



BRENHAM MASON

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

In This Issue

THE MASTERS CORNER

LODGE NEWS & UPCOMING
EVENTS

INTERVIEW WITH A
BROTHER:
NICK NELMS

GENESIS 1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

THE MASTER'S CORNER



MICHAEL THORPE, WM.



Brethren,

September proved to be a busy month at Graham Lodge. We had EA's turn in their work on the degree, and 1 has been made a Fellowcraft Mason, we now have two Fellowcrafts working. After Saturdays Initiations of two new EA's, we have 4 working in this degree. Many thanks to our Visiting Brethren, who assisted in these degrees.

We conducted a Masonic funeral service in Giddings and I again wish to thank Brother Don Allphin for leading the ceremony. I also would like to thank ALL the brothers who were able to assist in the funeral.

I also would like to thank Brother Wells for filling in the east for me. Brethren, this brother has been busy teaching the work, doing the degrees and assisting in other lodges with their degrees. Give brother Allan a hand shake and a BIG THANK YOU.

Some ideas for you to think about for our future.

- We have the materials in for the Fantastic Teeth program, we need the bags assembled and a date set for distribution. Please consider assisting with this project.
- I would like the lodge to host a THANKSGIVING Family meal. Who would be willing to support this and provide the help to make it happen? What date and time?
- Looking forward, thinking about our Masonic widows, I would like to plan an event with a prepared meal for these special Ladies.
- I am thinking about a date night near to Valentine's Day, possibly a steak dinner and a special event for our wives.
- March brings us to public school week, and EMS week. I would like to plan to have a day for the first responders, to come to the lodge and have a meal with a program recognizing their dedication to our community's safety.
- For public schools' week, let's put something in the hands of EVERY educator, and EVERY Student. Let's show up and show our support at every campus. The schools have already approved us attending the campuses, to show our support.

Brethren, we have attracted good men to our organization through the events and programs we have been doing. Let's keep this trend moving forward by being living examples of our Craft.

Thank each of you for your continued trust and support.

Fraternally,

Michael Thorpe, WM

LODGE NEWS

**Two EA's & a FC Degree
Saturday, September 30,
2021**

8:00 AM

Saturday was a busy day with three degrees conducted. Masonry is growing and good men are petitioning all the time. By the time you read this all of the Brothers will be diligently working away in the quarries. Thanks to Carlton Newberry, Butch Giles, Lloyd Lesikar, Charles Law, Owen Black, Nick Nelms, Clifford Brisbin, Kenneth Hetzel, Eddy Jezisek, and Allan Wells for making everyone's experience memorable.



photos by Nick Nelms

**Masonic Funeral
Tuesday, September 28, 2021**

Brother John Steven Hart, PM of Anahuac Lodge, laid down his working tools Sept. 25. His family contacted one of our brothers with the request of a Masonic service. We were honored to oblige and hope that we are able to provide a measure of comfort to the family. He leaves behind his daughter, who lives in the area and is an educator at Burton Elementary.



LODGE NEWS

Service Awards

Monday, September 20, 2021

6:00 PM

After a long wait due to extenuating circumstances, Graham Lodge was proud to host years of service awards for three of our members. Allan Wells (25 yrs), Michael Thorpe (25 yrs), Randall G. Parkinson (25 yrs).

The event was attended by the recipients along with their families. It was a grand night. Thanks to RW Shawn Woelk for presenting. He has been an inspiring and hard working DDGM.



photos by Nick Nelms

INTERVIEW WITH A BROTHER: NICK NELMS

WITH EDDY JEZISEK

Charles H. “Nick” Nelms, Jr. or Brother Nick is a key part of what we do here at Graham Lodge. There is no telling what all he has fixed for us in that magnificent woodshop of his, or how many times he has filled in for degrees and chairs.

He is always fun to talk to and banter with, and the stories from his past profession are far too vast to be recorded in our newsletter. Let me just say, I have been amazed. When you visit Graham 20, you have to come meet him, catch a chair, and listen. More than likely he will come and find you.

Where are you from?

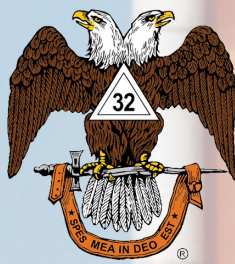
Born Norfolk, Virginia, grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia

Was Masonry present in your town growing up?

Masonry was always there. I lived very close to the lodge-like 2 blocks.



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7



What is your professional background?

Started out in the Army as a photographer. From there to a photographic studio in Norfolk. Then to Langley Research Center in Newport News, Virginia with NASA. In early 1962 to Houston, Texas and Manned Space Craft Center now Johnson Space Center for 38 years in photography. Saw NASA at its best with the greatest people.

What made you want to become a Mason?

Like a lot of brothers, family. Grandfathers, father, uncles and very close friends. Where and when did you become a Mason? Virginia Beach Lodge #274 in 1957. Virginia Beach Lodge #274 merged several years ago with Princess Anne Lodge #25.

NASA



Are you a member of any Appendant Bodies?

My Dad and I joined Scottish Rite together in 1975. It was very special to share this experience with him.

What stations have you served in Masonry?

Not many in the early days. When I came to Brenham, I started as Senior Warden, then W.M. After that I filled what was needed, mostly Senior Deacon.

What was the culture of Graham Lodge like over the years?

I am what you call a “newbie” since I’ve only been here 14 years. When I arrived, it was the best lodge in the 44th district and it is still pretty great.

Are there any Masonic events that were especially memorable to you?

My first Grand Lodge visit, my Tranquility 2000 Lodge visit and the forums.



A Thank you from NASA for 40 years of Service c.1999

Over the years you have met a lot of Masons, can you elaborate on a few that you admire most and what makes them stand out above the rest?

Aaron Collier taught me a lot. Billie Hargrove and LeRoy Polk kept me on the straight and narrow in the lodge. Also, Clifford Brisbin who knows masonry is a true friend.

In your opinion, what is the most powerful method to grow engagement and membership?

Harmony, attendance and lots of degrees and all that goes with that. Fundraisers help bring in new members. It's true, engagement outside the lodge is what brings in the members. Personal contact helps keep up the membership.



Bro. Nelms built this stunningly accurate representation of Stephen F. Austin's last writing desk in West Colombia, Texas



What would you like to see Graham accomplish in the future?

I would like for Graham Lodge #20 grow in membership and knowledge, at the same time enjoying the process.

What has kept you active in Masonry?

The love of it all.

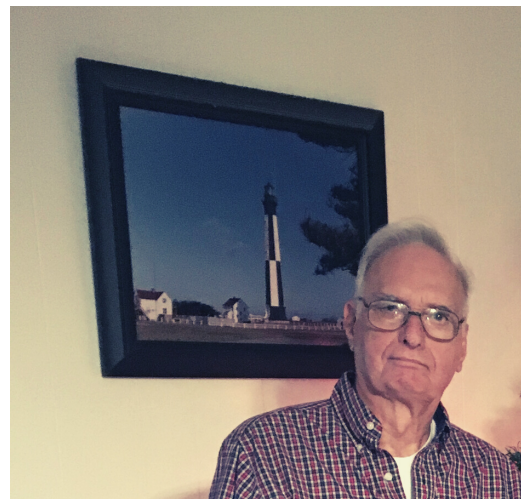
Well said Brother.



One of many missions Bro. Nelms worked on. STS - 7



STS-7 Challenger Liftoff



Cape Henry (VA) Lighthouse facility in the photo behind is where members of Nick's family lived and worked.



This United States flag and Virginia state flag were flown aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*, STS-88, December 4 - 15, 1998.

Presented to

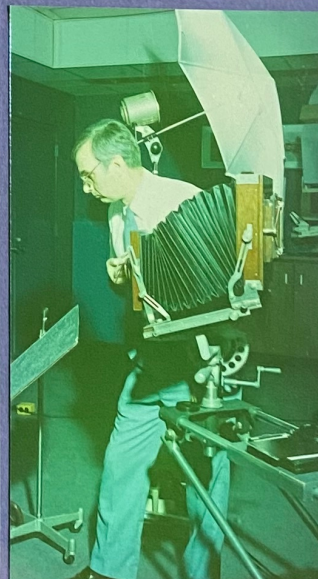
Nick Nelms

In appreciation for your contributions to America's success in space exploration and development during a career with NASA and the aerospace industry of over four decades.

From your many friends and colleagues at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
May 1999

George W. S. Abbey

George W. S. Abbey, Director
NASA Johnson Space Center



Thank you!



LITERATURE **FROM THE PAST**

*AN EXCERPT FROM THE NEW
AGE MAGAZINE. NOVEMBER
1928.*

MASONRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICA

BY BRUCE BROWN, 32°

pg. 659

Intelligence Necessary

There is one thing that is absolutely essential to the successful to the successful administration of popular government and that is an intelligent citizenry. Wherever the reins of government have been put into the hands of a people dominated by ignorance and superstition the experiment has always been, and always will be, a failure. [Benjamin] Franklin looked out over the heads of his fellows and saw what many did not see—that popular government must rest upon popular intelligence. We can do only in proportion as we know. The blind must have guides and the ignorant will always have exploiters.

Masonry has always recognized this and has never permitted any to have a part in its government until they have been brought from darkness to light. The supreme desire of every candidate must be for wisdom, intelligence, truth, light. Let this qualification be ignored and Masonry would prove a failure in a single generation. Since the lodge was

the primordial germ from which the nation came, the same principle prevails in the larger entity.

The hope of our nation is in our public schools: This explains the deep and unselfish interest that Masonry has always taken in our public school system and the sacrifices that it makes to serve educational interest. The thought is not do dominate or control them but to protect the schools from selfish and sectarian influences. All the forces opposed to free government hate Masonry and are antagonistic to our schools, and wherever they are in control building and equipment and teaching force are retarded. It is high time for society to recognize what Masonry has always known, that if the forces inimical to free government control the schools, the hope of "our fathers who brought forth on this continent a new nation" will have returned to ashes. This is the supreme objective and it will be a sad day for the American people if they ever allow the schools to fall into the hands of those who are controlled by an alien despotism. Here is a rugged truth that must be kept in mind, this nation would never have come into existence had it not been for Masonry, and Masonry will have to be crushed before free government in America is killed.





The flyer is split into two vertical panels. The left panel has a yellow background and features a Masonic logo at the top, followed by the text 'STATED MEETING' in large blue letters, 'BRING A FRIEND TO DINNER' in smaller black letters, and 'BROTHERLY LOVE • HARMONY • PEACE' at the bottom. The right panel has a light yellow background and contains the event details: 'THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021', 'DINNER AT 6:00PM', 'GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20', and 'A.F. & A.M.' in various colors and fonts. It also includes the 'Fish Fry' logo, the address '908 U.S. 290 W, BRENHAM, TX', the 'NOVEMBER FOOD COMMITTEE: JAMES STEPHENS - EDDY JEZISEK', and a circular logo for 'GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20' with 'TEXAS DISTRICT 44' nearby.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10/11 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

10/18 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

10/25 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

11/1 (Mon.) - Practice @ Graham 6:00 PM

**11/4 November Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6:00 PM
Meeting for Masons at 7:00**

Food Committee 11/4:

James Stephens, Eddy Jezisek

Menu: Fried Fish

French Fries

Beans

Cole Slaw

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

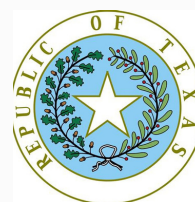


Tyler: Keith Killgore

Master of Ceremony: Kenneth Hetzel

Senior Steward: Bill Grubbs

Junior Steward: Brad Tegeler



908 US-290 W.
BRENHAM, TX 77834

www.grahamlodge20.com