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THE BEACON

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

September 2017

Table of Contents

[Tidings From the East](#)

[Tidings From the West](#)

[Tidings From the South](#)

[From the Secretary](#)

[Masonic History](#)

[September Calendar](#)



Tidings From the East

Hello, Craftsmen and welcome back from our summer break!

Although we were "dark" during July and August, there was still quite a bit going on in our Masonic community. We held a Fellow Craft degree for Brother Jared in July and are looking forward to his Master Mason degree on the evening of Tuesday, August 29th. Great job with your memorization, Jared! We're all very proud of your work and are looking forward to your upcoming degree!

In July, I had the pleasure of attending the Masonic Family Picnic hosted by our brothers at Tuality Lodge. A great time was had by all and it was wonderful to catch up with old friends and to meet some new ones. My sons especially enjoyed the cookies and games.

On a sad note, our dear Secretary and Past Master Frank Blair has moved to England in pursuit of a PhD in History. As much as I'm looking forward to updates from his journeys, he will be sorely missed in all aspects of our Lodge's community and government. Safe travels to you and Kathleen!

Last but not least, I would like to extend hearty congratulations to our Senior Deacon, Scott Rasbach and his bride Paddy, who officially tied the knot on August 19th. We're all very excited for you and wish you many years of happiness to come!

Fraternally,
WB Matt Gerbrandt



Tidings from the West

MASONIC GLOBES

It happens that unlike the majority of symbols and rites a certain number of written data are in existence about the origin of the symbolisms of the two Globes.



The oldest Lodges did not have them. Notices of them appear in the Minutes of one Lodge, some years later in the Minutes of another; they are shown in some of the oldest tracing boards and not shown in others; these facts show that the use of the Globes came slowly into use in the first half of the Eighteenth Century. In one Lodge record it is stated in so many words that "they illustrate the universality of the Craft" anywhere under heaven, anywhere in the earth, there is the home of Freemasonry! In the beginning of the Speculative system with the first Grand Lodge in London in 1717 it was expected that Grand Lodge would warrant Lodges only in London and inside a radius of ten miles from the City; it was not until the period of 1725 to 1730 that Warrants began to be issued (and then usually to men who had been made Masons in London) for "Lodges oversee." It is reasonable to assume that this planting of Freemasonry on the Continent and in faraway America must have inspired and stimulated Masons in and

around London, must have given them a new emotion, because their horizons were unexpectedly pushed outwards over the rim of the world; if that assumption is valid it follows that the use of Globes began to spread among the Lodges in the period between 1730 to 1750. Globes were hand-made in 1725, and therefore were costly, especially those of glass or silver; in one Lodge book a set is inventoried at £100. Many Lodges received them as gifts from well-to-do members.

In the "Legend of the Craft" included in the Old Charges it is said that the secrets of the Liberal Arts and Sciences were preserved through Noah's Flood in two pillars. It is probable that early Speculative Masons pictured them as having been pedestals rather than pillars, similar to the pedestals they had in Lodge and in which regalia and the Secretary's records were stowed. These two ancient pedestals of the Old Charges were replaced by the two Great Pillars of Solomon's Temple, J and B. It appears that when the Globes first came into use they were placed in whatever spot was most convenient. Certainly there were not two globes on the Diluvian pillars. Solomon's Pillars were surmounted by Chapiters, and archeologists believe that they were made of strips of metal and shaped like baskets, and that resinous wood was piled in them for giving light after dark.

The replacing of the Chapiters by Globes on top of the Great Pillars may have come about for any one or more of at least three reasons: Globes were more convenient when thus off the floor and out of the road; they made the Pillars more pleasing to the eyes; the symbolism of the Globes and of the Pillars combined naturally and easily, etc.

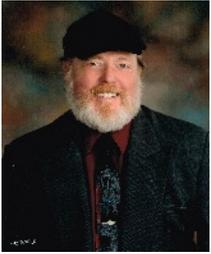
Archeologists found near Herculaneum a villa in which the dining room had an astronomical ceiling which could be turned to make the painted stars inside correspond on any night with the actual stars outside. There are hints that the Egyptians had globes they had spherical geometry and astronomy. In the late Middle Ages globes were so common that the phrase "Terrestrial and Celestial Globes" passed into current speech. This has been used as an argument to prove that before Columbus set sail men knew of the sphericity of the earth; a few men unquestionably did know of it, but the Globes themselves prove nothing. Men who believed the earth to be fiat could have had maps of the flat earth put on a globe because it was more convenient; we print maps on flat paper but it does not prove that we believe the earth to be fiat. It is probable that the Speculative Masons used their Globes for no other purpose than maps; nothing is hinted in their Minutes of esoteric or occultistic meanings; but to them the mere map of the whole earth and the whole sky was something to excite the mind because it kept them alive to the fact that their Fraternity which had only a few years before confined itself to so modest a territory, had unexpectedly and al-

most miraculously burst its bonds, and was extending itself over the world. The Globes belong to the subject-matter of the philosophy of Masonry, but thus far have received meager attention from those who specialize in that branch of Masonic studies, though why this is true it is difficult to know, because that which the Globes symbolize is as massively overwhelming a fact as a range of the Himalayas.

Suppose that speculative Masonry had been confined, as it was first intended to a radius of ten miles from the center of London; if it had, it could easily have limited its membership to London citizens, of the white race, and members of some Christian church; when it became universal, as the Globes symbolize, such localism became impossible. It could not become universal without expanding to other countries, it therefore could not be confined to England, and other countries would stand on a par with England. It could not be confined to one race if it became universal because the world is occupied by three races with some sixty or so branches. It could not be confined to one religion, because there are scores of great religions in the world. This transformation of a local Craft into a world-wide Fraternity was an epochal event in the history of Freemasonry, and none more so; and since it is represented by the Globes they have a scope and power of meaning far outreaching the small attention they have thus far received.

Note. See History of the Lodge of Amity No. 137; by Harry P. Smith; published by the Lodge, Poole, England, 1937, and printed by J. Looker. This is a book excellently to be recommended because in the Minutes quoted by it are so many descriptions of Ritual, customs, etc. written at the time. On page 47 it is told that during a Degree there were exhibited "a pair of 18-in. globes, the perfect ashlar suspended from a Lewis [a species of clamp] and affixed to a winch, an armillary sphere, and a small philosophical [scientific] apparatus, as well as the usual ornaments furniture and jewels." The author makes it clear that in the earliest days symbols had been drawn on the floor with chalk; that later the same symbols were painted permanently on a cloth, or board, or were inlaid in wood or stone. By about 1765 actual objects were used in place of drawn figures. The same impulse which substituted actual objects for drawn figures, led to substituting acted out ceremonies in lieu of what had been an oral lecture. The reference to the two "18-inch globes" is one of many Minutes or other records which substantiate what was said in a paragraph above about the placing of the Globes.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Masonsww/permalink/2007467269279623/>



Tidings from the South

"If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten; then write something worth the reading, or do something worth the writing."

Bro. Benjamin Franklin



We are drawn to Masonry for any number of reasons. For some it is a sense of history, for others a desire to share in the Fraternal life of their home town. For some new Brothers it may have been a family tradition, others seek the door of Freemasonry as the first of their kin to do so. We all come with some ideas of what we are getting into, and most of us are surprised to find things that we didn't predict. I should like to address one of those surprises here today...

They will expect you to write stuff.

It doesn't matter if you are the lowliest Junior Warden or the Grand Master in your State. You will find that you have acquired a Task Master referred to as an Editor, who comes armed with cudgels normally referred to as Deadlines. You will be expected to share Wisdom (should you be blessed by such), Knowledge (whether earned or purloined) or at least be able to turn an entertaining phrase (I have some hopes for this last one, although they may be misplaced).

Please do not misunderstand. I would not presume to present myself as some expert on the subject. I am probably an Editor's worst nightmare—I usually write only when I feel I have something important to say. I get caught up in projects easily, to the detriment of all other demands on my time...like the aforementioned Deadlines. I am fairly certain that I have added years of wear and tear to the poor Brother whose job it is to get me to write. But that brings us to the gist of this exercise...

When faced with a deadline, what is a poor Brother to do?

A few of my friends actually make their living as writers. And the two consistent suggestions they offer are these: write and read. This may seem overly simplified, but there are basic truths here. If you need to produce an article, but don't know where to start...just start. Write anything. It doesn't even have to be related to the article you will eventually turn in. One of the best things to push past writer's block is simply to go through the motions of writing. Once you have begun the process, it frequently takes on a life of its own.

Or spend some time reading the work of other authors. As T.H. White once put it, "Learn how the world wags, and what wags it." This is a great way to gain ideas and motivation. As Masons, we are blessed with untold numbers of essays by our Brothers, present and past. Would you like to talk about Masonic history? There are hundreds of articles out there to choose from. Want to make some suggestion for improving the Lodge? You'll find thousands of suggestions for that. We live in a time when researching any subject is as simple as turning on the computer and doing a search.

I could fill pages with suggestions on where to go to read Masonic articles. Many Grand Lodges and individual lodges maintain web pages devoted to such. But one source that really stands out is the Masonic Service Association and their Short Talk Bulletins. These are monthly articles about Masonry that they've been publishing since 1923. There are also any number of great books out there on Masonic subjects. One of my favorites, [Born in Blood](#), was written by a non-Mason. The possibilities are almost endless.

You can easily dive into Masonic reading and not be seen for days. But when you do come up for air, that Deadline will still be there, right? So set a limit on how much time you'll allow yourself. It's most likely that simply reading for a short while will give you more ideas for writing than you could possibly do justice to.

As Masons, one error that we sometimes fall into is thinking that everything we write has to be about a Masonic subject. But this does ourselves and our Brothers a disservice. We are a Fraternity, which accepts only good men who wish to make themselves better men. As the poet would say, you are surrounded by Good Men and True. So rub elbows. Write about interests that your Brothers share, or community events from your town. So long as it

promotes harmony, anything is grist for the mill. One of the great aspects of Masonry is the fellowship that we enjoy. Don't feel shy about writing something simply to entertain or make your Brothers smile. There are far worse ways to spend ink.

And if, as you travel down your Masonic Journey, you find yourself faced with a deadline and casting about for something to say, perhaps you might simply write an article about the process of writing itself. Like I just did. Although I'm pretty sure this will only work once...

Walk in Light, my Brothers.

From the Secretary's Desk

As noted by WB Matt in his column, our Secretary, WB Frank Blair, has elected to spend a few years on the other side of the pond, pursuing a Doctoral Degree.

For the next few months, yours-truly will be sitting at the desk in the Southeast corner of the Lodge. I will try to spell everyone's name correctly in the minutes.

Tom Gardner
Acting Secretary



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

A couple of pictures from the going-away dinner honoring WB Frank and his Lady Kathleen.



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, the Secretary has made them available on the Union Lodge website. To have access to these documents you will need to obtain a password from WB Tom Gardner. 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 simple 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.

August/September 2017 Calendar

- Aug 29** - Tentative Master Mason Degree 7:00 pm
- Sept 2** - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am
- Sept 5** - Union # 3 Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm
- Sept 5** - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Sept 6** - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Sept 7** - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Sept 13** - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm
- Sept 26** - Union # 3 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.



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