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BY-LAWS

—OF—

MYSTIC LODGE

NO. 75,

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons,

—AT—

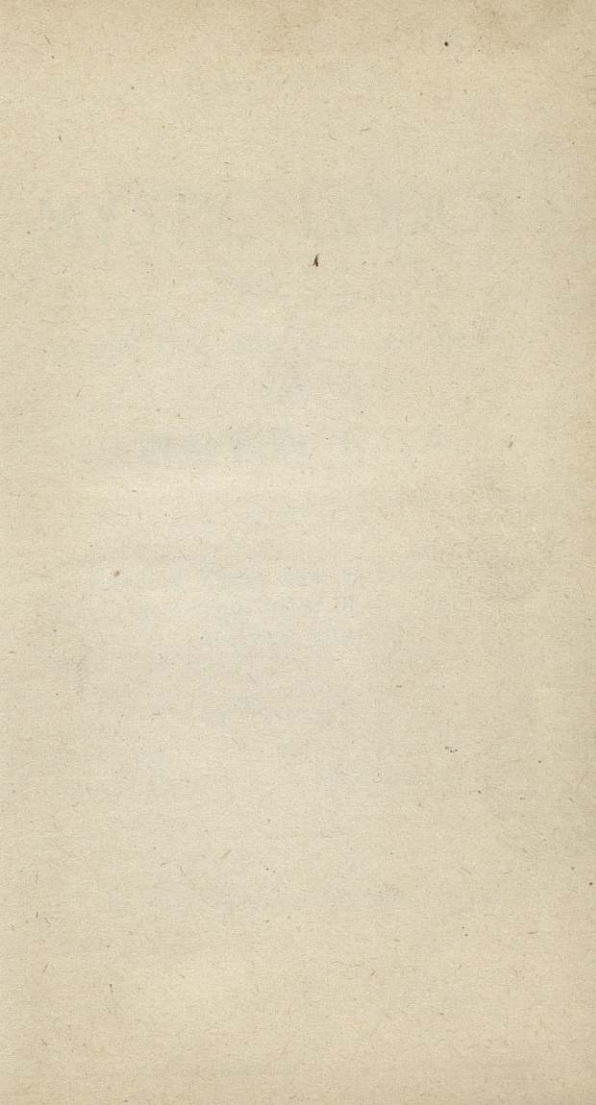
GRAFTON, W. VA.

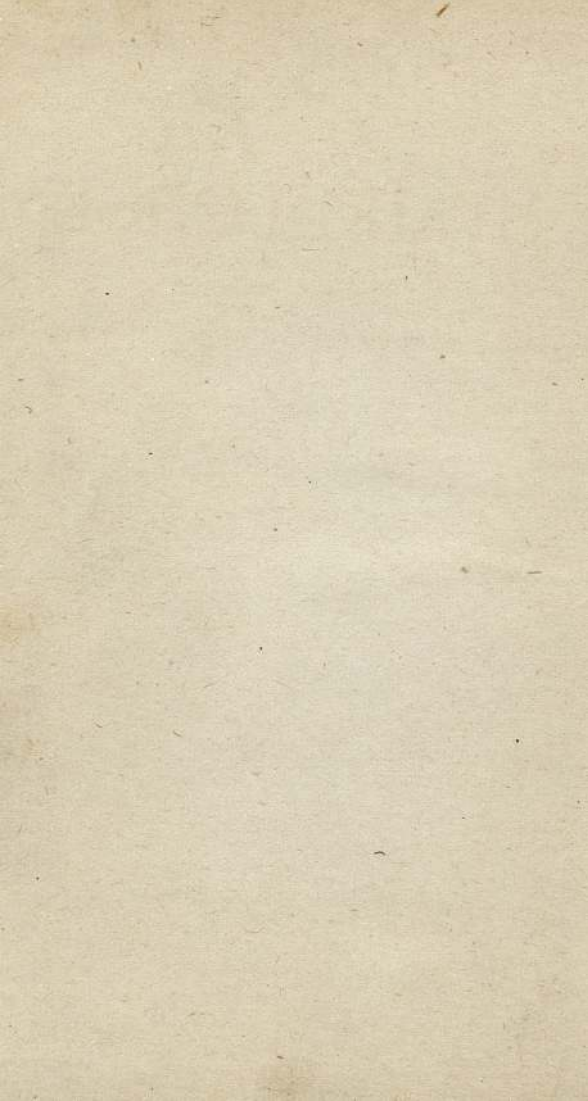
Working Under the Jurisdiction of
the Grand Lodge of the State
of West Virginia.

Constituted March 13, A. L., 5878.

Date of Charter December 23, 5878.

Sentinel Printing Co., Grafton, W. Va.





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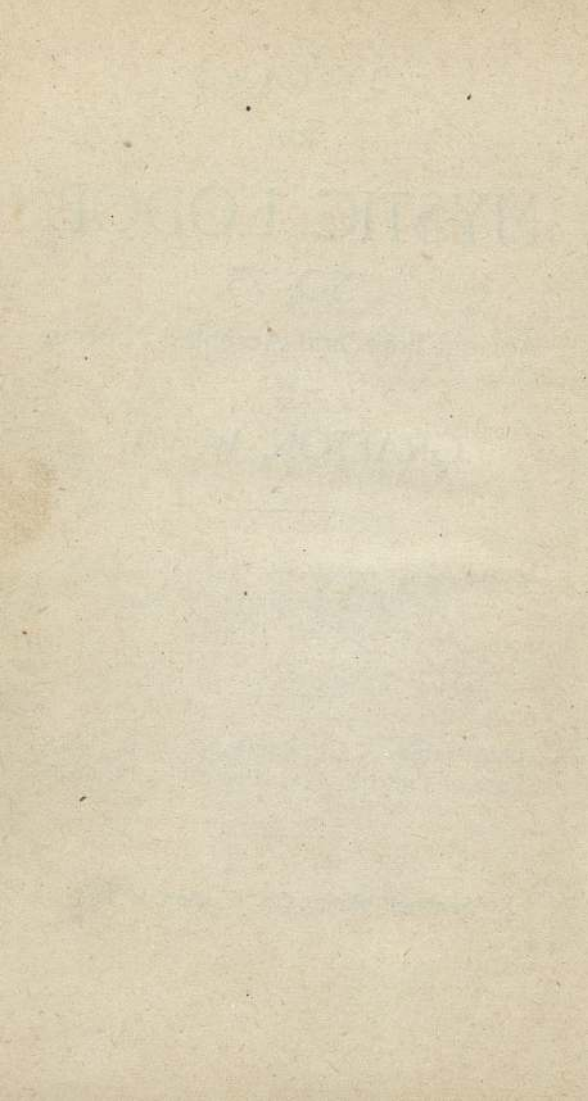
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HISTORICAL

In the early months of 1878, A. D., a number of the members of Grafton Lodge No. 15 A. F. & A. M. being impressed that the organization of a new Lodge would greatly inure to the good of the Craft of the city the following members accordingly joined in a petition to the old Lodge praying their assent to such organization, viz:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| A. F. Shirer, | F. M. Hackle, |
| A. J. Nuzum, | John Evans, |
| S. M. White, | R. McConkey, |
| W. M. Dent, | J. W. Hull, |
| J. W. Mason, | J. H. Flanagan, |
| A. D. Casteel, | J. M. Rogers, |
| S. H. Gramm, | Jas. A. Grant, |
| H. J. Mugler, | W. L. Grant, |
| Wm. Lethuke, | G. W. Curtin. |

While L. Mallonee, George Brinkman and F. M. Durbin were in sympathy with the movement, they were debarred from participation in it by reason of their official positions in the old Lodge, but became identified with the new organization upon the completion of their term of office in the old.

The assent of the old Lodge being secured, a dispensation was asked for and granted by M. W. G. M. George Baird, dated March 13th, 1878, authorizing the D. D. G. M. to institute Mystic Lodge U. D., and set it to work with

Araxa F. Shirer, as W. M.

Jno. W. Mason, as S. W.

Andrew J. Nuzum, as J. W.

Accordingly on Monday evening, March 18th, 1878, D. D. G. M. Arthur Sinsel, convened a Lodge in the Hall of Grafton Lodge No. 15, and duly instituted Mystic Lodge U. D., installing the appointees, viz:

Araxa F. Shirer, W. M.,

John W. Mason, S. W.,

Andrew J. Nuzum, J. W.,

and the following chosen officers:

William L. Grant, Treas.,

Henry J. Mugler, Sec'y.,

George W. Curtin, S. D.,

Samuel H. Gramm, J. D.,

William Leuthke, Tyler.

Being duly chartered by the Grand Lodge, at its annual communication the following autumn, Mystic Lodge, on Dec. 23d, 1878, assumed its place as No. 75, in the list of Lodges of the state of West Virginia.

Thus was born an organization, whose history of thirty years has been characterized by peace and harmony. exceptional prosperity, and proficiency and skill in the workmanship of its officials.

Since its organization the following brethren have been called by vote of the Lodge to preside in the east:

A. F. Schirer,

W. C. Byers,

A. C. H. Holy,

Sanford M. White,

John C. Deck,

W. L. Shafer,

Ona C. Jeffreys,

Jno. W. Miller,

F. M. Dublin,

Geo. Brinkman,

William Watkins,

Wm. T. Lilly.

Jos. B. Bradford,

H. L. Rogers,

Harry Shaffer,

The following is a list of the members received since organization:

A.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Allen, E. I. | Abbott, H. A. |
| | B. |
| Byers, W. C. | Batson, C. E. (dt) |
| Borem, E. M. | Boyles, L. M. (d) |
| Bradford, J. B. | Barbee, A. Z. (d) |
| Brown, F. C. | Brinkman, F. W. |
| Bradford, B. R. | Bartlett, C. T. |
| Balka, Otta. | Bailey, C. B. |
| Bonafield, J. W. (d) | Brinkman, Geo. (d) |
| Batson, C. C. | Beavers, W. A. |
| Beeler, M. A. | |

C.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Casteel, A. D. (d) | Colrider, H. C. (dt) |
| Cutright, D. H. (s) | Chambers, Jos. A. (s) |
| Curtin, H. B. | Cather, Thos. H. |
| Chaney, H. C. | Chenowirth, Dr. Jay. |
| Curtin, G. W. | Cole, Taylor E. |
| Cornwell, E. L. | |

D.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Dent, W. M. | Durbin, F. M. (d) |
| Doll, E. M. | Deck, J. C. |
| DeHart, Edward. | |

E.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Evans, John. (s) | Evans, Nathan. (d) |
| Evans, John S. (s) | |

F.

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Flanagan, Rev. J. H. | Finch, Thos. (d) |
| Fleming, Z. W. (s) | Friedman, F. |
| Förner, Chas. H. (s) | Friedman, S. J. |
| Frush, A. E. | Feely, W. C. |
| Friedman, Jas. | Friedman, Harry. |

G.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gramm, S. H. | Grant, Jas. A. |
| Grant, W. L. | Graham, J. S. (dt) |
| Graham, S. E. (dt) | Grayson, A. M. (d) |
| Gough, M. L. | Gould, W. M. (d) |

Grant, Dr. W. L. Gilbert, C. J.
H.

Hickel, F. M. Hull, J. W.
 Holland, D. W. (s) Hitt, R. A. (dt)
 Haymond, A. L. (d) Hardin, Geo. D.
 Helmes, French. Haymond, G. D.
 Holt, J. W. Holy, A. C. H.
 Hohn, J. H. Hefner, Ok. A.
 Haymond, G. F. Hefner, H. H.
 Hoffman, Bernard. Hull, L. B.

I. & J.

Isaacson, Leon. (dt) Jaco, Jesse. (d)
 Jackson, J. F. (d) Jones, A. J. (s)
 Jeffreys, O. C.

K.

Kahn, Bertrand. (dt) King, Spencer. (dt)
 Kinter, H. B. King, C. L.
 Kenney, J. W. Kelley, Bruce.

L.

Leutcke, Wm. (d) Lucas, Isaac N.
 Lucas, Jonathan. (d) Lilly, Jr. L.
 Leutcke, John. Lippincott, W. H.
 Lindsey, A. S. (dt) Love, J. W.
 Lake, A. E.

M.

Mason, Judge J. W. Mugler, H. J. (s)
 McConkey, R. M. (s) Mallonee, L.
 Miller, W. F. (s) McConkey, A. H. (s)
 McLane, Harry. (s) Mackin, Dr. R. D.
 Martin, A. K. Mackin, M. C.
 McWilliams, A. F. Mays, W. V.
 Miller, J. W. Miller, W. C.
 Malone, W. N.

N. & O.

Nuzum, A. J. (s) Newlon, C. O.
 Nuzum, F. R. Nicola, J. S.
 Newlon, Bruce. Ogden, R. S.

- Poe, S. W. (d)
Pratt, W. A.
- Queen, Rev. C. L.
- Rogers, J. M. (s)
Rowland, Josephus. (Ringler, Guy)
Rogers, H. L.
Roberts, Harley D.
- Shirer, A. F. (d)
Satterfield, W. G. (dt)
Swaim, J. E. (d)
Shaffer, E. S.
St. Clair, S. M.
Sayre, B. F.
- Towles, Geo. H.
Thomas, I. J.
Turner, W. E.
- White, S. M. (d)
White, Frank G. (dt)
Wilson, Robt. (dt)
Woodford, Cleo.
Withers, W. P.
Walter, W. M.
- Yoke, A. J. (dt)
- Zotts, W. M.
- P.**
Prim, F. C.
Painter, H. W. (d)
- Q.**
- R.**
Rogers, Nicholas. (d)
Rendle, W. H.
Robison, Jed W.
- S.**
Smith, V. W. (dt)
Shackelford, S. A.
Shaffer, W. L.
Stone, J. B. (s)
Sivey, W. M. (dt)
Shaffer, Harry.
- T.**
Thayer, C. O.
Thayer, H. B.
- W.**
Warder, J. H. (s)
White, Geo. W. (dt)
Watkins, Wm. (d)
Welch, E. E.
Watt, B. G.
White, Geo. R.
- Y.**
Yates, Dr. T. B. (d)
- Z.**

Respectfully submitted,
W. C. BYERS,
B. G. WATT,
JNO. W. MILLER,
Committee.

Oct. 1st, 1909.

BY-LAWS

—OF—

Mystic Lodge No. 75,

A. F. and A. Masons

ARTICLE I.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Sec. 1. The officers of this lodge shall be a Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Chaplain, two Stewards and a Tyler.

Sec. 2. Every Master Mason named in the dispensation, by authority of which this lodge was instituted, or who shall have affiliated therewith, and every brother who shall have received the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason therein, shall while in good standing and remaining affiliated, be deemed members of this lodge.

ARTICLE II.

STATED COMMUNICATIONS.

Sec. 1. The stated communications of this Lodge shall be held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Sec. 2. The hour for assembling shall be 7:30 o'clock P. M. from September to May, and 8 o'clock P. M. from May to September. The communications for July and August may be dispensed with at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

Sec. 3. No business shall be transacted at a special communication other than that for which it is called.

ARTICLE III.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Sec. 1. The order of business to be observed in this Lodge shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes of preceding communications.
2. Reception and reference of applications.
3. Reception of reports.
4. Balloting.
5. Unfinished and miscellaneous business
6. New business.
7. Reception of candidates.

ARTICLE IV.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

Sec. 1. The election of officers shall be held annually at the first stated communication in October. This section to be effective on and after the first stated communication in Oct. 1909. The officers shall all be elected or appointed in accordance with Sec. 2., Art. 2. of the Standard By-Laws.

Sec. 2. The installation shall immediately follow the election.

Sec. 3. The officers shall be installed by an officer of the Grand Lodge when pres-

ent, or by the retiring Worshipful Master, or a Past Master.

Sec. 4. The officers of the Lodge shall continue in office until their successors are elected and installed.

Sec. 5. Should an officer be absent from the stated communication when the election is held, he may be installed at the first stated communication when present.

ARTICLE V.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to preside over the Lodge, see that good order and decorum are preserved, and that the By-LAWS and resolutions of his Lodge are duly observed, as well as the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, and the ancient usages of Masonry.

Sec. 2. He shall decide questions of order, convene and hold a Lodge when necessary, or he may suspend the meetings of the Lodge when circumstances seem to make it expedient.

Sec. 3. It shall be his duty, when required, to instruct the Craft in the work, and in the lectures pertaining to the degrees.

Sec. 4. He shall see that accurate records are kept and just accounts rendered.

Sec. 5. That regular returns are made to the Grand Lodge annually, and that the annual dues are promptly paid.

Sec. 6. It is the duty of the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, to attend all meetings of the Grand Lodge, un-

avoidable circumstances alone excusing them.

Sec. 7. He shall appoint an auditing committee of three brethren at the stated communication next preceding that of the annual election of officers, to examine the records and accounts of the Treasurer and Recorder.

Sec. 8. He shall see that due notice of all special communications is sent by the Secretary, in return addressed envelope, to each member of the Lodge.

ARTICLE VI.

WARDENS.

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Wardens to assist the Worshipful Master in the government of the Lodge, and in conducting its business and work according to the By-Laws and usages of Masonry.

Sec. 2. To observe the conduct of the members, and report to the Lodge any un-masonic conduct that may come to their knowledge.

Sec. 3. In the absence of the Worshipful Master, his duties shall devolve upon the Senior Warden, in the absence of the Senior Warden the Junior Warden.

ARTICLE VII.

SECRETARY.

Sec. 1. The Secretary shall keep correct minutes of all transactions of the Lodge.

Sec. 2. He shall open a separate account with every member.

Sec. 3. He shall collect and receive all dues or assessments and revenues of the

Lodge, and shall promptly pay the same over to the Treasurer.

Sec. 4. He shall issue notices to attend all special communications, and under the direction of the Worshipful Master, state in said notices the particular business to be transacted.

Sec. 5. He shall issue a summons when directed by the Worshipful Master or the Lodge.

Sec. 6. He shall have charge of the seal of the Lodge and shall affix it to all papers requiring the same.

Sec. 7. He shall report annually to the Grand Secretary the roll of officers and members and such other matters as may conduce to the good of the order, and shall accompany said report with the amount of dues and fees due to the Grand Lodge. He shall also regularly transmit to the Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge copies of all the By-Laws and Regulations adopted by the Lodge.

Sec. 8. He shall submit his books to examination whenever required by the Lodge.

Sec. 9. He shall receive for his services such compensation as the Lodge from time to time may determine.

ARTICLE VIII.

TREASURER.

Sec. 1. The Treasurer shall receive from the Secretary all funds of the Lodge giving his receipt therefor, and shall keep a correct account of the said funds of the Lodge, and submit the same with his vouchers, to the Auditing Committee, annually and at all times when called upon by the Lodge.

Sec. 2. He shall pay all orders drawn

upon him by authority of the Lodge and properly signed by the Worshipful Master and attested by the Secretary, and shall pay no moneys except as herein prescribed.

ARTICLE IX.

DEACONS.

Sec. 1. The Deacons shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the Ritual of the order and such other duties as may be assigned them.

ARTICLE X.

STEWARDS OR MASTERS OF CEREMONIES.

Sec. 1. The Stewards are to assist the Deacons and other officers of the Lodge in the performance of their respective duties, have charge of banquets given by the Lodge, officiate at funerals and perform such other duties as may be required them.

ARTICLE XI.

TYLER.

Sec. 1. The Tyler shall faithfully tyle the Lodge, and prepare the Lodge room for all stated and special communications, and see that all brethren are properly clothed before admitting them, and that the paraphernalia is in place for conferring the degrees and conducting the business of the Lodge, and restored in good order to its proper receptacle at the close of each communication.

Sec. 2. He shall be compensated or not for his services as the Lodge may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE XII.**AUDITING COMMITTEE.**

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee to examine the records and accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer and report at the next stated communication of the Lodge, said report to include a statement of the financial condition of the Lodge with any recommendation suggested by their examination.

ARTICLE XIII.**PETITIONS.**

Sec. 1. All petitions whether for the degrees or for membership, shall lay over one month before they are balotted upon.

Sec. 2. Petitions for the degrees and for membership shall be in the form prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 3. Upon the reception of such petitions for the degrees properly recommended by at least two members of this Lodge, the Worshipful Master shall appoint a committee of three to examine into the character of the petitioner and report thereon not later than the evening on which the ballot is held.

Sec. 4. The report thereon must be in writing, and the fact of the report being made, and not the character (whether favorable or unfavorable) should be entered on the minutes.

Sec. 5. All petitions shall be accompanied by a deposit of ten dollars, which in the event of election shall be applied in payment for initiation, if rejected shall be promptly returned to the petitioner, but if

electel and he fails to present himself within six months to receive the degrees, it shall be forfeited to the Lodge.

Sec. 6. Petitions for membership shall be accompanied by a fee of one dollar.

Sec. 7. A petition after having been received shall not be withdrawn but must be ballotted upon, unless it shall appear that the Lodge has no jurisdiction over the petitioner.

ARTICLE XIV.

FEEES AND DUES.

Sec. 1. The fees for iniation, passing and raising, shall be \$30.00, ten dollars to accompany the petition, and ten dollars for each of the other degrees, and this fee, nor no part thereof can be remitted, directly, or indirectly, by vote of money to the candidate.

Sec. 2. The fee for admission to membership on dimit shall be \$1.00.

Sec. 3. The dues of each member of this Lodge shall be \$3.00 per annum, payable at the stated communication for the election of officers.

Sec. 4. Any member of this Lodge who shall be eighteen months in arrears for dues, shall be immediately notified thereof by the secretary by order of the Lodge, and if said dues shall not be fully paid at or before the stated communication named in the notice, a second notice shall be sent by order of the Lodge, to appear at the next stated communication and show cause why he should not be suspended for non payment, and upon the failure of the member so notified to appear or give suf-

ficient reason for non-payment, he shall be suspended by ballot.

ARTICLE XV.

BALLOTING.

Sec. 1. The Ballot upon a petition for the degrees or for membership must be unanimous, secret, and IT MUST BE SACRED. The reasons for casting a black ball cannot be disclosed or inquired into.

Sec. 2. Every member present when the ballot is taken is required to vote.

Sec. 3. After a candidate has been declared rejected and the fact recorded, the ballot cannot be re-opened, even to correct an alleged mistake.

Sec. 4. A candidate cannot again make application for the degrees for the period of twelve months.

Sec. 5. In balloting for the election of officers a majority of the votes shall be necessary to a choice and where there are three or more candidates, the candidate having the smallest number of votes at the second and succeeding ballots shall be withdrawn.

ARTICLE XVI.

WITHDRAWALS.

Sec. 1. Any member desiring to withdraw his membership, and having presented a petition in writing, accompanied by payment of all dues to date, shall be granted a demit.

ARTICLE XVII.

REINSTATEMENTS.

Sec. 1. Any member under suspension

for non-payment of dues, and having presented a petition in writing, accompanied by payment of all dues to date, or by remission of the dues by the Lodge, can be restored to membership by a two third vote of the members present at the second stated communication following such petition and payment.

ARTICLE XVIII.

CHARITIES AND RELIEF.

Sec. 1. The Master and Wardens shall be a standing committee on charities and relief, and shall investigate and afford relief in all worthy cases under this head that may come to their knowledge.

Sec. 2. Any expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this article, shall be borne by the Lodge, provided that there shall not be more than five dollars contributed to any one person without a subsequent order from the Lodge.

Sec. 3. This committee shall report its proceedings at each stated communication of the Lodge.

ARTICLE XIX.

PENALTIES.

Sec. 1. Any member being found guilty of informing a profane of the transactions of the Lodge, especially that relating to the ballot, shall be deemed guilty of a masonic offence, and subject to expulsion, suspension, or discipline. A visiting brother found guilty of the same offense, will be, forever thereafter excluded from the communications of the Lodge.

The transactions of the Lodge are sacred and secret, and must be so held by all members and visitors.

Sec. 2. The Worshipful Master shall read Section 1 of this Article to each newly raised Master Mason, and he shall also read it together with Section 1 of Article XIV, to the members, upon the rejection of a petitioner.

ARTICLE XX.

It shall be the duty of each newly raised Master Mason to sign these By-Laws in order to perfect membership.

ARTICLE XXI.

All amendments to these By-Laws shall be offered in writing, shall lay over one month, and shall require a two third vote of the members present for adoption.

All members shall be notified of any proposed amendments.

ARTICLE XXII.

All former By-Laws are hereby repealed.

Landmarks of Free Masonry

I. The modes of recognition.

II. The division of symbolic Masonry into three degrees.

III. The legend of the third degree.

IV. The government of the fraternity by presiding officer called a Grand Master, who is elected from the body of the craft.

V. The prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over every assembly of the craft, wheresoever and whensoever held.

VI. The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for conferring degrees at irregular times.

VII. The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for opening and holding Lodges.

VIII. The prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight.

IX. The necessity for Masons to congregate in Lodges.

X. The government of every Lodge by a Master and two Wardens.

XI. The necessity that every Lodge, when congregated, should be duly tiled.

XII. The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the craft, and to instruct his representatives.

XIII. The right of every Mason to appeal from the decision of his brethren in Lodge convened to the Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons.

XIV. The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular Lodge.

XV. That no visitor, not known to some brother present as a Mason, can enter a Lodge without undergoing an examination.

XVI. That no Lodge can interfere in the business or labor of another Lodge.

XVII. That every Freemason is amenable to the laws and regulations of the Masonic jurisdiction in which he resides.

XVIII. That every candidate for initiation must be a man, free born, and of lawful age.

XIX. That every Mason must believe in the existence of God as the Grand Architect of the Universe.

XX. That every Mason must believe in the resurrection to a future life.

XXI. That a book of the law of God

must constitute an indispensable part of the furniture of every Lodge.

XXII. That all men in the sight of God are equal, and meet in the Lodge on one common level.

XXIII. That Freemasonry is a secret society, in possession of secrets that can not be divulged.

XXIV. That Freemasonry consists of a speculative science founded on an operative art.

XXV. That the Landmarks of Masonry can never be changed.

These constitute the Landmarks, or, as they have sometimes been called, "the body of Masonry," in which it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make the least innovation.

The Burial Service

The brethren being assembled in the Lodge room (or some other convenient place), the Presiding Officer opens the Lodge in the Third Degree, with the usual forms, and having stated the purpose of the meeting, and giving the brethren strict charge upon their deportment during the procession, the services begin as follows:

Master. What man is he that liveth and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hands of the grave?

Response. Man walketh in a vain shadow, he heapeth up riches and can not tell who shall gather them.

Master. When he dieth, he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him.

Response. Naked he came into the world, and naked he must return.

Master. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

The Master, then taking the Roll in hand, says:

Let us live and die like the righteous, that our last end may be like his.

Response. God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide unto death.

The Master then records the name, age, and day of death of the deceased upon the Roll, and says:

Almighty Father! in Thy hands we leave with humble submission the soul of our deceased brother.

The brethren answer three times—giving the Funeral Grand Honors each time:

The will of God is accomplished! so mote it be. Amen.

The Master then deposits the Roll in the Archives, and the following prayer is repeated:

Most glorious God! author of all good, and giver of all mercy, pour down thy blessings upon us, and strengthen our solemn engagements with the ties of sincere affection. May the present instance of mortality remind us of our approaching fate, and draw out attention towards Thee, the only refuge in time of need! That when the awful moment shall arrive that we are about to quit this transitory scene, the enlivening prospects of Thy mercy may dispel the gloom of death; and after our departure hence in peace, and in Thy favor, may we be received into Thine everlasting kingdom, to enjoy, in union with the souls of our departed friends, the just reward of a pious and virtuous life. Amen.

The Master having selected some suitable Brother to act as Marshal (who, if the procession is very large, appoints assistants to aid him), orders a procession to be formed, which moves to the house of the deceased, and from thence to the place of interment, in the following:

ORDER OF PROCESSION.

Tyler with a drawn Sword;

Stewards with White Rods;

Musicians (if Masons,) otherwise they precede the Tyler;

Master Masons;

Past Masters;

Secretary and Treasurer;

Senior and Junior Wardens;

- The Holy Bible on a cushion covered with black crape, and carried by the oldest member of the Lodge;

Chaplain of the Lodge;

The Master,

With Senior and Junior Deacons
on either side;

The body with the

COFFIN.

Insigna thereon;

Pall Bearers;

Pall Bearers;

Relatives and Mourners.

When the Procession arrives near the place of interment, the whole halt and open to the right and left, six feet apart, face inward, and uncover their heads, while the Body is borne by the Pall Bearers through the procession, which then moves on in inverse order, and having arrived at the grave, the members of the Lodge form a circle around the grave; the Clergymen and Officers of the Lodge take their stations at the head of the grave, and the mourners at the foot. The Coffin is placed in the grave, and the following exhortation is given:

MY BRETHREN:

Here we view a striking instance of the uncertainty of life and the vanity of all human pursuits. The last offices paid to the dead are only useful as lessons to the living; from them we are to derive instruction, and to consider every solemnity of this kind as a summons to prepare for our dissolution.

Notwithstanding the various mementoes of mortality with which we daily meet; notwithstanding Death has established his empire over all the works of nature; yet, through some unaccountable infatuation, we forget that we are born to die. We go on from one design to another, add hope to hope, and lay out plans for the employment of many years, till we are suddenly alarmed with the approach of Death when we least expect him, and at an hour which we probably conclude to be the meridian of our existence.

What are all the externals of majesty, the pride of wealth, or the charms of beauty, when nature has paid her just debt? Fix your eyes on the last scene, and view life stripped of her ornaments, and exposed in her natural meanness; you will then be convinced of the futility of these empty delusions. In the grave all fallacies are detected, all ranks are leveled, and all distinctions are done away.

While we drop the sympathetic tear over the grave of our deceased friend, let charity incline us to throw a veil over his foibles, whatever they may have been, and not withhold from his memory the praise that his virtues may have claimed; suffer

the apologies of human nature to plead in his behalf. Perfection on earth has never been attained—the wisest as well as the best of men have erred.

Let the present example excite our most serious thoughts, and strengthen our resolutions of amendment. As life is uncertain and all earthly pursuits are vain, let us no longer postpone the all-important concern of preparing for eternity, but embrace the happy moment, while time and opportunity offer, to provide against the great change, when all the pleasures of this world shall cease to delight, and the reflections of a virtuous and holy life yield the only comfort and consolation. Thus our expectations will not be frustrated, nor we hurried unprepared into the presence of an all-wise and powerful Judge, to whom the secrets of all hearts are known.

Let us, while in this state of existence, support with propriety the character of our profession, advert to the nature of our solemn ties, and pursue with assiduity the sacred tenets of our Order. Then, with becoming reverence, let us seek the favor of the Eternal God, whose goodness and power know no bounds, and prosecute our journey, without dread or apprehension, to that far distant country from whose bourne no traveler returns. By the light of the Divine countenance we shall then pass without trembling through those gloomy mansions where all things are forgotten; and at that great and tremendous day, when arraigned at the Bar of Divine and Unbiased Justice, judgment shall be pronounced in our favor; we shall receive the reward of our labor and virtue, and acquire

the possession of an immortal inheritance, where joy flows in one continuous stream, and no mound can check its course.

The following invocations are then made by the Master:

Master. May we be true and faithful, and may we live in love and die in peace.

Response. So mote it be.

Master. May we profess what is good, and always act agreeably to our profession.

Response. So mote it be.

Master. May the Lord bless us and prosper us, and may all our good intentions be crowned with success.

Response. So mote it be.

Master. Glory be to God in the highest; on earth peace and good will towards men.

Response. So mote it be, now, from henceforth, and forevermore. Amen.

The Master, taking an Apron in his hand, says:

This Lamb Skin, or White Leathern Apron, is an emblem of Innocence, and the time-honored badge of a Free and Accepted Mason—more ancient than the Roman Eagle or the Golden Fleece; more honorable than the Star and Garter, when worthily worn. This emblem I now deposit in the grave of our deceased brother. By this we are reminded that through the universal dominion of death our brother has finished his earthly labor, and that his account now rests with God. The Arm of Friendship can not oppose the King of Terrors, nor the charms of Innocence elude His grasp.

The Master then takes a White Glove, and, holding it up to public view, says:

This Glove is an emblem of Innocence and a token of friendship, and though

death in the present instance has severed and destroyed our social connection with the deceased, let us remember that it has not impaired or weakened our obligations to the living.

The Glove is then deposited in the grave, and the Master presenting a Sprig of Evergreen, says:

The Evergreen is an emblem of Masonic faith in the immortality of the soul; or that better part of man, which neither cross, accident, pain, sickness, nor death itself can destroy, but shall continue to bloom with an eternal verdure through an ever-beginning to a never-ending eternity; and though the body of our deceased brother, now clothed in the habiliments of the dead and deposited in the silent grave, will soon mingle with the common mass of senseless matter, yet his spirit has ascended to God who gave it; and we hope and trust hath ere this passed the portals of the Grand Temple of Jehovah, and before the Grand Tribunal of unbiased Justice, in the presence of myriads of intelligent beings, received the heavenly plaudit of "well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into life eternal."

The brethren then standing around the grave, severally drop into it a sprig of Evergreen. After which the Funeral Grand Honors are given. The Master then continues the ceremony as follows:

From time immemorial it has been the custom among Free and Accepted Masons, at the request of a brother, to accompany his corpse to the place of interment, and there to deposit the remains with the usual formalities.

In conformity to this usage, and at the request of the deceased brother, whose memory we revere, and whose loss we now

deplore, we have assembled in the character of Masons to offer up to his memory before the world the last tribute of our affections, thereby demonstrating the sincerity of our past esteem, and our steady attachment to the principles of the Order.

The Great Creator having been pleased out of his mercy to remove our brother from the cares and troubles of this transitory existence to a state of eternal duration, and thereby to weaken the chain by which we are united man to man, may we who survive him anticipate our approaching fate, and be more strongly united in the ties of union and friendship; that during the short space allotted to our present existence we may wisely and usefully employ our time, and in the reciprocal intercourse of kind and friendly acts, mutually promote the welfare and happiness of each other.

~~The Master then takes the Spade in his hand, strews earth three times on the grave, and says:~~

Unto the grave we resign the body of our deceased friend and brother, earth to earth, dust to dust, ashes to ashes; there to remain until the General Resurrection in favorable expectation that his immortal soul will then partake of joys which have been prepared for the righteous from the beginning of the world; and we pray Almighty God in His infinite goodness, at the dread tribunal of unbiased Justice, to extend His saving mercy to him and all of us, and to crown our felicity with everlasting bliss in the expanded realms of unbounded eternity; and this we beg for the honor of His holy name, to whom be glory now and forever.

Response. So mote it be. Amen.

The whole ceremony is then concluded with the following

PRAYER BY THE CHAPLAIN.

Almighty and Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, and before whom all men appear on the judgment day to give an account of their deeds in life, we who are daily exposed to the flying shafts of Death, and now surround the grave of our deceased brother, most earnestly beseech Thee to grant us Thy divine assistance, Oh! merciful God, to redeem our misspent time; and in the discharge of the important duties Thou has assigned us in the erection of our moral edifice, may we have Wisdom from on high to direct us, Strength commensurate with our task to support us, and the Beauty of holiness to adorn and render all our performances acceptable in Thy sight; and when our work is done, and our bodies mingle with the mother earth, may our souls, disengaged from their cumbrous dust, flourish and bloom in eternal day, and enjoy the rest made perfect which Thou has prepared for all good and faithful servants, in that Spiritual House—that Holy Temple not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. Amen.

Response. So mote it be. Amen.

The procession then returns to the place from whence it set out. When the necessary duties are complied with, and the Lodge is closed in due and ancient form.

