



THE FIRST OFFICERS OF

Clemson Lodge No. 254

Ancient Free Masons

Chartered December 9, 1903 • Calhoun, South Carolina

Source: 1988 Oral History Interview of PM Julius C. Hubbard Jr. (WM 1957)

Reading from the original Lodge minute books

Mss-0279, Cassette 9 • Clemson University Special Collections

THE NINE PETITIONERS

October 19, 1903 — From the first entry in the Lodge minute book

J.H. Hook

Military aspects of Clemson;

A.M. Redfern

Clemson's first surgeon;

A. Schilleter

College mess hall steward since 1893;

S. Maner Martin

Mathematics instructor;
future Grand Master of SC

N. Benton

Local community member

O.R. Doyle

Owned the building where
the Lodge first met

B.H. Broyles

Local community member

J.H. McHugh

Long-time Clemson employee;
"Uncle Bud"

H. Benton

Local community member;

CHARTERED

December 9, 1903

Clemson Lodge No. 254, Ancient Free Masons

FIRST OFFICERS ELECTED

Worshipful Master	W.W. Klugh	Professor of Mechanical Drawing • Clemson Class of 1896
Senior Warden	O.R. Doyle	Owned the building where the Lodge first met Provided walnut lumber for the Lodge's first furniture
Junior Warden	A.M. Redfern	Clemson's first and only college surgeon since 1893 Physician to every cadet and every family on campus
Treasurer	A. Schilleter	Clemson College mess hall steward since the 1890s
Secretary	H. Benton	Local community member from the Calhoun area

THE FIRST LODGE ROOM

The Upper Floor of Doyle Hall

The brothers first gathered in the upper floor of the Boggs store — known to the Presbyterians as "Doyle Hall" — owned by Senior Warden O.R. Doyle. It was above one of the few commercial establishments in the small town of Calhoun.

At one of the earliest meetings, the minutes record thanks to O.R. Doyle for providing walnut lumber and to J.H. Hook for building the Lodge's first furniture from it by hand. That original walnut furniture has since been lost — by 1988, PM Hubbard noted the furniture appeared to be much younger and made of pine.

WHERE THE LODGE MET

1903–c.1914

Doyle Hall
(Boggs Store)

c.1914

Dr. L.C. Martin's
Drugstore

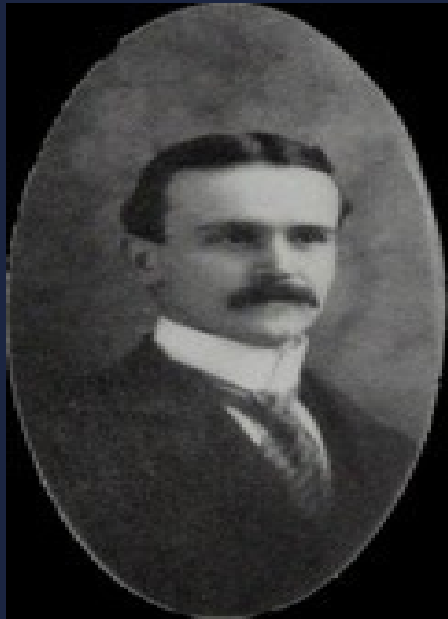
1916–1927

YMCA Building
(Holtzendorff Hall)

1928–Present

372 College Ave
(Dedicated Oct 13, 1928)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER



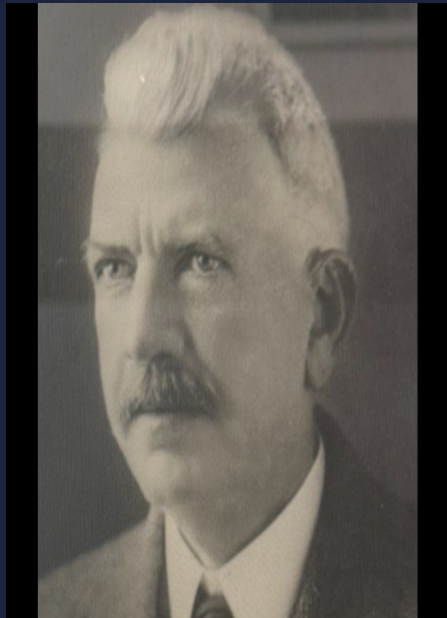
Clemsonian, 1901
Age, 26-29

Williston Wightman Klugh

Charter Worshipful Master, 1903 • Clemson Class of 1896

- Clemson Class of 1896 — among the college's very first graduates
- Joined the faculty in 1894 (actually started before he graduated)
- Professor of Mechanical Drawing
- Served on the Clemson faculty for 57 years (1894-1951)
- One of the longest-serving faculty members in Clemson's entire history
- Elected first Worshipful Master of Clemson Lodge No. 254 at its founding in 1903
- Klugh Avenue on campus is named for the family.

SENIOR WARDEN



O.R. Doyle

Senior Warden, 1903 • Worshipful Master 1907, 1908, 1916

- Owned the Boggs store in Calhoun, also known as "Doyle Hall" by the local Presbyterians
- The Lodge's first meeting place — brothers gathered on the upper floor of his building
- One of the nine original petitioners who signed the October 1903 appeal to the Grand Lodge
- Provided the walnut lumber that J.H. Hook used to hand-build the Lodge's first furniture
- Member of the Old Stone Church and Cemetery Association (1893–1904), the historic Presbyterian landmark between Clemson and Pendleton dating to 1802

JUNIOR WARDEN



Clemsonian, 1901
Age approx. 41

Dr. Alexander May Redfern

Junior Warden, 1903 • Worshipful Master, 1904

- Appointed Clemson Agricultural College's first surgeon in April 1893 — essentially from the day the college opened
- Served as the college's only surgeon for 27 years (1893–1920)
- Treated every cadet and every family on campus — he was the physician the entire community depended on
- Became the Lodge's second Worshipful Master in 1904, just weeks after the Masonic cornerstone ceremony at Sikes Hall
- Has a commemorative plaque in Tillman Auditorium honoring his service
- Redfern Health Center (built 1969) was named in his honor — currently being replaced by a new 90,000 sq ft facility through a Clemson-MUSC partnership

TREASURER



Oconeean, 1903

August "Shorty" Schilletter

Treasurer, 1903 • College Steward

- Clemson College mess hall steward from the day the college opened in 1893.
- Managed meals for hundreds of military cadets — one of the biggest operations on campus
- Elected first Treasurer of Clemson Lodge No. 254 — the brothers trusted him with the Lodge's money
- Assisted in the organization of the first football team in 1896. (Obituary - The Tiger)
- Schilletter died of a heart attack at the Clemson-Furman game on November 28, 1929 — sitting on the bench with the players, just before a Clemson touchdown.

SECRETARY

*No known
portrait*

Community member

H. Benton

Secretary, 1903 • Calhoun, South Carolina

- One of the nine original petitioners who signed the October 1903 charter appeal to the Grand Lodge
- Community member from the Calhoun area — not a college employee
- N. Benton was also among the nine petitioners — likely his brother

SOURCES & FURTHER RESEARCH

Primary Source

Interview: Hubbard, Julius C., Jr.

Town of Calhoun, South Carolina Oral History Collection, Mss-0279,

Recorded August 31, 1988 • Clemson University Libraries Special Collections

<https://documentinghistory.clemson.edu/s/town-of-calhoun/item/795>

Portrait Photographs

Klugh & Redfern: The Clemsonian (1901). Schilletter: The Oconeean (1903). Clemson University Libraries, Series 509.

SOURCES & FURTHER RESEARCH

Additional Sources

Jerome Reel, The High Seminary, Vol. 1: A History of the Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina, 1889–1964 (Clemson University Press, 2011), pp. 200–201

R.N. Brackett, The Old Stone Church, Oconee County, South Carolina (1905)

Archival Collections

R.W. Simpson Papers, Mss-0096

W.W. Klugh Papers, Mss-0064

S. Maner Martin Papers, Mss-247

J.C. Littlejohn Collection, Mss-0068

Holmes Collection, Mss-0001

Clemson University Special Collections

Online Sources

ClemsonWiki — clemsonwiki.com

Upcountry Historical — upcountryhistorical.org

Clemson University History & Bios

Anderson County Museum — R.W. Simpson

Pendleton Historic District Markers (HMDB)

Find a Grave memorial records

Clemson City History — clemsoncity.org