

The T. L. of R. Bulletin

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FOURTH QUARTER BULLETIN – 2021

SEPTEMBER 11 STATED MEETING

The meeting was held in the Lodge Hall of Rhea Lodge No. 47 in Jonesborough, TN. Fourteen members and visitors were in attendance. Brother Master Jason Francis Hicks presided. Brother Hicks observed that Rhea Lodge No. 47 is “a great Lodge” and thanked them for their hospitality, which was “very well received.” Rhea Lodge was also thanked for the great meal which they furnished.

Our speaker was Secretary/Treasurer George Ladd, who presented “The Graham Manuscript” about this 1726 document from England which depicts a raising based on Noah. Brother Ladd’s paper will be published in our 2021 Proceedings next year.

The following deaths were reported:

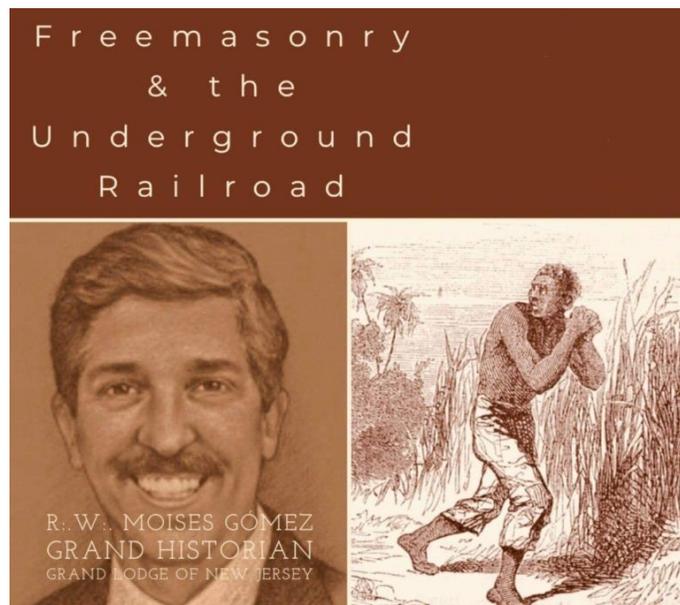
Lawrence E. Fouse, Life Member, Savannah, TN, Arab Lodge No. 663 (Grand Lodge of Alabama), died 11/8/2020;

William Polk Glover, Life Member and Charter Member, Obion, TN, Western Sun Lodge No. 88, died 8/9/2021;

Past Grand Commander Randall Carrier, Charter Member, Dashiell Lodge No. 238, died 8/21/2021

Three petitions for membership were approved. After the meeting \$139 was collected for the Grand Lodge Widows and Orphans Fund.

SPECIAL MEETING DECEMBER 18, SPARTA, TN, Sparta Lodge No. 99



We have obtained a dispensation to move our fourth quarter stated meeting to December 18 so as not to conflict with the Scottish Rite conferral of the 33rd Degree on December 11.

Our speaker will be **Brother Moises Gomez, Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey**. RW Brother Gomez has presented to several research lodges and Masonic bodies around the country on the subject of “**Freemasonry and the Underground Railroad.**” At our invitation, he will come to Tennessee and share this presentation with us at our “home Lodge,” Sparta Lodge No. 99, on Saturday, December 18. If you are able, please make plans to join us for this special presentation.

A meal will be served at 12:00 Noon Central Time. The speaking presentation will begin at 1:00 PM. The regular meeting of the TLR will begin following the speaking program. **The public is invited to the speaking**

presentation, after which all who are not Master Masons will be asked to retire (Master Masons who are non-members are welcome to visit our regular meeting).

There may be a charge for the meal. If that is the case, details will be provided in a [subsequent communication](#).

Driving Directions for the December 18 Meeting:

From **Interstate 40** in **Cookeville**, take **Exit 288** and proceed **south** on **State Highway 111** for **14.1 miles**. Take the exit to **US Highway 70** in **Sparta**. Turn **left** (east) onto **US Highway 70**, which is also **West Bockman Way**. Proceed **0.3 mile** to **Masonic Drive**. Turn **right** into **Masonic Drive**. Sparta Lodge No. 99 is located at [99 Masonic Dr, Sparta, TN 38583](https://www.google.com/maps/place/99+Masonic+Dr,+Sparta,+TN+38583).

MEETINGS DURING 2022

March 5, 2022 – Unity Lodge No. 95, Memphis, TN
June 11, 2022 – Jamestown Lodge No. 281, Jamestown, TN
September 10, 2022 – Overton Lodge No. 5, Rogersville, TN
December 10, 2022 – Sparta Lodge No. 99, Sparta, TN

2019 ANNUAL PROCEEDINGS

Work continues on the 2019 Annual Proceedings. Papers will include “A Theosophical View of Masonry” by Brother John Simmons, “Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Arch Erwin McClanahan” by Right Worshipful Grand Secretary Emeritus L. Alvin Hill, Sr., “A Compelling Case for Templars in Virginia and Tennessee” by Richard Kretz, “The Language of Masonry” by Fellow and 2019 Master of the Lodge of Research, Brother Derial Bivens, and various papers from the 2018 Symposium on Esoteric Masonry.

OUR SECOND BOOK: TRAVELING EAST II (Our Best Papers from 2006 to 2015)

Next year our second book will become available for purchase by print on demand and as an e-book. It will contain our best papers from the years 2006 to 2015 as determined by the committee appointed to select the book’s content. Watch our Bulletins next year for details.

PROVIDENCE LODGE NO. 128, MARYVILLE, TN, CELEBRATES 175 YEARS

From https://www.thedailytimes.com/community/new-providence-lodge-celebrates-175-years/article_58d4c5f0-90d2-5a33-8ffc-11887b0db8bd.html by reporter Melanie Tucker

When an organization has been around as long as New Providence Lodge No. 128 — 175 years to be exact — lots of interesting facts emerge as to its history and longevity.

The lodge is a fraternity of masons that indeed was founded on Sept. 10, 1846, here in Maryville. Maryville history buffs already have figured out that was even before the city of Maryville was incorporated, which was 1850.

That is something worth celebrating, and the lodge’s 127 members, or brothers as they refer to themselves, did just that. On the exact date of the anniversary, Sept. 10, the lodge held a parade.

New Providence Lodge No. 128 F&AM (free and accepted masons) elected Dr. Samuel Pride as its first worshipful master. The other first officers included Daniel D. Foute, first senior warden, and Joshua O. Hays, first junior warden. The current worshipful master is Wesley Terry.

Pride was a surgeon and treated Confederate soldiers during the Civil War, explained Mark Bennett, a mason and member of Lodge No. 128. Pride died in Macon, Georgia, after contracting a disease; his burial place is unknown.

Bennett has been researching the lodge for about three years. He said records show there was another lodge here, No. 48, possibly as early as 1823, but it ceased to exist in 1833, and the charter is missing. It was called New Providence Lodge No. 48 F&AM.

Today, there are six masonic lodges in Blount County. Rockford lodge was formed out of New Providence, in 1874, and so was George Washington Lodge, in 1849. Prudentia Lodge was founded in 1923. The others are Mountain View and Unitia. New Providence is the oldest.

As Bennett has done presentations on this local fraternity, he likes to point out that the founders and those who joined after were some influential movers and shakers.

“We stand on the shoulders of all those people who came before us,” said Ed Cherry, a member of New Providence Lodge for more than 50 years. He has also been instrumental in getting a history of the lodge pieced together.

Cherry noted that the masons faced some lean years in terms of membership starting in 1828. “The bottom fell out everywhere because of the anti-masonic political party. People were abandoning ship.”

He was referring to the Morgan Affair that lasted from the mid-1820s to the early 1840s; several lodges across the nation folded.

But many, like New Providence, survived. Bennett said what excites him about this lodge’s longevity is how diverse in membership it became.

For instance, Dr. Joseph Arbeely was a member and emigrant from Syria.

“His wife, Mary Arbeely (1832-1880) is buried in New Providence Presbyterian Church Cemetery,” Bennett explained. “Her tombstone has an inscription in Arabic on it. They were the very first Syrian family ever to immigrate to the U.S.”

There was also William Penn Hastings, a Quaker from Iowa who served as principal of the Freedman’s Normal Institute in Maryville after the Civil War. The institute educated Blacks after the Civil War.

It is astounding this lodge can boast of its continuous record keeping through its 175-year history. The minutes from the earliest of days are accounted for and kept safe in the lodge’s vault, Cherry said. They also have portraits of every worshipful master. They hang on the wall of the lodge.

“Both Union and Confederate forces came through downtown Maryville,” Bennett said. “Gen. Sherman stayed at Samuel Pride’s home. It is a wonder our records weren’t destroyed.”