

NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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‘Brotherly love is real’

Hallman becomes 165th GM; 2018 officers installed

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

CHAPEL HILL – Speed Hallman was thinking about promises made and promises to keep as he vowed to faithfully, honestly and impartially carry out his duties as the 165th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina.

Surrounded by his wife, Susan, and sons Thomas and Jason, relatives, friends and brethren, Hallman was invested with the jewel and apron of office on Dec. 2 at the Carolina Inn, along with five other elected officers and eight appointed officers.

Raised at Eagle Lodge #19 in 1999, Hallman was named to the Grand Line in 2010 by Grand Master Lewis Ledford.

“When Grand Master Ledford asked me to meet him for lunch back in 2010, he said it was about ‘a grand lodge project.’ It sounded mundane but instead, he came with a bombshell: He wanted to appoint me to the Grand Line. I told him I’d have to talk it over with Susan,” he said.

“She is wise and got right to the heart of it, as always. She said, ‘If you love the organization, you don’t say no to this.’”

And he does love the Craft, and



“You have been selected by your brethren to occupy the highest and most exalted position in Freemasonry ...” Charles Speed Hallman kneels for his installation as Grand Master with Installing Chaplain Chesley Greene, Kilwinning #64.

the men who live out their brotherly promises in lodges, in their communities and in their families.

“It is all about love,” he told the crowd. “We Masons cultivate an environment of brotherly love, relief and truth. Those of us who are Christians strive to live up to the fundamental commandment to love the Lord, and love your neighbor as yourself. Every faith believes in love. Love, and inner light, are universal.

“And brotherly love is real. To my

Masonic brethren, you all have given me so much more than I have given you.”

In taking the vow as he was installed, Hallman promised to carry out the duties of office to the best of his ability, “and that I will conform to and maintain the Constitution and laws of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina, and the usages and customs of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons in this jurisdiction and at all times

enforce a strict obedience thereto.”

Installing Grand Officer Ledford conducted him into office, reminding Hallman that the office of Grand Master is the highest and most exalted position in Freemasonry, “an office that carries with it all the power and authority to govern the Craft without dictation or pressure from any source.”

“By immemorial usage and the

■ see INSTALLATION page 2



Your guide to the symbols in the Grand Master's pin

Most Grand Masters create lapel pins for their terms, choosing symbols of special personal meaning and that reflect hopes and goals for their years.

This year's pin, created by Grand Master Speed Hallman, is all about time and light.

The hourglass represents the passage of time. GM Hallman wants to make the best possible use of his allotted time in office to accomplish all that he can. He is encouraging every Mason to use his time wisely to improve himself in Masonry and build a stronger fraternity for the next generation. "Sophia #767 has a chamber of reflection and one night before a meeting, I turned the hourglass over and watched the sand flow through. It was a powerful moment – the passage of time made visible. I realized that time is short, and I decided to retire and use my time differently. I wanted to spend that time on Masonry."

The sunlight coming from behind was important to GM Hallman because "light is the first symbol we encounter and is essential to our Craft. The symbols for time and light captured what I wanted to convey."

And the blue background and lettering? "Mackey says blue is 'emphatically the color of Freemasonry,'" he said. "Not coincidentally the shade of blue he describes, the color of the vault of heaven, is also the color of the University of North Carolina, the institution founded by Masons."



Your Grand Lodge officers for 2018 preparing for installation at the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill.

Michael Harding photos



Left, New Grand Master Speed Hallman thanks his wife, Susan, for her support and wise counsel.

Above, the Knights of St. Andrew received Grand Line officers pro tem and others under crossed swords.

INSTALLATION, from page 1

irrevocable landmarks of Masonry, you are invested as Grand Master of Masons with powers and prerogatives which are well-nigh absolute, but this office also carries with it tremendous responsibilities. You will not only rule and govern, but you must also be the servant of all. Upon your shoulders will rest the grave responsibility of seeing that peace and harmony prevail at all times; that the ancient landmarks, customs and usages of the Craft are carefully preserved; that no innovations are allowed to interrupt the peace and good fellowship which must prevail in the fraternity if it is to continue to command the trust and respect of all men everywhere."

Other officers installed were: Deputy Grand Master Dwight "Mack" Sigmon; Senior Grand Warden Paul Shaun Bradshaw; Junior Grand Warden Ralph David Wicker, Jr.; Grand Treasurer Lewis Ray Ledford, Past Grand Master; Grand Secretary Theophilus Walton Clap III; Senior Grand Deacon Larry Bogan Thompson, Jr.; Junior Grand Deacon Kevan Delaney Frazier; Grand Marshal Donald Edward Kehler; Senior Grand Steward Robert Wayne Rideout; Junior Grand Steward Steve Marion Norris; Grand Chaplain James Grady Jones, Jr.; Grand Lecturer, Donald McLean Helton; and, Grand Tyler, John William Speed II.

Appointed officers are: Judge Advocate James Robert Stevens; Grand Orator, Dan Charles Rice, Past Grand Master; and Grand Historian Michael Wiley Brantley.

Others on the program included GM Hallman's longtime friend William A. Keyes IV, secretary of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina. Keyes not only honored both Speed and Susan Hallman in his remarks, but welcomed Masons on behalf of the University and the board. An honor guard of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol presented the colors in honor of Hallman's uncle, Col. Charles A. Speed, a former commander of the patrol.

WB Steve Barrell presented the musical prelude, and Bland Simpson, Kenan Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing – and musician – played "the Old North State."

Past Grand Master Bryant D. Webster presented the past grand master's jewel to outgoing GM Gene Cobb.

The closing charge was delivered by WB Johnny Surles after Grand Chaplain Jones offered the closing prayer. In it, he called on all Masons "to be a beacon of light to dispel the darkness around us."

So mote it be. ✦

Meet our new Junior Grand Steward

Grand Master Speed Hallman has appointed Steve Norris, an accomplished and active 35-year Mason, to serve as Junior Grand Steward.

“Every potential grand master’s first major decision is the appointment of a junior grand steward. It’s a decision that influences the Craft for years to come, and it’s one that we need to get right,” Hallman said.

He sang Norris’ praises as he shared his appointment with the brethren gathered at Annual Communication.

“Raised on his family’s tobacco farm and a lifelong Methodist, he joined his local lodge at the age of 21. Four years later he was a certified lecturer and was officiating at Masonic funerals. In 1986, he was named district deputy grand lecturer. He served as master of his lodge in 1989, and in 1991 he was named District Deputy Grand Master,” Hallman said.

“He is a member of the Scottish Rite and the Shrine. He has served our Grand Lodge as a member and chairman of the Board of Custodians, and serves as chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Membership. In 2012, he was elected potentate of the Sudan Shriners. He currently serves as president of the South Atlantic Shrine Association and as a member of the Executive Membership Committee of Shriners International.”

Norris was born June 26, 1961, in Conway, S.C., to the late Frank Mendel Norris, Sr. and Virginia Bishop Norris. He grew up on the family tobacco farm in the Hickman’s Crossroads community of Brunswick County.

He has been a professional land surveyor 33 years, is a principal/partner with Norris & Ward Land Surveyors, PA, and a partner in Crossroads Convenient Storage LLC. He is a member of Andrew’s Chapel United Methodist Church



and is married to Traci Riggsbee Norris. They have three daughters.

Norris was initiated, passed and raised a Master Mason in 1981 at Shallotte #727. He served as District Deputy Grand Lecturer from 1986-1991, District Deputy Grand Master from 1991-1994, and was Master of Shallotte #727 in 1989.

That year, he also joined the Scottish Rite and crossed the sands of Sudan Shriners.

Here are more achievements:

- ▶ 2000 Elected to the Sudan Shriners Board of Trustees
- ▶ 2004 Appointed to the Divan of Sudan Shriners
- ▶ 2012 Elected as Potentate, Sudan Shriners
- ▶ 2012 Elected 5th Vice President, South Atlantic Shrine Association
- ▶ 2014 Appointed Regional Membership Director, Shriners International (NC, SC, VA, KY, WV) Reappointed 2015, 2016, & 2017
- ▶ 2017 Elected, Installed as President of the South Atlantic Shrine Association
- ▶ 2017 Elected Chairman, Board of Custodians

Task force will study gun raffles by lodges

A seven-member task force appointed by Past Grand Master Gene Cobb has begun studying gun raffles for fundraising within the Craft. The group has been directed to present a report to Grand Master Speed Hallman by July 1, 2018.

Here is the full text of the directive:

The following is not an order or an opinion, but a directive to begin study:

A number of lodges have recently utilized raffles in their fundraising activities. Firearms are a common prize in these raffles, commonly referred to as “gun raffles.” There are all kinds of credible and legal uses of guns that are consistent with basic beliefs of our Craft in areas of sport, recreation, protection, and defense. To even enter into a discussion or debate about these matters could be divisive because emotions and beliefs have become so polarized. May this not be so among us. In light of the recent tragic mass shootings, particularly the one in a church claiming 26 lives, eight from one family, and a teenage child of the pastor, it is time for the Craft to reflect and begin having wise, healthy, and effective conversation concerning “gun raffles” to determine what, if any, restrictions should be imposed on these raffles.

Raffles have raised over \$144,000 this year for our charities. Raffles provide an opportunity to demonstrate to the larger community the good work we do as Freemasons. As these raffles are a public presentation of our Craft, they must be regulated in a manner most befitting our core principles of friendship, morality, and brotherly love. The conduct and operation of everything we do must comport with the Code of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (hereafter referred to as “the Code”), current Federal and State Law, and whatever is consistent with moral law.

A task force is hereby immediately created for the purpose of:

1. Finding ways to better educate the Craft regarding firearms.
2. Interacting with our Masonic charities in ways that promote our principles, rather than political or religious positions or persuasions related to guns or raffles.
3. Thoughtfully studying the full breadth and scope of the issue toward being able to have healthy and effective conversation that reflects the gentle nature of our Craft rather than anything that could possibly be perceived as hostile.
4. Engaging in productive discussions on moral, legal, and Masonic implications of the issue toward whatever can provide best work and most agreement.

This task force will issue a report at a time and in a manner to be determined, but no later than July 1, 2018, to the Grand Master and to the Annual Communication as he may direct.

The Task Force will be convened by Bobby Rideout and members include Graham Pervier, Jim Medlin, Currie Pendleton, Tom Redmond, Dee Blake, and Howard Kahn. The committee shall elect their chairperson.

Given under my hand and seal this the 14th day of November 2017 in Sanford, North Carolina.

Arnold Gene Cobb Jr., Grand Master

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Speed Hallman

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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

Ringling in the new: What's on tap for 2018

Happy New Year! No, I'm not early. I'm right on time – Masonic time, that is.

Our new year began Dec. 2, as our new Grand Master Speed Hallman was sworn in.

He has a busy year ahead, judging from the list of priorities he presented in November to the new class of District Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Lecturers, and in his address to the Craft on the day of installation.

Here are his main priorities, followed by plans to help further those goals:

- ▶ Promoting philanthropy and supporting our three charities;
- ▶ Working and planning strategically to respect and use well the time Masons devote to the Craft;
- ▶ And encouraging district-wide cooperation and projects that increase our visibility, improve our ritual and provide additional opportunities for fellowship. The annual district meetings list is included in this issue. The GM will hold 27 this year, beginning Jan. 29 and ending May 15 at his home lodge, Eagle #19 in Hillsborough.

He also will work to increase transparency in finance and the budget process – a direct response to suggestions raised at Annual Communication this year. And the Grand Lodge will explore a centralized dues notice system that improves communications between lodges and brethren and is intended to help reduce NPDs – those who are not current on their dues.

The Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence program returns in 2018 with new requirements that have been sent to lodges, posted on www.glnc.us and included in this edition of the Mason.

Watch for other initiatives, including sales of a poster featuring photos of the letter "G" from lodges all around the state (see the details at www.glnc.us), and the sale of a gorgeous

coffee-table book due out later in 2018 focusing on our historic lodges. Proceeds from all sales will go toward Masonic charitable funds, including historic lodge preservation.

Hallman reported on his initiative that opened some Grand Lodge committee slots to interested brethren through an application process. In the first year, 43 applications were submitted and 22 of the applicants were assigned to committees. Of those, 15 were assigned to their first choice.

He said the process helped him identify talented brethren from across the state who are willing and able to serve, and he believes the initiative will return next year.

Other priorities for the year among special committees include:

- ▶ The ongoing work of the Masonic Renewal Committee, which is studying the current state of Masonic membership in North Carolina.
- ▶ A new Ad Hoc Grand Lodge Transition Committee which has been formed to advise future grand masters on effecting smooth, efficient and respectful transition on the Grand Lodge staff in future years. Members are: Past Grand Masters Bryant Webster (chair), Lew Ledford and Gene Cobb; Senior Grand Warden Shaun Bradshaw; Junior Grand Warden David Wicker; Kim Lyda, an attorney and former member of the Masonic Home for Children board of directors who manages legal, risk, safety, claims and quality assurance teams; and Lawson Rankin, a business consultant who helps entrepreneurial companies and non-profits grow through long-range and strategic planning and financial management.

▶ A renewed emphasis on attracting students to Wilkerson College and the Davie Academy will make both education opportunities – praised by other Grand Lodges as examples of exceptional Masonic education – more visible and attractive to the brethren in North Carolina.

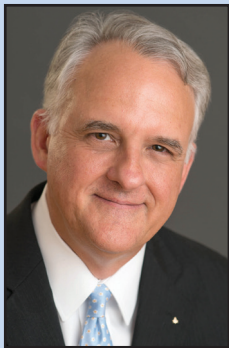
▶ Scheduling regular calls with the DDGMs, at least quarterly and possibly more often, to keep lines of communication open for all.

So happy new year, friends – 2018 starts right now!



By Beth Grace
Editor

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



By Speed Hallman
Grand Master

Building a solid foundation

What induced you to become a Master Mason?

That's a question I like to ask brethren, and it's also a good question to ask ourselves every now and then.

I asked it at WhiteStone just last month, at the annual meeting of the District Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Lecturers and I got about 50 different answers. There were common themes, such as Masons in the family and learning that coworkers and friends were Masons. One brother added an anecdote about shaking hands with President Ford, who instantly recognized him as a Mason.

I was so engrossed in their stories that it didn't occur to me to answer my own question. I'll answer it now as a way of introducing myself to you.

My Masonic journey began when my cousin Tom Speed enlisted me to help finish the family history he had been compiling for 20 years. Tom was in his 80s and didn't think he would live to finish the book.

He was a quiet man living on a quiet street in Oxford, and the most kind and gentlemanly person I've ever known. Tom and his wife Edna were childless and he was utterly dedicated to our Home for Children. Past Grand Master Dan Rice told me that Tom headed Oxford #122's fundraising for the Home in the Oxford community and took the job seriously.

During the course of our work on the book, I learned that this mild-mannered and scholarly insurance agent served as an Army Air Corps flight engineer in World War II. He flew missions over the Himalayas – the famed and

treacherous “Hump” – hauling gasoline and war materiel that kept the famed Flying Tigers aloft in their fight against the Japanese.

Tom faced various health challenges with a quiet wit, describing his maladies with a smile as “geriatric syndrome.” Gradually, his health declined. Once when we visited him in the hospital in Oxford we could hear music from the St. John's Day celebration just down the street at the Children's Home.

He died five months after I was raised and before we finished the family history. His brother James, also a Mason, his secretary Kathy Webb, and I completed and delivered the manuscript to the School of Graphic Arts at his beloved Home for Children. They produced a beautiful hardbound book, which we dedicated to Tom.

During our time together I learned that Tom and other cousins and uncles I loved were Masons. So was the grandfather who died before I was born, but whose compassion and wit were familiar to me from family lore. If these men were in a group that I could join, sign me up.

That's the answer I would have given to the DDGMs and DDGLs gathered at WhiteStone.

My goal for the meeting was to do more listening than talking, to provide an opportunity for the experienced to share their hard-earned wisdom with the newcomers, and to let them know how much I appreciate their work.

These district officers are absolutely crucial to the success of any grand master and to the vitality of the Craft. They are the Grand Lodge's point men in our 371 lodges and with our 37,604 members.

I talked about my priorities, including an emphasis on philanthropy and district-wide activities, the importance of transparency and accountability for Grand Lodge committees,


the new committee I charged with evaluating and recommending models for future Grand Lodge governance, and additions to the Lion and Pillar program for 2018.

I've been fortunate to serve with grand masters who every year raised the bar and inspired us to clear it. I've learned from them to work hard, every day, to serve North Carolina Masons and to settle for nothing less than excellence. They taught me to act so that, when the time comes to hand the gavel to my successor, I did everything I could to make the most of my time and make a difference. Note well that these lessons apply to lodge officers as well as to grand lodge officers, to masters as well as grand masters.

I have ideas for how every one of us – from the youngest entered apprentice to the most experienced Master Mason – can best use our brief time to advance our beloved fraternity. You have ideas too, and I want to hear them. I'll need your support, and you already have mine if you're engaged in the heady business of creating excellence in your lodge.

I'm seeing excellence in Masonry across the state, and I see a future that is bright. We know what we need to do to be successful, and we do not need to turn to history to see our best days. I'm excited by the possibilities of the next year and the next decade, and I'm absolutely convinced that the best is yet to come.

Brethren, we have the solid foundation, if only we will build on it. We have the rules and maxims, if only we will follow them. The world's greatest fraternity is now in our care. To echo a wise past grand master, a mentor on whose shoulders I stand, let's go to work.

Thank you for your support and trust, and for all that you are doing and will do to build Masonry for the next generation. 

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It's your choice. If you like getting the North Carolina Mason online, you can now opt out of receiving the print version! To stop the mailed paper, send an email to ncmason@glnc.us with your name, home mailing address, your lodge and the words: “OPT OUT.”

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If you prefer reading it the good old-fashioned way – in print and on paper – do nothing. Your Mason will arrive as usual every other month.

Thank you for reading the Mason – in any form! We are happy to bring the paper to you in both forms for as long as there are brothers out there who want to read us!

OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

HOMECOMING '17



It's all for the children. Nobody has more fun at the Homecoming Festival at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford than the kids. But the adults get their share of fun as well – joining in the big parade, cooking up some good eats and giving of themselves to keep MHCO a treasure of North Carolina Masonry.



Parade, food, fun come home to Oxford

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

Thomas Wolfe was wrong. You can go home again.

This year's annual Homecoming festival at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is being praised as one of the largest ever. More than 3,000 people, including many onetime "Oxford Orphans," came to reunite with good friends, eat good food, and celebrate their beloved home.

The weather started off a little chilly but warmed up into a crisp, sunny weekend, a stark contrast

to the storms that hit in the wake of Hurricane Matthew last year, sending all of the festivities indoors and cancelling the parade.

It was clear sailing this year as dozens of floats, Grand Line Officers and other Masonic personalities, a race car and tiny Shriner-driven vehicles of all descriptions prompted squeals from the kids and smiles from the adults.

Barbecue was back in a big way, as was Andrew Jackson #576's Brunswick Stew, along with countless hot dogs and burgers. The North Carolina Masonic Foundation donated

cones and treats from Lumpy's ice cream truck on Friday night, while the barbecue teams worked their magic and early attendees danced to the music of Tim Cifers.

By daybreak Saturday, staff and volunteers already were hard at work setting out chairs and pumpkins and flowers, and getting things ready for the crowd and the big parade.

The fun began at 9:30 a.m. sharp when Eddie Dickerson, manager of the School of Graphic Arts and an MHCO graduate, welcomed the crowd.

Before he announced the parade

entries, he welcomed brethren and others who wanted to make some donations. Among them, Walnut Cove #629 with a donation of \$13,218 and Keller Memorial #657, with a donation of \$13,000.

He was joined by MHCO Administrator Kevin Otis and board Chairman PGM Dewey Preslar, who accepted a \$100,000 check from NCMF presented by NC Masonic Foundation board President Mike Faulkenbury and Chief Development Officer Jeff Hensley. The money will help fund

■ see HOMECOMING, page 7

HOMECOMING

from page 6

replacement of the old pool and construction of a new poolhouse at MHCO. Carlsen Subaru/Charlie Burton also presented a \$50,000 donation for the pool.

Hungry attendees lined up to buy wristbands for the all-you-can-eat barbecue lunch, and they tested every offering there was – at least once. Every patron had their own favorites, but the judges' decision made it official: Keller Memorial #657 was named grand champion, followed by Union #618 in second place and Oak Grove #750 in third.

By division, winners were:

Pork: 1st, Union #618; 2nd, Keller Memorial #657; 3rd, Wayne County Shrine Club; and Chicken: 1st, Keller Memorial #657; 2nd, Hillbilly Hog Hustlers; 3rd, Oak Grove #750.

Family and friends of Terrie Preslar gathered on campus Saturday afternoon for a surprise dedication of a new basketball court built in her honor. Terrie was the last one to know about the fundraising effort led by her husband, Dewey Preslar, to build the court to honor the heralded former point guard at North Stanly High School.

Her husband said the court symbolizes her longstanding dedication to the children's home and recognizes Terrie as "a shining light for Masonry and children everywhere."

Saturday ended with an alumni roast of Tina Gilreath, MHCO's financial development & communications coordinator and a former "Oxford Orphan" herself.

The winner of the beautiful Masonic quilt embroidered by Sabrina Cashion and quilted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Henderson Ward Relief Society was announced: Debbie Rice, wife of Past Grand Master Dan Rice claimed the winning ticket.

The weekend rounded out with a Sunday morning worship service in the Chapel, followed by lunch under the oaks. ❖

Gift annuities have lasting benefits for both giver, Masonic charities

By Dee Blake

NC Masonic Foundation Western Region Director of Development

Masons have a long and generous history of supporting children, seniors and fellow Masons across North Carolina.

Many Masons would consider making larger gifts to our Masonic charities but need income from investments to fund their retirement years. What if you could leave a lasting legacy to support our Masonic charities while getting a guaranteed stream of income for life?

A charitable gift annuity can be a very attractive option for individuals or couples age 60 or older. An annuity is a contract that stipulates the charity will make annual payments for life to a specified person(s) in return for a cash gift to the charity.

With a minimum gift of \$10,000, a donor can make a gift



NORTH CAROLINA
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to the NC Masonic charities and receive tax benefits for up to 19 years. At the donor's death, the principal would go to the Masonic charity chosen by the donor.

Gift annuity rates are determined by an independent, national organization and are updated regularly. These rates usually exceed the return on many investments

and, unlike other investments, the rate is guaranteed for life once you sign the agreement – regardless of economic downturns.

A charitable gift annuity is a secure stream of income that can serve as your legacy of service to the Craft.

For more information on gift annuities or other planned gifts to benefit our Masonic charities, please contact your regional Foundation representatives:

Dee Blake, Western Region Director of Development, 919-395-0959, dblake@mfnc.org

Chris Richardson, Eastern Region Director of Development, 919-690-5996, cricharson@mfnc.org

Be on the lookout in 2018 for the new NC Masonic Foundation Legacy Society, recognizing brethren for their gifts to the future of the Craft.

Here is an example of current rates of return on a \$10,000 gift annuity:

AGE	ANNUITY RATE AS OF NOVEMBER 2017	INITIAL TAX DEDUCTION	ANNUAL PAYMENT TO YOU	TAX FREE PORTION OF ANNUAL PAYMENT
62	4.5%, single	\$3,156	\$450	\$306
62	4.0%, couple	\$2,546	\$400	\$269
75	5.8%, single	\$4,577	\$580	\$437
75	4.8%, couple	\$3,464	\$480	\$349



It's a special Homecoming Festival for the Preslar family. MHCO board Chair Dewey Preslar gathers family and friends to surprise his wife, Terrie Dewey Preslar, with a basketball court given to the kids and named in her honor.

How to become a Lodge of Excellence in 2018

Below you'll find all of the rules and requirements for the 2018 Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Program are out and in effect. Good luck to all lodges!



CATEGORY 1

EDUCATION

Complete 2 items:

1. Implement the Lodge System of Masonic Education as a lodge or as a district, with all participating lodges receiving credit. DDGMS will certify lodge participation.

2. Host a speaker from the Grand Lodge Speaker's Bureau, a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on

Masonic Education, a faculty member from Wilkerson College, a faculty member from the Davie Academy or a faculty member from the Middle Chamber for a program at a stated communication.

3. Have a deacon or warden graduate from Wilkerson College (applies only to lodges that have never had a graduate).

4. Have a member complete a Davie Academy session.

5. Have a member complete a Middle Chamber session.



CATEGORY 2

PATRIOTISM

Complete 3 items:

1. Organize a lodge visit to veterans in a nursing home. Do not limit visits to Masonic veterans.

2. Visit veterans in a VA hospital in Salisbury, Fayetteville, Durham or Asheville.

3. Contact and offer to assist the local Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) Hospital Visitation volunteer in a VA hospital.

4. Host a member of the National Sojourners for a program at a stated communication.

5. Host a non-Mason veteran for a program at a stated communication.

6. Hold a Masonic education program on the MSANA's Hospital Visitation and Disaster Relief initiatives.



CATEGORY 3

PHILANTHROPY

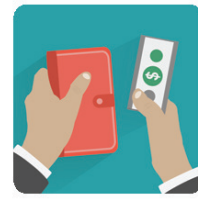
Complete #1 + 2 others:

1. Average \$5 per member in contributions to MHCO, NCMF and WhiteStone (each) by Dec. 31, 2017, or contribute \$5 per member to MHCO, NCMF and WhiteStone (each) between Jan. 1, and April 30, 2018.

2. Contribute \$1 per member to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial or to the MSANA by April 30, 2018.

3. Host an NC Masonic Foundation development officer for a program at a stated communication, or host a Masonic education program on our Masonic charities.

4. Hold a lodge meeting at WhiteStone or MHCO under dispensation from the Grand Master, and schedule a tour of the home, meeting with the director or his designee, and visit with residents.



CATEGORY 5

AFFILIATED CONNECTIONS

Complete 3 items:

1. Host an appreciation dinner for local firefighters, police officers and/or rescue personnel/EMTs as a district or lodge.

2. Hold a lodge Open House and invite the community.

3. Partner with a local public school on literacy. Read to students, contribute to a school library or book drive, or establish a Bikes for Books-type reading reward program as a lodge or district (www.masoniccharitablefoundation.org/programs/Masonic-bikes-books/).

4. Grow the Masonic family by having at least one lodge member join the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Order of the Eastern Star or Amaranth, or contribute to the formation of or support for existing DeMolay or Rainbow Girls organizations in your lodge or district.



CATEGORY 4

MASONIC MEMBERSHIP

Complete 5 items:

1. Hold an appreciation dinner for lodge families and widows.

2. Improve your outreach to lodge widows. Describe your outreach in 2017 and how you will improve it in 2018.

3. Update email addresses, phone numbers and occupation information in MORI for at least 75 percent of lodge members.

4. Adopt and use the Our Lodge Page function in MORI. Hold a Masonic education program to explain OLP to members.

5. Help plan and participate in a district-wide event such as a fundraiser for Masonic charities, a Masonic education event (not including a School of Instruction or



Grand Master district meeting), a district-wide degree, a district-wide funeral service, a district-wide fellowship dinner with Masonic education speaker, or a district-wide community service project.

6. Engage new brethren at the lodge or district level. Form an Under 5 degree team consisting of Masons with less than five years in the craft or require new members to deliver papers or Masonic education programs within three months of raising.

7. Pick up the statewide Traveling Gavel.

8. Plan an observance of the Feast of St. John the Baptist on or near June 24 as a lodge or a district, with a meal and Masonic speaker. Submit your event announcement, flyer or other advance event publicity to qualify.

9. Host a member of the Grand Lodge Masonic Renewal Committee for a program at a stated communication.



To apply, write a letter of application listing the items your lodge chose to complete. Provide details about your lodge's performance on or plans for completing each selected item. Send your letter to Past Grand Master A. Gene Cobb at gcobb@glnc.us. Recipients will be notified by Aug. 1, 2018, and will be recognized during the Sept. 28-29 Annual Communication in Winston-Salem. Rules are effective immediately.



ENCOMPASSING THE WORLD



Photos by Beth Grace

▲ They say it was the largest gathering of Grand Masters in history at the United Grand Lodge of England's Tercentenary Celebration in October. Grand Master Gene Cobb and Grand Secretary Walt Clapp represented North Carolina at the event. Cobb and Clapp got a little bit of sightseeing in,



Chris Allerton Photography/UGLE

while GM Cobb enjoyed a moment with the UGLE's Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent.

▲ The Grand Lodges of North and South Carolina gathered in late November to remember William Richardson Davie at the Davie burial site in Old Waxhaw Cemetery in Lancaster, S.C. Grand Master Gene Cobb, praised Davie as a true and strong leader who loved Masonry and honored the Craft in his work and accomplishments. "May the lion roar, and the pillar be our strength for now and ever more," he said.

► Cobb presented as a gift to South Carolina Grand Master Michael Smith an historic apron from Royal White Hart #2, where Davie became a Master Mason.



Grand Master Sets 27 District Meetings for 2018

Editor's Note: Sometimes there are changes in location announced after publication; watch www.glncc.us and the NC Mason and Grand Lodge pages on Facebook for updates.

Date	District	Host Lodge	Lodge Address
Jan 29	16	Granite 191	621 Bolling St., Clayton
30	6	Crown Point 708	1104 Charles St., Greenville
31	4	Lafayette 83	305 Chaney Ave., Jacksonville
Feb 27	11	Coharie 379	976 Autryville Rd, Salemburg
28	12	Shalotte 727	5072 Main St., Shallotte
Mar 1	14	Millbrook 97	2400 New Hope Rd., Raleigh
5	24	Balfour 188	632 Sunset Ave., Asheboro
6	22	Dan River 129	110 Decatur St., Madison
7	20	Columbus 102	121 East St., Pittsboro
20	18	Maxton 417	123 S Florence St., Maxton
21	10	Harmony 340	108 S Railroad St., Pikeville
26	32	Phalanx 31	500 N Sharon Amity Rd., Charlotte

Date	District	Host Lodge	Lodge Address
Mar 27	23	Revolution 552	802 16th St., Greensboro
Apr 2	33	Snow 363	240 Temple Dr., Boone
3	37	Cranberry 598	193 Main St., Elk Park
4	30	Harmony 299	143 E. Memorial Hwy, Harmony
10	2	Cape Hatteras 698	48338 Hwy 12, Buxton
11	1	Unanimity 7	215 E. Water St., Edenton
12	8	Enfield 447	137 SE Railroad St., Enfield
23	28	Stokes 32	51 Brumley Ave., Concord
24	29	Beaver Dam 276	605 E. Main St., Marshville
25	36	Gastonia 369	214 South St., Gastonia
30	39	Veritas 769	80 Broadway, Asheville
May 1	40	Oconee 427	62 Clifton Ave., Bryson City
2	34	Hickory 343	30 Catawba Valley Blvd. SE, Hickory
3	38	Kedron 387	229 Fifth Ave. W., Hendersonville
15	19	Eagle 19	142 W. King St., Hillsborough

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

CHARLOTTE

Brothers of Charles M. Setzer #693 did two good deeds at once when they cooked for some 85 veterans in September. The remaining food was donated to a Salisbury hospital for lunch the next day. Master Hanns Braun, Senior Warden Ian Bittenbender, Senior Deacon Kenneth Lambert, Senior Steward Michael McMorrow and Korbing Lambert prepared, cooked and served to VFW Post # 9488.



NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



CLEMMONS

Clemmons #755 raised \$10,600 at its 15th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, held in October at Salem Glen Country Club. The 2017 Platinum Sponsors were Window World and Todd Chase of Wells Fargo Advisors. Ninety-two golfers combined with 16 sponsors to help the Lodge raise funds for charity which will be divided evenly between WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community and the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Over the history of the tournament, Lodge members have donated more than \$160,000 to MESH and MHCO.



CONOVER

The brothers of Conover #709 raised more than \$4,000 at its first car show. The funds went to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. The first outing was a huge success – only 50 cars were expected, but 105 showed up.

LEXINGTON

Lexington Memorial #473 honored the widows of fallen brethren at a special meal held in October. Illinois Brother Kirby Matthews spoke about the history of Masonry from the Grand Lodge in England to the Craft in the United States, North Carolina and Lexington.

► **CANDLER** – Brothers of Hominy #491 and about 100 members of the Candler community gathered under sunny, blue skies in November to remember fallen veterans and to dedicate a special monument honoring them. The stone Veterans Memorial, 7 feet wide and 5 feet tall, is dedicated to “all veterans of all wars that brought honor to our country and promise to our dreams. All Gave some – Some Gave All.” The ceremony featured patriotic songs from the Hominy Valley Christian A Capella Choir, the national anthem played by the Enka High School Marching Band and a solemn performance of “Taps” by David Pearson of Buglers Across America.



▲ **KANNAPOLIS** – Brothers from Cannon Memorial #626, paid a recent visit to the Kannapolis Police Department to show thanks and appreciation, present coffee & muffins, and to provide an award of recognition to the officers. “It’s sad that in today’s environment, people only remember the Police when they need help – the rest of the time, it’s as if they are forgotten. As a service-based Masonic Lodge, we felt it an honor to thank the officers for their hard work and dedication to keeping Kannapolis a great place to live” said Secretary Thomas VanEtten. Police Chief Woody Chavis accepted the award on behalf of the KPD. Masons attending (l to r): Hugh Moose, Dalton Jordan, Bobby Brown, C.J. Nickelson Jr., George Maxwell, Jerry Tucker, Steve Jordan, Josh Karriker, Jason Mathis, and Thomas VanEtten Sr.

▲ **OXFORD** – PGM Dewey Preslar, left, accepts a major donation from the North Carolina Masonic Foundation’s Chief Development Officer Jeff Hensley, to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Read more about it on Page 6.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **MORGANTON** – National Sojourners Old Fort #553 honored veterans and initiated six new members into the chapter, including two WWII veterans. George Greene of Catawba Valley #217 retired from the USMC after 30 years of service told a story of his ship USS Wasp. While participating in the Marine's amphibious landing on Guadalcanal, the USS Wasp was sunk by Japanese torpedoes. He was left afloat in the ocean for several hours before being rescued by a destroyer. Elden Adameit of Blue Ridge #435, told of being in the first wave onto Normandy beach. Both praised Masonry and were happy to become a part of the Sojourners. Also, being initiated were Glenn Tompkins Jr., Bill McEntire, Fred Molina, and Gene Canter. President and Past Master Bill Poteat presided over the initiation.



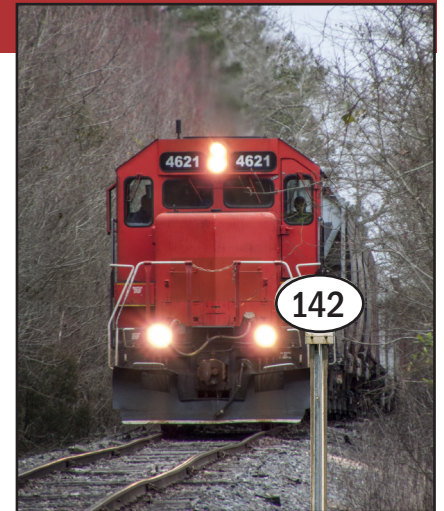
▲ **JACKSONVILLE** – Masons from Onslow County representing the Grand Lodge of North Carolina A.F. & A. M. and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina F. & A.M. joined together under the banner of Masons United and marched in the Annual Jacksonville Veteran's Day Parade. This marked the third consecutive year for the joint march.

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.



◀ **SHALLOTTE** – Shallotte #727 held its first charity "Cruising For Kids" event in October. Raffles, door prizes, and T-shirt sales were sold to raise money for the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. A BBQ lunch was served after the ride. Past Grand Master and MHCO board Chairman Dewey Preslar spoke about the home and its successes. The event raised more than \$35,000 for MHCO.

OXFORD – Earlier this year, the Grand Lodge approved creation of a task force to recognize Eagle Scouts in North Carolina. The task force presented the first recognition awards in October to Edward and Charles Burke, two Eagle Scouts at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. The awards were presented by the 13th District Deputy Grand Master Will Chriscoe, an Eagle Scout himself. The ceremony was attended by parents, task force members, and several local Masons. Committee members include Will Chriscoe, Will Highsmith, Matt Collins, Stan-cil Wilson, and Homer Dearmin, with PGM Charles Lewis as an emeritus member and consultant. The Task Force on Scouting is in the process of working on plans to expand the program across the state. ▶



GREENSBORO – The laughs were on then Grand Master Gene Cobb when members of the Grand line and other Masonic brethren took the podium in November to roast – and honor – him. The roast, organized by Brother Chad Delp and others, featured one-liners from, among others, Past Grand Master Dr. William Brunk; Chris Hall, District 36 Deputy Grand Master; then Senior Grand Warden Shaun Bradshaw and a surprise appearance from London by Past Senior Grand Warden Jimmie Hicks Jr.. ▶▶



▲ **EDENTON** – Grand Master Gene Cobb, Grand Line officers joined with brethren of the First Masonic District in October to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Chowan County Courthouse. Unanimity #7 was included in the year-long celebration, because the lodge met at the courthouse from July 6, 1778, to Sept. 29, 1954, when the present lodge was built. The celebration began aboard the Periauger, a replica of a colonial sailing vessel, made of a hollowed cypress. The ship traveled to the docks at the Roanoke River Lighthouse. Along the way, the voyagers experienced a battle, complete with cannon fire from the shore and the Periauger itself. After docking, Most Worshipful Cobb was received by Master John Dunn. Members of Unanimity #7 were dressed in colonial-period clothing for the event. A fife and drum corps led a processional of Grand Line officers, members of Unanimity #7 and other members of the First Masonic District to the courthouse, where Most Worshipful Cobb presided over a ceremony of placing a commemorative plaque.

MILEPOSTS



▲ **SOUTHPORT** – Many Masons know Shelby Adams Lloyd as a devoted graduate of the old Oxford Orphanage and a doting grandmother, but that's only part of the story – literally. Mrs. Lloyd, who began writing books at the age of 64, has finished her latest book, *Always An Orphan*. The book looks at her life at what is now the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, where she was raised from age 8, along with her 7-year-old sister. The loving stories tell of a different kind of family that took care of the girls and helped raise them to become strong and loving women. This isn't Mrs. Lloyd's only book – she has written five more, including three mysteries. The fifth book is coming out soon. She said she just decided to sit down a few years ago and start writing. And the rest ... well, the rest, you can read all about.



ELIZABETH CITY – Eureka #317 honored Brother Marshall White, USN Veteran of WWII, at its September meeting, just three days after the 72nd Anniversary of Japan's unconditional surrender aboard the USS Missouri. His family joined him and helped prepare his favorite meal of butterbeans and ham biscuits. Planning began a year ago. Brother Paul Miller, Secretary of Eureka, presented Brother Marshall with a flag that had flown over the USS Missouri on Sept 2, 2016 in his honor and a second flag, from the USS Arizona was presented. It had been raised and flown on Dec. 7, 2016, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Picture left to right are Marshall White and Master Doug Brickhouse.



◀ **GREENSBORO** – Wedding bells rang Oct. 7 at WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. Patsy Bevill and Robert Street, two Independent Living residents who met at WhiteStone, were married by Grand Master Gene Cobb. Robert Street is a member of MESH #770; his primary lodge is Rockingham #495. Patsy Bevill is a member of the Order of Eastern Star Craven Chapter #129.

Service Awards reported to The Mason

Congratulations to all! Reported between
Sept. 6 and Nov. 5:

50 years

- ▶ Billy Canupp, Monroe #244
- ▶ Harvey Dick, Lexington Memorial #473
- ▶ Calvin Munson Hagler, Newell #739
- ▶ Neal Johnson, Clemmons #755
- ▶ Bobby Knight, Monroe #244
- ▶ Jimmy Nash, New Lebanon #314
- ▶ Howard B. O'Briant, Fellowship #687
- ▶ Sidney Sandy, Monroe #244
- ▶ Raymond Lee Turner Jr., St. John's #13
- ▶ Edwin Yarbrough, Lexington Memorial #473

Grand Treasurer earns prestigious award from national parks organization

RALEIGH – Past Grand Master Lewis Ledford, Statesville #27, has won a prestigious medal honoring his work in parks and recreation. Ledford, now Grand Treasurer, was one of three honorees receiving the 2017 Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the promotion and development of public parks, recreation and conservation in the United States.



The medal is presented by American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in partnership with the Davey Tree Expert Co. and the National Park Foundation.

He joined the state parks system in 1976 at W.B. Umstead State Park as a ranger, and he rose through the ranks to become director of the division from 2003 to 2014. In 2015, he accepted the role of the Director of the State Park Leadership School. He retired from North Carolina State Parks in 2014 then served as the Executive Director of the National Association of State Park Directors.

The Grand Historian's Courier Case

Blackmer's namesake originally from N.Y.

By Steven Campbell
Grand Historian

"Another Good Man Gone."

Thus read the Salisbury newspaper on Feb. 13, 1889.

The man being so publicly mourned was Luke Blackmer: a man whose deeds exemplified the tenets of Freemasonry and the namesake of two NC Lodges.

A Personal Insight: Luke Blackmer was born in Monroe County, NY, on Sept. 26, 1824. He was described as a bright young man. At 18, he enrolled in the prestigious Union College (est. 1795) in Schenectady, NY.

Within two years, he completed his studies with honors, studied law, and received his license to practice. In 1846, he would be confirmed in the local Episcopal church.

During this same period, North Carolina was experiencing a gold rush in the Piedmont region and young Luke moved south. He settled in the boom town of Gold Hill. There, he practiced law, operated the Gold Hill Tavern, dabbled in real estate, and invested in gold mines.

He was well received in the community, and with his move to Salisbury, became Clerk and Master of Equity for Rowan County.

Luke was active in the Whig Party, which evolved into the Democratic Party. From 1849 until his death he was a member and Vestryman in Salisbury's oldest church, St. Luke's Episcopal. When a smallpox epidemic presented itself in 1851, he served on the health advisory board.

In 1855, while handling a legal case in Anson County, Luke met Julia Cole of Wadesboro. Their resulting marriage of 34 years would witness the birth of three sons (William Cole, Walter Leak, Stephen Shelton) and a daughter (Anna Luke).

Unfortunately, their marriage would result in Luke's father (Jirah) disinheriting him for marrying a Southerner.

As the country inched closer to war in 1861, the Blackmers' lives would, like so many others, be forever changed. With his judicial duties, Luke was exempt from military service; however his commitment to NC was fulfilled in numerous other ways, to include the Rowan Bible Society, the Salisbury Town Patrol, providing provisions of food, clothing and money to both Union prisoners confined in the Salisbury prison, as well as the impoverished guards.

Upon the conclusion of this horrid conflict, Blackmer continued to serve his community and state: as a University of North Carolina Trustee (1866); working with The Negro Benevolent Society (1866), recognition by the Salisbury Prison Association, and numerous other civic groups.

A Professional Profile: In our society it is, at times, difficult to separate one's personal identity from their professional life. We know that Luke Blackmer proved to be a successful attorney. Records indicate his purchasing of land, stock in gold mines, owning a tavern, as well as one time owning Salisbury's Henderson's Store and Taylor's Hardware.

In 1849, he served on the NC Railroad Committee. During the War of Secession, he served as treasurer of the Confederate Wayside Hospital and undertook a legal case resulting in the NC government ending its conscription of men over 50 for combat duty.

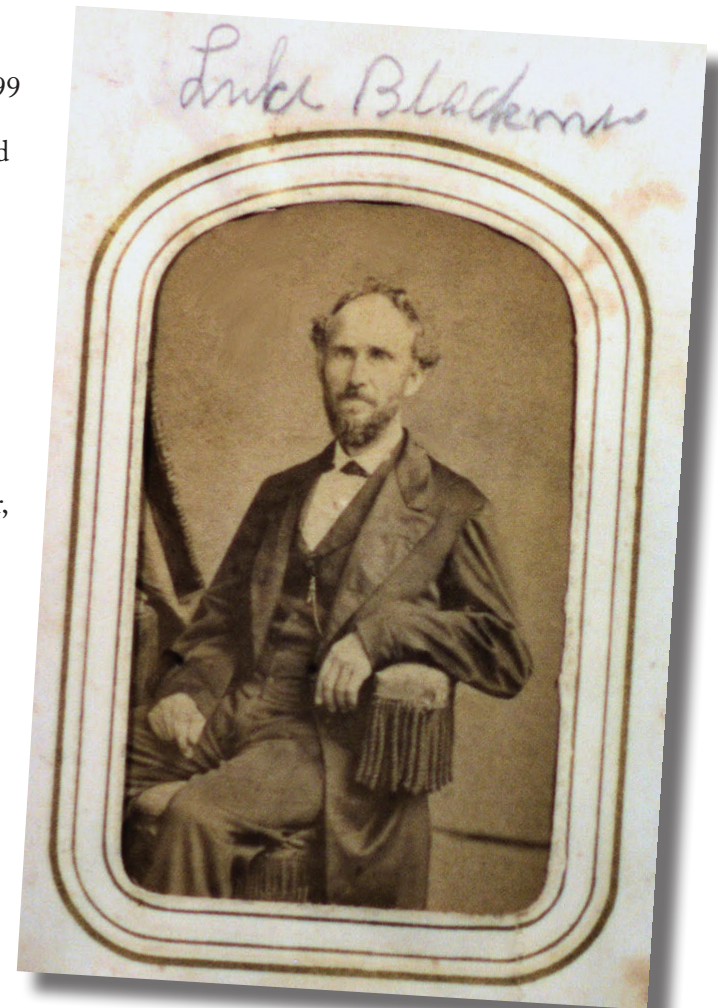
Upon conclusion of the War, he would be elected to the NC House (1865-1866), serve on the State's Congressional District Committee, be a justice of the peace, a delegate to the NC Internal Improvement(s) Committee (1879), have the U.S. Post Office in Mount Ulla named for him (1879), and play a key role in establishing the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce (1889).

Masonic Reflections: As you review Brother Blackmer's life there is one common theme: to do what is right.

His 40-year Masonic journey began in Fulton #99 on March 2, 1849, when he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

The dedication and influence he displayed in NC Freemasonry, especially in the Piedmont, cannot be denied. During his Masonic career, Masonry experienced a renaissance in NC, and much of it can be credited to his efforts.

Here is a sampling of his Masonic involvement or influence: Junior Deacon in Fulton #99 (1849); addressed W. R. Davie #119 (1849); established Palestine #120, served as first Master (1849); Deacon and namesake of Blackmer #127 (1850); opened Mocksville #134 (1850); selected as NC Grand Lodge Senior Deacon (1850); opened Carolina #141 (1851); assisted in establishing Lincoln #137 (1851); served as Master (PT) of Pee Dee #150 (1852); 1851-1853 served as the Grand Lodge Senior Warden; helped establish Scotch-Ireland #154 (1853); honored in the chartering of Blackmer #170 (1854); served on the Grand Lodge Committee which, on his motion, provided \$5,000 to establish St. John's College, the precursor to the Oxford Home for Children (1857); elected DGHP of Royal Arch Chapter (1866); elected to HP of Royal Arch Chapter (1867); and was engaged in the temperance movement throughout NC, as many



Free-masons were.

The Final Curtain: Upon concluding a meeting establishing the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 7, 1889, he sustained an unexpected stroke.

Within two days, Luke Blackmer, would perish at 64. He was laid to rest in Salisbury's Chestnut Hill Cemetery.

To this day the mark he left upon so many lives is still evident. Upon his passing it was written: "May all of us be prepared to meet death with such a clear conscience and clean lives behind us as was the life of Luke Blackmer.

(This article originated pursuant to a request by WM Shawn Brown of Blackmer Lodge No. 127. On Sept. 30, 2017, Brother Luke Blackmer was honored at Fulton Lodge No. 99, followed by a Masonic memorial service at his graveside. A special thanks is offered to Brothers Aaron Kepley and Jonathan Underwood for their valued aid on this project.)

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Dellinger, Marcus Weston	St John's	1	Godwin III, Raymond Arthur	Palmyra	147	Fordham, John Burtrum	Lillington	302	Treece, Jonathan Mark	Keller Memorial	657
Femiano, Nathaniel Richard	Phoenix	8	Benton, Evan Lavon	Williams	176	Hwang, Hyon Tong	Lillington	302	Raynor, Jimmy Lee	Beulaville	658
Holmes, Lawrence Downing	Phoenix	8	Isaacson, Christopher Steven	Granite	191	Troutman, Robert Edward	Granite	322	Ball, Christopher Austin	Robbinsville	672
Muench, Robert Raymond	Phoenix	8	Canipe, Christopher Todd	Cleveland	202	Mathis, Justin Lynn	East LaPorte	358	Crisp, Austin Ty	Robbinsville	672
New, John Andrew	American George	17	Fitzpatrick, Adam Michael	Long Creek	205	Appling, Justin Scott	Forest City	381	Sellers, Jordy Joe	Robbinsville	672
Troutman, Donald Joe	Stokes	32	McClure, Maxwell Alan	Long Creek	205	Parks, Angelo Jos'emeritus	Forest City	381	Williams III, Charles Harvey	Angier	686
Myers, Bobby Ivan	Liberty	45	Ramsey, Austin Gene	Long Creek	205	Thompson, Miles Marty	Forest City	381	Harper, Charles Edward	Allen Graham	695
Murphy, Craig Richard	Lafayette	83	Ferrell IV, Eugene Thomas	Mt. Olive	208	Forbis Jr, Kenneth Ray	Seaside	429	Doran, Joshua Thomas	Derita	715
Goodwin, Travis Guy	Fellowship	84	Ferrell, Jacob Alex	Mt. Olive	208	Milton, William Bradley	South Fork	462	Crytser, James Oliver	Cabarrus	720
Stocks, Chapel Breckenridge	Jerusalem	95	Ferrell, Samuel Morgan	Mt. Olive	208	Lindquist, Hayden Matthew	Lexington Memorial	473	Benton, Christopher Tanner	Shalotte	727
Oakes, Stephen Earl	Columbus	102	Kidd, Richard McLeod	Catawba Valley	217	Watkins, Jeffrey Robert	Lexington Memorial	473	Flaherty, Brian Anthony	West Gate	738
Moore, Derek Brandon	Franklin	109	Bugajski, Joshua Hopkins	William G. Hill	218	Johnson, Jonathan Dwayne	Rockingham	495	Glover, Patrick Cody	West Gate	738
Beaver, Christopher Kyle	Mt. Hermon	118	Davis, Gregory Tolston	William G. Hill	218	Dods, Isaac Komakapahiha	Raleigh	500	James, Charles Sheldon	Newell	739
Carter, Thomas Martin	Mt. Hermon	118	Miller, Thomas Randall	Corinthian	230	Kordoulis, Dionysios	Raleigh	500	Lowery, Stanley Douglas	Shelby	744
Fowler, Daniel Grant	Mt. Hermon	118	Shumate Jr, Lonnie Clifton	William T. Bain	231	Rierner, Clark Duncan	Raleigh	500	Sparks, Matthew David	Shelby	744
Johnson, Cortez Eugene	Mt. Hermon	118	Bowman, Brandon Alexander	Mystic Tie	237	Russell, Austin Cole	Cherryville	505	Bullings, Bruce Randall	Clemmons	755
Woodlief Jr, Thomas D	Oxford	122	Ward, Charles Edward	Lee	253	Buchanan, William Joseph	Mt. Pleasant	573	Barnes Jr, James Randolph	Denver	757
Goins, Christopher David	Hanks	128	Dowell, Jeremy Travis	Tabasco	271	Crick, John Bainbridge	Apex	584	Spry, Baryn Quinn	Denver	757
Robinson, Curtis James	Cherokee	146	Clark, Harry Bruce	Salem	289	Black, Edsel Coyte	Maiden	592	Taylor, Ronald Brent	Denver	757
Creech Jr, Kenneth Earl	Palmyra	147	Mashburn, David Luther	Atlantic	294	Leftwich, Roger Heath	Round Peak	616	Raines, Walden Matthew	Sophia	767

Author treats Masons, spouses, friends

While Masons toiled in a committee meeting downstairs at Eagle Lodge #19 on Dec. 1, their spouses and friends settled back in the lodge room upstairs to hear a reading from one of the most loved Southern writers of our time.

Author Lee Smith, who began writing stories when she was 9, has written 17 works of fiction, including *Fair and Tender Ladies*, *The Last Girls* and *Guests on Earth*. She and her husband writer Hal Crowther live in Hillsborough. It was in Hillsborough that Smith met new Grand Master Speed Hallman and his wife, Susan. They were neighbors for years until the Hallmans moved earlier this year to Wadesboro.

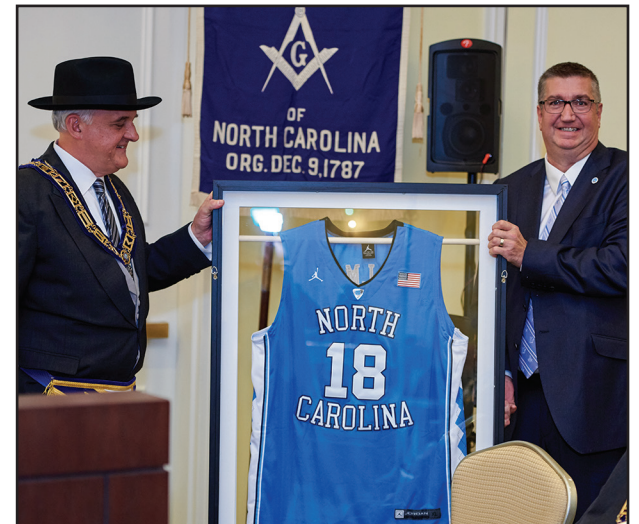
The Hallmans invited Smith to speak as part of the weekend festivities leading up to his installation on Dec. 2 as North Carolina's 165th Grand Master of Masons.

While the Board of General Purposes met below, she read from her new memoir, *Dimstore*, and autographed copies for the attendees. Susan Hallman gave each attendee a gift bag containing a small jar of pimiento cheese Susan made from Smith's mother's recipe. And she included the recipe!



Author Lee Smith reads from her new memoir, "Dimstore" to spouses and friends of Masons meeting at the Board of General Purposes at Eagle #19. The reading included a treat: some pimiento cheese made from Smith's mother's recipe.

More from the installation:



Above, Lux Libertas #772 surprised their brother Hallman with a framed UNC #18 basketball jersey.

Below, Friends, family and representatives from many Masonic bodies witnessed the 2018 installation ceremony at the Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill. Photos by Mike Harding





page 1

Grand Lodge officers
for new year installed



page 6

No fooling! It was a
great Homecoming



page 8

How to make your
lodge 'roar' in 2018

On the cover

There's no place like home ... the
Masonic Home for Children, that
is. Attendees of this year's annual
Homecoming Festival were high-
fiving over all the fun they had in
Oxford. Photo by Beth Grace

The North Carolina Mason
The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF&AM
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NORTH CAROLINA
THE MASON

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

Homecoming 2017

New Masonic Year Begins