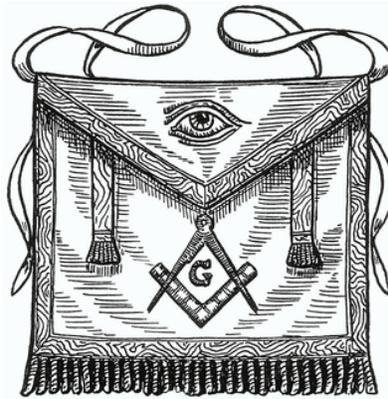


ST. CLOUD MASONIC LODGE No. 221

TRESTLEBOARD

W.:M.: ERNIE PATON | MARCH 2026



Chartered January 21, 1914

District 16, Zone 5

Meetings at 7:30 p.m. and Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Second and Fourth Thursdays

901 Oregon Ave.

P.O. Box 700542

Saint Cloud, FL 34769.

Saint Cloud, FL 34770

407-892-3437

saintcloudlodge221@outlook.com

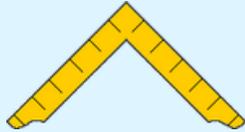
saintcloudmasoniclodge221@gmail.com

stcloudlodge221.com

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master:	Ernie Paton (PM)	(407) 427-4896
Senior Warden:	Angel Cardona	(321) 310-4243
Junior Warden:	Wesley Harley	(407) 908-9159
Treasurer:	Jeff Hall (PM)	(508) 259-6505
Secretary:	Kenny Stichter (PM)	(813) 424-6637
Marshall:	Tim Hessler (PM)	
Chaplain:	David Smith	(410) 432-4490
Senior Deacon:	Ron Lacson	
Junior Deacon:	David Bautista	
Senior Steward:	Wilson Ng	
Junior Steward:	William Kelly	
Tyler:	Richard Realmuto	
Historian:	Jason Walters (PM)	
Musician:		

Monthly Messages



From the East



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

The Officers and I have been talking about plans for the year and functions for the year. We have tentatively talked about a BBQ around the 4th of July and a Christmas Party. We also plan on doing the Christmas Parade again this year. These are in addition to the Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast (May) and the Past Master's and Widow's Supper (Unscheduled). If you would like to see something else, please voice yourself to us.

We have three new petitioners and are planning an Entered Apprentice Degree on March 21st, 2026 at noon. If you are interest in being on the Degree Team, please let me know. Otherwise, come out and support the new Brothers becoming a part of our Lodge.

We have our second DDGM visit on March 12th, 2026. Please come out and support the Lodge during this visit.

I want to reiterate how much I appreciate the confidence ya'll have placed in me to run the Lodge again this year. I will do everything I can to ensure we have a good year and will continue to try and grow the Lodge. I ask that all those Brothers who have stayed away for whatever reason please come out to the events and stated communications.

Finally, I am usually available, I say usually, because my wife plans these things called cruises she has me go on...wink, wink.

Come on out to the Lodge!!!
God Bless you all.

Fraternally,
Ernie Paton
407-427-4896



From the West



Brethren,

From my station in the West, I extend to you a fraternal and heartfelt welcome as we assemble in labor and harmony this month of March.

It is with great satisfaction and gratitude that we prepare to receive three worthy candidates who will humbly step forward to seek the Light and unite themselves with this ancient and honorable Fraternity. Let us meet them with solemnity, brotherly love, and that sacred regard which has ever distinguished our Craft.

May we be mindful that the strength of our Lodge rests not only upon the stones already set, but upon those who now approach the threshold, seeking admission among us.

Following our labors, you are cordially invited to partake in refreshment, thoughtfully prepared under the care of our Junior Warden. May our fellowship at table be as sincere and harmonious as our work within the Lodge.

Brethren, this is your house. May peace dwell within its walls, and may unity, charity, and truth ever prevail among us.

Fraternally and faithfully,
Angel A. Cardona



Monthly Messages



From the South



Brethren,

Brothers thank you for your continued support of the south I look forward to much fellowship and many travels with you throughout the coming months.



From the Secretary



From the Secretary's Desk,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. Our year is well underway, and I am thrilled to announce that the 197th Annual Grand Lodge Communications will be held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida. The event will commence on Monday, May 25th, 2026, and continue until the business is completed, typically by the 27th.

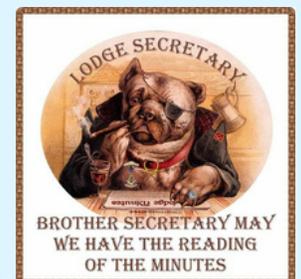
Please note that registration is required to attend this event. If you would like me to handle your registration, I am more than happy to assist, saving you the time and effort of standing in line. Alternatively, you may choose to register yourself, Registration will be available in the foyer of the Rosen Plaza Hotel, starting Sunday morning, around 9:00 a.m. If Sunday is not convenient, you can also register on Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. before the Grand Lodge Communication begins. However, I advise arriving early as the lines tend to be long, and it takes some time to process all attendees. Please bring your current years dues card and a valid picture ID!

I strongly encourage every member to attend the Grand Lodge Communication. This event offers a unique opportunity to meet and connect with brothers from across the state, the country, and indeed the world, as many travel great distances to be part of this significant gathering. Additionally, your participation supports our lodge when our 16th District RWDDGM, Michael Catello, takes the rolls every morning. Show your pride and dedication to St Cloud Lodge No. 221 by attending this year's 197th Annual Grand Lodge Communication.

We're all looking forward to seeing you there!

May God watch over you and your families, bringing peace to a world that desperately needs it.

Fraternally,
Kenneth Stichter, PM, Secretary
St. Cloud Lodge No. 221 F. & A. M.
P.O. Box 700542
St Cloud, FL 34770-0542
Lodge: (407)892-3437
Mobile: (813)424-6637



Monthly Messages



From the Treasurer

Masonic Charity

“Faith, Hope and Charity...but the greatest of these is charity.”

These are words every Mason lives by, and charitable giving has been a staple of the Fraternity since its founding. Over the years, Freemasonry has delivered charitable gifts to its membership and surrounding communities both large and small. Our Fraternity's support of national charities, such as Shriner's Hospital or the Scottish Rite for Children, are great examples of fraternal benevolence. But, in this modern era, and the advent of mega-charities, it is easy to forget about the importance of localized charities. Our Blue Lodges are the Masonic contact point for every community in Florida, and it is important for us to embrace this responsibility.

At St. Cloud Lodge No. 221, we have established a charitable account, separate from our general funds, from which we, as a Lodge, can financially support local and national charitable activities. Our charitable fund, is solely dependent on the generosity of our members and friends. The “Charity Cup” receives donations at each Lodge meeting, and we often call for specific donations to support special projects. Donations to the charity fund, at the time of dues payment, are always welcomed and accepted.

But monetary donations are not the only means for Masonic charity. We can donate our time and energy to assist the community build new parks, clean up the environment, participate in parades and festivals or any number of other worthy efforts which benefit our community. And, while we do not purposely seek any reward or recognition for our charitable activities, others do recognize our efforts, which gets our name out there and shines a light on the good Freemasonry accomplishes.

Lastly, in addition to your generous contributions to the charity fund, we encourage our members to be on the look out for worthy projects the Lodge can get behind. Brothers are encouraged to bring these ideas up in our Lodge meetings for discussion. Through our efforts, St. Cloud #221 can help our local community get stronger!

Thank you, Brothers, for your past and future generosity.
Fraternally, Wor. Jeff Hall



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by Symbols



Chaplains Corner



Brothers,

I hope that after this cold spell you are doing well. I received an email from my brothers in Maryland that lodge meetings were cancelled due to ice and snow on roads. So we should consider ourselves lucky.

Spring is just around the corner!!!

I would like to borrow a line from the Charge of Initiation in the First Degree. No institution was raised on better principle than are laid down in Masonic Lectures.



Brothers, there are many emblems used in our Fraternity. But when I look at my life the one that stands out the most is the hour glass. As a small boy my mother used time glass to measure time for making soft boil eggs. As masons we used the hour glass to measure human life. How fast the sand runs in the hour glass, how fast our lives are drawing to a close. As Masons, use this hour glass. Let every minute count. Do not put something off that you want to do. Make a point to come to lodge we would love to see you.

Remember, the one thing you cannot get back is TIME!!!

Fraternally and faithfully,
David Smith



Looking Back

ALAS MY BROTHERS

John "Big John" Cuttitta (PM)
Lawrence Montesi (PM)
David O'Quinn
Donald Hughes
Danny Cripe (PM)
Jim Wilder (PM)
Bob Shonyo (PM)
Bob Busson
Alvin Sharp
Michael Hemphill (PM)
William Dunkle
Edward Cowley (PM)
Frank Freeman
Ira "Dean" McKittrick



Old Saint Cloud Masonic Lodge

What is a Masonic Lodge?
A Masonic lodge is more than a building; it is a living, breathing organization made up of and sustained by the members themselves. It is a tight-knit group of men who make solemn vows to one another and become comrades in Masonry and life.
Above all, a Masonic lodge represents open arms, a helping hand, and brotherly love to every Mason, anywhere, at any time.



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by Symbols



Past Masters

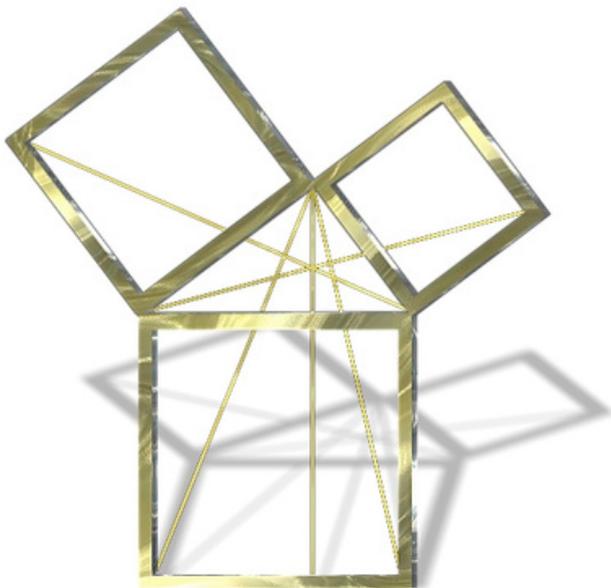
Davis H. Gill 1912/13**	John B. Phelps 1973**
W.N. Garner 1914/15 **	Harris Rumsey 1974**
E.E. Livermore 1916**	Russell V. Zimmerman 1975**
Sam Brammer 1917/18/53 **	James L. Swogger 1976**
W.M. Hall 1919**	Robert J. Breese 1977**
Lovie C. Riddle 1920**	Robert Carlyon 1978**
Ives E. Diefendorf 1921**	Raymond R. Lackey 1979
Otto R. Bleach 1922**	Danny K. Cripe 1980/93**
A. Earle Cowger 1923**	Frank T. Hopkins 1981
Sidney W. Porter 1924**	Robert O. Bell 1982**
Calvin P. Parker 1925**	James E. Jones 1983**
Dan E. Armstrong 1926**	Marshall H. Brown 1984++
Holmes E. Crawford 1927**	Robert K. Bumgardner 1985**
Lloyd C. Herringer 1928**	Gerald L. Durbin, PDDGM 1986**
Ralph G. Reynolds 1929**	Jay R. Young, Jr. 1987**
L.U. Zimmerman 1930**	Eddie C. Williford 1988**
Robert H. Johns 1931**	Frank S. Mazzei 1989**
William H. Dodds 1932**	Jack D. Lethenstrom, PRRGC **
M. Percy Tindall 1933**	1990/2001/2007 **
Frank Garside 1934**	Barry L. Taylor 1991 **
James W. Sage 1935**	Ernest N. Elliott 1992**
William J. Thurber 1936**	Ted R. Smith 1994
Henry L. Godwin 1937**	Michael E. Rigsby 1995
Groves M. Mosses Jr. 1938++	Allen R. Van Horn 1996/2000
John B. Mills 1939**	Jerry W. Little 1997
Harvey L. Hersey 1940/43**	David W. Stanyon 1998**
Floyd E. Davidson 1941**	Larry A. Montesi 1999 **
John E. Hale 1942**	Joe Parham 2002 **
John R. Rotundo 1944++	Alvin R. Sharp, Jr. 2003**
Ross E. Jeffries 1945**	Jack V. Miller 2004 **
Albert Depew 1946**	Michael Hemphill 2005**
O. Frank Kirby 1947**	Allen Antoniac 2006**
Fred M. Loring 1948**	Bob Shonyo 2008**
Horace Y. Smith 1949**	Joe Moore 2009/10 /13
William E. Spencer 1950**	John Cuttitta 2011 **
Jay B. Johnson 1951**	John Reger 2012/24
Curtis J. Bock 1952++	Donald Goolsby 2014
Norman Mallet 1954**	Wendel Tomimbang 2015
James H. Young 1955**	William Waggoner 2016
S. Robert Lackey 1956**	Sidney Mills 2017
Robert H. Chamberlin 1957**	John Whitehead 2018
William R. Godwin II 1958**	Gerald W. Newland, Jr. 2019
Russell J. Depew 1959**	Kenneth A. Stichter 2020
Lloyd Stalvey 1960**	Jason Walters 2021
William S. Byrd 1961**	Nigel Mills 2022
Laurence Wheeler 1962**	Harry Mapes 2023
Edward Cowley 1963**	Ernie Paton 2025
R.J. Bramhan 1964**	
George S. Pankey 1965**	
Harold R. James 1966**	
Willis E. Leech 1967**	
James E. Long 1968**	
Arthur W. Campbell 1969**	
Allan S. Goodman 1970**	
Hubert Z. Fryman, Sr. 1971**	
Hugh E. Wright III 1972	

Legend:
(**) DECEASED
(++) UNAFFILIATED



Lodge Committee Chairmen

Finance: Angel Cardona, S.W.
Vigilance: Wesley Harley, J.W.
Petitions: W.: Kenny Stichter
Education: W.: Jason Walters, Historian
Board of Relief: W.M. and Wardens
Investigations: As Needed
Charity: All Masons
Lodge Property: Wesley Harley, J.W.
Mentor's: W.:M.: Ernie Paton
Events: Angel Cardona, S.W.



RAISED IN MARCH

7TH

KYLE HENRY

11TH

DONALD HUGHES

12TH

KEITH HARPER

15TH

LOUIS CUTTITTA

JONATHAN MYERS

18TH

FRANK FREEMAN

26TH

RICKY YOUNG

29TH

GEORGE ROSSO





MARCH

- 2ND
ROY NIGEL MILLS
- 5TH
JEFFREY BUFFINGTON
- 6TH
SIDNEY MILLS
- 7TH
DAVID SHREVE
- ROBERT BASS
- 8TH
BERNARD KLEIN
- 9TH
ANTHONY DARNELL
- 13TH
WILLIAM JOHNSON
- 15TH
ROBERT GRAVEL
- 19TH
KYLE HENRY
- 21ST
FRANKLIN SEVER
- 23RD
GERALD DURBIN
- 30TH
FRANK YEASEL



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Saint Cloud Lodge donates to the following:

- *Shriners Hospital for Children*
- *Scottish Rite Foundation*
- *Grand Master's Charity*
- *First Lady's Charity*
- *Masonic Youth*
- *Rainbow for Girl*
- *A Place for Grace*
- *Hopkins Heros*



Masonic Links

[St. Cloud Masonic Lodge No.221](#)

[Central Florida Masons](#)

[The Grand Lodge of Florida](#)

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[@SaintCloudMasonicLodge 221](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Ballots / Votes

- Ballot for reinstatement of Bill Cocoran
- Ballot for the Three Degrees of Masonry
 - Timothy Watson
 - Keith Kelly
 - Juan Leon
- Ballot on Tony Busby (over 6 months)



Upcoming Meetings

- Mar 7th: Masters and Wardens at OB80 (Breakfast at 0800/Meeting 0900)
- **TRAINING (EA Degree)**
 - Mar 3rd @ 6 p.m.
 - Mar 10th @ 6 p.m.
 - Mar 17th @ 6 p.m.
- Stated Communication on Mar 12th, 2026 (Supper 6:30 / Meeting 7:30 p.m.) (RWDDGM Second Official Visit)
- Entered Apprentice Degree on Mar 21st 2026 at 12 noon. (Three Candidates) Light refreshments offered.
- Stated Communication on Mar 26th, 2025 (Supper 6:30 / Meeting 7:30 p.m.)
- PLEASE check centralfloridamasons.com/calendar for more events.



First Meeting:

Second Meeting:



2026 Dues

Dues notices have been mailed out.

Dues are being collected via the old fashioned way of "pay by cash or check" or via PayPal.

If you wish to **pay by check** they will be \$190.00.

If you wish to use **PayPal**, dues will be \$195.00 because of the fees we get charged by PayPal.

Please use the QR code below.....



Dues Notice:

You can now pay your dues on AMITY. There is an additional fee. If you do not have AMITY follow this link:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/1032344564?h=5f7f61ef14>



Calendars

Keep up to date by clicking the links below, check frequently

saintcloudlodge221@google

[centralfloridamasons calendar](#)

[Grand Lodge of Florida Calendar](#)



2026 Installation Pictures



**Congratulations
Brothers**

Public Education Awards



**Congratulations
2026 Officers**



Famous Mason of the Month

John Philip Sousa

John Philip Sousa (November 6, 1854 – March 6, 1932) was an American composer and conductor of the late Romantic era known primarily for U.S. military marches.^[3] He is known as "The March King" or the "American March King", to distinguish him from his British counterpart Kenneth J. Alford. Among Sousa's best-known marches are "The Stars and Stripes Forever" (National March of the United States of America), "Semper Fidelis" (official march of the United States Marine Corps), "The Liberty Bell", "The Thunderer", and "The Washington Post".

In 1868, Sousa enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 13 as an apprentice musician (his rank listed as "boy"). Sousa completed his apprenticeship and left the Marine Corps in 1875. He then began performing on the violin and joined a theatrical pit orchestra where he learned to conduct.

Sousa returned to the Marine Band as its head in 1880 and remained as its conductor until 1892. During this period, Sousa led the Marine Band through its development into the country's premiere military band. He led "The President's Own" band under five presidents from Rutherford B. Hayes to Benjamin Harrison. Sousa's band played at the inaugural balls of James A. Garfield in 1881 and Benjamin Harrison in 1889.

In July 1892, Sousa requested a discharge from the Marine Corps to pursue a financially promising civilian career as a band leader. Sousa organized The Sousa Band the year that he left the Marine Band, and it toured from 1892 to 1931 and performed at 15,623 concerts, both in the United States and internationally, including at the World Exposition in Paris and at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Jascha Gurewicz, an early popularizer of the saxophone in the concert hall, was soloist for Sousa's band in the early 1920s. In Paris, the Sousa Band marched through the streets to the Arc de Triomphe, one of only eight parades that the band marched in during its 40 years.

Sousa was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve on May 31, 1917, shortly after the United States declared war on Germany and entered World War I. He was 62 years old, the mandatory retirement age for Navy officers. During the war, Sousa led the Navy Band at the Great Lakes Naval Station near Chicago, and he donated all of his naval salary except a token \$1 per month to the Sailors' and Marines' Relief Fund.

Sousa was discharged from active duty after the end of the war in November 1918 and returned to conducting his own band. In the early 1920s, Sousa was promoted to lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve but did not return to active duty. He frequently wore his Navy uniform during performances for the remainder of his life.

For his service during the war, Sousa received the World War I Victory Medal and was elected as a Veteran Companion of the Military Order of Foreign Wars. He was also a member of the New York Athletic Club and Post 754 of the American Legion.

Sousa was a member of the Sons of the Revolution, Military Order of Foreign Wars, Freemasons, and the Society of Authors and Composers. He was also a member of the Salmagundi, Players, Musicians, New York Athletic, and Lambs clubs of New York City and the Army and Navy and the Gridiron clubs of Washington.

John Philip Sousa was a lifelong and highly active Freemason.

He was initiated into Hiram Lodge No. 10 in Washington, D.C., on July 15, 1881. Over his 51-year Masonic career, he reached several high-ranking positions and incorporated Masonic themes into his music:

- Ranks & Orders: Sousa was a Master Mason, a member of the Royal Arch Masons (Eureka Chapter No. 4), and was knighted in the Knights Templar (Columbia Commandery No. 2) in 1886.
- Shriners: In 1922, he became a member of the Almas Shrine Temple and was named the first honorary director of the Almas Temple Band.
- Musical Tributes: Several of his famous marches have direct Masonic ties:
 - "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine": Dedicated to the Shriners International.
 - "The Crusader": Written shortly after his initiation into the Knights Templar.
 - "The Thunderer": Believed by many historians to be a tribute to the Knights Templar.
- Final Honors: Upon his death in 1932, he was buried with full Masonic services at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C..





WHICH OF THESE ARE YOU?

**SOME MEMBERS KEEP THEIR LODGES STRONG,
WHILE OTHERS JOIN AND JUST BELONG;**

**SOME DIG RIGHT IN, SOME SERVE WITH PRIDE,
SOME GO ALONG, JUST FOR THE RIDE.**

**SOME VOLUNTEER TO DO THEIR SHARE,
WHILE SOME LAY BACK AND JUST DON'T CARE;**

**ON MEETING DAYS SOME ALWAYS SHOW
WHILE THERE ARE THOSE WHO SELDOM GO.**

**SOME ALWAYS PAY THEIR DUES AHEAD,
SOME GET BEHIND FOR MONTHS, INSTEAD.**

**SOME DO THEIR BEST, SOME BUILD, SOME MAKE,
SOME NEVER GIVE, BUT ALWAYS TAKE,**

**SOME DRAG, SOME PULL, SOME DON'T, SOME DO.
CONSIDER, WHICH OF THESE ARE YOU?**

Art By:
GLP R4-C



**William J Thomas, PGM,
wjthomasnyc@gmail.com
407-927-8400**



Jacob's Ladder and the Entered Apprentice



Jacob's Ladder, a profound biblical symbol originating from Genesis 28, holds significant metaphorical weight within Freemasonry, especially for the Entered Apprentice. This vision of a ladder connecting earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending, serves not merely as an ornament but as a potent allegorical guide for a Mason's spiritual and intellectual journey.

The account of Jacob's dream of the ladder is found in Genesis 28:10-22. It's a pivotal moment in the biblical narrative and the source of the profound Masonic symbol.

Jacob, fleeing from his brother Esau after deceiving him and their father Isaac to receive the birthright blessing, was on a journey from Beersheba to Haran. As the sun set, he stopped for the night, taking a stone to rest his head upon as a pillow.

During his sleep, Jacob had a remarkable dream:

- He saw a ladder (or stairway) set up on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven.
- Upon this ladder, angels of God were ascending and descending.
- The Lord stood above it (or beside him).

In this vision, God reiterated the covenant promises made to Abraham and Isaac:

- He would give Jacob and his descendants the land on which he was lying.
- His descendants would be numerous, like the dust of the earth, spreading abroad in all directions.
- Through him and his offspring, all the families of the earth would be blessed.
- God promised to be with Jacob, to protect him wherever he went, and to bring him back to that land, never leaving him until he had fulfilled all that He had spoken.

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he was filled with awe and fear, exclaiming, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it!" He recognized the sanctity of the location. He named the place Bethel, meaning "house of God," and set up the stone he had used as a pillow as a pillar, anointing it with oil as a sacred monument. He also made a vow that if God would be with him, protect him, provide for him, and bring him back safely, then the Lord would be his God, and that tenth of everything would be given to God.

This dream provides the biblical foundation for the Masonic symbol of Jacob's Ladder, which connects the earthly with the divine, representing a path of communication, spiritual ascent, and the fulfillment of divine promise.

For the Entered Apprentice, Jacob's Ladder primarily represents the progressive nature of Masonic education and self-improvement. Just as the ladder had rungs, so too does the path to Masonic knowledge and moral perfection. The initial steps for the Entered Apprentice involve understanding foundational principles: the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square, and the Compasses, along with the cardinal virtues. Each rung ascended signifies a new revelation, a deeper understanding of oneself and one's duties to God, neighbor, and self.

The three principal rounds or staves of Jacob's Ladder are often interpreted as Faith, Hope, and Charity (or Love). These virtues are paramount to the Entered Apprentice. Faith in God, the Great Architect of the Universe, is the cornerstone upon which all Masonic belief rests. It encourages trust in a divine plan and guidance. Hope inspires the Mason to persevere through challenges, aspiring toward the promise of spiritual light and moral excellence. Charity, the greatest of these, teaches benevolence, universal brotherhood, and the selfless giving of oneself for the welfare of others, forming the bedrock of human connection.

Thus, Jacob's Ladder is a constant reminder to the Entered Apprentice that their journey has just begun. It instructs them to constantly strive upwards, guided by these virtues, towards that celestial Lodge above where the Grand Architect of the Universe presides. It transforms a simple vision into a blueprint for moral, ethical, and spiritual growth within the Craft.

Past Master Photo Project

I have been trying to update the Past Master photos for some time now. Below is a list of Past Masters that I DO NOT have any photos of. Please take a minute to check the list over and if you know of, or have a photo of someone, please forward it to me.

If you now of a family member of one of our Past Masters that may have a photo or history of them, that would help out tremendously.

Past Master Years

William N. Garner 1914
E. Edward Livermore 1916
Sam Brammer 1917/18
W.M. Hall 1919
Love C. Riddle 1921
Ives E. Diefendorf 1921
Otto R. Bleach (Bleech) 1922
Sidney W. Porter 1924
Lloyd C. Herringer 1928
Ralph Garfield Reynolds 1929
William H. Dodds 1932
Marion Percy Tindall 1933
Frank Harold Garside 1934
Groves M. Mosses Jr. 1938
John B. Mills 1939
John R. Rotundo 1944
Ross E. Jefferies 1945
O. Frank Kirby 1947
Fred M. Loring 1948
Curtis John Bock 1952
Edward W. Cowley 1963
Hugh Edward Wright III 1972

Food For Thought

The numbers 3, 5, and 7 are progressive stages of moral and intellectual instruction encountered during the Fellow Craft degree ceremony:

3 (Three steps) Symbolizes the three principal officers of a lodge and the three stages of human life (youth, manhood, and old age). It represents a moral foundation, discipline, and devotion to learning.

5 (Five steps) Refers to the five human senses (by which man apprehends the world), the five points of fellowship, and the five orders of architecture. It signifies the disciplined growth of the mind and the training of human faculties.

7 (Seven steps) Represents completeness and the seven liberal arts and sciences (grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy). This final set of steps leads to the culmination of knowledge and wisdom in the "Middle Chamber".