

HISTORY OF BLYTHEWOOD LODGE NO. 395 A.F.M. DECEMBER 2, 1960.

Blythewood Lodge No. 395 A.F.M. had its inception on the night of December 3, 1959, when seven local Master Masons, namely, H. P. Legrand, T. W. Sharpe, Jr., W. J. Ballentine, Herbert Ballentine, Robert W. Loner, James C. Davis, and H. B. McLean, Sr., met in the agents office of the local Southern Railway station, for a general discussion of the possibility or feasibility of organizing, either a Masonic Club or a Mosonic Lodge in the Blythewood area.

After extended discussion and expressions of opinions, it was decided to call a meeting of the interested local Master Masons to meet at the Blythewood Community Center at 8:00 P.M., December 8, 1959 for further discussion. 26 members were present at this meeting. H. P. Legrand elected moderator. H. B. McLean, Sr. as secretary.

Bro. Legrand stated that the purpose of the meeting was for a general and open discussion, looking into the possibility of organizing a Lodge of Master Masons in the Blythewood area. It was stated that a number of masons holding membership in lodges at Ridgeway, Winnsboro, Columbia and elsewhere in the State, had indicated a keen interest in organizing a Lodge in the area.

Three committees were appointed. H. P. Legrand, Earl Van Patten, and W. J. Ballentine to contact Grand Lodge Secretary for information on getting a Charter for the new lodge.

Building committee: H. B. McLean, Sr., R. B. Davis, and T. W. Sharpe, Jr., to see about a Lodge hall.

Committee to contact Ridgeway Lodge No. 30 A.F.M.: J. L. Frick, H. W. Stricklin and E. B. Cooper to inform them of our action and to solicit their help and sponsorship in the event a new Lodge is chartered. A majority of our members at the time were in Ridgeway Lodge.

Our first meeting to elect officers was held at 8:00 P.M., on January 13, 1960 at the Blythewood Community Center. 35 members were present.

The following officers were elected and appointed:

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| H. P. Legrand     | Worshipful Master. |
| Horace W. Shealy  | Secretary.         |
| W. J. Ballentine  | Chaplain.          |
| H. B. McLean, Sr. | Treasurer.         |
| B. S. Boney       | Tiler.             |
| R. W. Loner       | Senior Warden.     |
| James C. Davis    | Senior Deacon.     |
| H. R. Norton      | Junior Deacon.     |
| H. W. Stricklin   | Junior Warden.     |
| E. B. Cooper      | Steward.           |
| T. W. Sharpe, Jr. | Steward.           |

District Deputy G. M., J. Louie Coleman, Ridgeway, S. C. made a brief talk and offered his assistance in getting the new Lodge under way. It was decided to use the Blythewood Community Center building as a meeting place until a new Temple was erected.

First meeting under Dispensation was held February 2, 1960, at which time the Dispensation was presented to the Lodge by Hugh N. Layne, Deputy Grand-Master, and the Rev. Henry F. Collins, Grand Lodge Secretary.

The Lodge was duly chartered by the Grand Lodge on April 28, 1960, as Blythewood Lodge No. 395 A.F.M. with 45 charter members. Their previous membership in the following Lodges: Winnsboro 1., Ridgeway 28, Richland 2, Acacia 2, Sinclair 2, Abney 1, Columbia 2, Anglo-Saxon 1, Eau Claire 3, Earlwood 1, Broad River 2.

First meeting under charter was held on Tuesday May 3, 1960.

On May 24, 1960, Mr. James R. Creech signed Title conveying 4.3 acres of land to the Lodge for the purpose of erecting a Masonic Temple. The membership and the friends in other Lodges contributed generously in money, labor and building materials enabling the Temple to be completed with no outstanding debts.

Building committee Charles A. Starnes, Jr., Chairman, P. A. Daniels, Secretary-Treasurer, Robert W. Loner, James C. Davis, M. B. Swindler, R. B. Davis, E. B. Cooper, W. H. Turnipseed and many others are to be commended highly for their unselfish devotion and untiring effort in building the Temple.

At time of dedication the Lodge had a membership of 54.

Submitted by

H. B. McLean, Sr.  
Treasurer.