

NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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Meet WhiteStone's new leader: Mark Lewis

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

Mark Lewis knows one thing for sure: he already loves his new job.

Lewis, who took over as the 14th administrator of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community on March 15, says he felt at home even before his first day.

When he attended the WhiteStone Board of Directors meeting in February, he was bowled over.

"I was overwhelmed by how welcoming everyone was and how they embraced this change," he says. "Everyone – board members, residents and many others – came and introduced themselves to me. What a great feeling!"

Lewis, an Ohio native, who has spent his career in caring for seniors, is a graduate of the University of Findlay, Ohio, with a major in psychology and a certification in gerontology. He has some history caring for seniors at Masonic homes – early on in his career, he spent almost two years working at the Ohio Masonic Home in Springfield, a job that also involved some public relations work, event planning and implementation.

He moved on quickly to Lincoln Park Manor, a 60-bed nursing facility with a 30-bed assisted living unit, as assistant executive director from 1999 to 2002. He moved on to the Eaglewood Care Center in Springfield, a 109-bed Medicare- and Medicaid-certified facility

with an Alzheimer's/dementia unit, where he served as administrator from 2002 to 2005.

He joined National Church Residences in Cuyahoga Falls, administering two large senior care facilities and serving as Regional Operations administrator.

He is a member of the American College of Health Care Administrators and in his spare time, he keeps moving – literally. He's a trail runner and an ultra-marathoner, including finishing in the 2014 Burning River

"I started at the Ohio Masonic Home 22 years ago and I have so many fond memories of my time there and the many great people I met. In large part, that's what drew me to WhiteStone."

100-mile marathon.

Lewis has already met many of WhiteStone's 300 residents – where about two-thirds of the independent living residents are Masons or fraternally related – but looks forward to getting into the groove in his new job.

He and his wife of 20 years, Amy, their son, Kellen, 10 and daughter Katen, 8; and the family dog, 10-year-old Greta the German Shepherd will relocate to Greensboro. Lewis will be staying on the WhiteStone property until the school year ends and the family is moved.

The Lewises will be moving closer to family – his sister has lived in Charlotte for 20 years.

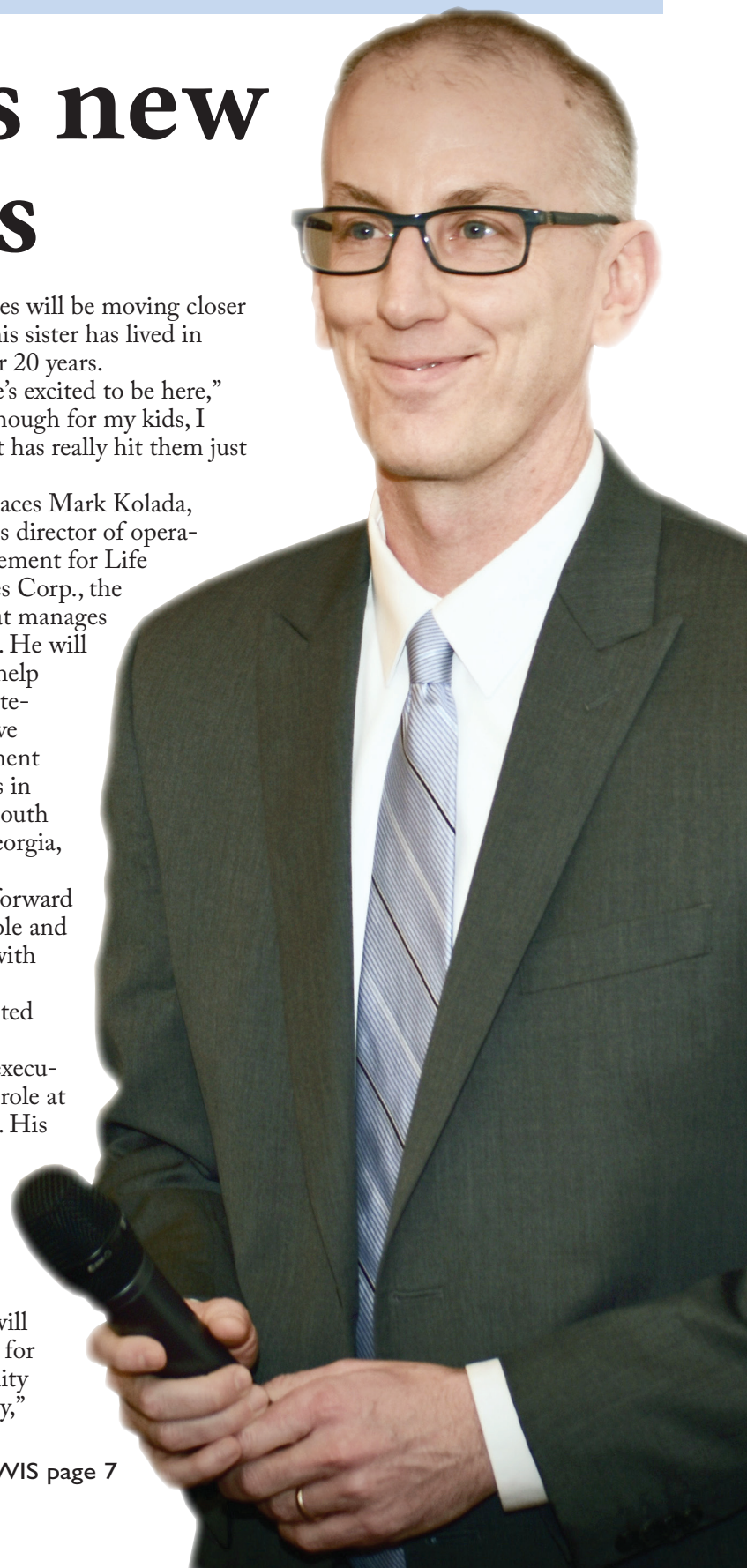
"Everyone's excited to be here," he says. "Although for my kids, I don't think it has really hit them just yet!"

Lewis replaces Mark Kolada, who becomes director of operations management for Life Care Services Corp., the company that manages WhiteStone. He will continue to help oversee WhiteStone and five other retirement communities in North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

He looks forward to his new role and to working with Lewis.

"I am excited for Mark to assume the executive director role at WhiteStone. His extensive experience in retirement living and positive upbeat personality will be a great fit for the community and fraternity,"

■ see LEWIS page 7



Grand Master issues gun raffle directive

In late February, Grand Master Speed Hallman issued the following directive pertaining to gun raffles:

To the Masters, Wardens, Secretaries, DDGMs, and Members of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina:

The Grand Lodge task force on gun raffles met recently and is preparing its report, which I expect to receive in the next few weeks. When I receive its report, I will consider its recommendations and act accordingly.

In the meantime, as Grand Master it is my duty to act for the good of Masonry and do my best to ensure that our gentle craft is held in the highest public esteem. I am concerned that when we seek public support for our charities by raffling military-style weapons such as the AR-15, in the aftermath of shootings inextricably linked in the public mind with these

weapons, we invite a public judgment of guilt by association. Images of the gun are invariably juxtaposed with scenes of carnage and grief. Masons and Masonic lodges are focused on brotherly love, relief, and truth. That should be our constant role and image in the community.

Several lodge-sponsored gun raffles are currently under way. I trust that our brethren in charge of these raffles will understand that Masonry benefits when we take a reasonable and common-sense approach to how we present ourselves to the public. Masons should exemplify the gold standard of citizenship and strive to always do the right thing at the right time.

As a precedent, consider the action of the Mecklenburg County sheriff who, in the wake of the Florida school shootings, canceled a gun raffle benefitting his re-election bid and gave refunds to ticket buyers. That sheriff is a

Mason.

Therefore, it is my directive that Masons and Masonic lodges currently engaged in raffles of military-style weapons will remove images of AR-15s and similar military-style weapons from any and all raffle promotional materials yet to be circulated or distributed in public.

It is my further directive to eliminate AR-15s and similar military-style weapons from all future raffles. This applies to any raffle that has not received approval from the Commission on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities as of this date. I am directing the Commission to enforce this directive and consult with me should there be any question about my intent or how best to enforce this directive.

Given under my hand and seal this the 20th day of February, CE 2018; AL 6018.

Speed Hallman
Grand Master

Traveling Degree Gavel travelogue update

The Traveling Degree Gavel is making tracks!

It hit the road Jan. 29, heading first to Kenly #257.

From there, the brothers of nearby Lucama #527 picked it up, but held it for only one day before St. Patrick's #617, Princeton, came to town and headed out with the gavel.

The gavel's next stop was at Wilson #712, before it headed off to Bula #409 in Burlington.

Then, on to Caswell Brotherhood #11 in Yanceyville. At press time, the gavel was awaiting a scheduled degree at Bingham #272 in Mebane.

Follow the gavel by liking the Grand Master of Mason's Facebook page (<https://tinyurl.com/y9422lf2>) or checking out the Grand Lodge home page (www.glnc.us) and linking to the Traveling Gavel Banner on the top of the page!



Print or online? Which do you choose?

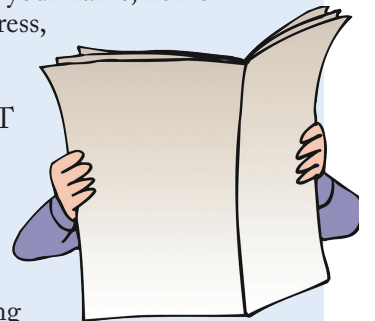
It's your choice. If you like getting the North Carolina Mason online, you can now opt out of receiving the print version! To stop the mailed paper, send an email to ncmason@glnc.us with your name, home mailing address,

your lodge and the words: "OPT OUT."

That's all you need to do.

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!



HAM IN THE DAYTIME, STEW IN THE EVENING, charity all the time

Giving is what Masons do. They do it in countless ways. They give up weekend after weekend to do what's right, to do what's needed.

Some Masons have been doing this for decades. In Salisbury, the brothers of Andrew Jackson #576 spent a long, sunny day in February stirring vat after vat of Brunswick stew to serve thousands (literally!) of residents who consider Brunswick Stew Day – this year is the 60th or 61st, depending on who you ask – a tradition one simply does not miss.

Hundreds of pounds of chicken, beef, pork and potatoes, carrots, celery and onions, peas, corn, tomatoes, lima beans and spices – and a lot of elbow grease – go into making the stew. Some 600 or so pounds of the stuff. The brothers raise upwards of \$20,000 for our Masonic charities.

Just a few weeks later on a chilly March day, hundreds of ham-hungry residents from near and far line up outside Riverside #606 for the 55th annual Ham Day.

The brothers serve breakfast, lunch and dinner while volunteers in the kitchen work without ceasing all day, making some 5,000 biscuits by hand, prepping takeout bags of biscuits and full dinners, complete with candied yams, green beans, scrambled eggs at breakfast and grits all day.

People come from miles around – including busloads from the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro.

In fact, proceeds this year were split among those two homes and Local Boy Scout Troop #333, whose members ran all day cleaning up tables and keeping the dining room clean and clear for the next group of hungry locals.

It's in the giving that the real gift becomes clear: the gift of time and love from good men doing good things for good people in need.



Brothers feed a long line of fans at Ham Day, one of the oldest fundraisers in NC Masonry.



Above: Stirring the Brunswick Stew Day in Salisbury is a 24-7 job.

Inset above: Brothers, family and friends help bag take-out stew orders.



Nobody goes hungry at Ham Day!

Beth Grace photos

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

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

How good intentions can go terribly wrong

Facts. Truth. Objectivity. Reality. Once upon a time, these were essential elements of how all news was reported, from the daily newspaper to word of mouth on the street.

That's old news these days. And that worries me when I consider the current debate in this Craft about the Grand Master's gun raffle directive. Now, I am not a Mason. No news flash there. But as editor of the *Mason* and as communications director for the NC Masonic Foundation, I have in the last year and a half grown to know and love the brothers of this fraternity. I care about what you think, feel and how you are perceived – not because that's my job, but because I believe my own eyes, ears and heart.

It is my job to help the world understand Masons and the good work you do. Generally, that's pretty easy. You raise money for those in need; you help community groups; you respond to a brother, sister, widow or friend in need without asking questions. Good stuff.

But there's another side to this conversation: public perception. Let's face it. Most people have no real understanding what Freemasonry is, what it stands for, the promises you make or the lives you lead. Some think Masons are dark figures who speak some unintelligible language, signal each other in suspicious secret signs and have something to hide that must be REALLY terrible.

Fair? No. I know I'm not telling you anything you don't know. But keep reading!

I want to ask you to do me a favor. Take some time to think about these things, these unfair perceptions, groundless rumors and how they could get out of control in the hands of those who don't – or won't – understand.

Full disclosure – I support responsible and lawful gun ownership, with this exception: I think only police and the military should have access to assault-style weapons. I also respect your right to take a different stand. We all have a right to disagree – and remain friends.

But what I do oppose is the very real potential in this new climate of protest and

anger, that Masonry itself could be irreparably harmed, all because of the perception that either we lack compassion by raffling guns, or by a bad and unfair outcome from a well-intentioned raffle.

I speak from almost 40 years of experience on the front lines of journalism, from my work at local newspapers to covering national and international stories for The Associated Press.

What I bring to the Masonic table is the view from out there. Here's what very likely could happen should an assault-style rifle get into the hands of a bad actor after being advertised in a Masonic raffle: It won't matter that the weapon was acquired legally, that the lodge took great care to distance itself from the final owner and to run the raffle ethically, that the only intent of staging a raffle was to raise money for kids or the elderly. Sadly, that last part only makes it more newsworthy.

Most reporters are responsible and work hard to get the real story. But there are many people who have access to the internet who are not reporters, who have no code of ethics, and who could not care less about getting the story right. They want to go viral, to earn click-throughs, to grab as many eyes as they can with the most scandalous headlines. Adding in the mystery that surrounds Masonry would just make it hotter news.

In unethical circles like this, bad news sells. Big.

This gets very real. It's not something that only happens to somebody else. It can change lives, cause bigger problems, provoke groundless lawsuits. At the very least, it could subject good men to the thought that they lack compassion – which has never been true.

You don't have to agree with me on ANY of this. I'm asking only that you consider this argument from the outside perspective.

I want the world to see you as I do. I want them to understand that at the end of the day, good hearts and hard work motivate everything you do and are. Masons build UP, not tear down.



By Beth Grace
Editor

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



By Speed Hallman
Grand Master

It's district meeting time as I write this. We're just over a fourth of the way through the district visits,

with seven meetings down and 20 to go. The lodges are generous with their hospitality, the masters and wardens are at the top of their games and the brethren are a joy to meet and spend time with.

It's part reunion, part revival and part dinner on the grounds, and I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at every lodge I visit.

With only the first three district visits under my belt, I attended the Conference of Grand Masters of North America meeting in Indianapolis. We heard presentations on database management, lodge finances, millennial apprentices, youth organizations and social media.

One presentation stood out above the others and I want to share it with you.

In 2016, the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite launched The Path Forward, the most comprehensive, data-driven analysis of the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry in more than 20 years. The NMJ wanted to create a fact-based, sustainable strategic plan to improve member recruitment, satisfaction and retention; adopt a marketing strategy; create plans based on data, not anecdotes; and ensure that outreach and communication efforts move forward in a tactical, planned and sustainable manner.

They're sharing their data and communications materials with other fraternal bodies like ours that can benefit.

Besides surveying Scottish Rite members about their attitudes toward the Craft, they also contacted 1,000 non-Mason men across the U.S. ages 21 to 65. The goal was to gauge non-member interest in the values and lifestyle that Masonry promotes.

For anyone who believes society has passed us by and sees only doom ahead, the results are staggering.

Their findings:

- Messages about honor, integrity, charity and becoming a better man resonated with non-Masons of all ages.
- Seventy-nine percent said they would be interested in joining an organization that "helps me become a better person while helping improve the quality of life of others."
- Seventy-two percent said they would be interested in joining an organization "where you will form deep and lasting friendships, regardless of race, religion, culture or geography."
- Eighty-one percent had heard of Freemasonry, but fewer than 30 percent were aware of our values.

The messages that resonated the least with non-Masons were those focusing on our history and our ties with founding fathers. Those are the messages we tend to emphasize when communicating with non-Masons.

Contrary to our assumptions, Masonic values appeal to Baby Boomers, who are seeking values-based organizations at this stage of their lives, and Millennials, whose values predispose them to finding and delving into Freemasonry as an option for personal fulfillment. Members of both generations want to make a difference, want to be heard and respected, and want a life based on the values of integrity, loyalty, responsibility and equality.

In other words, as the report states, "the concept of Fraternity is alive and well: Beyond a doubt, the study proved that the organization's message and identity is still timeless, and that there is a large population of men who would be willing to consider joining."

More information from the survey is on the NMJ's website at www.scottishritenmj.org. Click on "Resources," then "The Path Forward." A research summary can be downloaded from the site.

The NMJ's strategic plan for membership development has been published in book form and is sold through the website.

Look for Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry by former NMJ Sovereign Grand

Commander John W. McNaughton.

The NMJ also paid for a series of promotional materials and is offering them to grand lodges free of charge. Take a look at www.notjustaman.org and let me know if you think our Grand Lodge should employ these materials.

Coincidentally, in the January-February issue of the Mason I wrote about the good men around us who want what we offer, but don't know about us. We now know for certain that they're out there. Are you and your lodge visible in your community, ready to meet eager prospective Masons, and prepared to keep them engaged after they join?

A final thought

In the past month or so our brotherhood has wrestled with some big questions – and not always in a brotherly way. Harsh words and even threats have been exchanged in places where positive, compassionate and rational debate would have moved the discussion forward in a Masonic way.


I've had a number of personal conversations with brothers during this time – including some who adamantly disagree with me – and we met on the level and parted on the square. We shared our thoughts and agreed to keep the lines of personal communication open.

As true brothers do.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to listen to those true brothers who talk with me.

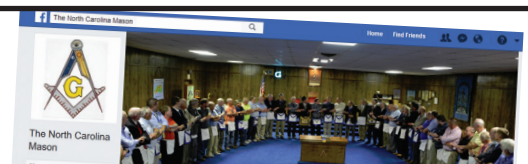
We can all profit by reflecting on the title Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry and renewing our understanding of the tyler's sword:

So it should morally serve as a constant admonition to us; to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts, to place a watch at the door of our lips, to post a sentinel at the avenues of our actions, thereby excluding every unqualified and unworthy thought, word, and deed, and preserving consciences void of the offense toward God and man.

So may we ever meet, act and part. May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us. 

DID YOU KNOW? You can find The Mason on Facebook!

Just link to <http://bit.ly/2irdm6m> or search for The North Carolina Mason. Read and post!
And share your good news and charitable successes news with your fellow Masons!



OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

Threshers want to harvest help for MHCO

Come see the tractors or drive your own at the 7th Annual Southeast Old Threshers' Reunion Tractor Ride this summer.

The June 29 event, which will be held before the opening of the Threshers' Reunion, benefits the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

The Southeast Old Threshers' Reunion is the largest steam, gas and antique farm machinery show in the Southeast and takes place at the Denton FarmPark, an historical park with 15 restored buildings including a general store, grist mill, church, plantation house, blacksmith shop and log cabin. A full-size steam train encompasses the park on a 1.5-mile track. The campground accommodates 500 campsites.

Starting at the Denton FarmPark entrance at 4259 Handy Road, Denton, and winding through Randolph County, the annual Tractor Ride covers approximately 22 miles of scenic countryside

Cost to drive your own tractor in the ride is \$25 per person. A tram is also part of the procession and seats

are \$35.

Each rider/driver will receive a commemorative T-shirt and a goody bag. Lunch is also included when the ride returns to the FarmPark.

This year, a new category has been added to the ride. Anyone unable to attend but wishing to support the MHCO can be a "Ghost Rider" for \$25 and a T-shirt will be mailed to them.

Businesses, individuals, and Masonic lodges or districts can show their support for MHCO as a sponsor for the Tractor Ride. Diamond Sponsorships are \$1,000 and those names will be displayed on the back of the event T-shirt. Platinum Sponsorships are \$500 with names listed on the front of the T-shirt. For \$200 as a Gold Sponsor, your name will be displayed on a sign displayed at the Ride.

On June 30, the five-day Southeast Old Threshers Reunion opens and the children of the MHCO will be the guests of the Denton FarmPark. Hunts Concessions will provide lunch and supper for the



Traffic is heavy so get to the Thresher's Reunion early!

children that day.

At 6 p.m. that day, an auction of donated items will raise additional funds for the children's home. Items are being sought for the auction but items already donated include Masonic cornhole boards, toy pedal tractor, Masonic watch, Masonic

wooden inlay art item, and many more items.

For more information about being a sponsor, Ghost Rider or to donate an auction item, please contact Kirby Matthews at kirby@minutemansupply.com or visit dentonmasoniclodge.com



The only real danger is missing the Pig Jig!

Get ready to get 'Piggy'

Raleigh #500 invites your lodge and best chef to participate in the 13th Annual Carolina Pig Jig on May 19.

The Carolina Pig Jig has become the premier Masonic barbecue contest and celebration in the state. This event brings together dozens of lodges from throughout North Carolina and as far away as Delaware, with each lodge vying for the chance to be crowned a barbecue champion.

A panel of judges will taste all offerings in three categories: pork, chicken, and sauce. They will award trophies for first, second, and third place in each category.

Competition for the coveted People's Choice Award is tough, and the bragging rights that come with it are highly sought after amongst participating lodges! More importantly, since the inception of this event, the Carolina Pig Jig has raised more than \$100,000 for Masonic charities and is a proud accomplishment for all participants.

The proceeds are traditionally divided between the Masonic Home for Children and the Central Children's Home. The brothers of Raleigh #500 know that the success of this event lies within the fellowship with other lodges and we want you to join us.

As always, we are proud to partner with North Carolina Department of Agriculture and hold this event during the "Got to be NC Festival" at the NC State Fairgrounds (next to the Expo Center). The festival is a large, carnival-like, family friendly environment, is free to attend, and draws thousands of visitors from across the South. What better way to get involved with the community, demonstrate what masonry is about, and raise money for charity?

To participate, you must pay an entry fee (\$200.00 if paid by April 16, 2018 and \$250.00 if paid after). The entry fee gets you a whole hog, pork shoulders, and chickens for you to prepare beginning the

Turn your IRA into a gift for our Masonic charities

By Jeff Hensley

NCMF Chief Development Officer

We have all been taught at an early age: save now for some day you will want to retire!

Folks who heeded this advice very likely established early in their careers Individual Retirement Accounts (or IRAs as they are commonly called). IRAs allow an individual to save for retirement with either tax-free growth or on a tax-deferred basis, depending on the type of IRA.

But did you know that you can use your IRA for charitable purposes—to give to the Masonic Home for Children, The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, and WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community?

You can do this in two ways:

► Create your own “charitable IRA” by designating one or more of our charities as a beneficiary of all or just a percentage of your IRA. It can still support you (and your spouse) during life, but later, when you and your spouse have passed, it is distributed to the charitable beneficiaries that you have designated.



► If you are a US citizen over the age of 70 years and six months, you have the opportunity to avoid potential income tax liabilities on your IRA funds when they are given to one of our charities. IRAs require a minimum distribution at the age of 70 years and six months. But if you don't need those resources or they represent a tax burden to you, simply designate them to the charity or charities of your choice. In fact, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 per individual, per year from your IRA, without treating the distribution as taxable income.

So your retirement funds can go further than you ever thought.

They can support you and your loved ones in joyful years of retirement, but they can also have a lasting impact on our charities long after we

are all gone.

For more information on how you can give to our Masonic charities through your IRA, please contact me at jhensley@mfnc.org, NCMF Western Region Director Dee Blake at dblake@mfnc.org, or NCMF Eastern Region Director Chris Richardson at crichardson@mfnc.org

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LEWIS from page 1

Kolada says.

WhiteStone board Chairman and Past Grand Master Gene Jernigan is looking forward to the future.

“I’m excited about what we have accomplished together and what we will accomplish as we go forward. We are so happy to have Mark Lewis on board,” he says. “I feel fortunate that we found him – especially because we told Mark Kolada when the search began that all he had to do was find another Mark!”

Lewis says he looks forward to the work – and to another change he plans to make soon. While he is not now a Mason, he says he will be filing a petition soon. He also looks forward to getting to know and working with the sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star, who strongly support the home.

“I started at the Ohio Masonic Home 22 years ago and I have so many fond memories of my time there and the many great people I met. In large part, that’s what drew me to WhiteStone,” he says. “Knowing how great those Masons in Springfield were, I have been looking forward to this!”

PIG JIG from page 6

evening before the event. Your lodge also gets 10 free tickets to sell to offset your costs and raise money for your charity. While you prepare your hog, there is ample opportunity to socialize with brothers from different lodges.

It gets better! The Pig Jig isn’t just our fundraiser; it can be yours too!

As you know, all lodges have to hold at least one charity event each year. Your lodge need only apply to the Grand Lodge for a charity event to be held on the same day as the Pig Jig.

Raleigh #500 will sell you tickets at a greatly discounted rate, which you in turn sell in your community at \$15.00 each. The profit is yours to distribute to the charity of your choice or for use within your own lodge (subject to approval by the Grand Lodge).

In addition, winners in each of the categories may choose to donate a portion of the proceeds from the event to a Masonic charity of their choosing (details to soon follow).

We encourage you to invite your family and friends to enjoy a day of barbecue, fun, games, and education.

Taking it to the districts

It happens every year. From January through May, in lodges large and small, from Murphy to Manteo, from Boone to Beaufort, brethren gather to meet and greet their new Grand Master.

They come together to laugh, catch up, to listen a little and learn a lot ... and to chow down. Barbecue, steaks, Cornish game hen, fried shrimp, beef tips, chicken and pastry, and Brunswick stew are on the menu, prepared by the finest Masonic chefs (well, and sometimes their wives and sisters of the Eastern Star), showing their stuff.

It's not just friends they have come to see. There are gavels that travel, jewels that gleam, robes fit for royalty, a rainbow row of chairs pegged to the wall, stars from afar, shining tiled floors, theater seating of all shapes and colors ... and a skull or two perched atop a dusty shelf.

Most brothers arrive in suits. But some march to a different drummer, donning overalls or matching silken jackets, pulling on gloves so white they gleam, or rocking a black tie and tux every now and again.

It doesn't matter who you are or what you wear, what's on for dinner or what's on the agenda. What matters is the joy, the friendship, the community that happens when brothers once again enter that sacred retreat of friendship and virtue ...



District meetings bring brothers together to hear news, appeals for giving and maybe even a good joke or two.





If you don't go, you won't know. Make a date to attend a district meeting near you. Hear about how our charities are doing, what code amendments are on the agenda, what our Grand Master is thinking and when to get your room reserved for Annual Communication. Photos by Beth Grace



Space is never too tight for brothers to connect. There was plenty of room for all at Columbus #102!

Attend a District Meeting on one of the following dates:

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

| <u>Date</u> | <u>District</u> | <u>Host Lodge</u> | <u>Lodge Address</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| 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 | 38 | Kedron 387 229 Fifth Ave. W., Hendersonville |
| | 3 | 34 | Hickory 343 30 Catawba Valley Blvd. SE, Hickory |
| | 15 | 19 | Eagle 19 142 W. King St., Hillsborough |

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **CORNELIUS** — Brother David Ragan of Williams #176, a Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series winner at Daytona International Speedway (2011) and Talladega Superspeedway (2013), is back this year for a second stint with Front Row Motorsports and team owner Bob Jenkins. His primary sponsor is 1000 Bulbs.



NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



▲ **WHITEVILLE** — Masons and other hunters from the 18th district held the district's 6th annual Pheasant Hunt in February at the Honey Hill Hunting Preserve. \$5,500 was presented to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.



◀ **NEW LEBANON** — Competition for the First Masonic District Traveling Gavel heated up in a big way last year — and two lodges took top honors in January for taking it home the most times. The lodge that takes the gavel home the most times during the year earns a commemorative plaque and has a \$50 donation made in its name to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and to Whitestone. For a visiting lodge to take the gavel home, the Master must be present, at least one principal officer (Junior or Senior Warden; Junior or Senior Deacon) must be present and at least four additional members must also be in attendance. The gavel changed hands nine times last year and travelled about 150 miles. The journey began at Currituck #463 and ended at New Lebanon #314. In fact, New Lebanon #314 kept it the longest, from June 20 – Sept. 12, when Eureka #317 decided to go get the gavel. From Sept. 12 until Jan. 16, 2018, every time Eureka or New Lebanon had a stated meeting, the other came to take the gavel home. Each of those two lodges took the gavel home four times. At the quarterly district meeting in January, both were presented with a plaque. Pictured l-r: Worshipful Master Thomas Hobbs, Eureka #317, District Deputy Grand Lecturer/Past Master Doug Brickhouse, Eureka #317, WM Jimmy Nash, New Lebanon #314 and PM Calvin Upton, New Lebanon #314.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **KINSTON** – Several members of Jerusalem #95 in Hookerton visited veterans at the N.C. State Vereran’s Home in late February. They were escorted on a tour by Ms. Nikki Jerkins, Recreation Services Director, who pointed out several ways that our lodge can support the veterans home. They met and talked with several veterans living there, some who served in WWII, some in Korea and Vietnam. They also met a charming couple who had been married for 73 years who both lived at the home. All the brothers came away with a great appreciation of our veterans and were impressed by the facility.

‘G’ a force for ‘good’ in NC

After months of work, in partnership with lodges all over the state, the G poster you have read about in the Mason is ready!

The final product is gorgeous and a show of great work from our own Print Shop at the Masonic Home for Children.

Some 70 lodges submitted their Gs. The photos were carefully edited and processed by photographer Melody McBride, a sister of the Eastern Star, who often shoots great photos at meetings and major events for the NC Mason. Melody also designed the layout and produced a detailed legend, which shows which G is which on the poster.

Want your own copy? The 16x20 glossy poster is available for \$30. Right now, we’re selling them at district meetings but soon will be able to fill mail orders.

All sales benefit historic lodge preservation efforts in North Carolina.



Past Grand Master Cathey dies at age 79

*“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!”*

Charles Edward Cathey, 147th Grand Master of Masons of North Carolina, passed away March 3, leaving a loving family and countless brothers in Freemasonry to mourn the loss of a gentle leader with the heart of a poet. He was 79.

He often closed his district meetings during his year in the East in 2000 by reciting from memory the poem The Bridge Builder by Will Allen Dromgoode. He believed his role as a Mason and as Grand Master was to make the road ahead as accessible and smooth as possible for those who followed him.

He loved his native Haywood County as deeply as Freemasonry, teaching his children and grandchildren about their local roots. He even narrated a DVD produced by the Bethel Rural Organization, Walking in the Footsteps of Those Who Came Before Us.

The lifelong Haywood County resident was the son of Hugh and Barbara Sheffield Cathey. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Ava Jean Henson Cathey, and his sister, Vera Cathey. He is survived by those he often said made him most proud: Chuck (Angie), Tom (Michelle), and Mabelle; his grandchildren, Joshua, Seth, Jared, Taylor, Will and Erin; and two great-grandchildren, Payton and Kenley.

He was a 50-year member of Sonoma #472 and rose to the appointed position of Most

Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in 2000. During his tenure as Grand Master, he established a scholarship fund which continues to award \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors each year.

In July 2000, He was honored by Governor Jim Hunt with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest honor a governor can award a private citizen. He was a member of the Waynesville York Rite Bodies and served as

Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Carolina in 1996.

A member of the Asheville Scottish Rite Bodies, he received the honor of 33rd degree in 1991. He served as Grand Chaplain of the Order of the Eastern Star in 1990-1991.

A US Army Veteran, he served at Fort Hood, Texas as a combat medic from 1957-1959.

A memorial service followed by

Masonic Rites was held March 7 in Canton.

If you wish to honor him, the family requests that donations be made to the Charles Edward Cathey Masonic Scholarship Fund, Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee, 2921 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27608

Cathey often spoke of his year as Grand Master, telling his brethren that he had only one regret as he left office:

“To my brothers across this state, there’s a thought from one of my favorite poems that says: I’ve lots of good friends so kind and so sweet; And still many more that I’ll never meet. I’ve been blessed this year by getting to meet so many of my brothers across this state.

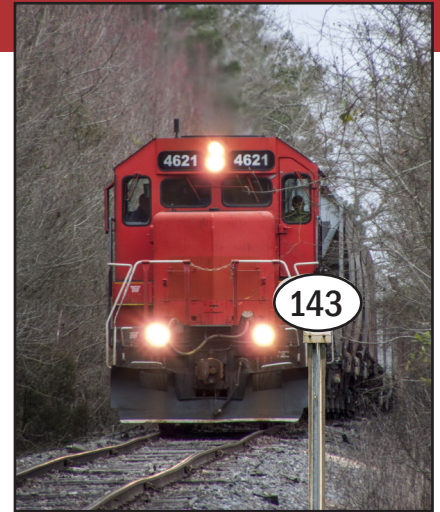
“This is probably the best part of the job of grand master. But as the line from the poem says and still many more that I’ll never meet, I count it my loss that there are many of you that I’ll never be blessed to meet in person.”



MILEPOSTS



▲ **OXFORD** – Wayne Roberson, one of the longest-tenured employees at the Masonic Home for Children, retired in February after 40 years on the job. Since Wayne joined the Oxford Orphanage Printing Department back in 1978, he has seen many changes in the printing business and the equipment used. But he became a true champion for countless students who worked with him. He says his biggest success was in helping young people at the home and watching them become productive citizens in their own communities. Wayne is on the School of Graphic Arts' Wall of Fame. Pictured above at a party celebrating his retirement is: Wayne (front row, center) is pictured with, front row from left, former print shop employees Anita Vanerelli and Lydia Williams, alumnus Scott Webb, current print shop employee Deborah Williams and Eddie Dickerson, School of Graphic Arts manager; back row, Thomas Barlow, MHCO alumnus and current print shop employee.



Service awards reported to The Mason

70 Years

Jesse O. Brown, Fulton Lodge #99

60 Years

Gus Godwin, Eno #210

Thomas Allen Harriett, Zion #81

Bobby Keller, Allen-Graham #695

50 Years

David Bryant, Eno #210

Dennis Harrison, Eno #210

Junior Harward, Allen-Graham #695

Bennie Mitchell, Archer #165

Howard Partin, Eno #210

James Strum, Eno #210



◀ **GREENSBORO** – A White–Stone couple has been named the longest married couple in the state of North Carolina for 2018. Jack and Betty Gunkle, who have been married for more than 77 years, were honored with other couples around the country by Worldwide Marriage Encounter in a contest run through the Christian News Wire. Only five couples on the winners list for 2018 have been married longer, but not by much. The longest marriage on the list this year is 81 years. The Gunkles' name was submitted by Kim Jones, a resident of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro. Photo by Fred Wilkerson



BAHAMA – Brother Chad Martin, left, wore the actual jewel of the Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Masons in North Carolina, when he was raised by his grandfather, Brother Don McGhee, center, on Jan. 30. Present for the occasion was RWB R. David Wicker Jr., right, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge.

MILEPOSTS



▲ **SWANSBORO** – U.S. Marine Evan Tucker, grandson of Cannon Memorial #626 Tyler Jerry Tucker, wanted to finish his journey to be raised to Master Mason even as he prepared for deployment from Camp Lejeune to Africa and the Middle East in February. The Brothers at his home Lodge, Seaside #429, in Swansboro, were eager to assist and set his 3rd degree for Jan. 29 to accommodate. Although Seaside Lodge is about six hours away from Cannon Memorial, that distance didn't keep the brothers of Kannapolis from being present at the raising. WB Richard Secoolish gassed up the van, and the brothers traveled to the Lodge. There were even parts in the degree for the traveling men, and Jerry Tucker was able to raise his grandson. Pictured l-r: WB Joe Goodnight, WB George Maxwell, WB Richard Secoolish, and Brothers Jerry Tucker and Evan Tucker.



▲ **MIDLAND** – It's all in the family when it comes to masters at Union #618. Installed in January as Master for 2018 is WB John Robert Nash (left), who followed in the footsteps of his brother WB David Gordon Nash (right), who was master in 2017. And celebrating in the middle is the proud father of these two brothers, WB Thomas Lathan Nash Jr., who was master for 2016.

What's old is new again: Reaching out to families

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

What's the big idea?

Based on conversations heard in the latest round of district meetings, a big idea doesn't necessarily have to be a *new* one to be a *good* one.

Howard Kahn, master of Semper Fidelis #680 in Jacksonville, shares a time-honored big idea – the widows' luncheon. This is an event some lodges have staged for years, but any lodge can put it together with a little planning and a well-written invitation. But it's something every lodge can DO. And the payoff is enormous.

All brethren recall that among the promises they make is to care for widows of their brothers. Many lodges take pains to contact them and keep in touch.

If your lodge isn't keeping in touch with



widows, here's how Semper Fidelis does it – in Howard Kahn's words:

"On Saturday, Feb. 10, Semper Fidelis #680 held the first of what it plans to become an annual Valentine's Day Luncheon for our wives and widows. The stewards prepared a delicious spaghetti and meatball dinner, complete with salad and garlic bread. The lodge desired to show its appreciation to our ladies. We realize that without their support, *we* could not be as active in Masonry as we would like.

"We have started an adopt-a-widow program, where each of our local Masonic widows is adopted by a member of the lodge. The brother is to check on his adoptee twice a month to show her that she is not forgotten and that we are there for her, if within the length of our cable tow. Twelve of our widows were in attendance. We had brothers pick them up at their homes and take them home after the function.

"Some of the ladies who could not make the dinner had dinners delivered to them. In total, we had 36 people in attendance. Our ladies will be invited to all lodge family functions."

Good stuff. Not expensive, not a time-burner, and guaranteed to succeed. It's a good thing to reach out, and not just to widows.

Grand Master Speed Hallman at his district meetings this year is urging brothers to reach out and connect in a meaningful way to those who are no longer part of the lodge.

Your call might just be able to open doors again to aging brothers who just need a ride to come to lodge, or a widow who supported her husband all those years when he went to meetings or gave up a weekend to raise funds for a Masonic charity, or help you find out why someone who stopped paying dues decided to leave.

The lodges that hold these events will tell you that what they get in return is priceless: friendships renewed, hearts warmed, memories honored.

Not a bad return on an investment from the heart.

From the Courier's Case

Remembering our brothers at the Alamo

*By Steven A. Campbell
Blackmer Lodge No. 127*

Ever leading the way, several Freemasons played a major role in the Battle of the Alamo. The names of Bowie, Crockett and Travis are forever etched in the annals of Texas and American history.

Upon gaining our independence from Great Britain, much of North and South America were still possessions of France, Spain, Portugal, Holland and England. The American frontier pushed westward toward the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

In need of cash, Napoleon Bonaparte sold the United States over 1 million square miles of French-owned North America in 1803. This opened up vast lands to eager frontiersmen, traders, entrepreneurs, and settlers.

It was during our early westward expansion that the Mexican people won their independence from Spain. What now encompasses the states of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and southern California was part of the Republic of Mexico.

Hoping to see the land prosper as well as to discourage American expansion into this region, Mexican officials opened up the lands of Texas to settlers under the agreement that they, along with local inhabitants, would be loyal citizens of Mexico.

Thus is the setting in Texas in the 1830s. Speculative and hard working Americans, Europeans and Indians in this province prospered and their concerns of uncompromising rule from Mexico City fanned the thoughts of independence.

In 1833, a 39-year-old Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who helped liberate Mexico from Spain, suspended the government and seized power. Within two years, eight Mexican states rebelled. With European trained officers, Santa Anna crushed the rebels.

The Mexican State of Coahuila y Tejas (Texas) rebelled in November 1835. Several skirmishes took place between Mexican troops and the



Three of the Masons who played a role at the Battle of the Alamo were (clockwise from left) James Bowie, David (Davy) Crockett and William Travis. The sketch of Travis is the only one believed to have been made during his lifetime. They flank a 1844 woodprint of the ruins of the mission building.

settlers. On March 2, 1836, under the political leadership of David Burnet, Brother Stephen Austin and others, the Republic of Texas was formed. A settler from Virginia, Brother Sam Houston, was placed in command of the Army of Texas.

There was only one flaw in his appointment: with the exception of a few men, there was no Army of Texas. Houston would have to raise one. Meanwhile with an army of nearly 6,000 troops, cavalry and artillery, President Santa Anna marched northward, through severe winter weather, to crush the rebellion.

The Alamo

The 18th century Spanish mission is located in San Antonio, which in the 1830s was not much more than a village. Deserted as a church, it had been used over the years as a frontier post.

Early in the Texas Rebellion, settlers had driven Santa Anna's soldiers from the fort. Realizing the importance of the few cannon and supplies at the post, Sam Houston ordered Col. James Bowie to San Antonio to remove those stores.

Upon his arrival, Bowie, who assumed command of all volunteer forces in the region, decided to remain at the Alamo, as it was the only barrier between the Mexican Army and Houston's fledgling force.

Brother James Bowie, who was born in Kentucky in 1796, grew up in Louisiana. He received a basic education, hunted and trapped game. In 1813, he enlisted in the Louisiana Militia to fight against the British in the War of 1812.

After the war, Brother Bowie moved to the east coast of Texas, where it is reported that he allied himself with the pirate Jean Lafitte

(hero of the Battle of New Orleans) in a lucrative smuggling trade.

Becoming a "man of means," Bowie returned to Louisiana. It was during this time that he gained his reputation as a highly skilled knife fighter. As a result of a duel (the Sandbar fight) near Natchez, Bowie was shot in the lower chest and run through with a sword cane.

Though grievously (but not mortally) wounded, he fatally stabbed his assailant, Norris Wright, and the legend of the Bowie Knife was born.

In September 1829, his 24-year-old fiancé died, and a year later, he immigrated to Texas, where he became a Mexican citizen. Bowie married the 18-year-old daughter (Maria de Vermendi) of the wealthy mayor of San Antonio, and they had two children.

■ see ALAMO next page

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------|------------------------------|-----|----------------|------------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Collins, Zachary David | 13 | St. John's | Tullis, Dakota Cheyenne | 217 | Catawba Valley | Riley-Drake, Joseph Lee | 460 | Cliffside | Satterfield IV, Preston | 686 | Angier |
| McLaurin, Renhard Glen | 27 | Statesville | Gauthier, Michel Vergniaud | 218 | William G. Hill | Tanner, Brian Keith | 495 | Rockingham | Cabatit, Richard Rapacon | 688 | Cherry Point |
| Miller, Gary Bruce | 45 | Liberty | Price, Jeremy Scott | 244 | Monroe | DeBerry, Joseph Foster | 497 | Royal Hart | DeLaGarza III, Anacleto | 688 | Cherry Point |
| Jones, Stephen Christopher | 76 | Greensboro | Thomas II, Robert Eugene | 257 | Kenly | Etheridge Jr, Rudolph Albert | 497 | Royal Hart | Albritton, Robert Lance | 694 | Gate City |
| Craig, Nathan Joshua | 76 | Greensboro | Bridges, Lloyd Harold | 262 | Hibriten | Gibson Jr, Charles Edward | 505 | Cherryville | Foust, Steven Maxton | 694 | Gate City |
| Neal, Kelly Booth | 83 | Lafayette | Bridges, Nicholas Adam | 262 | Hibriten | Hartman, Johnathan Seth | 505 | Cherryville | Howe II, Richard Wayne | 694 | Gate City |
| Benitez, Leonardo | 83 | Lafayette | Minton, Jacob Ryan | 262 | Hibriten | Etherton Sr, James Chadwick | 515 | Whetstone | McKee, Donald Spencer | 706 | Newport |
| Tyndall, Willie Ryan | 83 | Lafayette | LaRiez, Jason Clifford | 277 | Green Level | Garrett Jr, David Harold | 515 | Whetstone | Chamberlin, Taylor Robertson | 707 | Forsyth |
| Modlin, Jason Andrew | 90 | Skewarkee | Summitt, Todd Joel | 339 | Fairview | Beach, Bobby Wayne | 544 | Mount Holly | Carver, Keith Richard | 709 | Conover |
| O'Neal, Patrick Brian | 98 | Hiram | Price, Earl Clements | 352 | Durham | Thomas, Mark Luther | 554 | Vesper | Drum, Steven Craig | 709 | Conover |
| Elks, Jeffery Austin | 104 | Orr | Woods, Richard Anthony | 352 | Durham | Hart, David Charles | 561 | Swannanoa | Lineberger, Nickie Dale | 709 | Conover |
| Adams, Allan Rogers | 114 | St. Alban's | Conner, Michael Glenn | 381 | Forest City | Norris II, Robert Warren | 562 | Waxhaw | Reaves, James Cameron | 712 | Wilson |
| Hendren, Jarrod Keith | 114 | St. Alban's | Gonzalez-Galindez, Pedro Javier | 391 | Lebanon | Crupi, Charles Steven | 568 | Doric | McDaniel, Lidge Virgle | 727 | Shalotte |
| Pait, Patrick Adam | 114 | St. Alban's | Griffis, Daniel Ray | 391 | Lebanon | Beshears, Ritz Curtis | 573 | Mt. Pleasant | Byrd, Cameron Dennis | 730 | Stedman |
| Lowe, Bryan Roscoe | 151 | Sanford | Vazquez, Michael Louis | 391 | Lebanon | Buffkin, Charles Evan | 596 | Waccamaw | Porterfield, Brett Charles | 737 | Steele Creek |
| Hester, Charles Nathan | 202 | Cleveland | Cook, Nicholas Embry Conway | 391 | Lebanon | Britt, Brandon Chad | 646 | Bladen | Kelly, Lamar Rashee | 755 | Clemmons |
| Martin, Michael Chad | 210 | Eno | Jensen, Daniel Alan | 391 | Lebanon | Bodford, Derek Craig | 669 | Kernersville | Tucker, Lee Kendall | 756 | Clifford Duell |
| Cape, David Allen | 217 | Catawba Valley | Jensen, Kristopher James | 429 | Seaside | Harris, Dan Gregory | 669 | Kernersville | Lail, Brandon Jay | 767 | Sophia |
| Carwell, Charles Andrew | 217 | Catawba Valley | Tucker, Evan Charles | 429 | Seaside | Boone, Patrick Hunter | 680 | Semper Fidelis | Ramponi, Alexis | 770 | State College |
| Conrad II, James Allison | 217 | Catawba Valley | Forbis, Kenneth Ray | 429 | Seaside | Harrell, William Francis | 680 | Semper Fidelis | | | |
| Flynn, Gabriel Allen | 217 | Catawba Valley | Stutts, Zachary Ryan | 459 | Dillsboro | Hall, George Allen | 686 | Angier | | | |

ALAMO from page 14

Sadly, in 1833, Bowie's wife, along with his young daughter and son, died of cholera. He then received his commission as a Colonel in the Texas Militia, and was in this capacity when he reported to the Alamo. (Member of: Humble Cottage #19, Louisiana)

Brother David Crockett was born in Limestone, Tenn., in 1786. He was a hunter, pioneer, militiaman, humorist/writer, politician and fiddle player of renown. A bit of a self-promoter, he preferred to be called David.

He could talk to anyone, rich or poor, and was plainspoken.

At 20, he married Polly Finley and had two sons and a daughter.

After Polly's death in 1815, he married Elizabeth Patton and they had four children.

As a Tennessee Militiaman, he fought in the Creek War (1813) and in 1815, was elected lieutenant colonel of the 57th Regiment of Tennessee.

Elected to a Tennessee state office in 1821, Brother Crockett went on to win three terms in the U.S. Congress (1826-1834).

While in Congress, he was known to speak for the people and against big government.

Taking issue with some of Brother Andrew Jackson's policies, he was defeated for re-election in 1835 and left Tennessee for Texas, writing, "I

want to explore Texas well before I return." (Crockett wrote several works, including *The Autobiography of David Crockett* in 1834, and *An Account of Col. Crockett's Tour to the North and Down East* in 1833.)

Upon arriving in Texas he took an oath to join the Texas Volunteers, and in turn received 4,600 acres of land for his service, as did all volunteers.

On Feb. 6, 1836, Brother Crockett arrived at the Alamo with less than one dozen volunteers. He was greeted by Brother Bowie, with whom he lodged. (Member of: Weakley County, Tenn. Lodge – records burned between 1861-1865)

Brother William Barrett Travis was born in Saluda County, SC, in 1809. At 19, he married Rosanna Cato. They had one son, and though their marriage was rocky, his pursuit for recognition continued as a local newspaper publisher, attorney, and militia officer.

Sadly, he separated from his family and moved to Texas in 1831 where he set up a law practice. He was one of the first to join the Army of Texas when the Texas Rebellion erupted.

Travis arrived at the Alamo with 30 regulars. Viewed as somewhat vain and egotistical, his leadership style did not coincide with Brother Bowie's. (Member of: Alabama #3)

The Battle of the Alamo

For 12 days (Feb. 23-March 6, 1836) less than 200 men withstood the siege of Santa Anna's army. Unfortunately, the crumbling adobe walls, though somewhat enhanced with wooden palisades, were no match for continual musket fire, artillery and rocket barrages.

When asked to surrender, Travis' reply was to order a single cannon shot in defiance. Santa Anna, wishing to crush the rebellion and to set an example, ordered that no prisoners were to be taken.

A messenger did escape the Alamo with a request for reinforcements. The closest unit in Goliad was met by Mexican troops and wiped out. Houston's Army of Texas was too weak to respond.

It is reported that upon learning no reinforcements could reach them, Travis drew a line in the sand with his sword stating any man who wished to escape could "leave without infringing their honor;" otherwise, crossing the line meant they would stay until the end.

Sole command now rested with Travis, as Bowie was confined to his bed with a delirious fever (either from malaria or pneumonia).

Tradition holds that Bowie ordered his cot be carried across the line to show his solidarity with Travis' order.

At about 4 a.m. on March 6, 1836

— the 13th day of the siege — four Mexican Army columns attacked the fort simultaneously. Crockett commanded the south wall in front of the chapel.

Travis, commanding an artillery battery on the north wall, was killed by a single gunshot wound to the head just as the final attack began.

James Bowie sheltered in the chapel and was killed on his cot.

Overwhelmed by superior forces, the Alamo fell after 2½ hours of combat. All of the defenders of the Alamo were killed. About two dozen women, children and slaves were spared so that they could tell all what the fate of the men at the Alamo had been. Santa Anna ordered the bodies to be burned.

Aftermath

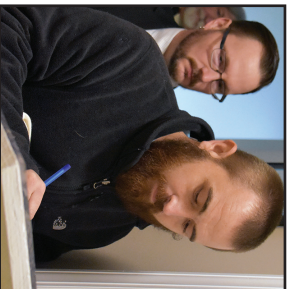
Wishing to defeat Houston's army, Santa Anna split his force into three wings. To his regret, the wing he commanded was encountered by Houston's army at a place called San Jacinto and defeated in less than 20 minutes.

President Santa Anna was captured, and in agreement for his release, signed the Treaties of Velasco, in which Mexico "acknowledged the full, entire and perfect independence of the Republic of Texas." For nine years (1836-1845), Texas was its own nation until admitted to the United States as the 28th state. ♠



page 2

Grand Master issues directive on gun raffles



page 8

Out in the Districts



page 14

Rememering the Alamo and the Masons who fought there

On the cover

The work is hard, but never too much for the brothers who organize and execute two of the oldest and most successful fundraisers in the Craft every year. See page 3. Photo by Beth Grace

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MARCH/APRIL, 2018