

THE SPRIG

JULY 2012

ACACIA LODGE 94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 17 Issue 7

2012 OFFICERS

Jeffrey Hall WM
Richard Miner SW
Doug Hall JW
Art Ford Treas.
Jack Coker Sec.
Thomas Rotureau SD
John Rotureau JD
Wayne C Smith Jr Chaplain
Eric Crowe Stew
Art Nebiker Stew
Thomas Baker Tyler
Charles Marthers Organ

DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication
7/5
Proposed Masters Degree
7/26

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Charles Brown
Robert Milling
John Rotureau
Leroy Taylor
Travis Whitfield
Donald White
James Gantt
Thomas Park
Stephen D Hall
Frank Broome
Lyth Clark, Jr.
Clarence Martin
Vernon Davis, Sr.

FROM THE EAST By JEFF HALL, WM

Greetings from the East once again Brethren. I hope you all are enjoying the warm summer months and are making plans with the family for some summer vacation time. We held our annual St. John the Baptist fish fry on June 16th and had a great turnout. We actually were in danger of running out of fish and had to go back for more. I was very pleased with the turnout as well as all of the support from Columbia Chapter #59 OES. The ladies, once again, came through and really helped to make this year's event a success. Many thanks to the Worthy Matron – Carol Coker and her crew for all of the support. I am already looking forward to next year's event. Congratulations to Bro. Olin Longino on receiving his FC Degree. He stood an excellent proficiency

and is excited about taking his next step. We will be conferring the Master's Degree on July 26th in conjunction with Sinclair Lodge. Both Lodges will have a candidate and we will do the Degree work at Acacia Lodge. This will be a joint effort between both Lodges with members of each participating in the work. WB Dean Strickland and I are very excited about this joint venture. We are inviting the Past Masters of both Lodges to attend as our special honored guests. Invitations will be going out to the District Deputies of the 8th & 10th Districts. I have already received confirmation from RW Alex Roberts that he will be in attendance. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend. This should be a special night and I hope to see all of our

Past Masters there. Please keep Bro. Roger Doyon in your prayers as he recovers from a fall in which he broke his hip. I look forward to his recovery and seeing him in Lodge again soon. Also, continue to remember all of our Military men and women as they go about their duties of protecting our freedoms. As we celebrate this July 4th holiday, remember those who have sacrificed so much for this great country and especially remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our liberties. May the Blessings of Heaven continue to rest upon all of us and may every moral and social virtue cement us in the ties of brotherly love and affection. Sincerely and Fraternally,
Jeff Hall WM

FROM THE WEST By

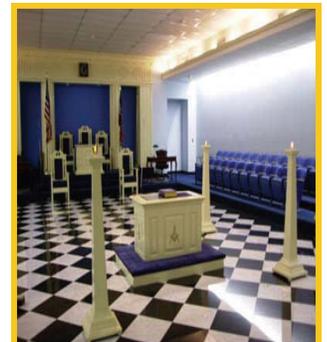
RICHARD MINER, PM

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who help make our St. John's Day fish fry a success. The ladies of Eastern Star Chapter # 59 and each of the brothers who gave of their time.

I hope that this tradition

started some three years ago will continue to grow and we will continue to recognize our patron saint.

Please reminder the degree practices being held July 12th and 19th at 6:30. If you have a part in this degree please plan to attend both practices.



THIS MONTH'S DONATIONS

Richard Miner
 Jack Coker
 Doug Hall
 Jeff Hall
 Wanzer J Drane

THANK YOU BROTHERS

SICK AND DISTRESS:

Correction to last month sick and distress: Bro Roger Doyon did not have eye surgery in May. W/B Jack Coker had eye surgery in May and is scheduled for further eye surgery in August.

Bro Roger Doyon who broke his hip. We do not have an update on his current condition

Our payers go out to Bro Gary Baker on the death of his wife. And to the Hancock Family on the passing of Bro Oliver Hancock

Please kept each of these brothers in your prayers

**FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK By Jack Coker, PM**

Don't know if the fires in Colorado Springs CO are near W/B Bill Eccles or not but we need to pray that they are not. Also the widow of W/B Bill Rotureau and the step mom of Bro Tommy and John is in that area. Bro John Rotureau and a ladder had a disagreement and he has been recuperating from his injuries. Hope you are OK by now Bro John.

Also we need to remind those who have not paid their 2012 dues to please catch them up.

YOUR SPACE ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY Richard Miner, PM

I found this article in the June 2012 issue of the *Georgia Masonic Messenger* and thought you might find it interesting.

The early history of Freemasonry and its symbols are sometimes not clearly seen in the foggy past especially since Masonic teaching were passed from mouth to ear and not written down. Many theories have been proposed as to the origin of our symbols and of freemasonry itself. Much has been written about the origins of many of the symbols we commonly use and refer too, but none more than the term Blue Lodge.

It has never been discovered how or when blue became the characteristic color of craft Masonry, but the most probable explanation is the simply analogy to the *blue dome of heaven, the clouded canopy, or star-decked firmament*. In Masonry, blue indicates universal brotherhood and instructs us that those virtues should be as extensive as the blue arch of heaven itself. There is however another possible explanation. In one of the ritualistic exposures of 1730, the following dialogue occurs: QUESTION: How was he clothed? ANSWER: In a Yellow Jacket and a Blue Pair of Breeches. This referred to the Master of the lodge. It originated in the fact that compasses, in those days were customarily made of brass, and had to be of harder material and, were made of steel temped by a blue color. In Ireland, yellow and blue were adopted as lodge colors by some lodges and some times the Grand Lodge warrants were scaled by using yellow and blue ribbons. Several pictures are extant, made in the 18th century showing the master and sometimes the members of the a lodge attired in yellow jackets and blue breeches. Obviously, blue coats with brass buttons would effect the same purpose and that was sometimes adopted.

No matter how the idea may arisen, it seems that, from the early 18th century, blue has been deemed the color appropriate to the Craft Degrees and Lodges and, hence, such terms as *Blue Lodge, Blue Masonry, Blue Degrees* have long been used, not only as a convenient method of expression, but in recognition of a beautiful symbolism. It is sometimes said that "blue" is slang or otherwise disrespectful. But that is not so either as to origin or ultimate usage. Blue is no more that slang than craft.

This space has been reserved for you the brethren. Submit your articles to Richard Miner at RXMINER@YAHOO.COM