

**THIS MONTH'S
FEATURE STORIES**

**How Ancient is the
Golden Fleece?**

**Cedar of Lebanon
Maj. John B. Jones
Masonic Ranger-
ing Company**



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Volume 3 Issue 8

August 1, 2015

How Ancient is the Golden Fleece?

When the Senior Warden puts the apron on the newly initiated brother, and the Master tells him that the badge with which he is being invested is "more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle; more honorable than the Star or Garter, or any other order in existence". So, how old is that badge?

The Order of the Golden Fleece was a chivalric order founded in 1430 by Philip the Good of Burgundy. The Order of the Eagle was founded in 1433 by Albrecht von Habsburg, Duke of Austria, who later became the Holy Roman Emperor. The Order of the Garter was founded in 1348 by King Edward III of England, and The Order of the

Star, in 1351 by King Jean II of France. These are all orders of knighthood, members of which are allowed to wear the distinctive badge of the Order.

Notice that the Orders of the Golden Fleece and the Eagle are actually the most recent, but that the Senior Warden describes the badge of a mason as more ancient than they are. Isn't that odd? The authors of the Work may in fact be referring not to the medieval Order of the Golden Fleece, but rather to the legend of Jason and the Argonauts, recorded in the third century BCE by Apollonius of Rhodes, the librarian of the great library at Alexandria. And the Roman Eagle they refer to could be

the Standard of the Roman Army used in the first century BCE. But the legend of the Golden Fleece is a myth of Hercules and the gods, not a real event. And the Roman Army's Eagle was a standard carried into battle, not a badge worn by an individual.

No, I think if we look closely at the Work we can see the answer. It says that the badge of a mason is older than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle. It does not however say it is older than the Star or Garter. Does that not imply that it is not as old as they are? When the Senior Warden tells the candidate that Freemasonry is older than the Order of the Golden Fleece, but not as old as the Order of the

Programs & Announcements



A reminder to echo the thoughts of the Grand Master. Proper dress for a stated meeting is business casual at the minimum. PLEASE, no shorts, worn out jeans, flip-flops, etc. It is a sign of respect for our institution to be properly dressed at

our stated meetings and degree conferrals. The Warden's retreat is coming to Midland, TX August 29. Don't forget the Hilltop meeting scheduled for August 29. Check the website under events for details. We will publish more the closer we get to the date. Mackenzie is the host lodge this year.

Don't forget proficiency examinations October 17 beginning at 9:00AM at Wolforth Lodge.





A Message From the East *Worshipful Master Kevin Rush*

SOMETIMES YOU JUST CAN'T HELP YOURSELF TO KEEP FROM STEPPING IN IT . . .

Well, first rattle out of the box I made the mistake of referring to Brother Joe Sanders as our "Senior" Past Master. I was incorrect in that assessment. It is actually our Treasurer, Finus Branham. I told him I would make it right.

And then I forgot to mention in the printed program that we installed Brother Bruce Williams as our Master of

Ceremonies . . . This old age stuff is a killer!

Which brings us to some key points: When you are too close to a situation, step back and get a little perspective. When you do you will notice there was a whole forest you couldn't see before because you were too close, and focusing on the trees. Try not to focus on the many details to the point you fail to see the overall view.

Do the right thing, do the best

you can, and always show people you care.— Lou Holtz

While we are at it, professional golfer Walter Hagen said it best about life: "You're only here for a short visit. Don't hurry, don't worry. And be sure to smell the flowers along the way."



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

Washington



A Message From the West—Why do Masons keep their rituals a secret? *Senior Warden John Rosser*

For the same reason that the ancient stonemasons kept their trade secrets. Their secrecy helped to maintain a better quality of work. Our secrecy today helps us to make a good man better. It is difficult to believe that the secrets of Masonry are evil when you consider the heritage of Masonry that includes a long list of influential leaders such as Paul Revere, George Washington, Andrew

Jackson, Theodore Roosevelt, Douglas MacArthur, Franklin D Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Stephen F Austin and Sam Houston. It is difficult to believe that the secrets of Masonry are evil when you see so many Masons working as a vital part of every community to provide better churches, better schools and better governments. It is difficult to look into the eyes of a little child in a Shrine Hospital and

say the secrets of Masonry are evil. If we really believe the biblical teaching, "by their fruits ye shall know them" then we must believe that the secrets of Masonry really do help to make a good man better. *From The Grand Lodge of Texas*

See you at the next atated meeting!



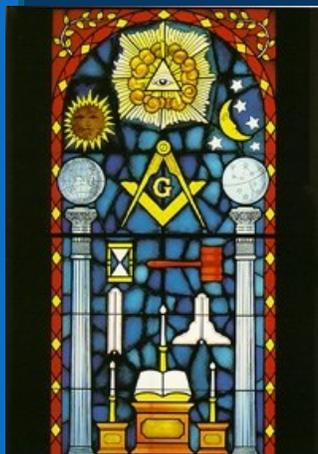
From the South — Did You Know? . . . *Junior Warden Charles Straub*

One of the functions of the Junior Warden is to keep up with the application of Masonic Law. Did you know that a monthly stated meeting to conduct business could be opened in any degree?

Art. 331. Stated Meetings. Except when officially receiving 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 stated meeting, may be opened and closed on such degree with-

out 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. (Revised 2007)



"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



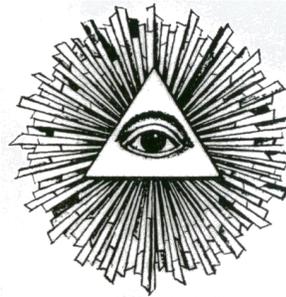
From the Secretary Jerry Hendrick
Taking Care of Business

Brethren as we start a new masonic year. I will do my best to assist each and everyone in any way that I can. I do ask that we all need to remember our obligations.

As a reminder dues are around the corner and

they are \$55.00. please get them to me as soon as possible once you get your dues notice.

If you are assigned a committee please meet with them often and keep the Worshipful Master updated on your progress.



From the Senior Deacon Stephen Polley
Visiting Brothers & Prospects

On Friday, July 10th, 2015, Lubbock Lodge #1392 held its stated meeting at 7:30pm. Our visiting Brethren were as follows: Bob Clemmons 33° , Past Master & Master of Ceremonies of Yellowhouse Lodge #841.

The officers present were as follows: Kevin Rush, WM; Coke Etgen (pro tem), SW; Charles Straub, JW; Finus

Branum, Treasurer; Jerry Hendrick, Secretary; Stephen Polley, SD; Harold Loveless, JD; Louis Ramos, SS; Francis Gaul, JS; and Bruce Williams, MOC.

Please be advised that we will be hosting D.D.G.M. Bob Lindley on August 14th, 2015 for his official visit to Lubbock Lodge. We look forward to seeing you there!

Don't forget, the Hilltop Meeting this month, Saturday August 29, 12:30 PM.



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

Greetings brethren, August is the second month that our newly elected officers will be hard at work. I do encourage all masons to support our new officers as they will need our help with many new items and event to come in this new masonic year. I for one will try to do whatever the lodge needs or worshipful master needs help with. Re-

member that Lubbock Lodge is only as strong as or brethren's are.

PLEASE, don't forget the Steward's Fund as you move through the dinner line. Your generous support helps us keep a quality menu every month.

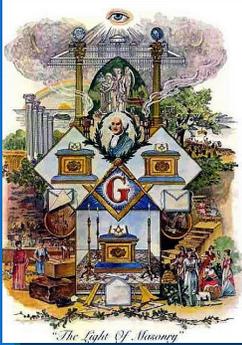


Upcoming Menu for August:

- Chicken strips**
- Mashed potato**
- Corn**
- Cream gravy**
- Fresh fruit tray**

How Ancient is the Golden Fleece? *Con't from Page 1* Cedar of Lebanon

Star; he is saying that the Craft dates from somewhere between 1351 and 1430!



What was happening in the world at that time? The Norman cathedral at York was being torn down and replaced by the present Gothic structure; the British Parliament was passing laws which formally organized the trade guilds, including one statute in 1389 which required that guilds and brotherhoods submit charters and letters patent; and the Halliwell Manuscript containing the Regius Poem was written. This manuscript, which some date to 1390, contains the oldest record of Freemasonry which we have, and was the basis for the Ancient Charges which are found in our Book of Constitution. Thus I believe that the authors of the Work were stating that Freemasonry had its origins in the stonemason's guilds formed in the late 14th century - or at least the apron did.

Source: W. Bro. David Cameron, Grand River Lodge, No. 151, Waterloo via MyFreemasonry.com

Cedar of Lebanon

This Biblical tree was used in the Temple built by Solomon. Of the many different kinds of trees whose wood qualities caused them to be called cedars, the Lebanese is the original. It is Cedrus, Latinized from the ancient Greek kedros, and grows not only in Lebanon but in Turkey and adjacent countries; it is the Biblical cedar. In the world there are only three true cedars, none native to the new world.



The bark of the Cedar of Lebanon is dark gray and exudes a gum of balsam which makes the wood so fragrant that to walk in a grove of cedars is an utmost delight. The wood is astonishingly decay resistant and it is never eaten by insect larvae. It is of a beautiful red tone, and very solid.

Lebanon cedar has been used by various civilizations. The Egyptians used its resin to

mummify their dead and thus called it the "life of death", and cedar sawdust was found in the tombs of the Pharaohs as well. Pagans had the tradition of burning the cedar coming from Lebanon with their offerings and in their ceremonies. Jewish priests however, were ordered by Moses to use the peel of the Lebanese Cedar in the treatment of leprosy. According to the Talmud, Jews used to burn Lebanese cedar wood on the mountain of olives announcing the beginning of the New Year.

From MyFreemasonry.com

Maj. John B. Jones Masonic Rangering Company

Named after the highest ranking Texas Ranger during the era of the Frontier Battalion, and Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas... the Major John B. Jones Masonic Rangering Company emphasizes the close relationship that Texas Rangers and Texas Masons have always shared. It has been said that "the badge of a Ranger was a good recommendation to become a Mason, and the badge of a Mason was a good recommendation to become a Ranger." Membership in the Major John B. Jones Masonic Rangering Company is open to all Masons in good standing with the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.



Lubbock 1392 in Action



School starts August 24 for LISD, Frenship, Lubbock Cooper, LCU, South Plains College & Texas Tech

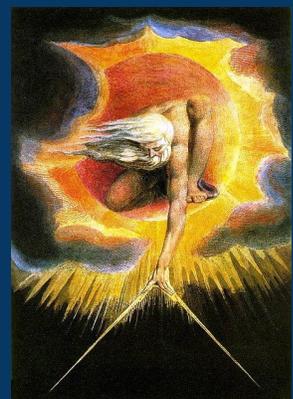
Our very own Norris Rumsey celebrates 50 Years in the Scottish Rite!



Norris receiving his 50 Year Certificate from Doug Adkins, SGIG of Texas



Norris with his family and SGIG Doug Adkins



August 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 Lubbock Floor Practice	29 Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	30	31	1
2	3	4 Lubbock Floor Practice	5	6	7  Yellowhouse Stated Meeting	8
9	10  York Rite— Commandery Emma Lodge Stated Meeting	11   Wolfirth stated Meeting Lubbock OES Lubbock Floor Practice	12	13  Abernathy Stated Meeting	14  Lubbock Stated Meeting	15  Daylight Stated Meeting
16	17  Crosbyton Lodge Stated Meeting	18  Mackenzie Stated Meeting Lubbock Floor Practice	19	20   Slaton Lodge Stated Meeting Freedom OES	21	22
23	24	25 Lubbock Floor Practice	26  Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	27	28	29 Hilltop Meeting 
30	1	2	3	4	5 Yellowhouse Stated Meeting	6



"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it."

Wisdom. Churchill

LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

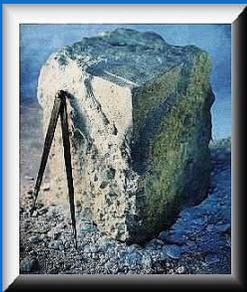
MASONIC DIST 93-A

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



PGM (1982) Jimmy Willson
PGM (2005) Elmer Murphy
Patty Williams, wife of Bro. Bruce Williams
Carolyn Straub, wife of Bro. Charles Straub



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.

If you know of sickness or distress with a brother or his family, please let us know.

This Month's Brothers & Birthdays

Eric Martin 8/1
Billy Dyess 8/7
Luis Ramos 8/9
Brian Harrison 8/11

Tom Lusk 8/23

The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen

What is the purpose of Masonry?

One of its most basic purposes is to make good men even better. I try to place emphasis on the individual man by strengthening his character, improving his moral and spiritual outlook, and broadening his mental horizons. I try to impress upon the minds of our members the principles of personal responsi-

bility and morality, encouraging each member to practice in his daily life the lessons taught through symbolic ceremonies in the lodge.



One of the universal doctrines of Freemasonry is the belief in the "Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God". The importance of this belief is established by each Mason as he practices

the three principle tenets of Masonry: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.



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

E-Mail: newsletter@lubbockmasoniclodge.org