



Yellowhouse Lodge #841

A.F. & A.M.

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March 2020 – Monthly Newsletter

2019-2020 OFFICERS

Joey Powers	Worshipful Master
Nathan Shrode	Senior Warden
Steve Sperry	Junior Warden
David Mead	Treasurer
Dwayne McInroe	Secretary
Bob Clemmons	Chaplain
Louis Rapp	Senior Deacon
Elgin Gregg	Junior Deacon
Jeremy Jones	Senior Steward
Jeff Goolsby	Junior Steward
Rolan Pirtle	Marshal
Bob Chesser	Master of Ceremonies
Chris Felton	Tiler
Terry Ewings	Trustee
Charles Mire	Trustee
Johnny Williams	Trustee



From the East . . .



Brethren,

As we gear up for spring, it's important to remind you of some things.

First, attendance at our floor practices and meetings is especially requested by all able masons. Your attendance allows for better fraternal conversations! If you need assistance with transportation to and from the lodge, or if you have some other reason for not attending, please let us know so we can address and remedy the situation.

Second, we are currently busy with EA degrees and students. Your knowledge to teach and mentor these young masons could greatly enrich their lives and would most definitely add a spark into yours.

Third, with spring comes a chance to refresh the lodge and give it a good once over for minor repairs, cleaning and upkeep. Please be on the lookout for information regarding a possible workday where we can "renew" the lodge before we get too far into the spring.

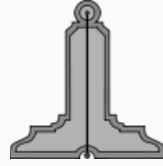
Fourth, Most Worshipful Grand Master Paul Underwood will be visiting our Lodge this month for his Grand Master's Conference. The date is Saturday March 14, 2020. Registration begins at 2pm and the conference will start promptly at 3pm. Please be in attendance as we welcome our Grand Master to Yellowhouse.

Finally, our District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Terry Hitt will be making his official spring visit at our March stated meeting. Our Stated meeting is Friday March 6, 2020. We will have breakfast at 6:30pm, and the gavel drops promptly at 7:30pm. As a courtesy to our DDGM, we will suspend the masonic conversation until next month. Hope to see you around at our many upcoming events!

God Bless,
Joey Powers - WM

Floor Practice is the 1st, 3rd, & 4th Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Come and take part.

From the West . . .



Greetings Brethren,

March is upon us! As I mentioned last month, when most of us think about the forming of the Grand Lodge of Texas we think March 1835. In March 1835 Anson Jones, John Wharton, Asa Brigham, James Phelps, Alexander Russell and J. P Caldwell met at the town of Brazoria under a live oak tree. They resolved to petition the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a dispensation to form a lodge in Texas. The Masonic Oak, as the tree is now known, still stands on the south side of Pleasant Street in Brazoria. A record of the meeting was written by Anson Jones:

“The place of the meeting was back of the town of Brazoria, near the place known as General John Austin’s, in a little grove of wild peach or laurel, and which had been selected as a family burying-ground by that distinguished soldier and citizen. The spot was secluded and out of the way of ‘cowans and eavesdroppers’ and they felt they were alone. Here and under such circumstances, at 10 o’clock in the morning of a day in March 1835, was held the first formal meeting in Texas as connected with the establishment and continuance of masonry in this county.”

The dispensation was granted, and Holland Lodge No. 36 was formed on the second floor of the old courthouse in Brazoria, Texas. The lodge was named after the Grand Master of Louisiana, John Henry Holland and Anson Jones was elected the first Master.

October 2, 1835 saw the beginning of the Texas Revolution after a standoff in Gonzales. On December 27, 1835 John Holland signed the charter for Holland Lodge. The charter was entrusted to Mr. John M. Allen of Louisiana Lodge No. 32 to deliver to Texas. Allen was recruiting volunteers for the Texas Army in New Orleans.

March 1836, one year after Anson Jones’ meeting under the oak, saw another momentous occasion. Not just for Texas Masons but for Texans as a whole. On March 2nd, at Washington-on-the-Brazos, 59 delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. 22 of these signers are known to have been Masons. Also, in March the Mexican Army seized the city of Brazoria, causing the citizens to flee. The Mexican troops destroyed the records, regalia, and property of Holland Lodge. Jones and a few other members of the lodge joined the Texan troops on the Colorado River in the middle of March.

In April 1836, John Allen delivered the charter for Holland Lodge No. 1 to Anson Jones. Jones carried the charter in his saddle bag during the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21st. After the capture of Santa Anna, the dispensation was returned to Jones, and both the dispensation and charter were taken back to Brazoria. Because of the depleted membership of the Lodge, however, no effort was made to resume labor at Brazoria.

Two more Texas lodges were formed, also being given dispensation and charter by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. They were: Milam Lodge No. 40 in Nacogdoches, and McFarland Lodge No. 41 in San Augustine. Both were issued a charter on September 22, 1837. These two lodges, together with Holland Lodge No. 36, sent representatives to meet in Houston and in the Senate Chambers of the Republic of Texas and established the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. The convention elected Anson Jones the first Grand Master of Masons in Texas. It should be noted that Anson Jones was the fourth and final President of the Republic of Texas.

Fraternally,

Nathan Shrode
Senior Warden

From the South . . .



Greetings Brethren,

I found this interesting and worthy to copy this and share in the newsletter. This was from masonic library.org

What is the meaning of the word "Cable-tow?" What is meant by the reference to its length?

The Oxford English Dictionary contains a number of cable combinations, e.g., "cable-rope, cable-range, cable-stock," etc., but does not give "cable-tow."

The word tow has another significance, in addition to pulling or dragging, it also means the fiber of flax, or hemp, or jute. A cable might be made of plaited wire, or of metal links, or of manmade fibers, but the combination "cable-tow" which seems to be of purely Masonic usage, implies almost certainly the natural fiber from which the rope is to be made.

The "cables length" is a unit of marine measurements, 1/10th of a sea mile, or 607.56 feet. We use the term "cables length" in two senses:

"A cables length from the shore," implying that anything buried at that distance out at sea, could never be recovered.

"If within the length of my cable-tow." In operative times, attendance at Lodge or assembly was obligatory and there were penalties for non-attendance. Early regulations on this point varied from 5 to 50 miles, except "in the peril of death." In effect, the length of the cable-tow implies that masons were obliged to attend, so long as it was humanly possible to do so.

The length of the cable tow was something I never gave much thought. This really puts that in a whole different light! God bless masonry!

Steve Sperry
Junior Warden



Steward's Corner:

Meal: Breakfast

Sickness and Distress:

Dan Redman and wife
Clifton Casey
Louis Rapp