THE

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

GRAND LODGE

OF

NORTH-CAROLINA.

HALIFAX:

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1798.

CONSTITUTION, &c.

WE the Members of the feveral Lodges in the State of North-Carolina, to eſtabliſh order and uniformity, to promote love and charity among Maſons, and diffuſe the principles of benevolence and the advantages of Maſonry, do ordain and eſtabliſh this CONSTITUTION for the Grand Lodge in this State.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. That the Grand Lodge ſhall conſiſt of a Grand Maſter, Deputy Grand Maſter, Grand Senior and Grand Junior Wardens, Grand Treaſurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Senior and Grand Junior Deacons, and the Maſters and Wardens for the time being of the ſeveral lodges within this ſtate, or repreſentative or repreſentatives ſpecially appointed by the Lodge for that purpoſe; who ſhall be conſidered as their proxy or proxies; and the paſt Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge, that is to ſay, a paſt Grand Maſter, paſt Deputy Grand Maſter, paſt Grand Senior and Junior Wardens, Grand Treaſurer and Grand Secretary. And the ſaid enumerated officers and perſons ſhall be the only members and voters of the Grand Lodge, except as herein after provided in the 5th ſection of the 10th article.—The Maſter and Wardens of every Lodge are the repreſentatives thereof in the Grand

Lodge,

Lodge, or their proxy or proxies conſtituted as aforeſaid.

SEC. 2. In all caſes where ſpecial repreſentatives ſhall not be appointed by any ſubordinate Lodge; and the Maſter and Wardens of any Lodge, cannot perſonally attend the Grand Lodge, they ſhall have the privilege of conſtituting a proxy; and ſuch proxy ſhall be a Maſter Maſon, and a member of ſome Lodge under this juriſdiction; and he or they ſhall be entitled to the ſame numberof votes as his or their conſtituent or conſtituents.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. A Grand Maſter ſhall be annually choſen, to wit, at the annual communication, and no perſon ſhall be eligible for the office more than three years ſucceſſively.

SEC. 2. In the election of a Grand Maſter, a ballot at large ſhall be taken, (every voter writing the name of the candidate he thinks beſt qualified) and the brother who has two thirds of the votes preſent, ſhall be declared Grand Maſter elect, and inſtalled in due form, according to ancient uſage.

SEC. 3. In caſe of ſickneſs, or neceſſary abſence, the Grand Maſter, or any other Grand Officer, may be inſtalled by proxy, but whoever repreſents them muſt have ſuſtained the office to which ſuch abſent officers is to be inſtalled, or ſuch office as might have entitled him to fill the chair in the abſence of the Grand Maſter.

SEC.

SEC. 4. The Grand Maſter ſhall appoint and commiſſion his Deputy, under the ſeal of the Grand Lodge, and he ſhall appoint and declare the Grand Deacons, the Grand Stewart, the Grand Marſhall, Grand Toiler and Grand Sword Bearer; which appointments ſhall be entered on the minutes of the Grand Lodge. And in caſe any other office ſhall become vacant by death, reſignation or otherwiſe, the Grand Maſter for the time ſhall fill ſuch vacancy by his nomination.

SEC. 5. The Grand Maſter ſhall, when preſent, indiſpenſably fill the chair, in his abſence the Deputy Grand Maſter, in the abſence of both the Senior Grand Warden, in the abſence of theſe the Junior Grand Warden, and in caſe of the abſence of all theſe officers the oldeſt Grand Officer in the Lodge is to fill the chair. And that the Grand Lodge may always appear in due form, the preſiding officer ſhall wear the jewel of the Grand Maſter, and all others the jewels of the officers they reſpectively repreſent.

SEC. 6. No Grand Maſter, Deputy Grand Maſter, or Grand Warden ſhall, during his continuance in office, be Maſter or Warden to, or repreſentative of a particular Lodge; and no brother ſhall be eligible for either of the ſaid offices, who has not paſſed the chair of ſome regular Lodge, to be made known by proper vouchers.

SEC. 7. The Grand Maſter, with his Deputy, Grand Wardens, Treaſurer, or Secretary ſhall, if convenient, during his Maſterſhip, viſit the ſeveral Lodges under his juriſdiction, and ſhall examine their records and proceedings, and ſee that no innovation be committed in any of them, firſt giving

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such Lodges timely notice of his approach. But in case it should not be convenient for the Grand Master, or his Officers to attend as herein required, then and in that case the Grand Master is authorised to appoint a skilful and confidential brother for this purpose.

Sec. 8. The Grand Master has full right and authority to preside in every Lodge under his jurisdiction, with the Master of the Lodge on his left hand, and to summon his Grand Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary to attend him, who are to act in their several capacities whenever the Grand Master takes the chair.

Sec. 9. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens, shall severally, at the time of their installation make the following declaration:—"I solemnly promise upon the honour of a "Mason, that in the office of ———— I will, "according to the best of my abilities, strictly "comply with the laws and regulations of this "Grand Lodge and all other ancient masonic usa-"ges."

Sec. 10. That the Grand Master shall have power to grant dispensations upon proper petition. That the brethren to whom such dispensation shall be granted, make application to the Grand Lodge at the next annual communication for a charter. And if such application shall not be made, or such charter not granted by the Grand Lodge, the Lodge erected by such dispensation shall be deemed dissolved.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE III.

The Grand Wardens ſhall be choſen annually by a majority of written votes, and muſt have paſſed the chair in ſome regular Lodge.

ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1. The Grand Treaſurer ſhall be choſen annually by a majority of written votes, and muſt have paſſed the chair.

SEC. 2. He muſt be a brother of good worldly ſubſtance, and to him ſhall be committed the monies belonging to the Grand Lodge. He ſhall always keep a fair record of his accounts and tranſactions, and the uſes to which the monies are appropriated; and ſhall lay the ſame, when required, before the Grand Lodge, and account for the monies as may be directed.

ARTICLE V.

SEC. 1. The Grand Secretary ſhall be choſen annually by a majority of written votes.

SEC. 2. He muſt be a brother who can write a fair legible hand; and ſhall keep accurate records of all the tranſactions of the Grand Lodge. He ſhall preſent all the votes and orders of the Grand Lodge, after they are entered, to the Grand Maſter for his approbation and ſignature. He ſhall iſſue ſummonſes as the Grand Maſter may direct, and ſhall give a ſeaſonable notice in at leaſt one public newſpaper of every ſtated meeting of the Grand

Lodge

Lodge. And he ſhall be rewarded for his ſervices from time to time as the Grand Lodge may direct.

ARTICLE VI.

SEC. 1. The Grand Deacons, Grand Stewarts, Grand Marſhall, and Grand Sword Bearer muſt be Maſter Maſons.

SEC. 2. The Grand Stewarts ſhall attend in preparing the feaſt on a regular ſummons for that purpoſe, and they ſhall always ſee that the tables are regularly and maſonically ſpread.

SEC. 3. The Grand Marſhall ſhall attend the Grand Feaſt, and aſſiſt the Grand Maſter in the order and arrangement of the day; and the Grand Sword Bearer ſhall attend on all public occaſions.

ARTICLE VII.

The Grand Toiler ſhall attend every call of the Grand Maſter, and be preſent at every Grand Lodge, for which ſervices he ſhall be rewarded from time to time according to his merit.

ARTICLE VIII.

SEC. 1. A Grand Lodge ſhall be held at leaſt once in every year, at ſuch time and place as the Grand Lodge ſhall appoint; and when no ſuch appointment ſhall be made, then at ſuch time and place as the moſt worſhipful ſhall appoint. And

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ſpecial Grand Lodges ſhall be held as the Gran. Maſter ſhall appoint.

SEC. 2. In the adoption of this Conſtitution, and all amendments hereafter made, and in the election of officers, the votes ſhall be taken according to the rights of the ſeveral Lodges, and the members of the Grand Lodge, that is to ſay, every Lodge preſent by its repreſentatives, ſhall be entitled to three votes, whether repreſented by one or more brethren; and every member of the Grand Lodge otherwiſe entitled than by being a repreſentative of a particular Lodge, ſhall have one vote. All other matters in Grand Lodge ſhall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members preſent, and the brother in the chair ſhall have the caſting vote.

SEC. 3. The Grand Lodge ſhall have power, by charter, under their ſeal in form heretofore uſed, to conſtitute new Lodges, to eſtabliſh an uniform mode of working in all the Lodges within this ſtate, and ſuperintend and regulate the general police of Maſonry according to the ancient uſages and cuſtoms of Maſons, carefully regarding the old land marks, which are in no account to be removed or defaced.

SEC. 4. The Grand Lodge, on granting a charter to a newly conſtituted Lodge, may demand ſuch reaſonable fees as they may eſtabliſh by law.

SEC. 5. The Grand Lodge ſhall have power to call upon the ſeveral Lodges for the annual and cuſtomary dues.

SEC. 6. The Grand Lodge ſhall have power to eſtabliſh an uniform rule as to the ſums to be paid

in the ſeveral Lodges within the juriſdiction of this Grand Lodge, for entering, paſſing and raiſing a brother.

SEC. 7. The Grand Lodge ſhall have power to make ſuch laws for their own government as they ſhall think proper.

ARTICLE IX.

SEC. 1. No vote of the Grand Lodge ſhall be reconſidered by a leſs number of members than were preſent at the paſſing of the ſame.

SEC. 2. No brother ſhall be admitted into the Grand Lodge but ſuch as are members, excepting petitioners and witneſſes: Provided that brethren properly entitled by their grade in Maſonry, may, on motion, be admitted as viſitors. In neither of which caſes ſhall they be admitted to vote.

SEC. 3. No new charter ſhall be granted, but upon the petition of at leaſt five known and approved Maſter Maſons; nor ſhall a new warrant iſſue to any number of Maſons reſiding within leſs than ten miles of the uſual place of meeting of any regular eſtabliſhed Lodge, unleſs by ſpecial diſpenſation of the Grand Lodge, and the petition ſhall contain the cauſes which render it expedient that ſuch charter ſhould be granted, with the nomination of the Maſter and Wardens, and the petition ſhall be approved by ſome regular conſtituted Lodge in the vicinity of the petitioners.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE X.

SEC. 1. Every Lodge under this jurisdiction shall once every year transmit to the Grand Lodge the names of their officers, and also the names of the brothers who have been made Masons, passed fellow-crafts, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons, in order that the same may be duly noticed in the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 2. Upon the demise of any Lodge within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, the last Secretary and Treasurer of said Lodge shall within six months afterwards surrender to the Grand Secretary the books, papers, jewels, funds and furniture of said Lodge.

SEC. 3. The Grand Wardens and Grand Secretary shall make all necessary preparations for every Grand Feast, and they shall be assisted by the Grand Stewards, or some general undertaker.

SEC. 4. Every brother present at a Grand Feast shall be controulled by the Grand Master in every thing that pertains to the decency and decorum of his conduct.

SEC. 5. Every brother who is an existing member of the Grand Lodge of North-Carolina, at the time of the adoption of the present constitution, shall continue to be a member of the same, he paying up his dues as prescribed by the laws of this Grand Lodge.

SEC. 6. No amendment to this constitution shall be adopted by the Grand Lodge, until the same, after being proposed in writing to the Grand Lodge,

and

and thereby concurred with, shall be submitted to the consideration of all the individual Lodges, and adopted by at least two thirds of all the said Lodges.

W. R. DAVIE, G. M.
J. GLASGOW, D. G. M.
ROB. WILLIAMS, jun. G. S.
} *Committee appointed to form this Constitution.*

An Extract from the Records,

(TEST) ROB. WILLIAMS, jun. Grand Secretary.

FINIS.

Ratified and confirmed in Grand Lodge the 7th of December A.L. 5797 A.D. 1797

Test Rob Williams Jun
Grand Secretary