

THE SPRIG

APRIL 2015

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Vol 20 Issue 4

Tidings from the East by WB Thomas L. "Jack" Coker Worshipful Master

2015 OFFICERS

WB Thomas L. Coker WM
Jamie A Sanders SW
John Edward Hill J W
WB Art B Ford Treasurer
WB Richard G. Miner
Secretary
Stewart Sneed Sr Deacon
Erik Lloyd Jr Deacon
Randy Edwards Steward
J. Chris Shipman Steward
WB Wayne C. Smith Jr.
Chaplain
WB Thomas A. Baker
Tyler



DATES TO REMEMBER

4/2
Regular Communication
and Business Meeting

4/9
Proposed Entered
Apprentice Degree

4/16
Proposed Master
Mason's Degree

Why not attend
All Three?

Dinner and Fellowship
at 6:30 PM
Lodge opens at 7:30

Greetings Brethren,

We seem to have gotten off to a pretty good start this year. We have degree work backed up for a couple of months and I hope this will last for the rest of the year. It sure would be nice to show an increase in membership when we file our annual return for 2015.

Of course we have already lost a couple of members to the grim reaper and there is nothing we can do about this. This February we lost our organist, Brother Charlie Marthers, and Brother Ewell Black passed just last week. He was 90 years old. W/B Art Ford and I attended his funeral in Bishopville on Thursday afternoon before our business meeting. He had lived in GA for several years but I talked to him a number of times on the phone, and he would always ask about some of our older members. He wrote notes quite often and enclosed donations for the lodge.

What every member should do:

- Learn thoroughly the things for which the Lodge stands.
- Read the laws by which your Lodge is governed.
- Attend your Lodge meetings.
- Participate in the deliberations of the Lodge.
- Get better acquainted with the officers and members of your Lodge.

If you will do these things you will make your Lodge better and profit more from your membership, Take your stand in the front line, understand the responsibilities of the officers, and work for all, that you may share in the making of a Lodge in which all its members may be proud.

See you in Lodge on April 2.

WB Thomas L. "Jack" Coker

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

The lodge has been busy. We currently have three petitions for degrees and one reinstatement request out to investigating committees, who will report at the business meeting. If found clear, we will have degree work every Thursday night through the summer months.

We will need your help to insure that each of these candidates is received in proper form. Also, as a reminder to those who have been appointed to an investigating committee, please get your recommendations back to me before the Business Meeting.

It is motive alone which gives character to the actions of man - Jean de la Bruyere

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)



**SICK AND
 DISTRESSED**

**WB Don Michie
 WB James A. Neal**



Ever wonder about the reasoning behind the master of a lodge wearing a hat? Why does everyone not wear a hat? We tend to dress a little more formally during lodge, so would it not seem to reason that everyone should wear a hat?

The Masonic Service Association states that the master's hat is a contemporary relic of the ancient custom whereby the king remained covered under all circumstances. As the king remained covered, his subjects were obligated to remain uncovered during his presence.

Apparently, this custom began in English lodges but is not so common there now. American lodges however generally continue to follow this custom and thus the master wears a hat as a symbol of his authority.

Some would say that for a man to wear his hat indoors is bad manners, but we now know that Masonically, it is a good thing. So remember next time you are in Lodge, your bare head is showing respect for the Worshipful Master.

From the Editor's Desk by Worshipful Brother David P. Stuard, Jr 32°

Well my brothers, there certainly has been a lot going on here at Acacia, what with all the degree work, our participation in the Scottish Rite reunion, not to mention our recent George Washington shindig. It has definitely been a busy winter, and since this trend looks to be continuing, at least for the foreseeable future, well, frankly, we kinda need your help. Worshipful Master Jack Coker has made it his goal to restore Acacia to its former status as the eminent degree lodge of the district, and to that end it is important that we perform our degree work without the need of outside assistance. Several of our newer brothers are taking an active part, and I for one intend to assist them by offering my services as coach to any who wish it, in any ritual part or lecture, but this is not enough. Several of our Past Masters and brothers who used to be active in the work of the lodge have been absent of late, and we sure could use you now. I do hope that, whatever your reason for leaving, you will find it in your heart to return to lodge and support Worshipful Jack in this effort. Surely his purpose is a laudable one, but besides that, we'd really just like to see you all again. Won't you come back to the five-and-dime, Jimmy Dean.

One other thing I should mention is the upcoming Grand Lodge, to which every Master Mason is invited, on April 23rd and 24th, at the Embassy Suites Hotel Airport Convention Center, 5055 International Boulevard in North Charleston. There will be a service at 9 AM, and the Grand Lodge will be opened at 10. If you have never been, let me say that it is quite a spectacle, and one that every Mason should witness at least once. Although I am no longer a lodge officer, I will be there, in support of Worshipful Brother Jack and our two Wardens, Jamie and Eddie. Join us, won't you? It will be worth the journey, as you're sure to meet some old friends and make some new ones too.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 William T.
Rotureau, Jr.
- 4 Heath G. Greene
- 6 Issac Kozierek
- 16 A. Pitts
Tuberville, Jr.
- 18 William J. Eccles
- 22 Richard E.
Johnson
- 23 Alton R. Blanks
- 25 Ivan M. Wells
- 25 Thomas L. Quinn
- 26 C. Douglas Green
- 30 William L.
Chichester



As early as the year 1934, soon after Hitler's rise to power, it became apparent that Freemasonry was in danger. In the same year, the German Grand Master of the Sun in Bayreuth (one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges), realized the imminent problems facing them and elected to wear a little blue flower, the Forget-Me-Not, in lieu of the traditional Square and Compasses, as a mark of identity for Masons. It was felt the new symbol would not attract attention from the Nazis, who were in the process of confiscating and appropriating Masonic Lodges and property.

Masonry had gone underground and it was necessary that the Brethren have some readily recognizable means of identification. Throughout the entire Nazi era, a little blue flower on a lapel marked a Brother. In Concentration Camps and in the cities the little blue Forget-Me-Not distinguished the lapels of those who refused to allow the Light of Masonry to be extinguished. In 1947, when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was re-opened in Bayreuth by the Past Grand Master, a little blue pin, in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not, was proposed and adopted as the official emblem of the first convention of those who survived the bitter years of semi-darkness, bringing the Light of Masonry once again into the temples.

At the first Annual Convention of the United Grand Lodges of Germany, AF & FM, in 1948, this pin was adopted as the official emblem honoring those valiant Brethren who carried on their work under adverse conditions. At the Grand Master's Conference in the United States, Dr. Thedor Vogel, the Grand Master of the newly-formed VGLvD (Vereinigte Großlogen von Deutschland), AF & FM presented one of these pins to each of the representatives of the Grand Jurisdictions with which the VGLvD enjoyed fraternal relations. Thus did a simple flower blossom forth a meaningful emblem of the Fraternity and became perhaps the most widely worn pin among Freemasons in Germany.

NOTE: The above is a retype from the Certificate and pin that was given to me when I was a member of Alt Heidelberg Lodge No. 821 back in the 80's. Hope you all enjoyed this bit of Masonic Trivia.

With a Masonic Spring in my Step — By Brother Art Nebiker 32°

How fitting is the Spring to Masonry! We say "let there be light" and as we move into and through the equinox whose hours are equal to the night and equal to the day, we pass most gently and increasingly from days of darkness to days of more light. Indeed, is not Spring symbolic of Masonry? And accordingly, we stand in awe as the sun rises over the heal stone at Stonehenge to help with this awesome moment of celebration, for it is a celebration of our Masonic movement into more light. As Masonry represents the goodness of man, and the growth of man from the youth of the Entered Apprentice through the prime adult of Fellowcraft to the mature and risen Master Mason, it also symbolizes the physical and spiritual movement which is continually taking him from darkness into enlightenment. How fitting is the Spring to Masonry!

The capacity to care is what gives life its greatest significance — Pablo Casals



The Sprig of Acacia holds great meaning for all Masons and especially for our lodge. We cannot accurately call a particular plant as the “acacia” for the same reason that we cannot name any one rose as the “rose”. As botanists know, there are more than 450 varieties of acacia. Mackey considered the acacia as a symbol of initiation, one so rich in meaning for Masons that it needs no further meaning to make it important and beautiful. For Masons, it is one of our most important lessons. Although our bodies die and decay, the acacia reminds us that there is within man something that “never, never, dies.” The vessel may be broken, and a temporary grave may conceal it for a time, but from that which is interred there grows a spiritual sprig, a plant not of the earth, but immortal. When that sprig of acacia was plucked from the ground, the weary travelers had evidence of things hidden from their sight, and when we place the sprig of acacia upon the casket of a fallen brother, we renew our belief in things not seen, our confidence in our future. These things we see by faith and not with our eyes. In those strong words found in Ecclesiastes 12-7, “the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

Tidings from the Acacia Lodge Message Board — by You, the Brethren

This month we received only a few messages from our readers, as several of you chose to submit articles instead. Thank you all for your contributions, and remember, if you have anything to say for the good of Masonry or of this Lodge in particular, we want to hear it. E-mail your submissions to sprigofacacia94@hotmail.com or just click reply to the electronic mailing. Keep in touch brothers.

Sergeant Major James R. Turkaly, US Army (Retired) whose excellent article appears on page 3, also sent in this suggestion.

“I am sure many of you knew our late brother and Worshipful Master Wayne “Mac” McKee. Brother McKee always gave an outstanding lecture on various degrees in Masonry. Brother McKee was also a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason. He helped to raise numerous masons during his lifetime while at Acacia and was one of its pillars that kept the lodge on track and functioning during hard times. Is there is any way that we can obtain a picture of “Mac” and hang it in Acacia lodge as a way of honoring him? I am sure that not only I but many other brothers would appreciate it.”

— Ed. Note: Great idea, I have acquired a fine picture of Mac. I will present it and your proposal to the Lodge at our next meeting.

And from Brother Erik Lloyd — Just wanted to let you all know, I have passed my Final Exams for the 3rd quarter. I am one step closer to a successful future and I am looking forward to it. I am proud to be in the Medical field and I am also proud to be a Master Mason. See you all at the April Business meeting next week.

— Ed. Note: Well done brother, we’re proud of you too.

