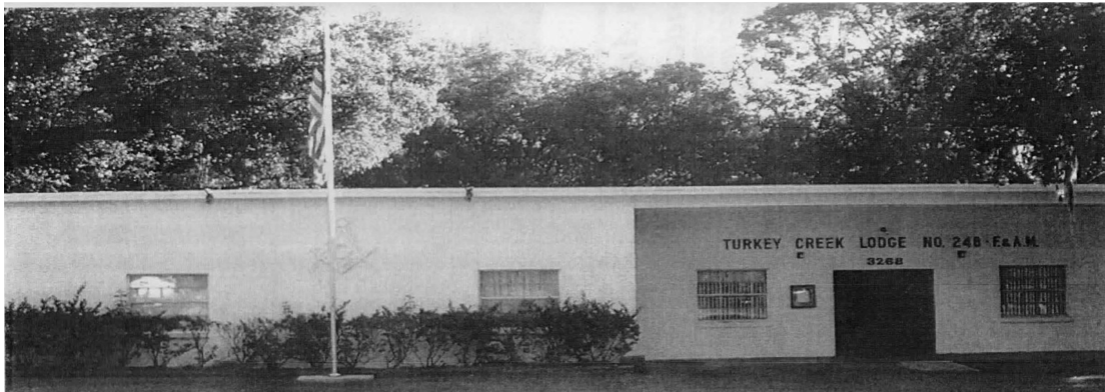


Turkey Creek Lodge No. 248
Free and Accepted Masons
PO Box 340
3268 Jerry Smith Rd)
Dover, FL 33527-0340
Two miles North of State Road 60
<http://turkeycreeklodge248.org>



~July 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*	A.O. Baynard, 1962	I.D. Vance, 1997
T.H. Bell, 1924-25*	K.H. Hinson, 1963*	C.L. Hill, 1998
W.M. Hartin, 1926-27*	W.T. Simmons, 1964*	L.R. Gillespie, 1999
H.C. Creemer, 1928-30*	W.W. Wingate, 1965	J.F. VanBrocklin, 2000
R.L. Sheffield, 1931-32*	L. Prichard, 1966	J.B. Sampson III, 2001
W.L. Armstrong, 1933-34*	S. Williford, 1967*	T.L. Steele, 2002
C.G. Ash, 1935*	J.H. Shiver, 1969*	S.T. Yebba, 2003
E.W. Simmons, Sr, 1936*	W.R. Gillespie, 1970	J.A. O'Hara, 2004*
O.E. Baynard, 1937*	J.B. Vanders, 1971	D. Atkin, 2005*
C.H. Farnsworth, 1938*	W.R. Gillespie, 1972	J. Cooper, 2006
J.A. Studstill, 1939*	C. Sheffield, 1973*	A. Hammell, 2007*
L.E. Swatts, 1940*	K.K. Johnson, 1974*	K.W. Minton, 2008
T.N. Gaskins, 1941*	M.B. Langford, 1975	John Barnes, 2009*
J. Mindedahl, 1942*	R.J. Morgan, 1976	Ray Manus, 2010
P.S. Tyson, 1943*	F.M. Jones, 1977*	Alan D. Lively, 2011
N.R. Henley, 1944*	T.E. Hinson, 1978	James B. Bryant, 2012
P. Blondalillo, 1945*	G.R. Langford, 1979	Robert C. St. John, Jr. 2013
R.C. Colson, 1946*	T.D. Bevlin, 1980	Robert L.T. Phillips, 2014
H.C. Ham, 1947*	G.H. Lipsey, 1981	
T.B. Brown, 1948*	R.L. Locke, 1982*	
T.L. Frierson, 1949*	G.D. Varnadore, 1983	
C.L. Carpenter, 1950*	B.H. Thornton, 1984*	
W.F. Smith, 1951*	M.E. Deshong, 1985*	
H.B. Whitehead, 1952*	W.H. Scott, 1986	
C.G. Pate, 1953*	H.B. Roberts, 1987	
J. Jenne, 1954*	L.J. Varnadore, 1988	
J.S. Griffin, 1955*	C.L. Karppe, 1989*	
J.W. Yates, 1956*	L.M. Lee, 1990	
J.C. Davis, 1957*	B. Joyce, 1991	
C. Thompson, 1958	R.M. Visconte, 1992	
E.W. Simmons Jr, 1959	M.E. Deshong, 1993-94*	
J.E. Evans, 1960*	B.W. Douglas, 1995*	
J.L. Hill, 1961	J.T. Robinson, 1996*	

** Deceased*

“Our Past Masters Are The Backbone Of Our Lodge”



From the East

Brothers and Sisters,

Your Lodge is working hard. The degree team just put on the Fellow Craft degree and will be putting on additional degrees soon. It is great to see the Lodge doing work and they are doing very well. Please come out and practice/join in and come out and watch them, it is great how well they work together and are making sure the ritual is done correctly.

Our District Deputy R.:W.: Don Cowart is making his official visit in July. Please come out and listen to Our M.:W.: Grand Master's message: Remembering the Past – Embracing the Future. It was well received at the official visit in June.

I hope the postcards have made it to everyone about our July stated communication. We are trying different ways to get the word about what is going on at the Lodge. We are trying Facebook, emails, providing the information at Lodge, our web site and, word of mouth. If you have different ideas on how to communicate what is going on please let me know, I am open to all suggestions and need YOUR help.

On July 11th there will be a district-wide BBQ cook off at Tampa 240 on July 11th (also W.: Jimmy Bryant's 1st wedding anniversary. We have bought in to be a part of the cook off and Bro. Fincher and Aronson will be cooking. If anyone else can be out there to help with the chicken, ribs and pork that would be AMAZING.

Family night in July there will be a representative from the Sheriff Youth Ranch giving a presentation. PLEASE come out and listen to the program of this worthy cause. To learn more about this worthy cause click here: [Florida Youth Ranches](#).

While we all travel and enjoy the summer, please enjoy yourself and ensure that your families are safe. Unfortunately, we must ensure that we lock our doors, cars and, are constantly being vigilant in our travels. Please let a Brother or Sister know when you are going to be out of town and ask them to swing by and check on your house and pick up the mail/newspapers. Also, please remember to be careful of what you post on social media. It seems like people are scanning and locating when people are going to be out of town and taking full advantage.

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



Greeting from the West,

Brothers this has been a productive month. With numerous practices, the craft enjoyed a Fellow Craft degree with our Junior Warden in the East.

I would like to thank W.: Mitton, W.: St. John, his grandson and, Bro. George Groskoff. We completed the road cleanup on Saturday on the 20th.

Also on the 20th, was the new Most Worshipful Grand Masters official visit at the Scottish Rite Center in Tampa. Our lodge was represented by the Worshipful Master AJ Ahrens, W.: Bob Phillips, W.: Rob St. John, and myself along with several other Brothers. It was a good time enjoyed by all.

We will continue our lodge practices on Tuesdays in preparation for the Master Mason degree.

I invite all to attend and help support the lodge.

Fraternally,

**Brice Cross
Senior Warden**





From the South



Brothers and Sisters,

WE had a nice turnout for the June family night / Fellow Craft degree for Bro. Aronson. The year is going by fast, and we already have a new DDGM. His official visit is our July stated communication meeting.

I hope to have more members in attendance than his entourage. We will also be participating in a BBQ cook off against other Lodges at Tampa 240 for the Grand Master's charity on July 11th. We will be cooking chicken, pork and ribs. There will be rib plates available for \$10.00 so come out and show support for Our Lodge and have great fellowship.

**Fraternally,
John Fincher,
Junior Warden**





From the Secretary



Brothers,

Please come out and support our Lodge. Our DDGM visit is in July, looking forward to seeing everyone there.

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



From the Chaplain



From the Chaplain

Psalm 104:33-34

³³ I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God while I live.

³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to Him; I will rejoice in the LORD.

The Psalmist here points out the privilege, responsibility and enjoyment of the LORD all our life, rejoicing in our rock and our fortress. Most of us do not just decide suddenly that we are going to leave our Church community or our Masonic fraternity, but succumb to that insidious influence of drifting. We drift away slowly and forget gradually. Seldom do we drift to a place we really want to go. When I was a young boy I untied a boat from the dock to get better fishing, but the only thing I remember now about that incident was the long hard row back against the wind that I didn't even notice when I started to drift. Brothers, it is not a long hard row back to Lodge, you don't have to wait for a "rusty nail" night, you won't be expected to "fill in" or remember things you have gradually forgotten while you slowly drifted. Especially attend a Degree and enjoy the lectures, your Masonic Brothers are waiting for you. The Holy Bible is still open at every meeting and our Masonic Landmarks remain the same – they are our anchor our rudder and our lighthouse. Paul said it best in his letter to the Ephesians; 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine,... Ephesians 4:14.

O LORD, give us the strength and wisdom we need to stay the course given us in your Holy Scriptures. May we sing your praises all our life and slowly gather in those drifting on the waves of uncertainty, driven and tossed by the wandering wind. Amen.

Jack Holloway
Chaplain
813-571-5733
lajack@Verizon.net



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 07/07 Stated meeting R.: W.: Cowart official visit
- 07/11 BBQ Cook off
- 07/21 Family night – Florida Sheriff Youth Ranch presentation
- Annie H. Schneider Eastern Star meetings 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

