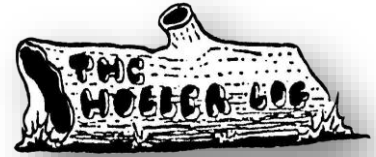


Thomas M. Holt Lodge # 492 A.F. & A.M.

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



Upcoming Events

July 5

Short Meeting & Dinner @ 6:30 PM
**Families & Widows Appreciation Dinner –
25 Year Service Awards – presented by
NC GM Speed Hallman**

July 19

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

August 2

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM –
Guest Speaker – Steven “Doc” Cates
Topic: Jack the Ripper

August 16

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

September 6

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

September 8

Fundraiser–Golf Tournament @ 8:00 AM
Quaker Creek Golf Course, Mebane, NC

September 21

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

September 28

Grand Lodge - Annual Communication
@ Winston-Salem Marriott

Messages from the East:

Brothers,

Greetings from the East!

Can you believe summer is already here and 2018 is at the halfway point?! This year so far has been a very active year for our lodge. I'm happy to say that we've been busy with degree work, fundraisers, and guest speakers.

Summer is always hot, but so was our Gun Raffle fundraiser. We were able to raise \$3700 after expenses. Great job, brethren! Of that, we sent \$1043 each to Oxford Orphanage, Whitestone Retirement Community, and NC Masonic Foundation. We also sent \$200 to the Masonic Service Association of North America and kept 10% of the proceeds to use for local charities as the lodge sees fit.

On April 19th, we passed the hat and collected \$152 which was donated to North Graham Elementary School to help purchase books for students during the book fair. We received a thank you letter from the librarian and several cards that were drawn by the kids to show their appreciation.

On May 19th, we held a Community Breakfast Fundraiser. We had a decent turn out and were able to raise a little over \$500 which was split between Oxford Orphanage, Whitestone, and NC Masonic Foundation. The winning ticket for the gun raffle was drawn that morning. Congratulations again to brother Steve Lineberry.

As you can see in the Upcoming Events column, Thomas M. Holt has no intention of slowing down during the second half of 2018! I look forward to seeing every brother and their families for our Family and Widow Appreciation Dinner on July 5th. On August 2nd, I will dispense with labor to allow anyone who's interested be able to hear our guest speaker, Steven Cates, speak on Jack the Ripper and his Masonic ties.

We are kicking off our 4th Annual Golf Tournament already! Let's get all the sponsors, teams, and door prizes we possibly can. I hope everyone can pitch in, and let's make this the best one yet. I challenge us to raise at least \$5000 this year! Proceeds from the golf tournament will go directly to the lodge to cover future expenses so that we may continue to help others.

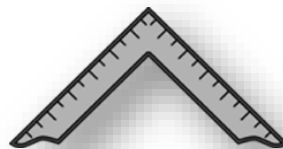
It has been great to see our attendance on the rise! Let's keep up this pace. I look forward to seeing as many brothers as possible attend our regular stated communications as we continue on through 2018!!

Fraternally Yours,

Jason Simons

Worshipful Master

jbsimons26@hotmail.com



Lodge News:

- ❖ Congratulations to Brother Ronald Lee Long Jr. on receiving his 25 Year Service Award and to Brother Dale Landon Goad on receiving his 50 Year Veteran's Emblem Service Award, both awards were presented by Past Grand Master Dan Rice at our June 21st, 2018 Stated Communication.
- ❖ Please welcome our newest Entered Apprentices ... Brother Charles Ray Brown, and Brother Andrew Brent Williams, initiated on June 21st, 2018.

Masonic Trivia:

- ❖ William R. Davie, an honor graduate of Princeton College and Governor of North Carolina from 1798-99, was nominated as Grand Master of Masons on December 11, 1792, having become a Master Mason only the day before. He was not present for his installation on December 30th. Yet he held the position of Grand Master for 7 years and is known as one of the most active Grand Masters in North Carolina history. He is credited with being the "father" of the University of North Carolina, the first State University in America. He laid the cornerstone of the first building, "Old East" in 1793 containing a dedication plate which became missing during the Civil War. The plate was considered lost until it was found in a scrap heap in Clarksville, TN in 1916 and restored to its rightful place.
- ❖ A lodge is opened by its Master in "**due form**" meaning according to ancient usages and customs, the laws and ritual of its Grand Lodge. A Grand Lodge is opened by the Grand Master in "**ample form**" meaning he has the power and authority to deviate from common ritual to save time.

Famous Masons: Brother Francis J. Bellamy

Author of "THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE"

Who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag? Can you imagine a time when this was not known?

Well, truth is stranger than fiction, for up until 1939 it was not certain who had written the Pledge, and what's more, until that time no one seemed to care. Finally, in that year, after years of research a committee of the U.S. Flag Association ruled that Francis J. Bellamy had indeed written our Pledge of Allegiance. The Reverend Francis J. Bellamy was a Mason, a member of Little Falls Lodge No. 181, Little Falls, New York. The Order of the Eastern Star erected a memorial tablet to him in 1955 in Oriskany, New York.

At the First National Flag Conference in Washington, D.C., June 14, 1923, the words "the Flag of the United States" was substituted for "my flag." The change was made on the grounds that those born in foreign countries might have in mind the flag of their native land when giving the Pledge. The Second National Flag Conference in Washington on Flag Day, 1924, added, for the sake of greater definition, the words "of America." On Flag Day, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an Act of Congress adding the words "under God." For greater meaning and proper presentation when reciting the Pledge there should be only three pauses: 1. After "America;" 2. after "stands;" and 3. after "indivisible."

Due to the fact that no author was mentioned when the Pledge appeared in 1892, few knew who actually had written it and in time its origin was completely veiled in

Upcoming Birthdays

July 2018

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

August 2018

02 – Glenn Hogan
02 – Mike Hunter
14 – Alton Myrick
14 – Robert Freddy Jr.
15 – Brice Turner II
15 – Norman Ross
16 – Kevin Dean
17 – William Tyler
30 – Dewey Brown Jr.

September 2018

01 – Mike Benesch
13 – Herbert Holmes
13 – Michael Shepanski
13 – Boyd Wright
16 – Harold Eller
20 – Gene Hunter
22 – Lance Barry Walker
23 – Gary Holmes
23 – Richard Honeycutt
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!!!



obscurity. This is the story of how the Pledge of Allegiance came into being, and of a long-delayed tribute to its author.

James B. Upham was a man imbued with patriotic fervor. At the close of the last century he was a partner of the firm publishing the Youth's Companion, a juvenile periodical of Boston. One of his strong beliefs was that an American flag should be flown over every schoolhouse. To this end he persuaded his magazine to sponsor a plan to sell flags to schools at cost; the idea being so successful that 25,000 schools acquired flags in just one year. He also campaigned to have flags flown over public buildings. His success in this endeavor is clearly evident today. Brother and Sir Knight James B. Upham is known as the "Father" of the movement to display flags in schools and in public places. We Masons, who pride ourselves on our patriotism, salute him! He was a member of Converse Lodge, Malden, Mass.

Brother Upham had still another idea that on Columbus Day, 1892, the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America, every public school in the land would hold a flag-raising ceremony under the most impressive circumstances, and every school child rededicate himself in love and service to his country. Upham conceived this as a National Public-School Celebration of Columbus Day.

Daniel S. Ford, the owner of the Youth's Companion and uncle of James Upham, appointed Francis Bellamy, a member of the Youth's Companion staff, the national chairman of a committee to enlist the support of educators, mayors, governors and members of Congress in this tremendous undertaking. The results of their labors surpassed their fondest dreams, for the President of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, enthusiastically endorsed the plan and declared a national holiday for Columbus Day, October 21, 1892.

There was great excitement in the schools throughout the land during the months preceding the great day of celebration. Committees were busy at every school, planning the Columbus Day program down to its finest detail. It was understood by all that the climax and the most important and impressive part of the ceremony would be the raising of the Flag and the salute to it by the students. In preparing the suggested program for the Columbus Day Observance to be printed in the Youth's Companion, James Upham hesitated when he came to the salute by the students. He was not entirely satisfied with the "Balch" salute, then in common usage. This was written in 1887 by Colonel George T. Balch and went:

" We give our heads and our hearts to God and our country, One country, one language, one flag. "

A variation of this was:

"I give my heart and my hand to my Country: One country, one language, one flag. "

Upham discussed his dilemma with Francis Bellamy and asked for his help. Here is Bellamy's account of the thoughts that went through his mind as he wrote the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Note the attention he gave to each word of the Pledge:

Mr. Upham and I spent many hours in considering the revision of this salute. Each one suggested that the other write a new salute. It was my thought that a vow of loyalty or allegiance to the flag should be the dominant idea. I especially stressed the word "allegiance." So, Mr. Upham told me to try it out on that line.

It was a warm evening in August, 1892, in my office in Boston, that I shut myself in my room alone to formulate the actual pledge. Beginning with the new word "allegiance," I first decided that pledge was a better school word than "vow" or "swear"; and that the first-person singular should be used, and that "my" flag was preferable to "the" When those first words, "I pledge allegiance to my flag" looked up at me from the scratch paper, the start appeared promising. Then: should it be "country," "nation," or "Republic?" "Republic" won because it distinguished the form of government chosen by the fathers and established by the Revolution. The true reason for allegiance to the flag is the "Republic for which it stands."

Now how should the vista be widened so as to teach the national fundamentals? I laid down my pencil and tried to pass our history in review. It took in the sayings of Washington, the arguments of Hamilton, the Webster-Hayne debate, the speeches of Seward and Lincoln, the Civil War. After many attempts, all that pictured struggle reduced itself to three words, "One Nation, indivisible."

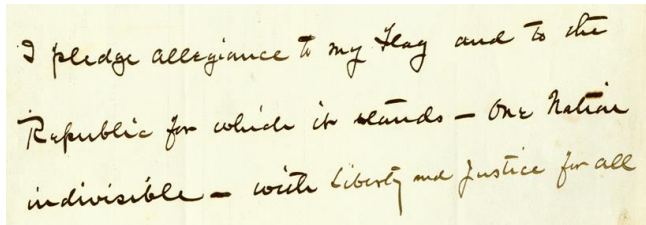
To reach that compact brevity, conveying the facts of a single nationality and of an indivisibility both of states and of common interests, was as I recall, the most arduous phase of the task, and the discarded experiments at phrasing overflowed the scrap basket.

But what of the present and future of this indivisible Nation here presented for allegiance? What were the old and fought-out

issues which always will be issues to be fought for? Especially, what were the basic national doctrines bearing upon the acute questions already agitating the public mind? Here was a temptation to repeat the historic slogan of the French Revolution, imported by Jefferson, "liberty, equality, fraternity." But that was rather quickly rejected as fraternity was too remote of realization, and equality was a dubious word. What doctrines, then, would everybody agree upon as the basis of Americanism? "Liberty and Justice" were surely basic, were uneatable, and were all that any one Nation could handle. If these were exercised "for all" they involved the spirit of equality and fraternity. So that final line came with a cheering rush. As a clincher, it seemed to assemble the past and to promise the future.

That, I remember, is how the sequence of ideas grew and how the words were found. I called for Mr. Upham and repeated it to him with full emphasis.

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all. "



The image shows a piece of aged, yellowed paper with the Pledge of Allegiance written in cursive handwriting. The text is: "I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Republic for which it stands - One Nation indivisible - with liberty and justice for all".

The Original Handwritten Pledge by Francis J. Bellamy

Thus, was our Pledge of Allegiance born and it was proclaimed with great rejoicing throughout the land on October 21, 1892. In writing the Pledge Bellamy was only fulfilling one of his many assignments for the magazine, but those who knew the man himself knew also that he was fulfilling a deep desire to compose a simple dignified message of loyalty which would convey the truest and most noble sentiments of a devoted patriot toward his native land. All Masons salute him!

Francis J. Bellamy was born on May 18, 1855, in the town of Mount Morris, New York. His father, the Reverend David Bellamy, minister of the First Baptist Church, was 50 when Francis was born and had recently married a second time. Francis received his early education in the public schools of Rome, New York, where, in 1859, his father became minister of the First Baptist Church. He graduated from the Rome Free Academy in 1872.

After high school Bellamy entered the University of Rochester, graduating in 1876 at the age of 21. He then attended the Rochester Theological Seminary, completed his training there and was ordained in 1879. A year later he accepted his first pastorate at the First Baptist Church in Little Falls, New York. In 1885 he left the Little Falls church to assume the pastorate of Boston's Dearborn Street Baptist Church. His next and last church was the Bethany Baptist Church of Boston. In 1891 he joined the staff of the Youth's Companion.

--This tribute to Bro. Francis Bellamy was written by Bro. John R. Nocas, 33, PGHP, and condensed by him for use as a Short Talk Bulletin.

**Please help the Lodge reduce mailing costs: If you'd like to receive future editions of the Holler Log via email instead of paper copy, please email WM Jason Simons at: jbsimons26@hotmail.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

Comments or Suggestions are Welcome ... email them to: hollerlog@thomasmholt492.org

Masonic Anniversaries

(The number indicates years of service)

July

07 - Byron Neal
07 - Jason Simons
13 - Gary Holmes
30 - Gene Hunter
30 - Ken Qualls
32 - Don Kehler

August

01 - Joey Frye
01 - David Putman
02 - Zachary Stead
12 - John Isley
21 - Franklin Stone
25 - Walter Creech
25 - Ronald Long Jr.
29 - James Sprague
32 - Stephen Lineberry
49 - Robert Preddy Jr.

September

08 - Mike Hunter
12 - Jack Turner Lawrence
18 - Gregory Holt
22 - Royce Williams
28 - Rick Mann
28 - Lance Barry Walker
30 - Roy Duffer
35 - Derrick Campbell
35 - Tim Taylor
39 - James Johnson
42 - Robert Stewart
58 - Stan Mullis
65 - Charles Sully

The Brothers of Thomas M. Holt Lodge would like to Thank You for your years of service and support of our Lodge!!!

