

# THE SPRIG

**NOVEMBER 2012**

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREEMASONS COLUMBIA, SC

**Vol 19 Issue 11**

**Tidings 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  
James A. Sanders J W  
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



We find ourselves nearing Thanksgiving and the end of the year. Has everything gone well with you? Have you accomplished all, or at least most, that you wanted to? I know that I have not. November will be especially busy if all goes as planned. There will be our regular business meeting, our Ladies' and Awards Night, and an EA degree (and Thanksgiving also). I hope that you can join us on at least one Thursday night.

Elections of officers for the new Masonic year will take place at the Business Meeting on November 6th. Any office is a trust and, in some ways, a burden. I can only say that a Mason is better for having accepted his lodge's call for service. However, not everyone can serve in a chair. There are only so many to fill. Nevertheless, every Mason can serve every day, wherever he finds himself, his family, his neighborhood, and his workplace.

As the year closes out, are you worried about anything, including lodge numbers? Masonry, or more correctly, the number of Masons is declining. Do you remember the story of Gideon? He had a number of men and was told to whittle that number down. From 32,000, 10,000 remained. That was still too many. The next reduction went to 300 men. And that was enough.

Ask yourself the question about why you joined? The next question may well be if you would again join this fraternity. Next, ask if you are advancing in knowledge and virtue, or just age and debt? With respect to the first, why not? I hope to

**See you in Lodge.**

**WB Lyth B. Clark, Jr.**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

11/6

Regular Communication  
and Election of Officers

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

11/13

Acacia Lodge Annual  
Ladies' Night and  
Awards Banquet  
7:00 PM

11/20

Proposed Entered  
Apprentice Degree

Why not attend  
All Three?

**From the Secretary's Desk by Worshipful Brother Richard G. Miner**

The 2015 dues notice have been sent out; if you have not received your notice, please let me know. We have had several dues notices returned with no known address. It is important that we keep our data base updated. If you have moved or had a change of address please let me know.

You can also assist me in getting your 2015 dues card back to you by using the enclosed return envelope. This envelope will also make it easy for you since it has the lodge address printed on the front side.

Thank you for your continued support and a special thanks to those who have made donations to the lodge.

**Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice — Anton Checkov**

**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 Don Mitchie  
WB Jim Neal  
Charles A. Marthers



At our next regular communication, you will have the chance to do something meaningful, something very important, something that only comes around once a year, Vote. That's right, Vote. This is one of the greatest duties we bear in lodge, and one which I do not think is taken seriously enough. If you only come to lodge once a year, this should be the time. It does not matter who you vote for, or which side of the fence you're on, it only matters that you be there to cast your ballot. It is the one time when all men are truly equal, just as our Masonic forefathers intended them to be.

So please. do not let the future of your lodge be decided for you by a mere handful of brothers. Come on out, Speak your mind, Do your part...Vote. In Tuesday's general election, and at Acacia on Thursday. It's your right, as an American and as a Mason. You'd do it for your country, wouldn't you? Why not do it for your lodge?

I received only one communication this month, from Brother Erik Lloyd, who sent this message:

Hello Brothers, I just want to let all of you know that I made the Dean's List for Medical Assistant at Virginia College. My family is very, very proud of this achievement and so am I. I also want to let Acacia Lodge 94 know how proud I am to be a Mason. It is a great honor to me and to the Lloyd family name.

— Editor's note: Yeah Bro, I know. I feel the same way.

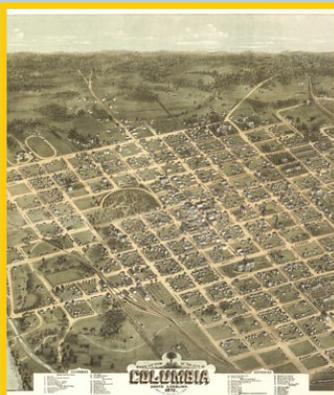
#### Are You a Thermometer or a Thermostat for Masonry? by WB Tom Davis

If you are involved in Masonry, then you are either a thermometer or a thermostat for the order. Before we can determine which, we must first consider the purposes of these two devices. A thermometer simply measures and mirrors the existing conditions; a thermostat however, is a device that can alter and control these conditions. As Masons, we are either going about our daily lives, unconcerned about the current state of the order, or we are actively working to improve it. Our fraternity (the oldest in the world) is currently losing members both at the state and national levels. In the State of SC, membership suffered a net decline in 2012 of 1,037, and the figures for 2013 indicate a net loss of 1,121. Many may have been called home by the Supreme Architect, but too many others leave the craft as NPD's.

Take a moment to consider... Are you living a life that non-Masons would want to emulate, and perhaps even apply for membership in our organization? Have you contacted former members who have dropped out and inquired why they felt the organization should no longer be an integral part of their lives? As a thermostat, you not only realize that things can be improved, but you set out to make a positive change. Remember, it is your decision, whether to be a thermometer or a thermostat. As we are told in Lodge, "Choose wisely and vote for the good of the order." Please bear in mind, the future of this great fraternity is in your hands.

NOVEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Cardell Bunch
- 14 Joseph Jenkins
- 14 WB James Neal
- 15 Osger Jordan, Jr.
- 15 Johnson Leviner
- 16 John Staser
- 18 WB Richard Miner
- 19 David Jameson
- 20 Carl Craig
- 23 Levi Hardwick



It was assumed that after President George Washington made his Southern Tour in 1791, certain things may have been done to commemorate his visit, such as the Statue of him on the State House steps, but as we learned in the last issue of the Sprig, this was not so. Also questioned was the naming of the downtown streets, i.e. Washington Street and Lady Street - were they named in honor of this visit?

In March of 1786 a decision was made to move the South Carolina State Capital from Charleston to Columbia, and in preparation, a survey was conducted and a map of the city was drawn up by Surveyor General J. G. Guignard. Except for a few minor name changes, this city map has remained principally intact to this day. It is a matrix of North – South roads and intersecting East – West roads, with the principal intersection at Assembly Street and Senate Street.

Quadrants were set up such that roads West of Assembly and North of Senate were named principally after national or international figures, these being: Gates; Lincoln; Gadson, Wayne; Pulaski; Huger; Williams; Gist; and Pinckney, all of which run North to South

Roads East of Assembly and North of Senate were named principally after South Carolina Militia figures, most notably: Gervais; Lady; Washington; Hampton; Taylor; Blanding; Laurel; and Richland running East -West, and Barnwell; Laurens; Harden; Gregg; Sumter; Marion (and of course, Main) all running N-S

The streets running E-W below Senate were all named for famous judges and engineers who were instrumental in the City's development, or else named for South Carolina commodities, et al: Green; Devine; Whaley; Blossom (cotton); and Wheat.

Therefore, according to the original 1786 design and layout for the City of Columbia, Lady and Washington Streets were part of the original street plan and were in no way related to Washington's 1791 Southern Tour.

In the next issue of the Sprig will look at the background of some of these named players.

This Article first appeared in the State Newspaper and features our own Worshipful Brother Bill Eccles, who lived at Preston almost 50 years ago. It was submitted by brother Smitty Harrison and is reprinted here with the permission of the author, Harrison Cahill.



Former residents of Preston College at the University of South Carolina turned out Sunday to celebrate the dorm's 75th birthday and see how college life there has changed – or stayed the same.

Dan Brown, a Preston College resident for two years starting in 1968, said even on his way home from work, he will sometimes drive through campus just to see where many of his memories were made while attending USC. "It's the same as it was in 1968 for me," Brown said. "We had a real close-knit group of friends and we would arrange our classes sometimes so we could get together in the afternoon and sit together in the living room and watch television. Everyone was hooked on 'Star Trek' then, and we had a group of 25 guys racing back from class to tune in at 3 p.m. to watch 'Star Trek,'"

Jessica Parker, a junior at the university who lived in two previous dorms, said living in such a historic building makes her feel she has a responsibility to respect the environment more than traditional halls. "Since this has been here for so long, it's such a cherished part of the university," Parker said. "People on campus definitely recognize that it is an honor to live here and those who live in Preston feel like they have to uphold that honor." Preston Residential College is the only student dormitory on campus with its own live-in faculty member, and is one of the few places at the University of South Carolina where a student can enter as a freshman and remain until graduation.

Residential College Principal Bobby Donaldson has lived among more than 200 co-educational students, both undergraduate and graduate, for the past five years with his family. "We have thoroughly enjoyed our time here, working to enhance the academic and co-curricular mission of our community," Donaldson said. "Our children, ages 3 and 8, have been an active part of the community, and for our youngest, Joseph, Preston is the only home he has known." Donaldson, who is also an associate professor of history at the university, said the funding for the construction of the college started in part by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal as the university began to expand. After it was built in 1939, it became the home for cadets from the Naval ROTC, many of whom served during World War II. Largely housing only white male students, the college would later be a part of the desegregation of the university in the 1960s before becoming a co-educational dorm in the 1970s.

Donaldson said many of the former students who lived in Preston have memories of the U.S. flag being lowered to half staff after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Others remember demonstrations for and against civil rights that occurred right outside Preston's doors along Greene Street. "Today's event is a reminder to students and current residents that they are part of a long and remarkable legacy," Donaldson said.

For Bill Eccles, a former live-in faculty member in 1965, Preston holds a special place among the other residency halls on the university's campus. "When you lived on this campus you just lived in a dorm. Eh, OK, who cares?" Eccles said. "But this one had an identification as did Woodrow, which was the next, and as did Maxey on the Horseshoe. They developed actual governments in the residence halls where they would be doing their own responsible organization. Being able to come back and see the changes that have taken place is pretty spectacular. It changed to a really residential college with a true faculty resident and all sorts of support services."

But there was also another fond memory Eccles, who developed USC's computer science program, had of Preston College. It sparked when he visited the room where he and his wife, Trish, first lived after getting married in 1967. "The most fun one was going to see the resident living in the apartment where we lived in 45 to 50 years ago," Eccles said. "It hasn't changed much. That's been the biggest fun so far."

By Harrison Cahill, The State Newspaper. Reprinted with Permission