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THE BEACON

The monthly Trestleboard of Union Lodge #3, A.F. & A.M

April 2016

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Tidings From the East

The most incredible architecture, is the architecture of Self, which is ever changing, evolving, revolving and has unlimited beauty and light in-

side which radiates outwards for everyone to see and feel. With every in breathe you are adding to your life and every out breathe you are releasing what is not contributing to your life. Every breathe is a re-birth."

-Allan Rufus, "The Master's Sacred Knowledge"

Good day Ancient Craftsmen!

Winter has ended, and as the Sun crosses over the celestial equator we find ourselves now welcoming the March Equinox. With Spring we see the changes in nature all around us. Wildlife that migrated during the colder months are beginning to return. Flowers and trees are beginning to show their lovely embrace and colors to us all once again. The equinox marks a very important time in our life, for as with nature there must be a balance in all aspects. Equinox is a Latin word that quite literally means equal night, as in equal day equal night. In reality, most days during the springtime do not have equal 12 hour increments of day and night, but there is a lesson to be had with this natural change.

In February, Bro. Senior Warden Matthew Gerbrandt educated the Lodge on similarities between Freemasonry and Hermeticism. Almost always, the central figure in that philosophy, Hermes Trismegistus, is shown with fingers pointing upwards and downwards. This image and meaning is attributed to the Emerald Tablets and a lesson "as above, so below", which is representative of the balance in oneself and nature around.

As Freemasons, we are instructed to be ever vigilant in our pursuit of knowledge and growth. In the fast paced modern times we live in, I personally take an active stance to slow my own pace down and appreciate the finer

things in life. A wise Past Master once instructed me to be cautious with how zealous and rapid my strides in life were. Being young and still learning, I unfortunately did not heed his wisdom and advice as much as I should have. The harder I pushed and ran forward was much akin to a double edge sword. Balance must always be maintained, and there was a hard lesson to be learned during this advancement.

So, my Brothers, what all does this have to do with the March Equinox? Much as the wise old Past Masters focus their knowledge into instructing the younger brethren of our Ancient Craft, there are equally wise instructions being given to us by Nature herself. Balance and equilibrium must always be maintained, not only in nature, but in one's own mind body and soul. My charge to you all this month is to be aware and receptive to the patterns in nature, to the flow of the wind, and to the new life blossoming all around us. As we all work towards that state of perfection, keep in mind the balance exhibited by the seasons, and by the rising and setting of the moon and sun.

By this time, Union Lodge has welcomed and initiated a new member into the honorable and ancient craft of Freemasonry. Brother Clayton Cuperas, we all extend to you our right hand as a sincere token of friendship and brotherly love. I am excited to see the development and growth in you, and I am equally excited to see what we all can learn from you!

April's presentation shall be an original submission by Past Master and Brother Treasurer Johnny J. Edwards. I look forward to seeing you all in attendance as we gain further enlightenment.

Officer meetings will continue to be the last Tuesday of each month, following the Trustee meeting, beginning promptly at 7:30pm. Any Brothers who have comments or concerns are encouraged to attend and let their voice be heard.

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From the East - Continued

The next meeting will be held on February 23rd, 2016. Remember, if you need a ride to Lodge for a special or stated communication, please contact the Lodge office and we will make the appropriate accommodations.

Fraternally,
WB William D. MacRae
Worshipful Master
Union Lodge #3 A.F. & A.M.



Tidings From the West

Greetings and welcome to the first edition of "Tidings from the West"! During the remainder of this Masonic year, I'll be using this column of our Trestle Board to discuss topics

related to Masonic education. While most of my articles here will discuss specific books of interest, I feel that I would be remiss if I did not start out by singing the praises of our Grand Lodge Library in Forest Grove.

While researching topics for my recent "Point Within a Circle" talk at Lodge, I paid a visit to our Grand Lodge Library. I was very happy to find that the library has hundreds of rare and interesting Masonic books which are available for members of the public to read. One which particularly caught my interest was "An Interpretation of Our Masonic Symbols" by J.S.M. Ward (1956). While we're all familiar with names such as Albert Pike, Manly P. Hall, and Albert Mackey, this is an excellent example of one of the lesser-known but equally interesting Masonic authors waiting for your discovery at the Grand Lodge Library.

The library itself also provides a quiet and comfortable environment where it is easy to spend a couple of hours immersing yourself in these fine books. When you're done, there is a McMenamin's restaurant right next door at the old Grand Lodge building. If you ever find yourself with a free afternoon, I hope that you'll take the opportunity to visit our Grand Lodge Library – it's well worth the trip!

Fraternally,

Matt Gerbrandt
Senior Warden, Union Lodge #3



Tidings From the South

"Stop trying to motivate your members by lighting a fire underneath them...inspire them instead, and light the fire within them".

~Robert Herd

Hello to all from the JW,

Before I became a Freemason..... I never really had any motivation to achieve many goals. I'm not even sure I remember having too many goals. I guess you could say I was just settling with my job and what I already knew as my education. Ever since I became a member of the largest and most honorable fraternity in the world, it has changed my outlook on life that I once had. The amazing people that I have gotten to know over the last 5 years has been the greatest adventure. Every brother that I have encountered in this wonderful endeavor has been nothing but supportive and loving. My new found family has done nothing but encouraged me to push myself in every aspect of my life. I cannot express the love and respect that I have for my fellow Masons. I just want to say thank you for never losing faith in another brother and always striving for greatness.

Respectfully and fraternally,

Michael Persons
Junior Warden, Union Lodge #3



From the Secretary's Desk

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Yes, I know – by the time most of you are seeing this, it's after St. Patrick's Day, but I'm writing it a little before. March is the annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner for Lodge in celebration of Brotherly Love, the good of the Order, and the month of St. Patrick: a tradition started by WB Bill Bach and WB Art Robare and one that I am honored and privileged to do my part to continue. This year was the best attended that we've had in a while – besides being an official visit by MWB Don Stapleton, 66 Brethren and their Ladies were represented in the dining hall. The goal for the evening is Fellowship in all our Masonic Family splendor and a full dining room and a full Lodge for the Stated Communication are the best indications that we achieved that goal.

Just a gentle reminder that dues, initiation fees, and lifetime membership dues were raised in 2014 (effective

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2015 for the 2016 dues year) – we presented to Lodge and voted twice, once in 2013 and once in 2014 on the subject. Annual dues are now \$100. The increased dues give us more capability and flexibility to actually perform charitable works (necessary to retain our tax exempt status) and fulfill our obligations. A variety of other reasons to support raising dues were presented at that time. We're getting on into the year – if you haven't paid your 2016 dues yet, there's no time like the present. If you have any questions, I'm happy to answer them. You can reach me at the Lodge office (503-472-2341) or Lodge email (unionlodge@onlinenw.com)

If you want to know how dues are being used, read The Beacon! Later in the year I'll be doing another presentation in Lodge on Lodge finance – where money comes from, where it goes, and how it works.

Also, remember that starting with last year's dues card, you won't receive a new dues card – the plastic one is still good. There's no year printed on it. The Lodge and Grand Lodge maintain the list of members in good standing based on their dues receipt and reporting from the Lodge Secretaries. To check if you're in good standing you (or the secretary of a Lodge that you are attending) have to go to the Grand Lodge website and enter your membership number (found on the back of your card.) If you're curious or you need to check for visitation purposes, you can go to <http://www.masonic-oregon.com/members/member-lookup/>

Fraternally,
WB Frank Blair
Secretary, Union Lodge #3



Masonic Sign of Distress

Written and Compiled by
WB Johnny J. Edwards
2016

One of my many hobbies surrounding the Ancient Craft is that I collect every documented occurrence in history where the MSOD was used.

I am amazed and truly touched by the acts of the Fraternal bond of Freemason's during a time of distress. There are many accounts of the use of the MSOD throughout history. Many of the accounts are not documented so I have omitted them from the collection. The undocumented accounts are very likely to be true stories and are also very interesting to read.

Most of the documented accounts of usage of the MSOD were during the Civil War.

Johnny J. Edwards
PM Union #3

18TH Century

- Colonel McKenstry
- William Sewall
- Major Wood of Warwick
- The Battle of Minisink - July 22, 1779
- Miscellaneous
- Lieutenant Boyd and Sergeant Parker- abt. 1781

19th Century

- Lt. Col. Homer Sprague
- Hunter McGuire
- John Copley
- John Gordon of the Confederate Army and Francis Barlow of the Union Army-J. E. Hart
- H. W. Mason
- Major Hooper of Carleton Place
- A Masonic Incident – 1882
- Anson Miller
- Joseph Fort Newton
- Confederate Captain Montjoy
- Captain Durkee about 1862
- Harvey Lyon
- Union General Winfield Scott Hancock and Confederate
- General Lewis Addison Armistead - 1863

Miscellaneous

- Le Franc- Maçon, August, 1860
- Franco-Prussian war

20th Century

- Robert J Meekren

Colonel McKenstry

John Fellows in "The Mysteries of Freemasonry," London, 1860, says:—"A case of this kind happened in the American revolutionary war, which is often alluded to by Masonic writers. Colonel McKenstry was taken prisoner by the Indians, who were preparing to put him to a terrible death.

In this emergency, he gave the Masonic sign of distress which induced a brother Mason, a British officer, to interfere and save his life."

William Sewall

Washington Lodge member William Sewall joined the fraternity because, he thought, "I should fare better in case I should be made a prisoner." Indeed, both Boston and Philadelphia brothers used their "influence" to aid jailed British brothers. Lieutenant Colonel William Stacy, captured in 1778, was tied to a stake by Tories and Indians

before his Masonic distress signal released him from torture and death.

Major Wood of Warwick

Breaking momentarily from outlining the history of lodges Case points out two incidents involving Masonry that occurred during the Revolutionary War. It was during that terrible Minisink Battle of July 22, 1779, when Major Wood of Warwick was about to be dispatched. Knowing that Col. Joseph Brandt the Native American warrior was a Freemason, and having become acquainted with the Master Mason's signal of distress he gave the signal. Faithful to his pledge, Brandt interposed and saved his life. Incidentally, Major Wood was the only captive taken in that disastrous battle and four years later he returned to his Warwick home from Canada.

The Battle of Minisink - July 22, 1779

At the battle of Minisink with the Indians under Brant my father was captain of a company....When the militia got out of ammunition they were forced to retreat. When they reached the river my father was so thirsty and weak when he drank the water he fell from his weakness.....When he recovered sufficiently to stand Brant himself discovered him....An Indian made a thrust at him with a spear which he fended with his arm and the spear glanced off and struck his head, cutting it open. The Indian was about to make another thrust when father raised his hands imploringly which Brant mistook for a Masonic sign of distress. Brant caught the spear with one hand and took his other hand and gave him the grip, and that confirmed the chieftain that they were about to murder a brother Mason....He was with the Indians 48 days on the tramp [to Canada] almost starved to death and reduced to a skeleton....He was then put in prison in a dark hole underground....Father was in that dungeon nine months and held a prisoner four years and nine months. The British kept him some time after peace was declared owing to the influence of Brant....I understand that when he was discharged he hired a vessel as far as he could go homeward by water and brought several children with him, one of whom, William Downley, he taught the blacksmith's trade.

Lieutenant Boyd and Sergeant Parker - abt. 1781

The following story is told by Dawson in his Battles of the United States. It occurred in Sullivan's expedition against the Senecas. Lieutenant Boyd and Sergeant Parker were taken prisoners by the Indians: Knowing the certainty of his fate unless immediate relief was afforded, Lieut. Boyd asked for Joseph Brant, who commanded the Indians who had captured him. On being taken before Brant he gave

the Masonic sign of distress and claimed from him the protection of "a brother," and was assured by the chief that he should suffer no harm. The prisoners were conducted to Little Beardstown, and Boyd was well treated; but during a short absence of Joseph Brant, Col. John Butler--the infamous Tory chief--called on the prisoners for information respecting the American army. Declining to answer, they were threatened with torture, but still refused; and with fiend-like cruelty--such as none but Butler and his kind could invent, and none but savages execute--the threat was enforced, and Boyd and Parker fell, martyrs in the cause of their country.

Lt. Col. Homer Sprague

Lt. Col. Homer Sprague, an 13th Connecticut Volunteer was taken prisoner. During a long march to the prison, Sprague became so exhausted that he collapsed into a ditch. A Confederate Officer allowed him to ride in the ambulance for the remainder of the journey. With some difficulty, he was able to climb into the vehicle. He there learned that the driver was also a Brother Mason.

This Brother said to Sprague,

"As a Mason I will feed you to the very last crumbs of my food, but as a soldier I will fight you till the last drop of my blood."

Sprague replied,

"I hardly know which to admire most, your generosity as a Mason or your spunk as a soldier."

Hunter McGuire

In 1863 Hunter McGuire, a physician and commissioned officer in the Union Army, resigned his commission and enlisted in the Confederate Army as a Private. This was because while still serving within the Union Army and while trying to evade capture by Confederate forces, he tried to jump his horse over a fence. Both he and the horse went down and were captured. He gave the Masonic sign of distress. A Confederate officer recognized the sign and ordered a temporary cease fire while he and his horse were cared for. This event convinced him to resign his commission in the Union Army.

John Copley

Union soldier John Copley with the 49th Infantry was captured by the Confederate troops and confined in a military prison camp. It was soon after his capture, that all of the Masons in the camp were gathered up and moved together into a separate barrack where, thanks to the Masons of the local area, they also had somewhat of a plentiful and better diet than did the other prisoners.

John Gordon of the Confederate Army and Francis Barlow of the Union Army

Another interesting story was of two opposing Generals, John Gordon of the Confederate Army and Francis Barlow of the Union Army. During a raging battle, General Gordon was crossing the bloodied field of battle, where he came upon General Barlow who had just received what was assumed to be a mortal wound. Even though the fierce battle was continuing all around them, Gordon took the time to show compassion for a fallen brother. He gave Barlow a drink of water and inquired as to what he might do for him. Barlow asked him to write a letter to his wife, which he dictated the words of his supposed, impending death.

Upon receipt of the letter his Lady traveled to retrieve his remains, but by then he had received medical care and was recovering to fight again. Several years later these two men met in Washington, D.C., both having assumed that the other had died during the war.

They enjoyed Masonic fellowship, sharing brotherly love and affection while remembering their many experiences. Their close friendship and brotherly love continued until death.

Further Reading: <http://www.historynet.com/general-barlow-and-general-gordon-meet-on-blochers-kill.htm>

H. W. Mason

During the memorable raid that Grant's army made on Petersburg, Va., on the 2d of April, 1865, when Lee's lines were broken, a young man lay in the road severely wounded, and when, without a moment's warning, a company of Federal cavalymen rode upon him, he saw death staring him in the face.

His first thought was that possibly there might be a Mason even among the enemy approaching, and he gave the sign known only to Masons in distress, and then a Federal captain quickly rode to his side, dismounted, stood there, and parted his company in the center, they passing him without molesting him in the least. He was quietly picked up, though a prisoner, and taken to the rear and tenderly cared for, and in the course of time was entirely restored to strong and robust health.

It is needless to say that though thirty years have passed since this notable occurrence took place, Bro. H. W. Mason, now a prominent citizen of Rockwall, Texas, a physician enjoying a large and lucrative practice, has made repeated efforts to learn the name and residence of the Federal captain who befriended him in the time of need, and it is hoped that this item may fall under the eyes of someone familiar with the occurrence. —Square and Compass, Mew Orleans.

Major Hooper of Carleton Place

Prisoners of War are a major factor in any war, and the First World War was no exception. Major Hooper of Carleton Place was knocked unconscious during a savage battle and fell into the hands of the Germans. Local tradition maintains that a German military surgeon, coming across the Masonic pass, gave him preferential medical attention that probably saved his life. Another anecdote relates that Hooper was at risk of being shot by German guards during his captivity, but that after he made a Masonic sign of distress, he was taken away to safety.

A Masonic Incident

A Masonic Incident - "The day after the battle of Antietam, the Fifth New Hampshire formed the picket line along the edge of the cornfield where Richardson's division fought. The reserve was in one edge of the corn, and the pickets about middle way of the field concealed in the corn, as the sharpshooters of the enemy fired on all who undertook to walk around on the battle-field at that locality. Early in the morning one of the wounded rebels, who lay just outside the pickets, called one of the New Hampshire men, and handed him a little slip of paper, on which he had, evidently with great difficulty succeeded in making some mystic signs in a circle with a bit of stick wet in blood. The soldier was begged to give it to some Freemason as soon as possible, and he took it to Colonel E.E. Cross, of his regiment. The Colonel was a Master Mason, but could not read the mystic token, it belonging to a higher degree. He therefore sent for Captain J.B. Perry, of the Fifth, who was a member of the thirty-second degree of Freemasonry, and showed him the letter. Captain Perry at once said there was a brother Mason in great peril, and must be rescued. Colonel Cross instantly sent for several brother Masons in the regiment, told the story, and in a few moments four "brothers of the mystic tie" were crawling stealthily through the corn to find the brother in distress. He was found, placed on a blanket, and at great risk drawn out of range of rebel rifles, and then carried to the Fifth New Hampshire hospital. He proved to be First Lieutenant Edon of the Alabama volunteers, badly wounded in the thigh and breast. A few hours and he would have perished. Lieutenant Edon informed his brethren of another wounded Mason, who, when brought out, proved to be a Lieutenant Colonel of a Georgia regiment. These two wounded rebel officers received the same attention as the wounded officers of the Fifth, and a warm friendship was established between men who a few hours before were in mortal combat. This is one of the thousand instances in which the Masonic bond has proved a blessing to mankind."

Anson Miller

These Masonic ties were invoked in camp, in the field, in prison and in battle. One example of how Masonry was a factor in the field occurred at the Battle of Gettysburg (1–3 July 1863). A private, Anson Miller, of Co. J., 151st Pennsylvania, was shot four times near the Lutheran Seminary. Left behind by his retreating comrades, he was set upon by a group of rebel troops who stole his clothing, blankets and food until the wounded soldier made a Masonic appeal: [He] used those words which a Master Mason hears and heeds, even amid the fury and din of battle. Immediately there stepped out from among the Rebel soldiers one who remember his duty to a needed brother. He was a Tennessean—Menturn by name. He declared that he had never robbed a wounded foe, and that he would not permit it to be done by others. Incredibly, Anson's property was restored, he was evacuated and despite dim prospects, he survived the battle.

Joseph Fort Newton

Perhaps one of the most moving examples of Masonic brotherhood during the Civil War was written by American Masonic historian Joseph Fort Newton, who related the story of how his father; a Freemason and soldier in the Union army, had been taken prisoner, and while at a prisoner of war camp, he became seriously ill. He made himself known as a Mason to a Confederate officer in the camp, and the officer subsequently took him to his home and nursed him back to health. At the end of the war, the same Confederate officer gave Joseph Fort Newton's father money and a pistol for his journey home.

Confederate Captain Montjoy

After informing General Robert E. Lee and Confederate Secretary of War James A. Seddon of his intention to respond in kind, Mosby ordered seven Union prisoners, chosen by lot, to be executed in retaliation on November 6, 1864, at Rectortown, Virginia. Although seven men were duly chosen in the original "death lottery," in the end just three men were actually executed. One numbered lot fell to a drummer boy who was excused because of his age, and Mosby's men held a second drawing for a man to take his place. Then, on the way to the place of execution a prisoner recognized Masonic regalia on the uniform of Confederate Captain Montjoy, a recently inducted Freemason then returning from a raid. The condemned captive gave him a secret Masonic distress signal. Captain Montjoy substituted one of his own prisoners for his fellow Mason (though one source speaks of two Masons being substituted). Mosby upbraided Montjoy, stating that his command was "not a Masonic lodge". The soldiers charged with carrying out the executions of the revised group of seven successfully hanged three men. They shot

two more in the head and left them for dead (remarkably, both survived). The other two condemned men managed to escape separately.

Captain Durkee

While the order to retire was being transmitted to General Sykes, the six companies of our regiment who were holding the right of the line were engaged in desperate and exiting conflict. They had found the enemy in the woods just across some open fields and were exchanging shots with them as fast as they could load and fire. When the order to fall back was given four of the companies retired in good order and reached the line of the division in safety. Companies "A" and "G", however, who were farthest to the right, did not hear the bugle sounding the recall, and kept pressing forward long after their comrades had fallen back. Soon they found themselves surrounded by the enemy and entirely cut off from the rest of the regiment. The Confederate came upon them from all sides, firing rapidly and closing in with shouts of triumph. Our comrades were taken completely by surprise and were compelled to retreat, as the enemy outnumbered them ten to one. Company "G" was crossing a cornfield when it was surrounded and commanded to halt and surrender. Captain Powell rallied his men as well as he could and they furiously attacked the Confederates, fighting them hand to hand and running in the direction the main body of the regiment had taken. The Captain and the greater part of his men were able to fight their way through to the Union Line. Meanwhile, Captain Durkee of Company "A", who with his men had been caught in a similar trap, was not meeting such good fortune. The company had just climbed over a rail fence when the Confederates came upon them in force, and in their hasty retreat, several of the members of Company "A" were killed or wounded as they attempted to climb the fence in face of the enemy's fire, or were captured or lost their guns and haversacks as they tried to scramble through or under it. Captain Durkee was severely wounded by a bullet striking him in his arm near the shoulder blade, but he led those of his men who escaped to a small clearing in the center of which was a log cabin, and in this they took refuge. The Captain's wound was a severe one and he was in danger of bleeding to death. He expressed a wish for a doctor, and a Private (William J. Bright, Co. A) in his company volunteered to go and bring a surgeon, if possible, to take care of the wound. As the man darted out of the cabin he was fired at repeatedly by the Confederates but, by good fortune, escaped being struck by any of the shots. His heroic attempt, however, to procure medical aid for his Captain was unavailing, for only a few moments after he had started the enemy closed about the cabin and captured Captain Durkee and the men who remained with him.

Only a few of the members of Company "A" escaped, and these, when they reached the regiment, were minus a good proportion of their belongings, which they had dropped in their hurried retreat before the advancing Confederates.

An interesting story is told in connection with Captain Durkee's experience in the hands of the Confederates. He was carried through the lines and laid on the ground with a number of the other wounded prisoners. While there a group of Confederate officers rode by, one of whom was a surgeon. Captain Durkee recognized him as such by his sash and, thinking he might possibly be a brother Mason, gave the Masonic sign of distress. It was recognized, and the surgeon, who proved to be Dr. Todd, brother of the wife of President Lincoln, dismounted and examined the Captain's wound. He saw that it was a serious one and that it would be necessary to amputate the arm. He immediately ordered a rude table constructed from such material as lay about, and there, in the open air, the distinguished surgeon skillfully amputated the Captain's arm. He saw that the Captain was given as good attendance as possible and a few days later Captain Durkee was carried on a stretcher by Confederate Soldiers to the Union Picket lines under a flag of truce.

Harry Lyon

While Company E was near Atlanta, Harry Lyon and five others went on an expedition. While engaged in digging some sweet potatoes, they were notified by a Negro that they were about to be surrounded by some bushwhackers. Harry, having confidence in the story, tried to get the boys away. They would not stir. Harry left them and on reaching the road met one of the rebels with a large square and compass (Masonic emblems) on his coat collar. He immediately gave the Masonic grand hailing sign (of distress) and was permitted to escape. He reported the matter in camp to a cavalry company. A detachment went to the place and found the five remaining comrades, who had been killed and dragged to the road with bayonets driven through their Breasts.

Union General Winfield Scott Hancock and Confederate General Lewis Addison Armistead

Union General Winfield Scott Hancock and Confederate General Lewis Addison Armistead were personal friends and members of the Masonic Fraternity. Although they had served and fought side by side in the United States army prior to the Civil War, Armistead refused to raise his sword against his fellow Southerners and joined the Confederate Army in 1861. Both Hancock and Armistead fought heroically in the previous twenty-seven months of the war. They were destined to meet at Gettysburg.

During Pickett's Charge, Armistead led his men gallantly, penetrating Hancock's line. Ironically, when Armistead was mortally wounded, Hancock was also wounded. Depicted in this sculpture is Union Captain Henry Bingham, a Mason and staff assistant to General Hancock, himself wounded, rendering aid to the fallen Confederate General. Armistead is shown handing his watch and personal effects to be taken to his friend, Union General Hancock. Hancock survived the war and died in 1886. Armistead died at Gettysburg July 5, 1863. Captain Bingham attained the rank of General and later served 32 years in the United States House of Representatives. He was known as the "Father of the House."

Le Franc- Maçon

Le Franc- Maçon, August, 1860, states that over one hundred French sailors gave the distress signal at the Battle of Trafalgar, and were thereby saved.

Franco-Prussian war of 1870

The German Masonic paper, *Herold*, in 1900, published an article quoting cases of the use of the distress signal by British officers in the Boer war; also by both sides in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870.

Robert J Meekren

Canadian soldier and Masonic Brother Robert J Meekren was wounded in the Ypres Salient in 1916 and fell into the hands of the Germans. While in the prison camp, a German guard revealed himself to Meekren as a Mason, and at great risk to himself, the guard gave Meekren a parcel of bread and cigarettes. Meekren then tried to contact other Masonic prisoners by embroidering a square and compass on his military tunic. An Allied prisoner approached him and asked, "Have you ever been entirely destitute?" It took Meekren a moment to realize the Masonic significance of this question, and to realize that this soldier was also a Mason. Meekren was then introduced to several other English and French speaking POW's, and they were able to hold impromptu Masonic meetings by "immemorial right." One memorable occasion was a Masonic feast with about 20 Masons contributing treats they had secured to commemorate St. John's Day 1917.

April 2016 Calendar

April 2 - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am

April 5 - Union # 3 - Stated 7:30 pm

April 5 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm

April 6 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm

April 7 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm

April 13 - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 -

Dinner 6:00 pm, Stated 7:00 pm

April 26 - Union # 3 Trustees meeting 6:30 pm

Officers meeting 7:30 pm

The Brothers of Union Lodge are encouraged to submit articles for the The Beacon. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word documents. Please email your articles to Tom Gardner at gardner_t@frontier.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition of The Beacon.

Be sure to keep up with Lodge activities between editions of the Beacon by checking our website

<http://www.unionlodge3.com>

or



Visit Union Lodge # 3 on Facebook and be sure to Like us.