

# THE SPRIG

**JUNE 2015**

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

**Vol 20 Issue 6**

**Tidings from the East by WB Thomas L. "Jack" Coker, Worshipful Master**

## 2015 OFFICERS

WB Thomas L. Coker WM  
Jamie A Sanders SW  
John Edward Hill J W  
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

6/4  
Regular Communication  
and Business Meeting

6/18  
Proposed Fellowcraft  
Degree

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

Greetings Brethren:

Wasn't it good to see W/B Jim Neal at our last business meeting? I guess we will have to call W/B Neal our eagle with the busted wing. Here's hoping he is now on the road to a speedy recovery and will soon be back in lodge full time. We miss you Jim.

Again I want to thank our officers and those who have filled in for missing officers. It is nice to know that when someone has to miss a meeting that there is someone willing and able to fill in for them.

With Father's day coming up I thought the following poem would be appropriate for this issue of the *Sprig of Acacia*.

## WHAT MAKES A DAD

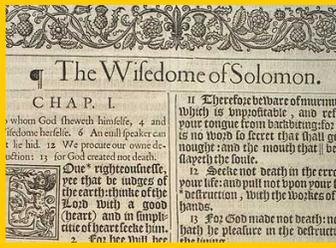
God took the strength of a mountain  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing left to add,  
He knew His Masterpiece was completed,  
And so, He called it-----DAD.

Author unknown

**See you in Lodge.**

**WB Thomas L. "Jack" Coker  
Worshipful Master**

**Peace is not only better than war, but infinitely more arduous - George Bernard Shaw**



Recently I rediscovered a Bible that was used during several religion courses I took during college. This Bible is known as the New English Bible. It is a modern scholarly translation and contains the Apocrypha. Within the Apocrypha is a book known as Wisdom of Solomon, which is purportedly written by King Solomon. Since the wisdom of King Solomon plays a large part in Masonry, I thought the following passage on wisdom was worth sharing.

**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)



*Wisdom shines bright and never fades; she is easily discerned by those who love her, and by those who seek her she is found. She is quick to make herself known to those who desire knowledge of her; the man who rises early in search of her will not grow weary in the quest, for he will find her seated at his door. To set all one's thoughts on her is prudence in its perfect shape, and to lie wakeful in her cause is the short way to peace of mind, for she herself ranges in search of those who are worthy of her; on their daily path she appears to them with kindly intent, and in all their purposes meets them half-way. The true beginning of wisdom is the desire to learn, and a concern for learning means love towards her, the love of her means the keeping of her laws, to keep her laws is a warrant of immortality, and immortality brings a man near to God.*

Wisdom 6:12-19

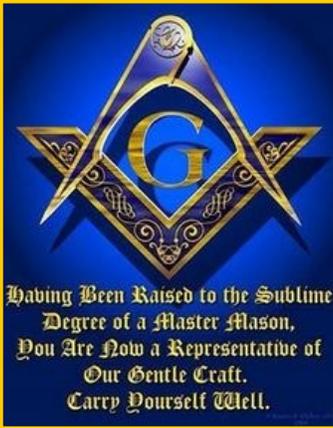
**From the Secretary's Desk by WB Richard G. Miner**

As you may have heard, I was involved in an automobile accident over the holiday weekend, in which I sustained a broken clavicle and some nerve damage to my left side, causing numbness in my left arm. I am currently at home recovering but limited in movement. My wife, who was in the car with me, is very sore but recovering without any other injuries.

I did hear from Grand Lodge concerning our bylaws, and I have made the word changes they requested. It is my understanding that they will now be approved, once I get them back to Grand Lodge, allowing these changes to become effective for the upcoming year.

Dues notices reflecting these new changes will be going out in August and the fee increases will become effective beginning in 2016. These changes have been a long time in coming, but it looks like the end is in sight. Thanks to all who helped me in getting these changes made and approved.





### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

12 Johnny Raines, Sr  
 14 Richard Unger, Sr  
 18 James  
     Muckelvaney  
 20 Marshall Conner  
 22 Jason Eric Crowe  
 23 Raymond  
     Insprucker  
 26 WB John Wanzer  
     Drane  
 27 Randy Edwards  
 30 WB Richard Smarr



MASONRY SPEAKS TO THE NEW MASON (and to us all).

You have reached the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

I have given you all that I can in ritual, Lectures and symbolism. What I give you from this point on will depend upon your willingness to sacrifice, to work and to learn.

In your work or profession you may attain great success. But the greatest satisfaction you will have in life will come from the living of my principles and teachings. If you strive diligently, I will show the way to the greatest of all wisdom, the path that leads to the knowledge of self.

If you attend my meetings regularly; if you will make me a vital part of your life, if you learn and share what you learn with your Brothers, you will discover the secret of happiness.

If you will use my Working Tools wisely, you will build a temple that will defy the onslaught of time.

Into your hands I have placed our age-old secrets, our honored traditions, our sacred heritage.

All of this I do with complete confidence that you will think, act, and live as a Master Mason.

Written by Dewey H. Wollstein,  
 Reprinted from *The Masonic Messenger*  
 Submitted by WB Thomas L. "Jack" Coker

### Clothe and Prepare for Labor — by W/B Tom Davis

From the time the lodge is opened until closing it is said to be at labor. This is one of those special times when Speculative Masonry is linked to the Operative. When our ancient brethren when engaged in the building of a material edifice they were said to be at labor. So are we said to be at labor in the adding to our masonic knowledge, and by improving ourselves in virtue and morality. While the labor of the Operative Mason is clearly visible, as Speculative Masons we must demonstrate to ourselves and to others our growth in the improved construction of our earthly lives. While the Operative Mason receives wages for his labor, our compensation will be the hearing of the words: "Well done, my good and faithful servant, enter now into the joy of your Lord."

When our perils are past, shall our gratitude sleep? — George Canning



### SICK AND DISTRESSED

WB Don Michie  
WB James A. Neal  
(recovering nicely)  
and  
WB Richard G. Miner



On Friday morning, May 29, 2015, at 9:00 A.M, there was a Change of Command Ceremony at Fort Jackson, SC on Victory Field, adjacent to the Officers Club. Major General Bradley A. Becker, outgoing Commanding General of the United States Army Training Center and Fort Jackson, relinquished his command to the incoming Commander, Major General Roger L. Cloutier. While in the vicinity of the 282d Army Band, a young Entered Apprentice Mason Brother, Captain Charles “Cody” Chellman approached Worshipful Brother Lt. Colonel Wayne C. Smith, Jr., United States Army Retired. I did not recognize him initially, but he said we had met at Acacia Lodge for his Entered Apprentice Degree on Thursday, May 14th. Included in the Sequence of Events were the Ruffles and Flourishes by the Band and the Salute by the Artillery Battery of three guns, and the Commander of the Salute Battery was our Entered Apprentice Mason Brother Captain Chellman. Regardless of our rank in life, as Masons we still meet on the Level.

### Memorial day Tidings from the Acacia Lodge Message Board

From Bro. Art Nebiker: My father was in WWII, the 115th Infantry 69th Division, the fighting Irish from the NYC area, which merged into the 29th Blue and Gray Division for the Normandy Invasion at Omaha beach, 3rd Wave. The first two devastated waves had clogged the beach with equipment and bodies and the 3rd wave had to find its way through from farther and deeper out. Some names that I remember are the hedgerows, captured St. Lo, Aachen, Brest, crossed the Roer and the Rhine, and took Meunchen-Gladbach, etc. He was a member of a 9 man mortar squad; at one point he had to go back for more ammo and when he returned it had taken a direct hit and all his team was wiped out - he was never quite the same after that - wounded twice but he did come home. Yes, Memorial Day is special, so show the colors on such National Days.

From Brother Erik Lloyd: I had my family from Virginia come by to spend vacation with me and my grandmother. We had a very good time and it was good to see my Brother, who is the current Senior Warden of his Lodge. I am looking forward to starting my Externship next quarter at Virginia College. It has been a long road, and I am proud of what I am and what I do.

And one final news tidbit, from Brother Smitty Harrison: Bro. Trey Harrison has graduated from Presbyterian College, summa cum laude. He will attend USC Law School this fall.

Ed. Note — Our congratulations to Bro. Trey and Bro. Smitty, and to the entire Harrison clan. See you back in lodge Trey.

**I believe it is the nature of people to be heroes, given the chance - James Autry**