

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

Chartered January 18, A.D. 1888, A.L. 5888

904-826-4086



January, 2022



STATED COMMUNICATIONS

Masonic Temple
4 Martin Luther King Blvd.
St. Augustine, FL
1ST & 3RD Thursdays
Meal – 6:30 p.m.
Stated Communication — 7:30 p.m.

DEGREE WORK AND PRACTICE

2nd & 4th Thursdays

CHARITY OF THE QUARTER

Shrine Hospitals

From the East

My Brothers,

I am most grateful for the opportunity afforded me by your generous support, to serve Ashlar Lodge as your Worshipful Master for 2022. I have enjoyed my apprenticeship and I prize the relationships forged along the way.

We have before us the continua-

tion of tasks begun last year and those that we will soon begin. The officer line is strong and dedicated. We hope to be successful in our endeavors but in all things courteous, genuine and plain dealing with each other.

Soon, we will read the names of our Brethren that left our earthly accord in the past year. We will mourn their loss and cherish their memories.

Fraternally,

Brother Jim Carrick

Worshipful Master 2022

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day
2	3 OES	94	5 RAIN-BOW 7 PM	6 STAT-ED COMM.	7	8
9	10	11 Shrine Club 7:00 pm	12 District Inst. Ashlar No. 98 6:30 pm	13 MM DEGREE 6:00 PM	14	15
16	17 OES	88 York Rite Chapter/Council 6:30 pm	19 RAIN-BOW 7:00 PM OPEN BOOK PINELAND 886 6-9 PM	20 STAT-ED COMM. 6:30 PM	21	22
23/30	24/31	25 York Rite Commandery 6:30 pm	26 Dist. Assn. Bunnell No. 200 6:20 pm	27 Lodge Instruction TBA	28 Fried Chicken, Shrine Club	29

FROM THEWEST

Hello By Brothers,
Happy New Year everyone! It is hard to believe it is already 2022.

Please Help Us Keep Our Traditions Alive

As many of you are aware, we have several newly Raised and relatively new Brothers in the line of officers now. I am sure this isn't the first time and won't be the last.

As a Mason, I know that traditions and customs are important for us all to know and maintain. Please help us by providing details regarding traditions and customs that we recognize here at Ashlar Lodge, so we don't lose sight of them. I would hate to see all the old Ashlar Lodge traditions slip away, because we only lived it once ourselves or didn't know about them.

As I mentioned last month, I am very excited and a bit nervous about my new role as Senior Warden. I still have so much to learn this year, next year and beyond as I continue my progression through the chairs and my life journey in Freemasonry.

I know I will be asking many of you for advice and guidance, so I will thank you all in advance now.

Thanks again for your continued support, and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Wishing you all the best in 2022! I hope to see you soon!

Fraternally, Brother Tom Torretta

February 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2 RAIN-BOW 7 PM	3 STATED COMM 6:30 PM	4	5
6	7 OES	8 SHRINE CLUB 7:00 pm	9 Dist. Inst. Middleburg No 107 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12
13	14	15 YORK RITE CHAP- TER/ COUNCIL 6:30 PM	16 RAIN- BOW 7 pm	17 STAT- ED COMM 6:30 PM	18	19
20	21 OES	22 YORK RITE COMMAND- ERY 6:30 pm	23 Dis- trict Assn. Palatka No. 34 6:30 pm	24 Lodge Instruction TBA	24 Fried Chicken Shrine Club	26 Open Books Pine- land No. 86 9- noon
27	28					

From the South

Brothers:

I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your Junior Warden for 2022 and I promise that I will do the very best that I can to serve you in this position so that we will have had a good year.

We had a successful year in 2021 and concluded a number of projects. We will continue to move forward with several new projects in the coming year with the same diligence as before working as at team.

I also look forward to helping us continue in the positive direction we have been taking in terms of membership development. I sincerely hope that that we will continue to see a marked increase in petitions, Brother being Raised, and more involvement in Lodge activities and Degree work. We have noted an more and more visitors expressing an interest in our great Craft and this is so important to Ashlar Lodge and Freemasonry in General. This increased interest in our Fraternity enables us to continue to spread the Light.

Brother Terrell Jones
Junior Warden

LODGE OFFICERS 2021

Worshipful Master	James Carrick	904-501-4348
Senior Warden	Terrell Jones	904-669-5249
Junior Warden	Thomas Torretta	602-881-3206
Secretary	David Pierucci	904-460-9477
Treasurer	Oscar Patterson III	904-955-9175
Tyler	William Snyder	561-662-3211

FRATERNAL NOTICES AND DATES

O.E.S. Chapter #12.....1st & 3rd
Mondays
Rainbow Assembly #42.....1st & 3rd
Wednesdays
York Rite Bodies.....3rd & 4th
Tuesdays

OTHER 11th MASONIC DISTRICT LODGES

Palatka No. 34
Palatka—2nd & 4th Mondays

Lake No. 72
Crescent City—1st & 3rd Mondays

Pineland No. 86
Peniel—1st & 3rd Thursdays

Melrose No 89
Keystone Heights—2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Middleburg No. 107
Middleburg—1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Cabul No. 116
Green Cove Springs—2nd & 4th Thursdays

Hastings No. 183
Hastings—2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Bunnell No. 200
Bunnell—1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Ashlar Lodge No. 98
Committee Assignments 2022

Finance:

Oscar Patterson, PDDGM (chair)
Tom Torretta
George Maulsby, PM
David Pierucci, PM

Property:

Terrell Jones (chair)
Tom Torretta
Rick Bailey, PM
Dwight Wilkes, PDDGM
Bob Harry, PGM

Charity:

Tom Torretta (chair)
Patrick McGee
Ken Champagne
George Maulsby, PM
David Pierucci, PM

Scholarship:

Oscar Patterson, PDDGM (chair)
Tom Torretta
David Pierucci, PM

Masonic Education:

Dwight Wilkes, PDDGM
George Maulsby, PM
Oscar Patterson, PDDGM
Francius Stokel, PDDGM

Vigilance:

Terrell Jones
Bob Harry, PGM
Oscar Patterson, PDDGM

Board of Relief :

James Carrick, WM
Tom Torretta
Terrell Jones

Rainbow Board :

Dwight Wilkes PDDGM
James Carrick, WM
David Pierucci, PM

Visitation:

Bob Harry, PGM
Terrell Jones

Petitions :

George Maulsby, PM
James Carrick, WM
Oscar Patterson, PDDGM

Membership Development :

Terrell Jones
Bob Harry, PGM
James Carrick, WM

Public Education/Community

James Carrick, WM
David Pierucci, PM
George Maulsby, PM

Lodge Instructor:

Oscar Patterson

Lodge Mentors:

George Maulsby, PM
Oscar Patterson, PDDGM

Council of Past Masters:

Bo Bozard, PM
Ken Schaffner, PM
Keith Burney, PM
Matt Sweeney, PM
Rick Bailey, PM
Troy Usina, PDDGM
Chris Cannon, PDDGM
David Braddock, PM

BRIEF HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN ST. AUGUSTINE AND EAST FLORIDA

St. Augustine was founded on September 8, 1565, by Spanish admiral **Pedro Menéndez de Avilés** who became Florida's **first governor**. Menendez did not make St. Augustine his home, however, establishing his villa and base on land now occupied by the officers' club golf course at Paris Island Marine Recruit Depot in South Carolina. The first landing in Florida had been on April 7, 1513, when Juan Ponce de Leon came ashore near Mickler's Landing in what is now Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and named the land in honor of the Feast of Flowers or Easter. A monument to de Leon stands near his landing site on the west side of highway A1A in the Guano Preserve.

The Spanish interest in St. Augustine as a military base was prompted by its proximity to the Gulf Stream which provided a primary route for Spanish ships returning to Europe from Mexico and South America. The city and with it, Florida, remained under Spanish control until The Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763 ending the Seven Years War between England, France and its ally, Spain (French and Indian War in the U.S.). At that point, Florida was ceded to the British by the Spanish in exchange for Cuba and the Philippines which Great Britain had captured. And with the British army came the first Masonic Lodges in Florida. Florida returned to Spanish control in another Treaty of Paris signed in 1783 which ended the Revolutionary War and Spain was rewarded for its support of the new United States.

Spain, finding Florida difficult and expensive to maintain, negotiated the Adams-Onís Treaty, which also settled several boundary disputes between Spanish colonies and the U.S.. In exchange for an American payment of \$5,000,000 the treaty was signed in 1819 and took effect in 1821 with the United States formally taking possession of Florida on July 17 of that year. On March 3, 1845, Florida became the 27th state of the United States of America. Its first governor was William Dunn Moseley.

During the British period—1763-1783, Freemasonry in the form of military lodges associated with British army units appeared in St. Augustine with members stationed at Ft. St. Mark now known by its original Spanish name—The Castillo de San Marcos. The lodges probably met at taverns on St. George Street. During that period every 5th structure on that street was a tavern. These were not permanent Lodges and there are few records of their existence. Most appear not to have been associated with any Grand Lodge. In January 1769 parts of the 14th Regiment of Foot were sent to St. Augustine as well as to the Bahamas. The 14th had received a warrant for Military Lodge No. 58 and records of its existence continue through 1776. The 14th left St. Augustine in late 1775 and, it is assumed, took their lodge with them.

The first Masonic Lodge in East Florida was Grant's East Florida Lodge under a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland with James Grant as Worshipful Master. On March 15, 1768, Bro. Grant, now Governor of East Florida, was appointed Provisional Grand Master over Lodges in the southern district of North America with his seat in St. Augustine. In 1771, R.W. William Drayton, Deputy Grand Master of East Florida, signed a charter for St. Andrews Lodge in St. Augustine. Other Lodges appeared in St. Augustine over the years to include Lodge No. 204 from 1778-1780 under a warrant from the Grand Lodge of England; St. Fernando Lodge No. 28 in 1806 under a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Georgia (the Lodge was closed by the Spanish government in 1811); Lodge No. 20 in 1820 under a warrant from the Grand Lodge of South Carolina closed by a decree from the King of Spain the same year; Florida Virtues Lodge No. 28 under the Grand Lodge of South Carolina in 1823 (closed in 1828); La Esperanza Lodge No. 47 in 1824 also under the Grand Lodge of South Carolina which did its work in Spanish; and Montgomery Lodge No 30 under the Grand Lodge of Georgia in 1824 (a revival of the closed Lodge No. 30) which then forfeited its charter in 1827 for Nonpayment of Dues.. In December 1835, St. Johns Lodge No. 32 led the procession to the National Cemetery in St. Augustine for the reinternment of the Dade Party under special build pyramids and the Lodge's chaplain, Bro. Whitehurst, gave the eulogy. In January 1842, St. Johns Lodge No. 12 was chartered under the Grand Lodge of Florida and closed in 1869. That Lodge placed its charter, jewels, and other materials in a trunk which was sent to Cuba and then to Spain. In late 1887, the trunk was returned to St. Augustine and its contents displayed at Vedder's Museum in the city. The museum burned. St. Johns Lodge No. 55 under the Grand Lodge of Florida was chartered in January 1867 surrendering its charter in 1869. In January 1876 Ancient City Lodge was chartered. It closed in November 1887. Ashlar Lodge No. 98 was then chartered in January 1886 and still works at the Masonic Temple in St. Augustine.

The Military Lodge with the longest history related to St. Augustine is Glittering Star No. 322 Irish Charter formed by members of the 29th Worcestershire Regiment of Foot. The Lodge's warrant is dated May 3, 1759 and was issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland while the 29th was stationed in that country. The regiment was a true Traveling Lodge and followed the unit to Boston in 1768 and to St. Augustine in 1771 when the 29th Regiment of Foot came to Ft. St. Mark. The 29th and the Lodge returned to England in 1773 but was back in "the colonies" in 1776. Over the centuries, Glittering Star Lodge travelled with the 29th regiment to Canada, India, Gibraltar, Egypt, Jamaica, Palestine, the Sudan and then to Europe during World War I and North Africa and Europe during World War II.

In 1985, the 29th was back in Great Britain and Glittering Star Lodge with its Old Traveling Warrant still active came home again meeting monthly in Worcestershire.

Freemasonry has a long and strong history in East Florida from its beginnings in the mid-1700s, but the most lasting and public part of its traditions may be noted in The Monument to the Spanish Constitution of 1812 which stands in Constitution Plaza across from the main entrance to Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. The monument was erected under the supervision of Don Fernando de la Maza Arrendondo, a military leader during the second Spanish period in St. Augustine. The dedication plaque on the monument notes that it was place there to commemorate the 1812 constitution as promulgated in St. Augustine by Brigadier Don Sebastian Kindelan, governor and Knight of the Order of St. James. Kindelan is a family name closely associated with County Meath in Ireland. Many Spanish soldiers were Irish expatriates who migrated to Spain.

The person tasked with supervising the erection of the monument was Moses Levy, a Jew, who owned land in St. Augustine even though it was forbidden under Spanish law. The original dedication plaque faced the Basilica but at some point in the early 1820s it was removed only to be returned to the monument's east face in the 1830s. The original plaque is in the Lightner museum. There is some speculation that the monument was not erected by order of the Spanish government, but rather was created voluntarily by St. Augustine citizens celebrating their new-found freedoms. It is the only remaining monument to the 1812 constitution still standing. All others were ordered destroyed when the Spanish monarch was reinstalled in 1814.

Of interest to Freemasons is the Square and Compasses without the "G" on the monument's dedication plaque. It was often theorized that these symbols were placed there during the Civil War by Union soldiers who used St. Augustine as a rest and recreation base because there is no "G". The "G" is not found in association with the Square and Compasses in the United States until after the Civil War. In 1813, however, a young Acadian girl on her way to New Orleans stopped in St. Augustine. She wandered the Ancient City sketching the Castillo, the City Gates, Tolomato Cemetery, and the Monument to the Spanish Constitution of 1812. Her sketch clearly showing that the Square and Compasses sans the "G" were part of the original Spanish inscription.

Masons in The Elite 11th Masonic District as well as all Freemasons in Florida and world-wide continue to espouse and practice many of the principles contained in that 1812 document to include national sovereignty, separation of powers, freedom of the press, free enterprise, and the establishment of an elected government which include universal male suffrage—a right given to women in the United States in 1920 and in Spain in 1931..

Thus, my Brothers, we see in this brief history of Freemasonry in East Florida more than 250 years of tradition and influence—something that can never be lost and must never be forgotten. All the Lodges in the Elite 11th District—Palatka No. 34, Lake No. 72, Pineland No. 86, Melrose No. 89, Ashlar No. 98, Middleburg No. 107, Cabul No. 116, Hastings No. 183 and Bunnell No. 200—all Lodges in Florida--partake of that history. And while we must look to the future and work diligently to improve our great Fraternity, by looking at our past, we can clearly see that we are building on a solid, ancient foundation of freedom, brotherly love, and truth.