

NORTH CAROLINA

SPRING 2025

THE MASON

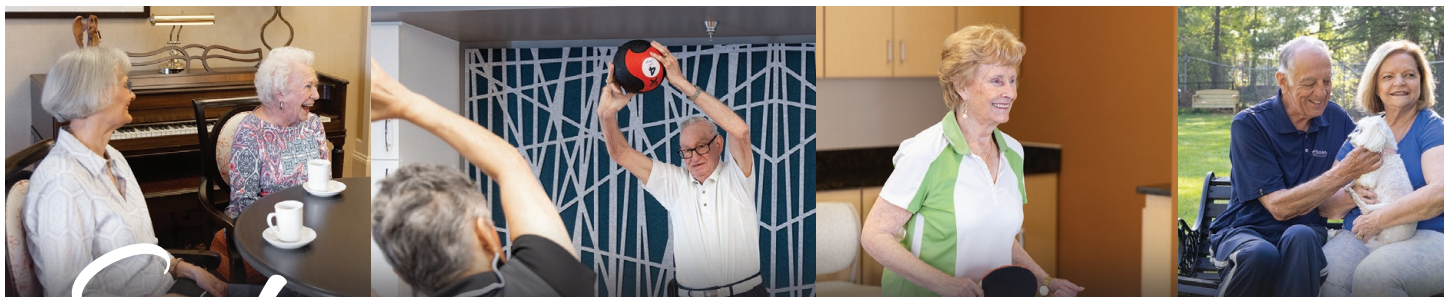
Official Publication of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina



Lafayette Visits Washington Statue

2025 Appointed GL Officers

Hidden in Plain Sight



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Together WE R.I.S.E.

ON THE COVER:

George Washington Statue

Photo: Robert Hopping

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Making The Right Choice

By Robert W. Rideout, Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina



When I was the Master of my lodge, I marveled at the workings of our Grand Line as a Sumerian might look up at the night sky. It all seems so bright and encompassing, while both omnipotent and unknowable. From my vantage point, I thought that our grand line controlled everything regarding the destiny of the Craft. It wasn't until I had served in our Grand Line for several years that I began to understand the real truth; that Freemasonry is truly a democracy. When operating at its absolute best, our grand line can offer a clear, measurable strategic vision while creating the operational instruments for success, but it is the Craft that has to put this vision to labor. A Grand Master can write

instructions on the trestle board and can provide the working tools, but the ultimate success of our ancient order is in your hands. We are a democracy, and you vote with your actions every day.

Strategic Vision

Throughout the course of my term, in proclamations, videos, district visits, and general discussion I have laid out the strategic vision for the future of our Craft. To create a strategic vision, that vision has to have goals measurable in both amount and time. Our strategic vision is to increase the number of good and qualified men in Freemasonry. Accordingly, the goal is: **By the year 2034, we have 40,000 Freemasons within our fraternity.**

Operational Lines of Effort

To fulfill this vision, our Craft is focusing on three key areas:

Recognition: Implement an award system with three impact awards (Grand Master's 100, Superior District Leader Medal, and Chevalier Medal), an Ad Hoc Awards Committee, and directions regarding heraldry.

Innovation: Modify the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee to allow elected line officers to gather input from all members for strategic goals.

Structure: Assign Grand Line Officers to our five Areas as Area Representatives, supported by Assistant Grand Line Officers, to strengthen fraternity operations and achieve objectives efficiently.

Your Labor

With the vision laid before you, I now ask for your labor. Our success requires your efforts in 3 critical areas.

1. Every Mason Matters: We need to make every effort to recover brothers who have been suspended for non-payment of dues (NPD) and continue our efforts to keep every brother engaged and active within the craft. Finding the right quarry for our brothers is a vital component to our success. Maximize your efforts to recover NPD, while continuing the education and ritualistic components that make our Craft unique and special.

2. We Fight For EVERY Good Man: Freemasonry offers something incredible and unique from which every man could benefit. We do not recruit, but we should all be evangelical in our enthusiasm and love for the Craft. We do not discriminate based on race, color, or religion. Make every effort to fight for EVERY good man that we can bring to our noble order.

3. We ARE Our Brother's Keeper: Let your love for our fraternity drive you to support every brother. If you have a candidate who is not progressing in the degrees, reach out to him and see if you can assist. If there is a brother who stops attending lodge, check in with him and see if anything is amiss in his

life. When you are your brother's keeper, you represent the best of Freemasonry and ensure our relevance and future.

I am filled with immense enthusiasm for the remarkable achievements we will realize in 2025. The vibrant energy within the Craft is unlike anything I have experienced during my years in Freemasonry. Our brothers are motivated to make a meaningful impact—demonstrating exceptional brilliance, talent, and dedication as they support their communities, strengthen their lodges, and uplift one another.

Brothers, now the choice is with you. The instructions are on the trestle board, the working tools are provided. I believe you will pick up the working tools. I believe you will perform the labor needed to make our fraternity a continued success. I believe you will make the right choice and construct the foundation for our future for decades to come.

You **ARE** leaders, you **ARE** healers, you **ARE** the light, in your lodges and in your communities.

I am deeply humbled to be in your service for this year.

Together WE R.I.S.E.

Together...

WE

R.I.S.E.

The Bedrock of Our Fraternity

By Jonathan A. Underwood, Grand Secretary



Recently, I had the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital to visit the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and the House of the Temple, the headquarters of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish

Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. These structures stand as monuments to the rich history of Freemasonry, but what struck me most about this journey was not the sites themselves—it was the Brethren I traveled with.

Freemasonry has always been an institution that unites men from distant lands. Its foundation—a shared belief in moral principles and a higher purpose—transcends national and cultural boundaries. This idea was revolutionary when our fraternity first took form, and it remains just as relevant today.

The next week, I attended the Grand York Rite Session outside Winston-Salem, and once again, I was reminded of the vast reach of our Brotherhood. The real purpose of these gatherings is not simply to conduct business, but to strengthen relationships, rekindle old friendships, and cultivate new ones. Freemasonry is designed to broaden our perspectives, to challenge us through diverse experiences, and to encourage us to travel—both physically and intellectually—so that we may learn from others.

A lodge should never be a place where all men think alike. That would only reinforce confirmation bias rather than encourage growth. The strength of Freemasonry lies

in its ability to bring together different perspectives, values, and traditions, blending them into a shared vision for the betterment of society. It is through engaging with differing viewpoints that we develop a deeper understanding of the world and discover how our collective wisdom can serve a greater purpose.

Through my travels and conversations with Brethren, I have come to appreciate the many ways that Masons contribute to the fraternity, even if their paths differ. A phrase often used is that some men are “card-carrying Masons.” While I understand the sentiment, I recently heard a better term from a Brother in the Scottish Rite: Bedrock Masons.

This concept stayed with me. Our fraternity exists to unite men of different backgrounds, and our teachings are designed to shape and refine character. Whether a man is active in his lodge or carries his membership with quiet pride, he remains an essential part of the Masonic foundation. Not all Masons have the opportunity to attend lodge regularly, but that does not diminish their commitment or their value to our Brotherhood. It falls upon those of us who are more active to reach out and remind our fellow Brethren that they are part of something greater—that they belong.

Masonry has always been a melting pot of ideas, a fraternity that welcomes men from all walks of life with one shared commitment: to do good and leave the world better for future generations. So I encourage you—travel beyond your comfort zone. Visit lodges in neighboring counties, in other states, and even abroad. See for yourself that while accents and customs may differ, the core principles of our Craft remain the same.

Together WE R.I.S.E.

Empowering Masonic Giving:

How Your Donor-Advised Fund Can Make a Difference

By George Marut, Chief Development Officer, North Carolina Masonic Foundation

As North Carolina Masons, we hold firm to the values of faith, hope, and charity—principles that have shaped our fraternity for generations.

In 2025, we invite you to embrace these ideals by supporting the **North Carolina Masonic Foundation** (NCMF) through your **donor-advised fund** (DAF).

A Donor-Advised Fund provides an easy and tax-efficient way to give, ensuring your charitable dollars directly support the causes that matter most:

MAXIMIZE

Your 2025 Tax Benefits



SUPPORT Masonic Charities
with Minimal Effort



Make a Meaningful, Lasting
IMPACT

By recommending a grant to the **North Carolina Masonic Foundation**, you empower us to continue our mission — strengthening Masonic homes, scholarships, and charitable initiatives across our great state. Your generosity uplifts Masons, widows, and communities, securing a legacy of support for years to come.

Taking action is simple. **Log into your Donor-Advised Fund account today** and direct your support to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. If you need assistance, we're here to help.

Your support isn't just a gift — it's a commitment to the future of Masonry in North Carolina.

For more information, visit **MFNC.org** or contact Chris or George today at:

Chris Richardson

crichardson@mfnc.org

or

George Marut

gmarut@mfnc.org



**NORTH CAROLINA
MASONIC
FOUNDATION**

2025 Grand Master Appointments



GARY DEAN HANDY

Grand Steward

WB Gary Handy is a member of six blue lodges. He served as Worshipful Master at Walnut Cove No. 629 in 2010, Wilkerson College No. 760 in 2013, Lux Libertas No. 772 in 2021 and currently serves as Secretary at Sophia No. 767. WB Handy served as Grand Tyler in 2020 and as District Deputy Grand Master of the 26th District from 2013-2015. WB Handy served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance for three years and the Board of General Purposes for six years. Ill. Bro Handy is also a 33° Scottish Rite Mason and Secretary of the Valley of Greensboro.



JULIAN CODY SETZER

Grand Steward

WB Julian Setzer is a member of Conover No. 709 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2018, a member of Prometheus No. 775 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2020-2022, and is an honorary member of Catawba No. 248 and Cleveland No. 202. WB Setzer served as District Deputy Grand Lecturer of the 34th District from 2022-2024. WB Setzer has also served on several Grand Lodge Committees including: Committee on Appeals, Miscellaneous Ceremonies, Public Relations (currently Chairman) and Masonic Home for Children.



DANIEL LEE SHORT

Grand Historian

WB Lee Short is a member of St. Pauls No. 474 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2007 and 2014 and is currently serving as lodge Secretary. WB Short is also a member of Lebanon No. 391 and Phoenix No. 8. WB Short served as District Deputy Grand Lecturer of the 17th Masonic District from 2016 to 2023. WB Short has also served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Home for Children in 2020. WB Short works as a critical care respiratory therapist on the ground and air transport team exclusively for babies and children.



CRAIG JONES HORTON

Grand Orator

WB Craig Horton is a member of J.J. Crowder No. 743 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2020. WB Horton is also a member of Orphans No. 761. WB Horton served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 14th District from 2016-2019. WB Horton has served on the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and is currently a member of the Code Commission. Ill. Bro Horton is a 33° Scottish Rite Mason and the Orient Newsletter Chairman. WB Horton has also served as the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the NC York Rite Grand Council, 2022-2023.



JOHN THOMAS FRAZIER

Grand Chaplain

WB John Frazier is a member of Phoenix No. 8 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2018 and has faithfully served as the lodge Chaplain since 2020. WB Frazier has also served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Whitestone. WB Frazier is a 2016 Wilkerson College graduate. WB Frazier served as Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of North Carolina, 2018-2020.



CHRISTOPHER TODD CANIPE

Grand Tyler

WB Chris Canipe is a member of Prometheus No. 775 where he currently serves as Trustee and is a member of Cleveland No. 202 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2022 and Secretary in 2024. WB Canipe served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 35th Masonic District of North Carolina from 2021-2024. WB Canipe has also served on the Committee on Whitestone and is currently serving on the Committee on Masonic Public Relations and the Treasurer's Advisory Council.



MATTHEW WILLIAM COCKMAN

Judge Advocate

WB Matt Cockman is a member of Bula Lodge No. 409 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2018. WB Cockman is also a member of Lux Libertas No. 772 and an honorary member of Revolution No. 552. WB Cockman served as DDGL of District No. 22 from 2016 to 2021 and DDGM of District No. 22 in 2022-2023. An alumnus of Elon University School of Law, Matt Cockman's role as an Assistant District Attorney speaks to his dedication to justice and is recognized as a specialist in State Criminal Law.



PHILLIP CHRISTOPHER LEE

Grand Lecturer

WB Chris Lee is a member of Wendell No. 565 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2018 and Trustee, 2016-2019. WB Lee is an honorary member at Atlantic No. 294, James B. Green No. 735, WG Arnold No. 683 and William G. Hill No. 218, which is a testament to his dedication to masonic education and district leadership. WB Lee served as District Deputy Grand Lecturer of the 14th Masonic District of North Carolina from 2020-2022. WB Lee has also served on the Grand Lodge Board of Custodians since 2022.



Lafayette Travels North Carolina

Photos provided by Robert Hopping - See Facebook profile for more..







Chip Shots for Children Set a New Record

By Eddie Dickerson, MCHO Alumni

Every October a real favorite place to be for Masons in North Carolina is the Masonic Homecoming Festival at the Masonic Home for Children. The Festival kicks off each year on Friday with a benefit Golf Tournament, Chip Shots for Children. The alumni of the Home started and have run the tournament for the past 26 years, and during that time it is estimated that proceeds have topped one million dollars for the place they have called Home for many years.

The tournament has grown through the years and continued to increase their proceeds to the Home. The 2024 tournament, which was played October 11, was another rousing success, with beautiful weather and in excess of 70 golfers joining us that day. Included in that number

was a team playing from William G. Hill Lodge No. 218 and three teams from West Gate Lodge No. 738. This year over 30 additional lodges provided sponsorships for the tournament.

Sponsorships came from many local businesses and individuals, with the largest and most notable sponsorships being provided by Charlie Burton, Oxford Orphanage Class of 1958 (Pictured above) and his dealerships in California - Carlsen Porsche, Carlson Subaru, and Carrera Land. Charlie returns Home to NC each year because he loves our home in Oxford. With Charlie's efforts and those from local businesses, we were able to raise in excess of \$113,000 for our Home, a new record for Chip Shots for Children.



235th Anniversary of Ratification

By John Millward

On November 16, 2024, on a beautiful, sunny morning at Cool Spring Tavern in Fayetteville, NC, representatives from several organizations met to commemorate the 235th anniversary of the ratification of the United States Constitution.

On November 21, 1789, delegates from across the state ratified the US Constitution at the Statehouse, the site of the present-day Market House, Cool Spring Tavern, and the Phoenix Masonic Lodge. The delegates gathered at these locations and made decisions of lasting historical significance to North Carolina and the nation. At this same time, the General Assembly, while holding a session in Fayetteville, chartered the University of North Carolina and defined North Carolina's western border, ceding the trans-Appalachian territories to the federal government. This area would later become the state of Tennessee.

This anniversary was commemorated by several organizations, including members of Phoenix Lodge No. 8 AF&AM, Le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter of the North Carolina Society of the Sons of American Revolution (NCSSAR), Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry (FILI), and several dignitaries, including an NC state representative. In 1789, Cool Spring Tavern was also where Phoenix Lodge No. 8 met while their current lodge was under construction. Descendants of the original owners of Cool Spring Tavern were in attendance this year, and provided an excellent historical overview and tour of the building.

Phoenix Lodge No. 8's role in supporting the ratification of the United States Constitution by the North Carolina delegates cannot be overstated. Members of the lodge were directly involved in discussion and debate with the delegates during the ratification process.



Hidden In Plain Sight: Our Masonic Musical Heritage

By Don Barrier, Musician Sophia Lodge, Asstant Grand Historian

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

Brother Charles Bahnson compiled our Lodge Manual and The Grand Lodge of North Carolina began publishing it in 1892 and it is still in print in its original format today. This little black book contains not only information related to our opening and closing of the lodges, our degrees, our funeral services, and other information related

to lodge business, but it is also adorned with artwork from much earlier etchings, dating back possibly 100 years earlier than the manual’s first publication. It also includes scriptural readings and songs. The songs, or better named odes, combine well-known musical tunes with Masonic lyrics, which was typical of popular music in the 18th through 20th centuries. I will share a couple of interesting anecdotes about the songs in the “Bahnson Manual”.

The first and second songs in the manual include one ode for the OPENING and one for the CLOSING. The opening ode is to be sung to the Music - “Old Hundred”. Old Hundred, whose European original version by Louis Bourgeois dates to 1551, is an early and possibly the earliest

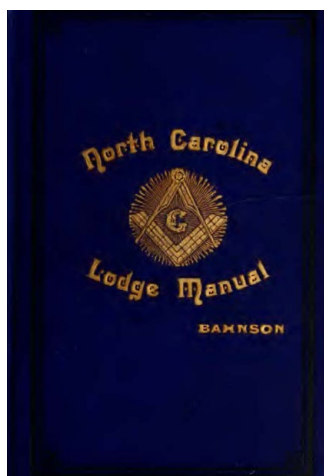
known shape note song. Louis created shape note singing so that not only the literate elite, but the people, who were mostly illiterate, could read musical notes when they sang. The first piece of

Little and Smith (c. 1802):



music in our “Bahnson Manual” to be sung while opening a lodge is probably a shape note song, “Old Hundred” (D.C. 49) in the music book Sacred Harp. Sacred Harp or Shape Note Singing is a “community singing” created for all to sing and practiced in NC from the late 1700's through today. Many of us have sung the song in church many times as the hymn “Doxology”.

The second song in the “Bahnson Manual” is sung to the Music – “Nearer, my God, to Thee”, with Masonic lyrics added as in first ode. “Nearer, my God, to Thee” is a 19th-century hymn. Brother Wallace Hartley, a musician contracted to play on ocean liners, was once asked what song he would play if on a sinking ship and reportedly chose ‘Nearer, My God, to Thee.’ Brother Hartley was later hired as leader of the HMS Titanic's band, which included four Masons. Eyewitnesses stated



that the band gave up their seats on lifeboats and stayed on board playing “Nearer, my God, to Thee” while Brother Wallace led the band in an heroic effort to calm and prepare doomed passengers for eternity as the ship slipped into the North Atlantic, and continued to play until the “water lapped their ankles”. This song and its original hymnal lyrics have been adopted traditionally by many lodges and are sung by the Brethren during their degrees.

The “Bahnson Manual” is not the only resource for those who want to learn more about our North Carolina Masonic music heritage. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina website maintains a section for Masonic Education under the tab Education Resources. The material on the website is provided by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education and following the link Masonic Music you will find available for download music sung by North Carolina Masons; Brothers Randy Sharpe, Mike Hamrick, Eric Dixon, Steve Barrell and the author, and recorded by the Grand Lodge ad-hoc committee on Masonic Music. The lyrics, sheet music and recordings of the Bahnson manual odes are available on the Grand Lodge website for download. If you have any questions or need any additional information on your bringing North Carolina Masonic music into your lodge, contact the Grand Lodge Committee on

Masonic Education. Also, available through the Grand Lodge website, are speakers within the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education Speakers Bureau, who will come to your lodge to help teach the lodge through leading your Brethren in song during your Stated Communication.

Throughout the history of Freemasonry in North Carolina, music has been a part of many lodges ritual experiences. We have had a renaissance of rediscovery of the richness and fullness of our Masonic heritage including our music, long hidden in plain sight and only recently rediscovered. The odes have been acknowledged by the Grand Lodge Board of Custodians as a valid part of our ritual. The growth of Masonic music is meant to be organic, not mandated. Lodges are encouraged to try singing the odes and see if they fit your lodge's culture and add a positive “note” to your lodge experience. It doesn't matter if you can sing like a rock star or whether you are monotone, just try belting them out as you would recitation of our ritual. Most of us aren't orators, yet we have no problem speaking up in lodge.

Remember, we are charged by Psalm 100 to “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord”. So try ‘em, you might like ‘em.

OLD HUNDRED. L.M.

"Sing, O ye heavens. . . shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest and every tree therein." -- Isa. 44:23.

49

A Major New Version, 1696.

Psaumes de David, 1551.

O come, loud an-thems let us sing, Loud thanks to our Al-might-y King. For we our voic-es high should raise, When our sal-va-tion's Rock we praise.

Hiram 40's 225th Anniversary

By Chuck Rouse, Hiram Lodge No. 40

In 1799, the French were having a revolution and Napoleon came to power, the Rosetta Stone was discovered in Egypt, John Adams was President, and George Washington passed away. It was also the year in which Hiram Lodge No. 40 in Raleigh was born. It is the oldest Lodge in Wake County and one of just a handful of our earliest Lodges to have a continuous unbroken record of Grand Lodge membership.

On December 16, 2024, exactly 225 years from the date of its founding, Hiram No. 40 celebrated its milestone with a formal event at the Grand Lodge building in Raleigh. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments were served to over 60 attendees before the program began.

The evening included greetings from Grand Secretary Jonathan Underwood, a presentation of checks to the Masonic Charities, a program from Master Chuck Rouse on the circumstances surrounding the origins of Hiram No. 40 and some of its original members from defunct Democratic Lodge No. 21 in the late 1790's, and a presentation from the Lodge's oldest Past Master (1974), Dr. Donald Street, who spoke on some other historic milestones celebrated by Hiram No. 40 and several memories of Brethren he encountered over his nearly 60 years of membership.

Worshipful Brother Street was also honored as the Lodge's newest Life Member of Hiram No. 40. It was a marvelous occasion that commemorated the Lodge's attachment to the history of Raleigh and legacy with the Grand Lodge.



Masonic Brew: Coffee for a Cause

By Chip Ritchie, Piney Creek No.432

In Elizabethton, Tennessee, a unique partnership has brewed between The Coffee Company and the Masons of North Carolina, blending community spirit with a mission to support the Masonic Children's Home in Oxford, NC. The story begins in 2022, during Past Grand Master Larry Thompson's tenure, when Brother Chip Ritchie attended district meetings and noticed GM Thompson selling cigars to raise funds for the MHCO. While effective, Ritchie—a non-cigar fan—saw an opportunity to reach a wider audience with a more universal product: coffee.

The idea took root as Ritchie considered the potential: Masons, their families, and coffee lovers everywhere could rally behind a quality brew, all while supporting the children of the MHCO. Initial outreach to local baristas yielded no takers. In 2024, he found a willing collaborator in The Coffee Company, led by Frankie Bailey. After numerous phone calls and face-to-face meetings, they crafted the Master Mason Breakfast Blend—a medium roast boasting smooth caramel and sweet milk chocolate notes.

The Coffee Company's story adds depth to this venture. Founded in 1997 by John and Lisa Bunn, it started as a quaint shop offering handcrafted drinks and fresh-roasted coffee by the pound. Over nearly 28 years, it evolved into a full-service lunch spot. Built on faith and connection, the business thrived, and in 2018, Bailey took over, steering it with the same commitment to quality and community. Her enthusiasm for this Masonic collaboration has made it a reality—coffee is sold via their website, shipped directly to buyers, and available through year-end.

Every sip of the Master Mason Breakfast Blend supports the MHCO's mission while uniting coffee enthusiasts and Masons in a common cause. Spread the word, order a bag, and savor the taste of giving back. The blend is priced at \$24.99 per 12 oz bag, with \$5 from each sale donated directly to the MHCO. <https://tncoffeecompany.com/>



Daniel Boone - A Frontier Mason?

By Dean Blair, Hominy Lodge No. 491



Daniel Boone has been a household name in the United States for nearly 250 years. He was first popularized in a 1784 publication by John Filson titled *The Adventures of Col. Daniel Boon* which told the story of Daniel's life during his time exploring the wilderness of Kentucky, which forever immortalized him as a frontier figure. His story begins much earlier though. The Boone family were originally Quakers and residents of Pennsylvania where Daniel was born. Daniel Boone's parents, Squire Boone Sr. and Sarah Morgan Boone moved their young family to North Carolina in the 1750's and settled in the Yadkin River valley, which was mostly frontier land at that time.

Squire and Sarah Boone lived there the remainder of their lives and are buried in Joppa Cemetery in Mocksville, NC. Squire Boone's headstone has some interesting markings that seem to indicate he was a Freemason. The inscription, probably written by Daniel Boone himself, reads as follows:

SQUIRE BOONE

DEPARTED

THIS LIFE IN

THE SIXTY

NINTH YEAR

OF HIS AGE

IN THE YEAR OF

OUR LORD 1765

GENEIARY THA 2

(January the 2nd)

The inscription on Squire Boone's headstone holds subtle clues that captivate Masonic scholars. The letters 'A' resemble the square and compass, a cornerstone of Freemasonry symbolizing moral integrity and discipline—tools to guide a Mason's conduct. Likewise, the letters 'O' evoke a point within a circle, an emblem of boundaries, urging Masons to center their actions on virtue under the Creator's watchful eye. These symbols, prominent in 18th-century lodges,

suggest Squire's fraternal ties. The weathered granite headstone, still standing in Joppa Cemetery, has drawn scrutiny from historians tracing Freemasonry's frontier roots. Some speculate Daniel Boone, grieving his father, may have overseen the carving, embedding these symbols to honor Squire's beliefs and their shared values. Such craftsmanship was rare in the Yadkin Valley's rugged settlements, making the headstone a quiet testament to the Boone family's depth, blending faith, craft, and frontier resilience.

Professor Robert Morgan, distinguished professor of English at Cornell University and a North Carolina native, writes about Squire and Daniel Boone's membership as Freemasons in his biography of Daniel Boone simply titled "Boone" published in 2007. Morgan is the only Boone biographer to uncover the Freemason connection to Daniel Boone. Morgan indicates that Daniel may have been initiated into the craft while serving under British General Edward Braddock in 1755. British military garrisons during that period were often comprised of Freemasons and held their lodges within their encampments. Morgan also notes that John Filson served under General Braddock at the same time as Daniel Boone and which probably solidified their acquaintance and led to Filson's desire to write about his friend Daniel.

In John Filson's 1784 account of Daniel Boone's adventures, a striking phrase stands out: to survey the Kentucky wilderness, Boone

"ascended the brow of a small hill." To Freemasons, this echoes a sacred expression heard solely in the Third Degree. Such guarded language suggests Filson possessed intimate knowledge of the craft, hinting he too was a Mason. Filson's prose in *The Adventures of Col. Daniel Boone* masterfully blends vivid imagery with moral undertones, portraying Boone as a heroic pioneer whose actions reflect Masonic virtues like perseverance and contemplation. This choice of words may reveal Filson's intent to frame Boone's journey as a quest akin to Masonic ideals. For North Carolina Masons, this subtle nod underscores how frontier tales, laced with ritual echoes, wove Freemasonry into America's early narrative, leaving clues for those versed in the craft to ponder.

So, were Squire and Daniel Boone Freemasons? Conclusive proof is missing from any official record so one is left with only incidental and circumstantial evidence but given that many of our founding fathers were certainly Freemasons, some of whom were previously British military officers, it is reasonable to assume that Daniel Boone, as well as his father were Freemasons as evidenced by Squire's headstone.

You may visit Squire and Sarah Boone's grave by exiting I-40 at the Mocksville exit, going south on US 601 approximately one mile to Joppa Cemetery on the left.



Take Time for the Kids June 21 in Raleigh

Time is short, but if you act quickly you may still have time to attend Time for the Kids on June 21 at the Amran Shrine Temple in Raleigh.

Time for the Kids is the new name for Masonic Home for Children at Oxford's annual black-tie gala. It began as a 150th anniversary celebration in 2023. The event was such a success – fun for the guests and beneficial for the Home – that it's now held every June around St. John's Day. Proceeds help provide academic, vocational, spiritual and recreational opportunities for our children.

The evening begins with a social at 5 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner at 6 p.m. Guests can bid on items such as artwork, vacation getaways, gift baskets and tickets to sporting events during silent and live auctions.

This year's special guest and keynote speaker is Carolina basketball legend Phil Ford. The three-time All-American, National Player of the Year and 1976 Olympic gold medalist is often called one of the greatest college point guards of all time.

Ford's relationship with the Children's Home began with a visit while he was a student at UNC, and he spoke at the 2023 baccalaureate service. He has graciously spent time with the

children and offered guidance, with an emphasis on spirituality and the need to help each other in troubling times.

Individual tickets are \$150 plus Eventbrite fees and may be purchased through the Home's website: mhc-oxford.org. Table sponsorships are available, and we invite donations of items for the auctions. For sponsorship opportunities and to donate auction items, contact Alvin Billings at (336) 260-3483 or abillings@mhc-oxford.org.

Founded in 1873 as the first home for children in the state, the Home evolved from orphanage to boarding school to its present role as a residential child care facility, with a wide range of social services available for children and their families. More than 11,000 children have called our campus home. Our Community Support Center assists families in a five-county area, and last year, directly provided outreach to 29 persons and provided resources through groups to assist 993 persons.

All services focus on making life better for children and their families and are provided free of charge. Our donors make it possible. Call (919) 693-5111 or visit www.mhc-oxford.org to learn more about us and make a gift.



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Amran Shriners Burn Awareness

By Bill McMillan

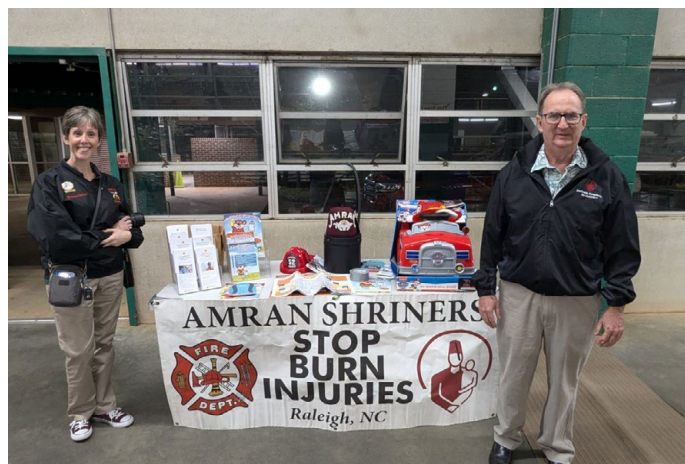
National Burn Awareness Week, February 2–8, 2025, is a time to spotlight burn awareness and prevention. This week also launches Shriners Children's year-round Be Burn Aware campaign, dedicated to reducing preventable burn injuries, especially in the home.

Shriners Children's has been a leader in burn care, research, and education since the 1960s. This legacy continues with resources designed for parents, teachers, firefighters, and community leaders to help keep children safe. The campaign includes free, downloadable materials like children's activity books, tip sheets, posters, and safety cards to promote burn prevention strategies.

For kids, Boots N' Brewster activity books turn learning into fun! These guides take children through home safety lessons, showing them how to identify dangers and avoid burns. Families can even use the booklets to map out a home fire escape plan. There's also a scavenger hunt to teach children which household items are "hot or not."

Practical safety tips include avoiding play in the kitchen, keeping pots and electrical cords away from counter edges, and maintaining safe distances from appliances. Teaching these habits can prevent accidents and keep your home safer year-round.

This is an excellent way for lodges to build community while providing essential reinforcement to young children. Building a foundation to stand the test of time is who we are as brothers. For more information, contact Dale Dancause with Amran Shriners (919) 538-7891 or Bill McMillan at (910) 978-2455.



**Shriners
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Golden Age of NC RiteCare – Project 100

By Alex Edmondson

How and why is different from before? That's a great question and the answer will continue to evolve during 2025.

During a recent grant celebration in Lee County, how we've helped children with speech and language disorders has changed. We have always helped support university care outreach that supports our local communities from a more distant level, with this step forward, we can now help at the grassroots, local school system level. It is truly impactful!

In 2024, the North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation contributions for NC RiteCare assistance helped 303 children with 2,847 care visits and assisted in allocating 14 hearing aids to children in need. Additionally, we provided scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students at 3 universities across the state. Those numbers continue to increase as children have more access to quality hearing screenings and care.

Lee County Schools serves 10,000 students across 17 schools and now has an updated audiology booth with top-of-the-line equipment. This equipment is being used by Lee County Pediatric Educational Audiologist Dr. Heather Sprague, Au.D. and has already benefited over 30 children with those services, and another 70 are projected by the end of the school year.

Now, moving forward the NCSRMF and NC RiteCare have a model in place to make an impact in all 100 counties of North Carolina, from Manteo to Murphy, we have the ability to help more children.

How do we find those needs? Another great question. That's where **Project 100** has been launched. The Orient of North Carolina serves all 100 counties, not just those around our Valleys. Over the next few weeks we are identifying Scottish Rite members who live in all 100 counties to be our "listeners" for local communities hearing and language needs. We will have Valley information on how you can be active across the state coming soon.

It is an exciting time for our Charity and now is the time to make a difference in your community with NCSRMF and NC RiteCare.



N.C. Grand York Rite Installation

Photos by Don Butto



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