

The following article was taken from the Chingford Area Masonic Social Group Newsletter located in Essex, England. Brother Sean McKlusky, of Robert M. Sirkle

Lodge # 954 submitted the article to Alec Hall a British Mason and a friend of his. Here's the article: " In January of this year, 2009, a delegation from Robert M. Sirkle Lodge #954 attended the Lamp-Light Meeting at O. D. Henderson Lodge # 437. This is an installation of officers that takes place in a lodge lit only by lamplight. O. D. Henderson Lodge isn't much more than a shack nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, smack dab in the midst of Daniel Boone country, in a small place known as Red Lick, Kentucky. This lodge has no kitchen or indoor plumbing (I had to ask which tree was the men's room). There is no fanfare or glitz to be found here, just a simple wooden structure with plain walls and blue accents, heated by a fuel oil fire. The lodge jewels are hand-carved wood attached to a length of hemp rope, the altar is barely larger than a footstool and the great lights sit upon a simple candle holder with three tapers arranged in a triangular form. I ask Dennis, WM of Sirkle Lodge, what he planned to wear that night and he said he'd dress in suit and tie like Troy, a member of our lodge who was asked to assist with the installation. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky and three District Deputy Grand Masters, a Past Grand Master the Grand Tyler and other dignitaries were to be in attendance. The temperature was going to be near zero outside. I thought long and hard before deciding that I would "go native" which in this case meant boots n ' bibs (translated to work boots and bib and brace overalls). It was a good decision. You would think that there would be some contrast between the gold Jewels, black suit, white gloves and ornate apron of the Grand Master and the simple aprons and hand carved wooden Jewels of O. D. Henderson Lodge, but there

was none. The Master of the Lodge was installed for a second term, his father and PM was installed as Chaplain, the Tyler was a newly raised Master Mason, the Secretary and Treasurer were old hands and the Senior Steward was 95 years old. In all, O. D. Henderson Lodge had 15 men in attendance. But crammed into that tiny shack, with standing room only (the Deacons sat on the steps of the stations, visiting dignitaries sat on folding chairs in the center isle with their knees nearly touching the man sitting opposite them) in the yellow orange light of oil lamps and the burning tapers were a total of ninety-five men who traveled many a mile to honor the lodge and its traditions and enjoy this unique opportunity for fellowship. If there would have been a theme for that night it would be "Masonic Character". And after all the formal introductions were over, the installation

complete and the Grand Master's moving speech; our Right Worshipful Grand Master became simply Brother Forester and we all took turns circulating in and out of the stifling heat of the lodge and frigid cold of the mountains and ate off paper plates and tried not to get our aprons dirty and experienced the brotherhood of Freemasonry in its most humble, unpretentious, form. A good time was had by all".

Brothers....I hope you were as moved by this account of our LampLight Meeting as I. This annual event has become quite popular. I encourage all members of O. D. Henderson Lodge to try to make the next LampLight Meeting, you will not be disappointed. We also invite all Master Masons - 4th Saturday - January , 2010.