

NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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PARALLEL LIVES

In lodge and in life, brothers for 70 years walk same path



Life-long friends Luther Eure (left) and Lilton Umphlett Jr. (right) enjoy a laugh over shared memories.

*By Beth Grace
Mason Editor*

It was hot in Gatesville, NC, on July 21, 1949.

Darn hot ... 91 degrees-in-the-shade hot.

The post-World War II society had rebuilt and moved on, savoring the peace. In Washington, President Truman prepared for a news conference. Three-thousand miles to the west, Tokyo Rose was on trial in San Francisco, accused of making traitorous broadcasts. At the movie house, *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* played in Technicolor as John Wayne fans tried to cool off in the darkened theater.

And just south of the Virginia-North Carolina border, two young men in their Sunday best made their way to the door of Gatesville #126.

They arrived separately that Thursday ... but their journey was

about to launch a stream of parallel life moments that would last for the next 70 years.

Luther Haywood Eure and Hagood Lilton Umphlett Jr. had known each other since they were toddlers. Their mothers would meet up for quilting bees or put in a day's work at popping peanuts, while their boys raced and ran and played and grew. As they grew up, they often double-dated.

At 21, they were ready to take their place in Freemasonry, as many men in their families had done before them.

They completed all three degrees in less than a month.

They learned the same catechisms on the same day at the same place.

They attained all three degrees on the same three days.

They were raised on the same day. The coincidences don't stop there.

They would each get a job at the Union Camp paper mill – different departments – on the same day.

And they would retire on the very same day in 1991.

"I guess we never thought we were anything out of the ordinary."

Here's the kicker: Outside the lodge, neither brother knew that they were making the same life-changing moves at the same time.

Just last month, their coincidental journey continued. Both men gathered with their families to receive – together – their 70-year service awards, presented by Grand Master Dwight "Mack" Sigmon.

At 91, Luther and Lilton chuckle at the coincidences and shake their heads in wonderment. Both men have taken their stories in stride, while family, friends and brothers always are amazed when they hear the tales.

"We've known each other all our lives," says Lilton. "I guess we just never thought we were anything out of the ordinary."

Both men say they never doubted that they would grow up to become Freemasons.

"I had grown up with Masons and knew a lot about them," says Luther. "I saw their good works and wanted to be part of it. There was never a question in my mind that I would join."

Lilton smiles at the memory of his own journey toward Masonry.

■ see PARALLEL page 2

Eagle recreates horrors of a Civil War hospital

HILLSBOROUGH – Eagle #19 in February participated in a unique tour of Hillsborough – bringing some old hospital horrors to life.

The Lodge was part of the “Dead of Winter Walking Tour,” a fundraiser to benefit the Orange County Historical Museum. The one-hour tour brought to life true stories of some unfortunate souls who met with tragic endings from Hillsborough’s past.

The event raised more than \$2,000 for the museum and welcomed more than 100 visitors into the Lodge. Eagle was one of five stops on the tour, which included the Orange County Museum building, St. Matthew’s graveyard, the old Orange County Courthouse, and the Twin Chimneys house.

Eagle Brother and historian Michael Verville coordinated the event with the museum. The lodge dining room, reportedly used as a hospital during the Civil War, was transformed with old medical gear and artifacts, along with some re-enactors who portrayed soldiers,

both wounded and on duty, and a nurse.

The “Horrors of the Hospital” stop at Eagle recreated the scene of Confederate Col. Thomas Norris (played by Eagle Brother John Prosseda), who suffered a massive leg wound in battle, arriving at the Lodge and receiving medical care.

Brother Verville played the part of a hospital surgeon preparing to amputate the badly wounded leg, and his wife, Hilary, was Cornelia Spencer, a Chapel Hill citizen who left a diary detailing life in Orange County at the end of the war.

Brother Prosseda’s daughter Magaritte created his grizzly wound and assisted with hair and makeup for other cast members.

An interesting note is that one of the Confederate soldiers played by Brother Larry Hudson (Past Master of Raleigh #500) was approached by one of his fellow soldiers who was interested in the history of the lodge and Freemasonry, asked him the right question, and was given a petition. ♀



Some key players in the re-creation, left to right, Larry Hudson, John Prosseda and Michael Verville.

District meeting calendar

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. Dates and locations are subject to change. Be sure to keep up-to-date at our website, www.glncc.us.

DATE	DISTRICT	HOST LODGE	ADDRESS
Apr 1	18	Fairmont 528	709 Getrude St., Fairmont
2	12	Waccamaw 596	101 Old Stage Rd., Riegelwood
3	17	Stedman 730	128 Carol St., Stedman
10	13	John H. Mills 624	8057 Highway 39, Henderson
11	15	State College 770	McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman St., 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



Umphlett and Eure each received their 70-year certificates from Grand Master Mack Sigmon.

PARALLEL, from page 1

“When I joined everybody told me, ‘We just knew you were going to join,’” he says. “So many in my family were members and I wanted to join as well.”

They have wonderful memories of years spent working with their brothers. Lilton particularly recalls one year when he and some brothers visited some 75 lodges in North Carolina and Virginia as part of a project aimed at encouraging brothers to visit other lodges.

Both attend the lodge regularly.

Luther says it is so much easier in retirement.

“When you’re doing shift work as a young man, it’s not always easy to get to the lodge regularly,” he says. “But we haven’t missed a whole lot of meetings since we retired.”

Asked what advice they would offer to young men new to the Craft, Luther urges them to “never stop going. Stay active. That’s what it’s all about.” ♀

Sophia #767 throws Robert Burns a party



Broad Scots Dialect

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin'-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy o' a grace
As lang's my arm.

English Translation

Good luck to you and your honest, plump face,
Great chieftain of the pudding race!
Above them all you take your place,
gut, stomach-lining, or intestine,
You're well worth a grace
as long as my arm.

— Robert Burns, *Address to a Haggis*

Tartan-clad brothers go all out for Robbie Burns' birthday at a special event in Salisbury. Photos by Beth Grace and Mike Harding.

Nothing says happy birthday like a heaping helping of haggis, a blast of bagpipe and tons of tartan.

The brothers of Sophia #767 did beloved poet Robert Burns proud on Jan. 26 – 260 years and one day to the day the prolific “Ploughman Poet” who wrote Auld Lang Syne was born.

There were toasts and responses, toasts and singing, toasts and laughter, and, well ... more toasts. Clad in tartan and wool, the brothers, their bonnie lasses and friends honored their Scottish hero with a glamorous night at the historic Rowan Museum in Salisbury.

He is beloved within the Craft, which he joined at the age of 22. Scholars say Masonic rules and traditions strongly influenced and appeared in his writings. “For Burns, Freemasonry was a compound of mysticism and conviviality,” writes World Burns Club Member Todd J. Wilkinson.

Masonic lodges around the world celebrate his birth every year; this was a first for Sophia Lodge.



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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

Keeping the family in our Masonic lives

I've been thinking about community. Not the kind of community you find in the city where you live, the church you call home or the circle of friends you run with.

I've been thinking about the Masonic community.

I am always impressed by the community formed by the 36,000-plus Masons in North Carolina. In fact, I've never seen anything like it. While the Code dictates what Masons must do to be a Mason, it seems to me that kindness and humanity dictate the extended friendships, lifelong loyalties and mutual support I see almost everywhere I travel.

I hope you had a chance to read "Everyone Has a Story" in the last *NC Mason*. Grand Secretary Walt Clapp posed some interesting questions that clearly had an impact. I heard from more of you on that piece than any other we have run in the last couple of years.

His story about connecting with a brother who had lost community with his lodge hit home with many of you, and it inspired me to think more deeply about and look farther afield into the Masonic community.

I started wondering about aging brothers, who attend lodge regularly despite physical odds that would keep a lesser man home. I thought about much-loved brothers now gone "to that house not made with hands" – and the women who loved and supported them as they made their Masonic journey in life.

And I went in search.

I found Luther Eure and Lilton Umphlett, lifelong friends and brothers in Masonry. At 91, they never miss a lodge meeting. They participate in as many lodge events as they can. They are brothers to the very bone.

Their lodge – Gatesville #126 – celebrated them last month with an award each had truly earned: a 70-year certificate.

What a joy to see them celebrate and share a moment of their great humor and deep love for their brothers, their families and community. They share many of the life moments we all take for granted. Theirs is a unique journey that they have traveled together and apart. Read all about them on page 1.

Next issue, watch for a story looking at our much loved Masonic widows. The women behind the brothers have amazing stories of love, faith and fellowship.

Many of our lodges take great pains to remember and honor them – and these amazing women tell me that it means the world to them. They were part of the family once; that connection – and the desire to remain part of something so dear to their husbands – lives on, long after the funeral ends.

So take a few minutes this month to read and remember – the brothers who make this Craft a true family, and the sisters who stood behind their men and supported their Masonic journey, while sharing the road to friendship and family.



By Beth Grace
Editor

Help save a tree: Opt out of the mailed version

Who's opting out? You'd be surprised!

In the last year, more than 200 brothers have chosen to opt out of receiving the print copy of the *NC Mason* in favor of reading it online.

Their generous choice has saved the *Mason* some of the cost of printing, lots of postage and more than a few trees.

We're happy you're reading the *Mason* in any form and thank you for subscribing, but if you want to join the ranks of your brothers who have opted out, here's how you do it:

Email your name, lodge number, and mailing address to ncmason@glnc.us. Write OPT OUT in the subject line.

That's all it takes. (Note – if you have sent your notice in via other addresses, Facebook or Messenger and the paper is still coming, try again. Please use only the *ncmason* email address to ensure your note is received and logged.)

No matter how you receive the paper, enjoy the *Mason* online here: <http://www.epageflip.net/t/5206-the-north-carolina-mason>

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



Understanding your duties

By Dwight M.
"Mack" Sigmon
Grand Master

Brethren, it is a busy time in our grand jurisdiction as we have been traveling across the state holding our annual district meetings. I am thankful for the warm hospitality that I have received in my travels.

The respect shown to the office of grand master is a humbling experience. This is also a time when many of our educational programs are swinging into full gear.

Wilkerson College is under way and beginning its 18th year. After the completion of the 2018 class, 524 students have graduated from Wilkerson College since its inception in 2002. The 2019 class is very special this year for two noteworthy reasons.

First, it is the largest class ever conducted, with 60 students attending. This year will serve as an evaluation process whereby we structure our classes in a manner allowing us to serve more students in each location.

At the end of the sessions, we will evaluate adjustments that may be necessary, and structure the program to consistently meet higher demands when necessary.

Second, it marks the year of the 100th birthday of Worshipful Brother Maj. Gen. H. Lloyd Wilkerson, USMC (retired), for whom the school was named. He was also the first Master of Wilkerson College #760.

Since 2012, I have been honored to have served as the Dean of Admissions of the College. I am a part of a great team of officers fully dedicated to the mission of the College. To date, we have had 150 lodges take advantage of the special training provided to deacons of lodges across the state. Fourteen new lodges are sending students to the college for the first time in 2019.

However, that means 207 lodges still have not experienced the benefits of the leadership training that the college provides. Being master of a lodge can be challenging at times. The curriculum set forth by the college is an excellent resource to better prepare principal officers to face those challenges head-on.

The Davie Academy is another resource offered by our grand jurisdiction that is available for other non-deacon officers and any member not currently eligible to attend Wilk-

erson College. The curriculum provides similar training, but in one-day segments specializing in subjects to help manage the operation of a lodge.

If you are looking to improve your knowledge of allegory and symbolism, the Middle Chamber program is available a few times each year. North Carolina is blessed to have wonderful training and education programs available for its members. I hope you will choose to take advantage of some of these while traveling on your Masonic journey.

For officers and potential officers, it is extremely important that you understand the duties and responsibilities of each office prior to accepting your specific office. I encourage you to thoroughly study the Code. This gives an excellent overview of what is expected of you when you assume a position of responsibility.

Many problems that arise in a Masonic lodge could have been avoided if more time would have been allotted to researching our Code.

The Installing Officer charges each new Master: "The Book of Constitutions (The Code) and the By-Laws of your lodge, you are to search at all times. Cause them to be read in your lodge that none may pretend ignorance of their excellent precepts."

Some of our lodges do an excellent job in providing short, concise Masonic education programs from the Code at their stated meetings. I encourage you to devote more time in understanding our rules and being better prepared.

Consider asking someone to take the lead in becoming the Code training expert in your lodge. A well-educated lodge will always operate more smoothly.

Take the duties of your office seriously. You have been elected or appointed to a position of great responsibility. Don't consider lower level

offices as non-important. All positions in a lodge are important, otherwise they would not be needed or required.

Too often there is a tendency to wait until the night you are installed to try and understand those duties explained to you by the Installing Officer. I encourage you to thoroughly study Chapter 59 of the Code.

For a lodge to operate smoothly, it is critical to understand what is expected of you as a leader before accepting your station or place. This also applies to learning your ritual parts. You will be best served and best prepared if you learn your ritual part a year in advance. I know this can be somewhat difficult when you experience unexpected officer vacancies requiring you to jump a position.


I know we are a volunteer organization requiring a lot of time to perform the various duties and tasks required to operate as a lodge. I am confident you will find it to be an easier process when you are properly prepared.

The lodge members and visitors will also notice the difference when attending a lodge well prepared to perform the task

at hand, especially when the opening and closing of the lodge is performed properly and smoothly.

Being prepared is always the best approach. I have always tried to live by this simple rule. The time to start planning for an event, speech, or any position is the moment that you accept the opportunity, not waiting until a few days before you start.

In addition, it has always been my goal to serve any position to which I have been elected or appointed to the very best of my ability and in such a manner that it would leave that position better than when I started.

This is not an easy goal but remember, Masonry is Work, but it is important work and well worth the effort. 

Wilkerson College

Welcome | About the College | Curriculum | Admission Guidelines | Scholarships and Financial Assistance | Regents and Officers | Staff | Contact Us

Welcome

Wilkerson College, North Carolina's College of Freemasonry, was founded in 2002 by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Orient of North Carolina and the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina with a single mission in mind: to provide Freemasonry with the best trained leaders possible.

Today there are 486 graduates of Wilkerson College who are making a positive difference in North Carolina Freemasonry and the communities that they live in.

If you are interested in taking part in the "Wilkerson College Experience", we encourage you to take the time to read our Admissions Guidelines and file your application in a timely manner. Class size is limited to 36 students each year and slots are usually filled long before the posted application deadline. We look forward to welcoming you into our next class!

2019 Class Dates:

- Session I - March 1 & 2 (Greensboro) WhiteStone a Masonic & Eastern Star Community (Tour)
- Session II - April 5 & 6 (Oxford) The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford (Tour)
- Session III - May 3 & 4 (Raleigh) Offices of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina (Tour)

Want to know more about Wilkerson College? Visit www.grandlodge-nc.org and select the Educational Resources tab.

OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

New fund honors Sizemore

The Oxford Orphanage Alumni Association has created a fund to honor one of the most beloved brothers in the history of the Masonic Home for Children.

Donald L. Sizemore joined the staff of the then-Oxford Orphanage in 1964 as a cottage counselor and worked his way up – through almost every job available – to admissions director of MHCO. He would work under seven superintendents before retiring in 2004. He passed away in 2016.

The fund honoring Sizemore, administered by the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, will make an annual contribution from its endowment to MHCO. Like Brother Sizemore, this fund will impact young lives now and provide a foundation for support in the future.

The fund is built on love, memory and story – stories that will live forever through the voices of so many alumni and employees of the Home. They tell of his care, compassion,

and belief in the Home and its mission, while Sizemore served as cottage counselor, and later in administrative positions and as coach for various little league teams on campus.

The Orphan's association welcomes donations in any amount. Gifts will be recognized by the Alumni Association as charter donations to the fund, and will be part of a public announcement and presentation at MHCO's 2019 Homecoming in October.

Donations can be mailed to: MHCO c/o Tina Gilreath, 600 College St., Oxford, NC 27565. Checks should be made payable to MHCO, with the memo notation: "Donald Sizemore Memorial Fund." Questions? Contact Tina Gilreath (919-603-3906) or tgilreath@mhc-oxford.org or Chris Richardson (919-690-5996) or crichardson@mfnc.org.

Online donations can be made at www.mhc-oxford.org. Be sure to note "Donald Sizemore Memorial Fund" on your online gift form.



No need to travel to New Orleans

It's always a good time to celebrate at WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. Mardi Gras was cause for some fun and partying with two parties – one at Independent Living and the other in the Health Center. Two residents found the baby in the King Cake, which means good luck for the coming year!



Like The NC Mason
on Facebook:
<http://bit.ly/2irdm6m>

MHCO SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 26-27

Ambassador Orientation
Districts with Ambassador openings:
5, 10, 27, 28, 32, 35, 36

DECEMBER 12

Masonic Christmas Party
Dinner 6:30 p.m. – Cafeteria

MAY 19

Baccalaureate Service, Hayes/Neal
Societies Recognition
and Scholarship Award Ceremony
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1p.m., York Rite Chapel

DECEMBER 14

Masonic Christmas Luncheon
Noon – Cafeteria

DECEMBER 15

Candlelight Service at MHCO
6 p.m. – York Rite Chapel

JULY 12

Public Service Appreciation Day
Friday, 11a.m. to 1p.m.

OCTOBER 11-13

Ninth Annual
Masonic Homecoming Festival

ORPHAN'S LODGE #761

Stated Communications
March 9 – 10 a.m.
June 22 – 10 a.m.
Oct. 12 – 8 a.m.
Dec. 14 – 10 a.m.

You can always find out more about events and needs at the Home
by visiting the website: mhc-oxford.org



Gina Prevoost, WhiteStone's Community life services director, and Girl Scout Kylie Joyce (right) share a moment as Ms. Joyce finishes a project designed to help Alzheimer's patients.

WhiteStone room focus of Girl Scout's Project

You already know that North Carolina Masons support WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community.

But this just in: their kids do, too. Kylie Joyce, a senior at Grimsley High School and a Girl Scout Ambassador, chose WhiteStone as the site for her work to earn the Girl Scout Gold award. The Gold award is open to high school girls only and is among the most prestigious the Girl Scouts gives.

Family ties prompted Kylie, the daughter of Brother Joe Joyce of Walnut Cove #629, to choose WhiteStone.

Her grandparents had both lived there for about 10 years until they passed away. Her grandfather died in 2012 and her grandmother passed in 2018. It was her grandmother's struggle with Alzheimer's Disease that inspired her to take on the room in WhiteStone's Care and Wellness Center where those in treatment engage in memory and sensory exercises.

Kylie explains her project:

"To help, I planned to create mobile multisensory carts for residents who were unable to get out of bed and use the Snoezelen room in the Care and Wellness Center. ... The Snoezelen room is the multisensory therapy room in which residents who need stimulation, or a calm place may take advantage of different therapy items.

"I then set out to create a more handicapped-accessible Snoezelen room for residents who are wheelchair users, the way my grandma and grandpa both were. To achieve this, I moved all of the furniture around and moved therapy items mostly off of the ground so as to be safer for the patients to reach."

With some help from family, volunteers and the WhiteStone staff, she completed the project, leaving behind detailed instructions on how to use each therapy item. She will keep tabs every month on the room and her work, she said. ♡

What's that up ahead? The Mason Deadline!

Tempus fugit, y'all.

Tempus fugit is a Latin phrase usually translated into English as "time flies."

Wikipedia tells us that the expression comes from line 284 of book three of Virgil's *Georgics*, where it appears as *fugit irreparabile tempus*: "it escapes, irretrievable time."

The phrase is used in both its Latin and English forms as a proverb that "time's a-wasting."

Tempus fugit, however, is typically employed as an admonition against sloth and procrastination.

Speaking of which, the deadline for each NC Mason is etched in stone and totally dependent on getting stories in

on "tempus."

OK, that's terrible.

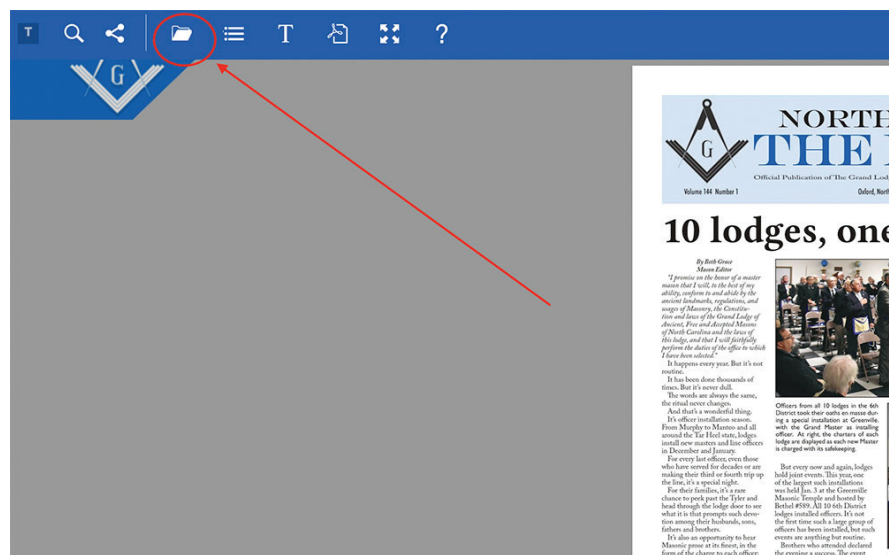
But if you want your story to appear in the paper, here are the deadlines:

- Jan. 5 (for Jan-Feb issue)
- March 5 (for March-April)
- May 5 (for May-June)
- July 5 (July-August)
- Sept. 5 (September-October)
- Nov. 5 (November-December)

If you have an event that happens just after those dates, give me a call and we'll figure something out.

We want your news – we'll help you get it in the paper.

Thanks for reading the Mason and for sending in your news!



Take a click down Memory Lane

For our readers who love to read the Mason online, there's a way for you to spend a little more time reading up on news of the Craft.

Old issues are stored along with the current issue on our web page. Here's how you find them.

Link to the Grand Lodge page at grandlodge-nc.org.

Then scroll down to the blue NC Mason icon. Or just go straight to this page: <http://www.epageflip.net/t/5206-the-north-carolina-mason>.

Click open the latest issue.

Now, find the toolbar on top of that page and look for the open file folder. (See the screenshot above)

The arrow and circle show you where to find the open file folder. Just click the folder and you now have instant access – searchable, by the way – to issues going all the way back to January 2009. Want to search for something specific? Look for the magnifying glass to the left of the file folder. Click that, type in your search term and enjoy!

We should be builders rather than mergers

Lodges are alive.

They think, and feel, and have personalities. Lodges experience tragedies and embrace joy. They celebrate their achievements, and respectfully bury the dead.

What is the lifeblood of a lodge? It's fraternalism—the friendships and connections each man builds with his Masonic brothers.

That is what we do; we are builders. Building up is the spirit of the body of Masonry. And, to quote our Grand Master, we must work to build.

As within every life, sometimes we, as Freemasons, become distracted. Like our own body, lodges are susceptible to age, sickness, and neglect, which can even lead to death—it's part of a lodge's life cycle. Sometimes, population centers shift, leaving once-vibrant lodges with a dearth of men from whom to elect members. Sometimes, a lodge was formed for the wrong reasons, and fate is playing its hand. And, sometimes, most nobly, the lodge succeeded in its purpose—to facilitate friendship, and — like a parent — gave life to new lodges.

Lodge closures or consolidations must be last resorts. Recovery is always an option, and the first step to recovery is realizing there's a problem. There are few ills within Freemasonry that degree work can't cure. New blood can revitalize a lodge—like a transfusion. And, your Grand Lodge office is here to

help schedule your appointment.

But, like I learned growing up in a funeral home, the ambulance goes two ways—either the hospital or the morgue. Make sure you call for help before it's too late.

Be aware of key indicators of trouble. Do your brethren fellowship with each other? Are your brethren friends? While money is not necessarily an indicator of success, poor financial standing and fretting over money is usually indicative of poor lodge health.

How does your lodge building look? Like any individual, your lodge is going to be taken more seriously and respected if it's dressed up and cared for. Peeling paint, overgrown lawns, and a dirty appearance are the equivalent to tattered or cheap clothes, uncombed hair, and a lack of deodorant.

Take pride in your appearance. And work together to not just care for, but continuously improve your lodge. Isn't that the mission of Freemasonry? To always improve oneself? Our lodges are reflections of ourselves.

Lately, I've grown increasingly concerned over the number of lodges wishing to merge with another lodge, or hand in their charter altogether. When a lodge's

membership drops below 20, the Code requires the lodge to surrender its charter. But, now, lodges of 50, 70 or even 100 members or more are failing to hold a quorum. The lodge cannot find men to fill the stations, and their work ceases.

These officers are tired. And the result is these lodges have entered a terrifying state of mind called apathy.

By that I mean that these lodges no longer feel the drive they once had to maintain their lodges, to open their doors, welcome the new initiate, and preserve our traditions. Most troubling, they seem all too willing to simply

walk away from the problem, rather than confront and tackle it.

Allow me to be blunt here. Our own history in North Carolina teaches us merging two lodges that perform poor degree work and fail to attract members doesn't solve their problems. They simply create a larger lodge with poor degree work and little passion. Generally speaking, more members do not equate to an improved lodge.

The assumptions of lodge function rooted in the mid-20th Century have changed. Bigger is not better. The emulation of generic civic clubs does not guarantee success. Fundraisers do not define us. To say that

times have changed and people are different is accurate — and a cliché. Times and people always change, but our institution is timeless, and its survival requires work — work to build friendships and work to rebuild ourselves.

Brethren, we know our numbers are down. That's no secret and there is no shame in that. In the life of every organization, from fraternal to commercial, interest soars and it ebbs. That's a natural cycle. Still, we can't discount the importance of our ongoing work to support an atmosphere that welcomes new men to the Craft. In fact, it affords us an opportunity to more easily get to know one another.

As I've mentioned before, some lodges are too big. The lodge of 100 that wants to merge or hand over its charter should consider splitting into two lodges. Then there is opportunity to create something new in both lodges. To teach another generation of men how to lead. To teach men how to rebuild. And to more easily remember, befriend, and support the men of our lodge!

If nothing else, Worshipful Masters, consider your obligation to entrust the charter of your lodge to your successor in as good condition or better than that in which you found it. That charter is your lodge's bill of health. Is it a clean bill of health, or a death certificate? ♦



By *Walt Clapp*
Grand Secretary

Still not too late to get a flu vaccination

By *Dr. Billy Price*
Grand Lodge Medical Committee
Conover #709

The flu — influenza — began to increase in North Carolina in early January and peaked the week of Feb 23.

The predominant strain has been Influenza A. Roughly 5.5 percent of emergency room visits have been flu-related. The incidence of flu in North Carolina is slightly above the national statistics.

Most hospitalizations have been in those over 65 and younger than

age 4. As of mid-March, 135 people had died since the current flu season began in September.

We have been fortunate as flu arrived later this year, and overall our numbers are better.

Routine annual vaccination against influenza A and B is recommended for everyone older than 6 months.

Even if you have not received your vaccine, it's still a good time to get one. This year's vaccine in comparison to the last couple of years was reformulated.

The current vaccine contains four

strains. It is safe for all individuals. Egg allergy is no longer considered a contraindication to receiving the vaccines. More than 4,000 patients with egg allergy including more than 600 with severe egg allergy received the vaccine without consequence. The most common adverse reaction is pain and soreness at the vaccination site.

For those who are not vaccinated and get the flu, there are three drugs on the market: Tamiflu, Relenza and Xofluza.

Current recommendations are

to begin treatment as soon as possible after the illness onset for all suspected or confirmed flu patients who have severe, complicated or progressive illness.

Tamiflu and Relenza can both be used for prevention in those exposed to flu as a single daily dose for seven days. The drugs can be used if needed.

I cannot recommend strongly enough that we should all receive vaccinations. This is the most effective protection for you and our community.



Photos by Beth Grace



NEW AND NOTEWORTHY IDEAS FROM LODGES ACROSS THE STATE

Editors Note: This is a periodic feature focusing on new ideas emerging from lodges across North Carolina. Got a great program to share with your brothers? Send a story to ncmason@glnc.us!

IN THIS EDITION

From Shallotte #727:
Changing up the program for the second meeting of each month



Brother Steve Pendergrass welcomes visitors to Masonic Education Night in Shallotte.

Changing your schedule to include open meetings could change your lodge

Weary of the same old stated communication schedule? Have you sat through more routine lodge meetings than you can count?

Longing for something new to talk about?

The brothers of Shallotte #727 have a new idea ... and it's working well so far.

Master John Dawson says that discussion among brothers resulted in a new schedule for Shallotte #727 that gets business done – and brings some new visitors and interesting information into the lodge. It also brings wives and girlfriends, kids and folks just interested in knowing what's happening inside that big building on Main Street.

The old meeting schedule called for two meetings a month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays. It became apparent over the years that if all the normal business of a lodge got done on the first Tuesday, there wasn't much to that second meeting of the month.

So brothers began to discuss a different way of doing things. What if, some brothers suggested,

we make that second meeting each month an open meeting for education purposes. All would be welcome.

There would still be a great meal – always provided by a brother's



The public, including wives and children, is invited to attend these educational meetings

restaurant, Jerome's Steak and Seafood – and fellowship. But the meeting itself would be dedicated entirely to education.

Brothers discussed and debated the idea. They knew they could find speakers. After all, that's what the Speaker's Bureau created by the Grand Lodge is for. They knew the food would always be good.

So the brothers agreed to give it a try.

Master Dawson says Brother

Steven Pendergrass has become the de facto education committee chair and has done a great job arranging for speakers each month.

In January, education focused on the Scottish Rite. In February, past Grand Master Gene Cobb spoke about William Richardson Davie. In March, Chris Richardson, eastern region development director for the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, presented the class.

Some 30 brothers, spouses, sisters from the Order of the Eastern Star gathered for dinner, some good conversation, then filed into the lodge room to hear Richardson.

"Everybody really seems to like this idea," Dawson says.

WB Steve Norris, a fellow lodge member and Grand Line officer, says he enjoys the change of pace and likes to share the news about this new way of doing things when he visits other lodges. "I always get questions about it. Brothers seem interested in hearing about this. I hope they think about trying it."

If you're interested in hearing more, contact Master John Dawson at Shallotte #727.

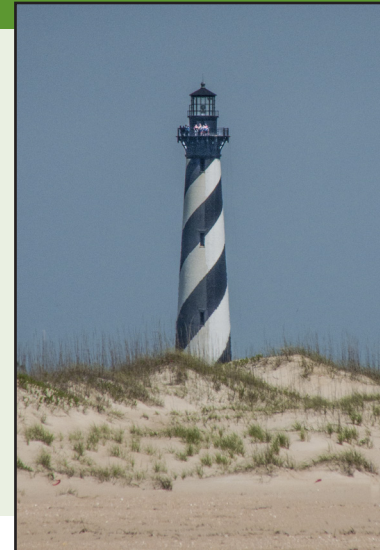
TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

Cross-cultural visit

CHARLOTTE – The NC Masonic Officers Syndicate recently visited the North Charlotte Muslim Community Center as part of the group's effort to exemplify the universality of Masonry. Everyone was made to feel most welcome and there was much discussion concerning conspiracy theories and negative press about both organizations. The officers also were interested in learning more about the history of science in the ancient Middle East. Islamic scientific achievements encompassed a wide range of subject areas, especially astrology, mathematics, medicine, botany, chemistry, cartography, physics and zoology, among others. Brothers found the discussion especially interesting since the study of the seven liberal arts and sciences are so strongly encouraged within Freemasonry. The syndicate was formed last year as an initiative to encourage officers to build their lodges into thriving places of fellowship, for the purposes of spiritual, personal, professional, and community development.



NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



Calling all Eagle Scouts

RALEIGH– The NC Eagle Scout Task Force is trying to build a database of Eagle Scouts and active Scout leaders. The committee hopes to locate Masons all over the state who would be interested in assisting in presenting new Eagle Scouts a certificate from the Grand Lodge, or plan and hold a banquet at a lodge to honor these young men. To participate, fill out the survey here: <https://goo.gl/forms/Y9iTLRhYXE53OZE2>.



▲ **KERNERSVILLE** – One lodge did double duty recently, holding a fundraiser and an appreciation day for local first responders. Kernersville #669 held a Boston Butt fundraiser in March, which also served as an appreciation for police, firefighters, EMTs, and all first responders. Brothers gave free barbecue sandwiches to first responders as a token of appreciation for all they do for our community. On hand for the big day are, from left, WB Master Brian Furniss-Roe, several members of the Kernersville Police Department, and third from right is Damon Wear (Senior Warden).

ELIZABETH CITY – The brothers of Hall #53 in Shawboro were among volunteers who pitched in at Food Bank of the Albemarle in the wake of the U.S. government shut-down. Hundreds of active duty Coast Guard service members and nearly 1,400 civil service employees who work at Coast Guard Base Elizabeth City were either furloughed or worked without pay for 35 days. Area churches and civic organizations offered free meals, family outings and other assistance, as the Harbor of Hospitality came together to support and care for our friends and neighbors. Lending a hand are (left to right) PM Charles Roberts, First District DDGM Ben Roberts, and Bill Austin. ►



▲ **HIGH POINT** – At the kickoff of the year's official visits on Feb. 4, WB Jeff Bullington (right), District Deputy Grand Master for the 23rd District, drops the 23rd District Traveling Gavel on WM Jacob Summey of Acacia #674.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲►**CATAWBA** – Nobody left the 56th Ham Day hungry. The annual event, always the second Saturday in March, is a regional favorite hosted by Riverside #606. Lines of hungry locals trail out the door and down the street waiting for their biscuits and breakfasts with all the fixins'. This year, brothers cooked and sold 1,303 plates and 2,305 ham biscuits – raising more than \$19,000. The funds are distributed to several charities.



▲**JACKSONVILLE** – Semper Fidelis #680 celebrated its second annual Wives and Widows Dinner in March. The menu consisted of salad, chicken parmesan over spaghetti and New York cheesecake. The feast was prepared by Chef/Senior Deacon Terry Rademann. Entertainment was provided by WB Sandy Sandridge of Richlands #564, a Frank Sinatra impressionist. More than 40 ladies and brothers were in attendance.

DENTON – All Masons attending the 49th Old Threshers Reunion on July 1 or who are in the Denton area that evening are invited to attend a meeting of Yadkin Falls #637 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jackson Hill Church on the grounds of the Denton Farmpark. There is no admission fee to the Farmpark on that Monday. For additional information about the Denton Farmpark/Old Threshers Reunion please see: <https://dentonfarmpark.com/slide/49th-annual-southeast-old-threshers-reunion/>



▲**MARSHALL** – A lot of hard work has given new life to an historic lodge. French Broad #292's second lodge building, which was built in 1925, looks like new these days. Brothers began a couple of years ago work-

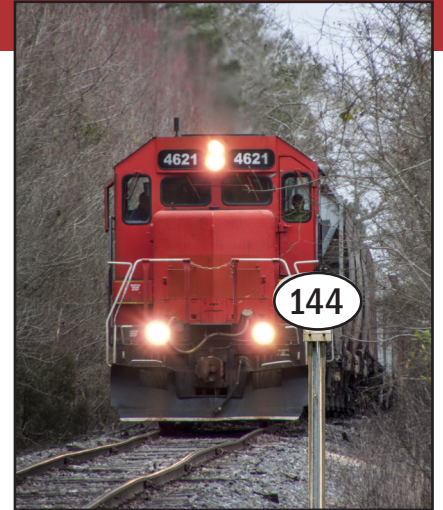
ing to update and remodel the lodge, founded in 1868. The lodge floor has been restored, a new roof installed and windows on the third floor along with new ceilings and insulation in the back rooms. Brothers met

in Vance #293 during the lodge room remodel, and moved back in for the stated meeting in December 2018. All the photos for the work on the lodge can be seen here: <https://292-nc.ourlodgepage.com>.

MILEPOSTS



▲ **SPRING HOPE** – Brother Roscoe Joyner (center), receives his 70-year certificate and the Certificate of Meritorious Service by Central Cross #187 from WM Alan Greer (left) and District Deputy Grand Master Joseph Fuller. He is celebrating another big number this year – he turned 100 on March 11.



York Rite degrees

WAYNESVILLE – The Grand Lodge of North Carolina and the North Carolina Grand York Rite are working together to bring the first-ever Grand Master's Royal Arch Degrees. All four Chapter degrees will be conferred in full form and in full costume. Grand Master Dwight "Mack" Sigmon will participate in the conferral of the Royal Arch Degree. All approved candidates are eligible to participate. The event will be held Saturday, July 13, at the Waynesville Masonic Lodge, 455 E. Marshall St., Waynesville, NC.



▲ **WINSTON-SALEM** – Brother Harley Paul Affeldt, center, was presented with his 70-year certificate in March at the 26th District meeting in Winston-Salem. Grand Master Dwight "Mack" Sigmon was on hand to present the honor and Affeldt's wife, Virginia, celebrated with her husband. Affeldt was raised in 1949 in Lake Drummond #178, Chesapeake, Va., and affiliated as dual member with Piedmont-Pioneer #685, Winston-Salem, NC.

◀ **ASHEBORO** – The brothers of Asheboro #699 recently raised a father and his two sons on the same day. The family was able to go through all three degrees together. The father (center) R. O'Neil Williams was raised and then he raised his sons, Jacob J. Williams (right) and Joshua O. Williams (left). It was a very special morning.



▲ **SWAN QUARTER** – Worshipful Brother Ralph Cuthrell (center) received his 70-year certificate. He is a member of Atlantic #294. In attendance was, from left, Master Odell Williams, WB Wayne Cox, Brother Cuthrell, WB Danny Simpson and Brother Wayne Pugh.



▲ **WEST JEFFERSON** – Welcome to three new Master Masons. From left, Brother Kent Walker (Snow Lodge #363), Brother Bill Hennessy (Ashe #594), Brother Warren Steary (Snow Lodge #363) are welcomed by Ashe #594 Master Ron Girtman (back, left). Ashe #594 hosted a joint degree and brothers from Mouth of Wilson #223 in Virginia and Snow #363 (Boone) attended and helped with the degree work.



▲ **WILMINGTON** – Karah Leigh Ward has been installed as Worthy Advisor of Wilmington Assembly #29 of the International Order of The Rainbow for Girls of NC. MWB Bob Gresham, Past Grand Master, was asked to speak at this open Installation of officers on behalf of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Karah chose the MHCO and Shriners Hospitals for Children as her fundraising projects during her term. Past Potentate of Sudan Shriners Rick Jackson also agreed to speak on behalf of the Shriners Hospitals for Children. Karah is the daughter of Randy D. Ward, PM, CL and Secretary of Shallotte #727. Her mother is the secretary of Brunswick Chapter #341 of the NC Order of The Eastern Star. She has three brothers, all of whom are Master Masons.

Symposium offers up both education and fun!

National-level speakers in place for June 8

Mark your calendar for the North Carolina Masonic Symposium, set for June 8 at the Greensboro Masonic Temple.

For years, the symposium has been a unique opportunity for brothers throughout the state to gather for national-level Masonic education, fellowship and great fun.

This year's symposium will maintain the tradition of sponsoring national as well as statewide level Masonic speakers.

Among the speakers is Brother Chuck Dunning, Masonic author of *Contemplative Masonry: Basic Applications of Mindfulness, Meditation, and Imagery for the Craft*. Chuck has been engaged as an educator and counselor in contemplative practice for over three decades.

Brother Johnny Royal, filmmaker and director of *33 & Beyond: The Royal Art of Freemasonry*, also will speak. He is the founding member of the rock band Black Lodge.

A private screening of Brother Johnny's movie will also be offered.

The symposium also will host the North Carolina Masonic Research Society's inaugural meeting, with

research paper presentations and guest speakers, including:

⌘ Ludwik Wodka, Grand Historian, who will speak on "The Evolution of NC Ritual," and

⌘ Damajo C. Smith, Grand Historian for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of North Carolina, who will speak on "The History of Prince Hall Freemasonry in North Carolina."

Further additional features development is under way.

Follow us on Facebook on the Wilkerson College and Grand Lodge Facebook pages as things continue to develop.

So, come join us for an incredible day of Masonic education, fellowship and great fun at the North Carolina Masonic Symposium on June 8th, at the Greensboro Masonic Temple.

This event is sponsored by Wilkerson College #760. For further information, please contact the Lodge Secretary through <https://760-nc.ourlodgepage.com>.

2019 N.C. Masonic Symposium Schedule

8:00-8:35	Wilkerson College Lodge will open and close lodge
8:45-9:00	Introduction and explanation of NC Masonic Research Society
9:00-9:30	Brother Ludwik Wodka, presents "The Evolution of NC Ritual"
9:30-10:00	Brother Damajo C. Smith, presents "The History of Prince Hall Freemasonry in North Carolina"
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-11:45	Brother Chuck Dunning's presentation on mentoring in Masonry
11:45-12:30	Lunch on your own, unless otherwise developed
12:45-2:15	Brother Dunning's presentation on Contemplative Masonry
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30 -3:00	Brother Johnny Royal speaking on his journey in Masonry as a young Mason
3:00-4:30	Screening of "33 and Beyond: The Royal Art of Freemasonry"
4:30-5:00	Brother Royal speaking about his upcoming documentary about Freemasonry

Masons in History

McMillen crafted big designs for temples

By Ludwik Wodka
Grand Historian

Prior to 1898, most Masonic Temples in North Carolina were fairly small buildings, at most only slightly larger than a residential structure. When an architect from Duluth, Minn., won the contract to design the new temple for the Wilmington Masonic bodies, a new kind of urban temple appeared in the state for the first time.

Early in 1898, the Blue Lodges and York Rite bodies purchased the First National Bank building on Front Street, which was to be demolished and replaced with the new temple.

The project was put out to bid, but the winner was Charles McMillen, an Irish-born architect based in Duluth. By the time he came to Wilmington in 1898, he had designed 14 Masonic Temples across the country and was regarded as an expert on the subject.

The new building, estimated to cost \$50,000, was expected to “stand as a lasting monument to the enterprise and loyalty of the Masons of Wilmington.” The four-story building, which still stands on Front Street, was praised in the press upon completion in 1899.

As a result, he was hired for numerous other projects in and around the city, becoming one of the leading architects in the Wilmington area.

In Wilmington, he designed the new Oddfellows Temple, the Cape Fear Club, and the Murchison National Bank, along



Postcards of the Raleigh Temple (above) and the Wilmington Temple, both designed by Charles McMillen. From the North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill

with numerous private residences. Outside of the Wilmington area, McMillen designed the Lee County Courthouse in Sanford and the Opera House in Fayetteville.

In 1906, while the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was in the midst of planning a new temple in Raleigh, the architect engaged resigned to move to Richmond. The committee then elected to have Charles McMillen take charge of the work.

McMillen carried out the planning and supervision of what would become one of the state's first two steel-reinforced tall buildings (along with William Lee Stoddart's Independence Building in Charlotte).

The location chosen was in the

heart of the city, only two blocks from Capitol Square on a corner plot along Fayetteville Street, the city's prime commercial thoroughfare, where it still stands.

Hailed by *The Raleigh Times* as the “handsomest building in North Carolina,” the new temple was seven stories tall, plus a basement. This was one of the first buildings in North Carolina to employ fireproof construction techniques.

Around the same time, the Winston-Salem Masonic Temple Company was planning to erect a building on the corner lot at Fourth and Trade streets, a space formerly occupied by the Piedmont Tobacco Warehouse. The Masonic bodies

would occupy the top floor, but would rent out the lower floors.

Of particular interest was that the contract for the design of the lodge room was awarded to Charles McMillan. The walls of the lodge room on the sixth story were to be 19 feet high, and “all the rooms devoted to lodge purposes will exceed in beauty and convenience any lodge rooms in the state.”

Shortly after the completion of the Masonic Temple in Raleigh in 1907, Charles McMillen moved to Oklahoma. He died a few years later in 1911 at the age of 57, and was buried with Masonic honors. ❖



A friendly reminder about taking photographs in the lodge

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

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

Well, almost everything.

We're seeing more photos from degree

conferrals. As a friendly reminder, photos from degree conferrals carry the same potential penalty as writing out our ritual. The Board of Custodians offers this reminder for those who may not be familiar with Reg. 86-2.9 in our Code.

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

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

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

lations and public ceremonies are fine.

Finally: Be careful when shooting brothers shaking hands. You can put a hand over the clasped hands to keep things out of the public eye or simply shake hands behind an award of certificate. We get many shots like this and try hard to crop them discretely.

Just use common sense and don't photograph anything that you or your lodge wouldn't be doing in public.

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Burkett, Brian Thomas	4	St. John's	Hyder, Blakely Dwaine	267	Dunn's Rock	Capps, James Michael	429	Seaside	Wright, Charles Edward	654	Elberta
Harmon, Andrew Dean	8	Phoenix	Davis, Brandon Trey	282	Wake Forest	Fimbel Jr, Alexander Louis	429	Seaside	Craft, Coley William	657	Keller Memorial
Koons, Timothy Lee	8	Phoenix	Hale, Jonathon Michael	282	Wake Forest	Hill, Dylan James	429	Seaside	Graves, Christopher John	663	Black Mountain
Proffitt, Jonathon Leonard	8	Phoenix	Hundley, Mark Steven	289	Salem	Adams, Raymond Bruce	431	Relief	Martin, Travis Hunter	663	Black Mountain
Hall, Jason Allen	27	Statesville	Williard, Andrew Alan Jeffrey	289	Salem	Brown, William Norman	431	Relief	Toups, Kevin Douglas	663	Black Mountain
Templeton, Thomas Lawson	27	Statesville	Arrington, Ronald Tracy	292	French Broad	Vancil, Christopher Anthony	431	Relief	Masse, Jonathan	667	Ft. Bragg
Leary, Stephen Troy	53	Hall	Burger, David Alan	301	Clay	Kennedy, Christopher Shawn	434	West Bend	Abernathy, James Dillon	669	Kernersville
Wilson Jr, Glendall Allen	53	Hall	Clifton, Erik Bradley	301	Clay	Myers, Charles Anthony	484	Southern Pines	Fulton, Tayler Wayne	669	Kernersville
Jarman, John Walter	64	Kilwinning	Davis, Wayland Scott	304	Pleasant Hill	Moretz, Jason Paul	502	Cookville	Bartlett, Orin	679	Creasy Proctor
Brewer, Keith Michael	109	Franklin	Aycock, Patrick Dail	319	Wilmington	Hearne, Frank Adam	505	Cherryville	Everage, Jason Alan	679	Creasy Proctor
Gardella, Thomas Anthony	112	Wayne	Campbell, Patrick David	319	Wilmington	Moss, Ethan Hugh	505	Cherryville	Hastings, Kemar Jamoy	679	Creasy Proctor
Bowles, Kenneth Darrel	117	Mt. Lebanon	Ellis, Jonathan Tadd	319	Wilmington	Martin, Dennis Ray	544	Mount Holly	Macias, Michael	679	Creasy Proctor
Thompson, Jeremy Loyd	134	Mocksville	Bumgardner Jr, Kenneth Harold	339	Fairview	Ward, Samuel Bowers	565	Wendell	Stewart Jr, Selester	685	Piedmont-Pioneer
Trivette, Chad Michael	134	Mocksville	Carroll, Larry Dean	339	Fairview	Hodges Sr, Jeff Wade	590	Lowell	Lewis, Chris Hopkins	689	Scotland Neck
McPherson, Jacob Lee	143	Mt. Vernon	James, Ronald Newton	339	Fairview	Williamson, Justin Michael	590	Lowell	Joyce, Mark William	693	Charles M. Setzer
Leville, Justin Gregory	143	Mt. Vernon	Burleson, Coty Ray	357	Fairview	Spring, Daniel Jared	592	Maiden	Rosenbalm, Randy Dale	709	Conover
Parker, Christian Alexander	146	Cherokee	Campbell, Steven Joseph	357	Bakersville	Hennessy, William Anthony	594	Ashe	Nichols, Jonathan Ray	733	Stump Sound
Honeycutt, Dylan Shepard	147	Palmyra	Irrera, Joseph Carmen	395	Orient	Benfield, Joshua Nicholas	616	Round Peak	Connally, Michael Armstrong	743	J. J. Crowder
Johnson, Colton Ransom	147	Palmyra	Spinola, Steven Richard	395	Orient	Kirk, Michael William Ray	626	Cannon Memorial	Caison, Corey Edwin	758	Oak Island
Wessel Jr, Leon Mack	214	Thomasville	Snyder, Jonathan Michael	395	Orient	Owen, Todd Jeffrey	626	Cannon Memorial	Graham, John Thomas	758	Oak Island
Brown Jr, Roger Lee	253	Lee	Washington Jr, David Joseph	395	Orient	Pigford, Dylan	626	Cannon Memorial	Pandozzi, Mark	758	Oak Island
Jones, James Garrett	263	Gaston	Carroll, Joseph Aaron	397	Bald Creek	Joyce, Joseph Keaton	629	Walnut Cove			
Massie, Bruce Samuel	263	Gaston	Farrish, William Nathaniel	407	N. Wilkesboro	Harwood, Gregory David	637	Yadkin Falls			
Hewes, Christopher Allen	267	Dunn's Rock	Pruitt, Jacob Logan	407	N. Wilkesboro	Moorees, Ian Pitoy	650	Nichols-W. Asheville			

Masons in the Community

Brothers give gift of experience to fire trainees

What to do with an old house planted smack in the middle of property on which you want to build a new Masonic lodge?

Burn it down. With some professional help.

Brothers of Derita #715 in Charlotte last month got a real chance to pay their community back with a very big gift to the Charlotte Fire Department Training Academy. The lodge donated an old house on land they have bought for a new lodge.

The gift wasn't an easy give-away. Before they could hand it over, the lodge had to obtain air quality and demolition permits, regrade the driveways and trim overhanging branches for the fire trucks and construct parking areas for the CFD support vehicles. All work was done by Derita brothers.

And the giving opportunity didn't stop there.

Cabinets and counters and fixtures from the house were donated to Habitat for Humanity.

The house was used by the CFD Academy to train recruits in breaching doors, walls and ceilings, as well as venting roofs. The training culminated in a graduation exercise – the controlled burn of the house. The exercise is the perfect way to train recruits under conditions of a live fire.

On the day of the controlled burn, brothers were on site to hand out water, beverages and energy bars to the recruits and firefighter instructors.

There is still much work to do including removing the debris, backfilling the crawl space void, and regrading and landscaping the site.

"This is a large project but giving back to our community and supporting the future of our fire department is well worth the effort," said Derita Master Don Wallace.



Top: Lodge members supplied refreshments to the trainees. Bottom: Heading into the breach.



page 1

The interesting parallel paths of two Brothers



page 3

Wearing tartans for Robert Burns



page 9

A different way of looking at meetings

On the cover

The brothers of Eagle Lodge #19 went back in time as part of Hillsborough's "Dead of Winter Walking Tour." See the story on Page 2.

Photo courtesy of Eagle #19

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