



BRENHAM MASON

GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20 A.F. & A.M.



SO MOTE IT BE.

"I knew personally the celebrated Quaker Potts who saw Gen'l Washington alone in the woods at prayer. I got it from himself, myself. Weems mentioned it in his history of Washington, but I got it from the man myself, as follows:

"I was riding with him (Mr. Potts) in Montgomery County, Penn'a near to the Valley Forge, where the army lay during the war of ye Revolution. Mr. Potts was a Senator in our State & a Whig. I told him I was agreeably surprised to find him a friend to his country as the Quakers were mostly Tories. He said, 'It was so and I was a rank Tory once, for I never believed that America c'd proceed against Great Britain whose fleets and armies covered the land and ocean, but something very extraordinary converted me to the Good Faith!' "What was that," I inquired? 'Do you see that woods, & that plain. It was about a quarter of a mile off from the place we were riding, as it happened.' 'There,' said he, 'laid the army of Washington. It was a most distressing time of ye war, and all were for giving up the Ship but that great and good man.

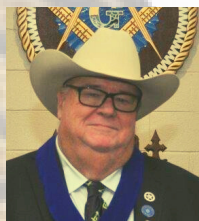
In that woods pointing to a close in view, I heard a plaintive sound as, of a man at prayer. I tied my horse to a sapling & went quietly into the woods & to my astonishment I saw the great George Washington on his knees alone, with his sword on one side and his cocked hat on the other. He was at Prayer to the God of the Armies, beseeching to interpose with his Divine aid, as it was ye Crisis, & the cause of the country, of humanity & of the world.

'Such a prayer I never heard from the lips of man. I left him alone praying.

'I went home & told my wife. I saw a sight and heard today what I never saw or heard before, and just related to her what I had seen & heard & observed. We never thought a man c'd be a soldier & a Christian, but if there is one in the world, it is Washington. She also was astonished. We thought it was the cause of God, & America could prevail.' "He then to me put out his right hand & said 'I turned right about and became a Whig.'"

-Rev. Nathaniel Randolph Snowden, an ordained Presbyterian minister, graduate of Princeton with a degree from Dickinson College.

THE MASTER'S CORNER



MICHAEL THORPE, WM.

Brethren,

What a year we have had at Graham lodge.

The year has been busy and fruitful in so many ways. I thank GOD for the blessings provided each of us.

Thanksgiving has passed and as we look forward to our CHRISTmas seasons, may we remember it is the celebration of our LORD AND SAVIOURS birth.

May we remember it is for giving, and that is the greatest gift we can provide. May it be nothing more than our time.

Time for visiting our widows, our brother's in distress, our own family and friends. May we find time to be blessed, by being with those we LOVE.

Let us also celebrate our own blessings here at Graham Lodge. We Raised brother Gary Albrecht to a master Mason and soon will be able to raise another brother.

We have had multiple petitions, and have several EA'S and Fellow crafts working.

I am so proud of our new Brothers and the dedication they are showing each of us.

I must Thank GOD for the guidance given, and the BLESSINGS of our many Brothers working in the Quarries, making so many great things happen.

I am Believer and Believe GOD is at work in our lodge and in us. Let us see, and be THANKFUL FOR GODSBLESSINGS.

MERRY CHRISTmas, to each of you and may your CHRISTmas be filled with BLESSINGS.

Michael Thorpe, WM

LODGE NEWS

Fundraising Committee

Brothers, we are already looking at fundraisers for the year 2022. If you have any ideas about what you would like to see the lodge participate in, please let us know. We are mulling a few ideas over including a gun raffle, Hot Nights Cool Tunes Concert Series, and a drive through fish fry.

Catered Meal for Burton Elementary School - UIL Thursday, December 2nd, 2021

Burton Elementary hosted schools from throughout the region on Thursday night and we were honored to provide the main dish for the event. Numerous teachers sent their gratitude as these events make for a very long busy day and staff cannot find the time to eat a proper meal.



LODGE NEWS

Master Mason Degree

Congratulations to Bro. Gary Don Albrecht Sr. who was raised to the degree of Master Mason on November 11. The team pictured below was an all-star group and well attended.



Master Mason Degree

Congratulations to Bro. Henry Hirtz who was raised to the degree of Master Mason on December 14th. Thanks to the following lodges for their assistance: Lee Scott #793, Warren #56 Navasota #299, and Hubert #67. It was a great degree.



LODGE NEWS

Brenham Shrine Club - Brenham Downtown Christmas Parade December 4th

The craft was well represented on Saturday night by our Shriners and the decorating skills of Mrs. Curlee. All were impressed by both the crowd in attendance and the number of floats in the parade. Great event, and wonderful effort Brothers.



Francis 'Frank' Hamer Peacemaker Texas Ranger Mason.

Not so long ago, folks can remember a time when daily life centered around downtown areas. Then came the subdivisions, box stores, and strip centers that changed where we gather to socialize and spend money as drastically as the railroad had 100 years before. The specialty hardware shops, the tailors, the cobblers, and cotton warehouses were replaced leaving many of the old places empty or housing other types of establishments. One of my favorite aspects of Texas is the downtown areas. Many of the buildings, especially in Brenham and Navasota were built with such ingenuity and craftsmanship that to restore them, it takes a truly skilled individual.

The reinvigoration of our downtown areas is in my opinion a wonderful thing and whether we like it or not it is here. In Brenham and Navasota, the entire downtown area is booming with restaurants and festivals. Historic buildings such as the 4 Star Concert Hall and Giddings Bank Building are well cared for and currently the Old Notos/Bank building in Navasota is in the process of a painstaking restoration and update.

Our downtown areas have not always been a place to go see a concert, eat from food trucks, and buy expensive boutique clothes. An epicenter of commerce and social gatherings the downtown areas were often gritty and dangerous. This continued well as well after the romanticized wild west times of the 1800's. If we have learned one thing about democratic society, where law and order prevail, commerce will follow. As crime goes up, the good folks that can leave do so, and those who can't are tortured until someone steps in and restores peace and harmony.



Perhaps one of the greatest lawmen ever to put himself in harm's way, went by the name of Francis Augustus 'Frank' Hamer. A Lawman, a Mason, and a Patriot. This is a portion of his story.

*from the Grimes County Historical Commission
NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017*

<https://www.grimescountytexas.gov/page/open/1397/0/GCHC%20NEWSLETTER%20JANUARY%202017.pdf>

In 1908, Navasota was a lawless boom town, wracked by violence: "shootouts on the main street were so frequent that in two years at least a hundred men died." Twenty-four-year-old Frank Hamer resigned from the Texas Rangers to become the City Marshal and moved in and created law and order. Hamer faced down, chased down, and beat down the Navasota toughs until the streets were quiet, and children could once again go downtown. He relentlessly fought the various power factions, and one day fought one perceived local warlord in the mud on main street, throwing him in jail and defying all comers, as the rest of the troublemakers began to search for cover. He served as marshal until 1911. Hamer became more widely known in 1934 as one of the men who shot Bonnie and Clyde. In 2012, the Navasota city council voted to commission a local sculptor to erect a statue of Frank Hamer in front of the new city hall building.

Francis Augustus Hamer (March 17, 1884 – July 10, 1955) was a Texas Ranger, known in popular culture for his involvement in tracking down and killing the criminal duo Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow in 1934. In a career that spanned the last days of the Wild West well into the automobile age, Hamer acquired legendary status in the Southwest as the archetypal Texas Ranger. He is an inductee to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame. Frank Hamer was born in Fairview, Wilson County, Texas, where his father operated a blacksmith shop. He was one of five brothers, four of whom became Texas Rangers. His family moved to the Welch ranch in San Saba County, where he grew up. Hamer later spent time in Oxford, Llano County (now a ghost town), which formed the basis of his joke about being the only "Oxfordeducated Ranger." In his youth, Hamer worked in his father's shop, and as an older teenager worked as a wrangler on a local ranch. He began his career in law enforcement in 1905 while working on the Carr Ranch in West Texas when he captured a horse thief. The local sheriff was so impressed that he recommended that Hamer join the Rangers.

"THE CRIMINAL IS A COYOTE, ALWAYS TAKING A LOOK OVER HIS SHOULDER; A CORNERED POLITICAL SCHEMER IS A 'CRAWFISH ABOUT THREE DAYS FROM WATER' - FRANK HAMER

Like the cowboys of earlier generations, Hamer was at home on the open Texas prairie and understood the signs and patterns of nature. He interpreted men in terms of animal characteristics: "The criminal is a coyote, always taking a look over his shoulder; a cornered political schemer is a 'crawfish about three days from water'; a [man moving carefully] reminds him of a sandhill crane walking up a river-bed." He savored the challenges of investigating and solving crimes. Describing his method in tracking Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, Hamer said that he learned their statistics, but "this was not enough. An officer must know the habits of the outlaw, how he thinks and how he will act in different situations. When I began to understand Clyde Barrow's mind, I felt that I was making progress."



Hamer was a Ranger off and on throughout his life, resigning often to take other jobs. He first joined Captain John H. Rogers's Company C in Alpine, Texas on April 21, 1906, and began patrolling the border with Mexico. In 1908 he resigned from the Rangers to become the City Marshal of Navasota, Texas. Navasota was a lawless boom town, wracked by violence: "shootouts on the main street were so frequent that in two years at least a hundred men died." Though he was only 24, Hamer moved in and created law and order. He served as marshal until 1911, when he started working as a special investigator in Houston, then as an officer for Harris County.

Hamer rejoined the Rangers in 1915 and again was assigned to patrol the South Texas border around Brownsville. Because of the constant unrest in Mexico, the Rangers dealt most seriously with arms smugglers, but also more ordinary bootleggers and bandits who plagued the border. On October 1, 1917 Hamer was wounded in Sweetwater by Gus McMean, who was shot and killed. During this period, Hamer left the Rangers again to accept a position as a federal agent in the Prohibition Unit, where he served for about one year. Though Hamer's service as a prohibition agent was brief, it was nevertheless eventful. Stationed in El Paso, the scene of countless gunfights during the Prohibition-era, Hamer participated in numerous raids and shootouts.

In one particularly notable incident in March of 1921, Hamer was involved in a gun battle with smugglers that resulted in the death of Prohibition Agent Ernest W. Walker.[7] Returning to state service in 1921, Hamer transferred to Austin, where he served as Senior Ranger Captain.

In the 1920s, Hamer became known for bringing order to oil boom towns such as Mexia and Borger. Records from that time indicate that there were complaints about some of Hamer's methods, but the same sources said the area was so lawless extreme measures may have been needed. In *I'm Frank Hamer*, Hamer was quoted candidly discussing the restrictions that upstanding citizens would seek to put on a lawman, not understanding that they were in effect asking him to fight with one hand tied behind his back.

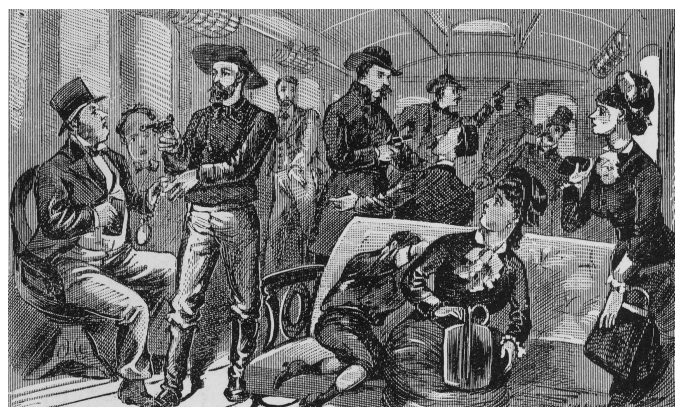


Beginning in 1922 Hamer, as senior captain of the Texas Rangers, led the fight in Texas against the Ku Klux Klan. During his long career, he saved fifteen African Americans from lynch mobs. The story of his battles to protect blacks in Texas was unknown until the 2016 publication of John Boessenecker's biography of Hamer. In 1930 Hamer and a handful of Rangers protected a black rape suspect from a mob of 6,000 in Sherman, Texas. He personally shot and wounded two of the mob's leaders and forced the lynchers to flee the courthouse. However, the mob set fire to the courthouse and the prisoner died in the raging inferno. Hamer thus became the first and only Texas Ranger to lose a prisoner to a lynch mob.



NAVASOTA WAS A LAWLESS BOOM TOWN, WRACKED BY VIOLENCE: "SHOOTOUTS ON THE MAIN STREET WERE SO FREQUENT THAT IN TWO YEARS AT LEAST A HUNDRED MEN DIED."

In 1928 Hamer put a halt to a murder for hire ring, and his extraordinary means of accomplishing this made him nationally famous. The Texas Bankers' Association had begun offering rewards of \$5,000 "for dead bank robbers — not one cent for live ones." Hamer determined that men were setting up deadbeats and two-bit outlaws to be killed by complicit police officers; the officers would collect the rewards and pay the men their finder's fees. But his investigation hit a stone wall: the police refused him support and the Bankers' Association's position was that "any man that could be induced to participate in a bank robbery ought to be killed." Spurred by urgency to thwart the next set of killings as well as personally infuriated, Hamer wrote and signed a detailed exposé of the racket, which he termed "the bankers' murder machine," then went to the press room of the State Capitol and handed out copies. A firestorm of public outrage led to indictments.



Hamer retired in 1932 after almost 27 years with the Rangers. He left one week before Miriam "Ma" Ferguson "and her husband" recaptured the governor's office. At least forty Rangers resigned rather than serve again under Ma, who in her first term as governor of Texas had proven herself brazenly corrupt; indeed, one of the triumphant Ma's first acts of her second term was to fire all the remaining Rangers and replace them with her own appointees. A year later Hamer flatly summarized his reason: "When they elected a woman governor, I quit." The commander of the Texas Rangers allowed him to retain a Special Ranger commission even after his official retirement as an active Senior Ranger Captain. The special commission is listed in the state archives in Austin.



During the 1930s Hamer applied his skills in keeping the civil peace on behalf of various oil companies and shippers, generally as a strike breaker. At the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, he and 49 other retired Texas Rangers offered their services to King George VI, to help protect the United Kingdom in case of Nazi invasion. A son, Billy, joined the U.S. Marine Corps and died during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

AT LEAST FORTY RANGERS
RESIGNED RATHER THAN SERVE
AGAIN UNDER MA [MIRIAM A.
FERGUSON], WHO IN HER FIRST
TERM AS GOVERNOR OF TEXAS HAD
PROVEN HERSELF BRAZENLY
CORRUPT;



CLYDE BARROW & BONNIE PARKER, OUTLAWS, BANK ROBBERS, AND COP KILLERS FINALLY STOPPED BY FRANK HAMER AND CREW IN 1934



In 1948 he was called again to Ranger duty to play a small role in a notorious episode in an election acknowledged to have been one of the most corrupt in Texas history. Hamer was hired by Governor Coke Stevenson, whose name by now was synonymous with old-school Texan conservative integrity, to accompany him to the Texas State Bank in Alice, the county seat of Jim Wells County in South Texas. Stevenson wanted to examine the tally sheets for ballot box 13, which held ballots for his opponent, then-Representative Lyndon Johnson, he knew were fraudulent, and not in a way that favored him. Outside the bank stood two glowering groups of armed men. Hamer got out of the car. He approached the first group and said, "Git." They did. To the second group blocking the doors of the bank he said, "Fall back." They did. In the end, Johnson won the election, even though the Johnson campaign stuffed the ballot box with over 300 nonexistent voters. This is clearly stated in "Texas Ranger" by John Boessenecker.

Frank Hamer retired in 1949 and lived in Austin until his death. In 1953 he suffered a heat stroke and though he lived two more years, never regained his health. He was buried near his son in Memorial Park Cemetery in Austin. In his life he was wounded 17 times and left for dead four times. He is credited with having killed between 53 and almost 70 people.



PRESIDENT
LYNDON B.
JOHNSON.
NOT A MASON.



GRIMES COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MARCH 2017. (N.D.).
RETRIEVED DECEMBER 15, 2021. FROM
[HTTPS://WWW.GRIMESCOUNTYTEXAS.GOV/PAGE/OPEN/1397/0/GCHC%20NEWSLETTER%20MARCH%202017.PDF](https://www.grimescountytexas.gov/page/open/1397/0/GCHC%20NEWSLETTER%20MARCH%202017.PDF)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/20 Practice Night @6:00

12/27 Practice Night @6:00

1/3 Practice Night @6:00

1/6 January Stated Meeting

6:00 Dinner

7:00 For Masons



1/10 Practice Night @6:00

1/17 Practice Night @6:00

1/24 Practice Night @6:00

**1/29 Mark S. Herzog Reunion 414 (Day 1)
at Houston Scottish Rite**



1/31 Practice Night @6:00

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

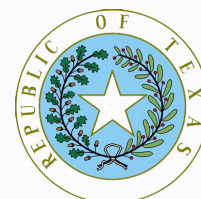
Master of Ceremony: Kenneth Hetzel

Senior Steward: Bill Grubbs

Junior Steward: Brad Tegeler



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www.grahamlodge20.com