

All it takes is one black cube to keep a good man from becoming a Mason. Mistakes can happen, and sometimes the tragedy can be remedied as in May, 1918.

"May 16, 1918 WHEREAS at the Stated Communication of Las Palmas Lodge, held on Thursday evening, April 18, 1918, the Petitions for Degrees of Messrs. William Lee Matlock and Robert Udell Sibley were rejected, and WHEREAS, there was in attendance at the meeting a member, who, a few days later was committed to a sanitarium for a mental ailment, and ...said brother had dealings with Messrs. Matlock and Sibley and WHEREAS, it has been intimated that said member in his incompetent condition was responsible for the ballot being unfavorable, and WHEREAS, if said Brother was in anyway responsible for the rejection of the two above mentioned citizens, we feel a great injustice has been done these two men, who are above the average of the citizenship of our community, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that we request the grand Master for a dispensation to receive and act upon the petition for the two above named parties, as provided in Section 106 of the Grand Lodge Constitution."

The Dispensation was granted and they were elected to receive the Degrees of Masonry at a Called Communication on June 6, 1918 when third Degrees were conferred on two other brothers. Messrs. Matlock and Sibley received their First Degrees on June 27, 1918.

Tricks on a new Master have also taken place at the ballot box. If there is 1 black cube, there must be a second ballot to remove a possible mistake. However, if there are 2 black cubes in the ballot box, there is no re-ballot. At my first stated meeting there was voting on 1 petition and the ballot box contained 2 black cubes. Therefore no re-ballot. While no member of the Lodge ever came up to me with a confession so that the problem could be resolved, I always felt that two members, independently, decided to see if I knew how to conduct a ballot. Unfortunately a good man from our community was probably rejected by two brethren who were testing my knowledge on how to conduct a ballot. Such actions are not an example of Masonic conduct.

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