



*Stephenson
Lodge*

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND

No. 135

TRESTLEBOARD

MAY 2005

Vol. 137 No. 5



MEET OUR
TWO NEW
ENTERED
APPRENTICES!

Brothers Hale & Lankford Receives Their EA Degree

On April 20th Mr. Stacy C. Hale and Mr. Bradley P. Lankford became brethren of Stephenson Lodge with the completion of the Entered Apprentice obligation. Our line officers performed the degree with Worshipful Master Dean Alban giving the first section to Brother Hale. Our Senior Warden, Duane Duncan, gave brother Lankford the first section of the Entered Apprentice degree. The Worshipful Master performed the lecture for both.

*From left to right,
Bradley Lankford,
Worshipful Master,
Dean Alban, Stacy
Hale, and Senior
Warden Duane
Duncan.*



A History of Bonnie Blink

Past Master Bruce Flaughter brought this article to the attention of the Lodge at our last meeting and wanted to share it with is brethren.

A Masonic home for Maryland had been talked about for 75 years before a definite move was made in May, 1923, when the Grand Lodge of Maryland adopted Article 30 to its Constitution to establish a Masonic Home Fund. From then, until May 1927, about \$168,000.00 was accumulated. During this period a search was carried out for suitable property. Several parcels were under consideration, among them 500

acres of the Catoctin Furnace tract, about one mile from Thurmont. At the Semi-Annual Communication in May, 1927, the Board of Managers was directed to proceed toward the purchase of land, construction, furnishing and maintenance of the Maryland Masonic Homes.

The actual agreement for the purchase of Bonnie Blink was consummated on May 17, 1927. The owners, John B. and Anna Wailes, contracted to sell the farm, consisting of 266.2 acres for \$45,000.00 and the deed was finalized on June 30, 1927. An additional 27 acres was acquired almost simultaneously from Wilbur C. and Clara Swam for \$190.00 per acre, bringing the total cost of the entire tract to \$55,049.43.

The property included a large frame building which was renovated, furnished and opened for inspection on July 2, 1927, and Masons throughout Maryland were invited to visit. Bonnie Blink was left open for visitors until the early part of September and closed for the fall and winter. Dinners were served at a modest price and at a loss, but it was felt the program was worth bringing the many visitors to the site. Approximately 15,000 people visited Bonnie Blink within a two-month period.

When the Grand Lodge met for its Annual communication in 1927, the Trustees announced Bonnie Blink would be open for visitors from April to October and by the end of 1927, the Endowment Fund had reached about \$200,000.00.

The purchase price and cost of maintenance for the first year had been taken entirely from general funds of the Grand Lodge in order to leave the Home fund intact. It was estimated an Endowment Fund of at least \$1,500,000.00, would be needed for the proposed Home. This

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MAY 2005 MASONIC CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2  Aberdeen 187 Regular Meeting three 2nd degrees	3 Mt. Ararat 44 Regular Meeting	4 Voting on New By-laws	5	6	7 Breakfast at Harmony Lodge
8	9	10 Susquehanna 130 Regular Meeting	11	12 Esdraelon 176 Regular Meeting	13  School of Instruction Aberdeen Lodge E.A. Degree Mt. Ararat has Catechism	14
15	16 Aberdeen 187 Regular Meeting	17  Mt. Ararat 44 Regular Meeting Past Master Night	18 Talk by S. Brent Morris, 33° <i>The Post-Boy Exposure</i>	19	20	21
22	23	24  Susquehanna 130 Regular Meeting two 1st degrees	25	26 Esdraelon 176 Regular Meeting	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Who's doing degreework?  Entered Apprentice Degree
Look for these symbols.

 Fellowcraft Degree

 Master Mason Degree



Mt. Ararat #44
136 East Gordon St.
Bel Air, MD 21014
1st & 3rd Tuesday

James W. Davidson, WM
Richard Mainley, Jr., Sec



Susquehanna #130
215 North Washington St.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
2nd & 4th Tuesday

James Ringsaker, WM
Phillip L. Powell, Sec

HARFORD COUNTY MASONIC LODGES



Esdraelon #176
304 Main St.
Cardiff, MD 21024
2nd & 4th Thursday

David W. Johns III, WM
G. Wilson Tharpe, Sec



Aberdeen #187
20 North Howard St.
Aberdeen, MD 21001
1st & 3rd Monday

Greg Gelder., WM
Ralph L. Perry, Sec

May's Communications for Stephenson Lodge

First Meeting, April 6th

REGULAR BUSINESS

Starts at 7:30

Voting on Lodge's By-Laws

Members who have been members of Stephenson Lodge No. 135 for 25 years will be recognized.

Second Meeting, March 20th

REGULAR BUSINESS & PROGRAM

Starts at 7:30.

An informative talk called *The Post-Boy Exposure* by S. Brent Morris

The year 1723 saw the publication of the first official Masonic book, Rev. James Anderson's Constitutions of the Freemasons. It also saw the publication of the first two exposures of Masonic ritual in two London newspapers, the *Flying Post* and the *Post-Boy*. The only known copy of the *Post-Boy* exposure was discovered in 1998, and it tells an interesting tale. Most of its ritual appears to be accurate, as far as we know anything about 1720s ceremony, but there are subtle errors that point to an organized disinformation campaign by the premier Grand Lodge.

Around the County Lodges

Past Masters Night at **Harmony Lodge, No. 53** on **May 6th**. Strawberries and ice cream for refreshments.

May 7th is the monthly breakfast at the Lodge from 7am to 10am.

Try to support these events if you can.

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would mean an average contribution of about \$50.00 for each of the more than 30,000 Maryland Masons.

Grand Master Warren Seipp, in his Annual Communication Address of 1928, described the first "Corn-husking", as follows, in part: "*On November 12, 1928, we had a husking party. We had 70 acres of corn that needed husking and we thought it would be a wonderful thing if we could get at least 100 men to go into the fields and give a day's work for the cause.*" He went on to report that 1,250 men showed up for that first "Corn-husking" and that in three hours the husking was finished! The Lodge that won the prize for being first on the grounds had 21 men in the fields at 1:30 a.m., husking by lantern and flashlight. It was snowing. One lodge sent men over 200 miles to join in the work. So much was accomplished that extra corn cribs had to be built to hold the crop of 600 barrels. The first souvenir penny was furnished by Jacob F. Obrecht of Oriental Lodge #158, and was paid to each brother who took part. It was evidence needed to participate in the Barbecue that followed.

To be continued in our next trestleboard

(Information for this article was gleaned from "History of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland, 1888-1950") by Carl N. Everstein, Fort Cumberland Lodge #211. Submitted by resident, Daisy Gue, Trinity #99, Maryland's first and only Daylight Chapter.)

Grand Lodge Events

The following is a list of upcoming events for the Grand Lodge of Maryland:

Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communications

Saturday, May 14, 2005

9:00 am Corinthian room

Grand Lodge Building



STEPHENSON LODGE'S

Line Officers for 2005

Worshipful Master	Dean R. Alban
Senior Warden.....	Duane A. Duncan
Junior Warden	Omar F. Duncan
Secretary	Jerry R. Arnold, PM
Treasurer	Oscar R. Baldwin, PM
Senior Deacon.....	Andre A. Fournier
Junior Deacon	Keith J. Thompson, Sr.
Senior Steward.....	Carl W. Lee
Junior Steward	Anthony J. Vitak
Tyler	Frank W. Fowler
Chaplain	Jerome Fields, PM
Musician.....	Vernon K. Stearn, PM
Marshal	Charles D. Miller, PM
Ritualist.....	Charles D. Miller, PM
Grand Inspector	William Dula, PM, GI

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Dean R. Alban

2025 Brandy Drive
Forest Hill, MD 21050
410-638-1739

SENIOR WARDEN

Duane A. Duncan

33 Bluff Drive
Conowingo, MD 21918
410-378-8696

SECRETARY

Jerry R. Arnold, PM

3110 Tucker Road
Street, MD 21154
410-457-5656

GRAND INSPECTOR

William Dula, PM

3801 Rider Lane
Havre De Grace, MD 21078
410-734-6098

CHAPLAIN

Jerome Fields, PM

1712E Landmark Drive
Forest Hill, MD 21050
410-879-7675

RITUALIST

Charles D. Miller, PM

1401 Prospect Mill Road
Bel Air, MD 21015
410-838-3086