



# NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

Volume 144 Number 6

Oxford, North Carolina

November/December 2019

## A STORY OF Providence and a ring

*Grand Lodge installs Bradshaw  
at ceremony in Greensboro*

*By Beth Grace  
Mason Editor*

GREENSBORO – It was all about Providence. Paul Shaun Bradshaw stood in the footsteps of his beloved mother Deborah as he made the promises and vows to become the 167th Grand Master of Masons.

In the ballroom at the heart of the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro, where Deborah Elaine Bradshaw had worked her way from the reception desk to a key hotel directorship, her son became the leader of some 36,000 North Carolina Freemasons.

The installation was not exactly where you'd expect it to be, the new Grand Master told the crowd gathered to honor him and the newly installed Grand Line. It could have been in the beautiful Greensboro Masonic Temple downtown ... had the city not planned its annual Christmas parade for the same day ... and had the parking lot outside the temple not been promised to brother Shriners to park their parade vehicles.

"It occurs to me that I am standing in my mother's footsteps. That is why we are here. It *couldn't* be anywhere else," he said.

"As Freemasons, we are taught to look to nature, the divine plan ... to know there is a reason for everything. Being here is Divine Provi-

dence at work. There is no doubt in my mind."

The installations followed a Toast to the Flag, recited by PM Ron Sortino, and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by GM Bradshaw's son, Brother Graham S. Bradshaw.

PM Johnny Surles led a commemoration of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on the 78th anniversary on the deadly attack, honoring those who fell that day and all service men and women who have given their all for their country.

In a special presentation, Outgoing GM Mack Sigmon presented a specially commissioned Tyler's Sword to be used in perpetuity as the Grand Lodge Tyler's sword. The Grand Lodge Library and Museum Committee took the

project on, found a swordsmith who took the pattern from a Crusader sword in the Israeli Museum in Jerusalem.

The Grand Lodge asked all lodges to contribute a small piece of steel; about 80 lodges sent in more than a combined 45 pounds of metal. Wood for the grip was a piece of the 160-year-old post oak Witness Tree that witnessed the Civil War Surrender at Bennett Place NC State Historic Site in April of 1865.

The day was filled with symbols and memories for the new Grand Master and his family. His son Graham addressed the crowd, telling them his mother "told me not to make my dad cry. ... I just want my dad to know I'm very proud of him."

He then invited Brother Christo-

pher Wright, a close friend of GM Bradshaw and fellow member of Stokesdale #428, to join him. Both unveiled a specially commissioned gold ring for the new Grand Master.

Wright described the symbolism: "The symbol on the face of the ring is the jewel of the Past Grand Master. In the center of the jewel is the Greek letter Phi, which represents the Divine Proportion, also known as the Golden Ratio. This is a symbol of special significance to GM Bradshaw and was recommended by his son Graham.

"The columns on each side of the ring should be familiar to any Mason, but they represent the columns on the porch of King Solomon's Temple. Their symbolic



Grand Master Shaun Bradshaw listens to his installing officer, PGM Dewey Preslar Jr.

Photo by Michael Harding





Photos by Michael Harding

PGM Gene Cobb (to the right of the altar with hands raised) and Prince Hall Grand Master Daniel L. Thompson (right from Cobb) offer up the closing prayer.

## INSTALLATION, from page 1

meanings are rich and deep and worthy of your study.

“The ring was crafted by Brother Jesse (Jay) Joyce Jr., son of GM Bradshaw’s Masonic coach. The gold for the ring was donated by myself, T.O. Wright Jr. (my father and the man whom GM Bradshaw asked how to become a Mason), and GM Bradshaw’s son Graham and wife Sharon. The gold donated by GM Bradshaw’s family once belonged to his mother.”

The new Grand Master wiped away tears as he accepted the ring, which Brother Wright promised would remain one of a kind; no copies will ever be made.

In his address to the gathering, GM Bradshaw thanked his family for their sacrifice in helping him on his journey. He thanked his Masonic mentors, including his Masonic “father” PGM Dewey Preslar, who served as the day’s installing grand officer. He also honored PGM William Simpson. His portrait was displayed near the stage during the ceremony and his wife, Marian, was in the audience.

He also thanked his fellow Grand Line officers for their dedication and their hard work. He told them he will rely on them for their thoughts and advice.

“I like a little pushback,” he said.

“Please don’t be ‘yes’ men. Give me your honest and fair opinions.”

He invited brothers to attend his upcoming district meetings. The first will be Jan. 27 at Doric #568 in New Bern.

“I will have more stories to tell. And I will want to hear your stories,” he said.

In the meantime, he added, “keep the light and tell your story to others. If we want to grow this fraternity, let them know how this fraternity has changed your life.”

The ceremony ended with a prayer offered by PGM Gene Cobb and Prince Hall Grand Master Daniel L. “DT” Thompson. ⚔



Grand Tyler Gary Handy with the new sword forged for the Grand Lodge.

# Register not taking the honor lightly

Mike Register did not see it coming.

“It took me totally by surprise,” WB Register said as he described the day Grand Master-Elect Shaun Bradshaw approached him, asking him to join the Grand Line as Junior Grand Steward.

The two were chatting at “Lynch Lodge,” the quarterly informal Saturday morning “lodge” at Brother Steve Lynch’s home in Burlington when the question came.

“Never in my life did I think this would be something I would be asked to do. So many thoughts crossed my mind. This is so humbling.” The GM-elect asked him to give it some thought.

And he did.

He and his wife, Ann, talked about it when he returned home that day, considering the honor and

the commitment that comes with it: time, hard work and expenses. Brothers moving up along the Grand Line get very little reimbursement for travel or official visits. It’s a personal gift they offer as part of the work.

Ann Margaret was all for it: She is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, and Masonry runs in her family as her father and stepfather are both Masons.

Brother Register didn’t keep GM-elect Bradshaw waiting. He accepted with joy and gratitude.

“I have a lot I have to learn about this work,” Register said. “I feel that I should get more involved now. It takes more than a couple of years to learn what I’ll need to know,” he said. “I don’t take this honor lightly.”

■ see REGISTER, page 3



Mike Register (middle) and his family gather at the conclusion of the Annual Communication 2019 where he was named to the Grand Line





WB Hyler Wayne Cox receiving his Montfort at the Annual Communication



GM Mack Sigmon pins the Montfort medal on WB Leroy Beaman Whitfield

## Montfort honors go to 2 long-time Masonic workers

Grand Master Dwight “Mack” Sigmon has awarded the Joseph Montfort medal to two brothers who have dedicated decades to the Craft as lecturers.

At Annual Communication, the Grand Master awarded Masonry’s highest honor to Worshipful Brother Hyler Wayne Cox of Atlantic #294.

Brother Cox was honored for his dedicated service as a District Deputy Grand Lecturer for 24 years (and an additional year filling an unexpired term), longer than anyone else. He was first certified in 1986. A 34-year Mason, he still serves in that position, only now in his own district.

“The fact he did this for many years while living on the mainland

and serving the Outer Banks as an out-of-district DDGL,” the Grand Master said. “Having to take the ferry to one lodge and if the meetings ran late would have to stay overnight. He never said no to their many requests. He is a very dedicated Mason.”

Brother Cox currently is DDGL of the 3rd District and PDDGL for the old 3rd and current 2nd districts, and is secretary of Atlantic #294. He was master on several occasions and was a member of the Board of Custodians from 2002 to 2004, serving as chairman 2003-2004.

Sigmon presented the final Montfort of his year in November at the Greenville Masonic Temple at an informal gathering of 6th District members and families.

WB Leroy Beaman Whitfield was recognized as one of only two Masons in North Carolina to have been a Certified Lecturer for more than 64 years. The other Mason is Past Grand Master Gene Jernigan’s father, Eugene, who was first certified the same day and location as Brother Leroy and also a Montfort recipient. Brother Leroy is a 67-year Mason. He has served as Master of Jerusalem #95 five times.

“Brother Whitfield is truly a dedicated Mason in North Carolina,” Sigmon said.

Joseph Montfort was treasurer of the Province of North Carolina, colonel of Colonial troops, and ardent Freemason. He was born in England in 1724 and died in 1776 in North Carolina. He was

a member of Royal White Hart Lodge at Halifax. His exuberance for the fraternity led to his commission as Provincial Grand Master in 1771. His commission, which hangs in the Grand Lodge in Raleigh, was granted by Henry Somerset, the fifth Duke of Beaufort and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England.

During his short tenure as Provincial Grand Master, Montfort organized the fraternity into an efficient and productive organization. He chartered at least 10 lodges, helped reorganize a half dozen more, and laid the foundation for the creation of our Grand Lodge in 1787.

Each Grand Master may give three Montfort medals during his tenure. ❖

### REGISTER from page 2

Michael Allen Register, 58, is a member of Pilot #493, Lux Libertas #772 and Sophia #767.

He has twice served as a master, first at Saint John’s #3 in 1995-1996 and at Pilot from 2016 to 2017. He has served as a committee member on the Board of General Purposes, Board of Custodians and the Risk Management Committee, and currently is a trustee at Lux Libertas.

He retired as the Chief of the Trent Woods Police Department and after a serving as a field services representative for the North Carolina Department of Justice for several years. He is now a law enforcement training coordinator and instructor at Rowan Cabarrus Community College.

Brother Mike became a Mason in 1986 after he noticed that his best friend had gotten involved with a group that took a lot of his time and attention. He asked his friend what was happening and he learned his friend had joined a Masonic lodge. It was only a matter of time before Brother Mike “asked the question.” It was only then that he learned, when he mentioned to his mother that he was joining the Masons, that his father had been a Mason since 1958.

“I know my grandfather was a Mason because he talked about it and he even took me and my grandmother to lodge sometimes for special nights,” he said. He later learned that they were both members

of the Eastern Star, and that his grandfather was a past master and past secretary of his lodge. “But my dad never once mentioned it.”

Even though his father kept his own counsel when it came to Freemasonry, he did not hold back when Brother Mike told him he was joining.

“When I put my petition in, we talked about it. He said, ‘This is going to be the best thing you have ever done in your life. I’m proud of you.’”

Brother Mike has never looked back. His life has been shaped and guided by the principles of Masonry.

“I would not be the person I am without it,” he said. “If not for Masonry, I would not have met 95 percent of the people I’ve come

to know and consider friends and brothers. One of the greatest gifts this has given me is the people I have met.”

Brother Mike is eager to take on this new work, and especially welcomes working with WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. His father lived at WhiteStone for a year before he passed, rooming with the father of Brother Alvin Billings. The two roommates became dear friends in the process, as did their sons.

“There is not a thing I wouldn’t do to assist at WhiteStone,” he said. “It is truly a care center, not a rest home. The people who work and care for residents there are angels.” ❖

# NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

(USPS 598-260) is published bimonthly by The Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina, 2921 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608.

Third class postage paid at Oxford, NC 27565.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The North Carolina Mason*, School Of Graphic Arts, Masonic Home for Children, Oxford, NC 27565.

**Grand Master**  
P. Shaun Bradshaw

**Board Of Publication**  
Kenneth Wayne Lambert, Chairman  
Adam Cloninger  
Dwight Decoskey  
Stan Dodd  
Thomas VanEtten

**Editor**  
Beth Grace

Good quality pictures are essential for suitable reproduction. The right to reject any submission not suitable for use is reserved. Pictures will be returned to the sender only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Email submissions are welcome; high resolution, unaltered JPGs and Rich Text Format documents are preferred. Submissions and other correspondence should be sent to the editor at 2921 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608 or <NCMason@glnc.us>.

Each North Carolina Mason is a subscriber to *The North Carolina Mason*. If you know a member who is not receiving the paper, please send us his full name, his complete address, and the name and number of his lodge. Masonic widows receive *The Mason* free upon request. Subscriptions are available to others at a rate of five dollars per year. Subscription inquiries and address changes only should be sent to: The School of Graphic Arts, Masonic Home for Children, 600 College Street, Oxford, North Carolina 27565.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of *The North Carolina Mason*, the Grand Lodge, or Board of Publication.

Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.....sbradshaw@glnc.us  
Deputy Grand Master R. David Wicker .....dwick@glnc.us  
Senior Grand Warden Larry B. Thompson Jr.....lthompson@glnc.us  
Junior Grand Warden Kevan D. Frazier.....kfrazier@glnc.us  
Grand Treasurer Lewis R. Ledford (PGM).....lledford@glnc.us  
Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp III.....wclapp@glnc.us  
Senior Grand Deacon Donald E. Kehler .....dkehler@glnc.us  
Junior Grand Deacon Robert W. Rideout.....trideout@glnc.us  
Grand Marshal Steve M. Norris.....snorris@glnc.us  
Grand Steward Gilbert D. Bailey .....gbailey@glnc.us  
Junior Grand Steward Michael A. Register .....mregister@glnc.us  
Judge Advocate James R. Stevens judge.advocate@grandlodge-nc.org  
Grand Tyler Gary D. Handy  
Assistant Grand Tyler Graham S. Bradshaw  
Grand Chaplain Mark M. N. Vickers  
Grand Historian Ludwik J. Wodka  
Grand Lecturer Christopher L. Wright  
Grand Orator Benjamin G. Wallace



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 PATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

# It's all about the story

Your story, my story, stories that live in the hearts of friends and of strangers. Everybody has at least one.

Story connects us. It can give us ideas and direction. It creates commonalities and community. A story can make your day, or break your heart. It can change your mind, your ways ... your life.

In my three years working with this fraternity, I can attest that there's not a North Carolina Freemason out there who does not have a tale to tell.

At district meetings, lodge fundraisers, golf outings, donor events, board meetings, homecomings and family days, I have heard some wonderful stories about brotherhood, friendship and charity. I've gotten weepy over stories of unheralded random acts of kindness that happen all the time in this fraternity. I've been awestruck listening to stories of true brotherhood – how this Craft saved some good men from an uncertain future.

OK. And I've also heard some real whoppers, tall tales, and fish stories. Whether those old chestnuts are true or not – they're almost always darn funny. Keep 'em coming.

It's all in the story, brother. And this is the year to share yours. Grand Master Bradshaw wants to hear from you. Check out his column this month and hear his story – then take him up on his invitation to hear your story.

The more you all share your story with each other, the more connections form. I had a great moment of connection just a few weeks ago at a place I'd never been and an event I had never before attended. I traveled to San Diego for a non-profit storytelling convention. Some 1,100 communicators for non-profits converged on the downtown Hyatt to learn

how the way we tell the story of our charities makes all the difference in how we raise funds. The better we tell our story, we learned, the more likely it is that a potential donor will connect with their own story and feel that they are a valued and needed part of the solution by giving of their time, talent and treasure.

On the first day, I kept to myself, not knowing a soul. At the beginning of the second session of the day, I found a seat and settled in. A woman sat down a couple of seats away and I greeted her, introducing myself as Beth from North Carolina. She in turn told me she was Kelly from Michigan. "What do you do," I asked – as one does at these things. She smiled, cocked her head and said, "Have you ever heard of a group called the Freemasons?"

I laughed and said, "You're kidding me, right?" I showed her my badge and said I was with the NC Masonic Foundation. Kelly laughed just as hard and showed me her badge – she is with the Michigan Masonic Foundation. What were the odds of us connecting in a group of 1,500 people?

I partnered with Kelly and three of her colleagues, who also were at the convention, for the next couple of days. We shared our stories, broke bread together and I left with at least three ideas they gave me permission to steal. As we all parted to go home, Kelly said she was so happy we had connected.

"It's wonderful to be with someone who just gets us," she said. "Do you know what I mean?"

Yes. I do. I really do.

So tell your story. As importantly, share your story.

I guarantee that there is someone out there, maybe even some 36,000-plus someones out there, who will absolutely get you.



By Beth Grace  
Editor

Tired of waiting weeks to get the printed North Carolina Mason after it appears online?

There's a fix for that! Subscribe to the Mason online and opt out of receiving the paper version.

Dozens of brothers so far have opted to go online to sign up for email delivery of the Mason and we thank all of you! It sure helps lower our budget, and it saves a little waste and shrinks your

environmental footprint.

If you sign up for online delivery – directions are below – you get the news first! We publish the online version on the first day of the months we publish (February, April, June, August, October and December.)

Here's what you need to do:  
1. Surf to [www.grandlodge-nc.org](http://www.grandlodge-nc.org). Click on the blue NC Mason tab toward the bottom of the home page. Look for

the tab on the right side of the Mason page that says "SUBSCRIBE." Fill that in and you're done with the first step.

2. Now send an email to [ncmason@glnc.us](mailto:ncmason@glnc.us) with the subject line: OPT OUT and in the body of the email, list your full name, your mailing address, and your lodge name and number.

3. That's it! We'll take you off the mailing list of the paper version and you have signed up for the online version.



## FROM THE GRAND MASTER



# Brother, tell me your story

By P. Shaun Bradshaw  
Grand Master

“I stand before you deeply touched and inspired by the confidence you have placed in me and I resolve

to honor your trust, as I humbly accept the election to serve as the 167th Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in NC.”

These were the first (coherent) words I spoke after hearing my son, Graham, announce the results of the vote for Grand Master at the Annual Communication on Sept. 28.

I went on to thank Most Worshipful Mack Sigmon who has been like a father to me through our years of service together in the Grand Line, as well as my Masonic father, MW Dewey Preslar, who started me on this journey and told him how much I appreciated his confidence in me and how grateful I was for his advice and mentorship over the years.

I also thanked the members of Stokesdale No. 428 for their support and especially MW Bill Simpson who was a guiding light in our lodge and a great mentor to me in many areas of Masonry.

I then gave the brethren a brief introduction into who I am and what this fraternity means to me. My intent here is to expand on that introduction and describe my Masonic philosophy a bit better.

To do that I want tell a quick story...

How many of you remember Service Merchandise, the old retail chain with stores throughout the southeast region of the U.S.? There was one in Fayetteville, where I lived with my grandmother when I was in middle and high school.

I remember going there on occasion with my mom and grandmother, but more than that I remember their catalogs. Not the tomes of Sears and JC Penney certainly, but always full of interesting wares.

I have fond memories of sitting in the den thumbing through those catalogs. Of course, as a young man I spent most of my time looking through the collection of toys, bicycles, and sports equipment, but there was always one section of the catalog that caught my eye – the men’s jewelry.

Many who know me, know about my watch collection. But in addition to admiring the watches, I used to wonder, “What are those

cool rings?” I couldn’t take my eyes off the gold ones with the colored stones (usually blue or red) with an unusual emblem on top.

At the time I didn’t understand the significance of that emblem and the only thing I really recognized was the letter “G.” Of course, the catalog referred to it as a Masonic ring, but we didn’t have the Internet back then and my grandmother didn’t own a set of encyclopedias, so my imagination was free to roam.

I often think back to that time. How attracted I was to that ring – and wonder why. I mean, they are cool rings! But, why, at the age of 12 or 13, was I so drawn to them?

As I said to the brethren at Annual Communication, I didn’t grow up with a father figure in my home and, at the time, I didn’t know any Freemasons – at least, not that I was aware of. Yet I was still fascinated by those rings!

Perhaps they’re just cool rings and young, pre-teen males are naturally attracted to such things. Or perhaps it’s more than that. Perhaps the fraternity has been calling to me my whole life. Perhaps Divine Providence (as symbolized by the Blazing Star in the center of our lodges) was at work?

As it turns out, the rings weren’t my only exposure to the fraternity. I distinctly recall a time in college when I traveled to West Virginia with a friend to visit her family. As an avid reader I was immediately attracted to her grandfather’s old library (he had passed away some years earlier).

As I scanned the titles of the dusty old books, I caught sight of one particularly intriguing symbol. It appeared to be an eagle with two heads, with a crown and triangle above it. As I opened the book, *Morals and Dogma*, I saw that it was about that interesting, maybe mysterious, group of Freemasons.

Unfortunately, I only had time (and patience) to quickly scan through some of the chapters, but I made a clear mental note that this, too, was about that fascinating fraternity.

Over the next few years, the fraternity continued to make itself known to me – sometimes in the form of music, sometimes through other books, sometimes through car emblems, and sometimes through markings on old buildings.

It wasn’t until Graham was born that I came to understand what Freemasonry was. You see, I realized that, while my mother and grandmother were wonderful, loving parents – willing to guide me as a new parent myself, they weren’t able to provide a father’s perspective.

So I began searching; hoping to find an organization with men of strong moral character whom I could look up to and who would willingly share their experiences and counsel me in my new role as a father.

In 1997, that search, that hope “ended in fruition” when I asked Brother Ted Wright about becoming a Mason. I knew I’d found what I was looking for when I saw the spark in his eyes as he talked about the fraternity. I realized then that this organization, this fraternity could help groom me to be a better father, son, and husband.

After joining the fraternity – and finally buying one of those cool rings – I threw myself wholeheartedly into understanding what my early attraction was to Freemasonry. As I learned more, participated more, and reflected more I came to understand that we are the custodians of rituals and symbols rich in ethical, moral AND spiritual truths. We are so much more than a social fraternity.

Brethren, *We are Keepers of the Light!*

Freemasonry has been invaluable in shaping me as a man. Without this fraternity – this organization comprised of men dedicated to Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth – so many aspects of my life would be different. I cannot fathom where or who I would be without its influence on me – without YOUR influence on me.

So, that’s my story – well, part of it at least. And I’m interested in hearing yours. Tell me your story. What attracted you to the fraternity? What have you learned about yourself by contemplating the symbols and rituals? How have you changed as a result of your time as a member?

Send me your stories. You can email them to [sbradshaw@glnc.us](mailto:sbradshaw@glnc.us), or if email isn’t your thing, send me a letter the old fashioned way to the Grand Lodge. They’ll get it to me.

I can’t promise that I’ll respond immediately, but I do promise that I’ll read them and acknowledge the importance of them. Because, you see brethren, we all have a story to tell, and by telling our story we create excitement with each other. And when we are excited, we are engaged and when we are engaged, we thrive.

Finally, I hope you see now, why I say I’m a “proud Masonic esotericist.” It’s difficult to ignore the power of the fraternity, of Divine Providence, in my journey through life. It’s even more difficult for me to ignore the idea that we are Keepers of the Light.

Brethren, keep the light and tell your story! ✨



## OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

# Brothers and sisters and bears! Oh my!

Some uninvited – but welcome – furry guests entertained brother Masons and friends at a special invitation-only North Carolina Masonic Foundation event at the Governor's Western Residence in Asheville.

NCMF hosts two special regional events a year, inviting brothers and friends who love and support our charities, the Masonic Home for Children and White-Stone, with their time, talent and treasure.

Special guest, former N.C. Gov. Jim Martin, addressed the gathering with memories of Masonry and the time he spent in the residence during his tenure in office. He is a 44-year Mason and a member of Phalanx #31. Brother Martin has served as a member of the NCMF board and is a recipient of the prestigious Joseph Montfort Medal, NC Freemasonry's highest honor.

He was almost upstaged by the presence of local residents – two mother bears and their cubs – who dined on natural “salad” outside the residence. The bear family was well-behaved and welcoming.

Inside, attendees enjoyed listening to the Whitewater Bluegrass Company, a band led by Brother “Uncle” Ted White. For more than 35 years, the band has entertained audiences throughout the Southeast with a blend of Bluegrass music, country ballads, mountain swing and down-home humor.

Watch for more NCMF special events in 2020!



Former Gov Jim Martin, above, greets fellow Masonic brothers and spouses at a special NCMF donor event at the NC Governor's Western Residence in Asheville, while NCMF board member Guy Cline, PGM Bryant Webster and Grand Master Mack Sigmon spend some time catching up. Photos by Beth Grace



Whitewater Bluegrass provided the indoor entertainment for the event...



... meanwhile a bear family provided the outdoor entertainment of the day.





Steve Burgess holds a resolution from his colleagues honoring his work on the MESH LLC board. The resolution was presented at the fall WhiteStone board meeting.

## Longtime MESH LLC chairman honored as he leaves its board

Steve Burgess, member of the North Carolina Masonic and Eastern Star Foundation LLC board of managers since its inception in 2011, and chairman from 2015 through 2019, will step down at year's end for medical reasons.

But his board colleagues and friends plan to make sure he and his work will always be remembered.

Current and former LLC managers and two brethren who heard that a fundraising effort was afoot chipped in \$2,500, which will go toward a bench that will be placed on the campus of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community.

The gift was announced at the WhiteStone board's November meeting. Brother Burgess was in attendance, and thanked his brothers, sisters and friends for their friendship. Burgess will step down as of Dec. 31.

The WhiteStone board's resolution honoring Burgess said he has "exemplified a U.S. Marine's bulldog-esque determination in building an organization that delivered compassionate relief with businesslike efficiency, and ensuring that in the LLC's operations, every

detail was accounted for, every I was dotted, every T was crossed, and every dollar was wisely spent."

The resolution went on to say that he "embodies the Masonic Closing Charge, being diligent, prudent, temperate and discrete, seeking to befriend and relieve every brother, and believing that every human being has a claim upon his kind offices."

In his resignation letter, Burgess wrote that as he faces medical challenges, "my supreme dictator and love of my life, Doris Regina Burgess, has ordered me home. My wife, family, and dog want me to stay home for a while. I have been neglecting them for quite some time with all my fraternal activities."

He said it has "been fun, rewarding, and a pleasure to serve; but the time has come to retire to the rocking chair and dream of days gone by, or the 'Golden Years,' or whatever they call old age nowadays. ... Words cannot express to you the satisfaction and pleasure I received from my opportunity to serve with the talented and dedicated individuals at WhiteStone, NC Masonic Foundation, and the MESH Foundation LLC."

## Teams cook up wins for Homecoming

A third-time entrant took the top prize this year at the annual Masonic Home for Children Homecoming barbecue contest.

Union #618 first entered three years ago – the same year Hurricane Matthew dropped more than nine inches of rain on the BBQ teams. They were not discouraged. In fact, they adopted the name "Soggy Bottom Boys" and have attended Homecoming ever since.

They did an extra good deed for the home, inviting folks to sample their cooking before big day. They ask for donations for the sampling and this year raised \$555 to go toward the new pool/aquatic center.

Here's the winner's list:

Overall winners:

1. Union #618
2. Tobacco Wood Brewery
3. Keller Memorial # 657

Chicken:

1. Union #618
2. Tobacco Wood Brewery
3. Orphans #761

Pork:

1. Keller Memorial #657
2. 13th Masonic District
3. Tobacco Wood Brewery



The "Soggy Bottom Boys" take a breather after a very successful effort at the annual MHCOC Homecoming Barbecue contest.



**OXFORD** – If you could find nothing to smile about at the 2019 Masonic Home for Children annual Homecoming celebration and parade – you are in big trouble. The weather was perfect, the barbecue was tasty and plentiful, the parade was one of the biggest and best ever, and the tireless Tams capped off the day with singing, dancing ... And even more dancing. The annual reunion of those who grew up at the home was a rousing success, and was capped off on Sunday with a service and dedication of a fund honoring Donald Sizemore. Photo by Beth Grace



# LION AND PILLAR 2020



## CATEGORY 1

### EDUCATION

COMPLETE 3  
OF 7 ITEMS 

- 1. Implement the Lodge System of Masonic Education as a subordinate lodge or as a district, with participating lodges receiving credit. DDGMs will certify lodge participation.
- 2. Host a speaker from the Grand Lodge Speakers Bureau, a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education, a faculty member from Wilkerson College, a faculty member from the Davie Academy or a faculty member from the Middle Chamber for a program at a stated communication.
- 3. Have a deacon graduate from Wilkerson College.\*
- 4. Have a member complete a Davie Academy session.
- 5. Have a member complete a Middle Chamber session.\*
- 6. Establish a Masonic Book Club for the lodge and have members regularly provide a review and/or personal reflection of a book on Masonic Ritual, Symbolism, or Philosophy.
- 7. As a regular part of the stated communication of the lodge, have a member read a portion of the ritual, invite the brethren in attendance to contemplate and discuss what it means, and encourage them to consider it at a deeper, more personal level.

*\* This item counts double if it is the lodge's first time participating in the program.*

See the RED type? That means it is new for 2020!

## CATEGORY 2


### PATRIOTISM

COMPLETE 3  
OF 8 ITEMS 

- 1. Organize a lodge visit to veterans in a nursing home. Do not limit visits to Masonic veterans.
- 2. Visit veterans in a VA hospital in Salisbury, Fayetteville, Durham or Asheville.
- 3. Contact and offer to assist the local Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) Hospital Visitation volunteer in a VA hospital.
- 4. Host a member of the National Sojourners for a program.
- 5. Host a non-Mason veteran for a program.
- 6. Hold a Masonic education program on the MSANA's Hospital Visitation and Disaster Relief initiatives.
- 7. Host a meal for veterans and active military personnel at your lodge separate from a regular stated meeting. Include non-masonic veterans, active military personnel and local high school youth/JROTC interested in military careers at this event.
- 8. Support a "Wreaths across America" or similar veterans projects.

## CATEGORY 3

### PHILANTHROPY

COMPLETE #1  
AND TWO OF  
REMAINING 4 

- 1. Contribute an average of \$5 per member to (each) MHCO, North Carolina Masonic Foundation and MESH Foundation LLC (which benefits qualified Masonic and OES residents at WhiteStone) between the periods of July 1, 2019 through the June 30, 2020 application deadline. Copies of checks should be provided with the application to help expedite the approval process. (NOTE: Community charitable projects are covered under Category 5)
- 2. Host a North Carolina Masonic Foundation development officer for a program at a stated communication or attend the Davie Academy session on philanthropy.
- 3. Host a MHCO or WhiteStone development officer for a program.
- 4. Hold a lodge meeting at WhiteStone or MHCO under dispensation from the Grand Master, and schedule a tour of the home, meeting with the director or his designee, and visit with residents.
- 5. Assist a brother or his widow in getting assistance from the MESH LLC Outreach program (336-601-5593).

Be a Keeper of the Light! Time to make your lodge's plans to qualify for the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Award for 2020!

Grand Master Shaun Bradshaw has released the updated program list, which includes a few changes. You can easily identify the new or changed requirements by looking for the **RED** type.

This is the second year for the Platinum level distinction and we've added two new ways your lodge may qualify. But remember, you must first successfully complete all five of the main categories to order to be eligible.

Notice the boxes  to the left of each item. Use them like a scorecard to check off what you've accomplished this year.

**Application deadline is June 30, 2020.**



To be eligible for the 2020 award, all tasks/projects must be completed between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. Application deadline is June 30, 2020.



## CATEGORY 4

# MASONIC MEMBERSHIP

COMPLETE #1  
AND FOUR OF  
REMAINING  
10 ITEMS



- 1. Contact no less than 50% of inactive members, a minimum of once per year, either by phone (voice contact, voice messages do not count) or make a visit to their residence. [An inactive member for this purpose is any member who has not attended a meeting within a 12-month period.] Provide a list of names and dates when contacted.
- 2. Hold an appreciation dinner for lodge families and widows.
- 3. Identify and contact widows, by phone or visitation, at least two times prior to June 30, 2020. Provide any assistance they may need and record the nature and outcome of the outreach. \*\*See calling tree sample or contact Lion and Pillar Administrator\*\*
- 4. Confirm valid email addresses, phone numbers and occupation information in MORI for at least 75 percent of lodge members.
- 5. Adopt and use the Our Lodge Page function in MORI. Hold a Masonic education program to explain OLP to members.
- 6. Help plan and participate in a district-wide event such as a fundraiser for Masonic charities, a Masonic education event (not including a School of Instruction, Lecture Service or Grand Master district meeting), a district-wide degree, a district-wide funeral service, a district-wide fellowship dinner with Masonic education speaker, or a district-wide community service project.
- 7. Engage new brethren at the lodge or district level. Form an Under-5 degree team consisting of Masons with less than five years in the Craft or require new members to deliver papers or Masonic education programs within three months of raising.
- 8. Plan an observance of the Feast of St. John the Baptist on or near June 24 as a lodge or a district, with a meal and Masonic speaker. Submit your event announcement, flyer or other advance event publicity to qualify.
- 9. Host a member of the Grand Lodge Masonic Renewal Committee for a program at a stated communication.
- 10. Implement an "innovative" use of technology in the lodge. For purposes of the Lion & Pillar award, "innovative" is defined as utilizing any form of technology that is not presently in use in the lodge. For example, if a lodge does not currently use a laptop and projector for presentations in the lodge, adding and using those items will constitute an "innovative" use of technology, since it will be new to the lodge.
- 11. Attempt to contact all "unfinished work" from the prior 3 years, determine why they haven't continued and report findings as part of the final application materials for the Lion & Pillar award.

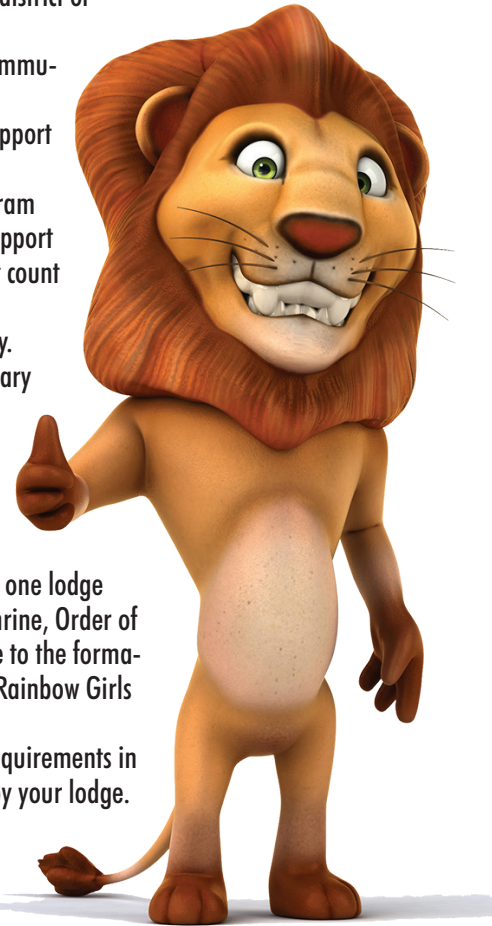
## CATEGORY 5

# AFFILIATED CONNECTIONS

COMPLETE  
4 OF 12  
ITEMS



- 1. Host an appreciation meal for local fire fighters, police officers and/or rescue personnel/EMTs as a district or lodge.
- 2. Hold a lodge Open House and invite the community.
- 3. Contribute a minimum of \$5/member to support a charitable cause in your local community.
- 4. Participate in a Habitat for Humanity Program in your community by providing labor to support one of their projects. Donations only do not count towards this item.
- 5. Partner with a local public school on literacy. Read to students, contribute to a school library or book drive, or establish a Bikes for Books-type reading reward program as a lodge or district ([www.masoniccharitable-foundation.org/programs/Masonic-bikes-books/](http://www.masoniccharitable-foundation.org/programs/Masonic-bikes-books/)).
- 6. Grow the Masonic family by having at least one lodge member join the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Order of the Eastern Star or Amaranth, or contribute to the formation of, or support for existing DeMolay or Rainbow Girls organizations in your lodge or district.
- 7. Utilize the MHCO Print Shop for printing requirements in your lodge or a District event coordinated by your lodge.
- 8. Sponsor a Blood drive in your community.
- 9. Sponsor a cooking team for the MHCO Homecoming Festival or the Pig Jig.
- 10. Sponsor a youth organization (Little League, Soccer, Volleyball, etc.) in your community.
- 11. Attend a Masonic and/or Eastern Star function at Camp Gray Rock.
- 12. Support a School Project, "Stuff the Bus," "Backpack Program for summer food support to the needy" or other similar programs.



## PLATINUM

To earn the Platinum award, you must complete one of the four choices below after first qualifying for the standard Lion and Pillar requirements. Items must be done between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020.

A member or the installed senior deacon gives his first-ever Fellow Craft Degree lecture. This can be accomplished in his own lodge (preferable) or at another lodge within his district if his lodge experiences no such degree work during the qualifying period.

OR

A member of your lodge conducts his first ever Masonic graveside or memorial funeral service. This also can be accomplished in his own lodge or at another lodge within his district if his lodge experiences no such requests during the qualifying period.

OR

Confirm 5% of all current lodge members are signed up for

a recurring monthly gift to MHCO (<https://my.simplegive.com/App/Giving/mhco>) or MESH LLC (<https://www.liveatwhitestone.org/donate/>). Note that recurring gifts DO count towards Category 3, Item 1.

OR

Participate, as a lodge, in a public ceremony, which brings Freemasonry to the public view and attention. Examples include: public cornerstone layings, public building dedications, etc. Past events that would count toward this item include: 2015 rededication of NC capitol building, 2016 Vance Memorial rededication, 2017 rededication of Raleigh Presbyterian Church, Halifax Day, Thomasville Memorial Day celebration.

To apply, submit an official application or write a letter of application listing the items your lodge chose to complete. Provide details about your lodge's performance on or plans for completing each selected item. Send your letter to Past Grand Master A. Gene Cobb, Jr. at the Grand Lodge office or by email to [gcobb@glnc.us](mailto:gcobb@glnc.us). Recipients will be notified by Aug. 1 and will be recognized during the Sept. 25-26 Annual Communication in Winston-Salem.



# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **SWANSBORO** – Seaside #429 welcomed brothers from nine lodges and Past Grand Master Speed Hallman at its annual scholarship dinner in September. A seafood feast was served and \$1,539 was raised for the Onslow County Masonic Scholarship fund. Since 1977, the six lodges in Onslow County (Lafayette #83, New River #736, Richlands #564, Seaside #429, Semper Fidelis #680, Stump Sound #733) each host a scholarship dinner each year. Brothers from the other lodges attend each dinner. Instead of charging for the meal, a collection for the scholarship fund is taken up at the end of the meeting. Hallman, right, shared a laugh with WB David Holland who was master of Seaside in 1958.



## NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



▲ **JACKSONVILLE** – Kevin Otis, administrator of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, was on hand in November to receive a \$1,000 check from the Sudan Shriners, presented as part of the Fall Ceremonial.



▲ **GRANDY** – The Currituck Classic Car Club chose the Masonic Home for Children as this year's recipient of proceeds from its annual car show at Grave Digger's Monster Truck facility in Grandy. Four boys from the Alumni Cottage and their house parents, as well as Kevin Otis and his wife Kevin were on hand for the show. The highlight for the MHCO visitors was taking a ride on Grave Digger's Monster Truck. More than 70 cars were entered. Best in show went to a 1930 Cadillac owned by Johnny Johnson. The event raised \$3,429.27 for MHCO.



◀ **FAYETTEVILLE** – National Sojourners North Carolina Chapter #97 filled the officer chairs of Phoenix #8 to confer the Fellow Craft Degree. The degree was done by candlelight and attended by more than 40 Masons from every lodge in the 17th Masonic District. Pictured from left, (front row) WB John Chandler, Troy Chandler, Josh Chandler, Herb Lynch, WB Michael Aycock, Michael Breitenfeld, Adam Courtney, Dylan Pugsley; (back row) WB Don Wooster, WB James Pugsley, WB Ken Wical.

**EDITORS NOTE:** The profile of Michael Verville in the September-October issue was written by John Prosseda.



## TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **WINSTON-SALEM** – Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound ... Well, the sound may not have been the sweetest, but the happy heart in the man twanging that old hymn was. You never know what you'll see at Annual Communication. One of the attractions was an old homemade "Band-Jo" made by brother WB Jack Thrower, former District 32 DDGM and member of Steele Creek #737 and James K. Polk #759. Why "Band-Jo?" Because it's made from an old piece of wood, some chopped-off finishing nails, and a tin Band-Aid box. Connect it with a tiny amplifier and twang the only string on it, and you have what he called "a poor man's banjo."



▲ **ELIZABETH CITY** – Eureka #317 raised about \$300 for the Masonic Home for Children and MESH LLC at a district-wide chili cookoff in October. Thirteen pots of chili were entered among three categories: classic, heat and exotic. Participants brought the heat and their appetites. Everyone was given four beans, which were used to cast votes for the best chili in each category. The winners were: Classic—with traditional ground beef chili, Candy Marriner; Heat—with Jalapeno Sausage and Ghost Pepper Chili, Corey Marriner; and Exotic—with Pork Tenderloin and Black Bean Chili, Barbara Roberts. Pictured from left with their trophies are Barbara Roberts, Corey Marriner and Candy Marriner.



◀ **OXFORD** – Seventh District DDGM Bobby Meadows, left, "made a splash" as he presents a \$500 check to Kevin Otis, administrator of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, on behalf of the district's lodges to help pay for the new MHCO Aquatic Center.

**OXFORD** – Cooking up some love ... George Raecher, Master of Goldsboro #634, and PM Bob Murphy, secretary, in October delivered a new cooker to the Home. ▶



## THE MIDDLE CHAMBER PROGRAM

Presented by The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education

**C**rafted for brothers searching for a deeper, more esoteric interpretation of our symbols and allegories. Each session – facilitated by "well-informed" brethren – utilizes a mixture of open discussion, self-study, and contemplative exercises to investigate the Mysteries of our Order.

The Middle Chamber Program provides North Carolina Masons an opportunity to explore the rituals and symbols of the Craft and improve themselves as men and Masons. Instructors are experienced Masons specially trained to assist each brother as he examines the Masonic rituals, himself, and his relationship with Deity.

Four sessions are offered and are progressive in nature – that is, you must have completed each of the previous sessions in order to continue to the next session.

### INTRODUCTION TO MASONIC ALLEGORIES AND SYMBOLS

- 9 a.m. Jan 4 Wilmington SR Temple
- Cary Lodge #198
- Charlotte YR Temple
- Nichols-W Asheville #650
- 1 p.m. Feb. 1 Greensboro Masonic Temple

### ENTERED APPRENTICE SESSION

- Feb. 29 Long Creek #205, Huntersville
- March 21 Relief #431, Benson

### FELLOW CRAFT SESSION

- May 15 Long Creek #205, Huntersville
- May 30 Relief #431, Benson

### MASTER MASON SESSION

- July 18 Long Creek #205, Huntersville
- July 25 Relief #431, Benson

*Each of the degree sessions will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (lunch on your own)*

**Cost:** Introductory Class is free to attend. The degree sessions require a one-time purchase of a \$150 Program Kit, which includes a personal journal and a variety of study materials.

For additional information visit [www.grandlodge-nc.org/education-resources](http://www.grandlodge-nc.org/education-resources) or contact the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education at [ncglcme@gmail.com](mailto:ncglcme@gmail.com) or (910) 572-7678.



# MILEPOSTS



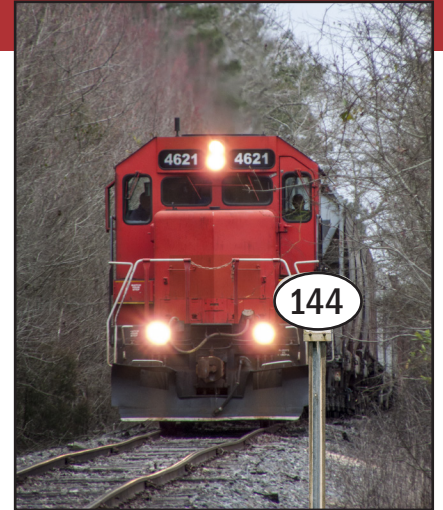
▲ **GREENSBORO** – Dozens of brothers and friends, including six members of Semper Fidelis #680, traveled to the Greensboro Masonic Center to honor Brother H. Lloyd Wilkerson on the occasion of his 100th birthday. General Wilkerson is a member and Past Master of Semper Fidelis. On hand, from left, were WB Stephen Smith, WB William Fitzpatrick KCCH, Brother Tom Wilkerson; WB Joe Reyes, Lloyd Wilkerson, Brother Howard Kahn and Brother Ron Sortino.

► **CHAPEL HILL** – Brother M.C. Russell has been named Mason of the Year by University #408. M.C., who currently serves as Junior Warden, was instrumental in the rehabilitation of the north wall of the lodge, which had endured severe water damage. Many photographs of past masters had been ruined; the paint was buckling and peeling. Russell coordinated contractors and oversaw work crews as they repainted the interior of the lodge; installed new lights; corrected exterior roof issues; and installed larger drainpipes below-ground. Damaged photographs of past masters were restored and hung back in place this month, after being down for more than a year. He also sat in the South for a First Degree and, as junior warden, coordinated fellowship dinners before every stated.



▲ **OXFORD** – A fund honoring longtime Masonic Home for Children Admissions Director Donald Sizemore was dedicated at a special Homecoming 2019 ceremony on campus. Brother Sizemore's family and friends gathered to remember their friend, who 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. He would work under seven superintendents before retiring in 2004. He passed away in 2016. A gift from this fund will annually be given to the greatest needs of the Home's children in the name and memory of Donald L. Sizemore. On hand for the dedication were, from left, MHCO Administrator Kevin Otis; Alumni Association President Charlene Matthews; Donald Sizemore Jr.; Cindy Farthing, one of Sizemore's daughters; and Past Grand Master Dan Rice, a graduate of the home.

► **CONOVER** – Grand Master Dwight "Mack" Sigmon, left, and Worshipful Brother Herman Lester Reeves, Master of Carthage #181, right, present a 70-year service award to the Rev. Brother Thornton Dixon Adams. Raised in September 1949, Adams is a retired Methodist minister who now lives in Conover. This presentation was made at his home, with his family members on hand. Brother Dixon was an active member of the Oasis Shriners Clown unit for many years. ►



**50** Congratulations  
**YEARS** to our 50-year  
members\*:

Ernest F Albritton, Griffon #243  
Edward Wayne Futrell, American  
George #17  
Kenneth R. Rouse, Griffon #243

\* As reported to The Mason

## GREENSBORO

Greensboro #76 honored local first responders and veterans at a special luncheon in October. Brothers served about 140 guests. Each year, the event has grown in popularity and meaning. This year, guests received small gift bags with coupons and discounts donated by local businesses, which also donated several gifts to raffle off. Each guest was giving a free raffle ticket and the chance to win gifts such as massages or meals at Triad businesses. Entertainment was provided by a local band, "Lost At Sea," one of whom is a brother of Old '76.



# Thoughts of milestones and mindsets

By Walt Clapp  
Grand Secretary

We all have important moments in life, like birthdays and wedding anniversaries. In Freemasonry we are taught to mark the passage of time – metaphorically upon a small gauge or ruler. That small gauge is there to remind us of our brief time here on earth and to use that time well. Personally, I am approaching just such an event.

On Dec. 2, my father, T. Walton Clapp, Jr., will celebrate his 50th year as a Mason, and I have every intention to celebrate this milestone with him. By the time this paper reaches your mailbox, the moment will have come and gone, but my anticipation and appreciation for that moment cannot be understated.

I petitioned Mystic Tie #237 in 1974 when my father was Master. I did not tell him I was petitioning and swore the men who signed my petition to secrecy. As the day approached, the Secretary informed dad there was a petition to read that night but did not tell him the name of the man petitioning.

As luck would have it, another man petitioned that night also, and as dad read down the list of lodge business he asked the secretary to read the petition. The secretary read the first petition, and dad assigned it a committee of investigation. As dad began to move on to the next order of business he was interrupted by the secretary. “Excuse me Worshipful, we have another petition.”

“Oh,” my father replied. “Go ahead and read it.”

The secretary pulled my petition out from under his desk blotter and began to read, “To the Masters, Wardens, and members of Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237: I, Theophilus Walton Clapp, III, being a free

man...” “What? Who was that?” My father interrupted the secretary. “Theophilus Walton Clapp,” he replied. “The Third.”

I was told my father stared at the secretary in disbelief as the members of the lodge began to laugh and chatter amongst themselves.

Dad, who served in World War

II aboard the USS Arkansas off the coast of Normandy during D-Day and dodged kamikazes while enroute to Japan when the bomb was dropped, was rarely flustered. But he recovered fast, then smirked at the secretary and bade him to finish reading.

I’m told dad stumbled over his parts the rest of the night. Afterward, dad brushed up his memory on every degree

and presided over my first, second, and third degrees and raised me a Master Mason.

So, why do we celebrate these milestones? Why do we measure time? The significance is not the actual event, but the people that make the event happen. That’s why my father’s milestone means so much.

Freemasonry is about relationships and shared experiences. We value our achievements because our brothers have helped us pass these milestones. Sometimes we walk by them. Sometimes we run. And, sometimes we’re carried.

Over the years, I’ve had many powerful experiences in Freemasonry. However, his upcoming milestone is so important to me. At age 45, dad was late coming into Freemasonry, so the probability of him ever receiving his 50-year award was slim.

He joined late because he was waiting for someone to invite him into membership. He did not and could not understand that since his father and grandfather were members why was he not asked to join. Of course, he did find out no

one would ask him, and that he had to do the asking.

My father means so much to me—as a father, a mentor, and friend. And, I’ve learned so much from the example he has set in each of those roles.

Three of his characteristics stand out in my mind as lessons that have changed my life. Like I said, Dad was rarely caught off guard, and when he was – like the night I petitioned the lodge (and he’ll be the first to tell you) – he learned something from the whole experience: You have to roll with the punches and seize the moment. Our reactions to events define who we are.

I’ve tried to remember that and exemplify his traits. At the end of any circumstance, you’re going to have a story. Recently, I received an email from a brother taking me to task and calling me a name. He did not appreciate what he considered an offhand comment I made during a serious piece of business. I made the comment because I always believe that laughter breaks the tension.

You have to move on. And, you can’t hold grudges. Dad was in the funeral business where you have to engage people who are angry and upset. They say things they don’t mean – or maybe they do mean them. But, taking it personally is not worth the time and effort to dwell on it.

Working in the Grand Lodge Office is no different. Doubtless, the Grand Lodge is blamed for most of the Craft’s problems. The Office is an easy target and the complaint usually lands on the Grand Secretary’s desk. I roll with it as best I can, but I’m much more concerned with my failure to help someone understand a situation than I am relieving their anger at me. It’s what we do as Masons – help people understand. Some people just understand better than others, and you just roll with it.

The last lesson my father taught me was to respect everyone, regardless of race, creed, or persuasion. In

particular, he taught me early to not lump people together because of the color of their skin.

One night, back in the early 1960s, Dad and several other funeral home employees were coming home late from a distant funeral. On their return they stopped at a restaurant to get supper. A gentleman named Roosevelt was traveling with Dad. Roosevelt dug graves for the funeral home, as well as many other unsavory jobs. He did them all without complaint and he did them well. Roosevelt was also a fine man who enjoyed life and enjoyed people. He happened to be black.

When they entered the restaurant, the person greeting them at the door said that he would seat the white men but Roosevelt would have to go around back to the kitchen door – only he didn’t call him Roosevelt. I remember Dad telling my Mom that they told the restaurant owner that if they all could not eat in the dining room, they would go elsewhere. The restaurant refused, and they all left. They all found their way to a grocery store, picked up something to eat, and broke bread together as humans.

Some will argue it was a different time and culture. But, as my dad pointed out, people were just as aware then as now that some people were treated differently because of their skin’s color, and they knew it was wrong then, just as much as it is now.

As I have aged and we – the Freemasons of this Grand Lodge – have fought the wars of recognition and race, I am continually reminded of this story, and I am so proud of my Dad for taking a stand for what is right.

Brethren, we’re all on this ride together. Our trips around the sun are limited. We have all been given the gift of friendship – you would not be a member of this fraternity if you hadn’t. What lessons have you learned? What milestones have you passed? Who have you carried? And, who has carried you? ♠



By Walt Clapp  
Grand Secretary



From the Grand Historian

# A story behind our own Bahnson Manual

By Ludwik Wodka  
Grand Historian

Every North Carolina Mason today is familiar with the small black *North Carolina Lodge Manual* which we refer to as the “Bahnson Manual.”

Contained in it are the monitorial selections from the ritual. It is designed to serve as a companion volume to our secret work as codified in the OSW. Though the Bahnson Manual was first published in 1893, records show that the Grand Lodge of North Carolina approved of several other Masonic monitors that were published during the 19th century.

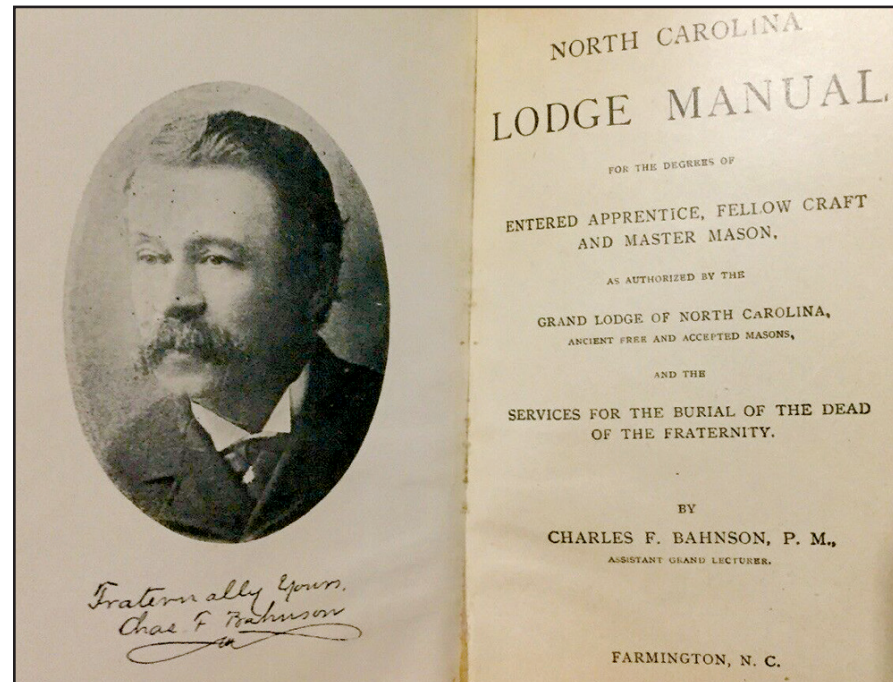
The first Masonic monitor in the United States was published in 1797 by Thomas Smith Webb, titled *The Freemason's Monitor*. His book consisted of selections drawn primarily from William Preston's lectures, published in England as *Illustrations of Masonry* in 1772, as well as from sundry other sources.

Not long after, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina took measures to prepare its own monitor. The proceedings of the Grand Lodge in 1803 report the following:

“Resolved, That Brother John C. Osborne, of St. John's Lodge, No. 3, Newbern, be requested to compile an edition of *Himan Rezon* (sic.), and submit the same to the inspection of the most worshipful Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Senior Warden, and the Grand Junior Warden, and if approved by any two of them, that he publish the same and furnish the Grand Lodge with 50 copies for which he shall be paid his reasonable charge.”

The *Ahiman Rezon and Masonic Ritual* was published in 1805 in New Bern, containing much of the common monitorial content of Webb's monitor, along with numerous songs, orations, public ceremonies, and other notes on Masonry in the state.

The book is rare, presumably from the small number of copies produced. It contains much longer and more elaborate monitorial



A copy of the North Carolina Monitor with Charles F. Bahnson's photo.

selections as well as addenda that were hitherto unknown in earlier exposés and monitors. Along with its high-level description of the degrees, it also includes the Grand Lodge Constitution, a digest of Masonic law and regulations, and other related miscellanea.

It even included the oration given at Richard Caswell's funeral in 1789. However, it seems this work was quietly abandoned and not mentioned again in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, nor is it referenced by any of the subsequent lecturers or custodians.

Several editions of Webb's Monitor were published in the early 1800s and the book enjoyed widespread popularity across the United States as the American Grand Lodges began to adopt the Webb ritual. In 1819, one of his pupils, Jeremy Ladd Cross, published the *True Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor*. This was one of the first to include the illustrations we have become so familiar with in our monitors and lecture presentations.

Following the first Baltimore Convention in 1843, a revised monitor was prepared by Charles Moore of Boston, titled *The Masonic Trestleboard*. This book, like others of its kind, attempted to collect the

various ritual passages that were not included in the secret work. The ritual workings and Masonic Trestleboard were reviewed and vetted by Benjamin Gleason, one of Webb's surviving pupils, confirming that the deliberations of the Baltimore Convention had indeed recovered the Webb work.

In 1852, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina proceedings reported, “many of the Grand Lodges have recommended and adopted the new Chart, by Brother Moore, of Boston; and as the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of this State has lately adopted it, we recommend that this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge do the same.” Other monito-

rial works were also recommended for use by the Grand Lodge, including Stewart's *Freemason Manual* (1851) and Leon Hyne-man's *Freemason Manual* (1852).

It is worth noting that each of these were recommended, not exclusively adopted, by the Grand Lodge. Many lodges continued to use Webb's *Freemason Monitor* and Jeremy Ladd Cross' *True Masonic Chart* as well. Most of these works republished the same passages, prayers, charges, and monitorial selections, although some introduced a few minor modifications.

In 1892, Grand Master Hezekiah Gudger appointed Charles F. Bahnson to prepare a lodge manual for North Carolina.

The majority of the book was adapted from the *Standard Masonic Monitor*, published by George Simons and Robert Macoy. The first edition of it appeared in 1878, but it was the 1891 edition that Bahnson appeared to use, for that was the one which contained the “Apron Lecture.”

Bahnson trimmed down much of the material, but included many of the same illustrations, songs, and prayers peculiar to the Simons *Monitor*. He also added some summaries of the beginning of each of the degrees, along with some brief comments at other points in the book.

The book he produced was formally adopted by the Grand Lodge in 1893 and has been in use ever since.  $\Delta$



Well-wishers and attendees of the Grand Lodge installation want to get a closer look at the Grand Master's new ring. Read more about it in the story on Page 1 of this edition of *The Mason*.

Photo by Michael Harding



# WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Carr, Jacob Morgan	3	St. John's	Rodriguez, Marcos Alfredo Colon	205	Long Creek	Ostrowski, Scott Matthew	374	Campbell	Meadows, Jeffrey Lynn	670	Lovelady
Harris, Timothy John	3	St. John's	Cook, Jackson Worley	207	Lebanon	Ackley, Ryan Travis	380	Granville	Britton, Robert Anthony	672	Robbinsville
Kenyon, Samuel Donald	3	St. John's	Spivey, Justin Lynn	207	Lebanon	Hargrove, William Douglas	387	Kedron	Rundell, Noah Brandon Johnson	680	Semper Fidelis
Hellen, Tony Jamil	31	Phalanx	Mullis, Jeffery Wilson	214	Thomasville	Ziegler, Ryan Michael	387	Kedron	Edmonds, Joseph Edgar	685	Piedmont-Pioneer
Johnson, Justin Daniel	59	Perseverance	Gallimore, Rodney Allen	214	Thomasville	Edwards, Tyson Lanier	388	Friendship	Addison II, Phillip Sherwood	686	Angier
Lugo Marrero, Jordan Jose	64	Kilwinning	McCrary, Jeffrey Len	214	Thomasville	Montes, Carlos Abiud	405	Ocean	Hood, Steven Wade	686	Angier
Chambliss, John David Patrick	83	Lafayette	Eatmon, Don Albert	229	Henderson	Van Burkleeo, William Ward	409	Bula	Hood, Timothy Mathew	686	Angier
Duncan, Sean Kristin	83	Lafayette	Dunham, Christopher Edward	231	William T. Bain	Moore, Jack David	427	Oconee	McBride, Justin Kyle	686	Angier
Wynn III, Gussie Wilson	84	Fellowship	Moore, Ross David	231	William T. Bain	Clark, Andrew Volony	429	Seaside	Godfrey, John Alexander	694	Gate City
Kondub, Bryan Nicholas	97	Millbrook	Abram, James Eric	258	Fuquay	Tupaj, Benjamin Landis	429	Seaside	Howard, Christopher Lynn	701	Garner
Ney, Patrick Allen	97	Millbrook	Hansel, Jay Alan	258	Fuquay	Shoaf, Tyson James	446	Biltmore	Bumgarner, Robert Allen	709	Conover
Baysden, Jeffery Ryan	109	Franklin	White, Mikel Aren	258	Fuquay	Shannon, Edward Allen	473	Lexington Memorial	Goans, Eric Nathan	709	Conover
Dearing, Randall Gray	109	Franklin	Tate, James Caleb	259	Waynesville	Morrow, Mark Edmond	479	Rainbow	Smith, John Christopher	727	Shalotte
Russell, Jordan Paul	118	Mt. Hermon	Allen, Ronda Lee	262	Hibriten	Ortman, Kyle Keith	492	Lawndale	Todd, Christopher Dean	727	Shalotte
Caudill, Steven Darryl	128	Hanks	Everett, Chad Frederick	262	Hibriten	Kucewsky, Justin Riley	496	Thomas M. Holt	Simpson, Jordan Alexander	733	Stump Sound
Allred, Waylon Lynn	128	Hanks	Calo, Timothy Wayne	263	Gaston	Sain, Brady Ronald	502	Mooreville	Adams, Romulus Marion	737	Steele Creek
Phillips, Charles Henry	132	Radiance	Baggs, Samuel Turner	271	Tabasco	Saine, Andrew Paul	502	Cookville	Cofani, Fernando	737	Steele Creek
Cooke, Paul Davis	136	Leaksville	Rogers, Clint Joshua	301	Clay	Garrison, Jeffrey Holmes	521	Cookville	Files, Matthew Joseph	739	Newell
Nichols, Douglas Warren	136	Leaksville	Stiles, Zachary Quinn	301	Clay	Stanley, Stephen Cole	563	Manteo	Norman, John Alexander	744	Shelby
Webb, Kevin Lee	136	Leaksville	Kelly, Stephen Chalmers	302	Lillington	Taylor, John Joseph	564	Tabor	Powell, Jeremy Vance	750	Oak Grove
Gates, Brent Matthew	137	Lincoln	Pollard, William Jacob	304	Pleasant Hill	Anthony, Steven Chase	590	Richlands	Eagle, Winston Hayes	755	Clemmons
Linn, David	145	Junaluskee	Simpson, Joshua Travis	314	New Lebanon	Lewis, Richard Scott	613	Lowell	Hayes Jr, Charles Raymond	755	Clemmons
Hogsed, Eric Benjamin	146	Cherokee	Watterson, Eric Sean	322	Granite	Morton, Jason Scott	613	Home	LeClaire, Evan Garrett	755	Clemmons
Grubbs, Billy Lane	190	Chadborn	Williams, Anthony Ray	343	Hickory	Roberts, Colby Ronald	616	Home	Keller, Bobby Gene	759	James K. Polk
Turbeville, Jerry Scott	190	Chadborn	Graver, Corey Michael	344	Numa F. Reid	Goodman, Jeremy Fila	626	Round Peak	Honeycutt II, Robert Lee	767	Sophia
Watts, Adam Christopher	190	Chadborn	Buchanan, Jerry	357	Bakersville	Lewis, Nathan Wayne	634	Cannon Memorial			
Smart, Dakotah Shane	202	Cleveland	Martens, John Edward	369	Gastonia	McRary, Niles Lee	670	Goldsboro			
Byrum, Travis Britton	205	Long Creek	DuTremble, Craig Thomas	374	Campbell			Lovelady			

## Masonic communications receive national honors

The *North Carolina Mason*, the new North Carolina Masonic Foundation web site and the NCMF video 'Keep the Promise' have won honors in a national contest that judges non-profit creative content and design.

The awards are administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, which represents several thousand creative professionals around the world. AMCP oversees the awards and recognition programs, provides judges and rewards outstanding achievement and service to the profession.

Taking "gold" honors were the new NCMF web site – [www.mfnc.org](http://www.mfnc.org) – and the "Keep the Promise" video released at Annual Communication. The web site was created by the NCMF staff and the talented team at E-Dreamz. The video was created by the NCMF team and Open Eye Creative, a video team specializing in non-



profit messages, of Raleigh.


Special thanks to the folks at the Masonic Home for Children and WhiteStone for their help and support of this special project.

*The Mason*, which comes out every other month, took an honorary mention this year. *The Mason* is produced by Editor Beth Grace and our designer, Brother John Pea of Gastonia.


This is the second year our Masonic communications have taken awards in this contest. Last year, the *NC Mason* and our special "G" poster won special recognition.

## PASSAGES

### DILLON

Cutler Scott Dillon, Worthy Grand Patron of the North Carolina Order of the Eastern Star, passed away in October. He was 62. Born in Cabell County, WV, he was the son of the late Albert and Opal Beatrice Dent Dillon. Cutler was a member of Laurel Haven Baptist Church in Morganton. He was a field service supervisor for 19 years at Recore Electric in the RCT division in Gastonia. Cutler was a Master Mason and Past Master for Fallston #356 and Buena Vista #60 in West Virginia, where he was the youngest master at that time. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite and received his 33rd degree in 2007. In the Scottish Rite, he served as a degree Master; assistant director of work; and assistant director of sound. He was a member of the Gastonia Commandery #28 Knights Templar York Rite. Cutler was a member of the Fallston Eastern Star #282. Cutler's motto was, "believe in God, believe in family and believe in the Eastern Star". Surviving are: his wife of 22 years, Gayle McCracken Dillon; five sons; two daughters; 15 grandchildren; two great grandchildren; a loving nieces and nephews; and his beloved parrot, Roy. 

### WILSON

WM David "Dave" Bryan Wilson, member of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation Board of Directors for 35 years, passed away in October. He was 84. Masonic graveside rites were performed by brothers of Jefferson Penn #384. Dave was a member of Jefferson Penn and Oak Island #758 and other Masonic bodies. He was born in Guilford County to the late Thomas Bryan and Agatha Wilson. He graduated from Stokesdale High School and Oak Ridge Military Institute, and continued his education at Guilford College. As a practicing CPA for more than 50 years, much of that time dedicated to his own practice in Reidsville, AICPA and NCACPA awarded him with life memberships. He was a charter member at Faith Christian Church. He served in the US Army and was recalled by President Kennedy in 1961 to serve again at the time of the Berlin Crisis. Surviving are: his wife of 60 years, Camille Stone Wilson; two children; two grandchildren, many other relatives and his constant canine companion Dora Fayssoux. In lieu of flowers the family requests that contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. 





page 3

Years of service yield  
Montfort Awards for 2



page 6

Even bears wanted  
to be at this party!



page 14

The man behind one of  
our best-known books

*On the cover*

Read all about this one-of-a-kind ring presented to our new Grand Master during his installation ceremony. See Page 1.  
Photo by Michael Harding

**The North Carolina Mason**  
The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF&AM  
600 College Street  
Oxford, North Carolina 27565

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
AUTO  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
OXFORD, NC 27565  
PERMIT NO. 56

NORTH CAROLINA  
**THE MASON**  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

