

Volume 3 Issue 12

December 1, 2014

This Month's Feature Stories

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- Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper?

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Fidelity, Masonry and Christmas – A Story

Fidelity, Masonry and Christmas – A Story – Author Unknown

There it sat, wrapped in green paper with drawings of little candy canes, surrounded by a carefully-tied broad red ribbon. The smell of the cookies inside the package lingered in the air. The Master's wife had baked several dozen of the Christmas treats and put them into little parcels to be delivered to the widows of members of the Lodge. The Master had driven around to drop them off, along with a card and a holiday wish from their late husband's brothers in Masonry. But one package re-

mained on the dining room table.

"All of the guys jumped up and volunteered at the last meeting to take these to the widows, but I'm the only one who's been doing it," thought the Master to himself. "I know! I'll call around and see who can deliver the last one."

He punched some numbers into his cell phone. The Senior Warden answered. "Dave, it's Rick," said the Master cheerfully. "Mrs. Wilson's cookies are over here and I was wondering if you could drop them off? We talked to her a few days ago and told her we'd do it tonight, and..."

"Yeah, I'd like to," replied

the Senior Warden, "but tonight's a really bad night. You know Thursday's my Warcraft night and I'm kicking ass."

"Can't you play some other night?"

"Not now. I'm the middle of this. Maybe tomorrow, if I'm not at a new level in a few hours."

The Master thanked him and put a call in to the Junior Deacon. "Steve, remember you said you could help deliver the widows' Christmas presents? Mrs. Wilson's is sitting here..."

"I'm sorry," said the Junior Deacon. "I know I said that, but my office Christmas party is tonight and I have

Programs & Announcements



We will not be having a dining out this month because of the holidays.

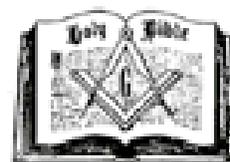
Please pass the word that we will be having a special program in January. The executive director of Habitat for Human-

ity of Lubbock will be with us to talk about their program and how we can help. All area Masons are encouraged to attend.

SHARE THE NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND HAVE THEM REGISTER FOR THEIR OWN NEWSLETTER AND SPECIAL NOTICES IN THE BOT-

TOM RIGHT HAND CORNER OF THE WEBSITE.

lubbockmasoniclodge.org



And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:3



From the East
Worshipful Master Glen Fant

December brings us Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, Christmas Cheer, neighborhood lights, sights and sounds, and of course, Santa Claus. Pleasant memories of children opening gifts, family reunions, and more good food. This Masonic year is half over and has been an eventful year of hard work by the Lubbock Lodge. I want to thank all of you for all your labors. We had a great Thanksgiving Feast with the Eastern Star, and a

record turn out of family, friends, and children. A special thanks to the Freedom Chapter #898 of the Eastern Star, Randy and Shirley Schoor (Worthy Patron & Worthy Matron) for making our banquet the best we have ever had. We are looking forward to bigger plans for next year.

Congratulations to our EA Masons on completing their work in the Entered Apprentice Degree.

I am looking forward to seeing many good friends & masons at Grand Lodge this month, and I hope to see you there.

Have a Happy Holiday! Drive safely where ever you go, and don't text, drink and



"The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race"

W. Washington



From the West
Senior Warden Kevin Rush

So many people don't know what "Masonry" is about. We need to fix that. For 54 years, Lubbock Lodge has been a part of this community. As you know, Freemasonry is not a religion, but encourages its members to practice their own religion. Freemasonry is not political, but it encourages patriotism. Freemasonry is not a charity, but its members practice charity throughout the world every day.

As with all Lodges, Lubbock Lodge has strived to impart the ideals of our fraternity into our community in our activities. Lubbock Lodge has silently supported benevolent works for years.

Most notable, is the Masonic philosophy of humility that is often accompanied by significant generosity. We believe that acts of kindness take place without the beating of drums or blaring of trumpets.

Just quiet kindness because it was needed or because it was the right thing to do.

Therefore the Holiday Season is perfect for Masons and for creating the Spirit of charity and brotherly love throughout the year.

Enjoy the Holiday season and hold it dear in your hearts year around . . . and quietly spread the word of who we are.



From the South
Junior Warden John Rosser

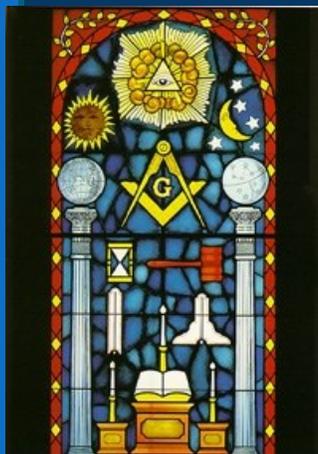
There has been discussion in our Lodge as to the legality of opening a Lodge on the Entered Apprentice Degree. Or should we always open on the Master's Degree and then Call Down to the Entered Apprentice Degree. The following is out of Masonic Texas Law.

Chapter 19 - Title II Business of Lodge

Article 331. Stated Meetings. Except when officially receiv-

ing Grand Lodge Officers, all stated meetings of a Lodge may be opened on the Entered Apprentice Degree or Fellowcraft Degree, provided that if no Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Mason is present, it shall be the option of the Worshipful Master to open said meeting on either the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master's Degree. A Lodge opened on the Entered Apprentice Degree for the purpose of holding a stat-

ed meeting, may be opened and closed on such degree without first opening on the Master's Degree. At a stated meeting, the regular business of the Lodge shall be transacted. At a stated meeting, only Master Masons shall be entitled to vote.



"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

Benj. Franklin



From the Secretary Jerry Hendrick
Taking Care of Business

Just a reminder that the annual Dues of \$55.00 is now due. You should have received your notice in the mail.



If you need to work out a payment plan with all of the holiday spending going on, let me know and we can work something out. If you have extra money burning a hole in your pocket, let us have it. I'm sure we can put out the fire . . . If you are wishing to make a donation to supplement your dues, you are more than welcome to do so.

Thank you all and have an enjoyable holiday season.



From the Senior Deacon Charles Straub
Visiting Brothers & Prospects

Brethren,
On the second Friday, November 14th, we had a very well attended Thanksgiving dinner at the Scottish Rite. The gracious ladies of Eastern Star hosted the dinner for members families and guests. Brethren's families brought side dishes and desserts and

Eastern Star provided the turkey and ham. We certainly appreciate these fine ladies and all their hard work. After the wonderful meal, brethren and families watched a movie about the beginning of free masonry in Texas, titled "The Square, The Compass, and The Star."

After an enjoyable evening of fellowship, we repaired to Lubbock Lodge and conducted a brief business meeting.

We extend a special invitation to members and visitors, to attend our last stated meeting of the year on the second Friday, December 12th

Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

Mark Twain



From the Senior Steward Luis Ramos
Food, Flowers & Frolic

This month I thought it would only be appropriate as I change the blessing to say, I am blessed to be a mason and have a great relationship with my fellow brethren.

All men are created to be the same, but to me everyone is different in many ways. As a mason, this helps

us all understand all different beliefs and to me this makes us be better men as well as mason. This Season I would like for all masons to just simply say a prayer for all mankind and may you and your family have a fulfilling

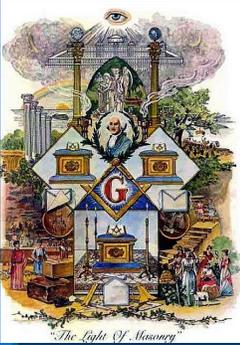
Season's Greetings



Upcoming Menu for December:

- Grilled ham
- Black eye peas
- Red potatoes
- Mini cake
- Tea

Fidelity, Masonry and Christmas – A Story *con't from Page 1*



to go to that. The boss kind of expects it.”

“Can’t you say ‘no’ to him?”

“Well, you know he doesn’t have a high opinion of us to begin with because he wants me to work late all the time and I can’t if something with the Lodge is happening. Besides, drinks are free. Talk to you next meeting.”

The Junior Deacon hung up. Somewhat forlornly, the Master tried a few other members, all of whom had promised they would personally hand out gifts to the widows. But one was going out with some buddies that night. Another was too tired after work. Yet another said the widow lived too far out of the way for him. Still another had a concordant body meeting he wanted to go to. Finally, the Master tried the last person on his list, a Past Master of the Lodge.

“I need your help. Last meeting you said you’d help deliver the widow’s gifts. Mrs. Wilson’s is sitting here and...”

“Wilson?!” he interrupted. “Did you know her husband? He dumped on me the whole year I was in the chair. He kept giving me hell for all kinds of little things.”

“That doesn’t have anything to do with his widow. It’s a Lodge tradition we go out and deliver...”

“And another thing,” butted in the Past Master. “Last meeting you came down to the altar at the wrong time.

And you gave the wrong knocks to close the Lodge. Can’t you follow traditions? Don’t you pay attention at practices or know what’s in your ritual book?”

“We were talking about Mrs. Wilson...”

“Wilson. The hell with him.” With that the cell went dead.

The Master prepared to pick up the lonely little parcel when the phone rang unexpectedly in the other room. He picked up the receiver.

“My name is Mrs. Lane,” the feeble old voice at the other end quavered. “I live next door to Gladys Wilson. I thought I’d better call you. She has been taken to the hospital.”

“What!?” answered the stunned Master.

“I had invited her over for dinner tonight, but she said she couldn’t come because she was waiting for the Masons. She got a little tired while waiting and went to call someone to see if there was a problem, but she slipped on the carpet and fell. I think she had been on the floor for awhile. It looks pretty serious. I thought I’d better call you.”

“My father was a Mason a long time ago,” Mrs. Lane went on. “He didn’t talk about it much, but all I know is when I was a girl during the Depression, the Masons helped us.

One Christmas we had nothing. And there was about two feet of snow. But a bunch of the Masons came over with a tree and a huge baked turkey.

They put up the tree and decorated it, then we ate the turkey and they sang Christmas carols to me and my three sisters until it was bedtime. It was so wonderful. I learned then that when times are tough, you can depend on the Masons.”

“Thank you for calling me, Mrs. Lane,” said the Master.

“It’s just too bad someone didn’t get here a little earlier because this probably wouldn’t have happened,” added the old woman. “But God bless you Masons.”

“Yes, thanks again,” replied the Master, and gently hung up the phone.

And as the Master put on his jacket, and picked up the little wrapped parcel to take to the hospital in the clear, moon-lit evening, he wondered if the Masons today really were as dependable as their forefathers. Or, if the admonition of not letting “public and private avocations” interfere with Masonry had turned into nothing more than a convenient excuse.

WHO ARE WE??? MASONS!

Look into your heart and see if you truthfully can answer this question: “Am I a Mason who follows my Obligation?” or, “Am I a Parrot Mason who say’s what I will and can do, but doesn’t follow what I say??”

If you can “Talk the Talk, then, Walk the Walk!

Season's Greetings

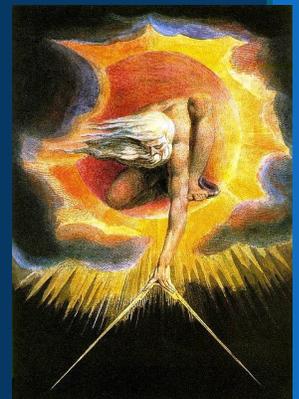


Nobody got pictures of our Thanksgiving dinner but, it went something like this . . .

HAPPY Hanukkah!



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper?

Since it is the Christmas season, we are re-running this article from last year as reminder to take care of our ladies and provide a gift idea.

By Clyde H. Magee, 32°

Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper? It is a small lapel pin in the shape of a blue slipper. Over the years it has been my habit to ask my wife and my daughters to wear one of these slippers on a coat or dress when traveling alone away from home. What is the meaning of this blue slipper and why should female relatives of Masons wear one?

Some 50 or 60 years ago, while I was still living at home, a widowed lady who was a cousin of my Dad's came to visit our home. She vacationed with us for several weeks every summer. She always wore this type of pin -The Blue Slipper. Her doctor husband was a Mason. The pin that she wore made a lasting impression on me. Through my curiosity and questioning, she told me it was a Masonic pin and served to identify her as a Masonic widow. She declared that Masonic men gave her extra attention while traveling, especially on the railroad

(conductors, etc.).

To find out the meaning of this pin, let us go back in history to Boaz' time-the Book of Ruth. It will be remembered that Elimelech, his wife, Naomi, and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilon, fled to the land of Moab to escape the famine in their homeland of Bethlehem-judah. Things went well for a while. Then life fell apart for them. Elimelech died. The two sons married Moabite girls-Orpha and Ruth. Again tragedy struck. Mahlon and



The Masonic Blue Slipper

Chilon died. This left Naomi a widow in a foreign land with two widowed daughters-in-law from the land of Moab.

In time of trouble, people think of home and more importantly of God. Naomi found out that the famine back home had subsided, and there was grain and food again. So she confided with Orpha and Ruth that

she would journey back home and be among her kinsmen.

Certain laws, rules, or customs governed her thinking at this time. Of first consideration was the fact that Naomi was too old to bear a son for her daughters-in-law to marry. Even if she could, the daughters-in-law would not wait for the son to grow up. So the girls should remain among their own people. The girls resisted and started to go with Naomi. Orpha was finally convinced she should



stay in Moab. But Ruth remained steadfast and went with Naomi to her homeland.

Naomi and Ruth arrived back in Bethlehem-judah at harvest time. The Scripture passage on which this is based is well-known. "And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy

people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." This passage of Scripture is unsurpassed as a declaration of love and devotion of one person for another. It has been said that it would make a good marriage vow. But, to me it is a different type of devotion.

Naomi also had to take into consideration another law. When Elimelech died, his next of kin was duty bound to redeem his possessions and take care of his widow and her family. Since Naomi was getting old, Ruth tried to earn a livelihood. While gleaning in the fields, she was seen by Boaz. And when he found out about her (that she was Naomi's daughter-in-law, etc.), he arranged special treatment for her. She could work with his girls in the field, and the young men were warned not to bother her. Since Boaz was not married and was kin to Naomi, Naomi decided that she should somehow make Boaz understand his duty to Elimelech's family. So Naomi advised Ruth to bathe and anoint herself and go to the threshing floor after dark

Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper?

and lay at the feet of Boaz. Boaz awoke at midnight and discovered her there. So as not to create a scandal, he gave her some barley and asked her to leave before dawn so that watching eyes would not recognize her.



A variation on the slipper

Business among the tribe of Bethlehem-Judah took place at the gate of the city. So Boaz sat down at the gate the next day because he knew there was a kinsman more closely related to Elimelech than he. So when the kinsman came by, Boaz called him aside and asked 10 men of the elders of the city to sit with them. Boaz bargained with his kinsman. The kinsman said he would redeem Elimelech's property. But, when he found out that he would have to take care of Naomi and Ruth, he reneged and told Boaz he would not redeem or pro-

tect Elimelech's interest. He would leave it to Boaz. The passage from Scripture for these events is the following: "And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it., Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor: and this was a testimony in Israel."

So the kinsman drew off his shoe and gave it to Boaz. Boaz held it up for all in the gate to see. He asked them to be witnesses that he became Naomi's protector, Ruth's husband, and a redeemer of Elimelech's property. Thus, today we have the little blue slipper as an emblem of the protective influence of Masons for their wives, widows, and daughters. (This article first appeared in the July 1986 issue of the Scottish Rite Journal.)

The Masonic Blue Slipper pin, item 542DCSPIN; sticker available for your wife's car item 542DCSD and a pendant, item 542DCSC are all available from the Grand Lodge of Texas Merchandise Store.

Call 254-753-7395

Vintage versions of the Blue Slipper Pin can be found on eBay as well.

There are also pins of recognition available for Masonic Widows,



The broken column memorializes the end of our earthly life. Surrounding the broken column are acacia leaves, symbolic of our eternal life. In Freemasonry, the broken column is, as Master Freemasons well know, the emblem of the fall of one of the chief supporters of the Craft.

The use of the column or pillars as a monument erected over a tomb was a very ancient custom, and was a very significant symbol of the character and spirit of the person interred.

The Masonic Widow's Pin was created with the hope that it would be worn by the widow of a Master Mason on all appropriate occasions, especially when traveling, so that she may be

recognized, greeted, and assisted when necessary, by Masonic friends throughout the world. It is an emblem of honor and should be worn separately, and not in conjunction with other jewelry.

It is hoped that whoever wears this emblem finds that she is not alone. We are there and we care.



The version above is available through the Grand Lodge of Texas Merchandise Store. Call 254-753-7395



LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

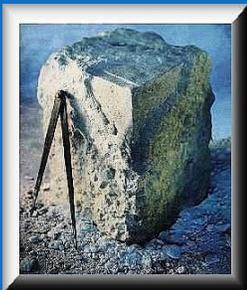
MASONIC DIST 93-A

4539 Brownfield Dr
Lubbock, TX
79410-1721

Meetings:
Second Friday of each
month, 7:30 p.m.
Meal: 6:30pm

Floor School:
Every Tuesday @ 7p.m.

lubbockmasoniclodge.org



Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth

This Month's Sickness & Distress



Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone, and be sure to keep them in your prayers.

This Month's Brothers & Birthdays

Alvie Ivey 12/6
Alton Utsey 12/18
Clyde Hildebrand 12/20
Christopher Yeoman 12/20
Randy Henson 12/26
Norris Rumsey 12/31



The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen

REMINDER: FLOOR PRACTICE EVERY TUESDAY STARTING PROMPTLY AT 7:00PM

The Working Tools presented to the candidate were those used by the ancient operative craftsman in the erection of the building on which he was working. To the Speculative Mason, these represent those moral and spiritual virtues, habits and forces by means of which a man is enabled to reshape the crude

and often stubborn materials of his nature in order to adjust himself to the needs and requirements of human society. If a man has lived carelessly, without a plan, aim or ideal, he must, if he is to become a Mason, learn to systematize his life, must adopt a trestle board, as signified by the Twenty-four Inch Gauge. If he has traits of temper, habits of speech, or defects of character that disturb or injure others, and interfere with his taking his proper place in the Brotherhood, as "knots and excrescences" on a stone interfere with putting it into its allotted place in the building, he must rid himself of them. This is represented by

the Common Gavel. It is interesting that one tool (gauge) is used passively and the other (gavel) is used actively. One is a tool of measurement and calculation, while the other is one of force. One tool decides what to keep, while the other gets rid of the rest. While they do not contain the whole philosophy of Masonry, the various Working Tools allocated to the three degrees, by their very presence, declare that there is constructive work to be done; and by their nature, indicate the direction this work is to take.



The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it."

Blaise Pascal

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