

An Overview of the History of Freemasonry in the Caribbean

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CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Foreword

- This presenter has a long track researching and publishing about Freemasonry in the Spanish Antilles (Cuba, Dominican R. & P.R.)
- In addition, this presenter is a witness, being:
 - Born, and having been raised a Mason, in 1969, in Island Lodge No. 56, Havana, Cuba.
 - Currently a dual Mason in GLSPR/Puerto Rico.
 - Having taught as a Fulbright in Dominican R.
- Having five generations each, in Cuba and PR

Outline

- XVIII Century: Few anecdotal events
- 1800: fallouts from the Haitian Slave Revolt
- Spanish Juntas and Colonial Independence
- Repression and re-appearance
- Dominican Republic history
- Cuban development history
- Puerto Rican development
- Summary and Questions

Cronol3gical Development of Freemasonry in Cuba & PR: 1800-1850

Time	Cuba	Puerto Rico
1800-1814	Virtudes Teologales (G.L. Pennsylvania)	French Emigrees from Haiti
French Carib. & Spain	Other French lodges created in Havana and Santiago Bonapartist Freemasonry arrives to Spain, under French occupation	Create lodges in San Juan, Ponce and San Germán, Same as occurred in Cuba.
1815-1820	Spanish King Reinstited	
1820-1824	Gran Logia Espanola de York	Capitulo Rosa Cruz/San Germán
Trienio Liberal	Gran Ote Territorial Espanol Amer. Rito Escoces (GL Pennsylvania)	(GLNY). Gran Ote. De Francia en Mayaguez (Consistorio/Consejo)
1830-1850	Masonic Activities End	Recess Active

Development of Freemasonry in Dominican Republic: 1800-1859

Year	Históric Function	Santo Domingo	Events
1802	Precursors	Ferrand & Rochambeau	French Invasion 1801-09
1820	Precursors	Nuñez de Caceres	España Boba: 1809-20
1822+	Organizers	Generals. Riché & Borgella	Haitian Invasión
1843+	Organizers	Juan Pablo Duarte	Independence in 1844
1859+	Organizers	Tomas Bobadilla	GL Republica Dominicana

■ Cuban Timeline 1859-1885

- 1859: SGC Pike sends Bro. Cassard to Cuba
 - Establishes Grand Lodge & Supreme Council Colon
- 1862: SGC Pike sends Bro DeCastro to Cuba
 - Establishes GOCA (Grand Orient of Cuba & Antilles)
- Internal struggle for the Cuban Masonic territory
- 1868: Start First Cuban War of Independence
 - Organized mainly with the help of GOCA Lodges
 - Murder of GM Puente Badell by Spanish troops
- 1870s: Arrive First Grand Orients from Spain
- 1880: Grand Lodge of Colon & Isla de Cuba
 - 1885: Gran Logia Soberana de Puerto Rico

Gran Logia Nacional Republica Dominicana:1859-1885

Year	Históric Function	Santo Domingo	Events
1858	Organizers	Tomas Bobadilla	GL Rep. Dom.
1865	Politicos/Masones	Buenaventura Baez	Luchas politicas
1870	Politicos/Masones	Ulises Espaillat	Lideres y presidentes
1880	Politicos/Masones	Gregorio Luperon	Tras la Guerra
1885+	Politicos/Masones	Ulises Heureux/Lilis	De Restauracion

Timeline: Puerto Rico; 1859-1885

Unión Germana (1866, GLNRD)

Estrella de Luquillo (1867, GLC)

Some lodges from Venezuela

First Orients from España (1873)

Foundat. Grnd. Ldg. Prov. (1884)

Found. Grd. Ldg. P.R. (1885)

Struggle w/Orients Espanoles

G.L. Unida de Colón e Isla de Cuba

People

Aurelio Almeida

Fco. de P. Rodriguez

José Fdez. Pellon

Aurelio Miranda

Antonio Govin

José Ma. Galvez

Events (1875-1885)

First Grand Lodge Prov.

First Grand Lodge Prov.

First Prov. Grand Lodge

United Grand Lodge (C&IC)

Autonomist Party

Autonomist Party

Gran Logia Soberana de Puerto Rico (1859 – 1899)

Year	Históric Function	GLSPR	Events
1859+	Precursors	Eugenio Ma. Hostos	Orígins/Difusión
1860+	Precursors	Ramón E. Betances	Grito de Lares
1870+	Organizers	Santiago R. Palmer	Creating Lodges
1875+	Organizers	R. Matienzo Cintron	Creating Lodges
1880+	Organizers	Segundo Ruiz Belvis	ProvincialGrand Lodge
1885+	Organizers	Antonio Ruiz Quinones	Grand Lodge of P.R.
1890+	Politics/Masons	Luis Munoz Rivera	Autonomist Party
1890+	Politics/Masons	Manuel Fdez Juncos (2)	Autonomist Party
1899+	Politics/Masons	José Celso Barbosa	Transfer. Soberania

Principal Líders, Professions y Centers of Study

Liders Pto Rico	Liders Cuba	Professions	Studies in:
Segundo Ruiz Belvis	Ricardo del Monte	Medicos Maestros	Cuba
Federico Degateau Cayetano Coll y Toste	Rafael Montoro Enrique J. Varona	Abogados Periodistas	Puerto Rico EE.UU.
Francisco Quinones	José A. Cortina Raimundo Cabrera	Escritores Poetas	Spain
Antonio Cordero	Eliseo Giberga	Industriales	Germany
José De Diego	Miguel Gener	Agricultores	France
José Claudio Vera		Comerciantes	England

Autonomist Masons (1880-1890)

CUBANS

- Antonio Govin
- Carlos Saladrigas
- Raimundo Cabrera
- Manuel Sanguili
- Enrique Jose Varona
- Tomas Estrada Palma
- Aurelio Almeida

PUERTO RICANS

- Ramón E. Betances
- Segundo Ruiz Belvis
- Jose de Diego
- M. Fernandez Juncos
- Luis Munoz Rivera
- Jose Celso Barbosa
- Santiago R. Palmer

Some Caribbean Masonic Leaders

Leaders Pto. Rico	Leaders Dom. Rep.	Leaders Cuba	Profession	Studies:
Santiago R. Palmer	Nuñez de Caceres	Aurelio Miranda	Poets	Cuba
R. Matienzo Cintron	Juan Pablo Duarte	Antonio Govín	Politicians	Puerto Rico
Luis Munoz Rivera	Tomas Bobadilla	José Ma. Galvez	Teachers	Dom. Rep.
Manuel Fdez Juncos	Buenaventura Baez	Ricardo del Monte	Doctors	EE.UU.
Ruiz Belvis	Ulises Espaillat	Rafael Montoro	Lawyers	Spain
Federico Degateau	Gregorio Luperon	Enrique J. Varona	Journalists	Germany
Cayetano Coll y Toste	Ulises Heureux (Lilis)	José A. Cortina	Industrials	France
Francisco Quinones	Eugenio Ma. Hostos	Raimundo Cabrera	Agriculture	England
José De Diego	M. Caceres	Eliseo Giberga	Merchants	Mexico

Summary

- Anecdotal if any activity, before 1800
- French *emigrees* from Haiti seek refuge
- Short Liberal Spanish Juntas (1812 & 1820)
- Back to authoritarianism: 1814-19, & 1825++
- Freemasonry Reappears After 1859
 - In Puerto Rico, as a branch of Cuba's
- Dominican Republic had a different trajectory
 - Its Freemasonry came from Haiti (invasion)