

Freedom Lodge No. 100 A.F. & A.M.
Fort Martin Scott at Fredericksburg, Texas

Based upon Grand Lodge of Texas recordsⁱ, Freedom Lodge #100 petitioned for organization on August 10, 1851 and at a meeting of Alamo Lodge #44 in San Antonio, Texas on September 6, 1851ⁱⁱ, dispensation was given to form Freedom Lodge #100. According to minutesⁱⁱⁱ of a meeting of Alamo Lodge held on September 6, 1851, Alamo Lodge #44 Worshipful Master, Ben E. Edwards and Secretary, H. Canterbury signed the dispensation proclamation.

Freedom Lodge operated as a Lodge under dispensation^{iv} (UD) from September 6, 1851 until January 6, 1852. The first officers of Freedom Lodge #100 UD were: Thomas C. Doss, Worshipful Master; R.W. Reynolds, Senior Warden; Joseph K. Wilson, Junior Warden; H.E. McCulloch, Secretary, W.C. McKean, Office Unknown; J.S. Shultz, Deacon; H. Dillard, office unknown; and William Gordon, Tyler. The organizational meeting^v of Freedom Lodge UD was held on November 1, 1851.

A Charter^{vi} was awarded Freedom Lodge #100 by the Grand Lodge of Texas on January 20, 1852 at the Grand Communication, which was held in Nacogdoches during December of 1852. The elected Charter officers of Freedom Lodge were: Joseph K. Wilson, Master; Thomas C. Doss, Senior Warden; and Chester B. Starks, Junior Warden.

In 1855 a request to The Grand Lodge of Texas was made by Freedom Lodge to work in the German language at least once each month. The request was granted, but a request that the Lodge be allowed to keep minutes and to submit returns in German was denied^{vii}.

I has been rumored that Freedom Lodge #100 met at Fort Martin Scott^{viii} which is located on the eastern edge of Fredericksburg. The land on which the Fort is situated was owned during this period by John Twohig of San Antonio and leased to the military. During 1852 and 1853, Fort Martin Scott was used as a Forage Depot by the military. The Fort was decommissioned in the fall of 1853. During the years from 1853 through 1857, the Fort served as a quartermaster department for the military.

When the Grand Lodge of Texas was called to labor on January 18, 1853, the Committee on Credentials reported the name of A. Neill as Representative from In

1854, the District Deputy Grand Master of the then Fourth Masonic District, stated in his report to the Grand Master “Owing to the breaking up of the military post near Fredericksburg, Freedom Lodge No. 100 was deprived of the attendance of many of its members, and work for a time was suspended, but not a sufficient length of time to work a forfeiture of the Charter. In October last, I again met with the Brothers and, there being a sufficient number to resume work, I lectured and worked with them, and found them zealous and anxious to perform the duties required of them. I subsequently learn they have continued their labors, and that their returns will be duly laid before you. In behalf of the Brothers, I must say that they are surrounded by a foreign population, with but few, very few, speaking our language, and this doubtless, prevents an accumulation of numbers; but with them this matters not, for they seem to prefer being favorably known among their Brethren more by the correctness of their work than by their numbers.”^{ix}

In June of 1855, finding their numbers too few to continue work, Freedom Lodge #100 surrendered its charter, funds and jewels into the hands of the District Deputy Grand Master, S. G. Newton, who delivered them into the hands of the Grand Treasurer.^x

Biographical Sketches of some Freedom Lodge Members

DOERING, Jacob^{xi}

Jacob Doering was appointed a Gillespie County Commissioner in 1856 and appointed again in 1865 by Military Government (C.S.A.)

DOSS, Thomas C.^{xii}

Thomas C. Doss and his brother, John E. Doss, founded the town of Doss on Mormon Creek nineteen miles northwest of Fredericksburg in northwestern Gillespie County where they built a gristmill and distillery on Threadgill Creek in 1856 and later added a dam and sawmill.

FREEMAN, George^{xiii}

George Freeman came to Texas from New York and he was a farmer and the Sheriff of Gillespie County in 1851 and 1852.

MOGFORD, William^{xiv}

Birth : 19 FEB 1812 Devonshire England

Death : 24 DEC 1881 Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Texas

William Mogford was the Deputy Gillespie County Clerk 1851.

STARKS, Chester B. ^{xv}

Starks' estate donated the land to form the town of Llano, Texas.

VAN DER STUCKEN, Frank ^{xvi}

Immigrated to Texas from Antwerp, Belgium, with Henri Castro and married in Fredericksburg on December 23, 1852. The elder Van der Stucken, a freight contractor and merchant who served as a captain in the First Texas Cavalry during the Civil War and in 1864 was chief justice of Gillespie County, returned to Antwerp with his family in 1866. His famous son, Frank Valentine Van der Stucken (1858-1929), composer and conductor, was a Mason and member of Fredericksburg Lodge 794.

WILSON, Joseph K. ^{xvii}

Sergeant-Major Joseph K. Wilson received a medal of honor his actions in saving the regimental flag from being confiscated by newly organized military forces of the Confederate States, when Wilson's regiment surrendered to the Confederate Army in May of 1861 in San Antonio.

ⁱ See Figures (1 & (2)

ⁱⁱ Grand Lodge of Texas Proceedings – 1852 page 40

ⁱⁱⁱ Grand Lodge Archived Records – Freedom Lodge #100

^{iv} See Figure (3)

^v Grand Lodge Archived Records – Freedom Lodge #100

^{vi} See Figure (4)

^{vii} Grand Lodge of Texas Proceedings – 1855 sic – page 105

^{viii} See figure (7)

^{ix} Proceedings of The Grand Lodge of Texas Vol. II by A. S. Ruthven, Grand Secretary 1857 – page 131

^x Grand Lodge of Texas Proceedings – 1856 sic – pages 21 & 140

Proceedings of The Grand Lodge of Texas Vol. II by A. S. Ruthven, Grand Secretary 1857 – page 206

^{xi} Rootsweb.com - The County Officers of Gillespie County 1848 - 1869

^{xii} Handbook of Texas Online - a joint project of [The General Libraries at the University of Texas at Austin](#) and the [Texas State Historical Association](#)

^{xiii} USGenWeb – 1850 Gillespie County Census

^{xiv} Handbook of Texas Online - a joint project of [The General Libraries at the University of Texas at Austin](#) and the [Texas State Historical Association](#)

^{xv} Handbook of Texas Online - a joint project of [The General Libraries at the University of Texas at Austin](#) and the [Texas State Historical Association](#)

^{xvi} Handbook of Texas Online - a joint project of [The General Libraries at the University of Texas at Austin](#) and the [Texas State Historical Association](#)

^{xvii} Excerpts from: History of the 8th U.S. Infantry - The Eighth Regiment of Infantry By Lieutenant Richard H. Wilson, Adjutant 8th U.S. Infantry