



An account of an 1832 Masonic funeral at Inverness Shire, Scotland, relates that, "As were the custom, a bowl turned of acacia were placed on the brother's well chest and each passing brother did place a pinch of salt upon." The wood of the acacia was called shittim by the ancient Hebrews, who planted it at the head of graves as a funerary symbol signifying the immortality of the soul. Exodus 25:10 & 25:23 relates God commanding Moses to build the Ark for the tabernacle out of acacia wood. In Freemasonry, the acacia also represents the immortality of the soul and a sprig is often placed with the body of a deceased brother. In the Gospel of Mark 9:50, salt represents friendship. This is the same meaning attributed to salt by the third century Diocletian martyr and exegetical Biblical author, Saint Pierius, more commonly known as Origen the Younger. Helvetian Masons still use salt as part of their symbolism. It is a practice in Switzerland among Freemasons to present a gift of salt when welcoming new neighbors.