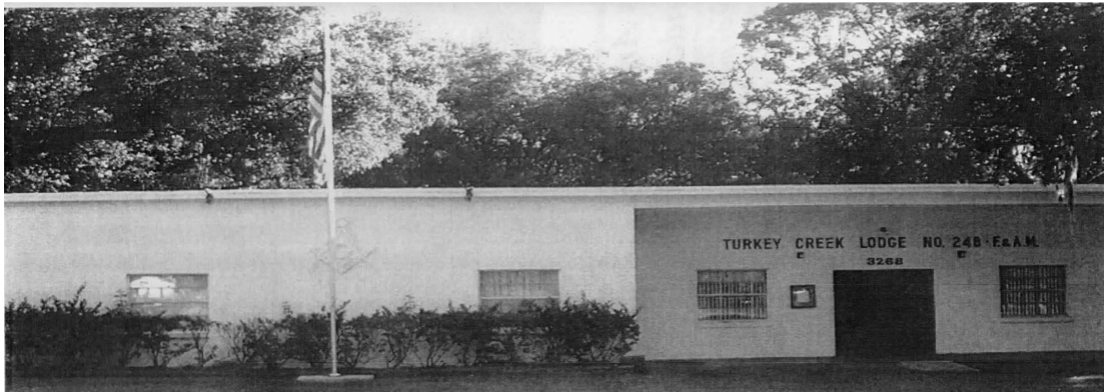


Turkey Creek Lodge No. 248
Free and Accepted Masons
PO Box 340
3268 Jerry Smith Rd)
Dover, FL 33527-0340
Two miles North of State Road 60
<http://turkeycreeklodge248.org>



~August 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,

I hope that you have been able to see the hard work being done at the Lodge by the Brothers and Sisters. The front of the Lodge is looking great due to the efforts of the Wardens and others keeping the plants watered and loved. The degree team is preparing for the Master Mason degree (07/28) and will be putting on additional degrees soon (possibly in September). The team is doing a great job and I hope you can come watch them practice and see the excellent work they are working hard on.

On July 11th there was a district-wide BBQ cook off. Congratulations to Olin S. Wright! With all of the Lodges working together almost \$2,400.00 dollars was presented to the Grand Master at the Masonic home for his charity.

Just returning from vacation I can tell you the Masonic tenants of Charity, Fellowship and Brotherly Love are alive and well. I met a Brother in Georgia and he bought us drinks for our road trip to NC. While this seems like a small gesture it really meant a lot and was greatly appreciated. He gave freely from one Brother to another.

Arriving in NC we got to spend quality time with Brothers from around the country at the Great Smokey Assembly. If you are a York Rite Mason this should be on your bucket list. Where else can you see current/past Grand heads of Masonry who are glad to just be one of the Craft. No titles, airs, etc., truly good times and being with an extended family.

In Charleston we met a Brother from Scotland. He stopped us because of our Masonic hats and is looking at travelling in Florida in February. It would be great to have him attend Lodge.

On different beaches, restaurants and stores Masonic signs are everywhere.

It is a fulfilling feeling to hold open a door, help someone with a meal/purchase, or just by listening. I know most of us already did these things prior to joining the Fraternity and continue to do so. It shows that the tenets we have learned are with us in our daily lives, for this I am truly blessed to be in the Craft.

Please remember that 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



Greeting from the West,

We are still busy with new Brothers on the degree team. As usual, we encourage any and all members of the craft to participate or provide support. If you or if you know of a brother that would like to assist please feel free to contact an officer.

We will be meeting July 21, 2015 for our family, I look forward to a large turnout.

“Being persuaded that a just application of the principles on which the Masonic fraternity is founded must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving Brother.”

[GEORGE WASHINGTON]

Fraternally,

**Brice Cross
Senior Warden**





From the South



Brothers and Sisters,

We had a great turnout for the Grand Master's charity BBQ and congratulations to Olin S. Wright Lodge No. 79's team for their winnings. I would like to thank brothers Ray Manus, George Grosskopf and Chris Aronson for their help on our BBQ team.

Family night will be hotdogs and brats provided by Bro. Grosskopf. There will be a MM practice after the show.

**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

If you know of any Brother or Sister in need please let me know.

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 07/21 Family night / FL Sheriff Youth Ranch presentation / degree practice
- 07/28 Master Mason degree
- 08/04 Stated meeting
- 08/18 Family night
- 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

