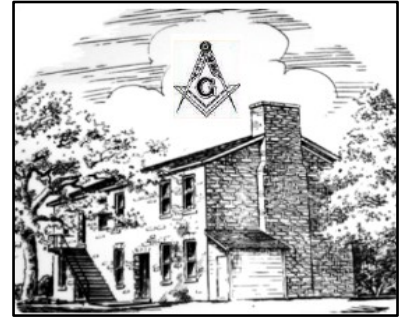


# THE BEACON

Onion Creek No. 220  
 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
 Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas – June 16, 1858  
 Visit our website at <http://www.onioncreeklodge220.org>



## *Lodge Officers 2022- 2023*

WM: **Ernest Owney, PM**  
 SW: **Richard Alonso**  
 JW: **Abram R. Wallace**  
 Treas: **Curtis A. Gilgan, PM**  
 Sec: **RW Raul J. Scully, PM**  
 Chap: **William L. Lewis, PM**  
 SD: **Bobby D. Clakley**  
 JD: **Mike G. Barefield**  
 SS: **Jacob A. Carroll**  
 JS: **Isaac E. Carroll**  
 Mar: **Dennis J. Ross, PM**  
 MC: **Jeff J. Carroll, PM**  
 Mus: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**  
 Tiler: **Dennis W. Mingua, Jr.**

## *Living Onion Creek Lodge Past Masters*

1969- Tommie J. Conner  
 1974- Jimmy M. Hodges  
 1977- Roy L. Hamor  
 1978- Bobby J. Doherty  
 1980- Ronald B. Norwood  
 1981- Howard D. Hall  
 1982- Alan L. Karotkin  
 1984- Matias H. Ruiz  
 1988- Jerry T. Jarmon  
 1991- Ronnie H. Lee  
 1993- Albert A. Mehlhaff  
 1994- Walter H. Argall  
 1995- Javier R. Gonzalez  
 1996- Kenneth P. Wood  
 1997- William S. Lear  
 1998- John W. Turner  
 2000- Walter E. Sanders  
 2001- Jonathan D. Walker

2003- Ricky J. Tindell  
 2005- Hamilton B. Carter  
 2006- Russell M. Tidwell II  
 2007- Michael E. Sanders  
 2008- Daniel E. Barber  
 2009- Dale L. Flatt  
 2010- Tony M. Ramirez  
 2011- Dennis J. Ross  
 2012- Adrian W. Edmundson  
 2013- Raul J. Scully  
 2014- Ben B. Rauschke  
 2015- Curtis A. Gilgan  
 2016- Jeff J. Carroll  
 2017- William L. Lewis  
 2018- Christopher R. Dawson  
 2019- David "Tide" Williams  
 2020- Troy J. Shugart  
 2021- Troy J. Shugart

## *Living Affiliated Past Masters*

J. Roland Brown  
 J. Robert Darrell  
 Gerald T. Dawson  
 Allen W. Deaver  
 Robert Eschenburg  
 Larry Faulk  
 Reagan W. Hammett  
 Howard Kimball  
 James M. King  
 Don R. Long  
 Wes Mersiovsky  
 Jorge A. Millan  
 Ernest Owney  
 James C. Wells

## *Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:*

*Activities:* **Bobby Clakley**  
*Arbitration:* **Richard Alonso**  
*Audit:* **Abram Wallace**  
*Beacon Editor:* **David Karhi**  
*Breakfast Socials:* **Michael Barefield**  
*Building:* **Bobby Clakley**  
*By-Laws, Policies:* **Robert Darrell, PM**  
*Cemetery:* **Dale Flatt, PM**  
*Communications:* **RW Raul Scully, PM**  
*Fantastic Teeth:* **Dennis Ross, PM**  
*Finance:* **Curtis Gilgan, PM**  
*Fraternal Assistance:* **Ernest Owney, PM**  
*Funeral:* **Ernest Owney, PM**  
*Golden Trowel:* **Troy Shugart, PM**  
*Grand Lodge Business:* **Curtis Gilgan, PM**  
*Hospital:* **David Karhi**  
*Library:* **Christopher Dawson, PM**  
*Lodge Education:* **Bobby Clakley**  
*Members in Arrears:* **Richard Alonso**  
*Photography:* **Ricardo Avila**  
*Past Masters' Night:* **Robert Eschenburg, PM**  
*Raffle:* **David Hoke**  
*Scholarship:* **Charles Foreman**  
*Sick and Distressed:* **Ernest Owney, PM**  
*Vanguard:* **Abram Wallace**

## **Stated Meeting**

**First Thursday**  
**January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## **Master Mason's Lodge**

## **Family Night**

**Meal at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

## *The Apron*

One of the first symbols initiates encounter is the apron; in fact, it's the first gift a Mason receives. The candidate is told that it is "an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason." The Mason's apron comes from those worn by craftsmen that were made from the skin of an animal, worn to protect the workmen and their clothes from injury and damage from the rough stones with which they worked; it also was a vessel in which to carry tools. Eventually, these gave way to smaller, "token" aprons made of white lambskin. They became associated with innocence largely because white is universally understood as the color of innocence, and lambs have likewise been recognized as symbols of innocence. In Masonry, innocence means a purity of life, a conscience that is clear and a moral record that is unblemished. Due to its symbolic character, the color of a Mason's apron should always be pure, unspotted white, and always made from lambskin.

The Mason's apron reminds us of an important lesson that derives from the simple apron of the craftsman: the dignity and worth of labor, the honor that comes with being a workman, and the glory attached to life and living for one's purpose. Masons understand the real value of the apron when they acknowledge it as a badge signifying the honor behind doing constructive work. Similarly, the apron of the worker has come to represent service as well. The apron of the laborer reminds its fraternal wearer to labor for the good of others, especially his Brethren.

One of the earliest mentions of a ceremonial apron appears in the Old Testament book of Genesis. Melchizedek was styled as "the Most High Priest" and wore the apron as a badge of religious authority. Today, the apron remains the symbol of a righteous man — purity of life and rectitude of conduct is essential to the life of a Mason just as it is to genuine faith.

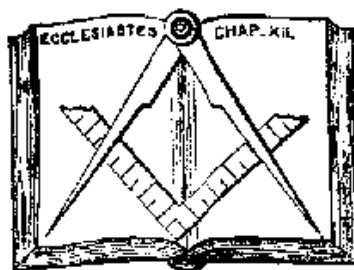
During the 1750s, speculative Masons began to decorate their aprons with hand-painted designs. At this time, there was no definite universal decoration rule that existed, so each Brother was free to decorate his as he saw fit. Usually aprons included all the symbols of the various degrees they attained. Eventually, certain designs became more popular and more standardized both by producers of aprons in the emerging fraternal supply industry and various Grand Lodges that adopted rules and accepted traditions for what a Mason's apron should be.

The apron has become one of the most recognized symbols of our craft. Even the most ornate

one a Brother might receive as a gift for his service remains, underneath, a symbol of labor, service, and purity of life and thought. Every Mason cherishes his apron and remembers fondly the moment when he first wore it. Special aprons like Past Masters' aprons or aprons received for other forms of service often become precious family heirlooms that are passed down the generations.

Our Ohio tradition holds that a Mason who has worn his first apron with honor and fidelity is buried with it, a final reminder of his life of service, character, and Brotherhood. It likewise reminds the living of the bonds that unite us, even in death, and the hope that our own apron will reflect the worth of our lives and the depth of our character as well as our attachment to the fraternity and to one another.

*Originally published at freemason.com*



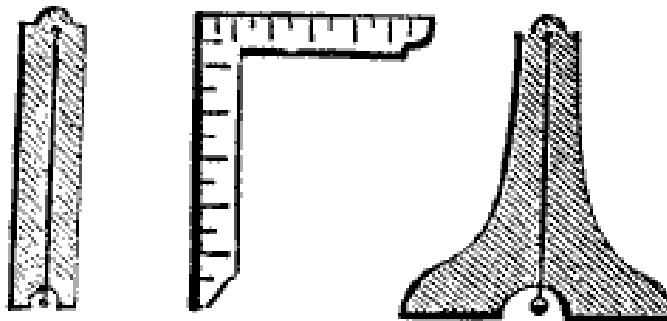
*Called to the  
Celestial Lodge*

**Bennie L. Hudson**  
December 20, 2022

*Texas History Committee Newsletter*

The Grand Lodge Committee on Texas History has been working diligently to create a newsletter for our members. If you would like to be a part of the latest email blast, please sign up by clicking on the following link: <https://bit.ly/3HGOL9a>

*Originally published in Grand Secretary's Monthly  
Communication*



**Donate to the No Mason Left Behind Project  
Your Gift Provides for Older Masons &  
Their Loved Ones**

The No Mason Left Behind Project helps provide a cozy private apartment at Texas Masonic Retirement Community (TMRC) for older Texas Masons and their qualified loved ones. All meals, activities, nursing care, and more are included.

"I get up every morning and thank God I have a place to call home," said Judy, mother of a Texas Mason. With serious medical problems and unaffordable senior living, the move to TMRC became an answer to prayers.

"My retirement funds ran low and my health care problems got worse. I feel blessed living here," says Jim, age 92. His dedication as a Mason and Shriner was recently honored with a 60-year pin.

Your donation to the No Mason Left Behind Project helps offer safe, comfortable living arrangements to older Texas Masons in need and their qualified loved ones. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donate or learn more at [YourTMRC.org/donate](http://YourTMRC.org/donate).

***Originally published in Grand Secretary's Monthly  
Communication***

***This Month in Masonic History***

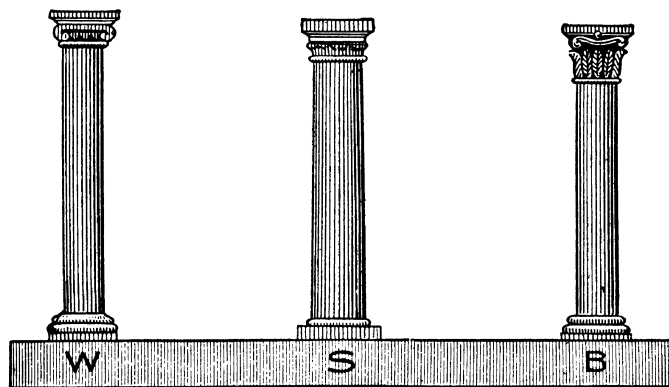
- January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1901, Theodore Roosevelt received his 1<sup>st</sup> degree in Matinecock Lodge #806, Oyster Bay, New York.
- January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1808, the Grand Lodge of Ohio was formed.
- January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1785, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart received his 2<sup>nd</sup> degree.
- January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1818, the Grand Lodge of Indiana was formed.
- January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1865, the Grand Lodge of Nevada was formed.
- January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1872, the Grand Lodge of Utah was formed.
- January 26<sup>th</sup> 1866, the Grand Lodge of Montana was formed.
- January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle received his 1<sup>st</sup> degree.

***David Karhi, Editor***

***Prayer List***

Please remember the following people in your prayers as they seek comfort and healing. They are or have been ill, recovering from medical procedures or have limited mobility: Scott Brown (Roland's son), Carol Camarillo (John's step mom), John Camarillo, Johnnie G. Camarillo, Sr. (John's father), Billy & Evelyn Capps, Madeline Carter (Richard Alonso's mother-in-law), Doris Cruse (Forest's wife), Bill Farr, Lily Forman (Troy Shugart's niece), Sharon Garza's family (Tide's mom), Curtis & Lauren Gilgan, RW Mike & Barbara Gower, Reagan & Betty Hammett, Dorothy Hill (Sam's wife), Bennie Hudson's family, Amy Karotkin (Alan's daughter), Eva Jean Kestner, Don & Johnnie Long, Randy Martin, Ann Merica (Ed's mom), Mike Owens, Ernest Hooper Jr.'s family (Ernest Owey's dad), Ernest Owey, Jr., Orlando Perez, Ellen Pietrzak (David Hoke's mother-in-law), Theresa Shugart (Troy's mother), Melissa Springer (Ben Rauschke's mother), Henry Tindell (Ricky's father), and Tide Williams' family.

***If you know of others who should be  
on this list, please contact WM Ernest  
Owey, PM or Chaplain Bill Lewis, PM***



***SAMC Hospital Volunteers***

During the month of November, 3 Masons contributed over 61 hours assisting our friends and neighbors over at St. David's South Austin Medical Center.

The outstanding volunteers who made this possible are (in alphabetical order): David Karhi with 8 hours, Carl Robinson with 40 hours, and Bobby Tiner with 13 hours.

***Thank you folks for a job well done!***

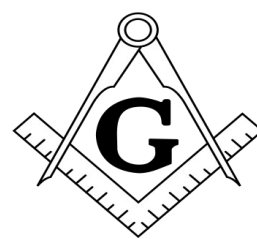
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***January Birthdays***

Carl W. Winters, Jr. 1; Walter E. Sanders 9; William M. Bastas 10; Robert F. Park, Jr. 11; Ernest Owney 13; Charles E. Ruebbling 14; Aaron K. Robertson, Henry R. Tindell 18; Jason P. Harrell 19; Francisco Reyes, Jr., Carl H. Robinson, Sr. 22; Howard D. Hall, Reagan W. Hammett 24; Jason C. Shoumaker 26; Robert L. Eschenburg, John W. Turner 28.

***Happy Birthday, Brothers!  
May the Supreme Architect bless you with many more!***

***Masonic Birthdays; raised in January (year)***

Bobby O. Brown 53; Leon D. Ross 53; Darrell W. Boyd 55; Ben E. Gray 62; James M. King 68; Kenneth J. Polk 69; Maxie E. Brune 72; Matias H. Ruiz 78; James E. Sterling 80; William L. Hatten 84; Vernon W. Miers 85; Randy A. Martin 89; Wesley L. Mersiovsky, Michael M. Zombola 90; Richard P. Rayborn 96; Carl W. Winters, Jr. 97; David C. Allen 98; James E. Greybeck 98; James A. Kruger 00; John O. Adams 01; Adrian W. Edmundson 04; David W. Hardt, Christopher A. Preece 13; Kenneth O. Shiga 19, Ricardo Avila, Jr. 20.

***And God said, "Let there be light,"  
and there was light!***