

Andrews, Alexander Boyd, Jr. ^[1]

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A. B. ANDREWS, JR., Grand Master, 1916

"A. B. Andrews, Jr. Grand Master. 1916." From "Proceedings of the Grand Lodge." Image courtesy of Internet Archive.

^[2]Alexander Boyd Andrews, Jr., attorney, Masonic ^[3] official, and amateur historian, was born in Henderson, the second son of Alexander Boyd Andrews ^[4], senior vice-president of the Southern Railroad, and his wife, Julia Martha Johnston. After studying at the Raleigh Male Academy, he entered The University of North Carolina ^[5], where he was a member of the Dialectic Literary Society ^[6], Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity ^[7], and the Order of the Gimghouls ^[8]. After being graduated in 1893 with a Litt. B. degree, he studied law at the university for a year and was admitted to the bar in September 1894.

Andrews commenced practice in Raleigh ^[9] and remained there for the rest of his life. A president of the Wake County Bar Association ^[10] in 1928 and 1929 and of the state bar association at the same time, he also served on the American Bar Association's ^[11] Committee on Legal Education and, from 1922 to 1943, its Committee on Judicial Salaries, chairing the latter committee from 1922 to 1935. He was a member of the Raleigh Board of Aldermen from 1900 to 1904 and briefly acted as mayor *pro tempore*. In 1930 he chaired the executive committee of the state advisory committee for Furnifold M. Simmons ^[12]'s unsuccessful campaign for renomination to the U.S. Senate.

Most of Andrews's activities, however, were devoted to private charitable pursuits. A member and past master of the William G. Hill Lodge ^[13], he attained the Thirty-third Degree in the Scottish rite, served as state grand commander in the Knights Templar in 1906 and in 1908 was grand high priest of the state Grand Royal Arch Chapter. In 1916 he was elected grand master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. While in office, he was instrumental in arranging Masonic loan funds at several North Carolina colleges and in obtaining dispensation for a state temple of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. When the Sudan Temple was instituted at New Bern on 26 Sept. 1917, Andrews was elected its first illustrious potentate. He was also an exalted ruler of the Raleigh Elks Lodge and a president of the Raleigh Kiwanis Club ^[14].



Heck-Andrews House. Image

courtesy of the National Park Service. ^[15] A devoted student of North Carolina history and lore, Andrews amassed an enormous collection of historical pamphlets and documents. In 1928 he published and distributed thousands of copies of the state anthem at his own expense. At his death, his collection went to The University of North Carolina, East Carolina ^[16] Teacher's College, and the New Bern Public Library ^[17]. He wrote numerous articles on Masonic and Episcopal church ^[18] history, including a digest of Masonic law and an unpublished biographical sketch of William Joseph Williams (1759–1823), the North Carolina artist and Mason. His "Richard Dobbs Speight" ^[19] (*North Carolina Historical Review* 1 [April 1924]) is considered a model of objective scholarship and attention to detail. A member of the American Statistical Association and an accomplished amateur statistician, Andrews regularly, on his own volition, issued statistical reports on various aspects of public policy. Some of these, such as his 1942 census of graduate degrees held by state college instructors, which indicated a marked inequality in the staffs of white and Black institutions, excited considerable controversy.

A trustee of The University of North Carolina from 1927 to 1946 and a secretary to the board, Andrews also served on the board of trustees of East Carolina Teacher's College (1919–46) and of Oxford Orphanage (1917–43). From 1927 to 1929 he was president of The University of North Carolina Alumni Association ^[20]. A devout Episcopalian and a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh ^[9], he was a member of the house of deputies at its triennial general convention (1931–43) and chairman of its committee on canons (1940–43). From 1934 until his death, he was chancellor of the Diocese of North Carolina ^[21]. Personally generous, he endowed loan funds in honor of his father and wife as gifts to his diocese, to St. Mary's College in Raleigh, to The University of North Carolina, to East Carolina Teacher's College, and to North Carolina State College in Raleigh. Among his other pursuits, he was a member of the original board of trustees of the Roanoke Island Historical Association.

On 5 Nov. 1908 Andrews married Mary Helen Sharples, of Media, Pa. The couple had no children. Andrews died at his home in Raleigh and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery ^[22].

References:

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Gertrude S. Carraway, *Crown of Life: History of Christ Church, New Bern* (1940), and *Years of Light: History of St. John's Lodge* (1944).

Walter Klein, "The Andrews Census," *Carolina Magazine*, May 1942.

Paul Morris, "Thirty Years of the New History," *North Carolina Historical Review* 32 (1955).

Additional Resources:

The History of the University Library's Numismatic Collection, Historic Moneys in the North Carolina Collection, UNC: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/money/universityhistory.html> ^[23]

Alexander Boyd Andrews, Jr in the Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Andrews%2C%20Alexander%20Boyd%2C%201873-1946%22> ^[24]

Alexander Boyd Andrews, Jr in WorldCat ^[25].

Alexander Boyd Andrews, Jr in Library of Congress.^[26]

Image Credits:

Alley, Elizabeth. "Heck-Andrews House, Raleigh." National Park Service. Accessed Mar. 20, 2024. <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/raleigh/hec.htm> ^[15].

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. "A. B. Andrews, Jr. Grand Master. 1916." Proceedings of the Grand Lodge on Internet Archive. 1916. Accessed Mar. 20, 2024 at <https://archive.org/details/proceedingsofgra1916free/page/n5/mode/2up> ^[2].

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