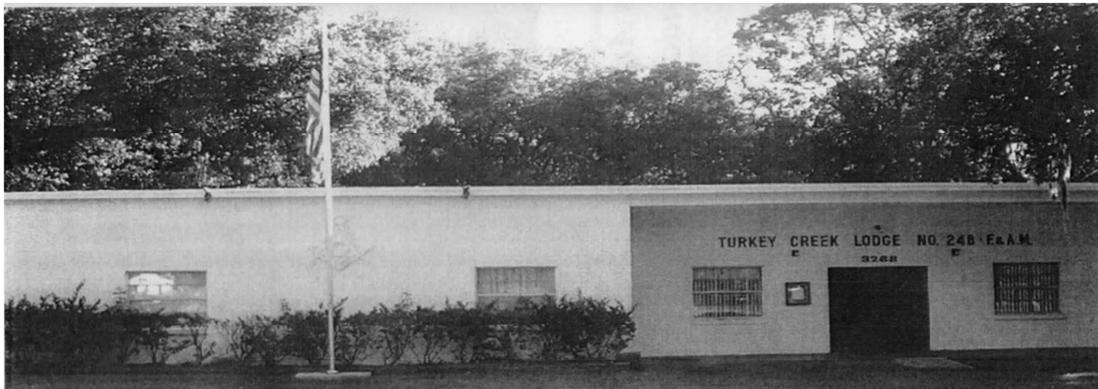


Turkey Creek Lodge No. 248
Free and Accepted Masons
PO Box 340
3268 Jerry Smith Rd)
Dover, FL 33527-0340
Two miles North of State Road 60
<http://turkeycreeklodge248.org>



~September 2015 Edition~



Officers 2015

Worshipful Master AJ Ahrens.

Senior Warden Brice Cross ~ Junior Warden John Fincher
Treasurer W. Larry Gillespie, PM ~ Secretary Gary Bryant, PDDGM
Senior Deacon Josh Salter ~ Junior Deacon Steven Skeen
Senior Steward George Grosskopf ~ Junior Steward Robert Creel
Chaplain Jack Holloway, PM ~ Marshall John Wermann, PDDGM
Tyler Robert C. St. John, Jr., PM



Past Masters



W.A. Hooker, 1921-23*
T.H. Bell, 1924-25*
W.M. Hartin, 1926-27*
H.C. Creemer, 1928-30*
R.L. Sheffield, 1931-32*
W.L. Armstrong, 1933-34*
C.G. Ash, 1935*
E.W. Simmons, Sr, 1936*
O.E. Baynard, 1937*
C.H. Farnsworth, 1938*
J.A. Studstill, 1939*
L.E. Swatts, 1940*
T.N. Gaskins, 1941*
J. Mindedahl, 1942*
P.S. Tyson, 1943*
N.R. Henley, 1944*
P. Blondalillo, 1945*
R.C. Colson, 1946*
H.C. Ham, 1947*
T.B. Brown, 1948*
T.L. Frierson, 1949*
C.L. Carpenter, 1950*
W.F. Smith, 1951*
H.B. Whitehead, 1952*
C.G. Pate, 1953*
J. Jenne, 1954*
J.S. Griffin, 1955*
J.W. Yates, 1956*
J.C. Davis, 1957*
C. Thompson, 1958
E.W. Simmons Jr, 1959
J.E. Evans, 1960*
J.L. Hill, 1961

A.O. Baynard, 1962
K.H. Hinson, 1963*
W.T. Simmons, 1964*
W.W. Wingate, 1965
L. Prichard, 1966
S. Williford, 1967*
J.H. Shiver, 1969*
W.R. Gillespie, 1970
J.B. Vanders, 1971
W.R. Gillespie, 1972
C. Sheffield, 1973*
K.K. Johnson, 1974*
M.B. Langford, 1975
R.J. Morgan, 1976
F.M. Jones, 1977*
T.E. Hinson, 1978
G.R. Langford, 1979
T.D. Bevlin, 1980
G.H. Lipsey, 1981
R.L. Locke, 1982*
G.D. Varnadore, 1983
B.H. Thornton, 1984*
M.E. Deshong, 1985*
W.H. Scott, 1986
H.B. Roberts, 1987
L.J. Varnadore, 1988
C.L. Karppe, 1989*
L.M. Lee, 1990
B. Joyce, 1991
R.M. Visconte, 1992
M.E. Deshong, 1993-94*
B.W. Douglas, 1995*
J.T. Robinson, 1996*

I.D. Vance, 1997
C.L. Hill, 1998
L.R. Gillespie, 1999
J.F. VanBrocklin, 2000
J.B. Sampson III, 2001
T.L. Steele, 2002
S.T. Yebba, 2003
J.A. O'Hara, 2004*
D. Atkin, 2005*
J. Cooper, 2006
A. Hammell, 2007*
K.W. Minton, 2008
John Barnes, 2009*
Ray Manus, 2010
Alan D. Lively, 2011
James B. Bryant, 2012
Robert C. St. John, Jr. 2013
Robert L.T. Phillips, 2014

** Deceased*

“Our Past Masters Are The Backbone Of Our Lodge”



From the East

Brothers and Sisters,

The year is rapidly coming to a close and it seems like just yesterday that we held our first communication of 2015. We have done a lot of great work; Degrees, Charity and Fellowship.

On 09/12 we will be having a lasagna fund raiser. The meal will be \$10.00 and includes salad, bread, dessert and lasagna. We will need help from the Brothers to help deliver to-gos.

On 09/08 there is a tentative Entered Apprentice degree. The dress code for the degree team will be bib overalls and W.∴ Manus will be sitting in the East. W.∴ Campbell from Desoto Lodge will be delivering the lecture.

Please remember to keep in touch with Brothers and Sisters that we haven't seen in a while. They may need help because of the rain and flooding or just an encouraging phone call or visit. If you know of any Brother or Sister that needs help please let one of our officers know.

If you are interested in being elected to a position in the Lodge a written nomination must be submitted either by yourself or another with your name, short paragraph about you and your intentions to accept if elected. These MUST be received no later than right before the December meeting. Without this nomination you will not be able to be considered for that office.

Every Tuesday you can find me at the Lodge from around 5:00PM until 6:30PM – 7:00PM (or later) depending on the Tuesday and what is going on. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays I would like to see Degree workshops, come on out and let us know what you would like to learn more about. Unless there is a degree coming up (like the Master Mason degree on Veteran's day (11/11)) we can go over whatever you would like.

The main charity this year is food banks and the homeless in Hillsborough County. Please bring in non-perishable food items (rice, canned goods, boxed potatoes, etc...) and we will get these out to Our Community.

In addition to food items please bring clothing/suitcases/book bags or something else. These items will go toward helping children entering the foster care system. Please read more about this charity by visiting this link: <http://itsmybag.cool/> or by visiting [ABS News about Its my bag](#).

Fraternally,

AJ Ahrens, Worshipful Master
Turkey Creek Lodge No 248, F&AM
(813) 657-7940 – home
(941) 321-0301 - cell



From the West



LEARNING THE WORK "Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy

"It seems to me," began the New Brother, offering a cigar to the Old Tiler, "that we make unnecessary demands on a candidate."

"Thanks," answered the Old Tiler. "Such as what, for instance?"

"A candidate who has received the Entered Apprentice degree must perfect himself in it before he gets his Fellowcraft. After he is a Fellowcraft he must learn that ritual before he can become a Master Mason. I can see the reason why all brethren must understand them and be able to tell about degrees, but I don't see why we must learn word for word and letter for letter. Last meeting we turned back a young fellow because he had not learned his Entered Apprentice degree. If he didn't learn it because he didn't want to he wasn't worth having, but it seems he just couldn't. Refusing him was an injustice. He's only one-third a Mason, and not likely to get any farther."

"You sure think of a lot of things Masonic to find fault with!" countered the Old Tiler. "But we would get along faster if you didn't mix your questions."

"How do you mean, mix them?"

"In one breath you want to know why Masonry requires learning degrees by heart, and don't I think it was an injustice to a certain young fellow because we wouldn't admit him to full membership when he couldn't or didn't, only you don't think it an injustice but a righteousness if he could and didn't. You agree that one of the safeguards of Masonry which keep it pure is what we call the ancient landmarks?"

"I agree."

"And you know one of the landmarks is that Masonry is secret?"

"Of course."

"If we printed the work would it be secret?"

"Certainly not. But you don't have to print it."

"No? But if we can't print it and won't learn it, how are we to give it to our sons?"

"Oh!" The New Brother saw a great light. "We all learn the work and so know when mistakes are made and correct them in the workers, and our sons hear the same work we did and learn it and transmit it. But wouldn't it be enough if only a few men learned the work- those well qualified and with good memories? How would that do?"

"It is good Masonry and good Americanism that the majority rules. Masonry is not a despotism but a democracy. If a favored few were the custodians of the work would not the favored few soon become the rulers of Masonry, just as the favored few have always ruled the lazy, the ignorant, and the stupid?"

"If that happened we'd just put them out of office."

"And put in men who didn't know the work? Then what becomes of your landmark?"

"You are too many for me," laughed the New Brother. "I guess there is a reason why we have to learn the work. But I still think we might make an occasional exception when a man just can't memorize."

"If you read the Bible, you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump. One bad egg will spoil an omelet. The man who won't learn is not fit to be a Mason, since he is not willing to tread the path all his brethren have trod. The man who can't learn the work hasn't control enough of his brain to enable him to appreciate Masonic blessings. This is no question of education. A brother of this lodge has had so little education that he barely reads and write. His grammar is fearful and his knowledge of science so full of things that are not so that it is funny when it isn't pathetic. But he is a good Mason for all that, and bright as a dollar at learning the work. It's only the stupid, the lazy, the indifferent and dull-witted, the selfish and foolish man who can't learn or won't learn Masonry. They add nothing to it; it is better they are kept out. To make an exception merely would be to leaven our lump with sour leaven."

"But, Old Tiler, many who learned it once have forgotten it now."

"Of course they have! You can't do a quadratic equation or tell me the principle cities in Greenland, or bound Poland, or do a Latin declination. You learned it and forgot it. But you had the mental training. If I told you a quadratic was worked with an adding machine, that Poland was in china, or that hocus-pocus meant Caesar's lives, you'd know I was wrong. Same way with ritual; leaning it is Masonic training, and though we often forget it we never lose it entirely, and through the whole of us it is preserved to posterity."

"Oh, all right! I learned mine, anyway. Have another cigar, won't you?"

"Thanks," answered the Old Tiler. "You have learned rather well, I'll admit, that I like your cigars!"

Fraternally,

**Brice Cross
Senior Warden**



From the South



Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank R.: W.: Yancey for conferring Master Mason 1,2,3 at our lodge on August 15th. We had Brothers from our Lodge and also Olin S. Wright show up.

The year is going by fast and only a few more months before next elections.

We will be having tacos for family night in August per the request of the W.: M.:.

So come on out and get your fiesta on...

**Fraternally,
John Fincher,
Junior Warden**



From the Secretary



Brothers,

Please come out and support our Lodge. Remember to start getting your nominations in for the elections in December.

**Fraternally,
Gary Bryant, PDDGM
Lodge Secretary
(813) 400-6252**



From the Chaplain



From the Chaplain

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10

Mighty majestic oak
Reaching branches to the sky
Now uprooted lies

On my morning walk I came to a large oak tree that had toppled, due to all the recent rain and wind. As I walked off the sidewalk and around the tree, I realized that the leaves I was touching had only yesterday been high in the air, on top of their world, giving welcome shade to those below. My high school English teacher's enthusiasm for Haiku raised its three lined head, even after fifty years. I don't know what she would have thought of this attempt but I am sure she would have been pleased that her teaching was not forgotten.

Brethren, I am sure that we all have memories of people who have loomed as large in our lives as an oak tree, who inspired, encouraged, and edified us with their God given gifts. I became a Mason forty three years ago and I still remember those Brothers who gave their time to mentor me in my first memory work, encouraged and helped me to learn degree ritual, and then to work my way through the Line of Officers. Many of those Brothers are now in the peaceful abodes of the blessed, but their teaching still continues on, not only in me but in the many they served and encouraged throughout the years. They did this not because they liked to get out and attend a meeting or because the lectures are fun, or they had nothing else to do but help someone learn new ritual, but because they realized the beauty of the principles of our time honored institution and wanted to see it continued. They understood that the open bible at every meeting is the basis of our tenets and landmarks and what makes them worthy to be passed on to future generations.

Remember Brethren that we all have different gifts that are needed in the Fraternity. The best ritualist would still be home memorizing if someone did not organize a degree, put their name on a roster, and get them to a practice. Thank those who have helped and inspired you while you can, and give them the gift of hope that our venerable institution will continue on and that their teaching will not be forgotten.

Make us to remember, Lord God, that every day is your gift, and ought to be used for the sake of your glory. Let us be good stewards of your gifts and use them to serve one another. Amen.

Jack Holloway

Chaplain

813-571-5733

Iajack@Verizon.net



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 08/18 Family night
- 09/01 Stated Communication
- 09/08 **** tentative **** Entered Apprentice degree (bib overalls)
- 09/12 Lasagna \$10.00 meal.
- Annie H. Schneider Eastern Star meetings/practices 2nd and 4th Thursday
- District school of Instruction 3rd Monday @ Tampa 240
- Masters and Wardens 4th Friday @ John Darling 265



Lodge News



Degree Team Members NEEDED! See W.:M.: Ahrens and W.: Phillips for training and positions.

Lodge Degree/Floor Work Practice
2ND and 4Th Tuesdays of the Month

Lodge mentor(s)

W.: Bob Phillips

W.: St. John

Remember Brothers it is the actions and spirit of ourselves that make a man a Mason

