

The Fresh Rashers of Nashville Celebrate 20th Anniversary



Pictured at the June 8 meeting: Bill Mason, Dave Price, Dean Richardson, Sam House, Drew Thomas, and David Hayes.

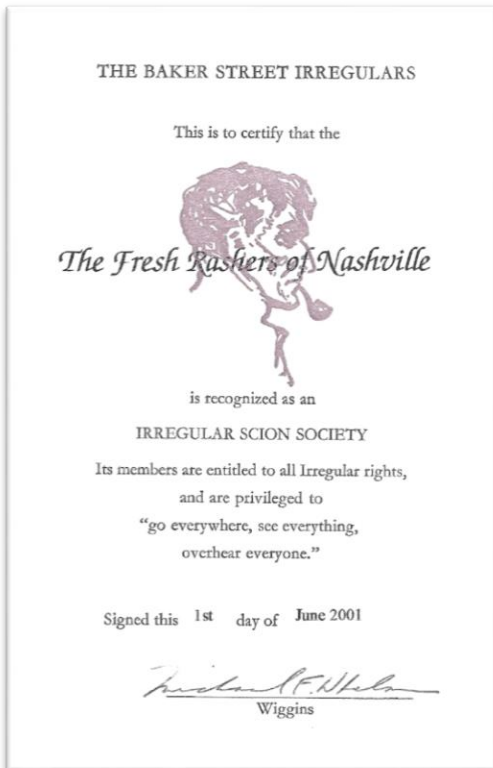
On June 1, The Fresh Rashers gathered to celebrate two events: the first meal together since the beginning of the pandemic, and the 20th anniversary of its establishment as a scion society. Attending were Bill Mason, David Hayes, Drew Thomas, Dave Price, and Dean Richardson. The location was the current meeting place, Wendell Smith's off Charlotte Avenue in West Nashville. Consistent with their modus operandi, there were no speeches, just good food and conversation and the sharing of Sherlockian and other treasures.

While veiled by the mists of time, legend has it that sometime in the late '90s, several Nashville Scholars, feeling the need for more frequent fellowship with other Sherlockians than the (at that time) bimonthly meeting of the Scholars, began a breakfast group on a weekly basis with David Bradley as convenor. Eventually, on March 23, 2001, a Friday, the group held a "charter" meeting at Dan's Café on Lafayette and assigned officers: Bill Mason (the Breakfast Ringer); Billy Fields (the Ravenous Cover); Marino Alvarez (the Curious Cover); David Bradley (the Dazed Cover); Jim Hawkins (the Fourth Egg); and Gael Stahl (the 30-Miler of Surrey). On April 11 they submitted a petition to Michael Whelan, then "Wiggins" (president) of the BSI, to become an official scion of the society. Their stated purposes were twofold: "a) discussing and perpetuating the history and legend of Sherlock Holmes, and b) eating a good breakfast." They received their charter on June 1.

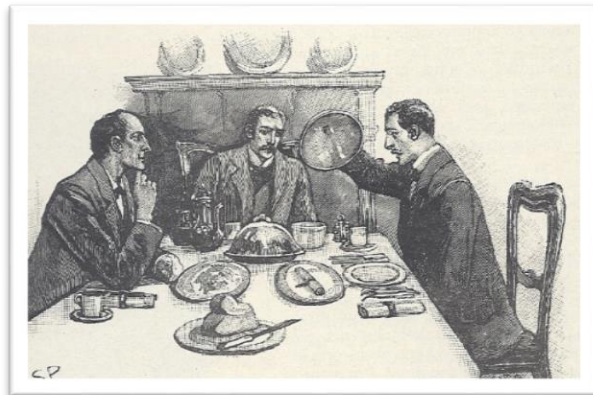
Over the years the group has met in different eateries (Shoney's on Music Row, Cracker Barrel in Goodlettsville, Noshville on Broadway, The Pie Wagon on Demonbreun Avenue) and on different days (first Fridays, then Mondays, then Tuesdays). They have lost some members (through death or out-of-town moves) and gained others. According to Bill, "Anyone who has ever been a member remains so, and any interested Sherlockian or guest is always welcome."

Bill also mentions that "the primary project of the Fresh Rashers of Nashville for several years now has been our annual visit to the 221B Classroom of Shannon Carlisle at Moore Elementary School in Franklin. Rasher members join teams of her students in a competitive quiz about 'The Red-Headed League,' and we are regularly put to shame by their knowledge of the story. In the spring of 2021, due to Covid, the classroom meeting was replaced by a performance on Zoom of an original play based on 'The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle' by one of Shannon's students."

Space is limited at Wendell Smith's, so if you would like to attend on any Tuesday, please contact David Hayes or Bill Mason to be sure there is a place for you at the table(s).



**The Fresh Rashers
of Nashville**



**10th Anniversary
June 6, 2011**

Bill Mason
*The Breakfast Ringer
of the Fresh Rashers of Nashville*

