



NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

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Michael Harding photo

Principal officers of each lodge plus officers of the Grand Lodge and others are eligible to vote during the Annual Communication. See the list on Page 2.

Masons to 'get to work' at 2017 Annual Communication

*By Beth Grace
Mason Editor*

When NC Masons gather for Annual Communication next month, they will select new leadership, celebrate excellence, and tackle some issues critical to the very future of the Craft.

The 230th Annual Communication opens Sept. 22 at the Twin City Quarter in Winston-Salem.

On the agenda: a baker's dozen code amendments ranging from a proposal to open lodge on the First

Degree to an increase of the per capita amount to \$25 per member to a pair of amendments that would end future endowed memberships and create a new legacy membership in its place. One amendment clarifies that the Board of Publications maintains editorial control over news published in the *Mason* and via other media, print and online. (See the list of all amendments on page 3.)

"This has been a busy year with many changes for the good," says

Grand Master Gene Cobb. "We have asked much of this brotherhood and they have responded in ways I could not have dreamed.

"I plan to spend some time at this meeting thanking them from my heart ... and then reminding them that as we have roared already this year, we need to keep roaring. Our work is not yet done."

One of the ways lodges will feel those thanks is when the first Lion & Pillar awards are announced. The five-point program launched by

GM Cobb focuses on education, patriotism, philanthropy, Masonic membership and affiliated connections. The program is expected to continue in 2018.

GM Cobb also said this year's Necrology service will be a special one. For years, as chair of the Necrology Committee, he presented the service. This year, as Grand Master, he has worked with Deputy GM Speed Hallman and Senior

■ see ANNUAL page 2

Annual Communication 2017

WHEN: Sept. 22-23

WHERE: Twin City Quarter, 425 N. Cherry St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Reserve your room at the special group rate of \$131 per night by Aug. 31. Link to the hotel here: <http://tinyurl.com/kpnwyh9>

Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 21:

Committees (Embassy Suites), various times
Secretaries' Seminar (Hearn CD Ballroom Marriott) 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Credentials desk opens 3 p.m., lobby of Grand Pavilion, Embassy Suites

Friday, Sept. 22:

Vendors open 8 a.m.
DDGL Meeting, Ayers, 8 a.m.
Grand Lodge opens, 10 a.m., Grand Pavilion
Grand Lodge reconvenes, 1:30 p.m., Grand Pavilion
Grand Master's reception, 6 p.m., Presidential Suite

Saturday, Sept. 23:

Vendors open 8 a.m.
Grand Lodge opens, 9 a.m., Grand Pavilion

ANNUAL, from page 1

Grand Warden Mack Sigmon on making the service even more meaningful in remembrance of deceased brothers.

Vendors will gather to sell special Masonic items, while various key committees will meet the day before Grand Lodge opens.

All Masons statewide are invited and encouraged to attend Annual Communication. Each lodge must send the three principal officers or their proxies to the meeting. These officers must present their credentials, which were mailed in advance to your lodges, at registration in order to receive their ballots. Voting is restricted to delegates only (see information about this to the right).

If you're going, the suggested dress is coat and tie.

While you're packing, remember to bring cans of food. GM Cobb asked to bring back for a second year the successful drive that Past Grand Master Bryant Webster launched last year. What you

knew as "Masons Can" last year returns as "Masons Can.2" this year.


Expect a few surprises and some good conversation about membership, communication, and ways to help keep Masonry strong in number, revenue and dedication.

You will hear reports from various leaders in the fraternity and from our charities: WhiteStone, the Masonic Home for Children and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

If you can't go, watch the Grand Lodge and North Carolina Mason Facebook pages for photos, updates, amendment votes, etc.

So plan to join your brothers at the largest North Carolina Masonic gathering of the year.

Fellowship, after all, is what Masonry is all about.

"We are creating a legacy here," says Grand Master Cobb. "Our role and function is brotherly love and service. This meeting will be a celebration and recognition of that." 

Who is the Grand Lodge? YOU are the Grand Lodge!

WHO VOTES?

- Principal officers of each lodge (only Lodges may proxy votes all others must be present)
- Boards
- Commissions
- Committees
- Past Grand Masters
- Grand Lodge Officers
- District Deputy Grand Masters
- District Deputy Grand Lecturers

VOTING BREAKDOWN

- Three boards at five voting members each = 15
- Three commissions at five voting members each = 15
- 16 committees at five voting members each = 80
- Living Past Grand Masters = 26
- Grand Lodge Officers = 15
- DDGMs = 41
- DDGLs = 41
- Total = 230 Votes
- 375 lodges at three votes apiece = 1,125 Votes

A story of fellowship and a wedding ring

By *Thomas Pope*
Secretary, Stedman #730

Margaret Pope and I will have been married 41 years next month. But for the past four years, I haven't worn this wedding band, and here's the story of why that was the case.

In 2013, then-Grand Master Dewey Preslar called a meeting of several statewide committee chairmen in his hometown of Salisbury.

I stopped for gas when I got into town and cleaned the windshield, then headed to his home lodge for our meeting. I made a bathroom stop prior to the meeting, and when the meeting concluded, I rode with the Grand Master in his truck to a nearby BBQ place.

When we got back to the lodge, I realized my wedding band was missing. I wanted to throw up. I've never had a material possession that means as much to me and it had vanished.

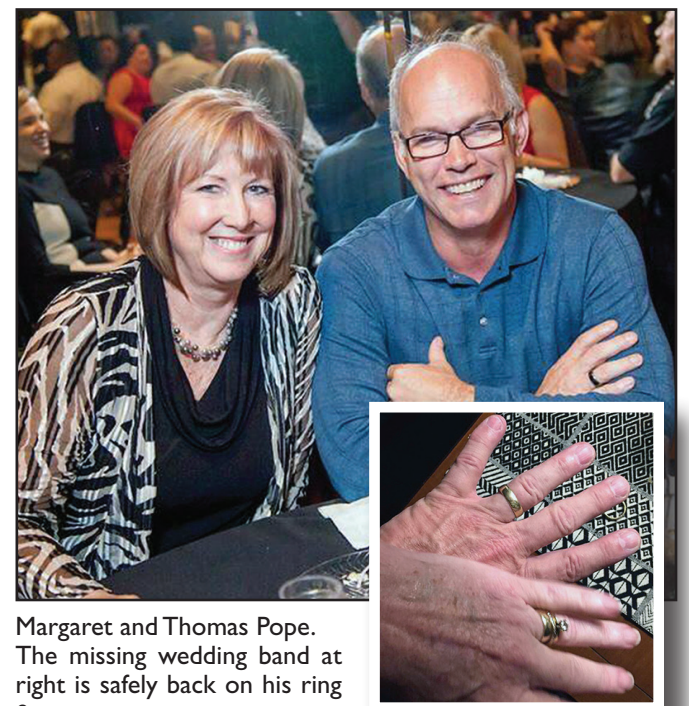
I re-walked my path from the car to the

lodge. I checked the bathroom sink. I emptied the bathroom trash can, piece by piece. Nothing. We scoured the room in which we'd met. Nothing. We went back to the restaurant, but no one had turned in a gold wedding band.

We checked his truck and came up empty. Later, Brother Steve Schenk, the grand tyler that year, went back to the lodge with a metal detector, but no luck. I even stopped at the same gas station on my way out of town and dug through the garbage can where I had tossed the paper towels after wiping the windshield dry, but the ring wasn't there.

Sickened by the loss of my ring and distraught at the prospect of having to break the news to Margaret, it was a long, somber ride home.

Coincidentally, I had just received payment for the sale of my college class ring, which I very rarely wore, and a gold chain, and there



Margaret and Thomas Pope. The missing wedding band at right is safely back on his ring finger.

■ see RING, page 9

Proposed Code Amendments for 2017

Here are the proposed amendments to be considered at Annual Communication, Sept. 22-23:



Amendment Group 1

Would allow the Board of Custodians to elect officers after the installation of the Grand Master.

Submitted by Grand Secretary



Amendment Group 2

This amendment will clarify editorial control of Grand Lodge news and information through The North Carolina Mason and other forms of publication.

Submitted by Board of Publication



Amendment Group 3

This amendment would allow a lodge to open lodge on the First Degree and conduct its business.

Submitted by Blackmer #127



Amendment Group 4

This amendment would allow a lodge to charge a late fee on unpaid dues after March 31. The late charge is optional and would require a lodge to amend its bylaws before it becomes effective.

Submitted by Casar #579



Amendment Group 5

This amendment is being proposed to close certain loopholes by requiring the conduct of background checks for those seeking Advancement, Restoration after Exclusion, Restoration after Demitting or Affiliation after two years.

Submitted by PGM Bryant Webster



Amendment Group 6

This amendment is being proposed to codify the Grand Lodge Committee on Personnel, which has functioned since 2013 as an ad hoc committee, and which has greatly professionalized the handling of our personnel matters and brought us compliant with best practices.

Submitted by PGM Bryant Webster



Amendment Group 7

Would allow the Grand Master to dispense with the reading of minutes of any lodge communication he closes in ample form.

Submitted by Grand Secretary



Amendment Group 8

This amendment would increase the per capita amount to \$25 per member.

Submitted by GL Finance Committee



Amendment Group 9

This amendment immediately stops the purchase of new Endowed Memberships. Applications for Endowed memberships already accepted by the Grand Secretary would be unaffected. Current endowed membership participants would be unaffected. The rules of transferring of memberships and other regulations regarding current endowed memberships would continue. Lodges would continue to receive endowed payments in perpetuity.

Submitted by State College #770



Amendment Group 10

This amendment creates a new type of lifetime membership, Legacy Membership. Legacy Membership is crafted after Endowed Memberships, except with the amount paid out increasing over time. This allows the dues paid to the lodge to keep up with inflation, leaving a true legacy.

Submitted by State College #770



Amendment Group 11

This amendment modifies the order of business for a lodge business meeting.

Submitted by Eagle #19



Amendment Group 12

This amendment makes the Senior and Junior Grand Deacon chairmen of the Committees for WhiteStone and Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.



Amendment Group 13

Its purpose is to "suspend" membership of a member who has been charged with a crime but has yet to be adjudicated in criminal court. If he is found guilty, the Judge Advocate will summarily expel him from the fraternity or if found not guilty, his membership is fully restored and all notations expunged from his record. *Note: This amendment will require unanimous consideration for this Grand Lodge.*

Submitted by Oak Grove #750

PGM Norburn Hyatt dies at 88

Norburn Creighton Hyatt, former Grand Master of Masons of North Carolina and 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, died July 17 at his home in Candler.

He was born at the family farm, now called *Lanesland*, on Oct. 10, 1928, to Lane and Wilma Hyatt. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Martha Frances Foster Hyatt; his daughters, Norma Kulseth and Karen Allman; son-in-law, Dr. James Allman; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

A former salesman who traveled the eastern seaboard as a representative of The Cherokees and for Wheeler Manufacturing, GM Hyatt lived his life in Buncombe County.



He was a Blue Lodge Mason for more than 57 years. He began his Masonic career in 1960.

He was initiated at Mount Herman #118 in Asheville. He was soon appointed to the officer line and later elected Master in 1969. He was elected to receive the Scottish Rite Degrees in 1961 and was decorated with the rank of Knight Commander Court of Honour in October 1969. He was coronated an Inspector General Honorary of the 33rd degree in 1973.

He was appointed to the Grand Lodge line, and in June 1985, was elected Grand Master of Masons of North Carolina. He was appointed Personal Representative to the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Orient of North Carolina for the Valley of Asheville in 1985 for 17 years. He also was a member of the Asheville York Rite, the Oasis Shrine, and the Order of the Eastern Star, where he served as Worthy Patron of Esther Chapter #12.

During his Masonic career, he was elected an honorary member of several lodges. He was also a Charter member of Veritas #769 in Asheville.

In 1993 Grand Master Ray Norris presented him with the Joseph Montfort Medal. In 2005, he was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.

He was preceded in death by his parents and all of his siblings. Funeral services, including Masonic Rites, were held July 21. He is buried at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church Cemetery.

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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

Visiting a bridge builder

Have you ever had one of those "moments," a serendipitous tick of time when you knew that what you were witnessing was something so special, so moving, that you knew it could never happen again?

You try to tell friends about it later, praying for total recall ... which always fails you. But somehow, you manage to remember the best parts, the feeling in the room and in your heart, the emotion of the moment.

I want to share one of those moments – a treasure made of time – that I was lucky enough to experience when I spent some time visiting Past Grand Master Charles E. Cathey, along with my NC Masonic Foundation colleagues Jeff Hensley, Dee Blake and Chris Richardson.

Full disclosure: we descended on Most Worshipful Cathey with no warning, dropping in on him at the NC State Veteran's Home in Black Mountain on one sweltering late June afternoon. We wanted to present him with a list of the latest winners of the high school scholarships he had created when he was Grand Master in 2000.

He didn't miss a beat. He smiled and welcomed us, settling in for a good, long chat. As we talked, he reminisced about his year as Grand Master – clearly a favorite subject. He talked about his brothers, the major issues of his year and the joys he felt in doing the work.

He brightened as we showed him the list of scholarship winners, confessing that he had never completed college himself, so establishing that scholarship – which we are still growing today – was a dream come true for him.

And then it happened. The moment.

We had all heard about the poem he liked to recite as he closed lodge and District meetings, and we asked him about it.

His smile grew wider. With only a little prodding, he agreed to recite it for us. No brother from his year will fail to recognize it.

His voice is weaker now than it was back in the day, but his memory is sharp. He spoke,

moving his hands to punctuate the words, staring off into memory. You knew, looking at him, that just for that brief, brief moment he was back there. Standing in the East, speaking to the brothers he loves.

He barely hesitated as he recited the poem, *The Bridge Builder*, published in 1931 by a Tennessee poet named Will Allen Dromgoole.

*An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.*

*"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"*

*The builder lifted his old gray head;
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followed after me to-day
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"*

There was silence in the room when he finished speaking. Well ... except for the sound of my own snuffling.

I have seen a lot in my short time with this fraternity, but this by far was one of the most moving moments.

I saw in his eyes what Masonry means and realized as my gaze rested on the list of scholarship winners on the table beside him that he truly HAD built that bridge.

Knowing that he won't pass this way again, he didn't waste his strength.

He didn't hesitate.

He built.

He created his own span for those young men to follow, to cross in the twilight dim, sparing them a potential pitfall across all chasms, deep and wide.



By Beth Grace
Editor

LET'S GO TO WORK!



Freemasonry is a team effort

By *A. Gene Cobb Jr.*
Grand Master

When I was a statistician for Coach Dean Smith during my days at Carolina, I kept the points per possession chart. Someone else kept the assists and rebounds.

My job was to calculate how many points North Carolina and our opponents averaged every time the ball was touched. Naturally, that meant I kept up with individual field goals attempted/made, individual free throws attempted/made and team turnovers. It was a huge task and Coach Smith depended on accuracy so that he could measure our excellence at both ends of the floor each game.

One thing I never understood was why he made some of the substitutions at the times he made them. I just did what he told me to do. He knew what he was doing. Coach Smith believed basketball was a team game at every level.

Hold that thought.

During the District visits this year, I

wanted to recognize our District Deputy Grand Lecturers by asking them to lead the closing charge. They did it in a variety of ways that blessed us all. Whether solo, in unison, "sentence-prayer" style, or whatever, the words of the closing charge resonated so well among the Craft that all of us attending appreciated who we are, what we are supposed to be, and those faithful servants called DDGLs who keep us in due bounds with the work.

They are a pillar of wisdom, strength, and beauty in North Carolina. Their work this year has been so inspirational that I received a phone call from the Order of the Eastern Star leadership informing me that they are asking our brothers to say the closing charge at their meetings! What a great testimony to who we are as a Masonic family!

There are 41 districts in North Carolina and the service rendered by our District Officers is phenomenal.

Recently, I asked the District Deputy Grand Masters to secure Form 39 from every lodge in the state. It is still a requirement in the Code, even after MORI. Our DDGMs have worked tirelessly providing valuable information we need going forward that will benefit everyone in the future. They worked tirelessly in this

effort without warning or preparation from the Grand Master. Their excellent work has provided valuable information that will help us all be fully accountable and faithful to our trust in financial matters in the future.


Lodges are chartered by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina and as such, are fully accountable for their financial matters. By the time this message is printed, I trust 100 percent of our chartered lodges will have completed their financial responsibilities.

Thank you to all of our DDGMs. Davie's lion roars loud because of you.

As I think about the teamwork I've witnessed with the District Deputy Grand Masters and Lecturers this year, I am humbled by their service. We haven't scored on every possession and there have been a few turnovers, but we have played like a team.

Masonry is a huge task and we depend on accuracy so that we can measure our excellence as far as our cable tow allows. Some changes have to happen if excellence is to prevail because as I see it, we are in this together.

Freemasonry in North Carolina involves a team of excellent people at every level who know what they are doing.

Hold that thought, too. 

Ritual competition winners named

The "Vile and Impious Wretches" won the open competition and Lebanon #391 took top honors in the closed competition at the 2017 Ritual competition, sponsored by Wilkerson College #760.

Winners of the open competition receive a plaque and winners of the closed competition are honored by having their lodge name placed on the perpetual trophy kept in the Grand Master's office in the Grand Lodge.

Runner-up in the open competition was the "Down East Rascals," and runner-up in the closed contest was

Semper Fidelis #680.

Vile and Impious Wretches
Master – Mark Alexander, North Wilkesboro #407

Senior Warden – David Wyatt, Mount Pleasant #573

Junior Warden – Steven Russell, North Wilkesboro #407

Senior Deacon – Robert Doyle, North Wilkesboro #407

Junior Deacon – Jason Yale, North Wilkesboro #407

Down East Rascals

Master – Loren Jones, Semper Fidelis #680

Senior Warden – Bill Thacker, Seaside #429

Junior Warden – Mike Wagoner, Lafayette #83

Senior Deacon – Jim Fitzgibbons, Lafayette #83

Junior Deacon – Thom Reconnu, Semper Fidelis #680

Lebanon #391 team

Master – James Pugsley

Senior Warden – Charles Everitte

Junior Warden – Allan Faires Jr.

Senior Deacon – Mark Saults

Junior Deacon – Fernando Rodriguez

Semper Fidelis #680 team

Master – William Fitzpatrick

Senior Warden – Keith Koch

Junior Warden – Thom Reconnu

Senior Deacon – Jason Caldwell

Junior Deacon – Heriberto Acevedo Jr.



THANK YOU, BROTHERS! An annual tradition is revived as brother Masons serving in the NC Legislature gather at the Grand Lodge for a reception and fellowship. About 20 lawmakers were invited, along with our brothers from the NC Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the NC Masonic Foundation staff to spend time together and for all to thank those who serve our state and Freemasonry.

OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

Home was a blessing for this centenarian

MHCO grad turning 100 looks back at life at Oxford campus

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

When Josephine Poole Pruitt smiles, it lights up the room.

Her bright eyes, keen sense of humor and sharp memory belie her 100 years, and make every conversation with her a captivating journey through a life that has not been easy – but has been a blessing.

Mrs. Pruitt celebrates her personal centennial Aug. 13, with a big party at the Newton, N.C., retirement community she now calls home, surrounded by friends and family – and memories of a life that had a hard start.

Her father was killed by a bolt of lightning when she was only 2. Her mother tried to make a life for herself and her daughter in Cary, N.C., but she contracted tuberculosis. The illness forced her to move to the southwest, where, doctors said, the dry air would clear her lungs.

But she made sure her daughter was cared for before she left, placing little Josephine in the Baby Cottage at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

Now 5, Josephine did not understand what was happening.

“I cried all the way,” she said, with a smile. She didn’t know that she had landed in the safest of hands.

She remembers MHCO as the “most wonderful place in the world,” boasting a candy store, a big hospital and swimming pool. She prospered there as she grew, even becoming a bit of an entrepreneur to make some spending money.

“I would rake leaves for 3 cents and acorns for 1 cent,” she remembers. Later, she offered to clean the room of the school’s secretary. “She paid me 35 cents to clean. I got 50



Nothing is more important than family to Josephine Poole Pruitt, one of the Masonic Home for Children’s oldest graduates, who celebrates her 100th birthday this month. She will be joined at a big birthday bash in Newton by her daughter, Rebecca Gammon, left, and granddaughter, Joanna Gammon. Folks from MHCO, Grand Master Gene Cobb and representatives from the NC Masonic Foundation will also be on hand. (Photo by Beth Grace)

cents when I did the bathroom!”

With her newfound wealth, she bought candy from time to time and even indulged in what she now recalls as “cheap perfume.”

She was smart – so smart, she skipped a grade. As she grew, she landed a job in the home’s laundry. She would go to school half a day and work half a day. She made money, but didn’t emerge unscathed. One of the machines – an old-fashioned ringer – spun and broke her arm. That began a medical journey that left her with a right arm that never fully healed. To this day, she cannot straighten it.

“My doctor told me years later I could have it fixed,” she said. “But I said no. I was used to it by then!”

Mrs. Pruitt remembers her daily routine as if it were yesterday. Up early, making the bed followed by five minutes of exercise, breakfast and on to school on campus. All students met in the same classroom

at the time. After school was playtime, and sometimes the girls would gather by the piano.

On Sundays, everyone would go to church, about 10 minutes away.

Well, almost everyone.

“One Sunday, I decided I didn’t want to go to church, so I hid in the closet,” she said, laughing. She never budged from the closet and she definitely did not have fun. “I said, ‘I’ll never do that again!’ I was so scared I was going to get caught!”

Peanut butter & molasses

She even remembers favorite meals. Sometimes on Sundays, they would have a bag supper, with a peanut butter and molasses sandwich, apple, cookie and a drink. She loved that sandwich so much, her daughter Rebecca Gammon grew up on it – and so has her granddaughter, Joanna Gammon.

Josephine would remain at the

home until she was 18 – graduating at age 17. Her family came to visit at times, and she went to see them. But her mother passed away while Josephine was only 12.

The home was such a haven, she said, she never realized it wasn’t a “normal” way to grow up.

She credits lessons learned there for the woman she would become, marrying and having a family of her own.

She learned how to live a good life, one that looked beyond her own needs.

In fact, she can still recite – without hesitation – the blessing all MHCO kids have said over meals. And still do. It’s a guiding light for her. Always has been and always will be.

“Father of all, God, what we have here is of thee. Take our thanks and bless us that we may continue to do thy will.” ✨

Foundation puts lodge's money to work

Youngsville #377 plans for its future charitable giving even in leaner times

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

For many years, Youngsville #377 has carefully managed the proceeds from its fundraisers, including a very successful annual golf tournament, on its own. Being good stewards of money raised is a fact of life in lodges – and one of the most demanding jobs for an all-volunteer team of brothers with jobs, families and busy lives.

But WB Rich Cash, treasurer at Youngsville #377, had an idea. He wondered if the newly revamped North Carolina Masonic Foundation might help the lodge invest and take care of its fund, and help brothers apply the money to a good cause: funding an annual gift to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Protecting the home with an endowment from the lodge, long into the future, through hard times and good, might be achievable.

He took his idea to Master Casey Pearce, who raised the issue in open lodge.

"We all liked the idea of being able to keep helping the children's home when *they* need it and not when we decided to send the money," he said. "And this would mean that if we have a bad year or if someday the lodge simply didn't exist, we will still be helping the Home."

Last January, the lodge invited WB Chris Richardson, NCMF's eastern development director, to speak to the 63-member lodge about how the brothers could create a perpetual gift for MHCO with the money it had raised at its 2016 golf outing and other fundraisers.

"The brothers explained that they wanted to help MHCO, and if something ever happened to the lodge, they still wanted to fulfil their Masonic obligation to the children who will always need the Home in Oxford," Richardson said. "They not only wanted to make smart investments with their golf tournament money, they wanted it to be viable and to make it grow."

We can help, Richardson told them. The NCMF has almost 90 years of experience investing money on behalf of our charities and works with investment professionals to keep the funds impactful and growing, he explained.

On behalf of Youngsville #377, the Foundation in late Spring set up a trust for the lodge. While the brothers of Youngsville #377 maintain full control over the account, those funds are now being invested along with the Foundation's other funds and now have the power of the entire investment portfolio of the Foundation to earn more return on their investment.

"We set it up as a trust, which is like an annuity," Richardson says. "Unlike building funds or dues, this is for charity, so it is intended as and is treated as a long-term charitable gift."

There is a minimum investment and the lodge signs a memorandum of understanding, which outlines what the Foundation does and how it will make the annual gift to the charity. This is considered a service the Foundation can give back to the fraternity.

The money remains the lodge's and it can add to the fund as years



Youngsville #377 Master Casey Pearce (right), Treasurer WB Rich Cash (left) and District 13 DDGM Will Chriscoe (center) celebrate their lodge's decision to invest their fundraising monies through the NC Masonic Foundation to ensure an annual gift to the Masonic Home for Children for years to come. (Photo by Beth Grace)

go on to make it grow and ensure the home will receive an annual check when it needs it. The account is held within NCMF's funds, which are invested and maintained independently of the Grand Lodge.

"The Home gets a gift – 5 percent of the fund – every October 1st, based on the value of the principal and interest earned to that date," Richardson said.

So why would the Foundation do this investment work for a lodge?

"This program benefits us all. This is why we as a Foundation exist – to help others," NCMF Chief Development Officer Jeff Hensley says. "This partnership allows Masons to give their money to our charities through the Foundation over a long period of time, even in times of lower membership or a rough economy or next to no return on their own investments.

"And a big bonus of this: they

don't have to manage this money themselves. They can hand it over to people they trust, other Masons like them, to watch over their hard-earned charitable dollars, as brothers and as supporters of our charities, tasked to keep it growing for the future."

The plan has no bigger fan than District 13 DDGM Will Chriscoe, also a member of Youngsville #377.

"This is something every lodge can do," he said. "Even if you raise only a few hundred dollars with a doughnut sale or something like that, there's still something you can do and it adds up. Save it up and talk to the Foundation. It's great to know that lodges can keep doing good work long after we are all gone. That's something to shoot for."

Interested in finding out how your lodge can participate? Contact Jeff Hensley at jhensley@mfnc.org or 919-780-7664. ⚡

NORTH CAROLINA
THE MASON
DEADLINES

Want to get your lodge news out? Here are the deadlines to meet to get your news to namason@glnc.us.

Sept. 5 – Issue arrives at your home end of October
Nov. 5 – Issue arrives at your home end of December
Jan. 5 – Issue arrives at your home end of February
March 5 – Issue arrives at your home end of April



MILEPOSTS



▲ **WALLACE** – In July, Wallace #279 honored veterans from the local community. Brother James Morrison, also commander of American Legion Post 156, gave a presentation about the POW/MIA empty chair. Andrew Jackson from the North Carolina National Guard was on hand to present the Vietnam Era Veterans with a pin commemorating their service.



▲ **NEWTON** – Joseph O. Goble, seated, hits a true milepost as he celebrates his 70th year of Masonry. Brother Joe, a member of Catawba #248 in Newton, will celebrate another major day this year: he turns 103 on Sept. 10. Joe became a master mason in Statesville #27 on Aug. 16, 1946. He changed his membership to Catawba #248 the following year, on Aug. 5, 1947. Celebrating with their brother are (L-R): Mack Sigmon, senior grand warden and member of Catawba #248; Robert Jarrett, past master and past secretary; Joe Goble; and Chris Wilhoit, master.



◀ **KERNERSVILLE** – Kernersville #669 in June awarded a scholarship to Amber Goforth. This scholarship was presented by WM Brian Anderson. Goforth's father, Kernersville's Senior Steward Shanon Brooks, was in attendance to help present the scholarship. Pictured left to right are: Senior Deacon Damon Wear; WM Anderson; Amber Goforth; and her father, Shanon Brooks.

► **CLEMMONS** – Clemmons #755 honored its military veterans in June with a steak dinner provided by Brothers Hank Skee and Wesley Walker. Veterans also received a commemorative pin, presented by Worshipful Master George Powers, recognizing their service to our country. The veterans honored included: Bob Charlier, Furman Mason, Robert Furches, and Ernest Parker, all Air Force; Jerry Brooks, Alan Burke, Gene Isenhour, Denzil Knight, all Army, and Trampus Stanley, Army, 82nd Airborne, and Assault Platoon; Richard Cobb and Donald Rininger, Marines; Herb Thomas, Marine Reserve; Bruce Ayres, Skip Larson, and Leigh Leverenz, all Navy.



MILEPOSTS



Grand Lodge officers celebrate with members of The Lodge of The Nine Sisters, UD.

A formal affair at Raleigh Temple

RALEIGH – On June 14, Most Worshipful Grand Master A. Gene Cobb granted dispensation to the Lodge of the Nine Sisters, UD at the Raleigh Masonic Temple.

In attendance were GM Cobb, Deputy Grand Master Speed Hallman, Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, Senior Grand Warden Mack Sigmon, Senior Grand Steward Donald Kehler, Assistant to the Grand Secretary Jonathan Underwood, MWB Doug Caudle, MWB Bryant Webster, and many visiting brothers from across the state.

The Lodge of the Nine Sisters, UD is the first Traditional Observance lodge in the Raleigh area and the fourth in North Carolina following Sophia #767, Veritas #769 and Lux Libertas, UD.

Traditional Observance Masonry has been growing in popularity across the country and focuses heavily on Masonic Education with a more philosophical approach. The lodge setting is more formal with officers in tuxedos and brethren in dark suit, tie and white gloves.

Music, meditation or reflection and other elements are often incorporated into the lodge meeting while strictly adhering to the rituals of North Carolina Masonry and The Code of the NC Grand Lodge.

This is a unique approach to Masonry designed to inspire and enlighten the Craft.

Founding members are WM J. Gregory Wallace, Senior Warden Matthew N. Parker, Junior Warden Richard T. Corbin, Secretary Joseph

M. Keller, Treasurer John Ruggiero, Senior Deacon Chance B. Corbin, Junior Deacon Marc A. Fusco, Stewards Matthew B. Moore and Erik J. Riedesel, Chaplain Joseph B. Walls, Tyler Bert W. Walls, and Marshal J. Luigi Ammons.

Also, Thurifer Michael W. Moser, W. Andrew Adams, Henry R. Baker, Jr., C. Alvin Billings, Jr. Michael W. Brantley.

William C. Chriscoe, John W. Davis, III, W. Jeffery Davis, Harvey Y. Ellis, J. Wilson Ferrell, J. Robert Franks, Aubrey E. Fussell.

David B. Glass, Howard Vance Harrell, IV, James C. Izzell, Jr., Robert E. Kupper, Philip P. Miller, Donald W. Slaughter, Donald B. Street and C. Glenn Todd.

Past Grand Master named to UNC board

CHAPEL HILL – Past Grand Master Charles M. Ingram (1999) is part of a select group of alumni and friends appointed to serve on the Board of Visitors of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The appointments were announced May 31. The 56 new members are part of an approximately 175-member board that assists the Board of Trustees and Chancellor in activities focused on advancing UNC-Chapel Hill.

RING, from page 2

was just enough money on hand to buy a replacement band.

When it arrived, we went over to my folks' house and my dad, a retired United Methodist minister who had co-officiated our wedding, blessed the new ring. But it never felt the same. It simply wasn't the one Margaret placed on my finger that humid summer afternoon – the best day of my life – in Rose Hill.

It always felt like just a piece of jewelry.

Late on a recent Friday afternoon, my cell phone rang with a caller I.D. of Salisbury, and Past Grand Master Preslar got around to this: "When were you married?" "June 20th, 1976."

"Guess what I found?"

While cleaning out his truck prior to selling it, he'd found a gold band with "6-20-76" inscribed inside ... not that I've EVER needed to be reminded of that date.

I sat at my desk with tears of joy on my cheeks. The discovery of the ring wasn't a miracle, but it was the next best thing as far as I'm concerned.

Today, the ring came home.

I asked Margaret to close her eyes and open the package, then the envelope. She pulled out the ring and we both saw it again at the same time.

I can never adequately describe how full and happy my heart feels. My most-treasured possession is back on my finger, placed there – for a second time – by Margaret.

Our hands are wrinkled after 41 years, but when I see our hands with those original bands on them, all I can think of is the decades of ABSOLUTE JOY the Lord has given us.

For me this year, Christmas came early – on May 15. Thank you, Dewey, for being my Santa.

And thank you, Heavenly Father, for sending Margaret to me, and for giving me the good sense to recognize that she was an eternal gift from You that makes me the luckiest man on earth. ✠

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

PINEVILLE

James K. Polk #759 did some good deeds for its community in May and June with two successful events. Brothers held a fish fry and blood drive in May, raising about \$1,100 for the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Eleven pints of blood also were collected. In June, the lodge cooked and served fish dinners to some 70 homeless men at McCresh Place.

PITTSBORO

The brothers of Columbus #102 in May joined the Disabled American Veterans Chapter to sell Forget-me-Not lapel pins. The sale was held to raise funds to help the DAV hold quarterly birthday parties and buy bingo prizes for the veterans in the Extended Care and Recovery Clinic at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Durham. The chapter also assists the DAV with needs not met by the VA, such as motorized scooters for those with amputations or other problems preventing them from walking, and financial assistance on a short term case by case basis.



NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



◀ **HOPE MILLS** – Lebanon #391's first blood drive was a success! Worshipful Master James Pugsley started the May 20 event off as the very first donor. By day's end, 28 people turned out to donate.



▲ **BESSEMER CITY** – Good cooking for a good cause! Brothers Terry Walker and Doc Thompson cook up some hush puppies during Down Home Days in Bessemer City. Whetstone #515 raised more than \$4,400 for our Masonic charities at the barbecue fundraiser in May.



◀ **RALEIGH** – What exactly is in the basement of the Grand Lodge? Whose portraits are those in the board room and what's the story on the murals in the main reception room? It's no secret when you take a tour with Assistant to the Grand Secretary Jonathan Underwood. Touring the GL recently were (L-R): Albert Hopping, Miles Davis, Dan Hopping, Underwood, and Michael Verville. Want to hear all about it? Contact Jonathan Underwood to schedule a tour!

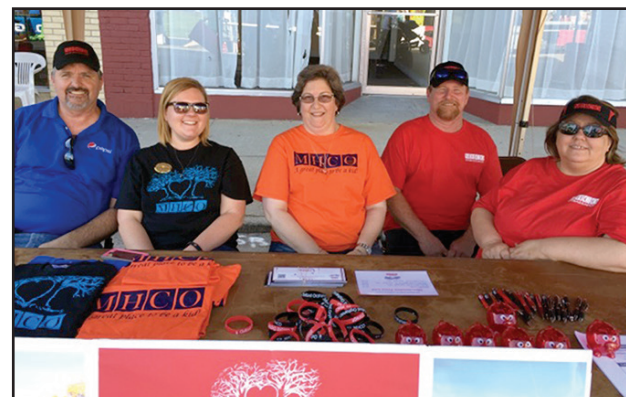
TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **DALLAS** – Gaston County Freemasons came together in June for a day of family celebration at a "Family Fun in the Sun" event to raise funds for The Shelter of Gaston County: A Battered Women's Residence and Resource Center. Brothers from across the 36th Masonic District (Belmont, Bessemer City, Cherryville, Cramerton, Dallas, Gastonia, Lowell, McAdenville, Mount Holly, and Stanley) joined with local civic organizations to provide music, food, games, demonstrations, and entertainment. In addition to a monetary donation to The Shelter, Freemasons donated numerous items the shelter needs on a regular basis. Gaston County Sheriff and Freemason Alan Cloninger welcomed guests and Mack Sigmon, senior grand warden, shared greetings on behalf of the Grand Lodge. He was joined by Kevin Otis, administrator at The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and Mark Kolada, executive director of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. Shelter coordinator Cathy Cloninger thanked the Freemasons for supporting The Shelter. The Gaston County Beekeepers Association provided demonstrations, brother Fred Cloninger stamped names in horseshoes, the Gaston County Amateur Radio Society demonstrated communications around the globe, and a fire truck provided rides around the park, complete with lights and sirens.



DURHAM – "Our brethren! Ye are welcome here, a truthful noble band. We're one in mystic bonds today, We're one in heart and hand." Brothers from two lodges banded together Saturday, June 24, to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of England and the annual Feast for St. John's Day with a seven-course feast. Brothers of Mosaic #762 and State College #770 joined in toast, teaching, song and laughter, marking an elegant, moving evening honoring the Craft, its history and the lessons it teaches. State College Worshipful Master Jonathan Underwood says the lodges hope to make this an annual event.



▲ **ELIZABETH CITY** – Acting on their commission to carry the message of the Masonic Home for Children to families in need, First Masonic District's Ambassadors Doug and Deborah Brickhouse coordinated with the 2017 North Carolina Potato Festival Committee to bring the home's message to the northeast corner of the state. MHCO CFO LuAnne Clark and PQI Director Samantha Coleman spoke with community members about the work and mission of the home. Participants helping staff the booth introduced MHCO to the community, helped recruit house parent candidates and explained the process of referring children to the home. On hand for the festival were (L-R): Phil Johnson PDDGM, Samantha Coleman, LuAnne Clark, Ambassador Doug Brickhouse, Master Eureka 317 and Ambassador Deborah Brickhouse.



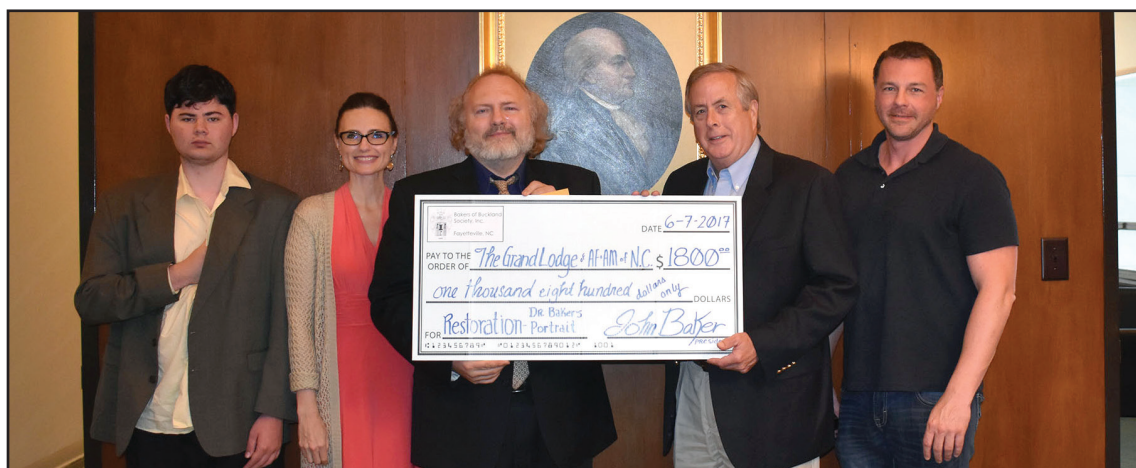
▲ **KERNERSVILLE** – Go team! Kernersville #669 WM Brian Anderson (last row left, holding photo) and Secretary Chad Delp, last row, standing) presented awards to the lodge's own Little League Team, the Kernersville Masons in June. Many parents were in attendance to help present these awards to the players.

If your lodge has a newsletter for its members, make sure *The North Carolina Mason* is on your mailing list. Lodge newsletters are a major source of news from Masons around the state. If you don't have one, think about starting one. Newsletters are a good way to keep your members active, happy, and informed.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **DENVER** – For the third straight year, Denver #757 has hosted the Carolina Amateur Radio Club for Annual Ham Radio Field Day. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio. Brothers Bill Baker and Ken Carnley are members of Denver #757 and are licensed ham radio operators. Denver #757 has been pleased to share its lodge site for this event. On hand for the event this year were (L-R): Jackson Saine; NC state Rep. Jason Saine (also a member of Denver lodge); 34th District DDGM Randy Sharpe and Logan Rodgers of Denver lodge.



▲ **RALEIGH** – Descendants of Simmons Jones Baker present an \$1,800 check to fund restoration of an oil portrait of the man who served North Carolina Freemasons as Grand Master in 1832 and 1840. The family, all members of the Bakers of Buckland Society Inc. of Fayetteville, contacted Grand Secretary Walt Clapp after reading in a Wikipedia entry that a portrait of their patriarch hangs in a "Masonic Lodge in Halifax." The portrait was actually in Raleigh, safely tucked away in a storage area of the Grand Lodge. Once the portrait was unearthed by Assistant to the Grand Secretary Jonathan Underwood, the family happily offered to pay to have it restored. The restoration is part of Grand Secretary Clapp's efforts to secure our Masonic treasures in a safe, welcoming environment where they can be displayed and enjoyed by brothers and their families. The family also donated a smaller replica to the Gates County Historical Society. GM Baker was born in Gates County in 1775.



▲ **CHARLOTTE** – Brothers of Charles M. Setzer #693 make it a point to spend some time helping their community. Recently, they teamed up to help out at the Second Harvest Food Bank. Treasurer Alan Simpson (left), PM Jeff McEwen (center) and WM Hanns Braun help sort juice packets, getting them ready for distribution.

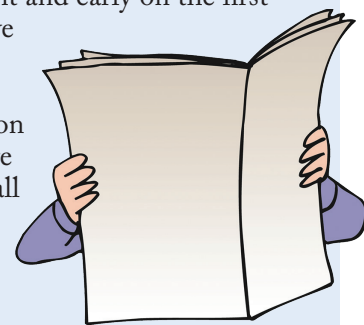
Print or online? Which do you choose?

If you're reading this, you are more than likely reading it on the paper version of the Mason that arrives in your mail every other month. But we know there are many brothers who are reading this via the online version, which is posted bright and early on the first day of each month we publish.

First off – thanks for reading The Mason – in any form! We are happy to bring it to all in both forms for as long as there are brothers out there who read the paper.

But for those who prefer online reading and don't want to get a paper version in the mail, we're offering you the chance to save a tree and some postage. To stop the mailed paper, send an email to ncmason@glnc.com with your name, lodge and the words: "OPT OUT." That's all you need to do.

Again, thanks for reading The Mason!





DGM Speed Hallman leads a Masonic history tour of Hillsborough.

Walking through town's historical ties to Masonry

By Michael Verville
Eagle #19

Hillsborough's Eagle #19 has a remarkable history more than 200 years in the making. That was the takeaway from RWB Speed Hallman's "Masonic History of Hillsborough Tour" on May 27.

The Deputy Grand Master led a group of 20, half of whom were curious citizens with no Masonic affiliations, on a leisurely stroll down King Street. Along the way he talked about the obvious and hidden Masonic history all around the historic and charming downtown.

The Hillsborough Visitors Center/Alexander Dickson House, for example, was once the meeting point for Confederate generals and civilian leaders, including Freemasons Gov. Zebulon Vance and UNC President David Swain. There they discussed a peaceful end to the Civil War in North Carolina with Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston as he prepared to negotiate terms of surrender with Union Gen. William T. Sherman.

Several prominent Hillsborough Masons served North Carolina during the War for American Independence, including William Hooper, who was one of three of the state's signers of the Declaration of Independence. Hooper and several other Freemasons are buried in the Old Town Cemetery, established 1757.

Many delegates to the Constitu-

tional Convention of 1788 were also members of Masonic lodges. At that meeting, held in Hillsborough at a time when there was not yet a fixed state capital, leaders called for a Bill of Rights to be included in the new U.S. Constitution before they would vote to ratify the document.

Several Eagle members played defining roles in the founding of UNC, including James Hogg, who was a member of the first board of trustees; the university's first president, Joseph Caldwell; and Matthew and William McCauley, brothers who donated 250 acres for the first publicly supported University in the nascent country. The McCauley brothers were also present with William R. Davie when he laid the cornerstone of UNC on Oct. 12, 1793.

The tour ended with a discussion of one of Eagle's past masters, the prominent operative and speculative Mason, John Berry, and a tour of one of his most stunning brick edifices, Eagle Lodge (c. 1823-1824). Berry also served in state and local government and built many of his era's finest public and private buildings in the region.

The tour was a partnership between the Alliance for Historic Hillsborough and Eagle Lodge, with half of all proceeds supporting ongoing preservation of the efforts of the lodge building through the Historic Eagle Lodge Foundation.

7th Annual Masonic Homecoming Festival Schedule of Events



Friday, Oct. 13

Event	Location	
7:30 a.m. to mid-afternoon	Chip Shots Golf Tourney	Kerr Lake CC - Henderson, NC
Noon-6 p.m.	BBQ Registration/Teams Arrive/Set-Up	"The Pit" at MHCO
5-8 p.m.	Andrew Jackson Lodge Stew Sale	"The Pit" at MHCO
6-8 p.m.	Food, Dessert and Drink Concessions Open	"The Pit" at MHCO
7-9:30 p.m.	Music - Tim Cifers	"The Pit" Stage
6 p.m.	BBQ Contest - Cooks Meeting	Gymnasium at MHCO
6-8 p.m.	Museum Open - Reception	Cobb Center - Galleries
9:30 p.m.	Campus Closed - "The Pit" Closed - Parking Closed**	

** Only Those Registered BBQ Team Individuals Will Be Allowed To Remain On Campus With Cooking Teams and Only With An Armband.

Saturday, Oct. 14

Event	Location	
7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	Cottage Sales (Coffee and Doughnuts)	MHCO Main Campus
9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	Cottage Sales (Merchandise and Snack Items)	
8 a.m.-9 a.m.	Orphans Lodge - Open To All Master Masons	Masonic Center - MHCO
8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Information Booth/First Aid/Volunteer Check-In	Near Main Stage at St. John's
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Pre-Registration Pick-Up For Alumni	Front of Cobb Center
9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Alumni Registration	Cobb Center at Dunn Cottage
10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Museum Open	Cobb Center
9:30 a.m.	Opening and Welcome	Main Stage at St. John's
9:45 a.m.	MHCO Homecoming Parade	
11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Gaming Unplugged Mobile Game Theater	MHCO Campus
11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Ragland Production Inflatables	MHCO Campus
11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Ted's Twisted Balloons	MHCO Campus
11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Scrap Exchange Creative Time	MHCO Campus
11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Sudan Choo Choo	MHCO Campus
9-9:45 a.m.	BBQ Turn-In/Judging	St. John's Building Alcove
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	"The Pit" Opens For Public Service	"The Pit" at MHCO
11 a.m.	Announcement Homecoming Court/Queen	Main Stage at St. John's
TBD	Announcement of BBQ Contest Winners	"The Pit" at MHCO
11 a.m.-1pm	Lunch - Under The Oaks	MHCO Campus
Noon-1:30 p.m.	Entertainment - Jim Quick and Coastline	Main Stage at St. John's
11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Open House Tours - Cottage (Shuttle provided)	TBA
1-3 p.m.	Open House Tours - School of Graphic Arts	School of Graphic Arts
3 p.m.	Campus Closed	
6-8 p.m.	Alumni Roast	MHCO Cafeteria
8 p.m.-Midnight	Homecoming Alumni Dance	Granville County Shrine Club

Sunday, Oct. 15

Event	Location	
10 a.m.	Worship Service	York Rite Chapel
11 a.m.	OOAA Annual Business Meeting	York Rite Chapel
Noon-1:30 p.m.	Sunday Lunch Under The Oaks	Picnic Shelter
Noon-2p.m.	Museum Open	Cobb Center
2 p.m.	End of Masonic Homecoming Festival 2017	

The Grand Historian's Courier Case

Broken band of Brothers meets in battle

By Stephen Campbell
Grand Historian

No matter one's beliefs, it cannot be denied that the most horrid chapter in our history was the American Civil War (War of Secession).

The destruction and loss of nearly three-quarters of a million lives to this day reverberates throughout the country. The reasons for this war were many.

In July, 154 years ago, the greatest battle of the war was fought in Gettysburg, Pa. The lives of three members of our fraternity – Lewis Addison Armistead, Winfield Scott Hancock, and George Edward Pickett – would forever be altered as a result of this engagement.

Brother Lewis Addison Armistead was a member of the Alexandria-Washington #22, in Alexandria, Va. He was born in his grandfather's (John Stanly) home in New Bern, NC.

Brother Stanly (name-sake of Stanly County, NC) had killed Brother Richard Dobbs-Spaight (former NC Governor & signer of the Constitution) in a duel on the grounds of St. John's #3 in New Bern.

Lewis's uncle, Major George Armistead, was the commanding officer of Fort McHenry during the bombardment that inspired Francis Scott Key to write The Star Spangled Banner.

After obtaining an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Lewis withdrew for health and disciplinary reasons. However, his military skills were not overlooked and he obtained a commission during the Mexican War. Serving with distinction, he continued his Army career at western posts, where he cultivated his friendships with Brothers Hancock and Pickett.

Sadly, Armistead lost his wife and children

to disease and never married again. At a final farewell dinner in Los Angeles, he lamented his upcoming separation from Brother Hancock who, unlike Armistead, remained in the Army while Lewis "went south" to bear arms for the Confederacy.

Known as a brave and strongly disciplined officer, Brother Armistead rose through the

defender of the original Star Spangled Banner" in Baltimore, Md.

Brother Winfield Scott Hancock was a member of Charity #190, Norristown, Penn. He was born in Montgomery Square, Pa., and upon graduation from West Point would serve in the Mexican War, Seminole Indian conflicts, and western posts.

Because the Army was not very large, comradship between officers was strong as it was in the case of Hancock, Armistead, and Pickett. Hancock's wife, Almira, was revered by Brother Armistead. When the Civil War began, Hancock soon achieved promotion and fame for his bravery and obtained the nickname "Hancock the Superb."

In 1863, Brother Winfield would command the corps that defended the center of the Federal lines at Gettysburg. It was his unit that experienced the brunt of the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble charge that fateful day.

Leading by example and on the front line, Brother Hancock was severely wounded in the groin, a wound that would impair his health for the remainder of his life.

After the war, Hancock continued his career leading troops in the sorrowful Plains Indian Wars on the western frontier. In 1880, General Hancock became the Democratic candidate for President. He was defeated by another Army veteran, Brother James Garfield by just 7,018 votes.

Five days shy of his 62nd birthday, one of America's longest serving officers perished and was laid to rest in Norristown, Pa.

Brother George Edward Pickett was a member of Dove #51, in Richmond, Va. Born in Virginia, Brother Pickett's family decided he would study law under an uncle in Illinois. It soon became

■ see THREE BROTHERS next page



Flanking the North Carolina Monument at Gettysburg National Military Park are (top) Gen. Lewis Armistead, (center) Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock and (bottom) Gen. George E. Pickett, all close friends and brothers in Freemasonry. Hancock fought for the North while Pickett and Armistead were a part of the army of the Confederacy. All were key figures in the final day of battle at Gettysburg.

ranks, and upon that fateful day, July 3, 1863, he would lead his brigade into the sheer destruction inflicted by Hancock's command.

Lewis Armistead, age 46, would be wounded, captured, and perish three days after the charge. On his deathbed, he entrusted his Masonic watch and Bible to Brother Hancock. His final resting place would be next to his uncle, George, "the

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Wilson, Michael Anthony	St John's	1	Cassell, James Edward	Leaksville	136	Beck, Jeremy Dustin	Stokesdale	428	Watkins Sr, Clifton Lee	Garner	701
Blegen, James Lee	St John's	1	Guilliams Jr, James Harold	Mt. Olive	208	Hopkins, Ira Blevin	Elkin	454	Parker, Mitchel Roland	Garner	701
Elderdice, Randy Dale	St John's	1	Lancaster, Joseph Warren	Mt. Olive	208	Bullis, Dennis Blane	Thomas M. Holt	492	Rowland, Brian Scott	Albemarle	703
Pecker, Sean Lavee	St John's	1	David, Dexter Dennis	Corinthian	230	Norris, Seth Anthony	Thomas M. Holt	492	Pearson, Stewart Forest	Conover	709
Williams, William Wilson	Charity	5	McLain, Darren Gregory	Lee	253	Cook, Warren Scott	Cherryville	505	Smith, Darren Phillip	Liberty	714
Albee, James Jordan	Phoenix	8	Porzio, Nathan James	Fuquay	258	Hull, Timothy Wayne	Cherryville	505	James, Edward	Grantham	725
Cooper, Gary James	Phoenix	8	Cline, Markus Andrew	Hibriten	262	McCants, Charles Wardlaw	Cherryville	505	Anderson, Edward Lee	Shallotte	727
James, Tony	Phoenix	8	Bradley, Dustin Dale	French Broad	292	Bragg, Earl Scott	Whetstone	515	Bell, Kendall Davis	Stedman	730
Morales, David	Phoenix	8	Griffin, Keaton O'Bryan	French Broad	292	Goode, Tyler Lee	Whetstone	515	Egan, Brian Scott	Stedman	730
Smith, Joshua David	Phoenix	8	Ricker, Mitchell Ryan	French Broad	292	Paschall, Larry Fred	Whetstone	515	Large, Anthony David	Stedman	730
Williams, Timothy Lee	Liberty	45	Silver, Justin Derek	French Broad	292	Payne, Jonathan Chase	Whetstone	515	Bumgardner, Ricky Lee	Stump Sound	733
Frazier, John Wesley	Liberty	45	Willis, Jeffrey Wayne	French Broad	292	Wyrick, Daniel Wayne	Corinthian	542	Gooler, Shaun Michael	Stump Sound	733
Minton, Brian Steven	Liberty	45	Gibbs, Cameron Lane	French Broad	292	Godsey, John Michael	Mount Holly	544	Forth, Robert Eugene	Stump Sound	737
Bates, Aaron David	Kilwinning	64	Gibbs, Ryan Mitchell	Atlantic	294	Cooper, William Robert	Elise	555	Brown, Mark Alexander	Steele Creek	737
Ricketts, Heith Edwin	Kilwinning	64	Kennedy Jr, Larry Speight	Pleasant Hill	304	Blackwell, Tyrann Tarell	Ashe	594	Lay, Nicholas Austin	Steele Creek	737
Sheppard, Jesse Evans	Kilwinning	64	Nunley, Steven Ray	Raeford	306	Easter, Tyler Andrew	Round Peak	616	Harrington, Clifford Duke	Federal Point	753
Nesbitt, Grady Laverne	Lafayette	83	Pequeno, Gregory Anthony	Raeford	306	Riley, Devan Ferrell	Beulaville	658	Lilly, Christopher Pierce	Clifford Duell	756
Cockman Jr, Oren Keith	Hiram	98	Sasser, Christopher Mark	Eureka	317	O'Briant, Christopher Charlie	Garland	664	Hemmerich, Laurence Louis	Clifford Duell	756
Moore, William Hedrick	Franklin	109	Strange, Jackie David	Wilmington	319	Perry, Jonathon Ronald	Ft. Bragg	667	Martin, Fred Thomas	Denver	757
Steers, Michael Brandon	Wayne	112	Hand, Jeffery Wayne	Harmony	340	Brafford, Jimmy David	Kernersville	669	Lindsay, Gregory Charles	Oak Island	758
Mayzak, Michael Anthony	Wayne	112	Snapp, James Michael	Mount Vernon	359	Campbell, Joseph Andrew	Kernersville	669	Shah, Romin Bharat	James K. Polk	759
Tan, Jerome Cosmiano	Wayne	112	Hammerly Jr, Gregory James	Gastonia	369	Whitt, James Nelson	Kernersville	669	Stubbs, Thomas Charles	James K. Polk	759
Niez, Gilbert Laurence M.	Mt. Lebanon	117	Woods, Joseph Michael	Gastonia	369	Woods, Jason Blaine	Kernersville	669	Holland, Justin Paul	Ashlar	765
Dodgion, Robert Shannon	Mt. Hermon	118	Doster, Corey Austin Price	Friendship	388	Newsome, Jared Parker	Piedmont-Pioneer	685	Schmidt, James Andrew	Ashlar	765
Wakefield, Andrew Kampen	Mt. Hermon	118	Lawson, Bryan Thomas	Friendship	388	Weavil, Jonah Christopher	Piedmont-Pioneer	685			
Wall III, Robert Lindsay	Dan River	129	Mathis, Donald Edward	Lebanon	391	McMorrow, Michael Joseph	Charles M. Setzer	693			

THREE BROTHERS from page 14

apparent he was not destined for such a career.

With the influence of his family, George obtained an appointment to West Point from then-Congressman Abraham Lincoln. (It is reported that Brother Pickett never allowed, nor wanted to hear, any ill words regarding Mr. Lincoln.)

Though not a scholar, Pickett proved to be brave, daring, charismatic, and a natural leader. Upon graduating last in his class, he soon achieved recognition for his service during the Mexican War.

He would marry his childhood sweetheart, Sallie Minge, who died shortly after their wedding. Wishing to "keep busy," Brother George found himself stationed in the far flung Washington Territory, whereby his clear thinking and diplomatic skills prevented an armed confrontation with nearby British troops. (He was awarded the "Thanks of Congress.")

The circle of friends (Armistead, Hancock, Pickett) bid their farewells in California and Pickett, like Armistead, resigned his Army commission.


As a result of his actions, Brother Pickett rose in rank to

Major General in the Army of Northern Virginia. It was his division of 5,800 men that would spearhead the fateful assault upon Hancock's line. The result is well known: Armistead's and Hancock's wounding, the Federal victory, and the loss of 75 percent of Pickett's men.

For the next 21 months, the war continued, lives were lost, yet Brother George found personal bliss again upon marriage to LaSalle Corbell of North Carolina.

Upon the surrender of Robert E. Lee's Army at Appomattox, Brother Pickett and his family fled to Canada. However, all was forgiven when his friend U.S. Grant interceded on his behalf, even offering Brother Pickett an appointment as a US Marshal, which he declined.

George Pickett would become a businessman (insurance agent) and perish at age 50. He, like his beloved "Miss Corbell," would be laid to rest in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery, he in 1875 and she reinterred there in 1998.

A band of brothers, comrades in arms, men of principal, shattered by war. Yet each guided by the tenets of our Fraternity as every Brother should endeavor to be. 

On the cover

Most of us have visited lodge rooms that simply take your breath away.

Our cover photograph, taken in the lodge room of the Asheville Masonic Temple, is just a peek at the beauty and brotherly love invested in so many of the historic Masonic buildings that pepper North Carolina.

The Asheville temple cornerstone was laid on July 1, 1913, and construction was complete by April 1915. The price tag: \$56,262 or about \$1.25 million in today's dollars.

Brother Richard Sharp Smith, who was in Asheville supervising construction of the famous Biltmore House, designed the temple. The third and fourth floors of the temple housed the Scottish Rite and was referred to as the Scottish Rite Cathedral. That section of the temple houses a theater with a horseshoe balcony and hand-painted scenery drops painted by Chicago artist Thomas Moses.

Nothing was left undecorated. Even the brass doorknobs throughout the temple bear the Masonic square and compass.

The temple has been pressed into service for non-Masonic uses through



the years. During the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic, it was converted into an emergency ward for women and African American patients and, in the 1950s, was designated a fallout shelter.

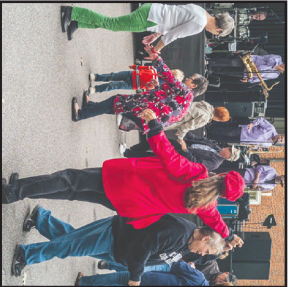
Such Masonic treasures must be preserved — and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation is here to help. The NCMF will travel the state to photograph and chronicle the story of these beautiful, historic venues over the next six months to produce a coffee table book. The book will be sold to generate proceeds for the North Carolina Historic Masonic Properties fund, which offers financial help to preserve historic Masonic buildings and sites around the state.

Know of a lodge that should be remembered? Nominate your favorite! Contact Mason Editor Beth Grace at ncmason@glnc.us!



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MHCO Homecoming
events schedule



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3 Brothers at war

On the cover

The East in the beautiful Asheville
Masonic Temple. North Carolina is
blessed with many such treasures.
Find our more about plans for a
book on Page 15.

Photo by Beth Grace

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