

**COMPILED LAW OF THE GRAND LODGE
OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF
THE STATE OF MICHIGAN. REVISION OF
A. L. 5873, WITH AMENDMENTS TO
AND INCLUDING A. L. 5920, A. D. 1920**

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Compiled Law of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan.
Revision of A. L. 5873, with Amendments to and including A. L. 5920, A. D. 1920 by Lou B.
Winsor

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Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons

COMPILED LAW
OF THE
GRAND LODGE
OF
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

REVISION OF A. L. 5873, A. D. 1873, WITH AMENDMENTS TO
AND INCLUDING A. L. 5920, A. D. 1920.

COMPILED BY

LOU B. WINSOR

PAST GRAND MASTER AND GRAND SECRETARY



Grand Rapids, Mich.

Published by the Grand Lodge.

1921

PREFACE

TO ORIGINAL REVISION.

The recent and thorough revision, by the M. W. Grand Lodge of Michigan, of the Constitutional and Statutory law of its Masonic Jurisdiction, makes the following compilation a great convenience, if not a necessity, to all Lodges and Brethren that wish to study its provisions. It has been prepared and published by order of the M. W. Grand Master, Bro. Wm. L. Webber; and is furnished to subscribing Lodges and Brethren at cost.

The first place in the volume—the place of honor—has been assigned to the “Ancient Charges and Regulations,” not because they are, in form, binding on us, but because they are universally recognized as the beginning and basis of all the “written law” of the Craft; and also because they embody many of those “Ancient Landmarks” which give “metes and bounds” to the Rules and Regulations of Symbolic Masonry.

The careful and thoughtful Masonic student, that delves in the “rubbish” of this Ancient Law, will find the “Landmark” embedded, not in the surface debris of its forms and details, but deep down in the sub-sol of its fundamental principles. For Masonry, like the man who cultivates it, has outgrown the *swaddling clothes* and the *feebleness* of infancy; but, like the man, too, it preserves every original and essential *limb* and *organ* and *function*; and, though greatly differing in development and power, the infant and the man are identical. It is also true, that the essential elements of Masonry, like those of a true Mason, are not to be found in drapery, manners and customs, the fashion of which may change, but in its physical, mental and moral attributes which, (except as increased by growth), are unchangeable, and which, by its inherent vitality and generative power, are propagated from generation to generation. The unchangeable “Landmarks” of Masonry, too, like the attributes of a true Mason, are external and internal—written and unwritten—of which the internal or unwritten are the more important, and are to be learned and observed only in secret; while the external or written, which relate wholly to its organic form and visible functions, are those by which the Legislative, Executive and Judicial powers of the Craft are bound to be governed and guided. These written “Landmarks” are few in number, simple in form, broad in their scope, and relate wholly to the essential externals of Masonry; even the written

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Law of our Jurisdiction, with all its complexity of detail, is but the varied expression of *one* of these comprehensive principles, which, like a "Cornerstone," determines the bearings and form of the entire structure. This underlying principle of our Masonic law may be thus formulated:

It is the right of the Lodge to make and regulate Masons, subject only to the power of Grand Lodge, limited by Landmarks, to make and regulate Lodges.

Of the *relative* importance of the different departments of our Law, it may be well to say: that, while the *Constitution* and *By-Laws* of Grand Lodge, which declare its organic structure and define its functions, are fundamental and worthy of careful scrutiny and observation, the *Regulations of Chartered Lodges are of vital importance to the Craft*: if carefully studied, thoroughly understood and faithfully observed, they will exert a powerful influence in purifying, elevating and preserving the Masonry of this Grand Jurisdiction. The *Penal Code* is, (as it was intended to be,) but a *summary* of the Law of Masonic Trials. It is simple and elementary in form, that it may be the more easily understood by those who, without experience, find themselves compelled to conduct a trial. It should be borne in mind, however, that this Penal Code is not yet and may never be made, by Grand Lodge, "*the Law*" of Trials in this Grand Jurisdiction; but the principles and general rules, of which it consists, will undoubtedly govern Grand Lodge in hearing and deciding all Appeals that may be brought before it.

No one will presume to say that the Masonic Law of this Grand Jurisdiction, as now revised and compiled, is perfect. Perfection cannot be inscribed on anything of human origin. But the Masons of Michigan may congratulate themselves on the solidity, symmetry and harmony that now characterize, in a high degree, the body of their Law. If, with true Masonic "freedom, fervency and zeal," we study and obey it, we shall, from time to time, be able to eliminate its defects and enhance its merits, until it shall stand, as all Masonic structures should, the unmistakable exponent of "Wisdom, Strength and Beauty."

Fraternally,

FOSTER PRATT,
Grand Secretary.

KALAMAZOO, September 18th, A. L. 5874.

PREFACE

TO REVISION OF 1890.

This language is equally applicable to this compilation, which is simply the revision adopted in 1873, with such amendments as have been since enacted.

Grand Lodge has included herein a classified synopsis of approved decisions and rulings in appealed cases. It must be remembered that this addition is but a digest, and where possible the full text of the decision or ruling, as it appears in the proceedings to which reference is made, should be examined. This digest embraces all approved decisions and rulings of Grand Lodge since 1850, when decisions were first reported to Grand Lodge. But few questions can arise which have not been ruled upon and reported herein. Masters should thoroughly familiarize themselves with both statutes and decisions. In the matter of Lodge trials the endeavor should be to avoid error. When charges are received hasty action is unnecessary. If questions are raised with reference to jurisdiction or regularity, Masters should take time to consider them, so that if the charges are irregular, or the Lodge is without jurisdiction, the necessary amendments may be made, or the work and worry of a Lodge trial may be avoided.

The exercise of care will not only prevent improper persecutions, but it will encourage and promote proper disciplinary measures.

Faternally,

WILLIAM P. INNES,
Grand Secretary.

GRAND RAPIDS, March 18, A. L. 5890.

PREFACE

PREFACE

TO EDITION OF 1897.

The various amendments which have been made to the Code of Laws regulating Masonry in this jurisdiction since the last revision thereof, and the numerous approved decisions explaining and defining the application of Masonic Law to the various cases arising in the Lodges from time to time, which have been made since the last compilation was published in 1890, have rendered necessary another revision of our "Blue Book," and a re-compilation of Michigan Masonic Law.

In accordance with the recommendation of Grand Master John J. Carton in his annual address to the Grand Lodge in January, 1897, this work was ordered to be done, and by a vote of that Grand Body, it was intrusted to the hands of the Grand Secretary.

In performing this work no change has been attempted in the general classification of the laws and decisions as we have had them in the past, but the same methodical arrangement has been continued. All changes made in any department of our Code of Laws and decisions since 1890, have been incorporated in this revision, under the appropriate heads, and a few old decisions which have since been reversed by action of the Grand Lodge have been omitted from this compilation, so that this edition contains our Masonic Law with all amendments and revisions down to and including the session of 1897.

The careful study of this work is commended to the Masters and Brethren of this jurisdiction.

Fraternally,
JEFFERSON S. CONOVER,
Grand Secretary.

COLDWATER, February 12, 1897.

PREFACE

TO REVISION OF 1906.

This edition of the Blue Book is published under the supervision of the Grand Secretary in pursuance of a vote of Grand Lodge upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, at the annual communication held in the city of Grand Rapids, May 28rd, A. L. 5906, as appears on page 194 of the Grand Lodge Proceedings for the year 1906.

One copy is sent to each constituent Lodge but is to remain the property of the Grand Lodge and is not to be removed from the Lodge room. The Worshipful Master to receipt for same and to be held responsible for it during his term of office, and to deliver same to his successor.

Additional copies can be procured from the Grand Secretary at seventy-five cents a copy.

This revision includes all the amendments to the Grand Lodge Constitution, Regulations, By-Laws, Penal Code, Standing Resolutions and Digest of Decisions of Grand Masters to and including the annual communication of Grand Lodge held May 22nd and 23rd, A. L. 5906.

Also the amended approved forms for use of secretaries of Lodges as prepared by R. W. Grand Lecturer Frank T. Lodge and adopted by Grand Lodge at said annual communication May 23rd, A. L. 5906.

Also the amendment to section 4, of the Act of Incorporation of the Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., of the state of Michigan, by House Enrolled Act No. 3, approved Jan. 26, 1905.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

LOU B. WINSOR,
Grand Secretary.

REED CTRY, MICH., October 15, 1906.

PREFACE

TO REVISION OF 1911.

The Grand Lodge, at its annual communication in Port Huron May 24, 1911, ordered the Grand Secretary to compile and publish a new edition of the Blue Book, see page 267, Grand Lodge Proceedings, and this edition is made in accordance therewith.

At the annual communication of Grand Lodge held at Saginaw, in May, 1910, quite an extensive revision was made of the Michigan Masonic Law, consequently many changes will appear in this edition.

LOU B. WINSOR,
Grand Secretary.

REED CITY, MICH, October 18, 1911.