

NORTH CAROLINA

LATE SUMMER 2023

THE MASON



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

July 1961
Six Days
FARRELL
Promotion
Six days of labor are no longer reserved for a living. Conditions have changed since the original dictum, and we are seeing that a reduced work schedule can mean more time for contemplation, more opportunity for cultivation, more opportunity for service to God and man, and for service to the human race will work out its destiny. We cannot revert to old patterns just because they are traditional. We are reasoning creatures and turn naturally to improved processes.
Let us keep an eye open to the future. The power of reason and the ability to construct were given to us so we might build a lofty tower to the skies, unlocking one secret of the universe after another, catching a deeper understanding of the Eternal now and our place in the grand scheme of things. We are to continue as skilled craftsmen. It is a mark of wisdom to be able to cope with a situation. Let us continue to give attention to both industry and ship.

The Orphans' Friend and Masonic Journal

ORGAN OF THE OXFORD ORPHANAGE

VOL. LXXXVI, NO. 14
Oxford, N. C., July 15, 1961
ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

Alumni Homecoming, Aug. 5 & 6

Thank God For Orphanages

By BEATRICE HARRIS COOPER
(Member Class of 1936)

Dedicated to a Mother who so bravely gave up her daughter at the tender age of two years, to the Staff at Oxford Orphanage who did the very best they could for her, and to the Masons of North Carolina who made it all possible.

(In 1922, at the age of two and four months...)

Excelsior Lodge 261

Honorary Call

Please remember that the date of the Annual Homecoming of the Oxford Orphanage Alumni Association has been changed to Saturday and Sunday, August 5th and 6th, 1961. The change was unanimously agreed upon at the meeting held on July 10th, 1961.

MASONRY STANDS FIRM

(National Observer)
There is a nation intact today that had not since the time of the building of King Solomon's Temple? Not hundreds have risen to power and fallen through the confounding of their... they brought upon...

Page Two

ORPHANAGE HOMECOMING SCENES



Oxford Orphanage Alumni Centennial Homecoming

(Continued From Page One)
Mrs. Gray, and Acting Orphanage Administrator Henry Flowers. Following lunch on the grounds in the chapel basement, there was shown in the staff, the Oxford Shrine Club held its annual fish fry, and there was tea for the annual dance in the gym.
On the final day, Sunday, there was a variety show and this was followed by singing in the chapel and this was followed by a sermon. The annual alumni business meeting was held and, after lunch on the biggest homecoming of all time break up as the hundreds of alumni their many ways homeward.
During lunch on Saturday 600 and 750 were on hand for Sunday.

BOOKS AVAIL

OXFORD—For their annual this Centennial Year the Alumni Association committee A. Ligon to prepare a picture book, covering the Orphanage, Alumni cooperation. Alumni... making, several... one hundred...



BASKETRY AND MANUAL ARTS



11TH ANNUAL MASONIC HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

MHCO Races Into NASCAR Sponsorship

The Boys of Summer: Pro Baseball Players from Numa Reid Lodge #344



Let's lend a hand to our brothers and sisters.

2022 was a wonderful year for WhiteStone and this year is shaping up to be even better. We're thankful for what's ahead – including our community expansion and the ability to invite more brothers and sisters to live here.

The 'We' at WhiteStone

WhiteStone is a Life Plan Community in Greensboro, North Carolina, founded in 1912 as a Masonic and Eastern Star senior living community. With our cherished history still very much a part of our mission and daily lifestyle, we work to make a worry-free retirement accessible for all Masons, Eastern Stars, and their families in many ways.

The Mason Experience

To our brothers and sisters seeking a well-rounded senior living community, we're here for you. We've created an environment that fosters friendships and

Visit liveatwhitestone.org/expansion to learn more.



wellness, with exceptional services, amenities, and levels of care. We're also expanding to allow more of our brothers and sisters to call WhiteStone home.

Aging Made Easy With the Fraternal Friendship Program

The Fraternal Friendship program, founded in 2016, helps qualified Masons and Eastern Star Members age in place in their own homes or move to WhiteStone. It does so by providing assistance with:

- Covering the costs of WhiteStone's entrance fees and room and board
- Providing outreach assistance
- Supplying funding for home improvements, such as ramps, to aid mobility
- Offering case management and health care navigation services
- Providing short- or long-term emergency assistance with utility bills, mortgage, rent and basic needs
- Helping them access benefits through Medicare, the VA and Medicaid

For qualified members, their spouses, and close relatives who are at least 60 years old.

Donate To Make a Difference

In 2022, WhiteStone administered just under one million dollars of charitable care through the Fraternal Friendship program, thanks to the MESH LLC Foundation. Donations make a huge difference in the futures of our brothers and sisters. Help ease the burden of rent, utilities, medical expenses, home repairs, and additional costs with a donation to the Fraternal Friendship program today.

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LATE SUMMER 2023

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ON THE COVER: Our 11th Annual Masonic Homecoming Festival is set for October 13–15, 2023 at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. See article on page 21.

Annual Communication 2023

Building a More Education-Centered Experience

This year's Annual Communication will feel a bit different. After last year's information panels, we received tons of positive feedback about the leveled-up experience many of you had and how it brought more value to your experience that you could take home to your lodges. This year, we wanted to take that experience even further.

Directed by Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760, this year's Educational Symposium sessions will cover a variety of topics meaningful to officers and members alike. The Annual Communication Convention will take place entirely on the lower level of the Benton Convention Center in downtown Winston-Salem from Thursday, September 28, through Saturday, September 30. Thursday's symposium is entirely optional for members; however, all eight sessions are open to all delegates and Master Masons. Lunch that day will be provided by the NC Masonic Foundation.

The Symposium, Vendors Room, Registration, and the Annual Communication will all be located on the lower level of the Benton Convention Center. There will be no events in the Embassy Hotel or at the Grand Pavilion.

All delegates and Master Masons attending must sign up on their Grand View portal online by visiting **nc.grandview.systems** and clicking on the purple "2023 Annual Communication" tile. Hotel reservations in the Grand Lodge block of rooms at the Marriott or the Embassy can be made directly through the links located on the Annual Communication portal. Please register on the portal prior to September 20. Registrations will not be processed after that date, so please do not wait to sign up!



SCAN THE QR CODE
*to the left to log in to
Grand View to sign up for
Annual Communication
and its events today!*

EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

- ***History of NC Masonry***
Presented by WB Steven Campbell,
Grand Historian
- ***Lodge Administration 101***
Presented by RW Jonathan Underwood,
Grand Secretary
- ***The Power of Ritual***
Presented by WB Don Barrier
- ***Purpose of Masonic Education***
Presented by WB Noah Goode, Chairman,
Education Committee
- ***History of Initiatic Rites***
Presented by WB Ben Sorenson
- ***Positive Lodge Leadership***
Presented by WB Ken Wical
- ***The Middle Chamber Experience***
Presented by RW Shaun Bradshaw, PGM,
and WB Ben Wallace
- ***Grand View and the Future
of Lodge Administration***
Presented by Grand Lodge Office Staff

Synopses of amendments to be voted on at the Annual Communication

AMENDMENT GROUP 1

This amendment modernizes the publication and distribution of the Annual Proceedings, resulting in significant financial savings while making them more easily available.

AMENDMENT GROUP 2

This amendment clarifies the modern duties of the lodge secretary by making full use of widely used electronic tools and codifying common practice.

AMENDMENT GROUP 3

This amendment raises the per capita from \$25 to \$35 to manage the significant rise in inflation since 2019 (approx. 19.3 percent), the reduction in total membership, and growth in the number of 50-year members not paying per capita.

AMENDMENT GROUP 4

This amendment reapportions the amount of the initiation fee to be applied to the General Fund to better account for the true costs of processing a petition for membership, and in light of the previous adoption of a budgeted per capita donation given to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The total amount of the fee remains unchanged.

AMENDMENT GROUP 5

This amendment clarifies that Freemasonry brings together men of different races, colors, creeds, and opinions to unite in the objectives of our Craft as defined in our Preamble.

AMENDMENT GROUP 6

This amendment modernizes the work of the Board of Publications and the Committee on Masonic Public Relations to reflect current and best practices.

For a full description of the amendments, please log into your Grand View portal, click the Annual Communication tile, and scroll to the bottom.



Kevan D. Frazier, Grand Master

Do We Need a Grand Lodge?

Yesterday afternoon I stopped by Chick-Fil-A for lunch. I ordered the Number One Combo: an original chicken sandwich, fries, and a tea. It cost me \$9.26. Roughly the same amount (\$10) that the Finance Committee has asked to increase our state membership dues this year, moving it from \$25 to \$35.

Several things are driving the request. First, to no one's surprise, inflation. Inflation has increased 19.3 percent since our last dues increase in 2019. Second, we have lost 5,831 members to death or failure to pay dues (NPD) since 2019. Fortunately, we have one of the lowest NPD rates in the country. Our brothers pay their dues. Most of our cumulative loss has been to the passing of dear brothers. Third, Masons live long lives. Thank goodness! We began 2023 with 4,200 members with 50 years or more of service and will have added 488 to these ranks by the end of the year. In 2024 we will add another 444. This is important because we do not charge state dues to members who have been in the Craft more than 50 years. This has a \$133,432 impact on the operating budget. I'm glad to honor brothers this way, but I do so knowing that nearly \$5.37 of my dues goes to cover these brothers.

This year I asked the Finance Committee to start from \$0 and look closely at every item in the budget. The truth is we run a tight ship. We don't have a lavish budget. We have a nice Grand Lodge building, but it is not luxurious. We have four full-time staff members, a part-time staff member and a couple of part-time hourly contractors who help with events, IT, and housekeeping. Staff-wise, we are at the same level or smaller than equal-sized jurisdictions. Our team are paid reasonable wages, and as any brother who has worked with the team will tell you, they do really great work. From their deep dive, the Finance Committee is also recommending that we shift more of the cost of the NC Mason publication from the North Carolina Masonic Foundation back to the Grand Lodge budget. This aligns with the call to all lodges to pay their bills from their dues and free up more money for philanthropy. There is also a new

By our lodges banding together to form a Grand Lodge, we also work collectively for the common good of all of our lodges.

line item for part-time contract work to help with membership including the database, social media, and the web. This is so that Grand Lodge can do more to help lodges interest men into knocking on the door of Freemasonry. I think it is a budget that balances the needs of the jurisdiction, fluctuating membership numbers, and inflation, and yet still sets us up to THRIVE and not just survive.

So, if we are smaller than we were in 2019, shouldn't it cost less to operate Freemasonry in North Carolina since there are fewer members? The cost of operating the Grand Lodge of North Carolina is related more to the number of lodges than it is to the number of members. On average it costs about \$2,000 annually to support each lodge, and while we have had a few mergers, we have 359 lodges, and we have more than 30,000 members. We are not a small organization. More importantly, we do not want to set ourselves up to simply be caretakers as we wait for Masonry to fold. Again, let's THRIVE and not just survive.

Do we need a Grand Lodge? Let's be honest, you expect the Grand Master to answer yes to this question, and yes is indeed my answer, but I didn't get there by default. I've been giving this a great deal of thought over the past couple of weeks. At work I'm known to say that sacred cows can make the best burgers. With no disrespect intended, it's a brash way to say that just because we've always done it

that way doesn't mean we need to continue to do so. Could Freemasonry in North Carolina survive without a Grand Lodge? Yes, but I think for only a Masonic generation, maybe two. While each of us relates most to our local lodge, Freemasonry is a global organization. When we initiate a candidate, we are giving him membership and access to thousands of lodges in the United States and around the world. If we just separated into 359 local lodges, each would survive only as long as it had good and steady leadership, but because they were no longer associated with a Grand Lodge, each would be considered clandestine. Just as our lodges determine who can become a Mason, a Grand Lodge determines which lodges can make Masons. No more than we want some random guy claiming he is a Mason, we don't want random groups claiming they are lodges. The global system of Grand Lodges prevents that from happening.

By our lodges banding together to form a Grand Lodge, we also work collectively for the common good of all of our lodges. For many years a friend of mine was the brand manager for a major restaurant chain. She traveled the country to make sure that each franchise upheld the brand standards and used the resources of the parent company to support the local restaurants through marketing, social media, group buying, etc. In relationship to our work, the Board of Custodians ensures that the ritual is maintained and adhered to. The Judge Advocate's

office helps lodges to deal with legal issues with brothers like helping a lodge remove a man when he's been convicted of murder. We file a collective tax return which not only saves lodges the cost of filing (\$500-\$1,000/year), but also exempts lodges paying federal and state taxes, not only on their dues revenue but in NC the Grand Lodge and its subordinate lodges do not pay property tax. Moving forward, your Grand Lodge is working to expand and deepen leadership programs to help newer Masons, many of whom are now often becoming elected leaders in their lodges within a handful of years of being raised.

When the United Grand Lodge of England formed in 1717, Speculative Masonry had been around, but the lack of continuity and agreement across lodges had weakened Masonry and there was legitimate concern that its days were numbered. All of our lodges coming together as a Grand Lodge makes each individual lodge stronger. Grand Lodge is not some entity of its own. It is its member lodges. Just like members make up a local lodge, local lodges make up the Grand Lodge.

"But Grand Master, what I am going to get for my \$10?" Your \$10 would not only help your Grand Lodge manage inflation and membership fluctuations, and continue the good work it has been doing for its member lodges for decades, but would also provide the resources needed to continue to keep the *NC Mason* a stellar and free publication (members used to be charged for the *NC Mason*) and provide resources to cultivate membership. We don't recruit, because we want men to come of their own free will and accord, but we certainly need to do the work to make sure other men are aware of Masonry and know that there's even a door to

knock on. My home lodge will likely increase local dues this year, and if the delegates at Grand Lodge increase our state dues, my total dues will still only be about 55 cents a day, with the state dues increase accounting for only about 2.7 cents. Keeping and strengthening Masonry is worth the price of a Chick-Fil-A Number One Combo to me.

Brothers, I'm as tight with a dollar as anyone you will ever meet and have no interest in Masonry costing any more that it needs to be a strong organization. I think our brothers on the Finance Committee have done really good work for us and are only asking for what is necessary. Please review the budget and the Finance Committee's request for a dues increase. If you have questions, send an email to grandmaster@glnc.us, and I'll get the right brother to follow up with you. When I conclude my service as Grand Master at the end of the year, I want to know that we did everything we could to strengthen Masonry in North Carolina so that it will THRIVE and not just survive.



On June 22, the Grand Master made a 75-year presentation at Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 573 to WB Edwin Ralph Church. Also pictured are WB Church's daughter, Teresa Bynum, and his son, WB Dwight E. Church, Past DDGM of the 33rd District. The 75-year Mason award is awarded to a handful of brothers each year. In addition to WB Church, the following members will be awarded this high honor this year: Meredith Craig (Newell 739), Richard Morgan (Vance 293), Thomas Mann (Phalanx 31), and Warren Mathis, Jr. (Snow 363). Left to right: GM Kevan Frazier, Teresa Bynum, WB Edwin Ralph Church, WB Dwight Church, Mack Sigmon, PGM.

Never Forget: Brother Burton's Humble Beginnings

Brother Isaac Burton was born in an orphanage in San Jose, Costa Rica, but was brought to America by his adoptive parents in Virginia. He never forgot his humble beginnings, and his passion to help children never waned. In the process of becoming an Eagle Scout during 2013, Burton raised money for shoes and baby formula for the orphanage where he lived in his youth.

In 2019, Brother Burton noticed the square and compasses for the first time, displayed on the car of a good friend. His questions about the Masonic lodge were answered in 2020 when he was initiated, passed and raised by a lodge in his home state of Virginia.

Later that year, he moved to Charlotte, NC and joined Charles M. Setzer No. 693. It was there that he first heard about the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford (MHCO). Upon meeting Yancey Otero of MHCO and getting a tour of the campus, Burton knew at once he had found a calling. He told MHCO administrator Kevin Otis that he wanted to get involved.

“The MHCO is a wonderful place, and if I had not been adopted by my parents and was still in Costa Rica, it’s more than likely I never would have had the opportunity to be a Mason and to become more active with the MHCO and other orphanages around the state, or even the country,” Burton said.

He said, “In Costa Rica, things are so different due to poverty and the orphanage I stayed in did not have the same opportunities or a program like the MHCO.” Burton noted that since the COVID-19

pandemic began in 2020, the orphanage in Costa Rica is lacking in supplies like shoes and baby formula.

Brother Burton wants more friends, Masons and government leaders to realize that it is never too late to help at-risk youth and orphans. He’s grateful for the parents who instilled in him morals and the need to help others who are less fortunate. His first-hand experience in Costa Rica and recognition of its need for even the most basic materials, combined with the first-class facilities offered by MHCO, keep him filled with a drive to help.

“The MHCO is a wonderful place, and if I had not been adopted by my parents and was still in Costa Rica, it’s more than likely I never would have had the opportunity to be a Mason and to become more active with the MHCO and other orphanages around the state, or even the country.”

– Bro. Isaac Burton

“I know there are still children in Costa Rica who have likely been moved out of the orphanage due to the age requirements, and may now be homeless or at risk,” he said. “I hope not, but that is why awareness is so important. I owe so much to my parents who raised me, and realize that it is now my passion to do all I can for at-risk youth and orphans.”



MHCO Races Into NASCAR Sponsorship

150th Anniversary Car Presented by Hunt and Moore Families

Once upon a time in North Carolina, there were two remarkable men named Marty Hunt and Jimmy Moore. They were business competitors but also close friends and dedicated Masons. Their bond extended beyond their shared love for motorcycles and fast cars. Both men possessed a deep desire to make a positive impact on the lives of children at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford (MHCO).

Marty Hunt, known for his humble nature, preferred to work behind the scenes, quietly contributing to causes close to his heart. Jimmy Moore shared the same sentiment, always preferring to do good without seeking recognition. Together, they hatched a plan to support the MHCO during its momentous 150th anniversary.

On May 17, a significant gift was set to be unveiled by Jimmy Moore and his wife, Beverly, alongside Bonnie Hunt, Marty's beloved widow. This gift not only aimed to raise funds for the home's anniversary but also to raise awareness about the safe haven it provided for children in need of hope, support, and love.

The centerpiece of their generous donation was the NASCAR Xfinity Series #51 car, driven by the skilled Jeremy Clements. The car was magnificently adorned with the MHCO anniversary logo, displaying it proudly on the hood, deck lid, and even on Jeremy's firesuit and helmet. The intention was to draw attention to the MHCO as the car raced at the Charlotte Motor Speedway on May 29.

To further bolster their philanthropic endeavor, various race-related items associated with the car, including the hood, deck lid, fire suit, and a replica helmet, were set to go to auction. Additionally, a limited production of commemorative wine, graciously supported by Gregory Farms of Currie, NC, featured the MHCO anniversary logo and its heartfelt story on the label. These special items would contribute to the overall fundraising effort for the home.

What had initially started as a creative idea between two friends to support the MHCO during its milestone anniversary had also become a poignant memorial to Worshipful Brother Marty Hunt. Marty had been cherished and revered by his fellow brothers at Ashlar #765 and Wilmington #319, as well as by Masons across the state.

Bonnie emphasized that for her late husband, living his Masonry was everything. Marty didn't seek recognition or accolades;

What had initially started as a creative idea between two friends to support the MHCO during its milestone anniversary had also become a poignant memorial to Worshipful Brother Marty Hunt.

he merely wanted to shine a light on the children's home. His actions were driven by the belief that as Masons, it was their duty to do what needed to be done.

Jimmy Moore wholeheartedly agreed with Bonnie, reflecting on their deep bond as brothers within Freemasonry. He explained that they initially became Masons together, following in Marty's footsteps. As they delved deeper into their Masonic journey, their friendship transformed into an unbreakable brotherhood. Masonry had become a significant



part of their lives, beyond just a place to spend time together.

Bonnie Hunt and Beverly Moore also developed a strong friendship over the years. The four of them shared incredible adventures, traveling the world and cultivating a shared passion for racing. It was through their love of motorsports that the idea of sponsoring a race car emerged – a way to raise awareness for the MHCO during its significant anniversary.

For 150 years, the home has provided care and support to thousands of children, thanks to the Craft and surrounding communities. Although the Hunts and the Moores preferred to give from behind the scenes, they hoped that their fellow Masonic brothers and all compassionate individuals would take the time to consider how they could contribute. The Hunts and the Moores encourage other brothers and families of the Craft to make a meaningful gift. If you would like to make a signature or planned gift in sustaining the strength and security of the MHCO please contact *Chris Richardson* at CRichardson@mfnc.org or by phone at 919-690-5996.



The Boys of Summer: Pro Baseball Players from Numa Reid Lodge #344

By Thomas Pope

Every Masonic lodge is a collective of men of various backgrounds: Doctors, farmers, auto mechanics, bankers, insurance agents, car salesmen, retired military, cable installers, and on and on.



The membership roll of Numa F. Reid #344 in High Point includes a vocation not found in most lodges: Men whose lives included stints as professional baseball players. Not one, but four. Gil English, George Erath, Ray Hayworth and Billy Smith weren't stars like their contemporaries, but they still enjoyed the experience of performing for crowds across the country and got paid doing what they loved.

BILLY SMITH is the only one who's still living. Born in High Point, he was initiated, passed and raised in Boise (Idaho) No. 2 in 1963, and four years later transferred his membership to Numa Reid.

Now 93, he has been a Mason for 60 years.

Smith never made it to the majors as a player despite having a lifetime batting average in the minors of .312. The former N.C. State player was scouted and recruited by Bro. English, and played in the Boston/Milwaukee farm system for the better part of a decade. As a player/manager

from 1958-60, his Boise Braves won a pair of championships, and in the year they didn't, Smith he led the Class C Pioneer League with a .390 batting average.

From 1961-66, Smith was a scout for the Braves, then held the same role for Houston from 1967-

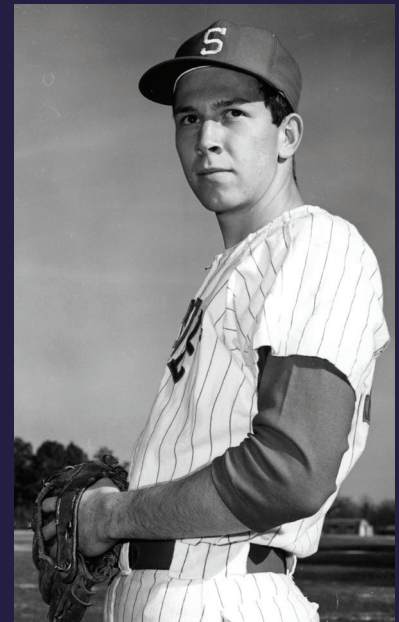


Image courtesy NC State University

79. That led to a 1980 post as Director of Player Development for the Toronto Blue Jays. He retired from baseball in 1988 after spending five seasons as a coach under Blue Jays managers Bobby Cox and Jimmy Williams.

GIL ENGLISH spent 44 years as a member of Numa Reid, having been raised in 1952 and serving as Worshipful Master in 1966. He also served three years as the Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge

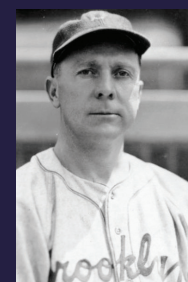
English was born in nearby Trinity, attended high school in California, and spent six seasons in the majors. English played third base, shortstop and second, and he had a .245 batting average over his career with the New York Giants, Detroit Tigers, Boston Bees – a short-lived name change for the Braves – and Brooklyn Dodgers. He died Aug. 31, 1996, in Trinity.

GEORGE ERATH had been a Master Mason in good standing for 45 years when he passed away Nov. 7, 2003. Minor-league baseball brought him from Chicago to Lumberton, N.C., to pitch for a Class D Cubs farm club, and he was later a scout for the Boston Braves. In 1949, in a game in Missouri, his streak of 22 scoreless innings was snapped when he surrendered a home run to a 17-year-old Mickey Mantle, whose blast soared over the lights illuminating the field. In 1956, as the General Manager of the High Point Thomasville Hi-Toms of the Carolina League, his roster included a young Curt Flood.

Erath's more notable contribution was service to the High Point community. After selling wood veneer to the many furniture companies in the Triad and elsewhere, he started his own company in the same field. He was a significant donor and fundraiser for High Point University, and he served on HPU's Board of Trustees, including a stint as its

chairman. In 2002, he was named the Philanthropist of the Year by the High Point Community Foundation, and in 2007 earned the posthumous honor of having the baseball complex at HPU named after him: George Erath Field at Willard Stadium.

RAY HAYWORTH, who was born in High Point in 1904, took all three Masonic degrees in a two-week span in 1931 at McDaniel No. 86 in Christiansburg, Va. He became a member of his hometown lodge Jan. 7, 1969.



At age 22, Hayworth made his MLB debut June 27, 1926, as a catcher for Detroit. He spent the next two seasons back in the minors, but returned to "The Show" in 1929 and spent much of the next 15 years there. He helped the Tigers win the American League championship in 1934 by batting .293 in 54 games, and he played in the World Series against St. Louis. A year later, Hayworth was on the roster when the Tigers beat the Chicago Cubs in the World Series.

During his career, Hayworth played for managers such as Ty Cobb, Casey Stengel and Leo Durocher. At one point, he held an American League record for catchers by handling 438 consecutive chances without an error, a mark broken by Yogi Berra

Hayworth was 41 years old when he played his final MLB game on June 18, 1945. He managed in the minor leagues, and was a coach with the Cubs and the Brooklyn Dodgers. He served as the scouting director for the Cubs and Milwaukee, and also worked with Montreal and the Atlanta Braves. Among the players he scouted for the Cubs was Ernie Banks. Hayworth was employed in professional baseball for nearly 50 years, and at the time of his death in 2002 at age 98, he was the oldest living MLB player.

The Value of Masonry

By Jonathan Underwood, Grand Secretary



This past July 21 several citizens of my home county – Stanly – gathered to celebrate the 242nd anniversary of the Battle of Colson’s Mill. The Battle of Colson’s Mill is barely considered a footnote in most

histories of the American Revolution. The battle, if it can be considered that, lasted for about an hour and began when Patriot Col. William Lee Davidson led a charge across the fields of John Colson near the mill that bore his name in pursuit of a band of Loyalists en route to Cheraw to join up with General Cornwallis’ forces. Though Col. Davidson was wounded, his men knew their orders and chased the Loyalists into the forest and across the Rocky River. According to most accounts, “some were killed, some were captured, but most, knowing the country disappeared into the woods.”

The battle may have been small by national accounts of the American Revolution, but for those of us whose ancestors fought in the skirmish south of Norwood in the forks of the Pee Dee and Rocky Rivers, the deeds of that day are important and define our community. For all the conflict and war raging around what’s now Stanly County – at Charleston, at King’s Mountain, at Hillsborough, or Greensboro – the people of the upper Pee Dee River Valley rose up to make a stand for what they believed. And that victory, small as it was, likely broke the Loyalist resistance in the North Carolina backcountry.

But, there’s a twist to this tale, a thread of fact borne by local tradition. As the Loyalists retreated, their “captain” was killed by Patriot forces. His identity is not confirmed, but what stands out in this story is substantive, particularly for Freemasons

According to the late J.P. Lowder, “In the battle... a good many soldiers on both sides were killed. The soldiers were buried... on a hill just about where the battle was fought. Among the soldiers buried was a young [Loyalist] officer who was given a Masonic funeral. At the head of his grave was placed a rock upon which was rudely carved a square and compass.”

The potency of that memory is remarkable. For nearly 250 years the people of a rural North Carolina community have recalled the battle fought on their land – of the brotherly love shone to those who might have otherwise remained at a perpetual distance – literal enemies. Think of the men who chose to honor a brother, but political enemy. Think of the non-Masons on the field who witnessed this act of kindness. The impact of that act has affected a community for more two and half centuries.

What is the value of Masonry? Masonry is the ability to look past the differences of others and recognize the value in each human being. Masonry is love.

Brethren, the world is a conflicted place. Politics divide us. Paranoia and skepticism drive us apart. Yet, we know better – because we’re Freemasons. We’re taught we all the children of God and that we all have a responsibility to each other. How we illustrate, share, and convey that love to our communities and the world is the basis of Masonic value.



An Honorable Endeavor: Montfort Awards Night Dinner

By Steven A. Campbell, Grand Historian



On Saturday, March 11, 2023, Grand Master Kevan D. Frazier hosted the Montfort Awards Night Dinner at the Winston-Salem Masonic Center. It was a most pleasant evening. Each man who has been awarded North Carolina's most prestigious Masonic award was recognized and honored, to include Grand Master Larry Thompson's 2022 final honoree, James Robert Stevens, as well as Grand Master Frazier's 2023 honoree, PGM Mack Sigmon.



To be awarded the medal named for and in honor of "the Provisional Grand Master of and for America," Joseph Montfort, is indeed the result of the Honoree's devotion, dedication, sacrifice, tireless and continuous contributions to our Fraternity, their community, and fellow man.



Coaching: Spiritual Development or Simple Repetition?

By Cole Kubicki, Wendell Lodge No. 565



I was asked to write this by a friend whom I afterwards found to be a Brother. My surprise at the request was equal to that of being asked to coach one of our newest Entered Apprentices at our lodge. As I have only been a Master Mason for

about a year, I felt under-qualified to not only act as the facilitator of a Masonic Journey, but to ultimately act as a mentor and grow/develop a candidate.

Our Craft needs coaches, and more importantly, we need mentors. I do not believe that repetition of a catechism alone will create engagement in a candidate. Hollow words will fall on deaf ears. The process of coaching is a two-way journey of spiritual transmutation, and an exercise in contemplative exercise and discipline. This article will encompass a brief overview of my thoughts on the process, and I hope it will inspire other Brothers to step up and lead in their lodges.

I believe that lessons are everywhere, and it is up to us to be receptive to what the Great Architect is trying to communicate to us. It is my absolute pleasure to act as a humble student and to receive the truth

that is meant for myself and for my candidate. The coaching process is not just about memorization, and to distill it to that cheats the candidate out of an investment in their development, which the Masonic Journey to Master Mason requires.

My candidate and I choose to spend a lot of time talking about many of the big questions in life while practicing, as contemplative exercise often calls up topics from deep in the recesses of our mind. We discuss what it means to be a Mason (I'm still not sure I have the answer for that), what it means to be a good man, how to show love to those around us, and what it means to really be there for our Brothers. My candidate is a bit younger than me, and truthfully, he is so similar to me, that I often feel like I am talking to a younger version of myself. Many of the things in my early manhood which I struggled through are the same challenges my candidate is facing. My experiences, mistakes, and learnings are in turn passed to him to hopefully save him from making the same mistakes I did. Open up to your candidate, share your heart and your struggles with them. Allow yourself to see the things in them that are parallels to who you are and reflect on them. Every Brother that I speak with has taught me something, and your candidate can do the same.

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Just because we are coaches does not mean that we know it all – we just know some words. Approaching discussions with humility has revealed areas of opportunity in my life that I had not previously identified. A key piece of the catechism is an open dialogue on the concepts. Deeper conversation on the symbolism and allegory in our degrees creates a more personal understanding for ourselves as well. I am often asked a question on a word choice or concept which I have not pondered before. By engaging in a contemplative discussion together, both coach and candidate gain new understanding.

Masonry is about doing work. I like to say that I am forever a Fellowcraft, because I will never

stop working on myself. The opportunity to coach a candidate is a fantastic way to get to work on our contemplative exercise and spiritual development. Coaching is more than brushing up on a catechism and making sure you've "still got it." Coaching a candidate is a commitment to mutual spiritual and cognitive development and is one of the most rewarding things that a Master Mason can do to give back to the Craft. I challenge you to the responsibility of personal development, mentorship, and investment into a candidate. With these priorities guiding our actions, the future of our Craft is as bright as the light which we have all received.



Historic Working Tools of Eagle Lodge No. 19, Hillsborough



Masonic Renewal and the Feast of St. John

This past June 23, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina celebrated the Masonic Feast of St. John the Baptist a little differently. Grand Master Frazier and his officers heralded the celebration as a Masonic Day of Giving — a day for brethren across the state to volunteer in their communities, to donate to charity, or to just visit a neighbor. Giving back can be defined in many ways; what’s important is that we, as Masons, give back to our communities. What was significant about this particular St. John’s Day was that the Grand Lodge celebrated the ancient Masonic tradition as it was originally intended: as a feast and festive board, something the Grand Lodge has not done in probably more than 200 years.

In 1717 the Grand Lodge of England celebrated the Feast of St. John the Baptist, not as a celebration for the Grand Lodge’s formation, but as a celebration of the revival of Freemasonry. Masonry’s origins prior to 1717 are rather obscure, but there is a fair amount of evidence to illustrate that Masonry, as a fraternal and social organization, was neglected and facing obscurity. However, men and Masons such as Anthony Sayer, John Theophilus Desaguliers, and James Anderson believed Freemasonry had more to offer the world — like friendship, philosophical discussion, and charitable endeavors. The restoration of the Feast of St. John was celebrated as a revival and a reminder that Freemasonry was not dead and intended for

nobler deeds, higher thoughts, and greater achievements. The Feast of St. John became a staple of Masonic tradition and was carried over to the American colonies in the mid-18th century.

In North Carolina the earliest record of a Masonic Festival comes from St. John’s Lodge at New Bern, when on December 27, 1755, the Masons of New Bern gathered at Christ Church to celebrate the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. It is presumed they proceeded to the tavern afterward to dine together.

The earliest record of the celebration of St. John the Baptist can be found in the minutes of Royal White Hart Lodge in Halifax, when, on June 24, 1770, it was noted, “The excessive heat of the weather rendering it very inconvenient and even dangerous

... to attend and proceed in procession ..., it is Ordered the attendance on that occasion be dispensed with, and instead thereof, they meet in the Evening at the Lodge Room, sup and spend the evening of this Festival together.”

According to the minutes of St. John’s Lodge at Wilmington, on June 24, 1789, after hearing a sermon by the Reverend Bingham, the brethren “sat down to dinner and spent the Day in Social Festivity.”

That same day the Grand Lodge, upon Order of Grand Master Richard Caswell, convened its first recorded Feast of St. John. “This being the Anniversary of the St. John the Baptist, and a dinner being prepared at the Court House for the brethren to celebrate the same according to the Ancient usage of Free Masons.”

Grand Lodge and Lodge records alike illustrate the Feast of St. John the Baptist was regularly celebrated across the state for the first quarter of the 19th century. But, the Morgan Affair and the apex of the Second Great Awakening forced the Masons of North Carolina to rethink and retool their celebrations. The Morgan Affair, where the alleged cowan William Morgan was supposedly killed in upstate New York for, among other things, threatening to print an exposé of

Masonic ritual, laid a pall across American Freemasonry for a generation, and nearly eradicated our fraternity in several states.

At the same time, American religious life was becoming more evangelical and more temperate. The rough and rowdy frontier was considered irreligious, bawdy, and inebriated. The temperance movement, coupled with the religious revivals of the Great Awakening and the skepticism cast by the Morgan Affair, shunned Masonic social festivities. Nearly a century of toasts and social camaraderie abruptly petered out in the second quarter of the 19th century. While some feasts continued through the 1830s and 1840s, by the time of the Civil War few lodges engaged in Festive Boards or celebrations of any kind, and alcohol was forbidden in North Carolina’s Masonic Lodges, save for “ritualistic purposes.”



“Ritualistic purposes” was a thin thread of acceptance of Freemasonry’s festive and social celebrations. Yet, by the 1870s more and more counties were restricting the sale and use of alcohol, and in 1908 North Carolina passed its own prohibition law – 11 years before national prohibition was ratified into the United States Constitution.

Despite North Carolina Freemasonry’s acceptance of the state’s growing temperance movement in the 1830s and 1840s, Masonic celebrations were associated with alcohol use and abuse, though there are few sources to verify the abuse of alcohol at Masonic functions. In fact, most banquets and parties were thrown into a skeptical light and often investigated for alcohol use and abuse.

It was during this time that mid-day or afternoon family picnics proliferated public occasions instead of evening dinners and celebratory banquets. It is little wonder why the Masonic Nobles of the Mystic Shrine were for many years after their founding in 1870, aspersed for inappropriate behavior. In fact, the Shrine’s acceptance into North Carolina was challenged by the state’s Masonic leadership at the turn of the 20th Century, who feared Freemasonry’s 75-year turn from

festivals and banquets would be “tainted” by the establishment of an organization founded to be “fun.” Such was the stigma of Masonic fellowship.

In the 1870s and 1880s, Freemasonry’s most important festivals were absorbed into other functions. The Feast of St. John the Evangelist was eclipsed by the growing Christmas holiday that temperate evangelicals promoted as a family-centric gathering. The Feast of St. John the Baptist was incorporated into a series of regular statewide picnics, the most famous being what we knew as “Homecoming” at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford – largely a public picnic and parade.

Yet, all things change. All things are cyclical. In 2010, MHCO shifted its Homecoming from the heat of June to the cool,

crisp days of October. And, while alcohol’s “ritualistic use” was always permitted, at least since the Code of 1948, the stigma of banquets and alcohol remained potent. Yet, several lodges, such as Sophia Lodge at Salisbury, began hosting “Harmonies,” or dinners outside lodge buildings where members could socialize and enjoy dinner and wine, song and fellowship outside the “stuffiness” of a lodge hall. Interest continued to grow, and old Masonic laws governing alcohol and even dining use in lodges were relaxed. The ancient records of the fraternity were read and re-read, and some other ancient texts, such as North Carolina’s 1805 Ahiam Rezon, cited the Feast of St. John to be one of North Carolina’s oldest and most important festive days.

With the repeal of several outdated Masonic laws, Grand Master Kevan Frazier ordered the Feast of St. John the Baptist to take place on June 23, 2023. After much research and review, the Grand Master, much like Grand Master Caswell did in 1789, opened Grand Lodge, conducted some brief business, and closed the Grand Lodge. He then moved into a fraternal welcome and introduction of a long-lost North Carolina Masonic tradition, where friendship and brotherhood was celebrated, philosophy expounded upon, songs sung, and toasts made to the health of our nation, our state, and our friends. His pronouncement to those in attendance was much like the theme proposed in 1717: “What’s next? And, where does Freemasonry go from here?”



Homecoming 2023: Celebrating MHCO's 150th Year

Our 11th Annual Masonic Homecoming Festival runs from October 13 – 15, 2023 at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford



Join us to celebrate homecoming and MCHO's 150th anniversary! This year's theme is a blend of past Alumni Homecoming celebrations, St. John's Day and of course, honoring our 150th year of service to North Carolina's children. Mark your calendars, because you don't want to miss the music, food and fun. Read on for highlights.

The weekend kicks off on Friday morning with our Annual Chip Shots for Children Alumni Golf Tournament at the South Granville Country Club. That evening, the Yard Party on campus features live music from **Who Shot John** and tasty food options at Andrew Jackson Lodge #576.

Saturday, the Shrine and Community parade starts at 11:00 a.m. from downtown Oxford. Later, two bands will rock the main stage at 12:30 pm. Enjoy the music of **20 Ride** (from Charlotte) followed by **Nationwide Coverage** (from Nashville), featuring one of Oxford's own as lead singer.

As always, the festival will offer a BBQ cook-off, games and activities, carnival rides, the crowning of the Homecoming Queen, tours of the museums and campus, and more. Enjoy plenty of great food options to choose from, including food trucks and free samples of BBQ and chicken in "The Pit" courtesy of the BBQ teams.

Sunday's events round out the festival with worship service at The Chapel at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch "Under the Oaks."

***See our Festival page for the
full schedule of events and
BBQ Cookoff Brochure***

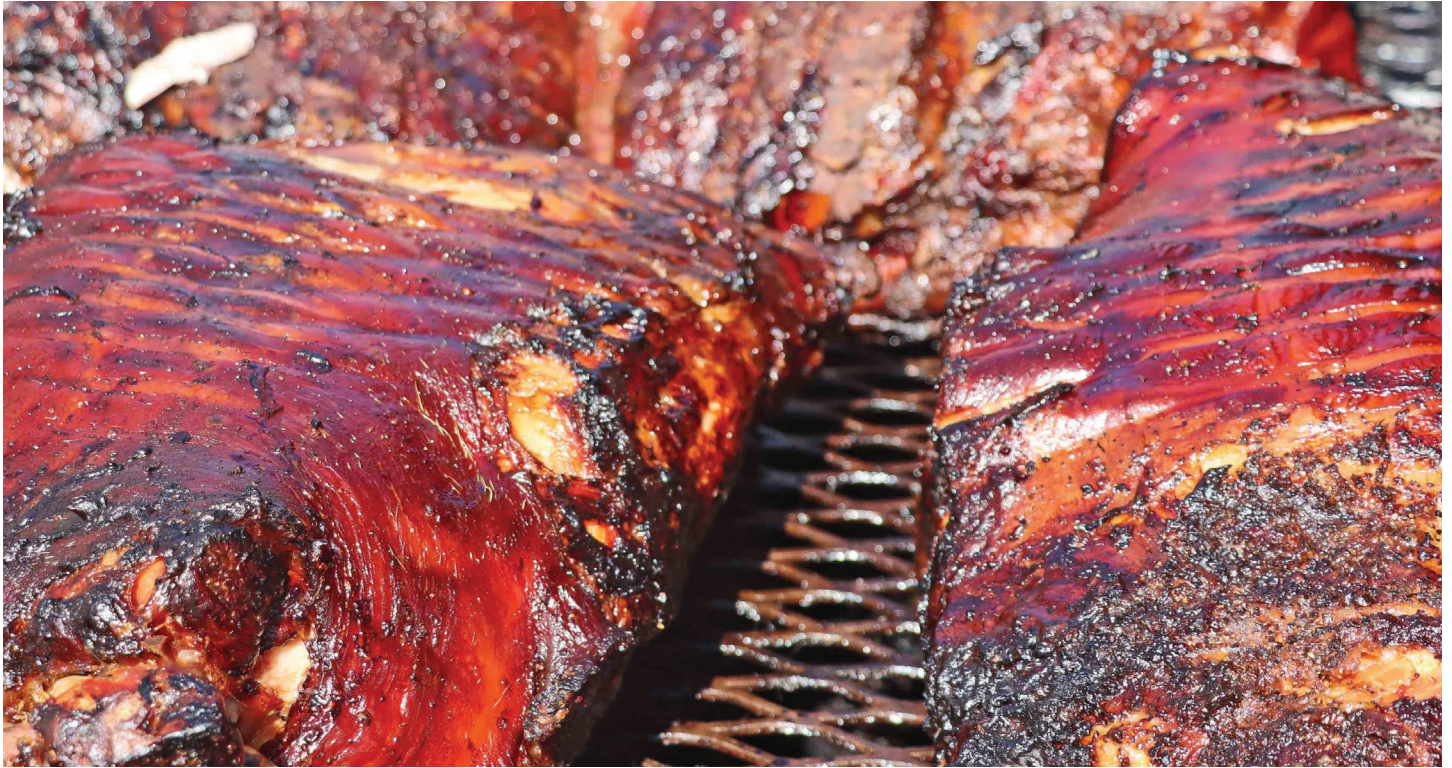
<https://mhc-oxford.org/masonic-homecoming-festival/>

EAGLE LODGE BUILDING 200TH ANNIVERSARY



Top left: The newly renovated lodge room with painted ceiling, walls, and windows restored. **Top right:** View of Eagle Lodge from the street with the shutters open. **Middle:** An Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge was opened and the Officers dedicated the bronze plaque for the occasion. **Bottom left:** Grand Lodge Officers and Master of Eagle Lodge, Bro. Joseph Major, on the steps of the lodge building. **Bottom center:** Bronze plaque dedicated on the 200th anniversary. **Bottom right:** Bro. Major and Grand Master Frazier cut the cake for the crowd gathered at the lodge.

THE 2023 MASONIC CAROLINA PIG JIG BBQ COOK-OFF



Top: View along the main path at the Pig Jig section of the Got To Be NC Festival at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC, May 20, 2023.

Middle: One of the many delicious entries! **Bottom left:** Albert Hopping (William G. Hill No 218) drums up excitement in his pig costume!

Bottom right: Members of William G. Hill Lodge #218 serve festival-goers their BBQ in hopes of becoming the “People’s Choice” for the afternoon.

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