

MENDOCINO LODGE NO. 179

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

MENDOCINO, CALIFORNIA



*Souvenir History*

REVISED 2023

## 2 TERMS SERVED

by 18 of our Past Members

Mendocino Lodge #179 now consists of three lodges. The nearby Lodges of Fort Bragg and Point Arena have merged with Mendocino to form the Lodge we have today.

In 1989-1990 Fort Bragg Lodge #360 closed and consolidated with Mendocino #179.

In 2008 Claiborne Lodge #185 of Point Arena closed and consolidated with Mendocino #179.

## SOUVENIR HISTORY



## Mendocino Lodge No. 179

FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Mendocino, California

Chartered October 23, 1865



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Reprinted April, 1984

Reprinted January, 2011

Reprinted July, 2018

**PAST MASTERS THAT HAVE  
SERVED MULTIPLE TERMS**

• **5 TERMS SERVED**

by Wilson L. Tubbs  
1991, 1993, 1998, 2002, 2003

' **4 TERMS SERVED**

by Paul D. Clark  
2017, 2018, 2022, 2023

by Delbert N. Wade  
1965, 1966, 1995, 1999

by Erick J. Albertson  
1865, 1866, 1867 1869

**3 TERMS SERVED**

by Duane A. Killion  
1984, 1992, 1997

by Reginald Damien Gomes  
1974, 1979, 1983

by T.J. Richards  
1896, 1900, 1901

• by Fred Halling  
1878, 1881, 1882

• by F.E. Warren  
1875, 1876, 1877

• by B.A. Paddleford  
1873, 1874, 1879

2012 - David Paoli  
2013 - Gerald Bates  
2014 - David Paoli  
2015 - Robert H. Cauckwell  
2016 - Robert H. Cauckwell  
2017 - Paul D. Clark  
2018 - Paul D. Clark  
2019 - James A. Jackson  
2020 - James A. Jackson  
2021 - Robert L. Anderson  
2022 - Paul D. Clark  
2023 - Paul D. Clark

## SOUVENIR HISTORY



For many years, people passing through the town of Mendocino have been attracted by the dignity of the Masonic hall and the beautiful statuary mounted above it. Masonic brethren have often remarked, "I wish I knew something of its history and the origin of its beauty." It is with this in mind, that this little 'resume' of Mendocino Lodge No. 179 is offered.

In the month of March, in 1865, a group of sojourning Masonic brethren met at the store of Wm. Heeser on Main street, to take initiatory steps toward the formation of a Lodge Home of their own. Most of them were hardy pioneers of this country, lumbermen, farmers, etc. They were proud of their little town of Mendocino California, with its three good hotels, its lumber mill, its stores; with the forests east of it and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The records show those present to have been as follows:

Silas Coombs—Kennebeck Lodge No. 5, Maine.

R. G. Coombs—Kennebeck Lodge  
No. 5, Maine.

G. R. Lowell—Rising Sun Lodge  
No. 71, Maine.

F. B. Lowell—Rising Sun Lodge  
No. 71, Maine.

Isaiah Stevens—  
William Booth—Sterling Lodge  
No. 69, Canada.

E. J. Albertson—Abell Lodge No.  
146, California.

These men sincerely hoped to organize a Lodge that they and others to follow, could enjoy and be proud of, and the records show that they even exceeded their hopes and expectations. A second meeting was held on the 3rd of July following, with the same brethren present plus J. B. Rice, John Chiever, G. E. Cummings, A. J. Rogers and G. Canning Smith.

Much was accomplished for one meeting, motions being carried to name the lodge 'Mendocino Lodge.' (Although the records show a letter from the Grand Secretary, Alex Abell, dated October 23, 1865, saying that Grand Master Belcher did not wish a lodge named after him.)

1985 - Duane Lisman  
1986 - Walter F. Jackson  
1987 - James A. Coon  
1988 - Adrian Russell M. Sears  
1989 - Wilbur J. Wade  
1990 - William L. Boyer  
1991 - Wilson L. Tubbs  
1992 - Duane A. Killion  
1993 - Wilson L. Tubbs  
1994 - Richard M. Connell  
1995 - Delbert N. Wade  
1996 - Ellis Whitley  
1997 - Duane A. Killion  
1998 - Wilson L. Tubbs  
1999 - Delbert N. Wade  
2000 - Robert J. Forest  
2001 - James A. Jackson  
2002 - Wilson L. Tubbs  
2003 - Wilson L. Tubbs  
2004 - Richard D. Love  
2005 - Richard D. Love  
2006 - Gerald Bates  
2007 - Gerald Bates  
2008 - Jeremy Johnston  
2009 - James W. Anderson  
2010 - James W. Anderson  
2011 - David E. Paoli

1956 - Alfred E. Budi  
1957 - H. F. Galloupe  
1958 - A. A. Gordon  
1959 - Earl M. Ellis  
1960 - J. D. Dearing, Jr.  
1961 - Noel G. Gabbert  
1962 - Noel G. Gabbert  
1963 - William Newal Escoba  
1964 - Floyd Lerue Strelow  
1965 - Delbert Neal Wade  
1966 - Delbert Neal Wade  
1967 - William McKinley Johnson  
1968 - John D. Dearing, Jr.  
1969 - Carl E. Godsey  
1970 - Francis Jackson  
1971 - Chester McAuley  
1972 - William Huntting  
1973 - Roy Anderson, Jr.  
1974 - Reginald Damien Gomes  
1975 - William Buckaloo  
1976 - Michael A. Wasko  
1977 - Michael A. Wasko  
1978 - Richard R. Reber  
1979 - Reginald Damien Gomes  
1980 - Vernon Patterson  
1981 - E. L. McLacklin  
1982 - Frank A. Valentine  
1983 - Reginald Damien Gomes  
1984 - Duane Killion

Brother F. B. Lowell was nominated as Chairman; Brother G. Canning Smith, Secretary; Brother Erick Albertson, Master; Brother Wm. Heeser, Senior Warden; and Brother George R. Lowell, Junior Warden. They carried a motion to petition the Grand Lodge of the State of California for dispensation to organize and carry on the work of a Masonic Lodge in Mendocino.

The petition for Dispensation originally made to The Most Worshipful William Caldwell Belcher was granted October 23, 1865, by Grand Master Gilbert B. Clairborne.

The first year was indeed a busy one for the new lodge. Nine meetings were held in the month of December of 1865, alone. They met in the loft of a building owned by Wm. Heeser (not now standing) and the records show payment of \$50 rent for several years' use. On December 2, 1865, the first degree was conferred, and the first candidate was raised on Christmas Day, Brother Samuel Clark. When the lodge was one year old, the first delegate was sent to the Grand

be had or afforded and sawdust was used on the floor. The only chairs owned by the Lodge were used for the various stations and hard benches were provided for the sitting of the brethren.

Items show candles at \$7 a box, later at \$4 a box. The History of Mendocino and Lake Counties, published in 1914, says that the first electric lights for the Lodge were from power generated at a plant near the lumber mill and provided for 12 cents a kilowatt.

Some of the brackets for the first oil lamps are mounted on the Lodge walls to this day, and are made of decorative iron. Our present Tyler, Brother L. Larsen, tells how his brother from Denmark, John C. Larsen, then a young man, did much of the painting of the Lodges' interior.

One thing of interest to note is that the original Bible is still in use. It came from Tyro Lodge, Dry Town, Amador County, which same Lodge passed out of existence December 27, 1859. Just how Mendocino Lodge came into the posses-

## PAST MASTERS MENDOCINO LODGE No. 179



- 1865—Erick J. Albertson
- 1866—Erick J. Albertson
- 1867—Erick J. Albertson
- 1868—W. Aaron Chalfant
- 1869—Erick J. Albertson
- 1870—G. R. Lowell
- 1871—Alfred Nelson
- 1872—Alfred Nelson
- 1873—B. A. Paddleford
- 1874—B. A. Paddleford
- 1875—F. E. Warren
- 1876—F. E. Warren
- 1877—F. E. Warren
- 1878—Fred Halling
- 1879—B. A. Paddleford
- 1880—J. P. Lindberg
- 1881—Fred Halling
- 1882—Fred Halling
- 1883—Dr. W. A. McCornack
- 1884—Dr. W. A. McCornack
- 1885—J. W. Fraser
- 1886—J. W. Fraser
- 1887—W. T. Wallace
- 1888—W. T. Wallace
- 1889—C. U. White
- 1890—C. U. White
- 1891—F. W. Dart
- 1892—F. W. Dart

W. E. Davis ..... Marshal  
Silas Coombs ..... Steward  
James B. Rice ..... Steward  
William Booth ..... Tyler

Toal Boyle  
John Byrnes  
I. T. Carney  
Samuel Clark  
J. H. Davis  
John Driscoll  
James W. Gray  
John Gschwend  
Geo. Hagenmeyer  
William H. Kelley  
Harry Kier  
John S. Kimball  
Frank M. Lamb  
Thomas Leining  
B. A. Paddleford  
Selim Plant  
Felix Purcell  
Louis Rice  
G. C. Smith  
G. M. Smith  
William Stacey  
Isaiah Stevens  
C. W. Stilson  
H. D. Stilson  
F. E. Warren  
L. E. White

sion of this Bible the records do not indicate.

We look back with reverence and admiration when we consider the hard work that our early brethren had to do to provide a Lodge hall that still is one of the most beautiful in the State. In each corner of the Lodge room a Corinthian column is set, in the East, two columns of Ionic are set, in the West two of Doric, and in the South two of Corinthian. All the fluting and decorating are molded in plaster of paris and set into the wood. The two brazen pillars adjacent to the door of the preparation room are also made by hand; the decorations of the chapters; molded of brass, were cast at the saw mill at Mendocino and were made by Brother Hagenmeyer, the mill blacksmith.

A great deal of credit is due the early Brothers of this Lodge for carrying on so successfully, a work against so great odds. Brother Albertson stands out especially for seven years of continuous hard work, much of which was without personal compensation, and was



four times Master of the Lodge. It was he who carved the beautiful statuary which adorns the outside of the building, and the beautiful carving on the Lodge's interior is the work of his hands. He worked at the lumber mill and had a shack on the beach where he spent all of his spare time doing this work, truly a work of love.

In 1871 Brother Albertson was evidently in financial straits, for the records show the Lodge taking care of his wife's doctor bill. The comments of the auditing committee show the love and true Yankee instinct that prevailed in the Lodge in those early days.

The first Senior Warden, Mr. William Heeser, many years Secretary of the Lodge, donated the land for the building. He was a licensed surveyor, owned a store, published a newspaper, ran a bank, built a road from Ukiah to Mendocino, and purchased the Kelly farm which was the first cultivated farm in the district.

All available records point to the fact that our early Masonic brethren

were quite public spirited citizens and practiced out of the Lodge those great virtues inculcated in it.

No year since the Lodge started has been without its own interest, but the first seven years stand out, under the precept and example of Brother Albertson, four times Master of the Lodge.

Compiled by:

F. A. VALENTINE Chairman  
 C. T. RATHBURN  
 H. J. COLBURN  
 WILLIAM BARTLE

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**CHARTER MEMBERS  
 MENDOCINO LODGE No. 179**



Erick Albertson ..... W.M.  
 William Heeser ..... S.W.  
 G. R. Lowell ..... J.W.  
 Richard Coombs ..... Treasurer  
 Aaron Chalfant ..... Secretary  
 F. B. Lowell ..... S.D.  
 Alfred Nelson ..... J.D.