

# Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

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



April, 2024



## STATED COMMUNICATIONS

Masonic Temple

4 Martin Luther King Blvd.

St. Augustine, FL

1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> Thursdays

Meal – 6:30 p.m.

Stated Communication — 7:30 p.m.

## DEGREE WORK AND PRACTICE

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays

## CHARITY OF THE MONTH

St. Johns Food Bank

I also want to say a huge thank you to our Lodge renovation committee for their time, efforts and due diligence and getting our Lodge prepared for well into the Future for generations to come.

Again, I would just like to say thank you all for allowing me the privilege of me being your Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge # 98.

## FROM THE EAST

I am pleased to say that Ashlar Lodge #98 is going at a very positive direction. We have initiated three new Entered Apprentices, and we have three other brothers that will be doing their proficiency in the Entered Apprentice Degree and very soon after being made Fellow Craft Masons. I also want to thank their instructors and mentors for their time and getting them prepared to become Master Masons.

Fraternally yours,  
Terrell Jones, W.M.

# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OES	2	3 RAIN-BOW 7 pm	4 STATED COMM 6:30 PM	5	6
7	8	9 Shrine Club 7:00PM	10 District Inst. Ashlar No. 98 6:30 pm	11	12	13 Open Books Pine-land 86 9-noon
14	15 OES	16 YORK RITE CHAPTER/ COUNCIL 6:30 PM	17 RAIN-BOW 7 pm	158 STAT-ED COMM 6:30 PM	19	20
21	22	23 YORK RITE COM-MANDERY 6:30 PM	24 District Association Bunnell 200 6:30 pm	25 LODGE INSTRUCTION TBD	26 Fried Chicken Shrine Club	27
28	29	30				

## From the West – George Maultsby S.W.

### The Purpose of Freemasonry:

The basic purpose of Freemasonry is to make “better men out of good men.” As our Institution places emphasis on the individual man, its mission is accomplished by strengthening his character, improving his moral and spiritual outlook and broadening his mental horizons. By the inculcation of its teachings Freemasonry seeks to impress upon the minds of its members the principles of personal responsibility and righteousness, to give each an understanding of and feeling for its charity, and endeavors to encourage each to put these lessons into practice in his daily life. Thus, it does seek to build a better world by first building better men to work at this self-appointed task in their own communities. Freemasonry believes in universal peace made possible by the acceptance of its great doctrine of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

Freemasonry also seeks to enlighten the mind of man by placing within his grasp a reasonable understanding of the persistence of life through both time and eternity. In the framework of its teachings each man may find a philosophy of life which will meet his own need. **Mentor's Manual - GL-217, 2.2**

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 RAIN-BOW 7:00 PM	2 STATED COMM 6:30 PM	3	4
5	6 OES	7	8 District Instruction Middleburg No. 107 6:30 pm	9 TBD	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14 Shrine Club 7:00 PM	15 RAIN-BOW 7:00 PM	16 STAT-ED COMM 6:30 PM	17	18 Open Books Pine-land No. 86 9-noon
19	20 OES	21 York Rite Chapter/Council 6:30 pm	22 District Assn. Palatka No. 34 6:30 p.m.	23 Lodge Instruction TBD	24	25 Open Books Pine-land No. 86 9-noon
26 Memorial Day Grand Communication	27 Grand Communication	28 YORK RITE COM-MANDERY 6:30 PM Grand Communication	29 Grand Communication	30	31 Fried Chicken, Shrine Club	30

## From The South

Welcome to April Brothers. We just initiated three new Entered Apprentices and have three heading toward being Fellow Crafts soon. Be sure to come to Lodge and support these Brothers, especially if you signed their petitions. Let them know that you are here for them as they erect their Masonic edifice. There is a lot of information being given and I'm sure they have plenty of questions. Remember back when you were in their position and the thoughts and questions you had concerning Freemasonry. We need to stay engaged with them during their progress so they can step in to help when they become Master Masons. The more chances the new Brother has to be part of our rituals and workings of the lodge, the longer they will stay active and want to come and be part of the fraternity.

Don't forget the opportunities coming up to visit other lodges for meetings or degrees. If there is a degree being held nearby, invite the Brother(s) that just went through that degree to join you so he can see all of it, which will help with his catechism by observing what he is learning. These new Brothers are our future in Freemasonry, so let's invest in them.

Fraternally,  
Mark Williams, Junior Warden

**LODGE OFFICERS 2022**

**Worshipful Master**

<b>Terrell Jones</b>	<b>904-669-5249</b>
Senior Warden	
George Maultsby	703-956-0228
Junior Warden	
Mark Williams	904-669-9694
Secretary	
Russell Sellers	512-801-7831
Treasurer	
Oscar Patterson III	904-955-9175
Senior Deacon	
Darrell Lindsey	904-814-7158
Junior Deacon	
Kevin Stees	803-406-0005
Senior Steward	
Chris Lucero	904-226-5007
Junior Steward	
Tom Street	301-300-3031
Chaplain	
Robert Harry, Jr.	904-806-1255
Marshall	
Tom Torretta	602-881-3206
Tyler	
James Carrick	904-501-4348

**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

**FRATERNAL NOTICES AND DATES**

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

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1759 parts of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot were sent to St. Augustine as well as to the Bahamas. The 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Grand 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 reinterment 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 . 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 29<sup>th</sup> Worcestershire Regiment of Foot. The Lodge's warrant is dated May 3, 1759 and was issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland while the 29<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot came to Ft. St. Mark. The 29<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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

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.