



J. F. Swartsel lodge No. 251 F. & A.M. Trestleboard

Published monthly Volume MMXX Issue No. 3 – March 2020 AD, 6020 AL

Our stated Communications are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday - - Supper 6:30 – Meeting 7:30

The third Friday of EACH month is reserved for an open to the public Fish Fry at the lodge 5:00 – 7:00

The fifth Thursday night of the month is reserved for an open to the public family night at the lodge

3109 Lutz Lake Fern Road, Lutz FL 33558 \ \ Mail: P.O. Box 1475, Lutz FL 33548-1475

Email: info@JFSwartsel251.org Website: www.jfswartsel251.org Phone: 813-949-4814

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251

If you know a brother that is in distress or in need of a ride to the lodge for a meeting, please let us know.

Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in Freemasonry are:

W.: Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - W.: Stephen Edson – W.: Stuart J. Graff – Br. Allan A. Jenkins

WHO DOES J. F. SWARTSEL LODGE SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY?

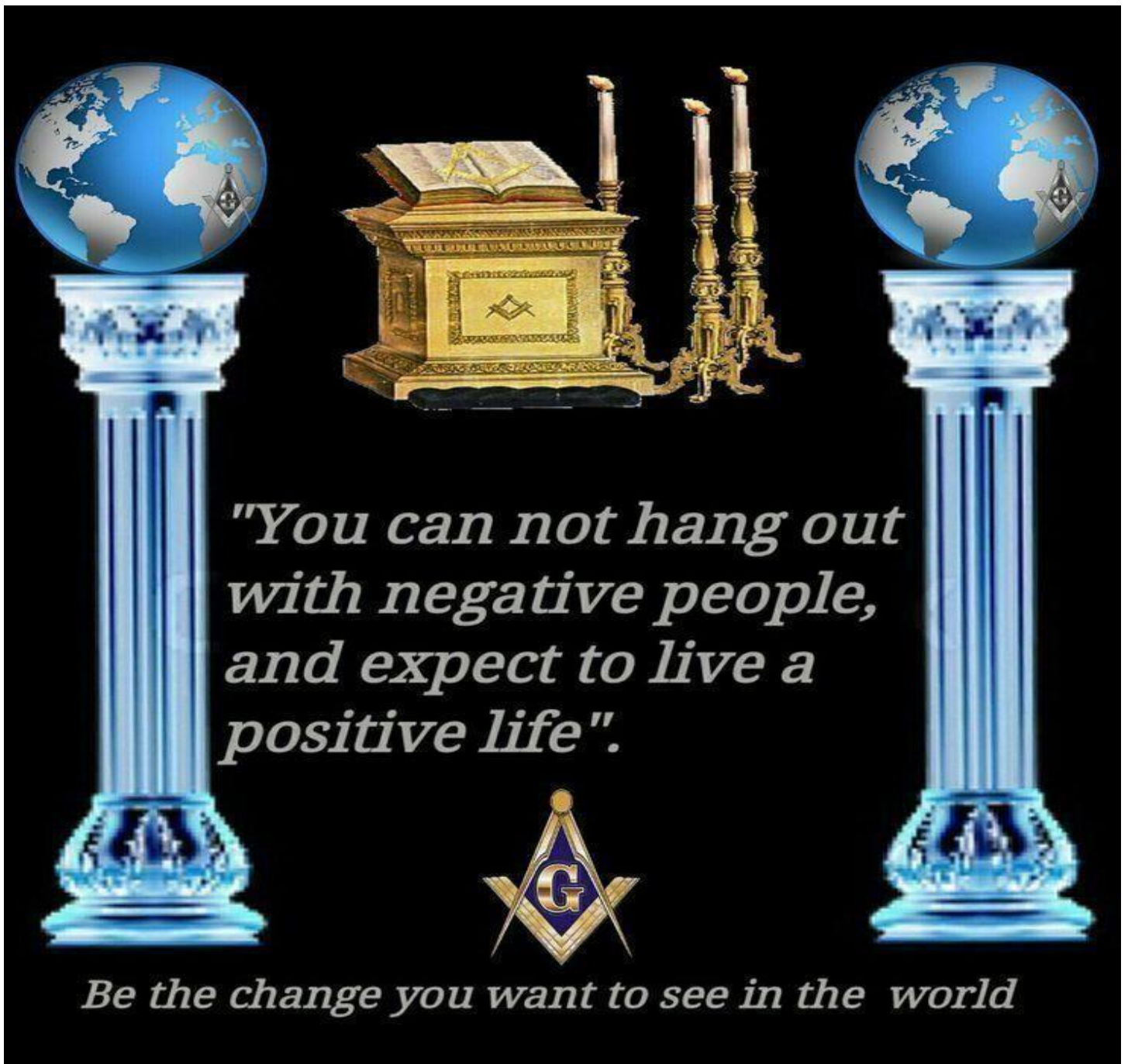
DONATE  DONATE  = \$ DONATE 

The Lutz Fire Department TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Lutz chapter 56 BSA (Boy Scouts of America) pack and troop 12; Lutz Lutz Little League Baseball Awards college scholarships in N.W. Hillsborough County Mc Kitrick Elementary “Helping Paws Program” Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County) De Molay (Hillsborough County) Shriners’ Hospital Lifepath Hospice Jobs’ Daughters Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg

Have you been to your lodge lately?

Do you know who returned their catechism lately or who we are preparing for advancement?

Would **you like to help with **any** of the degrees?**



A very special thank you to all of our Past Masters -

Without whose guidance we wouldn't be where we are today

Below is a list of those that have not yet gone to the Celestial Lodge above.

1965 W . Thomas B. Daughtey - 1973 W . Stanley E. James - 1976 W . Phillip V. Getz - 1981 W . Edward B. Wilson - 1985 W . Charles Inman - 1986 W . Gary F. Gentry - 1992 W . Floyd A. Dozier - 1995 R . W . Donald R. Bell, PDDGM - 1998 W . Gary A. Richey - 1999 W . David B. Lambert, Sr. - 2000 W . David B. Lambert, II - 2001 W . James R. Lambert - 2002 W . Gregory A. Lambert - 2003 W . Joseph E. Fara, Sr. - 2007 W . William L. Boortz - 2008 W . Gregory L. Savage - 2009 W . Drew M. Keenan - 2011 W . Richard D. Sego - 2012 W . Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - 2013 W . Gregory L. Savage - 2014 W . Jeffrey T. Sklet - 2015 R . W . Charles C. Osborne, PDDGM - 2016 W . Danilo O. Valdez . - 2017 R . W . Charles J. "Sam" Pesola, PDDGM - 2018 W . Martin A. Greif - 2019 W . Jerry M. Snell, Jr.

Your 2020 J. F. Swartsel officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master – W. Adam Scott Feldman

Senior Warden – Brother Samuel McPherson

Junior Warden – Brother Raymond Joseph Ciunci

Treasurer – W. Stuart Jay Graff

Secretary – W. David Bruce Lambert, Sr.

Chaplain – W. Jerry Marvin Snell, Jr.

Marshal – Brother William Joe Schmidt

Senior Deacon – Brother Wade Edward Angel

Junior Deacon – Brother Dennis Morgan Victor Martin

Senior Steward – Brother Brian Andrew Reach

Junior Steward – Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins

Tyler – W. Danilo Orlando Valdez

Musician - Brother John S. Nagy

Historian – W. Jeffrey Thomas Sklet



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The link is <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2740213>



Please remember your Lodge boosters and thank them!

R.:W.: Ronald E. Stanley - R.:W.: Donald R. Bell - Mark L. Lager - Daniel Allen - Brad Sollberger - Ernest P. Sidlow

Chair Chatter



From the Secretary's station: ✂ W : David Bruce Lambert, Sr.

Important dates for March

3 rd	6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice
4 th	6:30 - District School of Instruction @ John Darling 154.
5 th	Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
10 th	6:30 PM - Visiting Temple Terrace No. 330.
13 th	7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240.
17 th	Primary Election (No Degree Practice).
19 th	Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
20 th	Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 8: PM.
21 st	10:AM – 2:PM, Pilgrimage Day @ Masonic Home.
22 nd	11:AM - Masonic Home board meeting.
24 th	6:30 - 730 Degree Practice.
27 th	6:30, Hillsborough County Master Masons Association @ John Darling 154, with Memorial Lodge to follow.
28 th	8:30 AM – Noon / Zone 4 Open Books @ Tampa Scottish Rite.
31 st	6:30 - 30 Degree Practice.

From the Worshipful Master's station: ⚡ W.:M.: Adam Scott Feldman

As we enter into Spring, it feels as if the season of growth is already in full swing at JF Swartsel! Our Stated Communications have been well attended, our meetings productive and beneficial to the Craft, and the fact that so many of us want to continue hanging out after the meeting is a testament to how we feel about one another as friends and Brothers.

Master Mason costumes are on order, and will catch our physical appearances up to the level of Degree work the District has come to know and respect us for (more about this in the Editors column). How good are we at the Ritual? Come out and see us at the Degree Competition Saturday, 4/25 at the Scottish Rite Center... or better yet, get with Brother Angel or myself if you'd like to represent JF Swartsel in the competition against the best ritualists around!

We have arranged for a JF Swartsel Family outing to Tampa Bay Clays on March 21st, and I encourage you and your families to attend. We have a Car Show planned for May 16th, a Bake Sale at the Grotto October 3rd, visits to other Lodges planned for the year, new faces from Community and beyond patronizing our assemblies, and a Fish Fry that is always a hit... and I almost forgot to give you one last reminder for Wild Game Night at our next meeting March 5th!

It's starting to seem like if you aren't here often, you're likely to miss something you would have really enjoyed. I hope to see you all soon!

From the Senior Warden's station: 🏰 Brother Samuel Mc Pherson

Brothers, congratulations to our newest Fellowcrafts Brothers Kevin M. Overstreet of Olin S. wright Lodge 79 and Brothers Demetrios T. Dellis, Lee D. Hudson, and Walter C Lewellen J.F. Swartsel Lodge 251 again congratulation as you continue your journey in masonry.

We had a great turnout of brothers visiting Dunedin Lodge; come and join us as we visit a different lodge each month; get to know your brothers from not only your lodge but other lodges in the area. Thank you for supporting the Lodge by representation. J.F. Swartsel 251 is well known because of you, thank you.

Question: Why should you attend and support your home Lodge?

The lodge where you are a member is your home lodge. This should be most familiar of all places for the relief of the day to day stress that one faces in the world. The attendance and participation of each member shows the new and uninformed member how important it is to be a faithful and worthy brother. To be faithful, you must attend, and to be worthy, you must practice what you have learned in the lodge. The burden of teaching is on every member, and not the sole duty of the Lodge Education officer.

To learn the history of the lodge so you can pass it on to visiting brothers is not only a matter of pride but one of honor. If you encourage a visiting brother to tell you of the history of his lodge, you will give him a chance to make a connection with all the brothers of both lodges. As you want to know them, they will want to know you. Practicing what you learn in the lodge is important. Through the practice of the principles of masonry you become a better person. You also show the world that masonry works for the good of all and not just for the members. When you visit another lodge, the usual questions are: What lodge are you from? How old is your lodge? Who is the worshipful Master? How many members attend a meeting? How many members do you have? When do you meet? Do you do much work?

Answer these questions, and let them know, with dignity, how your lodge is moving forward. While you visit other lodges be a frequent attender to your own, "you must know home to be a traveler." (William R Fischer).

From the Junior Warden's station:  **Brother Raymond Joseph Ciunci**

Happy March brothers and greetings from the south!!

I certainly hope your year continues to go well. It seems to me that the year is progressing pretty quickly.

It's been a busy month and I hope you've enjoyed the Masonic Education and the food in the dining hall so far.

Again I have to say thanks to the brothers who have helped me in the kitchen. In addition to our stewards (Bros Reach and Jenkins) I continue to have a lot of help from other brothers (W:. Valdez, Bros Overman, Dellis, Davis and others) who have helped on a purely voluntary basis.

Remember in the coming month for our first stated communication we will be having our wild game dinner with several brothers participating. We are also starting to plan our future meals. While those plans are not yet finalized they may include such items as Chicken Pot Pie and Mother's famous (at least in our family) Jambalaya.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming month and hope to provide a quality product both before and during our meetings.

From the desk of the Editor:  **W. : Stuart Jay Graff**

As you are now aware, all of the costumes are on order for the 2nd section of the Master Mason degree. This project has been in the works for several years and has finally come to fruition. I have been given an approximate date for the upcoming Master Mason degree and am trying to have them here in time for this occasion. Each of the costumes (including all of the 15 Fellowcraft) will be color coded and complete (except for optional footwear) for the specific character. This will be a step above any other lodge that happens to have these costumes! We will try to fill as many positions as possible from our own lodge. If you would like to play a part in this historical ritual, PLEASE let us know. Both, speaking and non-speaking parts are available at the time of this writing.





Our Chapter year has come to a close and we begin our new term in March. It has been my pleasure to bring you news and inspirational thoughts throughout this past year. You only think this is my last message. My husband Gene and I have been re-elected to serve as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron for 2020-2021, so I will continue to provide updates regarding what's happening in Friendship Chapter.

Plan to attend our Installation of Officers at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 14, 2020. Come and join us for fellowship and food (you know everyone brings their best recipes for our special meetings). Installation will be open to family and friends, so invite those who might have an interest in joining our fraternity.

Our monthly meeting is March 16, and will be Obligation Night and we'll have our yearly reports from our Secretary and Treasurer. We'll celebrate our Chapter's birthday and honor Past Matrons and Past Patrons with a covered dish dinner on Monday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m.

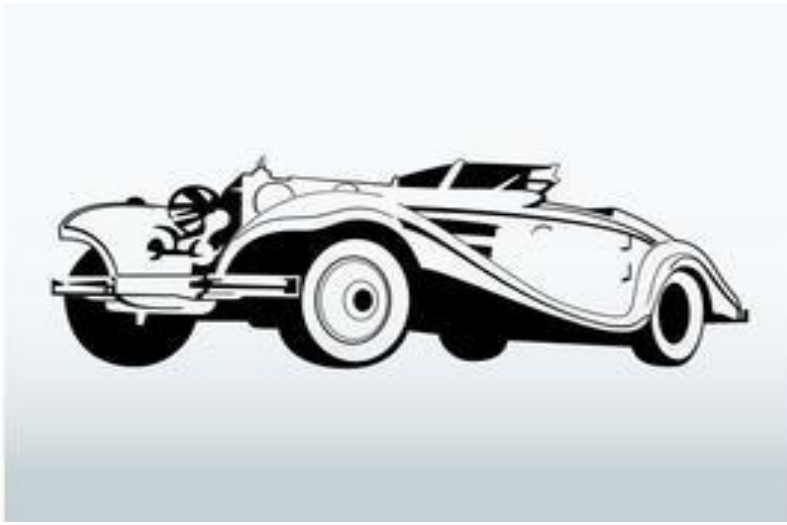
There will be no Stated Meeting in April as our meeting date occurs during the week of Grand Chapter.

Masons in good standing and their female relatives are eligible for membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. Information brochures are available in the literature holder on the wooden shelf in the Lodge foyer and petitions are available by request.

2020 – 2021 Corps of Officers

Office	Officer
Worthy Matron	Elizabeth McAbee, PGC
Worthy Patron	Gene McAbee, PP
Associate Matron	Claudine Rogers, PGC
Associate Patron	James Lambert, PP
Secretary	Judi Dorn, PG Marshal
Treasurer	Elaine Howell, PG Electa
Conductress	Barbara Gant, PM
Associate Conductress	Ann Nash
Chaplain	Ivy Cranford, PM
Marshal	Nancy Richardson, PM
Organist	Virginia Vignali, PGO
Adah	Gina McNairy
Ruth	Judy Bright, PM
Esther	Susan Ferrell, GR of OH in FL
Martha	Suzan Moore, PM
Electa	Mary Ann Butler, PG Ruth
Warder	Frank Penny
Sentinel	Robert Moore, PP





J. F. Swartsel Masonic Lodge No. 251

Car Show & Barbeque Chicken Dinner

Saturday - May 16, 2020

10 AM – 2 PM

(Registration 9am – 11am : No registration fees)

Free Dinner for the first 30 vehicle registrations

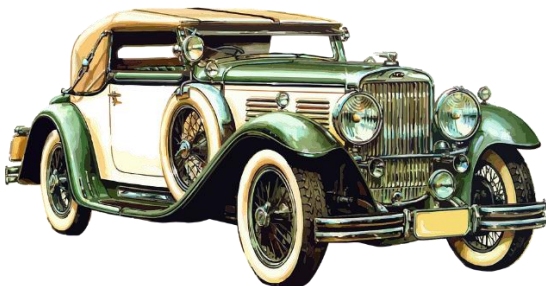
Goody Bags to the first 15 Registered!

Open to Antiques, Street Rods, Classics & Antique Military

50/50 ~ Raffle Prizes ~ Music ~ Food

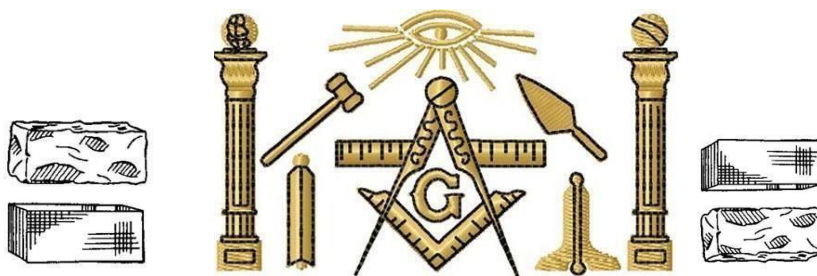
Proceeds to benefit local high school scholarships

For more information call: **David Lambert, Sr. (813) 838-7705** or
dlambert7907@gmail.com



Masonic Education

Submitted by W. Stuart Jay Graff



BASIC MASONIC DEFINITIONS

It seems desirable at the outset to present several basic definitions, especially one relating to Freemasonry itself.

Many brethren have indicated to me over the years that, when confronted with the question from non-Freemasons as to what our order represents, they have difficulty in providing a concise yet meaningful answer. And yet there is an eminently suitable and also quite short answer that can be given - one with which all Freemasons are familiar. This definition was first applied to Freemasonry many years ago and is quite appropriate today, namely, that our organisation is a "peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols".

The three elements of this definition can be explained further simply by saying that:

- i. Freemasonry provides a special (the sense in which the word "peculiar" is intended) code of general morality based on and derived from the lives of operative stonemasons of ancient times to guide us in our daily living.
- ii. The moral system is provided by the Masonic ritual in an allegorical format and is part fact, part legend, made necessary because of a lack of precise knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the erection of the great Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem some 3000 years ago. This edifice was selected as the historical "point of commencement" or datum point in connection with the development and presentation of the Masonic message, having particular regard for the fact that a large number of stonemasons were employed in the construction of the Temple; and
- iii. The guiding principles of life set out in the Masonic code are explained and exemplified by the use in a symbolic manner of the tools of the stonemason's craft, the square, plumb rule, compasses, chisel, gavel, pencil, etc. This is further related to the fact that education and learning in the ancient world was undertaken principally by the use of symbols.

In addition to the foregoing, there are other short definitions which can be used singly or in combination to explain Freemasonry's aims and aspirations in a non-verbose manner. For example, we can say:

- Freemasonry's main principles are related to a love of mankind, a preparedness to assist others when relief is required and a truthful and thoroughly moral approach to life.
- Freemasonry teaches its members to recognise that they have at all times a three-fold duty - to the Supreme Being, to other members of the human race, and to themselves.
- The foundation on which Freemasonry rests is the practice of every moral and social virtue.
- In relation to its members, Freemasonry aims to build character, to develop personality, to provide a stimulus for brethren to wish to attain the highest standards of good citizenship, and indeed to promote a certain nobility of mind and thought.
- Freemasonry encourages all that is good and kind and charitable, and opposes all that is sinful, cruel and oppressive. The fundamental requirement of members of the Masonic order is that they aim to adhere absolutely to all virtuous principles, including benevolence, charity, prudence, temperance, fortitude, justice, mercy, honour, obedience and fidelity.

Why are we called Freemasons? What is the origin of the word? Should it be written as one word, or as a hyphenated word, or as two separate words?

Here, as happens so often in considering Masonic origins and the like, one cannot be sure or dogmatic.

Many attempts have been made over the years to suggest derivations of the word "mason", and a number of meanings have been put forward. To me, however, the most likely and satisfying meaning is the one presented by a noted philologist W. W. Skeat, who considers that the original mason was a hewer and cutter of stone. He establishes a connection in this context with a Norman French word "mason" coming from a Low Latin word which, itself, was derived from the German language; there is, so he tells us, a German word "mezzo" which means "to hew" and is associated with an older word meaning "chisel".

The speculative Craft uses "Freemason" as one word. How "free" became attached to "mason" is not clear.

There are numerous recorded instances going back to the 14th century showing the use of the word "freemason" to denote operative masons, some rather skilled operatives being called "freemasons", and others who apparently performed less responsible work being called simply "masons" or "rough masons". It should be noted, however, that the term was not always written as one word.

Why then did the more expert operatives have the syllable "free" placed before the basic title describing their employment? Why was "free" the particular word to be used?

A number of reasons for the introduction of the word "free" have been propounded by Masonic historians and scholars. The most popular and credible are:

- i. Masons may have been "free" because membership of a mason's association (especially as an apprentice) could be given only to men who were free born, that is, not under bondage to a lord or other noble. Even though they may have become free from serfdom by escaping from their bondage, such action did not make them acceptable.
- ii. Because of their particular abilities and the resulting demand on their services, skilled masons may have been termed "free" in the sense that, unlike most in the community, they were exempted from restrictions on travel as they moved to and from building sites.
- iii. Masons moving from town to town in their work may have been given freedom from the control of local trade organisations, or freed from the payment of tolls or taxes, particularly if they were men working under ecclesiastical control. In the latter regard, some masons under the protective authority of Papal Bulls.
- iv. The word "free" may have been assigned to skilled masons because much of their work was carried out in freestone - a soft-cutting stone most suitable for use in special shaping processes.
- v. Masons may have been regarded as "free" by the achievement of freedom, in other words, membership, of a Masons' company or guild.

The position is confusing from this distance and the real basis for the addition of "free" may have been a combination of several of the possibilities referred to above.

There is further complication in that, over a long period, "Freemason" appears to have several different meanings. Also, some associations of operative stonemasons functioning in different parts of England, were known as "Companies of Masons" and others as "Companies of Freemasons".

As for our early speculative brethren describing themselves as "Freemasons", there is nothing we can point to as evidencing exactly how or why this happened. All we can imagine is that our pioneers must have considered the question and decided that "Freemason" was the proper word to employ, having regard for the meaning of the word in those times vis-a-vis the aspirations of the Masonic fraternity.


One further basic definition seems necessary and that concerns the word "speculative" as applied to our order. The word "speculative" means "reflective", "meditative", or, more simply, "thinking" and is used to distinguish our philosophical body from the craft of operative stonemasonry.

Perhaps it can be said that the operative stonemason is a man who constructs edifices of material substances, whereas the speculative Freemason is involved in philosophical considerations associated with the building of a spiritual building - a temple within himself which will provide the necessary guidance in every action of his life.

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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY? Well, let's see:

How about a nice big "Thank You" from the residents of the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg for donating the money for their monthly Bingo jackpots!

Bob & Anne Biddy
Ruth Fogle
Jim Clardy

David Roberts
Sharon Kersey

Elise Jones

Bill & Elaine Rulph

Bob Easton
Anita Johnson
Dolores Dodge
Jim Bradford

John & Wanda
Thank you so much for
the extra funds for
Bingo

Your kindness is
greatly appreciated

Thank you for the extra bingo funds. O.O.O.

Guy Wilson
Guy Wilson

Ruth Settle
Larry Hartman
Nancy Lee Christian

Bob & Jean
Shirley Eaton
Sant Hemela

Francis Kersey

THANKS FOR THE
SUPER

Ruth Fogle

Guy Wilson

BINGO MONEY

O.O.O.

Dolores Dodge

Jim Clardy

You are appreciated.

Thank you!
Marie Clardy

Shirley Eaton

Betty Jane

John & Wanda

Jim Bradford

Bob & Jean

Larry Hartman
Ruth Settle
Shirley Eaton

Bob Easton

Fellowcraft Degree



Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft were: Br. Kevin Michael Thomas from Olin S. Wright Lodge # 79 in Plant City (courtesy work) along with Brothers Demetrius Thomas Dellis, Lee Daniel Hudson and Walter Charles Lewellen from our Lodge. The degree was performed on [Tuesday February 4th](#) with [Br. Ray Ciunci](#) as the Worshipful Master.

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Visiting Holyrood Lodge, February 13th, 2002

