

The Lost Minutes of Tyrian Lodge No. 10, Ancient York Masons, Granby, South Carolina: 1786-1791

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Introduction

The lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance, and the devastation of war have laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity on which the utmost exertions of human genius have been employed. Even the temple of Solomon, so spacious and magnificent, and constructed by so many celebrated artists, escaped not the unsparing ravages of barbarous force. Free Masonry, not withstanding, has still survived...

-Ahiman Rezon, Grand Lodge of South Carolina, A.F.M.

If every man had more firmly fixed in his heart the truism that "Past is Prologue," mankind would be more careful to shield and defend archives of the past, our ancient landmarks, and not allow them to go the way of the libraries at Alexandria or the archives of the Delphic Oracle.

-Clare M. McCall, 33°

I. The Devastations of War

In March of 1865, Brother William Gilmore Simms (1806-1870), Mason¹ and world renown antebellum writer, set about the tasks of publishing the horrific events surrounding the capture, sack, and destruction of the city of Columbia, South Carolina during the *War for Southern Independence* (1861-1865). Previous to going to press, Simms had spent over a month copiously collecting first hand accounts of the tragic events that transpired on the streets of Columbia on February 17-18, 1865. Simms, however, was not a passive recorder. He was present on those fateful days, having had been in Columbia when United States troops, lead by William Tecumseh Sherman, entered the city—a city which had formally surrendered and was populated entirely by noncombatants.

Simms, like many others from the Lowcountry, had made their way to Columbia for refuge when General Sherman feinted first to Charleston and then to Augusta. Columbia, however, was the Union Army's true target and *escaped not the unsparing ravages of barbarous force.*²

¹ While the details of Simms' entrance into Masonry are not currently known, we do know that he was a frequent visitor to the lodges in Columbia in 1865-1866. He was made an honorary member of Acacia Lodge No. 94 on January 10, 1866. Furthermore, Simms affiliated with Orange Lodge No. 14 in Charleston after the war on February 12, 1866. Research regarding Simms' Masonic history is ongoing.

² For the best account of the outrages committed at Columbia, SC by Sherman and his troops, see William Gilmore Simms' *A City Laid Waste: The Capture, Sack, and Destruction of the City of Columbia*. Edited with Introduction

There could have been no better-qualified individual than William Gilmore Simms to record the events that would transpire on those dark days. He was South Carolina's greatest nineteenth century writer, having achieved international success and recognition prior to the war. With a literary career spanning over four decades, Simms has aptly been dubbed the father of Southern literature. Brother Simms was a poet, novelist, short story writer, biographer, historian, editor, playwright, and copious letter writer. It is reported that although many of his poems were published under pseudonyms, at least 2,000 can safely be attributed to him. Simms also wrote over 80 books which include thirty novels, 110 short stories, and nearly 2,000 letters.³ Along with Julian Selby, Simms put his vast experience to work by establishing the *Columbia Phoenix*, a daily newspaper which *rose from the ashes* of Columbia in the immediate aftermath of the conflagration. Simms' serial account of these events first appeared in the *Columbia Phoenix* on 21 March 1865. He began his account with the following:

It has pleased God, in that Providence which is so inscrutable to man, to visit our beautiful city with the most cruel fate which can ever befall States or cities. He has permitted the cruel and malignant enemy to penetrate our country almost without impediment; to pollute our homes with its presence; to rob and ravage our dwellings, to commit three-fifths of our city to the flames. Eighty-four squares, out of one hundred and twenty-four (!) which the city contains, have been destroyed, with scarcely the exception of a single house. The ancient capital building of the State—that venerable structure which, for seventy years, has echoed with the eloquence and wisdom of the most famous statesmen—is laid in ashes; six temples of the Most High God have shared the same fate; eleven banking establishments; the schools of learning, the shops of art and trade, of invention and manufacture; shrines equally of religion, benevolence, and industry;⁴ are all buried together in one congregated ruin. Humiliation spreads her ashes over our homes and garments, and the universal wreck exhibits only one common aspect of despair. It is for us, as succinctly but as fully as possible, and in the simplest of language, to endeavor to make the melancholy record, so that our sons may always remember, and the whole Christian world everywhere may read.⁵

by David Aiken. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2005. Several passages from this book are cited below.

³ Aiken, David. *Fire in the Cradle: Charleston's Literary Heritage*. Charleston, SC: Charleston Press, 1999. p. 15

⁴ Simms, it would appear, is here referring to losses suffered by the Freemasons, the Odd Fellows, and other "moral and charitable institutions" of the city

⁵ William Gilmore Simms. *Columbia Phoenix*. Vol. I, No. 8. Columbia, South Carolina, Thursday, April 6, 1865 in Simms, *A City Laid Waste: The Capture, Sack, and Destruction of the City of Columbia*, p. 47

As a Mason, Simms was especially cognizant of the losses suffered by the Craft and other fraternal orders of the city and took special care to catalogue their losses. In the April 6, 1865 edition of the *Columbia Phoenix*, Simms devotes an entire section to this end:

Among the moral and charitable institutions which suffered greatly in the fire, were the several Masonic bodies. They lost everything, with rare exceptions: houses, lodges, regalias, charts, charters, jewels, and every form of implement and paraphernalia. Much of this property had been accumulated in Columbia from Charleston and other places—had been sent hither for safe keeping. Their losses will for a long while be wholly irreparable, and cannot be repaired, unless, indeed, through the liberality of remote and wealthy fraternities in other sections. The furniture and jewels were, in large numbers of cases, of the richest and most valuable order, wholly of silver, and in great proportion were gifts and bequests of favorite brothers who had reached the highest ranks in the order.

We enumerate the following lodges as the chief sufferers:

1. Richland Lodge No. 39, A.F.M.
2. Acacia Lodge No. 94, A.F.M.
3. True Brotherhood Lodge No. 84, A.F.M.

[These all met in Columbia]

4. Union Kilwinning No.4, A.F.M.
5. Orange Lodge No. 14, A.F.M.

[These met in Charleston]

6. Carolina Chapter No.1, R.A.M.
7. Columbia Chapter No. 5, R.A.M.
8. Union Council No. 5, R.A.M.
9. Enoch Lodge of Perfection No. 5—Ineffable degrees
10. DeMolay Council, Knights of Kadosh—Ineffable degrees

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows and other orders were sufferers in like degree with the Masonic bodies. These were:

1. Palmetto Lodge No.5.

2. Congaree Lodge No. 29.
3. Eutaw Encampment Lodge No. 2.
4. Sons of Temperance
5. Sons of Malta

The buildings, chambers, and lodges which contained the treasures of these bodies, were first plundered and then given to the flames. The soldiers were to be seen about the streets, dressed up in the aprons, scarfs, and regalias. Some of the Yankee Masons were active in endeavoring to arrest the robbers in their work, but without success. In a conversation with one of the Western Masons, he responded to the signs and behaved courteously, but said: "We are told that all fraternization with your Masonic bodies of the South, has been cut off, in consequence of your Masons renouncing all connection or tie between them and the Masons of the North." We replied to him that the story was absurd, and evidently set afloat in order to prevent the *Northern* Masons from affording succor to a Southern brother in the hour of his distress—that Masonry overrides the boundaries of States, allows of no political or religious differences, and that its very nature and constitution are averse to the idea of any such renunciations of the paramount duties of the craft, in all countries and under all circumstances.

We add a few particulars in relation to some of these lodges, showing the extent and character of their losses. The minutes of Union Kilwinning Lodge No. 4, were more than a century old; those of lodge No. 14, very nearly a century. These are all gone and the loss is irremediable. **A portion of the minutes of Richland No. 39, are supposed to be safe, as they were confided to the keeping of a Masonic writer, with a view to the preparation of a history. He will probably, from this notice, perceive the propriety of restoring them to the Lodge as soon as possible.**⁶

Simms had every reason to believe that these minutes would be returned to their rightful owners, for the Masonic writer to who Simms referred was Albert G. Mackey (1807-1881).⁷

⁶ *Ibid.* pp. 102-104. Emphasis added. After Simms' serial publication of the Federal invasion of Columbia in the *Columbia Phoenix*, he re-worked the originals and published them in book form. Because the Confederacy by that time had fallen, some of his more fiery speech in the original account was toned down. "Yankee officers," for example, are referred to as "Federal officers" in the book version. His section on the loss of Masonic property was expanded to include the loss of the "Cromwell Sword" belonging to the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. Apparently this sword was discovered to have been lost after his initial accounting. Because its inclusion is not germane to the topic at hand, but is of general interest, it will be included in Appendix A.

⁷ McCall, Clare M. *A History of Richland Lodge No. 39, Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina at Columbia, South Carolina*. Columbia, SC: Richland Lodge No. 39, 1991. p. 221.

II. Albert G. Mackey

Mackey, in addition to his prolific Masonic writing career, was at that time serving the Craft as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina as well as its Grand Lecturer. Previous to the war, Richland Lodge No. 39 had provided Mackey with the early minutes of the lodge, which included the minutes of that Lodge's forebearer, Tyrian Lodge No. 10, Ancient York Masons. These minutes were not used by Mackey in his 1861 publication of *The History of Freemasonry in South Carolina*. This is evidenced by his acknowledgement of the existence of the old records by Richland No. 39 as well as several omission and errors regarding some key characteristics of the early Lodge, including its name. In Mackey's history we find the following:

There was an Ancient York Lodge at Granby, a few miles from Columbia, which was in existence in the latter part of the last century. At the time of the Revolution it seems to have suspended its labors, for it was revived, in 1785, at Saxe-Gotha. As its existence was anterior to that of the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons, which was established in 1787, it could not have derived its warrant from that body, but whence it received its authority I have not been able to learn. In 1790 this lodge, which was known as No. 10, removed from Granby to Columbia⁸ where it continued to meet until its extinction... The chest with the furniture and records of the Lodge were in 1818, placed by the Grand Lodge in charge of Lodge No. 39, to be kept "until further order of the Grand Lodge." In 1821, the jewels and furniture of Lodge No. 10 were sold, by the Grand Lodge, to Churchill Lodge No. 19, in Abbeville District.⁹ The old record book still remains in the archives of Richland No. 39.¹⁰

Sadly, this most precious document, spared from the flames of war, was never returned to its rightful owners, even after at least one formal request of the Richland Lodge.¹¹

We must note here that Mackey was a staunch Unionist and became very active in the Federal government's project of "reconstructing" the State after the War. In July of 1865 Mackey was appointed by President Andrew Johnson to the

⁸ Lodge No. 10 did not begin meeting regularly in Columbia until the early 1800's.

⁹ The whereabouts of these jewels, if they still exist, are currently unknown.

¹⁰ Mackey, Albert G. *The History of Freemasonry in South Carolina From Its Origin in the Year 1736 to the Present Time*. Columbia, SC: South Carolina Steam Power Press, 1861. Reprinted for Grand Lodge A.F.M. of S.C. 1998. pp. 552-553

¹¹ McCall. *A History of Richland Lodge No. 39*, p. 221. The minutes of March 3, 1869, state that it was moved that the Secretary be instructed to write Bro. Albert G. Mackey to request the return of the "old records of this Lodge."

post of Collector of the Port of Charleston. He later served as president of the Reconstruction government's constitutional convention held in January of 1866. After an unsuccessful run for the U.S. Senate against F.A. Sawyer, Mackey left South Carolina for Washington, DC and there lived out the balance of his days.¹²

By collaborating with the occupying forces, Mackey would have been viewed by many, if not most, at the time as a traitor to his fellow countrymen—in the language of the day, a *scalawag*.¹³

It would have been difficult in those dark days, to even the most ardent and faithful Mason, to see Mackey serving the government that had so recently devastated their homes, business, lodges, and places of worship. Despite the many signs that Masonry would remain unscathed by differences that existed between brothers of differing political opinions, this was not to be.¹⁴

We are first informed of Mackey's troubles with the Masons of South Carolina in the 1921 Proceedings of the 184th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. The 1866 Proceedings give no indication on its pages of the contention and bad feelings associated with Brother Mackey and certain brethren there in attendance.

It was during the 1921 communication that resolution was offered by Right Worshipful Brother William G. Mazyck to have an oil painting of Most Worshipful Albert G. Mackey commissioned which would thereafter be displayed on the walls of the Grand Lodge.

Responding first to this resolution was Most Worshipful Brother Orlando Sheppard who said,

I think the motion of Brother Mazyck is very appropriate. It brings to our minds the great fact that the object of Masonry is to bring Masons to a recognition of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. In view

¹² See Mackey, Albert G. and H.L. Heywood. *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry. Revised and Enlarged*. Chicago, IL: The Masonic History Company, 1946. p. 603; Hyman, Rubin. *South Carolina Scalawags*. Columbia, SC: The University of South Carolina Press, 2006. p. 27; and Simkins, Francis Butler and Robert Hilliard Woody. *South Carolina During Reconstruction*. Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, 1966. pp. 29-33; 90-119. Certificates of two of Mackey's appointments are housed at the Charleston Masonic Center's Library & Museum.

¹³ One's *country* may be defined as a particular geographical region of indefinite boundary, usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography. Love of one's country (patriotism) is not necessarily synonymous with the love of one's government (nationalism). This distinction is crucial to understand the precarious position Mackey occupied after the war.

¹⁴ This is not to say that harmony did not prevail in many of the lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, but is only intended to point out that harmony was not universal among all brothers after the War. There are many accounts of genuine kindness and good-will between the Northern soldiers who were Masons and the local brethren during both the war and the subsequent military occupation. Perhaps it was because Mackey was a South Carolinian that he became the target of anger and resentment by some of his Masonic compeers, to say nothing of the social ramifications of being a Union collaborator. In those days a "homemade Yankee" was considered more odious and offensive than a "born and bred" one.

of the distinguished services of Brother Mackey, *I am sure that all good Masons have long since forgiven him for the trouble he gave us politically, but should remember him as a Mason, I am heartily in favor of this motion.*¹⁵

The next man who rose to speak in favor of the resolution was Most Worshipful Brother Divver. This brother had been present at the 1866 Communication and it is through his remarks that we gain a first hand account of that meeting:

I was present at the Grand Lodge in 1866... There was the most terrific excitement that I ever witnessed in the body of any Lodge or any gathering. There was a sharp and bitter rivalry existing between Robert Stewart Bruns and Albert G. Mackey for the position of Grand Secretary. There was considerable bitterness in regard to the Deputy Grand Master of the State and upon that occasion Brother Bruns was the successful candidate for Grand Secretary, defeating Brother Mackey... The feeling was really intense within the body of the Grand lodge. At that time, just half the distance of this hall here, were a great many distinguished officers of the Federal Army in uniform, as well as some Confederate officers, but they wore no uniform... Judge Orr was presiding over the Grand Lodge. I regard Orr as the brightest parliamentarian that we have ever had in this Grand Body in my recollection, and it was through his skills as a presiding officer that a great deal of trouble was prevented, which was on the verge of breaking loose...¹⁶

What is truly remarkable about this account is not that the Grand Lodge elections of 1866 had “sharp and bitter” or that Mackey was defeated because of his politics, but rather *it is the fact that the proceedings do not explain why until 1921.*¹⁷

It is the opinion of the writer that Mackey’s adversarial relationship with certain South Carolina Masons, particularly Brother Robert Stewart Bruns, who was closely associated with Richland Lodge No. 39 and the other lodges of Columbia in the aftermath of the War,¹⁸ provided, at least in part, the motivation for withholding the minute book from the brethren of Richland Lodge. While we cannot conclude this with absolute certainty, we can conclude with absolute

¹⁵ *Proceedings of the One Hundred and Eighty-Fourth Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina, February 23-24, A.L. 5921. A.D. 1921.* Columbia, SC: The R.L. Bryant Company, 1921. p. 122. Emphasis added.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* p. 123

¹⁷ See Cornwell, Ross and Samuel Willis. *A History of Freemasonry in South Carolina.* Columbia, SC: The R.L. Bryant Company, 1979. p. 26

¹⁸ McCall. *History of Richland Lodge No. 39*, pp. 197-200

certainty that the ancient records belonging to Richland Lodge No. 39 were never returned by Brother Mackey and *are still missing to this day.*

III. McCall's History of Richland No. 39, A.F.M.

Brother Clare McCall, in his *History of Richland Lodge No. 39* published in 1991, provided the Craft with a most impressive work detailing the history of this Lodge despite the disadvantages of not having access to its earliest records. What little bit of scant information he was able to provide regarding Lodge No. 10 was gleaned from secondary sources.

To bring the reader up to date with regards to what was then known of the old Lodge, a wonderful passage from McCall's book will here be quoted at length. This was taken from a speech given by Worshipful Past Master James H. Fowls at the Hotel Columbia on the 100th anniversary of Richland Lodge No. 39 in 1941:

Columbia was invested in 1786 when the Legislature which then, of course, met in the Holy City, directed some Commissioners to purchase "the plain of the hill upon which Thomas and James Taylor, Esquires, now reside, just North of Gabriel Friday's ferry," and to lay off the town two miles square or four square miles with the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries with streets 150 feet wide, Elmwood, Harden, and Heyward, and two principal streets 150 feet wide bisecting the town, Senate and Assembly, and other streets 100 feet wide. This is why old Columbia is so beautifully laid out. James Sanders Guignard made the survey. Friday's ferry was at Granby which was situated on the west side of the Congaree River, the eastern side just below Columbia being known as East Granby.

A lodge of Masons was there the later part of the 1700's and we do not know who chartered it because the Grand Lodge of South Carolina was not in operation at the time. It was either chartered by the Grand Lodge of England or joined a Grand Lodge which a man named John Hammerton extemporaneously created and chartered all lodges in North and South Carolina...

I might mention that I heard John Nance Gardner, who was Vice President of the United States, say that his ancestors had come from South Carolina.

This old lodge at Granby, which was #10, operated a while and became defunct but was revived in 1785 at Saxe-Gotha which was about fifteen miles west of Granby where the Red Bank Cotton Mill now is and operated there a while and again became defunct.

It was again revived in 1790 and moved to Columbia¹⁹ where it operated until 1816 when it surrendered its Charter, jewels, and records and they were placed in the possession of Lodge #39 which was chartered that year. Lodge #39 is, of course, what later became Richland Lodge.²⁰

Other noteworthy passages are cited in McCall's book acknowledging the existence of Lodge No. 10, but all of them suffer from the same handicap of not having primary sources from which to work. Brother McCall was acutely aware of the limitation he faced in his history of the early Lodge. Nevertheless, he proceeded on boldly with the task at hand with the hope that one day the old records would be located and the story of the old lodge could be more fully presented to future generations:

Since its records did not survive the pressure of social turmoil and neglect, we cannot, except for some future fortunate revelation, report its true unfoldment as a Masonic institution in the area... [N]othing would or could be more momentous and marvelously important, than for some of the ancient landmarks of our lost archives to reappear in some distant deposit...²¹

Indeed, nothing would please *this* writer more than the discovery and recovery of those lost archives. However, despite our failure to recover *that which was lost*, an unknown source would make itself known—as if by an act of Providence—that would provide a detailed account of the lost history Lodge No. 10. One hopes that Brother McCall, looking down from that celestial Lodge above, is pleased to know that his history is now one step closer to completion.

III. The Discovery

In June of 2005, a letter along with a facsimile copy of an old Masonic magazine was forwarded to our Secretary, Right Worshipful Clifton Simmons, from Brother David L. Canaday, a member of the Educational and Historical Commission of the Grand Lodge of Georgia and long-time member of the society. In this letter Brother Canaday reported that he had located some early records of Richland No. 39 in the *Masonic Keystone and Mirror* which was published in 1860. He thought that they would make a very interesting paper to include in the Transactions of the society and requested that they be forwarded to the appropriate

¹⁹ Once again, this information regarding Lodge No. 10's removal to Columbia in 1790 is erroneous.

²⁰ McCall. *History of Richland Lodge No. 39*, pp.14-15

²¹ *Ibid.* pp.9, 221

committee for consideration.²² The secretary placed the letter and document in my hands and they occupied a spot on the corner of my desk for many, many months.

Having been long aware of the lost minutes of Richland No. 39, the thought never occurred to me that a portion of them might have been published. One evening I casually picked-up the copy of the old publication and began to peruse its contents. After a brief moment, I knew what it was that I was holding. My heart started pounding. I dropped the papers on the desk and placed my head in my hands. I had in my possession a copy of the minutes that had not been seen by any brother in South Carolina since before the War! I could not believe it! All that time, just sitting there on my desk!

V. The Text

Brother John A. Renno, secretary of Richland Lodge in 1860,²³ took it upon himself to transcribe and submit for publication the early minutes of what came to be to Richland No. 39, Ancient Free Masons. He was inspired to submit these early records for public consumption after the *Masonic Keystone and Mirror* had published "Abstract from the Ancient Records" of Solomon's Lodge No. 1, Savannah, Georgia. Brother Renno could not have known that his actions would preserve a portion of South Carolina Masonic history that would be lost to them for over 140 years because of the actions of Brother Albert G. Mackey.

John A. Renno was listed in the 1860 census as being a 26 year old clerk. According to McCall's history, he was a bookkeeper at the Post Office and boarded on Richardson Street (now Main Street) between Taylor and Blanding Streets in Columbia.

Brother Renno answered the call of his native State after it became clear that the Lincoln government would not let the Southern States withdraw in peace. He enlisted for military service on July 29, 1861, in Company C, Gregg's 1st Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers and appears on the muster rolls as late as October 31, 1864. According to one account he did not survive the war, but this cannot be substantiated. There is, however, no record of Brother Renno's activities in the records of the city or the Lodge after the war.²⁴

The early lodge minutes, along with Renno's commentary sprinkled throughout, was published as *Early Records of Richland Lodge No. 39, Columbia, South Carolina*. The first installment was published in September of 1860, just three months prior to South Carolina declaring her independence from the federal union on December 20, 1860.

²² David L. Canaday to South Carolina Masonic Research Society. June 1, 2005.

²³ McCall. *A History of Richland Lodge No. 39*, p. 102

²⁴ *Ibid.* p.124-125

For the purposes of this paper, the text of the early records are divided into two sections. The first section covers the period of 1786-1791 and occurs almost exclusively in the town of Granby and the surrounding townships on the Congaree. The second section, to be published at a later date, covers the period of 1803-1809 when the lodge met at Columbia. The lodge, it appears, was dormant for the twelve intervening years.

VI. The Lodge

By way of introduction to the text, a few remarks on the peculiarities of Tyrian Lodge are in order. Unlike the majority of modern and pre-modern Masonic bodies, this lodge did not meet in a lodge room, neither did they meet in a tavern, or some other public structure. Rather, all meetings were held in the *private homes* of members. While the majority of their meetings during this period were held in Granby, they also met on occasion at Saxe Gotha and Columbia.

All meetings were conducted on the Entered Apprentice degree with the sole exception of passing or raising a candidate to a higher degree—a protocol still observed in most jurisdictions outside of the United States.²⁵ Nevertheless, the Lodge required that all visiting brethren prove themselves to be Master Masons by examination if unknown by the brethren present.

Persons receiving degrees in the lodge were not automatically accepted as members of the lodge. A separate ballot was cast for membership after the completion of the three degrees. Despite two resolutions being passed to end this practice, it seems to have persisted more or less throughout this period.

Although an Ancient York Lodge, “Moderns” could become members of the lodge for “half the common expense.” Reinitiation or *healing*²⁶ was not a stated requirement.

Attendance was of the utmost importance to the members of this lodge. Members who were absent from regular lodge meetings without an acceptable excuse were fined. Officers who were absent paid a higher fine than regular members. Brothers who refused to serve in an elected office were finned unless

²⁵ The Baltimore Convention of 1843, in which a delegate from South Carolina was in attendance, adopted a measure that would make all lodges transact their business on the third or Master Mason degree. This was a reaction to the published Masonic exposés resulting from the Morgan affair and the rise of the Anti-Masonic political party. Conducting all business on the Master Mason degree would make it more difficult for impostors to gain admission into a lodge meeting. See Robert, Allen E. “The Convention that Changed the Face of Freemasonry.” *Short Talk Bulletin*, January 1936.

²⁶ A technical Masonic term meaning *to make legal or valid*. If one had received his Masonic degrees in an irregular manner or by unrecognized authority, he would not be recognized as being “regular” until healed. The mode of healing would depend on the particulars of the case. See Mackey, Albert G. *An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, Vol. I. New York: The Masonic History Company, 1921. p. 320

having previously served. Fines were also levied for swearing in the lodge as well as for leaving one's seat without the permission of the chair.

Unlike the current practice of serving for a full year, the elected officers of Tyrian Lodge only served for six months.

The highlight of the year was the annual observance of St. John the Evangelist's Day, a tradition which, sadly, has been all but forgotten today. The brethren enjoyed a fine meal, conducted elections, heard sermons, and occasionally participated in processions. They would sometimes be the guests of another Lodge for the day's festivities or invite a lodge to share the festivities with them. It was a day of great celebration and fellowship.

Of particular interest is the way in which they concluded each meeting. Before the closing the lodge in "ancient form," the members attended to the "usual songs and toasts." Although what they sang and to whom they toasted is lost to time. The only mention of a specific song occurred during the meeting of December 6, 1788. After initiating three men as Entered Apprentices, an "Apprentice song was then sung" before the lodge closed.²⁷ Visitors were required to pay a sum of money to help with the expenses associated with their festive board. The songs and toast tended to promote conviviality and bring the brothers closer as they celebrated the Craft in this special way. It was not the case that brothers rushed home after business. They made special preparation and spent the necessary funds to ensure a special evening of fun and fellowship.

It is the uniqueness of the practices and procedures of this ancient South Carolina Lodge when compared to our own that makes this historical document one of great worth. With the discovery of this text, we move one step closer to understanding the Masonry from which we are all descended.

If past is indeed prologue, as Brother Clare McCall believed, then a careful study of the records of ancient brothers help us to better understand the position we occupy today and the responsibility we now have towards those who will come after us. The mystic tie of the fraternity, after all, is not bound by time.

VII. The Transcription

The text that follows retains the exact spelling and punctuation of the *Masonic Keystone and Mirror*, although there is no way to know if the spelling and punctuation of this transcription follows the original. All bracketed "[]" commentary within the text are those of Brother John A. Renno or the editor of the publication. Any notation or commentary by this writer will either be found in curly brackets "{ }" or in the notes.

²⁷ Although we cannot be certain, I have included the probable song which was used that evening in Appendix B.

VIII. Conclusion

While it would have been far preferable to present the Craft with a transcription of the original minutes taken directly from the old minute book, we are indeed fortunate that this publication was brought to our attention. This discovery has provided us with the unique opportunity to gain a glimpse into the inner working of this ancient South Carolina lodge.

To the knowledge of the writer, this is the first time since before the war of 1861-1865 that any Mason has been privy to both the story and text of the long-lost documents. It is my ardent hope that the original minutes, if they still exist, will one day be returned. Then and only then will this story be truly complete.

Early Records of Richland Lodge No. 39, Columbia, South Carolina

By John A. Renno

MASONIC KEYSTONE AND MIRROR, Volume IX
Philadelphia & New York: Leon Hyneman, Publisher, 1860.

{p. 464}

Dear Brother Hyneman:—Having noted in your valuable paper “Abstracts from the Ancient Records” of Solomon’s Lodge No. I, Savannah, Georgia, I thought that it would not be amiss for me to lay before your readers the early records of Richland Lodge, No. 39, and show them from whence this Lodge originated. At present, it is one of the best working Lodges in the State, and enjoys a high reputation for the number of brethren of the mystic tie—who received the light at its altar—who go abroad.

The book in which those records are placed, is a curiosity in itself, and to give your readers a brief description of it, will no doubt interest them. It is at present no less than ninety years old, the book is 22 inches long, 9 ½ inches in width, and three inches thick, and covered with stout leather.

The records commence as follows:—

CONGAREE, Monday, August 20th, 5786.²⁸—

²⁸ Of historical interest: Previous to this meeting on March 11, South Carolina ratified an amendment to the *Articles of Confederation*, the document under which the free states now united were then operating. On the 22nd of that

At an extra meeting of the Tyrian Lodge, held at Saxagotha, at the Congaree, on Monday, 20th of August, being the first since the close of the late war, which caused a temporary suspension of Masonry.

Present:—Jacob Richman, W.M.; David Haverly, S.W., pro tem; Ambrose Auther, J.W., pro tem; Jonas Beard, Treas. pr. Tem; Robt. Lithgow, Secretary, pro tem. Visitor; J. Seibel, W. Rea, and G. Bernard, Visitors.

An Entered Apprentice Lodge was open. No business being transacted, it was closed to meet again next Monday, (which was regular meeting) at 4 P.M. After the usual songs and toasts, the Lodge was closed in due form. Stewards bill, nothing was charged.

The Lodge met Sept 4th, 5786, at the Congaree, Saxagotha. Present : Robt. Lithgow, W.M., pro tem; J. Seibel, S.W. pro tem; D. Haverly, J.W., pro tem; Henry H. Tillinghast, Secty., pro tem; and P. Brassellman, A. Authur, Geo. T. Newman, and Geo. Bernard, Visitors.

An Entered Apprentice Lodge was opened—a letter from the W.M., J. Richman, was read, wherein he ordered the Lodge to proceed to business, as he could not attend on account of his health; whereupon, Bros. Seibel, Brassellman, Tillinghast, and Lithgow, were unanimously elected members of the Lodge.

Bro. Beard proposed that a committee be appointed to make By-laws, for the future regulation of the Lodge. Bros. Seibel, Authur, and Tillinghast, were appointed. The Secretary was then directed to inform W.M. J. Richman, that the Lodge had proceeded to business, chose several members, and appointed a committee to revise By-laws, to be laid before next meeting, and requesting his attendance. The Lodge was then ordered to meet first Monday in October. After the usual songs and toasts, the Lodge was closed in due form.

The Lodge was reconvened Nov. 6, 5786, at Bro. Rea's, in Richland county, Bro. Rea was elected a member. On account of Bro. Richman's health, he not being able to attend to his duties then, Brother Lithgow was chosen W.M., for the time being—was introduced and accepted the chair. The Lodge voted thanks to Bro. Richman, for his services and attention to Masonry. Bro. Seibel was elected S.W., Bro. Authur, J.W., Bro. Beard, Treasurer, Bro. Tillinghast, Secretary, Bro. Rea, Steward, and Bro. Haverly, Tyler. The committee on By-Laws reported and read them for the first time, the main features of which are as follows:—

RULES AND ORDERS

same month the South Carolina legislature agreed to move the capital of the State to the upcountry. The new state capital would be known as *Columbia*.

Which are to be punctually observed and kept by the ancient and honourable fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, according to the old Constitution Granted by His Royal Highness, Prince Edward of York, in the year of our Lord nine hundred twenty and six, and in the year of Masonry four thousand nine hundred twenty and six. We, the Masters, Wardens, Deacons, and Secretary, together with the rest of the members of our Lodge No. 10, by and with the approbation of the Grand Lodge, have thought it proper to subscribe and submit the following rules:

RULES.

Whereas, the pleasure, happiness and good government of every kingdom, state, and society of men consists, first, in the equitableness of the laws by which they are governed; and in the next place, the strict obedience which the community pay to the same ; and through a successive round of time, human nature has been so far depraved, that without laws to govern, guide and direct it, no civil society of men could long exist.

1st. That the regular meeting of our said Lodge shall be held on the last Tuesday evening in every month throughout the year. Except the month of November, in which said month there is no meeting of the Lodge. The meetings of the Lodge are to be held in the town of Columbia.²⁹

2d. Provides that the Lodge shall meet at the hours hereafter mentioned, viz : from the vernal equinox to the autumnal equinox, at seven o'clock in the evening, and from the autumnal equinox aforesaid to the vernal equinox following, at six o'clock in the evening. And if any member absent himself one hour after the appointed time, he shall be fined twelve and a half cents ; on time of business he shall be fined twenty-five cents, and for non-attendance three regular meeting nights (after being regularly summoned), shall be tried by ballot, and dealt with as the majority thought proper ; except such absentee be sick, lame, in confinement, or detain by unavoidable business, or resided upwards of three miles from place of meeting ; an absent officer shall be fined double that sum.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

{p. 476}

EARLY RECORDS OF RICHLAND LODGE, No. 39, COLUMBIA,

²⁹ Despite this rule, the lodge only met one time in Columbia during this period.

SOUTH CAROLINA. BY JOHN A. RENNO.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 464]

It further provides, that if any member or members absent themselves for six month, without paying contributions, shall not be entitled to the privileges of the Lodge, unless by special ballot, and paying the usual initiation fee.

3d Clause, provides for the election of officers, as follows. Each member one vote. Should the number of votes happen to be equal, then the W. Master had two votes, otherwise but a single vote; after which the Master was required to nominate one for S.W. one for J.W. for Secretary and for Treasurer, and the members nominated one in opposition, and none were allowed to be nominated but those who were deemed able and would perform their duty.

4th Clause provides that if any member (past officers excepted) refuse to serve in any of the aforesaid offices, he shall be fined as follows, viz., for the Master, *twenty-one shillings*, for the S.W.J.W. and Secretary, *fifteen shillings* each, each Deacon *five shillings* and the Treasurer *fifteen shillings*, and to be fined in like sum if they did not serve their full time, unless prevented by sickness &c., or resided upwards of three miles from the place of meeting.

7th Section provides that no brother under the degree of Master Mason shall be permitted to visit this Lodge under any pretense whatsoever ; nor without the consent of the presiding officer, — and before being admitted shall undergo the usual examination.

Note.— [I have omitted clauses five and six they being not of sufficient importance, but have copied such as are characteristic in their meeting, and endeavor to show our younger brethren the mode of business then adopted.] J.A.R.

Brother Lithgow having the good of masonry at heart, and wishing to encourage the royal art made a tender of books to the society whereon the Lodge voted thanks to the W.M. for his generous offer.

Note.— [From the above remark, I would infer that Bro. L. presented them with the minute book, a description of which has already been given, and from the appearance , was no doubt made for a Day Book, as it is ruled in double columns. I will however copy still further of the Rules and orders, as read the first time] J.A.R.

8th Section further provides that a brother desiring admittance must undergo the usual accustomed assurance, and for each and every such visit he was required the sum of twenty-five cents, no brother was permitted to visit the Lodge more than twice, (transient brethren excepted) or unless a member of some ancient Lodge.

9th Clause provides for persons to be initiated. The candidate was required to give a description of his person and place of residence. One month was required for investigation of character, and if one negative ball appeared he was declared rejected without further inquiry into the case.

14th Clause provides for the Secretary, he was to keep a correct copy of all such proceedings as were proper to reduce to writing. They were read and amended if necessary, and approved before the close of the Lodge and were read again at the opening of the next regular or extra meeting, but objections then made, were of no effect, provided the Secretary produced the original minutes from which they were copied.

Note.— [There are twenty sections of the by-laws. I have however only presented your readers with such as may be of sufficient importance, and show them the mode of business done by those, who have gone to that bourne no traveler returns. They have left behind a legacy well worth preserving.] J.A.R.

The Lodge was again called Monday Dec. 4th 5786 at Bro. Reas.

Bro. Surginor was proposed as a member, he was regularly examined, balloted for and elected a member, nem contrad. Bro. Powell also elected same manner. A committee was appointed to devise ways and means for a dinner on St. Johns the Holy Evangelist's day. It was then moved and seconded, that the minutes be read and debated a second time, which was passed. The meaning of which was, that they should be debated at the next extra meeting appointed for the purpose, and the W.M. was to direct the time of meeting.

After the usual song and toasts the Lodge was closed in due form. Steward's bill nothing.

Extra meeting of the Lodge was called Dec. 18th 5786.

The Committee appointed to devise ways and means for a dinner, reported that Bro. Rea, proposed to provide dinner gratis. Committee was to issue tickets to transient or visiting brethren, at 9s. and 4d. each, to defray certain expenses. For the more speedy transaction of business on St. John's day, the Lodge was ordered to meet at 12 o'clock, M., and dinner to be ready at 3 o'clock.

The second reading of the By-laws was deferred until next meeting. The business of St. John's requiring particular attention, it was moved, seconded, and passed, that those who do not attend precisely at 12 o'clock be fined 4s. 8d. contrad.

After the usual songs and toasts the Lodge was closed in due form. Steward's bill, nothing.

CONGAREE, December 27th, 5786, A Lodge of Entered Apprentices opened in due form at Bro. Rea's. J. Seibels, W.M., P.T. and ten others were present. A Resolution was passed That persons who made Masons in this Lodge, should become members thereof, provided they be residents.

Note. — [From the proceeding I should infer that persons at that time were not recognized as members, although having all the degrees, unless a special ballot was had for them again.]

J. Martin and D. Tateman were admitted to the first degree. The By-laws were again deferred for a second reading, until next meeting. Thanks were tendered to Bro. Rea, for his generous exertions this day.

Note. — [There seems to be no evidence of the installation of the officers or even an election. but presume those chosen on Nov. 6th, would serve still further without action on their part.]

I now find no record of their proceedings until May 19th, 1788,³⁰ near two years after the former, and what caused the suspension is not mentioned. The same officers were present, and met at Mr. Burkhart's³¹. The By-laws which were deferred, were brought forward, but deferred to the next meeting again.

Lodge No. 10, convened at Bro. Burkhard's,³² Sept. 1st, 1788, Anno. Laprida³³ ? 5788.

Ch. Hyde elected a member. Bro. Burkhard raised to the 3rd degree. Letters were read from Alex. Bell and W. Mortimer, to become members, referred separately. The Lodge then closed to an extra meeting.

Sept. 6th, Lodge was called in fellow-craft degree, Bro. J. Culpepper passed, Bell and Mortimer were initiated, J. Warden fined 1s. for swearing. The By-laws were ordered to be read next meeting. Lodge closed to met at Burkhart's at 4 o'clock, P.M.

Oct. 6th. An Entered Apprentice was opened, and previous minutes confirmed, but few members being present, several important matters were postponed, several applications were read, and duly referred. The Lodge was then closed. Bill of the night, 4s.

Nov. 3d. A fellow-craft Lodge was opened and previous minutes confirmed. Bell and Mortimer passed to the second degree. Lodge was then closed, and opened in the first degree, whereupon four were admitted. Letters were read from Wm. Goodwyn and others, to become Masons ; they were referred. Extra meeting was ordered on the 10th, at sunset.

After the usual songs and toasts the Lodge closed. Bill of the night, 18s.

Note. — [Owing to bad weather, they did not convene, as ordered Nov. 3d.]

[TO BE CONTINUED]

³⁰ Of historical interest: Four days later, on May 23, 1788, South Carolina ratified the *U.S. Constitution*.

³¹ It is obvious that "Burkhart" and "Burkhard" refer to the same brother; however, the spelling differs throughout the entirety of the document.

³² Brother Burkhart resided in Granby. See entry of June 23, 1789.

³³ While I have not been able to locate this designation, it is likely an erroneous rendition of *Anno Lucis* or "Year of Light," commonly used on Masonic letters and documents. The questionmark appears in the original.

{p. 488}

EARLY RECORDS
OF RICHLAND LODGE, No. 39, COLUMBIA,
SOUTH CAROLINA. BY JOHN A. RENNO.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 476]

Nov. 24. Lodge was convened at Bro. Burkhard's. An Entered Apprentice Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed. The rules were read, and are as follows: That instead of nightly expenses, the member do pay 9s. 4d., and visitors 1s. 6d. each night. No visiting brother was allowed to be present when the Lodge was transacting any private business. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that after St. John's day, they do hold their meetings for the next six months on the north side of Congaree river, and the next six months at Granby, and so alternately. The Lodge was then closed. Bill of the night, 5s. 4d.

Dec. 1st. Lodge convened. A Master's Lodge was open. Four were raised as Masters. It was moved that instead of appointing officers on St. John's day, they should be balloted for at the meeting prior. Rule 12th was amended as follows: That if any person wishing to become a member, shall twice be balloted for in case the first time a negative shall be given ; but if afterwards, rejected agreeably to the rules. The By-laws were then read, and unanimously agreed to. The Lodge was then closed. Bill of the night, 14s.

Dec. 6. Lodge convened, and opened as an Entered Apprentice. Three were initiated. An Apprentice song was then sung,³⁴ and the Lodge closed.

Dec. 24. Extra meeting held, and previous minutes were confirmed. The following officers were chosen for six months: — J. Seibles, W.M., R. Lythgoe, S.W., J. Culpepper, J.W., Alex. Bell, Treasurer, Wm. Mortimore, Secretary. Members admitted previous to the confirmation of the rules were required to pay 10s. 10d. each. Arrangements were made for St. John's day, and tickets issued at 9s. 4d. each. They were to meet at 11 o'clock A. M. Bill for the night 6s.

The feast of St. John was held at Bro. Burkhard's Dec. 27, 5788. Lodge of Entered Apprentices opened. Jacob Seibel was installed as W.M., J. Culpepper as J.W. A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Lythgoe for generous exertions for the

³⁴ See Appendix B

good of the craft while possessing the chair. Resolutions were passed relative to the jewels used by them.

Jan. 4, 1789. Lodge of Entered Apprentices was opened. Benjamin Grubb was elected a member. The river being very high, prevented the meeting at Mr. Turner's, on the north side of the Congaree river. According to a resolution passed at their November meeting, Isaac Byington was passed to the second degree. C.W. Kester, George P. Hook, and Thos. Rough, were raised to the third degree. The Lodge was then closed. Bill of the night £1 7s.

Feb. 2d. Lodge convened at Harris Turner's. Four members were noted as absent. Fellow Craft Lodge was opened, and Benjamin Grubb was passed. The rules and by-laws were read and signed. A resolution was passed that among those coming in by taking the several degrees, shall become members without paying the sum mentioned in the rule 12th, if balloted for agreeably to said rule.

March 2d. Lodge was convened at Harris Turner's in Entered Apprentice form. The motion passed at the previous meeting was amended as follows: Provided he pay 7s. to the charity fund, and partly for defraying expenses, agreeably to the rule 1st. William Goodwyn, Sr., was made an Entered Apprentice. Fellow Craft Lodge was opened, and five candidates passed, among whom was William Goodwyn, Sr. The Lodge was then closed, and opened in the third degree, and two were raised. Lodge then closed. Bill of the night £1 5s.

April 6th. The Lodge was convened, and opened in the Entered Apprentice degree. Three members were noted absent. Previous minutes were confirmed. Benj. Grubb returned thanks for the honor conferred on him, in admitting him as a Mason, and has taken leave of the Lodge in a public manner, on account of leaving the State, and left a 24-inch gauge {sic.} for the benefit of the Lodge. A certificate was given him, and compliments returned by the W.M.

May 4th. The Lodge was convened in Entered Apprentice form. S.W. was fined for non-attendance at last meeting. Also, four brothers were fined for non-attendance. A motion was made that an extra Lodge be called to consider the situation of the Lodge. All members within eight miles were ordered to be summoned. After the proper songs and toasts, the Lodge was closed. Bill for two nights £1 13s. 2d.

May 8th. Extra meeting was convened, and the minutes were read. R. Bolan was passed to the second degree. The following was passed : Resolved, That every member of this Lodge who neglects to discharge his arrears on or before the first regular meeting after St. John the Baptist's day, shall be excluded from the Lodge. No person was allowed to be made, passed and raised until the Treasurer informed the Master for the time being that he was satisfied with respect to the fees, after which the Treasurer was liable to the Lodge. A message from Winnsboro Lodge no. 6 was read, requesting the Lodge to visit them on St. John's

day next. Four members were noted for non-attendance, and after the usual songs and toasts, the Lodge was closed.

June 1st. The Lodge was convened at H. Turner's. Five members were noted absent. The W.M. was fined 3s. 6d. for non-attendance at previous meeting. A motion was passed that all who do not attend precisely at six o'clock, will be fined agreeably to rules. An extra meeting was ordered for June 23d. for selecting officers. After the usual songs and toasts, the Lodge closed. Bill for two nights £2 5s.

June 23d. An extra meeting of the Lodge was convened. Jos. Culpepper was elected W.M., James Douglas,³⁵ S.W., and Alex. Bell, J.W. An auditing committee was appointed. It was agreed to meet at Bro. Burkhart's in Granby. The Lodge was then closed. Bill 8s.

July 6. The Lodge convened at Brother Burkhart's. An Entered Apprentice Lodge was opened. Two members were installed for the ensuing six months. A motion was passed that the resolution passed May 8th, Anno Laprida 5789, have no effect until after the first regular meeting after the Treasurer's accounts were audited; the Lodge was then closed. Bill 12s.

Aug. 3d. The Lodge was convened and opened in Entered Apprentice form. Those officers elect who were absent at previous meeting, were regularly installed. Parson Bamberg was initiated, agreeably to the rules, without paying. The Lodge was then closed. Bill 12s.

Sept. 7th. The Lodge was convened and opened in Entered Apprentice form. Bro. Weyman returned thanks to the Lodge, as proxy for this Lodge to the Grand Lodge,³⁶ and submitted extracts of the general regulations of the Grand Lodge. Oct. 5th. The Lodge was convened at Granby, opened in Fellow Craft form, and previous meeting confirmed. Petitions were received and referred, and second degree was conferred. A Lodge was ordered for tomorrow night. It was then closed.

NOTE.— I would infer that the Lodge at that time had no standing regulations to transact their business in the third degree, for it appears so far that they transacted their business, such as receiving petitions, passing resolutions, &c.,

³⁵ According to McCall's History, James Douglas served the Lodge as Master in 1803. He later ran for the SC House in the general election of 1839/40, but was defeated. (See page 12) The census records of 1790 and 1800 do not provide details on any of the members listed in these minutes. Unlike later censuses, these documents do not provide the resident's occupation, only the name and number of household inhabitants. Thus, we have no way of adding any additional information concerning the members of and visitors to the lodge. Perhaps other sources will become available in the future.

³⁶ This would likely have been the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of South Carolina which was established in 1787.

in the Entered Apprentice degree.³⁷ They even conferred the second and the third degrees on candidates in one night.

{p. 500}

EARLY RECORDS
OF RICHLAND LODGE, No. 39, COLUMBIA,
SOUTH CAROLINA. BY JOHN A. RENNO.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 488.]

Oct. 6th. The Lodge was convened and opened in Entered Apprentice form. Four members were noted absent. The first degree was conferred, and rules 3d, 4th, and 12th were then read, and the Lodge closed, and opened second degree ; and after the usual songs and toasts, the Lodge closed.

November, 1789. Lodge No. 10 convened at Spencer Morgan's house in Granby. Six members were noted for absence. A Master's Lodge was open in due form. The Master's degree was conferred on Brothers Egleston, Bamberg, and Bynum. Brother Douglas was empowered to write to Winnsboro Lodge No. 6, and give them a general invitation to the celebration of the festival of St. John with this Lodge. After the usual songs and toasts, Lodge closed. Bill 16s.

NOTE. — I have appended the bill of the night to each meeting, showing to the members of the craft the currency used in those days, and which impresses upon the reader the ancient usages of those who have gone before, and have worked in the noble art by which many are trying to improve themselves. The meeting last mentioned in November had no date prefixed to it.

December 7th, 1789. The Lodge was convened at Spencer Morgan's in Granby. Twenty-five members were present, among them five were visitors. There were noted absent. A committee was appointed to look into the state of the treasury. An extra meeting was appointed December 22d. A motion was passed that all persons, made passed, and raised, shall afterwards be considered members thereof. The Lodge then closed in ancient form. Bill 25s.

NOTE. — It appears from the above proceedings, that although a person was made, passed, and raised, he was not considered a member unless be passed through the ordeal of another ballot. December 27, 1786, they passed a resolution

³⁷ See note 20 above.

that all persons who were made Masons in that Lodge should become members thereof, *provided* they be residents. At their last meeting, they rejected one {f}rom membership, which clearly contravened with the motion of Dec. 27.

December 19, 1789. Lodge convened at S. Morgan's in Granby. An Entered Apprentice Lodge was opened. Seven members were noted for absence. Robt. Lythgoe was elected W.M., Jas. Douglas, S.W., W. Mortimer, J.W. The Lodge passed a motion that they do meet at the house of Bro. Reas, at 10 o'clock on St. John's day, and from there walk in procession to Brother Burkhardt's. Jos. Culpepper was elected S.W. in place of Bro. Douglas, who declined being a member of the Lodge. A motion was passed that visiting Brothers pay the sum of 7s. on St. John's day, for the festival. The Lodge was then closed in ancient form. Bill for the night, 35s.

Dec. 28th, 1789.³⁸ The annual meeting of the Lodge convened at the house of Brother Reas, in Granby. Twenty-five members were present including nine visitors. Two were noted for absence. An Entered Apprentice Lodge was open in due form. R. Bolan was fined for non-attendance at previous meeting 1s. 2d. A message was sent by the W.M. to the W.M. of Lodge No. 12, then convened at the house of S. Morgan, requesting their attendance at the celebration of the festival of St. John. Reply was received that they would attend. The W.M. returned his thanks to Lodge No. 12 for their attendance, which was duly returned. A Brother in distress was relieved. After hearing a sermon delivered by Bro. Bamberg, a motion was offered by the W.M. of Lodge No. 12 to establish a Lodge of higher orders, to meet in Columbia, which was passed. The Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment ; and afterwards it was agreed upon that the Lodge of higher order do meet at Beaver Creek on the 23d of January, A.D. 1790, A.L. 5790. The W.M. then delivered a short address, thanking the member of Lodge No. 10 for their attendance, which was returned by the W.M. of Lodge No. 10. The Lodges agreed to meet on the east side of the Congaree river ; after which it was closed in ancient form.

NOTE.—I have endeavored to ascertain the whereabouts of Beaver Creek as mentioned, but have not been able to gain any information. I presume, however, from the locality of the country, and the situation of Winnsboro Lodge No. 6, that it was situated north-eastward from the city, for records prove that a Lodge was formerly held at Dutchman's Creek, which was north westward from Columbia, and the Lodge was afterwards moved from there to Winnsboro, from whence it derives its title.

³⁸ Of historical interest: Previous to the next lodge meeting, the first meeting of the new SC Legislature met in Columbia on January 4, 1789. Later that month, January 18-19, 1789, South Carolina ratified the *Bill of Rights* to the U.S. Constitution.

March 15, 5790. The Lodge convened at H. Turner's. An Entered Apprentice Lodge was open in form. Nineteen members were present, three were visitors. A message was sent to Bro. Lythgoe, acquainting him of his election as W.M. One degree was conferred, and other business transacted, whereupon {sic.} it was agreed to meet at the house of James Denton, in Columbia. The Lodge was then closed in ancient form. Bill for the night 9s.

NOTE.—From the 28th of December to March 15th, the Lodge held no meeting, and am unable to find any record of it.

April 8th, 1790. The Lodge was convened at S. Morgan's house, in Granby. Proposals were made, to be laid before the next meeting, as for the want of tools, the Lodge could not be regularly formed. Members in arrears were ordered to give their notes, or pay up by the first of June, and those not complying with either were regarded as mere visitors. Other business of minor importance was none, whereupon it was closed in due form, to meet at Mr. Ellis', on the east side of the river.

NOTE.—It appears from those proceedings that they were unable to meet at J. Denton's house in Columbia, on account of not having the necessary tools to work with.

May 3d, 5790. The Lodge was convened at S. Morgan's house. Fourteen members were present. An Entered Apprentice Lodge was opened. A report was made that the materials of the Lodge had been received in good order from Bro. White. A motion was passed that those persons who are made, passed, and raised, shall not be admitted as members until they pay into the hands of the Treasurer the sum as mentioned in the rules, or otherwise give their note with security, which was to be approved of by the members present. A committee was appointed to designate a place for the Lodge to meet at next regular meeting. Resolutions were passed that if any member *did* not settle his dues, his name should be transmitted to the Grand Lodge, and he be debarred from entering any Lodge on the continent of North America. Bro. Rea was fined 1s. for absenting himself without leave from the chair. Two degrees were conferred, when the Lodge closed. Bill of the night, 25s.

June 7, 5790. The Lodge was convened at the house of Bro. Bell, in Entered Apprentice form. Minutes were confirmed ; petitions were received and regularly referred ; letters were given to Bro. Weyman, giving him full power to agree to regulations of the Convention to convene in Charleston, on behalf of the Lodge. It was then closed in ancient form, to meet at Mr. Ellis's.

June 3d. The Lodge was convened at Bro. Bell's. Nothing much of importance was transacted but granting certificates, when the Lodge closed in ancient form, to meet next morning in Columbia.

{p. 512}

EARLY RECORDS
OF RICHLAND LODGE, No. 39, COLUMBIA,
SOUTH CAROLINA. BY JOHN A. RENNO.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 500.]

June 4th, 5790. The Lodge convened in extra meeting at Bro. Lythgow's, in Columbia.³⁹ Seven members were present. Two degrees were conferred, when the Lodge was closed in ancient form.

June 21st, 5790. The Lodge was convened at Ellis's, on the East side of the Congaree river. Twelve members were present, and nine noted absent. Resolutions were passed in relation to those in arrears. Jacob Seibel was elected W.M. for the next six months ; Alex. Bell, S.W. ; R. Bolan, J.W. ; John Surginer, S.D. ; Jesse Daniel, J.D. ; W. Rea, Treasurer ; Jno. Bynum, Secretary, and C.W. Kestler, Tyler. The Lodge then agreed to meet at Mr. Fisher's, in Belleville, on the 24th, to spend the festival of St. John with Lodge No. 12. The Lodge then closed in due form. Bill of the night 12s.

NOTE.—I am unable to trace the location of Belleville, but presume it was a small settlement between this city and Winnsborough {sic.}.

July 5th. The Lodge was convened at R. Ellis's house in Granby. Twelve members were present, and fifteen reported absent. An Entered Apprentice Lodge was opened. Three members were expelled for not paying dues. After the usual songs and toasts, the Lodge closed. Bill of the night 5s., which the W.M. paid.

August 2d. The Lodge was convened in Granby. Seventeen members were present, and eight were noted for absence. Bro. Rea was installed as Treasurer. The Treasurer was ordered to make out accounts, and post his books for inspection. The J.W. was fined one shilling for leaving his chair without permission. Two degrees were conferred. Bros. Mortimer, Culpepper, and Goodwin, Sr., were fined sixpence each for leaving without permission. The Lodge was then closed. Bill 15s. 8d.

³⁹ Although the By-Laws state that the meetings of the lodge were to be held in Columbia, this is the first one recorded.

Sept. 6th. A Lodge of Entered Apprentices was held at Richard Ellis's, in Granby. The minutes were read. The By-laws were read to the Lodge, after which it closed. Bill 6p.

Oct. 4th, 5790. A Lodge of Entered Apprentices was held at the house of R. Ellis. Eight members were present, and fourteen noted for absence. Bros. Burkhardt and Egelston declined being members of the Lodge any longer. The Lodge then closed in ancient form. Bill 5p.

Nov. 1st. A Lodge of Entered Apprentices convened in Granby. Nine members were present, and nine noted absent. Previous minutes were read. Bro. Bynum, who was Secretary, requested his name to be struck off the list as a member of the Lodge. But on account of neglect of duty, the Lodge refused to do so, but appointed a committee to ask an explanation of him. Several Brothers made excuses for non-attendance, after which the Lodge closed. Bill 12p.

Nov. 8th, 5790. A Lodge of Entered Apprentices was convened in Granby. Nine members were present, and ten were noted for absence. Bro. Bynum came forward and stated his object for withdrawing, because dues were not paid punctually, but had no objection against any individual, or the rules of Masonry. It was agreed to raise subscriptions to defray part of the debt due to the Grand lodge, and every member was was {sic.} required to subscribe. After which the Lodge closed.

Dec. 6th. The Lodge was convened in Granby, and opened in Entered Apprentice form. Eight members were present, and eleven noted for absence. Excuses were heard for non-attendance at previous meeting. Bro. Andrew Sor was passed to the second degree, he paying to the Treasurer £1 1s. 9d. A Brother was fined for using profane language three times 4s. 6d. The committee appointed to raise the subscription to defray the debt to the Grand Lodge, were requested to report by the third Tuesday in the month, otherwise be fined three pounds for neglect of duty. The Lodge then closed. Bill 10s.

Dec. 21st. An extra meeting of the Lodge was convened at the house of R. Ellis, in Granby. Twelve members were present, and eight were noted for absence. The minutes were read. The committee appointed to raise the funds to pay the debt due the Grand Lodge, reported that they had collected £15 15s., and each member subscribing were to be credited in their account for their arrears. Two stewards were appointed to issue tickets for the festival of St. John on the 27th inst., each ticket to cost 5s., and to be signed by the Master. No tickets were allowed to be distributed, and the Stewards were to be responsible for the amount. The Lodge was to meet on the 27th, at 10 o'clock A.M., and dinner on the table at 3 o'clock P.M. Bro. James Douglas was elected W.M. for the ensuing six months, and Bro. Bolan was appointed a committee to inform him of the fact, and ascertain if he

would serve. Sam. Clifton was elected to become a Mason. The Lodge then closed. Bill of the night 17s.

Dec. 27th, 5790. The festival of St. John the Evangelist was held at the house of R. Ellis in Entered Apprentice form. Eleven members were present, and ten members noted for absence. Owing to one Past Master not being present, the installation of officers was deferred. Bro. Douglas took the chair and presided. Bro. Jacob Seibels was elected S. W.; Alex. Bell, J.W.; R. Bolan, Treasurer ; James White, Secretary ; J. Surgener, S.D. ; W. Mortimer, J.D. ; and Ch. W. Kester, Tyler. A motion was passed exempting the Secretary from paying dues to the Lodge on account for his services. The Lodge was called from labor to refreshment, and partook of a very agreeable repast. After the usual toasts, the Lodge was called from refreshment to labor, and conferred the first degree. A motion was passed exempting the Tyler from paying dues, but the fees belonging to that office should be appropriated to the use of the Lodge, agreeable to the rules. The Lodge was required to meet on the other side of the Congaree river. It was put to a vote, and all appeared in favor of Granby. The bill of the day for dinner was paid, amounting to £4. The Lodge then closed.

NOTE.—The Brothers who were absent were always noted down in full name, as well as those present, and each one absenting himself was required to show cause why he should not be fined, and they appear to be very stringent in this matter.

January 3d. 5791. The Lodge convened at the house of R. Ellis, in Entered Apprentice form. Nine members were present, and twelve noted for absence. Bro. J. Daniels was excused for three nights, but fined 1 shilling for not being present on St. John's day. Two degrees were conferred. It was agreed that Bro. Bolan, as an officer, should be fined 2s. 5d. for leaving, without permission from the chair. The Lodge agreed to meet at Bro. Bell's, in the neighborhood of Granby, after which the Lodge closed in ancient form. Bill of the night 15d.

Feb. 1st. The Lodge met at the house of S. Brown, in Columbia, and opened in Entered Apprentice form. Eleven members were present. The Lodge attended the funeral of the late Bro. Roux, and walked in procession to the place of interment. Nothing further was transacted and the Lodge then closed.

Feb. 7th. The Lodge met at the house of R. Ellis in Granby. Twelve members were present, and ten absent. Two members were fined 1s. 6d. each. Others were excused. A motion was passed that in future no person should be balloted on the night of application, unless they were leaving the State, or those residing at a distance, provide they were in waiting. Bro. Mortimer resigned as a member of the Lodge. No further business, the Lodge closed in ancient form. Bill 9s.

Feb. 12th. The Lodge met at the house of R. Ellis. Fifteen members were present, and nine were absent. Bro. Douglas, who was elected W.M., declined serving, as he

{p. 513}

was leaving the place. The Lodge then elected Bro. Culpepper to serve for the six months. He was installed the same night. The Lodge then closed in form.

March 7th, 5791. The Lodge met at the house of R. Ellis, in Entered Apprentice form. Ten members were present, and nine absent. The Treasurer remitted to Bro. Wyman, the proxy of the Lodge, the sum of £14, a part of the debt due the Grand Lodge. A motion was passed as follows: "That shall stand as a By-law in this Lodge, that modern Masons, who are desirous of joining this Lodge, and are admitted, shall pay only half of the common expense, the charity fund and the Tyler's fees excepted." After the usual songs and toasts, the Lodge was closed.

April 4th. The Lodge met at the house of R. Ellis, in Entered Apprentice form, read the minutes, &c. Edmond Welch, from Lodge No. 268, Ireland, was a visitor. Eleven members were present, and ten absent. Several petitions were received. Bro. Bolan was fined 6d. for swearing in the Lodge. Bro. Howard declined by letter being any longer a member. The Lodge agreed to it, provided he excuses himself for his nonattendance some time past. After the usual songs and toasts, the Lodge closed in ancient form. Bill 12s. 8d.

May 2d. The Lodge met at the house of R. Ellis, and opened in the first degree. Only five members were present. Twelve were noted for absence. The W.M. and so many other members being absent, the election of candidates was postponed till next meeting ; after the usual songs and toasts, the Lodge closed. Bill 4s.

June 6th. The Lodge met at the house of R. Ellis, and opened in the first degree. Eight were present , and eleven absent. A motion was offered that all visiting Brothers who desire to visit the Lodge should be required to produce a certificate from the Lodge to which they belonged, unless they were vouched for by a member of the Lodge known to them. Two Brothers were excused for not attending at the opening of the Lodge. One degree was conferred. It was agreed to meet this day fortnight at 6 o'clk. The Lodge then closed in ancient form. Bill 16s. 8d.

{p. 524}

EARLY RECORDS
OF RICHLAND LODGE, No. 39, COLUMBIA,
SOUTH CAROLINA. BY JOHN A. RENNO.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 512.]

June 15th. Extra meeting of the Lodge was held at the house of Mr. Ellis, in Granby. Eight members were present, and opened in the first degree. The Lodge, in due order, then attended the funeral of the late Bro. Richard Ellis to the place of interment. The funeral service was read by Bro. George Barnes, when they again returned in the same manner and closed the Lodge in ancient form.

Note.— This seems to be the last meeting held until 1803. I can find no record of any meeting whatsoever, nor is there any cause assigned for the suspension for so long a time. It is, however, evident that no meeting were held, for in the book there are some blank pages left, and in 1803, they commenced their work in this city...

Appendix A

Loss of the Cromwell Sword of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina

From *The Sack and Destruction of Columbia, South Carolina* by William Gilmore Simms. Columbia, SC: Power Press of Daily Phoenix, 1865

Among the items lost, which are particularly lamented, that of the famous sword of the State called “the Cromwell Sword,” belonging to the grand lodge of South Carolina, is particularly deplored. This was an antique of peculiar interest and value. Its history, as given by Dalcho, may be given here, as particularly calculated to gratify the curious, as well as the Masonic reader. It was a large, elegant and curious two-edged weapon, in a rich velvet scabbard, highly ornamented with Masonic emblems, and with the arms of the Grand Master. It had been presented to the Grand Master by the Provincial Grand Master, after the installation of the grand officers, was given as a consecrated sword, and received with reverent assurances, to keep it safely, so far as human effort could accord safety. The weapon had been long in the possession of the Grand Master’s family, and was said to have once belonged to Oliver Cromwell, a legend to which some

degree of probability may be given, from the fact that the Provincial Grand Master was a descendant of Sir Edward Leigh, who was a member of the Long Parliament and a Parliamentary General in the time of the Protector, from whom, perhaps, he received it.

The farther history of this sword may as well be given here. From the time of the presentation it continued in the possession of the Grand Lodge, and was borne by the Grand Sword Bearer, or in later times, the Grand Pursuivant, in all public processions. At length, at the conflagration which, in the year 1838, destroyed so large a portion of the city of Charleston, and with other buildings the Masonic Hall, the sword was, with great difficulty, saved by brother Samuel Seyle, the Grand Tiler, with the loss of the hilt, the scabbard, and a small part of the extremity of the blade. In the confusion consequent on the fire, the sword thus mutilated was mislaid, and for a long time it was supposed to be lost. In 1852, a committee was appointed by the Grand Lodge to make every exertion for its recovery, and, at length, in the beginning of the year 1854, it was accidentally found by the Grand Tiler, in an out-house on his premises, and was by him restored to the Grand Lodge in its mutilated condition. The lost piece of the blade was ingeniously replaced by a cutler in the city of Charleston, and being sent to New York, was returned with new hilt and velvet scabbard, and was used in its appropriate place during the centennial ceremonies of that year.

With such a history, and blended with such tradition of its origin, we need not feel surprised at the universal and keen feelings occasioned by its loss.

Appendix B

The Enter'd 'Prentices Song

By Matthew Birkhead

In *Anderson's Constitutions of 1723*, p. 84

Come let us prepare,
We brothers that are
Met together on merry occasion;
Let's drink, laugh and sing,
Our wine has a spring
'Tis a health to an accepted Mason.

The world is in pain
Our secret to gain,
But still let them wonder and gaze on;
Till they're shown the light
They'll ne'er know the right
Word or sign of an accepted Mason.

'Tis this, and 'tis that,
They cannot tell what
Why so many great men of the nation,
Should aprons put on,
To make themselves one,
With a free or an accepted Mason.

Great Kings, Dukes and Lords,
Have laid by their swords
This our mystery to put a good grace on
And ne'er been ashamed
To hear themselves named
With a free or an accepted Mason.

Antiquity's pride
We have on our side
It makes each man just, in his station
There's nought but what's good
To be understood,
By a free or an accepted Mason.

Then join hand in hand,
T'each other firm stand
Let's be merry, and put a bright face on;
What mortal can boast
So noble a toast
As a free or an accepted Mason?