

Broaddus Lodge History

Chapter 1

Section 1- Broaddus Lodge No. 1112 A. F. & A. M. is located at Broaddus in San Augustine County about twenty miles southwest of San Augustine, the county seat of San Augustine county.

Broaddus is a small village containing about three hundred inhabitants, but the village together with the surrounding farming communities, contains several hundred people. It is located on the Lufkin branch of the Cotton Belt R. R. and, is developing rapidly enough for a young place of its surroundings. Any one can easily tell from the school building, equipment, and curriculum that the people are interested in the intellectual development of their children. In like manner, the spirituality of the village is determined not only by the Sunday Schools and churches, but also by the living examples who, as they sojourn through life's toilsome way, exemplify the true, just, noble, and holy principles of the Messiah.

There may be many towns that equal Broaddus, but few there are that excel it in the highest standard of morality that exists among its citizens. The friendliness, hospitality, and brotherly love that are always present among the people would be enticing enough to cause any person to have a desire to live in such a village; for, as a rule, the members of the Fraternity live up to the teachings and principles of Masonry which, if inculcated in the lives of the members of the lodge would make any community a suitable ^{place} in which to live.

Section 2- Several of the Masons of the town had been talking about building a lodge- that is- trying to create an interest among the Masons, but it was some time before this interest was strong enough to result in a meeting for the purpose of discussing the possibilities of building a lodge. At the first meeting nothing was done more than a discussion of the need of a lodge, the benefits of a lodge, the necessary steps to be taken in order to build it; but at this meeting many, who thought it impossible to build a lodge at that time under existing conditions, were convinced that such an undertaking was possible and gave their support to help complete the preliminary steps of organization. The next meeting was held at the school house with J. M. Lakey, E. D. Woods, Dr. G. W. Woods, J. A. Henry, J. D. Langston, I. M. Tisdale, T. J. Wall, and M. C. Flourney present. This meeting was conducted strictly in a business manner and a loan of \$1000.00 was secured. \$500.00 were borrowed from W. W. Lakey, \$200.00 from J. A. Henry, \$200.00 from I. M. Tisdale, and \$100.00 from M. E. Woods. A note of \$500.00 was made to W. W. Lakey in two installments of \$250.00 each. The first installment was to be paid twelve months from date at 10% per annum, and the second installment to be paid twenty four months from date at 10% per annum.

A note of \$200.00 was made to J. A. Henry payable twelve months from date at 10% per annum, one half of which was without interest; but when the note was paid, because of his interest in the welfare of the new lodge, J. A. Henry would not accept any interest on his note. The notes were signed August 22, 1915, by J. B. Nolan, J. M. Dakey, I. M. Tisdale, E. D. Woods, Dr. G. W. Woods, J. D. Langston, J. A. Henry, Geo. M. Sowell, Dr. E. A. Shippey, M. C. Flournoy, H. F. Walker, J. W. Williams, T. J. Wall, H. J. Walton, and C. H. Lacroix. The lodge feels grateful to the Lufkin Land & Lumber Company for the liberal donation of the lot on which the lodge is erected.

After the needed finances were obtained, preparation for the erection of the building was made at once. The contract was let to J. D. Langston and M. E. Woods about the 15th day of September and the construction of the building began Oct. 4th, 1915. The building was completed about the 15th day of January 1916. During the time the lodge was under construction Bro. H. E. Holt from Shelby Lodge No. 732 of Shelbyville, Texas, was employed to teach the brethren the work so that when they were ready to begin the lodge work, it could be done in peace and harmony and also in a business manner. The work of Bro. Holt among the brethren was of inestimable value, for the knowledge of Masonry gained from him, caused the lodge to be a success from its beginning. The brethren began the work not in an ignorant, dead, experimental, and haphazard way, but in an intelligent, interesting, wide awake, beneficial and impressive manner, which has been characteristic of Broadus Lodge from its organization to the present time.

J. M. Lakey, E. D. Woods, Dr. G. W. Woods, J. E. Spinks, J. D. Langston, I. M. Tisdale, T. J. Wall, M. C. Flournoy, J. W. Williams, H. J. Walton, W. F. Parker, C. H. Lacroix, H. F. Walker, Geo. Tate, J. B. Nolan, G. M. Sowell, B. F. West, and Dr. E. A. Shippey were the signers of the petition for the charter.

J. M. Lakey was born ^{at} Benina in San Augustine County, Texas March 14, 1878. He was reared on a farm and continued the farming profession until he became a man. He then gave his services for a number of years, to his country in a line of work that has never been honored, appreciated, recognized, and compensated as have many other professions of much less importance- the profession of school teaching. After considering his salary, the many unpleasant conditions he had to meet, the difficulty of instilling into the mind of boys and girls, the principles of real manhood and womanhood, and seeing that his many efforts were so little appreciated by the public, he became dissatisfied and began merchandising and is at this time a merchant at Broadus.

He was made a master Mason at Brookland Lodge No. 935 in Dec. 1906, and became a Royal Arch Mason in Rising Star Chapter No. 9 San Augustine, Texas in July 1917.

E. D. Woods was born at Burkeville, Texas, Newton County, March 9th, 1876. He lived on a farm for a number of years and then attended Baylor University to fit himself with a good mental foundation before taking up the study of medicine. After studying medicine and becoming dissatisfied, he became a Pharmacist and is now the Druggist at Broadus.

He was made a Master Mason at New Star Lodge No. 629, Chireno, Texas July 6, 1911.

Dr. G. W. Woods was born at Homer, La., Claiborne Parish, Feb. 25, 1847. His father was a slave owner and the boy knew nothing much of farm life, but he sacrificed his life to the Confederacy for several years during the gloom and hardships of the civil war. After the war, he farmed for several years, then tried the life of a merchant- finally decided to become a doctor. The greatest part of his life has been spent as a practicing physician and Missionary Baptist Minister.

He was made a Master Mason in Newton Lodge No. 136, Burkeville, Texas in the summer of 1872.

J. E. Spinks was born in Butts County, Ga. May 26, 1841. His parents moved to Texas in 1848. He was reared on a farm and has continued the farming occupation most of his life. On the 12th of January 1862, he enlisted in the Confederate War and gave his life to this noble cause in defense of the Sunny South land during the entire period of the Civil War. He has been Justice of the Peace and has been a Notary Public for twenty four years. He taught school for a number of years in the early 70's.

He was made a Master Mason in Chireno Lodge No. 68 in the year 1871.

He is a man whom every one likes. He has served his country well and is now spending his old days in ease quietly awaiting the time of his departure. He has been an honorary member of Broadus Lodge since its organization.

J. D. Langston ^{was born} at Monticello, Lawrence County, Miss. Nov. 23rd, 1867 and came to Texas in 1887. He was reared on a farm and has farmed a great deal during his life time, but has followed many other professions also. In addition to farming he has been a fireman, carpenter, painter, paper hanger, engineer, oil mill man, and now owns and runs a cotton gin at Broadus.

He was made a Master Mason at Oliver Lodge No. 641 Frost, Texas, in October 1903 and became a Royal Arch Mason in Blooming Grove Chapter No. 235 Blooming Grove, Texas in the autumn of 1910.

I. M. Tisdale was born at Texarkana, Ark., Miller County, June 16th, 1876. He was born and reared on a farm, but when the farm like no longer appealed to him he came to Texas in 1901 and engaged in the saw mill business for a number of years. He then entered the merchandising business and is a Broadus merchant.

He was raised at Homer Lodge No. 254 at Huntington, Texas in July 1902. In Oct. 1918, he became a Royal Arch Mason at Rising Star Chapter No. 9, located at San Augustine, Texas.

T. J. Wall was born at Goodwater, Winn Parish, La. Jan. 23, 1849. He was reared on a farm and followed this occupation for a number of years and then merchandised for twelve years. After getting old he gave up the life of the merchant and has since retired to private life.

He was made a Master Mason at a Lodge in Winn Parish, La. in the year 1884 and has lived a true Mason and a devout christian.

M. C. Flournoy was born at Greenwood, Caddo Parish, La. Dec. 18, 1869. He was reared on a farm and continued this occupation for a number of years after he became a man. He then was the owner of a saw mill for three years, but gave up the lumber business and took up his farming occupation and is now farming near Broadus.

He was made a Master Mason in Redland Lodge No. 3 at San Augustine, Texas, in the summer of 1907. He served as a volunteer in the Spanish-American War in 1898. He was in Company B of the Texas voluntary infantry.

J. W. Williams was born at Colquitt, Ga., Miller Co. Jan. 10, 1855. He was reared on a farm and has continued the good work all of his life. Nothing has been enticing enough to cause him to forsake his calling, or make him an untrue member of the class that forms the back bone of the world.

He was made a Master Mason in Bronson Lodge No. 893 in Sabine Co. in the year 1904.

J. B. Nolen was born at Ranger, Eastland County, Texas Feb. 23, 1888. He was reared on a ranch and followed this occupation for fifteen years or more and came to east Texas and followed saw milling for several years. He quit saw milling and is now a stock man.

He was made a Master Mason in Redland Lodge No. 3 at San Augustine in March 1915.

Geo. M. Sowell was born at Etoile, Nacogdoches Co., Texas Aug. 19, 1884. He was reared on a farm and continued farming until 1905 when he began his railroad career as fireman. He received a promotion in 1906 and became an engineer which occupation he continued for five years. He then was for two years for two years a conductor on the Cotton Belt R. R., but is now running an engine.

He was made a Master Mason in New Star Lodge No. 629 Chiseno, Texas, Dec. 29, 1906 and took the Royal Arch degree in Oakdale Chapter No. 71 at Oakdale La. in August 1918.

Geo. Tate was born in Holmes Co., Miss. Dec. 6, 1829. His parents came to Texas in 1881 and moved to Indian Ter. in 1888. He was reared on a farm and ranch and did such work until 1903 when he began saw milling. He followed the timber business for a number of years, but is now running a tailor shop at Huntington, Texas.

He was made a Master Mason in New Star Lodge No. 629 Chiseno, Texas July 6, 1907.

Dr. E.A. Shippey was born at Magnolia, Columbia Co., Ark. May 31, 1868, and came to Texas in 1895. He was reared on a farm and followed farming and carpenter's trade for a number of years. He then studied medicine and became a practicing physician.

He was raised in New Star Lodge No. 629. Chireno, Texas, in the summer of 1912.

We failed to obtain the needed information to enable us to write the biographies of C. H. Lacroix, H. J. Walton, W. F. Parker, H. F. Walker and B. F. West.

Since finishing the history, we have ^{been} informed of the death of H. F. Walker. As he was not living near Broadus, we heard of his death too late to attend the funeral. The Lufkin Lodge performed the ceremonies, but we have no record of the same.

Section 3- The petition for the charter was carried directly to the Grand Secretary, W. B. Pearson, by J. D. Langston. As the Grand Lodge was then session, the petition was presented to the proper committee and J. D. Langston explained to them the reasons for asking for a charter and then awaited their decision. The charter was granted Dec. 8, 1915 and J. D. Langston returned to Broadus bringing credentials with him.

The Lodge was opened in a new building Monday evening, Feb. 7, 1916, by D. D. G. M. A. D. Hamilton of Hemphill, Tex.

Minutes of the first meeting

Broadus Lodge No. 1112 A. F. & A. M. stated meeting of Broadus Lodge No. 1112 held in the lodge room at Broadus, Texas, Monday evening, Feb. 7, A. D. 1916 AL. 5916.

Officers appointed by Bro. A. D. Hamilton:

A. D. Hamilton acting W. M. G. W. Woods, S. D.
Beaver A. Hamilton S. W. J. A. Henry, J. D.
Jno. W. Armstrong, J. W. Jno. Hilton, Tyler.

Members present: G. W. Woods, M. C. Flournoy, J. M. Lakey, T. J. Wall, E. D. Woods, Geo. Tate, J. D. Langston, I. M. Tisdale, H. J. Walton, J. W. Williams, Henry Walker, and C. H. Lacroix.

Visitors present:

Name	Lodge	No.	Place
D.D. A. D. Hamilton	Littleton Fowler	305	Hemphill, Tex.
Beaver Hamilton	" "	"	" "
Jno. Armstrong	Redland	3	San Augustine,
E. W. Cupit	"	"	"
W. H. Allen	"	"	"
Jno. Hilton	"	"	"
G. W. Bray	Lufkin	669	Lufkin, Tex.
Geo. L. Watts	"	"	" "
J. A. Henry	Emory (Demitted)	294	Emory, Texas.
O. C. Stringer	New Star	629	Chireno, "
E. E. Stringer	"	"	" "

The lodge opened in the Master's degree in due form. The meeting was called by D. D. G. M. A. D. Hamilton for the purpose of organizing Broadus Lodge No. 1112 and electing and installing officers for the rest of ensuing Masonic year. The following officers were elected and installed:

G. W. Woods, W. M. J. D. Langston, S. D.
M. C. Flournoy, S. W. I. M. Tisdale, J. D.

J. M. Lakey, J. W.
T. J. Wall, Treas.
E. D. Woods, Sec/

Geo. Tate, S. W.
H. J. Walton, J. S.
J. W. Williams, Tyler.

After the installation, addresses were made by D. D. G. M. A. D. Hamilton, Jno. Armstrong, G. W. Gray, G. W. Woods, and M. C. Flournoy.

Saturday evening on or before full moon in each month was agreed upon as time for meeting. The officers elect took their stations and the lodge closed in due form.

E. D. Woods, Sec.
G. W. Woods, W. M.

After the lodge closed, the families of the Master Masons present prepared and served refreshments. All visiting brethren were extended all the hospitality any one could have desired- and every one enjoyed himself immensely.

Minutes of Second Meeting.

Broadus Lodge No. 1112 A. F. & A. M. stated meeting of Broadus Lodge No. 1112, held in the lodge room at Broadus, Texas, Saturday evening Feb. 12, A. D. 1916 A.L. 5916.

Officers Present.

C. W. Woods, W. M.	J. D. Langston, S. D.
M. C. Flournoy, S. W.	I. M. Tisdale, J. M.
J. M. Lakey, J. W.	Geo. Tate, S. S.
T. J. Wall, Treas.	H. J. Walton, J. S.
E. D. Woods, Sec.	J. W. Williams, Tyler.

Members Present

C. W. Woods, M. C. Flournoy, J. M. Lakey, T. J. Wall, E. D. Woods, Geo. Tate, I. M. Tisdale, C. H. Lacroix, H. J. Walton, H. Walker, J. D. Langston, and J. W. Williams.

Visitors Present

T. E. Stringer, New Star Lodge No. 320, Chireno, Texas.
O. C. Stringer " " " " "
J. A. Henry, (Demitted) Emory Lodge 294 Emory, "
Ed Jennings
Geo. Watts

The lodge opened in the master's degree in due form. Minutes of Feb. 7th, were read and approved.

The following petitions for the first degree in Masonry were read and the following committees were appointed:

M. E. Woods- Committee, I. M. Tisdale, J. M. Lakey, and T. J. Wall. A. M. Boren- Committee, C. H. Lacroix, Geo. Tate, and H. Walker. J. W. Bryan- Committee, I. M. Tisdale, Geo. Tate, and C. H. Lacroix. J. J. Runnels- Committee, T. J. Wall, J. M. Lakey, and E. D. Woods.

Petitions for Affiliation.

O. C. Stringer- Committee, M. C. Flournoy, I. M. Tisdale, T. J. Wall. J. A. Henry- M. C. Flournoy, I. M. Tisdale, and J. D. Langston. Prentice Riggsby- Committee, H. Walker, C. H. Lacroix, and Geo. Tate.

On motion the Worshipful Master appointed the following committee to secure lights for the hall: M. C. Flournoy, J.D. Langston and C. H. Lacroix.

There being no further business the lodge closed in due form.

E. D. Woods, Sec.

G. W. Woods, W. M.

Chapter 2

Sec. 1- The Worshipful Masters of Broadus Lodge No. 1112 A.F. & A.M. are as follows: G. W. Woods, from Feb. 7, 1916 to June 24, 1916. M. C. Flournoy from June 25, 1916 to June 24, 1917. J. M. Lakey from June 25, 1917 to the present time.

Sec. 2- Those who have been made Master Masons in Broadus No. 1112 A. F. & A. M. are : The first man to wear the regalia in Broadus Lodge was M. E. Woods on the evening of May 16, 1916. He was quiet and calm as an old work horse until he was getting near his journey's end and all at once he became frightened- so badly frightened- that for a few minutes it seemed doubtful whether the building was substantial to keep him within its confines. The building was thoroughly tried and there was no doubt as its resisting a severe cyclone. Had his wife seen him at that time, she would in no wise have owned him, but declared that he was some escaped inmate of an insane asylum. Nevertheless he lived over it all and has been a true Mason. He now is a Royal Arch Mason.

A. M. Boren was raised May 16, 1916; D. A. Hall, Aug. 16, 1916; Lewis Conner, Aug. 16, 1916; J. L. Yarbrough, Oct. 7, 1916; E. M. Moye, April 7, 1917; E. E. Woods, April 7, 1917; Sam Hunt, May 14, 1917; E. W. Swearigen, Nov. 24, 1917; Orange Lowrey, Feb. 28, 1918; Eddie Beason, March 23, 1918; L.L. Fox, May 25, 1918; D. A. Patterson, Dec. 14, 1918; J.J. Wells, Feb. 8, 1918; Robt. Mays, Feb. 8, 1919; Hugh Fox, Mar 15 1919; H. W. Self, March 15, 1919; G. H. Dixon, Mar. 15, 1919. J. A. Wall, March 15, 1919; Harry Wood, July 16, 1919.

The following is a list of the members who have affiliated O. C. Stringer: Affiliated on March 18, 1916 and demitted Sept. 9, 1916. He again affiliated March 15, 1919. Prentice affiliated March 18, 1916; J. L. Waggoner April 15, 1916; J. A. Henry June 10, 1916.

Sec. 3- The Lodge, in a way, has been very fortunate, inasmuch as it has been opened but one time for the purpose of holding the obsequies of a deceased member. On the morning of Nov. 8, 1917 the Lodge was in mourning while a few officers and members went to perform the last act of kindness and to show the last tribute of respect to J. C. Waggoner, a member of Broadus Lodge. The Lodge having had so short a notice, only a few of the members were able to attend the funeral.

The officers performing the burial service were; J. M. Lakey, W. M., M. C. Flournoy S. W. pro tem, Dr. E. A. Shippey J.W. proten, T. J. Wall Treas., E. D. Woods Sec., J. A. Henry S.D. M. E. Woods J. D., D. A. Hall S.S., Members present were; O. C. Stringer, Geo. Tate and a number of members from other lodges. No record was kept of the members present or of the Pall bearers at the funeral.

Chapter 3

Sec. 1- When the lodge was organized, D.D.G.M. A. D. Hamilton opened the lodge Feb. 7, 1916 and assisted and instructed the brethren in the duties of offices. D.D.G.M. A. D. Hamilton came from Littleton Fowler Lodge No. 305 of Hemphill, Tex. for the purpose of organizing Broadus Lodge No. 1112 A.F. and A.M. His labors and lectures will long be remembered by the members who were fortunate enough to have been associated with him.

The Lodge was honored by a visit from D.D.G.M. J. B. Morgan from Bronson Lodge No. 893 of Bronson, Texas, in Sept. 1917. He lectured to the brethren on the work and gave them renewed courage and determination.

Chapter 4

Sec. 1- Broadus Chapter Order of the Eastern Star was organized at Broadus May 23, 1918. The petition for dispensation was signed by Mrs. Minnie Henry, Mrs. Fannie Woods, Mrs. Dora Tisdale, Mrs. Nancy Lakey, Mrs. Ethel Stringer, Mrs. Ida Woods, Mrs. Elizabeth Langston, Mrs. Ida G. Woods, Mrs. Eddie Mae Swearingen, Mrs. Edna Hackney, Mrs. Leora Wall, Mrs. Madge Nolen, Mrs. Lera Harvey, Miss Dorothy Lakey, Messrs. J. M. Lakey, I. M. Tisdale, J. A. Henry, M. E. Woods, M. C. Flournoy, and E. W. Swearingen.

The above named signers of the petition met and elected Mrs. Minnie Henry Worthy Matron and E. W. Swearingen Worthy Patron and sent the petition to Mrs. Flora Penix, Grand Worthy Matron, in March 1918. The dispensation was granted April 25, 1918, and Mrs. Elsie Engledow D.D.G.M. of Nacogdoches came to Broadus in May to organize the Chapter and instruct the officers in the work.

When the Chapter opened under dispensation, the Worthy Matron appointed the following officers: Mrs. Elizabeth Langston A.M., Mrs. Fannie Woods Sec., Mrs. Nancy Lakey Treas., Mrs. Dora Tisdale Comd., Mrs. Ida G. Woods A.C., Mrs. Eddie Mae Swearingen, Ada, Mrs. Ethel Stringer, Ruth; Mrs. Leora Wall, Estha; Mrs. Madge Nolen, Martha; Mrs. Lera Harvey, Electa; Mrs. Ida Woods, Marshal; Mrs. Mary Woods, Warder; J. A. Henry Sent.; M. E. Woods, Chap.; and Mrs. Edna Hackney organist.

While the chapter worked under dispensation it was known as Broadus Chapter U.D. O.E. S., but when the charter was granted Oct. 9, 1918 by Mrs. Cora M. Cohen, W.G.M., it became Broadus Chapter No. 196 O.E.S.

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The following members have^{been} initiated: Mesdames Kate Williams, Mary Woods, Susie Lakey, Ella Fox, Stella Nations, Mabel Henry, and Ollie Reeder.

The Masonic spirit seems to be fleeting over the community in the form of a bewitching apparition which has been successful in arousing a strong curiosity and an intense interest among those who live unacquainted with the Masonic light, for many have become desirous of the secrets and the teachings of the ancient order and have so manifested this desire by sending their petitions.

The Lodge is wide awake and is continuing in its good labors. Peace, harmony, and good will have always existed among the brethren. From the spirit that has prompted the members in the work that has been transacted in this lodge since its organization, it seems that one would be justifiable in asserting that an appropriate motto for Broadus Lodge No. 1112 A.F. & A.M. would be: "Striving to execute the plans of the Supreme Architect."

Approved by Broadus Lodge No. 1112 A.F. & A.M.,
July 16, 1919

J. M. Lakey Worshipful Master.
E. Woods Secretary.
E. H. Swearingen Lodge Historian.