

This Month's Feature Stories:

Of What Are Masonic Crimes



Tax Day Tues April 18

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Volume 5 Issue 4

April 1, 2017

Of What Are Masonic Crimes

By Albert Mackey, M.D.

The division of wrongs, by the writers on municipal law, into private and public, or civil injuries and crimes and misdemeanors, does not apply to the jurisprudence of Freemasonry. Here all wrongs are crimes, because they are a violation of the precepts of the institution; and an offense against an individual is punished, not so much because it is a breach of his private rights, as because it affects the well-being of the whole masonic community.

In replying to the question, "what are masonic crimes?" by which is meant what crimes are punishable by the constituted authorities, our safest guide will be that fundamental law which is contained in the Old Charges. These give a concise, but succinct summary of the duties of a Mason, and, of course, whatever is a violation of any one of these duties will constitute a masonic crime, and the perpetrator will

be amenable to masonic punishment.

But before entering on the consideration of these penal offenses, it will be well that we should relieve the labor of the task, by inquiring what crimes or offenses are not supposed to come within the purview of masonic jurisprudence.

Religion and politics are subjects which it is well known are stringently forbidden to be introduced into Masonry. And hence arises the doctrine, that Masonry will not take cognizance of religious or political offenses. Heresy, for instance, is not a masonic crime. Masons are obliged to use the words of the Old Charges, "to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves;" and, therefore, as long as a Mason acknowledges his belief in the existence of one God, a lodge can take no action

on his peculiar opinions, however heterodox they may be.

In like manner, although all the most ancient and universally-received precepts of the institution inculcate obedience to the civil powers, and strictly forbid any mingling in plots or conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, yet no offense against the state, which is simply political in its character, can be noticed by a lodge. On this important subject, the Old Charges are remarkably explicit. They say, putting perhaps the strongest case by way of exemplifying the principle, "that if a Brother should be a rebel against the State, he is not to be countenanced in his rebellion, however he may be pitied as an unhappy man; and, if convicted of no other crime, though the loyal Brotherhood must and ought to disown his rebellion, and give no umbrage or ground of political jealousy to the government for

Programs & Announcements



MUCH is happening this month!

Don't forget your taxes are due by midnight Tuesday, April 18! Monday, the District of Columbia celebrates Emancipation Day, which is normally April 16, but that's a Sunday. Emancipation Day affects taxes the same way federal

holidays do. Therefore, the tax deadline is pushed out to the following Tuesday, April 18, giving taxpayers three extra days to file their returns.

Lubbock Lodge and Lubbock York Rite will be having a pot luck get together on April 8, 2017 starting at 12 noon at the York Rite Building.

The 51st Anniversary Hilltop meeting is Saturday, April 22.

RW Paul Underwood, Grand Junior Warden may be in attendance, and Ken Curry and Randal Smallwood, both running for the Grand South next year, have been invited and will likely attend.

Last but not least, Saturday, April, 29 - April 30 we will be at the Gun Show at the Civic Center. All members wishing to work the booth let us know at the April stated meeting.

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



From the East
Worshipful Master John Rosser

You may think you can't make a difference, but let me assure you, you can! Just imagine if each of us put forth his personal best to change oneself; to dissolve his ego, eradicate pettiness, to work together for the common good. Imagine the strides we'd make together, as a Team!

We can make our Lodge and the Lubbock York Rite Bodies grow and prosper. Every job you perform on behalf of the Lodge will not only change the Lodge it will change you, by increasing your confi-

dence, your organizational skills, your overall sense of who you are. Together we will surmount all obstacles. At the same time, you will make great strides in your own personal growth that will surely strengthen Lubbock Lodge and the Lubbock York Rite Bodies.



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

Washington



From the West
Senior Warden Jerry Hendrick

As I sit here pondering what to write for this month, I remember a question that was posed to a member of an investigating committee member, "What is your Mission statement?" The brother paused and then replied: "We take a good man and make him better." This answered the spouses question. So on that note, we all need to remember that we are all given

the tools to work with in life. With masonry we take those tools and learn how to better use them. So that we can teach others and by teaching others we also learn ourselves. Everyone in masonry is always seeking "More Light". So let us all share the "Light of Knowledge" to those around us even if THEY are not members of our Fraternity. We can all teach someone some-

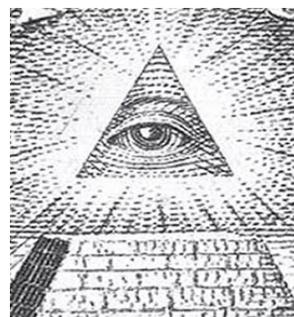
thing. For what we share with others will get passed on and the lesson will grow. It may even return to us in another form that will be something totally different and that will make it new to us. So we as masons are making good men better, while we are gaining knowledge to help men grow and pass the Light of Knowledge around to all those who want to learn.



From the South
Junior Warden Coke Etgen

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES
Your financial responsibilities are twofold. The first is in the area of mandatory support - the payment of annual dues. The second is in the area of voluntary contributions to certain charities, Masonic Homes, distressed worthy Brothers, and other Masonic organizations, as you desire. By paying dues, each Brother carries his share of the expenses to run his Lodge. Regarding voluntary financial support, he must de-

termine the extent of his participation, measuring the need against his ability.



"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 Harrold Loveless
Taking Care of Business

First the good news. Lubbock Lodge and Lubbock York Rite will be having a pot luck get together on April 8, 2017 starting about 12 noon at the York Rite Building. This meeting is so the members of each organization may get to know one another prior to Lubbock Lodge moving over to the York Rite facilities. Please plan on at-

tending.

Now the bad news. There are five brothers who have not paid their dues for this masonic year. I want to thank everyone who has paid their dues. Notices for nonpayment of dues are being sent out. Just a reminder, if dues are not paid by June 23rd, it is an automatic suspension according to Chapter 18, Ti-

tle II, Article 319 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. I am hoping this does not happen.

We will have our Stated meeting April 14 at the usual time. Hope to see you then.



From the Senior Deacon Justin Robbins
Visiting Brothers & Prospects

We would like to thank the brothers that attended our stated and called meetings for March. At our stated meeting, we were honored to have the right worshipful Paul Underwood, Grand Junior Warded of the most worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. In addition, we had the following visitors: Ken Curry PM of Handley Lodge #1140; Rod Armstrong PM of Mackenzie Lodge #1327;

Glenn Ashcraft, Rolan Pirtle, and James Scott of Yellowhouse Lodge #841; and Roland Martin PM, and Mathew Reynolds of Emma Lodge #931.

We would also like to thank those that attended our called meeting to put on a degree for a candidate. For the called meeting, we had the following visitors: Dwayne McEnroe PM from Yellowhouse Lodge

#841; Tom Martin PM, and Herold Jensen (EA) from Mackenzie Lodge #1327.

We hope to see you at our next stated meeting on Friday, April 7th at 7:30 pm (dinner at 6:30 pm) and encourage anyone interested in getting involved with the degree team to attend floor practice every Tuesday at 7:00 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

April 2017, how time fly's when you are having fun. Don't forget to do your taxes before the deadline or you will be in trouble. Please pray for our fellow masons as some have gone and are at rest and also keep all of their families in your prayers as

well as family as this is a big part of who we are and our foundation to be better men and our support system. We here at Lubbock lodge have done quite a bit this past year and soon a new year will be upon us. I have been truly blessed to have made some great

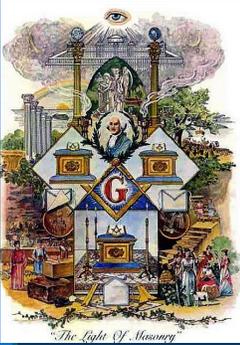
friends while I have been a mason at Lubbock lodge and to have all so known their families.



Upcoming Menu for April:

- Menu:**
- Build your own sandwich**
- Potato chips**
- Cookie platter**
- Asst drinks**

Of What Are Masonic Crimes *con't* from Page 1



the time being, they cannot expel him from the lodge, and his relation to it remains indefeasible." The lodge can, therefore, take no cognizance of religious or political offenses.

The first charge says: "a Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law." Now, although, in a theological sense, the ten commandments are said to embrace and constitute the moral law, because they are its best exponent, yet jurists have given to the term a more general latitude, in defining the moral laws to be "the eternal, immutable laws of good and evil, to which the Creator himself, in all dispensations, conforms, and which he has enabled human reason to discover, so far as they are necessary for the conduct of human actions."⁹⁶ Perhaps the well known summary of Justinian will give the best idea of what this law is, namely, that we "should live honestly, (that is to say, without reproach,)⁹⁷ should injure nobody, and render to every one his just due."

If such, then, be the meaning of the moral law, and if every Mason is by his tenure obliged to obey it, it follows, that all such crimes as profane swearing or great impiety in any form, neglect of social and domestic duties, murder and its concomitant vices of cruelty and hatred, adultery, dishonesty in any shape, perjury or malevolence, and habitual falsehood, inordinate covetousness, and in short, all those ramifications of these leading vices which injuriously affect the relations of man to God, his neighbor, and himself, are proper subjects of lodge jurisdiction.

Whatever moral defects constitute the bad man, make also the bad Mason, and consequently come under the category of masonic offenses. The principle is so plain and comprehensible as to need no further exemplification. It is sufficient to say that, whenever an act done by a Mason is contrary to or

subversive of the three great duties which he owes to God, his neighbor, and himself, it becomes at once a subject of masonic investigation, and of masonic punishment.

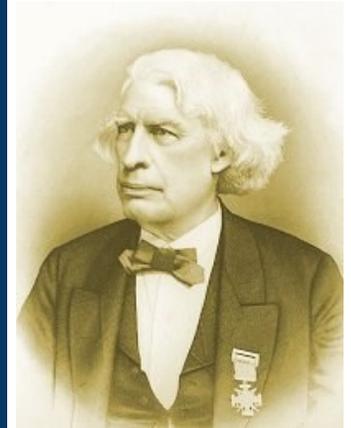
But besides these offenses against the universal moral law, there are many others arising from the peculiar nature of our institution. Among these we may mention, and in their order, those that are enumerated in the several sections of the Sixth Chapter of the Old Charges. These are, unseemly and irreverent conduct in the lodge, all excesses of every kind, private piques or quarrels brought into the lodge; imprudent conversation in relation to Masonry in the presence of uninitiated strangers; refusal to relieve a worthy distressed Brother, if in your power; and all "wrangling, quarreling, back-biting, and slander."

The lectures in the various degrees, and the Ancient Charges read on the installation of the Master of a lodge, furnish us with other criteria for deciding what are peculiarly masonic offenses. All of them need not be detailed; but among them may be particularly mentioned the following: All improper revelations, undue solicitations for candidates, angry and over-zealous arguments in favor of Masonry with its enemies, every act which tends to impair the unsullied purity of the Order, want of reverence for and obedience to masonic superiors, the expression of a contemptuous opinion of the original rulers and patrons of Masonry, or of the institution itself; all countenance of impostors; and lastly, holding masonic communion with clandestine Masons, or visiting irregular lodges.

From this list, which, extended as it is, might easily have been enlarged, it will be readily seen, that the sphere of masonic penal jurisdiction is by no means limited. It should, therefore, be the object of every Mason, to avoid the censure or reproach of his Brethren, by strictly confining himself as a point

within that circle of duty which, at his first initiation, was presented to him as an object worthy of his consideration.

From A Treatise on the Constitutional Laws, Usages And Landmarks of Freemasonry, By Albert G. Mackey, M.D.



Albert G. Mackey, M.D. was a Masonic author and scholar who lived from 1807 - 1881. He is best known for his Encyclopedia of Freemasonry. He was born at Charleston, South Carolina, March 12, 1807. This scholarly Brother lived to the age of seventy-four years. He died at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, June 20, 1881, and was buried at Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, June 26, with all the solemnity of the Masonic Rites wherein he had long been an active leader. Doctor Mackey was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Saint Andrews Lodge No. 10, Charleston, South Carolina, in 1841. Shortly thereafter he affiliated with Solomon's Lodge No. 1, also of Charleston, and was elected Worshipful Master in December, 1842. As a contributor to the literature and science of Freemasonry, Doctor Mackey's labors have been more extensive than those of any other in America or in Europe.



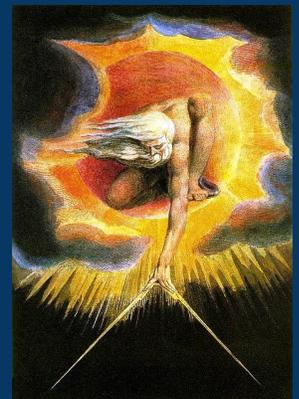
Lubbock 1392 in Action



From the Grand Master's Conference last month, MW Jerry Kirby, right, with RW Kevin Rush, DDGM of Masonic District 93-A



Past Masters Finus Branham, Coke Etgen and Henry Housour delivering apples to the teachers and staff at Hardwick Elementary School as a part of Public Schools week in Texas



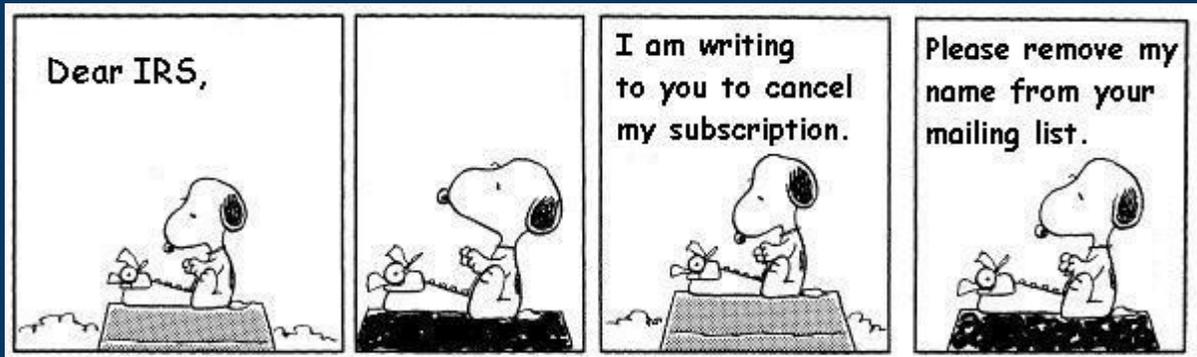


Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392
Masonic Calendar

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  Scottish Rite Reunion April Fools Day
2	3	4  WOLFFORTH FRENSHIP FLOOR PRACTICE	5	6	7  YELLOWHOUSE MTG	8
9	10  EMMA LODGE COMMANDERY Hilltop Meeting	11  LUBBOCK OES FLOOR PRACTICE	12	13  ABERNATHY LODGE CHAPTER	14  STATED MEETING	15  Daylight Lodge
16	 TAX DAY TOMORROW	18  Mackenzie Lodge FLOOR PRACTICE TAXES DUE!	19	20  SLATON LODGE FREEDOM OES	21	22  50th Annual Hilltop Gathering
23	24	25 FLOOR PRACTICE	26	27	28	 29 GUN SHOW
30  GUN SHOW	March 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		May 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			

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

Lewis and Clark

LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

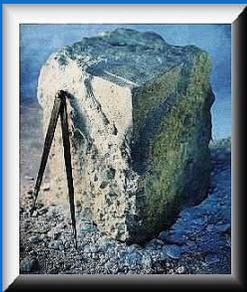
MASONIC DIST 93-A

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



PM Henry Housour & wife Gwen



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

James Owens 4/1
Glenn Fant 4/17

The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen

THE TILER

The Tiler guards the avenues approaching the Lodge. A Lodge is said to be "duly tiled" when the necessary precautions have been taken to guard against intrusion by cowans, eavesdroppers or other unauthorized persons. A cowan is one who tries to masquerade as a Mason. He has not done the work but says he has in order to gain admittance. An eaves



dropper is one who tries to steal the secrets of our Society. He would forge a dues card or may find one and try to masquerade as the owner.

If a Brother comes to Lodge late and wants to join the meeting, the Tiler sees that he is properly clothed and then vouches for him as qualified to enter. It is the duty of the Tyler to inform the Junior Deacon when a qualified Brother wishes to enter the Lodge and to let the Brethren know in which Degree the Lodge is working.

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: info@lubbockmasoniclodge.org