a square and compasses on his jacket as a good luck piece. He was a mason.

A Few Masonic Chuckles:

On what appeared to be a regular meeting night, a knock was heard at the tiler's door. The Junior Deacon stood and advised the Master that someone was at the door. He opened the door to examine the late arriving brother with rows of pins studded on both lapels.

"Forgive my tardiness, Brother Junior Deacon, but I'm just in town for the night and saw a light emanating from your lodge and decided to visit."

The Junior Deacon asked the tiler if the brother had been examined and he was informed that he was a properly vouched for. Therefore, the Junior Deacon turned to the visiting brother and asked how he would like to be addressed, and of which bodies he was a member. The Junior Deacon pulled out his notebook to write them down.

"Well, I'm Past Master of my lodge, Past High Priest of Chapter, Past Illustrious Master of Council, Past Commander of Commandery, Past Grand Master, 33°, Past Prior of KYCH, Past Governor of the York Rite Sovereign College, Past Preceptor of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar..."

After writing it all down, the Junior Deacon was shaking. He opened the door, approached the East and said,

"Wo-wo-worshipful Master, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you, and through you to the brethren here assembled... **the Great Architect of the Universe.**"

Upcoming Birthdays

July 2016

12 – Issac Holt III
14 – Jerry Lane
18 – Steven Craven
19 – Charles Bradley
19 – Dennis Brown
20 – Vic Euliss
20 – Jerry Perdue
21 – Jason Simons
23 – Robert Campbell
25 – William Dickten
26 – Bradley Mills
27 – Mike Buckner
27 – William Robertson
30 – Raymond Perdue
31 – Barry Adams

August 2016

02 – Glenn Hogan
02 – Mike Hunter
10 – Robert Barnes Sr.
14 – Alton Myrick
14 – Robert Preddy Jr.
15 – Brice Turner II
15 – Norman Ross
16 – Kevin Dean
17 – Henry Grady Park III
17 – William Tyler
26 – Joe Caldwell
30 – Dewey Brown Jr.

September 2016

01 – Mike Benesch
04 – William Wolfe
05 – Charles May Jr.
12 – Bruce Taylor
13 – Herbert Holmes
13 – Michael Shepanski
13 – Boyd Wright
20 – Gene Hunter
22 – Lance Barry Walker
23 – Gary Holmes
25 – Kelly Cummings
25 – Al Layton
26 – Otis Perkins
27 – Ralph Pike
28 – Brad Johnson
30 – Jerry Cummings

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

A new candidate was riding his bicycle to the Lodge for his Initiation but was running late. About half way there his chain broke and noticing his dilemma, a truck driver suggested that if he were to hold the short length of rope tied to the back of the truck, he could get towed to Lodge and get there on time. When eventually asked in the Ceremony how he came to Freemasonry, he replied:

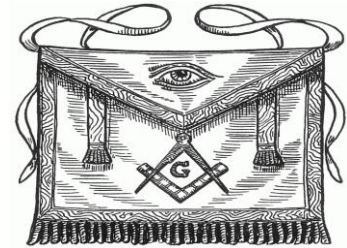
"By my own free wheel and a cord!"

Masonic Education:

WHO WERE THE RUFFIANS?

by **C. Bruce Hunter**

Published in The Square Magazine Vol 29, March 2003



AMONG the central characters of Freemasonry's Hiram legend are three 'ruffians' whose presence has generated more than a few questions. A great deal has been written about them, but they remain elusive, partly because clues to their true identity are subtle and few -and partly because the story can be misleading. A cursory reading could lead us to believe the ruffians were members of the Craft. But a closer look suggests otherwise.

The earliest known version of the story, published in *Masonry Dissected* in 1730, describes them only as 'Three Ruffians, suppos'd to be Three Fellow- Crafts'. This isn't much to go on, but it does provide an important clue: the phrase 'suppos'd to be' implies that the ruffians were not actually masons. But if they weren't, we need to understand who they were and what they were trying to accomplish.

A Bit of History:

The answers may lie in the history of the Hiram legend itself. It is found in the third degree, a new working composed during the mid-1720s. Like every innovation, the third degree was undoubtedly a product of the members' assessment of their needs. Although set in biblical times and laced with timeless lessons, it must have been created because the members saw a contemporary need for it.

The ruffians described in this new working must therefore have been included to serve a purpose. But the purpose may not be as simple as most believe. In addition to whatever else they symbolize, their sudden appearance in the ritual seems to have a hidden meaning. The general impression is that they were meant to represent members of the Craft who are unwilling to follow proper procedures. Therefore, they are 'us' but are examples of what we should strive not to be. However, the word 'suppos'd' suggests that, in fact, they may never have been us.

The sense of 'suppose' has long included the notion of feigning, substituting or counterfeiting. And here we begin to see what the ritualists may have been trying to tell us. At the time, exposes of the Craft's esoteric material were beginning to appear. This is easy to understand. The Grand Lodge had just been formed, and in the process the fraternity had acquired a higher profile, which undoubtedly sparked curiosity among the public.

To satisfy the curiosity, a number of exposes were rushed into print. A *Mason's Examination* appeared in 1723. The *Grand Mystery of Free-Masons Discover'd* followed in 1724. The next year it was *The Whole Institutions of Free-Masons Opened*. And in 1726 *The Grand Mystery Laid Open* was added to the list. Although these documents were published anonymously, the earliest of them established the precedent of claiming they came from members of the Craft. It's a dubious claim. Quite possibly the authors, like the ruffians, were only 'supposed to be' masons. But whoever they were, their actions had far-reaching consequences.

Evasive Action:

One consequence was that the masons took evasive action. Scholars believe some of the fraternity's procedures and passwords were changed during this period because the originals had been compromised. The members felt that when a critical 'word' was improperly revealed it could no longer serve its purpose in the lodge, and a substitute had to be adopted. But this is essentially what the Hiram legend says. Could it be that even the Craft's lessons were changed to accommodate

a new sense of urgency about protecting its traditions and heritage in the face of persistent, unauthorized revelations? The addition of a group of 'ruffians' to the ritual may be evidence that this is precisely what happened.

The Real Story:

Although in English the word 'ruffian' has always been associated with 'rough', no doubt due to a similarity in pronunciation, its origins tell a different story. It apparently comes from the Italian ruffiano and the Middle French rufian or rufien, both meaning a pimp, swaggerer or pander. It is also related to the word 'ruffle', meaning to bluster or to be turbulent, which in turn relates to the Low German ruffeler, referring again to a pimp or to a person who engages in secret intrigues.

To an extent, this meaning found its way into the English version of the word. Although Samuel Johnson defined a ruffian as 'a cut-throat; a robber; or a murderer', he also reckoned the word referred to 'a brutal, boisterous, mischievous fellow'. And the Scottish 'ruffie' denoted a 'low worthless fellow'. So the English language had not drifted far from recognizing a ruffian as a pimp.

Now, a pimp is not merely a person who provides women for immoral purposes. In a more general sense he is one who, as American lexicographer Noah Webster put it in 1828, 'provides gratifications for the lust of others'. All these definitions could well apply to purveyors of exposes. And when we take a close look at the way the ruffians are portrayed in the ritual, we can see that they may indeed represent an effort by the 18th century masons to deal with precisely this problem. The ruffians were bent on dealing in the illicit transfer of information. The original version of the story doesn't say why. (That they wanted to receive a master's wages appears only in later versions.) But if they were panders we can easily understand what they were trying to accomplish. And more importantly we can understand why it was such an important issue.

To masonic eyes, anyone who published an expose would certainly have seemed a worthless character who caused public commotion by catering to the prurient curiosity of others, and a dangerous one at that. Publication of the fraternity's confidential matters by 'supposed' masons who were in fact 'pimps' was indeed harmful to the Craft. For one thing, it broke the group's continuity with its past by forcing the members to abandon time-honored procedures and words.

Forging Ahead:

While the masons of the 18th century, like the craftsmen in the legend, persevered by moving into the future with a new version of their workings, they could hardly have resisted the temptation to document their feelings about the matter.

There was nothing they could do to prevent exposes from appearing in public. But they could at least use their new ritual to denounce the 'ruffians' who were causing them so much bother. It would give their initiates something to think about. And if the new ritual were eventually exposed, it would give the ruffians something to think about as well.

****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)

July

04 – Clinton Howard
04 – Byron Neal
04 – Jason Simons
10 – Gary Holmes
27 – Gene Hunter
27 – Ken Qualls
29 – Carl Kopley

August

09 – John Isley
18 – Franklin Stone
22 – Walter Creech
22 – Ronald Long Jr.
26 – James Sprague
29 – Stephen Lineberry
46 – Robert Preddy Jr.
53 – Jack Pickard

September

06 – Mike Hunter
19 – Royce Williams
25 – Rick Mann
25 – Lance Barry Walker
27 – Roy Duffer
27 – Terry Hunley
32 – Derrick Campbell
32 – Tim Taylor
36 – James Johnson
39 – Robert Stewart
47 – Sidney Robertson Jr.
55 – Stan Mullis
62 – Charles Sully

