

SOUVENIR PROGRAM



The Two Hundredth

Anniversary Celebration
of
The First Provincial Congress

Featuring

A Colonial Drama in Three Acts

Entitled

"1774"

Written by:
Robert Lee Pugh

Directed by:
C. Neil Vester

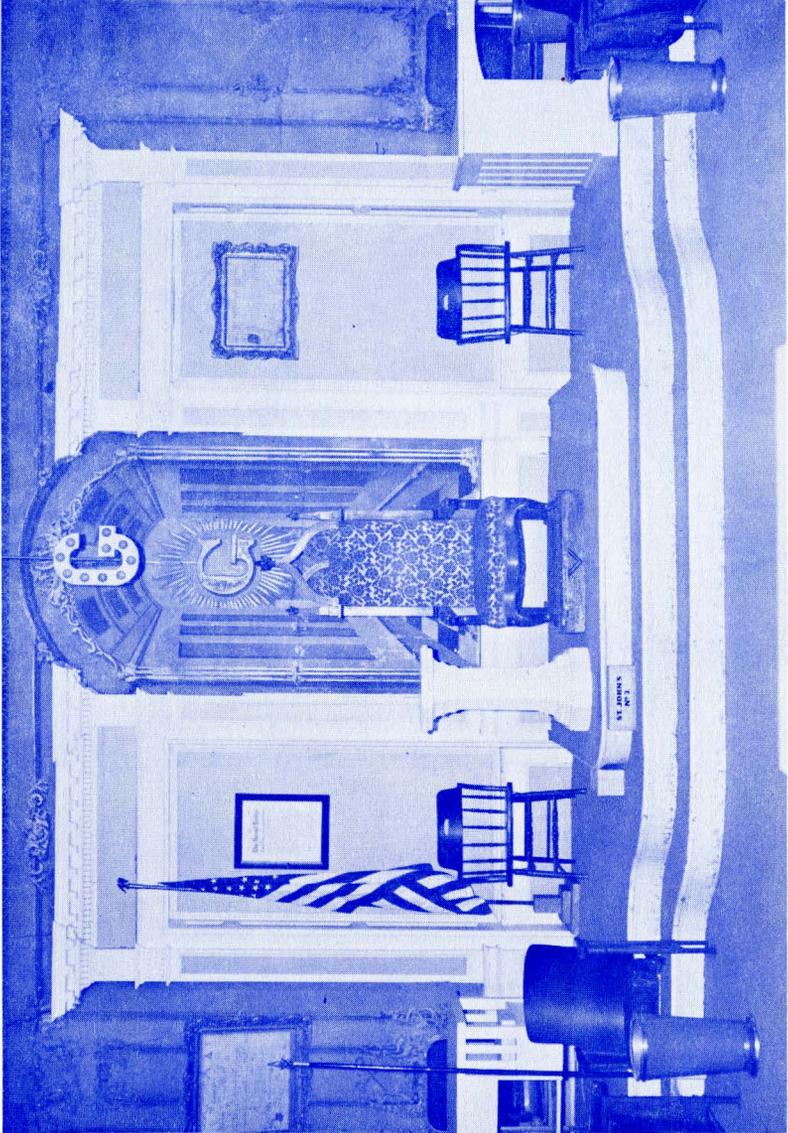
Presented by:

St. John's Lodge No. 3
Doric Lodge No. 568
Berne Lodge No. 724
Grantham Lodge No. 725
A.F. and A.M.
of
North Carolina



NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

AUGUST 19, 20, 1974



THE EAST, BLUE LODGE ROOM, MASONIC TEMPLE

PRELUDE

The four Masonic Lodges of New Bern are happy to participate in the Bicentennial Celebration being observed in New Bern, commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the meeting of the First Provincial Congress. Masons are using two days, August 19th and August 20th, in which to portray their appreciation of all efforts being expended by the New Bern Bicentennial Commission, to preserve for posterity the determined spirit of dedication of our forefathers to those ideals we cherish. In all these efforts Masons, from the very beginning, have ever played a leading role. This two-day Masonic participation, therefore, is gratefully presented as Masonry's contribution to the New Bern Bicentennial Celebration.

This Masonic observance is being presented in six parts; the first four parts will be presented on Monday, August 19, 1974, beginning with the Emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge of A.F. and A.M. of North Carolina at 3:00 P.M. in the Scottish Rite Temple.

Part II will follow at 5:30 P.M. in the C. A. Seifert Banquet Hall and will feature a Banquet in honor of our distinguished guests.

Part III will begin at 8:00 P.M. in the auditorium of Sudan Temple when the Masonic Lodges of the New Bern area will present the colonial drama "1774".

Part IV will follow immediately in the same auditorium and will feature an address by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A.F. and A.M. of North Carolina.

Part V and VI will take place Tuesday evening, August 20, 1974 when the drama "1774" will again be presented in the auditorium of Sudan Temple. Concluding the evening's program will be a patriotic address by the Lieutenant-Governor of the State of North Carolina, the Honorable James B. Hunt, Jr.

Details of all of these parts of Masonry's participation in the Bicentennial Celebration are outlined in the appropriate section of this Souvenir Program.

DEDICATION

This Souvenir Program and the Masonic phases of this New Bern Bicentennial Celebration are affectionately dedicated to those Masonic stalwarts of the colonial period covered in the drama "1774". These Masons played an important part in the First Provincial Congress as is evident by the fact that the three men selected to represent the Colony of North Carolina in the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia were members of the Masonic Order. To them, and to all those who assisted them in providing meaning and purpose to these exciting days of our early history, we lift our hearts in praise and gratitude in this act of dedication.

St. John's Lodge No. 3

Leroy Price, Master

Doric Lodge No. 568

Johnny R. West, Master

Berne Lodge No. 724

William P. Stovall, Master

Grantham Lodge No. 725

Roger W. Dalton, Master

PART ONE

Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge

At three o'clock in the afternoon of August 19, 1974, the Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, Most Worshipful Brother William L. Mills, Jr., of Concord, North Carolina, will convene the Grand Lodge of A.F. and A.M. of North Carolina in an Emergent Communication. This Emergent Communication will open in the Scottish Rite Lodge Room, New Bern, North Carolina, for the purpose of initiating Masonic activities connected with the New Bern Bicentennial Celebration, commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the meeting of the First Provincial Congress held in New Bern, North Carolina, August 25, 26 and 27, 1774.

The Grand Master of F. and A.M. of Indiana, Most Worshipful Frank J. Krug will be received and welcomed to the celebration.

A statement of the reasons for Masonic participation in the New Bern Bicentennial Celebration will be presented and the Grand Lodge of North Carolina will be requested to incorporate all of the Masonic activities of this Celebration, as described in this Souvenir Program, in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

PART TWO

Masonic Bicentennial Banquet

At five-thirty o'clock in the afternoon on Monday, August the 19th, 1974, in the C. A. Seifert Banquet Hall of the New Bern Scottish Rite Temple, the Masons of the New Bern area, together with their wives and distinguished guests of the Bicentennial Celebration, will assemble for the Masonic Bicentennial Banquet, prepared and served by the Craven Chapter No. 129, Order of the Eastern Star.

Master of Ceremonies for the Banquet will be the General Chairman, Past Grand Master Alfred A. Kafer, Jr. with the following order of program:

Invocation	Rev. Brother George A. Johnson, Jr. Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church
Introduction of Distinguished Guests	William J. Clark, P.M.
Introduction of the Speaker	Nelson B. Banks Recorder, Sudan Temple
Address	Most Worshipful Grand Master Brother Frank J. Krug, Grand Lodge of F. and A.M. of Indiana



Frank J. Krug, the 124th Grand Master of Masons in Indiana, Master of his lodge in 1934, a member of the three York Rite Bodies, a 33° Scottish Rite Mason, and a Senior Demolay Legion of Honour. Appointed to the Grand Lodge in 1969 and annually advanced until May 22, 1974 when he was installed as Grand Master.

Benediction	Rev. Brother George A. Johnson, Jr. Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church
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All guests are invited to the auditorium of Sudan Temple where the drama "1774" will be presented at 8:00 P.M.

Local officials of the New Bern Bicentennial Celebration and other distinguished friends of the Masonic Fraternity are special guests at the Banquet and they will be recognized.

PART THREE

Historic Drama

Masons of the New Bern Area

present

"1774"

A drama in three acts dealing with events leading to the meeting of the First Provincial Congress and the personalities involved in that historic session.



General Chairman



Author



Director

COMMITTEES

Alfred A. Kafer, Jr., P.G.M., General Chairman

Executive Committee

A. A. Kafer, Jr., P.G.M., Chairman

Leroy Price, Master

St. John's Lodge, No. 3

Johnny R. West, Master

Doric Lodge, No. 568

William P. Stovall, Master

William J. Clark, Representative

Berne Lodge, No. 724

Roger W. Dalton, Master

Grantham Lodge, No. 725

Parking (Sudan Temple)

Roger Dalton and members of
Grantham Lodge

Invitation Committee

William J. Clark

Robert L. Pugh

Co-ordinator for Banquet

Leroy Price and Eastern Star

Property Committee

Johnny R. West, Chairman

E. W. Paul, Jr.

Stage Crew

Johnny R. West, Chairman

Jerry L. Stapleford

Floyd Hill

Elwood Cayton

Raymond Smith

Tommie L. Phelps

Make-Up Artist

J. Eugene Lewis

Sound Equipment

Albert W. Brinson, Jr.

Lighting Committee

L. T. Barrington

Elmer R. Burroughs

Johnny R. West

Consultant

Robert L. Pugh

(5)

SYNOPSIS OF

" 1774 "

A Drama
of
The First Provincial Congress

PROLOGUE

Historical Background of the Congress

ACT I

Meeting of the New Bern Unit, Friends of American
Liberty, Craven County, August 9, 1774.

ACT II

Some experiences in self-inquisition, representing
excruciating inward struggles with conflicts of in-
terests of some leading persons of that time.

ACT III

The King's Arms Tavern, New Bern,
Monday morning August 29, 1774.

EPILOGUE

Two hundred years later in New Bern.

THE DRAMA

"1774"

Written by
Robert L. Pugh

Directed by
C. Neil Vester

This historical presentation is not a Masonic drama. Rather, it is a drama of the principal political events of the year 1774, enacted by a Masonic cast selected from the four local Masonic lodges, with one exception:

Appropriately, St. John's Lodge, No. 4, of Kinston, North Carolina, Gerald H. Kanter, Master, graciously accepted an invitation to participate in this Bicentennial Celebration. They were invited also to select one of their members to portray the role of a Kinston Mason, Richard Caswell, in the drama. They selected for this role a direct descendant of Richard Caswell.

In those years preceding the Revolutionary War whenever the colonists would send their letters of grievance, or petitions, to the Mother Country, they were directed to the King and never to the Parliament, because directing them to the Parliament would be an acknowledgment of the very principle they had been protesting; that is, the authority of Parliament versus the authority of the colonies' representative assemblies. The colonists believed that the same relationship should exist between them and England as existed between the several colonies themselves. They recognized their allegiance to the Crown, but in every other respect they were completely independent of each other.

This was the prevailing political sentiment when Parliament passed several acts of abominable legislation: the Stamp Act of 1765; the Declaratory Act of 1766, which attempted to establish that Parliament had the right to legislate for the colonies "in all cases whatsoever".

Implementing this Act, Parliament passed the Townsend Act, better known to our forefathers as the Tea Tax, forcing the colonies to raise money to pay the colonial governors and other officials.

Massachusetts led in resistance to this Act and to punish this colony five subsequent Acts were passed known as the unbearable "Coercion Acts."

When word of the insufferable "Coercion Acts", spread through the sympathetic colonies, the revolutionary flames spread, especially in North Carolina, where the abominable administrative acts of Josiah Martin, the successor of Governor Tryon, had created a public sentiment of such intense bitterness that revolution became imminent. It seemed that the only thing needed now was the initial spark.

And that spark was kindled and generated in New Bern by the First Provincial Congress in

" 1 7 7 4 " .

" 1774 "

A Drama
of
The First Provincial Congress

CAST OF CHARACTERS
In the Order of their Appearance

Prologue

First NarratorGeorge B. Nelson
Second NarratorBilly G. Haire

Act I

James DavisNelson B. Banks
Printer of New Bern, published first newspaper
in N. C., "The North Carolina Gazette".

Abner NashAlbert T. Willis, Jr.
Prominent lawyer, New Bern. Second governor of
N. C., served on new Provincial Council 1775.

Capt. Isaac EdwardsAugust H. Laube
Former secretary to Governor Tryon, in early life
loyal to the Crown, led the governor's troops
against the Regulators.

Col. Joseph LeechOscar J. Aldridge
Wealthy land-owner and also loyal to the Crown
in his early years. Served in first three
Provincial Congresses.

Col. Richard CogdellEdward W. Paul, Jr.
Business, educational, religious and patriotic
leader; State Treasurer, Chairman New Bern
Committee on Safety.

Richard EllisS. Frank Noble, Jr.
Patriotic maritime merchant.

James CoorNat M. Baxter

Courageous patriot, later selected as member of the Provincial Council, the supreme authority of the government created by the Third Provincial Congress.

David BarronJack G. White

Successful wealthy maritime merchant, contributed much to success of the Revolution.

John GreenHarold L. Mills

A merchant designated to collect and ship corn, peas, pork, etc., to Salem, Massachusettes, to evade British blockade of Boston.

Act II

Col. Joseph LeechOscar J. Aldridge

Capt. Isaac EdwardsAugust H. Laube

Act III

Abner NashAlbert T. Willis, Jr.

Col. Joseph LeechOscar J. Aldridge

Capt. Isaac EdwardsAugust H. Laube

Lemuel HatchJohn R. Edwards

Represented Craven County in First Provincial Congress. Lt. Colonel in the Craven County Militia, Vestryman in Christ Church.

Col. Richard CaswellJake West

From Kinston, represented Chatham County in First Provincial Congress. Selected one of three to the First Continental Congress, later resigned to become Treasurer of the Second District. First Governor of North Carolina installed January 16, 1777 in the Palace at New Bern.

Joseph HewesH. Marshall Harvey, Jr.

One of the three North Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence. Virtually the first Secretary of the Navy and credited with giving John Paul Jones his opportunity as a Naval Officer.

William HooperCharles T. Potter

The third North Carolina signer of the Declaration of Independence, statesman, author, orator, member of the first three Provincial Congresses.

Col. John HarveyC. Neil Vester

Hero of the First Provincial Congress. Moderator of the Congress and Speaker of the Assembly. Resident of Perquimans County but represented Onslow County in the Congress.

Epilogue

First NarratorGeorge B. Nelson

Second NarratorBilly G. Haire

The audience will remain seated while the distinguished guests proceed to the stage for the next part of the evening's program.

The public is extended a cordial invitation to attend Part III, Part IV, Part V and Part VI of this program.

USHERETTES

Members of the New Bern Assembly No. 65, Order of the Rainbow for Girls are serving as usherettes for "1774" each evening. Their wonderful assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

ORGANIST

Gregory P. Jones

PART FOUR

9:15 P.M., Shrine Auditorium



William L. Mills, Jr., Grand Master

Presiding: Alfred A. Kafer, Jr., P.G.M. and General Chairman
Stage Guests: The Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Officials
New Bern Bicentennial Commission and other special guests.

Recognition of GuestsL. R. Thomas, Jr.
Introduction of the Grand MasterR. W. S. Frank Noble, Jr.
AddressM. W. William L. Mills, Jr.
Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina
Concluding RemarksGeneral Chairman
BenedictionRev. Brother Ernest R. Porter
Pastor, Centenary United Methodist Church

Our Grand Master was born September 21, 1914 in Cabarrus County and graduated in 1931 from the Cabarrus County Schools. By 1936 he had become the assistant overseer of the Cannon Mills Sheet Department and recognized as a leader. In 1941 he was inducted in the army for action in World War II. As a 1st Lieutenant he participated in the June 6 "D-Day" invasion of France and one week later he was wounded receiving the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for Valor with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Commendation Medal, three campaign stars and others. He entered law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received the Bachelor of Arts degree in June 1950. In June of 1952 he was awarded a LLB degree, which was changed to a J.D. degree in 1967. Now a senior partner in a prominent law firm in Concord, and Chairman of the Board of Law Examiners for North Carolina 1971-1973. In 1959 he was named "Senior Man of the Year" by the Concord Jaycees. Very active in civic and religious activities, he is a member of the First Baptist Church in Concord. He was married in 1953 to Mrs. Ruby Spainhour James and they have one son.

PART FIVE

8:00 P.M., August 20, 1974

Shrine Auditorium

Second presentation of the
Masonic Bicentennial
Drama

" 1 7 7 4 "

See Program detailed in PART THREE

PART SIX



Lieutenant Governor, James B. Hunt, Jr.

9:15 P.M., August 20, 1974

Shrine Auditorium

Stage Guests: Masonic Officials, New Bern Bicentennial Commission Officials, Mayor, City of New Bern

Presiding: Alfred A. Kafer, Jr., P.G.M., General Chairman

Recognition of Distinguished GuestsL. R. Thomas, Jr.

Introduction of SpeakerMayor Charles H. Kimbrell

AddressThe Honorable James B. Hunt, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of North Carolina

All of those associated with the production of "1774" are delighted to welcome as the concluding speaker of this program, one of North Carolina's most distinguished citizens, a man who has always been in the forefront not only of progressive legislation, but also in all of those worthwhile movements designed for the welfare of the people of our great State, The Lieutenant Governor of the State of North Carolina, The Honorable James B. Hunt, Jr. This man is well versed and thoroughly schooled in the activities of those early heroes of North Carolina and from them he utilizes those great qualities of citizenship in giving them a practical application to the problems of today.

We welcome our Lieutenant Governor.

Concluding remarks by the General Chairman

Benediction

APPRECIATION

Many very special persons have contributed generously of their talents to make the presentation of "1774" possible. To them an expression of deep gratitude is certainly in order.

Dr. Gertrude Carraway has been of tremendous help, not only in the preparation of certain papers on several of our colonial patriots and which she generously made available, but she has also made many helpful suggestions to facilitate the total plans for the production and to her can also be attributed the suggestion for the title of the drama "1774". New Bern will always be proud of Gertrude Carraway.

A word of gratitude should also be expressed for the tremendous assistance given by Mrs. Elinor Hawkins, Librarian for the New Bern-Craven County Public Library and her wonderful staff of assistants. They not only provided a delightful place for study and composing, but they never tired in their efforts to locate relevant literature. Citizens of New Bern and Craven County have every reason to be proud of their Public Library.

Many volumes have been used in research for this drama and some of them are listed elsewhere. A special word of appreciation, however, should be made to a native New Bernian, Alonzo Thomas Dill, author of "Governor Tryon and His Palace". This excellent book has been used extensively in the preparation of the drama "1774" and it proved to be invaluable.

A tremendous debt of deepest gratitude is to be acknowledged to Mrs. Henry W. (Laura Frances) Wolfe for her indefatigable efforts in compiling the manuscript. She has spared no efforts in making it as attractive as possible and has included some very helpful suggestions. As a "1774" Drama Secretary she has manifested every superlative qualification.

Finally, the Masonic lodges of New Bern express a word of gratitude to the Officials of the Bicentennial Committee of New Bern for the invitation to participate in the celebration festivities to commemorate the heroic efforts of our forefathers in "1774".

The Author

