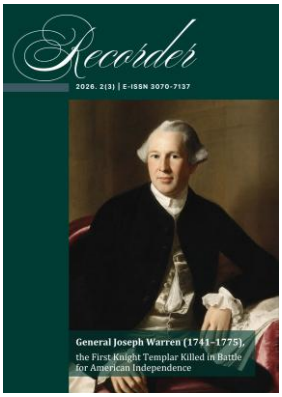
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Diaries, Memoirs, and Personal Notes

A Day in the Life of Humble Lodge No. 979: The 2026–2027 Officer Installation

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Abstract

This article presents the author's personal recollections of the Installation of Officers ceremony of Humble Lodge No. 979 A.F.&A.M. for the 2026–2027 Masonic year, held on June 27, 2026. Written in the first person, the narrative combines the participant's emotional impressions with a vivid description of the ceremonial proceedings, the installation of the newly elected officers, and fellowship with the Brethren and their families. Particular attention is devoted to the installation of Jamie McQueen as Worshipful Master and to the author's own appointment as Junior Steward. In addition to describing the ceremony itself, the article provides a concise historical overview of Humble Lodge No. 979, including its establishment in 1908, the history of its historic lodge building, and the principal stages of its development. As a first-person historical account, the article offers a valuable source for understanding the internal life, traditions, and culture of a contemporary American Masonic lodge and may serve as an important documentary resource for future research on the history of Humble Lodge No. 979 A.F.&A.M.

Keywords: Humble Lodge No. 979, A.F.&A.M., Freemasonry, officer installation, Jamie McQueen, Masonic lodge, personal memoir, lodge history, Texas.

I was personally invited to the Humble 979 Lodge "Installation of Officers" for Saturday, June 27th, a month prior, and as I opened the front door to finally attend I was surrounded by gentlemen in suits, ties, to include bolos and bowties, and many guests who also understood that formal attire was suitable amongst the attendees, considering the reason for this prestigious event. I was to be installed as an officer of the lodge, and honored to have been asked to be a part of a group of men, to engage in a fellowship much like one would in a long-lasting fraternity, in any capacity but more specifically – Junior Steward.

My involvement in this organization started over ten years ago and in that time I have engaged, more times over, in perpetual brotherly love and deeper understanding of having brethren stand by my side through adversity, moral virtues, and higher levels of thinking, and so this day was a continuation of being part of a bond that unites us in solidarity. I had not been as active as I wanted to be, or perhaps needed to be, due to my calls to travel abroad, but it was certainly not a determining or diminishing factor as I seemingly picked up where I last left off, with no other judgement than an elation to reconnect, in that continuation of brotherly love.

The full cast of elected officers had yet to arrive but it gave me plenty of time to mingle with familiar faces before the building would reach its full capacity. Although I had spent much time with the men of the lodge, today's event also gave me the opportunity to reunite with their significant others and family members.

"Excuse me, ladies," I politely interrupted two of the wives in their engaging conversation regarding literature and fashion, but they were partly responsible for providing some of tonight's delicious refreshments. "I haven't had banana pudding in nearly four years but it was well worth the wait."

"Why thank you. There is plenty more hiding in the refrigerator, for later."

A sheet cake adorned its own table ready to feed those who desired a tasty dessert and while it occupied the center of the room, there were other pastries and finger foods spread out along the cafeteria style selections, near the kitchen, attracting attention in its unique sweet and savory presentations.

"Which would you recommend, Brother Secretary? A chocolate chip cookie, a slice of marble cake, or another scoop of banana pudding?" I asked.

"They all look good. Try them all. One at a time." he snickered.

The moment had arrived when the last available candidate entered the front doors and the positive energy was contained so much so that after a few words from our newly elected Worshipful Master and soon to be Past Master, we were invited to congregate upstairs for the formal ceremony of our newly elected and soon to be appointed officers. I was thrilled to see that the elevator was still working and provided relief and a reprieve for those who either ate too much or was physically challenged to walk an extensive flight of stairs to our Lodge Room, but either way I was nearing closer to my next role and wondered if I would officially be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing the kitchen and also the washing all of the dishes when I descended these same stairs. It did not matter. I would help either way, in my full capacity of participation.

As guests secured chairs and their seating arrangements, I stood outside the doors in preparation and succession adorning my white leathered apron around my waist, not as nervous as I had been throughout my involvement within the organization as an officer in recent pasts, as I had secured and sat in different chairs experiencing different roles of leadership and responsibilities. I stood alone amongst many. I had no escort, but this was an internal journey and path I decided to make once again so that it may further reveal to myself my capabilities and truest convictions of a man who is willing to "serve" others while also feeding himself meaning and introspection.

My name introduction was direct and enlightening. As I took my first steps towards the circumspection line and nearing the altar, there was no turning back from an obligation and oath I will be making to myself, the brethren, and the community towards my dedication within the fraternity and brotherhood, and as I paused to have a photograph taken of me to further document this moment in time, I smiled for the camera and internally giggled because I was back – back to a soul tribe and group who share the same common goals and shared beliefs. I returned to the welcoming postures of those who never disregarded nor casted me out, and I proudly stood there in fervor and zeal amongst the very men I may have been searching for in my life, while reflectively becoming a mentor and leader I wish to exude for others.

While the memory and floor work necessary to conduct such a ceremony may just be perceived as pomp and circumstance by the average viewer, I, as a participant, understood and appreciated the work and dedication it took to capture the pageantry, status, and celebratory endeavor associated with this major event of mainly installing Jamie McQueen as the Worshipful Master (Fig. 1). He has worked diligently and carefully, displaying his earnest dedication within freemasonry, as well as his external pursuits outside of masonry, and is deserving to be the master of this lodge. I am not only proud to be his friend, his brother, and now an officer to help and assist him in his vision, direction, and growth for this brotherhood, but in his personal growth as a master mason.



Fig. 1. Jamie McQueen, Worshipful Master of Humble Lodge No. 979, A.F.&A.M., 2026–2027.

When the ceremony was officiated, the guests were invited to further convene downstairs and partake in the alchemic punch bowl of ginger ale, lemonade, and mango juice while the newly installed officers quickly celebrated amongst ourselves in congratulatory affirmations and had our pictures taken to further commemorate the unity and solidarity of Humble Lodge No. 979 A.F. & A.M.

Before I left the festivities, I did participate in a brief cleanup, and may have packed a to-go snack pack of more banana pudding and chocolate cookies and maybe a slice of marble cake, but as I shook nearly every member's hand I felt relief and confidence that I am never alone because I know any one of these fine gentlemen would quickly render aid to each other, if it were in their capacity to do so, as I would quickly do the same.

A Brief History of Humble Lodge No. 979

The Humble Masonic Lodge was chartered in December 1908 under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. Our first Worshipful Master was Judge F.K. Wise who was instrumental in getting a Masonic Lodge established in the City of Humble.

The Lodge met at its present location in a room that was provided for the Masons, by the President of Humble State Bank, Mr. Ross S. Sterling, who in 1911 help organize the Humble Oil and Refinery Company and he later became Governor of The Great State of Texas. While in the process of building a new bank building that was still under construction, Mr. Sterling, at the request of Judge Wise, had a second story added to the building to serve as a meeting room for the Masons. That room above the bank served as the Lodge Room for the Masons until a fire destroyed the building in 1912.

The Bank soon relocated a couple of doors down the street and shortly afterward, Mr. Sterling sold the property where the bank once stood to the Masons for $800. He then loaned the lodge members $3,500 to help construct a new building at that location. Together the lodge members raised an additional $2,000 and built the present lodge building for the total sum of $5,500 that same year.

Over the years the bottom floor of the lodge building has hosted several businesses in downtown Humble, including a Rexall Drug Store and an Archery Range. The bottom floor was later converted to a dining room and kitchen that also serves as a fellowship hall and education center.

In 1998 Past Master D. R. Chapman, upon his death, left a generous monetary gift to the Lodge with the instructions that the money was to be used to remodel and update the lodge building. Additionally in 2012, the estate of Leonard L. Clark also left a sizable donation to the lodge. Utilizing a portion of these funds, both the interior and exterior of this Historic 118 Year-Old Edifice was remodeled to its present condition and stands today as a proud legacy of the hard work and dedication of our many Masonic Brothers past and Present.