

THE SPRIG

OCTOBER 2014

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Vol 19 Issue 10

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

2014 OFFICERS

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Giff Carpenter Jr Deacon
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WB Thomas A. Baker
Steward
WB Wayne C. Smith Jr.
Chaplain
Randy Edwards Tyler
Charles A. Marthers
Organist



DATES TO REMEMBER

10/2
Regular Communication
Dinner and Fellowship
at 6:30 PM
Lodge opens at 7:30

10/16
Proposed
Fellowcraft Degree



Autumn is around us. The temperatures are in decline, the rains not as rare, and some leaves have begun to fall. And still we work. In September, Acacia Lodge initiated a new Entered Apprentice, raised another brother to the sublime degree, and had one pass on to the eternal realm. In contrast, one of our newly raised brothers and his wife brought their first child into the world, a daughter. Life goes on.

As I write this, we are entering the High Holy Days for our Jewish brethren. The Hebrew New Year or Rosh Hashanah, commenced at sundown on the 24th, beginning the year 5775. When preparing for the birthday of the creation of the world, there are several practices which can usefully be applied to all. The first is to ask forgiveness of anyone that we may have wronged in the previous year. Note how we close every meeting by asking the pardon of God for "*whatever thou hast seen amiss in us*" Here individuals are seeking reconciliation with other individuals. Secondly, one must perform a four-fold spiritual assessment. What have I accomplished in the year past? Do I make an effort not to waste precious time, never forgetting that "*the little particles...how they pass away almost imperceptibly*". Do I contribute to a better world? What are my goals for the coming year? All of this is to recognize that God is the source of everything, that he is aware of our actions, and that he is our King, to whom we should be connected. As Masons we know this already, that He is "*the giver of all good gifts and graces*" who "*understandeth our thoughts from afar*", and that we seek to obtain His promise.

In closing, have a good new year, even if it seems early, and if you have not been in Lodge lately, please consider attending this month's Regular Communication, or perhaps the upcoming Fellow Craft degree. I hope to...

See you in Lodge.

WB Lyth B. Clark, Jr.



Improve in the present, for opportunity is precious and time is a sword - Saadi

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 Michie
WB Jim Neal
Charles A. Marthers
and
WB Raymond
Shumpert
Past Master of
Columbia Lodge
Now with Pacific 325

DONATIONS

J. Thomas Davis
Frank C. Varn, Sr.
Erik Lloyd
David R, Jameson
James Curtis
David Clamp
Alfred James
John Staser
Rev. Ewell Black
and
Bro. Don L. Cousins

As I reflect upon my Masonic membership, I feel “truly blessed” to be a member of the fraternity, as it has become the very “Rule and Guide” of my life. Indeed “You Get out of it What you put Into it”. Now I know how cliché these little quotes are to some, but oftimes our thoughts and feelings can best be summed up by the use of such time-worn phrases, ones that, (like myself) have more than a few miles on them, and yet, still “fit the Bill”. So if you will pardon my indulgence, I’ll just say ...“Surely my cup runneth over”.

Lately I’ve been focused on another such maxim, “Paying it Forward”. As you know, I have spent much of the last few years acting as coach for our newest Masons, and while I focus mainly on the proficiency, I always try to include in each session a bit of history, some tid-bit of Masonic trivia, or as I refer to it, the “Back-Story”. For instance, who are the Holy Saint(s) John? What are the four perfect points of entrance? What is an Oblong Square? It is the way that I was coached, by our own Worshipful Master, over a decade ago, and in my experience, it fosters a greater understanding of the craft, and also serves to distract from the tedium of memorization. It is my hope that my candidates gain something from this, as I did, and at the very least, they seem willing to put up with my dreadful puns, such as, (forgive me) “One Day, the Student shall Become the Master (Mason)”.

More and more however I find myself learning from them. One brother, Michael Carroll, had a great deal of theosophical wisdom to share with me. I enjoyed our sessions immensely. Another, Robert Schneider of Lexington 152, where I also coach, holds a PhD in History, and he is well versed in Masonic-American lore, such as William Morgan and the Anti-Masonic era. I hope to persuade him to lecture in both lodges in the near future. But by far my greatest joy lies in those new brothers who are dedicating themselves to the work of the lodge, not just by attending, but by picking up a part in the ritual themselves, or, when visiting other lodges, by sitting in as temporary officers, and performing very well. Brother Chris Shipman gave a near perfect Master’s Proficiency. As Tiler, brother Randy Edwards and as Stewards, brothers Erik Lloyd and Stewart Sneed have excelled, each taking up parts in the Master’s ritual. Their dedication is contagious, and I would not be at all surprised to see our new legacy member, Trey Harrison, pick up the ball and run with it, spurred by their enthusiasm, with his father “Smitty” pointing the way. Thank you guys, you inspire us all. May others follow your example, and thus “The Students shall become the Masters”.

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

The 2015 dues notice have been sent out. If you have not yet received your notice, please let me know. We have had several dues notices returned with no known address. It is very important that we kept our data base updated, so if you have moved or had a change of address recently, please let us know. You can also assist me in getting your new 2015 dues card back to you quickly by using the enclosed return envelope. This will also make it easier for you, since it has the lodge’s address printed on the front side.

This past month there were several donations to the lodge, ten in all, and there were two degrees conferred, an Entered Apprentice and a Master Mason. Sadly, also this month, our brother Don L. Cousins laid down his working tools. Our condolences go out to his family. He will be missed.

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

Collect as precious pearls the words of the wise and virtuous - Abd el Kader

OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS

- 5 William Gardelle
- 8 Joseph Hamm
- 9 John Crane, Jr.
- 13 Frank Varn, Sr.
- 16 David Clamp
- 25 Larry Collins
- 26 Earnest Andrews
- 28 Manly Smith, Jr.
- 29 Jackie Disher
- 31 Lloyd Williams



We should not have any NPD's (Non Payment of Dues). Why? Because not to pay one's lodge dues is a violation of one's obligation, taken on the night one was made a Master Mason. All Master Masons might want to refresh their Obligations. Yes, it is a Masonic offense, and can be charged, if you read the Ahiman Rezon. Just a reminder, your dues for 2015 should be paid no later than December 31, 2014. The lodge needs your dues to cover its expenses in 2015. Pause and Reflect "I will not...cheat...wrong...or defraud a lodge of Master Masons of anything.. "

George Washington Slept Here, part 2, by Bro. Arthur Nebiker 32nd Deg.

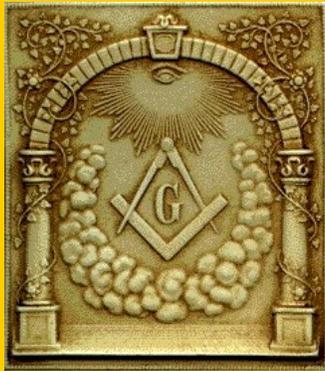
Turns out, the bronze statue of George Washington, which stands on the first landing of the State House steps, actually has nothing to do with Brother Washington's Southern Tour of 1791, as was originally questioned. In 1780 the Virginia General Assembly chose to honor its native son, and commissioned a French sculptor, Jean Houdon, to create a life-sized statue of George Washington, 6 feet, 2 and 1/2 inches in height, and bearing his exact likeness, being in fact molded from a face mask of Washington himself, the only known exact replica of him. The original statue was carved of marble, and was set up in the rotunda of the Capital at Richmond on May 4, 1796.

In 1853, the Virginia General Assembly commissioned a local foundry to make 6 bronze castings from the original marble statue, after which the molds were destroyed. In December of 1858 the South Carolina General Assembly purchased one of these six for \$10,000. This statue was originally placed on the grounds of Charleston Orphan House, while the State House in Columbia was under construction. It was later placed in the basement hall of the still-under-construction State House. When Sherman came through Columbia in February 1865 the statue was "slightly mutilated and part of the cane removed and carried off". The statue stood in several State House locations before it finally came to rest at its current location in 1907. In recent times there have been several proposals to repair the cane, but these met with strong opposition in the South Carolina House, where the broken cane was referred to "as an honorable scar" and as such, it should remain as is. It was declared that, "Washington was a veteran of the American Revolution, and his portrait statue, a disabled veteran of the Civil War".

The other five of the original bronze castings of Jean Houdon's sculpture are located in Lexington, VA., Raleigh, NC., St. Louis, MO., New York, NY., and Washington, DC. In the early 1900's a foundry in Rhode Island was commissioned to cast ten additional bronze statues.

George Washington attended lodge regularly, even in the battlefield, although he had many excuses not to. What's your excuse? Attend lodge — no reservations required.

I must follow my people, for am I not their leader? — Benjamin Desraeli



From WB Tom Downing ...Well another stint in the hospital this past week with cellulites and a UTI. Back home now and recovering. I miss being in lodge and miss the fellowship. I pray that the lord will bless me with a speedy recovery so I can get back on my feet. May God bless each of you on your masonic journey.

Bro. Erik Lloyd writes...Hello my fellow brothers. The MM degree went well, and I really enjoyed being there and initiating a new Master Mason into Acacia. Ever since I became a Mason my life has changed in a good way and it has made me the man I am today. Due to this I have a better outlook on life and my future. Thanks to all my brothers at Acacia.

And Captain (and Brother) R. Kyle Hazekamp sends this from the field...

Hello Brothers, I hope all of you are doing well. My apologies for my lack of communication with the lodge, the Army is keeping me very busy. Here are some highlights since my last e-mail:

Deployed winter of 2012-2013.
My first son was born April 29 2013.
Took command of B/3-10 in June.

CPT R. Kyle Hazekamp
Commander, B Company,
3rd Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473

Got something to share, for the benefit of Masonry or of this lodge in particular? E-mail the Sprig at sprigofacacia94@hotmail.com (or just click reply) and I'll get the word out. Let's keep in touch Brothers — ed.



So Mote it Be — as paraphrased from Mackey by WB David P Stuard, Jr.

How familiar this phrase is. No Lodge is ever opened or closed without using it. Yet few know how old it is, much less what a deep meaning it has. Like so many old and lovely things, it is so near to us that we do not see it. Yet still somehow we must say, "So mote it be."

As far back as we can go in the annals of Masonry we find this phrase. It is found in the Regius Poem, the oldest document of the Craft, just as we use it today. It is the Masonic form of the ancient Amen, which echoes through the ages, and stands as a sentinel at the gateway of silence. When we pray, this phrase gathers up our words, and speeds them to the ear of God.

How impressively it echoes through the Great Light of Masonry. In the Lodge, at opening, at closing, and in the hour of initiation, no Mason ever enters upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the aid of Deity, ending his prayer with the old phrase, "So Mote it Be." Which is another way of saying: The will of God be done. So be it – because it is good and right. He is a wise man, a brave man, who, baffled by the woes of life, when disaster follows fast, can never the less accept his lot as a part of the will of God and proclaim, though it may almost choke him to say it ... "So Mote it Be."

