

## History

Acacia Lodge No. 7 F. & A.M., Prince Hall

Oakland, California

“The Oldest Prince Hall Masonic Lodge in Oakland California”

2010 - Acacia's 111th Anniversary

The nucleus for this Lodge came from the old lodge name Mount Hamilton. Sojourners of this Lodge were Masons from the East Coast pioneering to the West Coast.

C.L. Morton was the first Worshipful Master of Acacia Lodge, which then was called Acacia Lodge No. 22 U.D. (Under Dispensation). This U. D. Lodge petitioned the Most Worshipful Sovereign Grand Lodge of California at its 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication, held in Alcatraz Hall in San Francisco, California on June 19, 1899. Most Worshipful W. H. Maudlin was Grand Master, and during this communication Acacia's number was changed from No. 22 to No. 7.

This Lodge of 22 members was dedicated on August 2, 1899, receiving its warrant dated July 31, 1899 at Giers Hall, Oakland, California. The warrant was signed by Grand Master, Edmond A. Clark, Senior Grand Warden, W.A. Strickland, Junior Grand Warden, Israel McKee and Grand Secretary, Frank Jackson.

Since its inception, Acacia Lodge has had many of its members serve as Grand Lodge Officers. Acacia has the honor of having two Lodges in the Jurisdiction of California and Hawaii named after two of its distinguished members, Past Master, W.J. Anderson and Past Master, Elias (Eli) Baker. Past Master, Elias (Eli) Baker served Acacia Lodge as the Tyler's Station for more than thirty years. Past Master, Baker was a steadfast Brother and was well known as being extremely versed in the general knowledge of Masonry.

Past Master Harold D. McGhee served as Lodge Treasurer for fifteen years. He later attained the Station of R.W. Senior Grand Warden, he now wears the distinct title R.W. Senior Grand Warden Emeritus. In 1902 Past Master, Charles L. Morton served the Grand Lodge as Junior Grand Warden. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 Past Master, Willie Dee Humphrey was elected to serve the jurisdiction as R.W. Grand Lecturer. In 2004 - 2005 Past Master, Herby Price, Jr. was elected to serve the Jurisdiction as Most Worshipful Grand Master. In 1962, 63, 64, 65 and 1966 PM. Walter C. Taylor was elected to serve as Most Worshipful Grand Master.

The erection and completion of the present Masonic Hall during the 1920's, at the corner of 30<sup>th</sup> and Myrtle Streets, was accomplished largely from the financial support of the Brethren of Acacia Lodge.

For the past sixty-one years, the Brethren of Acacia has host its Annual Mothers Day Breakfast. This event was adopted by the Lodge as a means for the Brethren to thank and honor our wives and widows for their many years of faithful support and to remind them that they are not forgotten.

January 1, 2003, the members of Walter C. Taylor Lodge No. 36, which was then named West Gate Lodge No. 36, constituted May 22, 1922, merged with Acacia Lodge no. 7. Prior to merging with Acacia Lodge, Walter C. Taylor Lodge ( then named West Gate Lodge No. 36)) merged with W. J. Anderson Lodge No. 57, which was constituted in 1948. The new lodge was named W. C. Taylor Lodge No. 36.

Acacia Lodge is progressing exceeding well, financially sound; enjoys strong membership support and has a very bright future. It receives excellent support from its adopted Chapter, Queen Esther Chapter No. 4., Order of the Eastern Star, which was Chartered in 1900, making it the oldest Prince Hall Affiliated Chapter in Oakland, California

From the Archives