

Masonic Happenings in The Magnolia State



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THOMAS EDWARD ELLIS, HONORARY PAST GRANDMASTER 1909-2009



Brother Thomas Ellis was born July 28, 1909 to James Thomas and Althena Sansing Ellis in Verona, MS. He graduated from Mississippi State in 1932 and taught Vocational Agriculture for 32 years in Fulton, Dixie Highway and Caledonia, MS. He was State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture for 12 years. Over the years he acquired various honors and awards, including National Outstanding Service award in 1960; honorary life member of Agriculture Education, 1975- 1976; honorary American Farmer Degree in 1976; and Gold Star member of the Mississippi FFA Foundation. After retirement he served as a consultant to the Vocational Education Division of the State Department Education. Brother Tom was a long time resident of Caledonia and Jackson, MS. In the past few years he was a resident of Fulton, MS.

Brother Ellis was a 70 year member of the Masonic Lodge, holding membership in Museum-Watt Carter Lodge No. 636 in Jackson, MS. He was an Honorary Past Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F&AM.

He was a former member and Deacon of New Salem Baptist Church in Caledonia and Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson, and New Home Baptist Church in Fulton in his later years.

Survivor includes three daughters, Hope E. Kinch of Huntsville, AL, Sidney E. Lowrey (Jim) of Fullerton, CA and Nancy Poore (Robert) of Fulton, MS; a daughter-in-law, Willow Grace of Cummings, GA; 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Neola Benson Ellis of 72 years; nine brothers and sisters, his parents; a stepson, Billy Benson Grace; and a grandson, Steven Ellis Rogers.

Brother Ellis died March 1, 2009 at Darlington Oaks in Fulton, MS. Funeral services were held Saturday March 7, 2009 at New Home Baptist Church with a Grand Lodge Masonic Graveside Service in New Home Cemetery.



The Northeast Mississippi York Rite Association held the Chapter degrees in New Albany, January 24, 2009. All the Chapter degrees were conferred on the above date. The degree work began at 8:00A.M. In the Mark Master degree. The other degrees followed with work in the Royal Arch degree. Work in the Royal Arch degree was suspended midway when we broke for lunch. After lunch, work was resumed and concluded around 2:30 P.M. Pictured above are the Companions who were present during the conferring of these degrees.



The Northeast Mississippi York Rite Association held their winter York Rite Festival in New Albany January 31, 2009. The degree work began at 8:00 A.M. with the conferring of the Royal Master degree followed with the Select Master's degree and Commandery Orders. Work was suspended after the conferring of the Jewish Council when we broke for lunch. After lunch, work resumed with the conferring of the Illustrious Council of the Red Cross, Order of Malta and the Order of the Temple. There was a large number of Companions and Sir Knights present for the Chapter degrees January 24th and 31st as shown in the pictures above.

IMPORTANT DATES

- June 12-13 - Southeastern York Rite Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.
- June 13 - Congressional School at Grenada Lodge #31 at 8:30 A.M.
- June 20 - Allied Masonic Degrees and Knight Masons, Water Valley at 3:00 P.M.
- June 27 - Congressional School at E.J. Knox King Solomon Lodge #130, Russell at 8:30 A.M.