

TRESTLE-BOARD



Volume 23, Issue 2

Ridge Masonic Lodge No. 398 Floral City, FL

February 2020

[Our Website](#)

Facebook Page: [Ridge Masonic Lodge No. 398](#)

From the EAST



Another great, short month ahead of us. February always seems to be filled with things to do.

For instance, the first Monday, the 3rd, there is the Men's Masonic Luncheon held at the Hernando County Shrine Club, Ladies are invited, also the Ocala Scottish Rite will have it's monthly meeting in Ocala at 7:30PM and how could we forget Dade City.

All 10 Lodges will have at least one stated meeting, so there are plenty of options for us to choose from and really no reason why we cannot get to at least one of them.

If I sound a bit pushy, I am, because our organization is suffering from an abysmal lack of participation.

Yes, it is much easier to stay at home, go bowling or even drive to Tampa for dinner out with the Mrs. but, as I mentioned earlier, Brothers we are hurting.

Ask yourself, will one night a month seriously put a damper in your life's plan.

Probably not, but it could mean a lot to your struggling Lodge.

Give it some thought, I hope see you there.

R.:W.: Robert "Slim" Owen 33°

Quotable Quotes

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it.

Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.

Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel.

Past Masters

W.: Chris Edney.....	2019
W.: Ben Edney*	2018
R.:W.: Robert "Slim" Owen 33°	2017
W.: Dennis Suarino	2016
R.:H.: Peter A. Carter	2015
W.: Pete Raymond	2014
R.:W.: John "Lucky" Lee	2013
R.:W.: Robert "Slim" Owen 33°	2012
R.:W.: Robert "Slim" Owen 33°	2011
W.: Charles "Chuck" Taylor*	2010
R.:W.: John "Lucky" Lee	2009
R.:W.: John "Lucky" Lee	2008
W.: Henry Oppenborn, Jr. 33° *	2007
R.:W.: John "Lucky" Lee	2006
W.: Robert "Buzz" Bernard	2005
W.: Charley Rhodes*	2004
W.: Charley Rhodes*	2003
W.: James McIntosh.....	2002
R.:W.:John "Lucky" Lee	2001
R.:W.: Robert "Slim" Owen 33°	2000
R.:W.: Paul Miller.....	1999
R.:W.: Paul Miller.....	1998

From the WEST



Well 2020 has rung in the new year with a brand new roof over our heads as well as new beginnings for Ridge Lodge. It's an opportunity to have a fresh start with new faces and reconnect with old ones. (Very old in some cases but that's besides the point!) Also, a very BIG thank you goes out to Brotherhood Lodge for taking us in and enabling us to make the transition as painless as possible and welcome us aboard. We're extremely grateful and lucky to not having been subjected to the status of 'vagabond' for too long a duration.

I'm looking forward to having a great year with all of you, and will do my absolute best from new digs in the West.

Senior Warden

Dave Murray

Remember your favorite Valentine this month.

Lets wear something RED for the stated meeting on the 10th.

Happy Birthday To:



Art Lent
Gunnar Erickson
Robert Schiffer

Feb 1
Feb 6
Feb 9

2020 Trestle-Board Boosters

Fred Basehore
Buzz Bernard
Peter Carter
Whitey Cassell
Ray Devaul
Tom Kellogg
Art Lent
Hank McInturff
Dave Murray
Slim Owen
Jack Perry
John Ross
Jessie Renfroe
John Spencer



LAP Day for
February 25
 Will be at
[My Nanny's](#)
[Spring Hill](#)

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Brethren,

I enjoy bring short messages about our Fraternity, and have another one for you.

How should I wear my Masonic ring, with compasses pointing towards my fingers or the reverse?

No Grand Lodge has legislated upon the subject except North Carolina whose law states that a Mason *should* wear the ring so the tips of the compasses are pointed towards him.

But this is suggestive, not mandatory.

The consensus is that if a Masonic ring is worn to advise those who see it that the wearer is a Master Mason, the tips of the compasses should be pointed toward the tips of the fingers.

If the ring is worn to remind the wearer that he is a Master Mason, the ring should be worn with the tips of the compasses pointed toward the wrist.

Should you know of a Brother ill, a family member who could use a note of good cheer please advise me at awalls37@gmail.com or leave a message on my home phone. 637-0044.

Sincerely and fraternally

Alan Walls, Chaplain (pro-temp)

From the South



Hello Brothers,
 Hope everyone enjoyed our first meeting at Brotherhood Lodge, and the lunch sister Sherry , and I prepared for you. Next meetings lunch will be Beef stew, salad, rolls, and of course deserts, iced tea and coffee.

It was great to see Brother Boylan give back his Fellowcraft catechism, he will be a great asset to our lodge, and I know he will be sitting in lodge with us before you know it. For LAP day this year were going to try a few different places along with or old favorites, if you have a place you would like to try, let me know and I'll try to accommodate all. In that note for February we are going to "My Nanny's Restaurant" address, is 5323 Commercial Way (US19), Spring Hill. Directions, from the North, first traffic light AFTER US19 & SR50 is Northcliffe Blvd. , after light, restaurant is on right side of us19 approx 1/2 mile. Directions from the South, once you pass Golden Coral, make U-Turn as soon as possible, My Nanny's will be on right side approx 1/4 mile. As per requests LAP day for March will be at Crackers for Widows Day, and in April LAP day will be at Bay Port Inn.

J.:W.: Richard Whitford

Officers 2020

- Wor. Master**R.:W.: Robert Owen
- Senior Warden** Bro. Dave Murray
- Junior Warden** W.: Richard Whitford
- Treasurer** Bro. Tom Kellogg
- Secretary** W.: Robert Bernard
- Chaplain**TBA
- Senior Deacon** W.: Peter Carter
- Junior Deacon** Bro. Jesse Renfroe
- Senior Steward**Bro. John Cassell
- Junior Steward** Bro. Dave Boylan
- Tyler**.....Bro. Ken Rowe

A SHORT HISTORY OF FLORIDA AND MASONRY

Compiled by RW Alan Walls

St. Augustine being the site of the first white settlement on the North America continent, it may seem strange to those not familiar with the circumstances that Freemasonry was firmly established in the colonies of the New World, from Massachusetts to Georgia before Florida's first permanent Lodge was established.

Florida was discovered and taken possession in the name of Spain by Ponce de Leon in 1512, and except for a short period between 1719 and 1723, when the French occupied Pensacola, the Spanish Government was in undisputed control of all the territory now constituting the State of Florida, until 1763, when it was ceded to Britain.

Spain was a Roman Catholic Country, and as Freemasonry was inhibited by the Roman Church, no Masonic Lodges had ever been established in Florida, but with the coming of the English in 1763, came Masons, and five years later a Provincial Grand Lodge and a Particular Lodge were established at St. Augustine under Scottish Registry.

The tenure of Masonry between 1768 and 1783, during the English occupation, in Florida became lost History. Nothing was known of it by the founders of the Grand Lodge of Florida or by Masonic historians. St. Fernando Lodge, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia, at St Augustine, in 1808, defunct in 1811, was believed to be Florida's first Masonic Lodge until the year 1898, at which time Florida recovered its own lost history by a fortunate discovery.

Only two years previously the Grand Secretary of the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge had opened several old unlabeled wooden boxes. Among the old documents found in these boxes were certified copies of the original charter of St. Andrews Lodge No. 1 of West Florida.

From these records Florida found that St. Andrews Lodge No. 1 of West Florida was chartered May 3, 1771 by the Provincial Grand Lodge over the Lodges of the Southern District of North America, located at St. Augustine. A Florida Lodge as early as 1771, and a hitherto unknown Grand Lodge, was a third one, that the petitioners for the Lodge charter were establish it in Pensacola, and that all the petitioners were members of Lodge No. 108 of the Register of Scotland, attached to the Thirty-First Regiment of Foot, of the British Army, lately stationed at Pensacola.

So the first Florida Lodge was established at St. Augustine two hundred three years after the city was settled, but only five years after the British succeeded Spanish rule. No records of the Provincial Grand Lodge, or of Grants East Florida Lodge are known to be in existence – both these bodies were probably suppressed and their records destroyed by the returning Spaniards when Great Britain re-ceded the Floridas to Spain in 1783.

In 1781, Spanish arms conquered Pensacola, with Dominican Monks carrying their crosses immediately behind. One of the first acts of these Monks was to drive Freemasonry out. The Master, the Junior Warden and some of the members of old St. Andrews Lodge taking the Lodge's charter and other records fled to Charleston S.C. then occupied by the English.

The following year, 1783, the Spaniards also returned to St. Augustine, under a treaty whereby the Floridas were re-ceded by Britain to Spain, and Masonry was stamped out in St. Augustine as had been in Pensacola.

Sporadic attempts were made to revive Masonry in the Territory of Florida during the last Spanish regime, at St. Augustine and at Fernandina, but each effort was short lived-pressure of antagonism in high places was too great to withstand. As previously mentioned herein, it was during this period that St. Fernando Lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia in 1808 and disappeared in 1811 by Government decree.

The United States purchased Florida in 1819, and made a territory of it, which it continued to be until admitted to the Union as a state in 1845. Almost from the day on which the purchase was consummated, Freemasonry began to flow back into the villages, and towns, and cities.

It was six years after Florida became a territory of the United States that the first enduring Florida Lodge as established at the young city of Tallahassee. This was Jackson Lodge which was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Alabama, December 18, 1825. In 1830, Jackson Lodge No. 23 of Tallahassee, invited Washington Lodge and Harmony Lodge to meet with in its hall. They convened on July 5, 1830, for the purpose of forming the Grand Lodge of Florida. Under the new Grand Lodge, Jackson Lodge became No. 1, Washington Lodge No. 2 and Harmony Lodge No. 3. These three Lodges has a total membership of 76.

February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Mar 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					1
2 	3 Dade City 48 Ocala SR Masonic Luncheon	4 Bushnell-Hernando 30 Springs 378 Hernando Shrine Club	5 Demolay - Trilby 141	6 Floral City 133 Inst. Trilby 141		8
9 	10 Citrus 118 Inst POW 146 Ridge 398	11 Brotherhood 375	12 	13 Zephyr 198 Siloam 399	15 	
16 	17 Dade 	18 HCSC Social Bushnell-Hernando 30 Springs 378	19 Masters & Wardens Brotherhood 375	20 Trilby 141	21 	
23 	24 Citrus 118 POW 146	25 Brotherhood 375	26	27 Zephyr 198 Siloam 399	28	29