

THE FLORIDA MASON

FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FLORIDA

VOLUME 102 ISSUE 5 MARCH 2004

www.phmainstreet.com/flmason



www.gflmason.org



*"Today's Basics provide
Tomorrow's Light"*



THE DEATH OF CRAFTSMANSHIP?

SEE STORY ON PAGE 5

M.:W.:JOHN R. GIVENS
GRAND MASTER (2003-2004)

THE FLORIDA MASON

VOLUME 102 ISSUE 5
MARCH 2004

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/>

EDITOR

W.: Tim Bryce, PM
P.O. Box 1637
Palm Harbor, FL 34682-1637
Tel: 727/786-4567
Fax: 727/786-4765
E-Mail: timb001@attglobal.net

BUSINESS MANAGER

State Chairman, Public Relations & Publicity
R.:W.: Robert Harry, PDDGM
5337 Riverview Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32080
Tel: 904/461-0171 (H)
Tel: 904/806-1255 (O)
E-Mail: rharryjr@aol.com

PUBLISHER

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and
Accepted Masons of Florida

Located at:

220 Ocean Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1020, Jacksonville, FL 32201-1020
Tel: 800/375-2339

WWW: <http://www.gflmason.org/>

Grand Lodge Elected Officers for 2003-2004

Grand Master - M.:W.: John R. Givens, PDDGM
Deputy GM - R.:W.: Elmer Coffman, PDDGM
SGW - R.:W.: John F. Kavanaugh
JGW - R.:W.: Robert Trump
Grand Treasurer - M.:W.: J. Roy Crowther
Grand Sec.- M.:W.: Roy Connor Sheppard, PGM

GRAND MASTER'S CHARITY

The Masonic Home of Florida
Corner of 1st Street North & 30th Avenue North
3201 1st Street NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33704
Tel: 727/822-3499
Fax: 727/821-6775
E-Mail: masonichm@aol.com
<http://www.phmainstreet.com/mashome/>

GRAND MASTER'S THEME

"Today's Basics provide Tomorrow's Light"

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Message - <i>"Lodge Consolidations"</i>	3
Down the Road (Calendar of Events)	4
<i>THE DEATH OF CRAFTSMANSHIP (cover)</i>	5
NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE	
Orange Park Lodge Installs Fathers and Sons	8
Gulf Beach Lodge Installs New Officers	8
Firefighters Put On Master Mason Degree	9
Acacia Lodge Installation	10
Mayo Lodge Celebrates Its 113th Birthday	10
Hibiscus Lodge Doesn't Fiddle Around!	11
4th Annual Suncoast Masters & Wardens Trapshoot	12
Masons Present Picture of George Washington to Bushnell National Memorial Cemetary	13
MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY	
<i>A Wonderful Masonic Tale</i> - W.:Gil Weisman, PM	14
<i>Masonry Needs Masons</i> - W.:Gil Weisman, PM	14
<i>Freemasonry in Florida</i> - M.:W.:J. Roy Crowther, PGM	15
<i>Turn Something Negative Into Something Positive</i> - W.:Tim Bryce, PM	19
<i>Ideal of a Freemason</i> - Bro. C.J. Jennings	20
<i>The Grand Lodge of Ireland</i> - W.:William K Houston, PM	21
AND FINALLY... - <i>"Comings and Goings"</i>	23



www.phmainstreet.com/mashome

FUND RAISING IDEA!!!

Double your money!!

Here's how it works - Purchase TEN copies of the compact disc (CD), "Songs Of Freemasonry" for \$7.50 each (that's \$75.00 for TEN) then sell each CD for \$15.00, the same price the artist sells them for. You make \$150.00!! Subtract your groups \$75.00 investment and you've profited \$75.00. For each CD sold, your group will make \$7.50. For orders of 150 CDs or more, the price per CD drops to \$6.50--that's a profit of \$1,275.00!!!!

- Bro.Dan Hall
danmando@comcast.net
<http://www.danhall.com/>

Your ad would look great here!

Contact Tim Bryce to place
an order:
Tel: 727/786-4567
E-Mail: timb001@attglobal.net

Advertising rates are posted
on this page.

THE FLORIDA MASON is the official magazine of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Florida. It is published bi-monthly and made freely available to Masons and friends of the fraternity.

Opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect official position of the Grand Lodge of Florida unless so stated.

THE FLORIDA MASON encourages submission of articles and pictures, but the editor reserves the right to edit or reject any article for any reason, and to use only as needs and policies dictate and space permits. Articles and pictures should be sent to the Editor.

Articles can be submitted through *THE FLORIDA MASON's* web site; also, copies of the publication can be downloaded from there as well:

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/>

Permission to reprint original articles in *THE FLORIDA MASON* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications providing credit is given the author and *THE FLORIDA MASON*. Copyright © 2004 by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Florida (also known as the "Grand Lodge of Florida"). All rights reserved.

ADVERTISING RATES

The following rate card is based on an annual run of 6 issues per year.

1/20 page (25/32" X 3+3/4")	\$ 135.00
Business card size (2" X 3+3/4")	\$ 225.00
1/4 page (horizontal) (2+5/16" X 7+5/8")	\$ 375.00
1/4 page (vertical) (4+5/8" X 3+3/4")	\$ 375.00
1/3 page (3" X 7+5/8")	\$ 450.00
1/2 page (4+3/4" X 7+5/8")	\$ 675.00
FULL PAGE (9+1/2" X 7+5/8")	\$1,125.00
CLASSIFIED (50 words or less)	\$ 20.00

CLASSIFIEDS: A lodge may like to post their location and meeting times so that visiting Brothers will know when and where the lodge will meet. These classified ads would be inexpensive and would have statewide coverage. Even District Deputy Grand Masters might list their official visits so all members could make plans to attend. The list of possibilities for classified advertising is endless.

**Call W.: Bro. Tim Bryce to place an order:
727/786-4567**

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

"Lodge Consolidations"

This past year I witnessed several Lodge consolidations in Florida; in the Tampa Bay area alone...

* East Gate Lodge No. 355 moved in with Sutherland Lodge No. 174

* High Twelve Lodge No. 317 moved in with Community Lodge No. 292

* Palma Ceia Lodge No. 290 moved in with Fellowship Lodge No. 265

I refrain from using the term "merger" since this is most definitely not the intent. Such consolidations are to be expected as membership declines and the cost of living goes up. As any businessman will tell you, when a franchise is struggling, the only alternative is to either shut it down completely or consolidate it with another. I don't think we're ready to shut our Lodges down, but the economic reality is that it is time to consolidate our financial resources in order to continue operations. I believe these consolidations, such as those mentioned above, are just the tip of the iceberg and we'll see more of them in the next few years. Now is the time to consider grouping Lodges together and construct new facilities that are state of the art for hosting multiple Lodges and associated Masonic bodies. Many will resist this due to the historical nature of our buildings and the traditions associated with them. But unless we get a groundswell of new members, we will have to swallow our pride and consider alternatives. Ignoring this problem is only to deny the inevitable. Now is the time to start talking about reality. It doesn't just make sense, it is the smart thing to do.

SKILLS INVENTORY

Please be advised that I have introduced a new "Skills Inventory" to *THE FLORIDA MASON* web page, specifically at:

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/skills.htm>

The intent is to catalog the talents and expertise of Florida Masons. Hopefully, you will find it useful.

Please do not hesitate to Bookmark the web page or establish a link to the new page.

FEATURED WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

THE FLORIDA MASON was recently honored to receive the "King Edward Lodge Web Site of the Month" in January:

<http://members.shaw.ca/ke93/SiteoftheMonth.htm>

What makes this special is that this award represents one of the most reputable web site awards around. The award was devised by Bro. Greg Balla (ke93@shaw.ca) of King Edward Lodge No. 93 A.F.& A.M. in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Thanks Bro. Balla for the recognition.

Keep the faith!

W:Tim Bryce, PM
timb001@attglobal.net
Editor

P.S. Don't forget to add me to your Trestleboard mailing list:

Tim Bryce
P.O. Box 1637
Palm Harbor, FL 34682-1637

For a list of other Grand Lodge e-zines and Florida Trestleboards, please see our web site at:

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/>



DOWN THE ROAD CALENDAR OF EVENTS



For the Grand Master's Itinerary, see:

[http://www.gflmason.org/
Grand_masters_itinerary1.htm](http://www.gflmason.org/Grand_masters_itinerary1.htm)

For other Grand Lodge activities, please see:

<http://plus.calendars.net/gloffla/>
or <http://www.gflmason.org/>

Thursday, March 4th

The Grand Master's Birthday (39 again!)

Saturday, March 6th, 4:30pm

Outdoor MM Degree Sponsored by Joppa Lodge No. 4, Old Town. For info: W.:Eric Daniels, PM, PDI, 352/542-2470

Sunday, March 7th, 1:30pm

Grand Master's Charity Softball Game: Clearwater Lodge No. 127 vs. Sutherland Lodge No. 174; to be held at Sunderman Field, Palm Harbor. For info: W.:Tim Bryce, PM, 727/786-4567

Sunday, March 14th, 8:00am-1:00pm

Pancake Breakfast @ Star Lodge No. 78, Largo. For info: star_lodge_78@hotmail.com, 727/585-2485

Sunday, March 14, 2004, 5:00pm

Ortega Freemasons at: The Florida Yacht Club, Astor Room, 5210 Yacht Club Road, Jacksonville, FL 32210 Tel: 904/387-1653. For info, contact Bill Wood at 904/778-8685.

Wednesday, March 17th, 8:00pm

SunCoast Masters & Wardens Association meeting (Dists, 20 & 21) at Star Lodge No. 78, Largo. For info, call the Secretary, R.:W.:Ron McMillan, 727/539-1645. Dinner: 7:00pm, Meeting: 8:00pm. Open to all Master Masons.

Thursday, March 18th, 5:30pm

Railroad Degree (MM) @ Brandon Lodge No. 114, Brandon. For info: webmaster@brandonlodge.org, 813/689-4221

March 20th, 8:00am-10:00am

Breakfast @ Fellowship Lodge No. 265, Tampa For info: Secretary@fellowship265.org, 813/876-9179

Sunday, March 21st, 11:00am

Grand Lodge Board of Trustees Meeting at the Masonic Home, St. Petersburg.

March 26th, 7:30pm

Dist. 22 & 23 Masters & Wardens Association meeting @ Fellowship Lodge No. 265, Tampa.

Saturday, March 27th, 9:00am

Zone 6 School of Instruction at: Scottish Rite Masonic Ctr., Tampa, 813/886-0578

Saturday, April 3rd, 11:00am-4:00pm

Annual Fish Fry @ Hyde Park Lodge No. 370, Jacksonville. For info: david_j_martino@comcast.net 904/786-2872

Saturday, April 3rd, 9:00am

Floral City Lodge Spring Trap Shoot @ Robinson Ranch Trap and Skeet Club, Dunnellon; Tel: 352/487-7396. For info: R.:W.:Earl Garlock, 352/344-5096 or e-mail: locoengr@tampabay.rr.com / hobby4636@intergate.com

Saturday, April 17th, 9:00am

4th Annual SunCoast Masters & Wardens Trapshoot, Odessa. Proceeds benefit the Association's Scholarship Fund. For info: W.:Tim Bryce, PM, 727/786-4567

April 23rd, 7:30pm

Dist. 22 & 23 Masters & Wardens Association meeting @ Fellowship Lodge No. 265, Tampa

May 30th - June 2nd

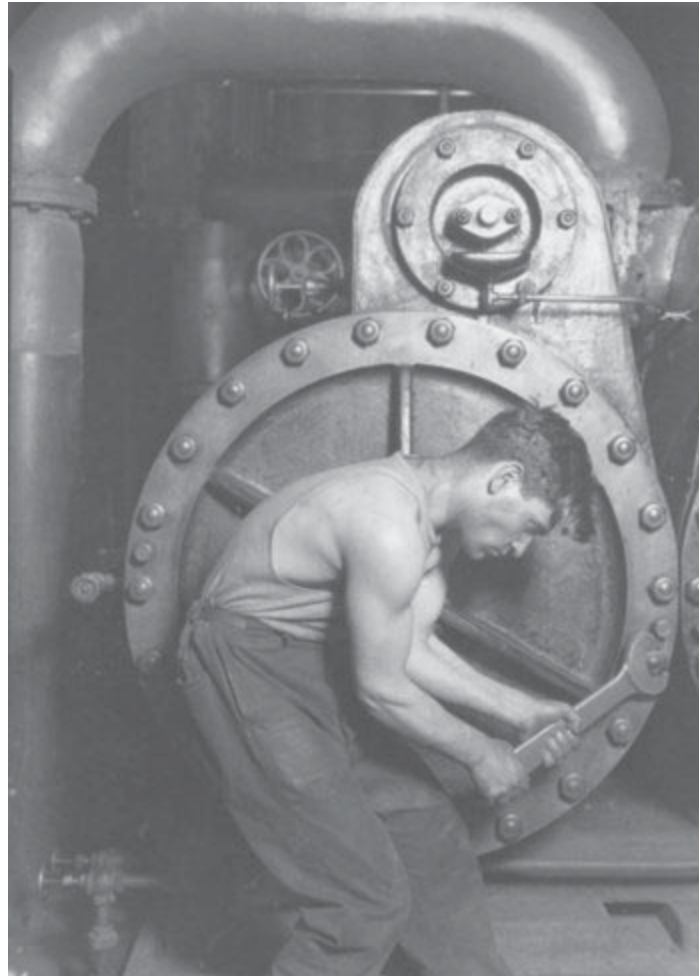
175th Annual Grand Communications in Jacksonville Adam's Mark Hotel
Tel: 904/633-9095
Reservations: 800/444-2326

Got an important date you want listed here? Send your announcements to THE FLORIDA MASON either through our web site at:

<http://www.phmainstreet.com/flmason/>
Or e-mail it to timb001@attglobal.net

FM

THE DEATH OF CRAFTSMANSHIP?



*photo by Lewis Wicks Hine
source: U.S. National Archives*

by W.:Tim Bryce, PM
Editor, *THE FLORIDA MASON*

"Manage more, supervise less."
- Bryce's Law

When I got into the work force back in the mid-1970's it seemed everyone dressed in a suit and tie, drank black coffee, smoked their brains out, and worked their butts off. Today, golf shirts have replaced suits, herbal tea and bottled water have replaced coffee, nobody is allowed to smoke, and rarely does anyone work beyond 5:00pm. More importantly, we used to care about the work we produced; there was a sense of craftsmanship, regardless of the job.

My Brother-in-law in Cincinnati conducted me on a tour of his company's machine-tool shop years ago and showed me how he could take a block of aluminum and convert it into a high-precision machine tool. It was a

pleasure to watch him work, as it is to watch anyone who knows what they are doing and does it well, be it a waitress, a programmer, a laborer or clerk, or even a Mason who delivers a lecture or catechism flawlessly.

Quality and service used to be considered paramount in this country. If it wasn't just right, you were expected to do it over again until you got it right. We cared about what we produced because it was a reflection of our personal character and integrity. But somewhere along the line we lost our way and craftsmanship has fallen by the wayside. Why? Probably because we no longer care.

In today's litigious society employees are acutely aware that it is difficult to be fired due to poor performance. They know they will still get paid and receive benefits, regardless of the amount of effort they put forth. Consequently, there is little to encourage people to perform

(continued on page 6)

THE DEATH OF CRAFTSMANSHIP?

(continued from page 5)

better. Money isn't even a motivating factor anymore. People now expect bonuses, raises and other perks to be paid out regardless of how well they perform during the year.

We've also become a nation content with doing small things. America used to be known as a powerhouse that could tackle large projects, such as building skyscrapers, designing innovative bridges and tunnels spanning substantial bodies of water, engineering transcontinental railroads and highway systems, conquering air and space travel, and defending freedom not just once but in two world wars. If you really wanted something done, you talked to the Americans and no one else. Now we get excited over iPods, cell phones, and other electronic trinkets.

Part of the problem here is that we have an aversion to planning of any kind. This is due, in part, to a "fast track" mentality in the corporate work force where we try to make a name for ourselves by introducing quick and dirty solutions within 90 days. Band-aid solutions can solve problems in the interim but will not solve our major long-term objectives. Let us not be afraid to tackle our big projects, as well as the small ones.

The biggest problem though is that we have forgotten how to manage people. The manager's primary goal is to create the proper work environment for employees to produce the desired work products. This is different than a supervisory capacity that directs how each person performs the various tasks of a job. In fact, I encourage managers to manage more and supervise less. I cringe when I see a manager try to "micromanage" either a Fortune 500 company or a non-profit organization, such as a Lodge. Yes, people need to be trained in order to properly perform their work. But following this, employees should be mature enough to supervise themselves. In the old days, management stressed discipline, accountability, and structure; three ugly words in today's workplace. As an aside, it is for these reasons that I gravitated towards Freemasonry; it requires a certain discipline to act in life; you are held accountable for your actions, and; there is structure in the order which everyone is expected to conform to.

Freemasonry itself should be an excellent example of craftsmanship. Our Stated Communications should run smoothly and address the problems of the Lodge, our Called Communications should be an excellent demonstration of degree work, and we should be a shining example of conduct in the community. If not, we should ask "Why?" Do we not know how to do the work? Are our members and officers not properly trained? Or do

we simply not care?

When I was installed Worshipful Master of my Lodge, I felt the weight of the position the moment I took the oath of office. Consequently, I was determined to do as good a job as possible. I did not assume that everything would simply run like a well-oiled machine and my year in the East would be a snap. Instead, I challenged many things and bent over backwards to see the Lodge prosper. Thank God I had taken my time by going through the chairs and learned the duties and responsibilities of the various offices, and by visiting other Lodges to see how they accomplished similar tasks. More importantly, I cared. I didn't see this as a frivolous job in a volunteer organization, but rather as a reflection of my own personal integrity. This motivated me greatly and, as manager of the Lodge, knew it would affect others. If I didn't care, I knew the Craft wouldn't either. It therefore became important for me to instill a sense of craftsmanship back into the Lodge; a pride of Freemasonry and our work. What did I learn?

LESSON ONE. Get organized - It is not uncommon to find a lot of clutter left over from past administrations. When taking over as manager, challenge existing systems and procedures;

If they work fine as is - great;
If they are broken - fix them;
If they can be improved - change them;
If they represent redundant work effort - eliminate them.

Simplify and streamline your administrative efforts. I have always believed in the Navy's regimen in the workplace: either work on something, file it, or throw it away. If we need new filing cabinets, buy them, but keep your workplace tidy and stay organized. Also, avoid the temptation of blaming your predecessors. Just take notes and move on.

LESSON TWO. Establish goals and priorities. This is an on-going process, not just a one-time event. Your objectives and priorities will change over time and, because of this, the Master must be constantly focused on them and be able to articulate them to the Craft. Workers must be convinced what they we are doing is worthwhile. If so convinced, they will make every effort to see the task fulfilled, regardless if it is large or small, which leads to pride in workmanship. Men can move mountains if they believe in a cause. Deep-down, people understand that their work adds value to their lives. Consequently, to inspire or motivate people is the true hallmark of a leader. If the Master has no vision as to where the Lodge should be going, the Craft will realize this immediately and apathy will ensue.

(continued on page 7)

THE DEATH OF CRAFTSMANSHIP?

(continued from page 6)

Also, be pragmatic in your planning; do not bite off more than the Craft can chew. I've seen Masters try to change the world during their year, only to come up way too short. Remember, you eat elephants one spoonful at a time.

LESSON THREE. Training: Make sure every officer knows their duties and responsibilities early on. Also provide for supplemental training in degree work by holding rehearsals, with and without the District Instructor, host Master Mason & Officer examinations, and encourage attendance at District/Zone Schools of Instruction.

LESSON FOUR. Manage from the bottom-up (as described in the January 2003 issue). Basically, delegate responsibility and get out of their way. By empowering people in this manner, they will realize their voices are important and begin to conquer problems. Some might argue that man has a natural aversion to assuming responsibility. This is because we have a fear of delegating authority. This fear can be overcome by providing the proper training and experience. Also, in assigning tasks, make it a policy not to ask anyone to do anything you aren't prepared to do yourself. One slick trick is to establish a Skills Inventory to determine the right people for the right task.

LESSON FIVE. Communications: for both planning and follow-up purposes. By constantly keeping the Lodge calendar up-to-date, people know what will be coming down the road. Print it routinely in your Trestleboard newsletter and post it on your web site if you have one. Further, e-mail the Craft each week about upcoming events as a reminder. Also, stay in touch with your officers and committee chairmen to see how things are coming along and look for potential problems (follow-up is essential).

LESSON SIX. Review work and recognize outstanding effort. This is particularly necessary in a voluntary organization such as ours. People like to know if their work is noticed and appreciated; a sense of accomplishment. Awards and certificates are nice, but a simple "Thank You" in open Lodge can also work wonders.

Also, when conducting a major project, be sure to review the results of the project at its conclusion. Be sure to candidly answer the questions, "What did we do right?" and "What did we do wrong?" Learn from your mistakes.

Chaos and confusion should be replaced by the 5-W's (Who is to do What, When, Where, and Why), thereby creating a sense of discipline, accountability and structure. More importantly, the Craft will begin to care about their work and a sense of craftsmanship will emerge simply because people will know what is expected of them.

A final note: craftsmanship is not a one time thing. After it has been instilled in people, it has to be cultivated and perpetuated. If a manager slips even for a moment, it will go right out the window and it will take time to bring it back to life. As for me, I like to post motivational reminders kind of like the one recently spotted in the Hickey Freeman manufacturing facility in New York, "Excellence will be Tolerated."

The author is a management consultant located in the Tampa Bay area of Florida and is available to give a talk on this subject at Lodge and District/Zone meetings.

FM



www.phmainstreet.com/mashome

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

ORANGE PARK LODGE INSTALLS FATHERS AND SONS



ORANGE PARK, FL (December 27, 2003) - Orange Park Lodge No. 267 F.& A.M. installed new officers for the coming year. Worshipful Otho "Lew" Smith was installed as Worshipful Master. The Installing Officer was R.:W.:Elmer G. Coffman, Deputy Grand Master. The Installing Marshal was R.:W.:Bill Walker, PDDGM. The Installing Chaplain was R.:W.:Danny Griffith, PDDGM. Of particular note was the installation of two fathers/sons into the Line for 2004. W.:Lew Smith's son Dennis was installed as Junior Deacon. Bro.Dan Mitola was installed as our new Senior Warden and his son, Bro.Dan Mitola, Jr. was installed as Chaplain. This coincidence may be unique as having two father/son combinations in the line of officers at the same time seems to be quite exceptional.

- courtesy of W.:Charlie Frey, PM
Secretary

FM



GULF BEACH LODGE INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS



(L-R) Front Row: Craig Cramer, Daniel Saltzman, Joseph Engolia
Middle Row: Ed Pinkham, Jack Cheney, David Brown, Donald Roney
Back: Derryl O'Neal, Albert MacMillan, Donald Harriott, Lauro Padron

MADEIRA BEACH, FL (January 3, 2004) - Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 F.& A.M., located at 14020 Marguerite Drive, held its 54th annual Installation of Lodge Officers on Saturday January 3rd, 2004 at the Masonic Temple. The Installation of the 2004 Lodge Officers was open to the members and public alike. The new Lodge officers for 2004 are: Daniel Saltzman, Worshipful Master; Joseph Engolia, Senior Warden; Craig Cramer, Junior Warden; Donald Roney, Secretary; William Harper, Treasurer; David Brown, Senior Deacon; Jack Cheney, Junior Deacon; Lauro Padron, Senior Steward; Derryl O'Neal, Junior Steward; Donald Harriott, Chaplain; Ed Pinkham, Organist; Albert MacMillan and Frank Lizius, Tylers.

The Installation was led by Richard Hoover, District Deputy Grand Master of the 21st Masonic District assisted by Past Masters John Henry and Donald Harriott with music by Ed Pinkham, organist. After the Installation the guests enjoyed refreshments which were prepared by Brother Craig Cramer, Junior Warden.

Gulf Beach Lodge was Chartered in 1950 and has been an active force on the Gulf Beaches for 54 years. Its members have included bankers, contractors, teachers, congressmen, soldiers, pharmacists, and a myriad of men from all walks of life.

- courtesy of W.:Howard Knapp, PM, PDI
Chairman, District 21 Publicity & Public Relations

FM

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

FIREFIGHTERS PUT ON MASTER MASON DEGREE



(L-R) Gary Costa, Tim Know, Bill Riley, Craig Cramer, Frank Whitney (on knee), W.:Howard Knapp, Andy Green, Derek Raymer, Alan Shedler, Derryl O'Neal

MADEIRA BEACH, FL (December 18, 2003) - Firefighters from four Tampa Bay Fire Departments put on a Master Mason Degree at Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 F. & A.M., located at 14020 Marguerite Drive in Madeira Beach. Firefighters from Hillsborough County, Madeira Beach, Clearwater, and Seminole conferred the Masonic Degree upon Firefighter Frank Whitney of the Clearwater Fire Department. Mr. Whitney has been a firefighter for eight years and has worked for both Hillsborough County and Clearwater Fire Departments. The team of firefighters that put on the Degree are members of four different Masonic Lodges in the Tampa Bay area including Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291, Star Lodge No. 78 in Largo, A.W. Windhorst Lodge No. 185 in Tampa and Brandon Lodge No. 114. This Masonic event was the first of its kind in the area and plans are being made to repeat it in the future.

The evening began with a two alarm, Fire House style, chili dinner prepared by W.:Howard Knapp, PM, PDI, firefighter with Hillsborough County and a member of Gulf Beach Lodge. After dinner, over 50 Masons were in attendance at the degree which the firefighters put on in full dress uniform. Those taking part in the degree were Derryl O'Neal (Gulf Beach Lodge), Fire Chief of Madeira Beach; Gary Costa (Star Lodge), Firefighter for Clearwater; Bill Riley (Brandon Lodge), Captain for Hillsborough County; Alan Shedler (Gulf Beach Lodge), Lieutenant for Seminole; Derek Raymer (Gulf Beach Lodge) Firefighter for Seminole; Craig Cramer (Gulf Beach Lodge), Firefighter for Clearwater; Andy Green

(A.W. Windhorst Lodge), Driver Engineer for Hillsborough County; Tim Know (A.W. Windhorst Lodge), Firefighter for Hillsborough County; Howard Knapp (Gulf Beach Lodge), Driver Engineer for Hillsborough County.

Gulf Beach Lodge meets each Thursday evening at 7:45pm and welcomes all local and visiting Masons to attend. For further information about the Lodge or to contact the Lodge Secretary, please call 727/391-8073 or visit the Lodge website at: <http://www.gulfbeachlodge.org/>.

There is now a Tampabay Firefighter's Degree Team available to confer the Master Mason Degree on any firefighter that might come through your Lodge. For information, contact yours truly.

*- courtesy of W.:Howard Knapp, PM, PDI
Chairman, District 21 Publicity & Public Relations*

FM

Your ad would look great here!

Contact Tim Bryce to place
an order:
Tel: 727/786-4567
E-Mail: timb001@attglobal.net

Advertising rates are posted
on page 2 of this
publication.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

ACACIA LODGE INSTALLATION



STUART, FL (January 3, 2004) - Most Worshipful John R. Givens, Grand Master of Masons in Florida, installed the Master, Wardens and officers of Acacia Lodge No. 163 F.& A.M. He was assisted by W.:Edward L. Brickle, Installing Grand Marshal; James E. Gibbs, installing Chaplain, R.:W.:Marty Reitz, Installing Organist, and; R.:W.:Walter Lewis Bush, District Deputy Grand Master, 30th Masonic District. W.:Michael Yuhas was installed Worshipful Master. Others installed include: O.B. "Ben" Geirger, Senior Warden; Donald Jsepoh, Junior Warden; R.:W.:Paul Friend, PDDGM, Treasurer; R.:W.:William McMillan, PDDGM, Secretary; Howard Friend, Chaplain; Ronald Shae Bailey, Marshal; W.:Earl S. Kratzer, PM, Senior Deacon; Kevin M. Grimes, D.C., Junior Deacon; George M. Winterling, Senior Steward; Robert Gilliam, Junior Steward; Howard W.:Sheldon, Tyler; and R.:W.:Marty Reitz, PDDGM, Organist.

- j.crankshaw@att.net

FM

MAYO LODGE CELEBRATES IT'S 113TH BIRTHDAY



OLD TOWN, FL (January 23, 2004) - Mayo Lodge had a wonderful turnout for their 113th Birthday party! Over 50 Master Masons and their families attended and enjoyed a fantastic Bar-B-Q dinner with all of the trimmings. R.:W.:Tommy Howard, State Chairman on Committee on Work, was the guest speaker and gave a very informative and interesting presentation on the history of Mayo Lodge, the Past Masters, and the formation of the surrounding counties as they related to the Lodge. Since it's charter in 1891, the Lodge has had so much interesting history that few were aware of, including three fires that almost destroyed the Lodge. The last fire being in 2002, and took several months of hard dedicated work by the members of Mayo and surrounding Lodges to restore back to what it is today. All of the members and guests were treated to a wonderful humorous presentation of "Casey at the Bat" by the Local Chapter of the Eastern Star. Everyone left the Lodge with a full stomach, great fellowship, and a renewed interest in the Masonic Fraternity. Several Masters of nearby Lodges, many Past D.D.G.M.'s as well as their wives and families attended and were treated to a fantastic night of Fellowship and entertainment. Plans are already in the making for a 114th celebration next year. A very Happy Birthday to the officers and members of Mayo Lodge No. 119!

- courtesy of W.:Eric Daniels, PM, PDI

FM



NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

HIBISCUS LODGE DOESN'T FIDDLE AROUND!



Hibiscus Lodge No. 275 F. & A.M., located in Coral Gables—the 35th District, learned that Coral Gables Elementary had students who wanted to learn to play the violin and teachers ready, willing and able to teach them, but there were very few violins so on January 9, 2004, its Brothers and friends and its Charitable Foundation raised approximately \$1,300.00 to purchase 15 violins, bows and cases. Pictured (from left to right) are: Commissioner Cabrera, Mayor Slesnick; W.:Roger M. Dunetz, PM, Lynn Bauer, W.:Carlos E. Cespedes, PM; Ed Almeyda, S.W.; Hon. Ramon Irigoyin, W.:Peter Milheiser, PM, Ms. Santiago the teacher, Ada Holian, Asst. Principal Aylin Mendiola, Principal Cheli Cerra, and W.:M.:John Holian; the students are shown in front. As the photo shows the school and community were ecstatic!

ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT



On January 13th Hibiscus Lodge held its Annual Awards night and Installation of Officers. Dinner was catered and there was an eleven minute photo presentation reflecting the year's activities. The incoming Worshipful Master, his wife and baby enjoyed the dinner activities. The outgoing Worshipful Master recognized the contributions and efforts of many Brothers and the long ser-



vice to the fraternity including 40 and 50 year pin recipients. The new officers were then installed. Meanwhile the kids downstairs enjoyed popcorn watching "Finding Nemo" on an eight foot screen. As usual, a great time was had by all.

- courtesy of W.:Roger M. Dunetz, PM
Treasurer

FM



NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

4TH ANNUAL SUNCOAST MASTERS & WARDENS TRAPSHOOT: APRIL 17TH



The SunCoast Masters & Wardens Association (representing Masonic Lodges in Districts 20 & 21) is pleased to announce its Fourth Annual Trapshoot Tournament benefitting the Association's Scholarship Fund. This fund is used to reward students in the Tampa Bay area for Academic Achievement. The tournament is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2004; Registration 9:00am, Competition 10:00am.

Three Divisions of Competition are available:

Juniors - Ages 10-15
Adult - Ages 16-50
Seniors - Over 50

The tournament will be held again at the Silver Dollar Shooters Club in Odessa. The Silver Dollar is across the street from the golf club and offers excellent facilities for shooters, including a clubhouse for breakfast and lunch. Open Wednesday thru Sunday.

Silver Dollar Shooters Club
17202 Target Way
Odessa, FL 33556
Tel: 813/920-3231

The Silver Dollar has twenty trap stations, as well as two skeet ranges, and a "5-Stand." Clay targets are thrown upon voice activated controls. Instructors are available as required.

So, whether you're a novice or expert shooter, come on out and enjoy Brotherhood for a worthy cause: Academic Scholarship.

This event is open to all Masons, family members, and potential candidates for the fraternity. Registration deadline is April 1, 2004.

For \$50 you receive three rounds of trap (one practice round, two for competition); shells included. Scorekeepers and instructors will be provided by the Silver Dollar Shooters Club. Prizes for the top shooters in each category. Note: The Silver Dollar has a limited number of rental guns available (\$6; first-come, first-served).

Travel Notes:

1. All participants in this tournament assume their own personal liability. Participants agree to hold harmless the Silver Dollar Shooters Club, the SunCoast Masters & Wardens Association, the tournament organizers, or officials for any accident/injury sustained by the participant during this tournament. Further, all participants agree to be safety conscious during this tournament.
2. It is strongly suggested that you use safety glasses when shooting, as well as ear protection (e.g., plugs), all of which are available for purchase at the Silver Dollar.
3. WEATHER NOTE: We will try to hold the event on April 17th come rain or shine. However, if the weather is too severe to hold the tournament, it will be postponed until the following day: Sunday, April 18th.

Proceeds in excess of costs will benefit the SunCoast Masters & Wardens Association Scholarship Fund.

For more information or to register, please contact:

W.: Tim Bryce, PM
Tel: 727/786-4567
E-Mail: timb001@attglobal.net

FM



NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

MASONS PRESENT PICTURE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON TO BUSHNELL NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY



A good showing of Brothers from District 19 were on hand for the presentation.

LECANTO, FL (February 13, 2004) - Thirty-five Masons from the Masters & Wardens Association of the 19th Masonic District of Florida assembled Friday, February 13th, 2004 at Bushnell National Memorial Cemetery to present a picture of George Washington, on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Florida.

R.:W.:Frederick G. Harman, DDGM of the 19th District presided over the event and along with W.:M.:George Palmer, President of the Masters & Wardens Association, made the presentation to the Head Administrator, Mr.Murphy.

The picture depicting George Washington in his Masonic Regalia and presiding over his Lodge will be put on display in the Visitors Center, once again leaving the Masonic thumbprint on this great Nation of ours. What more fitting place could there be for the depiction of our first Commander-in-Chief, this American Patriot, this Statesman, this FREEMASON than the final resting place of so many of our Nations Veterans?

For more information on this announcement, please contact George Palmer at 352/521-7143.

- courtesy of W.:Anthony Marotta

FM



www.phmainstreet.com/mashome

MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

A WONDERFUL MASONIC TALE

It was a tale of Masonic men surrounding a campfire in the Old West, at night, discussing the Fraternity and its teachings. One old man listened patiently, and finally spoke up: "I can tell you more about Masonry in a little example than some of the great Masonic philosophers can in books. Everybody stand up, and gather in a circle around the campfire."

They did.

"Now, everybody hold hands with the man next to him."

They did that, too.

"Now, what do you see, looking ahead?"

"The face of a Brother Mason through the flames."

"What do you feel in front of you?"

"The warmth of the fire, and the comfort it brings on a cool night."

"What do you feel at your side?"

"The warm hand of a Brother."

"OK. Now, drop the hands, and turn around."

They did so.

"Now, what do you see, looking ahead?"

"Complete darkness."

"What do you feel, looking ahead?"

"A sense of loneliness, of being alienated."

"What do you feel at your side?"

"Nothing at all."

"What do you feel on your backside?"

"The warmth of the fire."

"So it is with Masonry," said the old man, "In Masonic gatherings, you can feel the warmth of Masonic interaction, you can see the face of a Brother through the light Masonry brings to you, and you can always feel the warm

hand of a Brother. When you turn away from Masonry, and are out in the world, you see darkness, feel alienated and alone, and do not feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother. But Masonry, and the warmth and light it brings, are just a turn away from you."

MASONRY NEEDS MASONS

"Masonry needs Masons more than it needs members. Were every member a Mason in all that the name signifies, were the education that Masonry gives thoroughly comprehended by men and established as the Universal System of Ethical Instruction for Human Guidance and Conduct, and its form of government adopted and put into effect by nations and states everywhere, there would be such a forward step in all the uplifting, ennobling, and altruistic things of life, that the smoke and thunder and savage cruelty of war, with the selfishness, bitterness, and hatred that have so long nourished them would disappear, never to return. And the first gleaming rays of the millennium would ere long be flashed to every part of the earth, and 'Peace On Earth, Good Will Towards Men' would be made a reality."

From: Masonic Tidings ... October, 1920
As published in Cinosam

- courtesy of W.: Gil Weisman, PM
BCC1953@aol.com
High Twelve Lodge No. 317 F. & A.M.
<http://home1.gte.net/kwdean/index.html>
Tampa

FM



MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

FREEMASONRY IN FLORIDA

*by M.:W.:J. Roy Crowther, PGM
Grand Treasurer*



Institutions such as Freemasonry come into being because of their need by the society of the time. Some institutions come into being, serve a specific purpose and soon become extinct, while others continue for hundreds of years and even longer. The religious beliefs of different civilizations represents an institution which has continued since the beginning of time. That institution is found in many different forms in the different cultures of the known world. However different, each of these serves a similar purpose and helps man to recognize and understand his tie to a Supreme Being.

Freemasonry is an institution which came into being to bond men together for a common purpose. Freemasonry began in one sense and in later years evolved into another, but still with the common purpose of bringing men together for the betterment of their own individual and collective well being.

It is not my intent to delve into the general history of Freemasonry but I do want to present some idea as to whence we came and then to make a concentrated effort to tell you something about the beginning and prosperity of Freemasonry in this land we call Florida.

Operative Masonry can be traced back for many hundreds of years and was the institution which bound the skilled hands and minds of those craftsmen who built most of the buildings of yesteryear, those buildings which are today considered architectural wonders. Operative Masonry evolved into what we know as Speculative Freemasonry and this Brotherhood has left extant records whereby we can trace this part of our Masonic Heritage back to as early as 926, when there was a Masonic Lodge in York, England.

Our first Grand Lodge, in 1717, in London, England, soon spread this Masonic understanding across to the distant shores of the North American Continent and Masonic Lodges as we know them today, were established and chartered up and down the East Coast of this new world. Our neighboring State of Georgia had Freemasonry, in the form of Solomon's Lodge at Savannah, as early as 1734. This Lodge, together with others, in 1786, formed the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free and Accepted Masons.

Just West of Georgia, other Lodges were being chartered in the State of Alabama and in June, 1821, those Lodges organized the Grand Lodge of Alabama, Free and Accepted Masons.

In these early years, even though the Territories of East and West Florida were mostly under Spanish rule and the strong influence of the Catholic Doctrine, there were Masonic Lodges being established. These lodges were short lived and it was not until after the United States acquired these two territories, in 1821, that enduring lodges were established.

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Territory of Florida was organized July 5 and 6, 1830, at Tallahassee, Florida.

(continued on page 16)



**General James Grant of Ballindalloch,
Governor of East Florida.
Engraving by I. Kay, 1798**

Illustration courtesy of the Jay I. Kislak Foundation, Miami

MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

FREEMASONRY IN FLORIDA

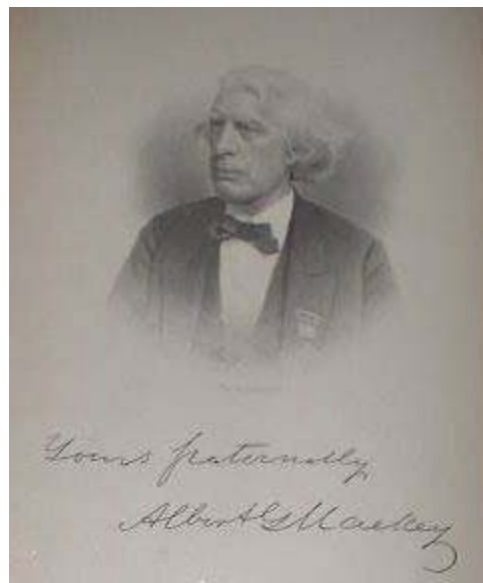
(continued from page 15)

According to the records of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, that Grand Lodge chartered "Grant's East Florida Lodge Number 143" on March 15, 1768 at St. Augustine. The research of this writer establishes this as the first Masonic Lodge to be chartered in either of the two Florida Territories. While it is possible that there have been other lodges previous to this time, it would be likely that they have would have been Military or Traveling Lodges which came and left with different military organizations and due to the limited time that the British and French were in control of this land, these lodges are of a lesser possibility.

On the same date, March 15, 1768, the Grand Lodge of Scotland also created the "Provincial Grand Lodge over the Lodges in the Southern District of North America." James Grant, then Governor of the East Florida Territory, was the first Provincial Grand Master of this Provincial Grand Lodge. This Provincial Grand Lodge was located in St. Augustine as was Grant's East Florida Lodge No. 143. The other Grand Lodge Officers were, William Drayton, Deputy Grand Master (PT), Alexander McKenzie, Senior Grand Warden, Frederick George Mulcaster, Junior Grand Warden, David Yates, Grand Secretary and John Faley, "G.C."

The second lodge to be chartered in this virgin land was "St. Andrews Lodge No. 1" of the West Florida Territory and it was situated at Pensacola. St. Andrews was chartered May 3, 1771 by the Provincial Grand Lodge and James Grant signed St. Andrews charter as Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The Charter members of St. Andrews Lodge were; John Amer, James Crawford, Robert Dalrymple, Francis Downman, William Dutton, Daniel Ficky, Peter Miller, James Mitchell, Patrick Morgan and Alexander Strother.

Ten years later, in 1781, Pensacola had been returned to the control of Spain and the members of St. Andrews No. 1 fled to Charleston, South Carolina. In 1782, the Provincial Grand Lodge at St. Augustine, authorized St. Andrews to continue working in their new home and to do so with their original charter which had been used in Pensacola. In 1783, both Florida Territories were ceded back to Spain and the Provincial Grand Lodge as well as Grant's East Florida Lodge No. 143 were suppressed. The Brethren of St. Andrews Lodge, being without a Grand Lodge, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a charter and they were re-chartered as Lodge No. 40.



ALBERT G. MACKEY

Photo courtesy of Pietre-Stones Review of Freemasonry

St. Andrews Lodge No. 40, together with four other lodges, organized the Grand Lodge of South Carolina in 1817. With the organization of this new Grand Lodge, St. Andrews was re-numbered, Number 10, and worked as such until they surrendered their charter in 1881.

Albert G. Mackey, very prominent in the records of Freemasonry, was Initiated, Passed and Raised in St. Andrews Lodge No. 10, in 1841, in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1806, the Grand Lodge of Georgia issued a warrant to St. Fernando Lodge of St. Augustine, Florida. Samuel Betts was the first Master of this Lodge and it worked in East Florida until suppressed by the Spanish in 1811. The number of this lodge is not known and this part of our history was probably destroyed by fire as many other records of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, for this period, were also lost.

Two years later, in 1813, the Grand Lodge of Georgia issued a charter to the fourth Florida Lodge which was San Fernando Lodge Number 28. This Lodge was to meet at Fernandina, East Florida and the time of their suppression is not known as these records were probably lost by fire also.

Floridian Virtues Lodge No. 28 was the fifth Masonic Lodge to be organized in Florida. This Lodge was

(continued on page 17)

MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

FREEMASONRY IN FLORIDA

(continued from page 16)

chartered by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina on August 9, 1820 to meet in St. Augustine. The first Master was Worshipful Master Brother John Geiger. While we do not have records of when this lodge went defunct, we do have records that tell us that the Charter and Seal of this lodge were recovered by the Grand Lodge of Florida in 1868 but were lost in the fire in the Grand Secretary's Office on December 16, 1885.

The sixth Lodge to be chartered in the Florida Territory was also chartered by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. This was the first lodge to be chartered in Florida after it became a possession of the United States and was known as the Territory of Florida instead of the East and West Territories as it had previously been known. This lodge was a Spanish speaking Lodge, chartered in 1824 as Esperanza Lodge Number 47 to meet at St. Augustine. Esperanza Lodge went defunct in 1827.

The Grand Lodge of Georgia chartered our seventh lodge on March 8, 1824 and it was Montgomery Lodge Number 30 which also met in St. Augustine. The first three line officers were John B. Strong, Worshipful Master, Thomas H. Penn, Senior Warden and Richard Murray, Junior Warden. The dates of chartering indicates that we had two Masonic Lodges, at this time, working in St. Augustine, Florida. One was a Spanish speaking lodge and the other an English speaking lodge. Our records do not tell us when Montgomery Lodge No. 30 went defunct but it would have been before 1830, when the Grand Lodge of Florida was organized.

Our eighth lodge was chartered in the Western part of the territory, at Pensacola, and was named Good Intention Lodge. This lodge was chartered in 1825, by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, and went defunct in 1827. It is not certain whether this lodge was numbered 17 or 56 as it is mentioned in old records by both numbers. Inasmuch as the Grand Lodge of South Carolina chartered Lodge No. 47, at St. Augustine in 1824, it is the reasoning of this writer that there is a greater probability that Good Intention Lodge was numbered 56 in 1825.

The first Masonic Lodge in Florida to stand the test of time was Jackson Lodge No. 23. This was our ninth lodge and was chartered on December 19, 1825 by the recently organized Grand Lodge of Alabama. Jackson Lodge No. 23 was named for Major General Andrew Jackson and was to meet at Tallahassee, Florida. On November 21, 1824, thirteen Master Masons residing in Tal-

lahassee had petitioned the Grand Lodge of Alabama for a charter. These thirteen had memberships as follows: Six were Tennessee Masons, two were Florida Masons, one from each of Georgia, Mississippi and Indiana, one did not record his previous lodge and the other brother was from Union Mark Lodge of St. Augustine. This would have been the "Mark Masters Lodge" which was chartered by DeWitt Clinton, Grand High Priest of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America, in 1822. This Mark Masters Lodge was named Union Mark Lodge and met in St. Augustine. I am not including it in this part of our history as one of our pre Grand Lodge, Lodges.



Jackson Lodge as it stands today.

"Florida's Oldest Lodge"

Photo courtesy of Jackson Lodge No. 1 F.& A.M., Tallahassee

The first three officers, at chartering, of Jackson Lodge No. 23, were Robert Butler, Worshipful Master, Robert W. Williams, Senior Warden and Isham Green Searcy, Junior Warden. These three brothers were all Tennessee Masons and were respectively from Cumberland Lodge No. 8 of Nashville, Nashville Lodge No. 3 of Nashville and Mount Moriah Lodge No. 18 of Murfreesboro.

On August 3, 1827, fifteen Master Masons who resided in Pensacola, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Alabama for a charter. The Grand Lodge of Alabama responded to their request and set Concord Lodge No. 29 to work under dispensation in July, 1828. This lodge worked under dispensation for about eighteen months but when the dispensation expired on December 8, 1829, the lodge was not chartered.

(continued on page 18)

MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

FREEMASONRY IN FLORIDA

(continued from page 17)

Our eleventh and twelfth lodges, the last two lodges to be organized in the territory of Florida, before the organization of the Grand Lodge of Florida, were both chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

Washington Lodge Number 1, of Quincy, was chartered on December 2, 1828. The Grand Lodge of Georgia had issued a dispensation designating Brother Henry Yonge as the first Worshipful Master, Alexander Douglafs, Senior Warden and Henry Gee, Junior Warden. Before the new lodge could be set to work, January 24, 1828, Brother William Norwood as the first Treasurer and Brother William Smith as the first Secretary. The Worshipful Master appointed Brother R.C. Lister, Tyler, Brother John Lines, Senior Deacon, Brother Cyrus Dearborn, Junior Deacon and Brother Stockley Sidbury, Steward.



*Washington Lodge as it stands today.
"Florida's OLDEST Lodge"*

Photo courtesy of Washington Lodge No. 1 F. & A.M., Quincy

Harmony Lodge Number 2 of Marianna, Territory of Florida, worked under a dispensation from Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Daniel Hook of the Grand Lodge of Georgia and was granted a charter by that same Grand Lodge on Tuesday, December 8, 1829 during the three P.M. session. At the seven P.M. session on that same day, Brother "Exom" was authorized to consecrate the new lodge and install the officers at such time and place as may be convenient.

Up to this point in time, I have been able to authenticate only the twelve lodges shown herein, together with the Mark Masters Lodge at St. Augustine. For the purpose of establishing the history of Freemasonry in Florida, I shall consider only those which we have extant records for.

By early 1830, there were only three lodges that were still active in the Territory of Florida, Jackson Lodge No. 23 of Tallahassee, Washington No. 1 of Quincy and Harmony No. 2 at Marianna. The first of these was still working under their charter from the Grand Lodge of Alabama and the other two were both working under their charters from the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

By this time, in the southeastern part of this country, Grand Lodges had already been established in Virginia (1778), Georgia (1786), North Carolina (1787), Kentucky (1800), Louisiana (1812), Tennessee (1813), South Carolina (1817), Mississippi (1818) and Alabama (1821).

FM

MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

TURN SOMETHING NEGATIVE INTO SOMETHING POSITIVE

by W. Tim Bryce, PM
Editor, THE FLORIDA MASON

I'm one of those guys who believes that you shouldn't complain about something unless you have earned the right to do so. For example, I don't believe a person has a right to complain about the government if they do not at least vote in the general election. I have found this same phenomenon occurring in the Lodge as well. The people who are quick to criticize the current line of officers are the same people who haven't lifted a finger to help out around the Lodge. We are all too familiar with the line, *"That's not how we did things in my day."* Well, you know what? Its not your day anymore. What worked twenty or thirty years ago doesn't necessarily work today and our officers need to try new things to adapt to changing times.

But beyond this, I'm seeing a lot of simple negativity in the Lodge, and not just from our older members. I am reminded of the expression, *"Is the glass half empty, or half full?"* I came to my Lodge because I saw the glass half full; I saw huge potential, not problems. Consequently, I got involved and found myself going through the chairs. I have been involved with a lot of volunteer organizations, everything from homeowner associations to computer societies and sports/educational associations. Never have I seen such negativity as I have seen lately on the sidelines of Blue Lodges. We can think of a multitude of reasons why we shouldn't do something and little as to why we should. Some common expressions heard in Lodges:

"It can't be done."

"Its too much work; It will take too long."

"Why should we waste our time?"

"Can't we just give them some money instead?"

"It wouldn't be prudent."

"We've never done that before."

"Let's send it to committee until another time."
(Translation: *"Let's bury it."*)

"We don't have time to do it right."
(Translation: *"We have plenty of time to do it wrong."*)

If you tell someone enough times that they are wrong for trying to do something, eventually they start to believe it, throw up their arms, and do nothing, particularly in a volunteer organization. I am reminded of Bro. Winston Churchill who once said, *"Any fool can see what's wrong with something. But can you see what's right?"*

Instead of offering negative criticisms, how about some positive suggestions for a change? One of the first lessons I learned in business was not to criticize something unless I had a proposed alternative to it. In other words, do your staff work and don't just bring up problems; introduce solutions as well. Its one thing to criticize, its quite something else to offer alternatives. Turning something negative into something positive can be challenging, but it is a much more constructive path to take. Next time you have a beef with your officers, try offering some positive suggestions as opposed to just negative criticisms. Remember, we're all supposed to be on the same team.

FM



www.phmainstreet.com/mashome

MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

IDEAL OF A FREEMASON

If you see a man who quietly and modestly moves in the sphere of his life; who, without blemish, fulfils his duty as a man, a subject, a husband and a father; who is pious without hypocrisy, benevolent without ostentation, and aids his fellow man without self-interest; whose heart beats warm for friendship, whose serene mind is open for licensed pleasures, who in vicissitudes does not despair, nor in fortune will be presumptuous, and who will be resolute in the hour of danger.

The man who is free from superstition and free from infidelity; who in nature sees the finger of the Eternal Master; who feels and adores the higher destination of man; to whom faith, hope and charity are not mere words without any meaning; to whom property, nay even life, is not too dear for the protection of innocence and virtue, and for the defense of truth;

The man who towards himself is a severe judge, but who is tolerant with the debilities of his neighbor; who endeavors to oppose errors without arrogance, and to promote intelligence without impatience; who properly understands how to estimate and employ his means; who honors virtue though it may be in the most humble garment, and who does not favorer vice though it be clad in purple; and who administers justice to merit whether dwelling in palaces or cottages. The man who, without courting applause, is loved by all noble-minded men, respected by his superiors and revered by his subordinates; the man who never proclaims what he has done, can do, or will do, but where need is will lay hold with dispassionate courage, circumspect resolution, indefatigable exertion and a rare power of mind, and who will not cease until he has accomplished his work, and then, without pretension, will retire into the multitude because he did the good act, not for himself, but for the cause of good!

If you, my Brethren meet such a man, you will see the personification of brotherly love, relief and truth; and you will have found the ideal of a Freemason.

*- courtesy of Bro. C.J. Jennings
Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 F.& A.M.
Madeira Beach*

FM

Your ad would look great here!

Contact Tim Bryce to place
an order:
Tel: 727/786-4567
E-Mail: timb001@attglobal.net

Advertising rates are posted
on page 2 of this
publication.



www.phmainstreet.com/mashome

MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

GRAND LODGES IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

THE GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND



*FREEMASONS' HALL
Molesworth Street
Dublin*



*Late 19th century stained glass window depicting
the allegorical figure of Charity.
Stairwell, Freemasons' Hall.*

Freemasons' Hall has been the headquarters of Freemasonry in Ireland since its construction in the 1860s. Although the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the governing of Irish Freemasonry, has been in existence since the 1720s, this was the first purpose-built and permanent home. Built to a prize-winning design by a Birmingham architect, Edward Holmes, the Hall was erected on the site of the town-house of the first Grand Master, Richard 1st Earl of Rosse. Before the Hall was built, the Grand Lodge of Ireland had a number of temporary homes in Dublin city, including No. 19 Dawson Street and Commercial Buildings, Dame Street. The building houses a number of meeting rooms, each one of which is decorated in a different architectural style, as well as dining rooms, administrative offices, a library and museum. Much of the original Victorian interior survives.

(continued on page 22)



*The Grand Chapter of Prince Masons Room, decorated
in a mixture of mock Tudor and Gothic styles.*

MASONIC EDUCATION, OPINIONS & POETRY

THE GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND

(continued from page 21)



Reproduction of a late 18th century engraving showing 'A Free Mason Formed out of the Materials of his Lodge.'



Photos and text courtesy of
W. William K Houston, PM
Assistant Secretary
houston@prioryplace7.fsnet.co.uk
St. Johns Lodge No. 788
Cairncastle, Northern Ireland
<http://www.geocities.com/stjohns788/>

FM



Print of an early 19th century cartoon showing 'A meeting of Freemasons for the admission of Masters'.
Grand Lodge museum.

AND FINALLY...

“COMINGS AND GOINGS”



CONCORDE'S LAST FLIGHT

The Concorde gets an escort on its last trans-Atlantic crossing.
Courtesy of Bro. Paul Ergler of
Dunedin Lodge No. 192 F. & A.M



QUEEN MARY 2 ARRIVES IN FLORIDA

The Queen Mary 2, the largest luxury ocean liner ever constructed, as it approaches its winter home of Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale on Monday, January 26th, 2004, following its first trans-Atlantic voyage from Southampton, England.
Photo courtesy of the Sun-Sentinel/Lou Toman.

THE FLORIDA MASON



END