



# The NORTH CAROLINA MASON

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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

## This Is Our New Grand Master



WILLIAM LEE MILLS, JR.

Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, 1974-1975

It is not easy to box William Lee Mills, Jr., into a few biographical paragraphs. This man's consistent growth as a lawyer, civic leader, patriot — and as a human being — keeps him flexible. Just as the pattern seems set, new facets of character and achievement break the existing mold. It has always been so.

Son of the late William L. Mills and Alice Litaker Mills, Bill was born on September 21, 1914, the eldest of eight children. After graduating in 1931 from Cabarrus County Schools, he was employed with Cannon Mills, Plant 1, in Kannapolis. At the same time, he continued his education in secretarial and commercial training. By 1936, Mills was recognized as a leader, having become assistant overseer of the Cannon Mills Sheet Department. This same year he was married to Miss Erin Morris of Thomson, Georgia.

In 1941, the United States entered into World War II and in 1942 William L. Mills, Jr., was inducted into the Army.

Chosen for Officer's Candidate School, he received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant at Fort Benning, Georgia, in January, 1943. In January, 1944, the now 1st Lieutenant Mills was shipped to England in time to take part in the June 6 "D-Day" invasion of France. Just one week after his arrival on the Normandy coast, Mills was wounded. He received the Purple Heart Medal, was promoted to Captain and returned to his fighting unit in France in August, 1944.

On October 14, 1944, in the Seigfried Line, Captain Mills was again wounded, suffering the loss of a leg while aiding a companion just injured in a similar explosion. In recognition of his gallantry, Mills received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for Valor with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, ETO Medal with an arrowhead for the invasion of Normandy, and three campaign stars. On September 29, 1946,

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During the closing days of its 1974 session the North Carolina General Assembly enacted legislation which exempts Masonic lodges and certain other organizations from the payment of ad valorem taxes.