

Last month I asked if anyone knew what major expense, other than rent, Las Palmas Lodge had each month during its infancy. Brother Curtis Jack sent an e-mail to our Secretary with the correct answer: cigars. For the first 25+ years of our existence, it was common for the Lodge to spend \$12 to \$15 per month. At that time a box of cigars cost \$3 and if a box contained 20, the Lodge Hall must have been really smelled of cigar smoke.

The idea of starting the second Masonic Lodge in Fresno came about in late 1904 when 15 local Masons met at the home of James Cyrus Pottle. At their second meeting on December 16, they signed a petition asking the Grand Master to grant them a dispensation so that they could form Las Palmas Lodge. The dispensation was granted in early 1905 and the Lodge, under dispensation, was so successful that at the annual communication of Grand Lodge that October, a Charter was granted.

The 15 Masons that are our Charter Members are:

**James Cyrus Pottle**, a local merchant who was a Past Master of Sanger Lodge and Inspector. He would be our first Master in 1905 while under dispensation.

**Elliott William Lindsay**, the County Superintendent of Schools and member of Fresno Lodge.

**Joseph Philip Bernhard**, a local attorney and member of Fresno Lodge. He would be our Master in 1907.

**William Angus Sutherland**, a local attorney and banker and member of Fresno Lodge. He would be our Master in 1909.

**Herbert Z. Austin**, a local Judge and member of Fresno Lodge. He would be our Master in 1908.

**John Simeon Jones**, a farmer and capitalist and member of Reedley Lodge.

**Alexander Marion Drew**, a local attorney, state assemblyman, and member of Fresno Lodge.

**Albert Bazzle Clark**, a local banker and member of Reedley Lodge. He would be our Master in 1906.

**John Quincy Anderson**, a local realtor and member of Fresno Lodge.

**Charles Sheldon Pierce**, a lumberman and member of Fresno Lodge.

**Briceno Amendez Fassett**, a local "agent" and a past master of Hanford Lodge.

**William Oscar Miles**, The Fresno County Clerk and a member of Fresno Lodge.

**Duncan Donald Allison**, an ice merchant and member of Fresno Lodge and their Master in 1895. Bro. Allison was our Funeral Master for many years.

**Albert Graves Wishon**, the founder and owner of San Joaquin Light and Power Co. who was a member of Visalia Lodge.

**Charles Lewis Walter**, a local Real Estate agent and member of Selma Lodge.

When these 15 Masons signed the bylaws of Las Palmas Lodge as charter members, their membership in their previous lodge was automatically terminated.

We started with only 15 members in early 1905, how many members do you think we had when we received our Charter in October of 1905?

[Return to From the Archives Index Page](#)

[Return to LPP Home Page](#)