

# THE SPRIG

SEPTEMBER 2013

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 18 Issue 9

And God Bless Us, Every One! by David P Stuard, Jr. W/M

## 2013 OFFICERS

David P. Stuard Jr. W M  
Douglas Hall S W  
RW Jeffery L. Hall J W  
WB Art Ford Treasurer  
WB Jack Coker Secretary  
Jason Eric Crowe S D  
Art Nebiker J D  
Eddie Hill Steward  
Howard Wood Steward  
Wayne C. Smith Jr.  
Chaplain



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Master Mason Degree  
8/22

Regular Communication  
9/5

Proposed Degree Work

Fellowcraft Degree  
9/19

## SEPTEMBER BRITHDAYS

3 Michael Coker  
4 Edward Thomas Sr  
6 Albert Winter Jr  
7 Aaron McElveen  
8 Raymond Jackson  
8 William Simons  
17 Leonard Davis  
17 Don Michie  
17 Arthur Nebiker  
19 Teddy Orvin  
21 Melvin Hornberger  
21 Meshell Matney Jr  
25 Brooks Royals  
25 Meyers Skinner Jr  
27 Astor Jacobs Jr

Please forgive me, but I am of a mind to quote Dickens, as it has indeed been “the Best of Times, and the Worst of Times” here at Acacia. On the one hand, during the past month, absenteeism hit its highest level in years, starting with the departures of both our Senior Warden and Senior Deacon, coinciding with several of our officers, including our Tyler and Chaplain, taking their summer vacations, as well as the roller-coaster ride of Right Worshipful Jeff Hall, who having no sooner returned from his honeymoon, had to leave again, to attend to the death of his beloved mother. On the other hand we are currently experiencing the busiest period of degree work this Lodge has seen in recent memory, with at least one and often two degrees each month since I took office. Those few of us who remained found ourselves faced with three in quick succession, starting with a Fellowcraft on the 18<sup>th</sup>, followed by Master’s degree, then our regular communication and then an EA on the 8<sup>th</sup>. We determined not to falter.

What followed was an amazing effort from both sides of the Masonic fence, young and old. Our Past Masters, Worshipful Brothers Jack Coker, Art Ford, Jim Neal, Tom Davis, Lyth Clark, and Richard Miner each assumed multiple roles, our senior Steward Eddie Hill and new members Giff Carpenter and Randy Edwards, took on parts for the first time. We also received help from both sides of the river, with brothers from Sinclair, Lexington and Pacific Lodges standing in various Pro Tem positions, most notably W/B’s Dean Strickland, Chuck Gantt and Bud Mackey. To them let me say, thank you so very much, and I look forward to returning the favor.

And now, having weathered the storm, we set a course to the future, most of our brothers have returned, and we have several new ones who seem eager to take up the work, both inside and outside the Lodge. Bro. Edwards has made it his mission to see the front porch painted, our Acacia94.com website is up and running again, and the Past Masters are meeting this weekend to discuss the shape of things to come. It is an interesting time for Acacia, and I hope that some of you who have not been to lodge recently will find your way back soon. Just think of all we could accomplish together.

From the Secretary’s Desk by W/B Thomas L. “Jack” Coker PSGD

In the August newsletter W/B Stuard ran an article about your dues card. Of course this article had been run in the Sprig a couple of times before but perhaps it would be a good idea to consider it again.

What does this little card mean to you? To me it is the most important card in my wallet by far. I carry a number of dues cards but none of them are worth two cents without my lodge membership card. To a member who pays dues it costs you \$65.00 per year. This figures out to roughly .18 cents per day, \$1.25 per week, and \$5.40 per month. Where else can you get the benefits you get from Masonry for this price?

Acacia lodge has one of the lowest dues rates in the tenth district. Several of us who are life members continue to support our lodge financially because our yearly income from dues does not meet the expenses of the lodge.

Yes, you guessed it, I am about to make a pitch to get you to pay your dues. Next month we will be sending out dues notices for your 2014 dues. As you know 2014 dues are payable in advance of December 31, 2013. Eight of our members will be receiving a notice for two years dues because they have not paid their 2013 dues yet. Around October 1, these eight members will receive a NOTICE BEFORE ERASURE letter. If they do not pay their 2013 dues before October 31, 2013 they will receive a NOTICE AFTER ERASURE letter. This means that they are no longer a member in

I help others to work on myself, and work on myself to help others-Ram Dass

**ACACIA LODGE #94**

1518 HAMPTON ST  
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

**(803) 256-2538**  
OFFICE HOURS  
MON-THURS 9AM-2PM



**SICK AND DISTRESSED**

**WB Don Michie**  
**Bro Roger Doyon**  
and  
**R/W Joe McGee**

**OBITUARIES**  
**Mrs. Jane Grigg, Mother**  
**of Brothers Doug and**  
**Right Worshipful Jeff Hall**

I am happy to report the resurrection of our Acacia lodge website [www.Acacia94.com](http://www.Acacia94.com). With the exception of a few remaining glitches it is now updated and running as before, with space added for even more event photos and Masonic education, etc so if you have anything you would like to see included, please send it to me at my e-mail, [akhenaton1701@gmail.com](mailto:akhenaton1701@gmail.com)  
David Stuard, Jr. W/M

good standing in Acacia Lodge. If they pay these dues before December 31, 2013 they will be automatically reinstated. If not they can only be reinstated by petition, investigation and ballot.

Brethren I urge you to look at your dues card NOW and be sure that it says the card is good until DECEMBER 31, 2013. If it says DECEMBER 31, 2012 PLEASE GET YOUR PAYMENT IN SO WE WILL NOT HAVE TO SEND YOU THESE LETTERS.

As always we will strive to have 0 NPD's this year. Please help us out on this and get your dues for 2013 in now and your dues for 2014 in early to help the lodge financially.

We would like to ask a favor of all our members. This month we have had several newsletters returned by the post office because the recipient had moved and the forwarding time had elapsed. The post office only forwards mail for a certain period of time. If you should change your address please notify the secretary so we can update our records.

Brethren our attendance at meetings has dropped off sharply at recent meetings. Acacia lodge has never had to call in visitors to do degree work, so please come back to the meetings so that we can maintain the record we have of doing good degree work with our own members. Remember—Acacia Lodge is YOUR lodge, so come out and support it.

**MASONIC EDUCATION By ART NEBIKER, 32nd Degree, Junior Deacon**

In the early 1700's our revered Worshipful Grand Master George Washington worked as a surveyor. He defined the borders of properties and parcels of land in the surveyor's terms of that period as "Meets and Bounds". But we as Masons of today with all of our symbolism may also symbolically translate those terms for use in our lodge where we may "Meet on the Level" but our "Light will have no Bounds". We meet in Brotherly Love and Affection and our Light knows no Bounds or Borders. There is of course other light, such as from Light Houses providing safe passage for ships at sea, or Edison's light to brighten the world. But there is only one Masonic light which brings Enlightenment, Morality and Integrity. May the light from Acacia Lodge shine on you every first Thursday.

Today we honor and draw inspiration from these notable Masons:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| James Garfield - US President                           | Johann Goethe - Philosopher and Poet |
| Giuseppe Garibaldi - Italian General                    | John Harlan - Supreme Court Justice  |
| John Glenn - Astronaut and US Senator                   | George IV - King of Great Britain    |
| Bazil Garden - America's first millionaire              | George VI - King of Great Britain    |
| Sir John Gorton - Prime Minister of Australia           | Lionel Hampton - Jazz Musician       |
| John Hancock - Revolutionary and Statesman              | Warren Harding - US President        |
| Ichiro Hatoyama - 3 time Prime Minister of Japan        | Virgil Grissom - Astronaut           |
| E. Urner Goodman - Co-Founder Boy Scouts Order of Arrow |                                      |

These departed Masonic Brothers may have achieved levels of greatness in their life's endeavors far beyond our own callings, but in Masonry they, like us, could go no higher than Master Mason. Their light is shared with ours whenever Master Masons meet on the Level in Acacia Lodge. First Thursdays - - - no reservations required.

**When we let our own light shine, we allow others to do the same - Marianne Williamson**