

# THE SPRIG

June 2011

ACACIA LODGE 94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 16 Issue 6

## 2011 OFFICERS

Jeffrey Hall WM  
Rick Sirmons SW  
Richard Miner JW  
Art Ford Treas.  
Jack Coker Sec.  
Doug Hall SD  
John Rotureau JD  
Tom Rotureau Stew  
Roger Doyon Stew  
Wayne C Smith Jr Chaplain  
Thomas Baker Tyler  
Charles Marthers Organ

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication  
6/2

Proposed FC Degree 6/16

St. John's Day Fish Fry  
6/24

## JUNE BRITHDAYS

Johnny Raines, Sr.  
Richard Unger, Sr.  
James Muckelvaney  
Marshall Conner  
Ben Glenn  
Eric Crowe  
Raymond Insprucker  
John Drane  
Richard Smarr  
Dean Stevens  
Jack Cornelison

## FROM THE EAST By JEFF HALL WM

I bring you Fraternal Greetings from the East. As we move into the month of June, our Degree work just keeps on coming. For those of you who missed Lodge in May, we initiated another Brother into our Great Fraternity. With great pleasure, I would like to welcome our newest Entered Apprentice, Brother Benjamin Jacob Brooks to Acacia Lodge. He is an outstanding young man and a soldier at Fort Jackson. He is very excited and looking forward to his Masonic journey at Acacia Lodge. We will also have raised Brother Miles Schultz to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on Thursday, May 26. Congratulations Brother Miles. We look forward to you taking an

active role in our Fraternity. By the time this issue of the Sprig goes to press, Brother Eric Crowe will have completed his Navy Basic training and be back in Columbia awaiting his next assignment. Congratulations Brother Eric. We are all very proud of you. As you all know, June is the month that we, as Masons, should celebrate the Feast of St. John the Baptist. Last year, we had a fish fry at the Lodge and enjoyed some pretty good catfish. I would like to do this again this year and I hope to have an even better turnout than last year. I am looking at Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> to hold this event. Our Senior Deacon and I will be frying up some Cajun style catfish filets with all the trim-

mings. Come on out to the Business Meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and hear all the details. We miss seeing you in Lodge and look forward to sharing the Feast of St. John with you all. Sadly, we had another Brother pass on to the Supreme Lodge above recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Brother Lovick Daniels who was called home and laid down his working tools on May 22, 2011. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace, both now and evermore. Fraternaly submitted, Brother Jeff Hall WM

## FROM THE WEST By RICK SIRMONS PM

The Oldest Masonic Lodge in the World

The oldest Masonic Lodge in the world is the Lodge of Edinburgh No. 1, Edinburgh, Scotland...sometimes known as Mary's Chapel. In July, 1949, it observed its 350th anniversary of its establishment. In 2008, (at the time of this writing), Lodge of Edinburgh No. 1 is 409 years old.

Oldest Masonic Lodge Minutes - July 31, 1599: Lodge of Edinburgh No. 1 has records to prove its long time existence as the Oldest Masonic Lodge.

Most impressively, its first 5 pages of minutes incorporate the Schaw Statutes which are dated December 28, 1598. Six months later, on July 31, 1599, are to be found the minutes which confirm the lodge's claim as having the oldest existing Masonic minutes. It must be noted, however, that from these minutes there exists no conclusive evidence that the lodge was actually constituted on this date.

Schaw Statutes: The Schaw Statutes (part of the Old Charges) are named for William Schaw, who was

Master of Work to His Majesty and General Warden of the Masonic craft. In these Statutes, he declared that these ordinances issued by him for the regulation of lodges considered the lodge at Edinburgh to be for all time, the first and principal lodge in Scotland.

Lodge of Edinburgh No. 1 was first called "The Lodge of Edinburgh" and retained this name until 1688, when the Grand Lodge of Scotland confirmed its charter, designating it as "The Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) No. 1"



### DONATIONS

**Bro. Alton R. Blanks**  
**Bro. Roger W. Doyon**  
**Bro. Jeffrey L. Hall**  
**Bro. J. Thomas Davis**  
**Bro. Ewell C. Black**  
**Thank you brethren for**  
**your support of your**  
**lodge.**



Prominent members belonging to the Lodge of Edinburgh in its very early days were: His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales (afterward called King Edward VII)

•His Royal Highness King Edward VIII

Both were affiliated with the lodge, taking the obligation on the "Breeches Bible", which was printed in 1587. The pen with which these 2 brothers signed the roll is still preserved in the Edinburgh Lodge No. 1 museum.

First Operative to Speculative in Scotland - 1600: As early as 1600, The Lodge of Edinburgh began to admit non-operative Freemasons. In June, 1600, the Laird of Auchinleck was made a speculative member, the first authentic record of the making of such a member.

The famous Dr. Desaguliers visited the The Lodge of Edinburgh on August 24, 1721. He had served as Grand Master of England and was referred to as "General Master Desaguliers". On the next day, while he was present, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the Treasurer, the Deacon Convener of the Trades and the Clerk to the Dean of the Guild Court were admitted as members. •This date is thought to mark the change over from operative to speculative Freemasonry in Scotland.

Inception of Grand Lodge of Scotland - 1736: When the Grand Lodge of Scotland was established on November 30, 1736, Lodge of Edinburgh took an active part. Thirty-three lodges were represented at the meeting which was held in the lodge room of Edinburgh Lodge. Because the oldest minute of a lodge was that of Edinburgh Lodge, it was placed first on the roll of the Grand Lodge.

Lodge Kilwinning - 1642: Lodge Kilwinning was the second oldest Masonic lodge because of its records dating to December 20, 1642. Considerable friction developed in 1807 when the Grand Lodge of Scotland permitted Kilwinning to prefix the word "Mother" to its name.

### FROM THE SOUTH By RICHARD MINER PM

June 24th is St John the Baptist Day a day of importance to all masons. However we often forget why we celebrate his birthday. The article below is one I delivered in lodge last year outlining the meaning of the St. Johns.

Most of us have wondered why in the opening the lodge do we use the phrase "Dedicated to the Holy Saints John". And why do we refer to the Saints John as our Patron Saints. Why the Holy Saints John?

To try to answer these questions, let's first look at who were these two Saints John? In part the answer can be found in the Bible, which tells us that there are two Saint Johns, Saint John the Baptist, and Saint John the Evangelist. St John the Baptist according to tradition was born on June 24 or the summer solstice and was a cleric who adhered to strict moral law. He was beheaded for his moral and single minded beliefs. Saint John the Evangelist is described as the most loyal and closest of the 12 disciples. Some credit him with writing the Gospel of John and the book of Revelations,

History also tells us, that as Europe starting moving out of the dark ages, guilds of craftsman began to form. It was customary for these guilds to adopted a protective Patron Saint and use their feast day(s) as a gathering for celebration as well as the conducting of guild business. Stonemason Guilds often choose one or both of the Saints John because of their loyalty to moral law and faithfulness to man. As these operative Masonic guilds turned in to speculative Masonic lodges these characteristics of loyalty and faithfulness became the bases for their believe and teachings. It was therefore natural, that our ancient brethren would choose them as guiding principles upon which to build a well regulated lodge as well as their lives.



**PICTURES FROM  
LAST YEARS ST.  
JOHN'S DAY CAT-  
FISH FRY**

In the Entered Apprentice degree we are also given geometric figures; a circle around a point bound on the right and left by two single parallel lines, which we are told is to remind us to keep our actions within do bounds. It is my opinion, that within this reference to “prefect parallels” the answer to why our lodges are dedicated to the Holy Saints John lies.

As we are told in the Entered Apprentice lecture, one of these lines represents Saint John the Baptist with his proclaiming Moral law and the opposite but equal line represents Saint John the Evangelist with his emphasis on loyalty to God and man. As Masons this instructs us in the importance of setting both a moral and personal boundary by which we can conduct both our lodges and lives. The distance from the point within the circle then becomes the area in which we can act and conduct business without exceeding these moral and social boundaries set by the Saints John. By regulating our lives and lodges within the area of the circle we will remain within the bounds with both man and God.

So the next time you hear “Dedicated to the Holy Saints Johns”, think first of your relationship with God and next of your actions towards all mankind but more especially to a brother Mason.

### FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK By JACK COKER, PM

Acacia Lodge performed Masonic Graveside services on May 22 for Bro. Lovick T. Daniels of Greenwood SC. We had 10 brothers to come out and help. Thank you to our members and our two visitors for your help.

We still have 8 members who have not paid their 2011 dues. Remember brethren your 2011 dues were due on or before December 31, 2010. Please take care of your obligations and get your dues in.

We had an e-mail from Bro. Tony Smith in Iraq. He said they had a mortar attack the night before but no one was hurt. We are thankful for that. We also got a morale box off to Bro. Tony on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### YOUR SPACE ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY CAROL COKER

**PUBLISHERS NOTE:** *This article was submitted by Coral Coker. It was written for his mother by Mike Coker about his father, our secretary, Jack Coker.*

I have always been told that if you're not sure about how to do something—ask an expert. So when I was asked to write something about my dad I decided to go to the experts—the grandchildren. I asked them to describe their pappy in one word. Samantha said he was nice and fun to be with. Thomas said he was smart and Benjamin just agreed with both of them. I agree with all of them. But the more I thought about it—the word that came to my mind was strength.

My dad has a great strength of character. He is a man of honesty and a man of his word. He is a man of quiet principles. He won't ask you to compromise what you believe in—but he won't compromise what he believes in either.

My dad has a strong sense of family. He and my mom will be married 58 years this December. In an age where 1 out of every 2 marriages end in divorce, being married 58 years shows great strength. In addition to being a loving husband he is a devoted father and grandfather. I was never pressured to succeed but always encouraged to do my best. Although we were not a wealthy family financially, we never lacked for anything we needed. My dad rarely spends money on himself, but he doesn't hesitate to buy for mom or my family. I cannot remember ever starting a baseball season without a having a new glove and baseball shoes. One year I think we went to Todd & Moore a least once a week buying baseball bats.

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**THE MIDDLE  
CHAMBER OF KING  
SOLOMON'S TEMPLE**

My dad also has a strong civic pride and sense of patriotism. He served our country as a member of the United States Air Force. Even though I grew up in the Vietnam era, I have developed a greater appreciation for our military as people I know and others I work with have been called to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. My dad was willing to give his life for his country—I think that shows great strength—and I appreciate it.

While my dad is not the world's strongest man physically, but for almost 40 years he wrestled over 50,000 lbs of tractor-trailer up and down the highway every night. He has driven over 4 million miles without a chargeable accident. That takes mental strength as well as physical strength. But here is the true measure of his strength, if I was hanging on the edge of a cliff and could choose one person to reach down and grab my hand—I would choose my dad. Now you might think I would pick some bodybuilder or weightlifting champion or perhaps some other great athlete. But while he has no trophies for weightlifting or performing great feats of strength, no matter how long it took or what he had to do or how much it hurt, the one thing I could be sure of, is that my dad would never, ever let go.

### **2011 Acacia Lodge Officers**

