

The Guiding Light

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Welcome

If you have any items relating to Lodges within District 51, or anything for the good of Masonry from anywhere in the country, please let us know and we'll be glad to submit it for publication. Please feel free to chat with us on our [Facebook page: Lodge #794](#)

From The East

Seek and Ye Shall Find

I love to browse around in our library at the Lodge and look for anything that catches my interest, which can vary from day to day. Recently, I came across the following, and upon reading for an hour, or so, I realized that it contained a stream of Masonic knowledge that was timeless. The following text comes from a book entitled, "Key To Freemasonry's Growth" by Allen E. Roberts, published in 1969:

"No man knows when or where Freemasonry first came into existence. The first evidence of it as an organization appeared in 1356 when the first Code of Mason Regulations was formally drawn up at the Guildhall in London. It is impossible to determine its actual age, although many theories appeared in the Fourteenth Century in the oldest known written Masonic document. It is evident that the author copied from records much older.

"The Masonic significance of the Regius Poem, or Manuscript, was discovered in 1849 by a non-Mason named Halliwell, so his name is sometimes attached to the Poem. The date of its writing has been authenticated as being close to 1390. Although it is written in English, its Middle English spelling and vocabulary are such that it takes an expert to translate it.

"The editor, or author, of the Regius Poem must have thought highly of Masonry. He recites an elaborate and lengthy history of the Order. This is followed with Fifteen Articles for the government of the Master and Fifteen Points for the Craftsmen. A brief description follows:

THE FIFTEEN ARTICLES

- Pay the Craft their wages if aught be due.
- Obey all signs and summons unless sickness prevents.
- Apprenticeship is to be seven years.
- Freemen only – of all ranks – are eligible.
- Only the physically sound are acceptable.
- Wages of the apprentice may be increased.
- No one of bad reputation or record may be a member.
- The Master may replace a craftsman with a better mason.
- The Master must be conscientious and responsible for completion of his contracts.
- The Master Mason is bound not to default on his work.
- Night work is forbidden.
- Masons must not disparage each other's work.
- The Master must teach the apprentice effectively.
- The Master must take no apprentice incapable of completing his training in the specified time
- No false report may be made.

THE FIFTEEN POINTS

- Love of God and Brethren is obligatory.
- Deserved holidays are allowable.
- The secrets must be kept inviolate.
- A Mason must be true to the craft and its members.
- The Master may discontinue employment after full payment.
- Disputes should be adjusted on holidays.
- Adultery and fornication with another Mason's wife, or concubine are forbidden.
- A Master Mason must be a good mediator of disputes.
- A member must be ready to serve in the lodge, and honest in the payment of debts.
- A Mason is enjoined to righteous living, but offenses may be tried in the lodge.
- A Mason is obligated to assist brethren in correcting errors of workmanship.
- The Mason is a free man, but if he becomes a lawbreaker he may be arrested.
- Stealing is forbidden, and thieves shall not be members.
- Masons may be tried before the lodge for the keeping of all these points.
- Offenders, if convicted, may be punished.

“Of some 130 Old Gothic Constitutions, including the Regius Poem, that have been discovered, no two are exactly alike, but all are similar. The interpretations differ slightly with each translator.”

Of course, this book goes on to list THE CHARGES (In Abbreviated Form) and GENERAL REGULATIONS (Abbreviated) but the text is quite revealing in the sense of connecting us with the past. Of these FIFTEEN ARTICLES and FIFTEEN POINTS, don't they all sound very familiar to our existing craft? This illustrates just how refined the Craft is, and how the precepts have endured over 600 years with very little change, all to make men better, whether it be in Operative Masonry, or Speculative Masonry.

So, the next time a new Mason asks you, 'How is Speculative Masonry of today that much different from Operative Masonry of the Medieval times?', you can frankly tell him, 'Very little, my brother, very little!'

Duke Davis, Worshipful Master

The West Gate

As Freemasons, many, if not all, find delight in being brought from Darkness to Light, but the question might arise, 'What do we do with that light?' Have you ever asked yourself this question? I have. As in all knowledge acquired, it is of little or no use if not truly applied for the benefit of others and yourself.

Now, how many people would love to change the world of which they have practically no control over, but do little to change their own personal world of which they do have control over? As a Mason, I believe we have Light, but also 'tools' that enable us to better our lives and those around us. Let's mention a few of these and how they are of a benefit to us.

The Lambskin, or White Leather Apron, is not only a grand privilege to wear as the badge of a Mason, but it should also remind us that our conduct should be pure, that we might gain admission into that Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides. We are taught that, in the building of King Solomon's Temple, Entered Apprentice Masons were bearers of burdens, and wore it to prevent soiling their clothes, but this teaches us not to tamper with untempered mortar. To apply this to our lives, I believe this means that we should be constantly aware of our actions, so as to avoid conduct not pleasing to God, our families, our brothers, and friends, thus avoiding the untempered mortar, or those things that do not contribute anything of value to ourselves and the community. This should also remind us that we should keep our thoughts pure to inspire us to achieve more noble

deeds and greater achievements. If we think of the Apron in this manner when we wear it, then we can better reflect upon what we were instructed, 'which he hoped I would wear with equal pleasure to myself and honor to the Fraternity.'

Another tool is the twenty-four inch gauge. How can we apply this tool of Speculative Masonry to benefit our lives and the world around us? We are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of dividing our time into equal parts. This is such a useful tool nowadays because of the so many things we have to do in our daily lives. I've mentioned in the past that there is a competition of activities and distractions making demands of our time, but by making an effort to remember to apply this valuable tool, and according to our priorities, we can effectively do all the things we need to do, and thus, fulfill our many obligations in a balanced manner.

In conclusion, I believe we, as Masons, are privileged to have these Emblematical Tools and Light to help us better our lives and those around us. We can change the world around us to the benefit of ourselves and others.

Sal Pacheco, Senior Warden

The South Gate

Another summer has come and gone and autumn is upon us. I trust that we all had a great summer. The weather was much cooler on average throughout June and July before heating up in August. As an educator, I enjoy this time of year. New students arrive in my classroom eager to learn and grow. Well, most of them come in the door with that attitude. Some enter with the idea that school is a requirement, and they just want to survive and get a diploma. How often do we as adults get into that survival mode instead of making the best of any situation? Is it our personality that leads us into this? What about those things that we look forward to and then it is over in the blink of an eye? I have found in my profession that what I say and how I act has a great impact on my students and athletes. Does this transfer over to Masonry? I believe it does.

In the Fellowcraft Degree, we are taught about the working tools, the Plumb, Square, and Level. If we, as Masons, walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man, squaring our actions, while remembering that we are traveling upon the level of time, do we influence those around us? Of course we do! We may not readily see it, but someone is usually paying attention and learns from our actions, words, or deeds. The visibility of Masonry in the community is an area we have discussed recently. We are making the effort to get our Masonic Lodge more active outside the lodge room. The car show and education banquet are our standards, but we have recently focused more on the Christmas Party, parades, blood mobile drives, and are in the process of looking into sponsorship of some youth sports leagues. As our faces become more recognizable in the community, it is important that we continue to shine a bright and positive light in all we do. We are recognized in the coffee shops, grocery stores, and restaurants around town. I want that recognition to always be seen as, "There goes a Mason. Man, those guys do a lot for this community, I really appreciate them!"

Just like a strong handshake and a friendly hello leave a great impression, we should always strive to be a positive image for Masonry. I am proud to be a part of this sacred band of brothers. I have grown up with the utmost respect for Masonry as taught by my grandfather and father. My grandfather was, and my father still is, very respected and looked up to within their home towns. They are men that made a difference as Masons in their own communities. The challenge, my brothers, is to carry that light with us wherever we may be.

Randall S. King, Junior Warden

Mouth To Ear

What Each of Us Can Do to Improve The Lodge

The Masonic Lodge is all about our relationship with our brother Masons, our community, and our God.

There is no other way for the community to know Masonry except by what our members do, and the way they act. You represent the Lodge at all times. Be careful to represent it in a way that would reflect the true meaning of Masonry.

Be an upright Mason and show it by the way you treat others, especially our fellow Masons. Stand tall and support the Lodge, even during times of change and difficulty. Give encouragement and support to the Officers of the Lodge. Lodge Officers, a few words of encouragement to the Craft can do wonders for attendance and getting help. I heard someone once say, 'there is magic in encouragement.' Be liberal with words of encouragement to all of those who walk through the doors of Masonry.

Give God the thanks and praise for the many blessings, including our Lodge family. Give everyone in the Lodge the benefit of the doubt, trusting that all have the best intention at heart.

Our communications with others should be clear and straight forward, but with kindness. Remember, you should listen much more than you talk. Learn to trust each other and seek to deal constructively with disagreements.

The Lodge, your Lodge, needs you. It needs your attendance, your support, and your Masonic love. Love is the key word. The love you have for your brothers, the love for the Masonic Fraternity, the love for mankind, and most all, the love for God.

I have said it before, but I think it needs to be said again. You can tell the character of a man by what he does for a brother that can do absolutely nothing in return. THAT IS MASONRY, MY FRIENDS!

Ronnie Williams, PM
Alpine Lodge #766
DDGM District 59 – 2007, 2011

Labors of the Craft

Thanks to Brother Danny Poole for coordinating the Blood Drive on Saturday, August 23rd at HEB. This gift of life is so valuable and we appreciate each and every one who participated.

A special thank you goes out to Brother Chuck Ramsey, for coordinating a fine program for the MWS meeting of August 27th here in Fredericksburg. Our guest speaker was Brother Pete Normand and he gave a wonderful presentation on Table Lodges.

Be sure to join us at our stated meeting on Monday, September 8th for a special program. We will call the Lodge from labor to refreshment and have a guest speaker, our newly elected Mayor, Linda Langerhans. She will address the Lodge and guests with her remarks and visions for the future of Fredericksburg and take questions from the audience, too. The public is welcome to attend with supper by donation being served at 6:00 PM, followed by Mayor

Langerhans' remarks at around 7:15. Families, wives and friends are all welcome.

We have two Fellow Craft Degrees coming up on Thursday, September 11th. If you would like to be on the Degree Team for these degrees, contact Degree Master Chuck Ramsey, or Worshipful Master Duke Davis. All Master Masons or Fellow Craft Masons are welcome to attend.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 9th, for a called meeting of Fredericksburg Lodge #794 that will present a program by the Boy Scouts of America, their role in the community, and future programs and projects to be done at the new Texas Ranger Heritage Center at Fort Martin Scott. Light refreshments of sandwiches and desserts will be served beginning at 6:00 PM followed by the program at 6:30 PM.

Words of Wisdom

“Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.”

- Mark Twain -

“If you want to succeed you should strike out on new paths, rather than travel the worn paths of accepted success.”

- John D. Rockefeller -

“But far more numerous was the herd of such, who think too little and who talk too much.”

- John Dryden -

“One of the most important and significant items in all Masonry is the Masonic apron. It is not only an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason, but it tells what the wearer is, and who he is. The white lambskin apron is also a gift. When you tie on the Masonic apron, you are tying the tie that binds. Any man that is fortunate enough to wear a Masonic apron should wear it with pride and honor.”

- Bill Scott, Fredericksburg Lodge #794 -

Tongue in Cheek

“Chewin’ Tobacco”

by Duke Davis

I took this gal out, and friends, I mean to say,
she wasn't exactly well versed in the cowboy way.
Cause she'd always seen me with this big ol' plug a'chaw,
A knot this size of a golf ball, stuck right there in my jaw.

I told her, 'Yep, it's somethin' a lot a'cowboys do,
Instead of smokin', well, it's a little more convenient to chew'.
So, she figgers to fit in and to be no slouch,
She'd go out and buy her some Beechnut Tobacco in a pouch.

Now, she loaded up purtty heavy, and she gave this wispy little grin,
Then, she swallowed real hard, and her eyes began to spin!
She said, 'I'm feelin' a little faint, I must be gettin' the flu!'
I said, 'No darlin', it's from all that tobacco that your tryin' to chew!'

She said, 'No... no... I'm gettin' a little dizzy, and man, is it gettin' hot?'

I said, 'Yep, it's from all that durned chewin' tobacco that you got!'
She said, 'Nooo... but I am feelin' queasy, and I think I'm gonna get sick,'
I told her, 'I know, I reckon you better find you a bathroom purtty quick!'

Well, she's gone for about an hour, then she finally returned,
But she was blue, all around her edges, and a valuable lesson she'd learned.
She bemoans the fact that we cowboys are such a hearty lot,
But, as far as the art of chewin' tobacco, well, she'd just rather not.

I told her, 'Well, I appreciate the fact you hold us waddies in such high esteem,
But, I figger on one point, well, it's best I come clean.
You see, it's really nice you think we cowboys are all quite so dandy,
But I reckon I shoulda told you, hon I been chewin' licorice candy!'

Recipe of the Month

Pecan Pie

By Sandy Poole

- 1 cup Sugar
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- ¼ cup butter
- 3 eggs 1 cup pecans – halves, or pieces
- unbaked pie shell – 8"

Preheat oven to 400 degrees

Mix sugar, syrup and butter until smooth; add eggs and pecans, mixing well.

Pour into an unbaked pie shell.

Bake 10 minutes at 400 degrees; reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake 30 to 35 minutes longer.

If using a 10" pie pan, please double the recipe. You can use "lite" light corn syrup.

ENJOY!

From the Fredericksburg Lodge #794 "Recipes, Remedies and Ramblings" - 2012