

THE SPRIG

SEPT 2014

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 19 Issue 9

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
Jamie W. 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



DATES TO REMEMBER

9/4
Regular Communication
Dinner and Fellowship
at 6:30 PM
Lodge opens at 7:30

9/11
Proposed Entered
Apprentice Degree

9/25
Proposed
Master Mason Degree

9/27
10th District
Inspirational Dinner
At Scottish Rite Center
7:00 PM

This past Thursday night, we put on the Master Mason's degree with a small dedicated troop. Several members, never having taken part before, performed their roles well. I would like to thank everyone who showed up on a night where nearly all eyes were focused on the ball game between USC and Texas A. & M.

In September, we will be conferring both the EA and MM degrees. Regarding the first, please consider this excerpt from the article, "The Entered Apprentice", by R. J. Hollins, in Issue 14 of the Masonic Quarterly, July 2005. The Masonic Quarterly Magazine was formerly the official publication of the United Grand Lodge of England.

In this First Degree, an Apprentice takes his first step into this life. He passes through the portals of birth into this remarkable new sphere. He leaves the darkness of ignorance and helplessness of the 'popular world' for the light and warmth of this new experience. This is the most important and great meaning of the First Degree. The ceremony is not an idle formality, like joining some social club or society, but a unique and genuine experience, the beginning of a new career, in which duties, rights and privileges are real and long-lasting. It is most important that you are not an Apprentice in name only. You must be ready at once to begin to examine your own nature, and to work upon it to make you a different and better man.

The 'cable tow' is a symbol of all those external restraints by which a man is controlled by others, or by forces outside himself. If a man does not keep the law of his own free will, he must be compelled to do so. The removal of the cable tow signifies that when a man becomes a Freemason, he learns to be master of himself. By his own character he will keep the law instinctively.

If you have not been in Lodge lately, please consider attending this month's Business meeting, or perhaps, one of the upcoming degrees. I hope to...

See you in Lodge.

WB Lyth B. Clark, Jr.

How rare true love may be, it is less so than true friendship - la Rochefoucauld

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)



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Michael Coker
- 4 Edward Thomas Sr
- 6 Albert Winter Jr
- 7 Aaron McElveen
- 8 Raymond Jackson
- 8 William Sirmons
- 17 Leonard Davis
- 17 Chris Shipman
- 17 WB Don Michie
- 17 Arthur Nebiker
- 19 Teddy Orvin
- 21 Melvin Hornberger
- 21 Meshell Matney Jr
- 25 Brooks Royals
- 25 Meyers Skinner Jr
- 27 Astor Jacobs Jr

**With this hand work
and this hand pray
and
God Bless both
from day to day**

Our annual Ladies and Awards Night will be held November 13, 2014. A catered meal will be served at 7:00 p.m. with a guest speaker following. Please come and bring your wife, a friend, or significant other for an evening of good food and entertainment.

This year our speaker will be Rita Shuler. Rita retired from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) after a twenty-four year career, where she served as Special Agent and Supervisor of Forensic Photography. She received her specialized law enforcement photography training at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia, South Carolina, and the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

She has authored three true crime books of cases that she worked on during her tenure with SLED; "Small Town Slayings", "Carolina Crimes", and "Murder in the Midlands". These books take the reader through many of South Carolina's most notorious murders, leading us through the dark twists and turns of the most famous homicide cases that gripped the state during her career as a forensic photographer.

Rita's firsthand experience with forensic evidence of crime scenes and the court system gives her a unique perspective on murder and its horrifying effects on public and private lives. Her books are a must for everyone fascinated by the criminal mind. By combining an analysis of court transcripts, official statements, confessions of murderers, and her own experiences, she allows the reader to see into the minds of notorious killers such as Pee Wee Gaskins, Rudolph Tyner, Ronald "Rusty" Woomer and Larry Gene Bell. During her time at SLED, She developed a passion for remembering the victims. She takes her readers back in time, showing the differences and similarities of crime-solving in the past and present, and revealing some surprising twists of court proceedings, verdicts and sentences.

Now retired, Rita holds a special love for the Carolina coast and is a devoted "crabber" and runner. She resides on John's Island, South Carolina.

From Cynthia Leitner — Worthy Matron, Columbia Chapter OES # 59

To Brothers Richard Miner, Wayne Smith, Art Ford, Lyth Clark, Eric Lloyd, Art Neibker and Steward Sneed, I just want to say "THANK YOU" on behalf of Columbia Chapter #59 Order of the Eastern Star for another job well done. We appreciate so much you all coming and helping serve and clean up for us at our Official Visit and to know that we did not have to face that after a long meeting was so comforting to us all. We appreciate all that you guys do to help us and just know that we are ready and willing to help you guys too.

Working together this year on the Fish Fry and Official Visit, we have accomplished a great deal. We look forward to working together on many more projects with each group. I also want to thank the guys who have donated to my project, SC War Dogs. We are doing good on raising money for that and look forward to any help you can give. We anticipate the day it will be unveiled at the Memorial Park on Hampton and Gadsden St in April 2015.

Thank you again for your hard work and dedication,

Cynthia Leitner, Worthy Matron

Fling out a banner brave of love and hope, for God is here - Sophia Bartlett



Heaven is not served by Man's idleness – He best does God's will who best does God's Work



SICK AND DISTRESSED

WB Don Michie
WB Jim Neal
Charles A. Marthers
and
Recovering from her recent eye Surgery
Sister Carol Coker

Greetings Brothers, It's been a while since I felt the need to come out from behind the editorial desk and throw my own two cents in, but having observed the lodge's growth during the past months, I feel a stirring once again, and on this day which has been consecrated to those who labor, I find myself compelled to say how proud I am of Acacia 94, and all of you who have supported her. We few, we happy few. We band of brothers.

It has been a busy season for us. The past year has seen the addition of several new members, and of those I can say that they indeed prove the merits of quality over quantity. Our latest generation of masons all seem to be most eager to take up their labors, most recently evidenced at our Master's Degree held just last Thursday, when, having sacrificed so many members to the Gamecocks, we sallied forth borne by the efforts of our newest, and youngest brothers, Stewart Sneed, Michael Carroll, our Senior Steward Eric Lloyd, and our Junior Warden, Jamie Sanders, whom we recently acquired from Shandon Lodge. Thanks and Kudos to you all.

To paraphrase Mackey: *"We hear constantly of Freemasonry as an institution that inculcates morality; that teaches brotherly love, and all this is well and good, because it is true; but we must never forget that from its foundation to its pinnacle, all over this vast temple, is inscribed that great truth, laborare est orare--labor is worship. This expression demonstrates the connection of our speculative system with the operative art that preceded it, and upon which it has been founded. When a lodge is engaged in financial matters, in reading petitions, and hearing reports, it is said to be occupied in business, but during the ceremony of initiation into any of the degrees, it is said to be at work, and the duty of a mason in his lodge is to work. Thereby he accomplishes the destiny of his Order. Thereby he best fulfils his obligation to the Grand Architect, for with the Mason, labor is worship, and that building 'not made with hands' is an altogether spiritual one, with its sanctum sanctorum deeply seated in the human heart."*

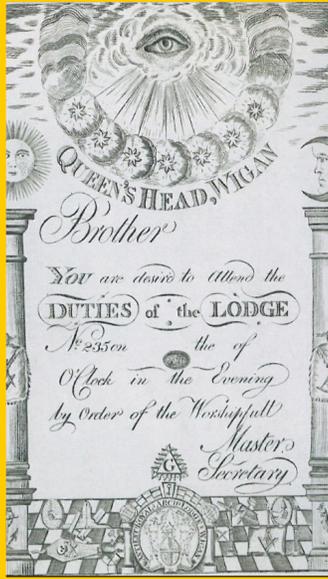
In closing, let me say again how much I appreciate the enthusiasm of our newly raised, and call out once more to those who have been absent of late. Do not let these fine brothers labor alone. Join us, won't you?

George Washington Slept Here by Bro. Arthur Nebiker 32nd Degree

Our fellow brother and Master Mason, George Washington, made a Southern Tour in 1791, on a mission, as President of the United States, to meet with the influential people of that time and to do what we might call today a grass roots intervention. He actually came through South Carolina twice during this tour, passing once through Columbia and the surrounding area. There are two interesting streets in downtown Columbia, one of which is named Washington Street and the second is named Lady Street. There is also a statue of Washington with a broken cane at the front of the State House steps.

This raises several questions, most notably — are these things related in some way to his Southern Tour? Were these two streets named in commemoration of his visits, or were they perhaps patriotically named at some later date? Was the city so new that these were the initial names of these streets, or were there other prior names which had to be replaced? And what might we know about the Washington Statue standing at the front of the Capital Building? The work is continuing, and the results will be published in future upcoming issues of the Sprig.

So great he grew in spirit things that people said "that man is mad"- A. Leigh



Mark your calendars now for the 10th District Inspirational Dinner to be held September 27th at the Scottish Rite Center. Dinner Starts at 7:00 PM with a very interesting and instructive lecture to follow. Bring a Guest, Bring a Friend, Bring the whole Family.



Our first entry comes from our Chaplain, WB Wayne C, Smith, Jr. and is, in my humble opinion, one that we should all heed:

— Last Will and Testament —

Last Thursday, I updated my Last Will and Testament to include an item which I intended for several years, but had not accomplished it. Had I not included it in my Last Will and Testament, that desire (upon my death) could not be carried out. Now, I am satisfied that it is now in writing.

It occurred to me that there might be at least one member of the Lodge who has no Last Will and Testament, or an updated one. (It is said that at least 50 percent of single or married people do not have Last Will and Testaments.)

Brethren, Pause and Reflect. Do you have a Last Will and Testament? It is important for your wife and family, or if you are single.

Fraternally,

WB Wayne C. Smith, Jr.

And from the coast, Worshipful Brother Ivan Wells sends this invitation:

The Annual Outdoor Degree, sponsored by The 29th Masonic District will be held at the Huntington Beach State Park...just south of Murrell's Inlet on Highway 17. The time is 5:00 P.M., Saturday, September 20, with dinner (usually BBQ or a Fish Fry) sponsored by one of the 29th district lodges. It is, of course, a Master's Degree, done in full costume, and many from the Grand Lodge will be in attendance.

Please urge everyone at Acacia to join us. It would be a pleasure and honor to show off my "home lodge". Once again, the date is Saturday, September 20, at 5:00 P.M.

Oh, and bring a lawn chair if you plan to attend. Y'all come!

WB Ivan Wells

Got something to share, for the benefit of Masonry or of this lodge in particular? Just click reply to the Sprig at sprigofacacia94@hotmail.com and I'll do the rest. — ed.

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

As we enter the last quarter of the year, here are some interesting membership statistics. We currently have 81 dues paying members. We have so far raised 3 brothers to the degree of Master Mason, however, we have also had 7 deaths. There are currently some 13 or 16 percent who have not paid their 2014 dues, and who will be going NPD if their 2014 dues remain unpaid. Including the deaths, we are on track to lose 17 members. If you know of any brother who has not paid his 2014 dues, please remind them to get their dues in before the 2015 dues notices go out.

The 2015 dues notices will be mailed out in the next couple of weeks. If you would, please use the included dues envelope to return your dues, as this will speed up the recording process and make my job much easier. As always, thank you for your continuing support of our great lodge.

The way cannot be forced. Fruit falls from the tree when it is ripe - Buddha