

The History of Wade Hampton Lodge No.404 A.F.M.

As Recorded by: Arthur E. Moss, Wade H. Greene, Jr.

Amended by: Mark A. Bennett

For a period of twenty years prior to the actual time that Wade Hampton Lodge 404 A.F.M. received it's dispensation to work, There had been talk of forming a third lodge in the city of Greenville, South Carolina. However, it seemed that no one would take the initiative in opening a new lodge. Records show that a new lodge had not been formed in the city of Greenville in over fifty years. In fact, many Masons said that "it could not be done".

Right Worshipful Brother J. P. Lowry, District Deputy Grand Master of Masons for the 18th Masonic District, was contacted by Wade H. Greene, Jr. regarding the formation of a new lodge. He heartily approved such a measure and volunteered his assistance.

A letter of inquiry concerning the possibility of opening a new lodge was submitted by a group of interested Masons to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in South Carolina. In reply to this letter, The Most Worshipful Grand Master stated that at least twenty-five signatures of Master Masons in good standing, with a minimum of three Past Masters to fill the stations of Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden, would be required according to Masonic Law.

In accordance with this ruling, a meeting was held at 800 East Stone Avenue in Greenville for the purpose of drafting a petition containing the necessary twenty-five names of Master Masons in good standing. In attendance at this meeting were the following:

Wade H. Greene, Jr., Past Master

Eugene T. Tollison, Past Master

R. Maurice Crumley, Past Master

C. T. MacEwen, Past Master

Walter B. Stafford, Jr. Master Mason

At this meeting the above Master Masons agreed to sign the petition and to proceed with securing additional names of Master Masons who were interested in the formation of a new lodge. At this meeting, Brother Walter B. Stafford, Jr., Master Mason, agreed to do much of the "leg work" required to accomplish this task. Brother Stafford came in contact with Right Worshipful Brother Henry F. Collins, Grand Secretary of Masons in South Carolina, at a meeting of the York Rite Masons and discussed this matter with him. Right Worshipful Brother Collins was very pleased and agreed to assist us in any way possible.

The petition was so well received that it actually contained the names of one hundred twenty-eight Master Masons when it was submitted to the Most Worshipful Grand Master for his approval. Most Worshipful Grand Master H. Dwight McAlister was overjoyed at the prospect of a new lodge in the city of Greenville.

These one hundred twenty-eight Master Masons constitute the Charter Membership of Wade Hampton Lodge 404 A.F.M. and are as follows:

RECOVERY LODGE No.31

Hood, James Buddy

STRICT OBSERVANCE LODGE No.73

Alley, Robert Linwood

MINE LODGE No.117

Waldrop, Johnnie

BAILEY No.146

Stevenson, Joseph Carroll

WESTMINISTER LODGE No.200

Callahan, Lewis David

EMPIRE LODGE No.213

Forrester, Milford Augustus

Vest, John William

Whiteside, Calvin William

MONAGHAN LODGE No.251

Gosnell, Lawrence Brezeale, Jr.

Hines, Hollan Warden

WALDEN LODGE No.274

Ables, William DeWitt

Aiken, Warrior Wheeler, Jr.

Allen, William Mose

Barnett, Clarence Elmer
Barnett, Cecil Odell
Brannon, Burton Earl
Carnes, John Leland
Crenshaw, James William
Crumley, Richard Maurice
Davis, Alex
Davis, Jack Piha
DeHart, William Eugene
Fantl, S. Joseph
Foster, James Perry
Freeman, William Edward
Gerald, Shuman Basil, Jr.
Glover, James Vernal, Jr.
Graham, Harry Bagby
Greene, Wade Hampton, Jr.
Gregory, Boyce Fred
Gregory, Robert Burnett
Hale, James William
Holloway, James Kenneth
Huff, John Westmoreland
Hunnicut, Larry Cardon
Jameson, Paul Rankin
Jolley, Dexter Dean
Jones, William Adrel

Keller, Woodrow Wilson
Kelley, Christopher Morris
King, Richard Cary
Kirby, Virgil Lee
Lane, Maurice Cecil
MacEwen, Cameron Terrell
Mahon, Marion Martin
Morris, Francis Reams
Moseley, Jerome Keith, Jr.
Mullinax, Elmer
Nicoll, John Charles
Pitts, John Thomas
Rambo, George Norwood
Shirley, Leland Hugh
Solesbee, Harold Jack
Stafford, Walter Branson, Jr.
Suggs, Ernest Edward
Surratt, James Ernest
Tolley, Chester
Tollison, Eugene Todd
Tollison, Henry Ernest
Townsend, James Maxie
Vaughn, James Osburne
West, Charles Wesley

BRANDON LODGE No.279

Lollis, George Richard

COOPER LODGE No.282

Burns, James Homer

Peterson, Charles James

SAM POE LODGE No.284

Bradley, Charles Clyde

Bradley, Rex Eugene

Lowe, Noah Rickman, Jr.

JUDSON LODGE No.319

Arnold, Charles Heyward

Black, James Wade

Dalton, John Alford

Penland, Norman Abbott

Saylors, Charles Calvin

Uldrick, Erskine Grier

TAYLORS LODGE No.345

Black, Ernest Samuel

Dubose, Robert Milton

Dubose, Samuel Lamar, Jr.

Haygood, Hal Cleveland

Padre, Russell Milton

PROGRESS LODGE No.356

Haygood, Marvin Ellison

DUNEAN LODGE No.359

Bond, James Willard

HART LODGE No.380

Garrett, Leland Earl

The First Official Meeting was held on April 2, 1963. Right Worshipful Brother J. P. Lowry Called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting. He then introduced Worshipful Brother Wade H. Greene, Jr. as Master of the new lodge. Right Worshipful Brother Henry F. Collins was called upon to offer up a prayer.

A Lodge of Master Masons was opened in due form with the following as officers:

Worshipful Master - Wade Hampton Greene, Jr.

Senior Warden – R. Maurice Crumley

Junior Warden – Eugene T. Tollison

Treasurer – Clarence F. Barnett

Secretary – Robert L. Alley

Senior Deacon – Walter B. Stafford

Junior Deacon – Charles L. Peterson

Steward – W. Wheeler Aiken, Jr.

Steward – James W. Hale

Chaplain – C. T. MacEwen

Tiler – Chester Jolley

The Worshipful Master Called the lodge to refreshment for a few minutes in order to prepare for the official reception of our Most Worshipful Grand Master and his party. On being called to labor, The Most Worshipful Grand Master was received officially with private grand honors. After being greeted in the East by the Worshipful Master, The gavel was turned over to the Most Worshipful Grand Master who then presented the members of his party as follows:

RWB R.L. Smith - Senior Grand Warden

RWB Lewis E. Cook - Past Grand Tiler

RWB Raymond F. Mitchell – PDDGM

RWB L.S. Misenheimer – PDDGM

RWB C.D. Stallings – Past Grand Tiler

RWB George Nautul – PDDGM

RWB J.P. Lowry – PDDGM

RWB Henry F. Collins – Grand Secretary



[Grand Master H. Dwight McAlister giving Worshipful Master Wade H. Greene, Jr. our dispensation-1963.](#)

On receiving the dispensation from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Grand Secretary read the dispensation to the lodge. After the gavel was returned to Worshipful Master Wade H. Greene, Jr. He declared this lodge of Master Masons closed and Wade Hampton Lodge U.D. opened in due form on its first regular communication for the purpose of transacting any business that may properly be brought before it.

A Petition for initiation from Randle Estes enclosing the usual amount and was recommended by Brothers Walter B. Stafford and Wade H. Greene, Jr. was referred to a committee of investigation consisting of Brothers Dexter Tolley, Clarence Barnett and Wheeler Aiken, Jr.

A Petition for Initiation from Robert Henry Chasteen enclosing the usual amount was recommended by Brothers James W. Hale and Wade H. Greene, Jr. was referred to committee of investigation consisting of Brothers John Dalton, Hugh Shirley and Buddy Hood.

The Worshipful Master asked the Secretary and Treasurer to meet with him after the meeting for the purpose of discussing the opening of a bank account.

Right Worshipful Brother Henry F. Collins Grand Secretary was called on to present the by-laws under which this lodge will have to be governed. Right Worshipful Brother Collins also made clear that our jurisdiction for receiving petitions into this lodge from any worthy person would be within the city limits and halfway between this meeting place and the next lodge.

Most Worshipful Brother H. Dwight McAlister Grand Master said that there were 398 lodges in South Carolina with 59,000 Master Masons. He stated that during the past year he had presented several dispensations and had been told that it was impossible for this lodge to be organized in Greenville, S.C. It didn't just happen; it took hard work! He said he has known men who have talked about organizing new lodges, but few do more than talk.

Most Worshipful Brother H. Dwight McAlister's theme In Masonry, when installed as Grand Master, was "Masonry in Action". Putting Masonry to work is the only true meaning to be a Mason. He said a large number of larger lodges didn't know the real meaning of Masonry. In his speech he asked several general questions such as: What are we, as Masons trying to do? What does Masonry mean to you as an individual? He said that our first obligation is to God and his teachings. Secondly our duty is to our fellow man and thirdly our duty and our obligation is to ourselves. He closed by asking this question: "What place does God hold in the individual's life?"

Worshipful Master Greene acknowledged the speaker and asked that all members of Wade Hampton Lodge U.D. rise and pledge their desire to better serve as Masons.

Worshipful Master Greene pledged to the membership and officers that the lodge would grow and would be among the best lodges on record. He said that the lodge planned to accomplish a lot in the future and to that end established several committees including: Charity Committee, Newspaper Committee, Recreation and entertainment Committee, Historical Committee, House Committee, Visitation Committee, Telephone Committee, Publicity Committee.

Worshipful Master Greene recognized and introduced the visitors. There were 31 past and present Worshipful Masters in attendance and a total of 96 Master Masons in attendance. Worshipful Master Greene thanked everyone for attending the meeting and announced that fried catfish would be served. He asked the Stewards and a few other members to serve. After the meal there being no further business, the lodge was closed in due form on the 3rd degree.



Grand Master H. Dwight McAlister giving the charter to Worshipful Master Wade H. Greene, Jr. -1963.

This was the beginning of Wade Hampton Lodge and it's first Stated Communication. From its start Wade Hampton No.404 was meeting in the UTC Building on Pleasantburg drive after a few years of meeting there Wade Hampton No.404 was granted a dispensation from The Grand Lodge of South Carolina to move its meeting place to Taylors #345 until property could be acquired and a building built. By 1971 this had been accomplished and Wade Hampton No.404 started Meeting at 12 Airport Road, Greenville, SC.





Grand Master Herbert L. Middleton, Jr. laying the cornerstone with Worshipful Master Henry H. Goodwin, Jr. - 1971

Wade Hampton No.404 has seen its share of growth and changes through the years. In the mid 1980's the dining room, kitchen and ante rooms were added giving more room for fellowship and events. In 2006 the interior of the lodge room went through a major overhaul adding new seating; new carpet, fresh paint and a new alter.



Sign in the ante room, former front of the building.



The Alter built by MWB Jay Adam Pearson in 2006.

The new alter for the lodge was built by RWB Jay Adam Pearson, who at the time was Junior Grand Warden for The Grand Lodge of South Carolina and went on to be elected Grand Master of Masons in South Carolina in 2011. Thank you MWB Jay Adam Pearson for helping to support Wade Hampton No.404. In 2012 in anticipation of our 50 year rededication, some more improvements were done to the lodge.



Repainted dining area - 2012

The dining room was repainted and new ceiling tiles were installed and the most important addition for the year was the acquisition of more elegant chairs for the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden stations. The idea for the new chairs goes back to 2006 Brother Mark A. Bennett and Brother Chris Burkett had just been raised and started to dream about what could be. They were both raised on the same night and have been close ever since. They talked about getting new chairs to dress up the lodge for years. Most of the credit for acquiring the chairs has to go to Brother Burkett for doing

most of the leg work and getting them shipped from Kansas. The morning that we received them, Brother Burkett called Worshipful Brother Bennett to meet him at the Waffle House parking lot on White Horse Road. He had set up a drop off with the shipping company at that location. The chairs were in need of cleaning but in great shape and perfect for the lodge. The chairs were put in place at the next meeting and have enhanced the look of our lodge immensely.



Worshipful Master



Senior Warden



Junior Warden

New Chairs acquired in 2012

In September of 2012, WB Mark A. Bennett was selected as the Master Mason of the Year for the 18th Masonic District. This is the first time a member of Wade Hampton Lodge No.404 has been selected for this Honor. The award was presented at the annual "Rock Quarry Degree" hosted by Cooper Lodge No.282 and was presented by RW Dennie Marchbanks DDGM for the 18th Masonic District.



Master Mason of the Year 18th Masonic District 2012

In April of 2013, at the 276th Communication of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, Wade Hampton Lodge No.404 was honored by being presented with the H. Dwight McAlister award for journalism. This award is given annually at Grand Lodge for the best newsletter in the state. The award was presented by RW William B. Rogers, Senior Grand Warden and received by Worshipful Master Chris Burkett and WB Mark A. Bennett on behalf of Wade Hampton Lodge No.404.

In our short history, Wade Hampton No.404 has had four Grand Lodge Officers.

Henry H. Goodwin, Jr. DDGM for the 18th Masonic District 1981-1982

H. David Cunningham DDGM for the 18th Masonic District 1983-1984

Jonathan J. Sprinkle DDGM for the 18th Masonic District 1999-2000

Greely R. Palmer, Jr. SGD of Grand Lodge A.F.M. of S.C. 2001-2002

Wade Hampton No.404 has had several good men as Worshipful Master in its 50 years.

1963	Wade H. Greene, Jr.
1964	Maurice Crumley
1965	Walt Stafford
1966	C.J. Peterson, Sr.
1967	W. Wheeler Aiken, Jr.
1968	Maurice Cecil Laye
1969	A.B. Collier II
1970	Douglas F. McCue
1971	H.H. Goodwin
1972	Fred Collins
1973	Arthure E. Moss
1974	Ralph E. McNeely
1975	Jerry D. Phillips
1976	Louis L. Boland
1977	Leland H. Lowery
1978	H. David Cunningham
1979	Jack M. Kight
1980	Douglas E. Greer, Jr.
1981	Albert L. Hoppe
1982	Edward L. Chapin III
1983	Henry L. Polston
1984	Donald L. Lookword
1985	Sherwood L. Kaiser
1986	Charles J. Saylor
1987	Clark W. Holmes
1988	Charles C. Saylor

1989	John D. Miller
1990	Donny Stevenson
1991	Edgar Pitman, Jr.
1992	W.J. Williams
1993	Greely R. Palmer, Jr.
1994	Larry E. Watts
1995	Robert L. Cooley
1996	Wayne M. Bryant
1997	Jonathan J. Sprinkle
1998	Charles F. Gaschler
1999	Timothy Daniel Dorn
2000	Martin B. Putman
2001	Christopher I Busha
2002	Robert R. Taylor
2003	Timothy W. Westbrook
2004	Timothy W. Westbrook
2005	John Daniel Walker
2006	Sherwood L. Kaiser
2007	Edward May Pool
2008	Curtis A. Tyner, Jr.
2009	Larry E. Watts
2010	Tommy Joe Cole
2011	Mike Richards
2012	Mark A. Bennett
2013	Christopher C. Burkett

This I'm sure is not a complete record of the history of Wade Hampton No.404, but it is a good effort at giving some of the information that doesn't need to be lost with the passing of time.