

THE SPRIG

AUGUST 2015

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Vol 20 Issue 8

Tidings from the East by Worshipful Brother Thomas L. "Jack" Coker

2015 OFFICERS

WB Thomas L. Coker WM
Jamie A. Sanders SW
John Edward Hill JW
WB Art B. Ford Treasurer
WB Richard G. Miner
Secretary
Stewart Sneed Sr Deacon
Erik Lloyd Jr Deacon
Randy Edwards Steward
J. Chris Shipman Steward
WB Wayne C. Smith Jr.
Chaplain
WB Thomas A. Baker Tyler



DATES TO REMEMBER

8/6
Regular Communication
and Business Meeting

8/27
Proposed Master
Mason Degree
Dinner and Fellowship
at 6:30 PM
Lodge opens at 7:30

8/29
Acacia Lodge #94
and
Columbia OES # 50
Annual Fish Fry
11 AM to 3 PM

Greetings Brethren

I have been informed by our secretary that we have had several newsletters returned by the Post Office as being undeliverable. Some are addressee unknown, moved, left no forwarding address, incorrect address, etc. Most of them are addresses that we have been using for years and they have not come back. Please, if you have changed your address recently would you send the secretary a note or an e-mail giving him your new address. We want you to get your newsletter and any other mail that the lodge sends out. He will be sending out dues notices soon and if your dues notice comes back we could possibly have to drop you NPD because we could not get the notice to you.

Speaking of dues!!! We still have a few who have not paid their 2015 dues. Please check your dues card. If it does not say dues paid till December 31, 2015, you are delinquent, and if not paid by October 31, 2015 you will be dropped NPD.

On to more pleasant topics. We passed two candidates to the degree of Fellowcraft, and raised one more to the sublime degree of Master Mason in July. We welcome our newest Master Mason, Brother Brewer Ballard to Acacia Lodge and are looking forward to having you. As it looks now the only work we will have in August will be a Master's Degree. This will be a large night, if all goes well, we will have 3 candidates for the degree. This means we will need all who possible can make it to the degree to be there to help. We need to know who will be there for the degree, so we will be assigning parts at the August business meeting. Brethren please come out and help us raise these new brothers. We had to double up on some parts for our July Master's Degree and it makes it hard on some. You will enjoy working and it will make Masonry mean more to you. Several of our new Masons have been taking part in the degree work and I think all have found it great to be a part of the work.

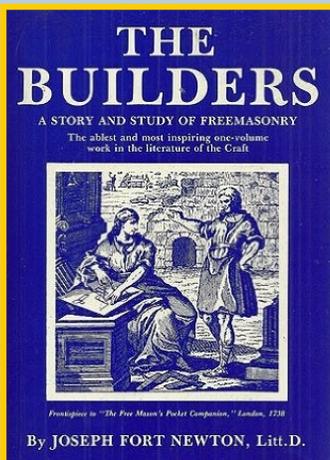
Please remember to sell tickets to our fish fry and bake sale on August 29, 2015. The price is \$8.00 and we really need to do well on this fund raiser, as this is the only one we will have for the year. The Eastern Star Chapter is again co-sponsoring the event and last year they outdid us on ticket sales. We need to get on the ball and make this a successful event. We will also need help on the event date so plan to come out and support your lodge. I will be looking forward to welcoming everyone to our August 6 business meeting.

Fraternally,
Jack

Opportunity is missed by most people because it looks like work — Thomas Edison

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 James A. Neal
Bro. Randy Edwards
and the father of
RW Jeffrey L. Hall



This month I found another little poem about what makes a man a Mason. This poem came from a book entitled “The Builders: A Story and Study of Freemasonry” and was written by Brother Dr. Joseph Fort Newton. Brother Newton was a Baptist minister and lawyer from Texas who authored a number of books on Masonry.

When is a man a Mason?

When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the cast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage—which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolical, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellow man.

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even their sins—knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself.

When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a small child.

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.

When star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response.

When he finds good in every faith that helps any man lay hold of divine things, and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.

When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin.

When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope.

When he has kept faith with himself, his fellow man, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song—glad to live, but not afraid to die!

Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.

Life isn't about finding yourself, it's about creating yourself - George Bernard Shaw



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 James Rauch Jr
- 3 Erik Lloyd
- 4 Cecil Sveum
- 7 Kenneth Havelks Sr
- 11 William Martin
- 12 Jason Johnson
- 14 Richard Cobbs
- 16 WB Charles Belcher
- 19 WB Thomas Coker
- 20 Richard Hazekamp
- 25 David Coates
- 25 Jared Smith
- 27 WB Roy Johnson
- 29 William Dawson



Did you know that Acacia Lodge #94 was once a defendant in a breach of contract case heard by the South Carolina Supreme Court?

In the mid-1890's, Acacia Lodge No. 94 began meeting in a hall on the third floor of the Independent Steam Fire Engine Company building, which was located on Washington between Main and Assembly. In addition, Richland Lodge No. 39 and Columbia Chapter No. 5, R.A.M. made this their meeting hall.

In 1905, a dispute arose between the Independent Steam Fire Engine Company and its tenants resulting in a lawsuit against the Masonic bodies for breach of contract. The plaintiff claimed the Masonic bodies did not live up to an agreement to pay for part of the cost of the building, used the hall for purposes other than Masonic meetings and that they wanted to move out before meeting their obligation. The Judge ruled in favor of the Fire Engine Company based upon use of the hall for non-Masonic purposes. Richland No. 39 appealed the decision and was joined in the appeal by Acacia No. 94 and the Columbia Chapter No.5, R.A.M.

The case was heard by the Supreme Court of South Carolina in 1906. The Supreme Court affirmed the ruling in favor of the plaintiff. Lodge minutes report on the action taken to comply with the ruling. Acacia Lodge No. 94 sold its share of its interest of the building for \$400 and began searching for a new location.

Homeless, Acacia Lodge No. 94 met for a time in a room at the Elk's Lodge. In 1915 Richland Lodge No 39 constructed a Masonic Temple on Main Street that replaced an earlier one that burned. The R.L. Bryan Company occupied the first floor for a number of years. Acacia Lodge No. 94 was one of the Masonic bodies using the facilities for meetings. In the 1930's, Acacia Lodge No. 94 met at 1107 Hampton Street and later at 1726½ Main Street. In 1949, Acacia Lodge No. 94 moved into its present location, the Masonic Temple we know today, at 1518 Hampton Street.

Looking back over 100 years, we are prone to shrug our shoulders and not view this as a meaningful chapter in the history of Acacia No. 94. Think about the feelings that must have existed between the Engine Company and the Masonic bodies to take these issues all the way to the Supreme Court. Fortunately for us today, these Masons were resilient and picked themselves back up after the Court's decision and moved on.



What a hot summer so far! I hope everyone is staying cool and enjoying their summer activities. This year we have received donations from several brothers, many of whom are life members and are dues exempt. Thank you for your financial support.

The 2016 dues notices will be going out in the next couple of weeks. Please use the dues envelope to return your dues. This will assist me in making the book-keeping easier and ensure that your dues payment is properly credited. We still have members who owe 2015 dues. When you receive your dues notice, you will notice the arrears amount shown in red. Please pay the total amount for both years. Also some of the brothers are still receiving the sprig by US Mail. If you receive the Sprig by mail, you will also find a 6 dollar charge on your dues notice. This charge is for postage. If you would like to make a change and receive the Sprig by e-mail instead, there will be a form in your dues mailing which you can return with your dues payment. Give your e-mail address return the form with your dues and the postage charge will not apply.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I hope to see each of you in lodge.

Tidings from the Acacia Lodge Message Board — by You, the Brethren

RW Jeff Hall again reminds us of the Acacia #94 and Columbia OES #59 annual fish fry on August 29 from 11 am to 3pm, in the dining hall at Acacia. There will be fried catfish filets, cole slaw, hush puppies, fries and the OES Ladies will have a bake sale as well. Tickets are \$8.00 a plate and are available at the business meetings, or from any member of Acacia lodge or the Columbia Eastern Star.

— Editor's note: I plan to buy at least two plates for myself !!!

From the South Pacific, Brother Pedro Ortiz says — Aloha to all my Brothers in Acacia Lodge!!! As you guys know, I moved to Honolulu, Hawaii. So far everything is going well. My wife, kids and I are doing great. I started working at Target Warehouse and I am loving it! I'm also doing college and hopefully, very soon, I'll get my BS in Health and Sport Sciences.

I've already contacted the Ancient and Accepted Freemason Lodge here in Honolulu. I am going to start attending to the meetings this month. If any of you guys ever come to Honolulu, my phone is still the same, (803) 556-2924. My new address is 110 Chung-Hoon PL, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. We have a big spare room for you and your wife or companion. Take care my Brothers. I love you and miss you.

Mahalo my brother, stay in touch and hang loose! — ed.

And Brother Erik Lloyd Writes: Hello Brothers. I can't believe it has been almost 3 years since I first became a Mason in 2013. Time does go by and I enjoy every minute of it. I really enjoyed being a part of the Master's Degree last Thursday, it was a great honor for me and I am looking forward to more Degrees in the future. I am also looking forward to our August Fish Fry. I would like to thank Worshipful Brother David Stuard for being a great coach to me and also a great leader. We are truly keeping Acacia Lodge alive.

Thanks Brother, but as I've always said, the achievement is yours, I just pointed the way. — ed.



Donations

WB Thomas Coker
WB Thomas Downing
Bro. Randy Edwards
Bro. Clyde W. Jones
and
Bro. Johnson
Leviner, Sr.

The secret to immortality is to live a life worth remembering — Bruce Lee