



NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

Official Publication of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina

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Oxford, North Carolina

March/April 2017

MEETING ON THE LEVEL



Above, MWGM Gene Cobb hands out Lion & Pillar pins to the brothers gathered at Mount Lebanon #117. At right, Each speaker at the meeting gets three minutes, timed to the last grain with a tiny hourglass in the custody of Grand Lecturer Hugh McLaurin. Talk too long and the Grand Master looms large with his gavel.

Taking Grand Lodge to our members

By Beth Grace

From Lumberton to Lenoir, from Deep Gap to Dunn, Masons have been gathering since January at district meetings – often in record numbers – to meet and hear from their Grand Master, and to catch up with their brothers from miles around.

Every Grand Master makes the rounds of lodges statewide for these meetings, of course, but even for those who attend regularly, this year offers something a little different.

Take, for instance, the egg timer.

Mindful of busy schedules for the brothers, Most Worshipful Grand Master Gene Cobb is keeping things moving by assigning someone to ensure that each speaker gets only as much time as there is sand in the timer – about three minutes' worth.

Speak longer than your time, and the “timer” gives the Grand Master a meaningful look, which prompts

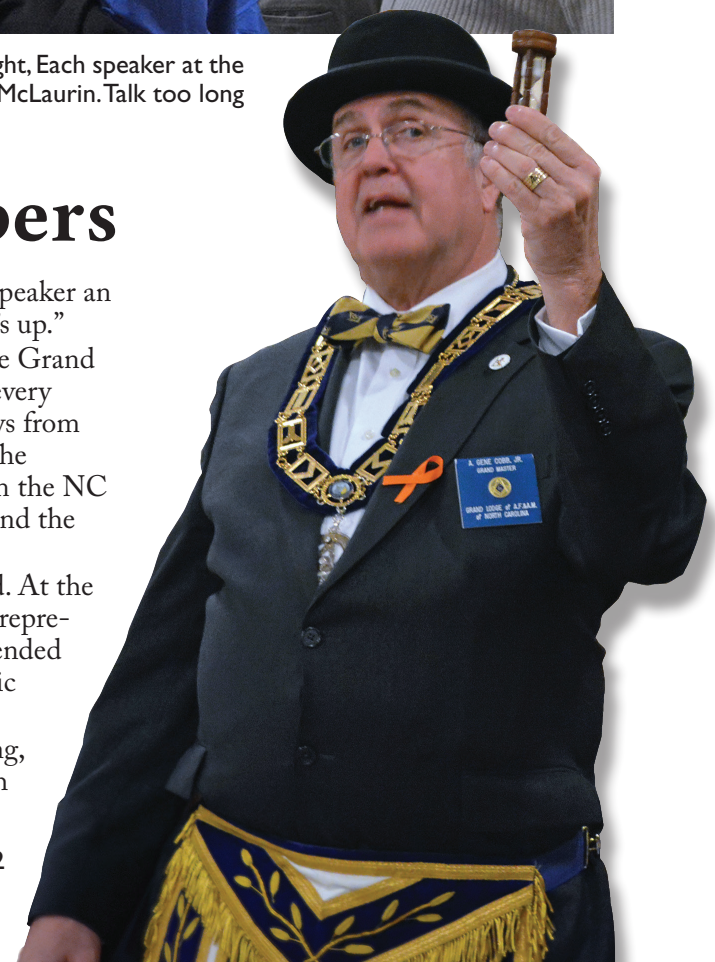
the Grand Master to stand up and give the speaker an even more meaningful look that says, “Time’s up.”

Time is of the essence this year because the Grand Master has invited a number of speakers to every meeting since January to share the latest news from Masonic Education, from WhiteStone and the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, from the NC Masonic Foundation, from the NC Mason and the Board of Publications.

Sometimes, guests from other states attend. At the meeting in Mount Airy, John Cozzie, grand representative of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, attended and presented a snow globe of major Masonic buildings in the Chicagoland area.

All guests are made welcome at the meeting, and at the meals each lodge hosts (often with the help of the Order of the Eastern Star)

■ see MEETINGS page 2





Brother David Quick of Columbus #102 poses a grievous threat to the Grand Master's ice cream, while Grand Secretary Walt Clapp stands as witness at Buffalo #172.



Sisters from the Order of the Eastern Star get special thanks for cooking up a grand meal for the district meeting at Mingo #206.

Photos by
Melody McBride



John Cozzie, right, Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, visiting the District 25 meeting in Mount Airy, presents Grand Master Gene Cobb with a snow globe filled with tiny replicas of famous Masonic buildings in the Chicagoland area.



District 11 DDGM Earl Wells, left, and District 11 DDGL Timmy Hairr catch up on the latest after the meeting at Mingo Lodge.

MEETINGS, from page 1

before each meeting.

The meetings are informative and fun, but make no mistake. There's real business being done.

The Grand Master has outlined the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence program in detail at every session and invited all lodges to participate. He has added a bit of fundraising to the mix, taking up a collection at each meeting to collect funds for our three charities. "I'm a Methodist minister," he says with a smile. "I am going to take up a collection." As of presstime at the end of March, about \$3,000 had been collected.

He reminded brothers that more than 31,000 people were fed from the canned food drive at the last Annual Communication.

"What if 370 lodges were to take a weekend and do something like that? Can you imagine the roar?"

He speaks of family, brotherhood and charity in his message of unity and friendship, and urges lodges to spread the word of the good works Masons do by sharing that news with *The Mason* and their communities.

"Why do we light our light and then hide it? We do not want people to *not* know who we are," he said. "We need to protect our degree work, of course, but we need the world to know who we are and what we do. Let's make the family of Masonry in North Carolina better than it has ever been."

If you haven't been to a district meeting, or if you haven't been to one in years, now's the time. Check the list of meetings at right. ♠

Attend one of these upcoming District meetings with the GM:

Date	District	Lodge Names and No.	Location
Apr 19	7	Zion 81	108 E. Lakeview Dr, Trenton
Apr 20	15	Vandora 745	1120 Benson Rd, Garner
Apr 24	19	Person 113	219 Leasburg Rd, Roxboro
Apr 25	8	Royal White Hart 2	Hen & Hog, 16 S. King St. Halifax
May 1	1	Eureka 317	218 S. Hughes Blvd, Elizabeth City
May 2	2	Manteo 521	101 Hwy 64/264, Manteo
May 3	3	Washington 675	1115 West 5th St., Washington
May 16	24	Blackmer 127	109 S. School St., Mt. Gilead
May 17	31	Long Creek 205	8500 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Rd, Huntersville



Details of the Lion & Pillar program, and updates on our charities and publications make for a full agenda as MWGM Gene Cobb addresses the crowd at the Buffalo #172 district meeting.

N.C. York Rite bodies install their Grand Officers

Family and friends gathered to witness the installation of Grand Officers of the Grand York Rite Masonic Bodies of North Carolina on March 21. Most Worshipful Grand Master A. Gene Cobb was on hand to speak and install the officers before calling the new leaders to meet before they dispersed.

Grand officers installed for 2017-2018 are:

GRAND CHAPTER

Grand High Priest.....ME C. Ray Hall
 Grand King RE Derek Cheek
 Grand Scribe.....RE W. Thomas Bridges Jr.
 Grand TreasurerRE John W. Davis III

GRAND COUNCIL

Grand Master..... MI Lon A. Peden
 Deputy Grand Master
RI Billy E. Canupp Jr.
 Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
 RI Kevin P. Wood
 Grand Treasurer MI John W. Davis III

GRAND COMMANDERY

Grand CommanderRE Stancil W. Wilson
 Deputy Grand Commander
 VE David C. Ladd
 Grand Generalissimo
 E Michael T. Daniels
 Grand Captain General
 E George R. Katchue
 Grand Treasurer E John W. Davis III



Michael Harding photos

WILKERSON COLLEGE LODGE #760
presents
MASONIC SYMPOSIUM
 GREENSBORO MASONIC TEMPLE
 426 W. MARKET STREET
 JUNE 10, 2017

SPEAKERS STARTING AT 9:00 AM RITUAL COMPETITION AT 9:00 AM

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Oscar Alleyne
 Masonic lectures, papers and presentations include:
 "The 3 Stages of Mastery"
 "The 4 Questions"
 "An Esoteric Review of Psalm 133"
 "The Frontispiece of the 1611 KJV"



Ryan Flynn
 WB Ryan Flynn is a Masonic artist and researcher. He will discuss his quest for the earliest Masonic painting. His presentation will discuss in detail the history of painting, the symbolism it holds, and lead us all in a discussion of the very essence of what it means to be a Freemason.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE LODGE SECRETARY
DOUG CALHOUN – WILKERSONCOLLEGE760@GMAIL.COM
 REGISTRATION – [HTTPS://WCLSYMPOSIUM2017.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://wclsymposium2017.eventbrite.com)

Ritual Competition

June 10,
2017

Greensboro Masonic Temple

426 W. Market St., Greensboro, 27401

Two categories

Closed competition—lodges only are eligible to compete in this category. The degree team must be composed of the installed officers of the lodge—Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Senior and Junior Deacons (stand-ins for any other positions will be supplied at the competition). Up to two alternates may be substituted for these officers (the alternates may not be certified lecturers). The lodge teams will all exemplify the first section of the Third Degree (including obligation, not including lecture or charge). A trophy will be awarded to the winning lodge team. In addition, the winning lodge name and number will be attached to a trophy which will be displayed at the Grand Lodge office building in Raleigh.

Open competition—any degree team may compete. Teams should prepare for First Degree, Second Degree, or first section of the Third Degree (including obligation, not including lecture or charge). All teams will exemplify the same degree, announced the day of the competition. A plaque will be awarded to the winning team.

Due to time restrictions, competition will be restricted to 16 teams on first to apply basis. Application must include \$25 donation to NC Masonic Foundation.

Ritual competition sponsored by Wilkerson College Lodge 760

Name and Number of Lodge or Degree Team _____

Contact person _____

Contact person telephone _____ email _____

Closed competition—restricted to the elected and appointed officers of the lodge (Master, Junior and Senior Wardens, Junior and Senior Deacons). Award—trophy.

Open competition—no restriction as to degree personnel (district team, team of certified lecturers, Highway Patrol team, etc). Award—plaque.

Enclose \$25 donation to NC Masonic Foundation. Mail to: Bro. Doug Calhoun, WCL 760, 11740 Gibson Road, Laurinburg, NC 28352

NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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THE MISSION OF FREEMASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA IS TO RAISE THE MORAL, SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY, BY TEACHING THE ANCIENT AND ENDURING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

How to become the world's best Masonic communicator

It's easy to communicate, don't you think? You talk, I listen. You write, I read. Seems pretty straightforward.

But then comes the day you find yourself in charge of lodge public relations. Suddenly, communicating seems about as easy to pull off as brain surgery.

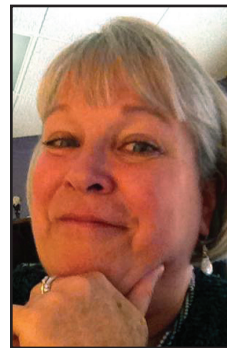
I'm here to tell you: it ain't brain surgery. Or even rocket science! Full disclosure: It's not always easy. And it does take some time, but not a lot – just time well spent.

As your friendly local *NC Mason* editor and someone who has communicated in print, online and via social media for the last few centuries (well, it feels like centuries!), maybe I can help. Looking at the PR requirements for our Grand Master's Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence application, let me offer a tip or two.

1. If you're the new PR guy, take a minute to enjoy it. This work is fun. Your goal is to recognize news that will interest your lodge, your community and your fellow Masons. Handy tip number 1 – if it interests you and makes you want to know more, it will interest others.

2. If you're a terrible photographer, never fear. Recruit a brother who has a way with a smartphone or even better, has a real camera that can take higher-

resolution pictures. Blurry pictures should be retaken; they look terrible when printed on paper and we can't do a thing with them. Generally, send one photo with your stories to the *Mason* or to post on Facebook, unless you have a ton of really good ones. In that case, post as many as you like on Facebook.



By Beth Grace
Editor

3. Where will the most eyes on your Facebook stories? Post them on The North Carolina *Mason* page (not the *NC Mason* page – spell the name out and look for the photo of the grand officers and the square and compasses) and the Grand Lodge of North Carolina A.F. & A.M. Don't know how to post on Facebook? Ask a tech-loving brother to teach you or check out this very basic how-to video from Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2mhr11a>.

What kind of stories should you send in and post? *The Mason* welcomes Milepost and Traveling the Tar Heel State items, with photos if possible. Use Facebook to post UPCOMING meetings of interest, invite brothers from all over to come to a fundraiser you're planning, tell a moving story about something that happened recently to a brother or to you (get permission of course). Use your phone to make a short video about something happening at the lodge! (But

resist shooting photos or videos in tiled meetings and during degrees. Don't give away secrets.) Think of *NC Mason* items as stories that capture history; Facebook posts alert the world that history is about to be made.

4. The passing of a brother, his wife or an OES sister is always of immediate interest to your brothers. Feel free to post those items on the *Mason* Facebook page. Let's work to make that a go-to space for those notices, especially for those who might want to attend the funeral or send condolences.

5. Keep your message short and simple. In all cases – for the *Mason* or for Facebook or for local media – there's no need to wax on and on and on. People don't take time to read long pieces anymore; and you have about five seconds to get their attention online, according to most studies. Hit them with the news in the very first line.

6. Speaking of local media ... Get to know your local editor. There is much less space to run stories in newspapers now than ever before, so anything you pitch to them to cover – or to run a story you have written – needs to be of interest to many people and written in a way that captures readers. Be kind to your local reporters. They are overworked and there are lots of great stories out there. Be patient if you don't hear back right away. Always try to

■ see EDITOR, page 5

LET'S GO TO WORK!



Getting unstuck from the past

By *A. Gene Cobb Jr.*
Grand Master

Billy and Bob were neighbors and friends for many years. Their kids grew up together. They worshipped in the same place. Hunting, fishing, and family cookouts were a huge part of their relationship. They did not work at the same place, but they served in the same rural volunteer fire department.

One hot summer day, Billy was lying on his back in a tight space doing some work on the engine of the fire truck. Bob was handing him the tools. Billy asked for a screwdriver. Bob made a serious mistake. Instead of handing Billy the screwdriver so that he could "handle it by the handle," Bob gave Billy the screwdriver "working end first."

When Billy crawled out from beneath the fire truck, he went home after aiming a few choice words at his neighbor. Bob said some "choice words," too, and no effort was made to heal the relationship in due and timely fashion.

Billy and Bob instructed their families not to have anything else to do with their neighbors, and the relationship between the families died.

The breach in their relationship continued for 15 years.

It was anything but excellent until someone who had simply had enough of it finally said, "I understand how you feel, but so much has changed. Your kids have grown up. You are now old men. Will you handle the rest of your life like you've handled the last 15 years?"

I had no idea what would happen next. Would they be angry with me? Would their relationship get worse? I was less than 30 years old and I was not a Mason.

Both men decided it was time to get over their 15-year misunderstanding. Billy was the first one to apologize. Billy was a Mason. After their reconciliation, for the rest of their lives, their relationship was an excellent example of brotherly love and affection.


The lesson I learned from being the pastor in this Billy-Bob situation was that too often, people get stuck in the past. Sometimes, we talk about it so much that years pass, opportu-

nities are lost, and futures are sacrificed on the altars of anger and pride.

Upon reflection, I also learned that when a Mason leads, excellent results are on the horizon.

The Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence will be a lasting opportunity for us in North Carolina to get a handle on education, patriotism, philanthropy, masonic membership, and ways we can connect in our communities sharing the light of brotherly love and affection.

It is an excellent opportunity to heal broken relationships that have no place in our fraternity. It allows us to move beyond longstanding misunderstandings. We can see the wonderful changes that have happened over the years not as criticism but as challenges and opportunities to do nobler deeds, think higher thoughts, to produce greater achievements.

How will we discover the ways we can handle the opportunities and challenges before us? It begins with this response: Let's talk. Let's listen to each other. Let's be Masons. And then ... Let's go to work! 

EDITOR, from page 4

contact them by email directly, rather just a generic editor@thelocalnewspaper address.

And if you know someone who knows someone at the paper, USE THAT CONNECTION!

7. As you work to promote Wilkerson College and Davie Academy within your lodge, you might need some background info. Check this out: <http://www.wilkersoncollege.com> and <http://grandlodge-nc.org/william-r-davie-academy>. All events, curriculum info and ticket info are on those pages.

8. Need help? Call me. Email me. I don't bite. Well, almost never. I am more

than glad to help you out. As editor of the Mason, I'm delighted that you care so much about what we run and that you send in news, and keep me posted on stories. It makes my day to hear from you. I'm not just saying that. I learn more with every conversation.

And as I have learned already – Freemasonry is not a spectator sport. You all work hard and I want folks to know how dedicated you are to this craft, to your brothers and to our three charities, MHCO, WhiteStone and the Masonic Foundation.

Now go out there and gather your news! We all look forward to reading it!

A friendly reminder about photos in lodge

By the Board of Custodians

Most of us have a camera in our pocket. And we love to use it.

We encourage Masons to shoot photographs of lodge activities for their social media pages and share them with the Grand Lodge for our pages. We love to see photos of installations, fundraisers, work days, dinners, degree teams – everything that you do ...

Except degree work. We're seeing more photos from degree conferrals, especially the outdoor degrees. As a friendly reminder, this carries the same potential penalty as writing out our ritual and we offer this reminder for those who may not be familiar with Reg. 86-2.9 in our Code.

It's easy to get excited seeing a friend receive his degrees. But photographing the presentation of aprons and working tools and the delivery of lectures and charges is prohibited.

A good rule of thumb is to keep the camera in your pocket from the time the degree begins until the lodge is closed.

Photos of candidates may be taken after meetings. Acceptable photos during lodge meetings or at the Grand Master's district meetings include special presentations both east and west of the altar for service awards, charitable donations to our homes/foundation and any other special recognitions. Of course, photos during open installations and public ceremonies are fine.

Above all, we ask you to use common sense and don't photograph anything that you or your lodge wouldn't be doing in public.



OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

► A group of hunters awaiting the release of the pheasants at MHCO's 5th annual Masonic Pheasant Hunt.



Annual hunt fun for everyone ... except for the pheasants!

By *Tina Gilreath*
MHCO Financial Development
& Communications Coordinator

The 18th Masonic District's 5th Annual Masonic pheasant hunt was held on a beautiful February day at Honey Hill Hunting Preserve in Hallsboro.

Three hunts were offered, and 200 birds were released at each. More than 150 hunters took advantage of the wonderful sporting event to help support the mission at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

The day began at 7 a.m. with a fantastic breakfast provided by organizers PDDGM James Britt of Proctorville Lodge #643 and Edwin Russ and Happy Buffkin of Lebanon Lodge #207.

The hunt provided a great time for Masons and non-Masons to learn about the Home. The Walker Sisters always attend and share how important the Home was for them, and lead all attendees in giving thanks by offering the meal blessing.

The Honorable A.B. Swindell, Oxford Lodge #122 and past board member, attended again this year with his sons.

Everyone was there – even a family from Pennsylvania who had heard about the Masonic Pheasant Hunt made the trip. They said they had a great time and plan to attend again next year.

PDDGM Britt estimates this year's net proceeds will exceed \$4,000 for MHCO.

Sincerest thanks to all who planned, prepared, participated, and plan on attending next year. It's a great day for a great cause!



Alumnae Kathy Walker Mack meets up with a pheasant for a moment before joining in the hunt.

Masonic aid provides relief for those hurt by hurricane

The Grand Lodge has distributed about \$25,000 in aid to lodges that have applied for relief in the wake of the devastating Hurricane Matthew.

Matthew hit North Carolina between Oct. 8 and 9, bringing widespread flash flooding and record river flooding to eastern North Carolina. Hourly rainfall estimates from radar were as high as 7 inches per hour. Rainfall totals toppled records: In Greensboro, 15.24 inches fell; in Fayetteville, 14.82.

The storm caused more than \$1.5 billion in damage and left countless North Carolinians homeless, destroyed businesses, and left entire towns vacant for a long while after the storm. At least 26 North Carolinians died.

The Masonic Service Association of North America came to the rescue quickly, raising funds to help brothers, their families and lodges in stricken states.

A total of \$50,000 was forwarded to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, as part of the MSA Disaster Relief Appeal. As of March 2017, about \$25,000 had been distributed to 22 families and three lodges.

The MSA was created in 1919 by the Grand Lodges in the United States. It originally was formed to provide aid to Masonic military servicemen near the end of World War I. The War Department (now

■ see CHARITY, page 9

MHCO
COMING
SOON:

APRIL 21-22

Ambassador
Orientation

MAY 21

Baccalaureate Service
& Scholarship Ceremony

JUNE 3

OO/MHCO Alumni
Association Meeting & Lunch

JUNE 9

End of School
Block Party

JUNE 24

Orphans Masonic
Lodge #761

Legislators receive update from MHCO leader

The Masonic Home for Children was in the spotlight in March as state legislators met to discuss the state of homelessness and dependent care in North Carolina.

Kevin Otis, MHCO administrator, appeared March 2 before the House Committee on Homelessness, Dependency and Foster Care, to share the story of the state's oldest children's home and how it has succeeded even in the hardest of times.

"The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford just celebrated its 144th year of continuous operation," he told lawmakers. "Over 10,000 children have been provided care, taught skills, and coached in the various aspects of life to help them return

home or become more independent and achieve various successes. For many of our alumni, the campus is their home."

"MHCO operates two programs, including a group residential foster care setting in cottages with house parents called the Direct Care Program, and an Independent Living Program with a live-in resident advisor. The Home is licensed through the Department of Social Services and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation," he said. "The Home operates a family-style model of care and incorporates a system of natural and logical consequences."

The family-style model is not designed to replace a child's family,

but to expand the support network for the child. Family involvement is encouraged and MHCO maintains a guest house that families can use when they visit their children for extended periods.

MHCO provides private placement services and accepts referrals from DSS. Families in need make application and a program team of professional staff review application materials, interview the family, and determine whether the child is appropriate for MHCO's level of services. If it is determined a higher level of care is necessary, the program team makes recommendations to the family for other services.

Families seek out MHCO's program for many reasons, he said.

Among them: violent neighborhoods or schools; domestic violence; parent's physical, mental health, or substance abuse issues; homelessness and extreme poverty; failed adoptions; and kinship care. MHCO currently reports 26 percent of those at the home are there due to homelessness. MHCO works with young people age 1 to 22.

The program works, he said. MHCO children are going to college (university and community college), they are working in communities, and the VanceGranville Community Culinary Arts School conducts classes on MHCO's campus.

MHCO is supported primarily by fundraising efforts and gifts from the Masons of North Carolina.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!



Proceeds from the project will go toward creating an endowment for fraternal scholarships at WhiteStone.



Dear WhiteStone supporter,

In 1913, WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star community in Greensboro, NC was established to provide quality retirement living services to its members as well as financial assistance to fraternally related residents in need. This charitable mission continues to this day and is a testament to its founding principles of providing for distressed elderly Master Masons, Eastern Star members and their family.

In 2012, The North Carolina Masonic and Eastern Star Home Foundation LLC, was established to assist in raising contributions and administering fraternal charity at WhiteStone. To help this new entity get started, the foundation invites you to support the fraternal charity by purchasing your own personalized, engraved brick that will be placed in the front circle of the Linville Administration building and will become a permanent part of WhiteStone's rich history. All proceeds from the project will go toward establishing an endowment to help fund entrance scholarships for fraternally related residents.

Consider a brick for:
Your name
Lodge or chapter name
Memorial - honor a loved one who has passed
Family - special memories
An inspirational message

ORDER ONE TODAY!

Use the code to the right with your smart phone to access our online ordering.



Turn over this page for more details on how you can order your brick today!

If you purchase a brick in honor or in memory of an individual, and you would like a letter of acknowledgement sent to them or their family, please indicate who and where the letter should be mailed to:

Name: _____
Address: _____

WhiteStone
A MASONIC & EASTERN STAR
COMMUNITY EST. 1912

BE A PART OF OUR NEXT 100 YEARS!



Celebrate WhiteStone's 100 year history with a personalized brick.

Please contact Richard Spivey in the Marketing Department at WhiteStone with any questions at:
336-547-2947

OR

rspivey@liveatwhitestone.org

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Make Check Payable to:

North Carolina Masonic and

Eastern Star Home

Foundation, LLC

700 S. Holden Rd.

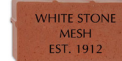
Greensboro, NC 27407

OR

Visit our donor webpage to order and pay online at:
www.brickmarkers.com/donors/whitestone.html

Donations are fully tax deductible

Personalized Brick Options



- 4" x 8" bricks include 3 lines of inscription with a maximum of 20 characters per line, including spaces



- 8" x 8" bricks include 6 lines of inscription with a maximum of 20 characters per line, including spaces

- 8" x 8" logo bricks include 4 lines of text with a maximum of 20 characters per line, including spaces

- Park Bench includes a plaque with Donor's name

Brick Size and Price

- 4x8 \$100
- 8x8 \$200
- 8x8 with logo \$250
- Park Bench \$2,000

Logo Options

- Eastern Star
- Square & Compass
- Other - please send to email below—\$75 set up fee

Line 1
4" x 8" _____
Line 2
4" x 8" _____
Line 3
4" x 8" _____
Line 4
8" x 8" _____
Line 5
8" x 8" _____
Line 6
8" x 8" _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please credit my lodge/chapter: _____

LOGO ORDERS: A vector or photoshop graphic must be emailed to: rspivey@liveatwhitestone.org
For more information call: 336-547-2947

MILEPOSTS



▲ **OAK ISLAND** — Oak Island Masonic Lodge #758 receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Oak Island Community Center for the lodge's charitable contribution for needy children during the 2016 Christmas season. Pictured from left to right: Connie Hendrix, Master Jack Terry, and from the community center, Maxine Cox and Chairman Eileen Ramsdale.



▲ **OMAHA, NE** — Grand Master Gene Cobb was honored by the National Sojourners on Feb. 20, as a member-in-perpetuity of its Grand Masters Chapter #996. The honor recognizes his longtime support of the National Sojourners and the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Award requirements designed to honor and recognize veterans. Ron Sortino of Semper Fidelis #680 in Jacksonville, NC, and national president-elect of National Sojourners, right, made the presentation during the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Omaha, NE.

Honoring heroes

JACKSONVILLE — Semper Fidelis Lodge #680 prepared a breakfast on Feb. 11 to honor first responders in the area. All who attended enjoyed a typical Marine Corps breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and grits, cakes and fruit. The lodge also took meals to those on the job at the Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, Police Department and the emergency Control Department.



▲ **NEW BERN** — Doric Lodge #568 presented a \$1,200 check to the Colonial Capital Humane Society. Featured left to right: Amy Burdulis, vice president, Colonial Capital Humane Society; Wayne Lytton, Master Doric Lodge #568; Rhonda Heath, president Colonial Capital Humane Society; Sarah Oliver; Paige Killingsworth, Secretary Colonial Capital Humane Society; Stephanie Mills, assistant secretary, Colonial Capital Humane Society.



▲ **CHARLOTTE** — Steele Creek Masonic Lodge #737 has created a commemorative gold coin to celebrate 50 years of Masonic service. Each coin costs \$20. If interested, attend a stated communication on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m., or email the secretary at secretary@steelecreeklodge.com.

MILEPOSTS

Governor honors three North Carolina Masons

Three longtime North Carolina Freemasons have been welcomed into the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian honor given by a North Carolina governor.

The honorees:

- ▶ Carteret County Sheriff Asa B. Buck III, a Mason since 1996 and past master of Franklin #109;

- ▶ James R. Stevens, Judge Advocate and a Mason since 1975;

- ▶ And J.B. Price of Mill Creek #125.

All three awards were given by outgoing Gov. Pat McCrory.

The order is bestowed upon individuals who

have displayed exemplary service to their North Carolina communities and to the state.

The award is given with an anthem or toast written in 1904:

Here's to the land of the long leaf pine,
The summer land where the sun doth shine,
Where the weak grow strong and the strong
grow great,

Here's to "down home," The Old North
State!

A list of past recipients of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award can be viewed at <http://longleaf-pinesociety.org/new/roster/index.php/roster/view>



Jimmy Stevens, right, smiles with then-Gov. Pat McCrory shortly after the surprise presentation of his award at a Wake County Sheriff's Department staff get-together. Stevens, now Judge Advocate, retired as a major after working for Wake County Sheriff Donnie Harrison for 14 years. Prior to that, he was a Garner police officer and retired from the NC State Highway Patrol. Stevens said receiving the honor brought back a wonderful memory from his childhood. "One day in third grade, our teacher taught us about the Order of the Long Leaf Pine and what an honor it was," he said. "I thought then ... how could there be a greater honor?"



Sheriff Asa Buck III, right, who has logged 18 years of law enforcement service in Carteret County, accepts his award from Steve Keen, former state director of Regional Field Operations. During the surprise award presentation, Buck thanked his family, his supporters in the community and his staff. "They're the ones out getting the job done for you every day. I'm just one person, but it's our staff. They are where the rubber meets the road," he said.



J.B. Price, second from left, receives his award from state Rep. John Bell, second from right, during the Grantham Volunteer Fire Department's awards banquet. Price retired from the department after 23 years of service. Price, a 32nd Degree Master Mason, is a member of the York and Scottish Rites, the Wilson County Shrine Club, the Wilson County Monster Trucks and is a Sudan Roadrunner.



◀ **BUXTON** – Cape Hatteras Lodge #698 Master Bobby Cox, left, presents service awards to: (l to r) Bobby Gaskins, 50-year Veteran's Emblem; Jay Harding, 25-year award; and Byrum Veal, 50-year Veteran's Emblem. Chaplain Jimmy Gray, far right, assists in the presentation. Also receiving recognition, but not pictured, was William Bembra Miller who received his Diamond Jubilee award celebrating his 60 years as a Mason.

CHARITY, from page 6

Defense Department) refused to work with 49 (at that time) different Grand Lodges, but would work with just one agency. MSA's goal from the start was to provide services to the Grand Lodges that they could not perform as easily individually.

The first Disaster Relief Appeal was issued in 1923 for the Grand Lodge of Japan, and since then, more than \$10 million in relief donations have been received from Grand Lodges and individual Masons and distributed by MSA.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

WINSTON-SALEM

Piedmont Pioneer #685 of Winston-Salem continued its efforts to boost membership and community interest with a very special Valentine's event. Brothers treated their valentines to muffins, ice cream, cake and cookies and welcomed a prospective petitioner, who had the opportunity to see brotherly love and friendship in action. This is just one of several events on Piedmont Pioneer's checklist to build community interest and raise its profile. Last year, the lodge began working on increasing attendance and participation using Masonic education and special events. This year, it is improving degree work, strengthening committee activities, Masonic education and a greater community presence.

EDENTON

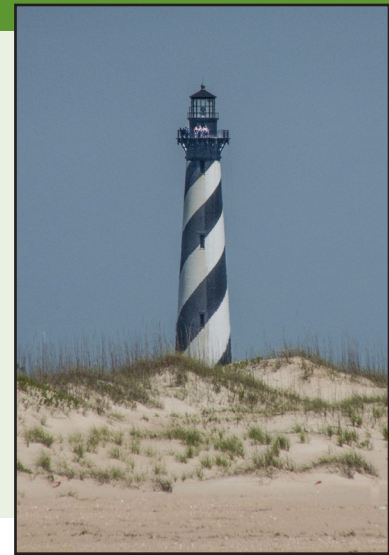
"Bon frère du soir" is how one might be greeted when entering a Masonic Lodge in France. But instead, Brother Armand Hamparsoumian was greeted with a warm welcome on Feb. 23, when he visited Unanimity #7 in Edenton! Brother Hamparsoumian, visiting from Universalis #22, was delighted to visit our historic Lodge and see the replica of the famous George Washington chair, which once belonged to Unanimity Lodge. That night was also the official visit from the DDGL of the 1st Masonic District, WB Mickey Spruill, PM. Brother Mickey has held that office for 17 years, with many hours of dedication and love put into every hour of the work that he does. He has also held the treasurer position of Unanimity #7 for 23 years.

CORRECTION

In the January/February edition, Eureka Lodge #317 was incorrectly identified as being located in China Grove. Eureka Lodge #317 is in Elizabeth City.



NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



Perquimans comes to aid of grandmother

HERTFORD — The call went out on Thursday night in February from the Perquimans County School system to a local church: A grandmother fighting cancer needed some help. Her house and yard had fallen into disrepair.

The message was delivered to 1st District PDDGM Phil Johnson, who called Damon Winslow, Master of Perquimans #106. By the next day, a group of Masons and friends had responded and they headed to the house Saturday, where Jeff Perry, past master of #106, delivered a truck to hold the debris.

Within a few hours, the brothers cleaned the roof and gutters, picked

up fallen limbs, trimmed the hedges, raked the yard and picked up debris.

The grandmother, who saw firsthand the good effects Masonry has on others, thanked the crew and the community at large. Phil Johnson says the lesson learned that day was that helping others does not always cost money and if we remember that the "greatest of these is love," and it can be shown in many ways and the world would indeed be a better place.

Participants included: WM Winslow; PM Joe Elliot; PM C.W. Overton; Bobby Brinkley; Matthew Johnson; Nicolas Johnson; Jeff Perry and Phil Johnson.



HOPE MILLS – Lebanon Lodge #391 celebrated 132 years of masonry in January by conferring a very special Master Mason Degree. WB Jeff Wade (left), with his father, WB Paul Wade (middle) looking on, raised his son-in-law Adam Courtney (right). The Wades are direct descendants of Lebanon Lodge's first master, WB Alexander Biggs.



SALISBURY – Fulton Lodge #99 celebrated an historic moment when Master Mason Ed Aldridge (right) raised his son, Michael Aldridge (center), who in turn raised his son, Shane Aldridge (left) in a double third degree in one night.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



◀ **SHAWBORO** – Hall #53 hosted its Annual Oyster Roast on Feb. 11, continuing a tradition that began Nov. 14, 1930. According to the minutes, by 1933, the Oyster Roast was moved from late Fall to Spring and the lodge allowed expenses of \$17.50 for the oysters and supplies. Today, a bushel of oysters costs more than \$60. Seventy-five years ago, the brothers enjoyed a meal of steamed oysters but the selection is bigger now: fried oysters, steamed shrimp, fried fish, barbecue, cole slaw and other sides and desserts have been added to the menu. It's a family affair these days. Members, their families and friends enjoyed the perfect weather and all the oysters and sides they could eat. Pictured are Master Bennie Woods and Jr. Warden Scott Mathis enjoying steamed oysters.

HAMPSTEAD

—The brothers of Ashlar #765 flipped some pancakes, fried up some sausage and raised \$1,142 in February to benefit Boy Scout Troop #777 and Cub Scout Pack #270. Topping the meal off with some orange juice and coffee, each plate sold for \$5. ▶



Greensboro Valley hosts one-day-only 'Letters' revue

In 2010, Erinn Diaz founded *Letters From Home* in Winston-Salem, a movement designed to travel the country honoring U.S. veterans, active military heroes and their families and revive patriotism through music. It has toured more than 40 states.

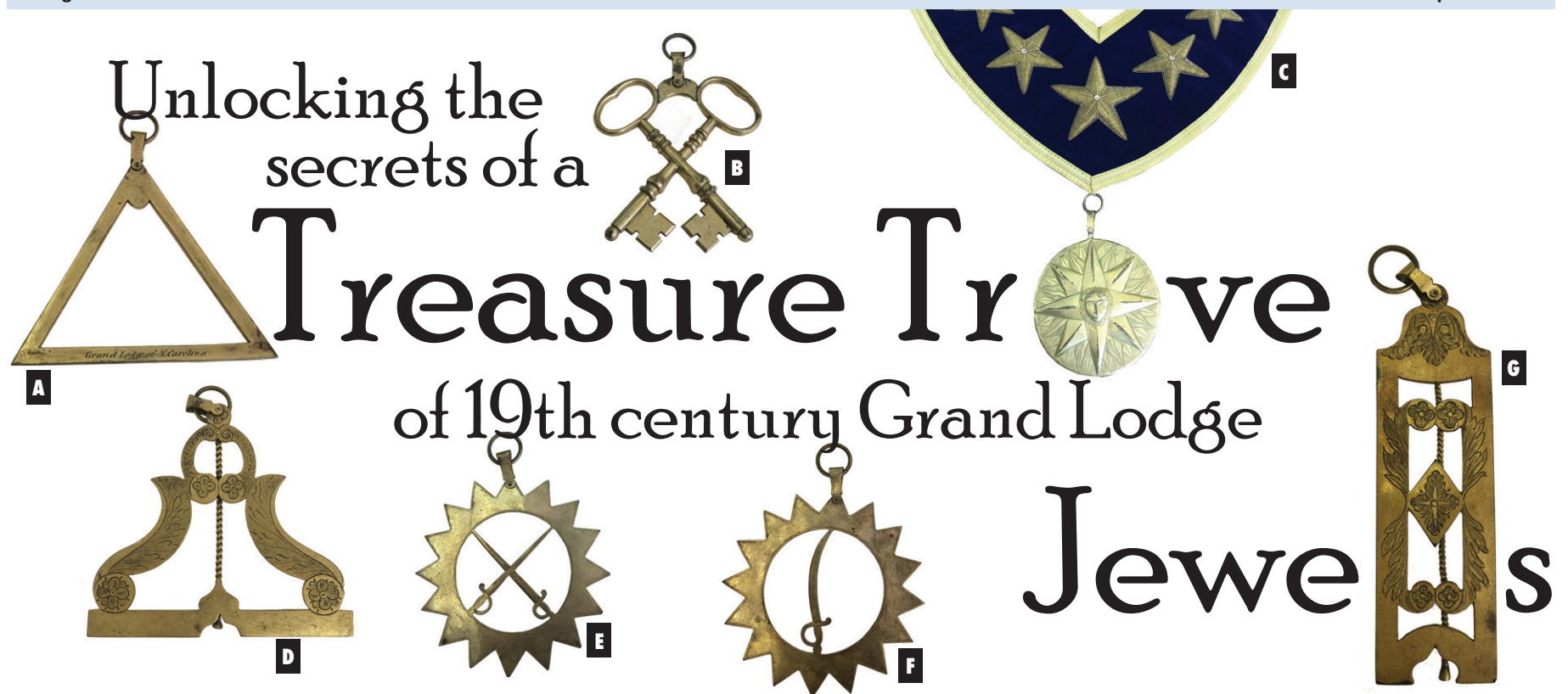
Diaz returns home July 7 for a one-day-only performance of *Letters From Home: America's Bombshell Duo*. The Greensboro Valley of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of The James W. Cortland Lodge of Perfection, is sponsoring the performance. All proceeds benefit the North Carolina RiteCare Hearing and Speech Clinics at Appalachian State University and East Carolina University.

Diaz is also the founding artistic director of Spring Theatre in Winston-Salem, is a published author and has been seen in more than 200 productions and movies. Diaz produced the show at the suggestion of her late father, Pat Dearth, a Coast Guard veteran. Joining Diaz is Courtney Groves from Minneapolis, MN, who joined LFH's Bombshell Duo Show in 2016.

Tickets are \$25 to \$35 and can be purchased at the Carolina Theatre box office (336-333-2605) or online via www.CarolinaTheatre.com. VIP Tickets are available for \$100 and include a preshow Gala in the theatre's Renaissance Room, featuring wine from Stokesdale, NC's Stonefield Cellars Winery and a meet-and-greet with the cast.



◀ **GATESVILLE** – In January, Gatesville #126 pulled double duty when the brothers hosted their annual blood drive at the Gates County Community Center. Not only did they work the blood drive, but due to the ice and snow, they also had to clear the sidewalks and parking lot of the community center to allow donors to safely get to the site. Their hard work paid off. The drive attracted 50 donors, who gave a total of 43 productive units of blood. Master Tim Earley, left, and brother Abe Abramowski were among brothers manning the registration station.



By Past Grand Historian Rick Smith
with research by Assistant to the Grand Secretary
Jonathan Underwood

The Grand Lodge Office in Raleigh is a treasure trove of Masonic history.

Looking at the archives room, one would not be surprised to find Solomon's treasure tucked in among the old aprons, hats and documents kept there.

However, until that particular discovery is made, we can content ourselves with the plethora of objects that illustrate the rich history of Freemasonry in North Carolina. This is the first in an occasional series about items stored at the Grand Lodge for posterity and protection.

This month: the mystery jewels.

Shortly after he joined the Grand Lodge, Assistant to the Grand Secretary Jonathan Underwood found an old, unidentified pasteboard box within the deep recesses of the Grand Lodge Office's basement. The box was unassuming, but contained a remarkable treasure: a nearly complete set of old jewels.

The jewels were inscribed, "The Grand Lodge of North Carolina." However, the shape and depictions were so different from our modern impression of officer jewels that their immediate disposition was in question.

After a little cleaning, the stamped name of "E.T. Weaver" became discernible. After some research, it was discovered that E.T. Weaver was Emmor Trego Weaver (1786-1860), a Philadelphia silversmith who, according to an 1822 advertisement from Winchester Pa., specialized in "Masonic Jewels, Medals, Aprons, and Sashes."

Weaver, a Past Master of Lodge # 2 in Phila-

delphia, was the son of a silversmith and quite prolific during the first half of the 19th century. His wares, particularly examples of his flatware, can still be acquired today and are highly sought after.

Several other examples of his work, such as swords and tea sets are prominently displayed in museums up and down the east coast.

A review of our Grand Lodge proceedings reveals that in 1826, John L. Taylor, Louis D. Wilson, and John E. Lewis were appointed a committee "to inquire into the state of the jewels of the Grand Lodge, and, if necessary, to procure new ones ... and report at the next Grand Annual Communication."

And so they did. The report of 1827 stated: "That so far as respects the jewels of the Grand Lodge, your committee are of opinion that it is proper to purchase new ones for the officers thereof; that the present jewels are old and clumsy, and do not comport with the dignity of the Grand Lodge.

"Your committee are of opinion that the jewels worn by the Grand Officers should be of gold or gilt, suspended from collars of garter blue ribband, 4 inches wide; the aprons should be white satin, lined with blue silk, and bound with garter blue edging, 2 inches deep with gold tassels, one at each corner."

The proceedings reveal Grand Master Louis Wilson, a member of the original committee,

contracted for a set of jewels and clothing for the officers of the Grand Lodge, "which cost in Philadelphia, two hundred and fifty-five dollars."

However, the jewels were not procured until 1828, and then only materialized Jan. 1, 1829. By most accounts of inflation, \$255 in 1828 would amount to more than \$5,400 in today's dollars. A proposal for services from Weaver to the Grand Lodge is still in the Grand Lodge's archives.

As of Dec. 18, 1828 — the 6th day of the Annual Communication, the jewels had not arrived, but were held up in Petersburg, Va., probably because of bad weather. On the ninth day of the Annual Communication, New Year's Day 1829, the proceedings read, "The jewels and clothing of the Grand Lodge having been received, were distributed to the respective officers."

Nine of the 1828 silver-gilt jewels from Weaver still exist (or have been found): the

Grand Master's jewel; Senior and Junior Grand Wardens; Grand Treasurer; Senior and Junior Grand Deacons; Grand Pursuivant; Grand Sword Bearer; and Grand Tyler.

Unfortunately, the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary's jewels are either lost or yet to be found. However, one collar from the mid-19th century still exists, though it was probably manufactured a few years after the jewels were made.

If there were Grand Stewards' or Grand Chap-

**Do you know
your Masonic
officer jewels?
Guess which jewel
is which above.**

(Answers on Page 13)

JEWELS, from page 12

lain's jewels, they too have yet to be discovered.

At the time of the jewels' manufacture, Masonic officer jewels and even Grand Lodge offices were not standardized and some officers did not possess a jewel at all. Hence, there may not have been a jewel for the offices mentioned.

Interestingly, the offices of the Grand Pursuivant and Grand Sword Bearer no longer exist within the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

The appearance and whereabouts of the Grand Lodge officers' jewels prior to 1829 is unknown.

However, we know Weaver's set of jewels were used by the Grand Lodge officers until 1879 when jeweler Henry Mahler of Raleigh made the current Grand Master's jewel.

Research is ongoing into the history and disposition of the jewels of 1828. Several portraits of the Grand Masters of Tennessee, including Andrew Jackson, reveal that jurisdiction used a similar jewel. Weaver was in fact recommended to the Grand Lodge by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

Key to Grand Lodge Jewels

A. Grand Deacon
 B. Grand Treasurer
 C. Grand Master
 D. Senior Grand Warden
 E. Grand Tyler
 F. Grand Sword Bearer
 G. Junior Grand Warden

Oak Island #758 Remembers the Fallen Soldier

Sometimes, you can speak volumes without saying a word.

The brothers of Oak Island #758 set a simple, yet meaningful table to welcome brothers to its Feb. 16 stated communication.

As brothers entered for the meeting, they paused by the Table of The Fallen Soldier, sometimes known as the Missing Man table, which is set at special events held by and for the U.S. armed forces around the country and the world. It is said to have originated during the Vietnam War and was created by those working to remember prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action.

Such remembrances are part

of the requirements for lodges interested in becoming a Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence this year. The table and items that go with the honor were donated to the Oak Island lodge, which has many veterans among its members.

After Brother Bud Haraway said grace over the prepared meal, WM Jack read the "Table of the Fallen Soldier," which explains the meaning of the symbols on the table. Many brothers were brought to tears.

After the lodge dinner, veterans were welcomed to have their pictures taken with the table.



Brothers Bud Haraway, left, and Bill Lucas, both past masters and World War II veterans, pose with the Table of the Fallen Soldier at Oak Island #758.

TABLE OF THE FALLEN SOLDIER

- This Table and Setting is a reminder that all of our comrades could not be here with us tonight.
- The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.
- The single rose in the vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades in arms who kept the faith until the end.
- The ribbon represents the love of our country, which inspired them to answer the nation's call.
- The Bible represents the spiritual strength and faith to sustain those lost from our country.
- A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate.
- There is salt upon the bread plate symbolic of the families' tears as they learned of their loved one's death.
- The glass is inverted; they cannot toast with us this night.
- The chair is empty; they are not here.
- Remember all of you who served with them and called them comrades; who depended upon their might and aid, and relied upon them, for surely, they have not forgotten you.
- It is our hope this night, that with pride and honor, they will hear us as we toast their ultimate sacrifice to their country's call to arms.

Coin sales will pay for Royal White Hart preservation effort

A decade before the creation of the United States, the men of Halifax gathered to ensure that the tenets of Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love flourished in North Carolina.

Life then, as now, was challenging and these early Freemasons did not shy away from going to work, within the Fraternity and their communities. Between 1771-1772, Brother Joseph Mont-

fort (1724-1776) was presented a charter appointing him the "Provisional Grand Master of and for America."

With his everlasting Masonic achievements, it is only befitting that his final resting place is enshrined upon the grounds of Royal White Hart Lodge #2.

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of this historic Lodge, a finely crafted collector's/chal-

lenge coin is available. All proceeds will be applied toward the restoration and preservation of this historic Lodge. Each coin costs \$20.

To order, make checks out to Royal White Hart Lodge #2 and mail to:

Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2
 P. O. Box 712
 Halifax, NC 27839



WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Adams, Matthew James	Stokes	32	Dunn, Thomas Calvin	Archer	165	Jankowski, Michael Richard	French Broad	292	Rickard, Casey Andrew	Allen Graham	695
Allen, Christopher James	Junaluskee	145	Ellenburg, Jacob Ryan	Albemarle	703	Jones, Paul O'Neal	Ashlar	765	Roe, Daniel	Fulton	99
Altman, Eric Stephen	Eagle	19	Eudy, Keith Ward	Durham	352	Keesee, John William	Allen Graham	695	Runkle, Michael L.	Durham	352
Ashby, Charlie Callaway	Fulton	99	Falls, Jason Boyd	Fairview	339	Kempton, Spencer Thomas	Steele Creek	737	Sauer, Scott Allan	Seaside	429
Ball, Thomas Lee	French Broad	292	Farmer, Phil Anthony	Fairview	339	Keyser, David Ronald	Lexington Memorial	473	Schoonmaker, John Delemar	Oak Island	758
Beck, Patrick Shane	Ashlar	765	Fauth, Kevin John	Stokes	32	Leonard, Christopher Wayne	Fulton	99	Snyder, Matthew Reb	Cary	198
Bermingham, Mark Paul Michael	Lafayette	83	Fielden, Chase Jarrett	Snow Creek	571	Leymeister, Jason Paul	Cary	198	Stamper, Gregory Austin	Green Level	277
Bevan, Daniel Alan	Williams	176	Gainey, Eric Ray	Mingo	206	Mabrey, Brandon Allen	Royal White Hart	2	Stanley Jr, Merl Smith	Mystic Tie	237
Carmichael, Patrick Spencer	Andrew Jackson	576	Garcia, Jorge Mario	Youngsville	377	Mathis, Jason John Paul	Cannon Memorial	626	Surratt, Clayton Lindsay	Lexington Memorial	473
Carringer Jr, Larry Russell	Fairview	339	Gunter, Martin Jarren	Buffalo	172	McGaugh, Matthew Scott	Asheboro	699	Tickle Jr, Lawrence Edward	James A. Johnson	413
Cartassi Jr, Rudolph Anthony	Greensboro	76	Gunter, Marty Jay	Buffalo	172	Medlin, Robert Mitchell	Albemarle	703	Trivette, Brandon Duane	Kedron	387
Cash Jr, Samuel Carl	Pleasant Hill	304	Hamlin, Johnathan Paul	Junaluskee	145	Miller, Paul Robert	Veritas	769	Trivette, Charles Brent	Kedron	387
Chamberlin, Glenn Richard	Forsyth	707	Hannold, Cody Larue	Fulton	99	Molai, Ashton Vishnu	Liberty	45	Turner, Thomas James	Troy	718
Chandler, Brandon Colby	Albemarle	703	Hawkins II, Russell Wayne	Junaluskee	145	Morrow, Ryan Edward	Montgomery	426	Wade, Timothy Randall	Hiram	98
Collins, Justin Shane	Granite	322	Heilman, Jon Paul	Granville	380	Murray, James Dudley	Albemarle	703	White, James Alan	Albemarle	703
Craven, Spencer Reitzell	Asheboro	699	Heilman, Justin Wayne	Granville	380	Myers, Eugene Daryl	William T. Bain	231	Wolfe, Jonathan York	Kedron	387
Crowder, Nicholas Shawn	French Broad	292	Holloway, William Rodney	Mystic Tie	237	O'Kelly, Daniel Clinton	Allen Graham	695	Wood Jr, Jerry Crane	Allen Graham	695
Daughtry, Michael Todd	Fellowship	84	Horchak, John Joseph	Shelby	744	Posch, Gregory Alan	Durham	352			
Dotson Jr, Larry Ray	Biltmore	446	Huffman, David Glenn	Cary	198	Raynor, Robert Zachary	Hiram	98			

From the Medical Committee

Skin cancer alert: Warm weather is approaching

By R. Keith Bailey, MD
Junior Deacon

Scotch Ireland # 154, Cleveland, NC

We are blessed with a moderate climate most of the year and outdoor activities are a great part of our lives.

There are primarily three types of skin cancers. All are potentially caused by sun exposure, and one of those types can become terminal very quickly.

It is not correct to believe skin cancers are only a nuisance.

MOST COMMON: BCC

The most common is Basal-cell (BCC), almost entirely caused by sun exposure without sunscreen. Sunscreens usually wear off after about two hours, regardless of what manufacturers say. If you swim or perspire a lot the application duration should be shorter. Left untreated, BCC can spread to internal organs and become a life-threatening cancer, although deaths from metastatic BCC are rare.

SQUAMOUS CELL

The next most serious is Squamous Cell skin cancer (SCC). This

usually starts out as a red sore area known as an actinic keratosis and is treated in many dermatologists or family physician's office. However, left untreated for an even shorter time than BCC it can spread to internal organs and kill. It is the same squamous cell found in lungs from smoking. SCC can most often be prevented with appropriate use of sunscreen and avoid hottest parts of day from exposure.

MALIGNANT MELANOMA

Malignant melanoma can be enhanced by sun exposure, but also can be hereditary. It has distinct characteristics, which most health-care providers would recognize. Untreated, it can be fatal, taking a life in as little as a few months.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

The best advice is to see a dermatologist once a year for a detailed skin exam. It usually takes less than 30 minutes, and can be a life-saver. Always wear sunscreen, especially in the summer. Avoid exposure during the hottest part of the day and go to your dermatologist in between checkups if areas of your skin itch, bleed, feel painful or feel like a burn.



Celebrating 50 years of Masonry

BEULAVILLE — Beulaville #658 Worshipful Master Ed Corley, left, presents Brother Rolin Thomas with a certificate for 50 Years of Service in Masonry. Brother Rolin joined Beulaville Lodge on March 7, 1967, and received his certificate on his 50th anniversary date. Rolin's son, Michael Thomas, right, was on hand for the ceremony.

Rainbow Girls selling flag memorials

Greensboro Assembly #23 of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls on May 26 will be placing flag memorials around the flag pole at WhiteStone as part of a fundraiser. They must sell 2,000 flags to meet their goal for Grand Assembly in June and to help purchase their Assembly of the Year dresses for their Annual Communication. Flags are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 This is a

great way to honor our vets and to show them that our youth have not forgotten their sacrifice. To purchase flags, contact our Advisory Board Chair Theron Miller at 336-404-8986 (TheronMiller3@gmail.com) or Jeff Bullington 336-508-5968 (Jeff.B23rd@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Make sure to include the number of flags you want and the names you want on them.

The Grand Historian's Courier Case

Seven-year Grand Master 'Dauntless' Davie an able leader in the Revolutionary cause

By *Steven Campbell*
Grand Historian

First, foremost and for the record: William Richardson Davie was born in England in 1756, emigrated to America at the age of 8 with his parents and two siblings, an honor graduate of the College of New Jersey, a cavalry commander, an attorney, a devoted husband, a loving father, a state representative, a university founder, Presidential envoy, North Carolina Governor, and seven-year Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of NC.

Youth to Field

In 1764, Davie's family planted its roots in the fertile soil along the NC/SC border of the rural Waxhaws District. Under the tutelage of his learned uncle, young William proved an apt student, culminating with his graduation, with honors, from The College of New Jersey (Princeton) in 1776.

It was during this time that the American colonists were expressing their displeasure with Britain. Whilst attending college, Davie and several of his classmates marched off to war; however the illusions of grandeur soon faded and they returned to class to graduate.

Upon doing so, Davie traveled to Salisbury, NC, to begin his law studies. Yet in 1777, he enlisted in General Allen Jones' NC Militia. Soon, however, he returned to his studies. By 1779, the war for American Independence was in its third year and the lure of military service to a young man outweighed those of a classroom.

With his appointment as Lieutenant of NC Dragoons, the gifted horseman found himself back in the saddle.

Shortly, he was promoted to Captain, and with a transfer to Count Casimir Pulaski's Corps, raised to the rank of Major. The Revolutionary War in the south

pitted neighbor against neighbor (Loyalist vs. Patriot).

Though few large scale battles took place, the day-to-day skirmishes, raids and ambushes were bloody, brutal and destructive. On June 6, 1779, while leading an assault upon a British position at Stono Ferry, SC, the young Major

Davie countered that he knew nothing of accounts or funds, to which Greene replied, "Don't concern yourself. There is no money and hence no accounts."

was grievously wounded in the thigh, thrown from his horse and nearly captured. Luckily he was able to make his escape, and during a long convalescence returned to complete his law studies in Salisbury.

Meanwhile, British forces gained control of most of Georgia and South Carolina. They established base camps throughout the interior to enforce Royal order. The sole effective American resistance presented itself in small irregular partisan units under men such as Francis Marion, Andrew Pickens, Thomas Sumter, and a re-energized William Davie. These units proved a burr under the saddle to (Bro.) Lord Charles Cornwallis.

Though rarely involved in major engagements, Davie's small force's action at Hanging Rock, Rocky Mount, Charlotte, Wahab's Plantation, Ramsour's Mill, and rear guard action at Camden gave heart to the beleaguered American effort.

From Field to Staff

When General Nathaniel Greene took command of the shattered American Army in 1780, he readily surrounded himself with able men. Davie's intelligence, reputation and successful leadership were known to the new commander.

When broaching Davie with the inglorious staff assignment of Commissary General, Davie protested, saying he would prefer to remain in the field. Greene replied, "As you are a single man, and have health, education and activity to manage the business it is my wish you should accept the appointment." Davie countered that he knew nothing of accounts or funds, to which Greene replied, "Don't concern yourself. There is no money and hence no accounts."

For the next six months Davie's skills of procuring, cajoling, negotiating, hard riding, planning, and organizing for the needs of the Army would be put to the test. When not criss-crossing the Carolinas, he would find himself conferring with his Commander.

After Cornwallis' hollow victory at Guilford Courthouse, the American Army moved south to reclaim South Carolina and Georgia, and the British ultimately surrendered at Yorktown. Meanwhile Davie's long promised replacement arrived, and upon reporting to NC's Governor for reassignment, found himself directed to undertake the same Commissary General duties for NC troops.

As the flame of conflict began to gutter in the Carolinas, another would warm young William's heart, for on Thursday, April 11, 1782, he would wed the lovely 19-year-old Sarah Jones, his first Commanding General's daughter, in Northampton County. They would reside there until relocating to Halifax to build a lovely home and sire a family of six children; however that is another story... ♠



What others said about Davie

"Davie . . . was not only distinguished as an intelligent, but intrepid soldier."

"Tall, elegant, and commanding, he had a mellow and flexible voice and a lofty and flowing style, which astounded and enraptured his audience."

"Davie was the best soldier I have ever known and my best lessons in the art of war were learned from him."

(Bro.) President Andrew Jackson



Taking it to the streets

page 1



page 12
Digging up a treasure



page 15
Grand Master's
Revolutionary past

On the cover
Grand officers of the
North Carolina York Rite
bodies installed by the
Grand Master in March.
Michael Harding photo

The North Carolina Mason
The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF&AM
600 College Street
Oxford, North Carolina 27565

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NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

York Rite installs Grand Officers

**What's it like to attend a regional
meeting with the Grand Master?**

MARCH/APRIL 2017