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THE BEACON

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

July 2016

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Tidings From the East

"Happiness is not a matter of intensity, but of balance, order, rhythm, and harmony." - Thomas Merton

Good day Ancient Craftsmen!

We are more than halfway through the year now and summer has officially begun. The longer days have brought more daylight to us and along with that a potential to strive for more and accomplish more throughout the day. With that said I want to touch upon an idea with each of you, and ask for a moment of inner reflection.

Throughout this Masonic year I have touched upon themes such as balance, and the investment of time. Today, I will discuss harmony. Harmony has two distinct meanings and when defined typically touches upon the ideas of blending of tones in relation to music that is pleasing to the ears, as well as a series, system, or grouping of congruent parts that are found both to be in agreement and in a pleasing fashion. So what exactly does this mean to you and I from a Masonic stand point? You'll recall from Installations that the incoming officers are charged by the Master to promote and retain harmony within the Lodge. One of the primary duties of the Senior Warden is to ensure that harmony is maintained at each gathering. Harmony is our strength and support.

As Masons, we should take the necessary time to observe, contemplate, and execute wise actions in our dealings towards each other and the world around us. In the world we live in today, life can be rapid and complex at times; many matters having multiple lay-

ers some of which may be unknown at first glance. A quick action or a thoughtless one will often times lead to disharmony – of which is toxic and no one benefits from.

The matter of harmony is deep and important my Brothers. Take these thoughts to heart and remember them as you go about your lives.

There will be no presentation in July, and a quick reminder this will be our first month with summer dress attire.

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. The next meeting will be held on July 26th, 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.

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



Tidings From the West

Greetings, Craftsmen. In the spirit of summertime, I would like to introduce you to a book called "Born In Blood," by John J. Robinson.

Despite its ominous sounding title, this book is interesting and easy to read – making it a nice summertime selection. Born In Blood explores the connection between the Knights Templar and the Freemasons, providing a range of evidence which, at the very least, is worthy of consideration.

Robinson, a historian who was not a Freemason at the time he wrote this book, stumbled across what he believed to be a Templar/Freemason connection while researching England's 1381 Peasants' Revolt. Some aspects of this revolt which caught Robinson's attention include:

1. Rebel leaders confessed being a part of a secret "Great Society" which was based in London.
2. The rebels went to great lengths to target the religious order of the Knights Hospitaller of St. John. The Knights Hospitaller were a rival order to the Knights Templar and were given a large amount of the Templar's land and wealth, which had been confiscated 70 years prior to the Peasants' Revolt.
3. Members of the rebellion used Templar colors to identify themselves.
4. The leader of the Peasant's Revolt was a man known as Walter (or Wat) the Tyler.

The origins of Freemasonry have always been hazy and no one will ever be able to say for certain exactly where it started or who its founders were. However, given that the oldest known Masonic document (The Regius Poem) has been dated to circa 1425, it is entirely possible that Freemasonry existed at the time of the Peasant's Revolution and could have overlapped with the time of the Knights Templar or the period of time during which their order was dissolved.

In addition to exploring the Peasant's Revolution, Robinson also goes into detail exploring the old Masonic Charges, providing some insight as why certain verbiage would have been used. The author's clear

writing style makes for an easy and thorough analysis of the Old English text.

The Masonic/Templar connection has been the source of lively debate for centuries and this book will certainly not be the final word on the matter. Just the same, if you are a student of Masonic history, I promise that you will find this book both entertaining and thought-provoking. Therefore, I have placed a copy of this book in our Union Lodge library and hope that you'll check it out.

Fraternally,
Matt Gerbrandt
Senior Warden, Union Lodge #3

Tidings From the South



I thought I would add another one of my favorite quotes for everyone to see. I hope everyone is enjoying this wonderful Oregon weather. Be patient and open doors for the ladies.

If you have anything really valuable to contribute to the world, it will come through the expression of your own personality, that single spark of divinity that sets you off and makes you different from every other living creature. - Bruce Barton

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Michael R. Persons
Junior Warden
Union Lodge # 3 A.F. & A.M.



From the Secretary's Desk

"He held in front of him a scroll with a red wax seal affixed, the kind of thing believed to make a document official - or at least expensive and difficult to understand, which, in fact, amounts to the same thing." — Terry Pratchett (author)

This month, I'd like to wax philosophical again about documentation. I say "again" because last month I was dealing with making sure that we have up to date documentation for you at Lodge. I don't want

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the importance of that message to be lost, but there are other types of documentation that are helpful and that you as Lodge members should occasionally have on your mind. The topic for this month is related to mortality and the most important thing you can do with this information is share it with other family members. Or, at least share where the information is or who to call to get it.

It may seem counterintuitive, but always make sure that someone in your family knows the Lodges where you are a member. You may move and keep a membership but never attend your home Lodge. You may be a member of multiple Lodges in multiple jurisdictions. If your home Lodge is far away from your final location, it may not be immediately apparent who needs or wants to know that you've passed. If you've moved away or are less active, keeping a short list of your Masonic career can also be helpful. Sometimes arrangements move faster than the research, especially if it's not clear where the information is held.

Always make sure that someone in your family knows whether or not you would like a Masonic service. It's ideal if more than one person knows and even more ideal if one of those people is the Lodge Secretary. This cuts down on confusion and lost time when the need presents itself. Also, make sure that someone knows to call the Lodge or have a Brother notify the Lodge – if possible, Brethren may want to attend services and it saves awkward or painful conversations later if periodicals or dues notices go out to deceased Brethren.

Likewise, always make sure that someone knows where your apron is and what to do with it. Ideally, it's placed in the casket for interment with you or cremated with you – that's part of its purpose. Many times, Lodges get calls from family who didn't know where it was or even that it existed when a Lodge member passed. Sometimes, Brethren or those who know something about the importance of the apron to Brother Master Masons find one at a garage sale or flea market. Fortunately, we have a process for handling that situation. But, it's best if we don't have to lean on it too much.

Finally, if you pre-purchase a grave lot or columbarium space, make sure that you have documentation on the location (section, lot, grave number) or some-

times index number to assist in making sure that arrangements are smoothly transacted. You should have a deed or a document that contains this information. In modern cemeteries, it's easier to look up based on name. But, as an old cemetery with paper records, it can be time-consuming, imprecise, and difficult to manage looking up information. The more information we have to work with, the easier everything goes.

If you have any questions on any of these items, your Lodge Secretary (for most of us, that's me) is happy to answer them and fill in any blanks that you might have.

Fraternally,
WB Frank Blair
Secretary

Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards



For the patrons of our library within the Fireplace Room we have an update of a new publication for view.

The ArsQuatuorCoronatorum has arrived.

For those who are not aware what this publication is or its importance to the Craft it is the premier annual publication with articles specifically concerning research of our Honorable and Ancient Craft of Freemasonry.

For some reason we received Volume 123, 2010 but the articles are still very interesting. Hopefully next year we can get the current publication for the year.

Some of the articles are as follows:

- Specialist Masonic Publication Par Excellence'.
- The Royal Arch Jewel – An Explanation.
- Promulgation and Reconciliation.
- Freemasonry and Fascism in Italy in the 1920's.

The AQC is located on the table in the center of the Fireplace Room. There is no check out policy so please read as your leisure within the Library. If you would like to read through the publication please feel free to contact Johnny J. Edwards 971-237-4250, johnny6_28_66@yahoo.com

More from WB Edwards

I came across a beautiful account of the first tattooed brother in recorded history, dating back from 1849, way before tattoo came into vogue, and way before inking became the province of rock stars, basketball players, and prison inmates. Remarkably, the first tattooed Freemason was also the first brother to be solemnised with a Masonic Funeral Rite in the state of California.

The account states that a body was washed up in San Francisco Bay in 1849, and that upon the person of the deceased was found the Silver Mark of a Mason, with which was engraved the initials of his name. On further investigation the most singular exhibition of Masonic Emblems ever drawn on human skin was revealed...

"Beautifully dotted on his left arm, in red and blue ink, appeared all the emblems of the Entered Apprentice. There was the Holy Bible, the Square, and Compasses; the 24" gauge and common gavel. There was also the Masonic pavement representing the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple, the indented tessel which surrounds it and the blazing star in the centre. On his left arm, and artistically executed in the same indelible ink, were the emblems pertaining to the Fellow Craft Degree: the Square, the Level and the Plumb. There were also five orders of architecture, the Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite.

On removing the garments from his body the trowel presented itself, with all the other working tools of operative Masonry. Over his heart was the pot of incense, and elsewhere the Beehive, the Book of Constitutions guarded by a Tyler's sword, the Sword pointing to the naked heart, The All-Seeing Eye, the Anchor and the Ark, the Hourglass, the Scythe, the Sun, Moon, Stars and Comet, and the three steps Emblematical of Youth, Manhood and Age.

Admirably executed was a Weeping Virgin reclining on a broken column, upon which lay the Book of Constitutions, and in her left hand she held the pot of incense, the Masonic Emblem of the Immortality of the Soul.

Immediately beneath her stood Winged Time with his scythe by his side, which cuts the brittle thread of life, and an hourglass at his feet, which is ever re-

minding us that our life is withering away. The withered and attenuate figure of the Destroyer was placed amongst the long and gracefully flowing ringlets of the disconsolate mourner.

From this description we can see the grandeur of conception which blended with the emblems of mortality all in one picture. Probably never before was such a picture ever beheld and probably never will again. Sadly the Brother's name was never discovered, but the artistry of his tattoos will live forever."

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING MINUTES OF LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

To speed up our Stated and Special Communications, and to provide all brothers with the opportunity to review the minutes of the previous month's meeting(s) before the next meeting, WB Blair has made them available on the Union Lodge website. To have access to these documents you will need to obtain a password from WB Frank. Email him at unionlodge@onlinenw.com and he will contact you with the password.

After you receive the password, please do the following:

1. On the menu bar on any page of the Lodge website, click on "Meeting Minutes."
2. Click on the red & white button labeled "Meeting Minutes."
3. In the Login box on the left side of the page, click on "Sign up."
4. You will be asked for your email address, a screen name (your name for example), the password provided by WB Frank, your location and your date of birth. NOTE: The date must be entered in dd/mm/yyyy format, or simply select the month, year and date from the calendar display.
5. Click the "Agree" box and then click "Submit."

You will receive an email from "server@serifwebresources.com" that contains a link to click to activate your account.

From then on you can view the minutes by simply logging in with you email address or screen name along with the magic password.

To wrap up this month, how about a tin type of WB MacRae:



July 2016 Calendar

- | July 2 - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am
- | July 5 - Union # 3 - Stated 7:30 pm
- | July 5 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm
- | July 6 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm
- | July 7 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- | July 13 - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 -
Dinner 6:00 pm, Stated 7:00 pm
- | July 26 - Union # 3 Trustees meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm

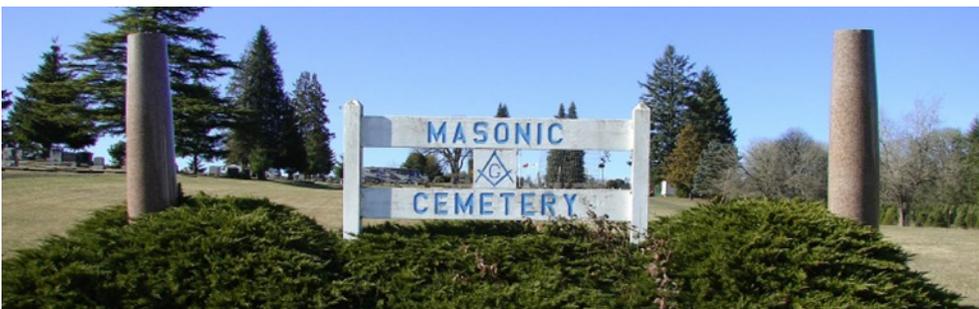
The Brothers of Union Lodge are encouraged to submit articles for the The Beacon. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word documents. Please email your articles to Tom Gardner at gardner_t@onlinenw.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition of The Beacon.

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.



THE MCMINNVILLE MASONIC CEMETERY
SINCE 1876

REGULAR BURIAL PLOTS
AND
COLUMBARIUM NICHES AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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