



2020  
LEGACY  
INDUCTEE



# WARNER STAMEY

**Pitmaster, Restaurateur**

Born in 1911 the youngest of 11 children, Warner Stamey moved to Lexington, NC to live with his older sister while he attended high school. While he was there, he hooked up with the ingenious barbecue men Jess Swicegood and Sid Weaver. They were selling pork out of tents across from the courthouse and taught Stamey everything there was to know about pit cooking barbecue.

A high school diploma and \$350 dollars later, Mr. Stamey moved back to Shelby, NC where he sold his own barbecue to growing crowds. Eventually, in 1938, he sold his operation and came back to Lexington, NC.

From that first restaurant grew several culinary ventures and barbecue innovations. Warner's barbecue pit designs and restaurant methods are still used by the best pitmasters and restaurateurs today. Warner was also first to pair Hushpuppies with his pit cooked pork (a staple of every piedmont NC barbecue eatery). Warner Stamey is considered by many as the Godfather of Lexington- style NC barbecue. In 1953 he opened his sixth restaurant in Greensboro, NC where the fourth generation of Stamey family continues his legacy and craft.