

# NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

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January/February 2019

## 10 lodges, one installation

By Beth Grace  
Mason Editor

*"I promise on the honor of a master mason that I will, to the best of my ability, conform to and abide by the ancient landmarks, regulations, and usages of Masonry, the Constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and the laws of this lodge, and that I will faithfully perform the duties of the office to which I have been selected."*

It happens every year. But it's not routine.

It has been done thousands of times. But it's never dull.

The words are always the same, the ritual never changes.

And that's a wonderful thing.

It's officer installation season.

From Murphy to Manteo and all around the Tar Heel state, lodges install new masters and line officers in December and January.

For every last officer, even those who have served for decades or are making their third or fourth trip up the line, it's a special night.

For their families, it's a rare chance to peek past the Tyler and head through the lodge door to see what it is that prompts such devotion among their husbands, sons, fathers and brothers.

It's also an opportunity to hear Masonic prose at its finest, in the form of the charge to each officer: Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Senior and Junior Deacons, Senior and Junior Stewards, and the Tyler.

Generally, lodges hold their own ceremonies at home and in most cases, only one lodge is installing officers.



Officers from all 10 lodges in the 6th District took their oaths en masse during a special installation at Greenville, with the Grand Master as installing officer. At right, the charters of each lodge are displayed as each new Master is charged with its safekeeping.

But every now and again, lodges hold joint events. This year, one of the largest such installations was held Jan. 3 at the Greenville Masonic Temple and hosted by Bethel #589. All 10 6th District lodges installed officers. It's not the first time such a large group of officers has been installed, but such events are anything but routine.

Brothers who attended declared the evening a success. The event began with a dinner of pork barbecue, cole slaw, beans, potatoes and rolls. Desserts included a home-made cake honoring the Temple's 150th anniversary.

The crowd, full and happy, moved into the lodge room for the instal-



lation. Brother, relatives and other friends of the officers watched from the seats as the officers positioned themselves on row after row of chairs that filled the center of the lodge.

In the East, Grand Master

Dwight "Mack" Sigmon presided, flawlessly reciting from memory the full charge for each office and all other parts of the installation ceremony.

■ see 6th DISTRICT page 3

# District 6 installation



Lodges pictured by row from top left:


- Ayden #498
- Bethel #589
- Crown Point #708
- Farmville #517
- Greenville #284
- Grifton #243
- Grimesland #475
- Jerusalem #95
- Radiance #132
- William Pitt #734

## 6th District, from page 1

Chief Marshal WB W. Dennis Campbell, a past master and past district deputy grand master, and marshals selected by each lodge made sure that one by one, row by row, each officer was presented before the Grand Master, before reciting the pledge and being invested with the jewel of office.

Installing Chaplain was WB Ted Douglas Sauls Jr. and Installing Secretary was WB Greg Giles, who also was Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Lodges that participated included Bethel #589, Jerusalem #95, Radiance #132, Grifton #243, Greenville #284, Grimesland #475, Ayden #498, Farmville #517, Crown Point #708, William Pitt #734.

This isn't the first time the 6th District has held a joint installation. Last year, eight lodges gathered. But this was the first time all 10 lodges in the district were able to participate. 



No one attending the district installation went home hungry.

## Get ready for a district meeting coming near you during 2019

District meetings help remind us that we are a true fraternity with brothers throughout the state and beyond. Plan to attend one of these meetings with Grand Master Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon.

NOTE: These dates and locations are subject to change throughout the year due to weather conditions or other considerations. Be sure to keep up-to-date at our website, [www.gln.c.us](http://www.gln.c.us).

DATE	DISTRICT	HOST LODGE	ADDRESS
Mar 4	29	Meadow Branch 578	211 S. Stewart St., Wingate
12	26	Forsyth 707	4537 Country Club Rd., Winston-Salem
13	27	Thomasville 214	720 Salem St., Thomasville
14	22	Bingham 272	307 E. Center St., Mebane
20	20	Sanford 151	231 Charlotte Ave., Sanford
25	41	Robbinsville 672	33 Ingram St., Robbinsville
26	40	Sonoma 472	62 Birdsong Trl., Canton
27	37	Burnsville 717	23 Robertson St., Burnsville
28	33	Mt. Pleasant 573	206 Champion-Mt. Pleasant Rd., Wilkesboro
Apr 1	18	Fairmont 528	709 Getrude St., Fairmont
2	12	Waccamaw 596	2629 Old Stage HWY, Riegelwood
3	17	Stedman 730	128 Carol St., Stedman
10	13	John H. Mills 624	8057 Highway 39, Henderson
11	15	State College 770	TBD, Raleigh
15	24	Troy 718	220 Eldorado St., Troy
17	28	Cannon Memorial 626	704 S. Main St., Kannapolis
22	36	Mount Holly 544	332 W. Charlotte Ave., Mount Holly
23	32	Charles M. Setzer 693	4217 Stacy Blvd., Charlotte
May 14	38	Western Star 91	329 S. Main St., Rutherfordton
15	34	Catawba 248	202 N. College Ave., Newton

# Are you ready for some ritual? Contest dates set


## Three sites means less driving time for participating teams


If you love everything about Masonic ritual, this is your year. The annual ritual competition, sponsored by Wilkerson College #760, is expanding in 2019 to give far-flung lodges a shorter commute and incentive to compete.


Watch for your opportunity to enter a regional competition – there will be one in the east, one west and one in central North Carolina. Winners of those competitions will compete for the top prizes this September during Annual Communication.

Details of the finals are still being worked out but here's the schedule

for the regional competitions:

 Greensboro Masonic Temple – Aug. 10

 St. Johns #1, Wilmington – Aug. 17

 Nichols-West Asheville #650, Asheville – Aug. 24

There are two categories in which to compete: open and closed competition.

**Closed competition:** Lodges only are eligible to compete in this cate-



gory. The degree team must be composed of the installed officers of the lodge—Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Senior and Junior Deacons (stand-ins for any other positions will be supplied at the competition).

Up to two alternates may be substituted for these officers (the alternates may not be certified

lecturers). The lodge teams will all exemplify the first section of the Third Degree (including obligation, not including lecture or charge).

A trophy will be awarded to the winning lodge team. In addition, the winning lodge name and number will be attached to a trophy which will be displayed at the Grand Lodge office building in Raleigh.

**Open competition:** Any degree team may compete. Teams should prepare for First Degree, Second Degree, or first section of the Third Degree (including obligation, not including lecture or charge).

All teams will exemplify the same degree, announced the day of the competition. A plaque will be awarded to the winning team.

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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 ENLIGHTENING 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

# Help create new fund for disaster relief

Masons take care of their own. And others. Lots of others. Just take, for example, the response Masons gave to a call for donations after Hurricane Florence devastated much of southeastern North Carolina, with no regard to reputation or station in life.

It's in the Masonic DNA to help others, especially brothers and their families in trouble.

Inspired by that response, the North Carolina Masonic Foundation will try something new this year in hopes of creating a fund that will be around every time Masons need help.

On June 24 – St. John's Day – the NCMF invites lodges around the state to join in on a special giving day called "24 in 24." That means NCMF wants to raise \$24,000 in 24 hours on June 24 to create the body of a disaster relief fund.

If NCMF hits that day's goal, it can form what development folks call the "corpus" of a fund that can be invested and grown so that it will be around for years to come. The fund will be designated to help Masons and lodges hit by hurricanes, tornadoes, devastating snow-

falls, etc. You get the idea – if you are hurt by Mother Nature, this fund will be on hand to help you.

I think it's appropriate to do this on a day set aside to recognize St. John the Baptist, since he dedicated his entire life to doing for others – one very special "other" in particular. He paved the way for things to come and never took credit for himself.

That's all in a day's work for this Craft.

The rules are easy. Just raise some money to toss into the fund. You or your lodge can do it on June 24 or earlier. The goal is to have your donation or pledge in hand on June 24.

We also want to recognize your work in helping your brothers. Take photos and videos of whatever you do and we'll run those out on Facebook on June 24.

If you need help with photos or videos, let me know by emailing me at my NCMF address – bgrace@mfnc.org – and I'll help you out. Any questions? Email me!

Read more about how you can get involved (story page 6).



By Beth Grace  
Editor

## Video tells the tale of NC Freemasons in 2018

Did you miss it?

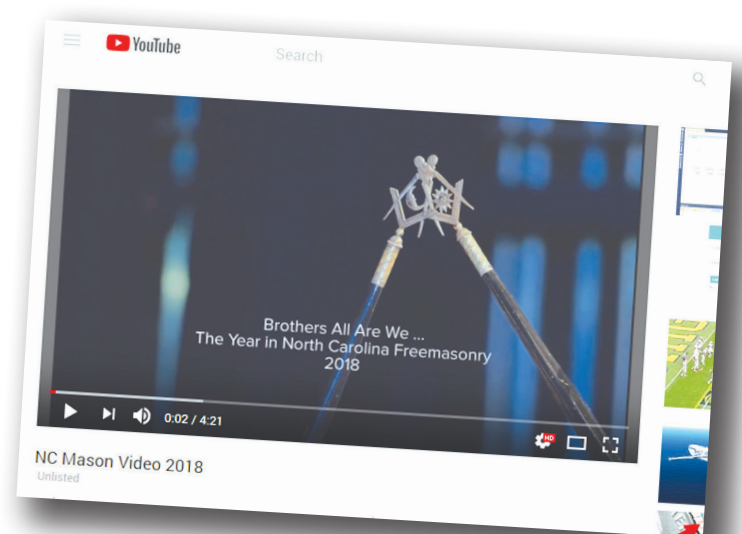
For the second year, the North Carolina Mason has created a video of photos that tell the story of our year in North Carolina Freemasonry.

Set to an updated version of Bonnie Doon, the video contains photos sent in by brothers and images shot by the many talented volunteers who help chronicle our history every year at events major, minor and in between.

It's easy to find – just go to this link:  
<https://youtu.be/ECckLtZ2IAQ>

Or simply search for North Carolina Mason 2018. It should pop right up.

Take a minute to look and remember back. It was a great year and the new one is now ours to craft ... and Craft. Happy New Year to all!



## FROM THE GRAND MASTER



# Who are we, where did we go?

By Dwight M.  
"Mack" Sigmon  
Grand Master

Our district meetings have begun, and I hope you are making plans to attend the upcoming

meeting closest to your lodge.

Most likely your attendance will be at a lodge that you have previously visited, but for some that may not be the case. You will rely on someone else or your GPS device to help get you to the correct destination.

When I joined our fraternity in mid-1975, the landscape of our various community organizations was much different than what we experience today or have experienced for the past few decades. Membership, not necessarily participation, was much higher in all civic, religious and local school organizations.

Today, we continue to spend an enormous amount of time discussing and analyzing declining membership. Some think we have returned or are returning to the pre-bubble levels experienced after World War II while others are confident that the decline has stopped. Regardless, times have definitely changed.

Ask yourself this question, are we known in our own backyard?

There was a time in Freemasonry when most everyone in the local community knew who we were, or at least where we were located. The same applies to the other organizations I previously mentioned. You could stop at any local business and someone would know who we were and where our building was located, especially in small- to medium-sized communities.

Most business owners, attorneys, physicians, first responders, educators and trade specialists were members. They also belonged to many other civic groups as well. Times have definitely changed as the majority of these groups now experience the same membership decline and financial struggles as we do.

As a young man in the 1960s, I knew nothing about our fraternity. Our local lodge had a sign on our building, but it never caught my attention. For years I knew this building as the local town hall and police department that I later discovered were tenants of ours. To me

our building represented those entities, not the local Masonic lodge.

Many businesses today are owned by someone who lives outside our communities. Today, if we stop and ask someone in a local business if they know where the Masonic lodge is located, you would be hard-pressed to find someone who could answer your question.

They, like I decades ago, have not focused on our signs to understand our identity. Many discover us for the first time when attending a funeral of a friend or family member of a friend and Masonic Rites are being conducted.

Even then, I have had people come up to me and ask who we are and question the purpose of our aprons. That opens the door as an opportunity to let our communities know who we are and where we are located. I know of members who have joined because of our participation in the community or after learning more about us while attending open officer installations.

We need more community involvement opportunities if we are to continue to educate the profane.

Today, when traveling to unfamiliar areas, we mainly rely on our GPS mobile app devices to take us to those destinations.

We have a great feature on our Grand Lodge web page that does that for us. I quite often use the lodge locator feature found on the home page of our website. It has served me well this year and previous years in my many travels throughout our grand jurisdiction.

But consider this, what if we worked harder at being a sort of Masonic GPS, letting our communities know who we are and what we are?

Many of our lodges are out in their communities. Some do great work with community events but mainly when combined with their fundraising activities. Our charities are critical to our homes' existence and our fundraising activities are greatly appreciated, but what else can we do above our charitable work in our communities?

Some lodges are involved in blood drives, locally and on the district level. Others partici-

pate in local community parades.

Our Lion and Pillar program this year encourages some new community activities in addition to the ones we have previously listed.

Consider contacting your local Chamber of Commerce for ways to get active in your community.

Habitat for Humanity is a great community project. While a financial donation would benefit them, as it would to all non-profit organizations, participating in a building project as a lodge or district would also be of great value. Imagine lodge members wearing their lodge shirts and working side by side with other organizations on a building project.


These types of activities provide the means of introducing yourself as a local Masonic lodge while crossing paths with someone new. You would be letting other groups or individuals experience the fellowship you enjoy as members of our fraternity while doing a worthwhile project for the community.

Happiness and having fun while doing good deeds could be contagious!

The same could apply to working with local schools, scouting programs and the list goes on. We all have limited time and resources, but I encourage you as a lodge or district to have a goal of improving your visibility in the community.

Maybe we can one day return to a time when a person could stop at a local business, ask where the Masonic lodge is located and immediately get the correct answer.

I rely on my GPS app as I travel this grand jurisdiction, but I still have a love of human interaction and letting people know who we are and where we are.

I always enjoy crossing paths with someone new on my Masonic journey. I bet you do as well. Thanks for all you are doing for our great fraternity. **Masonry is Work** but well worth our efforts. 

**But consider this, what if we worked harder at being a sort of Masonic GPS, letting our communities know who we are and what we are?**

OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

# Join NCMF for a special day of giving

Lodges around the state are invited to be part of a special day of giving to create a new disaster assistance fund designed to help Masons in times of major trouble.

From Murphy to Manteo – and on the North Carolina Masonic Foundation Facebook and web pages – those lodges will be honored and thanked during a June 24 mini-marathon to create a perpetual fund to help NC Masons, their lodges, their families and residents of our charitable homes in cases of natural and other disasters.

“We are asking lodges to help us generate \$24,000 in 24 hours on June 24 in honor of St. John’s Day,” said Jeffrey Hensley, chief development officer for the NCMF. “Our goal is to create a fund that can, through smart investment, become a perpetual fund for brothers and lodges hit by natural and other disasters.”

How can your lodge join in? Easy! Pass the hat in lodge or designate

proceeds from a fundraising event between now and June 24.

On or before June 23, notify Beth Grace, NCMF’s director of communications, by email (bgrace@mfnc.org) by midnight June 24, and she will include your name and/or lodge in the list of givers that will appear on the NCMF, NC Mason and Grand Lodge pages on Facebook and on the foundation’s web page, www.mfnc.org.



*Special note: If as part of this gift, a lodge gives \$5 per member, it qualifies for one of the tasks under the Lion and Pillar program.*

Want to be a bigger part of the day? Make a quick video or take photos from your day of fundraising and send those along to Beth as well. We will post activities each hour all day on June 24.

The fund will be invested and administered through NCMF. The Grand Lodge and the Masonic Service Association offers help in

times of natural disasters; this fund will be a separate resource funded by donations through NCMF.

The NCMF development team came up with the idea after Hurricane Florence. The exceptional generosity shown North Carolina Masons from other states via the MCA, the donations made by brothers out of pocket at Annual Communication and the subsequent gift of \$25,000 to that fund from NCMF was the inspiration.

“What if we created a fund that can grow with time, a fund that is always there?” Hensley said.

“We will run special campaigns periodically to maintain – and grow – the fund.”

The NCMF Board of Directors – all Masons – has approved the special day of giving and designated the proceeds to go toward the new disaster fund.



## A WhiteStone Christmas

It was a busy holiday season for Brothers and Sisters living at WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. The celebrations kicked off with a Moravian Love Feast and Candle Service, with music provided by the Friedland Moravian Band and the Eastern Star Grand Choir.

The next day, children from the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford visited, did some caroling and had lunch with the residents.

Later that day, a group of Rainbow Girls dropped by for a Christmas Cookie Reception.





Photos by Tina Gilreath

# Friends gather for the annual Ho-Ho-Holiday party at MHCO

About 400 brothers, friends and happy children gathered in December for the annual Christmas party at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

While guests shared fellowship and a delicious dinner, children played with their friends and families before everyone trekked to various cottages to watch the kids open presents – always a highlight of the night. The annual celebration also draws many lodges, which bring donations and gifts along with them.

Sponsors for the cottages this year were:

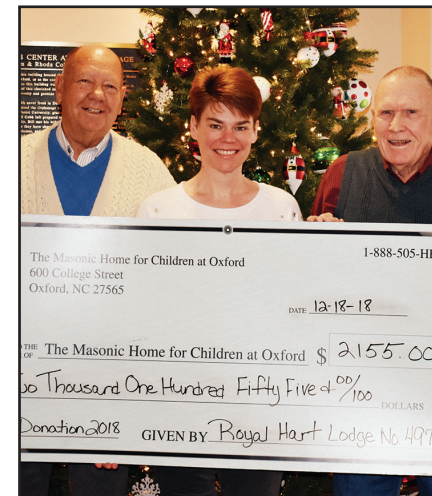
- Martin & Jones Attorneys at Law
- McGregor Enterprise
- Triangle Italian American Heritage Association
- Novella Clinical Inc.
- UNC Hospital - Surgery Service
- Oak Grove #750
- 22nd Masonic District & OES Battle of Alamance
- Happy Home Heating & Cooling
- Oxford Orphanage/MHCO Alumni Association
- Newell #739

Other donors and guests present include:

- Grand Master Dwight “Mack” Sigmon
- MHCO Board Chairman Dewey Preslar
- MHCO Board Member Don Steichen of James B. Green #735
- Chris Richardson and Dee Blake of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation
- Zion #81 – Johnny Surles
- Vandora #745
- Knap of Reeds #158 and Eno #210
- Aurora #300



▲ **OXFORD** – Construction continues on the new pool at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. As of presstime, the poolhouse is up and work continues on the pool itself and the pad surrounding it. Donations are welcome to help fund the construction. Contact Kevin Otis at MHCO or email Chris Richardson at the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, crichardson@mfnc.org.



▲ **OXFORD** – Royal Hart #497 celebrated the giving season in December with a \$2,155 gift to the Masonic Home for Children. Brothers Walter Brooks, left, and James Moseley, right, present a big check to Tina Gilreath, center, MHCO’s donor relations coordinator.

## REMEMBER:

Philanthropy is one of the five categories required for your lodge to earn a Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence award in 2019!



# Giving a treasured possession a gift in itself

By A. Gene Cobb Jr.

2017 Grand Master of Masons

On Oct. 30, 1975, I opened a letter from the admissions office of the University of North Carolina.

The letter stated that my lifelong desire and request for early admission had been approved. My coach allowed me to start my final home football game that night while wearing white socks with two Carolina blue rings around the top.

What he didn't realize was that nothing could ever diminish my love for Carolina basketball.

When I arrived at Carolina in 1976, I asked to be a Junior Varsity manager. There were four of us chosen as JV managers for the 1976-1977 season. Jeff Matthis, Kenny Lee, Glenn Benton, and I worked very hard to make the cut.

We all wanted to be picked for the Varsity Manager position. We tried to do everything Rick Duckett told us. Rick was the sophomore who made it the previous year. Kenny got the job, and while all of us were proud of him, we were heartbroken about not moving forward.

Without knowing Jeff and Glenn had done the same thing, I asked Coach Smith if I could stay involved. Three days later, a letter came from Coach Bill Guthridge saying that Coach Smith was inviting each of us to be statisticians for the 1977-1978 season. It would be Phil Ford's senior season.

Phil played high school ball at Rocky Mount and was on his way to becoming the National Player of the Year and first-round NBA selection. He was closing in on the all-time school scoring record. I wanted to be part of that year.

When we got our assignments, I kept the points per possession chart. Coach Smith used it to measure how many times both teams touched the ball in relation to how many points were scored.

In Phil's final home game against Clemson, he made a layup at the north end of Carmichael that broke Lennie Rosenbluth's all-time scoring record. I highlighted it with a "light shade of blue." At that moment, I remember thinking about all the 360s, shoe-top dribbles,



The former UNC statistician, Gene Cobb, passes on a treasured memory to basketball great Phil Ford and gains a treasured memory. Photo courtesy PGM Gene Cobb

secondary breaks, fast breaks, assists and points he scored from the field and foul line.

I remember the final home game against Duke was a highly anticipated and emotional game. It was Saturday, Feb. 25, 1978. Phil Ford and Tom Zalagaris were closing out their college careers. Phil ripped 32 points that day. It was his career high.

For this unique game, I made a carbon copy (the old-fashioned kind, a blue sheet that transferred every mark I made on the chart) of the points per possession chart. We won 82-78, and that gave us the top seed in the ACC tournament the following week in Greensboro.

The following Monday, I finished class walked back to the dorm through Carmichael, reminiscing about the accomplishments Phil made as our team leader. I came in by what we called, "the cage" (a place we got our gym clothes) and walked

down the stairs to the floor and was going to go out the back entrance. A man was on a ladder under the goal at the south end, changing the net. It was normal to replace the nets before a tournament. I said, "Sir, what are you going to do with that net?" He said, "You can have it." He threw it at me.

Years later, when I was Grand Master of Masons in 2017, I took the net with me to Winston Salem for what was dubbed "a tailgate party."

I mentioned to District Deputy Grand Master Todd Dyches that I'd like to give the net to Phil. Todd said, "I can make that happen, big guy."

Todd, a friend of Phil's, placed a call and handed me the phone. Phil and I talked for the first time in years. It felt like we were suddenly 40 years younger.

Todd worked for over a year to coordinate a meet-up with Phil.

We finally met Nov. 13, 2018, for lunch in Chapel Hill. I had found a shadow box for the net and put the carbon of the points per possession chart behind it.

When I arrived at the restaurant, the good Lord gave me some private time with Phil. Hearing him say "Gene," as I walked in the door made me light up like a Christmas tree. I sat down with him on a bench in the lobby and gave him the shadow box. We looked at some of the files I kept from his time as a player. We reminisced about games we remembered with fantastic detail, especially one of my favorite memories when Phil would slow dribble the ball up the court holding up four fingers.

Even more special for me, Phil autographed Coach Smith's book *Multiple Offenses and Defense* for me. The points-per-possession chart had been used by Coach Smith to write that book.

The highlight of the day for me was hearing Phil pray the blessing over the meal. God's love has touched Phil's life. I remain overwhelmed how God's love, mercy, and grace brings people together and blesses us.

Phil said later that he was delighted and surprised to receive the net.

"It was quite exciting. I guess the older you get, the more sentimental you get, and this was a wonderful, sentimental gift," he said. "When Gene offered to share it with me, it was pretty cool. I feel honored he kept the net that long and now has shared it with me and my family."

"My kids really like it," he added, "But my grandkids like it even more!"

One of the great lessons Coach Smith gave us was to play hard, play smart, play unselfishly. Doing so gives us success in life.

The Holy Bible gave us a word that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

The old friends who gathered for this extraordinary lunch in friendship, morality, and brotherly love were reminded that the true blessings in life are not about what we receive for ourselves, but about what we give to others. ✦



# Our Masonic musical heritage

## Add to your lodge members' experience by including music in your meetings, degrees

By Don Barrier  
 Musician Sophia Lodge  
 Past Co-chair ad-hoc Committee  
 on Masonic Music

The past several years have been a great time of rediscovery of our North Carolina Masonic heritage. Our Masonic musical heritage has long been hidden in plain sight among the pages of the North Carolina Lodge Manual or, as we all affectionately call it, the Bahnson Manual.

Brother Charles Bahnson compiled the manual and the Grand Lodge of North Carolina began publishing it in 1892. It is still in print in its original format today.

This little black book contains not only information related to opening and closing of the lodges, degrees, funeral services, and other information related to lodge business, it also is adorned with artwork prints of much earlier etchings dating back possibly 100 years earlier than the manual's first publication.

In addition, there are scriptural readings, poetry and songs. The songs, or better named odes, combine well-known musical tunes with Masonic lyrics, which was typical of popular music in the 18th through 20th centuries.

The first and second song in the manual includes one ode for the OPENING and one for the CLOSING. The opening ode is to be sung to the music *Old Hundred*.

*Old Hundred*, whose European original version by Louis Bourgeois dates to 1551, is perhaps the earliest

known shape note song. Louis created shape note singing so that not only the literate elite, but the people, most of whom were illiterate, could read musical notes when they sang.

The first piece of music in our Bahnson Manual to be sung while opening a lodge is

probably a shape note song, *Old Hundred* (D,C 49) in the music book *Sacred Harp*. Sacred Harp or Shape Note Singing is a "community singing" created for all to sing and practiced in North Carolina since the late 1700s. Many of us have sung the song in church many times

as the hymn *Doxology*.

The second song in the manual is sung to the 19th Century hymn *Nearer, my God, to Thee* with Masonic lyrics added as in first ode. Brother Wallace Hartley was a musician under contract to play on board ocean liners. He was the leader of the HMS Titanic's band, which included four Masons.

Eyewitnesses stated that the band stayed on board playing *Nearer, my God, to Thee* while brother Wallace led the band in an heroic effort to calm and prepare doomed passengers for eternity.

The band continued to play until the "water lapped their ankles." This song and its original hymnal lyrics has been adopted traditionally by many lodges and sung by the brethren during one of their degrees.

The Bahnson manual is not the only resource for those who want to



Don Barrier

**OPENING A LODGE (p. 7)**  
 Music. — "Old Hundred." — L. M.  
 Opening Pitch: F or G

1) Great God, be - hold be - fore thy throne, A band of bro - thers low - ly bend;  
 2) A band of bro - thers may we live, A band of bro - thers may we die;

Thy sa - cred Name we  
 To

**CLOSING THE LODGE (p. 8)**  
 Music. — "Nearer, my God, to Thee."  
 Opening Pitch: G or A

1) Bro - thers, we meet a - gain, Too soon to part;  
 2) Bro - thers, once more fare - well! Time bids us part;

May Fond Friend - ship mem - ry bless long shall dwell And warm each heart;  
 A - round each heart;

Tones that we love to hear, Shall dwell u - pon the ear,  
 May Heav'n its bless - ings send, And peace our paths at - tend;

As we in ac - cents clear, re - peat, Good Night.  
 Unt - il we meet a - gain, Fare - well. Good Night.

learn more about our North Carolina Masonic music heritage. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina website maintains a section for Masonic education under the tab: Education Resources. The material on the webpage is provided by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education.

Following the link Masonic Music, you will find available for download music sung by North Carolina Masons Randy Sharpe, Mike Hamrick, Eric Dixon, Steve Barrell and the author, and recorded by the Grand Lodge ad-hoc committee on Masonic Music.

The lyrics, sheet music and recordings of the Bahnson manual odes are available on the Grand Lodge website for download.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, contact the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education. The Speakers

Bureau link also lists brothers who will help teach your lodge through leading your brethren in song during your stated communication.

Throughout the history of Freemasonry in North Carolina, music has been a part of the ritual experience. The odes have been acknowledged by the Board of Custodians as a valid part of our ritual.

The growth of Masonic music is meant to be organic, not mandated. Lodges are encouraged to try singing the odes and see if they fit your lodge's culture and add a positive "note" to your lodge experience.

It doesn't matter whether you can sing like a rock star or whether you are monotone, just try belting them out as you would recitation of our ritual. Most of us aren't orators, yet we have no problem speaking up in lodge. Remember, we are charged by the Psalm 100 to "Make a joyful noise." ❖

# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

## Putting Masonry on exhibit

**ELIZABETH CITY** – The Museum of the Albemarle will open its latest small exhibit, Blue Lodges of the Albemarle, on March 16. The exhibition recognizes the Albemarle region's Freemasons and the charitable works they perform in and around their communities. An assortment of artifacts from several Albemarle Masonic Lodges reveal the fraternity's rich history in Northeastern North Carolina and its philanthropic heritage. Among this eclectic collection: A North Carolina Masonic Lodge manual, a lodge ballot box, and a Masonic fundraiser admissions ticket. Blue Lodges of the Albemarle remains on view until the end of 2019. Make plans to attend the opening reception, set for 10 a.m. on March 16. More information about the museum is available at <https://www.museumofthealbemarle.com>.



## NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



▲ **SHALLOTTE** – The 2nd annual Cruising for Kids charity run hosted by Shallotte #727 raised about \$6,000 for the Masonic Home for Children. Master Edwin Douglas said "I am very proud of this event! Not only does it generate funds for our Masonic Home, but it invites the public to learn more about what we stand for as Masons." Past Master John Gregory created the event and coordinated it for a second year. David Ozvat, 12th District MHCO ambassador, gave a presentation on the history and operations of MHCO.



▲ **DUNN** – Several lodges gathered in November for the third annual District 20 Battlefield Degree on the Averasboro Battlefield in Dunn. Brother Chad Ashley Brooks of Oak Grove #750 was raised to the Sublime Degree. Brothers enjoyed a day of fellowship in which all differences were put aside for the greater good.



◀ **LAURINBURG** – Brothers of Laurinburg #305 again supported the local Shop With a Cop program during the holiday season. The program pairs a local youth with an officer. They go shopping together for a Christmas present the youth would not otherwise receive. On hand for the check presentation was, from left, Police Chief Darwin Williams, Police Officer Zachary Van Horn, Worshipful Master Mike Nobles and Sheriff Chief Deputy Lloyd Goins.

# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

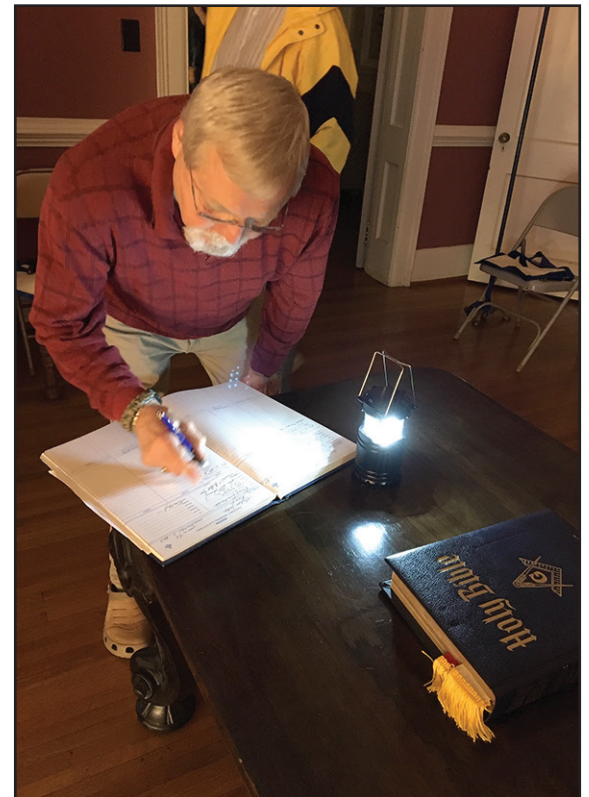


▲ **KANNAPOLIS** – Cannon Memorial #626 recently adopted two Kannapolis streets in need of maintenance, including one in front of Royal Oaks and GW Carver elementary schools. It was important to the brothers that they chose streets that needed some work and that were heavily traveled, so they could continue to promote the great name of Masonry. How many Brothers does it take to clean a street? Usually, only two or three people show up to clean the streets. Cannon Memorial showed up with 14. Other lodges in the 28th District plan to adopt streets in their towns as well. The crew that gathered to help, from left: Andrew VanEtten, Jerry Tucker, Josh Mueller, Taylor VanEtten, Thomas VanEtten, George Maxwell, Robert Cook, George Cook, Brian Dixon, Brandon Dixon, Timothy Flowers, Joe Troutman, and Jason Resendes (behind the camera).



◀ **HERTFORD** – Brothers of Perquimans #106 joined other civic groups in November for Wheels of Times Past, an 18-mile tractor ride through Perquimans County. The ride raised \$2,520 for two local charities. The tractors were led by a police escort, and drew quite a crowd along their route. Among the tractor travelers was, from left, Brother Donald Lamb, Past Master Damon Winslow, Damon's son, James, Past Master Chris Garrett, and Master C.W. Overton.

## No power? No problem



**RALEIGH** – Hiram #40 was not about to let some old power outage cancel its annual meeting in December. Word of the outage reached Master Rob Eisenhardt and several other brethren early in the afternoon. Legend has it that Hiram has never missed a stated communication, so there was nothing to do but make do. Brothers pooled resources and got creative. A generator and shop lights were deployed, several battery powered lamps were obtained, and Hiram's 219th Annual Meeting was held in a small dining area on the main floor of the Masonic Temple. Elections were held as scheduled and the Brethren enjoyed the "ultimate" in throwback meetings!

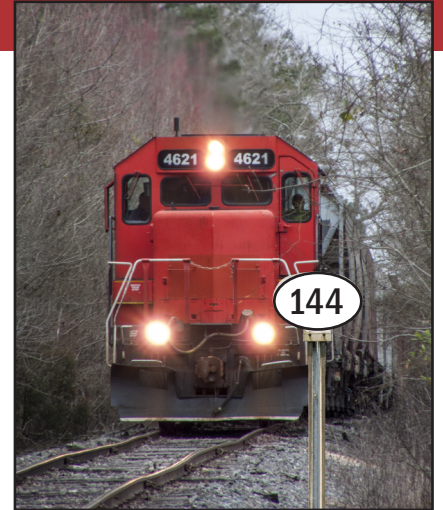


▲ **GREENSBORO** – Clemmons #755 Past Master Bruce Ayres, right, presents a check to WhiteStone Financial Director Phil Hughes to support the work of MESH LLC in supporting brothers and sisters in need at WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. The check contained proceeds of the lodge's annual charity golf tournament, which has in its 16-year history raised \$160,000.

# MILEPOSTS



▲ **CHINA GROVE** – Grand Master Dwight “Mack” Sigmon was among special guests at the 150th anniversary celebration of Eureka #283. Some 130 people attended the banquet, held one day shy of the date on the lodge’s Charter. The welcome was given by Past Master Tom Lentz. The lodge history presentation was given by then-current Eureka Master Brian Gray. Past Grand Masters Speed Hallman and Dewey Preslar were on hand to give service awards.



## 60 YEARS

Congratulations to our 60-year members\*:

- Arnold Aiken, Garner #701
- Larry Barden, Allen-Graham #695
- Thomas Sasser Sr., Morning Star #85
- Neil Taylor Stout, Wilmington #319

\* As reported to The Mason

## 50 YEARS

Congratulations to our 50-year members\*:

- Tommy Everitt, Gatesville #126
- Michael Poole, Durham #352
- Harold Strickland, Mingo #206
- Ralph Wilkins, Gatesville #126

\* As reported to The Mason



▲ **GREENSBORO** – District 23 has a Traveling Gavel. For years, if you got the gavel dropped on you it was your responsibility to give it to another lodge within 30 days or you had to buy dinner for the Lodge that gave it to you. This process was changed in 2018 by the 23rd District Deputy to allow a lodge to capture the gavel from the lodge that holds it -- and whoever had the gavel the most got an award for their efforts. For 2018, Revolution #552 had it five times for a total of more than three months. The new rule prompted some great visitation between the lodges. Pictured is DDGM Jeff Bullington, right, presenting the 2018 23rd District Gavel Masters Award to WB Todd Huffines of Revolution 552.



▲ **WILKESBORO** – Edwin Ralph Church, center, is honored by Grand Master Dwight “Mack” Sigmon, left, with a 70-year certificate. Church is the father of Dwight E. Church, 33rd District Deputy Grand Master. The award was presented at the stated meeting of Mount Pleasant Lodge #573 located in Wilkesboro. Edwin Church, 93, was raised at Mount Pleasant on Nov. 27, 1948, was Master in 1968 and served as secretary for a few years after. He is a World War II Army veteran, serving in Italy.

▶ **OXFORD** – Retiring Oxford #122 Secretary Rich Weaver, right, receives the Secretary of Distinction Certificate from the Grand Lodge. WB Rich also received the Meritorious Service plaque from all Past Masters.



# Everyone has a story: Art of fraternalism

## *Are we a club... or are we a fraternity?*

*By Walt Clapp  
Grand Secretary*

I recently received a call from a brother Mason named Jim. He asked about my health and family, then apologized for troubling me. He said he needed some help.

Jim is a retired machinist, a deacon in his church, a former Scout master, and a 60-plus year Mason. Due to his health, he has not been able to attend lodge in about a decade. He does not have internet, email or a cell phone.

He called because he had been excluded from his lodge for non-payment of dues.

After a little talking, I learned that no one from Jim's lodge had called him in at least five years. Jim reached out to his brothers when he could, but most with whom he was close have now traveled to that undiscovered country.

Jim doesn't know the new master or anyone in the lodge in which he swore to uphold the tenets of friendship and brotherly love.

Jim's plight is not unique among the aging, displaced, and discarded members of Freemasonry in North Carolina. The fraternalism of Freemasonry cannot be scrapped because we find it inconvenient or an afterthought. This organization is based on relationships.

From the moment your petition for membership is signed, you begin what should be a lifelong journey of friendship and fellowship.

At the end of each year lodges begin purging their rolls of "lost" brethren. Some have died. Some have moved away. Some are infirm. Some are going through personal and financial struggles.

Did you know he was sick? Did you know he was struggling? Why not? *Are we a club ... or a fraternity?*

Friends and brothers know each

other. They should know if one of their own is sick or in distress. We as a society have forgotten how to communicate. We don't talk to each other anymore. We text (as I tell my daughter, texts and talking are two distinct things). We scroll through social media feeds. But we don't take time to talk to each other. When we fail to talk to our brothers, the only contact he receives from his lodge is a dues notice.

Nothing can replace the human voice. Or a handshake.

Brethren, this is a part of our declining membership. Too often, when we receive calls about restoring membership or conducting a Masonic funeral, we find the brother in question has not heard from his lodge for years.

I am disappointed by lodges that exclude 50-, 60-, and even 70-year members because, "we couldn't find him," or "we thought he was dead," or "he doesn't care about his membership." This problem is not generational. We see it among survivors of the Great Depression, Baby Boomers, Gen X'ers, and Millennials.

Now, we know there is a problem – and we know how to fix it. Our institution is built on communication and friendship. We just have to take the time to renew our faith in our ritual, allegories and tradition.

Let's recognize that our lodges are probably too big. Ideally, we can keep up with about 50 people. In England, lodges limit membership, keeping their lodges manageable and interconnected. Any more than that starts to overwhelm a man's ability to interact effectively with his brothers. Many of our lodges have 100 or more members.

How can we divide the task so we can best work and best agree? The Master of a lodge should endeavor

to know or at least talk to all his Masons. In larger lodges, the Master could delegate such contact to his Wardens or a committee.

Progressing officers should know their members — it's a part of their responsibilities — to pay the Craft their wages and see that none go away dissatisfied. This is not a job that should fall squarely on the Secretary, though the Secretary should play an integral role in making sure our contact information for that brother is current.

Call your members, visit their homes, get to know them. Help them feel wanted and relevant. This is true for the 99-year-old shut-in and the 33-year-old father of four trying to make ends meet.

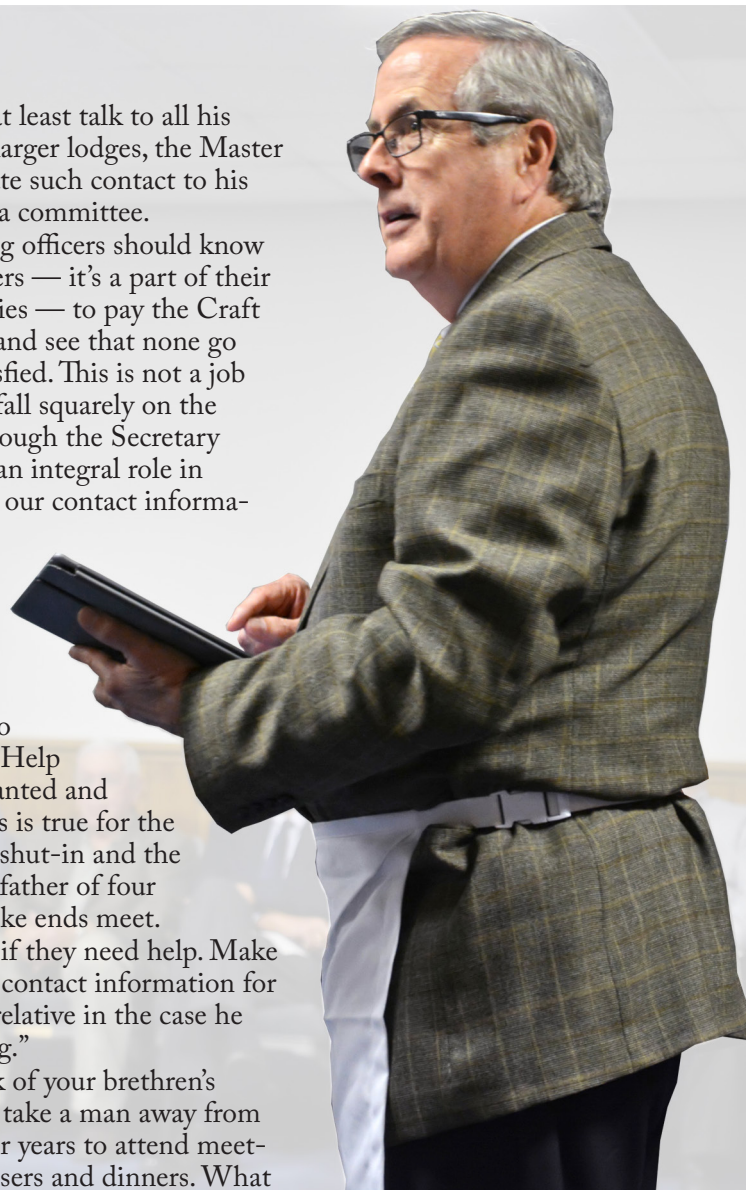
Ask them if they need help. Make sure you get contact information for a spouse or relative in the case he goes "missing."

Keep track of your brethren's widows. We take a man away from his family for years to attend meetings, fundraisers and dinners. What cost do our companions bear?

Is it not our responsibility to keep up with those brave women who put up with our drive to improve ourselves over a lifetime? Visit our widows. Do something special for them.

Last but not least, if you need help, call the Grand Lodge office. That's why we're here. We have tools and technology to help track people down. We want to help you and we want you to be successful.

For me, the most rewarding part of this fraternity is building relationships and knowing as



many of you in this great chain as I can. It makes me a better person.

By the time Jim and I finished talking, we were friends. We're both woodworkers. We both love spy novels. We both have daughters. We both used to give the Fellowcraft lecture.

He had a story to tell.

So did I.

Let me know your story. And, thank you, brother, for listening to mine. ♠

## WHAT'S YOUR LODGE'S STORY?

**HAVE YOU MADE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO REACH OUT TO ABSENT MEMBERS? OR TO WIDOWS? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH OTHER LODGES. TELL US WHAT WORKS AND WHAT MAYBE HASN'T. SEND YOUR STORIES TO THE NORTH CAROLINA MASON BY EMAIL AT [NCMASON@GLNC.US](mailto:NCMASON@GLNC.US), GIVE US A CALL AT 919-607-7441 OR DROP A LETTER IN THE MAIL TO THE NC MASON, 2921 GLENWOOD AVE., RALEIGH, NC 27608.**

From the *Grand Historian's Courier's Case*

# Masons behind Raleigh's Gunpowder Mill

By *Ludwik J. Wodka*  
Grand Historian

At the outset of the Civil War, the Confederate States quickly seized several of the key Federal arsenals located in the South. Although a sizeable quantity of rifles and some cannons were taken, it wasn't nearly enough to mount a proper defense against Union forces; in fact, munitions were in greater need than men.

North Carolina Gov. John Willis Ellis began looking for anyone who possessed the requisite knowledge to manufacture gunpowder but discovered that this skill set was surprisingly rare.

However, two enterprising Raleigh Masons rose to the challenge.

George B. Waterhouse and Michael Bowes operated a firm that installed gas works in several North Carolina and South Carolina towns, and in 1858, they established the Raleigh Gas Works, providing gas lighting throughout the city.

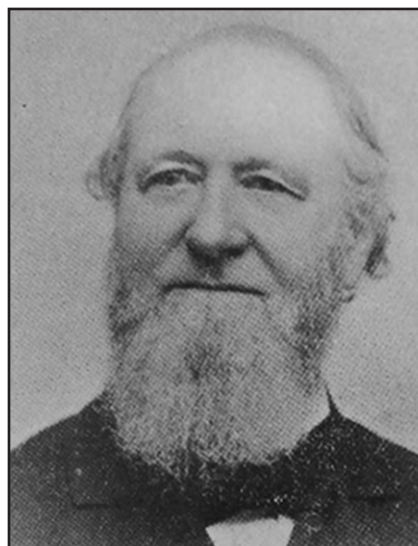
George Benjamin Waterhouse, was born Jan. 22, 1828, in Webster, Mass. He was made a Master Mason in Diamond #29, Diamond Springs, Calif., in 1855, and a Royal Arch Mason in Eldorado Royal Arch Chapter 4, located in the same town. He came to North Carolina a few years later, settled in Raleigh and affiliated with Hiram #40 and Raleigh Royal Arch Chapter 10.

Michael Bowes was born Jan. 1, 1824, in Port de Grave, Newfoundland, Canada, and moved to Raleigh in 1858. He came to the city to help build the Raleigh Gas Work for the Raleigh Gas Company. He, too, became a member of Raleigh Chapter 10, and of Hiram #40.

Both men approached Governor Ellis, and even though they did not actually know how to make gunpowder, they managed to convince the governor of their abilities through their confidence and energy.

Granted \$10,000 in state funding to proceed with the project, they engaged local builder William J. Hicks, another Raleigh Mason, to construct the powder mills. They chose a location on Crabtree Creek a few miles north of the city to erect eight buildings which would be run by water power.

Waterhouse and Bowes began fitting out their operation with the purchase of a tobacco press from Richmond, repurposed to press raw powder into sheets. At first, supplies of sulfur, potassium nitrate, and saltpeter were not readily available, forcing the company to scrounge around the state for it. While this was under way, both Waterhouse and Bowes proceeded to educate themselves on the manufacture of gunpowder by reading chemistry books.



George Waterhouse

Manufacturing gunpowder was an extremely hazardous process. Local resident Joel Whitaker recalled that these mills were a "deadly, dangerous place," and how "the workers removed their shoes before entering the factory lest a nail or tack should spark a fire and blow them up."

In spite of these precautions, an explosion occurred in the granulating apartment on June 9, 1862, igniting approximately 2,000 pounds of powder, killing four employees and destroying the building.

Waterhouse and Bowes moved their operation to the location of Elihu Sater's paper mill, which was at one time was the site of a colonial-era mill owned by Isaac Hunter,

and would later become Whitaker's Mill.

Another explosion took place in the drying house of this new powder mill on Oct. 23, 1863. Even though the building and machinery were destroyed, no one died in this accident.

On Feb. 23, 1864, yet another explosion took place. The Raleigh Progress reported, "The building was destroyed but no one was hurt. The accident will not stop the mills and the damage will be repaired in a few days."

A fourth explosion occurred on April 5, 1864, in which one man was killed and left George Waterhouse with a broken leg.

Even though the powder mills suffered these setbacks, they still succeeded in producing an average of 1,600 pounds of gunpowder per day.

Tons of powder were sent to supply General Lee's armies in Northern Virginia (as well as the Battle of Gettysburg).

In his later years, Michael Bowes recalled that this plant supplied the powder to arm the ironclad CSS Virginia (formerly known as the USS Merrimack) in its famous duel against the Monitor off Hampton Roads in March 1862.

*(An excerpt for History of the Scottish Rite Valley of Raleigh)*

## Deadline looms for Hinton James Scholarship for UNC students

The deadline to apply for the 2019 Hinton James Masonic Scholarship, endowed by Lux Libertas #772 to benefit UNC students, must submit an application by March 15.

This \$1,000 scholarship rewards a senior planning to attend UNC and who has demonstrated academic achievement and community service. The recipient will be chosen by the Lux Libertas Scholarship Committee.

Hinton James was the University of North Carolina's first student. He became a prominent Mason in the Wilmington area. His family keeps his memory alive — Charles Barrett is James' great-great-great-great grandson.

Applicants must have a minimum cumula-

tive GPA of 3.0, or the equivalent average under the school's grading system, and be enrolled in an accredited North Carolina high school.

The scholarship committee will consider factors including scholastic achievement, participation in extracurricular and civic activities, involvement in the community and personal recommendations.

Other requirements are available by linking to <https://bit.ly/2TdMTvo>, or surf to the latest headlines on the North Carolina Masonic Foundation's home page at [www.mfnc.org](http://www.mfnc.org).

Recipients will be informed of their award on or about May 1, 2019.



# WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Romans, Arthur Batisla-Ong 3	St. John's 3	Seitz, Matthew Edward 217	Catawba Valley 496	Foxx, Charlie Quincey 496	Mooreville 646	Rogers, Matthew Caleb 646	Bladen
Weems, Brian Michael 3	St. John's 3	McGough, John Joseph 231	William T. Bain 496	Moore, Garrett Kerr 496	Mooreville 650	Radcliff, Timothy Jason 650	Nichols-W. Asheville
Scott, Jeffrey Allen 8	Phoenix 8	Smario, Timmothy A 231	William T. Bain 496	Turner, Joshua David 496	Mooreville 708	Powell, Stuart Eugene 708	Crown Point
Lewis, Gregory James 27	Statesville 27	Walton, Judson Hayes 231	William T. Bain 528	Boganwright, Larry Allen 528	Fairmont 713	Kinley, Matthew Scott 713	Stanley
Woodring, Nicholas Gage 27	Statesville 27	Gibbs, Mark Wayne 262	Hibriten 528	Porter, Dustin Ray 528	Fairmont 713	Taylor, Gary Wayne 713	Stanley
Cook, Daniel Stephen 27	Statesville 27	Bond, Joel Conner 277	Green Level 550	Ashburn, Terrance Lee 550	Roman Eagle 713	Teno, David Hunter 713	Stanley
Harkey, Ernest Todd 27	Statesville 27	Helms, James Stowell 277	Green Level 558	Roberson, Brandon Michael 558	Ararat 713	Wyatt, Brandon Wayne 713	Stanley
Zanotti, Michael Scott 27	Statesville 27	Strickland, Lacy Bryan 279	Wallace 564	Thomas, Joseph Maurice 564	Richlands 720	Crook, Charles David 720	Cabarrus
Fisher, Danny Lee 83	Lafayette 83	Wells, Richard Lee 283	Eureka 602	Foster Jr, James Wallace 602	Doric 727	Causey, Jimmie Franklin 727	Shalotte
Best III, Theodore Eugene 98	Hiram 98	Harrison Sr, Jason Ray 319	Wilmington 602	Arnold II, Michael Lee 602	Queen City 727	Johnson III, James Leo 727	Shalotte
Hall, Bryan Keith 98	Hiram 98	Horrell, Christopher Douglas 319	Wilmington 617	Denton, Zachary Allen 617	Queen City 750	Thomas IV, Edward Ragland 750	Oak Grove
Lockamy, Justin Lonnie 98	Hiram 98	Richardson, Parker Heyward 343	Hickory 617	Boyette Jr, Scott Everitt 617	St Patrick's 751	Brooks, Chad Ashley 751	Old Town
Russell Jr, Victor Guy 122	Oxford 122	Davis, Michael Perry 413	James A. Johnson 626	Whitley Jr, James Smith 626	St Patrick's 759	Morgan, Anthony Ray 759	James K. Polk
Willett, Carter Russell 143	Mt. Vernon 143	Cleve, Kenneth Aaron 433	Vanceboro 646	Bowlin, Randy Lynn 646	Cannon Memorial 759	Trest, Michael Wade 759	James K. Polk
Stewart, Donald Brian 147	Palmyra 147	Feller, Blake Austin 433	Vanceboro 646	Maiori, Joseph Phillip 646	Cannon Memorial 759	Vannoy, Nathan Alan 759	James K. Polk
Schneller, Austin Edward 167	Winston 167	Campbell, Allan Robert 461	Matthews 646	Hales, Casey William 646	Bladen 759		
Bergquist, Bren Charles 176	Williams 176	Weber, William Cornell David 462	South Fork 646	Kinlaw, Gordon Bradley 646	Bladen 759		

## Davie Academy makes Masonic learning easy, fun

It's not easy being an elected or appointed lodge officer – but there's help out there. The William R. Davie Leadership Academy, now in its third year, has made advanced Masonic education more accessible and affordable than ever.

Davie Academy replaced Wardens Bootcamps with day-long introductory, intermediate and advanced sessions. It offers to a broader range of members an opportunity to explore the Craft and improve themselves as Masonic leaders.

Sessions are held monthly in various regions of the state, and instructors are experienced Masonic leaders specially trained to deliver coursework for maximum impact and efficiency.

The training is appropriate for a wide range of learners, from the youngest Master Mason to the senior lodge officer. It offers a practical education on lodge management and leadership, with classes on Masonic history, traditions, and structure.

Updates to the program for 2019 include:



■ Moving from a four-track program to two core programs, supplemented by five workshop programs.

■ The core programs are “The Appointed Lodge Officer” and “The Elected Lodge Officer” and are five hours each.

■ The workshops include “Finance & Budget,” “Everything You Need to Know (but were afraid to ask),” “The Art of Chairing a Lodge Meeting,” “Preparing for the East,” and “The District Officer/Grand Lodge Committeeman.” These workshops are two to two and a half hours each.

■ Additional workshop topics are being considered and may be added.

■ Core programs will be held in each of the three areas (East, Central, West).

■ The workshops will be held in six locations simultaneously around the state.

■ All classes will be on the first Saturday of each month, with the exception of May and December.

■ Registration is encouraged via the education resources page on the NCGL website at <http://grandlodge-nc.org/william-r-davie-academy>

Core classes are only \$45 each and includes lunch, materials, and certificate.

Workshops are only \$10 each and include a certificate.

For more information email the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education at [ncglcme@gmail.com](mailto:ncglcme@gmail.com)

### Help the NC Mason save a few trees – and some \$!

If you're reading this, you are more than likely reading it on the paper version of the Mason that arrives in your mail every other month.

But we know there are many brothers who are reading this via the online version, which is posted bright and early on the first day of each month we publish.

First off – thanks for reading the Mason – in any form! We are happy to bring it to all in both

forms for as long as there are brothers out there who read the paper.

But for those who prefer online reading and don't want to get a paper version in the mail, we're offering you the chance to save a tree and some postage.

To stop the mailed paper, send an email to [ncmason@glnc.us](mailto:ncmason@glnc.us) with your name, lodge and the words: “OPT OUT.” That's all you need to do.

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Again, thanks for reading the Mason!

### Tour historic lodges

Don't miss out! Order your copy of Sacred Retreats today at [www.blurb.com/b/8882935-sacred-retreats](http://www.blurb.com/b/8882935-sacred-retreats). Supplies are limited.





page 3

Changes made in annual ritual contest



page 6

Will you be a part of 24 in 24 effort?



page 14

The Masons behind the South's gunpowder mill

On the cover

Gathering at the Altar ... Grand Master Dwight "Mack" Sigmon leads an historic districtwide installation of new officers in the 6th District.

Photo by Beth Grace

**The North Carolina Mason**  
The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF&AM  
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