

THE SPRIG

APRIL 2013

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 18 Issue 4

2011 OFFICERS

David P. Stuard Jr. WM
Douglas Hall SW
Jeffery Hall JW
Art Ford Treas.
Jack Coker Sec.
Eric Crowe SD
Art Nebiker JD
Eddie Hill Stew
Howard Wood Stew
Wayne C Smith Jr Chaplain
Thomas Baker Tyler
Charles Marthers Organ



DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication
4/4
Proposed Master's Degree
3/28
Proposed Fellowcraft
Degree 4/18

APRIL BRITHDAYS

William T. Rotreau, Jr.
Heath G. Greene
Isaac Kozielek
A. Pitts Tubeville, Jr.
William J. Eccles
Charles A. Marthers
Richard E. Johnson
Alton R. Blanks
Ivan M. Wells
Thomas L. Quinn
C. Douglas Green
William L. Chichester

MUCH ADO ABOUT ACACIA By DAVID P. STUARD, JR. WM

Greetings Brothers,
For those of you who have not been recently in attendance, you should know that Acacia Lodge has been very busy of late. In addition to our regular business meeting, there have been two degrees held since the last issue of the Sprig was published. The first, a Fellowcraft degree on February 21, featured an official visit from District Deputy Grand Master Alex Roberts and his entourage, and I am pleased to report that it went very well. All of our lodge's affairs are in order and the degree work itself went off without a hitch. Congratulations to our new brother, Randy Edwards, upon taking his second step in Masonry.

More recently, after learning of the whereabouts of our long-lost kitchen flag, I determined to recapture it for Acacia. On March 12, accompanied by our Jr. Warden, WB Jeff Hall, our Tyler, WB Tommy Baker, our Jr. Deacon, Art Nebiker, and our new Fellowcraft, the above-mentioned brother Edwards, I journeyed to Dentsville Lodge #398, where the five of us enjoyed a good meal and fellowship, witnessed an excellent EA degree, and yes,

brought home the prize. We knew at the time, however, that our victory was to be short-lived.

Two days later, on Thursday, March 14th, we held our second EA degree of 2013, and I believe we were all surprised to find in attendance visitors from several lodges, including Lexington #152, Blythe-wood #395, Eau Claire #344, and Oliver lodge #133, who each brought their own newly made apprentices to view the degree with open eyes. Our candidate and newest brother Giff Carpenter brought his uncle, brother Stephen Morris, a member of Hartsville lodge #173, who stood as conductor. Not to be outdone, Dentsville came out in force, showing up with no less than seven members, led by WB John Bowker, Senior Deacon Jason Schulties, and featuring old friends of Acacia, WB Mike Harmon and Right Worshipful Joe McGee, and these brothers cheerfully, and in the true spirit in which the game was instituted, re-took that which we had so recently re-taken from them. Be assured, I do not intend to allow the matter to rest, even now plans are being made to storm Dentsville once again, and perhaps

this time we can hold on to our flag for longer than a Masonic minute.

I should pause for a moment here to remind everyone that on Thursday, March 28th we will be holding our first Master's degree of 2013. Brother Randy Edwards will be taking his third step in Masonry and I invite all of you who read this to attend. This looks to be a good year for Acacia #94 with regards to membership and degree work and I hope to see you all there.

Lastly, I would like to mention that WB Jack Coker, with assistance from his wife Carol, has succeeded in restoring the old Square and Compass sign that hung at the entrance to the porch of our lodge. To be sure, the newly refurbished and reconstructed beacon looks even better than before. I know I speak for all of us who gazed up at it, blazing brightly over our fifteen steps last Thursday night, when I say, Thank you Jack and Carol, for you are truly the light of Acacia.

David P. Stuard, Jr.
Worshipful Master

LOOK WELL TO THE EAST

On the 25th and 26th of April the Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of South Carolina will open on the third degree of masonry for the purpose of Work. Elections will be held for Grand Lodge officers and even-numbered district officers, including ours, and all South Carolina masons in good standing are invited to attend. This year the event is to be held at the Sheraton Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, SC, with the opening benediction at 9 AM Thursday. Contact the lodge for more details and book your rooms early, as a large turnout is expected.

SICK AND DISTRESS:

W/B Don Michie
 Bro Roger Doyon
 W/B Hugh Bickley
 W/B Jim Neal
 Bro Doug Hall



If anyone has anything to offer the Sprig, for the benefit of Masonry or this lodge in particular, please e-mail it to:

akhenaton1701@gmail.com

Entries must be received by the 15th each month to be included in the next month's issue.

Remember, Don't cry because it's over,
 Smile because it happened.

Dr. Seuss

FROM THE SOUTH BY WB JEFFREY HALL, PM, JR. WARDEN

I hope that you are all enjoying the beginning of the Spring Season and some much needed warmer weather. As we celebrate the beginning of the season and the Easter Holiday, let us be thankful for all the gifts our Great Creator has given us.

We are beginning the planning of our annual St. John the Baptist Fish Fry. We will be teaming up with the ladies of Columbia Chapter #50 OES again this year and I know we will be even more successful than we were last year. I always enjoy our fellowship at this event. I hope each of you will come out and join us again this year as we celebrate this special day. We, as Masons, should use this holiday to reflect upon the time in each of our Masonic journeys that we first heard the name of St. John the Baptist. Recall the excitement that we each felt when we first knocked upon the door of Ancient Freemasonry and thankful for all the friendships the Craft has brought us.

I want to congratulate Sister Carol Coker who was installed as Worthy Matron of Columbia Chapter #59 OES again this year. This year, they celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Chapter and Sister Carol did an outstanding job in overseeing a great installation of officers and reception in March. I am honored to have been selected as Sister Carol's Chaplain again this year. Sister Carol does so much for us at Acacia Lodge and can always be counted on to coordinate beautiful events and great food.

I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable season. Come out to the Lodge on June 22nd at 11:00 am. We will be enjoying good fellowship and some delicious fried fish with fries, hush puppies and cole slaw. We will be serving until at least 2 pm. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge. We have a lot of work going on over the next several months as we initiate, pass and raise our newest members. We have been blessed with several candidates this year and we are off to a great start. Come and support these new Brothers and participate in their excitement as they make those same knocks each of us made at the start of our own journeys. May the Grand Architect continue to bless each of you and your families and our great Fraternities.

Fraternally
 Jeff Hall PM
 Junior Warden

Flotsam and Jetsam By David P. Stuard, Jr. WM

While attending the Grand Master's workshop recently I and several other newly-made worshipful brothers were sharing stories, trading amusing anecdotes regarding Masonic mischief and some of the more off-the-wall things we had seen and heard about the lodge over the years. I thought, if I could do so without giving too much away, that I might try to share a few of those with you.

Heard at the outer door: Since he comes well-endowed, allow him to enter.

From the east: The compass is used to circumcise our desires and passions.

From the altar: When asked "In your present condition, what do you most desire?" one enthusiastic candidate proclaimed, "A Beer!" When the Senior Warden whispered "Light" he replied less enthusiastically "OK fine. Lite Beer"