

### Visit to

#### Lodge Biggar Free Operatives No. 167.

An invitation has been received from the above Lodge for a Deputation from Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 to attend a Lecture by The Scottish Masonic Materials Group on Thursday 31st. May at 7.30 p.m.

The Materials Group recently surveyed and catalogued all the artefacts of the Lodge and will present their findings at this important meeting.

If you are interested in attending please place your name on the Notice Board list.



Bro. James Ferguson, Substitute Provincial Grand Master headed a large Deputation on the Annual Visitation to our Lodge. The Lodge received a very favourable report and Bro. Ferguson commented on the excellent degree work carried out by the Lodge.

Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M. welcomes  
Bro. James Ferguson, S.P.G.M. and  
Bro. Alex Hamilton, P.G.S.W., P.M. 579.

# THE MAGAZINE OF LODGE ST. BRYDE No. 579

## THE RIGHT ANGLE



### April 2012 Issue No. 138



#### Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M.

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- Sam Houston, Texan Freemason. PART 2
- Provincial News

Homepage- <http://www.stbryde.co.uk>

# April Masonic Diary

**Wed. 11th.** Lodge St. Bryde 579 Regular Meeting at 7.30pm. M.M. Degree by Lodge Livingstone No. 599.

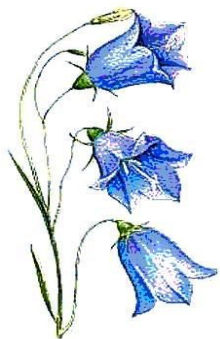
**Thurs. 12th.** Lodge St. Bryde 579 visit to Lodge Robert Burns No. 440. F.C. Degree by Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M.

**Wed. 25th.** Lodge St. Bryde 579 Regular Meeting at 7.30 p.m.. Affiliation & M.M.M. Degree by Bro. Jim Vasey, R.W.M.M.

**Sun. 29th.** Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward. Annual Divine Service at 6 for 6.30pm. In Uddingston Old Parish Church.

**Tues. 1st. May** Lodge St. Bryde 579 Management Committee at 7.30 pm.

**Wed. 9th.** Lodge St. Bryde 579 Regular Meeting at 7.30 p.m. F.C. by Cambuslang Royal Arch Lodge No. 114.



## Adelphi Bluebell Lodge No. 4 *Founded 2002*

The Next Meeting of Adelphi Bluebell Lodge of Free Gardeners will take place on Monday 16th. April 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in The Masonic Hall, Church St., Baillieston. Anyone wishing to join the above Lodge should contact Ronnie McCarney or James L. Jack for information or visit the Lodge Homepage.

[www.adelphibluebell4.co.uk](http://www.adelphibluebell4.co.uk)

Houston then relates the following regarding his reception of Santa Anna and his reasons for the courteous treatment accorded him. "He was treated as a guest. No indignity was offered him by the Commander-in-chief. To be sure, there was some turbulence of feeling in camp, but no rude manifestations. Under these circumstances it was that Santa Anna was received. Propositions were made to the Commander-in-chief that he should be executed, but they were repelled in a becoming manner. No one has sought to claim the honor of saving him on that occasion; and did the General feel a disposition to claim any renown, distinction, or fame, for any one act of his life, stripped of all its policy, he might do it for his conduct on that occasion.

"But sir, there was reason as well as humanity for it. While Santa Anna was held prisoner his friends were afraid to invade Texas because they knew not at what moment it would cause his sacrifice. His enemies dared not attempt a combination in Mexico for invasion, for they did not know at what moment he would be turned loose upon them. So that it guaranteed peace to Texas so long as he was kept prisoner; and for that reason, together with reasons of humanity, his life was preserved. It is true, he had forfeited it to the laws of war. Retaliation was just; but was it either wise, or was it humane, that he should perish?"

Enumeration by Houston on these two occasions of the reasons which prompted his action should amply refute the "Masonic sign of distress" version; however, in depth consideration of Houston's reference to Santa Anna's "merits or demerits" gives rise to the interesting question of what attributes, either of character or accomplishment, Santa Anna could possibly claim, so soon after his sanction of the barbarous acts committed at the Alamo and Goliad, which Houston would recognize as having any semblance of "merit," other than his Masonic affiliation. Could Houston have been saying to Santa Anna in a discreet way, "Your Masonic affiliation had nothing to do with my acts of magnanimity; nor were they influenced by your giving the sign of distress?"

Houston's positive statement, appearing shortly after his reference to "merits and demerits," that "So far as I was concerned in preserving your life and subsequent liberation, I was only influenced by considerations of mercy, humanity, and the establishment of a national character," lends support to an affirmative answer to the question; and also contradicts any representation that use of the Masonic sign of distress by Santa Anna was the motivating factor for the sparing of his life at San Jacinto.

Brother Morrow is a great-grandson of Sam Houston, and has contributed many Houston items to the Grand Lodge Library and Museum. He is a recognized authority on the life of General Houston.

At the request of the then editor, Past Grand Master Duncan Howard, the article was prepared for The Texas Freemason, former publication of the Grand Lodge.

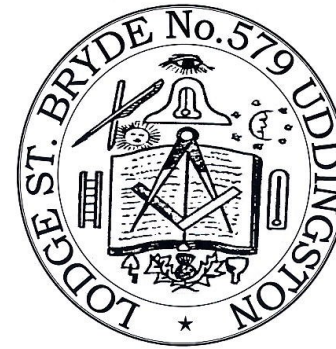
## Why Did Sam Houston Spare the Life of Santa Anna at San Jacinto?

by Otho C. Morrow, Past Master Holland Lodge No. 1  
Great-Grandson of Sam Houston

Over the years, articles regarding Houston's treatment of Santa Anna at San Jacinto, reportedly taken from the files of early newspapers, have appeared in our Masonic publications. In the main, these articles have attributed Houston's refusal to permit the execution of Santa Anna to his having given Houston the Masonic sign of distress. As a result of these articles, it now seems to be the accepted belief of many members of the fraternity that the humane treatment accorded Santa Anna by Houston was in direct response to the giving of the sign.

There is little doubt that if it occurred to him to do so, Santa Anna did give the sign, along with any persuasive promises which he believed might in any possible way contribute toward saving him from execution. His execution was urgently sought by some of the officers and many of the soldiers, some of whom had lost friends and relatives as well as their homes, as a result of Santa Anna's insane desire to destroy everyone and everything that stood in the way of his subjugating all of Texas to his despotic rule.

While all of the many Houston biographies are replete with detailed accounts of Santa Anna's capture and appearance before Houston, to the writer's knowledge, none make reference to Santa Anna's giving the sign of distress. There is, however, an interesting account of his appearance before Houston in Crane's Life and Literary Remains of Sam Houston, as reported by Major M. Austin Bryan, who acted as interpreter for Houston and Santa Anna before Almonte appeared on the scene. According to Major Bryan's report, "Santa Anna, laying his right hand on his heart and extending his left hand, said, 'I am General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, President of the Mexican Republic, and I claim to be your prisoner of war.'" If the left arm was in the form of a square, members of the fraternity would recognize part of another sign which Santa Anna may have erroneously thought to be the sign of distress. It is difficult to envision someone of Houston's disposition responding to the sign of distress given to him by one whose conduct at the Alamo, and the massacre of Fannin and his men at Gollaid were adverted to by Houston on the same occasion on which Santa Anna was supposed to have given the sign. Houston, later characterizing Santa Anna's conduct on those two occasions, said: "Manliness and generosity would sicken at the recital of the scenes incident to your success, and humanity itself would blush to class you among the chivalric spirits of the age of vandalism."



### News from the South.

Bro. Martin Parrack continues to fly our flag down south, proudly wearing his 579 apron. He recently visited Stechford Lodge No. 3185 Installation with Brethren from Lodge Burns Immortal No.

1730. He was delighted that the Brethren from 1730 recognised him from 579. Martin also visited The Lodge of Freedom No. 77 in Gravesend where he witnessed a F.C. Degree in this very old Lodge. Well done Martin, keep wearing that 579 apron !

### New Member

Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M. and the Brethren of the Lodge are delighted to welcome Alan Henderson as a new member of the Lodge. Alan was Initiated on 28th. March and comes from a family with strong Lodge St. Bryde connections.

His proposer is Andrew McAlpine and seconder, James L. Jack.

### Lodge St. Bryde News.

#### Death

##### Alistair Oattes.

Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M. and the Brethren of the Lodge were sorry to hear of the death of Bro. Alistair Oattes. Bro. Alistair Affiliated from Lodge Avon No. 1231 in 2005 and was a well respected Brother who supported Lodge St. Bryde well at every opportunity.







### ***Provincial Grand Lodge News.***

**Annual Divine Service.** The Provincial Grand Lodge Annual Divine Service will be held in Uddingston Old Parish Church on Sunday 29th. April 2012 at 6 for 6.30 p.m. The Service will be conducted by Rev. Peter Price, Provincial Grand Chaplain and Rev. Fiona McKibbin Minister of the Old Parish. Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M. requests a large attendance of

Brethren in support of Provincial Grand Lodge. Regalia will be worn.

**Annual Installation of Office-bearers.** The Provincial Installation was indeed a historical occasion for Lodge St. Bryde 579. Two of our Brethren were Installed into Provincial Grand Office. Bro. Ronnie McCarney was Installed as Provincial Grand Tyler and Bro. Alex Hamilton was Installed as Provincial Grand Worshipful Senior Warden. Bro. Hamilton has worked through the various Offices of Provincial and it has taken him seventeen years to reach the position of Provincial Grand Senior Warden a great achievement and a great honour for our Lodge. Bro. Hamilton was elected by our Brethren to succeed Bro. William E. Orr when he vacated the Provincial Grand Senior Wardens chair in 1995. Our Lodge will again seek to elect a new representative to Provincial Grand Lodge at our Annual General Meeting in October, the new representative will take up the position when Alex vacates the P.G.W.S.W.'s chair in March 2013. Any Past Master who is interested in taking up this Position in Provincial Grand Lodge should contact Bro. James L. Jack, Secretary.



Bro. Alex Hamilton , Provincial Grand Senior Warden is congratulated by Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M. and Bro. James L. Jack, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master.

## **Sportsmans Dinner**

**Friday 11th. May at 7 for 7.30 p.m.**

**with guests**

**GRAHAM ROBERTS**

**and**

**BILL McMurdo**

**Tickets £25 from Norrie Telfer, D.S.M.**