



*Stephenson  
Lodge*

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND

No. 135

# TRESTLEBOARD

JUNE 2005

Vol. 137 No. 6

## STRAWBERRY NIGHT



## Our Worshipful Master

Summer is nearly here. It is a time for summer vacations, Bar-B-Que's, and trips to the beach. It also means we are fast approaching the halfway point in this Masonic year. We have two new Brothers, the building committee is hard at work, and we will be planning for the Darlington Apple Festival in the Fall. Bros. Stacey Hale and Bradley Langford will be working diligently to stand proficiency in their catechisms.



I want to thank everyone for their help these past six months. I know I have asked a lot and all of you have come through masterfully. I only hope that my heartfelt thanks will suffice.

Don't forget, we will assemble for Saints John Worship Service at Dublin United Methodist Church on June 26<sup>th</sup>. for the 10:30 am service. I am sure that we will have a big turnout for Bro. Rev. Jim Johnson's sermon.

I look forward to seeing everyone for Strawberry Night. (see below)

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Bro. Dean Alban, WM

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## 2005 Strawberry Night at Stephenson Lodge, June 1st

*Bring your friends and family for strawberries and ice cream. We'll eat after a quick business meeting.*



## A History of Bonnie Blink

### Part Two

*Past Master Bruce Flaughter brought this article to the attention of the Lodge at a previous meeting and wanted to share it with is brethren. This is the second part of a mutiple part article.*

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The second "Corn-husking" party was held on Armistice Day, 1929. Already it was realized what a splendid opportunity it was to bring the Masons together. During this year, approximately 45.5 acres were acquired for Bonnie Blink.

The year 1930 was fruitful for Bonnie Blink, marred only by the death of Grand Master Seipp. His dying words to E. Lee Hickman were, "Lee, I do not believe I will ever live to see Bonnie Blink together with you again, but if we do not, tell the boys to carry on." And carry on they did, for the records show that 3000 Masons gathered on the 3rd Annual Husking Party. Three additions had been made to the acreage and by 1930, Bonnie Blink consisted of 338.7 acres.

Mr. G.A. Burdick, a graduate of Cornell University Agricultural Department, was engaged as the first farm manager and farming became a very serious business. A particular effort was made to have outstanding purebred livestock. Nine Guernsey's were taken to the Timonium State Fair, where they won a total of eight prizes.

The year 1931 marked another milestone in the history of Bonnie Blink. On the afternoon of the day for the Semi-Annual Communication, May 19, ground was broken for the first unit on Bonnie Blink, with 6,500 Masons, families and friends gathered for the ceremonies. The architect for the building was Bro. William E. Emmart of M.A. Long Construction Co. The basic contract was for approximately \$392,000.00 with boilers, heating, plumbing,

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# JUNE 2005 MASONIC CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	<b>1</b> Strawberries & Ice Cream. Open to family & friends	2	3	4
5	6 Aberdeen 187 Regular Meeting FC Catechism	7 Mt. Ararat 44 Regular Meeting	8	9 Esdraelon 176 Regular Meeting	10 School of Instruction Mt. Ararat Lodge F.C. Degree Esdraelon has Catechism	11
12	13 Aberdeen 187 Special Meeting	14 Susquehanna 130 Regular Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20 Aberdeen 187 Regular Meeting MM Catechism	21 Mt. Ararat 44 Regular Meeting	22	23 Esdraelon 176 Regular Meeting	24	25
26	27	28 Susquehanna 130 Regular Meeting	29	30	1	2

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

## June's Communication for Stephenson Lodge

### Only Meeting, June 1<sup>st</sup>

#### REGULAR BUSINESS

Starts at 7:30

Very Short business meeting followed by stawberries and ice cream. Family and friends are invited!

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## Grand Lodge Events

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

### Grand Lodge Family Picnic

Saturday, June 11, 2005

Bonnie Blink Masonic Home

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History continued from page 3

elevator, etc., bringing it to a total of \$592,605.00. Bro. Emmart completed plans for the Infirmary just prior to his death, December 31, 1949. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, Bonnie Blink was, perhaps, his most famous building.

The old mansion house was razed in 1931 to make room for the new Home. A temporary teahouse was erected to help in the entertainment of visitors during the building operations. More than 200 acres of land was put into cultivation in 1931.

On October 10, 1931, The Grand Lodge met in Special Communication at Bonnie Blink to lay the cornerstone of the new Masonic Home. It was estimated that 5,000 people witnessed the ceremonies. The trowel and gavel used on this occasion were the same as used by George Washington to lay the cornerstone of the Nation's Capitol in Washington D.C. on September 18, 1793. Many Masonic tokens

and printed materials were placed in a copper box and sealed within the cornerstone as well as copies of the Grand Lodge proceedings as early as 1842.

Bonnie Blink was entirely paid for when it was dedicated October 22, 1932, but, due to the Depression, the Home did not open until May 1, 1934. This opening was made possible, in part, by a bequest of approximately \$165,000.00 made by Bro. Arthur Wallenhorst of Joppa Lodge, No. 132. Most of that gift became the nucleus of the permanent Endowment Fund established when the Home opened.

Eleven guests were among the first group to enter, including four married couples. By the November Communication in 1934, there were 67 applicants.

The first religious services were conducted on May 6, 1934, by the Grand Chaplain John Yellott, Rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Bel Air. Plans were made to hold services every Sunday afternoon at 3:00 pm, a practice continued today.

A medical clinic, donated by Baltimore Forest No. 45, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, was dedicated on October 30, 1934.

Bro. E. Lee Hickman, the Homes' first Superintendent, reported to the November Communication in 1934, that the kitchen department, with the assistance of residents, had prepared 423 quarts of canned vegetables, 451 quarts of canned and preserved fruit, and 342 glasses of jelly. The Library contained nearly 1600 volumes, all donated by friends. Many gifts were received during this period, including the barber chair and pool table, still in use.

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.)



## **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*

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410-638-1739

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*Duane A. Duncan*

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Conowingo, MD 21918  
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#### **SECRETARY**

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#### **GRAND INSPECTOR**

*William Dula, PM*

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Havre De Grace, MD 21078  
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*Jerome Fields, PM*

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#### **RITUALIST**

*Charles D. Miller, PM*

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