



BRENHAM MASON

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20 A.F. & A.M.



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 BROTHER:
 BOB HAM

GRAHAM IS BUSY AT WORK



Brethren, thank you for reading our little newsletter, especially the interviews. It has been a pleasure meeting with the brothers who have graciously shared their wisdom and experience at all levels of Masonry.

It's safe to say that June/July have probably been the busiest months Graham Lodge has had in a good long while. GM Ken Curry is officiating the Blinn Cornerstone, we have 4 weekends of community relations at the Downtown Festival, and we have multiple petitions and candidates.

Thank you to those who have returned from the pandemic, it has been tough. If you were thinking of coming back, there is no better time than now. We would be honored to welcome you home Brother.

THE MASTER'S CORNER

MICHAEL THORPE, WM.



It has been a great year. We struggled through the difficulties that came with the COVID-19 Pandemic. We seen first-hand the personal challenges of having this disease. We Prayed together and we got through it together. Through it all we grew, with the raising of two Master Masons.

We initiated three EAs, and now have several petitions to be read at the July stated meeting. Brethren, this was all due to YOUR EFFORTS. When we walk upright in our several stations, and make ourselves as examples of Masons, we will be sought for information. Let us continue to work in harmony to that goal of BROTHERLY LOVE.

I personally appreciate the confidence you gave me in allowing me to be your Worshipful Master, and allowing me serve another term. We completed our installations and now are looking ahead to an eventful Masonic year.

We start with our first meeting being a family night., we will serve our BBQed Pulled Pork Stuffed baked potato. Then on July 10th we will serve them in downtown Brenham at hot nights cool tunes as a scholarship fundraiser. Come out and support your Lodge. We will do this each Saturday in July after this.

July 13th, we host the Grand Master as he will officiate the Blinn STEI building, cornerstone ceremony.

We have confirmed several Grand Lodge officers will be attending.

During That ceremony, we will have presented the Scholarship in memory of The past Masters of Graham Lodge.

The cornerstone will be in honor of past Lodge members who were Blinn Professors and board members.

A noon meal will be served at the lodge with social time available.

Come meet your Grand Master Ken Curry and the other Grand Lodge Officers.

We also our planning to present 60 year and 50 year service pins and certificates, with the Grand Master if He has available time.

Should this not work, we will have a special called meeting at another date to present those as well as many 25-year certificates.

This will be An OPEN MEETING, so family and friends can be present.

Brothers we are busy shining our Light, and being examples of our craft, I Hope and PRAY each of you can find length in your cable tow to join us.

OFFICER INSTALLATION

Photos by Nick Nelms
June 26, 2021

Graham Lodge was proud to install our
2021-22 Officers Saturday 6/26.

Installing Officer was R.W. Charles Law,
with Butch Giles, P.M. as the Installing
Marshal.



Worshipful Master
Michael Thorpe

Senior Warden
George Allan Wells

Junior Warden
Ken Lane

Treasurer
Dan Blalock

Secretary
Kirby Simmons

Chaplain
Aaron Curlee

Senior Deacon
Jerry Jackson

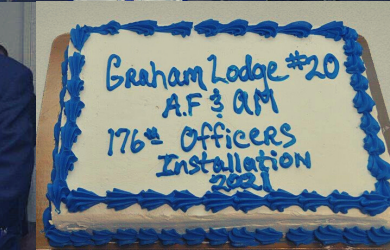
Junior Deacon
Eddy Jezisek Jr.

Marshal
Robert Stark

Master of Ceremony
Kenneth Hetzel

Senior Steward
William Grubbs

Junior Steward
Brad Tegeler

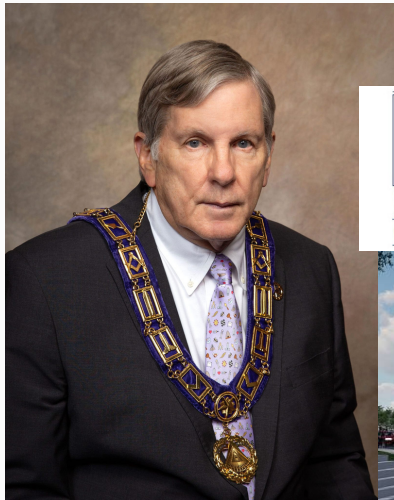


LODGE NEWS

Blinn STEI - Cornerstone (7/13/2021)

We are proud to announce that on July 13, 2020 @ 10 am we will have the Blinn STEI Cornerstone ceremony, with GRAND MASTER of Masons in Texas, Ken Curry Officiating. This is quite an honor for our lodge and our community.

We will have a full write-up along with pictures in the August Newsletter.



Fundraiser July 10, 17, 24, 31

We are selling Loaded Baked Potatoes at Hot Nights Cool Tunes.

Spanning 4 weekends in July, H.N.C.T. is a Family Oriented, outdoor concert venue hosted by Downtown Brenham.

Besides the concert and the shops, there will also be a fantastic car show.

While this is a fundraiser for the lodge, it is also an extraordinary opportunity to be out in the community meeting people and spreading good cheer.

Contact Eddy Jezisek, Keith Killgore, James Stephens, Allan Wells, or Mike Thorpe for details.

email:
officialgrahamlodge20@gmail.com
(979) 218-5716



INTERVIEW WITH A BROTHER: BOB HAM

W/ EDDY JEZISEK &
GEORGE ALLAN WELLS



If you spent time in Brenham and were around Blinn College, Brenham's First Baptist Church, or Graham Lodge then chances are you have met Mr. Bob Ham and his lovely wife Charlene. Mr. & Mrs. Ham were a vital part of our community for many years and are dearly missed around town. Post-retirement they have moved down the road a way to a very nice spot just south of Lufkin. George Wells and I were fortunate enough to be able to meet both of them and gain some insight into the history of the lodge and advice for the future. It is not every day that you get to meet and ask questions of a 61-year Mason.



“

I would say that we were an active lodge, the entire time I was at Graham there was quite a lot going on.

Early Life

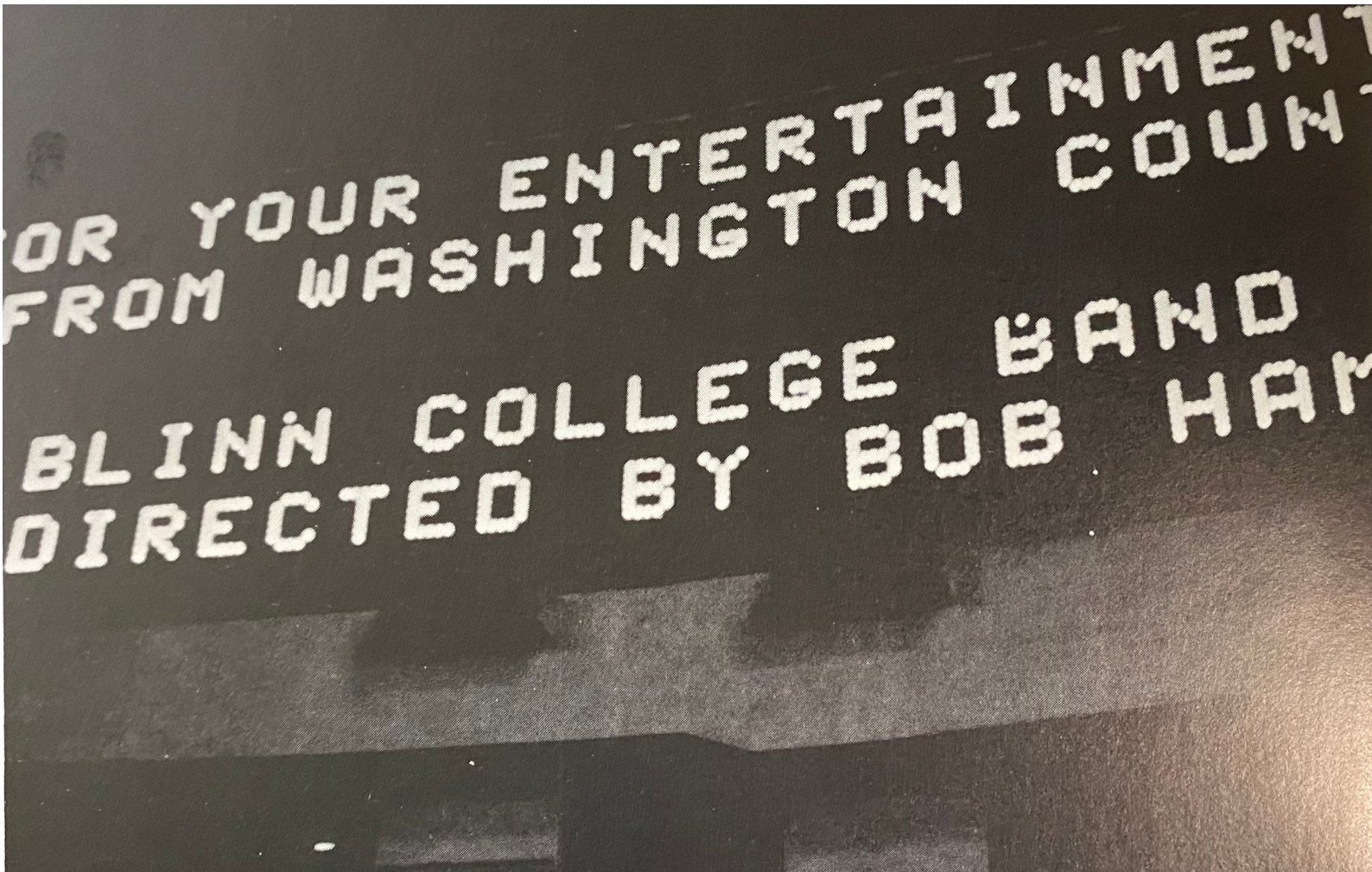
Brother Bob Ham was born and raised in Freestone County, Texas just between Teague and Dew. He joined the Army and served honorably from September 1952-June 1954. Brother Ham also attended college at Sam Houston State University where he gained skills that led to him becoming director of bands at Blinn College. He certainly had a tremendous impact on many students over the years along with maintaining and further developing the fine arts tradition at Blinn.

Joining the Lodge

As far as Masonry is concerned, Bob was made a Master Mason on January 17, 1961 at Tomball Lodge #1096. I asked what motivated him

to join the Lodge. He said that his father was not a member, but he knew several men whom he respected greatly who were. One was an uncle, another a pastor, and the third, one of his favorite teachers. When he reached the proper age, he asked enough times that they finally allowed him to petition. Tomball Lodge wanted him to step into the Junior Deacon role but as often happens with young men, he sought a business opportunity in another town, which so happened to be Brenham. Upon arrival Bro. Ham was voted into every chair except Junior Deacon through the years.”





Did you have influences or mentors once you involved in lodge leadership?

"You know, we all just helped each other out back then, there were quite a few brothers willing to offer a word of encouragement and a helping hand, we just all worked together."

“

"the consummate educator.

Nothing but accurate was acceptable. He worked with us using 'high levels of patience' as long as it took to get it right

- Robert Stark



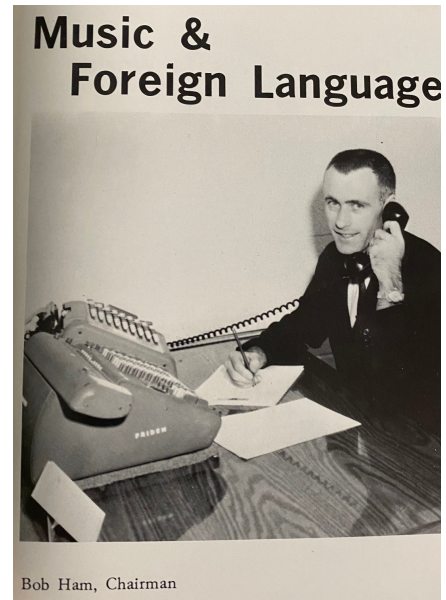
Appendant Bodies

Besides Blue Lodge of which he was very active, Brother Ham was also a member of the Chapter, Council, Commandery, Arabia Shrine/Brenham Shrine Club, and the Order of the Eastern Star-Worthy Patron where his wife Charlene was also a member.

“

Bro. Ham was a GREAT teacher in our lodge. I wasn't always happy that he was so strict on punctuations, but I learned so much from his teaching

-Mike Thorpe





The In-process Renovation, former Giddings & Giddings Bank Building. The 3rd Floor is the former site of Graham Lodge No. 20. (pictures by George Wells)



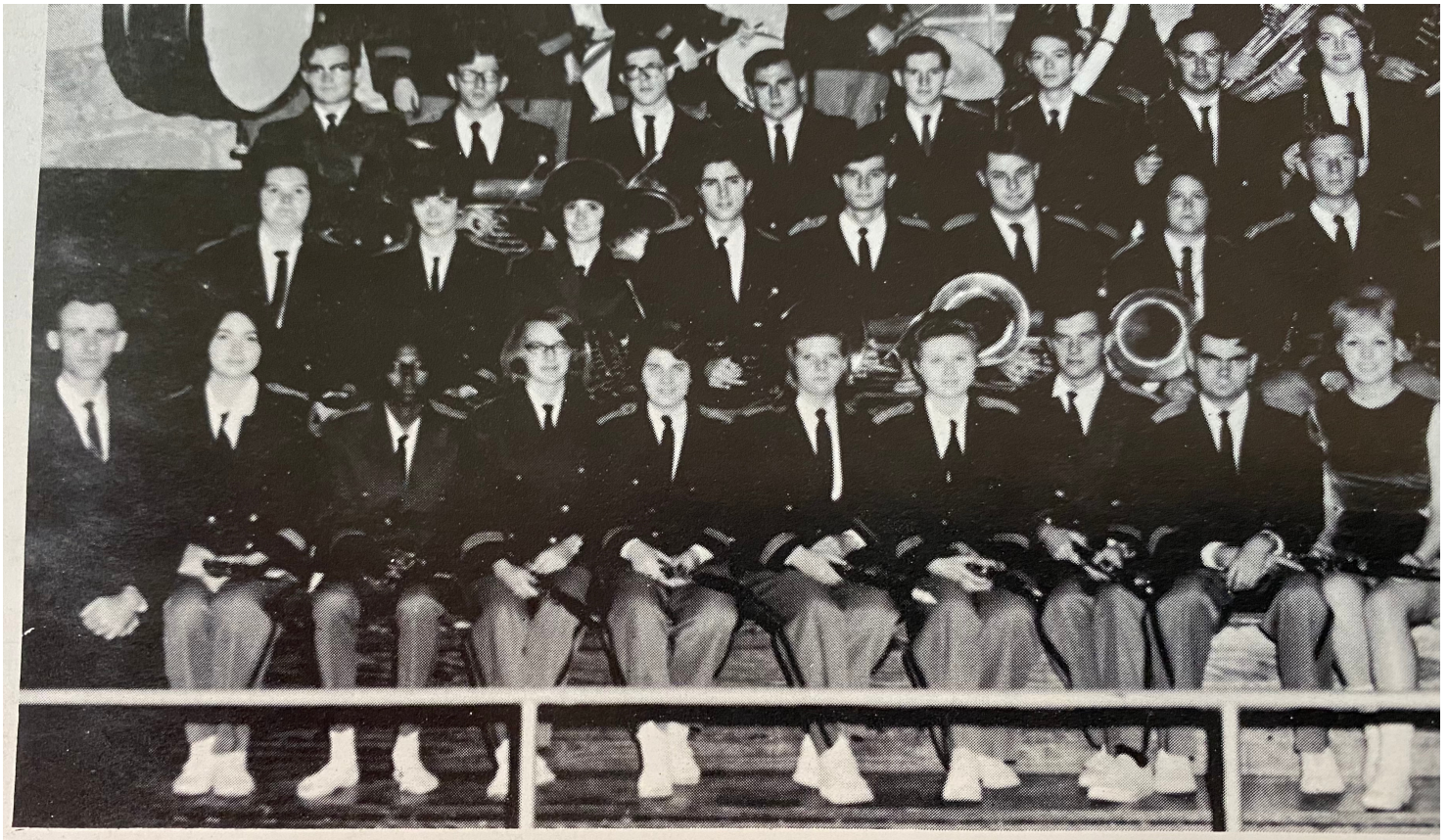
Did the lodge have any difficult or stressful times while you served in leadership? If so, how did you work through them?

“Yes, we did and it was a blessing in some ways but very difficult for a while. The story originates back to the previous location of the lodge which was downtown in a three-story building. It was the former Giddings & Giddings Bank which had since closed. A jewelry store occupied the bottom floor and I can’t recall who had the second floor but the Royal Arch owned the top floor I believe, and that’s where we met for our stated meetings.

Well, the place was starting to become very run down, and there were complications with whether or not we should or could make renovations due to the ownership arrangement of the building. We made the decision as a lodge to build out on Highway 290 where we are today. But that was not the wish of every member of the lodge and I still remember brothers who had a falling out over it. Most came back, but try as we may some just stayed away still disappointed in the move.



Another issue was with the rules of the time being what they were, we were not allowed to finance the new building, so with the help of F.H. Hodde, and many brothers we were able to work out a deal that allowed us to build. I am fortunate to say that I dropped the last gavel on the old lodge and the first one in the new lodge.”



What was the culture of the lodge like in the 60s-70's?

"I would say that we were an active lodge, the entire time I was at graham there was quite a lot going on. With Royal Arch, Eastern Star, and Blue Lodge all in the same building we were always pretty busy. We did most all of our own degrees and had quite a few petitions every year."

What is the best way to revive a struggling lodge? Do you have any tips on bringing brothers back to lodge?

"Do the work the right way, and prevent dull meetings. Especially long stated meetings. Basically, you should let the committees do their job and then bring their motions to the stated meeting."

Have them make their case and a simple up or down and let it go. Sometimes, we treat the stated meeting like a committee meeting and that's not the way it is set up to be."

Do you have any stories that some of the brothers might not know about?

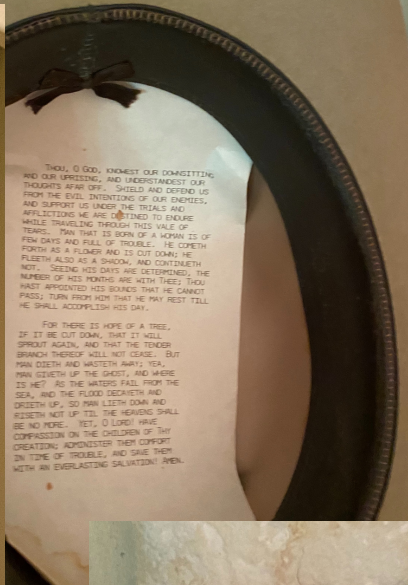
"Well, I don't know, there was one surprise involving our move across town. As we were leaving the old downtown lodge, we wanted to save our cornerstone that was in front of the building. So we called upon a brother who was an actual stonemason and had him chip it out of the wall. Lo and behold behind it was a time capsule, of which we documented the contents, and now it is once again in a safe place."

What are you most proud of regarding Masonry and the Legacy that Graham Lodge?

"I was proud to serve as DDGM of 44 in 1974 and very grateful to receive the Golden Trowel award. I'm grateful for the lifelong friendships I had over the years in the lodge and am glad to hear that the work continues on into the future."



THE 1872 CORNERSTONE CURRENTLY AT GRAHAM



MASONIC MUSES

**WITH BRO. ROBERT
MUELLER**

Red, White, and Blue!

The teacher said, "Put your right hand flat over your heart to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag!"

No television but from a tabletop Zenith radio at grandparent's house... World War II news including Hitler speaking to throngs of folks hollering, "Heil Hitler!"

Suddenly a train loaded with soldiers buying me vanilla marshmallow cookies for this three or four year old on the way to visit dad in the Army at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

Memories! Yes, I have lots of them in my nearly past eighty year history along with a hobby of writing and my favorite month of July.

Dear Masonic brothers, I know many of you are wondering, "Just who the heck are you?" I am a card carrying member of LaFayette lodge No.34 in La Grange, TX listed as Robert W. Mueller. I became a third degree Master Mason shortly after college graduation on April 17, 1964.



I was blessed with growing up in a home with my dad, Walter H., and visits with uncle Gilbert B. as Master Masons. My uncle was also a Shriner.

July is my favorite month because it brings attention to patriotism that is so lacking in today's society. It's time for my country tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing!! Singing lauds to the old USA often seems so out of vogue. God bless America land that I love!

I so remember Uncle Sam leading off every parade that we had in LaGrange. I also remember Fourth of July barbeques in Brenham climaxed at night at the Washington County fairgrounds with fireworks with the kids and adults riding in the back of a pickup truck followed by a parade of us around the courthouse square honking the horn and hollering at everyone, "Happy Fourth of July"!

MASONIC MUSES

This month is important since July 15 represents my 80 year birthday on this earth. I feel so blessed for the years and honored to be a part of Masonry again.

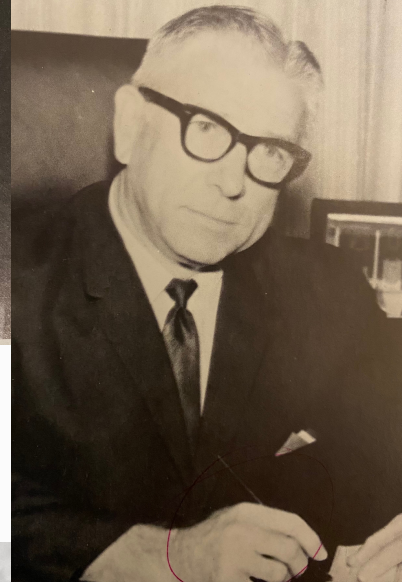
Since so many brothers and friends that I knew are no longer with us, and have gone on to the celestial lodge above, I name a few including Graham Lodge, Brenham, members Johnell Schmidt, James Carstarphen, James H. Atkinson, and B.C. Crawford as well as LaFayette Lodge, LaGrange, Walter P. Freytag, Ben Debil, and Sam Brown.

Thanks so much to both lodges mentioned earlier. I have much to learn and relearn but look forward to meeting each of you soon.

In the meantime, I muse by reminding Masonic brothers that often the earliest impression given to others is when we do worthwhile projects of serving others with integrity and/or simply wearing a Masonic symbol on a lapel or ring finger!



James Carstarphen



**James H. Atkinson
President
Blinn College**



Johnell & Billie Schmidt



B.C. Crawford

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**7/1 (Thurs.) - Family Night (Meal) & Stated Meeting @
Graham 6:00 PM**

7/5 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

**7/10 (Sat) HNCT Fundraiser Downtown Brenham, Texas
@ 7:00 PM**

7/12 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

**7/13 (Tues.) Blinn STEI - Cornerstone with MW. Ken Curry
Blinn Ceremony @ 10:00 AM
0800 @ Meet at Graham (for Masons)**

**7/17 (Sat.) HNCT Fundraiser Downtown Brenham, Texas
@ 7:00 PM**

7/19 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

**7/24 (Sat) HNCT Fundraiser Downtown Brenham, Texas
@ 7:00 PM**

7/26 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

**7/31 (Sat) HNCT Fundraiser Downtown Brenham, Texas
@ 7:00 PM**

2021-2022 Officers



Master: Michael Thorpe



Sr. Warden: George Allan Wells



Jr. Warden: Ken Lane



Treasurer: Dan Blalock



Secretary: Kirby Simmons



Chaplain: Aaron Curlee



Sr. Deacon: Jerry Jackson



Jr. Deacon: Eddy Jezisek Jr.

Marshal: Dr. Robert S. Stark

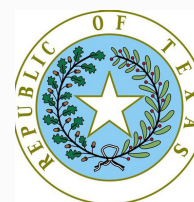


Tyler: Keith Killgore

Master of Ceremony: Kenneth Hetzel

Senior Steward: Bill Grubbs

Junior Steward: Brad Tegeler



908 US-290 W.
BRENHAM, TX 77834

www.grahamlodge20.com



Graham Lodge No. 20

Est.

A. F. & A. M.

1845

BRENHAM, TEXAS

1845 - Henry King	1881 - J. A. Lipscomb	1917 - Henry Mueller	1953 - Tom Spencer	1989 - Carl Gambill
1846 - William Hunt	1882 - R. A. Harvin	1918 - C. H. Fluhr	1954 - Claude A. Mast	1990 - Robert Stevenson
1847 - Asa M. Lewis	1883 - R. A. Harvin	1919 - W. H. Pahl	1955 - James S. Beard	1991 - Robert S. Stark
1848 - John Sayles*	1884 - Ed. Rouse	1920 - J. L. Chappell	1956 - D. S. Walters	1992 - Chris Dalrymple
1849 - J. D. Giddings*	1885 - M. W. Mann	1921 - B. I. Conner	1957 - S. M. St. John	1993 - Steve Westbrook
1850 - James McDade	1886 - M. W. Mann	1922 - W. J. Sloan	1958 - D. W. Schomburg Jr.	1994 - Kenneth W. Hetzel
1851 - Asa M. Lewis	1887 - M. W. Mann	1923 - G. W. Kopp	1959 - Charles Bates	1995 - Billy Rosenbaum
1852 - D. D. Crumpler	1888 - W. A. Lockett	1924 - H. H. High	1960 - Carl Whitmarsh	1996 - Glynn Ferguson
1853 - Sam Lusk	1889 - W. A. Lockett	1925 - W. W. Gross	1961 - Roy P. Moody	1997 - Jerry Jackson
1854 - A. H. Rippetoe	1890 - Julian McFarland	1926 - E. A. Gajeske	1962 - John T. Rogers	1998 - J. W. Burchfield
1855 - W. F. Jarrell	1891 - David Brown	1927 - T. O. High	1963 - B. C. Crawford	1999 - Michael Thorpe
1856 - J. D. Giddings	1892 - H. A. Cordray	1928 - Charles E. Wiede	1964 - N. L. Byrd	2000 - Bill Keels
1857 - Thomas Hood	1893 - H. J. Morgan	1929 - A. M. Rogers	1965 - Bob Ham	2001 - James Albert
1858 - G. M. Buchanan	1894 - Frank Haubelt	1930 - A. E. Mundelius	1966 - Harold Rubenstein	2002 - Michael Thorpe
1859 - H. Levinson	1895 - J. G. Sloan	1931 - W. R. Niebuhr	1967 - Allison B. Clark	2003 - Leroy Polk
1860 - Asa M. Lewis	1896 - C. D. Tecklenburg	1932 - M. H. Wittner	1968 - Robert E. Grimmett	2004 - Aaron Collier
1861 - G. M. Buchanan	1897 - C. D. Tecklenburg	1933 - Oscar R. Hoffmann	1969 - F. H. Hodde	2005 - Carl Gambill
1862 - S. S. Hosea	1898 - W. A. Wood	1934 - L. Landgraf	1970 - Jack Brannen	2006 - Sherald Bell
1863 - J. A. Wilkins	1899 - W. A. Wood	1935 - C. W. Rankin Sr.	1971 - J. E. Scott Jr.	2007 - Dennis Todd
1864 - J. D. Giddings	1900 - C. L. Wilkins	1936 - H. C. Miller Jr.	1972 - Bob Ham	2008 - Billy Hargrove
1865 - W. D. Woods	1901 - E. W. Reichardt	1937 - R. A. Schreiber	1973 - Gerald Jedlicka	2009 - Leonard Cloud
1866 - J. M. Owins	1902 - E. A. Pace	1938 - W. C. Dorbritz	1974 - C. L. Cottingham	2010 - Clifford Brisbin
1867 - J. M. Owins	1903 - R. T. Jaeggli	1939 - C. D. Dallmeyer	1975 - John Herman	2011 - Nick Nelms
1868 - W. H. Starks	1904 - O. L. Eddins	1940 - H. C. Hafer	1976 - Edwin Schlenker	2012 - Charlie Droddy
1869 - J. T. Morris	1905 - T. F. Cox	1941 - C. G. Jaster	1977 - H. J. Ray	2013 - Robert S. Stark
1870 - W. H. Starks	1906 - T. F. Cox	1942 - Robert Koenig	1978 - Waldie Sonnenburg	2014 - Tres Masser
1871 - W. H. Starks	1907 - A. E. Knolle	1943 - Fred Philipp	1979 - Randy Sonnenburg	2015 - Travis Fleetwood
1872 - Henry E. Lockett	1908 - A. E. Knolle	1944 - D. W. Schomburg	1980 - Johnell Schmidt	2016 - Greg Phillips
1873 - W. B. Wilson	1909 - A. E. Knolle	1945 - W. J. Sloan	1981 - Delbert Price	2017 - Owen Black
1874 - J. L. Compton	1910 - S. Bowers	1946 - A. M. Rogers	1982 - John Herndon	2018 - Ken Lane
1875 - W. B. Wilson	1911 - William Wendt	1947 - R. D. McClaid	1983 - James R. Beard	2019 - Robert S. Stark
1876 - David G. Smith	1912 - William Wendt	1948 - Joe Snodgrass	1984 - Conway Drane	2020 - Michael Thorpe
1877 - David G. Smith	1913 - F. H. Bosse	1949 - Edward T. Gall	1985 - David Blakey	2021 - Michael Thorpe
1878 - J. T. Norris	1914 - H. Y. Neu	1950 - R. D. McClaid	1986 - Robert F. Mills	
1879 - J. S. Moore	1915 - H. Y. Neu	1951 - Frank W. Allenson	1987 - Joe Seeber	
1880 - W. B. Wilson	1916 - E. T. Jenison	1952 - Fred W. Becker	1988 - Ed Zelenka	



The Past Masters

