

# THE SPRIG

APRIL 2014

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 19 Issue 4

From the East by WB Lyth B. Clark, Jr. Worshipful Master

## 2014 OFFICERS

WB Lyth B. Clark Jr. WM  
WB David P Stuard Jr SW  
Jamle W. Sanders JW  
WB Art B Ford Treasurer  
WB Richard G. Miner  
Secretary  
Eddie Hill Sr Deacon  
Giff Carpenter Jr Deacon  
Eric Lloyd Steward  
WB Thomas A. Baker  
Steward  
WB Wayne C. Smith Jr.  
Chaplain  
Randy Edwards Tyler  
Charles A. Marthers  
Organist



## DATES TO REMEMBER

4/3

Regular Communication  
Dinner and Fellowship  
at 6:30 PM  
Lodge opens at 7:30

4/10

Proposed  
E/A Degree

4/17

Proposed  
Master Mason's Degree  
(times same as above)

## IN MEMORIAM

This month Acacia 94  
mourns the passing of  
two of our brothers,  
Bro. Wilbur L. Harling  
And  
Dr. Joseph E. Wallace

Greetings, I trust that spring may finally be here. Regardless, the First Quarter of 2014 has seen the following degree work, an EA on 2/13 and a FC on 3/20, and the calendar for April is filling up. We plan on presenting both the EA and MM degrees this month, on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The MM degree will be brought forward one week, because the Grand Lodge Annual Communication will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. For those of you that can, try to attend one of the degrees, either the Entered Apprentice or the Master's degree. I know that our candidates, and even our regular attendees, will be gladdened by your attendance.

Remember what you learned from your degrees.

*To regulate my manners, to purify my heart and to lead me according to the precepts of wisdom, justice and equity.*

*From Allegorical Conversations Arranged by Wisdom, translated by Arturo de Hoyos, 33<sup>o</sup>, G.C. and S. Brent Morris, 33<sup>o</sup>, G.C.*

Do not forget Easter, which will come on April 20<sup>th</sup>. If you want some really good food before then, the Columbia Scottish Rite has their Rite-Care BBQ Fundraiser on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. That works out to a choice of supper on Friday, 5-7 PM or lunch on Saturday, 11-2 PM.

Finally, be bound by duty, honor, and gratitude. We hope to \_\_\_\_

**See you in Lodge.**

Tidings from the West by WB David P, Stuard, Jr. Senior Warden

It is with great pleasure that I pen this installment, as I have good tidings to share with you. Our committee reports for 2013 are all in, and it seems we had a pretty good year, on all fronts. Financially we are in a better position than last year, our membership has increased for the first time in several years, and indeed is still on the rise, and our degree work is once again the standard of the 10th district. We were even asked to provide an EA team to assist our brothers at Earlewood, and Acacia rose to the call en masse, reminiscent of a time, not so long ago, when we were the 10th district's go-to degree lodge. There were representatives from all over the 8th and 10th present, and in my opinion, we showed them all that we are still the flagship of this fleet.

On the home front, we have two degrees tentatively scheduled for April, pending lodge approval. Our Master's degree has been moved forward one week, to the 17th, in order not to conflict with the Grand Lodge on the 24th. However, this means that it will now take place on what is known as Maundy Thursday, and from my own experience last year, this can be a very difficult day on which to fill a degree roster. I am asking any of you who are available, won't you please come out for the team, as we will most certainly be in need of your help.

**We are here to add what we can to life, not to take what we can from it—William Osler**

**ACACIA LODGE #94**  
is located at  
1518 HAMPTON ST  
COLUMBIA, SC 29201  
OFFICE HOURS  
MON-THURS 9AM-2PM  
**(803) 256-2538**

Regular communications  
held every first Thursday  
at 7:30 (dinner at 6:30)



#### SICK AND DISTRESSED

WB Ivan Wells  
WB Don Michie  
WB Jim Neal  
and  
Our Bro. Organist  
Charlie Marthers

#### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 William T. Rotrueau Jr.
- 4 Heath G. Greene
- 6 Issac Kozielek
- 16 A. Pitts Tubeville, Jr.
- 18 William J. Eccles
- 20 Charles A. Marthers
- 22 Richard E. Johnson
- 23 Alton R. Blanks
- 25 WB Ivan M. Wells
- 25 Thomas L. Quinn
- 26 C. Douglas Green
- 30 William L. Chichester

Lastly, I thought that perhaps we might use the Sprig's e-mail in a new fashion, as a trestle board whereby our brothers could speak out, or drop us a line, twitter-like, as it were. To that end, I recently sent out an e-request, and received the following Masonic tweets. From brother Robert Milling — "I was just notified that I have been declared a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association", so Congratulations to Robert, and from brother Doug Hall, now living in Louisiana — "I would like to wish all my brothers at Acacia #94 the very best this year. I miss everyone and wish I could be there". We miss you too, Brother. Stay in touch. Anyone else have a shout-out? Just click reply to the Sprig e-mail address, [sprigofacacia94@hotmail.com](mailto:sprigofacacia94@hotmail.com) and I'll post your messages to all the brothers here each month. I'm sure they'll all be glad to hear from you. I know I always am.

#### Much Ado About Acacia - by WB Richard G. Miner, PM and Secretary

The acacia tree is familiar to most Freemasons, as it is mentioned in one of the Masonic rituals. But what do we know about the acacia? There are over 1,300 species of acacia found in many parts of the world, from Australia to Africa. The name comes from a Greek word meaning "thorns", which are found on most acacia trees, Australian acacia being the exception. In some translations of the Bible, acacia is referred to by its Hebrew name, "shittim,". In the United States, the black locust tree is sometimes called the "false acacia."

Acacia trees grow mostly in the desert areas. Its deep roots allow the acacia to grow where other trees, whose roots do not go so deep, cannot find moisture to live. Perhaps that is one reason the acacia is the symbol of the immortality of the soul in Freemasonry. The height of the acacia varies between 3 and 16 feet, according to the amount of water in the ground. Camels have learned to eat the leaves between the thorns. Gazelles feed on fallen seeds found in the pods of the tree.

The acacia is a sacred tree among the Hebrews. The resin from acacia trees was once used as medicine by the ancients. The Jewish Talmud also mentions a medicine made from acacia, Moses used acacia wood to fashion the Ark of the Covenant, as well as the tabernacle, the table for the show-bread and the rest of the sacred furniture.

There is indeed much symbolism in the acacia which we do not catch when listening to the ritual.

#### Updating the Sprig of Acacia Mailing List — a progress report

We are once again in the process of updating our lodge contact and mailing list, and again we need your help. WB Jack Coker is requesting that all brothers who receive the Sprig through the mail please verify their address, as lately we have had several returned as undeliverable. If you can, please take a minute to call him at the Lodge office any time during our normal business hours and confirm that we have all of your correct and current contact information, address, phone number, e-mail address, etc. Thank you for helping to spread the light.

**Believe that life is worth living and your belief will create the fact-William James**