

THE SPRIG

JUNE 2014

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 19 Issue 6

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

This next month will be a busy time for the members of Acacia #94. Besides the business meeting where we will begin reading proposed by-law changes, we will be presenting the Entered Apprentice and the Master Mason degrees. During May, two brothers were called to that Celestial Lodge above.

Do not forget the St. John the Baptist Annual Fish Fry on Saturday June 21st. This is a joint effort of this lodge and Columbia Chapter #59 OES. The food as always will be excellent.

Why were you yourself ever interested in being a Master Mason? I am not looking for the ritual answer but am asking you to make it personal and specific. I came late to Masonry. Regardless of the fact that my grandfather and father were Masons, I only took an interest when a friend thought it wrong and worthy of attack. The more criticism he levied, the more I studied and thought. Masonry has a range of facets: history, work, philosophy, and charity. Any one of these may have been your reason to join. To wit...

The Holy Saints John

"...As Masons we are all familiar with the phrase "Erected to God and dedicated to the Holy Saints John." All of our Blue Lodges are so dedicated, yet we never hear any other information regarding these "Holy Saints John" or anything to explain why we refer to them as the Patron Saints of Freemasonry....

In early Masonry, the feast day of St. John the Baptist was always celebrated by the Craft. In fact, the first public Grand Lodge - the Grand Lodge of England - was born on St. John the Baptist's day, June 24, in 1717 in London. Thereafter, the Grand Lodge of England sponsored great annual celebrations of this day for many years. Eventually the feast of St. John the Evangelist became important as well and many Lodges and Grand Lodges moved the beginning of their Masonic year from June 24 to December 27. We can only assume that the proximity of December 27 to the beginning of the calendar year made it expedient to do so.

The festival days were of central importance to early American Lodges as well. Both feast days were almost always celebrated by all well-governed early Lodges. Our records indicate that Brothers George Washington and Benjamin Franklin always made it a point to attend their Lodges respective observances of St. John's Days...."

Maybe we should do the same. See you in Lodge...

Excerpt taken from "... And Dedicated to the Holy Saints John" — An inquiry into the designation of the Saints John as Patron Saints of Freemasonry by WB Harvey L. Ward, Jr, PM R.T. Schafer Lodge No. 350, F&AM Grand Lodge of Florida, USA

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

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 again this year. The names of those who have not paid will be read at the June meeting. If you know any of these brothers, please let them know that their dues are due. Should any of these brothers have a hardship, please let me know. Thank you for your continuing support of Acacia Lodge.

I will be out of town until June 10, celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary. However, I can be reached by email or phone. Please feel free to contact me if necessary.



DATES TO REMEMBER

6/5
Regular Communication
Dinner and Fellowship
at 6:30 PM
Lodge opens at 7:30

6/12
Proposed
Entered Apprentice

6/26
Proposed Master
Mason Degree

SICK AND DISTRESSED

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

We have it in our power to begin to change the world —Thomas Paine

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)



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Olin Longino
- 12 Johnny Raines, Sr.
- 14 Richard Unger, Sr.
- 18 James Muckelvaney
- 20 Marshall Conner
- 22 Jason Eric Crowe
- 23 Raymond Insprucker
- 26 John Drane
- 27 Randy Edwards
- 28 WB Richard Smarr

IT'S FISH FRY TIME

Each June we at Acacia 94 celebrate the feast of St. John the Baptist with our annual Fish fry. Join us and the ladies of Columbia OES 59, on June 21, from 11 to 2, for catfish and all the fixin's, for just 7 bucks a plate. The ladies will also have baked goods for sale so bring your family to Hampton St. and "pass a good time"

From Brother Stephen Douglas Hall — Hello brothers, hope all is well with everyone. All my family is well. All is good in the country, life is surely slow here. I'm sure everything is good in lodge. I Miss you all.

From Brother Eric Jason Lloyd — I was very honored to be the (pro tem) Speaking Steward at Blythewood Lodge last Tuesday night, the 20th. I find my seat of office to be very honorable and I know I made the Lloyds proud.

If Memorial Day is very Special to Masonry, it is especially special for some, like Worshipful Brother Jack Coker, because they served our country. So Brothers, today is your day, and we thank you for serving our country.

But I especially remember my Grandfather for serving in 3 wars including Vietnam, Korea and Germany. So Happy Memorial day Grandfather. We miss and love you both.

And from WB Wayne C. Smith — Betty and I attended our 65th Reunion of the Class of 1949 at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. It was both joyful and somber. Of my six former roommates over the 4 years, all are deceased except one, who lives in Savannah, Georgia. I was able to meet Chick Cleveland, who is the second of two aces from the Korean War. The other is Dolphin D. Overton, who died since the last Reunion. We had a chance to take the Review of the whole Corps of Cadets. The blank black shield of Benedict Arnold in the Old Cadet Chapel in the West Point Cemetery is still there. We had a chance to visit my parent's grave. My Dad was in the Class of 1925. The weather was perfect.

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.

A Memorial Day Celebration by Brother Arthur Nebiker 32 Degree

This Memorial Day is a day of Celebration and Tribute to those who great sacrifices made, both ultimate and individualy personal, to those who despite world wide adversity make our Nation Strong. In our own life time we have known those who have honorably served in WWI, WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Iraq, Afghanistan as well as secretly in parts unknown. Honorably served from 40 and 8 to the shores of Normandy, from the hill tops, to the fox holes, to the Flag Raising on Iwo Jima and to the Hanoi Hilton. From 40 and 8 which meant 40 men or 8 horses in a WWI rail road box car going to the front - - - to today's military marvel of a flying wing B-2 bomber at 50,000 feet with only 2 pilots and thousands of horsepower (thrust). As Masons we shall honor all those military who came before and to all those of today's honorable commitment. We as patriotic Masons, and with many of us Military or former Military, proudly show our colors this week end and proclaim that Democracy is the best form of government the world has ever seen - - - preserved and protected by our Military. God Bless America!

Surrender? Sir, I have not yet begun to fight! — Captain John Paul Jones



OUR DEBT TO THE
HEROIC MEN AND VALIANT
WOMEN IN THE SERVICE
OF OUR COUNTRY CAN
NEVER BE REPAID. THEY
HAVE EARNED OUR
UNDYING GRATITUDE.
AMERICA WILL NEVER
FORGET THEIR SACRIFICES.

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN



**Photos:
WWII Monument,
WWII Plaque by
President Truman,
Me on my bike,
The Tomb of the
Unknown Soldier,
and Headstone of
Sgt. Aaron Wittman**

These came in at the last minute, just as I was about to publish an already completed June Sprig, but they were simply too good to leave out. I thank each of the brothers who answered my call, especially on this auspicious day...Semper Fraternis.

From Brother Travis Whitfield — Hope all is well. First, thanks for sending out the Sprig. You're doing a great job at keeping us Brothers informed. Not sure if this qualifies, but my wife and I just returned from Barcelona, Spain. I won an all expense paid trip that 38 of the top salespeople in my company, Smith & Nephew, awarded. The trip was fantastic, and it was our first time in Europe. We stayed in the Olympic park, got to sight-see, and ate plenty of tapas. I'm currently in Greenville, with a 3 year old and 9 month old, so it's very hard to get to Lodge, but I miss seeing y'all. Tell everyone I said hello, and Happy Memorial Day!

And lastly, Lt. Colonel (and Past Master) Jack L. Parker, Jr sends this from Arlington, VA ...

OK David, you pulled it out of me. Here's a summary of my Memorial Day experiences with photos. Feel free to share as you see fit.

25 May 2014: Here are some of the sites of my solo Ride of Remembrance during Rollin' Thunder. My first stop was at Annapolis, MD, followed by a lunch stop on the western shore of the West River, an arm of Chesapeake Bay in Galesville, MD. Then I continued the stroll through Shady Side, MD to the winding and scenic back roads along the Chesapeake Bay to Chesapeake Beach, MD. My final stop was the National Mall in Washington, DC for a total run of 127 miles.

26 May 2014: Here are some sites of my final ride to close out a Day of Remembrance. Total ride was 2.3 miles to Fort Myer, VA, where I entered the gate to the Arlington National Cemetery at the Old Post Chapel. After passing by many headstones with names and others marked "unknown", I made my one mile walk to Section 60, to visit headstone marker number 10337.

There stood the resting place for Sergeant Aaron X. Wittman, The Citadel Class of 2007, who was killed in action on January 10, 2013 in Afghanistan. I attended his graveside funeral service in February 2013 and was so moved by the brotherhood of my alma mater, that I wrote a poem the very next day, which I am sharing with others for the very first time.

I never met Sgt. Wittman, but the poem explains my thoughts about the emotion of that day. Thank you Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman and all others who paid the ultimate sacrifice. We shall always remember.

(ed. Note, I've attached the poem in pdf to this e-mail)

Thank you WB Parker, and indeed, our sincere thanks to all those, be they Masons or otherwise, whose courage and sacrifice is exemplified on this day. Some debts can never be repaid, nor should they ever be forgotten.

Give me liberty or give me death — Nathan Hale