

## History of the Little Red Schoolhouse

Eureka Masonic College, at Richland, Mississippi, lovingly called "The Little Red Schoolhouse" by Eastern Star members all over the world, is preserved by the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, O.E.S., in honor of the Architect and Master Builder of the Order, Dr. Robert Morris, who conceived the idea of the Order while serving as Principal of the school.

Official records show that the cornerstone of the building was laid early in October of 1847. It was described as "a handsome brick edifice, 60 by 30 feet, and two stories high". The original name was Richland Literary Institute but on February 7, 1848, the college was chartered under the name of Eureka Masonic College with the power to confer literary and honorary degrees. Robert Morris was secured as the Principal of this new Masonic college. The building was used during the Civil War to house Company C, 15th Mississippi Infantry, one of the first companies organized in the state. The regiment was noted for its heroic service throughout the war, serving in the battles of Fishing Creek, Shiloh, Franklin, and the Atlantic Campaign.

After the last session of school held in the building, in 1958-59, the Holmes County Board of Supervisors leased the property to the Grand Chapter of Mississippi for a twenty-five year period. In 1968, the Grand Chapter of Mississippi obtained legal title, by special act of the Mississippi Legislature, to the property in exchange for an equal, adjacent tract of land. In November, 1970, Eureka Masonic College was accepted for listing in the National Register of Historic Sites.

Early in 1975 the first superintendent moved into a brick home, built across Highway 17 from the Schoolhouse, obtained under the same legislative act which allowed the original purchase in 1968. The 1979 report of the Board of Trustees states that a 21-year restoration of the school building begun in 1958 had been completed on December 10, 1979. Since securing possession of the Schoolhouse, the members of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi have spent vast amounts of money, time, and effort in a long-range program of restoration. A fence encloses the property, and rest rooms of red brick have been built.

A pavilion, erected in 1962, and reconstructed in 2014 shelters crowds assembling there in August of each year for a Festal Day picnic. This picnic attracts hundreds of Eastern Star families from Mississippi as well as neighboring states. Each year during the Grand Chapter session, a tour to the Schoolhouse is conducted by the Board of Trustees, providing an opportunity for out-of-state guests to share the pride which Mississippi members feel in the preservation of this shrine. The Festal Day Picnic is always held on the last Saturday in August beginning at 9:00 a.m.

# Little Red Schoolhouse Picnic

Saturday, August 26, 2017 @9:00AM

6796 Highway 17, Pickens, MS 39146

Tickets are \$15.00

Bring your chairs and enjoy a day of Fun and Fellowship  
as we honor Dr. Rob Morris, our Eastern Star Founder

Forms available on web site: [msgrandchapter.com](http://msgrandchapter.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets @\$15.00 = Total \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to: Grand Chapter of MS

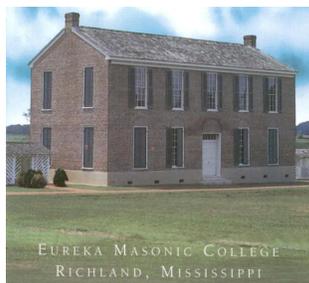
Jo Ann Herrin, Ticket Chairman

141 Rollingwood Drive

Vicksburg, MS 39183

601-994-4906 e-mail: [jherr108@att.net](mailto:jherr108@att.net)

Include Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope for Return Tickets





## *"Magnolia Banquet"*

*Honoring our Mississippi General Grand Chapter Committee Members*

*Friday, August 25, 2017*

*Wanda's Catering*

*550 Highway 12 E*

*Kosciusko, MS 39090*

*Formal Attire*

*Meet & Greet at 5:00PM*

*Dinner at 6:00PM*

*\$25.00 per person*

*Make Checks payable to GRAND CHAPTER OF MISSISSIPPI Check out our  
web site for forms: [msgrandchapter.com](http://msgrandchapter.com)*

*Name: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Title: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Address: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_*

*Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets @\$25.00 = Total \_\_\_\_\_*



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