

# THE SPRIG

FEBRUARY 2013

ACACIA LODGE 94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 18 Issue 2

## 2011 OFFICERS

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



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication  
2/7  
Proposed FC 2/21

## FEBRUARY BRITHDAYS

**Benjamin J Brooks**  
**Richard Mosley**  
**David M Vause**  
**Roger W Doyon**  
**Thomas A Gardner, Jr**  
**Max L Brandes, Sr**  
**Walter Turbyfill, Jr**  
**James W Dugger**  
**Lawrence Wilder**  
**Oliver N Hancock**  
**Jeffery L Hall**  
**Ronald E Thorton**  
**Wayne C Smith, Jr**  
**Ewell C Black, Jr**  
**John D Pappas**  
**Hugh J Bickley**  
**George W Wise, Sr**  
**William J Pope**

## TIDINGS FROM THE EAST By DAVID P. STUARD, JR. WM

Greetings Brothers,

For those of you whom I haven't yet met in lodge, let me introduce myself. My name is David Paul Stuard, Jr., and I find myself honored and at the same time humbled to have been chosen to serve Acacia #94 as Worshipful Master for the coming year. From the first moment when I was brought to light and beheld this beautiful lodge, some ten years ago, I've felt as if I belonged here, connected to something far larger and greater than I, and so threw myself wholeheartedly and joyously into the fraternity and its teachings, eager to learn, both for my own edification and that I might pass on to those who followed, as much of our venerated observances and rituals as I could absorb. In this small way I can at once contribute to the continuance of the order and to explore its ties to my own family heritage. My paternal grandfather was a past master of

Humble Cottage lodge #19 in Opelousas, Louisiana, the oldest lodge west of the Mississippi, and was a member of the Shrine (Jerusalem Temple) as well. My earliest memories of him were in his fez, riding that tiny little car with his brothers on Mardi Gras Day. It occurs to me, upon writing this, that I seldom saw him happier.

My genealogical connection to Masonry goes back even farther still. A search of records done by my father on Ancestry.com reveals that a Stuard appears on the Masonic roster in many previous generations, starting in 1769 with my great-to-the-nth-power grandfather, William John Stewart, of Abbeville, SC. (The spelling was changed by his grandson, Moody Stuard, who had to leave town in a hurry, in connection with the hanging of 13 carpetbaggers after the Great War of Northern Aggression.) William's father, also William Stewart, who

landed in Charleston in 1734, cannot be confirmed as a Mason, but it is my belief that he was, coming as he did from Scotland at the very time that our early brethren were first forging this grand experiment in enlightened democracy.

Yes, I am very proud of my Masonic heritage, just as I am very proud of our heritage here at Acacia. In the coming months, look to the Sprig for more articles exploring our rich and storied past. Also, if you have any such stories to share, please let me know. Any of my brothers can reach me at any time, by phone at (803) 226-5827 or by e-mail at [akhenton1701@gmail.com](mailto:akhenton1701@gmail.com). And please, consider coming back to lodge in person. We miss you and need you.

With sincere and fraternal thanks,

David P. Stuard, Jr.  
Worshipful Master

## FROM THE SOUTH By JEFFREY HALL, PM

Greetings from the South and I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. I want to wish everyone a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. I want to take a minute and thank the Lodge for allowing me to serve as your Worshipful Master for the past two years. It was both an honor and a privilege to serve Acacia Lodge #94 in this High

Office. I very much enjoyed my time and thank all of you for your encouragement and support.

As your Junior Warden for the coming year, I hope to continue to see many of you in Lodge. We started the year off right with a new EA candidate in January. We also will have another Brother go through as we have been

asked to provide courtesy work for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of California on Brother Carson Keys. He received his EA Degree several months ago and is currently a student at USC. He wants to continue his journey and has asked us to assist him in his journey. All of the proper approvals have

**SICK AND DISTRESS:**

**W/B Don Michie  
Bro Roger Doyon  
W/B Hugh Bickley  
Parents of W/B Jeff Hall  
and Bro Doug Hall**



**THIS MONTH'S  
DONATIONS**

**W/B Art Ford  
Clyde Joines**

**Thank you brethren for  
your support of Acacia  
Lodge.**

**ALL OFFICERS  
PLEASE WEAR COAT  
AND TIE TO BUSI-  
NESS MEETING.  
PICTURES WILL BE  
TAKEN**

been granted by the Grand Jurisdictions in California and South Carolina and I look forward to working with Brother Carson.

We will have our annual St. John the Baptist Fish Fry again this year in June. This has continued to grow every year and I look forward to another good turnout this year. More to come on this in future editions of the Sprig.

Congratulations to WB David Stuard on being installed as our Worshipful Master for 2013. I hope you will come out and support you Lodge and Officers this year. I look forward to seeing each of you in Lodge.

Fraternally, Jeff Hall PM Junior Warden

**FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK By Jack Coker, PM**

Brethren;

Each year after the annual return is in and certified correct, I try to give you a run down on the state of the lodge. (I promise it will not be as long as the governors nor the presidents.)

As of December 31, 2011 we had 156 members,  
We raised 1, reinstated 1, and affiliated 1 for a total of 159.

Now for the bad news.  
We dropped 6 members NPD,  
We lost 10 to the grim reaper,  
We had 2 to demit for a total loss of 18.

Leaving us with a membership on December 31, 2012 of 141.

Of this number 65 are life members and do not have to pay dues. This leaves us with 76 dues paying members, for an income from dues of \$4,940.00.

Thank goodness for those brothers who continue to pay dues or make donations to the lodge after they receive life memberships. Without them we could not survive.

As we all know, Masonry is universal. Acacia Lodge almost lives up to this. We have 33 members who live in 15 states other than SC:

AK 1, AL 2, AZ 1, CO 2, DE 1, FL 3, GA 2, IO 1, MD 1, NC 7, PA 2, TN 5, TX 2, VA 2  
WA 1. We also have 1 in Germany and 1 in Puerto Rico.

Just thought you might like to know where our members are.

**In Knowing That I Know Nothing... By David P. Stuard, WM**

The Tenth Masonic District held its annual instructional meeting on Saturday, January 12, at the Scottish Rite Center on Garner's Ferry Rd, and I am pleased to report that Acacia Lodge #94 was very well represented. I was myself in attendance, accompanied of course by our secretary, WB Jack Coker, as well as my Senior Deacon, Bro. Eric Crowe, my Tyler, WB Tommy Baker, our Senior Warden, Bro. Douglas Hall, our Chaplain, WB Wayne Smith, and our Senior Steward, Bro. Eddie Hill.

I have myself attended this event before, in my earlier positions as Senior Deacon, Junior and Senior Warden, and in each incarnation I found that I was the better for having attended. Those of you who have been recently in lodge may have witnessed my somewhat awkward first attempts from the east. Let me assure you all that I did pay attention in class, and am indeed doing my homework.

For those of you who have not been to lodge recently, I again ask you to return. I can offer you the fellowship of some old friends, guarantee you a good meal, and promise you my continuing efforts to polish my armor, figuratively speaking. Or maybe, like those who attend NASCAR, there's a chance you'll get to see me crash and burn. Either way, I invite, welcome, and beg your attendance. Join us, won't you?

With my finger in my I, David P. Stuard, Jr. Worshipful Master

All of us get lost in the darkness, dreamers learn to steer by the stars...