

Masonry is the world's first and largest fraternal organization. It is guided by the enduring belief that each man has a responsibility to make the world a better place. For 300 years, Freemasonry has enhanced and strengthened the character of individual men by providing opportunities for fellowship, charity, and the search for truth – within ourselves and the larger world.

OUR MISSION AND OUR LODGE

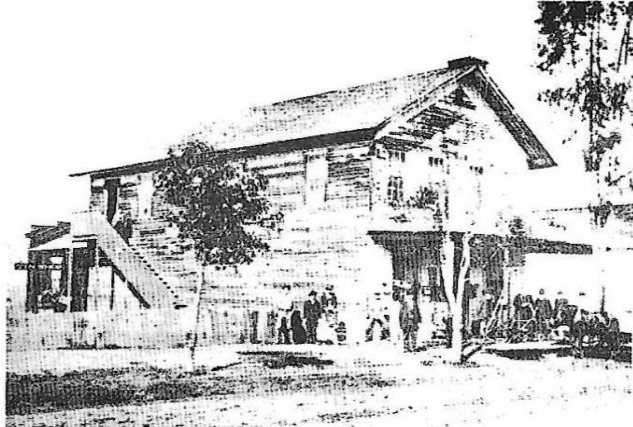
South West Lodge No. 283's mission is to promote personal growth and improve the lives of others. We take responsibility for the well-being of our brothers, our families, and the community as a whole. We value respect, kindness, tolerance, and our differences – religious, ethnic, cultural, generational, and educational, and strive for harmony in our individual lives, in our lodge, and in the global community.

As a lodge, we strive to be an active in our community. We have various charitable events like annually sponsoring San Diego Blood bank blood drive) and educational events (awarding 40 outstanding students of six grade National City Publics School with Outstanding Citizenship Certificates) throughout the year, as well as social occasions sponsoring the Christmas gathering of the Filipino-Americans citizens and kids with disabilities providing them with refreshments and venue. Some events are for members only, but many include our families.

Masons are builders. Operative Masons, using the tools of their trade, and while traveling in foreign countries, built the Holy Temples and Majestic Cathedrals of the Middle East, Europe, and Asia.

Speculative Masons, using the same tools for different purposes, endeavor to build character, instill morality, and support all that is good and decent in society. Masons individually or collectively, sponsor public schools, form lodges, and assist in the creation of local and National governments.

Masons are builders and supporters of the good life for men and women everywhere and be concerned with the building of things, particularly with the building of South West Lodge Number 283 and its membership for the next one hundred years.



PICTURE OF GRANGE BUILDING

"WHERE IT ALL BEGAN" in 1887. This building served as the first meeting place of South West Lodge #283 and was located on the west side of National Avenue between 8th and 9th streets.

THE KIMBALL YEARS

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF SOUTH WEST LODGE NO. 283 F. & A. M.

For several years prior to the 15th of September, 1886, and while the number of Master Masons in National City and vicinity was gradually increasing, the desire and necessity for the organization of a lodge of Masons became more and more intensified from the fact that we were located at the extreme southwestern limit of the United States, where distressed, worthy brother Master Masons could go no further, except they went into a foreign country-speaking an unknown tongue, with manners and customs quite unlike those to which they were accustomed-a hardship which no Master Mason would for a moment think of forcing upon a brother. So it became plainly evident that here, of all places, was the place, the time and opportunity to dispense Masonic Charity.

None but Masons knew, how often the sign of distress was made and recognized, and it is hoped that none may know, except the benefactor and the recipient. These facts made it all the more necessary for concerted action, thereby rendering it possible to equalize the burdens which otherwise must fall upon few individual Masons, who happened to be the more accessible. Apart from these considerations, we found ourselves in a new and totally undeveloped country, with neighbors representing nearly every civilized country on the globe, with religion as diverse as the people, and politics as diverse as the religion; and here it was that the harmonizing influence of Masonry was to make itself felt in bringing together men of different nations, different religions and different politics, where all of these differences would be dropped out of sight, and social relations established, such as none know better how to appreciate than do the members of an active lodge of Masons. For these, and many other reasons, the following named Master Masons assembled in Grange Hall, National Avenue between Eighth and Ninth Streets National City, California, in the evening of September 15th, 1886, to decide if the time had arrived when sufficient number of Master Masons could be brought together to successfully conduct a lodge. And these are the names:

FRANK AUGUSTUS KIMBALL
GEORGE HUGHES HANCOCK
GEORGE LITTLE KIMBALL
DAVID HENDERSON
WILLIAM EGGLESTON
PHINEAS DREW VAUGHAN
CHARLES LEWIS JOSSELYN
GEORGE KELLY BEACHBOARD
GEORGE LAFAYETTE YENAWINE
JOHN RUSSELL

Informal discussion developed the fact that all present were in favor of immediate action, and on motion of Brother Josselyn, Brother Frank Augustus Kimball was elected Chairman, and on motion of Brother Yenawine, Brother George Hughes Hancock was elected Secretary.

The Chairman stated briefly the object of the meeting, and also many reasons for concerted action, and as all present seemed to be of one accord, it would be well to select a name for the proposed lodge.

Several names were suggested, discussed and rejected, till Brother Josselyn suggested "**Sunshine**" as a suitable name, and moved its adoption and it was unanimously adopted. In answer to a question the Chairman stated that the next step necessary to be

taken would be obtain a dispensation from the M. W. Grand Master of Masons of California, to "form and open" the proposed lodge; and that in the petition for a dispensation, a Worshipful Master, a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden must be named and recommended as suitable persons to fill those stations, and in compliance with Masonic custom, he ordered a ballot to be taken for their election.

Brothers Yenawine and Josselyn were appointed tellers. A ballot was taken, the tellers announced the result, and the Chairman declared Frank A. Kimball elected Worshipful Master, George L. Yenawine Senior Warden, and Charles L. Josselyn Junior Warden. On motion it was voted that a committee be appointed to prepare a petition to the M.W. Grand Master for a dispensation to form and open a lodge of Masons in National City. The Chairman appointed:

C.L. Josselyn,
George L. Kimball
and Wm. Eggleston

Following a short recess the committee reported a petition in the form prescribed by the Grand Lodge, and addressed to the M.W. Edmund C. Atkinson, Grand Master of Masons of California. The work of the committee was adopted, and the following named Master Masons subscribed to the petition;

FRANK AUGUSTUS KIMBALL
Aurora Lodge No. 43, New Hampshire.
PHINEAS DREW VAUGHAN
Lansing Lodge No. 72, Minnesota.
CHARLES LEWIS JOSSELYN
Marrion Lodge No. 19, Florida.
GEORGE HUGHES HANCOCK
Scottville Lodge No. 420, Illinois
GEORGE LITTLE KIMBALL
Aurora Lodge No. 43, New Hampshire.
GEORGE KELLY BEACHBOARD
La Junta Lodge No. 64, Colorado.
DAVID HENDERSON
Concord Lodge No. 50, New York.

GEORGE LAFAYET'rE YENAWINE
San Diego Lodge No. 35, California.

WILLIAM EGGLESTON
Yount Lodge No. 12, California.

FRANKLIN PIERCE REED
Wilmington Lodge No. 158, Indiana.

GEORGE WILLIAM BEERMAKER
Wahoo Lodge No. 59, Nebraska.

CHARLES ABIEL MEAD
Union Lodge No. 2, Vermont

HERBERT THOMAS RISDON
Winooski Lodge No. 49, Vermont.
ALBERT REYNOLDS

SAMUEL McHENRY
San Diego No. 35, California.

JOHN MANNING
York Lodge No. 56, Nebraska.

JOHN FELIX MANNING
York Lodge No. 56, Nebraska.

On motion of Brother Hancock it was voted that the Chairman appoint a committee to secure a proper room in which to hold the meetings of the proposed lodge, and Brother Vaughan, Hancock and Beachboard were appointed.

On motion of Brother Josselyn it was voted that the Chairman appoint a committee to provide funds necessary to secure dispensation and to defray all other expenses to be incurred in organizing the lodge, and Brothers Henderson, Eggleston, Worship full Master and Wardens were appointed.

Brother Yenawine gave notice that at the next meeting he would move a reconsideration of the vote by which "Sunshine" was adopted as the name of the proposed lodge. Adjournment was then made subject to call of the Chairman.

Upon request of the Chairman the Secretary called the second preliminary meeting to be held in Grange Hall, December 14, 1886 and at 7 o'clock P. M. of that day the Chairman called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the first preliminary meeting were read by Brother H.T. Ridsen, Secretary protem, and approved. In accordance with previous notice Brother Yenawine moved to reconsider the vote which adopted "**Sunshine**" as the name of the proposed lodge. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously carried. On motion, duly seconded and carried, a ballot was ordered for a name for the proposed lodge, and George L. Kimball was appointed teller. The ballots were cast and counted, and the Chairman declared "**South West**" to be the unanimous choice for the name of the lodge.