

THE SPRIG

JULY 2014

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 19 Issue 7

2014 OFFICERS

WB Lyth B. Clark Jr. WM
WB David P Stuard Jr SW
Jamie W. Sanders JW
WB Art B Ford Treasurer
WB Richard G. Miner
Secretary
Eddie Hill Sr Deacon
Giff Carpenter Jr Deacon
Eric Lloyd Steward
WB Thomas A. Baker
Steward
WB Wayne C. Smith Jr.
Chaplain
Randy Edwards Tyler
Charles A. Marthers
Organist

From the East by WB Lyth B. Clark, Jr. Worshipful Master

Just yesterday I delivered some dinners from the Saint John the Baptist Annual Fish Fry to various family members scattered around Columbia. The compliments soon came back. Also, there were two requests to know how the catfish batter was made. I promised to ask but could not guarantee an answer, what with masons and secrets.

The Fourth of July holiday is just ahead, the day after our monthly business meeting. While Virginia declared its intention to be free from Britain as early as May 15, 1776, South Carolina first voted against the proposed resolution on July 1st. Happily that vote was changed the next day. The signing of the Declaration of Independence became unanimous only on July 9th. Can you guess which state was the last to sign? Moreover, the Fourth of July only became a federal holiday in 1941. As for me, I will be keeping an eye on the lawn and the roof for all the fireworks that get set off in my neighborhood.

We will be having a Fellow Craft degree on the third Thursday, July 17th. The next day, July 18th, the Scottish Rite will put on a Master Mason degree by the Scottish Rite Brethren of the 8th and 10th Masonic Districts. One of the candidates will be ours, and I would invite all members to come see the work. You do not have to be a Scottish Rite Mason to attend.

See you in Lodge.

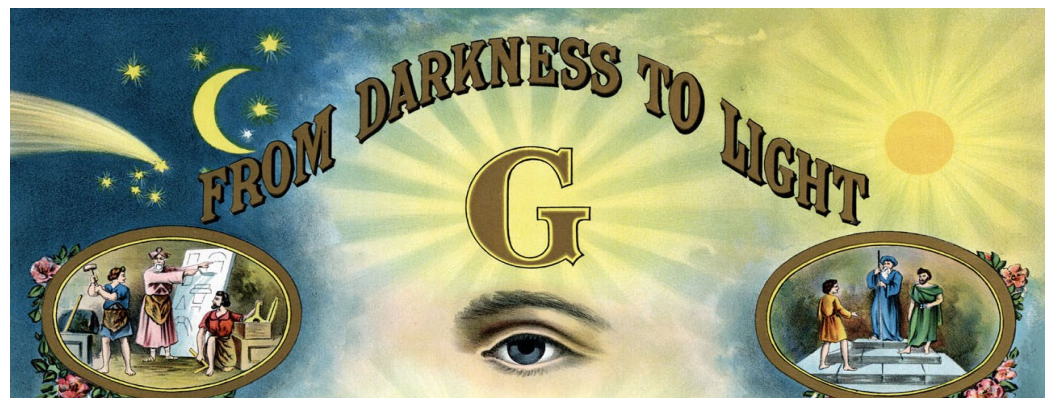


DATES TO REMEMBER

7/3
Regular Communication
Dinner and Fellowship
at 6:30 PM
Lodge opens at 7:30

7/17
Proposed
Fellowcraft Degree

7/18
8th and 10th District
Master Mason Degree
at Scottish Rite Center



From the Secretary's Desk by Worshipful Brother Richard G. Miner

SICK AND DISTRESSED

WB Ivan Wells
WB Don Michie
WB Jim Neal
and
Our Bro. Organist
Charles A. Marthers

As I reported last month, there are currently 16 brothers who have not yet paid their 2014 dues. If you have not paid your 2014 dues, you must do it now, in order to avoid going NPD. Last year we did not have a single NPD. Let's repeat that again this year. The names of those who have not paid were read at the June business meeting. If you know any of these brothers, please let them know that their dues are past due. Should any of these brothers have a hardship, please let me know. As always, thank you for your continuing support of Acacia Lodge.

A wise man is strong, yea a man of knowledge increaseth strength - Solomon

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)



JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 Charles Brown
5 Robert Milling
6 Leroy Taylor
7 Travis Whitfield
14 Donald White
15 James Gantt
15 Thomas Park
17 James Harrison
20 Stephen D. Hall
21 Frank Broome
21 WB Lyth B. Clark, Jr.
31 Vernon Davis, Sr.

**Still not receiving
the Sprig by e-mail?
Then you're missing
out. Oh sure, we are
trying to upgrade our
printing capabilities,
but in order to get
the most out of the
Sprig's new format,
you really need to go
digital. Just send
me an e-mail at:
[sprigofacacia94
@hotmail.com](mailto:sprigofacacia94@hotmail.com)
and check out the
new Sprig 2.0**

I am pleased to report that the Brothers of Acacia Lodge #94 are very much alive and kicking, where-so-ever dispersed. This month, I received several "Tweets" and as well as two educational submissions and have even spoken by phone with two of our brothers who, having been missing-in-action for some time, are now seeking to re-connect with the lodge and with Masonry. This is more than I had hoped for when starting this little column, and I thank you all for your enthusiasm. I've even had to expand the Sprig somewhat, in order to accommodate everything you've been sending, a problem which I will accept happily.

Brother Eric Lloyd tweets: I am starting College on the 30th of June and I am looking forward to my College Career. I am also looking forward to the Breakfast degree at Blythewood Lodge and to the Fish Fry tomorrow with my honorable brothers.

Brother Benjamin Brooks writes: I'm doing good, My wife and I are still out at Fort Hood, Texas. I'm working with the 401st Military Police Co. and am with the headquarters platoon. My wife is working at Wells Fargo, and both of us are really enjoying our work and enjoying Texas. We're trying to come back to South Carolina as soon as we can. Hope all is well!

From Brother Vernon Davis: Another Father's day has come and gone. Hope everyone had a happy one! And I hope everyone is still praying for Obama to move back to his home country, we know for sure it was not America. What a sad, sad government we now have. I have been here for 75 years and have never seen so much fraud and corruption in the ruling party. Keep up the good work with the Sprig!

Thanks Bro, I'll do my best. You just keep 'em coming — Dave

Anyone else have a shout-out? Just click reply to the Sprig e-mail address, sprigofacacia94@hotmail.com and I'll post your messages to all the brothers here each month. Let your brothers know you care.

A Call to Arms from WB Wayne C. Smith, Jr. Chaplain

We say we seek more Light, but do we? As a Charter Member, a former Chaplain, former member of the Editorial Board and contributor of a research paper, of the South Carolina Masonic Research Society, I recommend that, if you are not a member, you should be one. The Society has completed its first 25 years, and published its annual publication, TRANSACTIONS, in hard cover. In this edition are selected research papers of the past 25 years. Some of these papers are by members of Acacia Lodge #94. WB James A. Neal has a research paper, "The Masonic Plot at Elmwood Cemetery." RWB George W. Romanstine has a research paper on "The Joy of Being a Mason." and I myself wrote a paper in 2004, entitled, "Look to the East, Take Up the Signs on the Steps." As a matter of interest, RWB Arthur R. Datnoff, Past Master of Acacia Lodge and Past District Deputy Grand Master of the 10th Masonic District, was the President of the Society in 1996. There may be in the letters, papers and diaries of your family or ancestors, a Golden Nugget of Masonic History, particularly South Carolina Masonic History, that could be the basis of a research paper.

Think about it, then do.



Pierre L'Enfant was a French Architect and Civil Engineer. He was a Mason who successfully laid out the plans for the streets of Washington DC. It is said that he designed the city in such a way that many secrets of Masonic symbolism are darkly hidden in its construction.

The only thing correct is that he was a French Architect and Civil Engineer - - - all the rest is WRONG WRONG WRONG

In-depth studies have questioned and have uncovered no evidence to confirm or support that Pierre L'Enfant was ever actually a Mason. Therefore, those who want to imagine that a series of supposed Masonic symbols representing some deep Masonic conspiracy were designed into the city plan by Pierre L'Enfant are totally misled.



The plan was for horizontal roads and vertical roads to be intersected by diagonals and that these intersections resulted in plazas and rotaries or circles, i.e. DuPont Circle. With clever imaginations, any pattern can be discovered. Those who truly seek can find whatever symbols they are looking for, be they Masonic or otherwise. I am reminded of a Charlie Brown cartoon in which he saw cloud formations resembling a "horsey" and a "piggy". There are no restrictions or limitations on imagination.

George Washington had appointed a three man panel of overseers, the Commissioners, for approval of the city's plans. There were heated discussions between the Commissioners and L'Enfant to the extent that he was eventually dismissed and replaced by Andrew Ellicott, an Architect and Surveyor. The end result was that, with certain modifications, the basic L'Enfant plan was finally approved, but under the successful direction and project management of Ellicott.



Pierre L'Enfant never fully recovered from this embarrassing defeat. He petitioned congress for tens of thousands of dollars for his work, was initially denied, and eventually was paid only a small amount, which went to his creditors. Although he continued to have some profitable patronage (he designed a number of mid-western cities and was a Professor of Engineering at West Point for 4 years) he did unfortunately die penniless at the age of 71, with a total estate valued at \$45.



Today, however, Pierre L'Enfant is remembered with honor. The DC plan is still referred to as having been designed by Pierre L'Enfant. A complex of office buildings is named the L'Enfant Plaza, below which is the Metro rapid transit stop L'Enfant Plaza Station. In 2003, he was commemorated on a US postage stamp. The District of Columbia has even commissioned a statue of him, anticipating that one day it will be placed in the U.S. Capitol as part of the National Statuary Hall Collection. Since 2005, the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. has held an annual "L'Enfant Lecture on City Planning and Design", to draw attention to critical issues in city and regional planning. The American Planning Association (APA) has also created an award named in his honor, which recognizes excellence in urban planning. He is buried on a hilltop in Arlington, overlooking the city he designed.

Photos:
Pierre L'Enfant
Plan for the Mall
The Mall today
Tomb of L'Enfant

They must stoop who mean to rise - William Cowper



Photos By
Bro. Randy Edwards



Thank you to those who attended the Annual Acacia/Columbia OES Fish Fry. The unofficial results are in and we had another very successful fund raiser. Early results indicate that we far surpassed our turnout last year. The ladies of Columbia Chapter #59 OES did an outstanding job with the bake sale and manning the ticket table. They also ensured that every guest was accommodated as well as made many to-go plates. We can't thank them enough for their love and support again this year. Combining our fundraising efforts with these wonderful ladies has helped to make this event become more successful each and every year. We are blessed to have such an active and supportive Eastern Star Chapter. Thank you ladies! To the Acacia officers and members who came and helped fry the fish and kept me from passing out in the heat, thank you all, Brothers. Your support again this year is greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to Claude Leitner, who led the French Frying Legion. Claude is the husband of Cindy Leitner, who is this year's Worthy Matron. He has come out and supported our fundraiser for the last several years and his assistance has been invaluable. Thank you again Claude. We appreciate your support. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again next year. I am so amazed at how our little event has gained success every year, and this is due to each and every one of you who bought and sold tickets, sent in donations, and came out in the heat and gave of your time and talents. Thank you all so very much!

RW Jeffrey L. Hall, DDGM

An Invitation to all Master Masons from the Columbia Scottish Rite

Dear Brothers:

The Brethren of the Columbia Scottish Rite would like to invite you to a Master Mason degree which will be conferred by the Scottish Rite Brethren of the 8th and 10th Masonic Districts. The degree will be held on Friday, July 18, 2014, at the Columbia Scottish Rite Center, located at 7230 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC, 29209. The degree will start at 7 PM, with a meal to be served at the break. The Degree will be performed in costume and on stage, with audio and video effects.

It promises to be a wonderful evening. We hope you will make plans to join us.

Fraternally,

The Brethren of the
Columbia Scottish Rite