

Landrum Lodge # 278 A.F.M.

100 Years of Service



**Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of
Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina**



Rededication Ceremony

December 13, 2008

**Landrum Lodge History
Presented to Most Worshipful and Illustrious
Gerald L. Carver, 33° Grand Master**

Compiled by Charles Loftis and Michael Smith

Landrum Lodge # 278 A Historical Perspective

Established in 1831, the sleepy foothills town was initially known as Earlesville, as named for the Earle family that was a major land owner dating back to the 1770's. Mr. Theron Earle was the first Postmaster in the settlement. In the 1870's, Landrum began to grow with the discovery of gold in a nearby NC community. Gold mining resulted in the coming of the railroad to the township. Reverend and Mrs. John G. Landrum donated 4 acres for the Depot from their inherited holdings from the Earle family. As the town grew in population and more people moved to the area, the allure of the cool summer temperatures of Hogback Mountain, elevation of 3,211 feet, which proved an ideal spot for vacation travel on the rail.

On July 10, 1908, M.W. James L. Michie, Grand Master issued dispensation authorizing the formation of Landrum Lodge UD with Bro. F.W. Moore serving as Worshipful Master. Bro. Moore was the Principle of Landrum Grade School having been named so in 1906. On December 9, 1908, M.W. Michie issued a charter to Landrum Lodge # 278 AFM and Directed R.W. B.B. Bishop, District Deputy to constitute both Landrum Lodge and, coincidentally, Campobello Lodge # 273. This first eventful year was closed with 7 members. Our first officers were Bro. Moore as Worshipful Master, Bro. C.H. Evans, Sen. Warden, and Bro. A.M. Cash, Junior Warden.

During the first year under dispensation, the lodge added 3 affiliations in July including W.L. Bruce, J.M. Burns, and R.S. Strickland. The first member to complete all three degrees in Landrum Lodge UD was Bro. Roland Lee having completed his EA on August 8, 1908, FC on September 11, 1908 and his MM degree on October 9, 1908. During that first year, the lodge also conducted 2 other EA and 1 other FC degree. Regular Meetings were held the Friday on or before the full moon at Mr. Davenport's Hall.

Throughout the early years, Landrum Lodge grew in membership as numerous members joined the fraternity and also by affiliation as Freemasons moved into the Landrum community. We even find some suspensions for Non Payment of Dues recorded as well.

At the end of the first decade, Landrum Lodge had grown to 36 members having conferred 105 degrees. Noteworthy members Dr. H.A. Smothers, Dr. J.E. Brison, and Dr. A.R. Walden, Merchants, J.C. Brown, J.E. Ballew and Rev. C.D. Boyd became members. Two members were recorded as servicemen during WWI, Bro. Benjamin J. Plumley and Lonnie E. Hall.

During the next decade the lodge continued to grow and by 1928 had 60 members. In 1923 the dues were raised from \$ 2 to \$ 3 and the Lodge Hall was rented on annual basis to the Woodmen of the World and the International Order of Redmen for a sum of \$ 40 per year. Landrum Lodge was active in the community and the fraternity with noted projects of donating a memorial window to the Landrum United Methodist Church, contributing to orphanages and other local causes. The Lodge was active in fund raising for the George Washington National Memorial erected by Freemasons in Arlington VA. Lodge voted to pay travel expenses for Wor. Bro. John A. Graham, W.M. to attend the cornerstone laying ceremony.

In 1924 the meeting site was moved to Mr. Ballew's Hall with meetings being held on the second Wednesday of the month. Dues were increased to \$ 5 per year. In 1926 the Bank of Landrum closed and the Lodge lost money with the closing.

By the end of the third decade the Lodge membership was now at 34 due to the depression with numerous members having to drop. During the decade several noted events were recorded including the installation of officers in 1931 by R.W. O. Frank Hart, Grand Secretary. A joint meeting of Landrum Lodge # 278, Campobello Lodge # 273 and Gowensville Lodge # 107 was held with the special guest Most Worshipful S. L. Lanham with 20 Lodges represented. Perhaps this was a precursor to our current District Meeting format.

In February of 1932, R.W. Bro. O. Frank Hart presented his address as part of the George Washington Bicentennial Celebration at Landrum First Baptist Church and in August R.W. Geroge Harmon, D.G.M. made a Masonic Address at Landrum Methodist Church.

In 1934 the Lodge voted to change the bylaws and moved the meeting night to the second Tuesday of the month as it remains today. In August, Landrum Lodge was granted Special dispensation by the Grand Master to open on the MM degree at Inman High School for the purpose organizing a Masonic Convention where 18 Lodges were represented. MW. O Frank Hart was officially received. MW Rob F. Ebbs, Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina was also present and received with private Grand Honors. MW Bro. Ebbs was accompanied by representatives from 4 North Carolina Lodges.

In 1936 Campobello Lodge # 273 surrendered their charter to the Grand Lodge and Landrum Lodge voted to receive members with a certificate of good standing. Today many Landrum Lodge members are from Campobello and the Lodge continues to support Campobello community, through our members charities program, including the youth association, and fire department.

In 1940, it is noteworthy that R.W. Bro. Hoyt O. Prince was appointed as District Deputy Grand Master and was the first documented Grand Lodge officer from Landrum Lodge # 278. Since that time Landrum has had several Grand Lodge appointees to serve the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of South Carolina and include

Past Grand Lodge Officers

- R.W. Bro. Hoyt O Prince, District Deputy Grand Master (1939 – 1941)
- R.W. Bro. Manus. M. Barnette, District Deputy Grand Master (1949 – 1951)
- R.W. Bro. Thomas P. Raines, District Deputy Grand Master (1961 – 1963)
- R.W. Bro. C. M. Walden, Grand Steward (1965)
- R. W. Bro. C.M. Walden District Deputy Grand Master (1971 - 1973)
- R.W. Bro. Donald L. Smith, District Deputy Grand Master (1987 – 1989)
- R. W. Bro. Michael D. Smith, District Deputy Grand Master (1997 – 1999)
- R. W. Bro. J. Ray Copeland, District Deputy Grand Master (2003 – 2005)
- RW. D. Michael Collins, District Deputy Grand Master (2007 – 2009)

By 1940 the Lodge membership was at 53. In 1941 Landrum Lodge # 278 unanimously approved consolidation of Gowensville Lodge # 107 and approved affiliation of 10 members including Henry T. Gramling, Broadus D. Henson, Bunyan J. Lister, W. Penn Morrow, David B. Odom, John L. Petty II, Tolly W. Petty, Rev. Herman A. Phillips, James A. Stokes, and Grady A. Stewart. Many of these Freemasons had family members follow in their example by joining our gentle craft.

By 1942 the WWII had an impact on membership with the lodge voting to waive dues for all members serving in the military. The Grand Lodge also granted special dispensation to the Lodge and James T. Austin, who received all three degrees on subsequent days from January 25 – 27, 1943.

In interviews with several older members in 1983 for the preparation of the 75th anniversary celebration, many members indicated that R.W. Bro. Hoyt O. Prince would round up members to open the lodge on a regular basis to keep the regular meeting schedule and prevent going dark. During the war years, the lodge added 20 MM to the rolls with many receiving their degrees as courtesy in other lodges and jurisdictions.

By the end of 1944, 9 Lodge members were serving in the Armed Forces. To honor these veterans we recognize them here.

James T. Austin, R. Bryson Ballew, T. Frank Clinton, A. Floyd Daniel, Julian W. Davis, Joe L. Flynn, Dr. Charles K. Gould, Benjamin K. Thompson, and Rev. A. Boyd Turner.

The post war years had a tremendous impact on membership in Masonic Lodges in the United States, Landrum Lodge was also blessed to raise 50 new members in the 5 years following World War II. Membership was now at 126. Wor. Bro. Manus Barnett was a major influence in the Lodge at this period. He was recognized by the Grand Lodge for proficiency with all three degree lectures, very active in Lodge activities and led the effort in 1949 to acquire the property on Main Street for erecting a building for the lodge. The estimated cost of \$ 5000 was given for the cinder block building.

In 1947 the Lodge had a special presentation by MW. A.J, Wannamaker Grand Master, regarding the formation of the Shrine Hospital in Greenville on an official visit. The Grand Lodge has pledged \$ 60,000 toward the funding of this special hospital. Landrum Lodge participated in this charitable effort as well.

During the 1950's the lodge continued to grow and raised 74 members during the decade and concluded with 138 members. In October of 1950 the new lodge building was opened with the first meeting and in November held the first MM degree in November with 4 inaugraul members being Bros. J. B. Atkins, Homer F. Doude, Sam S. Reid, and C.L. Tucker. Dues were raised from \$ 4 to \$ 8 per member.

In 1951, RW John I Smith, DGM was present at the first documented Ladies night, and in 1952 was present at Landrum Lodge as the first documented 17th District Instructional meeting was held with 15 lodges represented. Ill. John I Smith, 33rd went on to serve a Grand Master and as Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. In 2003, RW and Ill. Michael D. Smith from Landrum Lodge was elected as SGIG in South Carolina.

In 1955 a special Olive wood gavel from Jerusalem was presented to the Lodge by Bro. John I. Saunders. It's whereabouts are unknown at this time.

The decade closed in 1959 with a Grand Lodge cornerstone laying ceremony conducted by MW Thomas Pope, and a time capsule was sealed for future generations under the leadership of Wor.Bro., C. M. Walden and the lodge members. We opened this time capsule as part of this celebration on December 6, 2008 with local media representatives from Spartanburg Herald Journal and the Tryon Daily Bulletin.

The Lodge displayed these items for the community during the annual Landrum Christmas Stroll. Several media articles were published recording this event. The Lodge recognizes the media for their attendance today.

The 60's were a time of social unrest and change, 40 members were raised and membership concluded at 139 for the decade. In 1966 the Lodge remained active in the community initiated a common practice, by attending Landrum Methodist Church as a body and continued this practice in other local churches. In 1967, the Lodge increased dues from \$ 8 to \$ 10 for membership. In 1969, RW Manus Barnette PDDGM was deceased and received Masonic Funeral Rites. The Landrum Presbyterian Church erected a memorial for Bro. Barnette. The Lodge supported this memorial with financial contributions.

The decade of the 70's was a time when 75 new Master Masons were raised. Total membership reached 168 during the decade. Dues were raised from \$ 10 to \$ 12 per member in 1971. In 1975, the Lodge approved the expansion of the dining hall by borrowing \$ 4000 for the project. Bro. Berts Bristol was chairman of the Building and Grounds committee led the project and approval. This new addition continues to be an important part of the fellowship of Landrum Lodge Members and visitors. Another significant event that began in 1977, was the 1st Annual Jimmy Crain Memorial Golf Tournament which continues today. It was co chaired by 2 new members, Donald Smith and Gary Bridges and generated \$ 225. This fund raiser initially was designed to help off set the expenses of the new dining hall. It continues today as the major fund raising event for the Lodge and supports numerous local charities each year.

In 1978 the traveling bible was presented to WM Paul E. "Ricky" Bristol. This bible was intended to lay on the alter of all lodges in South Carolina. The lodge also installed the first heat pump system in 1978 as well at a cost of \$ 4000.

During the 1980's the Lodge raised 36 new members during the decade. Dues were increased from \$ 12 to \$ 15 during 1981 and raised again in 1985 to \$ 20. In 1983 the Lodge held the first documented trial commission with 2 members being expelled for felony charges. This dark period was difficult on the lodge membership but was overcome with members supporting each other. In December, the lodge celebrated the 75th anniversary of being chartered, with MW T. Harry White attending with members of the Grand Lodge. 78 were in attendance at this celebration. In 1987, the Lodge began several programs in the community with the Americanism Scholarship to Landrum High School, a Landrum Lodge Court of Honor was presented to the Lodge to recognize those members who were honored for their service to the Fraternity with higher degrees and appointed positions with appendent bodies of Freemasonry.

Landrum Lodge Court of Honor.

All the Past District Deputies have previously been recognized. We recognize those Landrum Lodge Members that have documented their service to the appendant bodies of the fraternity. The following members have been honored by Landrum Lodge.

Order of the Eastern Star

Bro. Earl Shields served as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter

WB. Edward Hershberger served as Grand Marshall of the Grand Chapter

Grand Lodge of South Carolina

RW. / III. Donald L. Smith – Masonic Education Chairman

RW, Michael Smith – Grand Lodge Finance Committee

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite

III. E. R. King, 33

III. Fred Fisher. 33

III Donald Smith 33 and Personal Representative in Valley of Spartanburg

III. J. Ray Copeland, 33

WB C.L. Tucker, 32 KCCH

WB Loran Bradey, 32 KCCH

WB Ronnie Pack, 32 KCCH

III. Michael Smith, 33 Sovereign Grand Inspector General in
South Carolina

AAONMS

Bro L. Berts Bristol served on the Hejaz Divan and Air Squadron

Bro. Ambrose M. Liles Serves on the Shrine Bowl Committee

The 1990's were a decade of change where the Lodge raised only 20 new Master Masons. Total membership was 140 at the end of the decade. Dues were raised to \$ 25 in 1990, and increased again to \$ 30 in 1993. We were very busy with Masonic Funeral services with 32 members passing during the decade. During the decade the proceeds from the Jimmy Crain Golf Tournament continued to allow the members of the lodge contribute to many local organizations, including Landrum, Campobello, and Gowansville fire

departments, Landrum Police department with bullet proof vests, Campobello and Landrum Youth Associations, Landrum Rescue Squad, local Boy Scouts, Landrum beautification committee, Scottish Rite Foundation for Childhood Language Disorders, many Grand Lodge activities and Landrum Estates Senior citizens at Christmas.

With the turn of the new millienium, Freemasonry has begun a renewal with interest from men of all ages especially since the events of September 11, 2001, and the renewed interest in patriotism and service to others. In this current decade the Lodge continues to support our community. So far this decade the Lodge has raised 17 new members. Membership is currently at 126.

Today we celebrate the 100 years of service to our community, loyal and devoted service to our Grand Lodge and Freemasonry. Today our membership is rededicated to service of humanity and our community.

We sincerely thank our members, guests and the officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of South Carolina and their ladies for making this day special in the history of Landrum Lodge # 278 AFM.

Past Worshipful Masters of Landrum Lodge # 278

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Years Served as Worshipful Master</u> |
|------------------------|--|
| F.M. Moore | 1908 - 1909 |
| William L. Saunders | 1910, 1913 |
| Roland Lee | 1911 - 1912 |
| Marcus Nash | 1914 - 1917, 1919 - 1920, 1924 - 1925 |
| George L. Jones | 1918, 1931 - 1932 |
| Claude O. Smith | 1921 - 1922, 1930, 1936 - 1938 |
| John A. Graham | 1923 |
| R. Holland Brady | 1926 - 1927 |
| Samuel L. Austin | 1928 - 1929 |
| John I. Saunders | 1933, 1935 |
| Samuel A. Copeland | 1934, 1940 |
| Waldo M. Lever | 1939 |
| W. K. Durham | 1941 |
| Walter J. Mize | 1942, 1945 - 1946 |
| Robert M. Foster | 1943 - 1944 |
| Manus M. Barnette | 1947 |
| Thomas P. Johnson | 1948 - 1949 |
| Thomas B. Raines | 1950, 1963 |
| Pinckney C. Lancaster | 1951 |
| John S. Austin | 1952 |
| M. Garrard Christopher | 1953 |
| William B. Broome | 1954 |
| A. Leonard Lee | 1955 |

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|--------------------|-------------------------|
| J. Michael Byrd | 1956 |
| Ira Brink | 1957 |
| Clarence R. Dill | 1958 |
| Clifford M. Walden | 1959, 1964 |
| Andrew J. Stone | 1960 |
| Clarence Davis | 1961 |
| Lewis F. Jones | 1962 |
| Clarence L. Tucker | 1965 – 1968, 1970 |
| James H. Crain | 1969, 1971 |
| Charles Owens | 1972 |
| Charles Loftis | 1973 – 1974 |
| John L. Petty III | 1975 |
| Paul E. Bristol | 1976, 1978 |
| Danny Jones | 1977 |
| Clark Bridges | 1979 |
| David Collins | 1980 – 1981 |
| Michael Collins | 1982, 2004 - 2005, 2009 |
| Fred J. Fisher | 1983 |
| Donald L. Smith | 1984 |
| Douglas Bristol | 1985 |
| Bobby Bridges | 1986 |
| Michael D. Smith | 1987 |
| Ronnie Pack | 1988 |
| Michael Dill | 1989 |
| Loran Bradey | 1990 |
| Ronnie Champion | 1991 |
| Kenneth Copeland | 1992, 2002 |
| Pete Inman | 1993 |
| Jimmy Champion | 1994 |
| J. Ray Copeland | 1995, 2001, 2008 |
| Edward Hershberger | 1996, 2006 - 2007 |
| Chris Owens | 1997 |
| Michael Staggs | 1998 – 1999, 2003 |
| Harley Lawrence | 2000 |